

Municipal District of Edenderry
Bardasach Dúiche Éadan Doire

MINUTES

Meeting: Main Committee
Location: Chamber, Town Hall, Edenderry

Time: 3:30pm **Wednesday, 15th January 2025**

Present:	Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell	Edenderry Municipal District
	Cllr. Claire Murray	Edenderry Municipal District
	Cllr. Noel Cribbin	Edenderry Municipal District
	Cllr. Liam Quinn	Edenderry Municipal District
	Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Edenderry Municipal District
	Leas-Chathaoirleach Cllr. Claire Murray-Smale	Edenderry Municipal District

Apologies:

In Attendance:	Andrew Murray	A/District Director
	Rory Moore	District Engineer
	Louise Direen	District Administrator

In attendance for part of meeting:

AGENDA ITEMS

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fergus McDonnell welcomed everyone to the January monthly meeting and District Engineer Rory Moore back to Edenderry and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the December Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Murray and seconded by Cllr. Cribbin that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 11th December 2024 be adopted.

2. GMAs

Two applications were considered by the Members. Having been proposed by Cllr. McDonnell and seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick the following details were accepted:

Application	Funding Requested	Reason for Funding	Funding given
Edenderry St. Day Patrick's Parade	€3,750	To assist with the cost of running the parade	€3,750
Assoc. of St. Brochan's Park Residents	€500	General upkeep and maintenance of the estate, purchase of lights for the village Christmas Tree	€500

3. Regeneration/Project Updates

Andrew Murray, A/District Director, stated that there are no specific updates, work is continuing on the detailed design of the library. Tender applications have been received and have yet to be assessed. A further update will be available at the February meeting.

Cllr. Cribbin commended the rate at which this project has moved forward considering the fire at the pool was only a year ago and thanked everyone involved for their support. Cllr. Cribbin requested a sign be placed at the site of the library for public information following Cllr. McDonald's statement that public perception is this project will never come to fruition.

Cllr. Murray questioned if there would be sufficient parking at the site.

4. Area Issues/Updates/Roads Update

District Engineer Rory Moore confirmed that he is still awaiting the Roads Programme funding allocation from the Department but is hopeful this will be announced next week. Mr. Moore stated it will possibly be the same amount as last year, which will pose challenges with the workload ahead. He also mentioned

that the Active Travel funding allocations were announced on January 14th, (€2.7m, down from €3 last year) and three new pedestrian crossings are planned for the town with exact locations yet to be finalised.

Cllr. Quinn welcomed Rory Moore back, thanked all the engineers and contractors involved for the exceptional standard of work carried out on the R400, querying if the next stage of work could be coordinated with the schools in the area.

Cllr. Murray also welcomed Rory Moore back, she mentioned the speed of cars on Fr. Paul Murphy Street noting there was no safe way to cross from one side of the road to the other and if a pedestrian crossing is being considered.

District Engineer Rory Moore explained that Executive Engineer Enda Daly already highlighted the plan of a pedestrian crossing being placed there and hopes to have an update on this at the February meeting.

Cllr. McDonnell emphasised the need for a pedestrian crossing to be put up at St. Mary's Church, bus bays along School Lane and yellow boxes along the Inner Relief Road.

Cllr. Cribbin praised all involved for the quality of work carried out on the R400 noting the new markings in the centre and sides of the roadway helped with safety during the recent foggy weather. Mr. Cribbin also stated that all pedestrian crossings should be raised tables to provide additional safety.

Cllr. Murray-Smale highlighted the dangerous bend on the road at Dunville junction in Rhode and the difficulty with turning up the laneway from Edenderry on a 'blind' corner. She asked if flashing road signs could be installed at the bottom of Fahy Hill.

Cllr. Quinn suggested the removal of existing hedging here and replace with fencing. Rory Moore outlined mesh fencing with vertical posts would be most suitable for this road edge.

5. Notice of Motion

Cllr. Murray-Smale - "Motion to Improve Road Safety on Croghan Roads."

Considering the volume of traffic on roads around Croghan/Killeshal extending to county boundary as you cross into Westmeath and how narrow (in areas) these roads are, coupled with the increased demands of this route owing to diversions from the closure of R400 and the nature of the undulating roads, I think it is imperative these roads are included on the Winter maintenance programme."

Cllr. Murray-Smale thanked all the Council staff for the works carried out during the recent snow and frost, noting that a couple of accidents did occur.

District Engineer Rory Moore explained that the Winter Service Plan is on Offaly County Council's website, this dictates the salting routes based on the category of road, volume of traffic and allocated budget from the Department while staff resources can also pose challenges. Mr. Moore confirmed that the budget has overrun for the Winter Service Plan as this year's budget has been cut to almost half.

Cllr. Murray-Smale queried if the Elected Members have any input in to the Winter Service Plan and if Edenderry Municipal District should consider acquiring their own salt barn/depot.

Cllr. McDonnell stated that plenty of farmers and contractors would be willing to help within their communities in these situations.

Cllr. Cribbin agreed with Cllr. McDonnell saying these weather conditions are to be expected more frequently, and if there is any possibility supplies of salt could be provided to schools, churches etc. Cllr. Cribbin stated that new Government should consider involving contractors around the country to help at times like this.

Cllr. Murray expressed her concerns hearing of the reduction in budget allocation and this should be questioned, confirming her agreement with Cllr. Murray-Smales Notice of Motion. Cllr. Murray also asked if some local access roads could be considered going forward in lieu of national roads as we have none in North Offaly.

Rory Moore confirmed that the TII decide the matrix as to how roads are chosen for this Programme.

Cllr. Murray raised her concerns of the impact school closures would have had on families.

Cllr. McDonnell stated that since there are no national roads in North Offaly, regional and local roads should be able to compensate on a proportionate basis.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick acknowledged that the programme is devised to keep main routes open and accessible, and this should be accepted. As well as school closure, the other issue is school transport and Mr. Fitzpatrick accepted the difficulties presented when dealing with these weather conditions. Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked all the staff for their works carried out during the bad weather, noting that every winter the same issues arise as to how it is approached, solved and funded. All the other Members echoed these sentiments.

Cllr. Quinn noted the arbitrary figure in relation to the Winter Service Plan and the difficulties associated with envisaging the weather and what is required. He stated the road gritting plan in our District is inadequate, Croghan & Cappagh schools suffered badly during this spell, queried if these areas could be considered for incorporation into the Winter Service Plan going forward and that purchasing an additional mini gritter would be better use of funds than a salt barn. Cllr. Quinn suggested having a meeting with Roads Senior Engineer Barry Lennon to discuss these issues.

Cllr. McDonnell commended all the Local Authority staff for their work during the recent cold weather and the Winter Service Plan needs some changes.

A/District Director Andrew Murray confirmed that the Roads section is looking at protocols to see how salt supplies can be distributed in times like these.

6. Written Questions

None at this time

7. Correspondence

District Administrator Louise Direen informed the Members that a letter of thanks was received from Fighting Word Edenderry thanking them for their grant awarded to the group in September 2024, two copies of the book created by 120 children were also provided.

8. Any Other Business

Cllr. McDonnell stated that he intended to get an explanation in relation to delays with public lighting issues in the North Offaly area.

Cllr. Cribbin supported this, stating the service currently being provided by the contractor is not acceptable and is hoping to meet with them.

Cllr. McDonnell explained that even though this is a county-wide issue and not just Edenderry that it must be ascertained how the whole system operated in practice and a meeting should be organised with the relevant staff, Elected Members and contractors if necessary. Mr. McDonnell also confirmed the Local Enhancement Scheme has been announced.

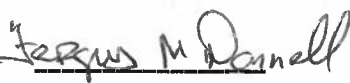
District Engineer Rory Moore confirmed the LIS Scheme will be available for applicants shortly with a slight variation in qualifying criteria.

Cllr. McDonnell thanks all involved in the Edenderry Christmas Lights Committee, expressing his gratitude to all.

A/District Director Andrew Murray stated that the three Directors of Services are to meet to discuss a collective approach in support of these projects going forward.

Cllr. Murray sought an update on the possible use of lands in front of Scoil Bhríde for parking as mentioned at the December monthly meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on the 12th February 2025.

Signed: 
Cathaoirleach

Date: 12TH February 23