**CLIMATE ACTION AND PLANNING**

**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of** **Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**

**held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 20 July 2022**

**at 3pm**

**PRESIDING**: Councillor Garry Murtagh, Chairperson

**PRESENT**: Councillor – Peggy Nolan, Uruemu Adejinmi, Gerry Hagan,

Andrew Mc Hugh, Pat Claffey, Enda Mc Manus, Francesca Pawelczyk

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  Mr. John Brannigan, Director of Services

 Mr. Tom Murtagh, Senior Engineer

 Mr. Donall Mac An Bheatha, Senior Planner

 Mr. Ian Lacey, Assistant Planner

**APOLOGIES**: Councillor – Mark Casey

 Pat Mc Cormack

**MEETINGS**

**ADMINISTRATOR**: Ann Marie Mc Keon

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Pat Claffey seconded by Councillor Garry Murtagh it was unanimously agreed to adopt Minutes of Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 20 April 2022 as circulated.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

Francesca Pawelczyk sought clarity on how to get an item on the agenda for a meeting and she thanked the meetings administrator for the information that she had received in relation to recent queries. Francesca confirmed that she had emailed two items which she wished to be considered for the agenda and they were a) Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and b) Path linking Ballymulvey and Newcastle Woods.

Director of Services, John Brannigan agreed to return to this query at the end of the meeting.

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

Senior Executive Engineer, Brian Kelly introduced himself to the members and gave a very

comprehensive report on active travel covering the following: -

* “Travelling with purpose using one’s own energy” (Department of Transport 2022)
* Walking, Cycling, Wheelchair users, non-motorised scooters
* Commute to and from work/school, travelling to shops etc.
* Recreational or leisure trips not considered Active travel
* Benefits of active travel
* Graphic representation of Carbon produced by each mode of transport
* Graph representing emissions by each transport mode from 1990 to 2018
* Physical activity and HSE recommendations
* Create Modal shift in society towards non-motorised transport
* Reduce dependence on cars and numbers of cars on our roads
* Give people an attractive and safe option to leave the car at home on daily commutes
* Nurture an Active Travel culture amongst the school going generations
* Greater pedestrian and cyclist priority on our roads
* €1.8 billion Nationally over five years
* €2.4 million allocation to Longford Co. Council in 2022
* 14 project allocations in Longford
* National Transport Authority (NTA) are the funding and approving body.
* Funding within 50km/hr zones
* Funding outside 50km/hr zones by TII (Transport infrastructure Ireland)
* Focused on larger towns and urban areas
* Recreational or leisure only routes not funded
* Of the 18 Projects currently in Longford there are 8 large pedestrian and Cycle Scheme Projects ranging from €120k to €1.2m
* - Example N63 Ballinalee Road pedestrian and cycle Scheme
* - Currently at Part 8 with planner’s report being prepared for the July Municipal District meeting
* - Almost 2 km of new segregated footpath and cycle tracks being provided with this scheme connecting from the Templemichael Road Junction to the N4 bypass
* - Will be a direct continuation of the Major Wells Road Project currently under construction
* - Expect construction to commence Quarter12023
* The SRTS Program was developed in partnership with the NTA and An Taisce Green Schools
* Key aims, to improve safety at the school gate, improve walking and cycling access routes, to increase numbers of students walking and cycling to school
* two schools granted funding in Longford under this programme - Templemichael College, Longford Town and Scoil Mhuire Newtownforbes

The members welcomed the presentation and asked questions on the following which Brian replied to:

* Rural transport
* Increasing the size of existing walkways
* Consultation with disability network
* Selection process for routes
* Parking for bikes in the town area
* Renting bikes
* Electronic scooters

John Brannigan returned to the query raised by Francesca earlier in the meeting and explained that the roles of the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) is in assisting and advising the Council in relation to functions of a strategic statutory nature. The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy-making process from the early stages, when policy options are more fluid, it is not intended for individual projects. John confirmed that an agenda item should be sent to the meetings administrator 30 days in advance of the meeting.

While the role of each SPC is to assist the Council in the formulation and development of policy, the final policy decisions rest ultimately with the full Council.

Senior Planner, Donall Mac an Bheatha brief the members on the Part VIII process for the path linking Ballymuvey and Newcastle Woods and explained in detail how this was a community driven project. Donal responded to the questions raised by Francesca.

It was unanimously agreed by the members that a) Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and b) Path linking Ballymulvey and Newcastle Woods were not of a strategic statutory nature and could not be placed on the agenda of the SPC.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The members confirmed the date of the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Ann Marie Mc Keon**

 **Meetings Administrator.**

**Confirmed and adopted at Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 19 October 2022.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Chairperson.**