

**Minutes of Meeting of Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee  
held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Michael O'Meara (Chair)  
Cllr. Kevin O'Meara  
Cllr. Jim Ryan  
Cllr. Hughie McGrath  
Cllr. Declan Burgess  
Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald  
Mr. Brian Pope, PPN  
Mr. Michael O'Donoghue, Tipperary Chamber  
Mr. Liam Brett, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation  
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer, Roads Operational  
Mr. Kieran Malone, Senior Engineer, Roads Operational  
Mr. Paddy Crowley, A/Senior Engineer, Active Travel Projects  
Ms. Michèle Maher, Administrative Officer, Roads  
Ms. Miriam Ryan, Senior Staff Officer, Roads (Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** None

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

Cllr. Michael O'Meara welcomed everybody to the meeting and wished Liam Brett and Kieran Malone well in their new positions as Director of Services and Senior Engineer respectively. Mr. Liam Brett thanked Cllr. O'Meara for his remarks and looked forward to facing the challenges ahead such as the focus on sustainable transport whilst maintaining the key arterial routes, national and regional. Mr. Malone stated that his focus would be on successful completion of the annual roads programme within budget, and maximising all funding opportunities for Tipperary County Council.

**2. Minutes of Meeting held on 08 December 2023 and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the meeting of 08 December 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Kevin O'Meara and seconded by Cllr. Declan Burgess.

There were no matters arising.

**3. Allocations 2024:**

- Active Travel & Greenways
- Regional and Local Roads
- National Roads

Details of the allocations for the various schemes were circulated in advance of the meeting, to the Elected Members.

Mr. Paddy Crowley gave a presentation on the Active Travel Programme Allocations for 2024 amounting to €4,499,000 spread over 28 projects of various sizes and complexity. He stated that no new schemes had been added to the programme for 2024. He advised that the Local Transport Plans for Nenagh, Thurles and Clonmel were finalised and would be adopted with respective Local Area Plans. He advised the members that the NTA had provided a new allocation of €500,000 for a Bus Stop Enhancement Programme.

Regarding the Greenways Programme, Mr. Crowley informed the meeting that an allocation of €790,000 had been provided by the TII for 2024. The majority of the Greenway Schemes are at preliminary/feasibility stages with the exception of the Suir Blueway – Gas House Bridge – Suir Island, Clonmel which has been submitted to An Bord Pleanála. It was noted that Greenway routes were aligned with the National Cycle Network.

Cllr. Jim Ryan noted his disappointment that there was no mention of a Greenway linking Thurles and Clonmel despite the recent positive feasibility report completed with funding received from Leader. He requested a meeting between Mr. Crowley and the voluntary committee who are promoting the project locally. Cllr. Kevin O'Meara supported Cllr. Ryan and stated this project needed to get on a national Greenway plan. Mr. Crowley agreed to facilitate a meeting with the group and asked Cllr. Ryan to advise of suitable dates, but reiterated that the difficulty with getting Greenways delivered was the lack of agreement from private landowners regarding projects going through their land. Engagement and agreement from the local community was a big issue and there were reservations about access to private land. Mr. Liam Brett reminded the meeting that the TII were responsible for developing Greenways throughout the country, and Tipperary County Council as their agent must follow their policies, in particular focussing on the development of the National Cycling Network.

Mr. Kieran Malone gave an overview of the 2024 Allocations for Regional and Local Roads totalling €35,772,945. He noted that the R498 Latteragh Upgrade project had received funding of €3m with the main contract expected to commence in 2024. He advised that the Roads Programme would now be progressed and if there was scope to do additional works, extra funding would be applied for during the year.

Mr. Brian Pope queried where the Climate Adaptation funding was used and was advised that it is mainly for areas where roads are prone to flooding due to the effects of climate change.

Ms. Michèle Maher informed the meeting that the 2024 Allocations for National Roads amounted to €10,583,443 across a number of categories with projects in progress and at design stage.

Cllr. Jim Ryan mentioned the N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel project and asked if temporary repairs in Kickham Street could be completed in advance of the main

scheme. Mr. Liam Brett advised he would raise this request with the TII regarding patching required, but that minimal work would be carried out prior to the commencement of the project.

#### **4. Capital projects update**

Ms. Michèle Maher presented an update on some major capital projects being progressed:

Killaloe By Pass/Shannon Bridge Crossing/R494 Improvement Scheme: Clare County Council is the lead authority for this scheme of 6.2 km in total providing for a western bypass of Killaloe, a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon and an upgrade of the existing R494 regional road from Ballina to the N7 at Birdhill. There is a new Railway Bridge currently being constructed and long-term traffic management arrangements remain in place to facilitate road construction and Accommodation Works.

R498 Nenagh to Thurles Realignment at Latteragh Bends: Advance Works including fencing and site clearance were substantially completed in February 2024. The main Works Contract will be tendered for shortly with the works commencing in Q3 2024 and a two-year construction period is envisaged.

N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction: Tipperary County Council is the lead authority for this section with Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation due for completion by Q1/Q2 2025. The allocation of €650,000 for 2024 from TII is not sufficient for this project and a request has been made to TII for an increased allocation.

N24 Waterford to Cahir: Kilkenny are the lead authority on this section of the N24 upgrade. Following on from a presentation to the elected members and public consultations in January 2024, the Options Selection Report should be published in May 2024. However the scheme has not received a funding allocation in 2024.

#### **5. County-wide parking policy**

Following a request made at the annual Budget meeting, a review of pay parking charges is to be undertaken with a view to harmonising parking charges and standardising parking arrangements across the County, with no reduction in income from the Adopted Budget. Ms Miriam Ryan gave a presentation on current parking policy and local arrangements, providing an overview of the issues throughout the nine towns that charge for parking across the five Municipal Districts. She also outlined some initial proposals for consideration by the members, which will require significant further development.

The Elected Members on the committee suggested that a workshop for the full Council should be held and agreement reached in due course, regarding any changes to policy. It was noted that not all towns have local representation on the SPC with some members more aligned to rural areas. Cllr. Kevin O'Meara was not sure that

standardisation of parking charges was fully required and whether Tipperary business owners would appreciate an increase in same. Mr. Brett advised that another one or two SPC meetings would be required to formulate a recommendation prior to a workshop with the full Council, which would involve all Members. He reminded the SPC that any proposal must be within the Adopted Budget and that a reduction in income could not form any part of revised arrangements. Cllr Ryan queried if each individual District could amend the policy, once agreed at SPC level and approved at full Council. Mr. Brett stated that further clarification was being sought from the Department regarding adoption of the Parking Bye Laws at Plenary or District level.

**6. AOB**

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**7. To note date of next meeting**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at 10.00am.

Venue – Committee Room 5.3, Civic Offices, Nenagh and via Zoom.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:   
Cllr. Michael O'Meara  
Cathaoirleach