



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2022

Present: Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Apologies: Councillor Noel Coonan

Also Present:

Eamon Lonergan	Director of Services
Liam Brett,	Senior Executive Engineer
Thomas Duffy,	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Tim Murphy	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Susan Scally	Asst Staff Officer

1. **Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.**

There was one Disclosure/Conflict of Interest raised at the Meeting by Councillor Sean Ryan and it refers to Item No 3.2 on the Agenda.

2. **Adoption of Minutes.**

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

"That the Minutes of the July 2022 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18th July, 2022 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. **Lisheen Windfarm Trust Applications.**

- **Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club**

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.



An application has been submitted by Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club for the refurbishment of the old dressing rooms at the Club to provide for new windows and doors, upgrading of lighting to LED lights, attic insulation and wall insulation.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Lee and seconded by Councillor Michael Smith:

“that the application received from the Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be accepted.”

4. Proposed taking in charge of Ashgrove, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

In compliance with Disclosures / Conflicts of Interest, Councillor Sean Ryan left the Chamber for this item.

A Report on Proposed Taking in Charge of Ashgrove, Thurles, was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

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

“That pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and being satisfied that the roads are of public utility, and having considered the financial implications for the local authority and any submissions made, it is hereby ordered that the roads serving the housing estate known as

Ashgrove, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.

be declared a public road. In addition, any open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the attendant grounds of the development are taken in charge, as outlined in red on the attached map, which was on public display during the prescribed period and the Director of Services Report to Members for the September 2022 Thurles Municipal District Meeting”

5. Update from Planning Section.

Ann Marie Devaney, Acting Senior Planner was in attendance for this item while Marie Ryan, Senior Executive Planner 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:-

- New Policy / Strategic Issues
 - ~ County Development Plan 2022 - 2028
 - ~ Thurles Local Area Plan
 - ~ Roscrea Local Area Plan



- ~ Residential Zoned Land Tax
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
 - ~ Thurles: Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme – Phase 1 & Phase 2
- NPF: Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
 - ~ Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre with Civic Plaza
 - ~ Thurles Market Quarter Regeneration through Recreation, Education and Support for Local Producers
- Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy
- Conservation Grant Schemes 2022
 - ~ Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022
 - ~ Historic Structure Fund 2022
- Taking in Charge Update
- Enforcements Proceedings in 2022

Ann Marie Devaney updated the Members on the following:

- The County Development Plan 2022-2028 was adopted on 22nd. August 2022.
- The background research and survey work for the Local Area Plans for Thurles and Roscrea are progressing. An external environment team have been commissioned to prepare the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Flood Risk Assessment. Workshops will be held with the Elected Members over the coming weeks with an Issues Paper being published for consultation in October 2022.
- A new Residential Zoned Land Tax has been introduced which will replace the Vacant Site Levy. Draft maps are to be published on 1st November with a public consultation period for final maps to be published in December 2023.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Will planning applications predating 22nd. August 2022 be subject to the new Residential Zoned Land Tax or will they be subject to the previous Vacant Site Levy?
- Pre-planning applications were delayed by 2 months prior to the adoption of the new County Development Plans – will these applications be subject to the new or old scheme?
- When will the proposed meeting take place with TCC Planning staff and Planning Agents regarding the new County Development Plan requirements.
- Acknowledgement of Planning's involvement in the successful application for the Clonakenny Project.
- Issue of sightline distances in the new County Development Plan and the need for flexibility.



Ann Marie advised:-

- That all applications from 22nd August 2022 will be subject to the new Residential Zoned Land Tax.
- It is intended to run a Workshop with Agents in the near future.
- There will be flexibility in dealing with sightlines depending on the operational speed on road – the old measurement was 90m and the new measurement is 160m. In cases where there is a justification for a lower sightline, a case can be made to Planning.

Liam Brett also advised that the new assessment of operational speed will help get some applications approved that previously might not have been approved.

6. Update from Water Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services, who was in attendance via Zoom 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
 - ~ Infrastructural Projects
 - Roscrea Sewerage Scheme
 - Thurles Sewerage Scheme
 - ~ Networks Portfolio Delivery
 - ~ Source Rationalisation Programme
 - ~ Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Water Boil Notices in Horse & Jockey and surrounding areas for the last month also several water outages in the past four months. Can priority be given to connect the supply at Horse & Jockey, Littleton and Two-Mile-Borris to the Holycross Regional Supply.
- Is there any progress to connect Kilbrook near The Commons and Gurteen to the Fethard Supply as there are ongoing outages at these locations which at times can be for 3 to 4 days in a row?
- Can a meeting be arranged between landowners and Irish Water with a view to resolving incorrect bills – this issue is ongoing for some time and a resolution is urgently required.
- Flooding issues in Thurles – during recent heavy rainfall, flooding occurred at Friar Street, Butler Avenue and Kickham Street, Thurles.



Gerry Robinson replied to the queries as follows:-

- The long-term plan in the Rationalisation Programme is to connect Horse & Jockey and surrounding areas to the Holycross Regional Supply Scheme. This is currently at design stage and it is hoped that construction will commence next year.
- Contact will be made with Irish Water to set up meetings with landowners
- Irish Water are aware of the issue of flooding in Thurles. Tobin Consultants are currently carrying out surveys in areas including Kickham Street and Friar Street, Thurles.

7. District Engineer's Report.

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

Thomas Duffy, District Engineer advised the Members that Thurles MD have been approved for:-

- 2 extra LIS Schemes which will total 9 overall
- 1 extra CIS Scheme which will total 4 overall
- Additional IPB monies to carry out footpath works in the District

The Members raised the following:-

- Complimented the work carried out by the Council staff.
- Welcomed the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Gortkelly, Upperchurch.
- Signs missing at Gortnahoe Cross.
- New footpaths at Rosemount and Clongour Thurles are only wide enough for one person – can the footpaths be widened to allow for two people as there is room for same?
- Traffic volume in Thurles town is huge particularly since the opening of MIC Thurles on Cathedral Street. The need for a by-pass is urgently required and this issue should be brought before the TII by the Cathaoirleach of the Plenary Council.
- The road from Turtulla Cross to the ETB in Archerstown Industrial Estate is extremely dangerous as there are no footpaths. The number of students at the ETB has increased. Can this area be made safer for pedestrians?
- Provision of public lights at the Post Office Depot, Clongour and Dew Valley Meats, Holycross Road, Thurles.
- Provision of a footpath at Kickham Park, Mill Road, Thurles – can the money set aside for footpaths be used to provide a footpath at this location?
- Where speed traffic surveys carried out and if so, what were the results of same?



- Flooding at The Grove, Cabra, Thurles during heavy rainfall. Footpaths are also in quite poor condition.
- Complimented work carried out at the McDonald's Roundabout in Roscrea which has proved very beneficial for pedestrians and wheelchair users.
- Disappointed that Tim Murphy, Executive Engineer is leaving. There has been a high turnover of Engineers in the Thurles District and this has an adverse effect on the consistency of work. Tim was wished well in his new role.
- Delighted with work carried out at Toomevara, however, the fence has not been erected. When will this be carried out?
- There is ongoing issue with two cars constantly parked on the footpath at Roscrea Road, Templemore with pedestrians having to walk onto the roadway. Can this issue be investigated?
- Dereliction is an issue in the District but in particular, on the approach into the towns of Templemore and Roscrea. Can this issue be brought to the attention of Tony O'Neill, Housing for an update?
- Overgrown trees at N62 Walking Route and Rosemount/Corville Road, Roscrea are impacting on the public lighting.
- No safe place for students to cross at Rosemount / Corville Road, Roscrea where the Secondary Schools are located.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes needed at (i) Liskeveen Cross and (ii) Fennor Creamery.
- Replace pathway outside the Moycarkey Graveyard which is in poor condition.
- What is the policy regarding cutting back trees – there is a tree near the School in Littleton Village and another at Fanning Park Estate, Two-Mile-Boris which need to be cut back as they are impeding road signs.
- Signage is missing around the District, can a survey of such signage be carried out with a view to replacing same.
- Provision of a light in the back lane in Littleton near band hall.
- There are no white lines on some roads in the District.
- Can reminders issue to landowners now that the Hedge Cutting Season is in force since 1st September - possibly advertisements in local paper or on radio.
- The new footpaths in Templemore Town Park are dangerous and a number of people have fallen.
- Flooding issues in Templemore Town Centre and in Richmond Grove, Templemore – gullies are blocked and not being cleaned.
- Road and footpaths in Cardens Court Estate, Templemore is in a poor state.
- Kiltillane Court, Templemore – footpaths in poor state and there is no signage.
- Area around the Bottle Bank in Borrissoleigh is in poor state and needs replacing.
- Fencing at Ma Teine, Templemore has not been replaced – Drainage works have not been completed by the OPW.



- Pedestrian traffic lights on Cathedral Street, Thurles are not working. Traffic light on Lidl corner, Slievenamon Road, Thurles is turned and cannot be seen clearly.
- Resurfacing needed on Knock Road on the N62. Road markings on the hard shoulder not leaving enough room for cyclists.
- Two houses on Horse & Jockey Road are being continuously flooded.
- Overgrown tree on the entrance to Monakeeba, Thurles needs to be cut back as it is hindering sightline for drivers.

Thomas replied to queries as follows:-

- Appreciate compliments on the work programme that has been carried out and confirmed the work is of a high quality.
- Issues raised which are considered CRM will be addressed through the CRM system.
- Overgrown tree at the entrance to Monakeeba, Thurles will be inspected.
- Resurfacing of hard shoulder for cyclists will be discussed with the Active Travel Department.
- The traffic light at Lidl corner will be referred to David Fahy, Capital Projects Section, who is the point of contact for same.
- The new footpath in the Templemore Town Park was laid to specification. A walk on same with Engineers will be undertaken to ascertain any issues.
- Gullys are cleaned out however flooding occurs during heavy rainfall as the network is unable to take the increased volume of water. Discussions take place with Council staff and Irish Water when rainfall warnings are issued from Met Eireann.
- Drainage works were carried out in Ma Teine, Templemore last year. It is an ongoing project and the OPW have made a commitment to erect a new boundary fence as part of their works – we do not have a timeline for these works.
- The issue regarding the area around the Bottle Bank in Borrissleigh will be referred to Ruairi Boland, Environment.
- The approach road into Kiltillane Court, Templemore is in poor condition. Budgets will be checked near year end to establish if any work can be carried out here.
- Consideration will be given to Low Cost Scheme applications at Liskeveen Cross and Fennor Creamery.
- The area outside Moycarkey Graveyard will be looked at.
- Members should submit a list of trees that need to be cut back. Areas where health and safety is an issue or where public lighting is hindered will be addressed.
- No funding available for work at Rosemount, Roscrea.
- Members should report areas where there are no signs in the District to the relevant Area Engineer for attention.
- Issue of lighting at Littleton Band Hall will be referred to Michael Tierney, Roads.



- Replacement of white lines occurs during summer months to ensure markings will last.
- Storm lines in The Grove, Cabra, Thurles have been jetted. Further investigation and remedial works required to address the flooding.
- An advertisement campaign to raise awareness of hedge cutting requirements is currently ongoing.
- Trees/hedging will be cut back on the N62 Walking Route.
- Rosemount and Corville Road, Roscrea – Thomas will take over supervision of the project from Tim.
- Contact will be made with the contractor at Toomevara to erect fencing.
- The issue of cars parked on the footpath at Roscrea Road, Templemore will be investigated.
- Will discuss with Paddy Crowley & Michael Wolfe whether the road from Turtulla Cross to the ETB Archestown Estate can be included in the Turtulla Road Project.
- Lighting at Dew Valley Meats, Holycross Road, Thurles will be referred to Michael Tierney, Roads.
- Footpath at Kickham Park, Mill Road, Thurles – it is better to have continuous footpath rather than piecemeal which can be dangerous. Meeting will take place with Lions Club in this regard.
- Traffic Surveys have been carried out and results will be analysed when Michael Darcy returns to the District in the coming weeks.
- Extension of footpath on River Walk at the back of Dunnes – A meeting has been requested with Thurles Lions Club and Councillor Hanafin will be included in meeting to discuss this issue.
- Missing Sign at Gortnahoe Cross is already on the list.

Liam Brett advised that:-

- Agreed with compliments to Thomas and his team on the work carried out.
- Hedgecutting is a priority for the District.
- Staff changes are County wide and do not just affect Thurles MD.
- Light at Dew Valley Meats, Holycross Road could potentially be undertaken under Active Travel and as the area is outside the speed limit, the work is for pedestrians and will be more expensive. Funding is required for the light at the An Post Sorting Office, Clongour Thurles and this is a slow process.

Eamon Lonergan reiterated good wishes to Tim on his new role. He acknowledged the high standard of work carried out in the District.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that day to day operational matters/issues should be reported by Members directly to the MD Office/Engineers through the CRM System and not brought up in the Chamber.



8. 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 option designs. 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	Part 8 Approved. Procurement for Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona lands.												
Holycross Tourism Centre	Funding application not successful.												
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Request for Tenders for the renovation of the existing building currently on E-Tenders closing date 27 th September 2022.												
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Part VIII application submitted and approved. RRDF application submitted.												
Main Street, Roscrea	Review of previous plans and reports. 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>Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budgets submitted to Housing Section</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LTL – landlord to undergo works to property</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	Awaiting receipt of keys to property	5	At Inspections/Costings Stage	7	Budgets submitted to Housing Section	1	In Progress	6	LTL – landlord to undergo works to property	1	TOTAL	20
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TOTAL	20												

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Is it possible to include the footpath at Mill Road as part of the Loop Road Project? This project was being carried out in a number of phases and completion of the Loop Road around Thurles would be a huge achievement.
- When will works commence at the Littleton Labyrinth now that Part VIII has been approved? Can Bord na Mona include a mechanism whereby local contractors are considered for tendering of ancillary works?
- Can a public toilet be installed in the vicinity of Liberty Square, Thurles?



- Cycle Track from Thurles to Two-Mile-Borris – this has been refused before as it is a national route whereas a Cycle Track has been installed between Durrow and Abbeyleix even though this is also a national route.
- When will next phase of Market Square, Roscrea be carried out?
- Provision of a Skateboard Park in Roscrea.
- Update on Outdoor Recreation Scheme Monaincha – where is the application for funding at?
- Possibility of a Cycle Track from Urlingford to Cashel as there is room in the hard shoulder and it is a popular route with cyclists.

Sharon advised that there is no update or timeframe on an announcement regarding Monaincha. Still waiting on agreements from landowners.

Thomas replied as follows to queries raised:-

- Thurles Ring road considered a priority for TII meeting.
- Discussions will take place with Bord na Mona to engage local contractors for the Littleton Labyrinth. Physical works are expected to commence in Quarter 2, 2023.
- Provision of a public convenience in Liberty Square Thurles is not a priority. There is a public convenience in Thurles Town Park which is costly to run with very little income return.
- The Department are no longer in a position to fund Cycle Ways which are known as Grey Ways as they now push for Green Ways(off road).
- Funding for Projects on Cycle Ways in the past came from Active Travel but is now available from the NTA
- The NTA prioritise funding for such projects as footpaths on the N62.
- The Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan will identify future projects for Roscrea. Funding applications will then be made on the basis of project identified through the Masterplan.
- Interviews are currently taking place for a Town Regeneration Officer who will work with the new Roscrea Town Team to develop a Town Centre First Masterplan.

9. To agree three (3) priority national roads items for this District, for inclusion on the Agenda for Annual Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland Plan.

Following discussion, the Members agreed to submit the following 4 roads as priority roads for inclusion on the Agenda for Tipperary County Council's meeting with TII:-

- Thurles By-Pass
- Junction at Turtulla Cross, Thurles
- Tullaskeagh, Roscrea
- N62 Templemore to Thurles



10. Notice of Motion.

➤ Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan – ID 2460

Councillor Jim Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

I am calling on the relevant authorities to come together and carry out a major job on the River Suir in Thurles which is completely overgrown, is too shallow and needs the fountains turned back on again.

Reply to NOM 2460

I can confirm that consultation is currently underway between Tipperary County Council, Inland Fisheries, LAWPRO and the OPW River Drainage in relation to the River Suir.

If maintenance works are to be carried out on the River channel, it will primarily be to mitigate against potential flooding, as without such a risk, interference with the river from an ecology point of view, is not advised.

Any proposed works will require a Flood Risk Assessment, an Environmental Impact Statement, an Appropriate Assessment Screening, planning approval and will be subject to a suitable funding stream being identified.

With regard to the fountain, it was turned off some time ago due to complaints that, depending which way the wind was blowing, the spray was wetting people as they walked over the bridge crossing.

Councillor J Ryan made the following comments:-

- Can the fountain be turned on, on days when it is not windy?
- Is the overgrowth in the River going to be tackled?

Councillor S. Hanafin advised that the bank of the River also needs maintenance and if left unmaintained, it can attract dumping.

The District Engineer confirmed that the River is the responsibility of the OPW / Fisheries and discussions would be initiated with them.

➤ Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan – ID 2465

Councillor Jim Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:



I am calling on this District Council to introduce a ban on HGV's using the Cuchulain Road in Thurles as a matter of urgency.

Reply to NOM 2465

- Tipperary County Council in partnership with SYSTRA Ltd. are currently developing a Local Transport Plan (LTP) for Thurles Town as recommended, in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.
- The delivery of a Local Transport Plan for Thurles will identify the key infrastructural requirements of the Town and prioritise the transport interventions required in the plan area as the Town grows and develops over the next 10 years.
- Detailed traffic surveys have taken place and detailed analysis and reporting of the findings will be made in due course. Therefore any such proposed interventions are considered premature and TCC will await the recommendations of the LTP.

Councillor J. Ryan expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply. He said the use of Cuchulainn Road being used by HGVs is dangerous and they should be banned from Cuchulainn Road immediately rather than wait for results of a survey which he feels will have the same advice.

Members expressed agreement with Councillor Ryan.

11. Correspondence.

The District Administrator advised that a letter was received from the HSE regarding a Covid Test Centre in Thurles. The letter outlined that the test centres in Nenagh and Limerick are sufficient to meet current testing demand.

12. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

There were no Votes of Sympathy.

A Vote of Congratulations was extended to Peake Villa FC on their recent success.

13. Any Other Business

- The District Administrator confirmed that the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee will take place before the October Monthly Meeting on 17th October.
- The District Director confirmed that two workshops will take place in the coming month to update Members on projects carried out to date and identify projects that can be achieved going forward.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann
Oifig Cheantar Bardasach
Dhurlas, Ascaill an
Chaisleáin, Durlas
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SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 17th. October, 2022.

SIGNED:


for MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 17th. October, 2022.

