



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 21st OCTOBER, 2019

- Present:** Councillor Michael Smith Cathaoirleach, presided.
- Councillors Noel Coonan, Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, and Sean Ryan.
- Also Present:**
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|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sharon Kennedy | Acting Director of Services |
| Thomas Duffy | District Engineer |
| Jim Ryan | Executive Engineer |
| Janice Gardiner | Acting Meetings Administrator |
| Deirdre O'Shea | Senior Staff Officer |
- Apologies:**
- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Councillor Peter Ryan | |
| Liam Brett | Senior Engineer |
| John Jones | Executive Engineer |

The Cathaoirleach extended a warm welcome to Sharon Kennedy who secured the position of Acting Director of Services with responsibility for Thurles Municipal District with effect from 1st. November, 2019. He spoke of the wealth of knowledge and expertise that Sharon will bring to the role. The other Members concurred with his comments.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting which was held on the 16th. September, 2019 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Update from Planning Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Planning & Water Services and Brian Beck, Senior Planner, Planning Section to the Meeting.

Brian Beck highlighted the following main points outlined in the Planning Briefing Note which was circulated with the Agenda:



- The final Southern Regional & Spatial Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031, which is scheduled to be presented to the Southern Regional Assembly for adoption in December 2019, highlights Thurles as one of the 3 regional towns in the County. Specific timeframes for review of the Town and County Development Plans come into effect once the strategy is adopted.
- The importance of promoting the Cluster and Serviced Site Guidelines as a means of growing our small towns and villages going forward.
- National Planning Framework : Regeneration Development Funds - (i) The Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme which has been approved for funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) will commence shortly, (ii) Planning Section is working on another application for Thurles under the URDF which will be submitted in the next few weeks when calls for proposals are announced by the Department, (iii) The Council is restricted to the submission of 3 applications under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF) and applications have been submitted for Carrick, Fethard and Templemore Town Hall with word expected from the Department in the next week or two. An application was also submitted by another agency for an Innovation Hub in Roscrea town under this funding stream. Further projects will be identified in the next call for applications.
- 3 estates have been taken in charge to date this year with 6 applications on hand for the Thurles District.
- 156 valid planning applications have been received, 160 decisions granted and 4 refused to the end of September 2019 for this District.
- There were 29 complaints made in relation to alleged unauthorised developments in the District to the end of September, 2019.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The application submitted by another agency for an Innovation Hub in Roscrea town should receive the same level of support as the 3 applications submitted by the Council under the RRDF.
- Consider the River Suir Walkway, Thurles as a future project under the National Planning Framework Regeneration and Development Funds.
- Establish if the 3 applications submitted by the Council under the RRDF are identified in a particular order of priority.
- Advise if the development of small industry in our rural areas is compatible with the objectives in the Development Plans.
- The need to ensure that Thurles is highlighted as an education centre in RSES 2019-2031.
- Clarify if the Council would consider purchasing the building formerly occupied by Elverys in Liberty Square, Thurles for the purpose of the development of a digital hub.



Responses to the issues raised are as follows:-

- Thurles is strongly identified as an education hub in RSES.
- The Council has never been asked by the Department to prioritise applications submitted under the RRDF. An independent assessment panel is put in place by the Department to assess each application based on its own merits.
- It is Council policy to support any third party applications submitted to the Department under the URDF/RRDF.
- RSES and the County Development Plans support the development of enterprise in rural areas within reason.
- The request for the acquisition of a building in Liberty Square, Thurles for the development of a digital hub should be referred to Community and Economic Development Section.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Marcus and Brian for their contributions.

3. To consider and approve Material Contravention of the North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 in respect of permission for development at The Old Convent, Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh under Section 34(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

Ann Marie Devaney, Executive Planner, who was in attendance for this item, advised the Members that:-

- The Planners have recommended the granting of planning permission but as a decision to grant permission would materially contravene the North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 (as varied) because the land on which the development will be constructed is zoned for Social and Public Use, the provisions of Section 34(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 apply.
- One submission was received from An Taisce which supported the proposed development and re-use of the building.
- The proposed development represents a compatible land use at this location and is consistent with the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. It is also a means of protecting the building going forward.
- It is necessary for the passing of the Resolution that the number of Members voting in favour is not less than three quarters of the total Membership of the Thurles Municipal District or where the number so obtained is not a whole number, the whole number next below the number so obtained, shall be sufficient i.e. 6 Members must vote in favour of the Resolution.

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



"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 34(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 and being satisfied that the provisions of Section 34(b)(2)(i) and (ii) have been complied with, Tipperary County Council hereby require that a decision to grant permission be made with regard to the planning application received from Brendan Corcoran and Patricia Leahy Corcoran to grant permission for (i) change of use of existing former Convent of Mercy building from office use to a single residence, (ii) change of use of existing former school house building from office use to a single residence, (iii) formation of a new vehicle entrance and pedestrian entrance to Pallas Street and (iv) all site works and alterations associated with the proposed development at Borrissleigh, Thurles Ref. No. in Planning Register 19600471."

For the Motion: Councillors N. Coonan, S. Hanafin, S. Lee, M. Lowry,
E. Moran, J. Ryan, S. Ryan and M. Smith (8)

Absent: Councillor P. Ryan (1)

The Cathaoirleach declared the Resolution carried.

4. The Proposed Taking in Charge of:

(i) Tullaskeagh Square, Parkmore, Roscrea.

(ii) Tullaskeagh Drive, Parkmore, Roscrea.

(iii) Ayrhill Court, Parkmore, Roscrea.

(iv) Oakdale Park, Roscrea Road, Templemore.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that the Director of Roads, Transportation, Health and Safety has recommended that the roads serving the housing estates at (i) Tullaskeagh Square, Parkmore, Roscrea; (ii) Tullaskeagh Drive, Parkmore, Roscrea; (iii) Ayrhill Court, Parkmore, Roscrea and (iv) Oakdale Park, Roscrea Road, Templemore be declared public roads and taken in charge by the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor N. Coonan, seconded by Councillor S. Lee and resolved:-

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the roads serving the housing estates known as i) Tullaskeagh Square, Parkmore, Roscrea; (ii) Tullaskeagh Drive, Parkmore, Roscrea; (iii) Ayrhill Court, Parkmore, Roscrea and (iv) Oakdale Park, Roscrea Road, Templemore to be public and to take in charge the open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the development as per the maps which were on public display during the prescribed periods and as outlined in the Director of Services Reports to Members for the October 2019 Municipal District Meeting which were circulated with the Agenda."



5. Update from Water Services Section.

Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Planning and Water Services and Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services Section were 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 October County Council Monthly Meeting, was circulated with the Agenda outlining information under the following headings:-

- Contact details for Irish Water and recent workshop.
- Irish Water Infrastructural Projects.
- Networks Portfolio Delivery.
- Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme.
- Rural Water Programme.
- Update on proposed works at Abbey Road, Thurles.
- Issuing of bills and dealing with queries on new domestic water accounts is the responsibility of Irish Water.

Gerry Robinson advised that:-

- The Council received Grants under the Rural Water Programme a few weeks ago.
- Works on replacement of back yard services in a number of locations in Thurles town is taking time due to the number of connections involved.
- The main works on Abbey Road, Thurles will commence in early 2020.

The Members raised the following points:-

- Some of the reinstatement works undertaken on the replacement of back yard services in various locations in Thurles town are to a poor standard.
- Address the issue of sewerage entering the River Suir, at Barry's Bridge, Thurles during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Significant number of water outages on the Fethard Water Supply which affects users in Glengoole, Gortnahoe and Ballysloe.
- Undertake a promotional campaign to increase uptake under the Lead Remediation Grant Scheme.
- Establish if the Council is satisfied with progress to date under the Thurles RWSS Contract 2 DBO Water Treatment Plant and Pipelines Project.
- Members should be able to contact Irish Water outside of office hours when most of the water outages occur.



- The need to urgently deal with raw sewerage discharging to the river at Kiltillane, Templemore.
- Resolve sewerage issues at Oakdale, Templemore.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- The Contractor appointed to replace backyard services in various locations in Thurles town will be undertaking permanent reinstatements in compliance with the conditions of the road opening licences on completion of all works.
- There is a need to separate storm water from the sewerage system which will stop sewerage entering the River Suir in Thurles during heavy rainfall and this is being examined under the Thurles Sewerage Scheme Drainage Area Plan.
- Water outages affecting users in Glengoole, Gortnahoe and Ballysloe will be investigated.
- Works under the Thurles RWSS Contract 2 DBO Water Treatment Plant and Pipelines are on target.
- The issue of Members not being able to ring Irish Water outside of office hours will be referred to them.
- Pressure will be put on Irish Water to resolve the sewerage issue at Kiltillane, Templemore.
- The pumping station that is in place in Oakdale Park, Templemore will be taken in charge by Irish Water.

6. Update on the 2019 Work Programmes.

Jim Ryan, Executive Engineer confirmed that:-

- All works have been completed under the Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programmes.
- There is one project to be completed at Pallas under the Community Involvement Scheme and it is proposed to undertake half of the works this year with the remainder in 2020.
- All works have been undertaken under the Local Improvement Scheme.
- A schedule of footpath improvements to be undertaken in the District was circulated by email to the Members and works will commence shortly.
- Improvements at Killinan, Thurles under the Low Cost Safety Scheme will commence in approximately 2 weeks time.
- Temporary improvements have been carried out on the N62 on the Roscrea side of Templemore and on the N75 from The Anner Hotel to the roundabout at Mill Road, Thurles.
- Concentration will be on footpath improvements, road maintenance and drainage works for the remainder of the year.

The Members raised the following issues:-



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- Provide Members with a list of areas where fencing is being removed by TII on national secondary routes and undertake measures where illegal parking may become an issue.
 - Circulate drawing of proposed works at Killinan, Thurles to the Members.
 - Resurfacing of road at Bohernacrusha before inclement weather sets in.
 - Replace damaged speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles.
 - Establish when the drainage crews will come into operation South of the District and prepare a programme for opening of inlets.
 - Address section of road that has sunken at the Pouldine junction off the N62.
 - Timeline for undertaking flood relief improvements near Shanahan's Centra, Borrisoleigh.
 - Update on flood relief improvements required at Priory Demesne, Templemore.
 - Poor condition of surface at entrance to Kiltillane Court, Templemore.
 - Poor condition of (i) paths from Kiltillane Court to Grey's Funeral Home, Templemore, (ii) sections of paths in Fanning Park housing estate, Two-Mile-Borris, (iii) paths in the cul de sac at Lacey Avenue, Templemore, (iv) sections of the path in Kennedy Park housing estate, Roscrea. Some of the brick paving on the footpath at Rosemary Street, Roscrea has dropped.
 - Erection of barrier at entrance to carpark across from St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.
 - Severe flooding during heavy rainfall outside O'Mahoney's house near the entrance to Monakeeba, Thurles.
 - Update on erection of new signage on the approach roads into Thurles town.
 - Some cars are not giving right of way to traffic at the roundabout at Mill Road, Thurles.
 - Provision of footpath to the new ETB Training Centre at Archerstown Industrial Estate, Turtulla, Thurles.
 - Contact the OPW to have the horses removed from their lands at Gortataggart, Thurles.
 - Reinstatement of road markings following resurfacing works on road from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe and at the former briquette factory, Littleton.
 - There is no grip on approximately 12 meters of road before the former Briquette Factory, Littleton.
 - Erection of an additional 'Yield' sign on the Cashel side of the junction at Horse & jockey following realignment of the junction.
 - The bins across from Corcoran's pub and in Fanning Park housing estate, Two Mile Borris have not been emptied for some time.
 - Update in regard to improvement of lighting at the pedestrian crossing in Two Mile Borris.



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- Update on installation of CCTV and replacement of footpaths in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Templemore.
 - Address safety concerns at roundabout on the former N7 By-pass, Roscrea.
 - Proposals for infilling of the River Mall channel on completion of the Templemore Flood Relief Scheme.
 - Overgrown trees at Cluain Ard housing estate, Roscrea are coming out onto the road and overgrown trees at Ashbury and Chapel Lane, Roscrea.
 - Consider the provision of footpath from the Knock Road around to Corville, Roscrea from development levy funds.
 - Poor condition of road outside the Irish Wheelchair Association, Roscrea.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- A list of areas where fencing is being removed will be circulated to the Members and the Council will undertake measures where illegal parking may be a source of concern.
- The drawing of the proposed works at Killinan, Thurles will be circulated to the Members.
- Discussions are ongoing with the Contractor to have the road resurfaced at Bohernacrusha as a priority.
- Permanent speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles will be installed in due course. A 30kph speed limit will be considered for the area to deter vehicles from diverting to Kennedy/Childers/Collins Park.
- The Council is currently looking at availability of resources for establishing a drainage crew.
- The issue of the sunken section of road at Pouldine junction off the N62 will be investigated.
- Queries raised by the OPW relating to flood relief improvements near Shanahans Centra, Borrisoleigh will be addressed by the end of the week and works will be prioritised.
- The Council is awaiting a response from the OPW regarding flood relief improvements at Priory Demesne, Templemore.
- The entrance to Kiltillane Court, Templemore was patched last week.
- The paths from Kiltillane Court to Greys Funeral Home, Templemore, in Fanning Park housing estate, Two Mile Borris, in the cul de sac in Lacey Avenue, Templemore, in the Kennedy Park housing estate, Roscrea and on Rosemary Street, Roscrea will be inspected to establish if they should be included on the footpath schedule.
- The request to erect a barrier at the entrance to the car park across from St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles will be examined.
- The Council will ascertain if the gullies outside O'Mahoneys house near the entrance to Monakeeba, Thurles are blocked.
- The new signage on the approach roads into Thurles town will be erected within the next 2 weeks.



- Line markings at the roundabout at Mill Road, Thurles have been recently renewed.
- The provision of a footpath to the new ETB Training Centre at Archerstown Industrial Estate, Turtulla, Thurles which would require substantial funding will be examined.
- The issue of horses on lands at Gortataggart, Thurles will be forwarded to the OPW.
- Road markings from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe and at the former briquette factory Littleton will be reinstated.
- The complaint in regard to a lack of grip on 12 meters of road before the former briquette factory Littleton will be investigated.
- The request for an additional 'Yield' sign on the Cashel side of the junction at Horse & Jockey will be examined.
- Assurances have been received that the bins across from Corcorans pub and in Fanning Park housing estate, Two Mile Borris are being emptied regularly. The Council will take over the emptying of bins shortly.
- An update will be sought from Michael Tierney, Roads Section regarding improvement of lighting at the pedestrian crossing in Two Mile Borris.
- Footpath improvements in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Templemore will be undertaken on a phased basis over a number of years with works commencing by year end. The request for the installation of CCTV will be referred to the Environment Section.
- Safety concerns at the roundabout on the former N7 by pass, Roscrea will be investigated.
- The Council is in discussions with the OPW on the proposed infilling of the River Mall channel and the Members and Tidy Towns will be informed when an update is available.
- There are strict robust procedures in place for dealing with overgrown trees/hedges interfering with public roads and there areas will be referred to Roads Section. The Members should submit any other areas of concern to the District Office.
- The Council will have to establish if the area from the Knock Road around to Corville, Roscrea is within a 30kph speed limit in order to consider the request for the provision of a footpath.
- The condition of the road outside the Wheelchair Association, Roscrea will be investigated.

7. Update on Projects.

<p>Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.</p>	<p>The Contract signing will take place on Thursday 24th October with Phase 1 Car Park Works programmed to commence early November. There will be no works commencing on Liberty Square until Quarter 1 of 2020.</p>
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Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All scaffolding erected for the main building has been removed. Remedial works to the external stairs will be completed in approximately 4 weeks. ii. A decision on RRDF funding for the development of an Enterprise and Culture Centre with associated Civic Plaza should issue from the Department by the month end.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	The closing date for receipt of tenders for improvements at Market Square, Roscrea is 31st October 2019. Anticipated commencement date on site will be January 2020.
Templemore Town Park.	There is ongoing liaison with Templemore Voluntary Housing Association in regard to widening the access from Main Street into Templemore Town Park. A further meeting will be held with them in the next 4 weeks to establish responsibilities, scope and a tentative programme to progress the project.
Proposed Cycleway between Birr and Roscrea.	A favourable response has been received from Offaly County Council in regard to the proposal which is included in their Cycling Strategy. A meeting will be arranged with them in the next 4 weeks to progress the project.
Old Farm Building at Thurles Town Park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A meeting will take place this week with The Farmers Market representatives to discuss small scale proposals for the provision of storage and basic facilities. ii. Ongoing discussions have taken place with Planning Section and a meeting was held with an Architect last week to examine potential proposals for this building in the longer term.
Consideration of proposed Peatway on Bórd na Móna lands.	This project is being led by Bórd na Móna who have advised that an update will be provided to the Council in the next 2 to 3 weeks.



8. 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 as a matter of urgency to seek funding to upgrade the public CCTV system in Thurles."

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

"The District has requested funding through the 2020 Budget Submission Process and also through the Development Contribution Scheme."

Councillor M. Lowry seconded the Motion which was supported by all of the other Members present.

Councillor J. Ryan spoke of a number of complaints made by members of the public relating to incidents that were not recorded on the CCTV system as cameras are not in working order and expressed hope of funding being forthcoming to upgrade the system.

9. Thurles Municipal District - Draft Budgetary Plan 2020.

Copy of the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2020, together with an explanatory note prepared by the Head of Finance were circulated by email and also with the Agenda in accordance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance outlined the three stage process to the Budget and highlighted the following:-

- The GMA which sets out the discretionary funding that is allocated to each Municipal District.
- The preparation of the local authority budget which will be considered at the Statutory Budget Meeting.
- The preparation/compilation of a Schedule of Municipal District Works after the 2020 Budget has been adopted which will be presented to the Municipal Districts in early 2020.
- The GMA for Thurles Municipal District has increased from €35,976 in 2019 to €212,556 for 2020 due to the increase in the Local Property Tax in 2020. This should be allocated by the Members once the Schedule of Municipal District Works is prepared.



The total provisional allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2020 is €942,683 comprising €592,683 (arising from the decision to increase the Local Property Tax at the September meeting and allocate 50% of the increase to the GMA) and €350,000 of an allocation similar to last year. This is allocated to the districts based on the population of the Municipal Districts at the time of the 2016 census.

The table below sets out the provisional allocation per district based on population.

Tipperary County Council - General Municipal Allocations (GMA) 2020

Allocated based on 2016 Population		
	Population based on 2016 Census	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	19,440	114,857
Clonmel Borough District	24,310	143,630
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District	42,099	248,733
Nenagh Municipal District	37,728	222,907
Thurles Municipal District	35,976	212,556
Total	159,553	942,683

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

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, we, the Members of Thurles Municipal District, hereby adopt the overall Draft Budgetary Plan 2020 providing for an expenditure of €212,556.00 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

10. Correspondence.

Shannon Doc

Correspondence received from Shannon Doc on 3rd. October 2019, advising that there is no record of a doctor being unavailable on Sunday mornings in Thurles town within the agreed operational timeframes with the HSE, was circulated with the Agenda.



11. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

A Votes of Congratulations was extended to the Drom & Inch Minor Hurling Team on winning the Minor A Hurling County Final recently.

12. Any Other Business.

- The need to renew road markings around Thurles town.
- Provide 'Stop' sign at the junction between Barry's Bridge and Bridge Castle, Thurles.
- Remove trees at Friar Street and Castlemeadows, Thurles, as agreed.
- Address anti social behaviour in College Lane, Kickham Street, Thurles.
- It was agreed that a sub committee comprising of the Cathaoirleach, Councillors M. Lowry and N. Coonan and the executive be established to examine the protocol in place for Civic Receptions and revert with recommendations to the Members in due course.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 18th. November, 2019.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 18th. November, 2019.**
ACTING MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR