



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 22nd. JULY, 2015.

Present: Councillor John Hogan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, Jackie Cahill, David Doran, Willie Kennedy, Micheál Lowry, Jim Ryan and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

Matt Shortt	District Director.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
John Jones B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.

Apology: Councillor Seamus Hanafin.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the Statutory Annual Meeting which was held on the 24th. June, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

(b) 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 24th. June, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

Matters arising from Minutes.

The Cathaoirleach ruled that queries in relation to matters arising from the Minutes should be raised under "Any Other Business".



2. (a) Community & Enterprise Function.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Áine McCarthy, Community & Economic Development Section to the Meeting.

Áine circulated a Report to the Members which dealt with:

- 1) The Local Enterprise Office.
- 2) The preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- 3) The Strategic Projects Unit.
- 4) Tourism.
- 5) The Arts.
- 6) Community Development & Social Inclusion.
- 7) The Sports Partnership.
- 8) Tipperary County Museum.
- 9) Heritage.
- 10) Childcare.

The following comments / observations were made in relation to the Presentation:

- The County Council is about to appoint a Retail Consultant who will work with the stakeholders in the Town Centres of the nine towns included in the Town Centres Initiative.
- The establishment of a Digital Media / Gaming Hub involving Thurles, Carlow and Clonmel should be pursued and the promotion of the Gaming Festival in LIT Tipperary is worthy of support. The South Korean Ambassador was very impressed when he visited the Gaming Festival during his recent visit to Thurles.
- The Thurles Sports Fest will require financial support from the County Council in 2016 - a Festival Strategy is currently being drawn up by the Community and Economic Development Section.
 - There was poor "buy in" and support by local people for the Sport Fest and the re-enactment of the founding of the GAA was poorly attended.
 - It is regrettable that the Amalgamated Sports Partnership does not have an Inclusion and Disability Officer.
 - The biggest issues in many areas is rural isolation and this needs to be addressed.
 - The request to have the Munster Hurling Final staged in Semple Stadium every year is unlikely to succeed as other stadia in the Province also aspire to staging the Final.
 - Events should be organised in Thurles on Munster Final Weekends to encourage visitors to stay longer.



- Genuine Festivals in villages should be supported.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Áine McCarthy for her Presentation and Áine left the Chamber.

2. **(b) Housing Function.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Clare Curley, Director of Service and Michele Maher, Staff Officer, Housing Section to the Meeting.

A Housing Report setting out the up-to-date position in relation to the items listed hereunder was circulated:

- Capital Projects.
- Fabric Upgrade Works.
- Vacant Houses.
- Approved Housing Applicants.
- Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability.

The following issues were raised:

<u>Issue.</u>	<u>Response.</u>
Capital Allocation - the allocation recently announced by Minister Kelly is totally inadequate in the light of the huge number of applicants on the Housing List.	The Housing Section must work within the allocation received.
Purchase of partially built houses in an unfinished development to the rear of McDonagh Terrace, Templemore.	The matter will be examined. There must be a spread of houses throughout the District.
Poor condition of houses at Bohernanave, Thurles - it is imperative that they are refurbished before the coming winter.	These houses will not be dealt with in the short term as they require external insulation which is under Phase 2 of the Department's Programme.
Proposals for the Old Barracks in Borrisoleigh when the refurbishment works are completed - residents are concerned.	The units will be let to approved housing applicants.
Unacceptable delay between the making of an application under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme and the allocation of a grant.	Applications are dealt with as expeditiously as possible.



Commencement date for the upgrade works to the 80 houses in Templemore - the allocation for this work and for the refurbishment of 4 houses at Lacey Avenue is most welcome.	Tenders for the upgrade works are currently being assessed.
Allocation for the construction of 10 houses at Glencarrick Roscrea - there is still objections to the proposed development.	Plans are being prepared and they will be put on public display under Part 8 of the Planning Acts.
Priority for carrying out works under the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme - is there any flexibility if the Occupational Therapist does not recommend priority.	A Doctor's Certificate determines the priority.
Preparation of an Action Plan to meet the acute need in the District for Social Housing - the District has 778 approved applicants for social housing which is the highest of the 5 Districts.	There are a range of social housing options available. The Council has been given ambitious targets to secure social housing units under the RAS and Leasing Schemes and by purchasing houses and these targets will be exceeded.
Lack of public lighting in the Carden Court Estate, Templemore - all the completed houses are leased by the County Council.	The situation will be examined.
Travellers at Turtulla - the Council has deposited material to secure the site on adjoining privately owned land.	The matter is receiving attention.
Grazing of horses in the gardens of Council houses - none should be allowed as an acre is insufficient for a horse.	The keeping of horses in the gardens of Council houses is in breach of the Tenancy Agreement.
Provision of housing for single applicants.	The options available are the construction of houses or securing units under the RAS and Leasing Scheme.

Clare Curley advised that, at the request of the Planning Section, Housing will attend the October Monthly Meeting with the Planning Section attending the November Monthly Meeting.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Clare Curley and Michele Maher for their attendance at the Meeting and they left the Chamber.



3. Presentation by Thurles CBS Students who will represent Ireland in the Sage Global World Cup for Social Entrepreneurs in Seoul.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Fergus O'Brien (Teacher), Eugene Ryan and Odhran Quirke to the Meeting.

Eugene Ryan thanked the Municipal District Members for affording them the opportunity of making a presentation on their project, Farmsense. He indicated that the Project Group are Fergus O'Brien (teacher), himself, Odhran Quirke, Conor Ryan and Conor Dunne but that Conor Ryan and Conor Dunne were unable to attend due to work commitments.

The Group gave a detailed presentation on their project which is a unique idea for the installation of a sensor on tractors and other machinery thereby helping to save lives on farms.

Fergus O'Brien advised that the Group has qualified to represent Ireland at the Sage Global World Cup in Seoul, South Korea and are currently fund raising to cover the cost of travelling to Seoul. He added that the four students will be required to present their project at the event and respond to questions.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated the Group on their success in the Young Social Innovators Competition and wished them further success in Seoul. It was pointed out that the idea was very relevant at this time with the high number of deaths, particularly of children, on farms. It was also suggested that the application could be commercially viable and that the students might explore this.

Members recommended that the Municipal District make a contribution to the Group.

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor J. Hogan, seconded by Councillor D. Doran and resolved:

"That a contribution of €250.00 be made to the Thurles CBS Group towards the cost of travelling to Seoul, South Korea to represent Ireland in the Sage Global World Cup."

4. Update on 2015 Work Programmes.

An update on the 2015 Roadworks Programme was circulated.

- The District Engineer advised that:
 - The County Council has received additional funding of €1.4m approximately under the Restoration Improvement Grant Programme.
 - The District's allocation from this funding will be in the order of €300,000.00.



- Local Authorities can use up to 20% of the additional allocation for Community Involvement Schemes.
- The priority is the completion of the R498, Kerins Cross to Borrisoleigh improvements. The work requires a road closure.
- The Dundrum Road after Slattery's Cross, Garranroe, Kilcooley, Glenbane and Mary Willies will be considered if there is funding remaining.

The Cathaoirleach indicated that, according to the Department Circular, up to 10% of the additional funding may be allocated to Local Improvement Schemes (LIS). He proposed that the Council take up this option and advertise for applications.

The District Engineer advised that it would not be feasible to have the work completed before the end of October if advertising for applications is only commencing at this stage.

Members raised the following matters:

Patching of roads not included in the Roadworks Programme.	Patching will be carried out as soon as possible - staff are currently engaged on the Roadworks Programme.
Poor condition of Slievenamon Road - cyclists are forced to move out towards the centre of the road and consequently are at high risk.	The Roads Section will be requested to seek funding from the NRA to upgrade the road surface.
Poor condition of the road from Mary Willies to Gortnahoe - this road carries significant traffic.	The road will be considered for inclusion in next year's Roadworks Programme.
Improvement of signage and lines at the Ballybeg junction.	The request will receive attention.
Repair of the surface at the River Suir Bridge on the Templemore to Rathdowney Road.	Repairs will be undertaken under this year's Roadworks Programme.
Augall Bridge - it is dangerous and requires attention.	A low cost safety scheme will be designed for the bridge and any improvements will require land acquisition.

5. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

The Contractor has given a completion date of mid-August. The planting of trees may be delayed until later in the year and proposals for securing the old building on the site has to be addressed.



Liberty Square
Refurbishment and
development of a
carpark.

The Traffic Review and Safety Audit Reports are being assessed by the Design Team. It is anticipated that the project will go to Part 8 before the end of the year with construction commencing by mid 2016.

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

The Tender of Conack Construction Limited, Limerick, has been accepted and they have given the 10th. August, 2015 as the commencement date.

The Municipal District Meetings may have to be transferred to the Slievenamon Road Offices while the works are in progress.

Repairs / Improvements
to Templemore Town
Hall

The roof and barges will be surveyed within the next few weeks with a view to undertaking emergency repairs to prevent water getting into the building.

Templemore Town Park
Extension.

A number of layouts for the additional land purchased are currently being prepared.

Village Enhancement
Works.

Footpath improvements in Borrisoleigh, Littleton and Templetuohy will commence later in the year when the Roadworks Programme is completed.

Roscrea Enhancement
Scheme.

A Consulting Engineer is being recruited to prepare detailed plans & specification, and to supervise the work.

Carpark at St. Patrick's
Cemetery.

Plans for the carpark will be prepared as soon as possible.

2015 Painting Scheme.

45 applications have been received under the Scheme. All applicants who have complied with the terms of the Scheme will be written to within the next week confirming the grant.

The remaining applicants will be asked to submit the outstanding documentation.



Matters arising.

- Consideration should be given to getting feedback from the traders in Castle Street and Main Street before the formal Part 8 Planning Process for the Roscrea Enhancement Scheme commences.
- The enhancement of the disused swimming pool site in Templemore Town Park will be examined.
- The funding available may not allow the extension of the Painting Scheme to Mary Street, Templemore .
- The schools will be contacted after the summer holidays to consider matters relating to the Town Park.

6. Notices of Motion.

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

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

"I am calling for the establishment of a working committee comprising of the relevant authorities whose aim is to come up with policies, incentives and conditions that would help encourage job creation in the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor D. Doran.

Councillor Ryan indicated that he was prompted to put down the Notice of Motion because of the very high unemployment rate in Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea. He stated that he had been in contact with the relevant agencies - the Chamber of Commerce, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, LIT Tipperary, Tipperary Tourism Company and Mark Fielding CEO, ISME and they all expressed a willingness to participate on the Committee.

A response to the Notice of Motion received from the Economic Development Officer, Community & Economic Development Section was circulated.

Members expressed the view that the proposed Committee would duplicate the work being carried out by the Local Enterprise Office. It was pointed out that a Local Economic & Community Plan for County Tipperary is being prepared and that interested parties should submit their views / observations to the Community & Enterprise Department.



7. Correspondence.

(i) Phoenix Productions.

The Meetings Administrator advised that Phoenix Productions has extended an invitation to the Members to attend a reception in the Confraternity Hall on Saturday 25th. July 2015 prior to their show 'Beauty and the Beast' to acknowledge the General Manager and the management team at Lisheen Mines for Lisheen's generous support to many organisations in the area over the years - Members interested in attending to give their names to the Meetings Administrator.

It was noted that Lisheen Mines made a generous contribution towards the playground in the Town Park.

8. Votes of Congratulations.

The Cathaoirleach extended good wishes to the Principal and Vice Principal of Coláiste Pobal Roscrea who retired recently after many years of dedicated service in the Vocational School and subsequently in Coláiste Pobal.

9. Any Other Business.

Issue	Response
Issue of dog fouling - the CCTV cameras should be used to identify offenders with a view to initiating prosecutions.	The matter will be investigated.
Closing St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles at night - flower pots and other mementoes are being stolen from graves.	The request will be considered.
Improvements required at Galboola Cross on the Thurles / Littleton Road.	The junction will be surveyed.
Provision of a permanent helipad in Thurles - the present arrangement whereby the helicopter has to identify a suitable landing area is unsatisfactory.	The matter will be taken up again with the National Ambulance Service.
Preparation of a Traffic Management Plan for Roscrea - there has been significant changes since the last one was completed with the arrival of Tesco, Dunnes Stores, Lidl and Aldi.	The request will be referred to the Roads Section for consideration.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigi Cheantar Bardasach
an Teampaill Mhóir-
Dhurlais, Bóthar Shliabh
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Burial Grounds - byelaws are required to regulate activities of contractors etc and local committees need some assistance.

The Environment SPC will be asked to consider the matter.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 15th. September, 2015.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 15th. September, 2015.