

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting: Main Committee
Location: Chamber, Town Hall, Edenderry

Time: 3:30pm **Wednesday, 16th October 2024**

Present:

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell	Edenderry Municipal District
Leas-Chathaoirleach Claire Murray	Edenderry Municipal District
Smale (FF)	
Cllr. Claire Murray (SF)	Edenderry Municipal District
Cllr. Noel Cribbin	Edenderry Municipal District
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Edenderry Municipal District
Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District

Apologies:

In Attendance:

Andrew Murray	A/District Director
Joe Harte	District Engineer
Enda Daly	Executive Engineer
Louise Direen	District Administrator

In attendance for part of meeting: Ray Bell Head of IS Department, OCC

AGENDA ITEMS

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell welcomed everyone to the October monthly meeting including Ray Bell and members of the press.

1. Confirmation of Minutes from the September Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11th September 2024 be adopted.

2. Broadband/Digital Update – Ray Bell

Head of Offaly County Council's IS Department Ray Bell gave a Digital and Broadband Update presentation to the Members in relation to the following:

- Offaly Broadband and Mobile Infrastructure
- Current Investment in Broadband & Mobile Infrastructure
- National Broadband Ireland
- Area Availability
- Importance of Digital Skills in Offaly
- Offaly VEX Robotics Championship 2023/2024
- Building the Society and Workforce for the Future
- Driving Offaly's Economic Ambitions
- Progress since 2018/2019

The Members thanked Mr. Bell for his informative presentation and all queries raised were addressed by Mr. Bell.

3. GMAs

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

Kestrels Basketball Club	€750	Repaint/refurbish club basketball court in Coláiste Íosagáin	€750
Meadow Court Residents Association	€750	General maintenance and upkeep of the estate	€750
Family Carers Ireland	€750	Purchase of kits/jerseys for local fundraising event	€750
North Offaly Community Development Network CLG	€5,000	Funding towards their ongoing services, Meals on Wheels, Repair Services, Monitored Alarms etc.	€5,000
The Acorn Project – Youth Work Ireland Midlands	€7,500	Reflooring of main hall space	€5,000

District Administrator Louise Direen noted two GMA applications that were deferred at the September meeting and a letter of thanks was received from Elena O'Hora of Garryhinch Bridge Club for the recent GMA donation.

Portarlinton Tidy Towns	€1,500	Plant and enhance junction at Kilmalogue Cross	€1,500 approved by Cllr. Fitzpatrick & seconded by Cllr. McDonnell
Ballinagar Planning Committee	€750	Carry out works returned as part of surveys held in 2023	€750 approved by Cllr. Quinn & seconded by Cllr. McDermott

4. Regeneration/Project Updates

Andrew Murray, A/District Director briefed the Members in relation to the draft programme for the next stage of the Library development and is hopeful that tender documents will issue at the beginning of April 2025. Mr. Murray also mentioned that a decision on the LSSIF funding should be announced shortly in relation to a new swimming pool structure and is currently working on procurement and a project manager for both developments.

At the request of the Regeneration Department in Offaly County Council, Mr. Murray also informed the Members of upcoming workshop events due to take place in the coming week in Kilmalogue and Daingean.

5. Area Issues/Updates/Roads Update

District Engineer Joe Harte updated the Members in relation to the following works:

- Pedestrian crossing on St. Francis Street
- Forest trail link at Garryhinch
- Imminent reopening of Derrygowley Bridge
- Progress of the Peat Pilot Scheme on the R400

Executive Engineer Enda Daly gave updates on the following also:

- Road Reconstruction – Contracts Status (currently 98% complete)
- Surface Dressing Works – all works now complete
- Road Recycling Works – all works now complete
- 2024 LIS Schemes – 5 of 7 schemes now complete
- 2024 CIR Schemes – in progress
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience 2024 – complete
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works 2024 – Murray's Bridge to be completed shortly
- Safety Improvement Works 2024 – Contractor on site, progressing well
- R400 works – works commenced, expected completion in December



The Members thanked and complimented all engineers, staff and contractors for all the great work carried out in the District to date.

Cllr. McDonnell mentioned overgrowth of grass areas at junctions in need of trimming and are a driving hazard, also acknowledging these were already cut earlier in the year.

Cllr. Cribbin commended the great works visible around the town and is also hopeful that the works on the R400 and Clonad will be sustainable. He also outlined an area of road at Cloncrean in need of attention and the need to raise the pedestrian crossing on St. Francis Street.

Cllr. McDonnell sought an update on the Daingean Active Travel Scheme. He also identified Cokery Lane as an ideal area for a future Active Travel project.

Cllr. Cribbin confirmed that the Engineer plans on works for this area following a recent meeting.

Cllr. Murray-Smale noted the R400 works and is happy with the progress to date but is concerned that the diversion route is causing issues with HGVs coming through Croghan, if Croghan and Walsh Island could be included in this years Winter Maintenance Programme and when the ESB will be connected at the pedestrian crossing at Walsh Island church.

Cllr. Quinn acknowledged that while works like Clonad prove to be expensive they are worthwhile. He also pointed out that the road at Townspark was not suitable as a diversion route, and Croghan and Knockdrin also as a result of the R400 detour. Mr. Quinn confirmed that he had previously mailed the Roads Dept. requesting Croghan be included in the Winter Maintenance Programme as a substitute for the R400 while works are ongoing. He requested some work to be carried out on a laneway that joins the R400. Mr. Quinn also noted that all the works going on in North Offaly shows that any additional allocations received are being put to good use and it is important that people across all party lines highlight this.

Cllr. McDonnell stated that he was surprised that the Department of Transport wouldn't grant additional monies to maintain diversion routes for the duration of the R400 works. He also outlined that parts of JKL Street are in need of repair.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked the engineers for the Roads Programme update, requested an update in relation to completion of road at Botley Lane and the possibility of a pathway to join Sanderwood Stone to the houses at Daingean.

Cllr. McDonnell suggested an off-roadside footbridge as an option.

Cllr. Quinn suggested a link in with windfarms in relation to this is a possibility.

Cllr. Murray sought an update on the pedestrian crossings previously requested for Fr. Paul Murphy Street and a footpath from Rhode to the Canal Greenway at the bridge.

Cllr. Quinn suggested the inclusion of this in the 2025 CIR Programme, in the meantime to make contact with Yellow River Windfarm to request the required match funding.

Cllr. Cribbin noted the lights that were removed at the Clonbullogue turn off at Killane still have not been reinstated.

Cllr. McDonnell requested an update on public lighting maintenance from the contractors.

Cllr. Murray asked if additional signage could be installed on the Knockdrin Road with advisory speed limits.

All queries raised by the Members were addressed by Mr. Harte and Mr. Daly.

6. Notice of Motion

None at this time

7. Written Questions

None at this time

8. Correspondence

None at this time.

9. Any Other Business


Cllr. Cribbin mentioned the recent retirement of Henry Ryan, the caretaker of Edenderry WWTP, acknowledging the service, commitment and dedication to his role and wished him and his family well.

Cllr. McDonnell also wished Mr. Ryan well in his retirement, the other Members echoed these sentiments.

Cllr. Murray noted that November 29th is International Day of Solidarity for Palestine and sought approval to erect the Palestinian flag outside the Town Hall. A/Director of Services Andrew Murray mentioned that the flying of flags from other countries was raised at main council/CPG level earlier in the year and is to revert to the Members on what was decided.

District Administrator Louise Direen confirmed that this year's Christmas Event/Santa Visit will be on December 1st and more details will follow.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13th November 2024.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

Date: 13th Nov - 2024



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council