



## **MINUTES OF THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 15th JUNE, 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 A/Meetings Administrator  
Susan Scally Asst. 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. Ryan, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18th. May 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3. Update from Planning Section.**

Brian Beck, Senior Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer, Planning Section were in attendance for this item. Brian congratulated the Cathaoirleach on his election and he introduced Kieran who has recently commenced in Planning Section.

Brian highlighted the following main points contained in the Planning Briefing Note June 2020 which was circulated by email with the Agenda:-

- County Development Plan.
- Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund: Project Implementation .
- Taking In Charge Update.
- Application Statistics.
- Enforcement.



The Members welcomed Kieran to his new role and raised the following issues:-

- Advise when the next round of funding will be available to ensure funding is in place for the next phase of the Market Square project.
- Provision of digital hub spaces in Thurles Town Centre. This is essential and more so now due to the number of people working from home during Covid-19 and would provide an alternative to people having to travel distances to and from work. Thurles Enterprise Centre provides digital hubs but the demand for same has increased during the pandemic.
- Establish Thurles as an Education hub which should be included in any plan going forward.
- Work on the regeneration of the Friar Street/Croke Street and Castle Avenue Quarter should be frontloaded so the public can see tangible results.
- Taking in charge of Cluain Doire housing estate, Templemore.
- Advise of the measures available to the Council to address the issue of derelict sites and in particular the former Sacred Heart Convent in Templemore.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:-

- Thurles is referred to as an educational hub in the National Economic & Spatial Strategy.
- Planning is available to meet any educational facilities and will support any plans proposed by them.
- The plans for Friar Street/Croke Street and Castle Avenue Quarter will be a mixture of houses / shops and may require land acquisition. It is intended to put an application together but may run over a number of years i.e. 3, 5 or 8 year projects.
- It is important to get the steps right, first in RSES and then in the County Plan to ensure investment.
- It is intended to apply for funding for digital hubs but plans have to be in place and consultants employed to progress plans.
- Derelict sites are under the remit of Environment. Planning will work with any property owner who approaches them requiring assistance.

The Acting District Manager advised that a survey of all derelict sites in the District will be undertaken. He also welcomed Kieran whom he confirmed will look after all projects across the County. Actions are important but it is also about delivery of projects and developing new plans every year for the public and those providing funding.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Brian and Kieran for their contributions and they left the Meeting.



#### **4. Update from Water Section.**

Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services Section was in attendance for this item. Copy of a District Briefing Note, detailing activity in Water Services which should be read in conjunction with the most recent bi-monthly Management Report on Water Services provided at the January County Council Monthly Meeting, was circulated with the Agenda outlining information under the following headings:-

- Infrastructural Projects.
- Networks Portfolio Delivery.
- Capital Delivery Programme.
- Rural Water Programme.
- Migration of non domestic water accounts to Irish Water is now complete.

Gerry advised that:-

- Works at Abbey Road Thurles will commence next Monday for a duration of 12 weeks.
- Draft Drainage Area Plans for Roscrea and Thurles are being reviewed by Irish Water.
- Work on back yard services in Thurles was suspended due to Covid-19 and the Contractor is awaiting approval to recommence with works.
- Two new Circulars regarding Rural Water Programme were received from the Department last week.
- Outlined details relating to Private Well Grants, Septic Tank Grants and Lead Piping Grants.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The supply at Kilbraugh is still experiencing outages despite the new reservoir. There is also low water pressure at this location.
- Identify when work on backyard services around Semple Stadium will recommence.
- Eligibility of people who have wells for the past 3 / 4 years to apply for the Private Wells Grant.
- Ongoing sewerage issues at Kincora Terrace and Fontenoy Terrace, Thurles. Also sewerage issue at Hillview Drive, Thurles.
- Tidy up required at Treatment Plant in Holycross.

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- Looking at long term solution to issues at Kilbraugh – possible connection to Regional Scheme. However this will incur huge expenditure.
- Backyard services should recommence in the next couple of weeks.



- Private Wells Grants Scheme has just been received. Members should contact Water Services directly with queries.
- Water Services Section is liaising with Irish Water to find a solution to ongoing sewerage issues at Kincora Terrace and Fontenoy Terrace. Process is slow as way leaves are required.
- Contact will be made to tidy up treatment plant in Holycross.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Gerry for his contributions and he left the Meeting.

## **5. Update on District Works Programme.**

An update on the District Works Programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda and the District Engineer gave a detailed progress report to the Members.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Update from OPW for house relocation on Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore.
- Bridge in Templemore near Ballinroe.
- Section of footpath at The Mall, Templemore in need of repair.
- Road markings outside the Church in Templemore in need of replacing.
- Ragg Road – Dangerous.
- Position regarding two vacant houses in Mitchel Street – one that had been damaged by fire and second located next to Novas.
- Section of road at Archestown that was not resurfaced while work was carried out at this location.
- Update from TII regarding footpath extension at Drish.
- Update on Turtulla Cross.
- Dangerous bend at Corville School also no footpath for a section of this roadway.
- Speeding in Grange Village.
- Include landowners with concrete slab boundaries in the Retrofit Fencing Scheme.
- Box junction in Ballymoreen needs to be remarked.
- Reflector at traffic island from Church side of Littleton knocked down by lorries hitting kerb.
- Bins at Collins Park Thurles not being emptied.
- Piece of ground in Oakfield Drive, Thurles is in need of a tidy up.
- Return bollards to Butler Avenue which had been removed when water works were taking place at this location.
- Part of bridge in Drombane has eroded.
- Road between Seskin and Cormackstown used by pedestrians/cyclists – signage required and hedgerows overgrown.
- Signs and bollards still located at Stradavoher should be removed as work is complete.



- Flooding risk at Bunkers Hill. Update on plan for the area.
- Speeding on N62 Road adjacent to Kennedy Park, Roscrea and the installation of mobile speed cameras at this location.
- Resurfacing of road sides of the N62 Road Roscrea to Thurles.
- Timeframe for completion of minor works on vacant houses.
- Council policy on boarding up of vacant houses.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- A meeting took place with the OPW last Thursday regarding house relocation on Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore. The District Engineer will have an update for next Council Meeting.
- 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.
- Update will be sought from Housing Central regarding two vacant houses in Mitchel Street, Thurles.
- Resurfacing at section of road at Archestown is not included in Programme of Works. If monies left, can look at carrying out work.
- Will investigate with TII where funding can be obtained for footpath extension at Drish.
- There is no update on Turtulla Cross.
- Accidents counts at dangerous bend at Corville School Roscrea will be checked. There are two Low Cost Safety Schemes on hand for outside Templemore and Roscrea. If monies not used, can be reallocated to this location.
- Speeding survey required in Grange village in advance of any works. Results of survey to be submitted for consideration.
- Applications under the Retrofit Fencing Scheme should be submitted by landowners with concrete slab boundaries to the TII for consideration.
- Remarking of box junction in Ballymoreen is scheduled to be undertaken after the Roadworks Programme.
- Repairs at traffic island in Littleton will be undertaken.
- The District Engineer will discuss the problem of emptying bins at Collins Park Thurles with Cllr. S Ryan following the District Meeting.
- An inspection of the piece of ground in Oakfield Drive Thurles will be undertaken by the GSS.
- Bollards will be returned to Butler Avenue Thurles after the completion of the Roadworks Programme.
- Bridge at Drombane will be examined.
- The issue of signage and overgrown hedgerows at Seskin will be investigated.
- Signs and bollards at Stradavoher Thurles will be removed.
- Flooding at Bunkers Hill will be investigated to ascertain who is responsible.
- Position regarding speeding on N62 Road adjacent to Kennedy Park Roscrea will be followed up with Roads Section.



- Staff worked through Covid-19 to turn around vacant houses and will continue to turnaround houses in a timely fashion.
- Vacant houses are boarded up for security reasons.

## 6. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Works to the new carpark are progressing well with all drainage and ducting works @ 90% complete, boundary walls @75% complete and bulk excavation programmed to commenced on 15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2020.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	Phase 2 appointment of a multidisciplinary architectural led design team is currently underway. Closing date for receipt of tenders is 29 <sup>th</sup> . June, 2020. A meeting with the consultation group was held on 9 <sup>th</sup> . June, 2020.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Naytar have been awarded the contract for Market Square. A pre-commencement meeting is programmed to take place on 15 <sup>th</sup> . June, 2020.
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 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Quarter of 2020 with submission of Part 8 Planning thereafter. Re-submission of funding application to be submitted in advance of 30 <sup>th</sup> . November 2020 closing date.
Peatway in Littleton.	A Zoom meeting was held between the Council, Bórd na Móna and Deirdre Black Associates on 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2020. The Council has had positive discussions around the advancement of this project.
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 they will gather preliminary views of the



	landowners involved.
Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, Roscrea.	Clearance of the existing shrubbery has been completed and works will commence on new beds and planting in the coming weeks.
Breakdown of Vacant Houses in the District.	Status of 24 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 = In progress</li> <li>• 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards</li> <li>• 10 = Awaiting Budget Approval</li> <li>• 0 = At Tender Stage</li> <li>• 5 = At Inspection/Costings Stage.</li> <li>• 4 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.</li> </ul>

Councillor J. Ryan made reference to the Tipperary Greenway Project Committee who are working on a proposal to create a greenway from Thurles to Clonmel on the old railway line.

## 7. **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 appoint consultants to draw up a major fishing and river tourism plan for Thurles Town Centre to include providing the appropriate facilities and marketing tools required to make it a success. Once this plan is completed funding to provide and delivery these facilities could be applied for under the 2021 Town & Village Renewal Scheme."

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

"Tipperary County Council is currently developing a Tourism Product Development Plan for Tipperary which will provide a roadmap for future tourism development projects over a ten year period. If Councillor Ryan could provide more detail on the above concept to Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer in the coming days then this can be considered under the development of this new Plan for the county."

Councillor S. Hanafin and Councillor S. Ryan seconded the Motion.

Councillor J. Ryan confirmed that he is happy with the response and that Inland Fisheries Ireland has provided funding for similar projects in the country and it is intended to apply to them for funding for this project.



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## **8. Civic Reception 2020.**

The Acting District Administrator advised the Members that the Civic Reception is normally held in November each year and attended by 100 to 150 people. Due to Covid-19 she asked the Members for their views on the holding of a reception this year and if they had any nominations for the current year.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin that the reception be postponed to 2021. Councillor M. Smith subsequently proposed that the decision be deferred to the July Meeting in order for the Members to give consideration to a different format.

## **9. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

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

There were no Votes of Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- The Molony family, The Green, Holycross on the death of Tom.
- Donal Ryan, Water Services on the death of his mother, Margaret (Peggy), Borrisoleigh.
- The Walsh family, Roscrea on the death of Colm.

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

Councillor J. Ryan advised that there is currently no Shannondoc service in Thurles and members of the public have to travel to Nenagh to avail of the service. He requested a letter be written to Shannondoc to ascertain when services will resume in Thurles.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 20<sup>th</sup>. July, 2020.**  
CATHAOIRLEACH

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE: 20<sup>th</sup>. July, 2020.**  
ACTING MEETINGS  
ADMINISTRATOR