



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 23rd MARCH, 2016.

Present: Councillor John Hogan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, David Doran, Micheál Lowry, 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 B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.
Deirdre O'Shea	Staff Officer.

Apology: Councillor Seamus Hanafin.

Welcome.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Councillor Sean Ryan to his first meeting following his co-option in place of Jackie Cahill who was successful in the General Election. He congratulated Deputy Cahill on his success.

The other Members endorsed his comments.

Vote of Sympathy.

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended sympathy to the family of the late Councillor Willie Kennedy who died tragically in a road traffic accident and they referred to the loss of a great friend and colleague who worked tirelessly for his community and constituency.

It was unanimously agreed that the Meeting be adjourned for five minutes as a mark of respect to the late Councillor Kennedy.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

- (a) It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:



"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on the 27th. January, 2016 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

(b) It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor J. Bourke and resolved:

"That the Minutes of a Special Meeting which was held on the 15th. February, 2016 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Planning.

Mr. Karl Cashen, Director of Services and Mr. Brian Beck, Senior Planner, Planning Section were in attendance for this item.

Brian Beck made the following points in the course of his Presentation and in response to queries from the Members:-

- There has been a steady increase in planning applications in the areas of agriculture, business, house extensions and one off housing but no applications have been received for housing estates.
- A new Draft "Taking in Charge of Estates Policy", which was recently presented to the Planning Strategic Policy Committee, will be brought before the Council for discussion at an early date and Members will be invited to make submissions.
- Members are encouraged to attend a Workshop on the Draft Renewable Energy Strategy which will take place in the first week of April.
- The land for the proposed ring road for Thurles is reserved in the County Development Plan.
- Variation No. 4 of the County Development Plan which will deal with the zoning and preservation of lands around villages for schools, graveyards, amenities etc will be brought before the Members at Municipal District level in due course.

Karl Cashen circulated a report on planning statistics for the period 1st. June 2014 to 29th. February, 2016. He advised the Members that there has been an increase of 33% in the number of planning applications lodged from June 2015 to February 2016 when compared with the period June 2014 to February 2015.

Karl Cashen responded to queries raised by the Members as follows:-

- 280 estates throughout the Council have not been taken in charge and the Council is actively progressing the applications on hands.



- The Council, at a meeting before Christmas, provided Electric Ireland with a list of estates which are scheduled to be taken in charge in 2016 and it is expected that the public lighting will not be disconnected in these estates.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Planning Staff for the information and they left the room.

Housing.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Clare Curley, Director of Services and Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section who were in attendance for this item.

Copy of a report on Housing Construction Projects 2015 - 2017, Housing Allocations 2015, House Purchases, Voids and approved Social Housing Applicants within the Municipal District was circulated at the Meeting.

Clare Curley confirmed that:-

1. The full Housing Capital Allocation has not yet been received for 2016.
2. 178 voids were completed in 2015 which was twice the target figure set and an application has been submitted to the Department to upgrade a substantial number of voids this year.
3. 48 houses were purchased last year while the target set was 20.
4. The Council will concentrate on acquiring houses this year that require minimal works.
5. There are 25 voids presently in the Municipal District and units requiring minor repairs will be turned around quickly.
6. The date for submission of applications under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme for Private Houses is closed and the Council will consider emergency applications throughout the year.

Ms. Curley and Mr. Fennessy made the following points in response to queries from the Members:-

- The Council is using other forms of social housing support such as RAS, the Long Term Leasing Initiative and HAP to meet housing needs in addition to house construction/purchases.
- The social housing applicant numbers include households that have signed up under the HAP Scheme.
- It is expected that approximately 180 voids will be returned to use in the County this year.



- An Architect will be employed by the Council shortly to speed up the design process on construction projects.
- The Council was unsuccessful in purchasing Ashbury Housing Estate, Roscrea and contact will be made with the Environment Section with regard to serving a Derelict Sites Notice.
- The Housing Section has a very good working relationship with Voluntary Housing Bodies who have expressed an interest in providing social housing in Thurles town.
- Rents are calculated in accordance with assessable household income and tenants are obliged to inform the Council when there is a change in their income and household circumstances in accordance with the Tenancy Agreement.
- The Department is aware of the number of approved social housing applicants in the County as the Council is obliged to undertake Housing Needs Assessments on a regular basis.
- The Housing Section is working closely with Planning and Water Services to resolve issues in Glencarrig Housing Estate, Roscrea in conjunction with the new construction programme for the estate.
- The Community Liaison Officers have achieved significant success in the north of the County and the Council would not get approval for recruitment of additional staff.
- The Council is due to meet the Department shortly to discuss the Housing Capital Programme and the request to provide social housing on the lands at Mill Road, Thurles will be raised with them.
- The voluntary group is experiencing difficulty with securing insurance to cover the Community House in Derrynaflan Avenue, Littleton and it is proposed to refurbish the house for social housing purposes subject to funding.
- Voluntary Housing Bodies are finding it problematic in securing funding for social housing construction purposes.
- Cardens Court, Templemore was not purchased by a Voluntary Housing Body.
- The 6 to 8 houses in Lacey Avenue, Templemore that are in a derelict condition are not in the ownership of the Council.
- An application has been made to the Department for the provision of external wall insulation in older Council houses which is costly.

Clare Curley circulated copies of the new Tenant Handbook and Housing Maintenance Policy 2015, for information purposes, at the Meeting.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Housing Staff for the update and they withdrew from the Meeting.



3. Town Centre Initiative Report.

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer and Mark O'Brien, Economic Development Executive were in attendance for this item.

Kathleen Prendergast summarised the contents of the Town Centre Initiative Report, copies of which were circulated with the Agenda and she confirmed the following:-

1. The research was undertaken by Liam Fitzgerald, Accelerate Business Coaching supported by the Economic Department of Tipperary County Council.
2. The Report concentrates on the 9 towns in the County and sets out the way forward for each town to develop into the future.
3. The opinions of key stakeholders in each of the towns were sought as part of the consultation process.
4. The development of Town Centre Forums in each town, comprising of local stakeholders from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, will drive positive change and lead to increased footfall and spending in the towns.
5. Town Centre Forums which were established by the former South Tipperary County Council under the South Tipperary Retail Development Programme 2012 proved very successful.
6. Opportunities and threats to Town Centre and Retail Development are highlighted in the Report.
7. The largest employer in the County is the retail sector at 14.96% and there is a need to support and build on this success.
8. Effective marketing and in particular online marketing is key to the success of town centres and the Marketing Mix Model described in the Report should be implemented to develop and expand town centres.
9. The Council provides a range of supports to retailers (i.e. Commercial Incentive Scheme, Painting Grant Scheme) and funding opportunities can be accessed at national level through Government initiatives (i.e. Rural Development Programme 2014 - 2020, Ireland's Ancient East).
10. A new group outside the Enhancement Committee needs to be established in Roscrea with town centre retailers leading the initiative.
11. The Local Enterprise Office is preparing a package of incentives and supports which town centre retailers can easily access.
12. The Town Centre Initiative will be rolled out across the 9 towns in the near future and public meetings will be held to raise awareness of its existence.

Kathleen Prendergast and Mark O'Brien made the following points in response to queries from the Members:-



- The Roscrea Enhancement Committee has a broader remit while the Town Centre Forum will concentrate solely on identifying retail opportunities, marketing and upskilling of traders to increase spending in town centres.
- There will always be challenges such as traffic congestion, parking charges etc that every town has to contend with and the Councillors will have the opportunity to become members of Town Centre Forums in their Municipal District.
- Exploitation in terms of low wages and work standards is an issue globally in regard to online shopping which is very popular among young people.
- The local Enterprise Office has an online trading voucher system which the traders can utilise to encourage online shopping in their respective towns.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Kathleen Prendergast and Mark O'Brien for their presentation and they left the Meeting.

4. Proposal to declare the roads serving the Housing Estates listed to be public roads.-

- (i) Parkmore Manor, Roscrea.**
- (ii) Ard Carraig, Thurles.**
- (iii) Elmwood, Thurles.**
- (iv) Hazelwood, Thurles.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Director of Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety has recommended that the roads serving (i) Parkmore Manor, Roscrea. (ii) Ard Carraig, Thurles. (iii) Elmwood, Thurles. (iv) Hazelwood, Thurles be declared public roads and that the open spaces, carparks, sewers, watermains and service connections within the developments be taken in charge.

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

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the Roads serving the Housing Estates known as:

- **Parkmore Manor, Roscrea**
- **Ard Carraig, Thurles**
- **Elmwood, Thurles**
- **Hazelwood, Thurles**

to be public and take in charge the open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the development, as per the maps which were on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Service Report to Members for the March 2016 Municipal District Meeting."



5. Establishment of a Municipal District Community Safety Committee.

The Meetings Administrator referred to an email which was circulated with the Agenda in relation to a proposal to establish a Community Safety Committee in each of the Municipal Districts, which will focus on improving policing and safety in their respective areas. It was noted that the meetings will be held "in committee" and Members will have the opportunity to raise issues of concern with the Garda Representatives who will be in attendance.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Doran, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved that:-

"That a Community Safety Committee be established in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District."

6. Appointment of a member to the Tipperary Joint Policing Committee.

The Meetings Administrator advised that a member has to be appointed to the Tipperary Joint Policing Committee to replace Deputy Jackie Cahill who was successful in the General Election.

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

"That Councillor S. Ryan be appointed to the Tipperary Joint Policing Committee."

7. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016.

The District Engineer outlined the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2016 for the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District covering road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenance, copy of which was circulated at the Meeting.

The Members were advised that:-

- The balance of the General Municipal Allocation carried over from last year will be expended on completion of the footpaths in Littleton and continuation of the Town Centre Initiative Painting Scheme.
- A special allocation of €1,050,000 was secured from the Department to repair the damaged roads and drainage caused by the prolonged heavy rainfall in December 2015 / January 2016 and this is included on the Schedule.
- Discussions are ongoing with landowners at Rossestown to address the flooding issue.



- The Council was unsuccessful in securing funding to address flooding at Galbertstown which is very costly however additional grants may be allocated later in the year.
- Pipework will be installed in Moyneard Lane to alleviate flooding in the area.
- The District Engineer will examine the feasibility of providing traffic calming measures at the entrance to Churchview Housing Estate, Littleton.
- Surface dressing can only be undertaken on roads that are structurally sound and road reconstruction is not permitted under the Programme.
- Any additions to the 2016 Roadworks Programme will result in the dropping of other roads as there is a finite budget.
- Road Grants this year amount to approximately €8m while a sum of between €150m and €200m is required to bring all roads in the County to an acceptable standard.
- Roads in the poorest condition are rated between 1 and 4 and all roads included in the Restoration Improvement Programme fall within these ratings.
- Councillors may view the ratings of each road if they call into the Office.
- A review will be undertaken on the roads at Barronstown, Loughmore, Eoin Ryan's Garage, Loughmore, Ballyknockane, Templetuohy and any other roads that are of concern to the Members should be submitted to the District Engineer for consideration.

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

"That, in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act, 2001, as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, the Schedule Of Municipal District Works for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted."

The Cathaoirleach and Members expressed appreciation to the Engineering Staff for the work undertaken in securing a significant level of funding to repair the damaged roads.

8. Payment of Grants - Tidy Towns & Burial Grounds.

The Meetings Administrator advised that 13 Burial Ground Committees, who secured grants last year, have not yet submitted their application and the closing date was last week.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor M. Smith and resolved that:

"That the closing date for receipt of applications from Burial Ground Committees be extended for a few weeks."



The Meetings Administrator confirmed that 22 applications have been submitted by Tidy Towns Committees which is an increase of two on last year and that it is proposed to allocate the same grant amounts to each committee as in 2015 while a grant of €900.00 will be awarded to the two new applicants.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that decisions on the applications for funding under the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District 1916 Commemoration Scheme will be issued in the next week.

9. 2016 Work Programmes.

This was dealt with under Item 7 of the Agenda - Schedule of Municipal District Works.

10. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

The Contractor is responsible for cutting the grass during the defects liability period and a sum has been retained on the Contract to cover this timeframe.

Liberty Square
Refurbishment and
development of a
carpark.

Five submissions which were received on the Part 8 Plans have been forwarded to Planning Section for preparation of a report for consideration by the Members at the April Monthly Meeting.

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

The contract is progressing very well within the Work Programme and a site visit will be organised for the Members at an early date.

Repairs / Improvements
to Templemore Town
Hall

The external of the building was painted recently which has improved its visual appearance in the town centre and tenders will be sought in the coming months to undertake priority works identified by the Conservation Architect.

Templemore Town Park
Extension.

A number of sketches/layouts for the additional land purchased will be brought before the Council in due course.

Village Enhancement
Works.

Footpath improvements will be undertaken in Gortnahoe, Inch and Ballycahill this year.



Rocrea Enhancement Scheme and Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016.

Tender documents are being finalised for the engagement of a Consulting Engineer to prepare the Roscrea Traffic and Transportation Plan 2016. The successful Consultants will be required to work closely with the Design Team who will be appointed shortly to prepare designs for the Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.

Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

A draft layout plan for the carpark has been completed. Plans and specification for the Part 8 Process are currently being finalised in-house by the technical staff.

Matters Arising.

The District Manager undertook, at a request from Councillor J. Ryan, to investigate the possibility of engaging a professional graffiti artist to create a high quality mural on the walls of the skateboard park which might help curb the incidents of unsightly graffiti being drawn there presently.

11. Notices of Motion.

a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor John Hogan.

Councillor John Hogan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Municipal District to allocate funding from our roads contribution budget to erect traffic calming measures and extra lighting at Coláiste Mhuire Co Ed, Thurles. This is a dark and dangerous area when students are using the school and attending LIT Thurles. This issue has been raised many times and should be addressed immediately."

The Cathaoirleach pointed out that the wall of Semple Stadium is leaning out onto the footpath at Castlemeadows, Thurles and that the Council should enter into discussions with the GAA to remove the wall to facilitate the widening of the footpath which would benefit pupils attending Coláiste Mhuire.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Hogan's Motion.



The District Engineer indicated that he had completed a preliminary survey of the area and was endeavouring to set up a meeting with the management of Semple Stadium to discuss the matter.

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

Councillor John Hogan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Municipal District to allocate funding in our roads programme for the upgrade of the roads in Gortnahoe Village. This is the only village in our Municipal District that has not been resurfaced in the past 10 years. The roads are in a terrible state and I am not prepared to let this situation continue any longer as I have consistently raised this issue without any action happening over the past two years."

Councillor Hogan confirmed that he was delighted that the road in Gortnahoe Village is included under the 2016 Roadworks Programme.

c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.

e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor David Doran.

It was agreed that the Notices of Motion in the names of Councillor J. Ryan and Councillor D. Doran be taken together as they relate to the Thurles Inner Relief Road.

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

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

"To help ease the unacceptable traffic problems in Thurles, I am calling on this District to investigate the possibility of taking out a loan to start the construction of The Thurles Inner Relief Road."

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

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

"I am asking that this Council formally request for funding to be released from Central Government to construct the Thurles Inner Relief Road which is already approved by An Bord Pleanála and the preliminary design completed."



Councillor J. Ryan pointed out that the development of the Thurles Inner Relief Road in Thurles would greatly ease traffic congestion in the town.

Councillor D. Doran suggested that the Council seek a Deputation with the incoming Minister for Transport to highlight its importance to the town.

Other Members supported the Motion.

The District Manager advised that it is not feasible to progress the road until the land acquisition is completed.

It was unanimously agreed that the Notice of Motion be referred to the full Council to progress the land acquisition.

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

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

"I am calling on this Council to erect new and up to date signage on our Approach Roads to Thurles."

Councillor D. Doran pointed out that a lot of signs on the approach roads into Thurles are out of date and need to be replaced.

It was agreed that the matter be examined.

12. Correspondence.

(a) Review of Speed Limits in the County.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Roads Section propose to hold a Workshop for the Members, prior to the April Municipal District Meeting, to discuss the review of speed limits which is currently taking place.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Workshop on the review of Speed Limits in the County be held at 11.00 am on Wednesday 27th. April, 2016 followed by the April Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District at 12 noon on Wednesday 27th. April, 2016."



(b) Job Losses in Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the Notices of Motion seeking a deputation to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation to discuss recent job losses in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District were referred to the Corporate Policy Group.

It was noted that the Corporate Policy Group agreed to submit the request to the relevant Minister following the formation of the new Government.

13. Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.

None.

14. Any Other Business.

The following issues were raised:-

Issue	Response
Request from Councillor S. Ryan to change the Municipal District Meetings to a later time in the day which would be more suitable for him.	Some Members indicated that a later starting time would not suit them.
Poor condition of the footpath across from Ryan's pub, Holycross.	The matter will be considered under the Village Enhancement Works 2017.
Flooding at St. Bridget's Terrace, Littleton.	The matter will receive attention.
Inclusion of Baker Street, Thurles in the Street Cleaning Schedule.	Baker Street will be included.
Effect repairs to the surface of the MUGA in Loughtagalla Park, Thurles.	The Contractor has agreed to undertake the repairs shortly.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 27th. April, 2016.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 27th. April, 2016.