



**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE  
AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY, 2017**

**Present:** Councillor Joe Bourke, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors David Doran, Seamus Hanafin, Michéal Lowry,  
Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith.

**Also Present:**

Matt Shortt	District Director
Michael F. Hayes B.E.	Senior Engineer
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer
John Jones B.E.	Executive Engineer
Michael Tierney	Executive Engineer
Deirdre O'Shea	Acting Meetings Administrator
Noel McCormack	Acting Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor John Hogan

**Tipperary County Council Civic Offices at Castle Avenue, Thurles.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the new Civic Offices at Castle Avenue, Thurles which incorporates the Municipal District and Library Headquarters and he complimented all those involved in the design, construction and relocation of operations to the new offices. All of the Members wished to be associated with the comments.

The District Director also complimented all those involved in the project and acknowledged the huge contribution and efforts of the Municipal District staff which lead to the transfer of services to Castle Avenue without disruption to the public.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Future proposals for the former Municipal District Offices at Slievenamon Road, Thurles and the old Fire Station, Rossa Street, Thurles.
- Some residents felt discommoded during the refurbishment /extension of the offices and provision of a disabled parking space for one resident on Castle Avenue, Thurles.



- The need to be supplied with direct lines for staff located in the Municipal District Offices.

The District Director confirmed that:

- No decision has been made on the former offices at Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- There were no complaints received during the construction works and he will liaise with the Members in regard to any concerns the residents may have.

### 1. **Adoption of Minutes.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20th December, 2016 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meetings."

### 2. **Presentation by the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Fran Igoe and Sheevaun Thompson, Local Authorities Water & Communities Office to the Meeting.

Fran thanked the Members for the opportunity to make a presentation on the work of the Local Authority Water & Communities Office and he outlined the following:-

- The role, objectives and structure of LAWCO.
- The objectives under the Water Framework Directive 2000.
- River Suir pilot project.
- The approach taken and details of the public engagement initiatives .
- Observations /issues from the public engagement initiatives.
- Details of the Family Fun and Awareness Day in Ardfinnan.
- Water/ biodiversity project examples.
- Draft River Basin Management Plan.
- Funding available through Leader.
- Opportunities for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District area.
- Connecting communities on the River Suir catchment Area.

The Members thanked Fran for his very comprehensive presentation and made the following points :



- Need for joined up thinking between Agencies to maximise potential development of the waterways.
- Public meetings were very informative and the preparation of the River Basin Management Plan is welcomed.
- Governance of the River Suir is a major issue.
- Investigate the possibility of a Kayaking trail from Templemore to Cahir.
- Need for balanced development in order to minimise any interference with river eco-systems.
- Clarify if the River Breaghagh, Littleton and other tributaries of the River Suir will be included in the Draft River Basin Management Plan.
- Indiscriminate dumping of our rivers.
- Low water levels are an issue as a result of build up of silt.
- Consider holding a river activity event at Thurles Town Park this year.

Fran took on board the points raised by the Members and he acknowledged that a number of Agencies have different remits in regard to our waterways. He confirmed that the River Basin Management Plan would pull all of the agencies together to operate under one framework. He added that the community involvement in activities on the Rivers would give them a greater sense of ownership.

The District Director stressed the importance of the need for extensive consultation in raising awareness and highlighting the potential of the River.

### 3. Water Services.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Sean Keating, Director of Services, Eddie Loughnane, Administrative Officer and John Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services to the Meeting.

Copy of a briefing note on Water Services was circulated at the Meeting which outlined details in the following areas:-

- The dedicated lines of communication with Irish Water that are available to Councillors.
- Irish Water Major Capital Investment Programme in the Municipal District.
- Irish Water Minor Capital Programme- Tipperary 2014-2016
- Rural Water Programme.
- Migration of non domestic water accounts to Irish Water
- Irish Water Supply Project, Eastern and Midlands Region.



The Members raised the following issues:-

- Any proposals to address the sewerage issues in Hayfield Manor, Thurles should also include houses on the Bohernamona Road, Thurles which are currently connected to septic tanks.
- Update on timescale for the provision of a watermain on Abbey Road, Thurles which needs to be completed before safety measures can be installed at the Lidl Roundabout.
- Resolution of legacy issues with regard to non domestic water bills.
- The standard of roads re-instatement needs to be monitored.
- Problem with low water pressure in Templemore.
- Update on Oakdale Park, Templemore.
- Current status regarding illegal encampment at the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Templemore.
- Proposals to rectify damage to the laneway serving the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Littleton.
- The facility to pay Water Services Development Levies in instalments to Irish Water as was the case when they were administered by local authorities.
- Number of grants drawn down by homeowners to date in Tipperary for the replacement of lead piping.

Responses to issues raised were as follows:-

- Meetings are ongoing regarding proposals for Hayfield Manor/Bohernamona Road, Thurles.
- Water services will follow up with Irish Water to expedite works at Lidl roundabout, Thurles.
- Road opening licences must be obtained by Irish Water prior to installation of watermains and Water Services will work closely with the District Engineer to ensure roads are reinstated to an adequate standard.
- There are legal issues in regard to rights of way that need to be resolved in Oakdale Park, Templemore and Water Services are providing assistance to Irish Water in this regard.
- Every effort is being made by Irish Water and the Contractor to address the illegal encampment on the roadway to the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Templemore.
- The issue of low water pressure in Templemore will be investigated to ascertain the cause.
- It is the responsibility of homeowners to identify lead piping within their property and only one application has been received to date.



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Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach  
an Teampaill Mhóir-  
Dhurlais, Ascaill an  
Chaisleáin, Durlas,  
Co. Thiobraid Árann

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

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

- Irish Water will be conducting spot checks throughout the County and the homeowner will be notified of any occurrence of lead piping in these cases.
- The Council dealt with a large number of legacy issues prior to transfer of non-domestic water accounts to Irish Water and Members can discuss specific cases with Sean Keating.
- The issue in regard to Water Services Development Levies will be taken up with Irish Water.
- Temporary works were undertaken to the roadway leading to the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Littleton last year and additional works were to be undertaken this year.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Sean Keating, John Crowley and Eddie Loughnane for the update and they withdrew from the Chamber.

#### **4. Environment Section.**

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer and Michael Woulfe, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section were in attendance with Sean Keating, Director of Services for this item.

A Report on year 2016 was circulated at the Meeting which outlined activities in the District under the following headings:-

- Burial Grounds.
- Civic Amenity Sites.
- Community Services.
- Control of Dogs.
- Control of Horses.
- Derelict Sites.
- Litter & Waste Enforcement.
- Grants awarded to Burial Ground and Tidy Towns Committees.
- Complaints to date.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Possibility of bringing forward the Grants Schemes for Tidy Villages and Burial Grounds.
- Address the litter problem in St Josephs's new Graveyard, Templemore and Oldtown, Templemore.
- Rodent problem in a property at Lacey Avenue, Templemore.

25th. January 2017.



- Possibility of erecting a CCTV camera at Bog Lodge, Templemore to counteract dumping.
- Update in regard to repairs to the wall and gate at Boulick Graveyard.
- LED lighting should be installed in tandem with new CCTV cameras
- Problem with graffiti in Thurles needs to be addressed.
- Consult with the Burial Ground Committee to identify trees that need to be felled and pruned back at St. Michael's Cemetery, The Ragg, Thurles.
- A County wide review of the condition of footpaths in graveyards needs to be carried out.
- Update on issue of sulky racing on public roads.
- Derelict buildings in Town centres need to be addressed.
- Schedule of locations that the new road sweeper will be attending.
- Greater enforcement is required in the control of horses and dogs in the County ( issue of unsupervised dogs in St. Joseph's Graveyard, Templemore and horses being tied to equipment in the playground in Littleton).
- Pruning of trees at Littleton and Borroway, Thurles

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Tidy Towns & Burial Ground Grants will be advertised in the coming weeks.
- The issue of rodents in private property at Lacey Avenue, Templemore will be examined.
- The entrance to Boulick Graveyard is on private property therefore the wall on the access route to the graveyard is a private issue.
- Discussions will be held with Gardai regarding the Graffiti problem.
- A schedule is being drawn up for the new sweeper and it will be publicised in due course.
- Signage will be erected in St Joseph's Graveyard, Templemore and in Littleton and the Enforcement Officers will be asked to monitor the areas on a regular basis.
- A measured approach is required to deal with the issue of sulky racing and consultation is ongoing with all parties in order to reach an acceptable solution.
- LED lighting will lead to greater efficiency but not increased illumination.
- The legislative process for dealing with Derelict Sites is lengthy and every effort is made to encourage owners to rehabilitate properties.
- The issue with the trees at St. Michael's Cemetery, The Ragg, Thurles will be examined.



- Substantial works have been undertaken to paths in some cemeteries in the County and a review and plan of works will be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.
- Contact should be made with the Environment Section where horses are left in public places in order to have them impounded.

#### 5. **General Municipal Allocation 2017 and Templemore-Thurles Grants Schemes 2017.**

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that the Councillors will shortly be required to agree on the apportionment of the General Municipal Allocation for 2017 which amounts to €111,389.00.

The Members made the following points:-

- Set aside funding from the GMA and savings generated from LED lighting towards the installation of additional public lighting in the District.
- Concerns with some public lights not working in Templemore.
- Calls for funding additional public lights should be raised at the Budget Meeting of the full Council later in the year.

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- It is a matter for the Members to agree on the apportionment of the GMA provided that proposals do not create an ongoing financial liability into the future where there is no dedicated budget provided.
- There will be a need to set aside a financial provision in the Council's Budget for the taking in charge of public lighting in housing estates which will place an additional financial burden on the Council.
- The payback timeframe on the capital costs associated with the provision of LED lighting is 12 to 15 years.
- Lights that are not in working order will be fixed.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that:-

- The Council should focus solely this year on allocating grants to Residents Associations for enhancement works in housing estates/tenant participation in Council estates and Sporting Clubs who provide playing facilities for young people and females due to the substantial increase in the number of applications received in 2016 when compared to 2015.



- A number of Residents Associations expressed disappointment at the reduction in the level of grant aid awarded in 2016 which was unavoidable due to the overall number of applications received.
- An advertisement will be placed in the Tipperary Star and the Midland Tribune next week inviting applications for Grants from Residents Associations for enhancement works / tenant participation in Council estates and from Sporting Clubs for the provision of playing facilities for young people and females in the Municipal District. A timeframe of 5 weeks will be permitted for the submission of completed applications which must be accompanied by a current bank statement and receipts for the period 1st June 2016 to 28th February 2017. The closing date for draw down of approved grants is 30th September, 2017.

There were no objections raised by the Members to the amendments to the Grants Schemes and it was agreed that the details of the schemes be emailed to the Members.

## 6. Proposed Work Programmes for 2017.

Michael F. Hayes, Senior Engineer, Roads Section confirmed that:-

- Grants of €18,460,000.00 have been announced for regional and local road improvements in the County.
- The Restoration Improvement Grant has been increased by €1,000,000.00.
- The 2017 Roadworks Programme should be circulated to the Members for consideration shortly.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Re-examine previous proposals for the provision of a footbridge in Holycross adjacent to the Bridge which would improve the safety of pedestrians and support tourism.
- Investigate the possibility of providing additional traffic calming measures at Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles.
- Undertake resurfacing works at Littleton village as drainage works are now completed.
- Poor condition of the road surface from the junction with the old N8 to the Rectory, Littleton.
- Address speeding issue outside Kennedy's Funeral Home, Borrissoleigh.
- Provide breakdown of proposals submitted to the Department for improvements to bridges in the County.





- The urgent need for the reintroduction of the Local Improvement Scheme.
- Retention of surface water on the road at Coolkip, Horse & Jockey.
- Re-instatement of speed limit signs in Ballysloe.
- Provision of footpath out to Ryans public house in Holycross.
- The road surface on Suir Bridge in Thurles needs attention.
- Investigate the possibility of erecting bollards near the Gaeilscoil in Bohernanave, Thurles where the road narrows.
- The Bridge at Graiguewood is in a dangerous condition and in need of attention.
- Installation of bollards at the entrance to St Mary's Avenue, Thurles to prevent illegal parking.
- The provision of traffic calming measures in Rosemount, Thurles.
- Establish if flood relief works will be undertaken at Ballyerk, Two Mile Borris.
- Provision of road markings/signage at Cloone Cross, Templemore.
- Poor condition of the road surface at the entrance to the car park adjacent to St. Joseph's old cemetery, Templemore.

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- The provision of a footbridge in Holycross can be examined under the Town / Village Renewal Scheme.
- There is no dedicated funding for the Local Improvement Scheme.
- A meeting will be held with TII next week and Members should bring issues that they want raised to the attention of the Cathaoirleach.
- The issues relating to the Gaeilscoil, Scoil Ailbhe and St Mary's Avenue will be examined.
- The poor condition of the road surface at the Suir Bridge, Thurles has been referred to the T.I.I.
- The provision of a path at Ryan's public house, Holycross can be considered by the Members under the General Municipal Allocation 2017.
- It is intended to resurface the car park adjacent to St. Joseph's old cemetery, Templemore on a phased basis over a number of years subject to the availability of funding.

## 7. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square  
Refurbishment and  
development of a  
carpark.

Part 8 procedure is ongoing. It is envisaged that works may commence in the third quarter of 2017 and that the new car park shall be constructed first.



Extension to and Refurbishment of the Offices at Castle Avenue, Thurles.

The new offices opened to the public on Monday 16th January, 2017.

Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.

A Brief is currently being prepared for Consultants regarding the specific works to be undertaken to the building.

Town / Village Renewal Project 2016.

Work is progressing satisfactorily on the new Garden in Templemore Town Park.

Templemore Town Park Extension.

Meetings with stakeholders are underway.

Village Enhancement Works.

Works under the 2016 GMA are complete.

Rocrea Enhancement Scheme and Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016.

A further Steering Committee Meeting regarding the Traffic and Transportation Plan will be held in three weeks and the Consultants will liaise with the Design Team on the development of plans to progress proposed improvements to Castle Street, Roscrea.

Thurles Town Park.

- i. Works on repairs to the roof of the disused building will commence once Contractors have been appointed.
- ii. The CCTV will be extended to cover Thurles Town Park which will be funded from the Capital Account. The server for the CCTV serving Thurles town will be relocated to the Garda Station in due course, however, there is no funding available to upgrade the existing system.



Carpark at St. Patrick's  
Cemetery.

A report is being prepared for  
consideration by the Members at the  
February Municipal District Meeting.

## 8. Notices of Motion.

### a) Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors D. Doran and J. Ryan.

Councillor D. Doran formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name  
and in the name of Councillor J. Ryan:

"We call on the relevant authorities including this Municipal District Council to  
remove parking off Parnell Street in Thurles for a trial period of 3 months."

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion.

The response circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the  
Meeting is as follows:

"With the permission of the Members, the Council will refer the Notice of Motion  
to the Garda Authorities for a report/ recommendation."

Councillors D. Doran and J. Ryan indicated that the request relates specifically to  
the provision of a single yellow line from the junction at Cuchulainn Road, Thurles  
to the existing single yellow line in Parnell Street, Thurles between the hours of  
9.00am to 6.00pm to alleviate traffic congestion.

A number of Members expressed concerns with the request due to the following:

- The need to prevent any further dereliction of our town centres.
- Preserve existing employment in Thurles town which would be impacted  
through the removal of parking on Parnell Street.
- Taking parking off Parnell Street, Thurles would not alleviate congestion in  
Liberty Square where a number of streets converge.
- It is short-sighted to take one street in isolation in dealing with traffic  
management for the entire town.
- There was no public consultation on the proposals.

It was agreed that a vote would be taken on whether or not to refer the Notice of  
Motion to the Garda Authorities for a report / recommendation.



For referral: D. Doran, J. Ryan (2)  
Against referral: J. Bourke, S. Hanafin, M. Lowry, E. Moran, S. Ryan, M. Smith (6)

The Acting Meetings Administrator announced the result of the Vote and advised that the Notice of Motion would not be referred to the Garda Authorities based on the result of the Vote.

#### **b) 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 Council would seek to clean up and clear the pathway in Turtulla across the road from Thurles Golf Club. This would ensure that the area can be accessed safely by pedestrians, cyclists and joggers. It would also have the affect of improving the aesthetic appearance of one of the main arterial routes into the town of Thurles."

Councillor S. Hanafin seconded the Motion.

The response circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting is as follows:

"A ground survey will be undertaken from the existing footpath at the An Post sorting office to Turtulla Cross, Thurles to facilitate design and costing which will be subject to the availability of funding from the TII."

Councillor S. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response.

### **9. Correspondence.**

#### **i. Castles in Thurles.**

The Acting Meetings Administrator read out emails received from Joe MacGrath, CE and Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer, Community & Economic Development Section in regard to a request from Councillor J. Ryan to examine the tourism potential of the two castles in Thurles.

It was noted that the community can apply for Leader funding up to the 3rd. February, 2017 if they wish to undertake research or a feasibility study on the castles with a view to having them included in the "Butler Trail" which is currently being developed by Tipperary County Council.



ii. Develop a training programme for staff involved in the Retail & Tourism Sectors in the County.

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the contents of an email received from Marie Phelan, Tourism Development Officer, Community & Economic Development Section advising that Fáilte Ireland ran training called "Dwell on Excellence Training" for front of house staff in Thurles in 2016 and that the Council has requested a repeat of the training in 2017.

iii. Christmas lighting in Templemore town.

The Acting Meetings Administrator read out a letter which was received from Ms. Mary O'Shea, Templemore in regard to seeking the permission of the Members to fundraise in order to increase the Christmas lighting in Templemore town in 2017.

It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach would establish a sub-committee comprising of representatives from the Templemore Traders Association, Templemore Development Association and a number of Councillors to examine ways of improving the Christmas lighting in the town and that Mary O'Shea would be invited to participate on the Committee.

iv. Multi Party Framework Agreements for Electrical Services and for Plumbing Services for Local Authorities.

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that:

- Tipperary County Council will be required to tender its requirements for electrical and plumbing services through the Multi Party Framework Agreements currently advertised by the Local Government Operational Procurement Centre.
- Local electricians must apply to join the Multi Party Framework Agreement for Electrical Services for Local Authorities by 3.00pm on 17th. February, 2017 and local plumbers must apply to join the Multi Party Framework Agreement for Plumbing Services for Local Authorities by 3.00pm on 24th. February, 2017.
- Every effort should be made by the Members to encourage local plumbers/electricians to apply to join the Frameworks as Tipperary County Council will be required to run mini competitions amongst the suppliers that are included on the frameworks and suppliers that are not on the frameworks cannot be used by the Council in the future.



v. Special Speed Limit Review Workshop.

The Acting Meetings Administrator read out the contents of an email which was received from the Roads Section requesting the holding of a Workshop in order to update the Members on the assessment of submissions received following public consultation on the Special Speed Limit Review.

It was unanimously agreed that the Special Speed Limit Review Workshop would take place from 12.30pm to 1.30pm on Wednesday, 22nd. February, 2017 after the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Community Safety Committee Meeting which takes place at 11:30am and that the Monthly Municipal District Meeting would follow at 2.00pm.

**10. Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

Councillor M. Smith wished our Lady's Secondary School, Templemore every success in the forthcoming Harty Cup Semi-Final against Nenagh CBS on Saturday. The other Members endorsed his comments.

**Civic Awards.**

It was agreed that a sub-Committee be established to examine criteria / protocol for the holding of Civic Receptions in the District compiling of the following:-

District Director, Acting Meetings Administrator, Cathaoirleach, Councillors D. Doran, S. Hanafin, M. Lowry, J. Ryan, S. Ryan.

**11. Any Other Business.**

There are a number of lights that are not in working order in the Skateboard Park in Thurles Town Park.	The issue will be examined.
Poor lighting at the Pedestrian Crossing near Templemore Town Hall.	The ESB is investigating the matter.
The Council should consider purchasing the property that is for sale at the entrance to Templemore Town Park.	
Update on removal of all of the temporary poles in the Square in Templemore town.	All of the poles will be removed shortly as requested.



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[tipperarycoco.ie](http://tipperarycoco.ie)

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**THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 22nd February, 2017.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 22nd February, 2017.