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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: Corporate.Services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co. Dublin

Wednesday 1st March 2023

To Each Member of the Transport & Infrastructure Management Strategic
Policy Committee

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Transport & Infrastructure Management Strategic Policy
Committee will be held in the Council Chamber - County Hall, Swords at
4.30 pm on Wednesday, 8th March, 2023 to consider the following
Agenda:

Yours Faithfully

Nikki Halleran
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

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A G E N D A

- 1** Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of Transport and Infrastructure Management SPC held on 6th December 2022
- 2** Draft Active Travel Strategy for Fingal
- 3** Draft Fingal Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2023
- 4** A Review of Pricing at the Councils Recycling Centres and the Provision of a Free Bulky Waste Service

MOTIONS

- 5** Councillor K. Power - Safe and Appropriate Parking Practices
 "That the Chief Executive develops and delivers a communication/education campaign about safe and appropriate parking practices, with a focus on the dangers of parking on footpaths, cycle lanes and bus stops."
- 6** M. Lenehan - Traffic Sensors to Pedestrian Crossings
 "That the Chief Executive conducts an urgent assessment of the locations of traffic sensors to all pedestrian crossings in Fingal to ensure that they are configured to prioritise pedestrians instead of vehicles and if they are found to not place pedestrians at the top of the transport hierarchy and prioritise pedestrian movements over cars, they should be reconfigured immediately."
- 7** Councillor A. Donnelly - Electric Bikes and Scooters in Public Parks
 "That the Chief Executive considers changing the Park Bye-Laws to prevent electric scooters and bicycles from using pedestrian paths in our public parks."

Agenda Item 1

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Monday 6th December 2022

Present:

Elected Members

Cllr Tom O'Leary – Chairperson
Cllr Angela Donnelly
Cllr Jimmy Guerin
Cllr Ann Graves
Cllr Eoghan O'Brien
Cllr Karen Power (Apologies)
Cllr Punam Rane

Non-Elected Members

Michael Lenehan

Officials Present

David Storey, Director of Services, Mary T. Daly, Director of Services, Paul Smyth, Senior Executive Officer, Marion O'Connor, Administrative Officer, Natalie Dineen, Administrative Officer, Breen Doris, Senior Executive Engineer, Sinead Murphy, Senior Engineer, Stephen Callaghan Staff Officer, Sinead Kennedy, Staff Officer, Ann Murphy, Clerical Officer.

TSPC/19/22

CONFIRMATION AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Transportation & Infrastructure Management Strategic Policy Committee meeting held virtually on 5th September 2022 which had been circulated were submitted. The Minutes as submitted were **APPROVED** as a true record.

The Minutes were proposed by Councillor Tom O'Leary and seconded by Councillor A. Graves and **RESOLVED**:

"That the recommendations contained in the Minutes of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on the 5th September 2022 be **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**."

TSPC/20/22

Review of Work Programme 2022 and Proposed Work Programme 2023

Mary T. Daly gave a presentation outlining the progress of the current Work Programme 2022 and discussed the Proposed Work Programme 2023.

Following the presentation questions raised by the Members were responded to.

The presentation was NOTED.

TSPC/21/22

In the absence of Councillor K. Power, It was **Agreed** that the following motion was to be listed for the next meeting of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

“That the Chief Executive develops and delivers a communication/education campaign about safe and appropriate parking practices, with a focus on the dangers of parking on footpaths, cycle lanes and bus stops.”

TSPC/22/22

The following Motion in the name of Councillor A. Graves was proposed by Councillor A. Graves and seconded by Councillor T. O’ Leary.

“That the Chief Executive provides a report on what progress has been made on the Western Distributor Road, the Orbital/Ring Road detailing how they work together in relation to providing sustainable transport, active travel measures and ensuring a road infrastructure that will meet the current and future needs.”

Report:

The Swords Western Distributor Road is an objective of the Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 and the Draft Plan 2023-2029. It is also a recommendation of the South Fingal Transport Study and the Sustainable Swords Strategy. Its development will provide a new alternative route for all modes of traffic and, crucially, it will facilitate the development of active travel and public realm interventions on Swords Main Street.

A procurement competition is currently underway to procure a consultant to progress a number of projects in Swords, and it is likely that the Distributor Road project will be one of the first projects to be assigned.

In line with the recommendations of the South Fingal Transport Study, it is expected that the northwestern quadrant will be prioritised initially, i.e. the

section from Oldtown/Mooretown to the R132/Metrolink Park+Ride at Lissenhall. The project will be brought through the standard project phases which includes significant local consultation, environmental assessment and stakeholder engagement. When the consultant has been appointed, a project briefing will be arranged to update the local elected members of further progress.

Mary T. Daly, Director of Services and David Storey, Director of Services, responded to questions raised by the members.

The Report was NOTED.

TSPC/23/22

The following Motion in the name of Councillor T. O'Leary was proposed by Councillor T. O'Leary and seconded by Councillor J. Guerin.

"That the Chief Executive makes available all current traffic count statistics (cars and vehicles specifically) in a user friendly map based format, so that Councillors and the public have transparency on the traffic counts in their area, towns and villages on the key streets and approach roads to those towns to enable Councillors and the public to be fully informed and engage in decisions and debate as the Council rolls out Active Travel measures and plans across the County and to carry out an audit to update any out of date data."

Report:

The purpose of traffic counts and other data gathering is to inform the professional traffic engineers and the road design engineers in their assessment, design and implementation of traffic interventions and other measures that they need to consider. These would include, for example, the provision of traffic signals, pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, construction of new roads etc., to mention but a small number of activities undertaken by the engineering team. The data gathered is analysed and interpreted by the professional engineers in the context of these activities and applied to engineering principles and design standards.

The level of work involved in developing a map-based system would be considerable, staff intensive and would need to be scoped out in detail before a commitment is made to undertaking any such work. The benefits of undertaking such a project would need to be considered as part of any such detailed assessment. The Council's initial view is that it would be neither reasonable nor

practicable, especially from a staffing perspective, for all this information to be made available as an all-encompassing overview in the manner suggested.

The Councillors can rest assured that it will continue to be the practice that when any new projects, traffic calming schemes, active travel measures are proposed and presented to Councillors that they are backed up by evidence and data gathered from these traffic counts and the salient data is assessed and summarised as part of the presentation.

Paul Smyth, Senior Executive Officer and Mary T. Daly, Director of Services responded to questions raised by the members.

The Report was NOTED.

The SPC Meeting concluded at 17.45pm

Signed:

Chairperson _____

Date _____

Agenda Item 5

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023

ITEM NO. 5

Safe and Appropriate Parking Practices

Motion: Cllr K. Power

“That the Chief Executive develops and delivers a communication/education campaign about safe and appropriate parking practices, with a focus on the dangers of parking on footpaths, cycle lanes and bus stops.”

Report:

Fingal County Council regularly campaign on our Social Media platform (including the poster below) for all citizens to be mindful of other more vulnerable road users when parking, for example pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users etc., and should always park in a legal manner.

Parking is not permitted on cycle lanes, footpaths, double yellow lines, etc. or in blue permit bays without a valid permit and will be enforced by Fingal Parking Wardens.

Park Right

Parking is illegal & prohibited in certain scenarios, which may incur a fixed charge penalty notice.

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



1

DO NOT PARK ON FOOTPATHS
OR GRASS VERGES



Poses a road safety risk to vulnerable road users (pedestrians, wheelchair users, children on bikes / scooters, people pushing buggies etc.)

2

DO NOT PARK ON OR CLOSE
TO A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
OR SCHOOL CROSSING



Blocks sight lines and poses a road safety risk to children, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

3

DO NOT PARK ON OR
ACROSS A CYCLE TRACK



Poses a road safety risk to cyclists.

4

DO NOT PARK ON DOUBLE YELLOW
LINES OR OPPOSITE A CONTINUOUS
WHITE CENTRELINE



Poses a road safety risk for other road users.

Source of Report: Natalie Dineen, Administrative Officer, Operations.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023

ITEM NO. 6

Traffic Sensors to Pedestrian Crossings

Motion: M. Lenehan

“That the Chief Executive conducts an urgent assessment of the locations of traffic sensors to all pedestrian crossings in Fingal to ensure that they are configured to prioritise pedestrians instead of vehicles and if they are found to not place pedestrians at the top of the transport hierarchy and prioritise pedestrian movements over cars, they should be reconfigured immediately.”

Report:

Pedestrian Crossings across the Fingal area have been installed with the safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable users at the forefront.

In accordance with National Transport Policy, Fingal County Council prioritises pedestrians at the top of the Hierarchy of Road Users. Pedestrian crossings are configured to ensure that safe crossing by pedestrians is prioritised and that vehicular traffic can come to a stop safely without abrupt braking or swerving.

Source of Report: Karen A. Gallagher, Senior Engineer, Operations.

TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 8th March 2023

ITEM NO. 7

Electric Bikes and Scooters in Public Parks

Motion: Cllr A. Donnelly

“That the Chief Executive considers changing the Park Bye-Laws to prevent electric scooters and bicycles from using pedestrian paths in our public parks.”

Report:

E-scooters

E-scooters are classified as mechanically propelled vehicles in accordance with the Road Traffic Act 1961. In accordance with the Regional Parks and Open Spaces Bye-Laws 2017:

4.6 TRAFFIC, BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS ETC.

c) No person other than authorised officials and employees of the Council shall drive or allow to be driven or be a passenger in any mechanically propelled vehicle in the park on unauthorised routes save with the permission in writing of the Council and then only in such areas as may be designated by the Council.

Provision is already provided within the existing bye-laws which prevent e-scooters in the public parks. A review will be carried out on what signage is currently in place informing the public of the bye-law.

Bicycles

Bicycles are allowed on the footpaths within all regional and local parks in accordance with the Bye-Laws and there is no plan to change the bye-laws to prevent the public from cycling on the footpaths.

Future Regulation of E-scooters and E-bikes

The Irish Government's Road Traffic and Roads Bill, which will regulate the use of e-scooters and e-bikes, is currently before the Oireachtas. Under this Bill, there will be classification of "powered personal transporters" that travel under 25km/h which shall be exempt from tax, insurance, registration and licence requirements. These vehicles will essentially be treated the same as regular push bikes. However more powerful e-scooters and e-bikes that can reach speeds higher than 25km/h will fall under the same category as mopeds and motorbikes, and so will require insurance, registration and licensing. These will be subject to the rules of the road that apply to mopeds and motorbikes.

It is expected that within the legislation there will also be technical and safety standards for e-scooters and e-bikes, like lighting and construction, and rules for the safe use of such vehicles in public places. Under the Bill, it is expected that a number of safety measures for use in public areas will be introduced including:-

- A minimum age for use of 16 years;
- Compulsory helmets for those aged between 16 and 18; and
- A ban of use on footpaths.

It can be expected that once the legislation is passed there will be a significant increase in the number of e-scooters operating in public places, as many of the major e-scooter service operators plan to roll out rental services in urban areas through mobile apps in Ireland. Indeed, anyone who has travelled to major European cities in recent years will be accustomed to seeing many e-scooter rental points in urban areas, with rental use of those e-scooters proving very popular in those cities

Source of Report: Mary T. Daly, Director of Services, Operations and Water Services Department

David Storey, Director of Services, Climate Action and Active Travel Department