



MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 18th NOVEMBER, 2019

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:

Sharon Kennedy	Acting District Director
Liam Brett	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
John Jones	Executive Engineer
Janice Gardiner	Acting Meetings Administrator
Deirdre O'Shea	Senior Staff Officer

Apologies: Jim Ryan Executive Engineer

National Planning Framework: Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

The Cathaoirleach expressed delight at the recent announcement that €2,529,000.00 has been secured for the Templemore Town Hall Enterprise and Cultural Centre and €1,925,546.00 allocated towards the development of the Roscrea Enterprise, Digital & Social Media Hub under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. He asked that a letter be written to Nuala O'Connell, Senior Executive Planner, Planning Section acknowledging her considerable assistance in compiling the application for Templemore Town Hall and also to the "Reach" company who prepared the application for a digital hub in Roscrea.

The other Members concurred with his comments.

The Acting District Director confirmed that Planning Section will be working with the District on progressing the Templemore Town Hall Project.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor Seamus Hanafin, seconded by Councillor Sean Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting which was held on the 21st. October, 2019 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



2. Update from Housing Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer and Mr. Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer, Housing Section, to the Meeting for this item.

The Thurles District Report, containing updates under the headings listed hereunder, was circulated in advance of the Meeting:-

- Housing Construction.
- Capital Assistance Scheme.
- Housing Grant Allocations 2019.
- House Purchases 2019.
- Buy and Renew Purchases 2019.
- Housing Loan Applications.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- RAS, Leasing and HAP 2019.
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Update on the refurbishment of 2 Athlomen Terrace, Mitchel Street, Thurles.
- Illegally parked caravans at Cabra Road, Thurles.
- Commencement/completion dates for the proposed 28 house scheme at Mill Road, Thurles.
- Establish if there is a scheme for the replacement of windows and doors in Council houses.
- Liaise with residents in Harkin's Park, Two-Mile-Borris in regard to the proposed 22 house scheme that will adjoin the estate.
- The urgent need to bring 5 vacant units in Littleton back into stock.
- Confirm if there are sufficient funds available under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.
- Establish why there are no proposals to build social units in Templemore town given the large land bank available.
- Appalling condition of the OPW houses in Templemore town.
- Occupied caravans in a field on The Ragg road, Templemore with no sanitary services or electricity.
- Establish if the Council will continue to purchase acquisitions for social housing purposes next year.
- Some of our housing stock have a very low energy rating.
- Provide a breakdown of the Approved Housing Applicants figure of 875 to ascertain the number in receipt of HAP or RAS.
- Some houses under HAP are sub standard.
- Establish if the criteria used to assess applications under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme is similar to that in the banking sector.



- Update in regard to proposed housing development at Glencarrick, Roscrea and the need to provide an adequate open space/amenity area to cater for the growing population in this location.
- Confirm if the funds received under the Tenant Purchase Scheme are transferred to Internal Capital Receipts for planned maintenance works.
- Establish the length of time a landlord is given to rectify issues outlined in a Notice of Works.
- Update in regard to vacant unit at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh.
- Clarify if RAS / HAP recipients can be considered for other forms of social housing.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Approximately 40% of approved housing applicants are in receipt of HAP or RAS and there have been cases where applicants have refused offers of traditional Council housing to remain in their present accommodation.
- There has been an unavoidable delay in commencing the refurbishment of 2 Athlomen Terrace, Thurles as the Contractor was required to carry out priority works on another site and it is expected that the works will commence in January, 2020.
- It is anticipated that the 28 house scheme at Mill Road, Thurles will commence in January/February 2020 with completion in Q1 of 2021.
- Phase 2 of the Energy Improvement Scheme includes the installation of windows/doors.
- The proposed 22 house scheme adjacent to Harkin's Park, Two-Mile-Borris complies with planning legislation in regard to overlooking of properties.
- The allocation approved by the Department for vacant units is high when compared to other local authorities. The Council has also sought an additional allocation this year. A number of houses cannot be funded under the current programme as the works required exceed the grant limitations under the Scheme and proposals have been submitted to the Department to undertake extra works to 13 houses that fall into this category.
- Loan approvals under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme are low as (i) application forms are not being completed correctly; (ii) or applicants have not demonstrated a savings pattern for 12 months; (iii) or applicants are seeking a loan amount that their income cannot sustain.
- Drawings are currently being prepared for the refurbishment of the former OPW houses for social housing purposes. It is expected that the houses will be completed by Summer, 2020.
- The District is dealing with the illegally parked caravans at Cabra Road, Thurles and near St. Joseph's Cemetery, Templemore town.
- The Department will not continue to fund acquisitions with the acceleration of the housing construction programme.



- Landlords have 8 weeks to rectify issues identified under Notices of Works. Standards applied are in accordance with the Housing (Standard for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019. It is a matter for a HAP tenant to secure alternative adequate accommodation if their current accommodation is not to an acceptable standard.
- The criteria to assess loan applications under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme is similar to that used by the banking sector.
- The funds accrued from the Tenant Purchase Scheme are transferred to Internal Capital Receipts and used towards the cost of refurbishing vacant units, housing adaptations for people with disabilities and planned maintenance.
- The Glencarrick housing scheme proposals cannot be progressed until access issues are resolved.
- The Council has sought additional funding to amalgamate 2 houses into 1 four bed unit at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh.

The District Engineer gave the following breakdown of vacant units awaiting minor repairs that the District is responsible for:-

• Units where works are in progress	-	6
• Tenders received and being assessed	-	4
• Budgets submitted to Housing Section	-	7
• Budgets being prepared by District	-	8
Total	-	25

The Cathaoirleach thanked Jim and Kieran for the update and they left the Chamber.

3. Update on the 2019 Work Programmes.

The District Engineer advised that:-

- The Roadworks Programme 2019 is largely complete.
- The Fencing Retrofit Programme on national routes is in progress.
- Focus is on footpath repairs and completion of the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Killinan, Thurles.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Commencement date for drainage works at Skehana, Two-Mile-Borris and Maxfort, Horse & Jockey.
- Commencement date for flood relief improvements at Drish, Thurles.
- The need for a mobile CCTV camera to address indiscriminate dumping at the Ballyduff side of Clover Lane, Two-Mile-Borris and at Curraheen, Horse & Jockey.
- Bin across from Corcoran's pub, Two-Mile-Borris is not being emptied.
- Renew road markings at the Ballymoreen junction.



- Erection of an additional "Yield" sign on the Cashel side of the junction at Horse & Jockey following realignment of the junction.
- Replace a section of footpath in Derrynaflan Avenue, Littleton.
- Establish if there has been any update from TII to address safety issues at the junctions at Turtulla and Drish Bridge, Thurles.
- Sightline issues at Marlstone Manor, Thurles; Kyle Lane and Gortkelly, Upperchurch.
- Loose manholes on Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- Replace double yellow lines between The Anner Hotel and the roundabout at Mill Road, Thurles following resurfacing works.
- Repairs are required to the old Church ruins in Rahealty Graveyard.
- Appalling condition of the rear access road in Kennedy Park, Thurles.
- Establish when the gates will be re-installed at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.
- Address speeding of traffic on Butler/Iona/Innisfallen Avenues, Thurles.
- Fill potholes on the Leugh Road coming from the Jimmy Doyle Road, Thurles.
- Address flooding that is impacting on a residence at Fertiana, Holycross.
- Provide adequate road markings and signage at Ballybeg junction near the former Bórd na Móna factory.
- Undertake audit of the pedestrian crossings in Thurles town and in particular at Cathedral Street as the traffic lights are damaged on a regular basis.
- Remove signs/branches that are blocking the new Thurles signage on the approach roads.
- The Eir building at Castle Park, Thurles is falling into a derelict condition.
- Establish when funding will become available for the link road from Mill Road to Clongour, Thurles.
- Poor condition of the footpath at Cathedral Street, Thurles.
- Reline the carpark adjacent to St. Joseph's Cemetery, Templemore.
- Road signage in the District needs attention.
- Poor condition of the road at Aughall Bridge and at Strogue Bridge.
- Commencement date for flood relief improvements at Priory Demesne, Templemore.
- A number of landowners have not cut overgrown hedges that are impacting public roads.
- Flooding issues outside a house beside the ball alley, Castleiney.
- Improve the public lighting on Patrick Street, Templemore.
- Road on the bend at Boularee, Templemore becomes very slippery in icy/wet conditions.
- Update in regard to the request for a walking/cycling route on the R445 and N62, Roscrea.
- Clarify if local roads will be salted in icy conditions.
- The need for bollards to be erected at the entrance to The Glebe playground, on the Carrick Road near McDonalds and at Green Street on the bend of the road, Roscrea.



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- Replacement of the Eir manhole cover and a section of the path at The Mall, Roscrea near the Chinese restaurant.
 - Resurface the ramp at The Irish Wheelchair Association building.
 - Road at The Skippy Factory, Timoney, Roscrea is very slippery in icy conditions as it is retaining water.
 - Provide new footpath at the top entrance to Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
 - Install mobile CCTV camera in St. Joseph's new Cemetery to deal with unsupervised dogs and indiscriminate dumping.
 - Investigate flooding issue that recently took place in Castleiney village.
 - Establish if Offaly County Council obtain more funding from the TII for the N62 as the road is a higher standard than that in the jurisdiction of Tipperary.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Drainage works will commence on completion of the Fencing Retrofit Programme on national routes and the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Killinan, Thurles.
- The issue of a mobile CCTV camera to address indiscriminate dumping at the Ballyduff side of Clover Lane, Two-Mile-Borris and at Curraheen, Horse & Jockey will be referred to Environment Section.
- The Council will be taking over responsibility for the emptying of bins in the villages in due course.
- The section of footpath in Derrynaflan Avenue, Littleton, in need of replacement, will be included in the footpath schedule for inspection.
- Safety issues at the junctions at Turtulla and Drish Bridge, Thurles will continue to be pursued with the TII.
- The request for repairs to be effected to the old Church ruins in Rahealty graveyard will be referred to Environment Section.
- There is no budget to undertake repairs to rear access roads in housing estates.
- The condition of the Eir building at Castle Park, Thurles will be referred to Environment Section.
- The condition of the path at Cathedral Street, Thurles is on the list submitted to and discussed with the TII.
- Relining can only take place in dry conditions.
- The poor condition of the road at Aughall Bridge and Strogue Bridge will be examined.
- Additional information requested by the OPW on proposed flood relief improvements at Priory Demesne, Templemore, has been submitted by the Council. Further contact will be made with them to progress the project.
- Landowners that have not complied with hedge-cutting notices will be dealt with in accordance with legislation.
- Flooding issues outside a house beside the ball alley, Castleiney will receive attention.



- The request for improved public lighting on Patrick Street, Templemore will be referred to Roads Section.
- The complaints in regard to slippery road conditions on the bend at Boularee, Templetuohy and at The Skippy factory, Roscrea, during icy weather will be investigated.
- The Council is examining the possibility of developing a walking/cycling route on the inner by pass, Roscrea which would be subject to funding streams becoming available.
- The Council has a salting programme in place which cannot be deviated from.
- The Roscrea Traffic Warden will monitor the situation at the entrance to The Glebe Playground, Roscrea to ascertain if safety measures are required. The request for bollards on the Carrick Road near McDonalds and at Green Street, Roscrea will be examined.
- The section of path near the Chinese restaurant at The Mall, Roscrea will be included on the footpath schedule for inspection.
- There is no funding available to provide a new footpath at the top entrance to Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- The request for mobile CCTV cameras to be installed in St. Joseph's new Cemetery, Templemore to deal with unsupervised dogs and indiscriminate dumping will be referred to Environment Section.
- The complaint regarding flooding that recently took place in Castleiney village will be investigated.
- TII has an annual budget of €700m which is broken down per County in a fair and equitable manner.

4. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	The Contract was signed on 24th. October, 2019 with Phase 1 Car Park development commencing on 25th. November, 2019. No works will commence on the main Square until completion of the car park which is estimated at Q1 of 2020.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	It has been agreed to delay remedial works to the external stairs and monitor water ingress over a period of time to ascertain if future works are required.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	The date for receipt of tenders for the refurbishment of Market Square has been extended until 12 noon on 28th. November, 2019. It is anticipated that works will commence on site in January, 2020.



Templemore Town Park.	An internal meeting will take place tomorrow with Planning and Housing Sections and consultation will then take place with Templemore Voluntary Housing Association to establish responsibilities, scope and a tentative programme to progress the widening of the access point from Main Street into Templemore Town Park.
Proposed Cycleway between Birr and Roscrea.	A meeting will take place on 3rd. December, 2019 between Birr District and Thurles District to discuss the previous cycleway proposal and how it may be progressed.
Old Farm Building at Thurles Town Park.	The Council is awaiting a response from representatives of Thurles Farmers Market following a meeting with them in regard to proposals to provide storage and basic facilities in a section of the building. Minor remedial repairs will be undertaken to the external facade of the buildings if the proposals for the Farmers Market are not proceeded with. It is also proposed to develop a concept design for the building in the longer term.
Consideration of proposed Peatway on Bórd na Móna lands.	The design team and Bórd na Móna officials will revert to the Council with an update on conclusion of an internal meeting relating to Property Management on 20th. November, 2019.

The District Engineer advised the Members that the tender process for the development of a Masterplan of the Gantly Road Area in Roscrea has commenced which would support the expansion and regeneration of the town centre.

5. **Notices of Motion.**

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

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

"That the Thurles LEA would write to the Minister for the Environment & Climate Action, Mr. Richard Burton TD, asking him to extend the benefits



of the €31 million "Just Transition Fund" announced in this year's budget to former employees of Bórd na Móna in Littleton."

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

"The Thurles Municipal District will write to the Minister as requested."

Councillor S. Hanafin seconded the proposal.

Councillor S. Ryan expressed satisfaction with the response and there was broad support for the Motion. He pointed out that the local economy would also benefit if the scheme was extended to former employees of Bórd na Móna.

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

It was agreed that the letter received from John McCormack, Chairperson, Board of Management and Michael Ryan, Principal, Scoil Mochaomhóg Naofa, Two-Mile-Borris, in regard to the need for suitable traffic calming measures and flashing speed notification signs at the school be taken with the following Notice of Motion.

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

"That the Thurles LEA would erect additional road safety signage and whatever other measures they deem necessary to ensure the safety of children attending Scoil Mochaomhóg Naofa in the village of Two Mile Borris."

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

"The location was visited by the District Engineer and the Area Engineer on Monday 4th November 2019 between 14.55 and 15.15. The visit coincided with the daily pick-up time for the school children. Observations concluded that some vehicles entering the village on the Ballyduff Road were not adhering to the 50kph speed limit signage and therefore creating an elevated risk to pedestrians crossing the road during school times.

A follow up call was made to the Principal of the school during which it was agreed that "School Ahead" road markings and advisory flashing school signage similar to that on the Main Street would be installed.

A contractor will immediately be procured to install the road markings while a funding stream is being actively sought for the erection of the School Signage.



The District will also nominate this location for the installation of mobile speed indicator sign."

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion.

Councillor S. Ryan asked for a timeframe for installation of safety measures. The District Engineer confirmed that road markings will be provided as soon as possible and advisory flashing school signage is subject to receipt of funding.

Liam Brett, Senior Engineer pointed out that evidence shows that driver feedback signs are not a long term solution to addressing speeding of traffic.

6. Correspondence.

Letter received in regard to a request for traffic calming measures in and around Scoil Mochaomhóg Naofa was taken under Notices of Motion at Item No 5 on the Agenda.

7. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- The Moycarkey-Borris Intermediate Football Team on winning the Intermediate Football County Final.
- David Russell, Rathmanna, Thurles on winning the Zurich Farmer of the Year Award on Friday night.
- J.K. Brackens Senior Hurling Team on winning the Seamus O'Rian Cup Final.
- Borrisoleigh Senior Hurling Team on winning the Senior A Hurling County Final.

8. Any Other Business.

- Improvement of lighting at the Pedestrian Crossing, Two-Mile-Borris.
- Traffic calming measures at Borrisoleigh and from Richmond Road to Templemore Motor Works, Templemore to slow down traffic.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 16th. December, 2019.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 16th. December, 2019.**
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR