

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting:	Main Committee	Municipal District of Edenderry
Location:	Chamber, Town Hall, Edenderry	
Time:	3:30pm	Wednesday, 08th June 2022
Present:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Noel Cribbin Cllr. John Foley Cllr. Mark Hackett Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
Apologies:	Ms. Ann Dillon	Senior Executive Officer Community & Enterprise
In Attendance:	Sharon Kennedy Mark Mahon Enda Daly John Briody Louise Direen	District Director District Engineer Executive Engineer Executive Engineer District Administrator

AGENDA ITEMS

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott welcomed everyone to the June monthly meeting of Edenderry Municipal District.

1. Confirmation of Minutes from the May Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Hackett that the minutes of the Main Committee Meeting held on 11th May 2022 be adopted.

2. Go Ahead Ireland Transport Services

Craig Virco, Operations Manager and Johnny Cuciureanu, Customer Experience Manager attended the meeting at the request of the Elected Members to address operational issues associated with the Go Ahead Ireland bus route/service 120C (Edenderry-Dublin). Specific service issues relating to no-shows, delays etc. had previously been highlighted through email and letter correspondence to the provider in the past.

District Director Sharon Kennedy thanked Mr. Virco and Mr. Cuciureanu for their attendance stating that the outlined issues, concerns and incidences were in relation to the provision of a continuous and reliable service, which is so necessary for commuters, particularly those travelling for work and study purposes.

Cllr. Cribbin thanked the representatives for their attendance and complimented their excellent quality of buses. Cllr. Cribbin outlined a range of issues with the service including no-shows, delays etc. and voiced the concerns arising from people who are reliant on their service for work, college, appointments etc.

Cllr. Quinn welcomed the representatives also, thanking them for their attendance. He suggested the installation of digital information boards at the bus stops to provide notifications of any delays, no-shows or cancelled services to allow users organise an alternative method of transport in order to get home. He also advised that towns like Edenderry should be the last to be affected as there are no other public service/transport serving the town.

The other Elected Members thanked both gentlemen for their attendance also and echoed the concerns already expressed.

Mr. Virco and Mr. Cuciureanu addressed the members, advising in relation to the various issues and queries raised, noting that many of the difficulties arose as a result of sick leave of staff associated with Covid and also further issues associated with their App not being fully operational. They confirmed that the App has been sorted and appears to be in working order once again and absences relating to Covid have levelled out. Mr. Cuciureanu stated that they have now increased their presence on social media platforms in order to provide a more efficient customer service, and offered a specific email contact for their company for public representatives for any possible concerns they may have going forward.

The Members thanked the representatives for their attendance and Sharon Kennedy stated that she looked forward to the improvements outlined by both representatives.

3. Community & Culture Presentation

District Director Sharon Kennedy extended apologies from Ms. Ann Dillon, Senior Executive Officer of Community & Culture Section who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Kennedy made a presentation on her behalf covering the following areas:

- Programmes relating to this section e.g. Leader, SICAP, Music Generation etc.
- Building Local Partnerships
- Funding Programmes – Leader
- SICAP
- Community Funding
- Community Response Forum
- Location of Ukrainian Refugees in Offaly
- Offaly LECP

The Elected Members thanked Ms. Kennedy for the presentation, congratulating all involved and acknowledging the monies spent throughout the county through these various programmes. They also expressed their gratitude for the level of work carried out by the Community Response Forum through the particularly challenging times of Covid.

4. GMA Applications

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

Application	Funding Requested	Reason for Funding	Funding given
North Offaly Community Development Group CLG	€1,000	Subsidise Meals on Wheels and services for the elderly	€750 approved to enable further applications, if over this amount granted the group would not be eligible to apply for a further 3 years (up to end of current term of office of this council)
Avondale Residents Association	€750	General upkeep and maintenance of the estate	€750
Coologue Residents Association	€800	General upkeep and maintenance of the estate	€750 approved to enable further applications, if over this amount granted the group would not be eligible to apply for a further 3 years (up to end of current term of office of this council)

Edenderry Tidy Towns	€250 balance of max. allocation	Maintenance for upkeep of flowers around the town	€750, Elected Members noted that the €3,000 funding allocated in July 2021 was under exceptional circumstances
Geashill/Ballinagar Senior Citizens Group	€1,000	Subsidies annual day trip for the group	€750 approved to enable further applications, if over this amount granted the group would not be eligible to apply for a further 3 years (up to end of current term of office of this council)
Festival Edenderry	€250	Erection of a memorial plaque in the town of Thomas Frye, Edenderry born artist and inventor	€250 – bringing this group to the max. allocation to June 2024

District Administrator Louise Direen updated the Elected Members on 2 GMA Applications brought forward from the May monthly meeting:

1. **Edenderry Artisan Market** – Ms. Direen has been in contact with 2 members of this group and they are now in the process of securing their Tax Clearance Certificate and has also referred them to a contact in OLDC in relation to any other funding streams the group may be eligible to apply for. Once the Tax Clearance is sorted the group will be available to meet with members of Edenderry Municipal District for advise on how to extend the offerings of the market going forward.
2. **Edenderry Juvenile Athletics Club** – This group applied for €4,000 having already received €1,500 from this fund in July 2021. Ms. Direen outlined this only leaves a qualifying balance of €2,250 to be applied for. The Elected Members were happy to approve the max. allocation of €3,750 to this group as an exceptional circumstance taking into consideration the nature of what they do for the community.

Both of the above were proposed by Cllr. Foley and seconded by Cllr. McDermott.

5. Regeneration/Project Updates

Tesco Site

District Director Sharon Kennedy thanked District Engineer Mark Mahon and the contractors involved in this project, confirming that the appointment of a design team is nearing the final

stages of the procurement process and will keep the Members updated on progress going forward.

6. Area Issues/Updates

Executive Engineer Enda Daly outlined the following relating to the roads programme:

- 78% of surface dressing works now complete
- Macadam works – 5 schemes in Edenderry town await start dates, but significant prices increase in rates may result in some adjustments to the programme during the year.
- Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) Works – assessment has started on applications received to date, closing date for this scheme is June 15th and is hopeful of having all works completed by the end of September.
- Updates on works in Bracknagh, Cloneygowan and Garryhinch.

District Engineer Mark Mahon gave updates and a photographic presentation on the following works:

- Inner Relief Road Project
- Hare's Lane Cycle way
- Edenderry Light Segregation Scheme

Cllr. Quinn thanked both Mr. Mahon and Mr. Daly acknowledging the quality of work carried out, stating that any overruns should be met by the Department considering the challenges pertaining to roads in our electoral area and the need to complete the approved Roads Programme.

Cllr. Hackett noted the importance of the segregated barriers planned for installation as part of the planned cycle way project, stating that the safety of cyclists is paramount and the importance of encouraging people to get out and get active, and congratulated everyone involved.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked all involved and acknowledged the impact the raised pedestrian crossings will have and will be effective in the slowing down of all traffic.

Cllr. Foley complimented everyone involved, noting the evident improvements throughout the town with new cycle lanes, opening of new businesses and that raised pedestrian crossings are the way forward.

Cllr. Cribbin acknowledged the quantity and quality of all works carried out throughout Edenderry and thanked all involved for their excellent work.

District Engineer Mark Mahon acknowledged the difficulties relating to the management of projects and costs to ensure the Roads Programme is closed out but there are concerns regarding inflation and is to review the possibility of re-painting roundabouts for safety purposes. Mr. Mahon confirmed that he plans to engage with the locals and residents at Kiledan in relation to the current Active Travel works.

The Elected Members raised a number of further queries in relation to both presentations and Mr. Mahon and Mr. Daly addressed these matters accordingly.

7. Notices of Motion

None at this time

8. Written Questions

None at this time

9. Correspondence

District Administrator Louise Direen informed the Elected Members that a letter was received from Edenderry Athletics Club acknowledging and thanking Edenderry Municipal District for all the support they have given to them over the years. They also extended an invite for representation at their presentation night on June 15th in Larkins Bar & Lounge.

10. Any Other Business

Cllr. Foley requested an update from District Director Sharon Kennedy in relation to the appointment of a Traffic Warden for Edenderry outlining the importance of a presence required in the town, noting many parking issues that have arisen in recent times. Ms. Kennedy assured Cllr. Foley that this is in motion and she will pursue the matter with Human Resources to accelerate the recruitment process and revert with an update as soon as possible.

Cllr. Cribbin raised the issues relating to the Garda presence in the town and apparent shortages of Gardaí on duty at times and seems to be an issues particularly in North Offaly, currently having no Gardaí stationed in Clonbullogue, Daingean or Rhode. Cllr. Cribbin expressed his concerns in relation to accidents on the roads, public order etc., that this is not acceptable in a town the size of Edenderry and requested a letter be sent to the Superintendent in Tullamore to address these matters once again. District Director Sharon Kennedy confirmed that she will make contact with Inspector Ollie Baker of Tullamore Garda Station to raise this issue and determine how it would be best addressed.

The suspension of standing orders was proposed by Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick at 5.30pm.

Cllr. Hackett suggested to Cllr. Fitzpatrick that the issue relating to Gardaí should be raised at the next JPC meeting.

Cllr. McDermott thanked everyone present and the press and apologies for the slight delay with proceedings.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13th July 2022.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____