



MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD ON 16TH MAY 2022

Present: Councillor Seamus Hanafin Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy Ryan, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

Eamon Lonergan	Director of Services
Liam Brett	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer
Breda Brett	Staff Officer

1. **Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest**

There were no Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest raised at the Meeting.

2. **Adoption of Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the April 2022 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 14th April be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

Councillor E. Moran noted that he had not received a reply from Environment Section in relation to a housing issue in Templemore that he raised at the April MD meeting.

District Administrator to seek a reply from Environment Section to Councillor Moran

3. **To formally note Thurles Town Centre Masterplan – Friar Street and Castle Avenue**

The Thurles Town Centre Masterplan – Friar Street and Castle Avenue was noted by the Members.



4. Update from Planning

Ann Marie Devaney, Senior Executive Planner was in attendance for this item while Marie Ryan, Senior Executive Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer attended via Zoom. A Planning Briefing Note was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting. The report covered the following:-

- County Development Plan
- NPF – Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
 - ≈ Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme – Phase 1 and Phase 2
- NPF – Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
 - ≈ Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre with Civic Plaza
 - ≈ Thurles Market Quarter
- Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy
- Conservation Grant Schemes 2022
 - ≈ Built Heritage Investment Scheme
 - ≈ Historic Structure fund 2022
- Taking-in-Charge Status Update
- Enforcements Proceedings in 2022

The Members raised the following issues:-

- What is the updated position in relation to the Planning Permission that was granted more than 3 years ago for the development of a new Business Innovation Centre on the grounds of the Thurles Lidl Supermarket. Can contact be made with the developer. The site is very unsightly looking.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Ashgrove Estate, Thurles – there are trip hazards within the estate that need to be addressed.
- Caisleann Court, Thurles – What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of the estate. This estate is run by a Management Company and not a Resident's Association.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Planning Section will follow up with the developer on the planning permission that was granted some time ago for Thurles Business Innovation Centre.
- The lights in Ashgrove, Thurles will be addressed next week and following this, advertising for the proposed taking-in-charge will take place.
- Caisleann Court, Thurles – Inspection complete. A Section 11 is to be undertaken on the private road outside the estate. Planning to liaise with the MD in this regard.



- Cluain Doire, Templemore – developer has undertaken works to tidy up the estate, i.e. fencing, levelling the ground and making the area safe.

5. Update from Water Services

John Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer was in attendance for this item. A Water Services District Briefing Note was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

- Irish Water Workshop
- Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2020 – 2024
 - ≈ Roscrea Sewerage Scheme
 - ≈ Thurles Sewerage Scheme
- Networks Portfolio Delivery
- Source Rationalisation Programme
- Irish Water Capital Delivery programme

The Members raised the following queries:-

- There is an ongoing issue with regular water outages in Coalbrook due to burst water pipes. Can those affected areas be connected to the Fethard Regional Water Supply Scheme. A lot of these outages are occurring at weekends when no contact can be made with Irish Water.
- When will the investigative works to examine the flooding issue on Friar Street, Thurles commence.
- Following works on a Group Water Scheme in Rossestown, Thurles some months ago where a developer laid pipes, the road is now left in an appalling condition and needs to be reinstated. Can contact be made with the Contractor or with the Group Water Scheme to address this issue.
- Can homeowners, that are located on the edge of towns and who operate a well for water supply, be connected to a regional water supply scheme.

John Crowley replied to queries as follows:-

- Coalbrook has been problematic of late. The long-term plan is that those areas affected by the outages would be connected to the Fethard Regional Water Supply Scheme. Irish Water are currently undertaking modelling and examining capacity.
- Irish Water are currently examining the drainage of Thurles under the Drainage Area Plan to see if foul and storm water can be separated.
- If the works undertaken on the Rossestown Road some time ago were undertaken by a Group Water Scheme then it would not fall under the remit of Irish Water. However, Water Services will examine the issue.
- Homeowners that are located on the edge of towns who operate a well for water supply and wish to connect to a Regional Water Supply Scheme would have to contact Irish Water. Each application would be



considered on a case by case basis. Issues such as feasibility of connection and costs involved would determine the decision.

6. Fix date and time for the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District

It was agreed by all Members:-

“that the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District will take place on Monday 20th June, 2022 at 10.00 a.m. in Thurles MD offices”

7. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan and District Engineer’s Report

An updated Report on Capital Projects for the MD was circulated to the Members, in advance of the Meeting, as outlined in the table below:-

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles Phase I	Project completed. Next Phase - Snagging and Final Account
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase II	Consultant appointed for the Part 8 process. Topographical Survey, Archaeological Survey, Tree Survey and Heritage Impact Assessment - all completed. Part 8 submission prog for Q4 2022.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm building	Review of Tender submission completed. Appointment of Architect led design team underway.
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1	Scope, programme, costings and procurement method for construction works with Bord na Móna all agreed. Compiling final documents for submission of Part 8 application in next 4 weeks.
Holycross Tourism Centre	Funding application was unsuccessful for the detailed design for development of multi-purpose facility with tourism at its core in order to boost rural economic development.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Finalise detailed design following meeting with Consultative Group.
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Part 8 application submitted and approved.
Roscrea Enhancement Pan	A Stakeholder Engagement plan is to be developed to identify and prioritise projects and locations in the Town.



Vacant Housing Units	Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	7
	At Tender Stage	0
	Budgets submitted to Housing Section	0
	In Progress	11
	Retrofit Works to be completed before Pre-Lets	1
	LTL – landlord to undergo works to property	<u>1</u>
	TOTAL	22

The District Director updated the Members in relation to the District Project Pipeline as follows:-

- There are approximately 70 projects currently in the MD Project Pipeline, all at various stages.
- There are 6 main projects, namely Liberty Square Phase 2; Thurles Market Quarter; The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1; Templemore Town Hall Cultural & Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza; Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'; Roscrea Enhancement Plan
- The surveys for Liberty Square Phase 2 are almost complete. The objective of the Scheme is to develop the area in line with Phase 1 and make it a safer area for pedestrians and vulnerable users. It is anticipated that the Part 8 will go to the Members in Q3/4 2022.
- Gantly Road is a €6.5m RRDF development. The application has been submitted to the Department and the MD expect to hear back in approximately 6 months. The development will involve working with Housing Section to develop an Age Friendly concept.
- Roscrea Town Centre Master Plan – Funding of €100,000 secured. Tender for the appointment of Consultants will be advertised at the end of May. The consultation portal will open to the public very soon.
- Templemore Town Hall Cultural & Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza – Tender documents to be finalised.
- Littleton Labyrinth – Preliminary designs currently being prepared and the Part 8 will be submitted at the end of May. As the Labyrinth encompasses on Carrick MD area the Part 8 will have to go before the Plenary meeting. Construction to commence in early 2023.
- A number of projects will be undertaken in 2022. It is proposed to hold a workshop for Members in August to examine the status of Projects at that time.
- Project(s) for Roscrea will be identified through the Roscrea Master Plan but the process will take time.



The Members raised the following issues:-

- Is there funding in place for Liberty Square Phase 2 and when are works expected to commence?
- Can the MD ensure that there will be no crossover of works between Liberty Square Phase 2 and the improvement works at Slievenamon Road?
- The planned safety improvement works for Turtulla Cross now need to progress to the construction stage.
- Can the MD ensure that the consultation process in relation to the Roscrea Town Centre Development Plan is open to the community at large?
- When are the upgrade works for Bowes Corner, Thurles expected to commence and will the potholes on that junction be addressed during the upgrade?
- Will the MD implement a Sunday morning litter collection in Thurles Town centre due to the continuous high level of litter visible on the streets at weekends?
- There appears to be an issue of broken glass on footpaths in Thurles town.
- Local businesses are concerned with the introduction of the barrier system into Slievenamon Road carpark, Thurles in the next couple of weeks. Will reduced annual, half-yearly and quarterly parking fees that are available in other carparks in the town be made available for this carpark.
- Slievenamon Road carpark in Thurles is at full capacity regularly. The Council Parking App does not work for the carpark and the barriers are only going to make matters worse.
- Have the MD applied for funding for Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth which was proposed to run from the railway line as far as Templetuohy.
- Has there been any update from the TII in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Kickham Street, Thurles. It is very difficult for pedestrians to safely cross this road.
- Lots of people are inadvertently parking in the loading bays at Slievenamon Road car park, Thurles unaware they are loading bays and are consequently receiving €40 parking fines. Can we get a message out to people so that they are aware of the parking restrictions in place in these areas?
- Issue with potholes on the N62 at Knockanroe, the Suir Bridge and College Hill that were supposed to be addressed by the TII but have still not been addressed.
- The N62 Roscrea to Templemore Road is in a poor state of repair overall compared to the N62 Roscrea to Birr Road.
- Can the 5 to 6 manholes at the N62 Roscrea junction, each with a drop of 1 to 2 inches causing drivers to swerve in order to avoid them, be addressed.



- Can the TII be contacted in relation to the fact that there are no rest areas on the N62 Templemore to Roscrea Road yet there is a rest area on the N62 Roscrea to Birr Road.
- The provision of public lighting outside the 60km zone has occurred in Clonmel and Nenagh recently. What is the update in relation to the provision of public lighting outside Dew Valley, Thurles.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- The MD have adequate funding in place for Phase 2 development of Liberty Square, Thurles. The MD sought additional funding in 2020 and were successful in that application. It is anticipated that construction works will commence in the latter part of 2023.
- The works at Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be complete before the Phase 2 re-development of Liberty Square commences.
- There is a requirement under the Town Centre First Policy that a Town Team, made up of stakeholders who represent all aspects of community, be created. A Portal for consultation will be open shortly whereby interested parties can express their views and interests.
- A Contractor has been appointed to undertake the works at Bowes Corner, Thurles. The works will include high-end paving and the potholes at the junction will be addressed.
- The MD will introduce a Sunday morning rubbish collection in Thurles to tackle the high level of weekend dumping in the town. However, it should be noted that the bins are empty when this dumping takes place.
- There is currently €3 all-day parking available in Slievenamon Road carpark, Thurles. No Resident's Permits are being issued for this carpark as the intention is that this car park is an extension of on-street parking on Liberty Square. It is anticipated that there will be initial teething problems with the introduction of the barrier system. The parking Bye-Laws for the town are currently being reviewed and the parking fees will be examined as part of this review. There is no intention to introduce yearly, half-yearly or quarterly rates for this carpark.
- The safety improvement works at Turtulla Cross is on the Agenda for the next meeting with the TII. Members are requested to continue to make representations in this regard.
- The installation of a pedestrian crossing at Kickham Street, Thurles will be raised by Roads Central with the TII.
- Roads Central will liaise with TII in relation to issues raised on the N62 from Templemore to Roscrea.
- Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth would be funded under Just Transition. To date there has been no second call from the Department in relation to Just Transition Projects. However, the MD are prepared to pursue Phase 2 of the project when the call comes.
- There has been no confirmation of funding yet for the proposed works from Thurles South to Kylemore.



- The installation of public lighting in areas outside the 60km speed limit is not Council policy.

8. Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan Id 2412

Councillor J. Ryan formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:-

I am calling on this District Council to seek funding to install a zip line and provide a dog park area within the existing town park in Thurles. I have received numerous requests from teenagers and dog owners looking for these to be installed.

Reply to Notice of Motion is as follows:-

In response to a previous Notice of Motion for a zip line to be installed in Thurles Town Park, Thurles MD applied for funding for such a project under the Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2022 from the Department of children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

This application was unfortunately unsuccessful.

However, we will continue to seek out and apply for any suitable funding streams that may become available for this project.

With regard to a request for a dog park in the existing town park in Thurles, while Thurles MD is open to this possibility, the Town Park does not have a suitable space to dedicate to a Dog Park.

If an alternative site, which is suitable, can be identified and brought to the Council it will be investigated for its feasibility.

Councillor Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the MD in its attempts to secure funding for the Zip Wire and requested that funding continues to be sought in this regard. He stated that a Zip Line would help keep teenagers away from the playground where equipment is being damaged.

In relation to the Dog Park Councillor Ryan expressed his disappointment with the reply from Thurles MD. He stated that he believes there is adequate room for the Dog Park within Thurles Town Park. He will look at the waste ground at the entrance to Monakeeba housing estate to see if the area would be suitable.



9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy

A Vote of Congratulation was extended to:-

- Keelan Chute, Fantane who will represent Ireland in the World Irish Dancing Championships 2022.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to:-

- The Coman family, on the passing of Sr. Brid, Sisters of Mercy Convent, Templemore.

11. Any Other Business

- There is a pothole in Thurles Town Park playground.
- There is an issue with dogs wandering through Gortataggart and College Green housing estates in Thurles and attacking children. Complaints have been made to the Gardai and to the Tenant Liaison Officer. A very serious incident occurred within the last few days where a person was attacked by a dog.
- Can the pedestrian crossings in the MD be repainted as they are fading and can be difficult to see, such as at Two-Mile-Borris or at Friar Street, Thurles.
- Can a barrier be erected on the slipway from motorways to prevent people throwing rubbish in these areas as they are dumping hotspots.
- Who is the point of contact within the Council for a Street Furniture Licence Application?

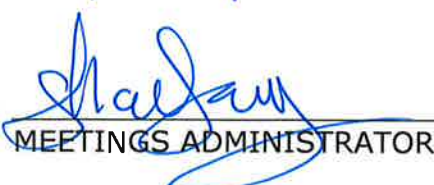
The District Administrator stated that Section 254 notices for outdoor dining are administered through the MD. Any queries in relation to the location of street furniture can be sent directly to the District Administrator.

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20th June, 2022.

SIGNED:


MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20th June, 2022.

