

**FIRST MEETING OF TRAVEL & TRANSPORTATION LINKAGE GROUP**  
**15 October 2020, 7.30 – 9pm (on Zoom)**

**Facilitator:** Secretariat member, Patrick Fitzgerald

**Those who joined the meeting:**

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| 1. Ailish Drake, Limerick Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society & PPN Rep | 9. Maureen Browne, Step Forward Disability Group & PPN Rep   |
| 2. Bruce Harper, Limerick Cycling Campaign & PPN Rep.                     | 10. Meadhbh Hennessy, NCBI   |
| 3. Dr. B Hayes, Environmental Trust Ireland                               | 11. Trish Forde Brennan, Limerick Grow It Yourself   |
| 4. Eoin Ó Conchúir, Mayorstone Coolraine Residents Association            | 12. Vidette Ryan Molyneaux, Limerick Dragons   |
| 5. Eoin Buckley, Ballinacurra Gaels                                       | 13. PPN staff, Mo Foley Walsh and Mary Casey   |
| 6. Frank Heffernan, Environmental Trust Ireland & PPN Rep                 | 14. Anita Cunneen ISL Interpreter  |
| 7. Ger Boyce, ISL Hub   | 15. Dara McGuigan, Senior Executive Officer of Limerick City and County Council joined for part of the meeting |
| 8. Liz Jeffrey, NCBI  |  |

1. A presentation on PPN structures and communications was made by Mo Foley Walsh using the content of the ["About Limerick PPN Linkage Groups" document](#)

2. Dara McGuigan from Limerick City and County Council presented on the Travel & Transportation SPC. Summarised as follows:

**A. Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):**

- a) SPCs are local authority committees whose membership includes elected councillors, representatives of business, farming interests, environmental/conservation groups, trade unions and community and voluntary members.
- b) It is the task of the SPCs, as committees of the council, to advise and assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy.
- c) They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services.
- d) The SPC system is intended to give Councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages with SPCs making recommendations to the full Council – i.e. SPCs have no decision-making powers.

**B. Limerick City and County Council structure:**

- a) The Council has 4 strategic pillars:
 

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|-------------|--------------|
| 1) Physical | 3) Community |
| 2) Economic | 4) Housing   |
- b) Both Travel & Transportation and Environment are part of the Physical Development Directorate
- c) Physical Development Directorate also deals with water services and Mid-West roads development which covers Limerick/Clare/Tipperary
- d) Brian Kennedy is Director of Service for the Physical Development Directorate

**C. Travel & Transportation SPC:**

- a) 24 members: 16 elected Council members and 8 sectoral representatives of which 4 come from the PPN
- b) Meets 5 times a year usually between Council meetings which occur bimonthly
- c) Councillor Joe Leddin is the Chairperson of the SPC
- d) Responsibility of the SPC rests with the Chair and the Director of Service

#### **D. How policy comes about at local authority level:**

- a) Council is an arm of the Government at local level; Council is required to follow national government policy/direction – e.g. legislation, directives, guidelines
- b) Local bye-laws are made by the Council on certain matters
- c) Existing policy can be reviewed – e.g. considering free parking for EV's at charging stations to encourage use/purchase/take-up of electric vehicles

#### **E. Notices of Motion:**

- a) Notices of Motion are usually referred to the SPC by the full council or a Municipal District. A Notice of Motion is a written request to an SPC to consider an issue.
- b) All Notices of Motion must be relevant to the business of the SPC and within the scope of what the council can act upon (i.e. the council has to have the relevant powers to act)
- c) All Notices of Motion are responded to in writing at the SPC meeting and copies are circulated to all SPC members following the SPC meeting
- d) Possible outcomes of a Notice of Motion brought to an SPC:
  - a) Nothing happens as the SPC/Council does not have the relevant powers
  - b) Notice of Motion appropriately addressed to the satisfaction of the proposer
  - c) Recommendation(s) referred back to where it came from (full council or Municipal District) through the Chairperson's report.

#### **F. PPN representation and the Travel & Transportation SPC – opportunities to be actively involved in policy development:**

- a) SPC meetings set at beginning of year – so PPN discussions can be planned. February 2021 agenda to include workplan for what policy areas are likely to be covered over the year (subject to change depending on what emerges)
- b) PPN representatives are themselves part of the discussion on policy at SPC meetings
- c) PPN representatives on the SPC can submit Notices of Motion. These must be the agreed opinion or opinions of the Linkage Group.
- d) PPN members, general public and LPPN Linkage Groups can make submissions to public consultations (for instance, bye-laws have to be presented for public consultation)

#### **G. Key upcoming policy areas:**

- a) Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) led by National Transport Authority in partnership with the council
- b) Goods delivery strategy
- c) HGV strategy
- d) Exploring dockless bike scheme and bye-laws necessary to facilitate it

#### **There was a discussion following the presentation which is covered briefly here:**

| <b>Question/issue</b>  | <b>Responses/actions</b>   |
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| 1. What role have sectoral reps on Committees and are they commensurate with Councillors?  | All members of committee are equal   |
| 2. Is training available to committee and linkage group members on public sector duty obligations of council generally, to facilitate understanding of what underpins good policy? | Public Sector Duty is in the council's corporate plan. Limerick PPN Secretariat is currently exploring the delivery of training on the Public Sector Duty for members.             |
| 3. Does notice of motion have to go to Council via SPC chair or Director?  | Chair of SPC brings recommendations from the SPC to the Council – as part of the Chair's report  |
| 4. With regard to SPC having a review function, what is this and does it include reviewing the success or otherwise of previous strategy / policy?                                 | The SPC does have a role in reviewing policy. The review of waiver of EV parking fees and their effectiveness in encouraging EV use is an example of this                          |
| 5. What happens to submissions to public consultations?  | These are compiled into a report and presented to the Council/Municipal District who considers and decides on same (set out in legislation)  |
| 6. The provision of a light rail system for Limerick City and the provision of additional line to  | Light Rail system for Limerick City is not part of NTA policy based on forecasted population growth for Limerick; but it is possible to raise this as part of LSMATS consultation. |

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| Limerick Junction would be very important developments for the Limerick region.  | NTA is looking into additional rail line to Limerick Junction to support greater connectivity for area. |
| 7. Is there any possibility of a park and ride system from the Raheen / Mungret area to the city to alleviate congestion in UHL etc. | Raised in the chat, but not discussed.  |

3. Discussion on next steps for the Linkage Group:

- a) It was agreed there are a number of important issues for the LG to cover especially with the LSMATS public consultation closing at month-end.
- b) The Linkage Group will meet virtually at 7.30pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to discuss this and possibly a draft terms of reference for the LG. Patrick Fitzgerald will facilitate this meeting.
- c) It was noted in the chat (but not discussed) that a rotating facilitator would be a good idea given that most people are volunteers.