**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 2 – Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services Issues held in County Hall on Friday 2nd December 2016.**

**Present:** Cllr. Matt Doran (Chairman).

 Cllr.Tomás Breathnach; Cllr. Michael Doyle; Cllr.

 Michael McCarthy; Cllr. Fidelis Doherty; Cllr. Eamon Aylward

 Mr.Barry Lynch; Mr. Gary Graham; Mr.Michael Rice.

**In Attendance**: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services; Mr.Martin Butler, Administrative

Officer.

Apology: Ms. Mairead Phelan; Mr. Billy Walsh

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of previous meeting of SPC 2 held on 2nd September 2016.

Proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy

Seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle

and Agreed.

**2.Bus Shelters**

Mr. T. Butler informed the meeting that under Phase One of this Programme funding was provided for the provision of bus pull in areas and shelters at the following locations:

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| **Phase One-Location** | **No. of Shelters** | **Status** |
| Mooncoin | 1.No. Shelter | Installed |
| Castlecomer Rd., Kilkenny | 1.No. Shelter | Installed |
| Gowran | 1.No. Shelter | Installed |
| Paulstown | 1.No. Shelter | Installed |
| Glenmore Hill | 1.No. Shelter | Under construction |

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| The locations listed under Phases Two and Three are as follows and it is expected that this Programme will be completed in its entirety next year.

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| **Phase Two-Location** | **No.of Shelters** |
| Slieverue | 1.No.Shelter |
| Piltown | 2.No.Shelter |
| Mullinavat | 1.No.Shelter |
| Castlecomer | 2.No.Shelter |

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| **Phase Three-Location** | **No.of Shelters** |
| Thomastown | 1.No.Shelter |
| Johnstown | 2.No.Shelter |
| Rockshire Road, Ferrybank | 1.No.Shelter |

The provision of bus shelters in Callan and Freshford was discussed at the meeting along with the possibility of providing litter bins close to the shelters and advertising on the shelters.The National Transport Authority (NTA) has contacted Kilkenny County Council about a bus service in the city. Two bus routes are proposed which will have regular stops and regular timetables with a number of shelters. A presentation will be made to the Kilkenny Municipal Authority in January and following this there will be public consultation and a tender process in the middle of 2017.3. Broadband UpdateThe Department of Communications and Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs are assisting with the broadband improvements and have engaged with the local authority from a planning perspective. A broadband officer has now been appointed by the Council and this person will liaise with the appointed contractor for the rollout of rural broadband. Two sub committees have been set up-one to implement the infrastructure and the other to prepare a digital strategy for Kilkenny. A digital strategy will focus on attracting communication business in Kilkenny. The Department of Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs identified a number of areas throughout the county that had schools, Garda Stations and community centres. The Council was asked to identify areas of priority. |  |  |

A map was presented at the meeting which showed areas where high speed broadband services are or will be provided commercially over the next 5 years. Areas coloured amber on the map which have not access to 30mb are included in the tender process. This is a national tender and it is hoped to award the tender by the end of 2017.

**4.sEVERE wEATHER EVENTS RESPONSE.**

Mr. T. Butler referred to contact details for IFA personnel that was available to Council staff previously and through whom it was possible to coordinate the delivery of grit and the putting in place, by the farming community, of measures to properly utilize that grit in periods of severe weather. It was agreed to have this list updated in the event of future severe weather.

It was noted that the Council received €3.3m funding in 2016 for small flood relief schemes.

The meeting was informed that the army has been proactive over the last 2 months in training for winter emergencies. Their equipment has been updated which includes boats, pumping equipment and lights. During a discussion on this it was agreed to record thanks to the army for their invaluable assistance during the severe weather last winter.

**5.** **Fix dates for SPC2 meetings in 2017**

The following dates for SPC2 meetings in 2017 were agreed:

03/03 2017

09/06 2017

01/09/2017

01/12/2017

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Items for consideration and discussion in 2017
* Parking and safety features at schools.
* Parking of vehicles near motorway schemes.
* Electric cars.

This concluded the business of the meeting