

MONTHLY MEETING OF DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

12 April 2021

Chairperson's Report from Special Meeting of Transportation & Marine SPC 22nd January 2021

The Chairperson, Councillor Daniel Dunne presided.

In attendance were:

Councillors:

CLlr Marie Baker, Cllr Shay Brennan, Cllr Deirdre Donnelly, Cllr. Eva Elizabeth Dowling, Cllr Daniel Dunne, Cllr Lorraine Hall, Cllr Sean McLoughlin, Cllr Peter O'Brien, Cllr Maeve O'Connell and Cllr Carrie Smyth.

Sectorial Representative:

Mr. Gregory Alken & Ms. Julie Mulleady.

Apologises were received from Ms. Frances Kelly

Guests invited to Special SPC:

Minister Eamonn Ryan, Department of Transport; Mr. Naoise Grisewood, Private Secretary to Minister Ryan, Department of Transport; Councillor Kazi Ahmed; Councillor Anne Colgan; Councillor Martha Fanning; Councillor Mary Fayne; Councillor Tom Kivlehan; Councillor Lettie McCarthy; Councillor Justin Moylan; Councillor Juliet O'Connell; Council Oisín O'Connor; Councillor Séafra Ó Faoláin & Councillor Dave Quinn

Apologises received from Councillor Hugh Lewis

Officials Present:

Tom McHugh (Deputy CEO & Director of Municipal Services), Martin Allidine (Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Services), Patricia Doherty (Administrative Officer, Municipal Services), Sean McGrath (Senior Engineer, Traffic), Austin Baines (Senior Executive Officer, Infrastructure and Climate Change), John Broderick (Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal Services), Gerard Flaherty (Senior Executive Engineer, Traffic and Sustainable Travel), John Keating (Executive Planner, Municipal Services), Grainne McDermott (Senior Executive Engineer, Municipal Services), Gary Walsh (Executive Engineer, Municipal Services), Sue McMahon (Senior Staff Officer, Municipal Services) & Deirdre Cronin (Senior Staff Officer, Municipal Services)

1. Address by Minister Eamonn Ryan

The Chairperson Councillor Daniel Dunne opened the meeting by introducing the Minister Eamonn Ryan to the members and thanked the Minister for attending the meeting. The Minister thanked the Committee for the invitation and addressed the meeting. He spoke about Government national transport policy; Bus Connects, Active Travel, Dart and LUAS extensions and the importance of staying local during COVID.

2. Question and Answer Session

The Chairperson Councillor Daniel Dunne thanked the Minister and opened the question and answer session:

(a) Question submitted from Councillor Maeve O'Connell

"To ask the Minister for Transport for an update on e-scooter and micro-mobility regulation legislation"

The Minister thanked Councillor O'Connell for her question and stated that legislation in relation to this will be progressed in due course

(b) Question submitted from Councillor Lorraine Hall

"To ask the Minister for Transport what efforts are being made to increase the frequency of public transport to encourage people to move from the car to the bus, train and other forms of sustainable transport. Reliable and frequent public transport is as important at weekends as it is mid-week."

The Minister thanked Councillor Hall for her question and stated that 800 new buses have recently been purchased. He agreed to deliver more reliability in weekend services was a good idea and he would investigate the matter

(c) Question from SPC member Mr. Gregory Alken

"Traffic control a blunt instrument as currently applied. It affects not merely private transportation but all commercial transportation to include, Public Transport, Emergency services, Commercial deliveries, business and domestic non portable shopping.

When focussing on a narrow agenda, side effects are ignored, yet the damage grows

Has the accumulative and incremental effect been properly announced to the public?

Has the proper cost of delayed journeys been calculated and costed?"

The Minister thanked Mr. Alken for his question and the question was **NOTED**.

(d) Question from SPC member Mr. Gregory Alken

"High street shopping negated in favour of centres with generous car parking. NTA have favoured the big businesses against the small business street shop. Every street shop in the County has been so disserved in favour of shopping centres therefore the fabric of towns and villages being sterilised followed by closures and the enormous community value eroded.

Has the cost of closing small business, by the harsh use of these measures, been calculated?

Economic Cost? Health Cost? Employment cost? Family Cost? Mental Health Cost? and the cost to lives?"

The Minister thanked Mr. Alken for his question and the question was **NOTED**.

(e) Question from SPC member Mr. Gregory Alken

“Under the cover of the Covid 19 Pandemic road interventions are carried out without due public consultation in order to achieve a separate agenda that has not been accepted democratically by the public. Historic expensive infrastructure is being destroyed and replaced with a theoretical replacement where the only comprehensive consultation has been with the cycling lobby at the expense of all other users.

Where is the mandate for this?”

The Minister thanked Mr. Alken for his question and the question was **NOTED**.

(f) Question from SPC Member Mr. Gregory Alken

“Would it not be more cost effective to sponsor more progressively Electric Vehicles rather than spend as we are at the moment?”

The Minister thanked Mr. Alken for his question and the question was **NOTED**.

3. Question from floor

There were questions to the Minister from the floor by Councillors Donnelly; Smyth; Baker and Hall. The questions ranged from when setting national transport policies are all disabilities from non-visual to mobility problems considered; if there was to be a policy introduced regarding cycling on footpaths; problems with 2 routes in DLR for BusConnects; with rising COVID numbers there should be mandatory quarantine for people entering Ireland from abroad; if Minister was aware of any funding for DLR to taking on Dún Laoghaire Harbour and bringing it up to taking in charge standard; lack of public consultation on 3 walking/cycling routes installed in 2020; due to increased use of Cargo bikes, that there be greater financial incentives available.

A discussion was held, and the Minister noted the points raised and stated he would investigate them. Regarding the funding for Dún Laoghaire Harbour the Minister wasn't aware of any funding but will look into it and come back to the Councillor

4. Conclusion of Meeting

Due to time constraints the meeting concluded at 17:00. As there were a number of Councillors who didn't get a chance to ask their questions the Chairperson requested these Councillors submit their questions by email to him and he would forward them onto the Minister. The Minister thanked the Committee and agreed to another meeting at a future date.