



**Fingal
Public
Participation
Network**

Minutes

Linkage Group Name	Housing, Planning and Transport
Venue	Zoom
Date of Meeting	3rd September 2020
Attendees	Heidi Bedell (Acting Facilitator), Angela Rogers, Ray Smyth, Dayakar Komirelly, Ray Ryan, Olanike Adesemowo, Tony Brennan, Mojisola Mobagoje
In attendance	Natasha Bagnall (FPPN), Adam Rudden (FPPN)

1. Open, Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising

Heidi opened the meeting and conducted a round on introductions. Minutes were not available but every effort will be made to locate these for approval at the next meeting.

2. PPN Representative Progress Reports

Following rejection of the idea of appointing a Cycling & Walking Officer four years ago, Fingal County Council (FCC) brought the subject back for discussion last year. The benefits of cycling and walking ("Active Travel") to improving health and well-being and to reducing congestion and fossil fuel emissions are well known. But there are now increased allocations of funding for cycling and walking infrastructure being provided by the NTA Council on foot of the Programme for Government. Since the outbreak of the Pandemic, we are advised daily to walk and cycle more. Hence it is absolutely the right time to implement Government policy by designating a senior official as Cycling & Walking Officer, to coordinate and be responsible for active travel issues, and to provide for the setting up of a Fingal Cycling and Walking Forum, representative of all stakeholders, which would help achieve the optimal use of the increased levels of funding.

This agenda item was approved by the linkage group members. Report to follow once the meeting has taken place.

Angela Rogers suggested that members of the linkage group contact the relevant County Councillors on the Transport SPC to support this item.

3. Discussion on Community Issues

AR highlighted the non-statutory public consultation on the electrification of the Dart West Trainline was currently open. Due to Covid 19, this consultation has been taking place online in webinar form and email submissions. Many of those

impacted by this development do not have a means to engage with the process. The deadline for submissions is 23rd September. AR requested that the HPT Linkage Group write to the Irish Rail to ask for a delay or an extension to submissions proposing a date of February 2021. This was supported by the linkage group members in attendance.

Public Transport from Balbriggan to Finglas was highlighted as a difficulty, as well as accessing transport from Balbriggan to Blanchardstown. As per previous information available from Bus Connects, orbital routes are scheduled for the final phase of the project. The HPT LG will look at potential motions to request that the orbital routes be included in the initial phases of the project for the Planning and Infrastructure SPC.

Documentation circulated from SPCs not being circulated in a timely manner in order to prepare adequately for meetings.

Heidi outlined the role and function of the SPCs for the benefit for new linkage group members.

4. Linkage Group Facilitator Vacancy

Kathleen McCann has stepped down from the facilitator role of the HPT linkage group. A letter from the Secretariat has been issued to thank KMcC for her contribution to the LG. A facilitator vacancy has arisen and it is anticipated that this will be filled at the next LG meeting on 19th November. Role description and expression of interest forms to be circulated to fill this role. If more than one candidate comes forward, a panel of facilitators to be formed. Facilitators to receive appropriate facilitation training, IT supports and access to a Zoom account to be able to facilitate LG meetings.

5. Agreement on actions/issues to be pursued

- RR to send on wording of agenda item submitted to Transport SPC
- Letter to be drafted to Irish Rail seeking an extension to the consultation process – AR to draft for approval by the LG. Needs to be submitted to Secretariat for approval before September 23rd deadline.
- Review of public transport from Balbriggan to be included on the agenda for next LG meeting.
- Current Transport Plans to be sourced and circulated in advance of the next meeting to be informed of relevant transport issues
- Expressions of Interest to be circulated for nominations for the LG Facilitator Vacancy

6. AOB and Close

AR queried if the Housing SPC reps are submitting motions to the SPC. DK is still settling into his role as rep and Michela Benassi has resigned due to taking up a new position. This leads to housing issues not receiving the same attention as transport or planning. Invitations to housing groups and organisations to join the LG might help highlight issues in these areas.

Next Meeting Date

19th November at 7pm via Zoom – link to be circulated