

Minutes of Planning & Support Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the zoom platform on the 10th February, 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

In Attendance

Cllr. Maria Doyle	Louth County Council
Cllr. Edel Corrigan	Louth County Council
Cllr. Antoin Watters	Louth County Council
John Morgan	Social Inclusion
Eddie Phelan	Business Sector

Officials

Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
John O' Hagan, Senior Engineer

Minutes of Meeting

Minutes of the Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC meeting held on the 9th December, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Edel Corrigan and seconded by Eddie Phelan

Matters arising from SPC meeting of 9th December, 2020

Cllr. Antoin Watters referred to the issuing of Planning Guidelines by the Office of the Planning Regulator in respect of the Draft Development Plan. Cllr. Watters asked if the submitting of the C.E. Report could be delayed. J. Kelly, Senior Planner advised the meeting that 830 submissions were made on the Draft Plan many of them were from Prescribed Bodies. The Planning Guidelines will not be published in time for the submitting of the Chief Executive's Report and will have to proceed based on the submissions made. Frank Pentony told Cllr. Watters that LCC must adhere to statutory deadlines and therefore the CE Report will be submitted on the 24/03/21 but it is expected the Draft Plan will go out on a further period of public consultation.

Develop a 3 Year Work Programme

Cllr. Maria Doyle advised the meeting that the proposed 3 year Work Programme would take us to the end of the term of the current Council and will have to be first agreed with the Corporate Policy Group. A number of items were discussed that could form part of the work programme and Frank Pentony advised the meeting that most policy is first developed at national level and when reviewing or adopting new Bye-Laws LCC cannot deviate from national policy. He said LCC need to review its Casual Trading Bye-laws and the issue of camper van parking within the County.

John O' Hagan told the meeting that the Roads Safety Strategy is to be revised in line with national policy. Bye-laws for KPMH in Housing Estates is looked at every 5 years. The next review will be in 2023

and the speed limits within the County will be looked at. Bye-laws on Public Lighting Policy are almost completed.

Cllr. Corrigan asked Cllr. Doyle when she thought the 3 Year Work Plan would be ready to be presented to the CPG. Cllr. Doyle said she hoped to have it ready for the next meeting of the CPG. Cllr. Corrigan asked that when the Work Plan is approved could the SPC look at issues with general open spaces and how the SPC could introduce work plans and engage with Community Groups.

Cllr. Doyle told the meeting she would like to prioritise areas the SPC can look at and put a timeline on each area. She noted that Drogheda does not have Casual Trading Bye-laws and that Dundalk and the County area do and that all 3 areas should have its own Bye-Laws.

Cllr. A. Watters raised the issue of Bus Shelters and the Senior Engineer told the meeting that LCC are seeking funding for the improvement of 33 bus shelters this year. The National Transport Authority are looking at increasing the number of buses and the number of bus routes within the County and are currently preparing a National Strategy in respect of bus shelters.

John Morgan suggested to the Senior Engineer that a bus shelter be placed opposite the Retail Park. Sen. Engineer advised him that the design of buses and bus shelters is carried out by the National Transport Authority and that LCC are only involved in the roll-out of bus shelters but he would raise Mr. Morgan's concerns with the NTA.

Eddie Phelan asked J. O' Hagan about the NTA's policy on Bus Stops and asked if it would be possible for this SPC to submit policy to the NTA. John O Hagan advised that the NTA seek consultation from all stakeholders.

Cllr. E. Corrigan asked John O' Hagan to inform the SPC when the issue of bus stops goes out for public consultation so that it can make a submission on same.

Cllr. E. Corrigan also asked what conditions are attached to the placing of parklets on the street, are the permits issued by the Local Authority and could conditions be attached to ensure they are wheelchair accessible? Frank Pentony advised her that these licences are issued under S. 254 of the Planning and Development Act and LCC will take her concerns on-board.

Cllr. E. Corrigan raised the issue of Public Parks and Open Spaces and advised the meeting the open spaces in social housing areas and maintained by local community groups but in urban areas there was not as much involvement by community groups. She sought clarification on the ownership of green areas in housing estates and advised the meeting that she was aware that some were maintained by CE Schemes, some by local residents or management companies and some were not maintained at all.

Frank Pentony advised her that when an estate is taken-in-charge by the local authority, LCC have control of green areas but do not maintain them. This is left to the residents and management companies.

Cllr. Maria Doyle listed items that should be included in the 3 Year Work Programme:

- Casual Trading Bye-laws
- Camper Van Bye-laws
- Speed limits in Housing Estates
- Public Lighting Policy
- Outdoor Eating areas
- Bus Shelters
- Play Areas

She said that the Casual Trading Bye-laws and parklets would be more of an issue this year due to COVID-19 and should be prioritised for the CPG which will meet early in March.

Cllr. A. Watters requested that the SPC meet when the CE's Report on the submissions on the Draft Plan is ready. J. Kelly, Senior Planner advised him that this report is for the members consideration and that the SPC does not have a role in it but if the Draft Plan goes out for a further period of consultation then maybe the SPC could then have a role.

Frank Pentony advised the meeting that if a 3 years plan is agreed at the CPG, LCC can put together papers of in respect of Casual Trading Bye-Laws and could then have another SPC meeting in April.

Setting of dates for next Meetings

Dates for the next two SPC Meetings were agreed as follows:

14th April, 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

7th July, 2021 at 4.00p.m.

New Nomination from the Environment PPN

It was agreed that Cathriona Kieran would seek a new nomination from the Environment PPN to replace Eoin Daly