

Edenderry Area Committee

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EDENDERRY AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL, 2011,
IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 3.30P.M.**

- Present** *Cathaoirleach Ger Plunkett; Cllr. Noel Bourke;
Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick; Cllr Liam Quinn;*
- In attendance** *Mr. Declan Conlon, Director of Service, Area Manager;
Mr. Damien Grennan, Senior Executive Engineer, Edenderry area;
Mr Brian Pey, Housing; Ms Anne Healy, Water Services;
Ms. Olwen Cooney, Town Clerk.*
- Apologies** *Cllr. John Foley; Cllr Fergus McDonnell; Cllr Nichola Hogan;
Mr. Dermot Mahon, Senior Executive Officer, Housing;
Mr. Tom Shanahan, Senior Engineer, Water Services;*

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 20th January, 2011.

On the proposal of Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick the minutes of Edenderry area meeting held on the 20th January, 2011 were confirmed and signed. Cllr Bourke expressed his disappointment re lack of response from HSE re correspondence for Ofaia House. It was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick to send a reminder letter. Cllr Quinn also suggested a copy be forwarded to Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly TD.

2. Water Services

Ann Healy delivered water services report for Edenderry area to members. Cllr Fitzpatrick and Plunkett welcomed the extra allocation for funding for rural water programme and explained how important dividing up the funding was in order to get works completed that were ongoing. He asked how the taking in charge of Bishopswood Treascon GWS will work? Ann explained that coordination between three local authorities was not successful and therefore OCC could only meter inside their boundaries. Both Cllr Fitzpatrick and Bourke asked that negotiations with CIE for water main to run under railway line in Portarlinton be progressed as a matter of urgency. Cllr Fitzpatrick questioned water pressure problems in Portarlinton, Damien informed members that new logger in place at bridge from LCC side and new data re pressure to be available shortly. Cllr Bourke asked re Ballycommon/Kilclonfert GWS completion date, Ann informed meeting that water management and chlorination an issue however hopeful this will be resolved shortly.

3. Housing

Brian Pey delivered housing report for Edenderry Area to members. Cllr Quinn asked why there are units vacant? Brian explained that they are only recently vacant and that energy upgrading and some maintenance is necessary to bring units up to regulated standards. Cllr Fitzpatrick raised the issue of housing list and a false figure that is emerging as people are getting on the list in order to receive rent allowance. This is giving a false figure. He welcomed the remediation work on Bracknagh sites. He also asked could the housing section see any future development on existing landbanks? Brian answered that leasing is the way forward to meet the growing housing needs at present. He also explained the new procedures for housing applications, you need only apply to one authority and that this application can be

passed between different authorities, this might give a more accurate list of housing applicants. Cllr Bourke also was concerned about the false figure for applicants on the housing list where people who needed works to be carried out on their house had to apply to be on the list also. Cllr Bourke welcomed the remedial works which has commenced in Greenwood/Churchview. He complimented lighting work maintenance and restoring of public lighting in Churchview and condoned any vandalism of lights in public areas. Cllr Quinn asked would the new application system have a big impact. Brian said it is difficult to predict at this stage as it is a new system however it will avoid duplication.

4. Roads Programme

Damien informed meeting that the road programme 2011 as passed by Edenderry area and full council has now commenced. Cllr Plunkett asked re a dedicated patching unit in Edenderry and how this is managed throughout the area? Damien explained that there is a full time patching unit in the area and when the need arises temporary crews are available. Cllr Plunkett asked are some methods of pothole repair better than others. Damien explained that all have their merits but it depends on the nature of a pothole. Cllr Quinn remarked that Offaly roads are in a good state of repair and complimented area staff on their good work. He also remarked that it is very important to keep surface water off the roads this time of the year with verge cuts, open culverts etc. The work that was completed in Rhode and Daingean village was first class. Cllr Quinn queried re low cost safety scheme for Rhode bridge were lights part of this scheme. Damien answered that he is awaiting design from Roads and if lights recommended that he will have to investigate a power supply with ESB. Cllr Fitzpatrick enquired re caravans which are parked at Botley Lane and Damien said he would ask for an update from housing with regard to this issue. Caravans in Edenderry at the Downshire was also discussed. Cllr Bourke asked that Environment section could deal with the burnt out caravan and that owner of Downshire carry out measures to prevent further caravans from entering the area in future. Cllr Fitzpatrick said he would also bring it up a county JPC.

5. AOB

Cllr Plunkett complimented roads engineer and his staff for excellent work in the up keep of the roads in the area. Damien thanked Cllr Plunkett for these remarks. Cllr Plunkett raised the issue of the conservation grants been withdrawn and the negative impact this will have. He also referred to a planning application that he will be opposing too re municipal waste site in Kilconfert where rural setting/roads infrastructure does not cater for such a proposal. Cllr Plunkett remembered fondly Peter Carey who passed away recently. Peter Carey was a former Offaly footballer, had retired from working with Offaly County Council and was a gentleman. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Date of next meeting – Wed, 6th July, 2011

Cathaoirleach

Date