



MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 21st SEPTEMBER, 2020

Present: Councillor Noel Coonan Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, 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.

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 E. Moran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20th July 2020 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Update from Environment and Climate Change Section.

Marion O'Neill, Cora Morrissey and Paula O'Dwyer, Environment and Climate Change Section were in attendance for this item. Marion and Cora presented an update report on the Environment Section and Paula presented a Fact Sheet on the Septic Tank Grants. The following items were addressed in the reports:-

- Burial Grounds
- Green Schools
- SPC Meetings
- Control of Dogs/Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Litter Enforcement
- Public Awareness
- Waste management



-
- Civic Amenity Sites
 - Environment Protection
 - Climate and Energy
 - Green Initiatives
 - Pollution Incidents
 - Farm related Inspections
 - Drinking Water Source protection Assessments
 - Domestic Waste Water Treatment system Inspections
 - The 3 categories of Grant Applications, namely:
 - ~ National Inspection Plan (NIP)
 - ~ Prioritised Areas for Action (PAA)
 - ~ High Status Objective Catchment Areas (HSOCA)
 - Qualifying criteria for each type of grant

The Members thanked Marion, Cora and Paula for their reports and raised the following queries:-

- Illegal dumping is very prevalent around the Thurles area, especially rural areas appearing to be targeted.
- The number of litter fines issued appears to be quite low.
- Could CCTV be installed in burial grounds as a deterrent to theft?
- Was the River Suir included in the water sampling undertaken by Environment Section as a green algae was very visible in the river during the summer months.
- How do the 2020 figures for usage of the civic amenity site (16,306 visitors for 2020) compare to 2019 figures.
- Roscrea Leisure Centre – There is a huge bank of clay on the civic amenity side of the site which does not look well. Can it be removed and examine the possibility of the tennis club using it.
- Could cameras be installed in dumping black spots in an effort to curb illegal dumping.
- Illegal dumping taking place at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles. Can CCTV be installed and the gates locked at night to prevent access.
- Who should residents contact in relation to incessant barking of dogs in housing estates.
- Overgrown hedging on College Lane to Mill Road laneway, Thurles is prohibiting people from walking the laneway. Will the laneway be affected by the proposed link road.
- Those involved in looking after Borrisoleigh cemetery are elderly and will require assistance with issues such as hedge cutting.
- The bin at the Devil's Bit car park should be removed as people are leaving bags of rubbish in the area.
- Is there any assistance available for the committee who look after Templemore Town Park.
- Can CCTV be installed at the cemetery in Parkmore, Roscrea as illegal dumping there is drawing rodents.



- Is there any reward available to those involved in tidy towns groups to acknowledge their work.
- Are septic tank grants only available in priority areas as decided by LAWPRO.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- A plan is being prepared to target dumping hotspots and Environment Section will write to residents to enquire from them as to how they dispose of their waste.
- There was 1 successful court case for dumping and there are other cases pending.
- 1 litter fine has gone to court. CCTV at bottle banks has assisted with prosecutions.
- The installation of CCTV at cemeteries could prove to be a GDPR issue. Environment Section will liaise with the MD in relation to the locking of gates.
- Samples from the River Suir were taken every month.
- There is an increase of 5% on the use of the civic amenity site from 2019 to 2020.
- Environment Section will liaise with Engineer in relation to mound of clay at Roscrea Leisure Centre.
- The issue of dogs barking in housing estates is a civil matter.
- The overgrowth at College Lane will be discussed with the MD.
- The cutting of hedges at Borrisoleigh Cemetery will be referred to the Environment Engineer.
- The issue of dumping at the Devil's Bit will be investigated.
- The provision of assistance to Templemore Community Group looking after the cemetery will be discussed with the MD.
- Tidy Towns groups are given trees and flowerpots and their work is officially recognised at an Awards Night. The Awards Night for 2020 may not go ahead due to COVID-19.
- Septic Tank grants are only available in priority areas as decided by LAWPRO.

4. (a) Thurles Municipal District Schedule of Works 2020

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

(b) To agree three (3) priority roads items for the district for inclusion on the Agenda for Annual Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to be held on 3rd November, 2020.

Following discussion it was agreed that the priority roads to be included on the Agenda for the annual meeting with TII are:



- Turtulla Cross, Thurles
- Knock Road, Roscrea
- Thurles by pass

5. Update on Projects

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Carpark construction is substantially complete and we are awaiting public lighting to be commissioned in advance of opening the new carpark. 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.
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 24 units that the District is responsible for under Minor Repairs as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 = In progress • 1 = Completed to Covid-19 standards • 2 = Awaiting Budget Approval • 5 = At Tender Stage • 4 = At Inspection/Costings Stage. • 2 = Awaiting return of keys to the District.

The Members raised the following points:

- When will the new Thurles carpark open.
- Will the commitment to rebuild the boundary wall between the new car park and Lár na Páirce be honoured.
- A traffic island was removed outside the boys Primary School in Templemore last year to allow for a temporary detour during works being undertaken by the OPW and has not been put back.
- There are no road markings at Killea and Barnane and outside the Church in Templemore.
- Harry Wall's Cross, The Ragg – hedge overgrown and requires cutting.
- When will works commence to alleviate flooding issues at Priory Demesne.
- Can the Council meet with the Thurles to Clonmel Greenway Committee to try and advance the project.
- Is there funding available for businesses on Baker Street, Thurles for street signage, Christmas lights and improved pedestrian access from Parnell Street.
- Query with regard to paving at Market Square, Roscrea.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Paving on Market Square is due this week. Expected completion date is mid-November.



- A new wall will be built between the boundary of Lár na Páirce and the new carpark and works are expected to commence this week.
- There is no official date for the opening of the carpark as the Council are awaiting lights and the Contractor is currently undertaking snags.
- Road markings and signage throughout the District are all complete. If there are any specific areas outstanding they can be included and the District Engineer will examine same.
- There are issues with landowners and funding at Harry Walls Cross.
- Flooding issue at Priory Demesne – site investigation works will take place this year. It is anticipated that works will commence Q1/Q2 next year.
- Baker Street signage, etc. – concerns of businesses will be taken on board.
- Refurbishment of the old Farm Building at the Source, Thurles – Designs are drawn up currently at Part 8 process.

6. Update on GMA 2020.

The A/Meetings Administrator explained that an amount of €3,150 GMA monies which was allocated to Festivals for 2020 remains unspent as, due to COVID-19, the Festivals did not/are not going ahead. The money can be capitalised for 2021 or it can be used on another project as agreed by the Members.

Following discussion by the Members it was agreed that 50% of the money would be made available to Thurles Rugby Club and 50% would go towards the Christmas lights in Roscrea town.

7. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

8. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Votes of Congratulation were extended to:

- Fr. Martin Hayes on his appointment as Bishop of Kilmore.
- Sam Bennett, Carrick-on-Suir who won the Green Jersey in the Tour de France.
- Martha O'Brien who won her first National Matchplay title at the pitch and putt national championship.
- Peter Byrne, Farm Relief Services on receiving the Agricultural Science Association (ASA) distinguished Member Award.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-



- Pat Bracken, Library Service on the death of his father-in-law, Eddie Cooke.
- Cllr. Seamus Hanafin on the death of his mother, Peg Hanafin.
- The family of Tom Hough, retired County Engineer.
- Alex Cummins, General Services Supervisor, Templemore on the death of his brother, Ernest.
- The family of Paddy Duggan, former Councillor.

9. **Any Other Business.**

- The walkway on the way out of Thurles Town to Ladies Well has become overgrown.
- Safety issue just inside the railing of Ladies Well walkway.
- Bollards to prevent parking on footpath at Butler Avenue were recently removed to facilitate works but have not been replaced.
- Signage is needed at the Horse and Jockey junction where people coming from the left at the Cashel side have to yield to traffic coming from the right at the Two-Mile-Borris side.
- Broken grids outside Looby Tyres at the Horse and Jockey.
- Castle Park Housing Estate, Two-Mile-Borris – The 30k speed signs are blocked by over hanging trees and there is no signage in the estate to indicate children at play.
- Liskeveen Road at Horse and Jockey Hotel – lots of potholes in the area.
- Carney's Hill, Ballysloe – public ditch is overgrown and needs to be cut back.
- Road markings at Galberstown no longer visible and need remarking.
- Speeding issue outside house numbers 28 - 42 Marlstone Manor – can ramps be put in place.
- Poor condition of footpaths at Moyne Road, Thurles.
- No warning signs at place on Jimmy Doyle Road to indicate the presence of the Hospital of the Assumption.
- The Willows Housing Estate, Thurles – issues with pot holes, drains and no signage in the estate. Also trees at rear of the estate could pose a serious risk if they fall.

The District Engineer replied to the queries raised as follows:

- The issue of signage on the Jimmy Doyle Road will be examined.
- The trees at the rear of the Willows Estate are located on the bank of the river. Thurles MD to establish who is responsible.
- Footpath at Ladies Well will be examined.
- Bollards at Butler Avenue will be replaced.
- Castle Park Estate, Two-Mile-Borris – '*Children at Play*' signs will be erected. Residents need to take an active role in looking after trees as the Council will not maintain trees that are in a healthy condition.
- Carney's Hill, Ballysloe – The issue will be examined.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach
an
Dhurlais, Ascaill an
Chaisleáin, Durlas,
Co. Thiobraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Thurles
Municipal District Office,
Castle Avenue,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary

t 0761 06 5000
e customerservice
@tipperarycoco.ie
tipperarycoco.ie

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 19th. October, 2020.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 19th. October, 2020.**
ACTING MEETINGS
ADMINISTRATOR