

# *Municipal District of Edenderry*

## *Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire*

### MINUTES

|                       |                                      |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting:</b>       | <b>Main Committee</b>                | Municipal District of Edenderry                |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Chamber                              | <b>Aras Na Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly</b>  |
| <b>Time:</b>          | <b>2:30pm</b>                        | <b>Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020</b> |
| <b>Present:</b>       | Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Foley       | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
|                       | Leas -Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Quinn | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
|                       | Cllr. Robert McDermott               | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
|                       | Cllr. Noel Cribbin                   | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
|                       | Cllr. Mark Hackett                   | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
|                       | Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick              | Edenderry Municipal District                   |
| <b>In Attendance:</b> | Anna-Marie Delaney                   | Chief Executive, Offaly Co Co                  |
|                       | Sharon Kennedy                       | District Director, Offaly Co Co                |
|                       | Mark Mahon                           | District Engineer, Offaly Co Co                |
|                       | Rory Moore                           | Assistant District Engineer                    |
|                       | Josephine Lee                        | District Administrator, Offaly Co Co           |
|                       | Ray Bell                             | Head of IS, Offaly Co Co                       |

#### Apologies:

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#### AGENDA ITEMS

##### 1. Confirmation of November Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. McDermott and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick, it was agreed that the minutes of the In - Committee and Main Committee meetings held on the **11<sup>th</sup> November 2020** were adopted.

##### 2. Address for the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged the difficulties of 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. She encouraged all to keep adhering to the public health guidelines and to both stay local and shop local during the Christmas period and going into 2021. She also reminded all Elected Members about the Community Help Line.

Ms. Delaney acknowledged the hard work of both the staff and the Elected Members in 2020 and referred to the range of projects and achievements within the District. She also referred to plans for 2021 including the development of the Library and Arts Space in Edenderry which is being co-funded through the Local Property Tax. She referred to a range of other projects aimed at

enhancing rural and urban areas and providing facilities to encourage community development and to support economic development.

### **3. Launch of the Blundell Masterplan**

James Hennessey of the Paul Hogarth Company presented and gave an overview of the process and confirmed that it is now ready for the next phase.

The Chief Executive, District Director and Edenderry Elected Members all complimented and welcomed the Masterplan and look forward to developing Edenderry into the future.

### **4. Presentation from the District Staff Officer**

The District Staff Officer, Josephine Lee gave an overview presentation to the Elected Members and Chief Executive on the works completed in 2020 and outlined the funding spent in the District. Ms. Lee also outlined what will take priority for her in 2021.

### **5. Presentation from the District Engineer**

The District Engineer, Mark Mahon gave a presentation to the Elected Members on the large scale projects that are currently taking place in the Edenderry District and also discussed what is planned for 2021.

After these Presentations the District Director commended the work of the staff in the area and spoke about the opportunities within the District to deliver on a range of projects. The backdrop provided by the Blundell Masterplan is of particular importance as it provides guidance in relation to future projects within the heart of Edenderry Town. Plans are also in place in relation to a number of villages within the District. Ms. Kennedy further noted that many of these projects will facilitate community engagement and assist in encouraging economic development.

The District Director acknowledged the level of support and co-operation provided to the District staff by their colleagues within Offaly County Council including Arts, Heritage, Library, IT, Housing, Roads, Water Services and Community Sections. All interactions are focused on the provision of physical infrastructure thus complimenting community and economic development programmes. It is fully intended to continue to grow the nature and range of events and programs during 2021.

### **6. Presentation from Head of Information Systems (IS) and the Broad Band Connection Points Launch**

Mr. Ray Bell, Head of IS introduced the launch of Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) within the County which are public locations selected to receive high-speed connectivity in the first year of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan. These locations currently don't have high speed broadband and are within the Intervention Area that will be serviced by the NBP.

These locations were selected by the local authorities and include public areas such as community halls, libraries, sports facilities, enterprise hubs, tourist locations and other public spaces.

Mr. Bell then welcomed representatives from the three BCPs in the Edenderry area representing: Ballycommon Telework and Training Centre; Kilclonfert Community Centre and Croghan Community Hall.

It was noted that the National Broadband Plan is an ambitious project and the roll-out will take time. These Broadband Connection Points will bring connectivity to local communities while the roll-out to homes and businesses progresses. Each BCP will provide 150Mb high speed, high quality fibre broadband access to the local community. This will enable people living in the area to go to the selected location and access broadband for daily use including remote working, e-Learning, general access and even keeping in touch with family and friends abroad through video calling.

Representatives from the BCP's briefly spoke and the meeting viewed recorded messages from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD; Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD; Anne O'Leary, Chief Executive Officer of Vodafone Ireland and finally David McCourt Executive Chairman of National Broadband Ireland.

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Foley welcomed all of the attendees and thanked them for their work and support in progressing with these projects. Cllr. Foley then officially launched the BCP's.

The Chief Executive, District Director and Elected Members congratulated everyone involved in the rollout of the BCP's.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 13th January 2020.

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

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