



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE THURLES CHAMBER ENTERPRISE CENTRE, LIT TIPPERARY CAMPUS, NENAGH ROAD, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2016**

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

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

**Also Present:**

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

**Apologies:** John Jones B.E. Executive Engineer

**1. Adoption of Minutes.**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2016 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

**2. Housing**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Clare Curley, Director of Services and Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer who were in attendance for this item. Copy of a progress report on Housing Capital Projects, Voids, Approved Social Housing Support Applicants and Housing Adaptation Grants was circulated at the Meeting.

Clare Curley advised the Members that :-

- A new Housing Action Plan entitled "Rebuilding Ireland" has been launched in the past few days.



- The Council is in discussions with the Department to recommence works on the rebuilding of 23 and 24 Gortataggart, Thurles.
- Work on the Group Housing Scheme at Cabra Bridge, Thurles, is progressing well.
- The Council is dealing with all emergency and priority one cases under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for Private Houses which is now closed and it may be possible to progress some priority two applications due to the increase in the allocation from the Department.
- Tipperary County Council was selected as a pilot for the roll out of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) with effect from 25th. June, 2015 and 114 HAP tenancies have been secured to date.

Clare Curley and Aidan Fennessey made the following points in response to queries raised from the Members:-

- Council house at 14 Park Avenue West, Templemore requires major refurbishment and an estimate of the cost of the works is currently being prepared.
- Works are in progress on 25 Railway View, Templemore, which is being undertaken by direct labour.
- This District has the least number of vacant units in the County.
- Housing Section must operate within the constraints of the procurement and tendering processes which take time.
- The Council has submitted details of the land bank in its ownership to the Department for the purposes of construction of social housing.
- The Housing Action Plan will require the co-operation and involvement of the private sector in order to deliver on the 47,000 units proposed and the Council has submitted a comprehensive report to the Department on the Plan.
- The Council is obliged to acquire houses that are in good condition in order to have them occupied as soon as possible.
- Housing Section will consider acquiring houses in estates that are in the process of being taken in charge.
- The housing scheme at Glencarrick, Roscrea is being progressed in conjunction with the Site Resolution Plan for The Grange housing estate, Roscrea, which will ensure that existing issues are addressed.
- "Rebuilding Ireland" provides for a strategy to be undertaken on all vacant units in the County and the database is expected to be completed by mid 2017.
- The Council cannot acquire the unfinished houses to the rear of Tara Drive, Gortnahoe, or interfere with the work of Planning Section in regard to unfinished estates.
- There are a number of parties interested in the vacant units which are currently for sale in Ashgrove, Thurles, and details of the purchaser should be known in the next ten days.



- The Council will establish if there are proposals to construct a footpath between the 5 social housing units in Gortnahoe and the village.
- A request will be made to the Department for approval to construct houses on Council land at Mill Road, Thurles.
- A Housing Needs Assessment will be completed by mid September which will give a more accurate account of the number of applicants on the social housing waiting list.
- Priority is given by the Department for the construction of extensions for people with disabilities over applicants approved for reasons of overcrowding whose needs could be adequately met by means of a transfer to larger accommodation.
- Repairs are almost complete on the former community house at Derrynaflan, Littleton, which has been brought back into Council stock for re-letting purposes.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Clare Curley and Aidan Fennessey for the update and they left the Meeting.

### **3. Community and Economic Development**

Ms. Áine McCarthy, Tourism Officer was in attendance for this item. Áine circulated a report on Community and Economic Development and she outlined the activities / progress to date in the following areas:

- Local Economic & Community Plan 2015 - 2020 and Community & Economic Action Plan 2016
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Local Development Strategy (LDS)
- Strategic Projects Unit (SPU)
- Tipperary Sports Partnership (TSP) & Football Association of Ireland (FAI)
- Enterprise and Economic Development.
- Tourism
- Local Enterprise Office(LEO)
- Tipperary County Museum
- Arts

Members made the following points in response to the Presentation:-

- The visits by the FAI to County Tipperary and the allocation of grants to soccer clubs in Thurles and the surrounding villages is appreciated.
- There are no signs on the approach roads to Thurles, including the Motorway, to support and encourage Tourism in the area, e.g. GAA
- The Council has been very proactive in acquiring the Roscrea Business Park at Benamore and land in Nenagh for the purpose of economic development.



- The physical activity programmes taking place in Littleton Community Centre under Tipperary Sports Partnership in conjunction with Youthwork Ireland Tipperary are proving to be very successful.
- Update in regard to the Task Force which was established to examine potential viable future uses for the Lisheen Mines site.
- The need to work in conjunction with voluntary organisations who have submitted capital tourism projects to Fáilte Ireland.

Áine McCarthy confirmed that:

- The provision of tourism signage on the approach roads in Thurles town is a matter for the Municipal District. There are strict guidelines regarding signage on motorways, e.g. signage for Holycross is permitted as it attracts in excess of 250,000 visitors each year.
- Bord Fáilte, in its funding call, will meet with any person/voluntary group provided they have prepared a feasibility study and can show that the proposed project is viable.
- The query regarding the Lisheen Mine site will be referred to the relevant staff for consideration.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Áine McCarthy for her presentation and she left the Meeting.

#### **4. Fix date for the Statutory Meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2017**

The Acting Meetings Administrator indicated that it is proposed to place the consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2017 as an item on the Agenda for the October Monthly Meeting.

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

"That the consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2017 be placed as an item on the Agenda for the October Monthly Meeting of Templemore-Thurles Municipal District."

Councillor J. Ryan asked if the July Monthly Meeting could be held earlier in the month from next year. The Acting Meetings Administrator pointed out that the Councillors adopted a Resolution some time ago that the date of the Monthly Meeting be changed only in exceptional circumstances following consultation with all Members.



## **5. Nomination of one elected member to Littleton Community Action Partnership and one elected Member to Roscrea Community Action Partnership:**

The Acting Meetings Administrator referred to the presentation given by Margo Hayes, Administration Officer, Community & Economic Development, on the Littleton and Roscrea Community Action Plans at the June Monthly Meeting and she advised that Margo is seeking the nomination of one elected Member to the Littleton Community Action Partnership and one elected Member to the Roscrea Community Action Partnership.

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

"That Councillor S. Ryan be nominated to the Littleton Community Action Partnership".

"It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:-

"That Councillor M. Smith be nominated to the Littleton Community Action Partnership".

## **6. Update on the 2016 Work Programmes and the 2016 Budgets.**

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

The District Engineer gave the following update on the 2016 Work Programmes:

- The Restoration Improvement Programme is complete and the Restoration Maintenance Programme is 85-90% completed.
- Exploratory works are currently being undertaken on two sections of road in Gortnahoe to see if the road improvements can proceed as there are concerns over the structural integrity of the existing road and the Members will be informed of the position in due course.
- Approximately one third of works identified under the Flood Relief Scheme have either started or are complete.
- Irish Rail has commenced improvements on Aughall Bridge and have substantially completed works on Graigue Bridge.
- A Consultant has been appointed to prepare the Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016.
- Work is commencing next week on the footpaths at Cluain na Seimre, Two-Mile-Borris. Footpath improvements have been completed at Ashbury, Roscrea, Railway



View and Richmond, Templemore and The Ragg. Footpath improvements are substantially complete in Ballycahill Village. The contract to extend the footpath outside the new Community Centre, Littleton will resume shortly.

- Irish Water has to complete a water connection for Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme near the roundabout at Lidl, Abbey Road, Thurles before the overlay from the Railway Bridge to Ard na Croise can be undertaken.
- All applicants have paid the contributions due under the Community Involvement Scheme and works will commence within the next month.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Resolution to the boundary issue at Aughall Bridge.
- Update on resurfacing of Slievenamon Road, Thurles and repairs to footpaths.
- The need to have representation from the Municipal District at the meeting with the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport in Clonmel this Friday.
- Provision of skid resistance surface on Graigue Bridge and date for the reopening of the road.
- Poor sightlines at Pouldine Cross due to the dense growth of Japanese Knotwood.
- Cut back trees and address flooding issue at Ballyerk, Two-Mile-Borris.
- Strim grass near the bad bend on the road at Cloncleigh, Two-Mile-Borris.
- Provision of continuous white line in Moycarkey Village and at Ballybeg, Littleton near the Bord na Mona Briquette Factory.
- Establish if a directive has been issued prohibiting the erection of kerbing around graves in Cemeteries in the County. Contractors erecting kerbing around grave spaces need to allow for drainage of the area.
- Undertake improvement works in St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore, as a matter of priority. Poor condition of the wall and surface on the car park adjoining this Cemetery.
- A section of the road at Ballypatrick is almost impassable.
- Cut back growth at the junctions of Turtulla Cross, Killinan Cross, and the Dark Road and cut back the hedging on the Cormackstown Road.
- Poor road surface from the Protestant Church to the Band hall in Littleton.
- Update in regard to the condition of the road leading to Littleton Sewerage Treatment Plant.
- Clean the gullies in Borrisoleigh.
- Reconstruct the wall, repair the barrier and provide a reflective strip on the barrier in the carpark in Borrisoleigh village.
- Set aside funding to repair/resurface/ spray the back entrances in local authority housing estates in Thurles.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing and additional signage in Gortnahoe Village.
- Undertake drainage improvements at St. Bridget's Terrace, Littleton.



- Update on flood relief measures at Piercetown, Thurles and Borrisbeg, Templemore.
- Landowners need to be advised of their obligations early each year in regard to cutting back hedges on their lands adjoining public roads.
- Repair the pot holes at Liberty Square and outside the Anner Hotel, Thurles.
- Update on the final reinstatement of the roads from Ballygemmane to Grange.
- Establish who is responsible for the two flyovers on the M7.
- Timeframe for completion of the Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016.
- Ongoing complaints of incidents of skidding at the second roundabout leading to the M8 at the Horse & Jockey, Thurles.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:-

- The Council is in negotiations with the landowner near Aughall Bridge to address boundary issues prior to undertaking any works. The Council cannot undertake any works while Iarnrod Eireann are on site and works are due for completion on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2016.
- Irish Water has given a commitment to investigate the condition of the roadway leading to Littleton Sewerage Treatment Plant and to review any necessary remedial works with the other road users.
- The road at Ballypatrick is a local secondary road, therefore of a lower priority and there are no houses located on the section in question.
- It is expected that improvement works to Slievenamon Road will be not undertaken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) until 2017 and a request has been made to include repairs to footpaths in the scope of the project.
- Members can contact the District Engineer directly to obtain the balance remaining on the Tertiary Road Allocation.
- It takes 18 months to 3 years to treat Japanese Knotwood in the correct manner and trials are ongoing in Kerry to come up with an alternative solution to treating the weed. The Council has been asked by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland to identify the areas in which Japanese Knotwood is located and submit the results to them.
- The provision of skid resistance at Graigue Bridge will be considered in the context of the availability of funding.
- Flooding issues at Coolcroo and Ballyerk have been addressed and flood relief measures have commenced at Piercetown, Thurles.
- The requests for the provision of continuous white lines at Ballybeg, Littleton and Moycarkey Village will be considered.
- The gullies in Borrisoleigh will be cleaned and the Council will examine the works required in Borrisoleigh Car Park.
- A complete review is being undertaken of street cleaning in the District which will result in changes to existing operations for efficiency reasons.



- Improvement works will be undertaken in St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore.
- The Council is cutting back growth at junctions in the District where there is interference with sight lines.
- An agreement has almost been reached on the final reinstatement of the roadway from Ballygemmane to Grange.
- Temporary repairs have been undertaken on the roadway outside Littleton Primary School and further investigation is needed to ascertain the full extent of works required.
- The Council will undertake speed surveys and carry out a Pedestrian Crossing Suitability Assessment in Gortnahoe Village.
- Roads Section will establish who is responsible for the maintenance of the two flyovers on the M7.
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland is carrying out some works to the roadway at the second roundabout leading to the M8 at the Horse & Jockey within the next two weeks.

## 8. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square  
Refurbishment and  
development of a  
carpark.

It is expected that the Architectural Survey will be completed this week which will be forwarded to the Design Team in order for the Part 8 documents to be resubmitted to the Planning Authority as soon as possible.

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

The project is progressing very well.

Repairs / Improvements  
to Templemore Town  
Hall

The Conservation Architects Report should be completed this week and the cost of the proposed works will then be assessed by the Council.

Templemore Town Park  
Extension.

A meeting will be arranged shortly to discuss options with interested stakeholders.

Village Enhancement  
Works.

This was dealt with under Item 6 of the Agenda.





Rocrea Enhancement Scheme and Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016.

Discussions will take place between the Consultants recently appointed to prepare the Roscrea Traffic & Transportation Plan 2016 and the Roscrea Enhancement Scheme Design Team to ensure both projects run in unison.

Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

The project has been delayed as the Roadworks Programme took priority.

## 9. Notices of Motion.

### a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.

Councillor J. Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Council to investigate the possibility of making the entrance into the Glebe Housing Estate in Thurles more safe and to install traffic calming measures within the estate also."

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

"The sight lines at the entrance to the Glebe Housing Estate are substantially in excess of the minimum guideline requirements and the entrance to the Glebe is also inside the 50kph speed limits. The Council will inspect the Glebe Estate to assess the requirement for Traffic Calming measures."

Councillor J. Ryan reiterated that safety measures are required at the entrance to The Glebe housing estate, Thurles, in order to slow down traffic as a number of accidents have taken place at this location.

### b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor John Hogan.

Councillor J. Hogan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name and Councillor S. Ryan's name:

"That the Council would put traffic calming measures in place in the village of Ballysloe particularly near the local primary school as well as replacing missing speed limit signs."



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

"The Council will replace the missing speed limit signs in Ballysloe Village and will carry out speed checks to assess the requirement of traffic calming measures."

Councillor J. Hogan and Councillor S. Ryan expressed satisfaction with the response received.

**c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor David Doran.**

Councillor D. Doran formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Municipal District Council to provide public toilets in Thurles Town Park."

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

"The Council is in the process of preparing an estimate of the cost of relocating the public toilet from Parnell Street Car Park to Thurles Town Park and negotiations are taking place with the supplier for the relocation of the public convenience. Any decision to re-locate the existing unit from Parnell Street to the Town Park and the subsequent annual maintenance costs will be contingent of funds being provided in the Annual Budget. This will be considered as part of the Annual budget 2017."

The District Director advised that:-

- There are two years remaining on the current contract for the public convenience at Parnell Street Car Park, Thurles.
- A decision will have to be made on whether to terminate, renew or renegotiate the Agreement and relocate the public convenience to Thurles Town Park.
- The Budget will determine if the public convenience will be continued with.

**10. Correspondence.**

- Damage to pier and gate at Boulick Cemetery, Gortnahoe.  
Members were advised that the damage to the pier and gate at Boulick Cemetery, Gortnahoe has been referred by Environment Section to Corporate Services to ascertain if the cost of repair can be claimed under the Council's Insurance Policy.
- Request for the removal of Carbon Tax from peat products - Bórd na Móna.  
The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that an acknowledgement was received from the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources



on 22nd. July, 2016 in regard to the Member's request for the removal of carbon tax from peat products as it is placing Bórd na Móna and many jobs in the Littleton factory at risk and that the correspondence has been referred to Minister Michael Noonan as the matter is more relevant to the Department of Finance.

iii. Age Friendly Roscrea.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that Ms. Anne Keevey, Chairperson, Age Friendly Roscrea, has submitted a request to make a presentation to the Members on the activities of Age Friendly Roscrea.

It was unanimously agreed that the presentation would take place at the September Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District.

iv. Town Centre Painting Scheme 2016.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that:

- The Town Centre Painting Scheme 2016 will concentrate on properties in the town centres of Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles that are detracting from the visual appearance of the streets.
- A photographic survey has been completed and 25 properties have been identified across the three towns.
- Staff will liaise with Environment Section to ensure action is not being taken under the Derelict Sites Legislation on any of these properties.
- Contact will be made with the owners to encourage them to avail of the €500.00 grant which is being made available towards the cost of painting the exterior of the premises.

v. Awards Night.

It was agreed that a protocol would be drawn up on conclusion of the Municipal District Meeting on the holding of an Awards Night later in the year.

**11. Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

Councillor D. Doran:

- extended good wishes to Greg Broderick who was successful in securing a position on the Irish Show Jumping Team that will participate in the Olympics in Rio shortly.
- congratulated Darragh Ryan, nephew of Councillor J. Ryan, on his achievements in the Dublin Horseshow which was held recently in the RDS Dublin.



- congratulated Liam Ryan, Thurles on winning two gold medals at the European Transplant and Dialysis Sports Games in Finland.

Councillor S. Ryan congratulated the Moycarkey Team on winning the U16 A County Football Final in recent weeks.

Councillor E. Moran congratulated Evelyn Bourke, Barnane, Templemore on her recent appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Health Insurer BUPA.

Councillor E. Moran extended a Vote of Sympathy to the Kennedy family, Knockanroe, Templemore, on the death of their father, Tom.

The Cathaoirleach extended sympathy to the former Thurles Town Councillor Martin Ryan on the death of his wife, Phyllis.

The other Members endorsed the comments.

## 12. Any Other Business.

Write to the Department of Social Protection expressing dissatisfaction with the delay in the re-opening of the Jobs Ireland Portal which is operated online.	The request will be attended to.
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### THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

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

DATE: 28th. September, 2016.

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

DATE: 28<sup>th</sup>. September, 2016.