

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 14TH OF SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE
TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 3.30PM**

Present: Cathaoirleach Cllr Noel Cribbin, Cllr Noel Bourke, Cllr John Foley,
Cllr Liam Quinn Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick & Cllr Martin O'Reilly

In attendance: Declan Conlon, Area Manager, John Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer,
and Therese O'Meara, Meetings Administrator, Edenderry Municipal
District.

Apologies: Leonard Geoghegan, Assistant Engineer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Quinn and seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick, the minutes of the July meetings were adopted.

2. Report and recommendation from Water and Environment

Tom Shanahan, Senior Engineer gave the report for the quarter from Water and Environment. He advised that the Watermain Rehabilitation programme for Edenderry town is 92% complete. He explained that service connections are 50% complete and said that road reinstatement works are ongoing.

In relation to Rural Water, Tom advised that group water schemes (GWS) subsidy payments were made in July/August 2016. A new circular issued by the Department on 19th of August has restored subsidy rates for operational and management costs with effect from the 1st of July 2016.

With regard to Rural Water Multi Annual Programme, Tom advised that the allocation for Offaly has not increased. The committee has written to the department regarding same as the allocation amounts to 50% of what was allocated in previous years.

Tom advised the GWS takeover application are now dealt with by Irish Water. He explained that progress in this regard is slow.

In relation to burial grounds survey, Tom advised that this survey is due to be completed shortly.

Finally Tom advised that the Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAM) will be completed by the end of 2016. He advised that the OPW will give a presentation in relation to same at a full County Council meeting.

Questions/comments from members

Cllr Fitzpatrick, as a member of the Rural Water Monitoring Committee advised the committee has written to the department regarding the need for increased funding and explained that they were awaiting a decision. In relation to St Brochan's Park, Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that a contractor is ready to start, this is a council estate but water is supplied by a group water scheme. With regard to group water schemes in general, Cllr Fitzpatrick said that he felt that all schemes in the area are working well with limited funding. He noted that the water quality is good but said that these voluntary groups needed support.

Cllr Cribbin queried roads reinstatement in Edenderry as a result of the water rehabilitation programme. He said that he had counted 94 cuttings in the road in St Francis St which are like 94 ramps. He noted that Fr Paul Murphy St was in a similar state at the start of the project but has been rectified.

Cllr Quinn welcomed the works to water mains and queried if the road reinstatement was temporary and if it would affect the roads programme. In relation to GWS Cllr Quinn noted that those connected to GWS have always had to pay for their water supply. He complimented the GWS committees who collected the charges and spend wisely on their scheme.

Cllr Foley referred to the surface of the road on Francis St as a traffic calming measure and he asked that reinstatement be improved particularly as winter period is approaching. In relation to Greenwood Park, Cllr Foley advised that he was approached by a family who had suffered flooding two years ago. They now have an issue with their chimney and can't fix it as they don't have insurance. He said that he believes that not enough work was done at the time (2 years ago) to ensure that flooding will not reoccur again. Tom advised that works are planned to split these pipes, (surface water and foul sewer) however Irish water would now have to fund same and this infrastructure is their responsibility. He said that he didn't know when this work would be done but said that it was on a list of required works.

Cllr Cribbin referred to this case also and said that he felt that Irish water had badly treated these effected house owners. He said that he felt that if the council had still be in charge of services at the time of the said flooding then this issue would have been sorted.

Cllr O'Reilly queried water pressure in Daingean, Tom advised that works were taking place at the water tower in Daingean and said that pressure should be restored.

Cllr Bourke said that he would like to see works in Bracknagh being completed in full. He asked that the Council do their utmost to seek funding to finish this work. In regard to water rehabilitation works in Edenderry, Cllr Bourke said that this work was badly needed and the benefit of same will be scene when works are fully completed. However he asked that road reinstatement works be looked at. In relation to surface water and foul sewer pipes he asked that funding be allocated by Irish Water to separate same.

In relation to Watermains Rehabilitation works, Tom advised that prior to the commencement of this scheme, leakage of water was at a high level. He said that the replacement of connection to the new pipes are as important as the replacement of the pipes themselves. He advised that the new main line cannot be made live until all back yard services are completed. Only at this stage will the full benefit of the scheme be scene. With regard to road reinstatement, Tom advised that this works

is only temporary. He advised that road improvement works planned for this area have been delayed due to these works.

Cllr Cribbin asked if money could be matched from the Council and Irish Water to carry out a proper reinstatement of these roads. Tom advised that this has occurred in other towns and depends on funding available to the Council. He advised that discussions have started in that regard.

3. Agreed Agenda Items

Bus Éireann & Bus Shelters

Therese read correspondence from the National Transport Authority to the members which stated;

“

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has now finalised its 2016 bus shelter programme and I am pleased to inform you that this year's programme includes the provision of a new shelter in Edenderry. It is anticipated that the new shelter will be installed this year, subject to receipt of the necessary planning consent.

The NTA has given a commitment to examine the provision of bus services between Edenderry and Enfield in the context of the competitive public tender process in respect of Route 120. As this process is still on-going, a meeting at this time would be premature. However, the NTA will be happy to arrange a meeting at an appropriate juncture following completion of that process.

The members present said that they felt that this correspondence from the NTA did not tell them anything that they did not already know. Cllr Bourke asked why Edenderry had to wait so long for a bus shelter when other areas had them. He complimented the bus services provided in the town and said that it was unfair to expect people to have to stand in the cold and rain waiting for a bus.

Cllr Cribbin asked that the bus shelter be a priority for budget 2017.

School Bus Transport

Cllr Quinn raised the issue of school bus transport for students in Rhode who wish to attend Edenderry school. Up to 12 secondary school children living in the Rhode area, who wish to attend second level in Edenderry, are currently being denied school bus transport. Families were contacted at the end of August and informed that there would be no transport available to them, despite some having availed of it in previous years. Cllr Quinn suggested that one pick up point in Rhode village be considered, as previously children were picked up at their homes by a mini bus service. Affected families in this area have been told by the department that they live closer to Rochfordbridge. (Rhode to Edenderry equates to 11km where as Rhode to Rochfordbridge equates to 10.2km).

Hotel Site

Declan advised that discussions are ongoing between the ETB and Offaly County Council. He said that progress was being made and that he was therefore optimistic.

Cllr Quinn advised that there would be an ETB meeting the following week. He said he was hopeful that there would be an updated report given to the members at that meeting.

Cllr Foley asked if valuation was done and queried if negotiation were ongoing prior to seeking valuation. Declan advised that the ETB are dealing with the valuation.

Ofalia House

Cllr Cribbin advised that he had spoken to the Matron in recent times who advised that HIQUA report had been received. HIQUA had concerns about the main entrance door and sought that another door be created inside that one linking to the corridors. Cllr Cribbin advised that the Matron is happy with the report.

Job Creation

Not discussed

Area Issues/updates

John Connelly advised that the roads programme is complete. Footpath works in Greenwood Park and St Joseph's Tce in Portarlinton are due to commence. Drainage works are to be completed also.

Cllr Quinn thanked John and his staff and welcome the works carried out. He then asked if anything could be done in Rhode at the entrance to Rhode Business Park. He said that people in the area are concerned about Travellers who have pulled into the roadway at this location. Cllr Quinn explained that locals use this area as a walking route. He recognized the work of the Gardai and the staff to date and acknowledged that the location is not fully set up as a Business Park yet. Cllr Quinn highlighted the dumping on the site and circulated pictures of same. Some rubbish has also been thrown into the drain to the Treatment Plant. Residents in the area are concerns about rodents. He advised that two very large concrete beams have also been moved. Lands at this location are privately owned by the North Offaly Development Fund who have been made aware of same. They are in talks with companies who are interested in sites at this location. Cllr Quinn advised that there is a genuine concern that this area will become a temporary halting site. On the proposal of Cllr Quinn and seconded by Cllr Cribbin it was agreed that the council would look at moving travelers from this location.

Cllr Cribbin advised that the members are all members of the North Offaly Development Fund and advised that funding can be provided to assist in moving the Travellers and reinstating the area where they are currently parked if required.

Cllr Fitzpatrick said that this area could become another Kilmucklin. He asked that by whatever means required the area need to be cleaned up and secure and Travllers asked to move out.

Cllr Bourke advised that this is an issue with in ongoing in the town of Edenderry also. He advised that area have been left in bad conditions and admitted that this is an issue with is not easy to solve.

4. Notice of Motion

None

5. Written Questions

None

6. Correspondence

None

7. Any other business

Job losses

Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that over 30 jobs have been lost at Gorman Mushrooms in Portarlington who have been in business for almost 30 years. This family run business exported to the UK.

Ambulance Services

Cllr O'Reilly asked that an update be sought from Willie Merriman, National Ambulance Services. Cllr Cribbin asked that we write to Martin Dunne, head of NAS as stated that he was very disappointed to not have heard from Willie Merriman since the last meeting.

Edenderry Local Area Plan

Therese advised the members that the pre draft public consultation period for Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017 has been initiated and advised that public consultation events are to take place later this month. It is hoped that the pre draft LAP will be out by mid October. Therese circulated an information document to the members which included an opportunity to make submissions.

Nicole Turner, Portarlington

Cllr Fitzpatrick asked that a letter of congratulation be sent to Nicole Turner from Portarlington who has represented Ireland at Paralympics in Rio.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th of October 2016 at 3.30 pm

Relay for life

Cllr Cribbin congratulated the Relay for Life organization committee on their very successful event held in Edenderry in recent days at Derry Rover facility.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____