



**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-
THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MIC, ST.
PATRICK'S CAMPUS, THURLES ON 27th. MARCH, 2019**

Present: Councillor Sean Ryan Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, David Doran, Seamus Hanafin,
John Hogan, Micheál Lowry, E. Moran, Jim Ryan
and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

Matt Shortt	District Director
Michael F. Hayes	Senior Engineer
John Jones	Acting District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Janice Gardiner	Acting Meetings Administrator
Deirdre O' Shea	Senior Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to MIC St Patrick's Campus, Thurles and he thanked Finn Ó Murchú, Head of School of Education (Post Primary) for facilitating the hosting of the Meeting on campus. He referred to Thurles as a key focal point and centre of excellence in the area of education. The other Members concurred with his comments.

Finn Ó Murchú advised that it was a great honour and privilege to have the Members present and he asked for their ongoing support in assisting the College with future proposals in order to extend and expand the facilities.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting which was held on the 27th. February, 2019 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Thurles Signage Plan.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Caroline Nesbitt, Creative Designer and owner of Designedly, who has been working with the District on the

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development of appropriate signage for the 4 main approach roads into Thurles town.

Caroline circulated three different design proposals for the signage to the Members at the Meeting and she explained the following:-

- The background behind the development of the branding, logo and tagline for Thurles town which was completed last year for the website by Thurles Town Centre Forum and is reflected in the three designs produced for the proposed signage.
- The four key strengths of the town which were identified following public consultation on the branding are Arts & Culture, Business, Sport and Education.
- This branding should be reflected in any future material relating to Thurles town.

The Members made the following points:-

- The need to launch the website as soon as possible and make it available for viewing by the public.
- Identify the approach roads the signage will be erected on.
- Establish the timeframe for completion of the signage.

It was confirmed that:-

- The signage would be erected on the N75 Dublin Road, N62 Templemore Road, N62 Slievenamon Road and the R498 Nenagh Road, Thurles.
- The timeframe on completion of the signage is dependent on the selection of an agreed design.

There were some conflicting views expressed on the imagery being used on the proposed signage and it was unanimously agreed that a separate meeting be convened on Tuesday 2nd. April, 2019 at 5:00pm to finalise the design.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Caroline for her contributions and she left the Meeting.

3. Update from Housing Services Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer and Mr. Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer, Housing Section to the Meeting for this item.

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The Templemore-Thurles District Report, containing updates under the headings listed hereunder, was circulated at the Meeting:-

- Housing Construction.
- Capital Assistance Scheme.
- Housing Allocations 2019.
- House Purchases 2019.
- Buy and Renew Purchases 2019.
- RAS, Leasing and HAP 2019.
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses.
- Housing Loan Applications.
- Tenant Purchase Scheme.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Establish if additional houses are being acquired/constructed in Thurles town for social housing purposes as it is proving difficult for approved HAP applicants to obtain accommodation.
- The list of approved applicants remains high even when you subtract the units that are at various stages under the Housing Construction Programme.
- Timeframe for completion of the 28 house scheme at Mill Road, Thurles.
- Establish the type of alterations a tenant can undertake on a Council house.
- Timeframe for turning around the 26 vacant units in the District.
- Delay in the completion of some house purchases.
- Clarify if the Self Help Scheme is being discontinued with.
- Establish the budget amount that is assigned to the upkeep and maintenance of Parkmore and Ashbury Halting Sites, Roscrea.
- Confirm the number of approved housing applicants in the District whose housing needs are being met through social housing options other than traditional Council housing.
- Advise if the Council is aware of any HAP Clients in the County that have fallen into arrears. The current system of withdrawing rent payments from landlords of HAP clients in arrears of rent needs to be reviewed.
- There are a number of units in Templemore that are vacant for a long period of time.
- Establish if there will be funding going forward under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.
- There are no social houses listed under the Housing Construction Programme for Templemore despite the availability of Council lands within the town.
- Clarify when the HAP Placefinder will commence work with the Council.



Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- 48% of approved housing applicants are in receipt of a form of social housing support and there have been cases where applicants have refused offers of traditional Council housing as they are happy with their existing accommodation.
- There will be a rolling Housing Construction Programme in place and the Council also works actively with the voluntary housing bodies in providing social housing.
- HAP clients in arrears of rent in the County are dealt with by Limerick County Council who enter into discussions with the tenants with a view to a resolution.
- Council approval is required for improvements, alterations or additions to Council housing as outlined in the Tenants Handbook.
- There has been a delay with completing the acquisition of some houses due to title issues which is outside the control of the Council.
- The 26 vacant units in the District awaiting minor repairs should be turned around within 6 months. Some units require significant works to be completed.
- The Self Help Scheme continues to be in operation.
- The budget figure for the upkeep and maintenance of Ashbury and Parkmore Halting Sites will be made available.
- Funding is still available under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.
- The HAP Placefinder has commenced work with the Council and will primarily support homeless people. Assistance can be provided to HAP applicants who are finding it difficult to source accommodation.

It was agreed that the Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran relating to the group housing scheme at Cabra, Thurles be taken at this juncture.

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

"I am calling on this Council to give an update as to the status of the houses at Cabra. I believe that the mediation process should be long completed and it's time for Tipperary County Council to allocate these houses to the prospective tenants without any preconditions or add-ons or allocate them to other families; this saga has gone on for far too long and needs to be brought to a conclusion."

The response issued to Councillor Doran in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

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"Following a legal update and presentation by the Housing staff and their legal team to Councillors in the Thurles MD area in camera on the 21/2/19, a commitment was given to expedite the process and this is currently underway. A full report will be given to Members of the Municipal District once the issue has been brought to a conclusion."

The District Director advised that the District has no role in the matter and that a commitment was given to Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Housing Services that the issue would not be discussed until a further update was available.

The Members made the following points:-

- The Director of Housing Services should have been in attendance for this item.
- Establish the mediation and legal costs associated with the Scheme.
- A commitment was given that the mediation process would be concluded by the end of March.
- Confirm if keys for the properties have been given to prospective tenants.
- Horses are being permitted to graze on the green areas in the estate which is unacceptable.
- Establish if incentives been offered to the prospective tenants including permission for structures to remain on Cabra Bridge.
- The Members were misled on the cost of the Scheme.

It was agreed that the issues raised by the Members would be circulated to Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Housing Services.

4. Adoption of the General Municipal Allocation 2019.

The Acting Meetings Administrator re-circulated draft proposals for consideration under the General Municipal Allocation 2019 which amounts to €78,168.00.

The Members made the following points:-

- The need to expedite works on the farm building as soon as possible to facilitate the relocation of the Farmers Market to Thurles Town Park and provide free parking for stall holders.
- The proposal to expend €10,000 on pruning of trees at Church Avenue, Templemore appears excessive.
- The boundary fence at Ma Téine, Templemore is in an unsafe condition.
- Provide a detailed breakdown of the anticipated expenditure outlined on the application form submitted by the Féile Classical Arts and Music Trail.

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The Members were advised that:-

- There will be free parking available to the stall holders of Thurles Farmers Market in the car parking area in MIC, St. Patrick's Campus, Thurles.
- The proposed allocation for the farm building will be expended on the provision of a concrete floor and there is a need for additional improvements which will require funding.
- The anticipated expenditure relating to the Féile Classical Arts and Music Trail amounts to €18,000.00 and the expanded event will be beneficial in increasing footfall in the town centre and from a tourism and cultural perspective.
- It is important to maintain the trees to a high standard on Church Avenue, Templemore.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:-

"That the sum of €15,000.00 proposed under the Festival and Events Grant Scheme be reduced to €10,000.00 and that the Contingency Fund be increased from €3,168.00 to €8,168.00 and proposals put forward for consideration by the Members at the April Monthly Meeting."

A counter Motion was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:-

"That the sum of €15,000.00 under the Festival and Events Grant Scheme as set out in the draft GMA 2019 proposals, circulated to the Members, be accepted."

A vote was taken on Councillor M. Smith's Motion and the result was as follows:-

For Councillor M. Smith's Motion - J. Hogan, M. Lowry, E. Moran,
M. Smith (4)

Against Councillor M. Smith's Motion - D. Doran, S. Hanafin, J. Ryan, S. Ryan
(4)

Absent - J. Bourke

The Cathaoirleach, on exercising his Casting Vote against Councillor M. Smith's Motion, declared the Motion defeated as a result of his Casting Vote.

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

"That the General Municipal Allocation 2019 be apportioned as follows:-

Christmas Lighting Contributions	-	€15,000.00
Residents Associations Grants Scheme	-	€15,000.00
Festivals and Events	-	€15,000.00
Enhancement Works to Roundabouts in Roscrea	-	€10,000.00
Pruning of trees in Church Avenue, Templemore	-	€10,000.00
Thurles Town Park Farm Building Improvements	-	€10,000.00
Contingency Sum	-	€ 3,168.00
Total GMA 2019	-	€78,168.00"

5. Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

6. Update on the 2019 Works Programmes.

Items 5 and 6 as listed on the Agenda were taken together.

The Acting District Engineer outlined the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2019 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.

He explained that footpath improvements at Clonmore Village will be provided from the 2019 development levy allocation under "Specific Projects".

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor M. Smith 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 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted."

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Poor condition of the road surface at Stradavoher, Thurles.
- Sightline issues at the junction at Tonagha, Thurles with the N75 Two-Mile-Borris Road.
- Consider planting wild flower seeds on patches of roadside land acquired by the Council throughout the District which would be aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly.

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- Undertake an analysis of signage that is missing in rural areas and in particular in villages where there are tourist attractions.
- Footpath repairs required outside St. Mary's Church and the National School, Moyne.
- Cracks evident on the Johnston Road.
- Poor condition of the road between Littleton and Ballysloe.
- Provide road markings following resurfacing works at Castleiney.
- Ensure Irish Water reinstate the road at Clonmore to its original condition.
- Address issue of flooding outside McDonagh Terrace, Templemore.
- Indiscriminate dumping occurring in St. Joseph's New and Old Cemeteries, Templemore.
- Update on flooding at Priory Demesne, Templemore.
- Fill potholes at the entrance to the Munster Hotel Car Park, Thurles.
- Appalling condition of the N62 on the Roscrea Road into Templemore town.
- Articulated lorries cannot make the turn at the junction with the Clongour Road and the manholes are sinking since Slievenamon Road was resurfaced by T.I.I.
- Update in regard to the purchase of a mobile flashing speed sign and effect repairs to the periodic flashing speed limit signs at Rahealty School, Thurles.
- Poor condition of the road surface from the Jimmy Doyle Road to Killahara, Thurles.
- Write to the owners of Thurles Shopping Centre in regard to the appalling state of the property to the rear.
- Establish if a portion of the 2019 Development Levies, ring-fenced for specific projects, could be expended on fingerpost signage identifying the location of public car parks in Roscrea.
- Poor condition of the path outside Ryan's Funeral Home, Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- Erection of fingerpost signage that has been purchased for Moycarkey-Borris Community Centre.
- Unblock gullies at Horse & Jockey and Littleton, Thurles.
- Address indiscriminate dumping to the rear of Clohessy Place, Bouladuff, Thurles.
- Resurface and reline the road from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe.

Responses to the issues raised as follows:-

- The road surface at Stradavoher, Thurles will be considered in 2019 if additional monies become available to the District.
- The sightline issue at the junction at Tonagha, Thurles will be discussed with David Fahey, Roads Design Office.

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- The suggestion to plant wild flowers on roadside lands owned by the Council in the District is worthy of consideration.
- The Council will ensure that the road surface at Clonmore is reinstated to an acceptable standard.
- The flooding at McDonagh Terrace, Templemore will be examined.
- The issue of indiscriminate dumping in the cemeteries in Templemore will be referred to Environment Section.
- The Council is awaiting a response from the OPW in regard to flood relief measures at Priory Demesne, Templemore.
- Footpath replacement at Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be examined under Phase 2 of the improvements works to be undertaken by T.I.I. The Council will establish if it is possible to undertake remedial works on the footpath outside Ryan's Undertakers in the interim.
- Gullies will be cleaned at Littleton and Horse & Jockey this week.
- The Department Inspector appears favourable to the purchase of a mobile flashing speed limit sign and intends undertaking a site visit shortly.
- The Committee of Moycarkey-Borris Community Centre must apply for a Section 254 Licence to erect directional signage.
- A letter will be forwarded to the owners of Thurles Shopping Centre asking that the area to the rear of the property be cleaned up.
- Directional fingerpost signs for the public car parks in Roscrea will be provided.
- A request has been submitted to John Nolan, Roads Section to establish if there is any emergency funding to carry out some essential repairs to the N62 on the Roscrea side of Templemore town.

Councillor E. Moran referred to the removal of community related posters in Templemore town and asked that this practice be discontinued with.

A discussion also took place in regard to the erection of election posters for the local Elections and the Members were of the view that all candidates should come together and agree a protocol that would support minimising their use particularly in the towns.

7. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	Undergrounding of services and drainage works have been completed at Market Square, Roscrea. Tender documents are being prepared for the main works.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Work has commenced on the structural repairs to Templemore Town Hall which will take approximately 16 weeks to complete.



Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	It is anticipated that the Council will be in a position to go to tender in May, 2019.
Consideration of proposed Peatway on Bórd na Móna lands.	Draft designs should be available in the coming months.
Templemore Town Park Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. JK Brackens GAA Club to revert to the Council with proposals relating to the additional lands. ii. A meeting is taking place with the Templemore Voluntary Housing Association on Friday in regard to widening the access on the Main Street to Templemore Town Park. It will take a considerable length of time to complete the improvements given the complexities associated with the project.

The Members raised the following points:-

- Establish if the monies generated from the proposed sale of the old offices at Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be ring-fenced for projects in Thurles town.
- Update in regard to the future use of the former Roscrea Area Offices which should be included under this Agenda item each month.

The District Director advised that:-

- Monies from the proposed sale of the old offices at Slievenamon Road, Thurles will be offset against the cost of the new District Offices at Castle Avenue, Thurles.
- The Property Section in Corporate Services has overall responsibility for the former Roscrea Area Offices and further contact will be made with them to establish the current position.

8. Festival and Events Grant Scheme (Municipal Grants).

Copy of a report prepared by Melanie Scott, Arts Officer, on Municipal Recommendations for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District under the Tipperary Festivals and Events Scheme 2019, was circulated with the Agenda.

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

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an Teampaill Mhóir-
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Chaisleáin, Durlas,
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"That the Municipal Grants set out hereunder be paid to the specified applicants under the Tipperary Festivals and Events Scheme 2019:-

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Thurles Halloween Arts Festival	€ 3,500.00
A Taste of Roscrea	€ 5,000.00
Féile Classical Arts & Music Trail	€15,000.00
Total	€23,500.00"

9. Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Grants Scheme.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that:-

- 54 applications have been received from Sporting Bodies which includes 20 new applications and 11 have not re-applied this year.
- 42 applications have been submitted by Residents Associations which includes 6 new applications and 6 have not re-applied this year.
- 46 applications have been received from Burial Ground Committees which includes 2 new applications and 7 have not re-applied this year.
- 23 applications have been submitted under the Tidy Towns category, 2 of which are new applications.

She listed out all the organisations that did not re-apply this year under each of the categories and advised that Schedules setting out proposed allocations will be prepared for consideration by the Members at the April Monthly Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that the timeframe for submission of applications be extended for three weeks from today.

10. Notices of Motion.

a) 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 Tipperary County Council to extend public lighting as far as Dew Valley Foods on the Thurles Holycross Road and to the ETB Apprentice Centre at Archestown in the interest of pedestrian safety."

The response issued to Councillor Hanafin in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

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"There is a public lighting policy in place which was adopted by the SPC and full Council in May 2018 and it is not policy to extend public lighting beyond 50 kph zones.

The maintenance budget in place for public lighting is to upgrade existing stock to meet mandatory energy efficiency targets.

The Council also has the additional liability associated with taking in charge of estates.

It is therefore not possible to accede to this request."

Councillor S. Hanafin expressed disappointment with the response and he suggested that the case should be treated as exceptional given that Dew Valley Foods are a significant indigenous employer in the middle of expansion and the success of the ETB Apprentice Centre has led to increased pedestrian footfall in the area.

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

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

"I am seeking support for my call to establish a working group comprising of this District Council, Thurles Chamber and the traders of Thurles in order to work together on implementing future positive economic policies and solutions for the town of Thurles."

The response issued to Councillor Ryan in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"There is an existing forum in place, Thurles Town Centre Forum which was established in May 2017 by the Community & Economic Development Section and comprises of representatives from Templemore-Thurles MD, Thurles Chamber, Friar Street Traders, Refresh Thurles, Tourism Sector, and Heritage Sector. The forum is facilitated by Ms. Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer. A number of projects were identified and developed as follows:

- Branding/marketing Thurles Town – marketing project undertaken by MIC students based in St. Patrick’s College and launched in the Source Arts Centre in April 2018.
- Thurles Town Website – website has been developed and will be launched shortly.
- Thurles Town Centre Shopper Survey undertaken by TY students from the secondary schools in the town.

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- Retail shopper survey which was led by Thurles Chamber.
- Innovation voucher through the use of modern social media techniques including an app to drive footfall in the town led by Thurles Chamber.
- Trading online voucher led by Thurles Chamber.
- Friar Street Project – Working group set up to identify improvements required to raise the physical and aesthetic appearance of the street.
- Thurles Signage Plan.
- Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme.
- Thurles Town Park opened in October 2017 and has proved to be a very popular amenity area.
- Thurles Regeneration Plan – The Planning Department is currently working on a draft brief for this plan.
- Proposals at an early stage to facilitate the relocation of the Farmer's Market to the old farm building in Thurles Town Park."

Councillor J. Ryan expressed dissatisfaction with the response.

The District Director spoke of the positive relationship that exists between the Council and Thurles Chamber and he confirmed his willingness to meet with the traders to discuss any issues of concern.

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

The following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran was taken earlier in the Meeting under Item 3 of the Agenda:

"I am calling on this Council to give an update as to the status of the houses at Cabra. I believe that the mediation process should be long completed and it's time for Tipperary County Council to allocate these houses to the prospective tenants without any preconditions or add-ons or allocate them to other families; this saga has gone on for far too long and needs to be brought to a conclusion."

11. Fix Date for May Meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that a Monthly Meeting would not be held in May given that the Local Elections are taking place on Friday 24th May, 2019.

12. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence received.



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13. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to:-

- a. Harry Martin and family, Littleton on the death of his wife Mary.
- b. John Kenehan, former Town and County Councillor and family on the death of their mother Margaret (Peg), Bellevue, Thurles.

A Vote of Congratulations was extended to Campion Pumps, Gortnahoe on winning "Project of the Year" in the Pump Industry Awards which were held in the UK on 21st. March, 2019.

14. Any Other Business.

There were no issues raised under this item.

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 24th. April, 2019.**
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED: _____ **DATE: 24th. April, 2019.**
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

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