



## **MINUTES OF THE APRIL MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<b><u>Also Present:</u></b>	Mark Connolly	Director of Services
	Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
	Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
	Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
	Sharon Scully	District Administrator
	Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Eddie Moran  
Thomas Duffy, District Engineer

### **1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.**

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

### **2.1 Minutes of March Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

It was proposed by Councillor K. Cahill-Skehan, seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District March 2025 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3.1 Formally approve Thurles Municipal District Parking Bye Laws 2025**

Tony O'Mara, Senior Executive Technician, Thurles MD was in attendance for this item.

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

"That the Thurles Municipal District Parking Bye Laws 2025 be approved."



### **3.2 Formally approve Thurles Town Pollinator Plan and Grass Mowing Plan for public consultation**

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

"That the Thurles Municipal District Town Pollinator Plan and Grass Mowing Plan be approved for public consultation on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2025."

### **4.1 Update from Planning and Development/Emergency Services**

Shane Grogan, A/Senior Executive Officer, Jonathan Flood, Senior Executive Planner and Teresa Kiely, Administrative Officer, Planning and Development/Emergency Services were in attendance for the meeting. A Planning Briefing Note dated April 2025 for Thurles Municipal District was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Has there been any update from Uisce Eireann (UE) regarding the taking-in-charge of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) estates, such as Hayfield Manor, Thurles.
- Have there been any submissions for 2025 under the R2LT
- What type of application will be made in relation to Thurles and the URDF Call 3 which deals particularly with dereliction.
- Has there been any update regarding the taking-in-charge of Orchard Court, Templemore. There are elderly people living in the estate, there is no lighting and issues in the estate regarding burglaries and cars being broken into.
- Is there an age limit for recruitment into the Emergency Services Fire section, and if so is the age set locally or nationally?

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- There has been no update from Uisce Eireann (UE) regarding the taking-in-charge of Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) estates.
- 23 submissions have been received under the R2LT, 9 of which relate to lands in Thurles MD. The submissions are currently being examined.
- 77 applications countywide under the RRDF Call3, 13 of which apply to Thurles. 6 of these applications have been progressed and 7 are currently under negotiations.  
None of the €5m allocated under this scheme has been spent to date but TCC are actively looking at properties and making developers aware of the scheme.
- Uisce Eireann (UE) have been allocated responsibility for dealing with DPI estates nationally. An Inter Government Committee has been established to liaise between the Government and Local Authorities and



Orchard Court estate cannot be taken-in-charge until all issues in relation to DPI estates have been resolved.

UE do not have the financial resources to address the DPI estates nationally and it will be several years before this issue is resolved at a national level.

- The age limit for recruitment into the Emergency Services Fire section is likely set nationally, however, the MD will seek clarity from HR.

### 5.1 To formally approve grants in the following categories:-

- **Burial Ground Grants**
- **Tidy Towns Grants**
- **Residents Association Grants**
- **Grants to Sporting Organisations**
- **Festival & Event Grants**

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Will the Tidy Towns Committees, from hereon, be insured through Irish Public Bodies (IPB) and what will the procedure be?
- The grant of €700 awarded to burial ground committees is very small, especially considering that most of these graveyards are council owned. The level of work undertaken by burial ground committees is vast, including, amongst other things, grass cutting, wheelie bin management, and insurance.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- A new national initiative has been introduced whereby Irish Public Bodies will now cover insurance for Tidy Towns Committees across Ireland.  
Thurles MD are currently in the process of writing out to the Tidy Towns Committees to inform them that the IPB will provide their insurance from hereon and the IPB will engage directly with the committees.
- The burial ground grant is awarded by Thurles Municipal District on behalf of Environment Section. The amount of the grant is a countywide decision.  
Cllr. Kennedy should submit a specific request to the MD Director requesting that the level of grant be examined and this will be examined in conjunction with the 2026 TCC budget.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy that:-

"The Thurles Municipal Grants in the following categories be approved."

- Burial Ground Grants



- Tidy Towns Grants
- Residents Association Grants
- Grants to Sporting Organisations
- Festival & Event Grants

## **5.2 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:-

- Are the MD responsible for trees in housing estates as some street lighting is being blocked by overgrown trees such as in Willowmere Drive and Cluain Glás, Thurles.
- The lights at the pedestrian crossing at Abbey Road, Thurles are still not working.
- Road markings are needed at the roundabout on the Mill Road/Kickham Street junction as the markings have completely faded.
- Can additional car parking spaces be installed at Cabra Court, Thurles as there are not sufficient car parking spaces in the estate resulting in drivers parking their cars on the green area.
- When will the white lining and vertical indicators repair/replacement programme commence.
- A redundant traffic island on the N8 is prohibiting homeowners from driving directly into their houses and they must go up the road and turn around in order to gain access to their homes.
- How will the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) be allocated in relation to new applicants when the scheme opens in July.  
Should TCC suspend the new scheme for the moment while we work on the list of applicants we already have.
- Cllr. S. Ryan requested that it be noted that at no point did he suggest at the March Monthly Meeting that the barrier outside Supermacs, Thurles was damaged by bad HGV drivers.
- Can anything be done to address the issue of water lodging outside homeowner gates and splashing into their yards

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The MD do generally not remove any trees unless they are dangerous or are blocking street lighting.  
The issue of trees blocking street lighting at Willowmere Drive and Cluain Glás, Thurles will be investigated.
- The MD are still waiting on the ESB to make the connection for the lights at the pedestrian crossing at Abbey Road, Thurles. The MD will contact the ESB again to try and expediate the matter.



- The faded road markings on the roundabout at the Mill Road/Kickham Street junction will be investigated.
- Additional car parking spaces were installed at Cabra Court, Thurles a few years ago and currently there is no available budget to install any further spaces. Furthermore, the MD must comply with planning regulations whereby a certain percentage of the land must be dedicated to green space area.
- The white lining and vertical indicators repair/replacement programme has commenced and will be ongoing over the next few weeks. Any proposals of areas that may need to be addressed should be submitted to the MD.
- The issue of a redundant traffic island on the N8 that is prohibiting homeowners from driving directly into their houses will be examined, however, funding for former national roads will not cover the removal of the island.
- TCC has submitted its list of eligible applications under the LIS scheme to the Department for approval.  
The LIS scheme will be advertised later this year and it is important that existing applicants are not disadvantaged over new applicants. TCC have never ignored a call for the LIS Scheme previously, however, Roads Section will revert back to the Members before any decision is made.
- If the water that is lodging outside people's gates is coming from the road then it is the responsibility of the MD. The specific area in question can be investigated.

### **5.3 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan**

A revised 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
<b>THURLES</b>	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Progress with construction works, planned completion date November 2025.
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 and TII will be required in 2025 when detailed design is complete to finalise costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.
Mill road Footpath (phase 2)	ORIS funding application submitted 2025.



Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Funding under Community Recognition Fund sought.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Consultants appointed to carry out a Feasibility Study. Final draft for review due in Q2 2025. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q2 2025. This project is located in the Carrick MD.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Project funding from NTA approved for 2025. Works programmed for Q2/3 2025.
Road Safety Works – Turtulla Junction	Capital Section reviewing options and costings.
Thurles Inner Relief road	Detailed Design.
Munster Hotel Site Redevelopment	Feasibility study carried out. Valuation sought.
Cycle and Walking corridors – Thurles Town	Await approvals from NTA - currently on a priority list.
<b>ROSCREA</b>	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Evaluate Tender and award the winning design consultant. Commence detailed design in Q2 2025
Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Project will now be considered for RRDF call 4, submitted 14 <sup>th</sup> March, awaiting outcome. If successful under this funding stream, a tender brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a design and upgrade of Main Street and laneways to include public realm works.
Reimagined Castle Street - Roscrea	Currently advertised on E-Tenders to procure Consultants and commence design.
REACH Enterprise and Community Hub	REACH Office now open.
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings	
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Part 8 Approved. Funding application under Town & Village Renewal 2025 being progressed.
<b>TEMPLEMORE</b>	





Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Seek funding stream.								
The Mall River – Infill Works	Consultant appointed and draft design plan drafted. Ongoing consultation with landowners in progress.								
Templemore Town Park Maintenance Plan	Short, medium and long-term actions identified within the plan for maintenance and future development. Actions will be worked through over the coming years.								
Templemore Landbank Master Plan	Funding application under Just Transition funding for Masterplan submitted by ECRD Directorate was successful. Consultants appointed.								
Main Street Enhancement works, Templemore	The Project will be considered for the next RRD Call 5. If successful under this funding stream, a brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a new design and upgrade of Main Street and to include public realm works.								
Vacant Housing Units	<table> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td><td><b>20</b></td></tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	3	At Inspections/Costings Stage	7	In Progress	10	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>
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In Progress	10								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>								

The Members raised the following queries:-

- What is the anticipated completion date for Market Quarter, Thurles?
- What is the update in relation to the footpath extension at the Mill Road, Thurles and has funding been secured for the project.
- Is there any update regarding the provision of land for campervan spaces in Thurles and is there any possibility that the land could be acquired in partnership with a private landowner?
- When will the proposed works at the Mall Infill, Templemore go on public display.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- Market Quarter, Thurles is on target for completion at the end of Q3 this year.



- The footpath extension at the Mill Road is an ORIS application and has been submitted to the Department for approval.
- The MD are actively looking at suitable areas for the provision of campervan spaces in Thurles. The area must have access to water, sewerage, lighting and must be of a sufficient size. Any areas for suggestion can be submitted to the MD.  
Currently the MD have only looked at public land but would be willing to talk to a landowner.
- In relation to the proposed works at the Mall Infill, Templemore the MD are currently liaising directly with affected landowners. Advice will be sought from the Planning Section in relation to possible planning requirements. The MD will revert to the Members before any decision is made.

### **6.1 Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **7.1 Correspondence – Reply from HSE National Ambulance Service regarding NOM 2930**

As the members were not satisfied with the reply received from the HSE National Ambulance Service regarding their queries in relation to lack of resources for emergency response in Thurles District, the number of advanced paramedics rostered in Thurles & Roscrea and the manning to full capacity of Thurles and Roscrea ambulances bases, it was agreed that the reply would be forwarded to the Plenary Meeting outlining the concerns of Thurles MD Members.

### **8.1 Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy**

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Aoife Shelly (RIP), Clonakenny, Roscrea
- The family of the late Noel Gaynor (RIP), Mitchel Street, Thurles. Noel was a lifeguard at Thurles Swimming Pool for countless years.
- Pope Francis, (RIP) following his death at the Vatican City.

A vote of congratulations was extended to:

- Nenagh Ormond RFC on qualifying for the Energia AIL Division 1A Promotion Play-off of the National Rugby League, in particular to three of the players from the Thurles district, namely; Willie Coffey, Nicky Irwin and Colm Skehan





### **9.1 Any Other Business.**

As there was no other business, that concluded the official business of the April Meeting.

SIGNED:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

SIGNED:   
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

