

**Minutes of the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 2.30pm**

**Present:**

**SPC Members**

Cllr Joe Cooney  
Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy  
Cllr Liam Grant  
Cllr Ian Lynch  
Cllr Pat O’Gorman  
Cllr Alan O’Callaghan  
Ms Theresa O’Donohoe  
Mr Damon M. Wise

**Staff of Clare County Council**

Siobhán McNulty, A/DOS, Physical Dev  
John Leahy, SE, Transportation  
Morgan Lahiffe, SE, Climate Action  
Seán Lenihan, SE, PMO  
Anne Griffin, A/SEO Shannon MD  
Adrian Kelly, CFO  
Liam O’Connor, AO, Transportation  
Stephen Hayes, Civil Defence Officer  
Kelly Slattery, Community Climate Action  
Officer  
Valerie Fleming, ASO, Physical Dev

**Apologies:** Cllr John Crowe, Chair; Mr Padraic Hayes, Cyril Feeney

As Cllr John Crowe was unable to attend, Cllr Joe Cooney chaired the meeting.

**1. Minutes of Physical Development SPC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

The minutes of the Physical Development SPC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were proposed by Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy, seconded by Damon M. Wise and agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

Damon M. Wise stated that he had difficulty connecting to the September Physical Development SPC meeting.

Cllr Ian Lynch requested clarification on Active Travel funding for rural areas and John Leahy, SE, clarified that while the focus of the NTA for Active Travel funding in 2024 would be in urban areas, however applications for projects in rural areas would form part of the funding application for Active Travel.

### **3. Presentation on the Clare Civil Defence service**

Stephen Hayes, newly appointed Civil Defence Officer, gave an overview of the voluntary services provided by Clare Civil Defence.

Stephen confirmed that there is no charge for the attendance of Clare Civil Defence at events, but it is open to organisations to make a donation. The training of Civil Defence ambulance personnel is of the same standard as that for the National Ambulance Service.

Cllr Ian Lynch asked if there is still a restriction on the use of blue lights by Civil Defence personnel and Stephen replied that this issue is currently being assessed.

### **4. Water Services Transition update**

A Water Services briefing note was circulated to the Physical Development SPC members prior to the meeting outlining that Uisce Éireann have taken direct management control of the water services function since 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Staff currently employed in water services can remain with the local authority or can transfer to Uisce Éireann and have until December 2026 to decide.

### **5. Introduction to Community Climate Action Officer and her role in relation to community engagement on climate action**

Kelly Slattery, Community Climate Action Officer was introduced to the meeting and using a PowerPoint presentation she outlined her responsibilities relating to the Community Climate Action Programme detailed the funding streams available to community groups.

### **6. Provisional Meeting dates for 2024**

The following meeting dates were agreed for 2024:

- Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024
- Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024

## 7. AOB

Padraic Hayes asked Cllr Clare Colleran Molloy to raise the following two issues on his behalf:

- Accessibility on public bus service.

Siobhán McNulty, A/DOS, confirmed that the *Bus Connects* service is on schedule for commencement in 2024 and will greatly improve the public bus service in Ennis. John Leahy, SE, confirmed that the Transportation section of Clare County Council will look at the design of the bus stop at the West County Hotel.

- Availability of accessible public toilets in Shannon Town Centre

Although the Shannon Town Centre building is privately owned it was agreed to raise this issue with Shannon Municipal District and a letter to issue to the owners in this regard.

Cllr Alan O'Callaghan raised the issue of the continued outage of public lighting.

John Leahy, SE, stated that since March 2023 ESB attendance is required onsite, and the delay occurs in waiting for their availability. He asked the members to notify the Transportation department of any lights which just need replacement bulbs, and these can be dealt with in a more timely manner.

The next meeting of the Physical Development SPC is scheduled for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The meeting then concluded.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Joe Cooney**  
**Chairperson**

**Signed:**

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**Liam O'Connor**  
**Administrative Officer**

**Date:**

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