

Edenderry Area Committee

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EDENDERRY AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE, 2012,
IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 4P.M.**

Present *Cathaoirleach Cllr Noel Bourke; Cllr Nichola Hogan; Cllr John Foley;
Cllr Ger Plunkett; Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick; Cllr Liam Quinn; Cllr Mary Breen;*

In attendance *Mr. Damien Grennan, Edenderry Area Engineer;
Mr. Dermot Mahon, SEO Housing; Mr. Tom Shanahan, Senior Engineer,
Water Services and Environment; Ms. Olwen Cooney, Town Clerk;*

Apologies *Mr. Declan Conlon, Area Manager;*

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

Cllr Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr Bourke as the new chair and Cllr Breen seconded this. Cllr Bourke was elected Cathaoirleach and took the chair. Cllr Foley thanked members and staff for supporting him as chair for last year. Cllr Noel Bourke outlined ongoing difficulties with decreasing resources for the year ahead. Local Government Reform announcement due in July, possible restructuring of local government will affect all members.

2. Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

Cllr Fitzpatrick was proposed by Cllr Plunkett and this was seconded by Cllr Breen. Cllr Fitzpatrick was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held in March, 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick the minutes of Edenderry area meeting held in March, 2012 were confirmed and signed.

4. Housing

Dermot Mahon delivered housing report for Edenderry Area to members. Dermot referred to a new construction programme 2013/2014 from the Department to which housing will apply for funding for 2 projects one at School Lane and Phase II of Killane. MUGA at Portarlinton, netting being considered for safety reason due to its proximity to railway. Increasing pressure on grant application estimates a five year wait for any new applications. Dermot advised that 1995 tenant purchase scheme is ending this year and urged members to advise tenants who want to avail of this scheme to get applications in before the end of this year. Details of the new incremental scheme to be finalised. Also in July new mortgage to rent scheme being announced Dermot will circulate circulars to members when received.

Issues raised

- Compliment for work carried out in St Oliver's Estate, Geashill
- Cllr making representations for people on housing list discussed, follow on from Offaly County Council meeting
- All members raised concerns re decreasing budgets for grants
- MUGA Churchview complimented and all committee involved
- Concern over decreasing budgets for refurbishment of empty dwellings
- Query re childcare facility and two vacant dwellings in Fair Green, Respond to be contacted again, resources decreasing for Respond also

In relation to grants Dermot explained that OCC are still accepting applications where as some other LAs have ceased. It is a prioritised system. Tenders were sought for occupational therapist best price and Dermot believes value for money is being achieved. Any second assessments applicant must bear the cost. 22 applicants approved will be carried out could possibly run into 2013 for completion. Funding is a 80%/20% ratio with OCC and Department, difficult for OCC to come up with their portion.

Dermot thanked councillors for their assistance with projects as the turnaround time for applications for funding for projects is tight and links with local communities is vital.

Clarification is needed for what stage to inform councillors of applicants receiving offer of dwellings, at offer stage or allocation stage. Housing section seeking advice from data protection commission and Dermot will have update for July Council meeting. All correspondence is kept on file and schedule on cover of file for any representations.

5. Water Services

Tom Shanahan delivered water report to area members.

Issues raised

- Water conservation project Daingean quality of work completed to date complimented.
- Query re Part VIII for Clonbullogue and Geashill
- An update on Portarlinton sewerage and drinking water quality and pressure
- Any chance of our own source on Offaly side of Portarlinton
- Concerns of decrease in rural water funding
- Wayleave at railway crossing Shandra Lane.
- Query re water main at St. Broghan's Park, Bracknagh

Tom advised having all preparatory work on Clonbullogue Part VIII scheme is beneficial if and when funding is awarded however it will not be for the foreseeable future. The rural water reductions are based on water quality and Co Offaly has good water quality which reflects the low funding. Tom explained that he is meeting with Laois CC tomorrow and will relay members concerns on matters arising in Portarlinton. Tom said it is very unlikely that any funding would be made available to Offaly for their own supply in Portarlinton. St Broghan's Park in Bracknagh should not be an issue with Group Water scheme. Wayleave at Shandra Lane is organised, funding issues for the future.

6. Roads

Damien Grennan delivered roads report for 2012 to members. Area staff and Damien complimented by members on quality of work with the limited resources to date.

Issues raised

- Who will be responsible for road upgrade in Daingean and Mount Lucas.
- Traffic lights in Portarlinton at Church out of order
- Concerns re Mulrush, Clonearl and car park at old school Daingean, Little Island Road

Damien explained as part of their planning condition Bord na Mona are responsible for upgrade, maintenance through out construction phase and when complete roads are left to a certain standard. Bord na Mona are also responsible for contractors who carry out road upgrading. Damien also laid out schedule for Main Street in Edenderry

and he appealed to the traders and general public to be patient with road works and short inconvenience. All aspects of communication will be put in place. No submissions were received re advertisement for road closures in the local papers recently.

Damien plans to replace traffic lights in Portarlinton with a more modern set, difficult to get parts as the current set are out dated.

7. Items from Edenderry Town Council members

Cllr Breen issued was covered previously re time frame for Main Street.

8. AOB/Correspondence

Cllr Bourke proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick to write to Frank Heslin DOS of Roads in relation to policy at SPC for traffic calming and the inclusion of speed ramps in appropriate places. Damien explained it is already part of policy however low option. Cllr Fitzpatrick queried why area only meets quarterly, Cllr Bourke explained the manager organised that Edenderry be consistent with other areas who all meet quarterly. Cllr Plunkett proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick to write to Environment Section from the area committee to voice concerns over Oxygen waste facility at Barnan. Environmental issue such as vermin and noise pollution are also present. Does this facility have proper planning for this facility.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Date of next meeting – 11th Sept, 2012

Cathaoirleach

Date