

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting:	Main Committee	Municipal District of Edenderry
Location:	Áras and Chontae Chamber & Remote attendance	
Time:	3:30pm	Wednesday, 13th April 2022
Present:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Quinn Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott Cllr. Noel Cribbin (remotely) Cllr. John Foley Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Cllr. Mark Hackett	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
In Attendance:	Sharon Kennedy Mark Mahon Enda Daly Mary Hussey Louise Direen Joe Ruane Mary Hurley Teresa Kennedy	District Director District Engineer Executive Engineer Senior Engineer, Env & Water District Administrator Head of Services, Primary Care CHO8 HSE Dental Services HSE Primary Care Services

AGENDA ITEMS

District Director Sharon Kennedy apologised to all in attendance for the delay in commencing the meeting due to technical difficulties.

1. Confirmation of Minutes from the March Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. McDermott that the minutes of the Main Committee Meeting held on the 09th March 2022 be adopted.

Cllr. Quinn proposed a suspension of Standing Orders in order to include the turf cutting issues to the agenda which was seconded by Cllr. Cribbin and agreed by all the Members. Cllr. Quinn

addressed the issue of Government proposals in relation to the buying and cutting turf and the implications that such changes, taken in a short timeframe, will have for people resident in rural areas. He also referred to the fact that SEAI grants are currently unavailable for the installation of wood pellet stoves. Cllr. Quinn requested that a letter be written to the three main party leaders, inviting them to meet with the Members. Cllr. Cribbin supported this proposal stating that 700 out of 1400 houses surveyed in Edenderry town rely on fossil fuels as the main source of heating. He stated that the process of Just Transition must give reasonable time for people in the Midlands to change to new, renewal sources of energy. He referred to the costs involved and issues with regard to wood pellet supply. Cllrs. Foley & McDermott also agreed, acknowledging the fact that change has to come soon but called on the Government to re-consider their approach and acknowledge the huge impact that this will have on people in the County. Cllr. Fitzpatrick noted issues for homes reliant on solid fuel at present and it will take a lot longer than a few months for transition to take place. Cllr. Hackett stated that this is a health issue in relation to smoke inhalation and referred to the pressures on the health system while also expressing concerns at the speed of change without appropriate arrangements being put in place. Cllr. Quinn requested that a letter be issued to the Government from the District, requesting that the implementation of this decision be deferred in order to give people clarity in relation to turbarry rights and to provide suitable financial supports to assist people to finance wood pellet stoves through grants.

2. HSE Presentation – Primary Care Services

District Director Sharon Kennedy welcomed Mr. Joe Ruane, Head of Primary Care Services to the meeting, noting that the Elected Members had requested his attendance of address them in relation to a number of issues of concern in the Edenderry area. Ms. Kennedy noted the work undertaken by Mr. Ruane and his staff in relation to the Covid 19 emergency and thanked him for all of his work, support and guidance during the past two years.

Mr. Ruane introduced himself and his colleagues and expressed his thanks for the invitation. He then provided a very comprehensive presentation on a range of issues which had been raised by the Members in relation:

- Arrangements for GP services in Daingean, noting his sympathies on the recent passing of Dr. Twomey;
- Details regarding the process of securing a new Primary Care Centre Edenderry and details with regard to the accommodation and services that will be provided;
- Services provided in Ofalia House;
- Updates in relation to the Ambulance service.

Mr. Ruane acknowledged the support and work by GPs, Offaly County Council, Pharmacists, Emergency Services, Testers etc. over the last 2 years through Covid 19 emergency and expressed

his thanks to his colleagues for their attendance at the meeting. The Members raised a number of queries which were addressed by Mr. Ruane. Cllr. Quinn thanked Mr. Ruane and all the HSE staff for an exceptional 2 years of service and for attending the meeting and for their comprehensive report.

3. Environment & Water Services Update

Ms. Mary Hussey, Senior Engineer, Environment & Water Services gave a presentation covering the following areas;

- Mr. John McNally has been appointed to the post of Climate Action & Energy Officer;
- 2 Ministerial visits in March;
- The recent launch of steering group newsletter;
- National Spring Clean underway and now in its 21st year;
- Tree of Hope Initiative whereby 50 trees were provided for planting in local communities;
- The purchase by the Environment Section of 5 new solar litter bins;
- Announcement of an Anti- Dumping initiative with budget of circa. €70k for Offaly – seeking suggestions for areas that may be relevant to this;
- Increased costs incurred in relation to the operation of bottle banks as a result of the current energy crisis, the service won't be reduced but it may impact on YE budget;
- Update on litter fines;
- Update on works at burial grounds;
- Details with regard to works underway on Geashill WWTP.

Cllr. Quinn thanked Ms. Hussey for her detailed and concise report. The Elected Members raised a number of issues pertaining to this presentation and Ms. Hussey addressed these concerns.

4. GMA Applications

5 new applications were considered by the Members. Having been proposed by Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick, the following details were accepted:

Applicants	Funding Requested	Purpose of Funding	Funding approved
Croghan Pure Mile Committee	€750	PPE & Equipment for volunteers for litter pick, litter collection & disposal, Planting & Biodiversity initiatives	€750
Garryhinch Amenity Group	€750	New wooden planters and sowing of trees	€750
Eden Chorale	€1,395	Replacement of their existing 20 year old keyboard & speaker, for rehearsals, performances/concerts etc.	€1,395

Brookfield Rise Residents Association	€2,200	Power wash kerbs/hard surfaces, grass cutting, weeds, general maintenance, PPE Equipment, hire of equipment etc.	€2,200
Clonin Residents Association (in conjunction with Rhode Parish Enterprises)	€750	Maintenance and upkeep of estate, grass, weeds, flowers etc.	€750

5. Schedule of Works 2022

Director Sharon Kennedy presented the Schedule of Works for 2022 for EMD, these were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Fitzpatrick & seconded by Cllr. Foley.

6. Regeneration/Project Updates

Tesco Site

District Director Sharon Kennedy confirmed that work is progressing at a significant pace on the Tesco site which is being overseen by District Engineer Mark Mahon. Hoarding is being painted at the moment and Ms. Kennedy is hopeful that this can be integrated as a community interactive space to highlight activities taking place in the town/community. A competition to appoint an architectural design team is currently underway for the library space.

Blundell Avenue

District Director Sharon Kennedy noted that Blundell Avenue is now fully operational with the official opening scheduled for Friday, April 22nd 2022, noting how projects are now coming to fruition and starting to show throughout the town.

7. Area Issues/Updates

Executive Engineer Enda Daly thanked the Elected Members for their consideration of the Roads Programme presented at the March monthly meeting and gave updates on the following:

- resurfacing works at St. Conleth's Road as part of the Climate Action Strategy.
- TVR works in Daingean approx. 50% complete with a planting schedule at tender process.
- At design stage of TVR for Kilmalogue Village.
- Active Travel project at Kilmalogue Bridge almost at completion stage.

District Engineer Mark Mahon gave updates on the following projects:

- Cloneygowan TVR/Playground almost at completion, planting element to be completed.

- Inner Relief Road anticipated completion date of mid-May.
- Clonmullen Lane junction works ongoing.

Cllr. Quinn complimented the wide range of works that are underway stating that all the Elected Members are delighted with the volume of work taking place.

Cllr. Quinn proposed a suspension of Standing Orders at 5.30 pm to facilitate the completion of the meeting which was agreed by all Members.

8. Notices of Motion

Cllr. Quinn referred to the assignment of DEIS status to a number of schools in the District, noting that same has not been granted to St. Mary's Primary School in Edenderry. He advised the meeting that this is the only National School in Edenderry not to be granted this status and he considered that this omission is not acceptable. He requested the Elected Members to support an appeal to the Department of Education seeking the granting of status as a DEIS school. Cllr. Fitzpatrick seconded this Notice of Motion. Cllr. Hackett suggested getting in contact with Deputy Charlie Flanagan & Deputy Barry Cowen to make representation. The Elected Members supported Cllr. Quinn's motion.

9. Written Questions

None

10. Correspondence

District Director Sharon Kennedy outlined correspondence received from 'Go Ahead Ireland' noting their willingness to attend a monthly meeting in the future. Ms. Kennedy requested that Elected Members advise the District Administrator with any specific issues/items of concern to be included in a response letter to the Operator, also acknowledging receipt of their detailed response and invitation for attendance of a monthly meeting. Cllr. Quinn suggested the installation of a smartboard/information board for notifications of bus timetable.

11. Any Other Business

Cllr. Fitzpatrick extended his congratulations to Offaly County Council on winning the bronze award at the recent LAMA Awards under the Heritage Section for the Fort Eliza Restoration Project. He also outlined that the Riverside Estate in Portarlinton is now home to a number of Ukrainian families, complimenting the locals who were offering their help and the resources being made available to them. District Director Sharon Kennedy also thanked the LOETB in Birr for the facilities they have made available to refugees.

Cllr. McDermott queried the maintenance of green spaces in Council housing estates. District Engineer Mark Mahon responded advising that it was not possible to put in place grass cutting arrangements in every estate and that many estates were being attended to by resident associations.

Cllr. Foley extended good wishes to Cllr. Cribbin on his retirement from An Post after 39 years' service. These congratulations were supported by all the Members. Cllr. Cribbin thanked the Members for their good wishes.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 11th May 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____