



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, SLIEVENAMON ROAD, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY, 28th OCTOBER, 2015.

Present: Councillor John Hogan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

Matt Shortt	District Director.
Ruairi Boland B.E.	District Engineer.
Michael Ryan	Meetings Administrator.
Deirdre O'Shea	Staff Officer.

Apologies:

John Jones B.E.	Executive Engineer.
Michael Tierney B.E.	Executive Engineer.

(a) Votes of Congratulations.

The Cathaoirleach and Members congratulated Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club and Clonakenny GAA Club on winning the County Senior and Intermediate Hurling Finals on Sunday.

(b) Votes of Sympathy.

Votes of Sympathy were passed with the following:-

- Ms. Aileen Healy, County Childcare Committee on the death of her father, Mr. Jimmy Leahy.
- The Mockler family on the death of Mr. Bobby Mockler, a former Rate Collector.

(c) Thurles Town Park.

Councillor S. Hanafin referred to the opening of the Town Park in Thurles which he described as a magnificent facility and integrates very effectively with The Source and Leisure Centre. He paid tribute to the Members and Executive of Thurles Town Council who, in 2003, decided to create a fund for projects such as the Leisure Centre, The Source and the Town Park.



He also acknowledged the contribution of St. Patrick's College who owned the land on which the Town Park is constructed.

The other Members endorsed his comments.

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of a Special Meeting which was held on the 15th. September, 2015 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Consideration of the Draft Budgetary Plan (including the GMA) for the Municipal District.

Copy of the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 together with an explanatory note prepared by the Head of Finance were circulated with the Agenda in compliance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance, outlined the three stage process to the Budget as follows:

- The GMA which sets out the discretionary funding that is allocated to each Municipal District.
- The preparation of the local authority budget which will be considered at the Statutory Budget Meeting on 20th. November, 2015.
- The preparation / compilation of a Schedule of Municipal District Works after the 2016 Budget has been adopted which will be presented to the Municipal Districts in early 2016.

It was noted that the total GMA in 2016 for the County is €500,000 which is in line with 2015 and is allocated to the Districts based on the 2011 Census as set out hereunder:

	Population as per the 2011 Census	Allocation of the GMA based on 2011 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	21,827	€68,745
Clonmel Borough District	36,569	€115,175
Cashel-Tipperary Municipal District	27,549	€86,766



Nenagh Municipal District	37,442	€117,925
Templemore-Thurles Municipal District	35,367	€111,389
TOTAL	158,754	€500,000

The Members highlighted the following items:-

- There is no provision in the 2016 Draft Budget for public lighting improvements in the Municipal District.
- The need to replace the communal septic tank serving houses at The Rock, Ballycahill.
- Provision of traffic calming measures in certain villages where speeding occurs / is prevalent.
- Erection of flashing speed display signs near schools in rural areas.
- Creation of a fund in order to provide assistance to communities involved in organising festivals / events.
- Erection of "No Dumping" signs in burial grounds.
- Provision of financial assistance to groups organising events to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

The District Administrator pointed out that there will be a significant increase in expenditure on public lighting in the coming years as a result of the Council taking estates in charge. He added that improvements / additions to public lighting would increase expenditure and require savings to be identified in other areas of the Budget.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved:

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, we, the Members of Templemore-Thurles Municipal District, hereby adopt the overall Draft Budgetary Plan 2016 providing for an expenditure of €111,389.00 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

It was agreed that a meeting will be held to discuss the allocation of the GMA on completion of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

3. Draft Polling Scheme for County Tipperary.

A draft Polling Scheme for County Tipperary was circulated with the Agenda.

The District Administrator explained that it was necessary to prepare a new Polling Scheme due to the merger of North and South Tipperary County Councils. He



indicated that, due to the closure of Fantane School, the booth is being transferred to St. Cualán's National School in Borrisoleigh.

Members pointed out that there are anomalies in the allocation of electors to particular polling booths under the current scheme.

It was noted that the Scheme is currently on public display and submissions made to the County Council on or before Monday 30th. November, 2015 will be considered.

4. **Housing Service.**

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Aidan Fennessey, Acting Director of Services for Housing, Séan Lonergan, Senior Staff Officer and Michéle Maher, Senior Staff Officer to the Meeting.

An Explanatory Memorandum on the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) which was rolled out in Tipperary on 29th. June, 2015, was circulated at the Meeting.

Séan Lonergan outlined the main points of the Scheme and he responded to Members' queries as follows:-

- Households that qualify for Social Housing Support will be eligible to apply for HAP which has replaced rent supplement.
- All existing rent supplement recipients will transfer to HAP over a three year period.
- It is a matter for the applicant to source suitable accommodation that meets their housing needs.
- HAP recipients are permitted to take up full time employment.
- Applicants are required to pay a rent contribution to the Council which is calculated in accordance with the Differential Rent Scheme.
- The Council pays the monthly rent to the landlord electronically unlike the rent supplement which is paid directly to the tenant.
- Landlords are given advance notice, in writing, where a tenant is failing to pay the rent contribution to the Council and there has been no cancellation of rent payments to landlords to date in the 15 local authorities currently operating the Scheme.
- HAP recipients can apply for a transfer to other forms of social housing support i.e. traditional council housing, ras, long term leasing.
- Tipperary has transferred the highest number of applicants to HAP outside of the 5 largest housing authorities in the country. A total of 110 applicants have transferred to date and 30 are located in this District.



A report on Housing Capital Projects for the District was circulated at the Meeting.

Aidan Fennessey confirmed the following:-

- Efforts are being made to resolve access issues to the site at Glencarrick, Roscrea.
- Refurbishment works have commenced on the vacant houses in Lacey Avenue, Templemore.
- An Architect is being procured to prepare plans and specification for the demolition and reconstruction of Nos 23 and 24 Gortataggart, Thurles and the refurbishment of 2 Athlomen Terrace, Mitchel Street, Thurles.
- It is proposed to accept a tender for the traveller accommodation at Cabra Bridge, Thurles and to proceed to construction stage.
- The local authority has made a submission to the Department for funding to refurbish derelict Council houses.
- Approval has been given by the Department to construct 55 units in various locations in the County which will take a considerable time to complete.
- Priority was given this year to the purchase of units for social housing due to the quick turnaround period and 10 units are in the process of being acquired to date in the District.

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

- The Housing Capital Allocation 2015 to 2017 amounts to €57.1m and this will be expended on housing construction (€7.7m). Capital Assistance Scheme (€3.6m), Long Term Leasing, RAS, HAP, acquisitions and voids.
- A total of 440 social housing units have been provided to date this year in the County through the following means:-
 - 140 Voids
 - 140 RAS / Leasing
 - 50 Purchases
 - 110 HAP
- Approximately €2m has been expended to date on house purchases.
- A submission has been made to the Department to construct houses in Templetuohy Village.
- There were genuine reasons for not proceeding with the purchase of units offered by NAMA i.e. insufficient housing demand in some areas / non-compliance with building sustainable communities in other locations.
- The issue in regard to the caravans at Turtulla Bridge should be resolved in the next 3 months.



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

5. **To consider and adopt a Statement on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) in terms of consistency with the County Development Plan and the existing Regional Planning Guidelines for consideration by the SPC for Economic Development and the Local Community Development Committee LCDC and the County Council.**

Ann Ryan, Community & Enterprise Officer, Community & Economic Development Section, confirmed that she was in attendance for this item as Attracta Lyons, Economic Development Officer was unavoidably absent.

Copy of a Presentation on the Draft County Tipperary Local Economic & Community Plan 2015 - 2020 was circulated at the Meeting.

Ann outlined the process involved in the preparation, consideration and adoption of the Plan and its main elements. She advised that any issues raised at the Meeting will be referred to the appropriate committees/structures for consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor M. Lowry and resolved:-

"That the Statement on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2015 - 2020 in terms of consistency with the County Development Plan and the existing Regional Planning Guidelines for consideration by the SPC for Economic Development, the Local Community Development Committee and County Council be and is hereby adopted."

The Cathaoirleach thanked Ann for her Presentation and she left the Chamber.

6. **Nomination to the Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit.**

The District Administrator advised that, at the October Meeting of the County Council, it was decided each Municipal District is to nominate a representative to the Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit.

It was proposed by Councillor J. Bourke, seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:-

"That the Cathaoirleach be nominated / elected to the Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit."

7. **Adoption of Bye-Laws for the Use, Operation, Protection, Reputation and Management of the Thurles Town Park.**



The District Administrator informed the Members that:-

- Draft Bye-Laws have been prepared for the use, operation, protection, reputation and management of the Thurles Town Park.
- An advertisement will be published in the Tipperary Star next week advising that the Draft Bye-laws are on public display for a period of 6 weeks followed by a 2 week period for submissions / observations.
- The adoption of the bye-laws with / without amendments is a reserved function.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor J. Cahill and resolved:-

"That Notice be given of the Draft Bye-Laws for the Use, Operation, Protection, Reputation and Management of the Thurles Town Park being put on public display in compliance with Section 199 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

8. Update on 2015 Work Programmes.

The District Engineer confirmed that the 2015 Roadworks Programme is substantially complete.

Members raised the following matters:-

Item	Response
Upgrading of the footpaths on Slievenamon Road, Thurles when the pavement strengthening takes place.	The Roads Section will be asked to refer the request to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
Advisability of delaying the resurfacing works on Killinan Road, Thurles until early 2016.	The proposed commencement date will be reviewed.
The barrier at the dedicated Garda lay-by between Junctions 22 and 23 on the M7 - it is being left open and road users continue to throw litter into the adjoining field	The matter will be taken up again with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
Horses being tethered on grassed areas adjacent to flyovers on the motorways in the Municipal District.	The complaint will be followed up with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).
Complaints from motorists that the surface on the flyover at the Horse & Jockey is in a slippery condition on an ongoing basis.	The issue has been referred to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).



Illegally parked caravans in the area adjacent to the junction for the M8 near the Horse & Jockey.	The complaint will be referred to the Housing Section.
Cloone Cross, Templemore - poor visibility, signage is overgrown with weeds and located too close to the junction.	The complaint will be investigated.
Renewal of the box junction outside Pouldine National School.	The matter will receive attention.
Failure of Irish Rail to effect the necessary repairs to Graigue Bridge, Thurles.	The District Engineer will make further contact with Irish Rail.
Repairs at Aughall Bridge, Templemore which is in a dangerous condition.	A report on the bridge will be prepared with a view to securing funding.
Repair of the boundary wall at Templemore Town Park on the Dunkerrin Road.	Quotations have been sought from competent contractors to undertake the works.
Poor condition of the footpath opposite Ken Ryan's pub in Holycross.	The repair of this footpath will be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Roadworks Programme.
Flooding problem at St. Bridget's Terrace, Littleton.	The issue will be dealt with in conjunction with the completion of footpath improvements under the Village Enhancement Works.

9. Update on Projects.

Thurles Town Park.

The Town Park opened to the public on Wednesday, 14th. October, 2015 and is proving to be very popular.

Liberty Square
Refurbishment and
development of a
carpark.

The Part 8 Plans and Specification are nearing completion and the Part 8 Process will commence shortly. It is expected that construction will commence late next year.

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

Work is progressing well on site and is scheduled for completion in December 2016.



Repairs / Improvements
to Templemore Town
Hall

It is proposed to engage a Contractor to undertake essential works to the roof and barges in the coming months. Discussions regarding the future use of the Town Hall are ongoing.

Templemore Town Park
Extension.

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

Village Enhancement
Works.

Footpath improvements in Borrissleigh, Littleton and Templetuohy, which are being funded from the General Municipal Allocation, are in progress.

Roscrea Enhancement
Scheme.

A Design Team will be engaged to prepare detailed plans for the Enhancement Scheme as soon as possible.

Carpark at St. Patrick's
Cemetery.

A draft layout plan for the carpark has been completed. Detailed plans and specification for the Part 8 Process will be prepared in-house when the technical staff become available.

2015 Painting Scheme.

Work under the Scheme had to be completed by 16th. October, 2015 and receipts submitted by 30th. October, 2015. Allocations to applicants will be paid in the coming weeks.

Matters arising.

The following matters were raised:

- The closing date for submission of receipts under the 2015 Painting Scheme should be extended - there was no objection to the request.
- The current position in regard to the provision of a playground in Kennedy Park, Roscrea - there was no funding allocated for the project this year.
- Thurles Town Park - provision of dog waste bins, more detailed signage on the use of the Skateboard Park, powerpoint at the Bandstand and canopy from the disused building for musical events when it is being refurbished - dogs other than dogs which are used solely for the convenience of disabled persons are not allowed into the Park.



- Developing a cross country course on the additional land purchased for Templemore Town Park should be considered.
- The swimming pool site in Templemore Town Park - the area should be filled in and landscaped when funding becomes available.

10. Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.

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

"I am calling on this Council to install a flashing speed display sign at Rahealty School in order to slow down traffic at this location."

Councillor D. Doran pointed out that the Motion is self explanatory and that the current signage is not effective in slowing down traffic. He added that there is also a very active Community Centre adjoining the school.

Councillor J. Ryan seconded the Motion and there was broad support from the Members to the request.

The District Engineer advised that he is awaiting the delivery of a mobile speed camera and that it will be sited at Rahealty and in other problematic areas in the District to monitor speed. He also undertook to improve the existing road signage at the location.

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

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

"I wish to call on the Council to carry out immediate repairs to the footpath leading from the main road at Bouladuff, The Ragg to the local church. Parts of this footpath are in a dangerous condition at present".

Councillor S. Hanafin seconded the Motion.

The District Engineer advised that the footpath improvements at this location will be considered under the 2016 Roadworks Programme and he undertook to carry out minor repairs within the budget constraints.



11. Correspondence.

i. Request from Roscrea Chamber of Commerce for the County Council to assume responsibility for the provision and erection of Christmas Lighting in Roscrea town.

The District Administrator confirmed, in reply to a query from Councillor M. Smith, that Roscrea Chamber of Commerce have been advised that there is no funding in the 2015 Budget for the provision and erection of Christmas lighting in Roscrea.

The following points were made:-

- There is a concern that the contribution of €10,000 given to Roscrea Chamber of Commerce in other years from the Capital Account will not be available as it is linked to the revenue generated from pay parking which is significantly reduced and only meeting operating costs of the parking system.
- The budget for Christmas lighting is unfairly distributed with Roscrea and other villages in the District losing out.
- The standard of Christmas lighting in Thurles needs to be retained as it was always provided for by the former Town Council.

The District Administrator confirmed that no alterations can be made to the 2015 Budget and that the Council can consider the issues raised in the context of the 2016 Budget.

The District Director referred to the enormous task of merging 10 authorities into one Council and agreed that there are anomalies in the system that need to be addressed.

12. Any Other Business.

Issue	Response
Urgent need to cut back growth at the junction near Jimmy Hennessys on the Templemore - Thurles Road as it is interfering with sight lines.	The complaint will receive attention.
Increase in crime throughout the District - Members should discuss the feasibility of providing CCTV cameras at strategic locations.	The matter can be included as an item on the Agenda for the next meeting.
Ballycahill Village - the issues raised in the Tidy Towns Report need to be addressed.	The recommendations in the Report will be considered in the context of the available funding under the 2016 Road Maintenance Budget.



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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Removal of tree from the River Suir at Butler's Island, Thurles.	The removal of the tree will be difficult due to the River level.
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THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 25th. November, 2015.

SIGNED: _____
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 25th. November, 2015.

28th. October, 2015.