



## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD AT TEMPLEMORE GARDA COLLEGE ON 16<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023

**Present:** Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Seamus Hanafin,  
Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan,  
Sean Ryan, Michael Smith

**Also Present:** Eamon Lonergan Director of Services  
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 S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the December 2022 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 19<sup>th</sup>. December, 2022 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

Councillor Moran expressed his dissatisfaction with a reply noted in the December Minutes when he stated '*public toilets are needed in Templemore Town Park - the Park is used all year round.*'

The reply noted in the Minutes stated that:

*'The resurfacing of Templemore Pitch & Putt Club was undertaken with 2022 Local Property Tax (LPT) monies on the condition that the Pitch and Putt toilets would be made available to the public. If the toilets are not being made available to the public, this will be discussed with the Club to ensure the agreement is fully adhered to.'*

Councillor Moran advised that on Christmas morning, there were lots of people swimming in the lake but there were no toilet facilities available.



Councillor Moran was supported by Councillor Smith who stated that communication to the public through signage is important.

Councillor Coonan acknowledged the sporting clubs within the Park who make their facilities available to the public and stated that support for the provision of public toilets in the Park is mixed, as some people fear that such facilities may attract anti-social behaviour. He stated that any consideration by the Council for the provision of public toilets would require thought and planning.

### **3. Welcome by Chief Superintendent Patrick Murray.**

Chief Superintendent Patrick Murray welcomed all to the Templemore Training College. He introduced Superintendent Ciara Lee, Crime and Operations Division and Superintendent Brian Conway, Leadership and Management to the Meeting.

Chief Superintendent Murray outlined the role of the College within An Garda Síochána; its role is not just in recruitment, but also in the provision of numerous training programmes such as firearms, forensic training and driving courses. He also explained how the College had ties to 8 different universities.

A Presentation was made by the Elected Members to Chief Superintendent Murray, Superintendent Lee and Superintendent Conway. The Members expressed their gratitude for allowing the MD Meeting to be held at the Garda College in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of An Garda Síochána and stated how there has always been a spirit of cooperation between the Gardaí and the Local authority.

Following the Presentation Chief Superintendent Murray, Superintendent Lee and Superintendent Conway left the Meeting.

### **4. Update from Environment and Climate Change.**

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer were in attendance for this item. An Environment and Climate Action Section Update Report for the period 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members welcomed Michael to his new role within Environment and Climate Action Section and they raised the following issues:-

- Are there any flood relief plans for Thurles town given the high level of flooding of the River Suir in Thurles town?



- Would it be possible to view a map of the Thurles flood plains to compare with the current flooding patterns and examine changes, if any?
- Will the Community Climate Change Officer have a role to play in terms of working with communities?
- Can the Council implement drone technology and CCTV in an attempt to tackle dumping hotspots?
- Can the Council apply for additional funding to increase the number of smart bins in the District?
- The Council need to come out strong on the issue of Control of Dogs and Horses which is becoming a real issue.
- It is great to see that Household Waste Surveys are being undertaken again, however, 25% of those surveyed were non-compliant which is a considerable amount.
- Who is responsible when there is a welfare issue pertaining to an animal?
- Can Environment and Climate Action Section investigate a built-up area in Roscrea. The area is designated for the recycling of flowers etc., however, illegal dumping is taking place in this area and needs to be addressed.
- There has been engagement with 17 owners in Thurles MD with regards to repair works on derelict properties. What is being done to deal with those owners who are not engaging with the local authority.
- What can the local authority do in instances where the bank has ownership or a lien on a derelict building?

Michael and Orla replied to queries as follows:-

- Although the Environment and Climate Action Section does have a role to play in flooding, it falls primarily under the remit of Roads Section. Therefore, the issue of the River Suir flooding in Thurles town and its surrounds will be referred to Roads Section.  
Tipperary County Council will have to prepare a Climate Action Plan and the alleviation of flooding will be one factor to be addressed as part of the Plan.
- Marie O'Donnell is the Community Climate Change Officer. Her role is the administration of funding in the amount of €700,000 across projects with various parameters over an 18-month period. While her role is primarily around funding she will also work with Community Groups.
- The Environment and Climate Action Section intend to focus on dumping initiatives.
- The Environment and Climate Action Section plans to increase the number of Household Waste Surveys undertaken and these surveys will be a priority in hotspot areas.
- The provision of smart bins was a one-off Government funded initiative. If funding does become available again the Council will avail of it.



- Dog wardens are proactively out on the ground working with Gardai and dog owners. Any instances of stray dogs should be reported to the Council and the issue will be followed up.
- The Department of Agriculture deal with animal welfare issues, however, the Local Authority tend to be the first port of call in such circumstances and the issue will be reported to the Department.
- Environment and Climate Action Section are actively engaging with owners of derelict buildings. Sometimes, however, there may be a planning or ownership issue. Where banks are involved the issue can be very intricate.

## **5. Roscrea Local Area Plan – Report on Submissions.**

Clare Lee, Executive Planner was in attendance for this item. The Members were originally briefed on the Roscrea LAP, which will set out the land use strategy for the town, in October 2022.

Clare informed the Members that Public Consultation took place in November and December and submissions were received from stakeholders, land owners, and the general public. A Report on Submissions was prepared and has been circulated to the Members.

The Draft Area Plan will now be prepared and available at the end of February to Stakeholders and the public for a 6-week period. The Members will be contacted in the coming weeks to arrange a workshop to finalise the Draft Plan.

## **6. Dates to be set for Community Safety Meetings 2023.**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan and seconded by Councillor N. Coonan that the 2023 Community Safety Meetings be held on the following dates:-

- Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

The Members also agreed that a Workshop be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February next, following the February MD Meeting to discuss the Project Pipeline.

## **7. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan**

An updated Report on Capital Projects for the MD was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting, as outlined in the table below:-



Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Options assessment and selection of a preferred option design with key statutory stakeholder. Meetings and Workshops with Elected Members and the public stakeholders in Q2 2023. A Part 8 Planning Application in Q4 2023.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building	Agree Final design. Construction Works to commence in Q3/Q4 2023. Meetings with MIC and Farmers market ongoing. Stakeholders ongoing.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Bord-na-Mona employees to construct track. Construction commencement prog August 2023. Ongoing discussions with Bord na Mona as part of a Project Steering Group. Options routes for proposed windfarm ongoing.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Procurement for external Consultants to prepare a detailed Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona lands.
Holycross – Tourism & visitor Centre	Funding application under RRDF was unsuccessful. The future of the project to be considered in line with all available funding streams.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Seek approval from the Department to proceed with the project. Award Contract to the successful tenderer in Q1 2023. Works to commence in Q2 2023.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Handover of Project from Planning to Thurles MD. Design Team to be procured.
Develop a Town Centre First Master Plan and Town Team Roscrea town	Finalise procurement of Consultant Q1 2023. Prepare a Town Plan for delivery in Q2 2023.
Templemore Town Streetscape enhancement Project	Concept Stage.



Vacant Housing Units	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	9
	In Progress	5
	Budget submitted to housing	0
	Retrofit works to be completed first	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Does Phase 2 of Liberty Square, Thurles also include parts of O'Donovan Rossa Street, Parnell Street and Friar Street?
- The road markings at the top of Liberty Square are incorrect and need to be addressed.
- When is the expected completion date for the improvement works at Bowes corner?
- Are the MD satisfied that the changes on Bowes Corner, Thurles will be practical for large vehicles to negotiate as the road has narrowed considerable.
- Will the MD ensure that its commitments to Kavanagh Place, Thurles under the Part 8 for Slievenamon Road be kept?
- What is the update in relation to the provision of EV charging points for both Parnell Street and Slievenamon Road carparks, Thurles.
- What is the current status in relation to the Monahincha Project which recently secured ORIS funding.  
The second phase of Monahincha will need to include the possibility of five or six routes.
- Following a very productive Town Centre First meeting last week it is envisaged that it will take approximately 6 – 9 months for the Plan to be published. Meantime, some short-term measures for the business community need to be addressed.
- Are the MD actively engaging with the Department in order to secure funding under the Just Transition Fund Programme for Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth.
- What is the update in relation to Rosemary Square, Roscrea as the project appears to be at concept stage for some time now. It is currently an unsafe area and needs to be addressed.
- The MD should consider developing Sheehills forestry trails. These new trails could possibly be linked back to the Monahincha Trail.
- The entrance to Templemore Town Park at the Garda Station is in a poor state of repair and needs to be addressed.
- The road outside the Templemore Arms Hotel is unravelling and requires attention.
- Has a specialist been appointed for the maintenance of Templemore Town Park?

Replies to queries were as follows:-





- The overarching plan for Phase 2 Liberty Square does include its surrounds of O'Donovan Rossa Street, Cuchulainn Road, Friar Street and Slievenamon Road.
- The road markings at the top of Liberty Square are the responsibility of the TII. Thurles MD will make further contact with them to expediate the works.
- The MD will apply pressure on the contractor to complete the works at Bowes Corner. The design has been examined thoroughly with the consultants who are satisfied that the design is satisfactory.
- The commitments to Kavanagh Place under the Part 8 for Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be observed by the MD.
- The MD will follow up with the ESB in relation to the application for an EV charging point in Parnell Street Carpark. The installation of an EV charging point in Slievenamon Road carpark is currently on hold due to negotiations with Bank of Ireland to acquire alternative access to Emmet St.
- The MD have applied for design works for Rosemary Square under the Active Travel Funding.
- The MD will bear in mind the development of Sheehills forestry trails and examine funding streams.
- Currently negotiations are ongoing with a private landowner on the proposed Monahincha track. National Parks and Wildlife Service have requested that the MD undertake an Ecological Assessment and a Dangerous Tree Survey.
- The MD will assess the viability of additional trails for the Monahincha Abbey Loop and seek appropriate funding streams.
- A tree specialist has been appointed for the maintenance of the trees at Templemore Town Park.
- An application from Templemore Voluntary Housing Association has been received which will involve upgrading the entrance avenue to Templemore Town Park.
- The issue of the road outside the Templemore Arms Hotel unravelling will be addressed.
- The MD are awaiting confirmation from the Active Travel Department of funding for works to progress on the design of Main Street, Roscrea.
- The MD will be pro-active in accessing funding under the Just Transition fund

## **8. District Engineer's Report**

The District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Temporary reinstatement of roads is not satisfactory as such reinstatement will only hold for a very short period; permanent reinstatement is required.



- The hedge cutting season will end in 6 weeks' time. Can Thurles MD join with other Districts to advertise on radio and local newspapers to remind land owners of their hedge cutting obligations.
- Must an unsuccessful application previously submitted under the LIS Scheme be resubmitted in its entirety in order to apply for the current LIS Scheme.
- Is there funding available to undertake works under the Joint Drainage Committee.
- What is the update in relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme for Liskeveen.
- What is the update in relation to Corville National School, Roscrea.
- Can the inlets be examined on the N62 where pockets of water are holding?
- What is the update in relation to the manhole covers at Derrymore, Roscrea where works were due to commence to alleviate the issue.
- What is the update in relation to Phase 2 works at Templetuohy?
- Overgrown hedges on the N62 Templemore Road just off Kennedy Park, Roscrea need to be addressed.
- Potholes need to be addressed on the N62 at Knockanroe adjacent to the Suir Bridge.
- The potholes at Kickham Street, Thurles are deteriorating even further – will these be addressed by the TII or Thurles MD.
- What is the update in relation to the Thurles Transport Plan Survey previously undertaken. ng tenants in Thurles town, after 2 to 3 years, are still waiting on works to be undertaken in order to address extreme issues of dampness.
- Can public lighting and traffic calming measures be instigated on a section of the Brittas Road, Thurles at the Dark Road Junction where there is a row of 8 bungalow houses that fall within the 100 km speed limit.
- The wall at St. Mary's Church, Thurles is very unstable and is a health and safety concern.

The District Engineer replied to queries as follows:-

- Any resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application under the LIS Scheme must be submitted in its entirety. Furthermore, every landowner involved must give written consent to the application; previously consent from only one of the landowners was required.
- The District Administrator stated that Kilkenny County Council and Laois County Council have agreed to form a joint Drainage Committee with Tipperary County Council to address the River Goul. While both Councils were agreeable to the formation of a Committee, they did not have a budget in place to undertake any works. The MD will follow up with both Councils.
- The MD are currently awaiting a budget on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme for Liskeveen.





- Negotiations with landowners are ongoing in relation to Corville National School. The MD are currently awaiting funding under an Active Travel application.
- The inlets on the N62 where pockets of water are holding will be examined.
- A Contractor has been appointed to undertake the works in relation to the manhole covers at Derrymore.
- The MD are currently awaiting on funding from the Active Travel Department before works at Templetuohy can take place.
- Overgrown hedge on the N62 Templemore Road just off Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be investigated.
- The potholes on the N62 at Knockanroe, adjacent to the Suir Bridge, will be examined as soon as possible.
- The MD are currently awaiting a contractor to address the potholes at Kickham Street and Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- A meeting in relation to the Transport Plan recently took place – the MD will request an update from the Active Travel Department.
- Works to address issues of dampness in houses is very specialized and it can be difficult to procure a contractor. Works on two of the three Council houses that were experiencing dampness problems have been completed.
- The Brittas Road, Thurles is a National Route. The issue of a row of houses on the Brittas Road affected by lack of lighting and speed issues will be referred to the TII.
- A Notice was placed in local newspapers last week advising landowners of their obligations during the current hedge cutting season. If any Member is aware of any specific location that needs to be addressed please report it to the MD.
- The MD are currently seeking legal advice regarding responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of St. Mary's Graveyard, Thurles.

## **9. Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion.

## **10. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

## **11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations**

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- Councillor John Crosse on the sudden passing of his sister Helen Crosse-Concannon.
- The O'Boyle family, Templemore on the passing of Michael. Michael worked for many years at the Garda College in Templemore.



- Ann Marie Devaney, Senior Planner on the passing of her father in Law Jer Gleeson, Moneygall.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Noel Dundon - following 28 years of service with the Tipperary Star, Noel is leaving to take up a role with the HSE. Noel has provided outstanding service over the years on his reporting of work within the Local Authority.
- Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew, Abbey School, Tipperary on winning the 59<sup>th</sup> BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for their project on *Assessing the impact of second-level education on key aspects of adolescents' life and development.*
- Sarah Ryan and Rebecca Jordan, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed School, Thurles for their entry in the Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition on *Period Poverty.*

## **12. Any Other Business.**

Councillor Moran proposed that a Civic Reception be held in honour of the Thomas MacDonagh Pipeband, Templemore for their contribution to the town. The band are currently celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> year. The proposal was supported by Councillors N. Coonan and M. Smith.

The Meetings Administrator advised that Corporate Section are currently drafting a Civic Reception protocol. The Civic Reception for the Thomas MacDonagh Pipeband can be examined following the completion of the protocol.

That concluded the January Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2023  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR