

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

**MINUTES**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Main Committee</b>	Municipal District of Edenderry
<b>Location:</b>	Áras An Chontae Chamber & Remote attendance	
<b>Time:</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Wednesday, 09<sup>th</sup> February 2022</b>
<b>Present:</b>	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liam Quinn Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr. Robert McDermott Cllr. Noel Cribbin Cllr. John Foley (remotely) Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick 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 Louise Direen Mary Hussey	District Director District Engineer District Administrator Senior Engineer

Cllr. Quinn welcomed everyone back to this in-person meeting.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes from the January Meeting**

It was proposed by Cllr. McDermott and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin that the minutes of the Main Committee Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 be adopted.

### **2. Climate, Environment & Water Services Update**

Ms. Mary Hussey, Senior Engineer, provided the following updates to the Members:

#### **Draft Regional Water Resources Plan**

Irish Water are now seeking feedback through public consultation on the draft RWRP: Eastern and Midlands and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement.

A thirteen-week statutory consultation is running from the 14 December 2021 to 14 March 2022 during which time the documents can be viewed and downloaded from the website and same are also available at the local authority planning offices during normal opening hours. It was noted that information on the consultation can be viewed at [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie) Ms. Hussey

advised that this is a good opportunity for the community to feed into the process of how Irish Water identifies the issues in the region and determines the opportunities to provide a more resilient water supply in this and other counties.

### **Water Quality.**

The *Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027* was published on 27th September 2021. The document sets out the current situation in relation to water quality in Ireland, which despite focus and progress in recent times, is again in decline, primarily due to nutrient pollution. It was noted that the plan is now open for public consultation until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and is available at [www.gov.ie/draftRBMP](http://www.gov.ie/draftRBMP).

The *Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027* sets out a Program of Measures on how Ireland proposes to protect and restore water quality focusing on a wide range of pressures. Appendix 3 of the document sets out the proposed “Areas for Action” with a total of 26 identified actions in County Offaly.

### **Offaly County Council’s Draft Litter Management Plan 2022 to 2024**

Ms. Hussey advised that the Draft Litter Management Plan is open for public consultation until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.

The draft plan sets out how the Council manages, prevents and enforces litter prevention measures within the County. The plan has 7 objectives including education and awareness; street cleaning; events; enforcement; local participation; partnerships and litter infrastructure.

### **Staff changes within the Environment Section**

Ms. Hussey advised that Maria Treacy has recently joined the Environment Section as Senior Executive Engineer. It was further noted that John Mc Nally has been appointed as the Climate Action & Energy Officer.

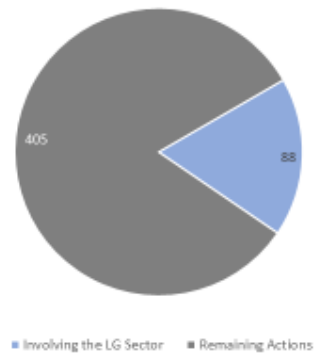
### **Climate Action:**

Three main areas of focus for 2022::

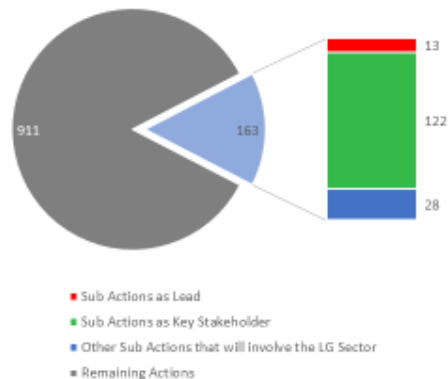
- National Climate Action Act 2021, and Annex for Actions
- Local Authority Climate Action Plans
- Embedding Climate Action in Offaly County Council

## Local Government involvement in CAP21

493 Actions in Climate Action Plan 2021



1,074 Sub Actions/Steps within these 493 Actions



### Litter & Waste Management.

Ms. Hussey advised in relation to activity as follows:

- Litter complaints received: 70
- Waste enforcement complaints received: 8
- Clean ups: 26
- Litter fines issued: 10

### Burial Grounds:

Ms. Hussey advised that Mr. Michael Kearney, Clonbullogue Burial Ground caretaker, has retired. Ms. Hussey recorded thanks to Mr. Kearney for his dedication in keeping the burial ground in good condition. It was noted that Ms. Catherine Mc Glynn has taken on the role of caretaker.

## **Wastewater updates.**

### **a. Edenderry**

It was noted that design works are on-going and further updates have been requested from Irish Water.

### **b. Daingean**

Improvement works have been carried out including:

- New Screen
- New sump – increased the capacity from 2m<sup>3</sup> to 55m<sup>3</sup>
- 3 new pumps – 2 delivering to Aeration Tanks, the other to the Storm Tank
- New Control Kiosk
- New Sludge tank

It was noted that all of these measures should help the performance and management of the plant.

### **c. Rhode**

Ms. Hussey has advised that a consultant has been engaged for the project. It is proposed to increase the capacity of the treatment plant to meet the projected demand in the area.

## **Water services updates**

Ms. Hussey advised in relation to the disinfection programme, noting that same is being finalised at Edenderry and Rhode with substantial completion of works at Walsh Island and Clonbullogue.

Water main rehabilitaiton substantially complete at Clonin and the Geashill UV system is in design.

## **Rural Water Programme:**

Ms Hussey advised that of the 19 projects awarded funding under the multi-annual rural water programme, 14 are now complete and the remainder are due to be completed by the end of quarter 1 2022. In addition, two Group Water Schemes have been approved for funding for projects that have arisen during the term of the current funding programme and two more projects are awaiting confirmation from the Rural Water Uint.

Annual Group Water Scheme Subsidy payments have been made to 17 GWSs to the value of €976,350.00.

Mountlucas and Bracknagh schemes are carrying out works under this scheme.

Cllr. Cribbin suggested that the section consider arranging for free collection days for mattresses, large household items etc. to prevent illegal dumping and that same could be organised in conjunction with local Tidy Towns groups.

Cllr Cribbin also raised awareness on sewage issues on Carrick Road to be considered in line with proposed works.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mary Hussey for the report referred to the significant problem of illegal dumping throughout the county and what incentives or solutions can be suggested to address same.

Cllr. Hackett outlined issues with littering and suggested the installation of additional signage and/or CCTV. Mary Hussey advised in relation to the Civic Amenity facilities which are accessible by the public and maybe raise public awareness in this regard by way of a proposed Mattress Amnesty this year at the Derryclure facility. She also re-iterated that prevention, enforcement and education are the only way forward to try prevent illegal dumping while raising concerns of how Local Authorities are permitted to use CCTV footage for prosecution purposes.

### 3. GMA Applications

Three applications were considered by the Elected Members. Having been proposed by Cllr. Hackett and seconded by Cllr. McDermott the following details were accepted:

<b>Application</b>	<b>Reason for Funding</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Geashill Tidy Towns	Signage, Mutt Mitts, Tools, Climate Change Initiatives, Playground enhancement, running cost of Xmas Tree, public area & amenity enhancement	€3,500
Cloneygowan Development Association	Renovation of pump area, landscaping and Insurance costs	TBC following the assessment of Application Criteria
Rhode St Patrick's Day Committee	Bunting, Prizes, Printing, H&S	€750

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

District Director Sharon Kennedy confirmed that some projects are progressing under the Rural Regeneration Funding. No specific update on this today.

#### **5. Library Development**

Sharon Kennedy updated the Members with regard to the project, noting that the demolition phase of the project has commenced and that work is also progressing with the tender process for the design team.

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

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

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

It was noted that the members are provided updates as part of the Water Services and Area Issues reports.

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

This report was presented by District Engineer Mark Mahon.

#### **Climate Adaption – R401 St. Conleth’s Road**

It was noted that the contract commenced on the 17th January with works advancing entailing new surface water drainage, road raising and new footpath and raised entrances to address flooding. Surface water drainage and gullies nearing completion, slip-form kerbs installed on 8th February, footpath and entrance works to follow, scheduled over the next 4 – 5 weeks. Surfacing project to follow, raising road level and providing new surface.

#### **Town & Village Renewal Projects**

Mr. Mahon advised that bow top fencing has been installed at Cloneygowan Village Green at the R-420 interface; Footpath installation is expected to commence shortly, as contractor is closing out Derryounce works. Playground elements scheduled for installation on week commencing 21st February.

Blundell Park Project commenced in January to install ducting and associated infrastructure to enable the removal of overhead power lines. Ducting completed to the south and east side of the Pitch and Putt Club. Ducting to the east side of the Castle is progressing.

## **Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)**

Granary Link Street project is substantially complete and the road is now opened. The Contractor is completing some close out activities and snagging including removal of spoil and final reinstatement in Granary Court.

### **Future Library site**

Funding through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund in the sum of €2.15m was announced for Edenderry Regeneration Phase 2 on 6th January 2022. The demolition of the derelict buildings on the former Tesco site forms a project within the larger regeneration initiative. Demolition contractor mobilised to site on the 7th February, site set up and initial survey activities currently taking place. Largescale demolition activities to commence on 14th February. Works anticipated to take 12 weeks.

### **Inner Relief Road Project**

Mr. Mahon advised that the Contractor (Tower Civil Engineering) commenced on site on 18th October, starting Phase 1 adjacent to Rosderra Meats. Works to realign the R401 junction will follow. Works are programmed to take 6 months and works are progressing as per the program including:

- Public lighting works to commence on Clonmullen Drive this week
- Surface Water connection to be made into existing SW pipe on Clonmullen Ct. this week.
- Footpath from R401 (Carrick Rd) to Clonmeen Rise (existing Road) 90 % complete on south side. Preparing footpath on North side - to be poured this week.
- Ground Works ongoing within the new section of road (bund & Embankment works)
- Works commenced last week to the west of the R401 (on Circus/corner site). Removed approx. 3m of peat material and backfilled with stone.
- ESB to underground overhead lines within the site on 24th Feb.
- Fencing contractor to mobilise to site within the next few weeks.

### **Active Travel Projects**

Portarlinton Cemetery Link Construction of footway has commenced, including ducting, with traffic lights to follow.

## **Roads Programme 2021**

Two sections of road re-surfaced:

- Section of Fr Kearns St (R402) in the vicinity of Col. Perry Road;
- Section of the R402 Dublin Road West of Lawton Motors.

All 2021 Roads Programme Works are now complete.

It was noted that the 2022 Roads Programme for Edenderry Municipal District is currently being developed – awaiting confirmation of funding allocations from Roads Department. It is intended that this will be available for consideration of the Members at the March meeting.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

A separate attachment accompanied the report showing various before and after picture from recently completed trail and carpark works carried out at Derryounce Lakes & Trails.

Cllr. Foley thanked District Engineer Mark Mahon and everyone involved for all the work and the presentation and is delighted to see that demolition has started at the Tesco site and how the town of Edenderry is improving all the time.

Cllr. Cribbin complimented the contractors at the Granary Court Project and said it is a credit to the District Engineer and his staff. He suggested that a brochure should be published for Edenderry depicting the range of projects being progressed.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick commended all the work that has taken place and is ongoing and that this will all benefit the town going forward. He also complimented the railing that has been installed at the village green in Cloneygowan and is looking forward to the work planned for the village going forward, while also noting the works scheduled for the Portarlinton Cemetery Link. He acknowledged the supports provided by the Council personnel to assist with the work taking place in Derryounce. Cllr. Hackett noted same and from a local perspective how effective it has been in terms of safety for children out playing.

Cllr. McDermott noted that it is very exciting times for Edenderry and for all the work already done and all that is planned for down the line. He raised concerns regarding road markings throughout the town and the requirements of signage of upcoming junctions/roundabouts.

Cllr. Quinn suggested that a letter to be sent to Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage and also Minister Hackett seeking an increase in allocations of funding for roads, having regard to the condition ratings of roads within the county. District Director Sharon Kennedy advised that this issue has been raised with Director of Services Tom Shanahan.



Cllr. Quinn outlined that there is considerable concern in Rhode regarding the large volume of trucks/lorries travelling through the village and enquired if it might be possible to use some funds from GMA for funding for signs in relation to this. This was proposed by Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Hackett.

A similar concern was raised by Cllr. Fitzpatrick in relation to Portarlinton and the traffic volume due to the distribution centre.

Mark Mahon thanked everyone for all the positive feedback and responded to all queries raised as necessary.

#### **9. Notices of Motion**

None submitted.

#### **10. Written Questions**

None submitted.

#### **11. Correspondence**

The Meetings Administrator advised that a response had just been received from AIB in relation to the minimum amount of withdrawal that applies to ATMs.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

Cllr. McDermott raised an issue regarding linking the greenway of the Royal Canal in Enfield with the Grand Canal in Edenderry, outlining the potential advantages. Elected Members supported this proposal noting that same would involve the combined input of Kildare, Meath and Offaly Local Authorities.

Cllr. Cribbin raised the issue of a large number of derelict and vacant houses in the town and outlined that funding was announced last week by Minister Heather Humphreys, under the Governments new 'Town Centre First Policy'. Town Regeneration Officers are to be employed in all local authorities to work with local communities and help them access a variety of Government funding streams in relation to renewal and redevelopment, in order to tackle the issues of derelict and vacant properties.

Cllr. Quinn had been made aware that GP services are no longer available in Daingean. He requested the Meetings Administrator Louise Direen to contact the HSE in relation to this matter to see what is the HSE strategy for the overall plan for the replacement of this service. Cllr. Fitzpatrick agreed with this while also acknowledging that there is already a HSE facility in Daingean.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 09<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

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

**Cathaoirleach**

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