



## **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

### **Present:**

Councillor Noel Coonan Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peter Ryan, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith

### **Also Present:**

Eamon Lonergan	Acting District Director
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Janice Gardiner	Acting Meetings Administrator
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Acting Senior Staff Officer

### **Appreciation and Welcome.**

The Cathaoirleach extended his gratitude to the Acting Meetings Administrator who will relocate to Nenagh at the end of the year. He thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the district during her time in Thurles. He also welcomed the new District Administrator to Thurles and expressed his enthusiasm towards working with her into the future.

The other Members endorsed his comments in wishing the outgoing District Administrator well in her new role and in welcoming the incoming District Administrator to her new role in Thurles.

### **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 and seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting which was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



### **3. Update from Community and Economic Development Section.**

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer was in attendance for this item. A report of Community and Economic Development was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report examined the following items:-

- The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)
- Local Development Strategy/LEADER
- SICAP
- LCDC Team led funding Schemes including Town & Village Renewal, Accelerated Measures Strand, Standard Scheme, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), CLAR, Community Enhancement Programme and Health Ireland.
- Tipperary PPN
- Joint Policing Committee
- Children's and Young person's Services Committee
- Age Friendly Tipperary
- Mental Health
- Pride of Place
- Migrant Integration
- Comhairle na nÓg
- What's on in Tipperary
- Let's Keep Tipperary Talking this Christmas
- Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Strategic Projects Unit EU part-funded Projects
- Economic and Enterprise
- LECP – Economic
- Tourism
- Local Enterprise Office
- Digital Strategy, National Broadband Plan & Commercial Investment

Kathleen also outlined to the Members plans to develop a Town Centre Forum for Templemore Town, much like the Thurles Town Centre Forum, to support the retail sector. Membership will be made up of people from community representative bodies.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- There is a lack of adequate broadband in the Thurles periphery which is proving to be a serious issue as many students are currently working from home and require access to broadband services.
- Could a letter be sent to Eir requesting that the required works on Liberty Square be undertaken during night time. The recent outage of broadband during working hours in Thurles town as a consequence of



works being undertaken by Eir proved disastrous for the business community of the town.

- Work on the greenway from the Horse and Jockey to Clonmel has progressed to the stage where Consultants now need to be appointed to undertake a feasibility study. The necessity for Tipperary County Council, specifically Community and Economic Development Section, to get on board at this point in the project is of utmost importance.
- Could the agricultural building at the Source Centre in Thurles be used as a digital hub?
- Can the vacant units in Liberty Square be utilised as temporary pop-up-hubs to facilitate college students who require digital access?

Kathleen Prendergast replied to queries raised as follows:

- The Chamber building at LIT Thurles has ample space and facilities available to any person who requires office space and access to broadband.
- Any proposals for a digital hub in Thurles require the development of a project team by interested parties in order to develop ideas, such as identifying buildings, and formally make a proposal to Community and Economic Development Section, similar to the approach that was taken in Carrick-on-Suir.
- Kathleen will refer all queries raised to her colleagues who will revert via the District Administrator.

#### **4. Update of Thurles MD Schedule of Works 2020**

An update on the District Works Programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda. Thomas Duffy stated that the MD had achieved its objectives for 2020 without incurring any fatalities or serious accidents. He outlined some of the projects completed during 2020 as follows:

- The 2020 Work Programme was complete.
- Resurfacing works were complete on the bends of Latteragh.
- The school wall at Gortagarry was complete using GMA monies.
- Market Square, Roscrea – Works complete to a high standard by contractor using Development Levies funding.
- Kiloskehan Bridge – Improvement works undertaken while retaining the original structure.
- A high volume of housing voids had been turned around during 2020 despite the challenges due to Covid-19.
- Housing Maintenance – The outdoor crews continued to work during a difficult and challenging year



The Members acknowledged and thanked the staff of Thurles MD for the tremendous work undertaken during a difficult year. The following queries were raised:

- The road surface in Kickham Street, Thurles is in very poor condition.
- The footpath outside Dr. McBrearty's surgery in Slievenamon Road, Thurles is collapsing.
- The speed ramps in Rosemount, Thurles are not very visible and need re-painting.
- Can the debris from the bonfire at Loughtagalla park be removed?
- The trees at the back of the Willows Housing Estate are overgrown and need to be cut back.
- The road surface at Shanbally Cross to Moycarkey Village is in poor condition.
- St. Mary's Graveyard is completely overgrown making access for the public very difficult.
- Dumping issue between Leigh and Turnpike on the N8.
- If an application proved unsuccessful under the LIS Scheme must a new application be submitted the following year or will the original application remain on the list?
- The warning signs at Pouldine School are not working on one side of the road.
- Safety Signage indicating soft margins is required for the road from Mary Willies on the N8 heading towards Gortnahoe Village.
- Can a plan be put in place to tidy up a large area of waste ground in Derrynaflan Housing Estate which is currently being used for illegal dumping and holding horses.
- Blocked drains need to be blown out at Ardleague Housing Estate, Two-Mile-Borris and New Street, Littleton.
- Flooding issue following heavy rain at a bend on the road at Ballyduff.
- The road markings at the entrance to Cois Carraig estate have faded and signage is also required.
- Safety measures, such as road re-alignment and safety signage, is needed on Church Road outside St. Colmcille's National School, Templemore to make the area safe.
- Footpath in Castleiney requires attention.
- Section of road on the N62 at Church Street, Templemore is in a poor state of repair.
- Safety measures required at Mary Street, Templemore on the N62
- Road markings required to highlight the dyke at Harry Wall's Cross, between the Ragg and Templemore.
- Issue of dumped rubbish in Templemore needs to be addressed.
- The gullies on the N62 at the McDonald's roundabout need attention as water is lodging in the area.



- Who is ultimately responsible for rodents in a Housing Estates – it would appear that Environment Section refer the issue to the HSE who then revert it back to Environment Section.
- Can members be notified when Contractors are undertaking works for the Council. This is in response to a recent issue in Roscrea whereby poor traffic management by the Contractor resulted in traffic mayhem.
- How many mobile speed signs are there in Thurles MD.
- Water ponding issue at Foley's Corner/Bank Street, Templemore .

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- The issue of the poor road surface in Kickham Street, Thurles will be flagged with the TII.
- The issue of speed ramps in Rosemount, Thurles not being very visible will be examined.
- The issue of overgrown trees at the back of the Willows Housing Estate will be investigated.
- The poor condition of the road surface at Shanbally Cross to Moycarkey Village will be examined.
- A meeting with the Heritage Officer will be arranged to discuss the overgrown issue at St. Mary's Graveyard.
- If an application proved unsuccessful under the LIS Scheme it will remain on the list for the following year, there is no need to re-submit the same application.
- The issue regarding warning signs at Pouldine not working on one side of the road has previously been logged with TII to address. It will be raised with them again.
- The provision of safety signage indicating soft margins for the road from Mary Willies heading towards Gortnahoe Village will be examined.
- The residents of Derrynaflan Housing Estate need to come up with suggestions for the use of the waste ground and those suggestions can then be examined by the MD.
- The issue of blocked drains at Ardleague Housing Estate, Two-Mile-Borris and New Street, Littleton will be investigated.
- The issue of flooding following heavy rain at a bend on the road at Ballyduff will be investigated.
- The faded road markings at the entrance to Cois Carraig estate and lack of safety signage will be addressed.
- The road safety issues outside Colmcille National School, Templemore will be addressed as soon as possible. Thurles MD will liaise with the school principal on the matter.
- It is anticipated that funding for a footpath at Castleiney will be available in 2021.
- The poor condition on the section of road on the N62 at Church Street, Templemore has been referred to Roads Capital Section.



- Discussions currently underway with land owners in relation to the Road markings required at Harry Wall's Cross, Templemore. The works will be funded from a low cost safety scheme.
- The blocked gullies on the N62 at the McDonald's roundabout will be investigated.
- Rodents in housing estates should be referred to the Environment Section. The MD is aware of rodents in a derelict house in Kennedy Park, Roscrea. Thurles District Engineer will prepare a report on same for the Environment Section.
- Contractors such as Electric Ireland undertake public works independently of the Council and have their own PR systems in place to ensure that the public are informed of any works that may affect them.
- There is one mobile speed sign in Thurles MD.
- The issue of water ponding at Foley's Corner/Bank Street, Templemore will be investigated.

## 5. Update on Projects

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Main drainage works are advancing well in the centre portion of Liberty Square. All main drainage works are programmed to be completed in Jan 2021 with paving Phase 2 commencing thereafter on the Southern side of the square. There is ongoing liaison between shop keepers and RE Staff to ensure good communications and to address any problems promptly where they arise. The site footprint will be minimised over the Christmas period to minimise disruption to traffic during the period.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	EML are appointed as Design Stage consultants. A preliminary design has been submitted which is been reviewed by the relevant parties. We expect a detailed design for the project in the 2nd quarter 2021.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Paving works are programmed to be completed w/e 18.12.20. Street Furniture and planting are completed. Public lights and pedestrian crossing installed. It is envisaged that the works will be fully completed mid Jan 2021.





The Littleton Labyrinth' (Peatway).	The Just Transition Fund for the Littleton Labyrinth Project has successfully met the required criteria set down by the Department and is being made a provisional offer of €663,719. A final offer will be subject to a normal verification assessment process.
The Old Rail line between Roscrea and Birr.	Correspondence has been issued to the original Birr-Roscrea Greenway steering group members to ascertain if there is any merit in re-visiting the proposals. No progress since last meeting.
River Suir Walkway, Thurles.	Thurles Lions Club are in the process of writing to all affected landowners advising that they are examining the potential for a looped riverbank walk and getting preliminary views from the landowners. Application for funding of Phase 1 of the walkway has been submitted under Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure. Appointment of consultant to progress to shovel ready ongoing.
Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, Roscrea.	Work to enhance the roundabouts has been completed.
Breakdown of Vacant Houses in the District.	Status of 20 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 = In progress</li> <li>• 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards</li> <li>• 1 = Awaiting Budget Approval</li> <li>• 3 = At Tender Stage</li> <li>• 4 = At Inspection/Costings Stage.</li> <li>• 2 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.</li> </ul>

The District Director informed the members that James Dowling, Executive Engineer has commenced in the MD where he will be engaged full time on capital projects.

It is proposed to hold a workshop for the Members in January to outline the Capital Projects planned for Thurles MD going forward. A specific date has not been set for the Workshop but it is intended that it will take place before the



next MD Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January, depending on the level of Covid-19 restrictions imposed at that time.

**6. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence

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

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- Cllr. Pat English on the death of his mother.
- Seamus Delaney, Manager of Roscrea Leisure Centre, on the death of his father James (Jim) Delaney, Mitchell St. Thurles.

**8. Any Other Business.**

Proposal to request the HSE to reverse its decision to downgrade Dean Maxwell Home in Roscrea to short term care only

It was proposed by Cllr. Noel Coonan and seconded by Cllr. Michael Smith that :

'Thurles MD write to the HSE requesting that the decision to downgrade the Dean Maxwell Home, Roscrea to short term care only be reversed.'

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR