



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**Present:** Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

**Also Present:**

Eamon Lonergan	Director of Services
Liam Brett,	Senior Executive Engineer
Thomas Duffy,	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Sharon Scully, District Administrator

### **Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss Flooding Issue.**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan and seconded by Councillor J. Ryan that Standing Orders be suspended for this meeting in order to discuss the serious flooding that took place in Thurles Town, in particular Friar Street, this past evening.

The Members spoke at length on this issue and outlined the following:-

That while the level of rain that fell was unprecedented, the issue itself was not. Yesterday evening's flooding event was the third time that Friar Street has flooded in 18 months. The combined system, whereby storm water overflows into the sewerage system, is just not capable of dealing with very high levels of rainfall. Many businesses have spent a lot of money following damage from previous flooding events in this area. Many other parts of Thurles town also flooded for the first time following yesterday's rain.

It is time for a plan and a timeline to be put in place, in conjunction with Irish Water, for remedial works to be carried out.

Members noted that while the problem manifests in Friar Street, lots of areas in the town are affected.

There were flooding issues in other parts of the town also.



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Other towns in the District are also affected by flooding – in Templemore a business owner on Main Street had to clean gullies outside his own shop to alleviate flooding. Richmond Road also flooded last night. Previously gullies were cleaned twice per year but this does not appear to be happening any more.

The Members stated that Tipperary County Council need to address this issue urgently and funding needs to be sought from the relevant Government Department. It was requested that Thurles MD formally write to Irish Water seeking a formal plan of action from them.

The District Director spoke on the matter as follows:

The issue is a very serious one for the MD and he has spoken with the District Engineer on the matter. Outdoor crews responded immediately and the plan for the immediate term is to get all gullies cleaned out and to clean the street of any debris. The District Engineer will liaise with the residents/business owners on Friar Street.

He agreed that the network could not cope with the sheer level of rainfall yesterday evening. The combined sewer of foul and rain water, which was put in place several years ago, needs an upgrade and Irish Water will be informed without delay.

Irish Water are ultimately responsible for the system and necessary remedial works but Tipperary County Council have to be part of the solution and will ensure that it is a priority on the Agenda for capital funding. The MD are aware that Thurles is not the only town affected and a response plan will be put in place to ensure that properties are protected as much as possible.

The District Director suggested that the issue be raised directly by the Members at the planned workshop with Irish Water scheduled for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **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 S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the September 2022 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



### **3. Thurles Municipal District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2023.**

Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance was in attendance to present to the Members the 2023 District Draft Budgetary Plan. Liam introduced Clare Ryan, Financial Management Accountant who was also in attendance. A copy of the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 was circulated by email on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022, giving the required 7 days' notice and was also circulated with the Agenda in accordance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Liam outlined the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2023 to the Members and highlighted the following:-

- General Municipal Allocation for 2023 will be €215,036, which is the same as the previous year.
- The Draft Plan will be formalised following the Statutory Budget Meeting in November.

The table below sets out the provisional allocation per District based on population.

#### **Tipperary County Council - General Municipal Allocations (GMA) 2023 Allocated based on 2016 Population**

	Population based on 2016 Census	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	19,440	116,197
Clonmel Borough District	24,310	145,306
Tipperary–Cahir-Cashel Municipal District	42,099	251,634
Nenagh Municipal District	37,728	225,507
Thurles Municipal District	35,976	215,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,553</b>	<b>953,680</b>

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:-



"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, we, the Members of Thurles Municipal District, hereby adopt the overall Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 providing for an expenditure of €215,036 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

Councillor N. Coonan sought clarification in relation to the maintenance funding required for Roscrea CCTV. He stated that both Clonmel MD and Nenagh MD cover the maintenance costs for CCTV in their towns but Thurles MD has stated that it will not be in a position to fund the CCTV maintenance for Roscrea.

Liam advised that CCTV falls under the remit of Community and Economic Development who should be able to advise in this regard.

The District Director advised that the implementation of CCTV and associated maintenance costs will impact on project delivery and costings will have to be undertaken.

On a separate issue Liam advised that all the Members undertake the Security Awareness Training which, he stated, is very useful for both work and home in order to keep systems safe and secure. All Council staff have completed the training.

#### **4. Lisheen Windfarm Trust Application – Moyne Community Shop CLG.**

The District Administrator advised that Lisheen Windfarm Trust provides funding for payment of grants to community/voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them.

A second application has been submitted by Moyne Community Shop CLG for the provision of a Community Shop and Café for Moyne Village – works for which are now complete.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved that:-

"The application received from Moyne Community Shop CLG under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be accepted."

#### **5. Local authority own development pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development regulations 2001, as amended – for Decision new Footpath and cycle path adjacent to the R445 Parkmore, Roscrea.**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Lee and seconded by Councillor M. Smith and resolved that:-



The Part 8, Chief Executive's Report on Local Authority own development pursuant to Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended and Part 8 of the Planning and Development regulations 2001, as amended for new footpath and cycle path adjacent to the R445 Parkmore, Roscrea be accepted.

## **6. District Engineer's Report.**

The District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

Thomas informed the Members of the following:-

- CIS and LIS schemes will be complete next week.
- 2 Bridge Improvement Works were undertaken this year.
- Low Cost Safety Works are ongoing.
- Footpath improvement works at Borrisoleigh, Rosemount and Sean Treacy Avenue, Thurles are complete while repairs are ongoing at Roscrea.
- OPW works for the year are complete.

The Members raised the following:-

- Has funding been secured for works at Liskeveen, Littleton under a Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- Has the snagging been undertaken for the Active Travel works at Littleton as there are still some outstanding issues such as the ramp at the school which is supposed to be a special colour.
- What is the update in relation to the flooding at Cabra Grove, Thurles?
- Is there a specific schedule for the road sweeper - some villages, such as the Horse and Jockey are seeking access to it?
- What measures are the MD putting in place to deal with Bonfires which are a big concern for local residents.
- There are lots of small, loose stones on the footpaths in Dun Muilleann housing estate on the Mill Road, Thurles and children are throwing the stones at cars.
- Large trees with branches overhanging graves in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles, are spoiling some of the graves from leaves and bird fouling.
- A colour distinction is needed between the footpaths and the road in Liberty Square, Thurles in order to prevent people from tripping in areas where there is a small drop from the footpath to the roadway in parking bays.
- Will a Speed Limit Review be undertaken during the lifetime of this Council? The speed limit on the road to Cassestown, Thurles needs to be extended.



- Can Active Travel funding be used to widen the footpath out to Ladyswell, Thurles. The current path is too narrow for two people to walk side by side.
- Can Active Travel funding be used to install bicycle stands in schools.
- The traffic lights at Lidl Supermarket, Thurles are off-centre and require adjustment. Also, the length of time for pedestrians to cross the road at these lights is too short.
- Following the recent road improvement works on the N62 from Turtulla out to the Horse and Jockey, the yellow line is too close to the edge of the roadway and the road is not safe for cyclists.

Replies to queries were as follows:-

- An application under a Low Cost Safety Scheme for improvement works at Liskeveen, Littleton was submitted to the Department. It is anticipated that Department decision may take approximately 2-3 months.
- The MD are still waiting for the Contractor to undertake snagging following the recent Active Travel works at Littleton.
- There is damage, beyond repair to the stormwater network at Cabra Grove, Thurles resulting in flooding in the area. The MD are currently looking at a solution to the problem.
- There is a defined schedule for the road sweeper in place.
- Environment Section have issued a 2-page document regarding the protocols in place for Halloween. The Report will be circulated to the Members for their information.
- The issue of small stones in Dun Muilleann Housing estate on the Mill Road, Thurles has been referred to Housing Central.
- The issue of overhanging branches at St. Patrick's Cemetery will be examined in relation to cutting back the boughs of large trees, however healthy trees will not be removed.
- The issue of no colour delineation between the footpath and the roadway in parking bays on Liberty Square, Thurles will be reviewed on completion of the defects and liability period.
- Active Travel funding cannot be used for recreational purposes. The exact Guidelines for Active Travel funding will be confirmed with the Active Travel Section.
- The yellow road markings on the N62 to the Horse and Jockey have been undertaken to the required specification of a National Route.
- The issue of turned traffic lights at Lidl supermarket, Thurles will be addressed. The issue in relation to length of time a pedestrian has to cross the road will be discussed with Roads Capital.
- A Speed Limit Review is normally undertaken during the life of the Council; however, the Minister for Transport has put together a group to review the existing Guidelines. The Council will await the new guidance before deciding on the undertaking of a Speed Limit Review.



## 7. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

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 Phase II (Part 8 Planning)	Review of preferred option design. Meetings and Workshops in intervening months with Stakeholders. Part 8 submission programmed for 1st quarter 2023.												
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building	Production of detailed design drawings for construction and meetings with Stakeholders to feed into design process.												
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1	Procurement for Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona lands. Discussions of options routes for proposed Windfarm on-going.												
Holycross Tourism Centre	Funding application not successful.												
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Appoint successful Tender, commence construction works.												
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	RRDF application submitted.												
Main Street, Roscrea	A Stakeholder Engagement plan is to be developed to identify and prioritise projects and locations in the Town.												
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budgets submitted to Housing Section</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit works to be completed first</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>20</b></td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2	At Inspections/Costings Stage	6	Budgets submitted to Housing Section		In Progress	11	Retrofit works to be completed first	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>
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The District Director provided the Members with an update in relation to Projects as follows:-

- 12 projects have been completed this year and Active Travel has played a big role in finance and funding of Projects.
- A workshop for Members, focusing on Major Projects for the next 2 years, will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> November.
- Phase 2 Liberty Square – MD are currently in discussions with the TII and the Gardai in relation to the preferred option for traffic flow. A workshop for Members will be held on this matter in due course.



- Market Quarter – Consultant appointed. Expression of Interest will be advertised for building tenant to run a café/restaurant. An outdoor space will be available for people wanting to sell their goods.
- Littleton Labyrinth – Works are expected to commence in quarter 1/quarter 2, 2023.
- Templemore Town Hall – 5 tenders received and are currently being assessed. MD to revert back to the Department following tender assessment.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- The MD were complimentary on the mural in Liberty Square, Thurles.
- When will the Feasibility Study for the Bushcraft Centre be complete?
- Are the MD actively looking at sources of funding for Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth; getting a walkway the entire way across the bog land.
- What effect will building inflation costs have on the tenders for Templemore Town Hall?
- Can the MD confirm if EV charging points are proposed for Templemore town?
- Can Market Square be removed from the project list as the works are complete.
- What is the update in relation to Phase 2 Roscrea – The MD need to prioritise funding for Main Street, which needs major improvement works.
- Can the MD upgrade the existing playground equipment in Thurles Town Park as there is currently nothing suitable for teenagers, such as a zip wire?

Replies to queries was as follows:-

- A suitable site for the Bushcraft Centre has been identified. The MD intend to go to tender in approximately 4 weeks.
- The MD are currently working with Fáilte Ireland in relation to Phase 2 of Littleton Labyrinth. Funding for Phase 2 will be European Just Transition funding.
- The Council have been approached by a private company to install EV points county wide. Locations are currently being investigated. No commitment by the company has been made as costings have to be established and negotiations with the ESB yet to take place.
- Inflation will be an issue for all projects going forward. The MD will seek additional funding in relation to Templemore Town Hall at the next Department Decision Gateway.
- Roscrea is the first town in the County to get funding under the Town Centre First Master Plan. A Town Regeneration Officer has been appointed who will specifically work on developing a Town Centre First Masterplan. Tenders for the engagement of consultants are at draft





stage. Projects will be identified thereby putting Roscrea in a very good position to secure funding.

### **8. Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **9. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

### **10. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- Sharon Scully, Thurles MD District Administrator, on the recent passing of her Aunt Geraldine Scully.
- The family of Martin Costello, Bank Street, Templemore, former employee of Tipperary County Council.
- Hewson family, Roscrea on the death of Adrian.

A Vote of Congratulations was extended to

- Brody Lee, son of Councillor Shane Lee, who will represent the Republic of Ireland in an U15 soccer tournament in Croatia.

### **11. Any Other Business**

As there was no other business, that concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022.

SIGNED:

  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022.

