

# OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL ROLLS OUT E-DENDERRY PROJECT

Offaly County Council has launched a new project to establish Edenderry as a leader in managing a range of public services such as parking, litter control, air quality and building energy use in the Midlands town, using smart technology.

Europe's leading provider of wireless infrastructure – Cellnex – is helping to make Edenderry the leading location in Ireland for technology-led solutions, with the aim to provide a model for how other towns can benefit from this smart technology.

Edenderry is the first town in Ireland with sensors and monitoring devices deployed by Cellnex, using low power wide area (LoRaWAN) technology to enhance the provision of parking and litter collection.

This will enable the council to better manage these services and the infrastructure deployed can be maintained easily and at a low cost.

The project forms part of a wider suite of measures that Offaly County Council is engaged in to develop a sustainable green economy as part of the wider Just Transition measures within the region.

## The project has focused on four key areas:

- **Parking Space Monitoring:** using sensors to ensure appropriate use of loading bays, wheelchair spaces and electric vehicle charging points (working with ESB e-cars to test parking space occupancy with electric vehicle charging).
- **Litter Control:** measuring when bins need to be emptied, with a demonstration bin completed and five more bins to be upgraded in new public realm area in Edenderry.
- **Air Quality Monitoring:** sensors throughout the town to provide real-time monitoring of air quality and pollution levels, assisted by the EPA's expertise.
- **Building Management Systems:** remote monitoring of energy use, access, lighting and smoke alarms at Edenderry Municipal District offices and also in the 'Community Cabin' project.

Sharon Kennedy- Offaly's Director of Services Housing, Community, Culture, Emergency Services and Edenderry Municipal District, said: "We're delighted that Cellnex chose Edenderry as the location from which to



*Paul Delaney, Sales Director of Cellnex Ireland, and Catriona Hilliard, Broadband/Digital Officer at Offaly County Council, following the launch of the project, during a virtual event hosted by the members of Edenderry Municipal District, and addressed by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan TD.*

showcase the cutting edge of IoT activities in Ireland. The sensors that have been installed will support the council's ability to manage its public buildings and public services more effectively.

"We are only at the very early stages of what can be achieved. Having regard to the various economic and community challenges experienced in the county in the past year, it's vital that we explore ways to ensure the town repositions itself to adapt and thrive in an environment where technology and remote working will support exciting new opportunities."

Cathaoirleach of Edenderry Municipal District Cllr John Foley said: "Edenderry is the first place in Ireland where LoRaWAN gateways have been installed to allow us to better monitor vital public services. This technology is also helping us to better manage energy requirements and usage of the Community Cabin, which provides

facilities for many local community groups."

Paul Delaney, Sales Director with Cellnex Ireland, said that, with his company pioneering the use of smart technology across Europe, "the e-denderry project is a showcase for what can be delivered and we look forward continuing this partnership to extend our achievements into new areas.

"LoRaWAN and IoT may sound complicated, but in simple terms they provide a low cost and easy to maintain way of leveraging the benefits of connectivity to the internet in a range of everyday uses and devices."

He pointed out that the use of smart technology is conducted in a manner that is fully compliant with all data protection and GDPR regulations. "Personal images and identities will not be recorded or tracked in any aspect of the project," Delaney noted.