



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 25th. FEBRUARY, 2015.**

**Present:** Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, Jackie Cahill, David Doran, Seamus Hanafin, John Hogan, Willie Kennedy, Micheál Lowry and Jim Ryan.

**Also Present:**

Matt Shortt	District Director.
Michael F. Hayes B.E.	Senior Engineer.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer.
John Jones B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.
Deirdre O'Shea	Staff Officer.

**Votes of Congratulations.**

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated:

- The Thurles CBS Hurling Team on winning the Harty Cup Final at the weekend and wished them well in the All-Ireland Semi Final.
- Kieran Byrnes, Clonmore, Templemore on his success in the All Ireland Scór Final.

The District Director advised, in response to the Cathaoirleach, that the according of a joint Civic Reception to the Harty Cup Team and Kieran Byrnes should be referred to the CPG.

**Closure of Businesses in Thurles.**

Councillor S. Hanafin expressed regret at the announcement of the imminent closure of Fitzgibbons Furniture Store, Thurles and the closure of J.P. Carrigan & Co., Solicitors, Thurles before Christmas.

Councillor J. Hogan pointed out that Walsh's Newsagents in Templemore had also closed some months ago.

25th. February, 2015.



Members expressed the view that the rates system is inequitable and crippling small/medium businesses. It was agreed that a Notice of Motion be submitted to the County Council requesting the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to undertake a full review of the system.

**1. Adoption of the Minutes of the January Monthly Meeting which was held on the 28th. January, 2015.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting which was held on 28th. January, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."

**Matters arising from the Minutes:**

An update on items raised at the January Meeting was circulated at the Meeting. The following issues were raised :-

Item	Response
Provision of an out of hours litter enforcement service to deal with indiscriminate dumping which is a particular issue in rural areas. The dumping of spoil and other waste in burial grounds is also an issue.	Littering is a nationwide issue caused by a minority of people and is more problematic in rural areas. The 'on the spot' fine system is not effective as offenders can refuse to give their names or furnish false names when approached by the Litter Wardens. An additional Litter Warden post will be filled shortly. Traffic Wardens are also authorised for litter enforcement. The work undertaken by Burial Ground Committees is appreciated and the dumping issue will be referred to the Environment SPC for consideration.
Lack of signage for dog fouling from Clongour Road to Castle Avenue, Thurles.	The matter will be examined.
The poor condition of the road surface at Doran's lane, Roscrea.	The road is not public and the Local Improvement Scheme has been discontinued. The agreement of all property owners would be required to make an application



	to have the road taken in charge. The road would have to be brought to an acceptable standard.
Update on reopening of the swimming pool in Thurles Leisure Centre.	The pool should be reopened by the end of March.
Delay in repairing faulty lights in The Orchard, Friar Street, Thurles.	The lights are included on the Schedule of Public Lighting and the issue is being followed up with Airtricity Utility Solutions.
Removal of poplar trees in Willowmere Drive, Thurles.	The trees will be removed and replaced with suitable streetscape trees.
The signage erected by Irish Rail on Graigue Bridge is a danger to road users as it has narrowed the carriageway.	The District Engineer has contacted Irish Rail on the matter.
Development of a policy at SPC level to provide for the payment of contributions to residents associations in RAS and Lease Agreements towards maintaining estates.	The matter will be referred to the Housing SPC.
Appointment of additional permanent road workers in the Municipal District.	The positions have been advertised under confined competition. 8 additional staff have commenced in the District on a temporary basis.
Repairs to road surfaces on the Thurles/Templemore Road and the Thurles/Dundrum Road.	All potholes in the District should be filled in the next 6 weeks.
Residents on Mill Road are dissatisfied with the height of the dividing hedge abutting The Glebe, Thurles.	The request will receive further examination.
Council land at Mill Road has not been cleaned to a satisfactory standard.	The area will be inspected.
Height of trees abutting the apartment block at The Willows, Thurles.	The Council will establish if the trees are located on public property.
Poor condition of the road at Marlow, Drombane.	The road has been patched recently.
Recurring sewerage problem at Kincora Terrace.	Irish Water is not responsible for repairs to services at the rear of houses. CCTV may be used to pinpoint the problem.
Invitation to Councillors to meet with the South Korea delegation on the 11th. March, 2015.	The matter was noted.



The repairs to the public lighting at Mary Willies are welcomed and the reasons for the delay need to be examined.	The cost of the original proposal by ESB Networks was prohibitive and a more cost effective solution was identified.
The reduction in the block Grant for the District.	The 2014 Block Grant was €161,300.00 for Thurles and €115,000.00 for Templemore. The grants were spent on road and footpath improvements.
Repair of the faulty light in the carpark in Borrisoleigh.	The issue will be examined.
Refurbishment of the Templemore Town Hall and an update on its future.	The situation will be reviewed.
Pruning of trees in the Municipal District.	There is a very limited budget available for pruning of trees and the season is coming to a close.
Advise landowners of their responsibilities with regard to dangerous trees abutting public roads.	The County Council has no role in advising landowners re dangerous trees.

## **2 Report on a Workshop held on the 28th. January, 2015 to discuss the Allocation of Grants.**

The Report on a Workshop, which was held on 28th. January, 2015 to discuss the allocation of Grants, which was circulated with the Agenda, was noted.

## **3 2015 Work Programme.**

The District Administrator confirmed that:-

- The Schedule of Municipal District Works covering road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenance will be circulated to the Members at the March Monthly Meeting.
- An advertisement had been placed in the Tipperary Star and Midland Tribune inviting applications from residents associations, sports clubs for the provision of playing facilities for young people and other voluntary groups excluding Tidy Towns, Burial Ground and Festival Committees in the Municipal District under the Grant Scheme. The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 13th. March, 2015. Criteria will be drawn up for the allocation of the grants.

The Members highlighted a number of roads in the Municipal District which should be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roadworks Programme and they



pointed out that the level of funding required to maintain roads in upland areas is substantial and not reflected in the allocations.

The District Engineer advised that:

- Boundary issues are being investigated and a map will be provided to the Members showing all roads within the District in due course.
- There is a 5 year Roadworks Programme in place until the end of 2015 and there is some scope to include additional roads in this year's programme.
- Serious consideration will have to be given to the inclusion of roads in the Gortnahoe / Grange area in this year's programme which are in very poor condition and putting a huge strain on the maintenance budget.
- Any significant changes to the 2015 Roadworks Programme will result in the dropping of some roads from the programme as there is a limited budget.
- The road at Garrenroe is included in this year's programme.

The Senior Roads Engineer agreed, at a request of the Members, to make a case to the Department for additional funding to address the poor condition of roads in the Gortnahoe/Grange area.

#### **4 Update on Projects.**

An update on Special Projects was circulated at the Meeting.

#### **5 Notices of Motion.**

##### **(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.**

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

"I call on this Council to engage with the NRA with the intention of constructing a footpath extension out as far as Drish Bridge in Thurles."

Councillor Ryan outlined the reasons why a footpath is required on the N75 to Drish Bridge, Thurles and he appealed for the support of the Members to have the matter taken up again with the NRA.

Councillor D. Doran seconded the Motion and the other Members expressed support for it.



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**(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan.**

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

"I am calling on this Council to invite officials from the IDA Regional Office to a meeting of this District to discuss their job creation policies for the towns of Thurles, Templemore, Roscrea and the Lisheen Mines site."

Councillor Ryan pointed out that the €150m Jobs Plan announced recently by the Government to attract inward investment does not include towns in Tipperary and he criticised the inaction of the IDA in attracting industry to the area as unemployment is on the increase.

Members expressed support for the Motion.

It was agreed that the Regional Manager, Mid West IDA be invited to a Meeting of the Municipal District to discuss the urgent need for job creation.

**(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamus Hanafin.**

Councillor Seamus Hanafin formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"What is the up to date position regarding reinstatement of roads following the Thurles Regional Water Scheme. There has been numerous reports of cars skidding at Cormackstown, Cloughmartin and Graigue. Can it be confirmed that these roads will be surface dressed to ensure that they are finished to an acceptable standard."

Councillor M. Lowry seconded the Motion and the other Members endorsed same.

The District Director confirmed that the Thurles Regional Water Scheme Contract is substantially complete and that the Contractor is responsible for the reinstatement of land and the resurfacing of roads which will be undertaken when the weather improves. He undertook to keep the Members updated on the matter.

**(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamus Hanafin.**

Councillor Seamus Hanafin formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"To ensure that valuable jobs in the Tipperary Peat Industry are safeguarded, this Municipal District Council calls for removal of the carbon tax from all peat products."



The Motion was endorsed by all the Members.

Councillor M. Lowry also called for the removal of carbon tax on the agriculture sector and Councillor J. Ryan pointed out the effects the tax has had on people on low incomes who are struggling to heat homes.

## 6 **Correspondence.**

### a) National Ambulance Service.

Councillor D. Doran expressed his dissatisfaction with the response given at a recent Health Forum where it was pointed out that the second ambulance is based in Thurles only on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8.00am to 3.00 pm. It was unanimously agreed that a letter be sent to the National Ambulance Service outlining the Members dissatisfaction with the service provided.

## 7 **Votes of Sympathy.**

The Cathoirleach and Members extended sympathy to Ms. Patricia Troy, Library Headquarters, on the death of her sister-in-law Ms. Rita Clohessy.

## 8 **Any Other Business.**

Item	Response
Facilitate residents unable to park their cars outside their homes at Kincora Terrace.	The issue will be examined.
Provision of a double yellow line at Richmond, Templemore near Duggans on the Templemore/Borrisoleigh Road.	The matter will receive attention.
Condition of the rear access road at 38 College Green, Thurles.	The complaint will be investigated.
Erection of "Text Alert" signage in Thurles town.	The siting of signage must be agreed with the Engineer. The need for a licence for each sign under the Planning Acts is currently under review.
The barrier at the Garda lay-by between junction 22 and 23 on the M7 is being left open and road users are throwing litter into the field adjoining the area.	The complaint will be referred to Roads Section.



**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**  
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae  
Thiobraid Árann,  
Oifigi Cheantar Bardasach  
an Teampaill Mhóir-  
Dhurlais, Bóthar Shliabh  
na mBan, Durlas,  
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**THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

**DATE: 25th. March, 2015.**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

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