



MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 18th MAY, 2020

Present: Councillor Michael Smith Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present: Eamonn Lonergan Acting District Director
Thomas Duffy District Engineer
Janice Gardiner A/Meetings Administrator
Deirdre O'Shea Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Liam Brett Senior Engineer
Jim Ryan Executive Engineer

Covid-19:

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the control measures that have been put in place to minimise contact and mitigate the risk of Covid-19 in the District Offices. She thanked the staff for their perseverance and assistance during a very difficult time.

The Members referred to the timely resumption of the Roadworks Programme in the towns of Thurles and Roscrea and they expressed appreciation to all of the staff in the District for their efforts during an incredibly challenging period.

1. Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2. Adoption of Minutes.

Councillor N. Coonan referred to the Notice of Motion he submitted for discussion at the March Municipal District Monthly Meeting which was not proceeded with due to restrictions imposed by the Government as a result of Covid-19, requesting the re-establishment of a Drainage Committee for the River Nore. The District Engineer agreed to make further contact with the OPW on the matter.

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



"That the Minutes of the April Monthly Meeting which was held on the 8th. April 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Ratify Decisions taken at the April Meeting held by Teleconference.

The decisions taken by teleconference at the April Municipal District Monthly Meeting were ratified on the proposal of Councillor E. Moran and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan.

4. Update from Environment Section.

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer and Cora Morrissey, Administrative Officer, Environment Section, joined the Meeting by Zoom for this item.

Copy of a report detailing activity in the District from 1st. January 2020 to 30th. April 2020, under the following headings, was circulated by email with the Agenda:-

- Community Services
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Litter Enforcement
- Public Awareness
- Waste Management
- Civic Amenity Sites
- Environment Protection
- Climate and Energy
- Complaints

Marion confirmed that:-

- €20,000 has been secured from the Department for the Roscrea Project under the Anti Dumping Initiative.
- National Spring Cleaning Week is running from 8th to 20th June and 209 groups have already registered.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Establish the number of visits to Roscrea Civic Amenity Site for the same period last year.
- Horses illegally placed on an OPW site at Gortataggart, Thurles which is a source of concern to residents in the estate.
- Issue of horses grazing on open spaces in Derrynaflan Avenue/Drive and on Council land beside the Church of Ireland.



- Unsupervised dogs in Littleton village.
- The bottle banks in Parnell Street carpark, Thurles are not being emptied on a regular basis.
- (i) The need for additional dog fouling signage and dog waste bins and bags in Thurles town and on the walkway from Mill Road to Turtulla to combat the increase in dog fouling (ii) Clarify why dog waste bags are not being replenished in the dispensers in Roscrea (iii) Unsupervised dogs and dog fouling in Templemore Town Park (iv) Issues concerning dogs and horses in the Templemore / Borrisoleigh area.
- Establish when rehabilitation works will commence at the former dump at Monanearla, Thurles.
- (i) Increase in indiscriminate dumping / littering across the District despite adequate educational awareness delivered in the Schools and the need to secure prosecutions and name and shame offenders. Areas raised include green area at Rosemount, Thurles, rear access road at Cabragh Court Thurles, Barnane, Killoshane, St. Joseph's New Cemetery Templemore, on the N62 halfway between Roscrea and Templemore (ii) confirm if there are additional measures in place to deal with local authority tenants involved in indiscriminate dumping (iii) establish the costs associated with illegal dumping in the District.
- Current position in regard to surveying householders to ascertain compliance with bye-laws on management of household waste.
- Provision of litter pickers to groups involved in the National Spring Cleaning Week.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:-

- Visits to the Roscrea Civic Amenity Site have increased by 20 to 25% when compared to the same period last year.
- There are mobile CCTV cameras in 3 locations in Roscrea, 2 location in Templemore and 1 location in Thurles.
- There has been an increase in the number of horses impounded this year. Locations raised by the Members where horses and dogs are a source of concern will be clarified.
- Contact was made with the providers last Friday to empty the bottle banks at Parnell Street carpark, Thurles as soon as possible.
- Additional dog fouling signage and dog waste bag dispensers will be considered for the areas raised.
- (i) Mobile CCTV cameras will be placed in back lanes of housing estates where there is persistent dumping, if feasible (ii) Door to door inspections whereby householders are required to demonstrate proof that their waste is managed in accordance with the bye-laws, have proven effective and will resume when permitted (iii) mobile signage will be erected in the District to raise awareness of littering.
- An update will be provided on the former dump at Monanearla, Thurles. Marion asked that a complete list of the issues raised by the Members be compiled by the District for circulation to her which was agreed.



The Cathaoirleach thanked Marion and Cora for their contributions and they disconnected from the Meeting.

5. Fix Date and Time for the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District.

It was unanimously agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District take place at 10:00 am on Monday 15th. June 2020 followed by the June District Monthly Meeting at 10:30am.

6. To Approve Payments under Lisheen Windfarm Trust to:

- **Moyne Athletic Club**
- **Moyne/Templetuohy Hurling & Football club**
- **Templetuohy Parish Church Group**
- **Moyne National School.**

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that Lisheen Windfarm Trust provides funding for payment of grants to community / voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them. She indicated that Jim Ryan, Executive Engineer has confirmed that the projects have been completed. The following grants have been recommended by the Trust:-

- Moyne Athletic Club	-	€10,000.00
- Moyne/Templetuohy Hurling & Football Club	-	€15,000.00
- Templetuohy Parish Church Group	-	€15,000.00
- Moyne National School	-	€7,000.00

It was proposed by Councillor N. Coonan, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:-

“That the following Grants be paid as recommended by the Trust:

- Moyne Athletic Club	-	€10,000.00
- Moyne/Templetuohy Hurling & Football Club	-	€15,000.00
- Templetuohy Parish Church Group	-	€15,000.00
- Moyne National School	-	€7,000.00.”

7. Update on District Works Programme.

An update on the District Works Programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda.

The District Engineer advised that:-

- Pre-letting repairs on Council houses continued during the lockdown period to bring the houses to a habitable condition.



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- Roads crews returned on 5th May to recommence road preparation for the 2020 Roadworks Programme.
 - 4 sub contractors are presently engaged on macadam works in the District.
 - A number of roads have been upgraded in Roscrea and Thurles towns to date and all urban macadam works should be completed prior to the June Bank Holiday Weekend.
 - Drainage improvements are in progress with works completed in 3 areas to date.
 - Footpath improvements will commence shortly in 4 areas and are at tender stage in 4 locations in Thurles town.
 - Discussions are to take place with a landowner at Mill Road, Thurles in regard to extending the footpath.
 - Proposals were sought from members of the River Drainage Committees and one response was received.

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that:-

- The payment of grants approved under Festivals/Events is dependent on whether projects will go ahead and grants to Tidy Towns and Burial Ground Committees are currently being processed for payment.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Resurfacing of the road from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe. A culvert has also collapsed opposite Purcell's Cross 150 metres from Mary Willies.
- Drainage works required on the back road to Brownstown, Loughmore.
- Install crash barriers where the road drops at Mary Willies and on the Ballybeg Road.
- Pothole repairs on Palatine Street, The Commons and on the Cooleenbee Road, Littleton.
- Establish if the flood relief scheme at Drish, Thurles will be completed by the closing date of 31st. May 2020.
- Replace the damaged bollard on the traffic island outside the Church at Littleton.
- Footpath improvements required on Mitchel Street, Thurles and the road is the same height as the footpath in one location.
- Include Leugh Road from the Jimmy Doyle Road to the former landfill at Monanearla in this year's Roadworks Programme.
- Contact needs to be made with the TII to allocate funding for the resurfacing of the N75 from The Anner Hotel to Cathedral Street, Thurles as a matter of urgency.
- Establish if funding ring-fenced under the GMA for Festivals and Grants can be carried forward to next year if events cannot proceed due to Covid-19.
- Repairs required to footpaths at Mountgeorge, Borrisoleigh and The Mall Road, Templemore. Works will be commencing on 5 houses purchased



by the Council on The Mall Road and therefore, footpaths on at least one side of the road need to be maintained for pedestrians.

- Establish why road traffic accidents take place each year in the same locations on the Templetuohy Road, Clonmore Road and the Dunkerrin Road to Templemore.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- GMA balances that remain unused as a result of festivals/events not going ahead due to Covid-19 this year will be ring-fenced / carried forward to next year due to the current exceptional circumstances.
- The road from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe will be resurfaced this year. The issue in regard to the collapsed culvert 150 metres from Mary Willies will be investigated.
- The request for drainage improvements on the Brownstown Road will be discussed with Jim Ryan, Executive Engineer.
- Calls for crash barriers to be installed at Mary Willies and at Ballybeg will be examined.
- Roads at Cooleenbee and Palatine Street will be patched.
- The District has applied for a time extension to undertake flood relief improvements at Drish, Thurles and a contractor will be appointed this week to undertake the works.
- Damage caused to the bollard on the traffic island near the Church in Littleton will be investigated.
- The request for footpath improvements at Mitchel Street, Thurles Mountgeorge, Borrisoleigh and The Mall Road, Templemore will be examined.
- Improvements will be effected to the Leugh Road this year from the Jimmy Doyle Road to the former landfill at Monanearla subject to availability of funding.
- Roadworks will commence this week from The Suir Bridge to the roundabout at The Munster Hotel, Cathedral Street Thurles. The remainder of the road is on the TII Programme.
- Skid resistance checks will be undertaken on the Templetuohy Road, Clonmore Road and Dunkerrin Road surfaces subject to receipt of exact locations from Councillor E. Moran.

8. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Works have been suspended since 30 th March 2020 as per Government instructions. The Contractor is programmed to recommence on Monday 18 th . May 2020.
Repairs and Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Tender documents are advertised on e-Tenders and latest date for submission of tenders is 29 th . June 2020 at 12 noon. A design team should be in place by August/September 2020.



Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	A letter of intent has issued to the preferred tenderer and contracts will be signed on receipt of all paperwork.
Templemore Town Park.	All documentation pertaining to boundaries and outline proposals have been exchanged between the Council and Voluntary Housing Association. A consultant will be appointed in Q2 of 2020 subject to agreement of all parties with Part 8 Planning to follow.
Peatway in Littleton.	A Zoom meeting was held between the Council, Bórd na Móna and Deirdre Black Associates on 5 th May 2020.
The Old Rail line between Roscrea and Birr.	Andrew Murray, Offaly County Council is setting up a Zoom meeting in the coming weeks with Members of the original Birr-Roscrea Greenway Steering Group to ascertain if proposals can be progressed.
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 once restrictions are lifted.
Breakdown of Vacant Houses in the District.	Status of 27 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 = In progress • 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards • 6 = Awaiting Budget Approval • 1 = At Tender Stage • 4 = At Inspection/Costings Stage. • 3 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.

The Members made the following points:-

- The need to fully engage with businesses on Liberty Square to minimise disruption during the works.
- The need to progress the proposed Peatway in Littleton. Ask Bórd na Móna to reinstate the old Railway tracks for the proposed peatway.
- Arrange a meeting with the Chief Superintendent of Templemore Garda College on the closure of the Museum in the Garda College. Consideration should be given to relocating the Museum to Templemore Town Hall.



- Verify who will be allocated the 5 houses purchased at The Mall and Church Avenue, Templemore.
- Update in regard to upgrading the Community CCTV cameras in Thurles town and extension of the system to Thurles Town Park.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:

- Contact will be made with the Chief Superintendent to arrange a meeting in regard to the closure of the Museum in Templemore Garda College.
- Meetings have been held with representatives of Thurles Chamber on a fortnightly basis at which updates were provided on the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme until restrictions were imposed due to Covid-19. The Programme submitted by the contractor will be subject to changes due to the lockdown, supply chain issues and the imposition of social distancing requirements as a result of Covid-19.
- A report outlining various options for the Community CCTV system in Thurles has been received from the Security Consultants and put on hold due to the current restrictions.
- The feasibility Study prepared by Deirdre Black Associates on the proposed peatway has to receive sign off from Bórd na Móna stakeholders. It may be necessary to include the peatway as part of a larger project that would ensure its economic viability.
- The query raised in regard to the 5 houses at The Mall and Church Avenue, Templemore will be referred to Housing Section.

9. Notices of Motion.

a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Lee

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

"I am calling on this District Council to install "Dog Waste Bins" on the N62 starting from the roundabout at Benamore to the roundabout on the R445 road heading for Moneygall. This is an ongoing issue that needs dealing with as a matter of urgency."

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

"The District Engineer will visit the location on the N62.
A phased approach will be required to identify the need, introduce remedial actions/solutions if required, assess the effectiveness and the long term costs associated with the measures.
Thereafter we will assess other walking routes in the town which may be problematic."



Councillor M. Smith seconded the Motion.

10. Correspondence.

Naming of Thurles Municipal District.

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the contents of an email received from the Private Secretary to the Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform in response to the Member's request for the renaming of Thurles Municipal District.

The response confirmed that the renaming of Thurles Municipal District may be considered as part of the next review of the Local Electoral Areas which is expected to commence in 2022.

Councillor N. Coonan expressed disappointment with the response.

11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:-

- Moycarkey-Borris GAA Club who organised a virtual community walk fundraiser from Malin Head to Mizen Head for Friends of The Hospital of the Assumption. Members lauded the exceptional service provided by staff to patients of the Community Hospital of the Assumption and all Nursing Homes throughout the District.
- Councillor Peter Ryan on the development of a leadership skills course called 'Lift' which has been rolled out to 3 Secondary Schools.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- Michael Costigan, Clonakenny, Roscrea on the untimely death of his wife, Majella.
- The family of the late John Walsh, Parkmore, Roscrea.
- The family of the late Laura Butler RIP.

12. Any Other Business.

There were no issues raised under this item.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach
an
Dhurlais, Ascaill an
Chaisleáin, Durlas,
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SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 15th. June, 2020.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 15th. June, 2020.**
ACTING MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR