



MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 19TH MAY 2025

Present: Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<u>Also Present:</u>	Mark Connolly	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

Councillor Smith expressed his gratitude to the MD staff, in particular the District Administrator, for their efforts in organising the Civic Awards night. He noted that for the 2025 Civic Awards, a working group of Councillors will be formed to collaborate with the MD on matters related to the event.

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of April Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 22nd April 2025.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District April 2025 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 22nd April 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

Matters arising from the Minutes.

Councillor E. Moran expressed dissatisfaction with the report received following an issue raised at the April MD Meeting regarding street lighting at Orchard Court, Templemore.

The Cathaoirleach requested that the Orchard Court report be circulated to all Members so that the matter could be examined in detail.



3.1 Formally approve Thurles Town Pollinator Plan and Grass Mowing Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor Kay Cahill-Skehan, seconded by Councillor P. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Thurles Town Pollinator Plan and Grass Mowing Plan be formally approved."

3.2 Fix date and time for the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District.

It was noted that the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District is scheduled for Monday 16th June at 10.00 a.m.

4.1 Update from Environment & Climate Action.

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Nicola Keating, Senior Executive Engineer were in attendance for this item. An Environment and Climate Action Section Update for the period January to 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:-

- What is the update regarding the use of CCTV to target illegal dumping?
- When will the '*Welcome to Village*' signage be displayed?
- In light of the high number of septic tank grant refusals, are there any measures that can be taken to help more applicants meet the qualification criteria?
- Is it possible to undertake a door to door enquiry of residents at Sean Aglish, Chapel Lane, Roscrea in an effort to address a serious rodent infestation which was previously reported to Environment Section?
The issue needs to be addressed urgently in conjunction with Housing Section.
- The issue of sewage discharging into the River Suir in Thurles, behind Dunnes Stores Shopping Centre, remains unresolved. Additionally, there are fourteen other pipes discharging into the river in Thurles and these discharges need to be thoroughly investigated.
- Can the number of bins along walking routes in Thurles be increased to address the issue of dog owners disposing of waste bags into private gardens after cleaning up after their pets?
- The issue of dumped rubbish at Lady's Well, Thurles needs to be addressed and the gates at the Mill Road entrance, which were stolen two years ago, have not yet been replaced.
- TCC is actively seeking land to extend Borrisoleigh and Templemore Cemeteries, while residents of Templeree have been informed that if



they wish to extend Templeree cemetery, they must acquire the land themselves. This appears to reflect a double standard in how different communities are being treated.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Environment & Climate Action Section are currently trialling CCTV at two to three locations. It is crucial that the system complies fully with GDPR requirements. If the trial sites operate without issue, the CCTV system can then be rolled out to other areas on a needs basis.
- 6 villages will benefit from the €10,000 GMA allocated for the installation of “Welcome to Village” signage - three villages in the northern part and three in the southern part of the District. A meeting will be held to determine which villages will receive the signage.
- TCC are bound by legislation regarding the eligibility of areas to avail of septic tank grants. Grants are available under three 3 different schemes, namely:
 - Grant under the National Inspection Plan
 - Grant in Prioritised Areas for Action
 - Grant in High Status Objective Catchment AreasTCC cannot go beyond the scope of these areas.
- The issue of the serious rodent infestation at Sean Aglish, Chapel Lane, Roscrea will be referred back to Environment Enforcement to determine what actions can be taken and the issue will also be referred to Housing Section.
- The issue of sewage being discharged into the River Suir in Thurles will be examined as part of LAWPRO’s River Suir Plan.
- It is unlikely that an increase in the number of bins along walking routes in Thurles will resolve the issue of some dog owners disposing their waste bags in private gardens. The issue will be discussed with the MD.
- The issue of illegal dumping at Lady’s Well, Thurles is a matter for the MD.
- Environment Section are not aware of the issue of acquisition of land at Templeree cemetery for burial ground use, however, the issue will be referred back to the Environment Section for investigation.

4.2 Update from LAWPRO.

Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer and Noel Dundon, Communications and Engagement Lead, LAWPRO were in attendance for the Meeting. Ruth and Noel gave a presentation to the Members which outlined the following:-

- In conjunction with Uisce Eireann, LAWPRO will investigate discharges into River Suir.



- Farming for Water EIP – A €60m National Project whereby €50m will be invested through grant funding provided to up to 15,000 farms across the Country.
- Teagasc and Co-ops are working with farmers to assess farms and apply for funding to mitigate on loss of nutrients from the farm.
- Advisors will complete a Water Quality assessment on behalf of farmers.
- EIP – currently recruiting administrative staff to minimize delays in payments to farmers.
- 2035 applications nationally as at April, 2025.
- 43 voluntary measures, such as
 - Source control – e.g. nutrient and nitrogen management plans.
 - Pathway Interruption measures – e.g. the introduction of willow beds
 - Receptor Protection Measures – e.g. prevent cattle from going into rivers
 - Other Measures – e.g. solar powered electric fences
- Giant Hogwood – invasive species – problem areas will be targeted.

The Members raised the following queries:

- In addition to the other Agencies LAWPRO is collaborating with as part of this plan, could local fishing clubs also be included?
- The regrowth of vegetation in the River Suir, particularly at the Cathedral bridge, is quite significant and needs to be addressed.
- Some years ago, a contractor carrying out power washing in a housing estate caused a substantial fish kill in the R. Suir as the runoff entered a surface water gully. The River Suir Plan should therefore include an audit of gullies in housing estates and assess how runoff can be diverted from the river.
- Can LAWPRO revert back to the Members at various stages throughout this process to give an update on how the plan is progressing.
- Is there an issue with Templemore Waste Water Treatment Plan discharging into the River Suir?
- When is it likely that this project will be completed?
- Will the tributaries of the River Suir be examined as part of this project and in particular the River Breagagh which appears to have high levels of silt?
- How confident are we that the supports promised under the Community Water Development Fund 2025 can be effectively delivered?
- The issue of combined sewers, such as in Friar Street, Thurles, whereby rainwater and untreated sewage may be discharged directly into rivers during periods of heavy rainfall must also be addressed as part of the River Suir Plan.
- Engagement with co-operatives is essential and payment timelines should be fair and reasonable.



Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- LAWPRO will provide an interim report to the Members to give an update on how the plan is progressing.
- The discharge from the Templemore Waste Water Treatment Plan will be examined. The Templemore WWTP is currently performing well.
- This catchment is one of a number of catchment areas that LAWPRO is currently examining, therefore the work will be carried out over a prolonged period of time.
- Tributaries of the River Suir upstream of Thurles from Templemore will be examined as part of this project, however the River Breaghagh is currently not part of that scope.
- With regard to the Community Water Development Fund 2025, at present the system is manually operated which means incomplete applications may need to be returned to applicants. However, an electronic system is being implemented that will prevent submissions until all required documentation is complete and valid. The procedure itself is straightforward, i.e. all measures must have a benefit, if not the application will be returned.
- Combined sewers are a national focus for LAWPRO which is exploring alternative methods of capturing water to prevent incidents like those on Friar Street, Thurles. They are also examining the potential for retrofitting existing areas.
- Engagement with co-operatives is very important and is an essential part of the process. Payments are being processed by TCC so should not be delayed.

5.1 Formally approve Thurles Municipal District Back Lanes Scheme.

Following a discussion among the Members regarding the proposed Back Lanes Scheme for Thurles Municipal District, it was agreed to defer formal approval in order to allow for a thorough review of the scheme's conditions. This is to ensure the development of a robust and reliable scheme. A workshop will be scheduled for further discussion on the matter.

5.2 District Engineer's Report and

5.3 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

Item 5.2 District Engineer's Report and Item 5.3 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
THURLES	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Progress with construction works, planned completion date November 2025.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Tendering to commence Q2 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.
ROSCREA	
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 put forward for RRDF call 4, submitted 14 th 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	Evaluate tenders and award the winning design consultants. Commence design in Q2 2025								
REACH Enterprise and Community Hub	REACH Office now open.								
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings									
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Funding application under Town & Village Renewal 2025 being progressed.								
TEMPLEMORE									
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Funding application submitted under Town & Village Renewal.								
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 RRDF 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 border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td><td>25</td></tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	4	At Inspections/Costings Stage	10	In Progress	11	TOTAL	25
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	4								
At Inspections/Costings Stage	10								
In Progress	11								
TOTAL	25								



The Members raised the following issues:-

- Do the MD have sufficient access to the patching unit as a number of CRMs relating to patching are still outstanding?
- Will TCC make a case to the Department for additional funding to address storm-damaged roads.
- Has the criteria been established outlining how the MD will process new applicants under the LIS scheme, due to open in July.
- On what basis will it be decided which villages will benefit from the €14,000 allocated for public lighting.
- Can traffic calming measures be implemented to address the dangerous junction from Mary Willies to Cooleeney Cross.
- What is the current status regarding the proposed traffic calming measures at Templetuohy Village junction.
- Can TCC's public lighting electrical contractor be invited to meet with the Members to address concerns regarding street lighting repairs in the District, given that current repair times seem quite poor.
- Traffic calming measures are required on the Upperchurch side of Ballycahill Village. There is a blind spot as you approach the Village. Can the wall at the community field also be examined.
- What is the update regarding funding for the proposed upgrade works at Kickham Street, Thurles.
- What is the update regarding the planned street lighting works required at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- The N62, from the boundary with Co. Offaly, over as far as Templemore is in a poor state of repair in numerous locations and needs to be addressed.
- The residents of Parkmore Manor and Parkmore Heights housing estates, Roscrea have a poor sight line as they approach the roundabout.
- There is an issue at the traffic lights in Roscrea where no filter lane is provided for traffic turning towards Kinnity.
- What is the update regarding traffic calming measures at Borrisoleigh and Drom Villages.
- Has there been any progress with regard to the implementation of a disabled parking bay at Bank Street, Templemore.
- What is the update regarding the Dunkerrin Road Carpark.
- When will the proposed safety improvement works at Turtulla junction commence.
- Has there been any progress with regard to the Town & Village application for a Skateboard Park in Roscrea.
- What is the update regarding the RRDF application for enhancement works on Main Street, Roscrea.
- Has there been any update from the Department regarding the application for the Mill Road Footpath.
- Repair works are required on the wall at Church grounds, Roscrea.
- Did TCC submit any applications under CLAR Measure 1 whereby funding of up to €100,000 was deemed eligible.



- What is the update regarding the introduction of two-hour parking at Slievenamon Road carpark.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The MD have access to the patching unit and have the highest use of it among districts.
- TCC was unsuccessful in securing additional funding from the Department to address storm-damaged roads.
- Roads Section will revert back to the Members with the criteria for how new applicants under the LIS scheme will be ranked.
- A proposal outlining how the €14,000 allocated for public lighting will be spent will be circulated to the Members.
If Members are aware of specific locations in need of lighting, they are encouraged to submit them to the MD.
- The area of road from Mary Willies to Cooleeney Cross will be examined to determine if this section of road requires safety improvement measures.
- The proposed traffic calming measures at Templetuohy Village junction is currently at design stage. The MD is working to develop a suitable design.
- Monthly meetings are held with TCC's public lighting electrical contractor. The company has now returned to full staffing levels and remediation of the lighting backlog will be addressed.
If there are specific locations where public lighting needs to be addressed please advise Roads Section.
- Speed surveys can be undertaken to observe traffic flows and assess if traffic calming measures are required on the Upperchurch side of Ballycahill Village.
- TCC are still in consultation with the TII regarding the proposed upgrade works for Kickham Street.
- A design for the proposed lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea is currently being prepared.
- TCC has discussed the poor condition of certain sections of the N62 with the TII but no additional funding is available this year.
- Observations will be undertaken at Parkmore Manor and Parkmore Heights housing estate where sight lines at the roundabout are restricted.
- TCC will discuss with the TII the issue at the traffic lights in Roscrea where there is no filter lane for traffic turning towards Kinnity.
- Traffic calming measures at Borrisoleigh Village and Drom village will commence during school holidays.
- A contractor will be engaged to install a disability parking bay in Bank Street, Templemore pending the introduction of the new parking bye-laws.
- A funding source is still being sought to address the required works at the Dunkerrin Road Carpark.



- Consultants have been appointed to look at a design for the proposed safety works at Turtulla junction. Works will not commence this year.
- The application under the Town & Village Scheme for a Skateboard Park in Roscrea is still under consideration at County level. The MD expects to know by the end of June whether the project has progressed beyond the County stage.
- The RRDF application for enhancement works on Main Street, Roscrea has been submitted to the Department. A response regarding its success is expected by September.
- The application under ORIS for the development of a footpath on the Mill Road is with the Department for consideration.
- An application has been submitted to secure funding for repair works on the wall at the Church grounds, Roscrea.
- Thurles MD did not submit any applications under CLÁR Measure 1 for funding up to €100,000; the two applications submitted by the MD are for funding of projects up to €65,000.
- The introduction of two-hour parking at Slievenamon Road carpark is imminent; signage has been ordered.

6.1 Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

7.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8.1 Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to:

- The English Family on the death of Bronagh English who was a student of Rockwell College.

Votes of congratulations were extended to:

- St. Kevin's FC Junior A Team, Two-Mile-Borris on winning the TSDL Tipperary Cup Final when they beat St Michael's AFC.
- Herdwatch, Roscrea on the official opening of their premises.
- The Blue Door on its recent very successful free talk in Thurles regarding the effects of stress on the body.



9.1 Any Other Business.

Councillor S. Lee requested that it be noted a private car park in Roscrea, which has recently begun clamping unauthorised vehicles, is not affiliated with Tipperary County Council.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 16th June 2025

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 16th June 2025

