



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE LIBRARY OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 26th. NOVEMBER, 2014.**

**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.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.

**Former Templemore Town Councillors.**

The Cathaoirleach commended the decision of the former Templemore Town Councillors to explore the formation of a Community Group to liaise and work with the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District for the betterment of the town. He indicated that the Municipal District may be asked to receive a deputation from the Group prior to the January Monthly Meeting.

The Members noted the position.

Councillor J. Hogan cautioned that careful consideration should be given to requests for Deputations as otherwise the situation may become unmanageable.

**Receptions.**

It was proposed by Councillor W. Kennedy, seconded by Councillor J. Hogan and resolved:

"That a Municipal Reception be held to honour the Borrisoleigh Scor na nÓg team on winning the All Ireland Scor na nÓg 2014 Léiriú title and the Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré Senior Hurling Team on winning the All Ireland title."

It was agreed that the receptions be held after the December Municipal District Monthly Meeting.

26th. November, 2014.



### **Standing Orders Committee.**

The Cathaoirleach proposed the setting up of a Standing Orders Committee to formulate rules / guidelines for Municipal Receptions and other matters.

It was unanimously agreed that the following Members would act on the Committee:

Councillor S. Hanafin  
Councillor J. Hogan  
Councillor M. Lowry

It was noted that the Cathaoirleach is ex-officio a member of all committees.

#### **1. Adoption of Minutes.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District which was held on Wednesday 22nd. October, 2014 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the meeting."

#### **Matters arising:**

Item	Response
Delay in upgrading the public lights at Bohervaroon, Thurles.	Airtricity are due to commence the work next week. The existing lights are being upgraded.
Delay in repairing the public lights at Mary Willies and in Moyne Village which have been out of order for many months.	The fault at Mary Willies is being repaired and the lights should be functioning before Christmas. The faulty lights in Moyne Village will be referred to Airtricity for attention.
Dangerous yew trees in Rahealty Burial Ground overhanging adjoining land - poisonous to animals.	The matter will be referred to the Environment Section for investigation.
Removal of a sign re. the number of people killed on the roads in County Offaly which has been dumped at Mary Willies.	The matter will receive attention.
Repair of road at Ballycamas which was damaged by a burst watermain - the road was improved by the residents under a Community Involvement Scheme.	The Water Services Section have accepted responsibility for the repair of the road. There is an issue with the condition of the watermain.



Ambulance Service in Thurles - a second ambulance should be based in the Town.	The matter will be referred to the National Ambulance Service for consideration.
Erection of "Drive Slowly" signs in Garranroe lane.	The Council does not erect such signs.
Junction at Moycarkey.	A Yield Right of Way sign has been erected at this junction.
Faulty public lights at Carraig Dún, Thurles.	The complaints will be referred to Airtricity for attention.
Addition funding of €200,000.00 for the repair of roads in the Gortnahoe and Clogher areas.	Members welcomed the announcement at the Budget Meeting but expressed the view that the allocation will not be adequate to undertake all the repairs which are required.
Allocation of €2m. included in 2015 Budget from Development Levies for the repair/improvement of regional and local roads.	The Roads Section will be asked to confirm the allocation for roads in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.
Flooding at Galbertstown - every effort should be made to keep the road passable pending the identification of a permanent solution e.g. the installation of a pump.	The use of a submersible pump is not feasible due to the topography of the area. The Council are endeavouring to come up with a solution.
Text Alert System - the mobile phone charges are being increased to an unsustainable level.	The matter will be taken up with the Gardai and the Department of Justice.
Roscrea Enhancement Plan - clarification on the Architectural Plan which was mentioned at the Budget Meeting.	The Planning Section will be requested to clarify the position.
Flooding on the Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore between Abbey Furniture and Clarke's Hardware.	The matter will be referred to the Engineer for investigation.
Implementation of safety measures on Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh outside the two schools.	The Engineer has had discussions with the Principals of the Schools. Most of the problems are caused by parents dropping off children.

#### **Layout Plan for site at Glencarraig, Roscrea.**

It was agreed at the September Monthly Meeting that a Master Plan be prepared for the Council owned land at Glencarraig and brought back to the Members for consideration.



The Cathaoirleach welcomed Aidan Fennessy, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section to the Meeting. Aidan Fennessy apologised for the absence of Clare Curley, Director of Services who had to attend the launch of the Housing Strategy by the Minister.

Aidan Fennessy advised the Members that:

- It was agreed at the September Municipal District Meeting that a Master Plan be prepared for the Council owned land at the Glencarraig Estate, Roscrea.
- A layout plan has been prepared for 10 houses (8 three bedroom houses and 2 four bedroom houses) for which funding is available.
- A layout plan for the entire Council owned site provides for 30 houses (22 three bedroom houses and 8 four bedroom houses).
- The Council is satisfied that the issues regarding the water services on the site can be resolved.
- Land is being set aside for amenity purposes.
- The Minister for the Environment is announcing a Housing Strategy today which will put the building of social houses at the top of the Agenda and the Department will be looking for sites which are ready to go.

Members expressed reservations with the plans presented. It was pointed out that:

- The plans did not include an alternative access to the N62 Templemore Road as agreed in the resolution unanimously adopted by them.
- The deficiencies identified in the water services have not been dealt with.
- The concerns of the existing residents have not been addressed.

Aidan Fennessy advised that:

- It was not feasible for the Council to prepare a layout plan with an alternative access to the N62 Templemore Road as it involved land in the ownership of a third party.
- The Council is satisfied that the water services and other planning issues can be resolved.
- The Planning Permission provides for a total of 64 houses whereas the current proposal is for a maximum of 30 houses.
- It is proposed to submit both layout plans to the Department for their observations and to initiate the public consultation process under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 - 2014.

#### **Other issues raised.**

Aidan Fennessy responded to the following issues raised by Members:



Item raised	Response
Support for small local builders - the current pre-qualifying tender process rules out most small builders as they do not have sufficient annual turn-over.	The Council must comply with the national rules for public procurement.
Illegally parked caravans at Turtulla.	One caravan was removed and the remaining caravans are occupied by people who require alternative accommodation.
Delay in repairing the fire damaged house at Mitchel Street, Thurles - the hoarding erected forces pedestrians to walk onto the road.	Plans are being prepared for the refurbishment of the house.
Faulty public lighting in the Derrynaflan Housing Estate, Littleton.	The complaint will be investigated.

#### **Notice of Motion 6(a).**

It was agreed to take the Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Smith relating to housing at this stage of the Meeting.

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

"I am calling on the Municipal District Members to engage with the voluntary organisation Respond with the view to purchasing 12 houses at Ros na Cronan Estate, Ashbury, Roscrea."

Councillor Smith indicated that the 12 houses at Ashbury, Roscrea had come back on the market and that the purchase of the houses by Respond would result in 12 additional social houses being available in Roscrea.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor D. Doran and supported by other Members.

The Meetings Administrator read the following response to the Notice of Motion as follows:

Tipperary County Council has received no submission from Respond. Members are advised that any submission from Respond or any other approved housing body would have to be in compliance with Department rules and guidance for such projects covering issues such as:

- Design Costings and Specifications.
- Procurement Compliance.
- Appraisal and Evaluation.



- Compliance with Capital Works Framework.
- Public Spending Code Compliance.

Aidan Fennessy confirmed that he had spoken with Respond some time ago but they had not made any formal submission to the Council. He pointed out that, as set out in the response, a detailed application is required before a decision can be made.

The Members noted the position.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Aidan Fennessy for his attendance and Mr. Fennessy left the Chamber.

## **2 Fix a Date and Venue for the December Monthly Meeting.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the December Monthly Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24th. December, 2014 i.e. Christmas Eve. He also pointed out that it was agreed to hold the December Meeting in Roscrea.

It was proposed by Councillor D. Doran, seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:-

"That the December 2014 Monthly Meeting of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be held on Wednesday 17th. December, 2014 at 4.00 pm in the Damer House, Castle Street, Roscrea if available or alternatively in the Regional Training Centre, Monastery Road, Roscrea."

## **3 Community & Enterprise Function.**

Attracta Lyons, Economic Development Officer, Community & Enterprise Department was in attendance for this item.

The Cathaoirleach & Members welcomed Attracta Lyons to the Meeting.

Attracta Lyons in the course of her presentation:

- outlined the functional areas of the Community & Enterprise Department as follows:
  - Economic Development
  - Local Enterprise Office
  - Community Development.
  - Heritage Services
  - Arts Services
  - Museum Services
  - Childcare Services
  - Sports Partnership
  - Strategic Projects Unit



- gave a summary of the activities under each area.
- outlined aspects of the 2014 Work Programme.
- outlined upcoming strategies, policies and plans relating to the work of the Department for 2015.
- outlined staff responsible for the functional areas.

Members made the following points in response to the presentation:

- The Retail and Mentoring Initiatives are very successful and worthwhile.
- The IRFU should be asked to establish a programme for young people similar to the one promoted by the FAI for soccer.
- Community Tourism should be developed and promoted - the Durlas Eliogarty Memorial Committee are forging links with South Korea.
- The Government or Local Authority cannot create jobs but can create a favourable environment for same - there are now 10 businesses operating from the Thurles Chamber Enterprise Centre on the LIT Tipperary campus.
- A Deputation from the 'Hidden Tipperary' Tourism Group sought financial support towards the cost of publishing a brochure to market their product.
- The establishment of one Tourism Company for the County is a positive step.
- Child Care & Participation in Sport are huge areas which need to be developed and supported.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Attracta Lyons for her presentation and Ms. Lyons left the Chamber.

#### **4 Update on 2014 Roadworks Programme.**

The District Engineer circulated an update on the 2014 Roadworks Programme for the District and the contents were noted by the Members.

##### Matters Arising.

Item raised	Response
Lights at the pedestrian crossing at Parnell Street, Thurles out of order.	The complaint will receive attention.
Dangerous situation on the approaches to the Railway bridges at Graigue and Cloughmartin.	Repairs to the bridges are the responsibility of Iarnród Éireann and the matter has been referred to the company for attention.
Poor condition of the road surface at Longfordpass East and through Grange to the Kilkenny boundary.	The improvement of these roads will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.
Aughall Bridge, Templemore.	The matter will receive attention.





Railway bridge, Templemore - lights at the Railway Station dazzle drivers.	The situation will be examined.
Cloone Cross - the Stop sign is obscured.	The complaint will receive attention.
Condition of the Island at Ballymoreen Graveyard.	Repairs will be carried out in the coming weeks.
Repair of lanes at Laha and Ballysorell.	The request will be referred to the Engineer for attention.
Parnell Street / Cuchulainn Road Improvements.	Work on Parnell Street will be carried out in January 2015. Resurfacing of Cuchulainn Road may be carried out next week as the Jimmy Doyle Road provides an alternative route.
Introduction of a weight restriction on Cuchulainn Road.	The situation will be reviewed on completion of the Improvement Works.
Resurfacing of the road from the LIT Tipperary Roundabout to Stakelums.	The resurfacing of this road will require a special allocation due to the high cost.
Repair of Inchirourke lane.	The request will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.
Resolution of the flooding problem at the Horse & Jockey.	Remedial work will be completed before the end of the year.
New Line Road, Roscrea.	The road will be considered for inclusion in the 2015 Roadworks Programme.
Provision of a continuous white line on the Borrisoleigh Road, Templemore from the Abbey Furniture entrance to Thurles Road Junction.	The situation will be examined.
Low Cost Safety Scheme at Monastery Road, Roscrea - the Council did not avail of the offer from the adjoining landowner to cede land free of charge to improve the sightline.	The matter will be clarified.
Risk of flooding at The Mall, Templemore - debris should be cleaned from the River.	The matter will be referred to the Engineer for attention.
Faulty lights at the Pedestrian Crossing, Mary Street, Templemore.	The lights will be repaired as soon as possible.
Poor condition of footpaths in Thurles Town - footpaths throughout the town require dishing to aid pedestrians with mobility problems.	Footpath repairs including dishing are carried out on an ongoing basis as required subject to the availability of funding.





## 5 Update on Special Projects.

Members noted the following update on Special Projects:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Current Position</u>
<u>Thurles Town Park.</u>	A Contract has been awarded and the Contractor is due to commence on site in early January. The District Director advised that, as the Town Park is being developed on an area subject to flooding, it will flood on occasions.
<u>Repair of Thurles Swimming Pool.</u>	The Contractor has commenced work on clearing the damaged tiles. It is hoped that the pool will be re-opened by the end of January, 2015.
<u>Extension to Templemore Town Park.</u>	The Council will liaise with the local committee following the appointment of a design team for the Town Park in early 2015.
<u>Liberty Square Thurles Refurbishment Scheme.</u>	A meeting has been arranged with the Design Team to review the plans.

## 6 Notices of Motion.

### **6(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Smith.**

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Smith was considered earlier in the Meeting.

### **6(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W. Kennedy.**

It was agreed, at the request of Councillor W. Kennedy, to adjourn consideration of the following Notice of Motion in his name to the December Monthly Meeting.

"That this Council erect a warning sign on the road leading to the Old Graveyard in Inch, warning of people walking in the area. This is now a recognised walking route in the area"

### **Notices of Motion 6(c) and 6(i)**

It was agreed to take the following Notices of Motion relating to flooding in Borrisoleigh in the names of W. Kennedy and J. Ryan together.



---

**6(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W. Kennedy.**

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

"That this Council examine the river, and particularly the bridges, downstream of Borrisoleigh to ensure there are no obstructions that could cause further flooding in the village"

**6(i) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

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

"I am calling on this Council to immediately resolve the flooding problems at Chapel Street in Borrisoleigh"

It was pointed out that the flooding caused serious distress to residents and business owners in Borrisoleigh and that the capacity of the bridge in Chapel Street needs to be assessed. The role of the Office of Public Works in relation to drainage works was also raised.

The District Engineer responded that the Engineer is currently surveying the river and bridges in the area and will report in due courses on remedial measures which might be undertaken.

**6(d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Cahill.**

Councillor J. Cahill indicated that he wished to withdraw the following Notice of Motion in his name.

"That this Council provide a water connection for Ballycahill Graveyard".

The Council noted the position.

**6(e) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Cahill.**

Councillor J. Cahill formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Council provide a roundabout at Killinan Cross which is essential due to the large volume of traffic, businesses in the vicinity and the large number of residential houses in the area."



Councillor Cahill expressed the view that the Killinan junction is very dangerous with vehicles on the Thurles / Nenagh Road travelling very fast. He added that the County Council were advised at the Budget Meeting of an application to the NRA to designate the R498 a strategic route which would increase funding for its upgrading.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Cahill's comments.

The District Engineer advised that the Council surveyed the junction a few years ago and that improvements to the sightline and configuration of the junction are necessary. He indicated that, as the cost of completing the improvements would be significant, an application for a special allocation was submitted to the Department.

#### **6(f) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Cahill.**

Councillor J. Cahill formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Council provide signage at Drish Bridge in order to avoid accidents which is a major worry for residents turning at this junction."

Councillor Cahill indicated that he had been approached by residents who are very fearful of being hit from behind, by vehicles travelling at speed, when stopped to turn right at Drish Bridge.

Other Members endorsed Councillor Cahill's comments.

The District Engineer responded as follows:

The danger for vehicles turning at Drish Bridge to Tonagha is acknowledged. It is proposed to erect type 2 junction signage (similar to the signage at Turtulla) on the approach to Drish Bridge at an early date. The bollards at the junction have been resited.

#### **6(g) Notices of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Hanafin.**

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

"Given that Thurles has been allocated €510,000 under the Active Travel Towns Programme of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, I am requesting that this funding be used to upgrade Footpaths and Lighting and Road Markings at Castlemeadows, Parnell Street, Cuchulainn Road, Templemore Road, Slievenamon



Road and Clongour(out to Rosemount). And also, that works be carried out to the road verge from Turtulla Cross to the Mill Road at the Glebe with appropriate road markings applied to make that route safer for pedestrians."

Councillor Hanafin pointed out that the motion is self-explanatory - an allocation of €510,000.00 was made to Tipperary County Council under the Active Travel Towns Programme and should be spent. He pointed out that the areas listed by him in the motion are very popular walking routes which are used by large numbers of pedestrians on a daily basis.

The Meetings Administrator read the following response to the Motion :

A Walking and Cycling Strategy for Thurles was prepared by Roadplan Consulting Limited in 2012 and Dermot Donovan, Roadplan presented the Plan to the Area and Town Councillors at a joint meeting on the 26th. June, 2013. An allocation of €510,000.00 under the Active Travel Towns Programme was made to the County Council in April 2014 and this funding must be spent by April, 2016. There has been a delay due to the death of the Engineer but discussions have taken place with the Department with a view to progressing the schemes in 2015. The Council are required to put in place methodologies for the evaluation and measurement of travel patterns and model shift to smarter travel which will ultimately measure the success of the investment made in Active Travel Towns.

#### **Notices of Motion 6(h) and 6(n).**

It was agreed to take Motions 6(h) and 6(n), relating to free parking at Christmas, together.

#### **6(h) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Lowry.**

Councillor M. Lowry formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Council commit to the continuation of free parking during the Christmas shopping period for the towns of Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea."

#### **6(n) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.**

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

"I am calling on this Municipal District Council to ensure that we have free parking in our towns namely Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea on the three Saturdays before Christmas."



The Meeting Administrator confirmed that there will be free parking in Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles on the 4 Saturdays in December 2014 i.e. free parking in the carparks in Roscrea and Thurles and free parking on the Square and streets in Templemore.

**6(i) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan was considered earlier in the Meeting.

**6(j) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

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

"I am calling on this Council to immediately resolve the flooding problems at meals on wheels in Stradavoher."

Councillor Ryan pointed out that there is flooding at this location on an ongoing basis after heavy rainfall which causes problems for local residents and pedestrians. He urged the Council to come up with a permanent solution.

The District Engineer advised that the problem was resolved on the 29th. October, 2014. He indicated that the sewers were jetted and that a significant amount of grit and other waste material was removed from the pipeline.

**6(k) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan.**

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

"I am asking this Council to initiate the process of cutting back all overgrown trees that are blocking street lights or those in a dangerous position in all the urban areas of the Thurles/Roscrea Municipal District."

Councillor Ryan stated that he had received numerous complaints from residents about trees blocking lights and also interfering with sightlines at junctions.

Councillor Cahill indicated that he had received similar complaints.

The Meetings Administrator read the following response to the Notice of Motion:

There is no specific budget allocation for cutting back / pruning trees - it is included under Open Space Maintenance. Trees are pruned on an ongoing basis as required



and subject to the availability of funding. Trees in private estates were looked after by residents associations as part of the upkeep of estate which was grant aided by the Town Council.

**6(l) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor W. Kennedy.**

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

"That this Council immediately reverse the decision to let the Council temporary workers go in the light of the recent adverse weather and the huge damage that has been done to roads, bridges etc and the damage caused by flooding."

**6(m) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor M. Lowry.**

Councillor M. Lowry formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That this Council provide up to date figures on the total number of permanent outdoor council staff in the Municipal District, the location of these staff within the area, the total number of temporary staff that have been let go in recent weeks and how the Council plan to ensure continuity of service with the current staff number having regard to this reduction in outdoor staff."

Members pointed out that the recent adverse weather conditions which resulted in severe flooding throughout the District demonstrated the urgency of retaining the temporary staff. It was also suggested that it would be very beneficial if employees resided in the area in which they are based but it was acknowledged that this may not be possible due to public recruitment rules.

The Meeting Administrator read the following response to the Notice of Motion:

At Monday's Budget Meeting of the County Council, the Members were advised that there is a concern with regard to the permanent outdoor staffing levels in some of the districts. To this end discussions have commenced with department personnel with a view to receiving sanction to permanentise a number of these temporary posts. It is anticipated that progress with regard to same will be made in the near future and the process of filling the sanctioned posts will take place during the first quarter of 2015.

**6(n) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.**

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran was considered earlier in the meeting.



**7 Correspondence.**

**(a) Christmas Lights.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the official 'switch on' of the Christmas lights in Thurles will take place at Lower Liberty Square on Thursday 4th. December, 2014 at 5.15pm.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the Christmas lights will be provided in Templemore on the same basis as last year. He also indicated that the Chamber of Commerce are arranging for the erection of Christmas lights in Roscrea.

**(b) Dissolution of the Goul Joint Drainage Committee.**

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Goul Joint Drainage Committee which involves Kilkenny, Laois and Tipperary County Councils is being dissolved with effect from 1st. January, 2015. He explained that, from 1st. January, 2015, the functions currently performed by the Committee will be exercised directly by each County Council in respect of that part of the District which is within its area.

The Members noted the position.

**8 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

The Cathaoirleach and Members extended good wishes to Archbishop Dermot Clifford on his retirement as Archbishop of Cashel & Emly and congratulated Bishop Kieran O'Reilly on his appointment as Archbishop.

**9 Any Other Business.**

Issue	Response
Proposal by the Revenue Commissioners to close the public office at Stradavoher, Thurles.	Representations will be made to the Revenue Commissioners indicating the Members' opposition to the proposal.

**THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

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

**DATE: 17th. December, 2014.**

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**MEETING ADMINISTRATOR**

**DATE: 17th. December, 2014.**