

Minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 7th May 2024 at 2.30pm

Present:

SPC Members

Cllr John Crowe, Chair
Cllr Joe Cooney
Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy
Cllr Alan O'Callaghan
Cllr Liam Grant
Cllr Pat O'Gorman
Ms Theresa O'Donohoe
Mr Damon M. Wise

Staff of Clare County Council

Alan Farrell, Director of Service
Morgan Lahiffe, Senior Engineer
Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer
Anne Griffin, A/Senior Executive Officer
Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer
Liam O'Connor, Administrative Officer
Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Cllr Ian Lynch

1. Minutes of Physical Development SPC meeting held on 6th February 2024

The minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 6th February 2024 were proposed by Cllr Joe Cooney, seconded by Damon M. Wise and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. North Clare Integrated Transport and Traffic Plan

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, gave a presentation on work underway with the North Clare community, Fáilte Ireland, elected members and staff of Clare County Council in relation to the North Clare Integrated Transport and Traffic Plan. Six working groups are being established to progress the plan.

Theresa O'Donohoe asked how the community is involved and how wide the reach of the plan is. She stated that public transport is required for the youth of the North Clare area to access gyms, beaches etc.

Cyril Feeney responded that Tom Barrett is engaging with the Council on behalf of the North Clare Group, which has extensive local membership with representation from all sectors. He added that it is intended to build on the services already provided by Local Link, Transport for Ireland and Park and Ride facilities.

Damon M. Wise stated that a big problem for people with disabilities is the lack of connectivity and services and Cyril agreed to highlight these issues as part of this process.

4. Roadworks Programme 2024

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, advised that the overall funding for the 2024 Roadworks Programme is €55m and full discussion has taken place within each Municipal District.

Damon M. Wise recommended that the access road for the airport be positioned alongside the proposed rail line.

Cllr Joe Cooney enquired if any feedback was received from Minister Eamon Ryan's office following his meeting with Clare County Council representatives. Cllr Cooney expressed his dissatisfaction with the funding allocations for Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) and Local Improvement Schemes (LIS). He also enquired if investment was required from Clare County Council for Greenways in the county and if there was a deadline for the spending of Active Travel funding.

Cllr Pat O'Gorman requested that more emphasis be placed on road drainage and asked if Active Travel funding is ringfenced.

Cyril Feeney responded that funding for Active Travel Schemes is ringfenced and that Greenways are fully funded by TII. No engagement has been received from the Minister's office to date.

Cllr Joe Cooney proposed that a letter issue from the Physical Development SPC to Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to the request for additional funding.

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan highlighted that speed is a major problem in housing estates and that traffic calming measures should be a condition of planning. He requested that this be highlighted to the Planning Department.

Cllr John Crowe agreed that this message is expressed strongly by the public.

5. Climate Action Plan

Morgan Lahiffe, Climate Action Co-Ordinator, outlined the aims of the Climate Action Plan. Minister Eamon Ryan launched all the 31 Climate Action Plans for Ireland in Ennis on 11th April 2024. All of the Climate Action Teams from around the country met on 10th April and went on field trips to various industries around Clare employing best practices regarding climate action.

Morgan expressed his hope that Clare County Council will sign up to the Global Covenant of Mayors, as this will provide greater access to funding.

Cllr Joe Cooney asked for an update on the Community Climate Action Programme and asked if there would be further opportunities for funding as a lot of communities were disappointed not to be included.

Morgan confirmed that the Department are reviewing the roll out of the Community Climate Action Programme and might decide to alter the scheme. The Department has been notified that Clare County Council is ready to apply for any additional funding that might become available.

6. Lifeguard Innovation Programme

Brendan Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, outlined the benefit of the handheld electronic devices to be rolled out to lifeguards this summer. The devices will provide real time information by electronically submitting detailed daily reports from each bathing location. Clare County Council is the first local authority to implement this system. The move to this electronic system is expected to save 648kg co2 per year.

Cllr Joe Cooney asked if all 48 lifeguards are part time and Brendan confirmed that they are employed for the summer season only.

Cllr Liam Grant complimented this innovation and asked if the fact that not all lifeguard stations have electricity and some have limited mobile coverage, would there be an issue with the use of these devices.

Brendan confirmed that two power-banks will be provided to lifeguard stations that don't have an electricity supply.

7. AOB

Cllr John Crowe thanked each member of the Physical Development SPC and the supporting staff for their dedication and hard work over the lifetime of the current SPC.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Cllr. John Crowe
Chairperson

Signed:

Liam O'Connor
Administrative Officer

Date:
