



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT
OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018**

Present: Councillor Sean Ryan Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

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

Apologies: Councillor Joe Bourke

Civic Receptions.

The Cathaoirleach commented on the success of the Civic Awards night which was held in the Templemore Arms Hotel on Thursday, 22nd. November, 2018 and he paid tribute to all of the staff involved in organising and managing the event.

The other Members concurred with his remarks.

Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Grant Schemes.

The Cathaoirleach spoke of the success of the event which was held in the District Offices on Wednesday, 24th. October, 2018 in recognition of the invaluable work undertaken by grant recipients in the District and he asked that a photo shoot take place with one to two benefitting organisations prior to each Monthly Municipal District Meeting in order to promote the Schemes.

There was unanimous support to the suggestion put forward by the Cathaoirleach.

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Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme.

The District Director welcomed the allocation of €1,350,000.00 under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund for the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme and he thanked all the staff involved in the compilation of the application. He referred to the rates increase agreed from 2003 which portrayed the commitment of the traders to the project and he lauded the support of the Members and the community at large which was crucial to the success of the submission made.

He advised in response to queries raised that:-

- Drawings of the Scheme will be circulated to the Members in A3 format.
- The detailed design should be signed off on in the next few weeks pending receipt of required information from the utility companies.
- It is anticipated that we will proceed to tender in early 2019 and the tender prices received will determine the construction costs.
- The commencement date will be agreed prior to the award of the contract and advance notice will be given to the public.
- The new car park will be completed prior to commencement of works on Liberty Square.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting which was held on the 24th. October, 2018 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Siro Presentation-Fibre Broadband, Roscrea town. Presentation by Aoife Ní Lochlainn and Damien Murray

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Aoife Ní Lochlainn, Damien Murray, Pat Nevin and Fergus Devereux, Siro and Simon Howe, Broadband Officer with the Council to the Meeting.

Aoife Ní Lochlainn delivered a detailed presentation on the role and work of Siro to the Members and she advised that:-



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- Siro who are a joint venture company consisting of the ESB and Vodafone plan to build a fibre to the building network solution in Roscrea which will offer a 1GB internet connection to all businesses and residential properties in the town.
- The existing electrical network will be used predominately to build the scheme and works will commence in February, 2019 with completion in Q4 of 2019 and going live to the first customers from August, 2019.
- TLI has been engaged by Siro to undertake the works in Roscrea and they will work closely with the Council to minimise disruption for the duration of the project.
- Siro will also provide two years free gigabit connectivity to an enterprise/community centre in Roscrea under the Gigabit Hub Initiative.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Establish why Thurles and Templemore have not been included under this Scheme.
- Clarify how specific areas were chosen within Roscrea town.

Reponses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- 50 towns in the Country were selected in phase 1 of the Scheme and there are ambitions to extend to other towns in the future.
- Siro will liaise with the District in regard to the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.
- There are challenges facing Thurles in terms of core technical connectivity that need to be addressed in order to be considered under the Scheme.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the contributors from Siro and they left the Meeting.

3. Presentation by Housing Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Donal Purcell, A/Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Sean Lonergan, Administrative Officer and Mr. Jim Dillon, Administrative Officer, Housing Section, to the Meeting.

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

- Housing Construction
- Capital Assistance Scheme

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- Housing Allocations 2018
- Voids
- House Purchases 2018
- RAS, Leasing and HAP 2018
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Update in regard to traveller accommodation at Cabragh Bridge, Thurles and address barriers that have blown down on site.
- Confirm when works will commence on site at Mill Road, Thurles and at Stannix House, Thurles.
- Establish if the two houses being purchased by Novas Initiatives in Stradavoher Court, Thurles are in a state of dereliction.
- Ongoing issue in regard to Priority 2 applications not receiving funding under the Housing Adaptation Grants Private Houses Scheme.
- Devise a policy at SPC level whereby tenants that cause damage to Council housing stock and units provided under Leasing, RAS and HAP without reimbursement are not put back on the Council's social housing waiting list.
- Establish if maintenance obligations of landlords of RAS and short term leased units are monitored by the Council.
- Delay in the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in Council houses in the District.
- Update in regard to the refurbishment of 2 Athlomen Terrace, Mitchel Street, Thurles.
- Establish when the upcoming Community Liaison Officer's position will be filled.
- Issues in regard to housing repairs not being addressed in Council houses in Templemore.
- The need to turn around vacant units in the District as quickly as possible.
- Compile a report on the future use of the site at Whitefield, Templemore for consideration by the Members at the next District Meeting that Housing Section personnel are due to attend.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- An update was already provided by Sinead Carr, Director of Housing Services, to the Members this week on the traveller accommodation at Cabragh Bridge, Thurles and the issue in relation to the barriers will be referred to the Contractor.

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- It is anticipated that tenders for the construction of 28 houses at Mill Road, Thurles will be submitted circa March, 2019 with construction commencing later that year and taking approximately 18 months to complete.
- Landlords are responsible for maintenance of units under RAS and HAP.
- The Council pays 50% of the cost of damage deemed to be above normal wear and tear in the case of RAS units.
- Anti social behaviour/damage to property only arises in 2% of tenancies and prospective tenants are obliged to participate in pre tenancy training. Tenants obligations are also clearly defined in the Tenant's Handbook and there are 5 Community Liaison Officers employed by the Council who are continuously in contact with tenants.
- A policy is being devised which will address damage caused by tenants to property and this will be put before the SPC for consideration in Q1 of 2019.
- Voids, housing repairs and the installation of carbon monoxide alarms are the responsibility of the District.
- The refurbishment of 2 Athlomen Terrace, Mitchel Street, Thurles will commence on conclusion of the legal case.
- Thurles Lions Trust Housing Association should be in a position to proceed to design stage once planning permission has been granted for the Stannix House 19 Units.
- The exact location of the two houses in Stradavoher Court, Thurles being acquired by Novas Initiatives will be established and Members will be updated.
- There will be 180 Priority 1 cases and 33 Priority 2 cases completed this year under the Housing Adaptation Grants Private Houses Scheme and the number of Priority 2 cases is expected to rise based on the additional allocation of €430,000.00 sanctioned by the Department recently. Applications will be prioritised based on content.
- There are no further budgets available this year to upgrade vacant units that have not already received approval.
- The Council is in the process of recruiting a "HAP Placefinder" and the new position created of "Vacant Homes Officer" has recently been filled.
- The Community Liaison Officer position will be filled in early 2019.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Housing Section personnel for their contributions and they left the Meeting.

4. Update on the 2018 Work Programmes.

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

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The Acting District Engineer advised the following:-

- The HD28 Programme is almost complete.
- Surfacing works at Lismackin, Roscrea are completed.
- The Local Improvement Scheme is substantially complete.
- Works at Cloone Cross under the Low Cost Safety Scheme are carried out.
- A list of paths to be upgraded from funds secured from IPB Insurances Ltd has been compiled and works are in progress.
- Pothole repair and opening of inlets/gullies is underway.
- The flashing speed sign at Templetuohy will be replaced.
- Remedial works at Maxfort, Horse & Jockey have commenced.
- Improvements to the road at Dooree will commence tomorrow.
- The Contractor should be in a position to commence with the resurfacing of the car park adjacent to St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore shortly.
- Minor drainage works will be undertaken during the Winter months in the District.
- The Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programmes are substantially complete.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Hedge cutting is still an issue in the District.
- Consent of the Members to the use of the GMA 2018 Contingency Fund of €1,722.00 in order to lay a suitable walking surface on the 80m grass verge prior to the opening of the new playground in Gortnahoe.
- Raise gullies on Parnell Street, Thurles.
- Provision of double yellow lines or junction box at the entrance to Laurel Lodge near the Anner Hotel, Thurles.
- Address flooding issue (i) outside Bidy Condon's house near Bowes corner, Butler Avenue, Thurles (ii) outside 4 houses across from Monakeeba housing estate, Thurles (iii) outside 12 Oakfield Drive, Thurles (iv) in the paved area outside the Church in Castleiney (v) on Main Street and at Churchview, Littleton (vi) at bottom of bridge at Skehana and at Cloncleigh, Two Mile Borris.
- Liaise with wheelchair user group in regard to dishing of old footpaths in Thurles town.
- The dangers associated with parents of school children driving in and out of the cobbleset area outside the Ursuline Primary School on Liberty Square, Thurles.
- Clean up the area in which the ESB substation is located at Oakfield Park, Thurles.
- Extension of footpath from St. Patrick's Cemetery to Dún Lia, Thurles.
- Provision of footpath and public lighting from Mill Road to Kickham Park, Thurles.



- Poor condition of the older Council housing stock in Templemore.
- Completion of wall at the public car park adjacent to St. Joseph's Old Cemetery, Templemore.
- The request for "No Dumping" signs for Borrisoleigh Cemetery has still not been addressed.
- The need to review the standard of services provided by the Council in Templemore town.
- Update in regard to safety improvements at Killinan Cross, Thurles.
- Provide breakdown of the cost of the public conveniences located in the District.
- A dedicated crew needs to be put in place to ensure that gullies are regularly maintained in the District.
- Erection of "Beware of Deer" signage on Mill Road, Thurles.
- Fill potholes in Cluain Glas, Thurles.
- Replacement of main gates at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- A substantial amount of improvement works have been undertaken in Templemore town since the Merger.
- Contact will be made with the Principal of the Ursuline Primary School, Thurles in regard to the parking issue.
- Drainage issues and opening of gullies will be addressed over the coming months in the District.
- The Council will lay a surface on the green verge for pedestrian use at the new playground in Gortnahoe as no objections were made by the Members to the request made.
- Contractors have been appointed to raise the gullies on Parnell Street, Thurles.
- Double yellow lines will be provided at the entrance to Laurel Lodge, Dublin Road, Thurles in the next few weeks, weather permitting.
- The flooding issues raised will be examined.
- Provide contact details to the Council of a representative on the Wheelchair User Group.
- Contact will be made with the ESB in regard to the erection of a gate inside the palisade fencing at the ESB substation in Oakfield Park, Thurles.
- The Council will prepare a costing on the request for the installation of a footpath and public lighting to Kickham Park, Thurles.
- Housing Section is aware of the condition of the older housing stock in Templemore which falls beyond the capacity of the maintenance budget allocated to the District.



- Contact will be made with Environment Section to provide the "No Dumping" signs at Borrisoleigh Cemetery.
- The Council has submitted an application under the 2019 Low Cost Safety Scheme for the provision of safety improvements at Killinan Cross, Thurles.
- The flashing speed sign at Templetuohy Village will be replaced.
- Quotations are being sought for the main gates at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles and a request will be made to Environment Section for a Budget.

The Cathaoirleach and Members referred to the sterling service that Tony O'Meara, Technician had given to the District and wished him every success in his new position in the Planning Section.

5. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Underground works will commence on Market Square, Roscrea in January with the Main Works Contract commencing after St. Patrick's Day. ii. A design is currently being drawn up for the enhancement of The Plaza Area. iii. The design for a garden on the site at Gantly Road is completed and prices will be obtained in the New Year. Improvements proposed at The Plaza Area and Gantly Road will require funding.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Joe Costello, t/a Stonemad has been appointed to undertake essential structural repairs to Templemore Town Hall.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	This was dealt with at the start of the Meeting.
Thurles Town Park.	There is potential to develop the old farm building in conjunction with the Farmers Market and discussions are currently at an exploratory stage.
Consideration of proposed Greenway on Bórd na Móna peat lands.	A meeting has been arranged between the Design Team appointed by Bórd na Móna and John Egan, Rural Recreation Officer, South Tipperary Development Company in regard to the project.
Templemore Town Park Extension	The Chairperson of Blackcastle United Football Club will meet the District Director in regard to proposals.



Councillor J. Ryan intimated that the proceeds derived from the old Town Council Offices at Slievenamon Road, Thurles which are currently up for sale should be expended on capital projects in the District.

6. Notices of Motion.

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

"I am calling on this District Council to introduce 30 minutes free parking in all disk parking areas in the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea."

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

"There is currently a grace period of 15 minutes in each of the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea. This is an informal arrangement which was previously agreed with the Members and it has led to a substantial reduction in income.

Parking enforcement is an integral part of ensuring that there is a free flow of traffic through each town, thereby ensuring that there is adequate parking available for customers and visitors at all times.

As the budget for 2018 has already been adopted, it is not possible to consider the request at this stage."

Councillor J. Ryan asked that the Notice of Motion be amended as follows:-

"I am calling on this District Council to introduce 30 minutes free parking in all town centre areas in the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea".

He suggested that the proposal would boost turnover in shops in the town centres.

Councillor D. Doran seconded the amended Motion.

The District Director confirmed that:-

- Proximity to destination is ranked first and pay parking ranks sixth to eighth on a menu of ten items for customers.
- Continuous turnover of public parking spaces in town centres is crucial in order to maintain parking for customers.
- The 2018 Budget which includes the income raised from pay parking has been adopted and therefore, the Motion cannot be voted on so it cannot be implemented.



Councillor M. Lowry put forward a counter proposal. It was proposed by Councillor M. Lowry and seconded by Councillor M. Smith that:

"A retail strategy be prepared for Thurles town to include a review of parking which should commence in January, 2019."

A poll was taken which resulted as follows:-

For the Proposal:	Councillors M. Lowry, M. Smith, S. Hanafin, S. Ryan, E Moran	(5)
Against the Proposal:	Councillors J. Ryan, D. Doran	(2)
Absent:	Councillors J. Bourke, J. Hogan	(2)

The Cathaoirleach announced the result of the Poll and declared the counter proposal carried.

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

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

"In a real effort to encourage business and shopping activity in to Thurles during the Christmas period and indeed to give the public a break from paid parking, I am requesting that this Council have free parking in all the Town of Thurles including the streets and car parks for each Friday and Saturday during December."

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

"The regulation of parking in the town centres is critical to ensure adequate turnover of customers who are shopping in the town.

The absence of this regulation would result in all day parking through the town centre, thereby greatly reducing the availability of parking spaces for customers.

In addition the budget for 2018 has already been adopted which identifies income from pay parking and provides for free parking for the 3 Saturdays prior to Christmas as already circulated, Saturday 8th, 15th and 22nd December. The free parking on those dates is as follows:

Roscrea All public carparks

Templemore Throughout the town

Thurles All public carparks."



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Councillor D. Doran advocated that his Motion would increase footfall in the town centre and support job creation.

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion.

The District Director advised that:-

- The proposal would adversely affect turnover of public car parking spaces for customers in the town centre as it would only encourage all day parking.
- The Council is bound by the 2018 Budget which includes income derived from pay parking charges and therefore the Motion cannot be carried or implemented.

The Meeting was disbanded on conclusion of the Notices of Motion.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 19th. December, 2018.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 19th. December, 2018.