



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 15TH JANUARY 2024

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry,
Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy Ryan and Seamus
Hanafin.

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

Apology: Councillor Michael Smith

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. Lee, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District December 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18th December 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Update from LAWPRO.

Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer and Sheevaun Thompson, Funding Lead from LAWPRO were in attendance for this item while Catherine Seale and Noel Dundon, were in attendance via Zoom.

A LAWPRO Briefing Note for Thurles MD was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting.



Ruth gave a presentation to the Members on LAWPRO, its function and its lead role within the Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP), which is a €60m innovative, advisory led, agri-environmental project to protect water.

The project will focus on areas needing most attention to protect water quality and farmers from within these areas will be invited to participate. The scheme aims to deliver targeted actions to reduce losses of nutrients, sediment and pesticides from agricultural land. The programme will run from 2023 to 2028.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Who is responsible for the issue of raw sewage being discharged into the River Suir at the back of Thurles Shopping Centre which needs to be addressed.
- Will there be an increase in the number of septic tank inspections following the changes in septic tank grants effective from 01/01/2024.

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- The issue in relation to the discharge of raw sewage into the River Suir at the back of Thurles Shopping Centre is the responsibility of Uisce Éireann (UE) who are aware of the problem and TCC have had a number of meetings with UE on this matter.
- There are 2 types of septic tank inspections, those undertaken by the Local Authority whose inspection rate is set by the EPA and those in priority action areas where LAWPRO are involved. The number of inspections undertaken in priority areas will increase once the Water EIP is in place.

An email was circulated to all Members recently regarding the changes to the septic tank grant. The grant has increased from €5,000 to €10,000 and the requirement to register the septic tank by 1st February 2013 no longer applies.

The Cathaoirleach thanked LAWPRO staff for their presentation and they left the Meeting.

3.2 Update from Environment & Climate Action.

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Kieran McKenna, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Environment & Climate Action Section were in attendance for this item. An Environment & Climate Action Report for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 was circulated to the Members, along with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.



The Members raised the following queries:-

- Can CCTV be put in place to address the issue of illegal dumping at Derryville bog between Moyne and Templetuohy.
- What can be done to address the issue of dogs roaming around housing estates in Thurles.
- Is there still scope for people to apply for the Picker Pals 2023 to 2024 Programme.
- Rosemary Square, Roscrea has become a hotspot area for illegal dumping where people are using the public bins to dispose of their household waste.
- Can waste bins and Mutt Mitts be put in place upon the completion of the upgrading of the R445 in Roscrea as the area is going to attract a lot of walkers.
- The entrance to Killea burial ground is in a very poor state of repair and action needs to be taken to address the issue.
- Request that a report be undertaken into the burial ground in Roscrea to ascertain if safety works are required.
- Who is responsible for the removal of dead animals from the side of the road?
- Can a street cleaning policy, similar to that which operates in Thurles town, be implemented in Templemore where currently there is no street cleaning policy in place and the streets are dirty.
- Issue of illegal dumping at the Nore Bridge on the N62 needs to be examined.
- Can those houses that did not qualify under any of the Retrofit Schemes, e.g. Tara Drive, Gortnahoe, be included in the decarbonised zones. An inventory of such houses needs to be undertaken to ensure that TCC are not relying on fossil fuels.
- Can technology be used, such as drones and CCTV, to address the issue of illegal dumping in the district.
- The wall at Fenor graveyard is in a very poor state of repair and needs to be addressed.

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- Michael will liaise with the Environmental Officer in relation to the 2023-2024 Picker Pals programme.
- Household inspections can be undertaken to address the issue of illegal dumping in Rosemary Square, Roscrea and the dumped rubbish bags can be examined to check for any items of identity.
- Environment and Climate Action Section will liaise with the MD in relation to the provision of rubbish bins and Mutt Mitts on the newly refurbished walkway on the R445 in Roscrea.
- Environment and Climate Action Section will liaise with the Senior Executive Engineer in the section to examine the issues relating to cemeteries in Killea, Fenor and Roscrea.



- The provision of a street cleaning policy for Templemore is the responsibility for the MD.
- TCC will remove large dead carcasses from the side of the road, e.g. horses and wild deer.
- Environment and Climate Action Section are not yet aware of what plans/initiatives will be put in place under the Decarbonised Zones. It may be a grant scheme for private owners but TCC may also have scope under the scheme.
- The use of CCTV, including mobile CCTV, is regularised under the 2022 Circular Economy Act. The LGMA and the CCMA have produced Codes of Practice but legislation needs to be enacted before the Codes of Practice can be followed. It is anticipated that the legislation will be enacted in Q1 2024. The CCTV Policy was adopted at the last Plenary Meeting and so the groundwork has commenced.
- The issue of illegal dumping at Derryville bog between Moyne and Templetuohy will be examined. If the area is a blackspot then mobile CCTV can be considered to identify perpetrators.
- The issue of dogs roaming estates is an issue that requires a multi-faceted approach through education and awareness raising. Dog Wardens will call to estates to check for dog licences. Gardai also have a role to play in dealing with roaming dogs, e.g. dealing with restrictive breeds. If the specific estates in question are made known to Environment and Climate Action Section they will look into the matter further.
- Environment and Climate Action Section will follow up with the issue of illegal dumping on the N62 at the Nore Bridge.
- A workshop will be held on 01/02/2024 to present the DRAFT LA Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029 to Members and it is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted at the February Plenary Meeting.

4.1 Dates to be set for Community Safety Meetings 2024.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the 2024 Community Safety Meetings be held on the following dates: -

- Monday, 19th February
- Monday 15th July
- Monday 16th September
- Monday 18th 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 District Engineer advised that the Roads Programme will commence in February and we are now in the 3rd year of the three-year programme.

The Members raised the following queries: -



-
- There are not sufficient parking spaces for the residents of Cabragh Court, Thurles, some of whom have to park their cars on the green area.
 - The road surface in Oakfield Drive, Thurles is in a poor state of repair and requires attention.
 - Issue of hedges/ditches blocking the street lighting outside Burkes Dentist on Cathedral Street, Thurles and also out at the Thurles Mart on the Cabra Road.
 - What is the update in relation to the provision of a footpath and street lighting on the Mill Road, Thurles.
 - When will the Thurles Skateboard Park re-open and is it known what the issue was that resulted in children acquiring rashes.
 - Can the road surface in the vicinity of Rahealty National School be included on the salting schedule?
 - Salting is needed on the Dunkerrin Road, Templemore as it is dangerous in the current weather conditions.
 - Issue of parking for the residents who live in proximity to the Garda College in Templemore. Some residents are having difficulty accessing their property.
 - The road sign at Talavara and the sign at the bridge in Templemore is missing and needs to be replaced.
 - The issue of flashing lights outside the schools of Drom, Borrissoleigh and Barnane not working have yet to be addressed.
 - Can the issue of salting in County border areas be examined and discussed with Kilkenny County Council whereby salting is undertaken as far as the boundary and not to an agreed junction.
 - The street cleaning programme in Templemore is not sufficient and needs improvement.
 - Can the TII be contacted in relation to the poor road surface on the N8 at the off-ramp roundabout adjacent to the Horse and Jockey.
 - Can a Low-Cost Safety Scheme (LCSC) be implemented to install a barrier on the road at Mary Willies where there is a significant road drop close to the margin and consequently the road is unsafe.
 - Can attractive village signage be considered for the MD villages under the Village Renewal Scheme, similar to that in place in other villages such as Rosegreen.

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- The creation of additional car parking spaces in Cabragh Court, Thurles will be examined, however, given the location of the junction and the playground it will be problematic.
- The issue of the poor road surface in Oakfield Drive, Thurles will be examined.
- The issue of overgrown hedges blocking lighting on Cathedral Street and Cabra Road, Thurles will be investigated.



- A Part 8 application which includes for a footpath and street lighting on the Mill Road will be submitted to the Department in 2024 as part of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) subject to consent from all landowners.
- The material in Thurles Skateboard Park was causing rashes to some users. The MD are currently working on an alternative material/design and have been in correspondence with the skateboard manufacture to identify a solution. A funding source to address the issue is also being examined.
- The MD have sought an increase from Roads Section in the number of salting routes, however the number of routes is constrained by budgets and the Working Time Act. Correspondence issued to the Members prior to the MD Meeting outlining TCC's position regarding extension of existing salting routes.
- Can the MD be advised of the specific residents that cannot gain entry to their houses due to the high number of cars parked in the area around Templemore Garda College. The majority of those parking in the vicinity are employees of the College.
- The road signage at Talavara and at the bridge in Templemore will be examined by the District Engineer.
- The issue of flashing speed signs not working outside schools at Drom, Borrisoleigh and Barnane will be examined.
- The current schedule and frequency of street cleaning in Templemore town will be increased bearing in mind budget constraints. The MD will also liaise with the Templemore Tidy Towns Committee to advise them of the revised schedule in order that locals are aware of same.
- The TII have already been notified of the poor surface on the N8 at the Horse and Jockey for urgent repair.
- An application under a low-cost safety scheme for improvement works at the road opposite Mary Willies can be considered for submission in September.
- Subject to funding, the MD can seek submissions in relation to the implementation of attractive village signage in the District.

4.3 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

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



Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
<p>Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles</p>	<p>Workshops with the MD Elected Members were held in Q4 2024. The 'preferred' design solution and option assessment is being agreed with the prescribed statutory stakeholders, prior to finalising the design detail and presenting to the public. Public consultation in advance of the planning application is planned for January/Feb 2024. Discussions with the national URDF team will be required in early 2024 to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.</p> <p>A Part 8 planning application is expected to be lodged in Q1 2024. Subject to planning approval the final design and tendering stage could commence in mid-2024.</p>
<p>Market Quarter - Thurles</p>	<p>Tender documents advertised on E-Tenders. Procurement of Main Works Contractor Q1 2024.</p> <p>Construction to commence Q2 2024 with a programme timeline to be agreed.</p>
<p>Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1</p>	<p>All rail tracks are now lifted and removed by Bord na Mona. Site works progressing as planned with a projected completion date set for the end of Q1 2024.</p>
<p>Littleton Bushcraft Centre</p>	<p>Procurement for external consultants to prepare a detailed Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona Lands. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1/Q2 2024.</p>
<p>Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza</p>	<p>It is planned that construction works will take 13 months to complete, June/July 2024.</p>
<p>Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i></p>	<p>Department issued Notice on 22nd Nov. 2023 to proceed with issuing the Verification and Due Diligence phase for the Project. Total Project Costs, Detailed Construction Costs, Funding, Inflation Costs and Project Milestones identified and sent to Department by TCC.</p> <p>An external Design Team will be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding Department in early 2024.</p>



Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Progress projects as set out in the Roscrea Town Centre First Action Plan (short-term 0-3 years). Identify funding opportunities and submit applications accordingly in line with funding calls. Funding of almost €50,000 was awarded to TCC under the ORIS in November 2023 for the Roscrea River Rooms project, to allow for the detailed design, planning and feasibility for a series of connected spaces along the riverside in Roscrea.								
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 early 2024 to develop designs and advance the project through the Part 8 planning process, subject to funding availability and tenders received.								
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>20</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2	At Inspections/Costings Stage	10	In Progress	8	TOTAL	20
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2								
At Inspections/Costings Stage	10								
In Progress	8								
TOTAL	20								

Members were advised that a Project Workshop will take place on 15th February next. There were no queries raised.

5.1 Notices of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald and Cllr John Fitzgerald on the death of their mother Jane Fitzgerald.



- Jonathon Cooney, Housing Section and Claire Cooney, Corporate Services on the death of Eddie Cooney, retired colleague and former Civil Defense Officer.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles on winning the Munster Colleges Senior A Camogie final.
- Drom-Inch GAA on winning the U21 County hurling final.
- J.K Bracken on winning the County Minor Football Final
- Our Lady's Templemore on winning the Munster Senior D Camogie Cup Final

8.1 Any Other Business.

None.

That concluded the official business of the January Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 19th February, 2024

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 19th February, 2024

