



## 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 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2020

**Present:** Councillor Noel Coonan Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

**Also Present:** Eamonn Lonergan Acting District Director  
Thomas Duffy District Engineer  
Janice Gardiner Acting Meetings Administrator  
Orla McDonnell Staff Officer.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Eddie Moran

### **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 S. Lee and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3. Thurles Municipal District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2021.**

Mr. Liam McCarthy, Director of Services introduced Ms. Noreen O'Dwyer who has been appointed as Acting Financial Management Accountant. Copy of the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 was circulated by email on 8<sup>th</sup> October, giving the required 7 days notice, and was also circulated with the Agenda in accordance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Mr. McCarthy outlined the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2021 to the Members and highlighted the following:-

- The GMA sets out the discretionary funding that is allocated to each Municipal District.



- The GMA does not replace the main strategic, non discretionary expenditure of the Council.

The total provisional allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2021 is €952,530 comprising €602,530 (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) 2021

Allocated based on 2016 Population		
	Population based on 2016 Census	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	19,440	116,057
Clonmel Borough District	24,310	145,130
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District	42,099	251,331
Nenagh Municipal District	37,728	225,236
Thurles Municipal District	35,976	214,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>159,553</b>	<b>952,530</b>

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, 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 2021 providing for an expenditure of €214,776 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

**4. Update from Planning Section.**

Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner and Mr. Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer attended the Meeting via Zoom. A Planning Briefing Note was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the meeting.

The Briefing Note examined the following items:-



- New Policy /Strategic Issues
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
- Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
- County Development Plan
- Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
- Liberty Square Enhancement Project
- Templemore Town Hall – Enterprise and Cultural Centre
- Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy
- Taking in Charge Update
- Enforcement Proceedings in 2020

The Members raised the following issues:

- Have the Council taken over responsibility for Ashgrove Housing Estate or is it still with the developer - the speed lights are not working in the estate.
- Issue with sewerage at the rear of Highfield Manor.
- Does the County Development Plan address the issue of planning permission not being granted for people living on national roads unless they are engaged in agriculture.
- Is there any plan going forward to increase the sewerage capacity of rural villages where it is intended to increase the number of houses.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- The snag list for Ashgrove Estate is almost complete. The lights will remain an issue for the developer until the estate is taken-in-charge. Mr. Laddan intends to undertake an inspection of the estate and progress the issue in the next few weeks.
- Hayfield Manor - An application for funding to the Department to improve the infrastructure was unsuccessful. However, it is intended to resubmit the application to the Department. The issue of sewerage in the estate will be referred to the Environment Section.
- The issue of planning permission on national roads is a national issue falling under the scope of the TII National Guidelines and as such the Council have no discretion in this regard.
- There are no limitations on rural village's expansion. If a village is at full sewerage capacity there is still capability to build up to 6 houses in a cluster with their own treatment plant on site.

## **5. Update from Water Services.**

Mr. Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services attended the Meeting via Zoom. A Water Services District Briefing note was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting.



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The Briefing Note examined the following items:-

- Irish Water Workshop with Members
- Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2020 – 2024
- Infrastructural Projects:
- Thurles RWSS
- Roscrea Sewerage Scheme
- Thurles Sewerage Scheme
- Networks Portfolio Delivery
- Watermain Rehabilitation Works
- Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme
- Rural Water Programme
- Migration of non-domestic water accounts to Irish Water

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Following works by Irish Water at Abbey Road, Thurles the road has been left in an appalling condition and needs immediate attention.
- Bohernacrusha Treatment Plant – The agreed boundary treatment must be adhered to.
- The MD must ensure that the road reinstatement at the new Lidl Development in Thurles is completed to the same standard it had been.
- Has the new water treatment plant at Ballincurry helped water supply in surrounding areas such as Ballysloe and Gurteen.
- Complaints from residents in Kennedy Park and Monadreen Thurles that water was turned off without prior notice.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- District Engineer will discuss the Abbey Road issue with Water Services Senior Executive Engineer. The contractor has given assurances that permanent reinstatement will take place at the end of the month.
- The MD will ensure that the agreed boundary treatment at Bohernacrusha Treatment Plant will be fully adhered to.
- There are 4 ESB crossings required at the Lidl Development. The current road works are temporary reinstatement works. Substantial re-alignment works have yet to take place at the junction. The MD will keep a close eye on the works.
- Emergency works were required recently following an issue at Ladies well which necessitated the immediate turning off of the water supply which affected some locations within the town. The works were not planned.



## **6. To approve payment under Lisheen Farm Trust to Templetuohy Community Playground.**

The A/Meetings Administrator advised that the payment of €11,000 represents the final payment to Templetuohy Community Playground.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor S, Lee and resolved:-

"That the payment under Lisheen Farm Trust to Templetuohy Community Playground is hereby approved".

## **7. Thurles Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020.**

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

- Footpaths at Moyne Road, Thurles outside house no 5 and house numbers 15 to 18 are in a very poor state of repair.
- Mill Road, Thurles - Road markings require improvement and consider extending the speed limit sign in an effort to reduce speeding.
- Road surface at Clongour Road is starting to unravel.
- The Old Railway Bridge at Cloughmartin needs a '*Concealed Entrance*' sign.
- There are numerous junctions with no road markings at Bohernanave near the Church resulting in cars driving through junctions.
- Parking at the national school in Two-Mile-Borris is dangerous due to the high levels of traffic, proximity to the junction and housing estates in the area. Can the issue be examined in terms of a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme?
- Signage at Castle Park, Two-Mile-Borris – no 'children at play' signage and the 30k speed limit sign is covered by trees.
- Part of the N8 road outside Mary Willies is in very poor condition. Is there any funding scheme available for improvements to be undertaken?
- Drainage in Littleton Village, Turnpike and Park View Drive, Thurles is poor with water pooling in the areas. Drains need to be blown out.
- Graigue to Coalbrook, Ballysloe – road in poor condition and requires patching.
- Galbertstown Road at the monument as you approach the cross– the white line is completely gone.
- Church View Littleton – Path is sunken in one area causing a trip hazard.
- Trees in Monadreen overgrown into Rosemount Estate, Thurles.
- What are the consequences in the event that contract works are sub-standard and is the contractor required to return to rectify them.



- Rosemary Square, Roscrea – 6 minor roads are leading onto it with poor sightlines, resulting in confusion over right of way.
- Long Orchard, Templetuohy – safety signage is needed. Could improvement measures be targeted under a Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme?
- Trees overgrown in Montevideo, Roscrea,
- The road surface at the junction of Limerick Street, Roscrea is in poor condition.
- What are the timelines in relation to the completion of signage throughout the district?
- Does the MD have any plans for the creation of cycle lanes?
- The cutting back of ditches and trees has still not been undertaken by some landowners despite letters issuing from the Council. Could tougher measures be implemented to ensure compliance?
- There are two steel boxes in Market Square, Roscrea just outside Boyle Sports shop which do not enhance the area in any way. Can they be blended in with the current works ongoing in Market Square to make them less conspicuous?
- Works were recently undertaken at Lourdes Road/Birr Road, Roscrea; however, the works did not take into account safety control measures for pedestrians in this vicinity.
- Temporary road works were undertaken last year on the N62 on the Roscrea side of Templemore. What are the future plans for this area as it is currently dangerous for school going children?
- Temporary works are needed at Church Street, Templemore and potholes need attention to make the road safe until such time as the main job is done.

Replies to the queries raised were as follows:-

- Moyne Road, Thurles – the District Engineer has received photos of the area and he will investigate.
- Mill Road, Thurles – The window for undertaking road markings is almost gone given the time of year. The issue will be investigated.
- Unravelling of the road at Clongour will be investigated.
- Erection of 'Concealed Signage' at the Railway Crossing in Cloughmartin will be undertaken.
- Junction at Bohernanave will be examined.
- There is a designated crew examining the signage in the District.
- Parking issue outside the school in Two-Mile-Borris will be examined by the MD with a view to coming up with a long term plan.
- Signage at Castle Park, Two-Mile-Borris – 'Children at Play' signage will be erected. Some of the trees may need to be strategically removed to deal with lighting issue.
- The MD submitted an application to the Department for funding to undertake improvements works on the N8, however the application was unsuccessful. The MD will re-apply to the Department under this fund.



- The issue of blocked drains at Littleton Village, The Turnpike and Park View Drive, Thurles will be investigated.
- Road surface on road from Graigue to Coalbrook – The issue will be investigated.
- Works at Galbertstown will be undertaken.
- Works at Church View, Templemore were not on the MD Schedule of Works. The works will be undertaken in-house.
- The issue of trees overhanging from Monadreen into Rosemount, Thurles will be examined.
- The contractor will undertake road improvement works to tackle the water ponding issue at Tobin’s Cross next season.
- Rosemary Square, Roscrea – The issue of pedestrian safety will be examined.
- Signage at Long Orchard, Templetuohy. Safety signage will be erected. Improvement works will be undertaken under a low cost safety scheme.
- Poor road surface at Limerick Street, Roscrea – The issue will be examined.
- A dedicated crew were appointed to examine the signage within the District. They have straightened up all existing signage. Works will now commence on enhancing the existing signs and installing new signage where necessary.
- Works have commenced on the creation of a cycle lane on the Nenagh to Roscrea Road whereby the hard shoulder on both sides of the road will be resurfaced. With regard to cycle lanes in Thurles Town, consultants were appointed to undertake a cycling strategy in the town. This strategy will assist in supporting any application for funding streams. Input into the strategy from cycling groups in the area is very welcome.
- District Engineer to liaise directly with any landowner who has not maintained trees or ditches on his land. It is important that the MD follow proper protocols to pursue a non-compliant landowner.
- The metal boxes in Market Square, Roscrea cannot be removed at this stage of the scheme. Consideration will be taken to blend them in to make them less conspicuous.
- Safety issue for pedestrians following recent works at Lourdes Road/Birr Road – the issue will be investigated.
- Church Street, Templemore – The issue of potholes will be investigated.

**8. Update on Projects.**

<p>Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles</p>	<p>Carpark now open. Some minor advance works have commenced on the Square and full mobilisation in the Square is expected in the coming weeks. Information flyers have been issued to all affected business owners to keep all parties informed regarding progress and phasing of the works.</p>
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Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	EML are appointed as Design Stage consultants and commencement meeting programmed October 2020.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Market Square commenced late July and the contractor is currently carrying out all underground civil works on 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.
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.
Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, Roscrea.	Work to enhance the roundabouts are ongoing with new beds and planting in the coming weeks.
Breakdown of Vacant Houses in the District.	Status of 23 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 = In progress</li> <li>• 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards</li> <li>• 1 = Awaiting Budget Approval</li> <li>• 7 = At Tender Stage</li> <li>• 5 = At Inspection/Costings Stage.</li> <li>• 1 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.</li> </ul>





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The Members raised the following points:

- There are no disabled car spaces in the new car park despite there being 4 available in the original plans.
- Will there be 'All Day' parking available to businesses.
- Can the plan to implement barriers at the new car park be reconsidered as it is felt that the planned barrier system will deter those people that only want to park for a short duration from parking there.
- Has the MD received any communication regarding the peatway application?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The disabled parking in the car park was reconsidered as the barrier system will not permit disabled drivers from availing of free parking. As an alternative three disabled parking bays will be put in place in the town centre and one other in Slievenamon Road and the Ulster Bank Car park.
- The barrier system will not be reconsidered as the infrastructure is already in place.

## **9. 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:

"On the grounds of health & safety to the general public, I am calling on this District Council to make Bowes Corner junction more safe for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians."

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

"The Thurles Municipal District is awaiting a final options report from the appointed consultants to address the numerous issues at this junction. It is expected that this report will be issued for our review & comment in the next 6 weeks."

Councillor Ryan expressed his frustration as to why it is taking so long to address this very dangerous junction.



## **b) 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 install new public lighting out as far as the Dew Valley Foods plant and also out beyond Thurles Golf club as far as Turtulla Cross.”

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

“The provision of street lighting outside the speed limit zones is not in accordance with the Tipperary County Council’s public lighting policy as approved by the Elected Members.”

Councillor Ryan expressed his dissatisfaction with the Council’s public lighting policy and proposed that this issue be put before the Council Roads and Transportation SPC. It was seconded by Councillor Hanafin.

### **10. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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

Votes of Congratulation were extended to:-

- Gortnahoe-Glengoole - Winners of the 2020 ‘FBD Insurance’ County Intermediate Hurling Championship final.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- David Doran, former Councillor on the death of his mother Mary.

### **12. Any Other Business.**

- There is an issue with the Thurles.ie website which needs to be examined.
- Has any decision been taken on the holding of the annual Civic Awards Ceremony? It was agreed that the issue would be discussed before the November meeting.
- On a point of information the A/Meetings Administrator informed the Councillors that Zoom training will take place for Councillors on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 10.00 to 12.00. Anyone interested should email Claire Meaney, IT Section.



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- Councillor J. Ryan has requested that the MD write to the HSE requesting the reinstatement of the Shannon Doc Service in Thurles. Currently people in Thurles must travel to Nenagh to see a doctor.
  - Councillor J. Ryan has requested that the MD write to the Ambulance Control Centre regarding delays to ambulance crews who are required to wait outside A&E Departments with their patient as there are no isolation pods available where the patient can be dropped off. This delay has resulted in ambulance crews not being available in their respective area for a call-out. It is also having the add-on effect of putting the staff in the ambulance control centre under pressure.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup>. November, 2020.

CATHAOIRLEACH

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup>. November, 2020.

ACTING MEETINGS  
ADMINISTRATOR