

# Municipal District of Edenderry

*Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire*

## MINUTES

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Meeting:</b>       | <b>Main Committee</b>                     | Municipal District of Edenderry                 |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Remote attendance                         |   |
| <b>Time:</b>          | 3:00pm                                    | <b>Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021</b> |
| <b>Present:</b>       | Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Quinn            | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. Noel Cribbin                        | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. Mark Hackett                        | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick                   | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. John Foley                          | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
| <b>In Attendance:</b> | Sharon Kennedy                            | District Director, Offaly Co Co                 |
|                       | Mark Mahon                                | District Engineer, Offaly Co Co                 |
|                       | Rory Moore                                | Assistant District Engineer, Offaly Co Co       |
|                       | Josephine Lee                             | District Administrator, Offaly Co Co            |
|                       | Mary Hussey                               | Senior Engineer, Offaly Co Co                   |
|                       | Mark Maken Finley                         | Administrative Officer, Offaly Co Co            |

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## AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. Confirmation of Minutes from the JULY Meetings

Cllr McDermott requested that amendments be made to the draft minutes of the July in-committee meeting regarding the award of the GMA grant and for same to be submitted for approval at the October meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. McDermott, that the minutes of the main meeting held on the **14<sup>th</sup> July 2021** be adopted.

The Elected Members congratulated Nicole Turner on the winning of silver medal at the Olympic Games.

The Elected Members commended and thanked the Staff of Edenderry Municipal District for organizing the Spirit of Eden Festival on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The Elected Members thanked the local media for the positive coverage of the event.

## **2. Water and Environment Report**

Mary Hussey, Senior Engineer of the Environment Department gave a presentation on the following areas;

### **Climate Change**

The Climate Action Steering group continue to meet on a monthly basis. A number of projects are being rolled out across the County, including Active Travel, flood mitigation/prevention and waste management.

### **Litter & Waste Management**

From January 2021 to date, the Council has received and investigated 761 litter and waste complaints including assisting with 232 community clean ups. Out of the complaints received, 106 litter fines have been issued and there are currently 7 legal prosecutions active. These prosecutions relate to illegal dumping, waste storage and unauthorised waste collection arrangement.

It was noted that an application has been submitted to the Department in relation to the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021.

### **Burial Ground**

It was noted with appreciation that many burial grounds are being well maintained by very active volunteer committees. New paths have been laid in Raheen and Croghan Cemeteries thanks to the great work being carried out by their respective committees with assistance in funding from Offaly County Council.

### **Wastewater**

Aecom Consultants have been appointed to progress with plans to upgrade Edenderry Plant. This project is being led by Irish Water.

Plant improvements at Daingean WWTP are being undertaken to increase the capacity of the inlet and also the installation of a new screen and a new sludge holding tank. Works are ongoing and should be completed by end of October.

Funding has recently been announced under the Small Towns and Village Improvement Scheme, which will facilitate an upgrade at Rhode WWTP.

### **Water**

Disinfection programmes are being completed at Toberdaly, Walsh Island, Clonbullogue and Edenderry.

Watermain rehabilitation works have recently commenced in Croghan.

### **Rural Water Programme**

The Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021 is ongoing. Of the 19 projects across the County that were approved for grant funding for capital projects under MARWP 19-20, 8 have been completed to date and the other 12 projects are at various stages of planning and construction.

The Annual Group Water Scheme Subsidy Applications have been received by the Rural Water Team and are currently being processed and paid.

The Elected Members raised a number of issues pertaining to the Water and Environment Report and the Senior Engineer addressed these concerns.

### **3. GMA Applications**

One application was considered by the Elected Members. Funding was approved in principal for this application. Having been proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. Foley the following details were accepted:

| <b>Application</b>                          | <b>Reason for Funding</b>   |
|---|-----------------------------|
| The Edenderry Artisan Market and Food Fayre | Set up costs for the Market |

### **4. Swimming Pool Update**

The District Director advised in relation to a review of all of the options that are currently / potentially available. Updates will be given in due course.

### **5. Library Development**

The District Director advised that Offaly County Council is awaiting a decision from the Department in relation to the RRDF funding application.

### **6. Inward Investment and Local Enterprise Development**

No update was provided.

### **7. Public Utility Capacity Issues**

It was noted that updates in relation to water services and roads are being provided during the meeting.

### **8. Area Issues/updates**

The District Engineer discussed the following areas;

#### **Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)**

Allocation for Edenderry M.D. for 2021 is €204k. It was noted that the requirement for community financial contribution will be in the order of 15%. It was noted that revised guidance has been received which permits matching funding to be provided through GMA where the scheme has a wider public benefit.

There will be renewed emphasis on identifying projects which have ability to contribute the community contribution or have a wider public benefit.

### **Climate Adaption**

Design awarded for Climate Adaptation project for St. Conleth's Road (aka Carrick Road) flood mitigation project. €195k had been confirmed for new surface water drainage, road raising and footpath entrance to address flooding.

### **Safety Schemes**

Tesco Junction, Edenderry - Existing hedging removed and capping placed for planned filter lane. Work on installing a timber sound barrier is nearing completion. Engagements are on-going with the ESB in relation to removal of poles.

### **Town & Village Renewal Projects**

Daingean TVR Covid Measure - Project complete, including civil works, street furniture and paving.

Cloneygowan Village Green – District Technician is still advancing procurement following recent design development & liaison with consultees.

Portarlington (Kilmalogue) – Engagement with ESB is in progress in relation to undergrounding design to facilitate its incorporation into the overall detailed design, which should be finalized in the next 2-3 weeks.

### **Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)**

Granary Link Street project - Project works recommenced 10th May, anticipated to complete by end September. Drainage works nearing completion on the new section, ducting and surface water drainage nearing completion.

Inner Relief Road Project - Phase 1 (new Rosderra Section and realigned junction at Carrick Road) issued for tender on etenders.ie on 24th May, closed on 18th June. Eight (8) tenders received. Meeting with preferred contractor has taken place. Due diligence currently taking place, however issue of Letter of Acceptance anticipated this week. Works expected to commence in mid-October, starting on section adjacent to Rosderra Meats. Works expected to take 6 months.

### **Active Travel Projects**

Hare's Lane Cyclepath - Boundary fencing and gateway for Coursing Club advancing, 60% of planned cycle way in progress

Portarlington Cemetery Link - Design awarded and construction expected to commence in Q4 2021 – likely completing in Q1 2022 (the signals will likely be installed in Q1 2022).

Fr. Paul Murphy / R402 junction - Design awarded, design and tendering to take place by end Q4 2021, construction commencement anticipated Q1 2022.

Edenderry Light Segregation Scheme - Design awarded - given the nature of the project, we would expect a quick design turnaround and installation in Q4 2022.

Pedestrian Crossing at Daingean - Contractor expected to return to EMD to complete outstanding pedestrian crossing in Clonygowan, Ballinagar and Clonbullogue, commencing work in approximately 2 weeks' time.

The Assistant Engineer gave a report of the 2021 Roads Programme in regard to the Road Programme roll out and also the LIS/CIR Schemes.

The Elected Members raised a number of issues pertaining to the Area updates and Roads Programme. The District Engineers addressed these concerns.

Cllr Fitzpatrick requested visibility of the programme of works for the Portarlington Area.

Cllr Foley discussed the parking in the town. The District Director responded to this issue.

Cllr McDermott requested if there has been any update in relation to grass cutting in estates by CE / Tusla workers. The District Director advised that there is no update.

The Elected Members all queried the issue of traffic calming within the District.

## **9. Notices of Motion**

Cllr Mark Hackett spoke in support of his Notice of Motion that "*Offaly County Council to commence the taking in charge procedure for Clonmullen Hall, Edenderry.*"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Cllr Cribbin.

The District Director outlined a response from the Planning Department as follows;

*Clonmullen Hall development was constructed as a Multi-Unit development circa 2003 following grant of Planning Permission in 2000.*

*A Management company was established for the development on completion, responsible for the maintenance of all shared areas in the development but this company has experienced various changes since it was established.*

*Offaly County Council's current 'Taking in Charge' policy, adopted in 2009, specifically precludes Multi Unit Developments from the Taking in Charge process and requires that responsibility for*

*all roads, footpaths and services to be conveyed to the established Management Company whose responsibility it is for maintenance of the services in question. These services in Clonmullen Hall have been conveyed to a management company.*

*Planning Staff have visited the development and have examined the condition of the roads, footpaths etc. but no underground examination has been carried out on services.*

*On preliminary examination it is estimated that works to bring this development up to Taking-in Charge Standard would be multiples of the value of the security bond on hands.*

*The Planning Department sought legal advice on the possibility of calling in the Bond in this instance but was advised that by doing so that they may then be obliged to proceed with the taking in charge and that this would be a significant undertaking considering the limited potential funds available.*

*There may well also be legal issues with regards to the Management Company.*

Having regard to the concerns expressed by the Members in relation to this issue, the District Director agreed to request that a meeting be arranged between the Edenderry Elected Members and the Planning Department.

Cllr McDermott spoke in support of his Notice of Motion *“that the SPC for Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation Policy, under the Chairmanship of Cllr. John Leahy, reviews the 2019 updated Government guidelines with the intention of updating Offaly County Council’s Local Authorities Traffic Calming Policy to reflect the changed environment we have in 2021.”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Cllr Cribbin.

The District Director advised that this policy was updated in July 2020 but due to error was not updated on the website. She thanked Cllr. McDermott for bringing this item to her attention and advised that the Roads Section was now rectifying the error and updating the policy of the website. The District Directed suggested that the Elected Members review the updated policy which is now available and if they have any outstanding issues with same, same can be raised with Mr. Tom Shanahan, Director of Services for Roads.

## **Written Questions**

None

## **10. Correspondence**

None

## 11. Any Other Business

Cllr Foley raised the issue with regard to the level of Garda assigned within the North Offaly Area/ Edenderry Garda Division. Having discussed same, the Members requested that the Meetings Administrator issue an invitation to the Chief Superintendent to meet with the Members in this regard.

Cllr Cribbin complimented the work on the Greenway.

Cllr Cribbin thanked the Municipal District Outdoor Staff for cleanup works that were completed within the District recently.

Cllr Cribbin provided details of an event that has been arranged in the town to support Culture Night and invited all to support same.

Cllr Quinn advised the Members in relation to forthcoming meetings.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:**

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