



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE NORBROOK, CLONAKENNY ON 16th DECEMBER, 2019

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

Councillors Noel Coonan, Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan and Sean Ryan.

**Also Present:**

Marcus O'Connor	Director of Services for Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure
Eamonn Lonergan	Senior Engineer
Liam Brett	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Janice Gardiner	Acting Meetings Administrator
Deirdre O'Shea	Senior Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Peter Ryan

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Members and Officials to his home parish of Clonakenny and he lauded the invaluable work undertaken by community stalwarts Michael and Eileen Costigan, Clonakenny Tidy Towns Committee who were present. He spoke of the investment of €156,000 in a number of initiatives in the village over the last 15 years and the ongoing support and commitment provided by the Council to their community and small villages in general in the District. Michael Costigan provided an overview of completed projects and future proposals of the Tidy Towns Committee and he thanked the Council for their ongoing assistance. The other Members also paid tribute to the Clonakenny Tidy Towns Committee.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Eamonn Lonergan, Senior Engineer who will take up the position of Acting District Director with effect from Monday, 6th. January 2020 and he wished him well in his new role. The other Members concurred with his comments.

### **1. Adoption of Minutes.**

It was proposed by Councillor N. Coonan, seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18th. November, 2019 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



## **2. Update from Community & Economic Development Section.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dan Downey, A/Senior Staff Officer, Community & Economic Development Section to the Meeting for this item.

Dan gave a comprehensive update under the following headings taken from the Report on Community and Economic Development for the Thurles Municipal District which was circulated to the Member by email in advance of the Meeting:-

- LECP - Community.
- Local Development Strategy / LEADER.
- SICAP.
- LCDC Team led Funding Schemes.
- Tipperary PPN.
- Joint Policing Committee.
- Children's & Young Person's Services Committee.
- Jigsaw.
- Age Friendly Tipperary.
- Sign of the Times.
- What's on in Tipperary.
- Play.
- Suicide Prevention.
- Comhairle na nÓg.
- Tipperary Sports Partnership.
- FAI.
- Strategic Projects Unit EU part-funded Projects.
- LECP - Economic.
- Tourism.
- Local Enterprise Office.
- Digital Strategy, National Broadband Plan and Commercial Investment.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- The need for funding to be released to allow for the continuation of sporting activities supported by the FAI in the County.
- Lack of proposals for the roll out of high speed fibre broadband to Thurles town in order to attract new businesses / skilled workforce.
- Companies supplying broadband should be obliged to advertise minimum speeds as well as maximum speeds.
- Establish why people living within 100 metres of the N62, where broadband was upgraded, cannot be facilitated with a connection.
- A letter needs to be sent by the Community & Economic Development Section to The Garda Commissioner requesting that Data Controller issues be resolved to allow for the CCTV recording system for Littleton to be stored in Littleton Garda Station.



- Update in regard to the Community CCTV Scheme in Thurles and the extension of CCTV to Thurles Town Park.
- A Liaison Officer should be appointed by Community & Economic Development Section to work with Bórd na Móna on seeking an extension of the "Just Transition Fund" to former workers of Bórd na Móna who lost their jobs on the closure of the briquette factory in Littleton.
- Consideration should be given to the provision of new parking facilities in villages under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Follow up with Bórd na Móna on the completion of a Feasibility Study for the development of a peatway on Bórd na Móna lands in the District.
- The need for adequate resources to be put in place by The Garda Commissioner when the new Gardai Operating Model is introduced.
- Establish what arrangements are being put in place to enhance and maintain the services provided by Pieta House and Roscrea Stands Up when Jigsaw comes into operation.
- A commitment needs to be given that the funding approved under the Community Facilities Grant Scheme towards the installation of a Community CCTV Scheme in Roscrea is protected as the Scheme has been delayed due to data protection issues relating to the storing of the recording equipment.

Replies to the issues raised were as follows:-

- A Motion was passed at the last Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee that the Council and Gardaí would work in unison to have the data protection issues resolved and a report is expected at the next Meeting.
- The issues raised in regard to (i) Broadband, (ii) Bórd na Móna, (iii) Town & Village Renewal Scheme, (iv) CCTV and (v) Jigsaw will be referred to the relevant Staff / Director of Services, Community & Economic Development Section for a response.
- The District is working with security consultants on the preparation of a specification for the upgrading of the Community CCTV system in Thurles which will include Thurles Town Park and it will be necessary to secure capital funds for the project.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Dan for the update and he left the Meeting.

### **3. Update from Culture/Library/Fire & Emergency Services.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Karl Cashen, Director of Services, Culture / Library / Fire and Emergency Services, Jess Codd, Administrative Officer, Library Services and Melanie Scott, Arts Officer, Culture Services to the Meeting for this item.

Copy of the Culture Team Report for Thurles Municipal District was circulated to Members by email in advance of the Meeting.



Jess outlined the broad range of initiatives undertaken by the Library Service in the District and Melanie synthesised the extensive projects carried out by the Arts, Heritage and Museum Sections.

The Members made the following points:-

- The need to secure a tenant for Templemore Town Hall and consider Templemore Historical Society who expressed an interest in the building.
- Simon Coveney, Tanáiste should be invited to undertake the official opening of Templemore Fire Station as he was the Minister at the time of its inception.

Replies to the points raised as follows:-

- A Steering Committee which will include representation from Templemore Development Association will be convened in due course for the repurposing of Templemore Town Hall.
- Protocol provides that the current Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government be invited to undertake the official opening of Templemore Fire Station.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Karl, Jess and Melanie for their contributions and they left the Chamber.

#### **4. Update on Projects.**

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	Remedial works to the stone facade of the existing car park boundary wall are ongoing. Bulk excavation works for the car park are scheduled to commence early January 2020.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	The existing stairwell is continuing to be monitored for any signs of water ingress which will dictate if outstanding remedial works are required. All other contract works are completed.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	The tender assessment report for improvements at Market Square, Roscrea is currently being compiled. It is anticipated that works will commence on site January 2020.
Templemore Town Park.	A meeting took place with Templemore Voluntary Housing Association on 28th. November 2019 at which timelines and actions were agreed in order to progress



	the widening of the main access into the Town Park. It is expected that a consultant will be appointed in Q1 of 2020 followed by Part 8.
Proposed Cycleway between Birr and Roscrea.	A general discussion took place between representatives from Birr and Thurles Municipal Districts on 6th. December 2019 to establish how far the previous proposal had advanced. A small number of action items were established to assess the viability of re-starting the project.
Old Farm Building at Thurles Town Park.	Minor remedial repairs are currently being undertaken to the facade of the building in order to maintain its structural integrity as it may form part of potential planning proposals in the longer term.
Consideration of proposed Peatway on Bórd na Móna lands.	An update is awaited from Bórd na Móna who are the lead agency on this project.
Killinan Hill Low Cost Safety Scheme.	Works consisting of realignment of the junction, new build outs, new kerbing, footpaths, road lining, landscaping, drainage works and flood relief improvements are nearing completion.
TII Fencing Retrofit Scheme.	This TII funded Scheme provides for the removal of post and rail fencing on all national routes in Tipperary and 1.5km of fencing has been replaced to date. It is proposed that work will continue in 2020 until all post and rail fencing is replaced.
Drainage and Footpaths.	Outstanding drainage issues and agreed footpath improvements will now commence in the South of the District as planned works under the Killinan Hill Low Cost Safety Scheme and the TII Fencing Retrofit Scheme are almost complete.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Update in regard to access to off street parking at Market Square, Roscrea.
- Engagement with relevant landowners at an early stage is key to any progress being made on the proposed cycleway between Birr and Roscrea.



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The District Engineer confirmed that:-

- Original agreements in regard to access to off street parking at Market Square, Roscrea are being sought and contact will also be made with relevant owners in the laneways converging on the Square.
- The Council will ensure that relevant landowners are included in discussions at an early stage if the proposed cycleway between Birr and Roscrea proves viable and a route has been identified.

It was agreed that the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Ryan be taken at this juncture.

### **Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Ryan**

Councillor S. Ryan formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on the Thurles Municipal District to write to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) asking them to urgently review the speed limit on the N62 Horse & Jockey to Thurles road and to put in whatever safety measures it deems necessary in view of the ever increasing amount of road accidents and fatalities taking place on this road."

The response issued to Councillor Ryan in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"It is the intention that a review of speed limits will be undertaken during the life of the new Council and any potential revision of speed limits will be undertaken as part of that process. The last speed limit review took place from 2015 to 2017 and the Speed Limit Review Bye-Laws 2017 were adopted by the Council on 10th July 2017. It is intended that the next review should commence in 2020 with a view to adoption and implementation in 2022.

With regard to a review of speed limits on national routes, the Roads Senior Engineer will liaise with TII in this regard and the Council will write to them generally to ascertain how they would like to proceed with regard to a review of speed limits on national routes."

Councillor M. Lowry seconded the Motion with Councillors S. Hanafin and J. Ryan also expressing support for the Motion.

Councillor S. Ryan pointed out that there is no hard shoulder along most of the road and a lot of ribbon development with two dangerous crossings at Pouldine and Turtulla.



## 5. Notices of Motion.

### a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan

Councillor J. Ryan formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this District Council to review the current pay parking arrangements in place in the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea with the view of increasing the length of free parking time available to shoppers both all year round and in particular during the Christmas period."

The response issued to Councillor Ryan in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"Any revision of parking arrangements would have to have a cost/income neutral outcome. A parking strategy will be incorporated into the Thurles Town Centre Integrated Renewal Plan, for which Consultants have recently been appointed by the Planning Section. The Plan will set out targeted actions and projects to create a vibrant and revitalised town centre. The Members, Chamber of Commerce and Town Forum will be fully briefed and consulted on this in January by the Planning Section. With regard to Christmas arrangements, the free parking initiative is in place again this year with the following arrangements place on Saturday 7th, 14th and 21st December 2019:

Roscrea Town : All Public Car Parks  
Templemore Town : Throughout the Town  
Thurles Town : All Public Car Parks

Councillor J. Ryan pointed out that longer periods of free parking are available in Cahir and Tipperary towns during the Christmas period and the same arrangements should apply in Thurles town.

Councillor S. Hanafin advised that a review of pay parking should be taken for the entire County.

Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Roads, Transportation and Infrastructure confirmed that:-

- Pay parking ensures maximum use of parking spaces to allow for turnover for customers. Any extension to free periods of parking would have a negative impact on turnover and availability of prime parking spaces for shoppers.



- The Christmas parking arrangements which differ in all towns in the District where pay parking is in operation are of a historical nature and will continue to be applied in the future.
- Free parking can lead to a reduction in retail revenues as staff and traders tend to park in prime spaces that should be retained for shoppers.

### **b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Ryan**

The Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Ryan was taken with Item 4 of the Agenda.

### **6. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence received.

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

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- Joan Dempsey, former employee, on the death of her sister, Anne.
- Joe Turner, employee, and his family on the death of his mother, Biddy.
- Tony O'Brien, former Thurles Town Councillor on the death of his wife, Alice.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- The Presentation Secondary School, Thurles on winning the FAI Post Primary Schools First Year Girls National Futsal Final 2019.
- Dr. Pádraig O'Reachtagáin on winning the "Dentist of the Year 2019" Award.
- J.K. Brackens Senior Hurling Team on winning the Seamus O'Riain Cup Final.

The Cathaoirleach reminded the Members that a meeting will be held shortly to review the District protocol for Civic Receptions.

### **8. Any Other Business.**

#### **2019 Work Programmes.**

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Footpath improvements at Childers Park and Sarsfield Street, Thurles.
- Ongoing flooding issue at Monakeeba, Stradavoher and Mullauns, Dublin Road, Thurles.





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- Fill potholes at entrance to Munster Hotel Car Park, Thurles.
  - Repairs to speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles.
  - Implement measures to slow down traffic on Butler / Iona / Innisfallen Avenues, Thurles.
  - (i) Installation of CCTV in St Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles as items are being stolen off graves on a regular basis (ii) Timeframe for erection of gates.
  - Ensure drainage issues at Maxfort Cross, Horse & Jockey are given priority early in the New Year.
  - Provision of "Yield" sign at George's Park near Kilcooley Abbey, Gortnahoe.
  - Improve lighting at the pedestrian crossing Two-Mile-Borris.
  - Address flooding at Skehana, Two-Mile-Borris.
  - Some of the Christmas Lighting in Templemore is not working and there are no lights erected on Patrick Street, Church Street or Bank Street.
  - Two sections of the road from Boggaun Cross, Clonmore towards Lisduff have subsided.
  - No road markings for 10km on the Dunkerrin Road to Templemore.
  - Install portable speed signs on N62 at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
  - Implementation of the drainage plan as a matter of priority.
  - Resurface road at Latteragh and identify other problematic roads that require resurfacing rather than continuous patching which is a waste of resources.

Replies to the issues raised are as follows:-

- Flooding at Monakeeba, Stradavoher and Mullauns, Dublin Road, Thurles will be investigated.
- Potholes at the entrance to the Munster Hotel Carpark will be filled.
- Permanent speed ramps will be installed at Bohernanave, Thurles subject to availability of funding.
- A speed survey will be carried out at Butler/Iona/Innisfallen Avenues, Thurles.
- (i) The request for the installation of CCTV at St. Patrick's Cemetery Thurles will be referred to Environment Section (ii) The gates will be erected this week.
- Costings have been prepared to address drainage issues at Maxfort Cross, Horse & Jockey and works will be prioritised early in the New Year.
- The request for the erection of a "Yield" sign at Georges Park near Kilcooley Abbey, Gortnahoe will be referred to the GSS.
- The complaint in regard to lighting at the pedestrian crossing Two-Mile-Borris will be examined by the Director of Services for Roads, Transportation, Infrastructure.
- The drainage plan will be given priority early in the New Year.



- The new plan for Christmas Lighting in Templemore does not provide for the installation of lights on Church Street and Bank Street. New lights being delivered today will be erected on Patrick Street.
- The road from Boggaun Cross Clonmore towards Lisduff is included in the 3 Year Roadworks Programme and will be examined to assess its deterioration.
- The provision of road markings on the Dunkerrin Road to Templemore will be considered subject to receipt of funding.
- The portable speed sign is due for delivery in Q1 of 2020 and will be placed temporarily outside Kennedy Park to assess speed of traffic.
- Areas identified on the drainage plan will be given priority early in the New Year.
- The road at Latteragh will be realigned under a capital scheme in the future and the Council will seek funding to undertake remedial measures in the interim. A meeting can be arranged with the Members to discuss other roads that have deteriorated and require resurfacing.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 20th. January 2020.**  
CATHAOIRLEACH

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 20th. January 2020.**  
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR