

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting:	Main Committee	
Location:	Chamber, Town Hall, Edenderry	
Time:	3:30pm	Wednesday, 11th September 2024
Present:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell Leas-Chathaoirleach Claire Murray Smale (FF) Cllr. Claire Murray (SF) Cllr. Noel Cribbin Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
Apologies:	Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District
In Attendance:	Andrew Murray Joe Harte Enda Daly Louise Direen	A/District Director District Engineer Executive Engineer District Administrator

In attendance for part of meeting:

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Confirmation of Minutes from the July Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. Murray-Smale that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 10th July 2024 be adopted.

2. Standing Orders Amendments

District Administrator Louise Direen presented updated Standing Orders to the Members as requested at the July meeting. As Cllr. Quinn submitted this Notice of Motion, the Members agreed to defer adoption until the October meeting when Cllr. Quinn is present.

3. GMAs

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

Application	Funding Requested	Reason for Funding	Funding given
Portarlinton Tidy Towns	€1,500	Plant and enhance junction at Kilmalogue Cross	Deferred to October to obtain clarification on planned works other than works carried out to date
Avondale Residents Association	€750	Maintaining green areas within the estate	€750
Garryhinch Bridge Club	€3,000	Purchase of equipment to expand the offering of the group/encourage new members	€3,000
Croghan Pure Mile in assoc. w/Croghan Dev Group	€750	Litter Collection Tree, Wildflower and bulb planting Barn owl/bat boxes	€750
Moleworth Bridge Playground	€3,750	Required repairs to equipment, replenish sand and wood chip, paint equipment etc.	€3,750
Ballinagar Planning Committee	€750	Carry out works returned as part of surveys held in 2023	Deferred to October to obtain further information/clarification

4. Regeneration/Project Updates

Andrew Murray, A/District Director confirmed that as we have been granted €2m from the Department we now need to put a proposition to the LSSIF group who then put us in contact with the Office of Public Works who will guide us through the procurement and design process, Mr. Murray is to meet with the OPW regarding this matter. The plan is to meet the existing Swimming Pool Committee to determine any specific requirements they have for the design specifications. The position of a



Project Manager has been offered for the Library/Arts Space and Swimming Pool projects, no further update on this at present.

Cllr. Cribbin thanked Mr. Murray, Brenda Fitzpatrick-Hennessy and Minister Pippa Hackett for all their work to date and he is looking forward to getting word on the LSSIF application soon.

Cllr. McDonnell stated it is wonderful to see the level of support and commitment for a new pool development in the town. He acknowledged all the work put into this project by staff to date, noting the new development would require a higher level of management and operations.

A/District Director Andrew Murray mentioned a recent meeting with Mary McMorrow, Swim Ireland Director of Operations/Company Secretary, discussions were held in relation to competition pool, community-based pool, additional staff and maintenance requirements.

Cllr. McDonnell supported the idea of a competition spec. pool.

Cllr. Murray-Smale indicated her preference of a community-based pool which would offer more competitive rates, querying if a private management structure would result in increased costs.

Cllr. Cribbin requested that dedicated swim times be considered for specialist/disability groups.

Mr. Murray advised that these issues could be considered for incorporation into the new pool structure.

Cllr. Murray questioned if any County Council had recently undertaken a pool project.

5. Area Issues/Updates/Roads Update

District Engineer Joe Harte and Executive Engineer Enda Daly gave updates on the following:

- Road Reconstruction – Contracts Status
- Surface Dressing Works - complete
- Road Recycling Works – 80% complete
- 2024 LIS Schemes – in progress
- 2024 CIR Schemes – in progress
- Climate Adaptation and Resilience 2024 - complete
- Bridge Rehabilitation Works 2024 - complete
- Safety Improvement Works 2024 – works commencing in the coming week.



- R400 works – commencing Monday, 16th September
- Derrygowley Bridge – investigations being carried out by a specialist masonry contractor.

Cllr. McDonnell raised the issues of how the regional roads in the District compare to those of Birr and Tullamore areas.

Cllr. Cribbin requested that roads be prepared to facilitate the diversion route for the scheduled R400 works.

Cllr. Murray discussed the upcoming closure of the R400, presenting issues she has received from the Garr/Knockdrin residents, if they are going to be informed of a details Traffic Management Plan and/or have any input into this. Ms. Murray spoke of how the Members should have full transparency with residents in relation to these upcoming works.

Cllr. Murray queried if funding distribution can be changed, considering the fact the Municipal District of Edenderry is the only Local Electoral Area with no national roads.

Cllr. Murray-Smale outlined that she had received confirmation from the roads department that a Project Manager would be in place for the R400 works and they intend to issue a ticketing system for residents to help alleviate road deterioration and overall impact.

Cllr. Cribbin mentioned the cycle lane at Killane is still fully intact and the residents are unhappy as it looks unsightly. He asked if the gullies around the town could be cleared coming into winter as they all appear to be full or blocked.

Cllr. Cribbin requested an update on the staffing issue within the District.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick outlined how the works being carried out on the Ballinagar to Daingean road are draining the resources of the Portarlinton based staff resulting in issues in and around Portarlinton being neglected.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick asked if consideration could be given to road markings and rumble strips at Cloneyhurke National School to increase safety measures in the area.

Cllr. McDonnell requested a programme of locations be collated for traffic calming measures within the District, to identify specific areas, considering the reduction of speed limits in November, this may help deter speed in these areas.

Cllr. McDonnell proposed the bollards and bases of the cycle lane at Killane be removed.

Cllr. Cribbin suggested a trial period of a month following removal of bollards only to ascertain if it will cause issues, if so, then the bases could be removed at that stage.

Cllr. Murray expressed her reluctance to remove all features as it is a safety directive.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick suggested removal of just the bollards for the moment which will enable access for the road sweeper to clean.

Both Engineers confirmed all bollards will be removed before the next meeting on October 9th.

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

6. Notice of Motion

Cllr. Fitzpatrick – *“that Offaly County Council take full responsibility for all Council owned playgrounds within the Edenderry MD as a pilot scheme”*

Cllr. Fitzpatrick explained the difficulties small playground groups encounter in relation to maintenance, repairs and safety issues and proposed this could be incorporated into the workload of one person for each District. Cllr. Fitzpatrick emphasised the importance of maintenance and safety of all playgrounds, that this concept should be taken to full council also.

Cllr. McDonnell suggested the motion be taken to the SPC.

A/District Director Andrew Murray briefed the Members on the number of playgrounds throughout the county, council and community owned, noting that the community owned ones qualify for external funding and grants.

7. Written Questions

None at this time



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

8. Correspondence

None at this time.


9. Any Other Business

Cllr. Murray-Smale asked if bins could be installed for dog waste along the canal.

District Administrator Louise Direen extended sympathies to Peter Carter (Offaly Topic Newspaper) on the untimely passing of his nephew David Bracken, Rhode. The Elected Members associated themselves with this vote of sympathy.

Cllr. McDonnell acknowledged the works at the graveyard and the constructive progress to date, he thanked Mark Maken-Finlay, Administrative Officer in Environment and his team for carrying out these improvements.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 09th October 2024.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Date: 16 October 2024