**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Roads and Infrastructure held on Wednesday 7th December, 2016 at 14:00 p.m. in Council Chamber**

**Present:**

Cllr. Clifford Kelly CCC (Chairman)

Cllr. Paddy Smith, CCC

Cllr. Paddy McDonald, CCC

Cllr. Philip Brady, CCC

Cllr. Sean Smith, CCC

Ms. Pauline Flood, Construction

Mr. Philip Smith, IFA

**In attendance:**

Mr. Joe McLoughlin, DOS – CCC

Mr. Brendan Jennings, A/SE - CCC

Mr. Alan Lyons, EE - CCC

Mr. David Farrelly, SO - CCC

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 22nd July, 2016**

No issues arose from the minutes.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Sean Smith and seconded by Cllr. Philip Brady.

1. **Hedge Cutting/Dangerous Roadside Trees & Structures**

Joe distributed a Circular from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to hedge cutting. He advised that, so far in 2016, the Council has issued over 180 hedge cutting notices to landowners and that this year we will be taking further action against those who don’t comply. There is a liability on landowners who ignore the notices as insurance companies will use that against them if an accident occurs. The Council can cut hedges and trees and recoup the cost from the landowner if necessary.

There was a discussion about hedge cutting and Cllr. S. Smith asked about permits for cutting trees. Cllr. Kelly also mentioned two areas were trees were causing difficulty for drivers.

**ACTION:** David to check out situation with permits and contact Area Engineer in regard to overhanging trees.

1. **Winter Maintenance Plan**

Alan Lyons handed out our Winter Maintenance Plan and gave a presentation in regard to the procedure for salting roads. He showed the routes which are salted and advised the meeting about the amount of salt used, the cost and how the decision is made to go out.

The members congratulated Alan on his presentation and a discussion took place with members voicing different opinions in relation to the amount of salting done.

Brendan advised that the TII may cut funding so we have to come up with ways to make savings.

1. **Update on National Road Projects**

Brendan gave an update on the following projects:-

* Nine Bridge Project on National Roads – €2m was spent on refurbishing nine bridges which are nearly completed at this stage.
* Virginia Main Street – This was rated as a high risk location by TII and funding has been secured to provide enhanced footpaths, parking facilities, improved flow of traffic at BJD junction. Preliminary designs are being done at the moment.
* Belturbet Bypass – Bypass has been open for three years but there are financial issues to be sorted. A conciliation agreement has just been reached with the contractor.
* N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon – This is the biggest scheme for the next 2 years, land has been bought and we hope to award a contract soon with a view to construction beginning in Spring 2017.
* Pavement Overlays –
  + N3 Kilmore Roundabout to Lavey
  + N55 at Killycannon Hill
  + Cornaslieve to Virginia
  + N87 Milltown Junction
* N3 Dublin Road Roundabout has high traffic volumes and tail backs so funding has been secured to carry out an audit
* N3 Virginia to Maghera – high accident volume.

A discussion took place in regard to these projects and Brendan further advised that the Applegreen Garage and Poles Co-Op on the N3 will be getting right turning lanes.

The members thanked all the engineers who were involved in getting funding for the various projects.

1. **AOB**

Cllr. Paddy Smith advised that he had received a letter from the RSA in relation to seat belts on buses and stated that they only need to be working on the day of the test.

Brendan advised that the Parking Bye-Laws have been in place since 1st November, 2016.

The Meeting concluded at 3.30 p.m.