



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES, ON 18th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

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
Orla McDonnell	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 N. Coonan, seconded by Councillor S. Lee and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District, July 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 17th July 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. **Consider Chief Executive's Report on part 8 – Proposed Road Improvement Works at The Ragg, Thurles.**

A Chief Executive's Report PT8TT30 on a Part 8 Development, Proposed Improvement Works and Active travel Measures at The Ragg, Thurles, Co. Tipperary was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting. The Report covered the following items:

- Nature and Extent of the Proposed Development and the principal features thereof
- Site Location and Description
- Public Consultation
- Consideration of Submissions



- Prescribed Bodies to whom the project was referred
- Planning Assessment
- Summary of Submissions & Chief Executives Recommendations
- Conclusions and Recommendations
- Requirements and Conditions

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

'that the Chief Executive's Report PT8TT30 Part 8 Development – Proposed Improvement Works and Active Travel Measures at The Ragg, Thurles, Co. Tipperary be and is hereby approved.'

4. Update from Planning & Development Section.

Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer and Marie Ryan, Senior Executive Planner were in attendance for this item. A Planning Briefing Note September 2023 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Are there any plans afoot for the taking-in-charge of Cluain Doire, Templemore? The estate is currently in poor condition and is unsafe.
- What has been chosen for Thurles town under the URDF Call 3 Vacancy and Dereliction whereby an advance allocation of €1m was paid to assist with early activity under an approved acquisition programme?
- There is an ongoing issue with lights not working in Orchard Court, Templemore which is concerning for the residents of the estate. Although it is a DPI estate and not taken-in-charge by TCC can the Council take a more lenient view and fix the lights in the estate?
- Although not taken-in-charge can TCC address the issues at The Retirement Village, Templemore concerning lighting and the entrance to the estate?
Planning Enforcement have been involved for a number of years with the developer where the conditions of planning were never adhered to.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Caisleán Cuirt, Thurles.
- Do TCC have any intention of taking over the derelict housing estate in Gortnahoe where some houses are only partially constructed.
- Are renovations included in the temporary time limit waiver in respect of development levies or does the scheme apply to new builds only?
- What is the update regarding the taking-in-charge of Ardlui, Davis Road, Thurles.
- Has there been any resolution forthcoming in relation to the taking in charge of DPI estates.
- Do TCC have any plans to engage a Conservation Architect? Under the Croí Cónaithe scheme for the refurbishment of vacant properties it is



envisaged that a lot of applications under this scheme will require the assistance of a conservation architect.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- Cluain Doire and The Orchard are both DPI estates, therefore there are no plans afoot for their taking-in-charge. A clean up of Cluain Doire, Templemore took place recently and Planning Section will continue to liaise with the developer.
- The URDF Call 3 whereby an advance allocation of €1m was paid to assist with early activity under an approved acquisition programme will be examined and reported back to the MD.
- The Retirement Village at Templemore is a gated community. It is a private development and it was never the intention of TCC to take it in charge.
- The unfinished estate in Gortnahoe is on the Unfinished Housing Register. The current position of the estate will be examined and referred back to the MD.
- The exemption from development levies applies to new builds only and not to renovations.
- There is no national agreement between Uisce Eireann and Local Authorities regarding the taking-in-charge of DPI estates. The National DPI Unit in the Department have established a working group who are currently preparing a document on how DPI estates will be dealt with. All LA's will be guided by this document which is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
The government have also put aside funding under a National Resolution Development Fund
- Caisleán Cuirt and Ardlui have both been advertised with no comments received. The resolution will go before the Members next month.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Kieran and Marie for their presentation and they left the Chamber.

5. Update from Libraries and Culture Services/Biodiversity.

Damian Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance for this item. Damian introduced Aisling Martin to the meeting. Aisling has commenced as the new branch manager of Templemore Library.

Damian stated that Templemore Library was back up and running. He spoke about the Tipperary Studies and Digitalisation Programme which the Council has invested heavily in. People had donated photographs which Tipperary Studies digitalised. Damian also stated that the libraries ran a very good programme during the Summer month.



The Members welcomed Aisling to the Meeting and raised the following queries: -

- What is planned for the current library building in Templemore once the library relocates to its new premises following completion of refurbishment works to the Town Hall building.
- Is the move to the new library building in Templemore on target?
- Anne Loughnane, Templemore Branch Librarian was welcomed back to Templemore library.
- Was there any feedback from the Musicians on Call healthcare programme and is it anticipated that the programme, which was excellently run, will be held again.
- The Artist in Primary School Scheme is an excellent scheme and all schools who get it are very lucky.
- Why are the lights in Roscrea library being left on late into the night when the library is closed?
- There is currently a two-year waiting list for artists to exhibit their works in the Source Library, Thurles. In order to support these artists would it be possible to provide funding for the provision of a pop-up-shop in Liberty Square to allow artists exhibit their works.
- Have the opening hours of Templemore Library returned to normal?
- Are E-pens available in all Tipperary Libraries.
- What is the update in relation to the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer for Tipperary County Council.

Damian replied to queries raised as follows: -

- No update can be provided in relation to the proposed use of the current library building in Templemore after the relocation of the Library to the old town Hall building.
If developments are made in relation to this, Members will be advised.
- The relocation of Templemore Library to the refurbished Town Hall building is on target.
- The Musicians on Call project will be examined to see if it can return.
An update will be reverted back to the MD.
- Roscrea Library is part of the *My Open Library* initiative which is an unstaffed, self-service library. Under the initiative the Library remains open to the public Monday to Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.
If someone is using the library out of hours, the lights will remain on.
- The Source is a victim of its own success in terms of the two-year waiting list for exhibitions. However, there are 12 libraries throughout the County, most of which have gallery space that can exhibit works and that do not have such a long waiting list as the Source.
In relation to the provision of pop-up-shops for exhibitions, the issue will be examined and reverted back through the MD.
- The opening hours of Templemore Library have returned to normal.
- E-pens are available at all TCC libraries.



- The recruitment of a Biodiversity Officer for Tipperary County Council is ongoing and it is anticipated that the role will be advertised shortly.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Damian for his attendance and he left the Chamber.

6. Update from Roads Capital.

An Engineer from Roads Capital was not attendance for this item. The report circulated in relation to this item was taken as read.

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:

- The Roads Programme is complete and the MD will now concentrate on gullies, road verges, road signage and hedge cutting.
- Three LIS schemes will shortly be undertaken
- Works on Johnstown Road will be completed in coming weeks.
- The pavement on Slievenamon Road and other areas around Thurles will be addressed.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Two yield signs that were removed from Marlstone Manor, Thurles need to be reinstated and a 'Children at Play' sign erected near the long green area.
- What is the issue in relation to the closing of Thurles Skateboard Park.
- Traffic calming measures are needed in Moyne village, especially following the opening of a new café in the village.
- Road safety works are required in Thurles from Thurles Rugby Club out to Martin Shanahan's garage.
Landowners are prepared to give land free of charge in order to remove the bad bend on the road.
A footpath and lighting are also needed on this stretch of road.
- Moynard Cross is in need of upgrade works.
- Speeding through Borrisholeigh needs to be addressed through signage.
- A light needs repairing outside Rosslands on the N62.
- What is the update in relation to New Road, Roscrea - landowners have agreed to give some lands with agreement.
- Can the zebra crossing on Main Street, Templemore be relocated nearer the Post Office where most people are crossing the road, particularly the elderly?

Given the location of the zebra crossing close to the refurbishment works at Templemore Town Hall, can temporary safety works be undertaken to ensure the safety of those using it.



- What is the update in relation to the upgrading of Main Street, Roscrea?
- Overgrown hedges throughout the District need to be addressed.
- The road is not safe on the N62 at Knockanroe and Suir Bridge.
- Recurring potholes are an issue at Borrisbeg and more substantial works are required to prevent them from re-occurring.
- There is an issue of several potholes at Dromard Beg, between Ryan's of the Hill and the County Boundary.
- When will the speed limit review take place. There have been a lot of road traffic accidents in Tipperary and a review is required.
- Is there funding available to address the very poor surface on the N8 between the Horse & Jockey and Littleton village.
- What is the update regarding the provision of the flashing speed sign at the Horse & Jockey, Littleton and Two-Mile-Borris.
- What is the update in relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Liskeveen, Littleton.
- The road surface at Carney's Hill is in poor condition and requires attention.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:

- Road signage at Marlstone Manor, Thurles will be examined.
- A contractor has been engaged to examine the concerns regarding the surface of the skateboard park in Thurles Town Park. A funding source will have to be examined once refurbishment costs are known.
- Traffic calming measures at Moyne village will be examined
- The road at Loughtagalla from Thurles Rugby Club out as far as Martin Shanahan's garage will be examined.
- Remedial works at Moynard Cross will be carried out over the coming months.
- Development levies have been allocated to carry out speed reduction and junction safety measures in Borrisoleigh. Design works are ongoing.
- The precise location of the light in need of repair on the N62 outside Rosslands will need to be identified and will be reported to Airtricity for repair.
- New Road, Roscrea is an issue for Roads Capital and will be referred to them.
- The zebra crossing on Main Street, Templemore will not be relocated, however, a build-out may be provided to facilitate localised crossing to the relocated Post Office.
- A vision for the upgrading of Main Street has been identified through the Town Centre First Masterplan. The next phase of the process is to appoint a design team. A funding source will need to be identified and the project advanced through the planning process.
In the interim Main Street will be considered for inclusion in the 3-year Roads Programme to address its deteriorating surface
- The road surface at Knockanroe to Suir Bridge Road will be examined.



- The potholes in Borrisbeg will be examined.
- The road at Dromard Beg, between Ryan's of the Hill and the County Boundary will be examined.
- The MD are reliant on the GSSs in each area to identify high risk areas in need of hedge cutting. If there are any specific areas that need to be addressed please advise the District.
- There are currently developments ongoing at national level regarding the speed limit review and a new Speed Limit Guidance Document is expected to issue to local authorities in early 2024.
- An application for funding to address the poor road surface on the N8 between the Horse & Jockey and Littleton village will be submitted to the Department.
- The provision of flashing speed signs at the Horse & Jockey, Littleton and Two-Mile-Borris will be prioritised in the coming weeks.
- The Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Liskeveen, Littleton will be submitted to the Department this year.
- Carney's Hill is a regional road that is prone to ice. Drainage works to help alleviate the problem in the area are being investigated.

8. 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 and taken as read: -

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 mid-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.								
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>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	9	In Progress	6	TOTAL	16
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TOTAL	16								

Members raised the following queries: -

- When will construction works commence at the Littleton Labyrinth?

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- Construction works on the Littleton Labyrinth have commenced today.

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

Following discussion, it was agreed amongst the Members to submit the same 4 roads that were submitted for 2022 as priority roads for inclusion on the Agenda for Tipperary County Council's meeting with TII.

It was further agreed that the N62 Templemore to Thurles Road would include the addition of the N62 at Templemore to Junction 22. The three priority national roads are as follows: -



- Thurles By-Pass
- Junction at Turtulla Cross, Thurles
- Tullaskeagh, Roscrea
- N62 Templemore to Thurles, to include the N62 at Templemore to Junction 22.

10. Notice of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin – ID 2671

Councillor S. Hanafin formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name: -

“I am requesting a meeting with Management from Roads Capital, Tipperary County Council and the Safety Officer of TII, to discuss safety issues on national and secondary roads in Thurles and all approach roads to Thurles.”

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

“If there is a consensus among the Elected Members of Thurles MD to seek a meeting with Roads Capital, Tipperary County Council and the Safety Officer of TII to discuss safety issues on national and secondary roads within Thurles District and all approach roads to Thurles, the District will formally write on behalf of the Members to TII requesting same.”

Councillor Hanafin expressed his satisfaction with the reply. He stated that there are two national roads that both feed into Liberty Square, Thurles and these roads are not built for the very high volume of traffic they receive. This issue has been raised with the TII every year for at least the last 10 years and we need to know why the TII are not making it a priority to get a Thurles By-Pass on the NDP.

Following the resurfacing by the TII last year of the N62 from Pouldine into Thurles the road is now less safe than it used to be as other road users, apart from motorists, were not considered by the TII during the upgrade.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan - ID 2672

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

“In light of the recent tragedy in Liberty Square, I am calling on this District Council to request a meeting with the Minister for Transport to see if he can be convinced to include the By-Pass project for Thurles in the current National Development Plan.”



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

“If there is a consensus among the elected Members of Thurles MD to seek a meeting with the Minister for Transport requesting inclusion of a By-Pass around Thurles on the 2040 National Development Plan, then the District will formally write, on behalf of the Members, to the Department of Transport requesting same.”

Councillor Ryan stated he was happy with the response. He stated that this is now a health and safety issue for Thurles. The issue also impacts on air pollution, damage to vehicles and buildings and therefore a meeting with the Minister is necessary to see why a by-pass has not been included on the NDP.

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan - ID 2673

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

“I am calling on this District Council to carry out a safety and traffic survey on Butler, Iona and Innisfallen Avenues in Thurles due to the huge number of traffic that use this road on a daily basis. Residents have requested action to be taken to slow down traffic along this road on health and safety grounds.”

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

“As part of the Thurles Local Transport Plan (LTP) detailed surveys were carried out and recommendations were presented to Councillors in the form of two workshops earlier in the year. The LTP recommendations identified traffic calming, footpath enhancements, reduction in speed limits to 30kph on Butler, Iona and Innisfallen Avenue along with numerous other strategic measures for the wider town.

The Thurles Local Transport Plan has recently been on public display. Therefore, we will wait until the completion of the Thurles Local Area Plan and Thurles Local Transport Plan process to assess the implementation of any recommendations.”

Councillor Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the reply. He stated that a safe place to cross for residents of the area is required half-way down the Avenues.

11. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.



12. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:


- The family of Cllr. Damien O'Reilly, Kilcock, Co. Meath following his sudden passing. Damien was a Member of Meath County Council.
- The family of Tessie Ryan (Bob) nee O'Shea Cashel and formerly Templemore whose brother Jim was a former Town Councillor with Templemore Urban District Council.
- The Presentation Community and Congregation, Thurles on the passing of Sr. Theophane Doyle.
- The family of Frank Brohan, Benedine, Nenagh. Frank was a former Engineer with North Tipperary County Council.
- The Ryan (Jerry) family, Upperchurch on the recent passing of Ann Marie.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Drom & Inch GAA Club on winning the Mid Junior B Hurling title.

13. Any Other Business.

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

SIGNED:  DATE: 16th October, 2023
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 16th October, 2023
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

