



**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 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2016**

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

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

**Also Present:**

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

**Apologies:** Councillor John Hogan

The Cathaoirleach extended good wishes to Lorraine Treacy, recently appointed as Acting District Administrator of Templemore-Thurles Municipal District who is currently on sick leave due to ill health and he wished her a speedy recovery. The other Members supported his comments.

**1. Adoption of Minutes.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting and the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee Meeting which were held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meetings."

**2. Presentation on Age Friendly Roscrea**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Shane Winters, Regional Co-Coordinator, Age Friendly Ireland and Anne Keevey, Age Friendly Roscrea to the Meeting. Shane and Anne outlined the following points in the course of their presentation:-

28th. September, 2016.



- Age Friendly Ireland is a non-profit organisation with responsibility for the coordination of the national Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme which brings together, supports and provides technical guidance to all local authority led, multi-agency Age Friendly City and County Programmes.
- Tipperary County Council has signed the Dublin Charter for Age Friendly Counties and Roscrea is the first town in Tipperary to implement the Age Friendly Programme.
- There is an ageing demographic nationally and life expectancy is increasing by 2 years per decade which is impacting on service provision such as public realm, signage, transportation etc.
- Anne Keevey is the driving force behind the establishment of an Age Friendly Committee in Roscrea which includes representation from critical agencies such as the Gardai, transport groups, active retirement, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club.
- Age Friendly Roscrea will implement a Strategy built around the following 8 themes:- Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; Transportation; Respect and Social Inclusion; Social Participation; Civic Participation and Employment; Community and Health Services; Communication and Information; Housing.
  - The Committee has undertaken Walkability Audits on Roscrea and consulted with the elderly on issues such as footpaths, signage, accessibility to buildings, etc. Some findings from the Walkability Audits include dangerous road junctions; narrow/damaged footpaths, fixed obstacles on footpaths, absence of dished footpaths and dishing not flush with roads, lack of continuity of footpaths; poor driver behaviour in terms of inappropriate parking, speeding and lack of attention to pedestrians; inadequate restroom facilities; poor signage.
  - Next steps include buy-in from key agencies with the local authority identified as the key implementation body, finalisation and launch of Roscrea Age Friendly Town and implementation of the Roscrea Age Friendly Strategy.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Anne and Shane for their presentation and complimented them on the work undertaken in Roscrea which needs to be replicated in the other towns in the District. It was agreed that Anne would represent Age Friendly Roscrea on the steering group which is being set up for the preparation of the Roscrea Traffic & Transportation Plan 2016.

Anne and Shane thanked the Members for affording them the opportunity to make the presentation and they left the Meeting.



### 3. Water Services

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Sean Keating, Director of Services, John Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer and Eddie Loughnane, Administrative Officer, Water Services, who were in attendance for this item. Copy of a progress report on Water Services was circulated at the Meeting which outlined details under the following headings:-

- Major Capital Investment Programme 2014-2016
- Minor Capital Programme 2014-2016
- Rural Water Programme for 2016
- Replacement of lead piping
- Migration of non domestic water account data and billing from this Council to Irish Water circa October, 2016.

The members raised the following queries:-

- Number of grants drawn down by homeowners to date for the replacement of lead pipes within the home, number of houses with lead piping, methods of identification of lead piping.
- Position in regard to resolving non domestic water bills which are in dispute or incorrectly issued.
- Legacy issues as a result of combined foul and storm sewers in Thomond Road/Friar Street, Thurles need to be addressed within the Drainage Area Plans.
- Colour/odour issues in regard to the water supply in Moyne have been resolved and households need to be notified when issues arise in the future.
- Lime and the cost of treating lime in the water is a big concern.
- Agency responsible for adding fluoride to the water.
- The damage to the roadway caused by trucks visiting the sewerage treatment plant in Littleton needs to be resolved by Irish Water and other road users are prepared to pay a contribution to the cost.
- Anti social behaviour as a result of illegally parked caravans on the road leading to the sewerage treatment plant in Templemore.
- A commitment is needed from Irish Water to properly restore roads affected as a result of Stage 1 of the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme and mechanisms should be put in place to ensure similar issues are not encountered in Stage 2 of the Scheme.

Sean Keating and John Crowley made the following points in response to queries raised:-

- Combined sewers will be examined in the preparation of the Drainage Area Plans.
- Irish Water will be undertaking a survey of lead piping in the County and will inform households where identified. There is no report available showing



whether or not anyone has applied for a grant for the replacement of lead pipes however the grant scheme was only advertised before the summer. Many pre 1970's houses may have lead pipes. There are different tests that a homeowner can undertake to determine whether or not they have lead pipes which can be obtained from the Irish Water website or a plumber can advise. Contractors replacing water meters provided details to the Council where lead piping was identified and informed households in the process of undertaking the works.

- Incorrect/problematic bills are currently being examined by the Council and the majority of cases should be resolved prior to transfer of the billing system to Irish Water.
- Water Services staff dealing with billing for non domestic users will continue to work with Irish Water for a period of time before being absorbed into other duties.
- The HSE supply the fluoride which is added to the water by the Local Authority and costs are recouped from the HSE. The addition of fluoride to the water supply is tightly controlled and is tested by the Council to ensure that amounts are within set limits and problems rarely arise.
- The issue in regard to anti social behaviour as a result of illegally parked caravans on the roadway leading to the sewerage treatment plant in Templemore will be investigated.
- Hard water is very common in Ireland due to the high presence of limestone and is fully compliant with legislation. Irish Water does not have any proposals to introduce water softening into the water supply.
- The complaint in regard to the damaged roadway leading to the sewerage treatment plant in Littleton has been referred to Irish Water.
- Irish Water is in the process of setting up a National Agreement for the reinstatement of roads to an acceptable standard and any works from hereon will require road opening licences from the Council.

The District Director advised, that the request by Councillor J. Ryan for the District to write to Irish Water for the implementation of a water softening programme, would not be considered as lime does not pose a risk to health.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Sean Keating, John Crowley and Eddie Loughnane for the update and they left the Meeting.

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

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Section was in attendance for this item and circulated a report which outlined the activities / progress to date within this District under the following headings:



- Burial Grounds
- Civic Amenity Sites
- Community Services
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Litter Enforcement
- Waste Enforcement
- Grants awarded to Burial Ground and Tidy Town Committees
- Public Awareness Events
- Complaints to date

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Update in regard to repairs to the gate and pier at Boulick Cemetery.
- Provision of CCTV or close the gates of St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles, at night due to vandalism/theft of articles from grave spaces.
- Cut back dividing hedge between Moyne Road and St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.
- Complaint in regard to the selling of graves in Ballymoreen Cemetery which is supposed to be closed.
- Lack of control of dogs at Liskeveen, Littleton and in other areas and the need for Dog Wardens to patrol areas periodically in the evenings to deal with these issues.
- Update on grants paid under the General Grants Scheme and to Burial Ground and Tidy Towns Committees.
- Ascertain if Timoney Graveyard, Knock, Roscrea is private or public.
- Implement a ban on sulky racing in Tipperary.
- Update in regard to Borrisoleigh Cemetery and St. Joseph's old Cemetery, Templemore.
- Address illegal of dumping of rubbish which is mainly occurring at night time.
- Undertake pruning to overgrown trees on Church Avenue, Templemore.

Matt Shortt, Director of Services, Environment Section and Marion O'Neill made the following points in response to queries raised by the Members:-

- The position in regard to Boulick Cemetery and Ballymoreen Cemetery will be established.
- The Dog Warden will be asked to inspect the dog fouling issue taking place in Liskeveen, Littleton.



- Councillors will be given a demonstration of the new attachment to the road sweeper that is being introduced to collect recyclable rubbish on approach roads which is the first of its kind in the Country.
- It is not practical to close St. Patrick's Cemetery any earlier in the evening in an attempt to prevent vandalism/theft nor is it realistic to install CCTV cameras and the situation will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
- There are 9 mature trees inside the wall of Templemore Cemetery which must be removed following an inspection by an Arborologist and the cost of removal is currently being examined.
- The request to cut back the dividing ditch between St. Patrick's Cemetery and Moyne Road, Thurles will be referred to the Supervisor.
- It will be necessary to undertake a detailed survey of the trees on Church Avenue, Templemore to ascertain their condition and removing the trees will be a 'last option'.

Deirdre O' Shea, Acting Meetings Administrator advised that payments have been made to 45 Burial Ground Committees, 17 Tidy Towns Committees, 24 Resident Associations, 22 Voluntary Groups and 33 Sports Clubs to date and the balance of committees under each category remain unpaid as they have not complied with the terms of the Schemes. The District Director advised that it is intended to advertise the Grant Schemes early next year and that all groups will not receive an allocation unless the terms of the Schemes are fully complied with within a specified timeframe.

## **5. 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 Maintenance Programme is 100% complete.
- The Restoration Improvement Programme is 90% complete with one project outstanding which will be completed within the next fortnight.
- The Community Involvement Scheme is 70% complete.
- Improvement works funded from development levies are 70% complete.
- 70% of the projects under the Severe Weather Scheme are in progress and works will commence shortly on the remainder under the Scheme.
- Works on the roundabout at Lidl will be deferred until next year as Irish Water has to complete water connections prior to the works.
- Proposed improvements at Fertiana, Holycross, will not proceed this year due to the need to progress the necessary land acquisitions.
- Works at Aughall Bridge and Gurteenabarna Bridge are complete.



- Footpaths in Littleton are complete and almost finished in Cluain na Seimre, Two-Mile Borris. Work on the footpaths in Drom and Newline, Roscrea will commence shortly.
- Village Enhancement Works at Gortnahoe, Ballycahill and The Ragg are substantially complete.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Undertake a review of the street name plates as there are a number missing throughout Thurles town.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing in Bohernanave as there is a school and church in this location.
- Reinstatement of road at Ballygemmane, Thurles.
- Repair potholes near the castle at Gurteenabarna Bridge.
- Cut back hedge which is interfering with the speed limit sign on the road out of Templetuohy heading for Johnstown.
- Undertake improvements to the road at Gurteen, Coalbrook.
- Ensure emergency vehicles are provided with access on roads that are closed within the District.
- Update on flooding issues at Maxfort Cross, Ballyerk, Ballybeg.
- Update in regard to safety works at Killinan Cross and Turtulla Cross.
- Fix the traffic light at the pedestrian crossing in Cathedral Street, Thurles which is currently turned inwards.
- Overgrown trees at Willowmere Drive, The Willows and Moyne Road, Thurles where there is interference with public lights and footpaths.
- Provision of continuous white line at Moycarkey Village and Ballybeg, Littleton.
- Cars skidding on the road surface of the second roundabout leading to the M8 at the Horse & Jockey, Thurles.
- Fill potholes on main road directly across from the Horse & Jockey Hotel.
- Erection of mirrors at Liskeveen and Laharden to improve safety at the road junctions.
- Provision of speed ramps at Churchview, Littleton.
- Address the issue on Japanese Knotweed at Pouldine junction.
- Poor condition of the Strogue road.
- Provision of traffic calming measures in Borrisoleigh Village and at Colaiste Pobail, Roscrea.
- Apportionment of the General Municipal Allocation 2017 and position in regard to spending the 2016 contingency fund.
- The bridge after the Pitch & Putt Course in Templemore Town Park is in poor condition and effect repairs to the footpaths in the Park.



Responses to the issues raised as follows:-

- Street name plates in Thurles Town will be examined.
- Temporary reinstatement works on the road surface at Ballygemmane, Thurles were carried out on a phased basis therefore the final reinstatement will be undertaken into March of next year.
- The road at Gurteen, Coalbrook is not included in the Road Works Programme.
- There are speed ramps located on the road at Bohernanave, Thurles, negating the need for a pedestrian crossing.
- Potholes on the road near the castle at Gurteenabarna Bridge will be addressed.
- Emergency vehicles are provided access at all times where roads are closed and the issue in regard to Cabra Road, Thurles was an isolated incident.
- The pot holes on the hard shoulder opposite the Horse and Jockey Hotel should be repaired next week.
- Poor sightlines on the Johnstown road out of Templetuohy will be examined .
- The request for the installation of ramps at Churchview, Littleton, will be investigated.
- An alternative route is being examined to address flooding at Maxfort Cross and negotiations will take place with the landowner involved.
- Road lining in a number of areas including Moycarkey Village will take place in the coming weeks.
- The bridge after the Pitch and Putt course in Templemore Town Park will be examined and it is unlikely that there is a budget available to undertake improvements to the footpaths in the Park.
- Temporary speed cameras will be installed to monitor the speed of traffic going through Borrisoleigh Village in order to determine whether or not traffic calming measures are required.
- There is a limited budget available for tree pruning in the District and concentration will be on addressing trees that are a health and safety risk.
- The flooding issue at Ballyerk has been addressed.
- The junction at Turtulla is being actively examined by the Roads Design Office, Limerick.
- The consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2017 (including the GMA) will be included as an item on the Agenda for the October Municipal District Meeting and Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance will be in attendance. Proposals will be taken for expending the contingency fund of the 2016 GMA at this Meeting.





## 6. Update on Projects.

Liberty Square  
Refurbishment and  
development of a  
carpark.

Part 8 documents should be finalised by the end of September. It is anticipated that construction works will commence in Q3 2017.

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

The project is progressing very well and it is expected that the Council will take possession before the year end.

Repairs / Improvements  
to Templemore Town  
Hall

It is expected that the Council will be in possession of the Conservation Architects Report next week.

Templemore Town Park  
Extension.

A draft layout has been prepared and will be brought before the next Monthly Meeting.

Village Enhancement  
Works.

This was dealt with under Item 6 of the Agenda.

Rocrea Enhancement  
Scheme and Roscrea  
Traffic and  
Transportation Plan  
2016.

Any Members who wish to participate on the Steering Committee for the Roscrea Traffic & Transportation Plan 2016 should liaise with John Jones, Executive Engineer.

Carpark at St. Patrick's  
Cemetery.

The project was delayed in order to complete the Roadworks Programme and Part 8 drawings are almost complete.

Thurles Town Park.

The public convenience will be relocated from Parnell Street to Thurles Town Park this year. Approval has been sought from the Bat Consultant to proceed with the repairs to the roof of the disused building. The Council is in consultation with a local charitable organisation in regard to the request for the installation of a wheelchair accessible swing.



## 7. Notices of Motion.

### a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Michael Smith.

Councillor M. Smith formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am asking the members of Thurles/Templemore to support the provision of CCTV systems under the recently announced Rural Renewal Scheme in the town of Roscrea."

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

"A technical proposal for a town centre CCTV network has been developed by the Roscrea CAP group. This is with An Garda Síochána for their review and consideration. The County Tipperary Joint Policing Committee is in the process of developing a Policy Paper on public CCTV Provision in the County. It is expected that a draft Paper will be brought before the JPC at its December 2016 meeting."

The District Director confirmed that an application was submitted to Community & Economic Development Section for the provision of CCTV in Roscrea under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and that he did not expect it would get approval due to the criteria attached to the Scheme. He added that an application was also prepared for the development of a tranquillity garden in Templemore Town Park on the site of the disused swimming pool and that if successful works would have to be completed by 31st. December, 2016.

Councillor M. Smith expressed disquiet with the timeframe given and asked that a letter be sent to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs requesting that the Scheme be continued next year.

### b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Sean Ryan.

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

"The Council would seek to install traffic calming measures in Two Mile Borris Village."

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

"A Speed Survey has been carried out on the approaches to Two Mile Borris Village. If the survey indicates that there are significant speed violations the Council will consider the provision of Vehicle Activated Speed Warning Signs in the 2017 Budget.



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Councillor S. Ryan expressed satisfaction with the response received.

**c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Michael Smith.**

Councillor M. Smith formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on the Templemore/Thurles District to remove the poles on the Square in Templemore, as they were supposed to be only temporarily erected."

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

"Arrangements are being put in place to have the poles removed."

The District Director advised that the cost of removal of the poles will impact on the maintenance budget for the District and that the poles will have to be re-erected to facilitate Christmas Lighting which will further deplete the budget.

**d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Sean Ryan.**

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

"That the Council would seek to put additional public lighting in place in Gortnahoe, Ballysloe and the back entrance to McDonagh Terrace, in Littleton."

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

"There is no budget available for the provision of new public lighting in Templemore-Thurles Municipal District."

Councillor S. Ryan expressed that view that a provision should be included in the Budget from 2017 for improvements to public lighting in the District.

The District Director confirmed that Members have the facility to make submissions to the County Council for consideration in the preparation of the Budget 2017.

Councillor D. Doran seconded the Motion.

**8. Correspondence.**



a) **Christmas Retail Support Programme 2016**

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that applications are invited from Traders Associations, Chambers and Community Groups under the Christmas Retail Support Programme 2016 to implement strategies designed to attract new customers, retain existing customers and encourage increased spending in Tipperary's towns and villages over the Christmas period and that the closing date for receipt of applications in the Community & Economic Development Section is 5:00pm on 6th. October, 2016.

b) **Preparation of new Heritage Plan for Tipperary**

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that consultations are taking place on the actions for the new Heritage Plan for Tipperary and that Members are invited to attend a meeting in The Anner Hotel, Thurles, tonight from 7:00pm to 8:00pm as discussions will concentrate on this District.

9. **Vote of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

The Cathaoirleach congratulated the Tipperary Minor and Senior Hurling Teams on winning the Minor and Senior All-Ireland Hurling Championships. He complimented the management and all those involved with both teams and extended praise to the staff of Semple Stadium for holding a very impressive and successful homecoming.

The Cathaoirleach extended a Vote of Sympathy to Tommy and Mattie Wright, on the death of Kathleen Wright, employee of Tipperary County Council who worked in this District.

10. **Awards Night.**

It was unanimously agreed that an Awards Night will take place in The Templemore Arms Hotel on Thursday, 24th. November, at 7:00pm.

11. **Any Other Business.**

Erection of a mirror in Ballycahill Village to improve safety at the Ragg Road junction.	The Council is not permitted to erect mirrors at junctions on public roads as it would create a false sense of security for road users.
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**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**  
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae  
Thiobraid Árann,  
Oifigi Cheantar Bardasach  
an Teampaill Mhóir-  
Dhurlais, Bóthar Shliabh  
na mBan, Durlas,  
Co. Thiobraid Árann

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

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

DATE: 26th. October, 2016.

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

DATE: 26<sup>th</sup>. October, 2016.

28th. September, 2016.