

Minutes of the Transport, Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) held on Friday 30th May 2025 at 3.00p.m. at 11am, at the Cavan Crystal Hotel.

SPC Members Present:

Cllr Trevor Smith (Chair), Cllr TP O'Reilly, Cllr Patricia Walsh, Cllr Philip Brady, Cllr Damien Brady.

In Attendance:

Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service
John McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer
Margaret McNally, Head of Finance
Colm O'Callaghan, Senior Engineer
Susan Doherty, Administrative Officer
Jim McQuaid, Senior Executive Engineer
Marty Lynch, Staff Officer
Peter Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick Construction

Apologies:

Cllr Clifford Kelly

Cllr Trevor Smith chaired. He welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged apologies.

1. Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting,

- Held on 11th April 2024. Cavan Crystal.

The minutes were read and adopted. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Trevor Smith and seconded by Cllr Patricia Walsh.

2. Remedial Works to Cavan Town Multi-Storey Car Park. Presentation

Jim McQuaid, Senior Executive Engineer, gave a presentation with details of remedial works carried out on the Cavan Town Multi-Storey Car Park (MSCP), over the previous 12 months. He began by giving the context and background as to why the works were essential. He advised that the structure was built 25 years ago and was showing signs of dilapidation and age both inside and out. The interior of the building was also in poor condition. It was not clean or user friendly and was attracting an element of anti-social behaviour. It was also noted that there was a fire in Douglas, Cork, during 2019, which damaged the Multi Storey Car Park and shopping centre. To mitigate risks of a similar event in Cavan, it was decided to carry out works which would bring the MSCP up to modern fire safety standards.

There were three main drivers of the project to address concerns regarding Risk of Fire, Structural Integrity and Parking Demand. Regarding structural integrity, it was noted that water ingress had led to corrosion. A study was carried out by Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) to identify what works were required and was published in February 2021. The report recommended extensive works to include replacement of weakened structural steel, fireproofing of exposed steel frame elements and replacement of asphalt roof finishes. Other works to be completed were installation of a traffic management system, replacement of passenger lifts, upgrading of electrics and repainting. It was also noted that the

The Council decided not to do the works piecemeal, to do all of the works at once and to a high standard. Design Consultants Alan Traynor were initially appointed with additional expertise from Walsh Associates. Following completion of design, a procurement competition was held and the McCabe Group was appointed as the main contractor to carry out the works, which commenced in June 2024.

During the works, a complete strip was carried out to bring all electrics up to standard. The asphalt was removed from the upper floors and water sealed with DecSeal reinforced primer. The entire steel work was sandblasted and painted with intumescent paint, to protect against corrosion effects of fire. The parking layout was redesigned to give 290 spaces (17 disabled and 10 family friendly). Floors were scraped, sealed and painted with contrasting colours and new lighting installed to make it safer for pedestrians. A new lift was installed and a new pay station with chip and PIN or card tap facilities. A total of 56 CCTV cameras were installed to address anti-social behaviour and personal safety concerns. The aesthetics of the lower entrance were also improved and works were completed by the end of May 2025.

3. Review of Parking and Parking Bye laws, Cavan Town.

Colm O'Callaghan, Senior Engineer and Susan Doherty, Administrative Officer, gave a presentation on Parking and Parking Bye laws. They advised the meeting that a review was required for a number of reasons, such as, the Redevelopment of the Multi-Storey Car, the town centre development of Abbeylands, a need to address parking concerns, increased traffic volumes, a desire to see a reduction in the

occurrence of traffic circulating to search for parking spaces. They advised that there are currently 406 on street parking spaces provided in the town: Farnham Street – 60, College Street – 70, Dublin Road – 40, Main Street to Dunnes Junction – 90, Main Street from Dunnes to Dublin Road – 80, Thomas Ashe Street – 25, Town Hall Street – 20, Abbey Street – 10, Bridge Street – 6, Wolfe Tone Street – 5. There is also available car parking off street with 1048 spaces, covered by CCTV.

It was decided to review parking provision based on best practice and need. A survey of neighbouring county car parking charges showed that the median charge for on street parking was €1 per hour and €2 per day off street. The aim of a revised car parking charge policy is to encourage all day parking to the off-street facilities, to leave spaces available on street, for short term stops, such as for shoppers.

Proposals to be considered are that charges are revised to €2 per day at the MSCP, with all other Council car park charges at €4 per day. On street and short-term parking is increased to €1 per hour, with a 60-cent option for a twenty-minute stay. There is a proposed annual MSCP charge of €365 per annum. Parking to be enforced by keeping the existing Parking staff in place.

In addition, it is proposed to provide a further additional 110 on street-controlled spaces as follows: Con Smith Park – 10, Farnham Street at Cathedral – 12, Keadue – 18, Railway Road – 50, Cathedral Road – 15.

It is expected that the benefits of the revised parking bye laws and controlled spaces, once adopted will include better traffic flow, more available parking, increased use of the MSCP, providing for future town development, effective parking enforcement and consistency of parking charges.

4. Roads Programme Update

John McKernan, Senior Executive Engineer, gave an update on the County Roads Programme.

Road Network

Cavan has 3,000km of road network. 4.3% National Road (TII). 95.7% Non-National Road (DoT).

Roads Funding 2025

- National Roads TII - €9,739,633
- Regional and Local Roads DoT - €19,193,150
- Council Own Resources - €2,942,379
- Active Travel NTA - €3,525,000
- Total - €35,400,162

Funding Trend 2005 – 2025

Allocations have been on an upward trajectory since the lowest point in 2016. The current allocation is €0.53m above the previous highest allocation of €18.6m in 2008, but is still below what is required to maintain the road network.

National Primary Schemes

N3 NDP-Virginia Bypass. €1.2m. Phase 3. Design and evaluation.

N3 Belturbet Bypass. €325,000. Close out.

National Primary HD15 & HD17 Minor Works

N3 Butlersbridge Rural Bus stop RSIS. €90k. Feasibility.

N3 Derver P&R. €67,500. Feasibility.

N3 Lavey P&S. €90k. Feasibility.

N3 Virginia Main Street RSIS. €9k. Close out.

N3 Cavan Crystal Hotel-Kilmore Roundabout SS. €90k

N3 Virginia Maghera SS. €300k. Design.

Details were also provided with regard to allocations provided in the budget for National Primary Road Pavement works, National Secondary Schemes, National Road Maintenance and National Greenway & Active Travel projects.

N3 Virginia Bypass

The current scheme development commenced in 2019. The preferred Transport Solution published in May 2023 and is approximately 14.5km in length. It will include walking/cycling and park/share facilities. The scheme is currently at Phase 3 – Design & Environmental Evaluation. Phase 4 – The Statutory Process is to commence in 2026. Subject to receiving TII and Department approval.

Cavan Northwest Greenway

Development started in 2024. The aim of the project is to develop a Greenway connecting Cavan town North, to the Ulster Canal Greenway and to the Cavan Leitrim Greenway.

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon

Development of the N55 Ballinagh Relief Road commenced in 2022. The aim is to remove national road traffic from the town centre.

The meeting also received an update on the Regional and Local Roads overview of funding allocations and a briefing on materials and other cost increases over the period 2018 – 2025.

Active Travel Grants

The meeting was given breakdown of funding allocations of projects around the county, to the total of €3,525,000.

CIS and LIS

The Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) provides for additional funding of maintenance of rural public roads, with a 10 per cent contribution from applicants. The DoT allocation of €513,150 provided financing for five schemes.

The Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) provides funding for maintenance of non-public lanes in rural areas. It is funded by the Dept of Rural and Community Development (DCRD). An allocation of €519,476 was provided in 2025. There were 278 applications on the file at the end of 2024. The Council is currently progressing applications from the 2017 period.

5. AOB

No further items raised.

6. Scheduling of next meeting

The chair would liaise to set the date for the next meeting.

Cllr Trevor Smith brought the meeting to a close.