

**Municipal District of Edenderry**  
*Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire*

**MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>	
<b>Location:</b>	Chamber, Town Hall, Edenderry	
<b>Time:</b>	3:30pm	<b>Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024</b>
<b>Present:</b>	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell Cllr. Claire Murray Cllr. Noel Cribbin Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Claire Murray-Smale	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Andrew Murray Joe Harte Louise Direen	A/District Director District Engineer District Administrator
<b>In attendance for part of meeting:</b>	Eimear McGinn	County Librarian

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell welcomed everyone to the December monthly meeting.



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Offaly County Council

**1. Confirmation of Minutes from the November Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 be adopted.

**2. Offaly Library Services 2024 – Eimear McGinn**

Ms. Eimear McGinn, County Librarian, gave a presentation to the Members in relation to Offaly Library Services for the year, covering the following topics:

- Library Policies
- Themes & Strategic Areas
- Key Actions & Successes
- Highlights
- Local & National Collaborations
- Right to Read
- New Collections
- Reader Supports
- Access the Library Online
- New Edenderry Library & Arts Base
- Key Milestones Achieved 2024
- Family Time at Edenderry & Daingean Libraries

The Members congratulated Ms. McGinn for an excellent presentation and she addressed all queries they raised.

**3. Amendment to Standing Orders**

Following on from a request at the July meeting by Cllr. Quinn, minor amendments to the Standing Orders for Edenderry MD monthly meetings were approved, proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. McDonnell.

**4. GMAs**

Two applications were considered by the Members. Having been proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. McDonnell the following details were accepted:

Application	Funding Requested	Reason for Funding	Funding given
Edenderry Christmas Lights Committee	€5,000	To fund lighting, repairs, replacements, electricity costs etc.	€5,000

Mr. Harte addressed all queries raised by the Members and thanking them for everything since his commencement with Offaly County Council last year.

## 7. Notice of Motion

*Cllr. McDonnell proposed - "That Edenderry Municipal District request an in-attendance meeting at the earliest opportunity with relevant council staff for an update on Public Lighting throughout the district. This update to include but not limited to:*

- 1. The total number of public lights in the MD.*
- 2. The number and locations of public lighting out of order.*
- 3. The frequency of routine maintenance by the Public Lighting Contractor.*
- 4. The average time to respond and restore faulty public lighting.*
- 5. A detailed explanation of the process between Public Lighting contractor and ESB where ESB equipment requires replacement/repair.*
- 6. The time for ESB to respond and repair faulty public lighting following notification of their equipment failure by the Public Lighting contractor "*

Cllr. McDonnell noted that he brought a similar Notice of Motion to a JPC meeting earlier in the year regarding some of these issues and requested a response from the relevant person/s in the Áras to provide substantive information on these issues. This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Quinn.

Cllr. Cribbin expressed his frustration that these issues and faults are being reported but the necessary repairs are not being carried out, the problem seems to lie with the contractor and not the council.

Cllr. McDonnell mentioned the overreliance of online notifications for these faults and the extensive amount of time it takes to get the repairs carried out, citing his concerns that this is a major public safety issue.

Cllr. Quinn questioned the possibility of an automatic online reply system where the reporter of a fault receives a message to inform them when the work is completed.

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## 8. Written Questions

None at this time

## 9. Correspondence

None at this time.

Geashill Wednesday Club	€750	To attend a range of art/craft classes and wood craft projects	€750
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#### 5. Regeneration/Project Updates

Andrew Murray, A/District Director confirmed that procurement assistance is currently being sought on the proposed Edenderry Swimming Pool stating the importance of this element of the project regarding public expenditure. Mr. Murray intends to liaise with the Regeneration Section and Joe Harte in relation to the design brief stating that the allocated timeframe is likely to post big challenges, suggesting the set-up of a working group to include MD.

Cllr. Cribbin noted the fast pace this project has moved, that OCC has a site and funding secured since the fire broke out at the pool in January of this year. Mr. Cribbin also acknowledged the complex process involved in these type of projects, that patience would be required, indicating this will be the first of two flagships projects for Offaly County Council in the town of Edenderry.

#### 6. Area Issues/Updates/Roads Update

District Engineer Joe Harte confirmed the Roads Programme for 2024 is now fully complete, having encountered a busy few weeks with department returns, budgets etc. Mr. Harte noted that the roads appear to be holding up well, which is testament to the use of the velocity patcher throughout the year. He is hopeful that it will reduce maintenance going forward and commended the Roads Department for the allocation of these units to each District.

Cllr. McDonnell complimented all staff involved and queried if there were any plans for improvement works along JKL street.

Cllr. Quinn thanked all involved for works carried out to date, requesting that the new incoming District Engineer get the 2025 Roads Programme up and running without delay again this year.

Cllr. Cribbin thanked the engineers, Joe Harte & Enda Daly as well as all the outdoor staff for their great work all year. He extended his good wished to Joe Harte on his imminent move to Regeneration and looks forwarding to welcoming his replacement Rory Moore in the New Year.

Cllr. Murray questioned if the R400 will be reopened on December 20<sup>th</sup> as scheduled. Ms. Murray expressed her gratitude to Joe Harte for the help and courtesy he has shown to her since her election to the council earlier this year and wished him all the best in his new role.

## 10. Any Other Business

Cllr. Cribbin noted the period of time it is taking for Uisce Éireann to carry out works at the sewage treatment plant in Edenderry, the capacity issue is still ongoing and hasn't been addressed to date which is preventing development in the area. He requested a representative from Uisce Éireann to come to a meeting to discuss this matter.

District Director Andrew Murray stated that this poses serious constraints for the town and is to revert once he gets a detailed report on the situation.

Cllr. Murray thanked all the council for work they carried out following storm Darragh. She queried if the traffic lights were still out of order at Rhode bridge, if the land in front of Scoil Bhríde and the Gaelscoil could possibly be used as a parking facility.

Cllr. McDonnell stated that parking at the schools is generally problematic, and he will discuss this matter with the engineers at a later date to see if there are any traffic management solutions.

Cllr. Cribbin mentioned that last year suggested the concept of a one-way system down Gilroy Avenue/school lane to help alleviate issues with traffic.

Cllr. McDonnell paid tribute to local man David O'Malley from the Edenderry Community First Responders group on being the recipient of the Safety & Emergency Services Award at the Volunteer Ireland Awards 2024.


These sentiments were echoed by all the Members and Cllr. Quinn requested a letter of congratulations be sent to him on behalf of the Members.

District Administrator Louise Direen thanked Santa, John Foley and all that was involved in what was a very successful turnout for the switching on of the Christmas tree and lights in the town on December 1<sup>st</sup> for 'Eden's Christmas Spirit' and thanked the Members for their generous donation to make this event possible.

The Members commended the staff, event coordinator and all that were involved and helped on the day.

Cllr. McDonnell finished by thanking all the Members and staff for everything during the year and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 08<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The January monthly meeting was deferred from January 08<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. This was proposed by Cllr. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin.

Signed:   
Cathaoirleach

Date: 15/Jan/25



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