

***Municipal District of Edenderry***  
***Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire***

**MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>	Municipal District of Edenderry
<b>Location:</b>	Charleville Room	Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
<b>Time:</b>	3:00pm	<b>Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2020</b>
<b>Present:</b>	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Cllr. John Foley Cllr. Liam Quinn Cllr. Robert McDermott Cllr. Noel Cribbin Cllr. Mark Hackett	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Sharon Kennedy Mark Mahon Josephine Lee	District Director, Offaly Co Co District Engineer, Offaly Co Co District Meetings Administrator, Offaly Co Co
<b>Present:</b>	Mary Hussey	Senior Engineer, Offaly Co Co
<b>Apologies</b>	Rory Moore	Assistant Engineer, Offaly Co Co

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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Confirmation of Minutes from the March Meetings**

On the proposal of Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Foley, the minutes of the Main Committee meeting held on the **11<sup>th</sup> March 2020** were adopted.

**2. Water and Environment Department Update**

The Senior Engineer from Water and Environment gave an update for the Edenderry Area as outlined below:

**Environment:**

322 complaints regarding waste and litter have been received to date in 2020. This reflects an increase for this time of year with 130 complaints since the start of Covid 19 crisis. The Council is responding to these complaints in line with HSE Covid-19 Guidelines and is continuing to log and investigate all complaints received as expediently as possible.

Bottle banks are experiencing an increased level of usage and capacity is being reached quicker than normal. Contact has been made with the service provider to arrange for more regular servicing of busier bottle banks which will help to free up capacity.

There is also the capacity to introduce additional vessels to a small number of busier bottlebanks which will also increase capacity (Portarlinton being a possibility).

There is an ongoing issue of bottles, bags, boxes being deposited on the ground around bottlebanks. This is causing particular difficulties, from health and safety perspectives and also having regard to Covid-19 Guidelines, for our service provider and our own Litter Wardens. We are currently looking at mechanical methods of removing this waste to avoid unnecessary handling of this material.

All of the Civic Amenity Sites in the County and Derryclure continue to operate as normal. Edenderry CAS has seen an increase in daily average footfall to 170 per day since March 13th.

Members were requested to please continue to get the message out that recycle sites are open, bottle banks are experiencing heavy demand and excess bottles/cans should not be left on the ground at bottlebanks, but should be returned on an alternative date or to an alternative bottlebank.

### **Water Quality:**

Routine water sampling has been suspended during the current Covid-19 crisis, but will commence again once restrictions have been lifted.

Work continues on gathering data to feed into the next cycle of Priority Area of Action under the Water Framework Directive.

### **Water Services:**

Water main Rehabilitation Projects:

Rehabilitation works at Clonin will proceed when funding is restored to the Irish Water Network Rehabilitation Team while Croghan & Newtown are at design stage.

Rehabilitation works at Blundellwood have been completed.

Irish Water is currently preparing the design for replacement reservoir at Clonbullogue and considering a replacement reservoir at Walsh Island.

### **Waste Water**

It is intended that upgrade works will be carried out at Bracknagh in 2020. Works are being carried out at Edenderry & it is proposed to re-instate reed beds at Walsh Island.

Solutions for planning permissions are currently being dealt with on a case by case basis in consultation with Irish Water.

With regard to the upgrade of the treatment plant, IW are currently in the process of appointing a consulting engineer to design the project.

Further to discussion with Irish Water, it was advised, after an examination of the capacity of the Plant that there is still some spare capacity. Offaly County Council are still in working with Irish Water in this regard.

### **3. Offaly Covid 19 Community Response**

The District Director advised that, following the Taoiseach's announcement on the 27<sup>th</sup> March concerning increased restrictions associated with the Covid 19 emergency, Local Authorities were required, with immediate effect, to establish and lead a Community Forum and together with a range of other agencies, become involved in what is now known as "Covid Community Call"

Offaly Community Forum was established on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and is comprised of the relevant agencies which have been operating in the County. In addition to this, each County has a Community Champion who is responsible for leading responses from local/community volunteers. It was noted that Mr. Michael Duignan has been appointed as the Community Champion for Offaly.

The agencies are working in collaboration with each other to ensure that those who are in isolation, vulnerable or are cocooning have appropriate supports in relation to food, fuel and medicines and are also support in terms of contact.

A helpline (1800 818 181) for those that are in anyway vulnerable, isolated or cocooning has been set up. This helpline is being serviced by Offaly County Council staff. It is used to direct calls from the public seeking assistance to the relevant services that can provide the necessary supports.

The District Director requested the Elected Members to circulate the above information to those they feel may need supports.

These services will remain available for the entirety of the Covid 19 crisis.

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

The District Director advised that due to Covid 19, the proposed meeting with the Swimming Pool Committee has been postponed. It had been agreed at the previous District meeting that this meeting was to seek an update with regard to progress on the major capital project and to also discuss the Company's application for funding in the order of €3,500 under the GMA. Following further discussion, it was agreed that when the various concerns are addressed, Edenderry Municipal District will release the funding to the Committee.

### **5. Library Development**

No Update

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

No Update

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

This was covered under the Water and Environment Section.

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

The Roads Programme 2020 was adopted and tendering is now progressing. All jobs should be ready to start once Covid 19 restrictions lift.

The LIS application form was released from the Department. The Roads Senior Engineer has postponed advertising the LIS scheme due to Covid 19. Applications submitted prior to 18<sup>th</sup> March will be put on file. All those submitted post 18<sup>th</sup> March will need to be resubmitted.

Essential services in relation to road patching and maintenance has re-started this week on a priority basis and staff are abiding by the Covid 19 restrictions. This will continue going forward.

Essential grass cutting has commenced.

In accordance with recent Departmental Circulars, deadlines in relation to Planning applications have been extended by specified periods.

The Part 8 process in relation to the proposed development at Sr. Senan is still open. Submissions should be sent to the Housing Department.

**9. Notices of Motion**

None

**10. Written Questions**

None

**11. Correspondence**

None

**12. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Cribbin addressed the issue of Traveller Accommodation in the Edenderry Area and a discussion followed.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_