

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 12TH OF OCTOBER 2016 IN THE
TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 3.30PM**

Present: Cllr Martin O'Reilly, Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr Noel Bourke, Cllr John Foley,
Cllr Liam Quinn & Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick

In attendance: Declan Conlon, Area Manager, John Connelly, Senior Executive Engineer,
Leonard Geoghegan, Assistant Engineer and Therese O'Meara, Meetings
Administrator, Edenderry Municipal District.

Apologies: Cathaoirleach Cllr Noel Cribbin

1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick, the minutes of the September meetings were adopted.

Cllr Foley asked that the minutes of the in committee meeting be changed to state that at no stage was there ever an issue with the horse who brought Santa to the Town Hall for the switching on of Christmas lights. He stated that from 1990 onwards the Council staff were involved who looked after

2. Report and recommendation from Roads

John Connelly gave the roads report. He circulated a summary document to the members which stated that 27.7km of road works were carried out during the year by various different methods. He also circulated a map of the district with the areas where works were carried out outlined on same. This work includes works carried out on footpaths and drainage works carried out as a result of flooding late last year.

Questions from Members

Cllr Quinn thanks John and Leonard and their staff for their work during the year. He asked that we write to the department and seek funding in the form of a regional roads grant for works on regional roads as there is funding available for National roads however, there are no National Roads in this area. He said that he would see this as a priority for the road grants allocation from March 2017.

Cllr Foley complimented the way the reinstatement works were carried out on St Francis Street, Edenderry as part of the Water Rehabilitation Project following on from last month's meeting with Tom Shanahan, Senior Engineer, Water.

Cllr Bourke praised the works completed on the Dublin Road, Edenderry and in Clonbullougue, Bracknagh and Walsh Island. He also complimented works carried out on pothole repair. He asked that Fair Green, Edenderry be included in works for next year.

Cllr Fitzpatrick thanked John and Leonard and their staff who ensure that works are carried out efficiently at all times. He asked that the Bog Road in Portarlinton be included in works for next year due to the volume of traffic using that road. He also asked that Coolagarry in Walsh Island also be included.

Cllr Bourke asked if public lighting could also be considered for Jonestown Cross in Rhode. John Connelly advised that there is no specific budget for public lighting.

Cllr O'Reilly advised that most of his representations comes from person with complaints regarding the improvement and maintenance of the road networks. He advised that there is frustration among this people with regard to same.

John Connelly advised that macadam cannot be put on bog roads as this there would be no value for money there. In relation to St Francis Street, Edenderry John advised that they are pushing for a full overlay to be carried out on that road and he said that the temporary surface which is currently there will drop just as the last surface dropped in the past creating a ramp like effect.

3. General Municipal Allocation

Declan advised that at present the figure of €58.5K is being used in the draft budget for General Municipal Allocation. This is subject to budget approval by the overall council.

Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that this item was discussed at CPG meeting and he stated that the budget for 2017 will be tight. However, if regard to the general municipal allocation he stated that he felt that in this district the money is well divided among the communities.

The members were in agreement with same.

4. Agreed Agenda Items

Job Creation

Cllr Foley asked that we change the heading of the set item on the agenda of Job Creation to something else. He advised that he felt that a taskforce should be set up to discuss same. Cllr Bourke agreed and said that he felt that an action plan to create employment was needed and said that he felt that we need to be proactive to attract jobs to the area.

Cllr Fitzpatrick said that there is a need to get business people into the area. He said that he felt that we work well with LEO and suggested an advertisement programme to promote the area. He mentioned the Rates Rebate scheme which was introduced and said that he felt that some other incentives were needed to attract business. He stated that we need to promote Edenderry and the area more.

Cllr Foley asked that Rhode area and its business park be also included and not just Edenderry.

Cllr O'Reilly suggested that we meet Orla Martin, Head of LEO at an in committee meeting and put a plan together.

Cllr Quinn said that he felt that LEO were doing the best that they can and said that he felt that they do advertise as much as they can. He suggested that we find a way to contact businesses directly or talk to Entrepreneurs.

Cllr Foley complimented the new businesses which have opened particularly in Edenderry town. He stated that he felt that this area was not going to get a factory with 200 – 300 jobs. He said that he felt that if they tried as a committee to lead then they might get help. However, he said that they do not have the expertise to bring business into the town.

On the proposal of Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr Bourke it was agreed to hold an in committee meeting with Orla Martin, Head of LEO to discuss same.

Bus Éireann & Bus Shelters

Declan advised that an application had been submitted for funding for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme for paving works at the front of the Town Hall, Edenderry which will include civil works required prior to the installation of a bus shelter. He said that he felt that this would create a plaza like effect in the square.

Hotel Site

Declan advised that no update was available and said that the ETB were having ongoing discussions with lands owners.

Ofalia House

Cllr Bourke said that great progress has been made in renovation work at Ofalia House

Ambulance Services

Therese read an email from Martin Dunne, Head of Ambulance Services to the members which stated;

Thanks for the mail and in relation to the issue raised see below my response. Please also be advised the Area Manager, Willie Merriman , can be contacted on this issue also and he can give further updates if required.

We can confirm that the, National Ambulance Service operated a service in the Edenderry Area from Ofalia House, which is HSE Care facility, from 2006. Following from a HIQA review of this facility it was recommended that internal reconfiguration works were required to ensure compliance with best practice. This reconfiguration works commenced in April 2016 on the site and the NAS under Health and Safety had no option but to vacate the location to Tullamore, with the full understanding of returning to Ofalia house within a 3 month period. In the interim the NAS in conjunction with HSE Estates were seeking temporary accommodation for the service, which was proving challenging.

In tandem discussions for a new station was ongoing and a new site has been identified and approval for planning permission has been received, which will result in a new purpose built ambulance station for Edenderry. The NAS were then informed by the management of Ofalia house that a major part of the accommodation occupied by the NAS is no longer available due to the requirements for hospice beds within Ofalia house. This has resulted in the NAS not been able to return to the location as planned.

As such the NAS and estates are now actively perusing temporary accommodation within the Edenderry area to facilitate the service relocation in the area whilst the new building is being built, this is ongoing for some time and last week we have identified a suitable location for temporary accommodation and is now being actively perused.

There is ongoing dialogue with the staff to proactively resolve this situation in a timely manner as possible.

Cllr Foley said that he felt that the email was very well put together; however, he said that he felt bluffed by the ambulance services. He stated that the ambulance services are gone from Edenderry for 4 months now.

Therese advised that the meeting with the TDs regarding the Ambulance Services is schedule for the following Monday at 9.30am, TDs from Offaly will be present. Apologies have been received from North Kildare TDs.

Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that he has a motion in, in this regard for the Dublin Mid Leinster Health Forum for which he is a member. He stated that he believe he would get a similar answer to the email sent to Therese.

Cllr O'Reilly' asked that the item Ofalia House under the heading Agreed Agenda Items be changed from Ofalia House to Ambulance Services until the issue is resolved. The members agreed to same.

Area Issues/updates

School transport

Therese advised that there was no reply from Minister Halligan in this regard.

5. Notice of Motion

None received

6. Written Questions

None received.

7. Correspondence

The members noted the following correspondence.

8. Any other business

Cllr Quinn wished Rhode the best of luck in the Offaly Football final taking place the following Sunday.

Cllr Foley congratulated Bergin Butchers in Edenderry who had recently won an All Ireland award in the All Ireland Steak Invitational Competition where they became All Ireland Champion and received a Gold Award for their Premium Rib Eye Steak.

Cllr Foley and Cllr Bourke congratulated Sean Norman, Edenderry on the launch of his book recently.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 9th of November 2016 at 3.30 pm. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Date: _____