



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 16th NOVEMBER, 2020

Present: Councillor Noel Coonan Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present: Eamon Lonergan Acting District Director
Thomas Duffy District Engineer
Janice Gardiner Acting Meetings Administrator
Orla McDonnell Acting Senior 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 and seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting which was held on the 19th October 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Update from Housing Section.

Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer was in attendance for this item while Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer and Pdraig Ryan, Senior Social Worker, Housing Section attended by Zoom.

Pdraig updated the Members on the progress of the Resettlement Programme in relation to the housing of 5 Syrian families in Templemore Town as follows:-

- 5 families are being facilitated under the programme
- It is anticipated that 3 to 4 of the families will be housed in Templemore by 2nd week of December.
- Feedback from locals is positive.

The Members raised the following queries:-



- When will the 5th family be housed?
- Have the houses being allocated been identified yet?

Padraig replied to the queries raised as follows:-

- The final family will be housed towards the end of January/start of February, 2021.
- The identification of the houses will be made known as soon as the information is available.

The Thurles MD Report on Housing Services Nov 2020 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report examined the following items:-

- The number of houses currently at housing construction stage.
- Capital Assistance Scheme –
 - Thurles Lions Trust – Stanwix House 19 Units
 - Templemore Voluntary Housing Association – 14 Units
 - Thurles Lions Trust – 34 Units at Monastery Close, Templemore Road, Thurles.
- Housing Grant Allocations 2020.
- House Purchases 2020.
- Housing Loan Applications 01.01.2020 to 31.10.2020.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme (Countywide) 01.01.2020 to 30.10.2020.
- RAS and Leasing 2020.
- HAP 2020.
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses.
- Number of approved Housing Applicants.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Will the houses in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe requiring upgrades in relation to doors, windows and insulation be included in the Midlands Retro-fitting Works Programme.
- Will the Council consider reviewing its anti-social behaviour policy in light of recent behaviour in Thurles at Halloween?
- The housing loans approval rate would appear to be very low with only 10 out of 72 applicants successful.
- Is there any funding available to address issue for tenants on Priority 1 lists for Housing Grants.
- Lights in Kilcooley Way, Gortnahoe are not working.
- Can a plan be put in place to identify a specific use for a plot of waste ground in the middle of Derrynaflan Estate, Littleton in order to prevent anti-social behaviour in the area.
- Does the 916 applicants on the housing list include all tenants currently on HAP, RAS or Long-Term Lease.



- A further breakdown of the figure of 916 is required as it can be misleading.
- Why must an applicant on HAP have to re-apply to go on the housing list.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- 60 houses have been approved by the Department for immediate works under the Midlands Retrofit Scheme. There will be no further schemes available this year. The Scheme will be examined to see if Tara Drive has been included in it.
- The Council is aware of the issue regarding lighting at Kilcooley Way.
- Any tenant who is a victim of anti-social behaviour should contact the Garda Community Liaison Officer. The Council take the issue very seriously but evidence is vital in order to tackle the issue.
- 72 Applicants applied for loans at the start of the year but of those only 36 were valid. Of the 36, ten were approved. The reasons for refusal by the Housing Agency is due to insufficient funds or lack of a sufficient savings pattern. The overall figures represent a 30% approval rate.
- €538,000 was allocated 2 months ago for Priority 1 housing grant applications. That allocation has now been exhausted.
- The figure of 916 includes those in RAS and Long-Term Leases. It does not include those on HAP.
- The HAP application form requires the applicant to answer a 'YES/NO' question on whether or not they wish to be considered for transfer. If the applicant ticks 'NO' they must reapply at a later stage.

4. To consider and approve Chief Executive's Report on Part 8 for Thurles Market Quarter.

The proposal seeks to restore and redevelop the historic agricultural building on a site which lies to the front of St. Patrick's College and adjacent to the Town Park, the Source Theatre and Thurles Leisure Centre whilst capitalising on the external space by transforming the car-park into a multi-use venue with an architecturally focused roof covering.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin and seconded by Councillor M. Lowry and resolved:

“that the Chief Executive's Report on Part 8 for Thurles Market Quarter, Thurles Townparks, Thurles be approved”.



5. Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

- a. Glebe View, Corville Road, Roscrea
- b. Bóthair Alúine, Moyne, Thurles
- c. Ard na Croise, Thurles

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that the Director of Roads, Transportation, Health and Safety has recommended that the roads serving the area known as Glebe View, Corville Road, Roscrea, Bóthair Alúine, Moyne, Thurles and Ard na Croise, Thurles be declared public roads and taken in charge by the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Lee and seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved:

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the roads serving the area known as:

Location of Road	Length of road to be taken over	Terminal Point of Road
Glebe View, Corville Road, Roscrea	125M	From its Junction with the L-3115-0
Bóthair Alúine, Moyne, Thurles	116M	From its Junction with the L-3203-0
Ard Na Croise, Thurles	180M	From its Junction with the R660

to be public as per the maps which were on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Services Report to Members dated 06th November 2020 for the November 2020 Municipal District Meeting which was circulated with the Agenda."

6. Update on the 2020 Work Programmes

An update on the District Works Programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda. The Members raised the following queries:

- When will the other half of Abbey Road, Thurles be resurfaced as it is in very poor condition?
- Back entrances to houses in Kennedy Park and College Green, Thurles are neglected and require attention.
- Does the MD intend to look after back entrances to houses generally?



- Can a speed survey be undertaken at Butler Avenue/Iona Avenue/Innishfallen Avenue, Thurles to investigate reports of speeding traffic in the area?
- Is there any update on the issue of speeding traffic at Marlstone Manor, Thurles?
- The issue of overgrown trees at the rear of the Willows Housing Estate and at junctions within the estate needs to be addressed.
- Roots of trees are affecting the footpaths outside 86 Kennedy Park, Thurles and in Beechwood Grove, Thurles.
- Address the issue of a by-pass for Thurles at the review of the National Development Plan which is ongoing at present.
- Warning lights at Pouldine school are not working.
- The inlets at Curraheen, Horse and Jockey need to be opened to relieve surface water.
- There is a 6 ft. drop and no safety barrier on the road out of Littleton as you head towards Glengoole. Could safety works be considered under a low-cost safety scheme.
- Can the Grange Project which was unsuccessful under the CLAR Programme be re-submitted?
- 'Children at Play' signage required at Castlepark, Two-Mile-Borris.
- Flooding issue at Maxfort Cross as you head towards Moycarkey Village where part of the road is retaining water.
- Can the MD write to the Gardai regarding the issue of drones flying over Littleton Village between 3.00am to 4.00am at weekends?
- The footpath outside Centra on Church Street, Templemore is in a poor state of repair.
- What is the update on the OPW works to alleviate flooding at Dunkerrin/Blackcastle?
- Poor workmanship on the cycle path - works being undertaken on the Roscrea to Nenagh Road where dug out soil is being thrown onto the side of the road.
- When will the works at Priory Demesne, Templemore commence.
- Road markings required outside the Church in Templemore.
- Do the TII proposed safety improvement works at Turtulla Cross, Thurles include the provision of a footpath towards Archerstown.
- The Council policy on the non-provision of street lighting outside speed limit areas is not strictly adhered to. Street lighting needs to be provided out to Dew Valley Thurles and out to Turtulla Cross, Thurles and the issue must be raised at an SPC meeting.
- There is significant flooding on the walkway to Lurgoe.
- Could a survey of Thurles Town be undertaken before the end of the year to identify areas that are prone to flooding as it appears to be an issue in some streets throughout the town.
- Inlets required on the hill at Ballymoreen to alleviate flooding and also in other areas throughout the MD. Most landowners in the area will accommodate such works.



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- Can Thurles MD make a submission to TII with regard to the provision of a relief road for Thurles.
 - Consideration needs to be given when footpath repair works are being undertaken to give ample advance notice for diversion to people with disabilities.
 - Issue of speeding at Monastery Road, Roscrea.
 - Illegal parking on Rosemary Street, Roscrea is dangerous as it is forcing traffic onto footpaths.
 - Will parking in Roscrea Town be free from charge for the month of December.
 - Thurles MD have reviewed and commented on the proposals submitted by TII.
 - Who is responsible for the Well at Ashbury, Roscrea which has collapsed?
 - Following the flood relief measures undertaken at The Mall, Templemore, what will become of the old channel?
 - Flooding issues at two houses on the Dunkerrin Road, Templemore will be included on the OPW works for 2021.
 - Can safety works to address speeding, junction outlay and ESB poles at Ashbury, Roscrea be included in the 2021 Road Works Programme.
 - Road improvement works on the N62 in Templemore would appear to have overlooked a section of approximately two hundred metres which was excluded from the works.
 - Can the Templemore Christmas lights be put up by early December?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- The resurfacing of the second half of Abbey Road, Thurles is dependent on funding being available and completion of the LCS on the roundabout, the section of road will be considered for inclusion in next year's Road Programme.
- There are currently no funding streams to attend to issues at the back entrances to houses.
- The MD will undertake a speed survey at Butler Avenue/Iona Avenue/Innishfallen Avenue, Thurles to investigate reports of speeding traffic in the area.
- The issue of speeding traffic at Marlstone Manor, Thurles will be investigated.
- The issue of tree roots affecting the footpaths outside 86 Kennedy Park, Thurles and in Beechwood Grove, Thurles will be investigated.
- The issue of warning lights at Pouldine school not working will be raised with the TII.
- The opening of the inlets at Curraheen, Horse and Jockey will be raised with the GSS.
- Safety signage will be put in place to address the issue of the drop and on the road out of Littleton as you head towards Glengoole.



- Thurles MD intend to re-submit the Grange project under the CLAR Programme.
- 'Children at Play' signage will be installed at Castlepark, Two Mile Borris.
- The MD will write to the Gardai regarding the issue of drones flying over Littleton Village between 3.00am to 4.00am at weekends.
- The issue regarding the poor state of the footpath outside Centra on Church Street, Templemore will be examined.
- An update on the OPW works to alleviate flooding at Dunkerrin/Blackcastle will be sought.
- The issue of poor workmanship on the cycle path works being undertaken on the Roscrea to Nenagh Road will be addressed.
- The commencement date of proposed works at Priory Demesne, Templemore is currently not known as drawings and tender documents have yet to be prepared. Works must be complete by June, 2021.
- The road markings required outside the Church in Templemore will be undertaken on a day when weather conditions prove favourable for such works.
- Thurles MD have not yet been provided with information on the design layout for the proposed works at Turtulla Cross.
- The issue regarding the Council policy of non-provision of street lighting outside speed limit areas has been referred to the Roads Section and will be raised at the SPC.
- The issue of flooding on the walkway to Lurgoe will be examined.
- Flooding in some parts of Thurles Town is being examined by GSS. Flooding in specific locations should be made known to the engineering staff in the MD.
- Clearing of inlets will be addressed before year end. If there are any specific areas where inlets are required to be cleared they should be made known to the engineering staff in the MD.
- The issue of the provision of a relief road for Thurles will be referred to Roads Section to consider a strategic approach to take with the proposal.
- Consideration will be given to people with disabilities when footpath repair works are being undertaken to give them ample advance notice of diversion. This item will be included in all tender documents going forward.
- The issue of speeding on Monastery Road, Roscrea is an issue for the Gardai. The MD will erect signage to address the issue.
- The issue of illegal parking on Rosemary Street, Roscrea will be referred to the Traffic Warden.
- There will be free parking on the three consecutive Saturdays before Christmas in Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles towns.
- The collapsed wall at Ashbury, Roscrea will be investigated.
- The issue in relation to the channel at the Mall, Templemore is currently being examined but it is likely that the channel will be backfilled. The works will be undertaken in June 2021.



- OPW works to alleviate flooding in the Dunkerrin area will be undertaken in 2021.
- The requirement of safety works at Ashbury, Roscrea to address the issue of speeding and which will involve the examination of the junction layout and ESB poles will be investigated.
- The road improvement works on the N62 in Templemore which would appear to have overlooked a section of approximately two hundred metres has been referred to Roads Section.
- A Contractor has been appointed to erect the Christmas lights in Templemore. The lights will be erected before 8th December.

7. Update on Projects

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	The new carpark is open. The contractor has commenced site clearance and service crossings in the lower portion of Liberty Square utilising a night time road closure on the N75. It is expected that these works will continue for a further two weeks after which the contractor will commence main drainage works in the central area of the square.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	EML are appointed as Design Stage consultants. A preliminary design has been submitted which is being reviewed by the relevant parties. We expect a detailed design for the project in the 2 nd quarter of 2021.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Market Square commenced late July and the contractor is currently carrying underground civil works on Phase 3 and paving works to Phases 1 & 2 of the project. Works are programmed to be completed November 2020.
The Littleton Labyrinth' (Peatway).	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 was submitted for consideration in July 2020 and we are currently awaiting a decision on the application.



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 are ongoing New beds and planting works have commenced.
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"> • 13 = In progress • 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards • 1 = Awaiting Budget Approval • 4 = At Tender Stage • 3 = At Inspection/Costings Stage. • 2 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.

The following queries were raised by the Members:-

- Has there been any further correspondence received from the Department in relation to the application submitted under the Peatway?
- Has there been any progression on the provision of a CCTV system for Thurles Town.
- Will buses continue to come through the town following the completion of Market Square, Roscrea as it appears that there may be an issue with 2-way traffic.
- How will shop deliveries be accommodated following the works at Market Square.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- There has been no progression on the CCTV project for Thurles partly due to Covid. The existing cameras are not working and will require a complete upgrade. The project will have to go before the JPC and will also require public consultation as it progresses.
- With regard to Market Square, the specification of the footpaths is such that it will allow for vehicles to drive up on it. There will be bollards on the footpaths and shop owners will be given the keys to the bollards to cater for deliveries. The system will need to be policed.



8. **Correspondence.**

Nominations for two Council Members to the Board of North Tipperary Development Company.

Correspondence has been received from Michael Murray, CEO, North Tipperary Development Company outlining details of a vacancy for 2 Council Representatives to the Board. The Cathaoirleach referred to the fact that the Council is no longer obliged to nominate members to the North Tipperary Development Company and if a member is interested in being nominated to the NTDC, they would be doing so in a personal/private capacity.

9. **Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.**

Votes of Congratulation were extended to:-

- Tipperary County Camogie Team on securing a place in the Camogie All Ireland Semi-Final against Cork.
- Tipperary County Council Senior Football Team on securing a place in the Munster Football Final against Cork.
- Noel Hennessy, Clerk of Works, Tipperary County Council who will retire from the Council on 19th November next.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- Mrs. Breda Looby, The Ragg, Thurles, on the death of her husband former FF Councillor Larry Looby.
- Kevin O Dwyer former FF Town Councillor, Thurles UDC on the death of his brother Bill.
- Ben O Dwyer, life guard, Thurles Swimming Pool on the death of his brother Ronan.

10. **Any Other Business.**

The District Director referred generally to the National Development Plan 2040 process.

The review nationally is currently at Programme Review Stage where it identifies generic type projects as opposed to specific projects.

Thurles MD will require long-term vision in terms of capital projects in order to maximise opportunities and secure its share of URDF Funding.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach
an
Dhurlais, Ascaill an
Chaisleáin, Durlas,
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It is intended to make a presentation in-house to the Members in January 2021 to discuss the long-term plans for Thurles MD.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 21st. December, 2020.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 21st. December, 2020.**
ACTING MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR