Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh | **Kilkenny County Council**

Halla an Chontae, Sráid Eoin, Cill Chainnigh, R95 A39T. County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny, R95 A39T.

26th August 2016

Fónamh don Phobal - Caomhnú don Oidhreacht Serving People – Preserving Heritage

To: Each Member of SPC 2.

Cllr. Matt. Doran (Chairperson)

Cllr. Eamon Aylward; Cllr. Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Michael Doyle ; Cllr. Sean Tyrrell; Cllr. Tomás Breathnach.

Ms.Mairead Phelan; Mr. Barry Lynch, Mr. Gary Graham, Mr.Patrick Kavanagh; Mr.Michael Rice, Mr.Billy Walsh.

C.C.Tim Butler, Director of Services ; Simon Walton, Senior Engineer; Frank Stafford ,SEE,   John Collins, A/CFO, Martin Butler, Administrative Officer.

Re: Strategic Policy Committee 2- Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and   Emergency Services.

A Chara,

The next meeting of SPC2 will take place on **Friday 2nd September 2016 in Meeting room 1 in County Hall, John Street at 3.30pm** to discuss the agenda hereunder.

Mise, le meas,

Martin Butler

f-f **Simon Walton,**
A/Director of Services
Corporate Affairs, Roads
and Emergency Services.

1. Minutes of SPC2 meeting dated 10th June 2016.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Rural Broadband
4. Road Safety Plan
   (a)   Beat FM Road Safety Campaign

   (b)   2009 School Safety Programme.

5. CFRAMS
6. Pilot Community Flood Resilience Projects-Thomastown & Graiguenamanagh.
7. AOB

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on Friday 2nd September 2016.

Present:	Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).
	Cllr. Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr. Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Eamon Aylward
	Mr. Barry Lynch.
In Attendance:	Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr. Simon Walton, Senior Engineer; Mr. John Collins, A/CFO and Martin Butler, Administrative Officer.
Apology:	Mr. Michael Rice; Mr. Gary Graham; Ms Mairead Phelan.

Preliminary

The Chairman Cllr. Matt Doran welcomed Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services to his first meeting and introduced him to all the members present.

Mr. Butler thanked the Chairman and committee members for their good wishes in his new position.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 10th June 2016.
Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty
Seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy
and Agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

(a) Fire Safety Plan 2016-2020

Mr. John Collins welcomed a written submission from Cllr. Fidelis Doherty in relation to this plan.

3.BROADBAND

Mr. Simon Walton referred to the National Broadband Plan (NBP), a Government policy initiative, which aims to deliver high speed broadband to every citizen and business in Ireland. The procurement for the NBP is in train, and following a competitive procurement process, it is expected that a contract will be awarded in June 2017.

In order to expedite other measures that could be taken in the period up until the NBP is underway the Government has established broadband task forces that include Local Authorities. This will assist with the roll out of commercial and national broadband plans for infrastructure in each County in advance of the signing of the contract for the overall national broadband plan.

Correspondence recently received by the Chief Executive in Kilkenny County Council from Heather Humphries T.D Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional and Gaeltacht Affairs includes a request to nominate a senior manager, at Director Level to oversee the timely roll out of broadband in Kilkenny from a local authority perspective. Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services will take up this role in Kilkenny County Council.
In addition each local authority is requested to appoint a full-time Broadband Officer to act as the liaison between the Local Authority and the winning bidder(s) in the NBC process and the Minister is committed to assigning funding in order to fund that particular position. The Council will advance this in the course of the coming months.

The Minister also intends to establish and convene meetings of two broadband Action Groups (Northern/Southern) in the NBP tender. The first meeting will take place on 16th September in Kilkenny Castle and it is expected that Colette Byrne, Chief Executive and Tim Butler, Director of Services will attend.

In advance of the first meeting taking place the Minister has asked each local authority to identify 10-20 strategic connection points throughout the county that could be prioritised ahead of the full rollout of broadband. The Department has requested a list of identified premises and categories by the end of the first week in October.

Eir has recently announced its intention to deploy rural fibre to 300,000 premises across the state over the next 3 years. At the request of Eir a meeting will take place between the Area Engineers in Kilkenny County Council and Eir on Friday 9th September. Over the next 6 months Eir has prioritised 4 communities which require the installation of 150km of fibre on both pole and duct infrastructure. The locations are Kilkenny, Knocktopher, Mooncoin and Piltown.

4.ROAD SAFETY PLAN 2015-2020

(a) Mr. Simon Walton informed the meeting that the Council is liaising with Beat radio with a view to running an advertising road safety campaign between now and Christmas to target in particular young drivers. Enquires will also be made with the local authorities in the South East with a view to running a road safety campaign between all the local authorities.
The meeting also agreed with the suggestion of exploring a joint launch and campaign between Kilkenny County Council and the Vintners Federation of Ireland in relation to the distribution of high viz jackets and vests in pubs around the county along with a safety message.

(b) 2009 School Safety Programme.

The meeting referred to the very successful School Safety Programme that was previously run in County Kilkenny and an amount in excess of €1,000,000 was invested in that programme. The schools were divided under 3 categories of risk namely high, medium and low and on this basis safety improvement were carried out.

Following a discussion the SPC2 recommended that Kilkenny County Council undertake a full audit of the schools having regard to the time that has elapsed since the school safety was implemented with a view to future changes in policy or future modifications to the measures that were introduced.

5. Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management CFRAM

Mr. Simon Walton explained that CFRAM has been going on for a number of years in identifying areas for further assessments, flood risk mapping and now to the point where the draft flood risk management plans have been published for both the Nore and the Barrow. The documents set out the preferred intervention measures as identified by the Office of Public Works (OPW) and their consultants in terms of flood defences for the various areas for further assessment.

The OPW documents are on display in the Council offices in County Hall and in the Thomastown Area Office. The closing date for receipt of submissions is Friday 28th October. This policy document will advise future flood interventions in all of the urban centres.

Kilkenny County Council will make a presentation as requested by the OPW at the Council meeting on 21st October and similar presentations will be made by Carlow and Wexford County Councils. Submissions on the plans can be made

by the local authorities up to 21st November. Following the presentation it will be put up on the Council's website. The nine areas of further assessment in Kilkenny are Ballyragget, Freshford, Kilkenny Nore, Kilkenny Breagagh, Callan, Thomastown, Ballyhale, Inistioge, Piltown.

6.PILOT COMMUNITY FLOOD RESILIENCE PROJECTS-THOMASTOWN & GRAIGUENAMANAGH

In 2014 following consultation with the OPW a pilot community flood resilience project commenced in Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh. Arups were appointed and that project is underway and it will feed into the CFRAM programme. A total of 50 no.questionnaires were issued to owners of affected properties in Graiguenamanagh and 16 have been returned. In the case of Thomastown 100 questionnaires were issued and 13 have been returned. The closing date was 16th August.
The slow response in returning the questionnaires is disappointing and will delay the project.

Consultants will develop a report and plans for the 150 properties when all the information is assembled and the OPW will have to provide funding. Flood Risk plans will come before Kilkenny County Council for adoption.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Waterford New Ross Greenway

A bat survey is near completion and a badger survey is now taking place in September. It is expected that two Part 8s will be published simultaneously in November for New Ross /Waterford Greenway and a similar development by Wexford Co.Co in the environs of New Ross.

(b) N25 between Slieverue and Jamestown Roundabout

The meeting expressed its support to call on the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for the upgrading of this section of road which will be sub standard by comparison to the New Ross By Pass when it is completed which will be of a dual carriageway standard.

(c) Meeting with TII on 21/09/2016.

The members recommended to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) that 4 elected members (2 from Piltown MD and 1 from Kilkenny and Castlecomer MD) and a Council official attend at a forthcoming meeting with TII officials on 21/09/2016 which was requested by the Council.

(d) Naming of New Ross By Pass Bridge.

Concern was expressed at the suggestion from New Ross Town Council to name this bridge as Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Bridge prior to consultation with Piltown Municipal District and public consultation. It was agreed to bring this matter up at CPG and investigate the possibility of having a protocol policy in place in the Council to assist with such matters.

Mention was also made regarding the need for completion of the landscaping to a proper standard when this development is completed which will assist in reducing maintenance costs thereafter.

This concluded the business of the meeting.