



## MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 20th JULY, 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:** Eamonn Lonergan Acting District Director  
Thomas Duffy District Engineer  
Janice Gardiner Acting Meetings 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. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15th June 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

and

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

"That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting which was held on the 15th June, 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### 3. Update from Housing Section.

- Tipperary Resettlement Programme

Padraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker was in attendance for this item. Padraig introduced Lindsey Cleary and Nade Bric from the Tipperary Resettlement Team who are presently working on the resettlement of 45 Syrian families in County Tipperary, 5 of whom will be housed in



Templemore. Lynsey made a presentation on the resettlement of the 5 Syrian families as follows:

- 5 Syrian families will be housed in Templemore.
- The families are not Asylum Seekers.
- The age profile of the families is not yet known
- The arrival date of the families is yet to be determined by the Department of Justice
- The families will be assisted in the transition process by providing assistance with day to day living and education.
- Transparency in the entire process with the local community is paramount.
- A welcome committee comprising of volunteers from within the community will be set up.
- Welcome packs will be prepared for the families and translated into Arabic. These packs will include all information on Covid-19.
- Schools and Crèches in Templemore have been informed and will be kept up to date.
- The ETB in Templemore have been informed and the adult family members will attend English language classes.
- An on-line information session for the public was held recently. 22 people, including reps. from schools and Councillors attended the meeting.
- Information has been advertised in local papers and on local radio.

The Members welcomed Lindsey and Nade and raised the following issues:-

- Advise on when the families are expected to arrive in Templemore?
- Have the houses been identified?
- Ensure that the Councillors are briefed before allocation of houses is made.
- It was noted that a similar resettlement programme was undertaken in Thurles town several years ago and was very positively received.
- Employment issues with the families will need to be tackled from early on in the resettlement process.
- The cut-off date for schools to get supports is 30<sup>th</sup> September.
- The housing waiting list in Templemore must be addressed and it is very important that any boarded up houses are dealt with.

Padraig responded to the issues raised as follows:-

- The families are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the current resettlement programme. It may be August but exact date is still being awaited from the Department of Justice.
- The houses have not yet been allocated. 5 houses have been identified and the Councillors will be informed.



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The Cathaoirleach thanked Pdraig, Lindsey and Nade and they left the Meeting.

- Update from Housing Section

Seán Lonergan, Senior Executive Officer, Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer and Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer, were in attendance for the main housing report. Kieran highlighted the main points contained in the Housing Report, July 2020 which was circulated by e-mail with the Agenda:

- Housing Construction
- Capital Assistance Scheme
- Housing Grant Allocations 2020
- Housing Purchases 2020
- Housing Load Applications
- RAS and Leasing 2020
- HAP 2020
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Houses at Tara Drive require upgrading of windows and doors which are in a poor state of repair.
- There is only 1 four bed house in each of the new developments of housing estates currently underway in Two-Mile-Borris and the Mill Road, Thurles.
- 4 acres of land in Glencarrick, Roscrea which was purchased by the Council in 2014 is land locked with no access point thereby rendering it useless.

Replies to the queries raised as follows:-

- Phase 2 of the Windows and Doors Retrofit Scheme was delayed. However, a new scheme, 'Midlands Retrofit Programme' is soon to become available and talks with the Department are necessary to determine which scheme will give the best outcome.
- There is a big demand for 2 and 3 bedroom houses. Construction is only one element of procurement as tenants are also housed through RAS and Long Term Leases.
- The Council are examining the land at Glencarrick with a view to getting access to the site. The issue will be referred back to the Director of Housing.

The Members thanked Seán, Kieran and Jim for their contribution and they left the Meeting.



#### **4. Update from Community & Economic Development.**

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer, Community and Economic Development Section was in attendance for this item. A copy of her report was circulated with the Agenda outlining information under the following headings:-

- Community
- LCDC Team Led Funding Schemes
- COVID-19 Emergency Fund
- Joint Policing Committee
- Jigsaw
- Age Friendly Tipperary and Roscrea Age Friendly Town
- Suicide Prevention
- Tipperary Sport partnership
- Strategic Projects Unit EU part-funded projects
- Economic and Enterprise
- Craft
- Tourism
- LECP Economic
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Enterprise Awards
- National Broadband Plan and Digital Innovation Hubs

The Members thanked Kathleen and raised the following queries:-

- A follow-up on the issue of joint data control between the County Council and the Gardaí in relation to the CCTV for Littleton.
- Ensure that the proposed location of the Jigsaw HQ in Thurles will happen. The demand for the services of Jigsaw is especially necessary now with one in four referrals being self referrals.
- Assurance that the great work of the Community Action Plan in Littleton and Roscrea will continue.
- The CCTV in Liberty Square and the adjoining streets need upgrading.
- Lack of high speed broadband in Thurles needs to be addressed, especially now given the large number of people working from home.
- Thurles must be given the same opportunities as other towns in the County in relation to the establishment of a digital hub. The knock on effect will be invaluable for the town. An ideal premises in Liberty Square has been identified.
- Contact the GAA to access the opportunity for GAA tourism in Thurles.
- Clarity required on the 3 month waiver of rates for business premises as the waiver has not been reflected in the Rates Bills issuing from the Council.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-



- Community and Economic Development Section will continue to promote the location of Jigsaw HQ in Thurles as a priority.
- Kathleen will liaise with the necessary personnel and revert through the Thurles DA regarding the Community Action Plans in Roscrea and Littleton.
- Kathleen will liaise with her colleague regarding any tourism opportunities for the GAA in Thurles, however any tourism project would need to be organic, i.e. it must come locally from individuals in the town.
- The issue of Rates bills will be referred to Finance Section
- The establishment of a digital hub will require local organic growth. Cllr. Jim Ryan to liaise further with Kathleen in relation to the premises and the interested parties.
- Consultants are currently working on the document preparation in relation to the CCTV. The proposed CCTV does include the Town Park.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Kathleen for her contributions and she left the Meeting.

#### **5. (a) Update from Culture/Library Services/Fire & Emergency Services.**

Damian Dullaghan, Marie McMahon and Ann Marie Brophy, Culture/Library/Fire & Emergency Services Section were in attendance for this item. A copy of the Cultural Team Report July 2020 was circulated with the Agenda. Damian highlighted the following main points in relation to the Library Services:-

- On-line Story time during COVID-19 lockdown was very successful.
- There was a 300% increase in usage of e-books during period March to May.
- The Libraries have re-opened and are running well.

Marie highlighted the following main points in relation to Tipperary Museum and the Arts:

- The Museum had re-opened last October following re-development works before having to close again during the lockdown. It has now once again re-opened its doors.
- The ReCOVer Together Initiative, launched during lockdown, invited people to share their COVID-19 experiences through their stories and photos.
- Tracks from the 'Rediscovery of Mick Delahunty's Lost Recordings' have been remastered.
- The Tipperary Bealtaine Festival is going ahead on-line this year.

The Members noted the following:-



- The income of musicians from pubs and weddings has been decimated due to COVID 19 and financial assistance should be made available to assist them during this difficult time.
- Has the roof in Templemore Library been repaired?

Replies to queries were as follows:-

- Marie will liaise with her colleague in relation to the issue for musicians. There will be a webinar made available on how to move forward.
- The roof has been repaired. The wall will be rendered later this year.

##### 5. **(b) Civic Memorial Policy.**

An application has been made by Moyne Road/Bellevue Residents Committee for the erection of a plaque at St. Mary's Garden of Remembrance, Thurles in order to honour two Thurles men who fought in the Korean War (Patrick Kinger Maher and Con Gouldsbrough).

It was proposed by Councillor Peter Ryan, seconded by Councillor Sean Ryan and resolved:-

"That approval be given to the Moyne Road/Bellevue Residents Committee for the erection of a plaque at St. Mary's Garden of Remembrance, Thurles subject to the following condition:

1. The applicant shall secure planning permission to erect the plaque, as proposed, prior to any works taking place."

##### 6. **To Consider Chief Executives Report on Material Contravention of the Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012 – 2018 as extended in respect of Planning Ref No in Planning Register 19601359.**

Ann Marie, Devaney, Senior Planner presented the following proposal:-

"Having regard to the planning history, Tipperary County Council are proposing the Material Contravention of the Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as extended in respect of permission for change of use of an existing Light Industrial Unit to a Veterinary Practice consisting of the new sub-division of the floor plan into office, storage, reception, cattery, kennels and surgery room and large animal area, replacing the existing single sheet cladding, alterations to the North, South, East and West Elevations by the installation of windows and doors and partial removal of existing parapet (North elevation) and a part relocation of existing entrance at Benamore, Dublin Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. Ref No in Planning Register 19601359 – Applicant Mr. Damian Corcoran."



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The Members noted the following:-

- How did this process come about?
- The location is a prime location in Roscrea

Ann Marie outlined the background to the property and advised that the original building was permitted as commercial use as was the adjoining building which is still in commercial use.

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

“That, pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and having considered the Chief Executives Report to materially contravene the land use zoning objective of the Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012-2018 of the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to facilitate the granting of permission for planning application 19601359, the Council hereby resolve to approve the proposal to grant permission on planning application 19601359.”

## **7. (a) Update on District Works Programme.**

An update on the District Works Programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda. The District Director outlined to the Members details of the new reports that would from hereon be submitted to Members in advance of the monthly meeting. He outlined the importance of the CRM system in tracking issues and how it is working well.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- When will works commence on Priory Lane and what is the timeframe for the works
- Issue with speeding in Thurles from the water tower down to the Bohernamona Junction. Can traffic calming measures or a pedestrian crossing be installed?
- Overgrown ditches and grass at locations in Thurles at Dark Road, Turtulla Cross and Knockroe.
- All clippings must be cleaned up after hedge cutting.
- Road surface at Kickham Street/Dublin Road, Thurles is in very poor condition.
- Flooding issue at Monakeeba and outside Boomerang on the Dublin Road, Thurles.
- No hand sanitiser or COVID-19 signs in place at Thurles Town Park.
- Both entrances at Baker Street, Thurles require enhancement works to make the pedestrian street more attractive and appealing to the public.



- Liberty Square Car Park – ‘all day’ parking facility is needed in the new car park.
- Poor visibility at junctions at Pouldine, Knockroe and Coolcroo.
- The Japanese Knotweed at Newhill is back again and needs further injecting.
- Problem with rodents at waste ground in Oakfield Estate, Thurles.
- Potholes at left hand side going into Cluain Glas Estate, Thurles.
- Trees from the back of Monadreen, Thurles are overgrowing into Rosemount Estate and require tidying up.
- Flooding issue during heavy rain in Moycarkey in the centre of the village.
- Flooding issue at Archerstown, Thurles.
- Issue with potholes at Grange and the Commons.
- Road lines needed at Ballymoreen Junction and Mary Willies where recent road resurfacing works took place.
- Works needed at traffic islands in Littleton which are damaged by trucks.
- Trees protruding on the Metal Bridge at the Borrisoleigh side.
- Identify projects for walking/cycling infrastructure.
- Dangerous junction on the Knock Road/N62.
- Update regarding the waste bins for the N62 Benamore, Roscrea.
- Rosemary Street, Roscrea, footpaths are in a bad state of repair. Can this work be funded from IPB monies.
- Junctions at Killea overgrown causing a hazard to road users.
- Overgrown nettles causing difficulty for walkers and cyclists on the N62 Benamore.
- Poor signage at numerous junctions coming off minor roads throughout the District. Can a programme be put together and funding sought.
- Can funding be made available from the RRDF for a walkway from Carrick on a section on the N62 and back in to Roscrea.
- Extend the existing footpath on the road from Borrisoleigh to Templemore as it is currently not safe for walkers.
- Public appeal to have patience for heavy road vehicles on the road during the farming season.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- District Engineer will prepare a programme of hedge cutting.
- The trimming of margins is somewhat compromised by funding and bio-diversity issues. The matter will be referred to Roads Central.
- Signage at junctions – the issue will be addressed.
- Contractor will be appointed to address the white lines. Regional roads will be the first to be completed.
- Footpaths in Rosemary Square, Roscrea will be addressed towards the end of the year.
- Knock Road – A proposal will be sought.
- The problem with refuse will be addressed.



- Problem at Metal Bridge will be referred to GSS.
- Damage to traffic island in Littleton will be addressed.
- Trees overhanging into Rosemount from Monadreen will be investigated.
- District Engineer to meet with residents regarding the potholes at Cluain Glas estate.
- The Japanese Knotweed is in the process of being treated. The process takes several months. The first treatment has been administered and the second treatment is due in September.
- Rodents in the waste ground in Oakfield Estate, Thurles will be investigated
- Moycarkey flooding issue will be included in the Roads Programme.
- The flooding issue at Archerstown will be investigated.
- Hedge cutting at Turtulla and Pouldine will be carried out by contractor next weekend.
- The entrances at Baker Street will be examined with a view to maximising the potential of the street.
- Signage is in place at Thurles Town Park. Hand sanitiser is not provided as park users are responsible for their own use of same.
- The flooding issue outside Boomerang, Dublin Road, Thurles has been dealt with.
- The flooding issue outside Monakeeba, Thurles will be investigated. Gullies in this area have been cleaned.
- The speeding issue at Loughtagalla, Thurles should, in the first instance, be referred to the Gardaí. A speed ramp will only be considered as a last resort.
- Parking in Liberty Square, Thurles will require amendment to the Bye-Laws and any amendments must be cost neutral.
- Section of footpath at The Mall, Templemore will be addressed.
- Road markings required outside the Church in Templemore will be put on Schedule for consideration.

## **7. (b) Update on Projects.**

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Carpark construction is programmed to be completed 21st August 2020. Works will commence on Liberty Square 17th August 2020. Information flyers will be issued to all affected business owners to keep all parties informed regarding progress and phasing of the works.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	Two tenders received for the multidisciplinary architectural led design team. The tenders are currently being assessed under the tender selection criteria and a contract award will be made in due course.



Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Naytar have been awarded the contract for Market Square. The contractor has indicated that works will commence on the 27th August on a phased basis. An information flyer will be issued in advance to all business owners affected to inform them of relevant aspects of the works such as programme, phasing etc.
Templemore Town Park.	All documentation has been exchanged between the Council and the Voluntary Housing Association in regard to boundaries and outline proposals. Subject to agreement of all parties we are projecting that a consultant will be appointed in the 3rd quarter of 2020 with submission of Part 8 Planning thereafter. Re-submission of funding application to be submitted in advance of 30th November 2020 closing date.
Peatway in Littleton.	The Government launched a Just Transition Fund in June, 2020 inviting applications for projects that would contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the Midlands regions most affected by the transition away from fossil fuel. A dedicated fund of €11m has been made available in the round of applications. The Council is working with Bord na Mona, South Tipperary Development Company and local community groups in the preparation of an application for the development of a tourism amenity (including walkways and cycleways) at Littleton Bog. The application is due to be submitted for consideration on or before the 17th July, 2020.
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. Andrew Murray of Offaly County Council is proposing to set-up a Zoom meeting in the coming weeks with members of the group to progress the scheme.
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 submitted under Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure
Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, Roscrea.	Work to enhance the roundabouts is ongoing.
Breakdown of Vacant Houses in the District.	Status of 25 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 = In progress</li> <li>• 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards</li> <li>• 1 = Awaiting Budget Approval</li> <li>• 0 = At Tender Stage</li> <li>• 5 = At Inspection/Costings Stage.</li> <li>• 5 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.</li> </ul>

## 8. **Notice of Motion.**

### a) **Notice of Motion in the names of Cllr J. Ryan and Cllr. Shane Lee**

Councillors J. Ryan and S Lee formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in their names:

"We call on this District Council and the boards of the Leisure Centres of Thurles and Roscrea to inform the general public and more importantly their members of then these centres will reopen and why extra funding is been sought from the Government to help reopen them".

The response issued to Cllrs. J. Ryan and S. Lee in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"Members will know that, arising from a Government decision in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, many public facilities including swimming pools and leisure centres were required to close and to remain closed for a number of months. The "Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business" published by Government set out timescales for the reopening of facilities and retail outlets. These timescales were subsequently accelerated and a Government decision authorised the re-opening of swimming pools and leisure centres commencing from the 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.

This matter raised in this Notice of Motion was discussed at the July meeting of Tipperary County Council and it was unanimously agreed that the Council should write to Government seeking financial assistance and support for swimming pools and leisure centres in the forthcoming economic stimulus package. The Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council indicated at the Council meeting that the Council will honour its financial commitment for 2020 to the Thurles Leisure Centre and Roscrea



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Swimming Pool notwithstanding that the anticipated financial deficit to the Council for 2020 is estimated at €20m.

It is understood that the Boards of both facilities are actively considering dates for reopening to public access. A series of financial measures have already been introduced by Government to support the re-opening of business, particularly SME`s and those operating in the retail sector. A national package of supports is needed to assist the re-opening of leisure centres and swimming pools.”

The matter was then discussed by the Members in some detail and all were in agreement that it is very important that both pools re-open.

## **9. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

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

Votes of Congratulation were extended to:-

- A group of local cyclists, Micheál Hassett, Conor Ryan, Noel Buckley, Mick Hayden and John Fitzpatrick as they undertake a cycle this weekend from Mizen Head to Malin Head to raise funds for Down Syndrome Ireland, Tipperary Branch.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- Michael Mulcaire, General Operative, Thurles Municipal District on the death of his mother.

## **11. Any Other Business.**

### Shop Local Initiative.

Caroline Nesbitt from Designedly has been working with the Acting District Administrator regarding a Shop Local Initiative for the three towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea. Caroline made a presentation on the Initiative, the main points of which were:

- The Campaign is entitled ‘The Heart of our Town’
- The aim of the Campaign is to promote local business and carry the message that ‘we are open for business’
- Encourage behaviour of buyers, i.e. to think before buying.
- The Campaign will be active in Thurles Town initially before progressing into Templemore and Roscrea.
- The campaign has already reached out to local traders in Thurles via Thurles Traders Association and 30 replies were received.



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- The months of July, August and September will see the Campaign proceeding with its Social Media Campaign through [thurles.ie](http://thurles.ie) website. In September/October a voluntary committee made up of traders will take the campaign into schools to create awareness amongst young people of their buying implications and buying choices.

The Members thanked Caroline for her presentation and raised the following points:-

- This is a very important initiative and it is great to see young people involved. Focus could be put at TY students and the campaign could also be included in the LCVP programme.
- Given the Covid-19 pandemic, the timing of the campaign is excellent as lockdown is lifted and people are starting to appreciate shopping local.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020.**  
CATHAOIRLEACH

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2020.**  
ACTING MEETINGS  
ADMINISTRATOR