

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY  
AT 3.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr Noel Bourke, Cllr John Foley, Cllr Noel Cribbin (leas Cathaoirleach), Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick & Cllr Martin O'Reilly

**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 Liam Quinn

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick, the minutes of the October meetings were adopted.

**2. Report and recommendation from Roads**

John Connelly presented the roads report to the members. He advised that 46 projects were completed in the district; the works on bridges are yet to be completed. He advised that extra work was carried out during the year also. In total 22km of resurfacing/reconstruction was completed which amounts to 4% of roads in the district which would also result to roads having works carried out on them every 25 years. He advised that footpaths in the area will need to be included in the roads programme for next year which will also include footpaths in Walsh Island.

The members thanked the engineers John and Leonard, general services supervisor's Tom Cullen and John O'Reilly and their staff for works carried out during the year.

Cllr Foley asked for a yellow box at the school in Walsh Island, John advised that this can be looked at next year as the second phase of drainage works and road/footpaths must be completed.

Cllr Bourke asked that the Inner Relief Road be looked at again and funding for same be sought from the Department, This was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Cribbin. In reply John advised that there is no funding for Inner Relief Road at present. He advised that there is a need for a transportation study to be carried out in the town also.

Cllr O'Reilly queried the request for a footpath at Ballinagar. He also raised again the need for a pedestrian crossing on Tullamore side of Daingean, due to the post office moving location.

Cllr Cribbin raised the issue of taking in charge of Fr Mc Wey street, John advised that the council are in contact with the developer who have reduced their bond. This area has a mixture of developments also. In relation to a person selling from a vehicle on this street, Therese advised that the Gardai are dealing with same.

Declan thanked Council staff for works on canal which he advised are well used.

**3. Report and Recommendation from Housing**

Ann Dillon gave the housing report. This included a breakdown of applications received for each settlement in the district. The members had previously asked for this type of breakdown to be presented to them. This

report shows first preference for applications. The report states that there are 461 applicants on the housing list in this district. Demand in Edenderry remains the highest.

Ann advised that as part of the Part VIII approval for Blundell Park, approval had been granted for funding 33 housing units to be developed in that location. Ann thanked the staff and members for the work involved in the Part VIII process. She advised that the procurement process will start as soon as possible.

The report also gave details of vacant houses; 5 in total. A full list of allocations were also given per year which includes those in RAS/leasing. Details of housing grants were also included in the report to members. Ann advised that the government had in late October made funding available to the Council due to the fact that the members had made match funding available for grants during the year. She advised that they will work closely with the department in relation to same.

The report also stated that to date this year 116 energy efficiency grants were completed. In the Edenderry district there are 423 council properties, of these 571 repair requests were submitted to the office so far this year.

The councilors complimented the housing staff for their work to date in particular the revised report sought at previous meetings.

Cllr Cribbin complimented the RAS scheme and stated that it is a great opportunity for people to have their housing need met. Cllr O'Reilly queried the council own lands and plans for building on same in Daingean. He also queried the process of the new HAP scheme. Cllr Foley asked for cost involved in maintenance calls/repair requests and queried the tenants own responsibility in this regard also. Cllr Bourke queried when Clonmullen Court houses will received energy efficiency work. He also queried where the funding came from for voids. Cllr Fitzpatrick queried the use of modular homes and in particular the use of same on council own lands. He suggested that the companies who build same present a proposal to the council. He also queried the income limits for applicants and in particular those who are pushed over the income limits by the fact that they work and receive FIS. He sought at update on houses owned by banks for example 20 houses in Portarlinton owned by Nama and stated that if the council had same it would reduce waiting list in Portarlinton to half. He also queried Mortgage to rent scheme.

In reply; in relation to the house list Ann advised that there are still some people on our housing list who may be there in order to get Rent Supplement. She advised that they are continuing to seek landlords to put their houses into RAS/Leasing and HAP. She advised that her staff are dealing with landlords on a daily basis in relation to same. In relation to land banks, Ann advised that they are also dealing with voluntary bodies to seek their interest in some lands banks. These voluntary bodies are also interested in smaller estates and unfinished estate.

In relation to grants, Ann advised that they are hopeful the department will allow them to carried forward money to use in early 2016. In regard to HAP, Ann advised that this scheme only commence in June and advised that it is working well at present. She advised that it is very resource dependent and therefore involves a lot of administrative work.

Housing construction in Edenderry (33units), Ann advised that in Banagher housing construction commence in September 2013 and were officially opened and allocated in the last few weeks. It is hoped that the Edenderry scheme will take about the same amount of time. She advised that this scheme will be very energy efficient and therefore will be worth waiting for.

Ann said that voids are claims for as they arise. She stated that there is no delay in funding, however there is a strict criteria for same for example the category for where the money will be spent is very restrictive. She noted the query in relation to Clonmullen court.

In relation to modular homes, Ann advised that this is a new option which some voluntary bodies are currently looking at. She said that they are in contact with banks about houses that they own and the mortgage to rent scheme which is a very slow process.

With regard to land bank in Daingean, Ann advised that she will ask the design department to look at same. This can be discussed with voluntary bodies if there were a design in place.

Cllr Bourke asked that options for land banks be moved forward as it is becoming more difficult to get private rented accommodation. Cllr Cribbin appealed to the press to highlight the need for houses and in particular he called on the owners of 2<sup>nd</sup> homes which may not be occupied to considering submitted same into some of these schemes.

#### 4. Agreed Agenda Items

- **Bus Éireann & Bus Shelters**

Declan read the reply to the members from the NTA to our request for another bus route to Dublin. Our request for a meeting was not addressed, Therese to follow up on same.

Cllr Bourke queried the status of Bus Shelter application. John Connelly advised that planning permission has been received and stated that he had applied to the NTA for funding for paving which has not be granted.

- **Hotel Site**

Declan advised the members that the legal issues are now almost complete. The Council have tendered for the demolition of this structure. Closing dates for tenders are 20<sup>th</sup> of November. He will advise further at the December meeting. Possible options for the site will then be explored. Cllr Cribbin thanked Declan and the staff for pushing this issue. Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that this location is dangerous. He stated that dangers have been highlighted previously by council members. He stated that the best option is to knock this structure and return it to a green field. Cllr Foley agreed that safety at this location is main propriety.

- **Ofalia House**

Cllr Cribbin raise a concern in relation to the ambulance service who are based at this location who fear that they were will have to move location due to ongoing works at Ofalia house. This was proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr Cribbin that Therese write to the director of ambulance services.

#### **Job Creation**

Cllr Cribbin advised that the members were present at the opening of the fly wheel development in Rhode. He hoped that something will come from this.

Cllr O'Reilly stated his concerns about the Edenderry power plant (Bord na Mona). He asked if it was possible to meet with them regarding same. It was proposed by Cllr Foley and seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick that the members meet with Bord na Mona. Therese to advise the meetings administrator for main council meeting accordingly as it may be necessary to hold that meeting in Tullamore.

Cllr Fitzpatrick advised that those who are objecting to wind farms must raise their own funds, whereas An Taisce are state funded and are objecting to Edenderry Power's application. He stated that a staff member of An Taisce told him that they would close Bord na Mona.

Cllr Bourke advised that Mike Quinn is the new CE for Bord na Mona. Mr Quinn has said that there are 15 years max peat production remaining. Cllr Bourke stated that there are workshops which can be used to create employed and land available owned by Bord na Mona for similar use.

**Area Issues/updates – covered in roads update.**

None, covered in Roads report.

5. **Notice of Motion** - none
6. **Written Questions** - none
7. **Correspondence** - none
8. **Any other business**

**Street Lights**

Cllr Cribbin advised that street lights are being changed by contractors at present. He is concerned that the members and indeed area staff were not made aware of this. He discussed the proposal at a previous meeting that a consultant look at Edenderry town in regard to lighting as the main street is wider than other streets in the county. He asked that lights in JKL be left as they are and that lights in estates etc be changed to save money instead. John Connelly advised that he has spoken to the Roads department in relation to same and advised that a survey will be carried out. Declan advised that he has spoken to Charlie Mc Carthy in relation to lighting in the main street and the possible need for light with a double head as there is an issue with back light. Cllr Cribbin asked that staff and elected members be kept up to date with developments.

The members were advised that Santa will turn on the Christmas lights at the Town Hall, Edenderry on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of December at 5.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 2nd of December 2015 at 3.30 pm.

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

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