



MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES, ON 17th JULY 2023

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan and Peggy Ryan.

Also Present:

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

Apologies: Councillor Michael Smith

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. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor P. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District Annual Meeting which was held on the 19th June 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

It was further proposed by Councillor S. Lee, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District June 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 19th June 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. **Update from Town Regeneration Officer on Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Áine McCarthy, Town Regeneration Officer who was in attendance for this Item.



Áine updated the Members on the progress achieved from January to July on the Roscrea Town Centre First Master Plan.

She advised that a Town Team was established and that the project was defined by a 10 minute walking distance from the town centre. O'Mahony Pike Consultants were engaged and following surveys from businesses and the community, public engagement and workshops, the Draft Plan was identified, incorporating 10 projects namely:-

- Castle Street Regeneration
- Gantly Street Age Friendly Neighbourhood Masterplan
- Glebe Park Enhancement
- Lourdes Road Masterplan
- Main Street Regeneration
- Roscrea Plaza
- Roscrea River Rooms
- Roscrea Smart Town
- St Cronan's Gateway
- Rosemary Square

Aine further advised that the next steps are:-

- Review with the Town Team.
- Work with the District to prioritise projects.
- Identify and apply for funding streams – TVR, ORIS, RRDF, Just Transition, Heritage etc.
- Prepare Town Team Governance and terms of reference.
- Launch will take place in September following the Local Area Plan process completion.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- How will this Plan create employment and industry in Roscrea?
- Will the proposals contained in the Plan impact on parking in the town?
- Regarding the definition of 10 minutes from town centre, the development is mainly in the South / South East of Roscrea with the North / North East having limited development.
- Complimented work by Eamon, Áine and all the MD Staff.
- Is there an update on the development of Grants Hotel, has contact been made with the owners?

Áine replied to queries as follows:-

- Meetings will take place with the IDA.
- Incremental steps will result in investment in the town and hopefully down the line this will create economic opportunities.



- Development away from the town will be included in the Local Area Plan.
- Contact has been made with the owners of Grants Hotel and this will be pursued to enhance public realm works on the street.

The Director of Services acknowledged all the work carried out by Áine and advised he was delighted that Roscrea was the pilot town for this project to ensure fairness across the District. The key is to unlock funding for the project and he acknowledged the Town Team who have been instrumental in getting the project to this stage. There will be difficult decisions ahead with Part 8 etc. Once the launch takes place in September and following public consultation, funding will be sought for the projects which have been identified as priority projects in the Plan.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Áine for her presentation and she left the Chamber.

4. Update from Environment & Climate Change.

Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer and Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer were in attendance for this item. An Environment & Climate Action Section Update for the period 01/01/2023 to 30/06/2023 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The issue of large trees in graveyards, particularly St Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles. These trees are causing damage to headstones, branches falling onto graves, discolouration of headstones – is there a need for these trees? Could the Council engage contractors to cut down/back trees?
- Issue at St. Joseph's Cemetery Templemore with a caravan parked adjacent to the Cemetery and the occupants using the Cemetery as a dumping ground.
- Are the door to door waste surveys still taking place?
- As part of the Anti Littering Initiative and a grant of €30,000, will the branded reusable cups and bottles be given out?
- Regarding the Housing Waste Surveys - 53 out of 74 surveys completed were non-compliant – has the cost of living impacted on these results and what constructive actions are available to help people?
- Litter in general – there are a number of hotspots in the District. What is the procedure in relation to bags of rubbish dumped and who is the contact for reporting these incidents to?
- Who is responsible for the build up of rubbish in the back gardens of houses?



- Can the MD look at the houses located within the Mid Tipperary Decarbonising Zone and identify houses that are in need of retrofitting?
- Update on the use of Drone Technology and CCTV to combat littering, are the Council actively using these technologies?
- The wall in Fennor Graveyard is in need of repair.

Replies to queries raised are as follows:-

- The Door to Door Spot Checks are continuing but if there are specific areas that require a spot check, Members should contact Orla with locations.
- The Council follow up with households who are non-compliant so the figure of 53 would include households from whom a reply is outstanding.
Fixed Payment Notices of €75.00 are issued and would proceed to Court where the fixed notices remain unpaid and where there is no evidence of service in place.
Households need to dispose of waste properly and there are Civic Amenity Sites where people can take waste and for which they will receive a receipt which is also an accepted evidence of service.
Where there are hardship cases, a form can be completed and a service may be shared between 2 households.
- A grant of €30,000 was secured under the 2023 Anti-dumping Initiative which will be launched on 21st August. The Council will provide supplies for the Clean Ups and accept waste collected. The branded reusable cups / bottles will also be given out as part of the campaign.
- A pilot use of a litter vacuum on approach roads will take place. Roads for which this is suitable will need to be identified.
Summer months may not be the most suitable time of year to do this work, but there are time constraints in relation to the funding criteria.
- Trees in graveyards are a maintenance issue which the District are responsible for.
Thomas will look at specific graves affected by trees.
- There are a large number of repairs similar to that at Fennor graveyard but the budget does not meet cost of repairs so works are carried out on a priority basis.
- Drone Technology and CCTV are used where possible. Nationally a Code of Conduct is being prepared for use by all local authorities.
- Enforcement Officers go through all bags of rubbish dumped to gather any evidence and cases are followed through to the Courts.
- Regarding dumping in back yards, the current legislation states that action can be taken on rubbish that can be viewed from a public place however where there is a health and safety risk, Environment would investigate.
- Ruairi will get back to Councillor Moran regarding caravans at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Templemore.
- Members were happy with the Free Recycling Event for Mattresses at Tipperary County Council's 5 Civic Amenity Sites from 25th to 27th July.



It was also noted that reputable Furniture Stores will accept mattresses and have them disposed of properly.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ruairi and Orla for their presentation and they left the Chamber.

5. Update from LAWPRO.

Anthony Coleman, Director of Services, Fran Igoe Regional Co-Ordinator and Sheevaun Thompson of LAWPRO were in attendance for this item. A Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO) Briefing Note for Thurles MD for July 2023 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting. The Report was taken as read.

Anthony informed the Members that the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) is a local government national shared service, working on behalf of all 31 local authorities in Ireland and funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Tipperary and Kilkenny County Councils jointly manage LAWPRO.

There are 5 regions and Tipperary is located in the South East. There are 30 Catchment Scientists who work with the EPA and carry out tests. Any problems are referred to the relevant bodies.

Fran gave the Members a presentation on the work carried out by LAWPRO and advised that Tipperary is the worst in the South East Region in relation to water quality.

Members raised the following queries:-

- There is an ongoing issue in Thurles where a combined sewer empties raw sewage into the River Suir in Thurles during heavy rainfall.
- Who is going to manage the Upper Suir Restoration Plan 2022 – 2027, where is funding coming from and what timeline is involved?
- Big challenge for Roscrea Anglers in particular at the Church Grounds.
- Disappointment at the deterioration in our rivers and waterways in the past 5 years.
- Are there any specific reasons why Tipperary is showing as the worst in the Region?
- Restrictions on works that can be carried out to smaller rivers which prevents rivers flowing properly. An example is the Suir River from Thurles to Holycross which has narrowed by 20 foot and is no longer available for fishing.

The District Engineer confirmed that there is substantial frustration at not being able to dredge or clean rivers due to constraints. During Summer rivers are drying up and there is an issue with algae.



Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- LAWPRO’s role is to highlight issues and will do so in relation to the substandard treatment systems in Thurles.
- Ireland will not meet its water quality targets by 2027 and will be fined.
- Inspections are carried out on septic tanks in farms, but additional funding is required.
- Agriculture is the biggest impact in Tipperary and there is a need for farmers to avail of funding to do necessary works.
- Engagement required with Irish Water regarding sewage discharging into River Suir.
- Aware of the issue at the Weir in Roscrea and a hydro break could be stepped to help the issue.
- Drainage system is a challenge. There is a bigger picture and it will be discussed with OPW.
- Deep maintenance of rivers is allowed i.e. national water retention measure – logs in drains.
- Better information on what works can / cannot be carried out is required.
- If we manage the nutrients flowing into the water, it will help the over growth of vegetation in our rivers.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Anthony, Fran and Sheevaun for their attendance and they left the Chamber.

6. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

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

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	The 'preferred' design solution and option assessment is being agreed with the prescribed statutory stakeholders, prior to finalising the design detail and presenting to all stakeholders and the Elected Members Meetings and Workshops with the MD Elected Members and the public stakeholders is planned for in Q3 2023. A Part 8 planning application is expected to be lodged in Q4 2023. Subject to planning approval the final design and tendering stage could commence in early 2024.



Market Quarter - Thurles	Finalise Detailed Design by end of Q3 2023. Procurement of Main Works contractor. Construction to commence Q4 2023 / Q1 2024.												
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Bord na Mona employees to construct the 7.8km of new track. Construction commencement is scheduled for September 2023 with completion in Q1 2024.												
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Procurement for external consultants to prepare a detailed Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona Lands. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1 2024.												
Holycross – Tourism & visitor Centre	Funding application under RRDF was unsuccessful. The future of the project to be considered in line with all available funding streams.												
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Construction works commenced May 2023. It is planned that construction works will take 13 months to complete.												
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Awaiting written contract from the Department in regard to requirements for this approved project to proceed on a phased basis. A Design Team to be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding Dept.												
Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Agreed that a Final Draft of the Roscrea TCF Masterplan will be submitted to TCC at the end of June and complete by July. Official Launch of TCF Master Plan to be arranged for Q4 2023.												
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit works to be completed first</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget submitted for approval</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property		At Inspections/Costings Stage	6	In Progress	8	Retrofit works to be completed first		Budget submitted for approval	1	TOTAL	15
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TOTAL	15												

The Report was taken as read.



Members raised the following queries:-

- Update on the EV Charges at Parnell Street Carpark, Thurles.
- There are no outside taps or electrical points in Thurles Town Park which are needed due to the increased number of festivals held there.
- There are no proper toilets in Templemore Town Park and the use of the toilet facilities at the Templemore Pitch and Putt Club is not an option.
- Update on the Skateboard Park in Roscrea.

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- Michael Tierney is dealing with the Contractor and the ESB regarding the EV charges at Parnell Street carpark, Thurles and is actively pursuing a conclusion.
- The issue of outside taps and electrical points in Thurles Town Park will be looked at. They had not been supplied initially as it was not envisaged that so many outdoor events would be held there.
- There will be toilet facilities in Templemore Town Hall and additional signage will be installed advising the public of the availability of toilets at the Pitch and Putt Club.

Councillor Moran expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply regarding the provision of toilets in Templemore Town Park and said it was also a health and safety issue.

7. District Engineer's Report.

An updated District Engineer's Report for the MD was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The District Engineer advised the Members of the following:-

- New CIS Scheme for 2024 and 2025 is now open for applications. Previous applicants must apply for the new scheme and the closing date is 1st. August, 2023.
- An allocation of €188,000 has been received for road restoration for Derrylahan, Clonakenny and Galboola.
- A Part 8 Planning Application will be advertised for works at The Ragg this week.
- Road Improvements are substantively finished and 2 weeks will complete works.
- Surface dressing works have been delayed due to weather and works are expected to commence on 31st. August.

Members raised the following queries:

- Some roads in Thurles, in particular Slievenamon Road, are in poor repair and require more than just patching.



- Signage covered by overgrown trees is an issue.
- Hedge cutting on the roadway from Loughmore to Carrick on the N62 but could fencing be erected on the other side.
- Confusion over who is responsible for hedge cutting in some places. Can list of areas be compiled?
- Sign located at Coffee Shop in Borrisoleigh for R501 to Templemore is too low and not visible and needs to be raised higher.
- Resurfacing of back entrances is required in some areas and in particular at Kennedy Park, Thurles.
Proposed to set aside money each year with a view to carry out one back entrance per year.
- Flooding issues in the District – could an inventory of areas be drawn up. Once the roadworks programme is completed, Hogans are engaged to blow out drains. Also can it be documented when work is carried out as after a number of years, it will need to be redone so it is important to know when it is due to be done again.
- Hedge cutting on the N62 Junctions – one junction at Turtulla was missed.
- Snag list for Ned Hayes Housing Estate, Two Mile Borris needs to be addressed.
- Junction at Drish – there is a drop as you come off the N75 onto the road. This is very dangerous and impairs vision. Can this issue be brought to the attention of the TII?
- Need for the Speed Indicator System to be set up in a number of different locations.
- N62 and N72 Roscrea to Templemore – accumulation of storm water is a massive problem. Inlets need to be opened up.
- Sightlines hindered at junction of the Roscrea Area N62.
- Why do applicants have to re-apply each year for CIS Scheme – is this a Department or Council instruction? It is frustrating for people to apply and be refused and have to continuously re-apply.

Replies to queries as follows:-

- Road surface on Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be addressed before Winter season.
- GSSs are currently working with contractors to cut back overgrowth covering signage.
The Contractor will be asked back to cut hedges at Turtulla junction. All rural roads are dangerous due to overgrowth but there are no budgets for this work.
The issue of who is responsible for verges i.e. landowner or Council will be checked with Roads Central. Signs at junctions/bends that are deemed high risk will be attended to.
- The sign in Borrisoleigh village will be addressed as part of junction realignment works funded under development levies.



- There is currently no budgets to resurface back entrances. It is a matter for the Members to assign funding for this if they so wish. Tertiary Funding cannot be used for this work.
- Members should advise Engineering Staff of any areas with flooding issues that require maintenance.
- The snag list for Ned Hayes Housing Estate will be passed onto Housing Section.
- The provision of Speed Indicator System on various locations is a matter of resources and time.
- Works on N62 Roscrea to Templemore are on schedule.
- Hedge cutting on the N62 is supposed to be fully done so Members should notify Engineering Staff of any areas not done.
- Road Central have instructed that applicants under CIS should reapply each year. As the deadline is 1st August, it is advisable for applicants to put in an application now. Any applicants presenting on the list will have priority.
The 2023 CIS Schemes are all complete.

8. Notice of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan – ID 2635

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

"I am calling on this District Council to follow the example of Clonmel Borough in providing designated Campervan parking bays in a suitable site in Thurles."

The Reply to the Notice of Motion is as follows:-

"Thurles Municipal District is open to the suggestion of providing designated public campervan parking bays in a suitable location in Thurles. If the Elected Members are aware of potential locations please forward same to us so that they can be investigated as to their viability. The District will need to ensure that any possible location does not impact on existing parking capacity"

Councillor Ryan complimented Clonmel Borough on their initiative. He said there are 80,000 campervans registered in Ireland and it would be a huge tourist boost to Thurles if designated Campervan parking bays were available.

The District Administrator confirmed that potential locations in Templemore and Roscrea could also be considered.



9. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The family of Fiona Phelan, Roscrea. Fiona was a niece to Sean O'Connor, Retired GSS Roscrea.
- The family of Bernard (Bernie) Colclough, Roscrea Late of Bernie's Super Valu Roscrea.
- The family of Martin Murt Hogan, Roscrea.
- Máire Hctor, former Fianna Fáil TD and Junior Minister on the death of her mother, Christina (Chrissie) Hctor.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Michael Lowry and team on a very successful Cut Loose Festival in Holycross.
- Councillor J. Ryan on a very successful Liberty Festival held in Thurles Town Park.
- Councillor S. Hanafin on his election to the role of Leas Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council.
- Councillor N. Coonan on his election to the role of Leas Cathaoirleach of SE Regional Authority.
- Brian Gleeson who was part of the U20 World Cup Team. Brian is eligible to play for Munster Rugby Team again next year.
- Inspector Ailish Myles, An Garda Síochána, Roscrea who was promoted to Dublin.

11. Any Other Business.

Councillor E. Moran asked for an update regarding staff at the Library in Templemore. With one staff member leaving, it would leave only one staff member remaining and there is a requirement for two staff members at the branch in order for it to remain open.

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian will be asked to contact Councillor Moran on this query as it comes under his remit.

As there was no other business that concluded the June Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 18th. September, 2023

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 18th September, 2023

