



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 25th. MARCH, 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.
Marcus O'Connor	Director of Services, Roads.
Michael F. Hayes B.E.	Senior Engineer, Roads.
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 Cistercian College, Roscrea, on winning the 2015 Bank of Ireland, Leinster Schools Senior Rugby Cup against Belvedere College on 17th. March, 2015.
- Thurles Lions Club on achieving The Lions Club of the Year Award.
- The St. Patrick's Day Parades Committees for their dedication and hard work in organising very successful parades in Thurles, Roscrea, Templemore and Littleton.

It was agreed that Civic Receptions be held to honour the Thurles CBS Harty Cup Winners, Kieran Byrnes and the Cistercian College, Roscrea and that a date for the receptions be finalised after Thurles CBS compete in the All Ireland Final on 7th. April, 2015.

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Councillor D. Doran, Councillor J. Ryan and the Durlas Éile Eliogarty Memorial Committee for organising the South Korean delegation visit to Thurles on the 11th. March, 2015 and asked that a letter of appreciation be sent to Fr. Tom Fogarty, President, St. Patrick's College, Mr. P.J. Ryan, Order of Malta and Mr. Ciarán Lynch, LIT Tipperary expressing appreciation for their efforts in promoting Thurles and its facilities on the day.

The other Members endorsed his comments.

25th. March, 2015.



4. Housing Function.

It was agreed to take this item before other business to facilitate the Housing Staff.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer and Michèle Maher, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Section who were in attendance for this item.

Copy of a report on Housing Capital Projects, Voids, approved Social Housing Applicants and Housing Adaptation Grants for the District was circulated at the Meeting.

Aidan Fennessy confirmed that:-

- The Housing Capital Allocation has not yet been received.
- The refurbishment and conversion of the Old Barracks in Borrisoleigh into 2 houses is progressing well.
- A Tender Report on the proposed construction of a Group Housing Scheme at Cabra Bridge will be submitted to the Department at the end of this week.
- Remedial works at the Derrynaflan Housing Estate, Littleton are completed.
- An allocation of €450,000 has been received under the Voids Programme to bring some vacant units back into stock and the maximum grant is €30,000 per unit.
- A case has been made to the Department to fund major refurbishment works on voids such as 55 Mitchel Street, Thurles and houses in Lacey Avenue, Templemore which would exceed the permitted €30,000 under the Voids Programme.
- There are 769 approved applicants on the Social Housing List in this District.
- €679,000 is committed to date this year to deal with 51 applications on hands under the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and the Mobility Aids Grant which are deemed emergency and priority 1 cases and an advertisement has been placed in local newspapers inviting new applications up to 8th. May, 2015 which are considered emergency or priority 1.

Mr. Fennessy made the following points in response to queries from the Members:-

- The allocation for Housing Adaptation Grants will be similar to last year.
- There is a significant number of social housing applicants on the list in receipt of Rent Supplement.
- There are issues with the roll out of the Housing Assistance Payment which will replace Rent Supplement as the amounts payable are based on the existing rent supplement limits which are too low and this has been highlighted as a concern at national level.



- Approved Social Housing Applicants in receipt of Rent Supplement will transfer to the Housing Assistance Payment in time and their names will be removed from the list as their housing needs will be deemed to have been met.
- There is a shortage of houses for RAS / Leasing in the County.
- It is anticipated that the Department will prioritise house purchases over construction due to the quicker turnaround period and some allocation may be made for the construction of small schemes in villages where there is an existing land bank and housing need.
- The Council is meeting with representatives from Cluid Housing next week to discuss their housing proposals.
- Part 8 Plans for a proposed housing scheme at Glencarrig, Roscrea will be completed within the next month and they will then be put on public display.
- 4 houses were purchased in November/December 2014 and the Council has identified other suitable houses that can be purchased in the County once the Housing Capital Allocation has been received.
- The Council takes location of houses and the need to build sustainable communities into account when purchasing units.
- It is considered good practice to retain long-term voids that require significant refurbishment as there is no guarantee that they would be improved if they were sold on the open market and this could affect the visual appearance of an area.
- The costs of refurbishing units can be higher in built up areas due to site restrictions.
- The development of a policy to provide for the payment of contributions to Residents Associations in RAS or Leasing Agreements towards maintaining estates will be raised at the next Housing SPC Meeting.

The District Director advised that there has been a marked improvement in the operation of the sewerage treatment system in Borrisoleigh and its potential to cater for any future housing developments will be determined on receipt of the licence from the EPA which will have conditions attached.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked the Housing Staff for the update and they withdrew from the Chamber.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting which was held on the 25th. February, 2015.

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 25th. February, 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
Delay in cleaning up Council lands at Mill Road.	There is limited resources to undertake tasks above the normal works programme and the cleanup will be undertaken when staff become available.
The commitment given at last month's meeting to repair the potholes throughout the District within 6 weeks will not be met.	There will be 3 patching units covering the District from next week.

Inaugural Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee.

Councillor D. Doran expressed disappointment with the poor attendance of Members of the County Council and Oireachtas at the inaugural meeting of the Joint Policing Committee in Littleton Community Centre last Friday and he pointed out that a Chairperson could not be elected as a quorum was not present.

2. Report on the Meeting with a Deputation of Former Members of Templemore Town Council.

The Members noted the Report on the meeting with a Deputation of former members of Templemore Town Council which was held on the 25th. February, 2015, copy of which was circulated with the Agenda.

John Jones, Executive Engineer confirmed, in response to a query from the Cathaoirleach, that works on the boundary wall of Templemore Town Park on the Dunkerrin Road will commence in two week's time.

The District Director indicated, in reply to a query from Councillor J. Bourke, that some works will be undertaken to the exterior of the Town Hall in the short-term and that any other proposals will be put on hold until discussions with a prospective tenant are concluded.

It was noted that the OPW will launch the Templemore Flood Relief Scheme in Templemore Library on Friday 27th. March, 2015.



3. Report on the Workshop to discuss the Taking in Charge of Estates.

The Report on the Workshop to discuss the taking in charge of housing estates which was held on the 25th. February, 2015, copy of which was circulated with the Agenda, was noted by the Members.

The District Director undertook, at the request of Councillor S. Hanafin, to follow up the taking in charge of the Cluain Glas Estate, Thurles with the Planning Section.

4. Housing Service.

This item was dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

5. Adoption of Schedule of Municipal Works for the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.

The District Engineer outlined the Draft Schedule of Municipal Works for the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District covering road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenances, copy of which was circulated at the Meeting.

The Members were advised that:-

- Contact will be made with the NRA regarding the poor condition of the surface on Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- A large portion of the Restoration Maintenance and Restoration Improvement budgets will be expended on improving the new areas brought into the District.
- The Tertiary Road Allocation will be divided evenly among the Councillors.
- The contribution payable by residents under the Community Involvement Scheme has been reduced from 25% to 15% of the cost.
- The longer roads which remain to be improved under the Community Involvement Scheme are cost prohibitive for residents and Members could reduce their contribution by using a portion of their Tertiary Road Allocation to improve a section of road and completing the remainder being funded under the Community Involvement Scheme.
- The Local Improvement Scheme for improvement works on private roads was discontinued some years ago. It is not feasible to take funding from the Restoration Maintenance and Improvement budgets given that there is insufficient resources to improve all the public roads in the District.
- The Development Levies Allocation for 2015 is divided between the 5 Districts.



- Roads have deteriorated throughout the County due to the reduction in grants over recent years.
- Preliminary designs are currently being prepared for the Roscrea Enhancement Scheme and plans will be brought to the Members in due course.
- There is a budget of €30,000 for civil works required to repair faulty lights in the District.
- AUS has been instructed to repair the public lighting at The Orchard, Friar Street, Thurles.
- The budget for Street Cleaning and Open Spaces is in line with the 2014 amalgamated allocations.
- The Council cannot undertake maintenance works on rivers that are outside Arterial Drainage Areas.
- Every effort is being made to secure an alternative site for the Bottle Bank in Littleton and the installation of CCTV at problematic sites is currently being explored.

Councillor J. Hogan criticised the proposal to spend the €200,000 Development Levies allocation on improving the Killinan Road, Thurles. He expressed the view that these improvements should be funded by the Department and he called for the allocation to be expended on enhancement works in villages throughout the District.

Other Members supported his comments.

The District Director advised that it is more prudent to fund the works at Killinan from the Levies allocation as there is very little set aside for regional roads from the Restoration Maintenance & Improvement Grants. He suggested that €70,000 could be ring-fenced each year from the General Municipal Allocation to undertake village enhancement works.

The Members unanimously agreed to this proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor J. Hogan 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 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted without amendment."

6. Payment of Grants.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Grant Scheme was Friday, 13th. March, 2015 but that



applications will be accepted for a further week or so. He added that recommendations on the payment of Grants will be brought before the next Meeting.

The District Director indicated that a plan for Village Enhancement Works for 2015 which will be funded from the General Municipal Allocation will be drawn up for consideration by the Members as soon as possible.

7. 2015 Work Programmes.

The various issues were raised during the discussion on the Schedule of Municipal Works.

8. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

Works are progressing well and the Park should be opened in July 2015. Some of the equipment in the playground is suitable for use by children with special needs.

Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment.

The Part 8 Plans are substantially complete and the Traffic Review and Safety Audit is currently being carried out.

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

The prequalification process has been completed and the Tender Documents will be issued to the successful tenderers at an early date.

Repair of Thurles Leisure Centre.

The tiling of the pool has been completed and the pool is scheduled to re-open on Monday 13th. April, 2015.

Templemore Town Park Extension.

A master plan for the adjoining land will be drawn up in the coming months. The return of the algae on the lake is disappointing given the substantial improvement works undertaken by the Templemore Eco Lake Committee and the situation is being monitored.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.

Preliminary designs will be brought before the Members at an early date.



9. Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Willie Kennedy.

Councillor Willie Kennedy formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on the Council to carry out immediate repairs to the Gurtagarry-Borrisoleigh road. It is in a very bad state of repair at present particularly in the Curraheen area."

The District Engineer confirmed that the Gurtagarry-Borrisoleigh Road is included in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Joe Bourke.

Councillor Joe Bourke formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on Templemore Thurles Municipal District to consider Free Parking on Saturdays in Templemore Town."

Councillor Bourke pointed out that Templemore town has not attracted large retail units such as Dunnes Stores which normally provide free parking and that pay parking needs to be discontinued on a Saturday to encourage people into the town. There was broad support for the Motion.

The Meetings Administrator confirmed that pay parking generates €10,000.00 approximately on Saturdays in Templemore and that a corresponding reduction in expenditure would have to be identified in the Budget.

The District Director advised that a review of pay parking in all towns in the County is commencing shortly as part of the Town Centre Strategy and it was agreed that the Motion be deferred pending the outcome of the review.

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

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

"Calling on this Municipal District to ask the County Manager to review the opening hours on Saturdays for the Libraries in Roscrea and Templemore respectively."



The Cathairleach pointed out that the libraries in Roscrea and Templemore are closed on Saturdays while branches are open in the other towns in the County.

The Meetings Administrator read out a response which confirmed that the opening hours in all branches in the County are currently under review and that Members will be notified of any proposed changes in due course. He undertook to circulate a copy of the response to the Cathairleach.

(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Michael Smith.

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

"To ask the Municipal Authority to immediately replace 6 street litter bins which were removed last year in the Roscrea area, in an effort to help the ongoing works by the Local Tidy Towns."

John Jones, Executive Engineer confirmed that the bins were removed earlier in the year as they were being continuously filled with domestic refuse.

Michael Tierney, Executive Engineer advised that a review of the situation will be undertaken shortly in consultation with the Tidy Towns Committee.

(e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Willie Kennedy.

Councillor Willie Kennedy formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"I am calling on this Council to include the road from Greenane to Borrisoleigh in this year's Roads Programme. Parts of this road are in a very bad state of repair at present."

The District Engineer confirmed that the road from Greenane to Borrisoleigh is included in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.

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

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

"In the light of the significant problems being experienced by householders in Thurles due to the excessive level of lime in the public water supply, I call on Tipperary County



Council to immediately engage with Irish Water with a view to bringing the Thurles Regional Water Supply into operation at the earliest possible date."

Councillor Hanafin pointed out that the Motion is self explanatory. He stated that householders in some parts of the town are experiencing serious difficulties with the level of lime in the water which is damaging washing machines, showers, etc.

The District Director advised that Irish Water is currently reviewing all Capital Schemes that are in progress and he undertook to contact them to expedite completion of the Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme.

He indicated, in reply to a query from Councillor J. Ryan, that significant lengths of lead water mains have been replaced in Thurles town in recent years and that the replacement of lead connections which are considered low risk is included in the Strategic Plan.

10. **Correspondence.**

a) **Request for Deputation with the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport to discuss progression of Thurles Bypass.**

A letter received from the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, in response to the Members' request for a deputation to be received by him to discuss the progression of the Thurles Bypass, was circulated at the Meeting.

The Minister's Private Secretary indicated that due to the Minister's extremely busy diary with Government and Departmental business, he is unable to facilitate a meeting at this time.

Councillor J. Ryan expressed dissatisfaction with the reply and he requested that a further letter be sent asking if the issue has been discussed with the Minister for State, Tom Hayes.

The other Members supported his request.

b) **Invitation to Officials from the IDA Regional Office to a meeting of the Municipal District.**

The response received from IDA Ireland to the invitation for their officials to attend a meeting of the Municipal District to discuss job creation policies for the towns of Thurles, Roscrea, Templemore and the Lisheen Mines site, copy of which was circulated at the Meeting, was noted.



The Regional Manager advised that he will shortly receive another communication from Tipperary County Council and will revert on receipt of same.

c) Extension of the Natural Gas Network to Thurles.

Members noted the response received from Gaslink to the Council's request to extend the natural gas network to Thurles, copy of which was circulated at the Meeting.

d) Lisheen Wind Farm Trust - payment of Grants to Community Groups.

The Meetings Administrator advised that Lisheen Wind Farm Trust provides funding for payment of grants to voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them. He indicated that John Jones, Executive Engineer, has confirmed the projects have been completed.

Moyne Community Hall	-	€10,000.00
Moyne / Templetuoohy GAA Club (1)	-	€ 6,180.00
Moyne / Templetuoohy GAA Club (2)	-	€10,000.00
Moyne Church (1)	-	€10,000.00
Moyne Church (2)	-	€ 6,180.00

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

"That the following Grants be paid as recommended:

Moyne Community Hall	-	€10,000.00
Moyne / Templetuoohy GAA Club (1)	-	€ 6,180.00
Moyne / Templetuoohy GAA Club (2)	-	€10,000.00
Moyne Church (1)	-	€10,000.00
Moyne Church (2)	-	€ 6,180.00"

11. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

None.

12. Any Other Business.

Item	Response
Provision of a reflective sign on the bad bend at Garrenroe, Thurles.	The request will be examined.



Request by Thomond Road Residents to lock the Thurles Town Park at night.	This request was supported by Thurles Town Council when they met a Deputation from the Residents. The situation will be reviewed when the Town Park is in operation.
Residents of Kincora Terrace, Thurles experiencing difficulties parking their cars outside their houses.	The matter will be examined.
Application for grant assistance towards the erection of a monument in Thurles to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.	The request should be taken up with the Community & Enterprise Department which is co-ordinating proposals to commemorate the event in 2016.
Provision of additional cycle lanes in Thurles town under the Active Travel Towns Programme.	The majority of roads are too narrow for cycle lanes and proposals are being examined for wider streets.
Removal of graffiti from buildings in Thurles town - graffiti on a building in Stradavoher is particularly inappropriate for children.	The Council is only responsible for removal of graffiti from public areas.
Invitation to Fáilte Ireland to make a presentation to the Council on its policies to attract tourists to the District.	The request will be followed up.
The urgent need for a helipad at the Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles: the helicopter was required recently to transfer a patient.	Representations will be forwarded to the Minister for Health/HSE West.
Opening of a tourist office in Castle Street, Roscrea on 10th. April, 2015.	The announcement was warmly welcomed.
Proposal to introduce a prohibition on the burning of bituminous coal in the District as it causes serious damage to the environment.	The proposal was endorsed by the Members.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 22nd. April, 2015.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 22nd. April, 2015.