**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Roads and Infrastructure held on Thursday 6th December, 2018 at 2.00p.m. in Council Chamber**

**Present:**

Cllr. Paddy O’Reilly CCC (Chairman)

Cllr. Sean Smith, CCC

Cllr. Paddy Smith, CCC

Cllr. Paddy McDonald, CCC

Ms. Pauline Flood,

Mr. Jim Maguire

**In attendance:**

Mr. Paddy Connaughton, A/DOS – CCC

Mr. John McKernan, SE – CCC

Mr. David Farrelly SO – CCC

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1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 22nd March, 2018**

Proposed by Cllr. Sean Smith and seconded by Cllr. Paddy Smith

1. **Virginia Bypass Update**

John gave an update on the N3 Virginia Bypass Scheme and the N3 Virginia to Maghera Scheme (see attached handout). He said that the original scheme was designed in 2002 based on traffic volumes at that time and that due to increases in traffic volumes and changes in environmental and engineering standards the whole scheme has to be re-evaluated. A discussion took place regarding the schemes and John advised that a project of this size could take 8 to 13 years to complete, but it is hoped to have consultants appointed next year and start construction in 2023.

1. **Local Improvement Scheme 2018 & Community Involvement Scheme 2018**

John advised the meeting that €400,000 had been spent on CIS this year and €295,000 on LIS. We had been told we were getting extra funding for LIS but we didn’t get official notice from the Department.

John said that some applicants were having difficulty raising the contribution, so we propose to advise applicants earlier that they may be offered a scheme to allow them gather the funds.

A discussion took place about the schemes and it was agreed that we would look into giving information to the Councillors without divulging personal information. It was also agreed that we would ask the Department about the criteria for allocating funding to Local Authorities and get a list of the numbers of lanes in other counties. Paddy said we would also arrange a meeting with the Department.

1. **Hedge Cutting**

A discussion took place re hedge cutting and Paddy Connaughton advised that two letters are sent to landowners telling them to cut hedges. He asked if the committee wanted people to be prosecuted. Cllr. Sean Smith said that the threat of prosecution has worked in Ballyconnell. It was agreed that we would concentrate on the Ballyjamesduff MD and see how it goes.

1. **Winter Maintenance Programme 2018**

Paddy advised that the 2018 Programme would be the same as previous years but it will be reviewed in the new year. He said that it would cost more to add any extra roads.

1. **Bridge Rehabilitation Programme 2018**

Paddy advised that we had a very successful bridge rehabilitation programme this year and we have submitted an application for €500,000 for works on 15 bridges in 2019. Cllr. P. Reilly said that a lot of positive comments have been made about our bridges and this needs to be highlighted.

1. **Funding Application – Roads**

Paddy said that a meeting was to be held with the Executive and Oireachtas members and asked if the committee wanted anything raised and more money for road maintenance and more funding for LIS was requested. Cllrs also asked for a document which they could use when seeking funding from the Department.

1. **AOB**

None

**Date for next meeting –**