



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 24TH OCTOBER, 2018

Present: Councillor Sean Ryan Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, David Doran, Seamus Hanafin, John Hogan, Micheál Lowry, Jim Ryan and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

Matt Shortt	District Director
Michael F. Hayes	Senior Engineer
John Jones	Acting District Engineer
Michael Tierney	Executive Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Deirdre O'Shea	Acting Meetings Administrator
Janice Gardiner	Acting Administrative Officer
Noel McCormack	Acting Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Eddie Moran

1. Adoption of Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor S., Hanafin, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting which was held on the 26th September, 2018 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. To consider and approve Material Contravention of the Thurles and Environs Development Plan 2009 as varied in respect of permission for building materials yard and associated site works and outline permission for building materials shed and associated parking and site works to rear of existing buildings at Racecourse Retail Park, Bawntameena, Nenagh Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ref No in Planning Register 18/600630 - Applicant Mr. Pat Stakelum.



It was agreed that this item be taken next on the Agenda.

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 contravene materially the Thurles & Environs Development Plan 2009 (as varied), because the land on which the development will be constructed is zoned for new residential purposes, the provisions of Section 34(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 apply.
- No submissions or observations were received in relation to the proposed development.
- 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 Templemore-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. six Members must vote in favour of the resolution.

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

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 34(6) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 and being satisfied that the provisions of Section 34(6)(a)(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 Mr. Pat Stakelum to grant (i) permission for building materials yard and associated site works and (ii) outline permission for building materials shed & associated parking and site works to rear of existing buildings at Racecourse Retail Park, Bawntameena, Nenagh Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ref. No. in Planning Register 18/600630"

For the Motion Councillors: J. Bourke, D. Doran, S. Hanafin, J. Hogan,
M. Lowry, J. Ryan, S. Ryan and M. Smith (8)

Absent Councillor: E. Moran (1)

The Cathaoirleach declared the Resolution carried.

3. Presentation by Dr. Finn Ó' Murchú, Head of School, Mary Immaculate College, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles.



The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dr. Finn Ó' Murchú, Head of School, Mary Immaculate College, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles, to the Meeting.

Finn Ó' Murchú delivered a detailed presentation on Mary Immaculate College, Thurles under the following headings:-

- Undergraduate Honours Degree Programmes for post-primary teaching.
- Campus accommodation.
- Student numbers and enrolment trajectory 2016 - 2018.
- Arts Degree Points comparison with other Institutions.
- Class of 2018 employed in teaching.
- Cost analysis of BA in Education, MIC, Thurles.
- Future plans.

He emphasised the numerous advantages that the town offers and he advised that the greatest challenge encountered by the students is the lack of availability of accommodation. He extended an invitation to the Members to visit the campus and confirmed that the facility could be made available to them for meetings / conferences.

The Members raised the following points:-

- Thurles does not get due recognition as a centre of excellence in education.
- A resolution is needed to the accommodation issue with student numbers increasing.
- Establish if primary teaching courses and night courses will be offered by the College in the future.

Finn Ó' Murchú responded as follows:-

- The College is exploring the possibility of running other courses in the future.
- Tipperary Education Centre is now located in St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles.
- A strategic plan is being undertaken by the College which includes the possibility of extending on campus accommodation.

Councillor S. Hanafin proposed the holding of a Monthly Municipal District Meeting in the College, in the New Year, which was seconded by Councillor D. Doran.

The Cathaoirleach and Members lauded the exceptional work undertaken by the College and thanked Finn Ó' Murchú for his presentation and he left the Meeting.

4. **Draft Budgetary Plan 2019.**



Copy of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2019, together with an explanatory note prepared by the Head of Finance, were circulated by email and also with the Agenda in compliance 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 2019 Budget has been adopted which will be presented to the Municipal Districts in early 2019.
- The slight change in population in the District with effect from June, 2019 which has been taken into account in the apportionment of the GMA.
- The GMA for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District has decreased considerably from €241,422 in 2018 to €78,168.00 and this is due to the decision by the Members not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2019 and the need to fund other projects from alternative sources within the Budget 2019.
- The Members can accept or reject the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019.

Basis of allocation:

The total provisional allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2019 is €350,000.00 and this is allocated to the Districts based on the 2016 Census as set out hereunder:-

GMA ALLOCATION

	2019 GMA ALLOCATED 6 MONTH AT PRESENT POPULATION AND 6 MONTHS NEW POPULATIONS				
Municipal District	Population based on 2016 Census - Current in MDs	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population - Current 6 months	Population based on 2016 Census - Revised in MDs	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population Revised 6 months	Total GMA 2019 €
Carrick-on-Suir MD	21,677	23,776	19,440	21,322	45,098



Clonmel Borough Council	36,790	40,352	39,027	42,805	83,157
Cashel- Tipperary MD	27,382	30,033	27,382	30,033	60,066
Nenagh MD	38,412	42,130	37,728	41,381	83,511
Templemore- Thurles MD	35,292	38,709	35,976	39,459	78,168
TOTAL	159,553	175,000	159,553	175,000	350,000

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Establish what projects funded under the GMA previously will be affected as a result of the decision not to increase the Local Property Tax in 2019.
- Give a breakdown of the amount and projects funded under the GMA 2017.
- Members need more access/involvement in the preparation of the Budget.
- Establish why the GMA was not maintained at the pre 2018 figure of €111,389.
- Outline other projects that require funding from alternative sources in Budget 2019 which led to the decrease in the GMA from 2017 levels.

The District Director gave a detailed breakdown of the allocation and projects funded from the GMA in years 2017 and 2018. He advised that it will be a matter for the Members early next year to decide on the apportionment of the GMA 2019.

The Head of Finance confirmed that the Members were advised at the September Plenary Meeting that projects such as the leisure centres, greenways, arts centres in the County required ongoing funding to maintain services to an acceptable level and that the cost would now have to come from alternative sources within the Budget 2019 and the €150,000.00 taken from the overall GMA figure.

There was unanimous agreement by the Members to reject the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2019 which provided for an expenditure of €78,168.00.

5. Presentation by Water Services Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Planning and Water Services and Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services to the Meeting.

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 September County Council Monthly Meeting, was circulated to the Members 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 and proposed works at Abbey Road, Thurles.
- Current position in regard to Oakdale Park and Kiltillane, Templemore Sewerage Scheme.
- Issuing of bills and dealing with queries on non domestic water accounts is the responsibility of Irish Water.

Gerry Robinson also advised that:-

- Irish Water is upgrading 5 - 6 km of watermain in the Gortnahoe area.
- Water outages at Roskeen, Drombane have been resolved.
- No applications have been received to date under the Lead Pipe Replacement Scheme.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- The urgent need to have the illegal encampment of caravans and horses removed from Whitefield water source, Templemore.
- Issue of ongoing flooding at Oakdale Park and Kiltillane, Templemore and the need for a timeline on progression of a sewerage treatment facility for the estates.
- Measures for management of traffic on commencement of works at Bohernacrusha, Thurles.
- Update on request for individual houses with septic tank systems on Bohernamona Road, Thurles to be permitted to connect to the public sewerage system.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Flooding has not occurred in the last year at Oakdale Park and Kiltillane, Templemore and the temporary sewerage system that is currently in place is in working order.
- Additional road signage can be put in place at Bohernacrusha, Thurles for the duration of the works.



- Irish Water will not permit an extension of the public sewerage system to accommodate houses at Bohernamona Road, Thurles. This request could only be accommodated through connection to facilities in any future housing developments in the area.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Gerry Robinson for his contributions and he left the Meeting.

6. Presentation by Planning Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Planning & Water Service and Brian Beck, Senior Planner, Planning Section to the Meeting. A Planning Briefing Note was circulated at the Meeting which outlined the following:-

- The preparation of Regional and Spatial Economic Strategies (RSES) which will be presented for adoption at the Plenary Meeting of the Regional Assembly in October, 2018.
- Preparation of Cluster Guidelines which will be presented to the Planning and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee in October, 2018.
- An application has been submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government under Category A for the Liberty Square Enhancement Project, Thurles.
- Applications have been submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development under Category 2 for a gas connection to the National Bioeconomy Campus, Lisheen, Moyne and for Cluster Housing in villages which includes "A Best Practice Serviced Site Initiative" for Templetuohy.
- Six developments have been taken in charge, 3 developments are with Irish Water and 2 developments are being assessed by Roads Section to date in 2018 in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.
- There has been a marked increase in the number of planning applications received to date in 2018.
- There were 164 complaints made from 1st. January to 30th. September, 2018 in relation to alleged unauthorised developments; 29 of which were in this District.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Progress the potential for the development of a greenway on Bórd na Móna peat lands and the need for the establishment of a network of greenways to link north and south of the County.
- The appalling condition of 5 vacant houses in Stradavoher Court, Thurles at a time when there is a severe housing shortage.

24th. October, 2018.



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- Confirm who is the Planning Enforcement Officer for the County and the need to issue an acknowledgement to a complainant on submission of a written complaint in regard to alleged unauthorised developments.
- Establish if gas could be extended to Thurles if the application for a gas connection to the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen is successful under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.
- Advise who will be responsible for the installation of roads and services to each house under the Cluster Guidelines.
- Ensure adequate notice is given on the meeting pertaining to the adoption of the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategies.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- The Council is examining the feasibility of developing peat ways which are rich in biodiversity and heritage in conjunction with Offaly County Council.
- The Area Planners are the initial point of contact for alleged unauthorised developments and there is also an administration team in place that the Members can liaise with.
- Environment Section is responsible for dealing with derelict sites.
- Planning Section requested that an objective for the installation of gas in Thurles be included as an objective in the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategies and the request will also be taken up with Gas Networks Ireland.
- A meeting will be arranged with the Members in regard to the Regional and Spatial Economic Strategies on 7th or 8th November, 2018.
- It is accepted that an acknowledgement should issue to complainants who have submitted a written complaint relating to an alleged unauthorised development.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Marcus and Brian for their contributions and they vacated the District Chamber.

7. Fix Date and Venue for the December Monthly Meeting.

The Cathaoirleach advised that the December Monthly Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26th. December, 2018 and he recommended holding the meeting in Littleton Community Centre on Wednesday 19th. December, 2018 at 12 noon followed by lunch at the Horse & Jockey Hotel.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Lowry, seconded by Councillor J. Bourke and resolved:-

24th. October, 2018.



"That the December Monthly Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be held on Wednesday 19th. December, 2018 at 12 noon in Littleton Community Centre".

8. Civic Receptions.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that:-

- There is still information outstanding on some of the recipients that have been proposed by the Members for Civic Receptions.
- The Corporate Policy Group has recommended that a joint Civic Reception be held with Nenagh Municipal District to acknowledge Tairseach who won the "Senior Grúpa of Cheoil" in the Fleadh Cheoil na h-Éireann 2018. It is considered more appropriate for this District to include the group in the Civic Receptions being organised for 22nd. November, 2018 as most of the musicians hail from our District.

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

"That Tairseach be awarded a Civic Reception by the District on 22nd. November, 2018 on winning the "Senior Grúpa of Cheoil" in the Fleadh Cheoil na h-Éireann 2018."

9. Update on the 2018 Work Programmes.

Copy of expenditure to date on the Schedule of Municipal District Works was circulated at the Meeting.

Michael F. Hayes, Senior Engineer advised the Members that additional funding of €814,000.00 has been received for the County for storm damage repairs.

The Acting District Engineer advised the following:-

- Resurfacing works on the national secondary routes commenced in the last two weeks.
- Improvements on tertiary roads have been completed.
- A list of paths to be upgraded under the IPB allocation will be circulated to the Members at the November Monthly Meeting.
- A design is currently being proposed for footpath improvements at Castlemeadows, Thurles which may influence the design chosen for the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme.
- Footpath improvements will commence in Borrisoleigh next week.



- The public car park adjacent to St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore will be resurfaced in the coming weeks.
- Sections of the main path in Templemore Town Park will be resurfaced within the next 2 weeks.
- The Low Cost Safety Scheme at Cloone Cross will commence next week.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Removal of tree outside Gairm Scoil Mhuire, Castlemeadows, Thurles.
- It is imperative that any footpath improvements undertaken outside the Greyhound Stadium, Castlemeadows, Thurles do not discourage students from using the footpath adjacent to Semple Stadium for safety reasons.
- The urgent need to cut back hedgerows on the public road from Shevry to Rossmore.
- Update on request for safety improvements at Turtulla Cross, Thurles and provision of footpath from Turtulla Cross to Archerstown Industrial Estate.
- Some of the speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles have become loose.
- Address collapsed wall to the rear of Moycarkey Cemetery.
- Extend path from St. Patrick's Cemetery to Dún Lia, Thurles.
- Update in regard to proposed improvement works at Market Square, Roscrea.
- Poor condition of the N62 on the approach roads to Templemore town.
- Poor sightlines at the Pouldine side as you come off the ramp of the M8 motorway at Horse & Jockey, Thurles due to overgrown shrubbery.
- Cleaning of shores in villages in the District in order to prevent flooding.
- Start date for dealing with the Japanese knotweed in the District.
- Renew the continuous white line at Pouldine, Thurles following resurfacing of the road.
- Establish when works will commence at Ashill and Maxfort, Horse & Jockey, Thurles.
- Establish if the Council's Insurance would cover Community Employment Schemes who cut grass in public areas.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Contact will be made with the landowners responsible for the overgrown hedgerows on the Shevry to Rossmore Road.
- The speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles will be examined.
- Discussions have taken place with Fiona Bohane, TII on safety improvements at Turtulla Cross, Thurles.
- The complaint in regard to the collapsed wall at Moycarkey Cemetery will be referred to Environment Section.



- An announcement is expected from TII, within the next month, on projects submitted by the Council pertaining to national secondary routes in the District.
- The complaint regarding the overgrown shrubbery on the Pouldine side as you come off the ramp of the M8 will be referred to the TII.
- Line marking at Pouldine, Thurles will be undertaken next week.
- Improvements at Market Square, Roscrea will be undertaken early in 2019.
- Improvements at Ashill and Maxfort, Horse & Jockey will be undertaken on completion of the 2018 Roadworks Programme.

10. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	This was dealt with under the Works Programme.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	The Council is awaiting submission of insurances from the preferred Contractor.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Detailed designs should be completed by year end. ii. The Council has been successful in securing funding for the installation of smart lighting in Liberty Square and other areas in Thurles town under the Interreg Smart Lighting Initiative.
Thurles Town Park.	Further contact is awaited from the Thurles Farmers Market in regard to the farm building.
Consideration of proposed Greenway on Bórd na Móna peat lands.	A Consultant has been engaged by Bórd na Móna to prepare a Feasibility Study on the potential to develop a greenway on peat lands in the District.
Proposed River Suir Walkway, Thurles.	The allocation of €15,000.00, which was set aside under the GMA 2018 for economic development in the District, will be ring-fenced to provide financial support to Thurles Lions Club to move the project to the next stage.
Templemore Town Park Extension.	The District Director will make a further attempt at engaging JK Brackens in the proposals.
Provision of a Town Park in Roscrea.	Councillor M. Smith to initiate discussions with the new owners of the former Antigen site.

The District Director confirmed, in reply to a query raised by Councillor J. Ryan, that a policy on the erection of monuments, plaques, etc in public places in the County is currently being prepared by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Section and no decisions will be made on requests received in the District until the policy is in place.



11. Notice 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 to consider providing a public indoor bowling alley and play centre in Thurles."

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

"The District does not have any funding to provide an indoor bowling alley and play centre in Thurles."

The District Director confirmed that it would not be a function of the Municipal District to provide public indoor bowling alleys and it was agreed that the response issued to the Notice of Motion be corrected to reflect this position.

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 Council to install traffic calming measures to include a pedestrian crossing in the Ragg Village."

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

"The Council is currently investigating the feasibility of the provision of a Low Cost Safety Scheme at The Ragg, Thurles. "

The Acting District Engineer advised that the installation of a pedestrian crossing at The Ragg would pose a serious health and safety risk to pedestrians and that the Council is in negotiations with a landowner to make the junction safer under a Low Cost Safety Scheme.

c) 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 Templemore-Thurles Municipal District would seek to carry out improvements to a number of back entrance to housing estates in Thurles town which are in a poor state of repair."

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

"There is no budget to undertake improvements to back entrances of housing estates in Thurles town, however, the Members could consider to fund such works under the GMA 2019."

The District Director confirmed, in response to the Cathaoirleach, that the tertiary road allocation cannot be expended on back entrances to housing estates as they are not public roads.

12. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence received.

13. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

The Members extended a Vote of Congratulations to:-

- Clonoulty / Rossmore on winning the Senior Hurling County Final.
- Moycarkey / Borris on winning the Minor A Hurling Final.
- Drom / Inch on winning the Minor B Hurling Final.

14. Any Other Business.

(i) Tidy Towns Grants 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that Killea Tidy Towns are not in a position to draw down any grant funding under the Tidy Towns Grants Scheme this year and she recommended that the unspent allocation of €2,000.00 be awarded to the Templemore Development Association towards improvements to the Templemore Town Park wall on the Dunkerrin Road.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Bourke, seconded by Councillor M. Smith and resolved:-



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"That the unspent allocation of €2,000.00 under the Tidy Towns Grant Scheme 2018 be awarded to Templemore Development Association towards improvement works on the Templemore Town Park wall on the Dunkerrin Road."

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 28th. November, 2018.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 28th. November, 2018.

24th. October, 2018.