



MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY, 2017

Present: Councillor Seamus Hanafin, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, David Doran, John Hogan, Michéal Lowry, Jim Ryan, Eddie Moran, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

Matt Shortt	District Director
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer
Noel McCormack	Acting Meetings Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Minutes of the June Monthly Meeting which were held on the 21st June, 2017 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meetings."

Councillor J. Ryan proposed changing the date of the July Monthly meeting to earlier in the month as it was coinciding with staff on annual leave. Councillor D. Doran seconded the proposal. Councillor S. Hanafin said to do so would result in the June and July meetings being held back to back. He said that the issue would be examined nearer the time next year.

2. Presentation by Attracta Lyons, Community and Economic Development.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Attracta Lyons who was in attendance to make a presentation to the Members on the Community & Economic Development Report. The report highlighted the following:



- SICAP Programme 2018–2021
- DAHRRGA Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- DAHRRGA Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
- Local Government community Facilities Grants
- DYCA National Play Day and Recreation Week
- TCC Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities & Amenities
- LDS/Leader
- Arts
- Heritage/Museum & MSPI Accreditation
- CAP Roscrea & Littleton
- Tourism
- National Famine Commemoration 2017
- Strategies and projects
- Local Enterprise Office – Grants and Training
- Tipperary Sports Partnership/FAI training

The Members raised the following points:

- There are no signs on the approach road to Thurles to show that Thurles was the birthplace of the GAA.
- Funding for festivals/events in Roscrea is greatly reduced as it was previously funded by the Community and Economic Development Section and is now reliant on funding from the Municipal District for such events.
- More promotion and recognition of St. Mary's Garden of Remembrance is required.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:

- The issue of signage on approach roads to Thurles town showing Thurles as the birthplace of the GAA will be referred back to staff in Community and Economic Development Section.
- The promotion of St. Mary's Garden of Remembrance will be addressed in the relevant media platforms.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Attracta for her very detailed presentation and she left the Meeting.



3. Approval of Grant Allocations under Communities Facilities Grant Scheme 2017, Department of Community & Rural Affairs, as recommended by Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Attracta Lyons, Community & Economic Development made a presentation on the Community Facilities Scheme Capital Scheme 2017. Tipperary County Council received a total grant of €64,500 from the Department of which Templemore-Thurles Municipal District received €16,326.50. Twenty six applicants in the District will each receive a grant of €653.06 under the scheme as follows:

1	Age Friendly Roscrea	IT Equipment	653.06
2	Ard Na Greine Residents committee	Estate Enhancement	653.06
3	Ard Ross Residents Association	Goalposts	653.06
4	Cabragh Wetlands	Equipment	653.06
5	CAMEO Care	Equipment	653.06
6	Clonmore Development committee	Village Enhancement	653.06
7	Cois Aglais Residents Assoc.	Estate Enhancement	653.06
8	Derrynaflan Residents Assoc.	IT Equipment	653.06
9	Ballysloe Tidy Towns	Equipment	653.06
10	Gortnahoe Senior Citizens Group	Equipment	653.06
11	Kiltillane Court Residents Association	Estate Enhancement	653.06
12	Littleton Development Association	Equipment	653.06
13	Loughmore Community Co-op Society Ltd.	Garden Enhancement	653.06
14	Loughmore Tidy Village	Equipment	653.06
15	Roscrea Semi colon	Equipment	653.06
16	Roscrea Youth Centre	Library Kit Out	653.06
17	Successful Ageing Thurles	Equipment	653.06
18	Templemore Badminton FC	Hall Development	653.06
19	Thomas MacDonagh Pipe Band	Equipment	653.06
20	Thurles Order of Malta	Equipment	653.06
21	Thurles Scouts Junior Group	Equipment	653.06
22	Tipperary Dyspraxia Support Group	Equipment	653.06
23	Two Mile Borris Development	Equipment	653.06
24	Youth Work Ireland (Croke St., Thurles)	Hall Development	653.06
25	Youth Work Ireland (Templemore Youth Project)	Garden Enhancement	653.06
26	Youth Work Ireland (Therapy Room, Templemore)	Equipment	653.06

The recommendation went before the LCDC and subsequently presented to the Councillors. Letters will issue to the qualifying groups shortly and spot check audits will be undertaken to ensure grants are being appropriately utilised.

The adoption of the Grants was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and was seconded by Councillor S Ryan.



4. Presentation by Housing Section

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Jonathan Cooney, Senior Engineer and Michèle Maher, Senior Staff Officer to the Meeting. Michèle Maher extended apologies on behalf of Clare Curley, Director of Housing Services who was attending a Management Team Meeting. Copy of a Report on Housing Capital Projects, Social Housing Supports and Social Housing Applicants for the District was circulated at the Meeting. Michèle outlined the following:-

- An allocation of €3,032,731 has been granted in respect of Housing Adaption Grants for private houses in 2017. The allocation for Local Authority Houses has not yet been received.
- An allocation of €751,200 has been approved in respect of vacant houses. There are 20 vacant houses in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District and works on them are almost complete.
- The target for house purchases for 2017 is 50 throughout the county – 7 sales agreed so far and 10 sales closed.
- 8 RAS contracts and 9 Long Term Leases were completed in the District to date this year.
- There are currently 118 HAP Contracts in the District.
- The Repair and Leasing Scheme, which was piloted in Waterford, has now been launched nationally and the Council has extensively advertised the Scheme. The maximum cost of repairs allowable under the initiative per unit is €40,000 which is offset against the rental income. 6 applications from this District have been received to date and all applications are currently being assessed.
- There are currently 765 people on the housing list in the District and the Housing Needs Assessment will be undertaken on a yearly basis.
- There are 33 vacant houses in the District.

Jonathan made the following presentation in relation to Housing Constructions Projects:-

- Lacey Avenue, Templemore – 3 houses are complete and 1 currently in progress.
- Gortataggart, Thurles – Stage 2 has been approved for 2 houses.
- 1 house at 56 Mitchel Street, Thurles and 5 houses at Gortnahoe – Part 8 has been advertised.
- 2 houses at The Barracks, Borrisoleigh – 1 complete and 1 currently ongoing.
- 12 houses at Borrisoleigh and 6 houses at Templetuohy – applications currently at Stage 2. Architects appointed
- 25 houses at Mill Road – Stage 2 being prepared.



- Cabragh Bridge, Traveller Accommodation – 6 Units in progress.
- An architect has been appointed for 10 houses at Glencarrig, Roscrea.
- 12 houses at Ashbury, Roscrea have been purchased by Cluid Housing Association.

The Members thanked Jonathan and Michèle for the information and acknowledged the volume of work being undertaken by the Housing Staff. They raised the following points:-

- Rural houses must not be overlooked as part of the Repair and Leasing Scheme.
- Establish the number of people who are currently availing of emergency accommodation in Thurles and Roscrea
- Priority of housing maintenance in the towns of Templemore, Thurles and Roscrea
- Poor condition of the housing stock in Templemore
- The high number of applicants on the housing waiting list in the towns of Thurles and Templemore despite an overall reduction in the number of applicants in the District.
- Council houses in some estates that are only 10 to 20 years old are affected by mildew.
- The standard of housing maintenance is very poor since the merger.
- Establish if it is possible for the Council to show leeway towards people in particularly difficult circumstances when it comes to the responsibility for housing repairs (e.g. elderly).
- The windows and doors are in bad condition in houses at Lacey Avenue and Railway View, Templemore.
- A house in The Park, Templemore has been lying idle for the past 3 or 4 years.
- There is an issue with horses in Templemore and Littleton.
- Examine the availability of land in the Thurles area that the Council could buy for housing purposes.
- No houses have been built in Thurles since 2008.
- Establish if applicants housed under RAS or HAP are still included on the housing list.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:

- Rural houses will be considered under the Repair and Leasing Scheme if it is considered there is a need in the area and subject to the house being suitable.
- There are 5 people in the homeless unit in Mitchel Street, Thurles and there are a number of people in B & B accommodation in Roscrea.
- Housing maintenance is the responsibility of the District.



- Phase 2 Insulation Works will include windows and doors and work will commence in 2018.
- The District has some discretion under the terms of the Tenant's Handbook in exceptional circumstances.
- The issue regarding horses should be referred to the Tenant Liaison Officer and Social Worker.
- Practically all applicants for HAP are entitled to and chose to remain on the housing list and are considered for other forms of social housing support when allocations arise.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Jonathan and Michèle for the updates and they withdrew from the Chamber.

5. Update on the 2017 Works Programmes and the 2017 Budgets

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

Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer gave the following update on the 2017 Works Programmes:

- The Restoration Improvement Programme is 90% complete and the Restoration Maintenance Programme is 67% complete.
- The level of the road at Coolkip, Horse & Jockey is not sufficiently high enough to install a gully and connect to the drainage on the Regional Road to address the flooding issue. It will be necessary to design an alternative means of drainage in this area.
- Works on the installation of a pedestrian crossing in Gortnahoe are completed.
- The mounds of clay at the junction of the Dark Road with the N62 at Brittas, Thurles have been lowered.
- Over-growth at junctions will be cut back where required.
- The TII has been made aware of the poor road surface on the N62 approach roads to both Templemore and Roscrea Towns.
- The TII are completing the tender documents for road improvements at Slievenamon Road, Thurles which will be advertised shortly.
- Works on the road surface and the path on the bridge over the M8 at Ballymoreen have been completed by the TII.
- Some repairs to the footpath on Thomond Road, Thurles are completed and repairs to sections of footpaths in other areas in Thurles town will commence shortly.



The Members raised the following issues:-

- Works at Templetuohy are not fully complete.
- Water is being diverted into Neily Cormack's house at Drom as a result of contractors changing the camber of the road.
- Overgrowth should be cut at dangerous junctions as a matter of course each year.
- The serious sightline issue on the Johnstown Road out of Templetuohy needs immediate attention.
- The boundary wall of Moycarkey Cemetery needs attention.
- Loose paving on Cathedral Street, Thurles is a serious health and safety issue and requires immediate action.
- Overgrown trees in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles are imposing on graves and resulting in bird droppings defecating graves.
- Trees at Willowmere Drive, Thurles were supposed to be removed two years ago.
- Traffic calming measures need to be put in place at Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles and Littleton National School before children return to school.
- Update in regard to the flooding issue at Maxfort Cross and Coolkip, Horse & Jockey.
- Establish if there is a procedure and reporting structure in place to deal with Japanese Knotweed.
- Repair potholes at Emmet Street, Thurles.
- Shores/drains need to be cleared as the Autumn approaches, especially in villages in the District.
- The footpath in Park View West, Templemore has still not been repaired.
- Strogue Road, Templemore is in very poor condition and needs attention.
- Poor condition of wall adjoining St. Joseph's Old Cemetery and the public car park Templemore.
- Ivy is still present on the carpark wall in Borrisoleigh and needs to be removed.
- The road surface outside Martin Mullalley's house, Talavera, Templemore is in poor condition and subjected to flooding.
- The N62 on the approach to the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea is in a very poor state and pressure needs to be put on the TII to undertake all the necessary works rather than in a piecemeal format.
- There is a gap in the centre of the road at Two-Mile-Borris.
- The excessive signage for Templemore town which is located at the junction needs to be addressed.



Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- Unfinished works at Templetuohy will be referred to John Jones, Executive Engineer.
- The Council will endeavour to cut hedges on a regular basis, subject to the availability of staff.
- John Jones is in discussions with a landowner regarding sightlines on the Johnstown Road out of Templetuohy.
- The Environment Section is examining a section of the wall in Moycarkey Cemetery which collapsed into private property and the wall between Cemetery and public grounds is in reasonable condition.
- A number of residents prohibited the Contractor from cutting the trees down some time ago in Willowmere Drive, Thurles. Agreement will have to come from the residents before any further action can be taken.
- The Council has to undertake improvement works on the Regional Road at Maxfort Cross, Horse & Jockey and the TII will clear the drains, where responsible.
- Speed limit signs will be changed and signage will be erected at Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles and Littleton National School.
- A survey has been completed on the cause of flooding at Coolkip, Horse & Jockey and investigations are ongoing.
- The TII is undertaking a campaign to clear Japanese Knotweed off their property and the public can notify the Council of where it is present. The Council is not responsible for removing Japanese Knotweed off private property.
- Condition of the footpath at Parkview West, Templemore will be examined.
- The wall adjoining St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore will receive attention.
- The ivy on wall at Borrisoleigh Cemetery will be investigated.
- An examination will be undertaken on the paved footpaths at Cathedral Street, Thurles.
- The Council will remove trees in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles if they are in danger of falling down, e.g. rotting.
- The Council will follow up on the condition of Strogue Road, Templemore.

6. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme	Nicholas de Jong Associates has been appointed to provide design services in respect of improvements to the public realm at Market Square, Roscrea.
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Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles Town Enhancement and Painting Schemes 2017.	A total of 38 applications have been received:- 12 Thurles; 11 Templemore; 15 Thurles. Schemes are oversubscribed and priority will be given to properties in need of enhancement to prevent them from becoming or continuing to be derelict in accordance with the terms of the Schemes.
Templemore Christmas Lighting Plan.	A purchase order has been raised for 25% of the total contract sum to begin production of the Christmas lights with Rossa Lighting.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Consultants have commenced surveying the building.
Structures at risk fund 2017 – Blackcastle, Templemore.	Only one tender was received for the engagement of professional consultancy services to project manage conservation works to Blackcastle and the Archway at Templemore Town Park. Letter of Intent was issued to David Kelly Partnership who submitted the tender and the appointment will be made shortly.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Tenders for the GPR survey are currently being assessed.
Thurles Town Park.	Roof repairs have been completed on the disused building. 'Expressions of Interest' will be invited regarding the proposed use of the building. The public convenience is now fully operational.
Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.	Site clearance has commenced.

7. Notices of Motion.

a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.

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



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"I am calling on This Council to erect sign posts for Thurles/Moyne at Dunnes Cross on the Rahealty Road."

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

"Two fingerpost signs are on order."

Councillor Doran expressed satisfaction with the response.

b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin.

Councillor S. Hanafin formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Municipal District calls on the Housing Section of Tipperary County Council to ensure that conditions are included in all social housing leasing, rental and HAP agreements that a licensed waste collection service is in place and Residents Association fees paid in full on social housing units."

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

"The Notice of Motion has been referred to the Director of Housing Services for a response."

Councillor S. Hanafin proposed that the Council ensure that landlords have paid Residents' Association fees before the Council take on any house and that tenants must show that they have a licensed waste collection service in place.

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion.

c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin

Councillor S. Hanafin formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to reintroduce the Urban Road Minor Improvement Grant as the loss of same has caused significant deterioration to the urban roads in the towns of Templemore and Thurles."



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

"Subject to the consent of the Members a letter will be forwarded to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport."

Councillor S. Hanafin expressed satisfaction with the response. He stated that the loss in grant aid for the towns of Templemore and Thurles since year 2014 amounted to €830,000. It was unanimously agreed that the Motion would be put before the next County Council Meeting in September.

Councillor J. Hogan seconded the Motion.

d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.

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

"I would like this district council to write to all the major music promoters in Ireland asking why Thurles and Semple Stadium are not being considered for music concerts which in my opinion would generate a huge economic boost to Thurles."

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

"It is not appropriate for the Council to write to major music promoters in Ireland and with the permission of the Members a letter can be sent to Tipperary County Board seeking to clarify the matter."

Councillor Ryan expressed his dissatisfaction with the response. He supported the action of writing to the County Board but stated that the District has a duty to write to major music promoters as Semple Stadium is a prime location for a 1 day concert and the town has ample facilities to support it.

Councillor D. Doran seconded the Motion.

It was agreed to write to the Tipperary County Board.



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e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.

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

"I would like this district council to carry out a detailed traffic management plan for Thurles which is currently choked with traffic jams and delays."

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

"The request has been referred to Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services for Roads & Health and Safety, for his attention and reply."

Councillor J. Ryan expressed his dissatisfaction with the response. He stated that a Traffic Management Plan was prepared for Thurles 20 years ago and again 10 years ago and he queried why measures identified in previous plans had not been implemented.

The Members acknowledged that a number of measures are being pursued with regard to traffic management improvements.

f) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran

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

"I am requesting that this Council would restore and clean the monument in the middle of Liberty Square in Thurles which commemorates the 1798 rebellion."

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

"The Council will arrange for cleaning of the 1798 monument on completion of improvement works under the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme."

Councillor Doran expressed satisfaction with the response and requested that the Dr. Croke monument also be cleaned.



g) 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 erect a 'Concealed Entrance' sign at the bottom of the motorway flyover at the Turnpike, Two Mile Borris and would also put the 80km/hr speed sign higher up the pole to make it more visible for passing motorists."

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

"The feasibility of erecting a 'Concealed Entrance' sign will be investigated, however it may not be required as the entrance in question is visible for more than 100m in both directions. The height of the 80 km/hr sign will be altered."

Councillor Ryan expressed satisfaction with the response

h) 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 complete storm drainage works on the entirety of Friar Street in Thurles to prevent flooding at the area close to Bowe's corner during heavy rain."

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

"Tipperary County Council Water Services Department is working with Irish Water to secure funding to extend the storm water drainage network in Thurles which will prevent further flooding on Friar Street when completed."

Councillor Ryan expressed satisfaction with the response.



8. Correspondence.

i. Office of Public Works

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the contents of a letter received from the OPW in relation to the opening times of Roscrea Castle and Damer House which are open to the public 7 days per week from April to September.

ii. GAA

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the contents of a letter received from the GAA in which it outlined that match fixtures are organised through the Central Committee.

iii. Gas Networks Ireland

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the contents of a letter received from Gas Networks Ireland in which it stated it has no plans at this time to extend its gas network to the towns of Thurles, Templemore or Roscrea.

iv. Civic Reception

The Acting Meetings Administrator requested that details for all nominations for the 2017 Civic Reception be submitted before the September Monthly Meeting.

9. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy

There were no Votes of Congratulations or Sympathies extended.

10. Any Other Business.

Remove parking charges in parking spaces adjacent to Thurles Leisure Centre.	The request will be examined.
The graffiti at Colaiste Pobail and Roscrea Leisure Centre is greatly reducing the attractiveness of the area.	
The road surface leading to the Devil's Bit and the car park require attention.	The matter will be investigated.
There is an issue with e-parking regarding the non-receipt of reminders that parking time was nearing expiration.	The issue will be investigated.



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The sightline is restricted at the entrance to Cabragh Court, Thurles on match days due to cars parking in the cycle lane.	
The overgrown trees in College Lane, Thurles need to be cut back in order to help curtail anti-social behaviour in the area.	Discussions are currently ongoing with the Pallottine College, Thurles.
Compliments were extended to the Council Staff for the excellent job recently undertaken at the Templemore Town Park. Some individuals would like to sponsor seating in the area.	Any individuals who would like to sponsor a seat should contact Deirdre O'Shea, A/District Administrator.
Thurles Enterprise Centre has submitted an application and has received a feasibility grant to lodge an application to construct a second building at the Centre which will be slightly different in focus, i.e. it will be aimed at attracting investment and jobs into the town. The application will be submitted in August and will be presented to the Members at a later date.	

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 27th. September, 2017.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 27th. September, 2017.