

Derry City and Strabane District Council

**Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee (Open)
held in the Council Chamber - Strabane Council Offices on Wednesday 21
November 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Councillor Reilly (Chairperson), Aldermen Bresland, Ramsey and
Warke and Councillors Duddy, Duffy, Hastings, Jackson, D Kelly and R
McHugh.**

**In Attendance:- Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs K Philips),
Head of Environment (Mr C Canning) and Committee Services Assistant (Ms N
Meehan).**

**Representing Transport NI: Network Development Manager (Mr H Gallagher),
Network Development Engineer (Mr D MacBride) and Network Maintenance
Section Engineer (Mr R McCartney).**

SER1/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting

The Director of Environment and Regeneration read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

SER2/18 Member Attendance and Apologies

The Director of Environment and Regeneration completed the Member Attendance register and apologies were recorded from Councillors Campbell and Tierney.

SER3/18 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were no Declarations of Members' Interests.

**SER4/18 To receive representatives from the Department for Infrastructure
(Roads Western Division) to present the Autumn Report 2018**

The Chairperson welcomed the representatives from Roads Western Division to the Meeting and invited them to present their Autumn Report 2018.

The Network Development Manager presented the Transport NI Western Division Works Programme Update report (Autumn 2018), details of which had been previously circulated to Members. He then provided a brief update on the following Strategic Road Improvement Schemes outlined in the report:

- A5 Western Transport Corridor
- A6 Randalstown to Castledawson
- A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe
- A2 Buncrana Road

The Network Maintenance Section Engineer advised that his Section were responsible for maintaining the existing road network to a satisfactory standard. He then provided Members with an update on the Network Maintenance Schemes with specific reference to the following:

Structural Maintenance – Planned works 2018-2019

A1002 – Strand Road (Pennyburn Roundabout to Meadowbank)

A5 – Mulvin Road (at McCrabbe’s Victoria Bridge)

B48 - Lisnarragh Road at Aghabrack

B49 – Woodend Road, Ballymagorry

B194 – Racecourse Road, Buncrana Road to Summerhill Grove

U1540 – Richill Park

U1540 – Cricklewood Park

The Network Maintenance Section Engineer referred to a number of projects where resurfacing or extensive patching was carried out which was funded by the Roads Recovery Fund referring specifically to the following:

A1002 – Caw Roundabout – Resurfacing

A1002 – Foyleside Roundabout - Resurfacing

The Network Development Engineer advised that in the 2018-2019 financial year £190k had been allocated for Local Transport and Safety Measures within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area. As well as the schemes outlined in the report it was also proposed to take forward an improvement scheme at Ballyarnett Roundabout for which a developer contribution had been secured. He then outlined for Members the Network Development Local Transport and Safety Measures – Planned Works 2018-2019 making specific reference to the following schemes:

Traffic Management Schemes

C0679 – Drumlegagh Road North realignment

B0082 – Railway Street, Strabane

B72 – Liskey Road

B47 – Glenelly Road, Plumbridge

Pedestrian Measures

A2 – Strand Road Rock Road

A2 – Dales Corner

Local Transport and Safety Measures

Rossville Street Area – Residents' Parking Scheme

The Network Development Manager said it was intended that schemes listed in the Programme would be progressed to detailed design and land acquisition stage. If additional funding became available during the financial year, it may permit some of the schemes to progress to construction stage.

The Network Development Engineer referred to a scheme proposed for Clady Village to ban the use of HGVs through the village to access Donegal. He stated that this had been designed and discussion had taken place with Donegal County Council in relation thereto. Authorisation was currently awaited to proceed with a formal consultation.

In relation to the A2 Clooney Road Route Management Strategy, the Network Development Engineer advised that this would link up with the A6 Dungiven to Drumahoe providing dualling from Maydown to Caw. He stated that the A2 formed part of the final A6 dualling. A bid for funding had been made in respect of this project which would include upgrading out of town lanes to a similar standard as the dual carriageways. A timescale in respect of these works could not be confirmed at this stage.

The Network Development Engineer advised that the Department remained committed to completing the B165 Bellspark Road Scheme possibly on a phased basis which would prove extremely beneficial.

The Network Development Manager pointed out that £1m funding had been allocated in respect of bridges and street lighting. He pointed out that during 2018-2019 the Bridge Management Section intended to carry out work to structures in the Derry City and Strabane District Council area representing an investment of approximately £950k in the local infrastructure. He stated that restructuring and re-widening works had been carried out to the Ballynameen Bridge, Claudy at a cost of £800,000. These works were nearing completion.

He advised that replacement and re-widening works to the Glenrandel Bridge were on programme for the next financial year following its demolition during the 2017 floods.

The Network Development Manager pointed out that works were planned to improve street lighting in areas where other street works were planned. He continued that street lighting faults could now be reported on the NIDirect website or by phoning the new Call Centre. He encouraged the general public to continue to report faults. He concluded that in the 2018-2019 financial year (£1,039k including £660k for LED Retrofits) had been allocated for capital street lighting works within the Derry/Strabane District Council area. This would be used to continue the Department's general programme of improvement/replacement of older systems.

Members from all Parties thanked the representatives for their in-depth report. Members then raised the following issues:

- Queried the deferral of a number of the resurfacing schemes.
- Welcomed the Temple Road Footway widening.
- Acknowledged difficulties in relation to the acquisition of land in respect of the Highmoor Road Scheme and referred to the obvious impact of the proposed new school near Brockagh in terms of increased traffic. Queried if there were plans to address this situation following the opening of the new school.
- Enquired as to the possible installation of double yellow lines at Eglinton Health Centre to prevent parking on the footpath.
- Welcomed the works being carried out by DfI (Roads) and the progress and development in relation to infrastructure.
- Expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in terms of the A5 Western Transport Corridor but anticipated that it would proceed in the future.

- Whilst the outcome of the court proceedings in relation to the A5 Scheme was disappointed commended the Department on its' perseverance and continued commitment in relation thereto.
- Acknowledged budgetary constraints.
- Looked forward to progress in regards to the A2 Buncrana Road Scheme.
- Welcomed the proposed change from Halogen to Led street lighting.
- Welcomed the new system for reporting street lighting faults through the NIDirect website.
- Welcomed traffic calming measures introduced at Moss Road.
- Referred to the proposed deferral of the scheme to introduce a bus turning circle at Cornshell Fields and queried if there had been any progress in relation thereto.
- Referred to the removal of street lighting from laneways in housing estates which was having a detrimental impact on the vulnerable. Enquired as to the possibility of having a community impact assessment/public consultation carried out prior to any further removal of such lighting.
- Expressed concern at delays in terms of providing updates in relation to faults reported through the Department's online system.
- Enquired as to the timescale for carrying out repairs to street lighting.
- Expressed concern that a number of areas had been excluded from the Department's online system.
- Welcomed the proposed restriction of HGVs through Clady village and anticipated that the decision to proceed with these works would be forthcoming.
- Referred to the proposed repairs to Gransha Lake outfall at Foyle Bridge and referred to potential problems which could arise in terms of overflow onto the greenway.
- Suggested working with Council in an effort to design in a solution to prevent litter from entering the lake.
- Referred to the Rossville Street Area Residents' Parking Scheme and the knock-on effect thereof in terms of parking provision and enquired as to the possibility of similar schemes being carried out in other areas.

- Referred to the proposed lantern replacement with LED at Victoria Road and expressed concern regarding the possible removal of historic structures.
- Enquired as to the situation regarding proposed sightline improvements to Liskey Road at the junction with the Camus Road, Douglas Bridge.
- Queried the progress on the traffic calming scheme at Station Road, Ballymagorry.
- Enquired as to the Department's plans regarding a section of roadway at Curley Hill Road and if agreement could be reached with BT regarding the removal of cables and telegraph posts which would be a significant improvement to the area.
- Welcomed the reconstruction works at Ballynameen Bridge which was aesthetically pleasing and particularly in regards to the surrounding Sperrin area.
- Requested the Department to investigate complaints received regarding speeding at the Crossroads at Letterbrack.
- Enquired if there was potential for extending the current Street Lighting Programme.
- Enquired if the Department would be introducing safety measures in respect of the Caw Roundabout as part of the A2 Clooney Road Route Management Strategy.

The representatives from DfI (Roads) responded as follows:

- Advised that all resurfacing contracts were subject to indices determined by the European Union which the Department was contractually obliged to apply. These impacted specifically on costs in terms of labour, plant and materials. The bulk of the materials used were heavily dependent on oil prices which had increased significantly and had a subsequent knock-on effect on overall cost. This had resulted in a considerable increase to the cost of a number of planned schemes which, in order to stay within budget, it had been necessary to defer some schemes at this stage.
- Anticipated that additional funding would be made available to enable the majority of the schemes to proceed within the current financial year.
- In relation to Tamnaherin Road/Highmoor Road Scheme undertook to consult with the Development

Control Section regarding any plans to address potential traffic increases arising from the proposed opening of a new school at Brockagh Road. If not would endeavour to address the situation albeit the current budgetary constraints.

- Undertook to assess the need to provide double yellow lines at Eglinton Health Centre.
- Advised that the Department was endeavouring to acquire land in respect of the provision of a bus turning bay at Cornshell Fields and would be working with Council and Translink in terms of progressing this scheme. Given that the land in question was in Council ownership it was anticipated that this would prove positive in terms of the delivery of the scheme.
- As it was Departmental policy to remove street lighting from back laneways a community impact assessment/public consultation would not be carried out in this regard.
- Acknowledged the need for more information to be made available through the Department's online system. Any faults reported should be repaired within a two week period.
- Requested Members to furnish the Department with the details of individual cases whereby repair works had not been carried out.
- Undertook to investigate the possible exclusion of specific areas from the online reporting system.
- Was awaiting the conclusion of the Rossville Street Residents' Parking Scheme and advised that there were no plans to carry out any further schemes until this had been established.
- Referred to the proposed lantern replacement with LED at Victoria Road and undertook to determine that this would not include the removal of the heritage structures along this roadway.
- Referred to a land issue in regards to the sightlines at Liskey Road wherein due to a disagreement, the landowner had requested a halt on the proposed works. However, it was anticipated that improvement works would be carried out to the sightlines.
- Was not aware of any plans to carry out improvement works to a section of roadway at Curley Hill Road.

- Welcomed comments regarding the Ballynameen Bridge and undertook to advise those Officers involved.
- Advised that there were no plans for additional street lighting schemes at this stage.
- Advised that Station Road would have been assessed within the criteria applicable to all Traffic Calming Schemes. However undertook to check the specific details in relation thereto.
- Advised that there were no plans to introduce safety measures at Caw Roundabout. Understood there were plans in place in terms of upgrading Caw Roundabout however a specific date had not been agreed in respect of these works.
- Advised that the problem at Gransha Lake had arisen due to the collapse of one of the main pipes which ran from the lake to the railway line and had required considerable investigation. However having been established, the Department of Finance had been commissioned to design a solution to the problem. This would be difficult as conditions were poor and it was 4M below ground level. Works were progressing at present and it was anticipated that the works would be completed within the current financial year.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration, on behalf of the Officer Team, thanked representatives from DfI. She said Council worked closely with the Department in terms of active and sustainable travel, the North-West Multi-Modal Transport Hub, the City Deal and day to day maintenance issues and events and were in contact on a daily basis. She said they worked well together to achieve outcomes for the City and Region in terms of the Community Plan.

The representatives from DfI were thanked for their attendance and they withdrew from the Meeting.

The Meeting terminated at 5.05pm