

Edenderry Area Committee

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF EDENDERRY AREA COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE, 2013,
IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 4P.M.**

Present *Cllr Noel Bourke; Cllr John Foley; Cllr Ger Plunkett; Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick;;
Cllr Mary Breen;*

In attendance *Mr. Damien Grennan, Edenderry Area Engineer; Mr. Dermot Mahon, SEO
Housing; Ms Jean Ryan, A/SEE, Water Services and Environment; Ms. Therese
O'Meara, A/Town Clerk; Mr. Declan Conlon, Area Manager;*

Apologies *Cllr Nichola Hogan; Cllr Liam Quinn*

1. Election of Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of Cllr Plunkett and seconded by Cllr. Breen, Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick was elected Cathaoirleach.

2. Election of Leas Cathaoirleach

On the proposal of Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr. Breen, Cllr Plunkett was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held in March, 2013.

On the proposal of Cllr. Plunkett and seconded by Cllr. Burke the minutes of Edenderry area meeting held on the 13th of March, 2013 were adopted.

4. Housing

Dermot Mahon presented the housing report to the members. He advised that following the recent Housing Needs Assessment the housing waiting list has reduced from 721 to 579. Those who were removed from the list had not returned the relevant information within the time frame given. He advised that the highest demand for housing in Offaly is now in Edenderry. This related to a 35% increase in the preference for housing in this area. He also stated that 75% of same are reliant on rent supplement with 77% on unemployment benefit. 84% of the waiting list consists of Irish applicants.

There are currently 10 housing units vacant in the area. He explained that the Clerk of Works carries out a report on the houses when they are returned to the Council and estimates a cost involved to bring them up to letting standard.

The closing date for submission for School Lane Part VII was the 31st of May. There were no submissions received. This scheme has been reviewed to 5 units. It is proposed that a voluntary body will build these houses and lease them back to the Council. The scheme has been changed to single storey units. The works on the access road is ongoing.

Dermot advised that there are less properties becoming available through RAS approximately 2-3 per month. He stated that there is still a demand for private rented properties in the area. He advised that this is a similar case for leasing.

5. Water Services

Jean Ryan presented the Water Services Report. In relation to the Investment Programme she advised that Edenderry Sewerage Scheme contracts are currently under review and will be submitted to the DECLG for approval by September. The Water Conservation Project No. 3, contracts documents are also completed and it is expected that they will go to tender during the summer.

In relation to other major schemes which are not on the water services investment programme Jean advised that funding was applied for Clonbullogue and Geashill however it was not granted. In relation to Rhode WSS Jean advised that the EPA have prioritised source protection measures during an audit in 2011 and works will be carried out pending allocation. Information was also given in relation to Group Water Schemes.

6. Roads

A status update was given by the Area Engineer, Damien Grennan in relation to the roads programme for the year. He advised that all but one item on the Ordinary Maintenance schedule for Regional Roads had been completed, 1 no. project remained outstanding for surface dressing with 3 no. items for surface reconstruction – restoration at tender stage and 3 at design stage. Winter Maintenance was ongoing and specific improvement works projects were at design stage. In relation to County Roads, ordinary maintenance is ongoing with 6 items to be completed on the Surface dressing schedule. In relation to surface reconstruction – restoration for County Roads, 1 no. project was at design stage, 3 no. at tender stage, 2 no. completed and 2 no. to commence that week. In relation to Bridges no work has commence yet. Low Cost Safety works are at design stage.

Damien advised that Sr. Senan Ave would be open in 2 weeks times. He stated that the works proposed for the Back road in Killane will be left until July in the hope that the works on the internal road will be completed by then. He also advised the Traffic Lights proposed for Killane are at design stage as is the mini roundabout proposed for Monasteroris. He advised that no decision had been made on the location of the pedestrian crossing at Oaklands. Local issues raised by councillors were answered by Damien. The proposed closure of Edenderry Court Services was discussed. Wind energy was discussed and it was hoped that this matter would be discussed before the next monthly meeting of Offaly County Council next week.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed _____

Date: _____