



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 16th SEPTEMBER 2024

Present: Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Kay Cahill Skehan, William Kennedy, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy Ryan and Seán Ryan.

Also Present:

Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

Apologies: Mark Connolly Director of Services

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District July 2024 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15th July 2024 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 To formally approve the three-year Roadworks Programme 2025 – 2027.

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

"That Thurles Municipal District's three-year Roadworks Programme 2025-2027 be formally approved."



4.1 Attendance by Ann Marie Fleming, Biodiversity officer, Tipperary County Council.

This item was deferred to the October MD Meeting.

4.2 Update from Environment and Climate Action Section

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Kieran McKenna, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action were in attendance for this item. An Environment Report for the period 01/07/2024 to 31/08/2024 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- What is the update from the EPA regarding the historical landfills in Thurles at Britttas Road and Leugh. There are concerns in the area regarding safety, seepages and environmental damage from the sites.
- What can be done to deal with the issue of abandoned dogs in the County? Are there stringent fines in place or campaigns run to raise attention of the issue as the control of dogs appears to be a serious matter in the County with a high number of dogs surrendered/seized so far this year. However, it was noted that not all dog owners are irresponsible.
- There is an ongoing issue with dumping in certain blackspot areas. When blackspot areas are identified, can CCTV be used in those locations?
- Only 5 of the 25 recent recipients of the Community Climate Action Fund were in decarbonized areas. Can money be ringfenced in the 2nd tranche to specifically assist those in decarbonized areas.
- What is the update regarding the renovation of the wall at Fenor graveyard which is an historical structure.
- Previous correspondence received from Environment and Climate Action in relation to an illegal dumping issue at a private site in Glentara Roscrea to be discussed further.
- Can CCTV be used to monitor the pit for dead foliage at Parkmore Cemetery Roscrea as people are using it for dumping household waste.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The EPA deal with all historical landfill sites. TCC submitted its comments following the issuing by the EPA of a draft decision in relation to the Britttas Road landfill site in August 2023. No further update has issued from the EPA in this regard. The EPA have not liaised with TCC to date regarding the Leugh landfill site.
- Responsible dog ownership is a serious issue and most dog owners are dependable. The number of seized/abandoned dogs is significant and the dog control unit go over and above what is required of them in



trying to secure an owner for a dog but currently resources are full to capacity. There are campaigns in place regarding responsible dog ownership.

- The use of covert CCTV is permitted in blackspot areas to tackle dumping but it is governed by GDPR. The issue will be examined by Environment and Climate Action.
- The parameters for the Community Climate Action Fund Schemes are determined nationally. Discussions to change the parameters may happen for future tranches of the funding but currently all applicants have equal status.
- The wall at Fenor graveyard will be examined and an update will refer back to the MD.
- The issue of illegal dumping on private land is not the responsibility of the Council. However, Environment and Climate Action Section will liaise with Housing Section regarding the illegal dumping at a private site in Glentara, Roscrea.
- The illegal dumping at the pit in Parkmore Cemetery will be examined and an update will be referred back to the MD.

4.3 Update from LAWPRO. and 6.1 Notices of Motion.

The Update from LAWPRO and the Notice of Motion were taken in tandem.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan – Id 2869

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

I am calling on all the relevant bodies to come together to formulate a future plan for the River Suir in Thurles. Currently it is completely overgrown with vegetation, there is no flow or depth and there is always the continuous problem of the green algae forming on the surface. It has become an eyesore and an embarrassment to the town.

Reply to Notice of Motion:

Thurles MD proposes to seek agreement from the relevant bodies to come together to discuss a future plan for the River Suir in Thurles.

LAWPRO will also support the development of a plan.

The factors driving excessive vegetation growth, sedimentation and nuisance algae within the catchment will need to be addressed as part of this plan.

A catchment wide approach to nutrient and river channel management will need to be taken, together with a targeted focus on active management of



the river both within and outside the town – to be developed and agreed with the relevant authorities.

Fran Igoe, Regional Coordinator and Mags Morrissey LAWPRO were in attendance for this item. A LAWPRO Briefing Note dated September, 2024 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Fran gave a presentation to the Members on the Water Action Plan 2024 which is Ireland's roadmap to protect and restore our rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater. He outlined to the Members that the quality of river water in County Tipperary is not meeting the required standards at only 33% satisfaction rate, down from 61% in 2010-2012. A rapid assessment of water quality indicators downstream and upstream of Thurles Bridge was undertaken on 11.09.2024 with very poor results. There is almost no aquatic life and there is a high level of silt, algae and river weed evident and he outlined the approach to developing a Thurles/River Suir Management Plan.

Councillor J. Ryan welcomed the reply to the Notice of Motion and he stressed the importance of including angling and fishing clubs in any future plan for the area. He queried if it is possible for TCC to clean out the river as was recently done by Kilkenny County Council at the King's River in Callan, Co. Kilkenny.

Councillor J. Ryan stated that local fishing clubs have claimed that TCC Wastewater Treatment Plan in Holycross is discharging directly into the river and that there are other discharge areas where it is evident that the river is being polluted as a brown scum is forming on the surface and specifying that there are 17 pipes discharging into the river between the area of Thurles bridge down to the back of Dunnes Stores Thurles.

He said that reports of oil flowing into the river have been reported to TCC and that anglers are concerned at the state of the river for the All Ireland Junior Fishing Competition which is due to be held in Holycross later this month. Given the very poor state of the river, he advised that a commitment to implement the plan must be forthcoming and asked when the process will commence and from where will the funding be sourced.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- It is very important that there is communication with the public to explain the issues and plans for the R. Suir in order that there is buy-in for this project as the current mood in Thurles suggests disappointment with biodiversity in the town.
- Why is this same river in a much nicer state further downstream in Cahir?



- Is there funding available to deal with minor flood mitigation works on rivers such as that obtained by Laois CC recently for river works that include removing deadwood/debris and tree pruning; the River Breaghagh, a tributary of the River Suir which flows through Littleton, is regularly subject to flooding.
- What works can be undertaken with the budget available for river drainage.
- What is the update regarding the works at the weir in the Little Brosna river in Roscrea
- How is the plan to be funded?
- The Mall, Templemore is in a very poor state with overgrown weeds and only a trickle of water flowing through.
- Lots of farmers are spending significant amounts of money in slurry storage in order to comply with the EU Nitrates Derogation and more grant aid is needed, however, some farmers are simply not complying with the regulations and if the water quality does not improve the EU derogation will be reduced again.

Fran replied to queries as follows:-

- It is likely that the vegetation in the Thurles area is taking the nutrients. If you remove all the vegetation then the nitrates will move upstream thereby moving the problem upstream.
- LAWPRO will make enquiries regarding funding for the River Breaghagh in Littleton to deal with minor flood mitigation works.
- The Scoping Plan, which will take approximately 6 months, will identify costs and funding sources.
- The Mall, Templemore will be examined and LAWPRO will work with the various authorities in this regard.
- The EU Nitrates derogation is very important to Ireland and we have to demonstrate to the EU that we can manage our own industries. Poor practices from some farmers not following the regulations need to be addressed.

5.1 District Engineer's Report and

5.2 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

Item 5.1 District Engineer's Report and Item 5.2 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan were both taken together at the Meeting.

An updated District Engineer's Report and an updated report on the Capital Projects for the MD, as outlined in the table below, were circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.



Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Decision on the Part 8 at the October District Meeting. Tendering to commence Q4 2024 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design. Discussions with the National URDF team will be required in 2024 once Part 8 is approved and detailed design completed to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction commenced in August 2024 with a programme timeline of 14 months.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Finalise the licence agreement, complete final snags, official opening date TBC.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Appointment of Consultants to carry out a Feasibility Study in progress. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q4 2024.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	It is planned that construction works will take 14 months to complete, September 2024.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Brief for the engagement of a design team complete. An external design team will be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding department in Q2 2024.
Main Street Enhancement Works, Roscrea	Finalise the initial Design Brief and Scope of Works and proceed to Tender Stage for the engagement of an external Design Team in Q3 2024 to develop designs and advance the project through the Part 8 planning process, subject to funding availability and tenders received.



Vacant Housing Units	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	3
	In Progress	8
	Awaiting budget	0
	TOTAL	13

The Members raised the following issues: -

- When will the car park at the Littleton Labyrinth open.
- Can the Project Pipeline be revisited to determine those projects that are feasible and those that are unattainable?
- What is the update regarding the refurbishment of Thurles Skateboard Park and is there a funding source to undertake the works.
- How will the discovery of bats in the Market Quarter Farm Building affect the overall timeframe of the project?
- What is the timeframe for the completion of the works at the Town Hall, Templemore.

Replies to issues raised were as follows: -

- The MD are currently awaiting signing of the lease agreement before the car park at Littleton Labyrinth can be opened. The brand signage will be put in place this week.
- A meeting and workshop will be scheduled to re-examine the Project Pipeline in order to identify those project that are feasible from those that are not.
- A funding source is still being sought for the refurbishment works required at Thurles Skateboard Park. These works are going to have a considerable cost.
- The discovery of bats in the Market Quarter Farm Building will delay the building works by approximately three weeks, however, it is hoped that the Contractor may be able to pull that time back.
- Internal works at Templemore Town Hall are substantially complete and have been handed over to the Library with only external paving works remaining. It is anticipated that the works will be complete within the next 4 to 6 weeks, however IT systems and library books will have to be put in place before the building opens.

The District Engineer advised that a number of small to medium projects have been completed or are nearing completion, namely:-

- The Ragg – a substantial project which has been actively progressed by the MD for the last 4 years. Primary objectives to improve sightlines and reduce speeding through the village. Funding stream was through Low Cost Safety, Development Levies and NTA Bus Stop funding.



Subject to land agreements and funding there may be further works to enhance pedestrian access routes and speed reduction measures in the future.

- Ballycahill – resurfacing, footpath, pedestrian crossing and speed reduction measures. The project was funded using Road Improvements funding and GMA monies.
- Borrisoleigh – Pedestrian crossing between the primary school buildings and replacement of ramps. The project was funded using Development Levies.
- Bohernacrusha – resurfacing, speed reduction measures including the installation of a speed table at the junction and junction tightening. The project was funded using Development Levies and Road Improvement funding.

The District Engineer outlined that there are a number of other district projects moving to construction in the coming weeks. It is envisaged that Section 38's will issue for the Templemore Road junction in Borrisoleigh and the Lisheen junction in Templetuohy before the year end so that there is a steady stream of small to medium size projects delivered in 2025.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Can a Low-Cost Safety Scheme be implemented at Liskeveen, Littleton?
- Road improvement works are needed on the old N8 between Littleton and the Horse and Jockey.
- What is the approved lighting funding of €15,000 going to be spent on?
- Have the TII given any indication as to when road improvement works on the N75 Thurles to Two-Mile-Borris Road will take place.
- When will the new signage for Littleton be installed?
- Road safety measures are required at Drom School.
- Road safety works are required near the roundabout at Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea.
- Road lining and stop bars are required at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- The Birr to Roscrea Road on the N62 is in a very poor state of repair and needs to be addressed.
- The wall at the CIE bridge in Cloughmartin, Thurles has collapsed and requires attention.
- When will the Source carpark reopen?
- Can an application under a Low-Cost Safety Scheme be made to remove the bad bend on the road at Loughtagalla Thurles?
- Issue with public lighting at Monakeeba housing estate, Thurles where approximately 15-20 lights are not working. The area is pitch dark and requires attention.



- Who is responsible for the right-hand side of St. Mary's Graveyard as you enter? The area is in a very poor state of repair.
- What is the update regarding the provision of street lighting at Dew Valley Meats on the outskirts of Thurles town.
- The road markings on Liberty Square Thurles are very faint in some parts and need to be refreshed.
- What can be done to address the issue of speeding on Castle Avenue/Matthew Avenue, Thurles.
- Are there any plans afoot to remove the all-day parking from those car parks in Thurles town that have it? It can be very difficult to secure a parking spot in some of these carparks, in particular Slievenamon Road.
- The public lighting at Brittas Road, Thurles needs to be addressed as the lighting is very poor and the area is very dark.
- Can traffic calming measures be introduced at Moyne School where speeding and heavy traffic are an issue.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The MD intend to make an application for a Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Liskeveen, Littleton.
- The MD will apply for funding under Former National Roads for road improvement works on the old N8 between Littleton and the Horse and Jockey.
- The €15,000 budget secured for lighting will be spent on infills outside Templemore on the Borrisoleigh Road and at Cabra, Thurles.
- Currently the TII have stated that there is no funding available to undertake the road improvement works on the N75 Thurles to Two-Mile-Borris Road this year. They will re-visit the issue next year.
- The new signage for Littleton will be installed in the coming week.
- The MD will investigate the area around Drom School to determine if road safety measures are required.
- The MD will investigate the area near the roundabout at Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea to determine if road safety measures are required.
- Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be examined with regard to road lining and stop bars.
- The poor state of the N62 road from Birr to Roscrea will be discussed with the TII.
- The MD will liaise with CIE regarding the collapsed bridge at Cloughmartin, Thurles.
- Consultants have been appointed and are currently undertaking scoping works and pricing on the Source carpark Thurles to determine the necessary works required before it can be safely reopened.
- The MD intends to make an application under a Low-Cost Safety Scheme for road improvement works at Loughtagalla Thurles.
- A new maintenance contract for public lighting is now in place. Currently teams are being put in place and the backlog of street



lighting will be addressed. The lighting in Monakeeba housing estate, Thurles will be addressed as part of this backlog of works.

- There is a long outstanding historical legal issue regarding ownership of St. Mary's Burial ground. A meeting scheduled for later this week is anticipated to resolve the issue after which it is envisioned that the MD will begin the process to formally take the burial ground under its ownership.
- The MD is currently not progressing the provision of street lighting at Dew Valley Meats, Thurles as it is located outside the speed limit area.
- The road markings on Liberty Square Thurles will be examined.
- Speeding issue at Castle Avenue/Matthew Avenue, Thurles will be examined, however, speed ramps cannot be installed in isolation and can only be installed if all other measures have failed. The results of the National Speed Limit, when complete, may have a positive effect in the area.
- The review of the existing Bye-Laws which will allow the MD to remove all day car parking from town centre carparks is currently on-hold while Roads Section undertake a countywide review of parking. It is anticipated that the review will be complete before the year end.
- The poor public lighting at Brittas Road, Thurles will be referred to the Public Lighting Engineer, Roads Section, for examination.
- Thurles MD liaises with all schools in the District. Traffic calming measures at Moyne School were proposed some years ago which would have resulted in the loss of some parking spaces, however, the school decided not to go ahead with the works at the time.

6.1 Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan – Id 2869

This Item was taken with Item 4.3 above.

7.1 Correspondence.

Councillor J. Ryan requested that the MD write to the owner of private land at the back of Rosemount housing estate, Thurles regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour.

In response it was agreed that as this was private land, the matter would be raised with An Garda Síochána at the next Community Safety meeting.

8.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to:

- Sinead Carr, Chief Executive on the passing of her mother Catherine Curley (née Reid) (RIP), late of The Pines, Cornamagh, Athlone, Westmeath.



There were no Votes of Congratulations.

9.1 Any Other Business.

As there was no other business, this concluded the official business of the September Municipal District Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21st October 2024

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21st October 2024

