

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

**MINUTES**

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Meeting:</b>       | <b>Main Committee</b>                     | Municipal District of Edenderry                 |
| <b>Location:</b>      | Remote attendance                         |   |
| <b>Time:</b>          | <b>3:00pm</b>                             | <b>Wednesday, 08<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b> |
| <b>Present:</b>       | Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Quinn            | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. Noel Cribbin                        | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. John Foley                          | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
|                       | Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick                   | Edenderry Municipal District                    |
| <b>Apologies:</b>     | Cllr. Mark Hackett                        | 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                 |
|                       | Enda Daly                                 | Executive Engineer, Offaly Co Co                |
|                       | John Briody                               | Executive Engineer, Offaly Co Co                |
|                       | Louise Direen                             | District Administrator, Offaly Co Co            |
|                       | Mary Hussey                               | Senior Engineer, Offaly Co Co                   |

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### **AGENDA ITEMS**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and Executive and thanked Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive for her attendance.

Cllr. Quinn welcomed John Briody to the District, having welcomed Louise Direen and Enda Daly at the November meeting. He reiterated his thanks to Josephine Lee and Rory Moore for their services to the District.

### **Confirmation of Minutes from the November Meetings**

It was proposed by Cllr. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin that the minutes of meetings held on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be adopted.

### **1. Water & Environment Report**

Ms. Mary Hussey, Senior Engineer gave a presentation on Climate, Environment and Water Services covering issues such as tree planting, green schools, Comhairle na nÓg, litter and waste complaints, community clean-ups, Draft Management Plan and Burial Grounds.

The Elected Members welcomed the report and raised a number of issues and queries to which Ms. Hussey responded. The Members thanked Ms. Hussey for her report.

## **2. GMA Applications**

Two applications were considered by the Elected Members. Having been proposed by Cllr. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. Foley, the following details were accepted:

| <b>Application</b>           | <b>Reason for Funding</b>                                    |
|------------------------------|--|
| Edenderry Canoe Club         | Equipment for adults   |
| Portarlinton Street Lighting | Provision of Christmas Lighting in Portarlinton Laois/Offaly |

### **Presentation from District Staff Officer & District Director**

The District Director and District Staff Officer presented to the Members in relation to a number of community engagements which were facilitated by the District during the year. These included community funding through the General Municipal Allocation; Artisan Market; Arts events; Heritage project at Blundell Castle and also Digital, Community Broadband and Internet of Things opportunities. The successful events in the summer and for Christmas ran in conjunction with local live performances were noted. Reference was also made to engagements with the Members of the Graiguecullen – Portarlinton Municipal District during the year with plans to continue these engagements in 2022 in pursuance of the regeneration project for the town.

### **Presentation from District Engineer**

District Engineer, Mark Mahon made a presentation on ‘Project Highlights of 2021’ covering the new Link Road, Inner Relief Road, pedestrian crossings, TVR measures and Geashill ACA. He complimented the work and support for community groups and projects provided by the Districts outdoor staff. He also commended the work by Rory Moore, former assistant engineer on the excellent work carried out at the Derryounce Walkway & Trails under the ORIS Scheme. He outlined details of funding secured for a number of projects at Rhode Green Energy Park which should help to secure further economic development opportunities in the District. Mr. Mahon also detailed the Portarlinton Flood Relief Scheme. Details of upcoming projects for 2022 were also presented including TVR projects, Grand Canal Footbridge Concept, works at the Tesco Junction, Active Travel & Climate Adaptation Projects. Finally details of a project supported

through Clár funding involving further works at Croghan Hill with the provision of a heated smart bench was referred to.

The Cathaoirleach thanked everyone involved for both presentations commenting on the volume, variety and quality of the works and projects. He noted the very significant impact of the works within the District which was both welcome and appreciated.

Councillors Cribbin, Foley, McDermott and Fitzpatrick joined in thanking the executive for their presentations. They also complimented the various projects delivered throughout the district during the past year and welcomed the plans for 2022. Particular reference was made regarding the events supported through the Local Live Performance funding received from the Department of Arts and Tourism.

They complimented Mark Mahon and his crew on how well Edenderry town looks and on the volume of work that has been carried out over the last few years. A number of queries were raised which were replied to by the District Engineer.

In thanking the Members for their responses, the Cathaoirleach expressed his optimism for the potential of Edenderry Town and how it has progressed over the last few years. He proposed a video synopsis/slideshow of all these works and projects to be published on social media, this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Cribbin and agreed to by all of the Members.

#### Chief Executive Address

The Chief Executive thanked everyone for all the work carried out, noting that all projects are a result of team effort. She acknowledged the work and contribution of Rory Moore and Josephine Lee and wished them success in their new roles, and she welcomed John Briody, Enda Daly and Louise Direen to their District while wishing them luck in their roles. She noted that it is also important to acknowledge and celebrate all work and projects completed to date and hopes to celebrate and launch these projects post-covid. She complimented the use of GMA Funding and match funding, how well it is being utilised, that the quality of life and vibrancy of the town are starting to come to fruition. She outlined that Edenderry is becoming an attractive area to live and work and had innovation and potential. She also acknowledged the District Engineer and District Director as being a very good team while showing great leadership. She complimented Geashill Tidy Towns on their National Award and noted the significant best practice and standards evidenced in the district. She thanked the Elected Members for their support.

The District Director then thanked the Members for their words, while noting that the work and plans of former District Management and in particular Declan Conlan had formed a very strong

basis for current and future projects. In particular, the securing of the Tesco site and the foresight of the District Engineer and Planning Section in relation to the Blundell Masterplan provided the opportunity and direction for the future development of Edenderry. The co-operation and collaboration of other sections was also noted and she thanked the CE and all other Directors for their support.

### **3. Swimming Pool Update**

It was noted that there is no update at this point in time.

### **4. Library Development**

It was noted that the Department's announcements regarding the Rural Regeneration Development Fund is awaited.

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

It was noted that this item was included in the presentation given by the District Engineer.

### **6. Public Utility Capacity Issues**

It was noted that the Senior Engineer, Water and Environment Services had provided an update earlier in the meeting.

### **7. Area Issues/updates**

Most issues covered through the presentation given by the District Engineer. Cllr. Cribbin outlined his concerns about potholes and public lighting issues within the town.

### **8. Notices of Motion**

The Cathaoirleach stated that Cllr. Hackett can bring his motion to the January meeting as he was not present today.

### **9. Written Questions**

None

### **10. Correspondence**

None

### **11. Any Other Business**

Cllr. Cribbin expressed his delight with canal greenway and the fantastic facility that it is. He suggested having some speed ramps installed to prevent anti- social behavior on scramblers along the walk. He also outlined some areas in need of improvement along Cokery Lane.

Cllr. McDermott requested that Cllr. Foley pass on special thanks to 'Santa' and his elves on his appearance at Eden's Christmas Spirit Event.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas, and thanked everyone for their co-operation throughout the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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