



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2018

Present: Councillor Seamus Hanafin, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Joe Bourke, David Doran, John Hogan, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith.

Also Present:

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

The Cathaoirleach suspended Standing Orders temporarily in order to facilitate a discussion with representatives from Bord na Móna on the closure of Littleton Briquette Factory.

1. Presentation by Bord na Móna.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Ms. Geraldine Lynch, Mr Pat Ring and Mr Enda McDonagh to the Meeting and they outlined the following details regarding the imminent closure of the Littleton Briquette Factory :

- It was decided to close the Littleton factory due to the reduction in demand for peat briquettes.
- Production is scheduled to cease in Littleton on the 28th March, 2018.
- 130 staff will be impacted by the closure with an average age of 55 and the majority have 30 years service.
- There will be some employment on site after the closure to facilitate sales, site decommissioning and security.

The Members thanked the representatives from Bord na Móna for attending the Meeting and raised the following issues:



- Establish why the Littleton factory was selected for closure over the Offaly site and timeframe for the decommissioning phase.
- Clarify if the remaining jobs will be of a permanent nature.
- Future use of the factory and boglands going forward.
- Proposals to monitor and secure the vast area from dumping, anti-social behaviour and unauthorised occupation.
- The need for the formation of a liaison group between Bord na Móna and the Council which should be headed up by the District Director.
- The huge tourist potential of the site should be developed with consideration given to establishing an initiative similar to that at Lough Boora Discovery Park.
- The old railway line needs to be left in place due to its tourism/recreational potential.
- Lack of community engagement pertaining to the closure.
- Proposals for Dromard bog which has been idle for some years and has become a dumping ground.
- There is high expectations that Bord na Móna will put in place initiatives and programmes that will benefit the local community similar to Vedanta on the closure of the Lisheen Mine.
- Establish if there has been engagement with the Lisheen Site in the area of harnessing the potential development of biodiversity/bioenergy on the Bord na Mona sites.
- The poor redundancy packages that were offered to staff who have served the company for a long number of years.

The replies to the Members' queries were as follows:-

- Bord na Móna will continue to have a presence at the factory site and on the bogs well into the future and security measures will be put in place to monitor the sites from thereon.
- Significant decommissioning and removal of all infrastructure on the factory site and bogs will be undertaken in compliance with the terms of the EPA Licence.
- Contact has been made with the IDA regarding the future of the factory site and Bord na Móna is in the process of procuring for a property advisor to identify opportunities for the site.
- Bord na Móna actively works with community groups to develop tourism and recreational initiatives on their sites.
- Extensive negotiations have been undertaken with staff since the announcement of the closure and they will vote on a severance package this week.



- There is a litter action plan in place and Bord na Móna will continue to engage with the Litter Wardens in this area.
- The possibility of establishing a liaison group will be examined as the company recognises the need to drive the commercial, recreational and social values of the sites in the District.
- There are no proposals to extract peat again from Dromard Bog as it is a well established habitat area.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the representatives for their contributions and looked forward to their response to the possible establishment of a liaison group.

2. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the December Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20th December, 2017 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Update from Water Services Section.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed John Crowley, Senior Executive Engineer Water Services Section to the Meeting. Copies of a report on Water Services activities in the District were circulated at the Meeting and John outlined the following :

- The report should be read in conjunction with the most recent bi-monthly Management Report on Water Services presented to the Council at its Meeting in December, 2017.
- It is proposed to hold a further workshop with the Members in February, 2018 where Irish Water representatives will provide an update on water service issues in Tipperary and respond to any queries. The exact date will be agreed at the February Monthly Meeting of the full Council.
- Updates on the Irish Water Infrastructural Projects in the District.
- Irish Water has appointed Shareridge Ltd as contractor for the region and County Tipperary and it is envisaged that they will commence works in Quarter 1 2018.
- Details of the Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme some of which would have a countywide remit.



- Tipperary County Council retains responsibility for Rural Water Schemes and the Rural Water Committee met recently to review the Rural Water Programme 2017.
- The migration of non domestic water accounts to Irish water is complete and Irish Water will now issue bills and deal with queries.

The Members thanked John for his presentation and raised the following queries :

- The need to liaise with the District Engineer to ensure resurfacing at Slievenamon Road does not take place at the same time as works on Abbey Road, Thurles.
- Establish if the grading of estates is influencing the selection being referred to Irish Water for taking in charge.
- Investigate reports of poor water pressure in Roskeen, Drombane.
- Ensure the Contractor, undertaking works at Bohernamóna Road, Thurles, keeps the locals informed of works being undertaken.
- Timeframe for commencement of works on Abbey Road, Thurles.
- Establish why the water supply in Clongour/Monadeeen, Thurles is being turned off on a frequent basis between the hours of 8.00am and 9.00am.
- The effect the proposed works will have on the level of lime in the water in Thurles which is high.
- The availability of funding for the replacement of the mains pipes in Clonmore as there has been a number of fractures recently.
- Take up on the lead pipe replacement grants.

Responses to issues raised were as follows:-

- The issues regarding water pressure will be investigated.
- The Contractor appointed to undertake works at Bohernamóna Road, Thurles will be requested to give advance notice to the residents.
- Irish Water is aware of the urgency of works at Abbey Road, Thurles.
- It is not the policy of Irish Water to carry out water softening works and hard water has no detrimental effect on health.
- A comparison on the levels of lime will be taken on the existing and new supply and given to the Members.

The Cathaoirleach thanked John for his presentation and he left the Meeting.



4. Proposed Works Programmes for 2018.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Councillor E. Moran for attending the meeting with TII in his absence. Councillor E. Moran outlined his disappointment with responses issued by TII particularly in regard to the Suir Bridge, Thurles. He informed the Members that the Suir Bridge, N62 on the approach to Templemore and Turtulla Cross were all included in the TII 2 Year Plan and that Slievenamon Road would be done in 2018.

The Members also expressed their disappointment with the responses and raised a number of issues which need to be addressed by the TII.

Michael F. Hayes confirmed that there is frequent contact with the TII regarding the Suir Bridge and that the Council has impressed upon them the urgent need to undertake the required improvements without delay. He acknowledged the frustrations of the Members and undertook to continue to work with the TII to resolve the issues raised. He reiterated that the TII decide on what is priority.

It was agreed that John Nolan, Roads Section be invited to the next Meeting to update Members on Capital Roads Projects.

John Jones, Acting District Engineer advised the Members that:

- There has been an increase in the roads reconstruction Budget for 2018 and he will contact the Members to finalise and agree a Roadworks Programme for 2018 taking into consideration works already agreed under the 3 Year Plan.
- It is proposed to commence works under the Local Improvement Scheme and Community Involvement Scheme in the Summer provided that the local contributions are promptly paid.
- Improvements on roads in the three towns will commence in April 2018 and in rural areas in May 2018.
- There are five crews dealing with potholes in the District and Members can advise the technical staff of any problematic areas that are brought to their attention.
- The Members will be asked shortly to agree on a 3 Year Plan for the period 2019 - 2021.
- A list of roads etc badly damaged by the recent severe flooding event is being compiled for Roads Section for submission to the Department.

The Members raised the following issues:-



- The possibility of providing a list of the junctions located on National routes in the District.
- Insufficient staff on the ground to deal with the amount of works required as a result of consistent inclement weather conditions.
- The maintenance of inlets under current practices is not as effective as previous methods.
- Establish the number of patching units operating in the District.
- It would appear that the use of certain road materials is not proving very effective and consideration should be given to the use of alternative materials that will prove more cost effective in the long run.
- Poor condition of the road at Centenary Co Op, Ballyduff, Thurles.
- Carry out repairs to the footpath leading to Thurles Railway Station and on Mary Street, Templemore.
- Poor condition of the road at Templetuohy soccer field.
- Address the flooding issue at Garrenroe, Thurles.
- Update on the request for the provision of a roundabout at Killinan, Thurles.
- Poor condition of road surfaces in Thurles Town.
- Address the flooding issue at (i) Shanbally Cross, (ii) Archerstown Industrial Estate, (iii) Liam Campion's residence, Rossestown, Thurles.
- Undertake repairs to the bridge wall at Galboola, Thurles.
- Carry out repairs to lights at the pedestrian crossings in Littleton, Two Mile Borris and at Cathedral Street, Thurles.
- Provide reflectors at the junction at the Rectory, Ballybeg, Littleton.
- The footpath outside Littleton National School is in need of repair.
- The need for traffic calming measures on Butler Avenue, Innisfallen Avenue and Iona Avenue, Thurles.
- Re-instatement of the road markings from the Bridge to Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles.
- Resurface the road from Bohernacrusha to The Green, Holycross.
- Poor condition of the road at Roadstown, Drom.
- The provision of traffic calming at Inch National School.
- Inclusion of the road at New Line, Parkmore, Roscrea in the 2018 Roadworks Programme.
- Remove the evergreen trees inside the gates of St Josephs Old Cemetery, Templemore.
- Tend to the footpath at Carrolls Row, Roscrea.
- Relocate the E-Parking sign on the Roscrea Road, Templemore as it is affecting sightlines.
- Resurface the road from Knockagh to Drom Cross.
- Provide speed sign on the approach road to Loughmore from Thurles.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach
an Teampaill Mhóir-
Dhurlais, Ascaill an
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- Repair the wall at The Mall River, Templemore.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- There are two velocity patching units currently operating in the District and their use in the towns can be problematic due to splash back issues associated with tar.
- Consideration will be given to doing less roads but longer lengths under the Local Improvement Scheme and Community Involvement Scheme.
- The majority of the areas mentioned can be considered for inclusion in the Road Works Programme for the coming years.
- A decision on the application for safety improvements at Knock, Roscrea should issue by the end of January, 2018.

5. Update from Environment Section.

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Environment Section circulated a report detailing activity in the District in 2017 under the following headings:-

- Infrastructure and Maintenance.
- Community Services.
- Control of Dogs and Horses.
- Derelict Sites.
- Litter Waste Management Enforcement and Public Awareness Initiatives.
- Environment Protection and the number of complaints received and closed.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Marion for her report and raised the following issues :-

- The costs associated with running the Roscrea Civic Amenity Site and details of the proposed pricing structure being put in place. The income generated from Roscrea Civic Amenity Site should be retained by the District.
- A Civic Amenity site should be provided in Thurles by the Council or expressions of interest should be invited from people who may be interested in developing a site.
- Persistent problem with dogs in Littleton and illegal dumping at Liskeveen needs to be addressed.
- Removal of rubbish from a vacant Council house in Two-Mile-Borris.

24th. January, 2018.



- The need for the establishment of an out of hours detection unit to deal with illegal dumping and more covert cameras.
- The need for a Horse Warden in the County.
- Address the poor condition of the walls in the old graveyard in Loughmore.
- Update on progress with owners of a derelict site at the top of Rosemary Square, Roscrea.
- The length of time it is taking to resolve issues pertaining to derelict sites in Thurles.
- Establish when the outstanding works in St. Joseph's old graveyard, Templemore will be completed.
- Address the issue of anti-social behaviour, illegal dumping and poor condition of the surface at College Lane, Thurles.
- Removal of the illegally parked caravan adjacent to the Catholic Church, Templemore.
- Provide details on the Anti Dumping Initiative Scheme.

Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- The Anti Dumping Initiative Scheme 2018 will be circulated to the Members when it becomes available.
- The Dog Warden has visited Littleton on a number of occasions and follow up calls will be made.
- Cameras are installed in sites that are identified as regular dumping grounds and prosecutions will issue on detection of the culprits.
- The illegal dumping at the vacant Council house in Two-Mile-Borris will be investigated.
- A clean up of College Lane, Thurles was undertaken last year.
- An out of hours detection unit would require two members of staff and the necessary resources are not available at present.
- The issue of a Horse Warden would have to be addressed nationally. The Council will arrange removal of horses on Council land where there are no permissions in place.
- A programme of improvement works for graveyards is currently being prepared.
- Communications have been re-established with the owner of the derelict property on Rosemary Square, Roscrea.
- A four year improvement programme for St. Joseph's Old Cemetery was agreed and it is envisaged that all works should be completed by the end of 2019 subject to funding being available.



- It is an objective of the Council to standardise charges in Civic Amenity Sites throughout the County and any income generated is offset against the running costs of the sites which are higher.
- Work is ongoing with the Municipal District to encourage owners to render the sites to be no longer derelict.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Marion for her contributions and she left the meeting.

6. General Municipal Allocation 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that Members must decide on the apportionment of the General Municipal Allocation 2018 at the March Monthly Meeting.

7. Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Grants Scheme 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that the Municipal District Grants Schemes 2018 will be advertised this week and applications invited from Residents Associations and Sporting Bodies where there is youth involvement / female participation. She added that recommendations on applications received for this District under the Tipperary Festivals & Events Grants Scheme 2018 will be considered 'In Committee' by the Members prior to the next District Meeting.

8. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Jim Ryan is currently working on the tender documents for the Roscrea Signage Strategy. ii. Part 8 documentation and tender documents are being prepared in-house for improvements to Market Square.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Discussions are being held with the Consultants in regard to the preparation of tender documents for the identified works.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	A meeting will be held with the preferred contractor for the demolition of Griffins shop and site clearance works. It is envisaged that these works will



	commence in early 2018.
Thurles Town Park.	No formal 'Expressions of Interest' have been received as yet for the proposed use of the former farm building and the closing date for receipt of written submissions is 28th February, 2018.
Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.	The ESB is scheduled to relocate services on Friday and works can then resume.
Templemore Town Park Extension.	A meeting with the GAA is desirable as they are key to advancing the process.
Provision of a Town Park in Roscrea.	It was noted that Councillor M. Smith will initiate discussions with the new owners of the former Antigen site.

9. Notices of Motion.

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

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

"Due to the large number of accidents at Carrigan's bend on the Thurles to Ballycahill Road, I am calling on this Council to carry out major safety works on this bend to avoid future possible fatalities."

The response issued to Councillor Ryan in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"Tipperary County Council has no reports of accidents at this junction since the retention of records in the last 6 years. Minor safety improvements will be considered under the Low Cost Safety Scheme"

John Jones confirmed that any minor works identified would be undertaken by the Council.

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

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

"I am calling on this Council to install a pedestrian crossing in The Ragg Village."

The response issued to Councillor Ryan in advance of the Meeting was as follows:



"It is considered that the installation of Pedestrian Crossing at The Ragg would pose a serious health and safety risk to pedestrians given it's location on a major route of strategic importance."

Councillor J. Ryan expressed his dissatisfaction with the response. The Acting District Engineer indicated that a pedestrian crossing at this location may give pedestrians a false sense of security if it is not regularly used and that other measures to effect traffic calming would be applied for under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.

c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D. Doran.

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

"I am calling on this Council to make safe by way of a roundabout or whatever engineering solution that is sufficient to remedy this extremely dangerous and health and safety risk junction at Killinan, Thurles."

The response issued to Councillor D. Doran in advance of the Meeting was as follows:

"The request has been submitted to the Roads Design Office, Nenagh for a response."

Councillor D. Doran expressed his dissatisfaction with the response and it was agreed that Michael Woulfe, Road Design Engineer will be requested to survey the site and report back to the Council.

d) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S. Ryan.

Councillor S. Ryan formerly moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:

"That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District would seek to repair the roadside drainage at Ballybeg/Ballydavid in Littleton. Currently the lack of drainage through the roadside pipes causes the road to flood badly making it extremely dangerous for local residents and passing motorist."

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows:



"The road at Ballybeg/Ballydavid, Littleton will be considered for inclusion under the 2018 Roadworks Programme."

Councillor S. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response.

10. Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to Councillor J. Ryan on the death of his uncle Dick Walsh.

The Members extended a Vote of Congratulations to:-

- Mr PJ Flanagan, CEO of H & MV Engineering Limerick on the recent announcement of the creation of 150 new jobs in Limerick.
- Ms. Aisling Hassett on the Templemore Fairy Trail being identified as one of the best free family days out in the Irish Country magazine.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 28th. February, 2018.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 28th. February, 2018.