

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting:	Main Committee	Municipal District of Edenderry
Location:	Chamber	Town Hall, Edenderry, Co. Offaly
Time:	3:30pm	Wednesday, 8 th May, 2019
Present:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick Cllr. John Foley Cllr. Noel Bourke Cllr. Noel Cribben Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District Edenderry Municipal District
In Attendance:	Declan Conlon John McNally Mr. Ray Bell Carmel Delaney	Area Manager, Offaly Co Co Assistant Engineer. Information Officer. A/Meetings Administrator, Offaly Co Co

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 April Main and Committee meeting were adopted.

2. PRESENTATION FROM Mr. Ray Bell, Information Officer on Broadband

Cllr. Fitzpatrick welcomed R. Bell to the meeting and he briefed the meeting as follows:

-

R. Bell handed out an information leaflet to the Council and outlined the following:
In January 2017 roughly 50% of the premises in the county had access to High Speed Broadband. In Offaly we have 36,966 premises in the county and as of today, 61% of premises have access to high speed broadband. A further 6% will be served by Eir under the company's ongoing 300k (rural deployment) which will be completed by July 2019. This equates to roughly 25,000 premises approx.. or 67% of the premises in Offaly having access to high speed broadband by summer 2019. The remaining 12,387 homes, school and business premises in Offaly will be connected under the National Broadband Plan.

He gave an example of the Fibre to the Home Solution from Eir for Walsh Island and explained that the premises in the light blue area could get fibre broadband with speeds of up to 1000 mbps. The premises with the dark blue dots have been passed already and can be connected up by calling companies such as Eir, Sky etc. He expected the other areas to get Fibre broadband by Summer 2019. R. Bell pointed out that there were other fibre broadband options in Offaly namely, eNet, Virgin Media, Siro. There are 3 mobile operators in Offaly, namely Eir, Three and Vodafone. He stated that the closer a premises is to a 4G mast, the better broadband speeds. However, he did state that all modern homes have foil-backed insulations in the walls which blocks the cellular signals penetrating the reception/broadband. Options to improve this include installing an external antenna and running a cable into the broadband router in the premises. He showed samples of what was available and confirmed that the costs of same would be approx.. €25 to €50.

A discussion ensued in relation to some of the issues raised – it was agreed that if there were any further queries they should be directed to Mr. Bell

3. Swimming Pool

The Area Manager confirmed that there was no further update on this but hoped to organise a meeting with all parties at the next Meeting of the Municipal District in June

4. Library.

The Area Manager advised that progress had been made in relation to this site and also work on the design for the Library had taken place. A new County Librarian had been appointed. Cllr. Cribben inquired if money was still available for this project.

5. Inward Investment and Local Enterprise Development.

The Area Manager confirmed that the Digital Hub was making good progress and expected to have it set up and running by the end of June. It was anticipated that the facility would cater for 14 desks at a reasonable rate. The Councillors welcomed the progress being made and confirmed that it would be a great opportunity for people in the town to work from the Town Hall

6. Other Area Issues.

- **Inner Relief Road.**

The Assistant Engineer confirmed that following preparation of a detailed project brief, the DTTAs have approved us to go to tender to engage Engineering Consultants to carry out a detailed design. This will be placed on etenders, ie public procurement website this week, with consultant appointment anticipated in July.

- **Bog Road, Portarlinton.**

Following a proposal submitted to the OPW, formal approval for funding of €132,795 for flood mitigation works on the Bog Road had been received. This funding will enable replacing of culverts providing enhanced capacity, clearing of drains and the Blackstick stream, and raising of a section of the Bog Road. This will ensure that the Bog Road remains passable, particularly important for the students of Colaiste Iosigain, a secondary school of over 1000 pupils. The works are planned to take place in summer 2019 while the schools are closed. The members welcomed the funding and progress.

- **Low Cost Safety:**

The Assistant Engineer confirmed that the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Rhode School is progressing well - line marking and public lighting works are underway.

- **Upgrade of the R402**

Tenders for traffic counts at various locations throughout the county including along the R402. The information provided by these traffic counts will form the evidence base for our formal case to DTTAs.

He also confirmed that funding had been received from the Department for a “Pilot scheme testing on roads over peat” to the value of €165,000. This pilot scheme is concentrated in the EMD and BMD area and is currently being developed by the Road Design Section. -

The elected members welcomed the works being done. They raised the question of use of speed vans and speed signs – could they be alternated between different areas? The Assistant Engineer advised that the speed signs were moved around at different locations – speed vans were situated at “black spots”.

7 Notice of Motion.

No notice of motion.

8 Written Question.

None

**9 CORRESPONDENCE
None**

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Regional Spatial & Economic strategy had been adopted by the members at their last meeting subject to amendments.

The elected members wished Pat Smullen best wishes on his retirement.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr. Noel Burke back to the Council as he had been out sick. As this was his last meeting he wanted to acknowledge the great contribution he had made to the Council over the last 28 years and to wish him well in his retirement. Cllr. Foley also wished him well and thanked him for all his hard work throughout the years. Cllr. Quinn also acknowledged the hard work carried out by Cllr. Burke and that he was a gentleman to deal with and that he would be a great loss to the Council. Cllr. Cribben also congratulated Cllr. Bourke on his diligent work and his commitment to Offaly County Council and wished him the best.

The Area Manager reiterated the compliments paid to Cllr. Bourke and that he knew him all his life, that he was a gentleman to deal with and very diligent, He always followed up on representations. He wished him well in his retirement.

Cllr. Bourke thanked the elected members for their kind words. He also thanked the officials of Offaly County Council and stated that he found the staff in O.C.C. extremely helpful. He wished the elected members and all the other candidates in the local election good luck.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 12th June, 2019

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____

