



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 18th MAY 2026

Present: Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

Mark Connolly	Director of Services
Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Deirdre Dunne	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Jim Ryan

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 20th April 2026.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District April 2026 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20th April 2026, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Update from Environment & Climate Action

Denis Holland, Senior Engineer and Nicola Keating, Senior Executive Engineer, were in attendance for this item. An Environment and Climate Action Section Update 01/01/2026 – 30/04/2026 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:



- Is there anyone available in TCC to assist community groups with funding scheme applications, particularly in helping them to navigate what can often be complex and cumbersome criteria.
- Was there any suggestion that a specific quota for those in decarbonised areas should qualify for funding under the Climate Action Fund?
- Is there any indication as to when results of the Climate Action Fund Scheme will be announced.
- What is the current update with regard to the CCTV for rural areas where dumping is an issue. Lots of Tidy Towns Committees are doing their best to keep their areas tidy and it is disheartening for them when dumping is an issue.
- What is the update regarding the wall at Fenor Cemetery which is currently in a very poor state of repair?
- What recourse is available to individuals whose private land is being used for illegal dumping? Will the Council provide assistance in such cases as has happened in other local authority areas?
- What environmental risks are associated with closed landfill sites, for example the risk of water pollution?
- The area surrounding the entrance to Templemore Cemetery is currently occupied by six caravans. There are dogs roaming freely, no toilets or rubbish bins provided and rubbish is scattered throughout the area. This situation is making access to the cemetery difficult for members of the public to access the Cemetery.
- Can a summary be provided from the recent biomethane conference?
- TCC were commended for the civic amenity site at Roscrea which has been used by over 9,000 people to date.

Replies to queries was as follows:

- The Environment and Climate Action Section would be happy to assist community groups in preparing applications under the Climate Action Fund.
- It is understood that all applications to the Climate Action Fund are assessed on an overall basis and that no specific quota is allocated to applicants from decarbonised zones. However, this matter, including details of the Climate Action Fund outcomes, will be clarified with the Environment Section and an update will be provided to the MD.
- Where specific locations are identified, CCTV can be deployed at problematic areas such as roadside areas and bring banks.
- The wall at Fenor Cemetery will be examined to ascertain next steps.
- Details relating to the case where private land is being used for illegal dumping should be submitted to the Environment and Climate Action Section. The Section will then make direct contact with the landowner to discuss the issue.
- Environmental risk at former landfill sites is assessed using a high, medium and low risk classification matrix. Risk Assessments were undertaken several years ago. TCC is required to complete a Tier 1 and



Tier 2 risk assessment for each landfill and subsequently apply for a Certificate of Authorisation which outlines the conditions for remediation.

Currently the MD has three Class C sites, two Class B sites and one Class A site at Brittas which is close to receiving final approval for a Certificate of Authorisation. This will then be submitted to An Bord Pleanála, after which remediation works can proceed. At present, only one site in Tipperary, located in Tipperary Town, has reached the remediation stage.

- The Environment and Climate Action Section will liaise with the Housing Section regarding the six caravans currently occupying the area immediately outside Templemore Cemetery.
- The Environment and Climate Action Section will revert to the MD with a summary of the recent biomethane conference.

Denis and Nicola left the Chamber.

3.2 Update from LAWPRO

Ruth Hennessy and Margaret Morrissey were in attendance for this item. Ruth and Amanda delivered a presentation to the Members on the River Suir outlining current assessments, findings and next steps.

Local Catchment Assessment

- Area assessed - 260km² catchment and 225km of River channel.
- The River Suir is identified as a priority area for action due to declining water quality
- Significant work has already been completed in the Loughmore area

Work Commenced (2025)

- Biological assessments (aquatic life monitoring)
- Field Chemistry testing (including PH levels)
- Environmental observations (landscapes and surrounding conditions)
- The river has been walked and surveyed in varying weather conditions
- Vegetation and invertebrates have been closely examined

Key Findings to Date

- Sensitive invertebrates – absent or present in very low numbers
- Nitrates levels: elevated
- Sediment levels: excessive
- Other pollutants (e.g. ammonia) present intermittently
- Evidence of intermittent discharges from:
 - Agricultural sources
 - Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP)
- Further assessment of these discharges is still required
- Next assessment area identified: Cabra bridge



River channel Observations

- Alterations to the river channel, (e.g. widening or deepening) are impacting flow dynamics
- Assessments must consider different flow conditions (e.g. high vs low flow).
- Focus of assessments is on impact of water quality, rather than regulatory compliance

Next Steps

- Further assessments planned for
 - Rossesstown
 - Loughmore to Thurles stretch
 - Impact of the WWTP.

Actions already underway

- Agriculture
 - Promoting improved farming practices for water quality
 - Targeted advisory programme building on the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP)
 - Direct advisory support to farmers

Community Initiatives

- Cabragh Wetlands Project
 - €50,000 grant provided for operational costs
 - Appointment of a scientific officer
 - Development of an umbrella wetlands group
- Additional Funding awarded:
 - Kilcommon Tidy Towns: €130,000
 - Borrisoleigh Community Group: €24,970. Project includes rainwater harvesting for toilet flushing
- Small grants scheme: currently open for applications

Additional Projects

- Roscrea Weir Project (Irish Fisheries Barrier Mitigation Fund)
 - Expression of Interest approved (2025)
 - Feasibility Study Application submitted (March)
 - Decision pending
- **Aging of Water Project in the Upper Suir**
 - 10 sites between selected between Thurles and Templemore
 - 10 rounds of sampling carried out at each site
 - Samples analyses by Trinity College Dublin
 - Part of a national research project led by Professor Carlos Rocha

The Members raised the following queries:

- Has Bord na Móna had any impact on the water quality of the River Suir as it had on the River Shannon.



- Most farmers make genuine efforts to farm responsibly. However, what is being done to address Point Source Pollution, such as discharges from Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP). There is little justification for such issues, as they should be relatively straightforward to resolve. Meat processing plants are also an area of concern.
- Hogweed is a significant issue in west Tipperary and several rivers are heavily silted. The River Black, in particular, is severely overgrown and requires intervention.
- The work on the River Suir should take into account all associated catchment areas. The River Breaghagh in Littleton should also be examined as part of this process.
- Fishing is an important part of our culture. It is essential that fish in the Roscrea area are able to migrate upstream. Appreciation was expressed for the engagement regarding the Weir.
- Concern was raised regarding the fourteen discharge points into the river and the potential environmental impact of these discharges.
- There is a serious issue with the River Suir in Thurles where water levels are dropping at this time of year. This highlights the extent of vegetation overgrowth within the river.
- Clarification was sought on the AIG nature-based solution, specifically the live two-day event.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- Bord na Móna is actively working to mitigate impacts from sediment and ammonia, both of which can have significant negative effects on river systems and must be carefully managed. These impacts are expected to become more evident as work progresses into areas with high peat content, such as Rossesstown.
- LAWPRO is actively working to address Point Source Pollution which is generally easier to manage than diffuse pollution arising from agricultural activities.
- The Black River at Mary Willies was inspected recently. It was discovered that the river had been culverted in the past, which is contributing to the current overgrowth issues. Inland Fisheries are now aware of the situation and are taking steps to address it.
- A further round of works is planned beyond 2027, at which point the River Breaghagh in Littleton will be examined.
- A meeting was held with anglers in Cahir where the issue of fish migration from Roscrea was discussed. The anglers have strong local knowledge of the area which is valued and taken into consideration.
- Not all of the fourteen discharging points are problematic; some relate to surface water run-offs rather than polluting discharges.
- Further details regarding the AIG live two-day event will be obtained and communicated back to the MD.

Ruth and Margaret left the Chamber.



It was proposed by W. Kennedy and seconded by Councillor s. Ryan that the MD meeting break for ten minutes to afford the Members to go outside to have a look at the new fire engine acquired by Tipperary Fire Services.

4.1 District Engineer's Report.

An updated District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows: -

- Was the recent speed survey undertaken in Two-Mile-Borris conducted over a 24-hour period, or did it take place over a longer duration?
- What is the current update regarding the retrofitting works at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe? Is the programme still proceeding as planned?
- Is funding available to address the damaged kerbing at Derrynaflan Avenue, Littleton?
- What is the current update on the car park at Dunkerrin, Templemore?
- What measures can be implemented to address the issue of speeding at Dunkerrin, Templemore, which is a significant cause for concern?
- Is there any funding available for the works required at two vacant houses in Templemore?
- 30 houses are currently being built near the graveyard in Templemore and the road in that area will have to be examined and the issue of the caravans in the area will need to be examined.
- Are road works continuing to remain in line with projected costs?
- What is the update regarding the proposed relocation of the pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Templemore? The current location is not being widely used and will be more effective if moved further along the street.
- Why is there lack of engagement from TII with TCC regarding the N62, from the Offaly boundary to Thurles, which is in a very poor state of repair? In particular, attention is required at the top of Derrymore Lane where the road surface is deteriorating significantly.
- The MD was commended for its engagement with businesses on Castle Street, Roscrea and the local community is looking forward to the future development of the street.
- Resurfacing works are required on the footpath outside St. Cronan's Workshop in Roscrea as it is currently in a very poor state of repair.
- When will the final drawings for the biodiversity park in Roscrea be completed and what are the associated timelines?

Additionally, what role can Elected Members play in ensuring the application is progressed in a timely manner.

Will there be a link footpath between the Roscrea bypass to the biodiversity Park?



Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- The recent speed survey conducted in Two-Mile-Borris was conducted over a 24 hour period. The MD can undertake an additional piecemeal survey over a number of days. This will be carried out in the coming weeks, prior to the school holidays.
- The Housing Section is currently liaising directly with residents of Tara Drive in relation to the proposed retrofitting works. The MD will engage with the Housing Section regarding the stage of these discussions and revert back to the Members with an update.
- Funding for footpaths is now sourced through Development Levies as IPB funding is no longer available. The footpaths at Derrynaflan Avenue, Littleton will be examined.
- A contractor has been engaged and works at the Dunkerrin carpark will commence over the summer period. The carpark will be resurfaced and the barrier will be repainted.
- The MD currently has no planned works to address speeding issues in Dunkerrin, Templemore as all regulatory signage is in place and the area is designated as a 60km/h zone. Flashing warning lights may be considered and vegetation will be reviewed to ensure it is not obstructing sightlines. The matter may also be referred to An Garda Síochána for enforcement.
- The Housing Section is working through the priority list for the refurbishment of vacant houses. However, costs remain a significant factor in determining which properties will proceed. Specific addresses requiring refurbishment should be submitted and the MD will assess them accordingly.
- The housing development near the graveyard in Templemore is within the remit of the developer. The MD is undertaking footpath works in the area and will liaise with the Tenant Liaison Officer regarding the six caravans located there.
- The MD has been notified of a further increase in tarmacadam costs. These increases will be reviewed in the contract through the price variation clause.
- The Section 38 process, enabling the MD to relocate the pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Templemore, is currently ongoing.
- A number of applications have already been submitted to TII to address the N62 poor road surface and the available funding is limited. However, the MD will submit an additional application for funding to address the poor road surface at the top of Derrymore Lane.
- Plans for Castle Street are progressing well and it is anticipated that the Part 8 application will be submitted mid-June.
- The footpath outside St. Cronan's Workshop in Roscrea will be examined. Funding for this work would need to be secured from development levies.
- The Roscrea Biodiversity Park project remains a priority for the MD. The Part 8 process is currently ongoing and is expected to be submitted in June. It is anticipated that the project will be brought before the



September MD Meeting for a decision, with the aim of progressing it to a 'shovel-ready' stage.

The MD has a preliminary estimate for project costs, however, final costings will be prepared by the Quantity Surveyor and will be based on rate per square metre.

It is planned to provide a footpath link connecting the Biodiversity Park to the bypass.

4.2 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
THURLES	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction works are progressing. Extension of programme of work to March 2026. Delay in ESB connection.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 Design - Thurles	Contracts signed with the successful consultant, Aecom. Detailed design commenced in Q1 2026 with a 12-month timeframe for completion of design. Discussions with the national URDF Team and TII are ongoing, detailed design is ongoing and stakeholder engagement has commenced. Once detailed design complete, costings to be finalised and discussions with URDF re: funding requirements and gateway/programme status.
Mill Road Footpath (phase 2)	Meet with landowners and Thurles Lions Trust to progress project. Tender of contractor through eTenders Framework.
Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Contractor to be appointed.
Development of Mews Building, Slievenamon Road Carpark	
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Works programmed for Q1 2026.
Road Safety Works – Turtulla Junction	Capital Section reviewing options and costings.
Thurles Inner Relief road	Detailed design to be finalised.
Munster Hotel Site Redevelopment	Discussions ongoing with landowner.
Upper River Suir Management Plan – Pilot Project	Discussions ongoing regarding leading out of working group and next steps.
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>	Site surveys complete. Preliminary Design complete. Preliminary design presented to the Elected Members. Detailed design underway, expected to be completed in early Q2 2026. Construction works estimated to commence in Q3 2026.
Main Street Enhancement Works Design - Roscrea	Tender brief and Tender documents being prepared to advertise on E-tenders to procure Consultants for a new design of Main Street and lane ways, to include public realm works and the development of Walsh's Printers site. Advertise on e-Tenders in the coming weeks.
Reimagined Castle Street Design - Roscrea	Preliminary design has commenced. Site surveys commenced. Presentation to elected members presented with concept options. Stakeholder engagement completed. Community consultation evening was held on 22 nd Jan in Roscrea to present design options. One-way system trial run on Castle Street took place 9 th -14 th February. Present the preferred design option to Elected Members. Submission of Part 8 in Q2 2026.
Roscrea Biodiversity Looped Walk	Part 8 submission for approval and secure funding stream.
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings	
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Town and Village Funding Application 2025 unsuccessful. Other funding source to be identified in 2026.
TEMPLEMORE	
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Funding application submitted under Town & Village Renewal 2025.
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	Consultants appointed. Preliminary Plan to be presented to Elected Members at November 2025 meeting for comment.										
Main Street Enhancement Works, Templemore	The Project will be considered for the next round of RRDF Calls. The project will need to be phased. 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>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone to Tender</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>26</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	0	At Inspections/Costings Stage	13	Gone to Tender	1	In Progress	12	TOTAL	26
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TOTAL	26										

The Members raised the following queries: -

- What is the current update regarding the provision of CCTV for Littleton?
- Is there any update regarding the consideration of possible future uses for the former Area Office in Roscrea?
- Concern was raised that the junction at Bohernanave, where works are ongoing under the Active Travel Scheme, appears quite narrow.
- Is there any update regarding the ongoing consideration of potential options for the Munster Hotel?
- Compliments were paid to the MD on the Market Quarter area of the town, noting the recent opening of a new café and the upcoming choir concert in June, and welcomed the positive contribution of this development to the town.
- Will the proposed plans for the Mall Infill align with the recommendations made by the consultants?
- Is there any update on the Thurles Inner Relief Road?
- The Thurles Inner Relief Road is currently eighteen months behind where it should be at this stage as Roads Capital changed the design again.
- What is the current status of the Phase 2 works at Liberty Square?
- The proposed plans for the Roscrea Biodiversity Park, which will include a skateboard park, would be a valuable addition to the town. As we are competing with other applicants within TCC, it is hoped that this project will receive serious consideration from TCC.

Replies to queries were as follows: -

- The Business Plan and Data Protection matters have been reviewed and referred to the Committee. A Committee meeting is scheduled, following



which a timeline for the project will be confirmed. In the meantime, it was noted that the project is progressing very rapidly.

- The MD is currently examining a number of potential options for the former Area Office in Roscrea. It was noted that works associated with the former Area Office are more complex than originally anticipated. Members will be kept informed of any developments.
- The junction at Bohernanave has been designed in accordance with Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS). Auto tracking has also been completed for all junctions.
- The MD is currently awaiting costings to consider the potential options for the Munster Hotel. It is anticipated that further information will be available by the end of June.
- The proposed plans for the Mall Infill will proceed in line with the recommendations made by the consultants last year. The requirement to proceed through the eTenders process to advance to Part 8 has resulted in some delay; however, it is anticipated that works will commence towards the latter end of 2026 or early 2027.
- The comments in relation to the proposed Biodiversity and Skateboard Park for Roscrea were noted, however, the District Engineer advised that the process for any project for selection is very competitive within TCC but nonetheless remains a priority for the MD.
- The Tender Documents for the appointment of a design Team for the Thurles Inner Relief Road have been submitted to the Department for review.
- Liberty Square Phase 2 is progressing well. It is anticipated that draft detailed design will be completed by early June after which tender Documents will be prepared and issued to the market in Q3, 2026.

5.1 Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion received.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of congratulation were extended to: -

- Roscrea Comhaltas on the excellent programme of events held over the course of the week, in conjunction with the Munster Fleadh. The events attracted large numbers of musicians and visitors to the town, particularly over the weekend, and made a very positive contribution to the atmosphere of Roscrea.
- Tipperary Camogie Team on their recent success in the Munster Senior Camogie Championship Final when they beat Waterford.




- Tipperary Minor Hurling Team on their recent success in the Electric Ireland Munster Minor Hurling Championship Final Championship when they beat Limerick.
- Tipperary Studies on the successful launch of the "Opening the Archives" Initiative which showcases and promotes the county's rich historical heritage.

There were no votes of sympathy.

8.1 Any Other Business.

As there was no other business that concluded the minutes of the May Monthly District Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 15th June 2026
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 15th June 2026
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR