



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 20TH JANUARY 2025

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:

Mark Connolly	Director of Services
Liam Brett	Director of Services
Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District December 2024 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 16th December 2024 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Update from LAWPRO.

Fran Igoe, Regional Director, LAWPRO was in attendance for this item. Fran gave a presentation to the Members, which will be circulated to them following the meeting. The report outlined the following:

- Water quality in Tipperary is only 33% satisfactory (61% satisfactory during 2010-2012)
- Kick sample at R. Suir in September 2024 showed a very poor result with almost no aquatic life present and a high level of silt, algae and river weed.
- R. Suir Pilot Management Plan process
 - Initial scoping
 - Meeting of agencies and relevant experts



- Initial Project Plan
- Further investigations if necessary
- Medium and long-term implementation and resourcing of plans recommendations.

- **Suggested Project phases**

Phase 1 scoping 4-6 months

Recommend that a Consultant be appointed to focus on:

- Collating of information
- Identifying agencies to be involved and which are best placed to lead the development of the Pilot Management Plan
- Interviewing local stakeholders
- Mapping out all the issues (aesthetics and flood risk information)
- Water quality in the town and wider catchment (Drainage Area Plan, storm overflows assessment in Thurles, action desk study, sediment analysis and hydromorphological assessment)
- Biodiversity – incorporate into TCC’s Biodiversity Action Plan
- Climate change considerations – linking in with the Carbon DZ under the Tipperary CC LA CAP
- Public Realm and Thurles Riverside Plan

Phase 2 Medium term implementation as determined by Phase 1

- Recruit a Plan Manager
- Roll out catchment water quality initiative
- Implement recommendations from Phase 1
- Public realm and Thurles riverside management
- Develop longer term management and maintenance programme

Phase 3 Longer term implementation

- Implementation of the recommendations from Phase 1 and 2
- Funding and implementation of large-scale infrastructure interventions or capital projects aligned with the Thurles Local Areas Action Plan and the Water Action Plan 2024.

- LAWPRO is currently driving the roll-out of catchment water quality initiatives but an expansion of effort could include support from Tipperary CC, Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Action and Thurles MD.

The Members requested that any future reports be circulated in advance of the Meeting and they raised the following queries: -

- Is there an update regarding the works at the Weir in Roscrea.
- It is important that, along with all other relevant stakeholders, local angling clubs be involved in the River Suir Plan.



- The combined sewer system in Thurles proves to be problematic from time to time; can Uisce Eireann be asked to address the issues earlier than the estimated timeframe of 2027/2028.
- With regard to the River Suir Plan;
 - what will be the cost of the plan?
 - who will fund the plan?
 - what is the timescale for the plan?
 - should there be just one body overseeing the plan as opposed to several different bodies being involved?
- It is important that there is agreement as to who will be the lead Agency i.e. will it be TCC, consultants, relevant agencies, etc.
- Could funding, similar to that obtained by Laois CC under the Minor Flood Mitigation and Coastal Works Scheme, be accessed.
- Will the R. Suir catchment area be included, i.e. tributaries of the river, such as the River Breagagh in Littleton which is subject to flooding.
- Farmers control 6% of the land area in the R. Suir catchment area; What percentage of them attended the recent talk in Clonakenny.
- Based on a report from the recent meeting at Cabragh, it would appear that the Templemore Sewerage Scheme is responsible for significant discharge into the R. Suir
- What can the forestry section do to alleviate discharge into the River.
- How difficult is it to manage the water flow-off from land into Rivers?
- Following a two-day information session in Clonakenny recently held by LAWPRO and Centenary Co-op, would LAWPRO be in a position to provide funding support to a community group in Clonakenny who require seed money to undertake a feasibility study.
- The issue of the combined sewer system in Friar Street, Thurles is a concern following a rain deluge.
- A scoping document will be required which may take 4-6 months. A consultant should be appointed to ensure that the scoping document is immediately followed up on.
- Uisce Eireann have stated that they intend to advance the issue of the combined sewer network in Thurles and it is important that this goes ahead without delay as a separate project from the River Suir Management Plan. It will however need to tie in with the R. Suir Management Project.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- LAWPRO have met with Inland Fisheries in connection with the Weir at Roscrea. If a feasibility study for the Weir is undertaken then the project can be included in the ranking of projects which is currently being undertaken by LAWPRO.
- Angling clubs, along with other stakeholders will be involved in the River Suir Management Plan as local knowledge is invaluable. Trinity College are eager to get involved. Community groups will be needed.



- With regard to the River Suir Plan the cost is currently unknown but will be established during the Scoping Phase. It is not yet known how the Plan will be funded but there will have to be multiple agencies involved.
- The appointment of a lead party to the River Suir Plan has not yet been finalised.
- Funding of the project, under the Minor Flood Mitigation and Coastal Works, (as accessed by Laois CC) is not the right funding model for this project.
- The R. Suir catchment area will be included in the Plan, i.e. tributaries of the river, such as the River Breaghagh in Littleton.
- Nothing can be done to improve the discharge by Templemore Sewerage Scheme into the River as it is due to the design nature of the plant itself, However the discharge is not putting significant pressure on the river.
- Funding is available under the Community Water Development Fund to support projects from community groups. Funding for 2025 is now closed, however it will open again for 2026 grant applications. It is likely that if a group were successful in getting funding for the technical element of a project, they should qualify for funding for the capital element, provided the project is a water quality programme.
- LAWPRO had no update regarding the combined sewer system in Friar Street, Thurles, however, Councillor P. Ryan read from correspondence she received from Uisce Éireann which stated that there is scope for the inclusion of the combined sewer network into the N62 Pavement Improvement Scheme on Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- It is important that Consultants are appointed to ensure a follow-on from the Scoping Document.

3.2 Update from Environment & Climate Action.

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Nicola Keating, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment & Climate Action Section were in attendance for this item. An Environment and Climate Action section Update for the period 01/09/2024 to 31/12/2024 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Can Environment & Climate Action Section consider the introduction of salt bins under the Local Authority Climate Action Plan.
- What is the update regarding the use of CCTV and drone technology to assist with the prevention of illegal dumping. Tidy Town Committees will be undertaking their Spring Clean and such technology will help to deter dumping.
- The wall at Fenor Graveyard is in a poor stage of repair and requires attention.



- What can be done to address the issue of items being robbed from graves at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.
- Has the issue of an apparent discharge by Holycross Treatment Plant into the River Suir been investigated and if so what was the outcome?
- Action needs to be taken with regard to the derelict building on Friar Street, Thurles (beside Supervalu supermarket) which poses a danger to the public as slates are falling off the roof.
- Issue of illegal dumping after Christmas at Kylanna Lane, Clonakenny. There are receipts in the waste which might provide evidence as to who the perpetrators are.
- Can anything be done to deal with a house in Templemore that is utilising resources as it needs to be cleaned out every 6 months.
- Can Environment look at the issue of an illegal encampment at the graveyard in Templemore.
- Did many people apply for the Certificate of Exemption for the XL Bully dog and who will take responsibility for policing the law going forward?
- What can be done to tackle the 20% of people who are not compliant with household waste collection.
- Can TCC look at increasing the grants available to volunteer community groups who maintain our cemeteries.

Replies to queries were as follows: -

- The provision of salt bins in Districts falls under the remit of Roads Section.
- The Policies and Procedures for the roll-out of CCTV technology to assist with the prevention of illegal dumping is currently ongoing within Environment & Climate Action Section. They must ensure that any evidence is admissible in Court as that has been an issue heretofore.
- The wall at Fenor Graveyard is actively being looked at by Environment Section
- The issue of items being taken from graves at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles will be investigated further.
- Inland Fisheries are taking the lead regarding the apparent discharge into the River Suir by the Holycross Treatment Plant and the EPA have been notified. An update on the outcome will be referred back to the MD.
- The derelict building on Friar Street, Thurles (beside Supervalu supermarket) is being actively progressed. A new unit has been established by TCC which will be progressing CPOs of derelict buildings.
- The issue of illegal dumping after Christmas at Kylanna Lane, Clonakenny will be investigated and any available evidence will be examined.
Enforcement Section have previously been successful where evidence of illegal dumping is available.
- The issue of an illegal encampment at Templemore Graveyard will be investigated.



- 13 dog owners applied for the Certificate of Exemption in respect of the XL Bully dog; 12 of which have been granted.
Dog licencing records, based on descriptions, would indicate that there are 21 such dogs in the County so there are, it would appear, still owners out there who have yet to apply for the Certificate of Exemption.
It will be illegal to own an XL Bully and not have a Certificate of Exemption from 01/02/2025.
- Environment & Climate Action Section will continue to engage with the 20% of homeowners that are not compliant with household waste collection in an effort to encourage compliance. If a household does not agree to sign up to a household waste supplier then the legal route can be employed.
- The Members, through their GMA allocation, agree the amount of grants available to volunteer community groups. It is entirely at the Members discretion if they wish to increase this allocation.

4.1 Dates to be set for Community Safety Meetings 2025.

It was agreed by the Members that the Community Safety Meetings for 2025 will be held at 9.30 a.m. on the following dates:

- Monday 17th February
- Monday 19th May
- Monday 15th September
- Monday 17th November

4.2 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 Members raised the following issues: -

- The Clonmore Road Templemore is too open and not safe following recent road improvements works and requires attention.
- What can be done to alleviate the speeding issue at the bad bend on the Dunkerrin Road.
- Can the double yellow lines, that have become faded, be reinstated at the Davis Road/Dunnes Stores roundabout junction to deal with the issue of illegal parking immediately outside entrances to houses.
- Ongoing issues with the air-to-water heating system at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe and dampness is consequently becoming an issue in a lot of the houses.
- Have the MD contacted Eir regarding the very poor state of the footpaths surrounding the Eir building at Castle Park, Thurles.
- What is the update regarding the provision of a bus shelter in Littleton village and Thurles town.



- Can measures be taken to alleviate the bad hairpin bend at Tonagha, immediately before Drish Bridge on the N75, where several road accidents have occurred.
- Will funding be made available to repair the roads that were damaged during the recent spell of very cold weather and can the Members bring forward their suggestions of such roads that will need to be included in the application.
- Kearney's Hill needs to be included in the MD's salting programme as it is badly affected during periods of icy weather.
- Is there any update regarding the provision of salt bunkers in various locations throughout the MD. The issue was recently raised at the SPC.
- What is the update regarding the provision of additional lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- What is the update regarding the lighting at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea where one of the lights has still not been repaired.
- A pedestrian safe crossing is required outside the GAA grounds at Toomevara.
- Can Housing Section do a presentation to Members in relation to the retrofitting of houses and the challenges that may arise as a result.
- What is the timeline for completion of the proposed road improvement works at Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices with regard to the allocation under Active Travel?
- Repair works required for lights at Templetuohy that are not working since last June.
- The temporary pedestrian crossing location in Templemore was a more suitable location than its current permanent location.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- Following the recent road improvements works on the Clonmore Road, Templemore, additional delineators and reflectors are to be installed in the area.
- The 60km speed limit on local roads is programmed to be implemented on 07.02.2025 and will assist with the issue of speeding at the bad bend on the Dunkerrin Road. Rumble strips will not be permitted in this area.
The new speed limits that come into effect next month may also have a positive affect on speeding in the area.
- The double yellow lines, that have become faded, will be reinstated at the Davis Road/Dunnes Stores roundabout junction.
- The ongoing issues with the air-to-water heating system at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe will be examined and discussed with the GSS.
- The MD will contact Eir to discuss the state of the footpaths surrounding their building which is still a fully functional building used by EIR.
- While Thurles Town might qualify for the provision of a bus shelter due to the number of services, the issue was examined previously and there is no suitable location available.



- Littleton village does not meet the criteria for the provision of a shelter. The issue will be looked at again in consultation with all relevant bodies.
- The issue regarding the bad hairpin bend at Tonagha, immediately before Drish Bridge on the N75, will be examined by the MD.
 - Roads Section will be submitting an application to the Department seeking funding to repair the roads that were damaged during the recent spell of very cold weather. Members can advise the MD ASAP if they are aware of any such roads that will be included in the application to the Department.
 - The inclusion of Kearney's Hill in the MD salt programme will be examined; however, the MD is currently at capacity with its salting programme and the inclusion of an additional route will negatively affect a currently salted route.
 - The feasibility of introducing salt bunkers at various locations throughout the MD is currently being examined by the SPC.
 - The provision of additional lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be discussed with the relevant Engineer.
 - Remedial works at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea will commence this week when the existing light heads will be taken down.
 - The provision of a pedestrian safe crossing outside the GAA grounds at Toomevara will be examined. The protocol on safe crossings will be adhered to.
 - TCC houses that have been retrofitted have all been surveyed by Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) to determine their suitability and the level of works required. Housing Section will be invited to make a presentation to the Members regarding the challenges that may arise as a result of retrofitting houses.
 - To qualify for the allocation under Active Travel the works at Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices must commence and be delivered by 2025.
 - The new lighting contractors are currently working in the District on the backlog of outstanding repairs and the repair works required for lights at Templetuohy will be addressed.
 - The location of the pedestrian crossing in Templemore will be examined. Changes, if any, to the current location, will require TII approval as it is on a national road. Footfall surveys will be carried out in the near future.

The District Engineer advised the Members that budgets will be available in the next four weeks after which a Workshop with the Members will be scheduled. It is anticipated that the Roads Programme will commence in early March.



4.3 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

An updated District Project Pipeline Plan for the MD, as outlined in the table below, was 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	Tendering to commence Q1 2025 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design. Discussions with the National URDF team will be required in 2025 now that 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. Construction works complete. Official opening date TBC – Q1 2025.
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. Final draft for review due in Q4 2024. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1 2025.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	It is planned that construction works will take 14 months to complete. Internal works complete, snagging and external works complete. Official opening took place on 3 rd December 2024 by Minister Heather Humphries. Additional works approved by the Department, external paving on both sides of the Town Hall, planters, barriers, IT equipment and safety measures internally. Works will be completed in Q1 2025.



<p>Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i></p>	<p>Brief for the engagement of a design team complete. Advertised on E Tenders on 8th November to procure a Design Consultant to carry out detailed design. Final date for submissions is 17th January, 2025. An external design team will be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding department in Q2 2024.</p>										
<p>Main Street Enhancement Works, Roscrea</p>	<p>The Project will now be put forward for the next RRD call in March. If successful under this funding stream, a brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a new design and upgrade of Main Street and laneways, to include public realm works that will invite people to stay and enjoy the dynamic town centre and enhance safety of all users.</p>										
<p>Reimagined Castle Street – Roscrea</p>	<p>Advertise on E-Tenders in January 2025. Procure Consultants and commence design.</p>										
<p>Vacant Housing Units</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit Works ongoing</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	3	At Inspections/Costings Stage	10	In Progress	6	Retrofit Works ongoing	1	TOTAL	20
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	3										
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In Progress	6										
Retrofit Works ongoing	1										
TOTAL	20										

A workshop with the Members is scheduled for Wednesday 29th January at 2 p.m. to review the Project Pipeline.

5.1 Notice of Motion.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seán Ryan – NOM ID 2920

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

That with the agreement of the elected members that the Thurles Municipal District would write to Uisce Eireann and express the serious concerns that exist in relation to the reliability of the water supply in Gortnahoe & Ballysloe which are serviced by the Killenaule supply and also in rural areas such as Clonamicklon, Kilbraugh and Foilacam which are serviced by the Coolbrook supply.



Over the last two months the supply on both lines has broken down on several occasions leaving residents without supply for days and with very low water pressure on a number of occasions.

Reply to NOM ID 2920

If there is consensus among the elected members, Thurles MD will write to Uisce Eireann and express the serious concerns that exist in relation to the reliability of the water supply in Gortnahoe & Ballysloe which are serviced by the Killenaule supply and also in rural areas such as Clonamicklon, Kilbraugh and Foilacam which are serviced by the Coolbrook supply.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor K. Cahill-Skehan and resolved.

The Members stated the following:

- Over the last several weeks Ballysloe, Gortnahoe and Coolbrook have had several water outages or low pressure which is affecting schools and the elderly. Those three villages should be connected to the Fethard Water Supply.
- The existing network consists of old pipes and it is only a matter of time before another leak takes place and consequently a further outage.
- It is understood that the Government Apple tax rebate will be used to address old pipeline infrastructure and this needs to be referenced in the letter.
- Uisce Eireann need to give a talk to the Members from a capital perspective viewpoint as the issue being experienced in the Gortnahoe area is being replicated all over the District and Uisce Eireann is so disjointed that it is hard to know what is happening on the ground.
- Councillor P. Ryan read out a reply she received directly from Uisce Eireann regarding the outages in the area. The reply stated that the existing reservoir in the area is empty and is currently under repair. Furthermore, a new 5km length of trunk water main, of which 2km is completed, will be installed
- Residents in these areas are being treated appallingly and the installation of a new 5km water main will not resolve the issue.
- The Cathaoirleach acknowledged his support for the Motion and asked that the MD request a meeting with Uisce Eireann for the March Monthly Meeting and also that the MD follow up on the direct reply that Councillor P. Ryan received from Uisce Eireann.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.



7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of sympathy were extended to:

- The family of the late Tom Murray (RIP), Shanacloon, Clonakenny, Roscrea; father of NTDC Chairman Michael Murray.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Presentation Convent Secondary School, Thurles, on winning the Schools Munster A Camogie title following their win over the Ursuline Convent Thurles.
- Margo Hayes, Economic, Community and Rural Development who will depart TCC on 24th January as she takes up the role of Senior Executive Officer with Kilkenny County Council.
- Thurles native, Eddie Enright, Manager of Watergrasshill Hurling Team following their recent win in the Co-op Super-Stores Premier Intermediate Hurling Championship.

8.1 Any Other Business.

The Meetings Administrator advised the Members of the following: -

- The Zoom facility in the Chamber is currently not working. IT Section are currently advertising on E-tenders for a new system which, it is anticipated, should be up and running by the Summer.
- Ger Walsh, Senior Executive Officer, HR Section will be in the Thurles MD building this afternoon from 2p.m. onwards if any Member wishes to speak with him.

That concluded the official business of the January Meeting.

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 17th February 2025

SIGNED:


MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 17th February 2025