



MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE-THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 28TH MARCH, 2018

Present:

Councillor Seamus Hanafin, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

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

Apology:

Councillor John Hogan

Bord na Móna.

The Cathaoirleach expressed his deep regret at the closure of the Bord na Móna Briquette Factory in Littleton today which signalled the end of peat production in the District. He acknowledged the contribution Bord na Móna made to the locality in terms of employment and economic benefit and he wished the former workers well in the future. The other Members wished to be associated with his comments.

The Cathaoirleach read out a response received from Bord na Móna agreeing to the Council's proposal to the establishment of a liaison group to discuss future uses of the bogs and Littleton Briquette Factory and advising that Pat Ring and Enda McDonagh will represent Bord na Móna on the committee.

It was agreed that Matt Shortt, District Director, John Jones, Acting District Engineer and the 9 Members would represent the District on the liaison group.



1. Adoption of Minutes.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor J. Ryan and resolved: "That the Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting which was held on the 6th March, 2018 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Presentation by Housing Section.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Donal Purcell, A/Senior Executive Officer and Michèle Maher, Senior Staff Officer, Housing Section to the Meeting. Copy of a Report which provided details and updates under the following was circulated at the Meeting:

- Housing Construction.
- Capital Assistance Scheme.
- Housing Allocations 2017.
- Vacant Houses.
- House Purchases 2018.
- Housing Applicants and Vacant Houses.

The Members made the following points:

- The Part 8 relating to the proposed housing development at the Mill Road, Thurles was not circulated to the Members.
- A separate column should be added to the number of housing applicants showing the figures provided at the last presentation so that it can be established if the list has increased/decreased. A breakdown should also be provided which shows whether applicants have been accommodated through RAS, HAP or leasing initiatives. Provide breakdown of allocations made since the last presentation based on the order of priority under the Allocations Scheme 2015.
- Lack of rental accommodation in Thurles.
- Establish if the Council is responsible for the installation of carbon monoxide alarms in Council houses.
- Clarify if housing applicants with criminal convictions are considered in the allocation of Council houses.
- Confirm if applicants on the Council's waiting list will be accommodated in the houses purchased by an approved housing body in Ashgrove, Thurles and the need for the agency to engage with the Residents Association in regard to the development.
- State of disrepair of house at Two Mile Borris which was purchased by the Council two years ago.



- Former Council houses should be purchased by the Council.
- Update on vacant units at 14 Park View West, Templemore, The Barracks, Main Street, Borrisoleigh and Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh.
- Possibility of converting vacant house at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh into two units.
- Use of Compulsory Purchase Orders to acquire vacant houses.
- Update on the traveller accommodation at Cabra, Thurles.
- Funding is given to Priority 1 applicants under the Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme which means that Priority 2 and 3 applicants have to wait for their situations to deteriorate before they are considered.
- Provide breakdown of locations of the vacant units in the District.
- Information be given to the residents of Ashgrove regarding the allocation of the remaining houses. There is a Residents Association in Ashgrove.

Donal Purcell gave the following responses:

- A breakdown can be provided on a County wide basis.
- Over 50% of applicants are accommodated under HAP and RAS Schemes.
- The provision of carbon monoxide alarms in Council houses is included in Phase 1 of the Energy Upgrades Scheme. Phase 2 will be commencing shortly and the Members should advise Housing Section of any houses that do not have an alarm.
- All housing developments are subject to a 4 stage approval process with the Department and Members will observe a substantial amount of construction taking place in the next year.
- The Anti Social Behaviour Strategy is used to determine if an applicant can be considered in the allocation of social housing. Applicants discharged from prison are dealt with in accordance with the legislation that is in place. The 2nd Chance Programme is also utilised in dealing with anti social behaviour.
- Tenants for the houses purchased by an approved housing body at Ashgrove, Thurles, will be taken from the Council's housing list. The contact details for the Ashgrove Residents Association should be passed on to Housing Section.
- The house acquired in Two Mile Borris was purchased to gain access to the land at the rear and the state of disrepair will be examined.
- Concentration is on purchasing newer type houses and the Buy & Renew Scheme recently introduced will also assist in increasing the number of social housing units.
- The vacant house at 14 Park View West, Templemore is nearly completed.
- There are legal issues pertaining to the boundary of the house at The Barracks, Main Street, Borrisoleigh and other options are currently being investigated.
- The vacant house at Pallas Street, Borrisoleigh has been included in the Voids Programme for 2018.



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- The use of Compulsory Purchase Order and the Vacant Homes Plan compiled nationally will be used to ascertain suitability of accommodation and the most appropriate action to be taken in acquiring units.
- The development at Cabra, Thurles is not yet completed and the Council is working with the proposed residents' legal representative in regard to a number of issues which it is hoped will be concluded shortly.
- Funding under the Housing Adaptation Grants for 2017 was allocated to Priority 1 applications. Tipperary County Council get one of the highest funding allocations in the Country and will seek additional funding again this year.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Donal and Michèle for their presentation and they left the Chamber.

3. Adoption of the General Municipal Allocation 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that the General Municipal Allocation 2018 amounts to €241,422.00 which is an increase of €130,700.00 on the General Municipal Allocation 2017. A breakdown of proposals to be considered by the Members under the General Municipal Allocation 2018 was circulated at the Meeting.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- A sum of €10,000 is required towards the Ability Swing, Roscrea as the total cost is €15,600 with €5,600 having been raised locally.
- The need to include drainage and street lighting in the proposed improvements to College Lane, Thurles. There is also an issue of illegal dumping at this location.
- Members should have an input into the design of the signage that will be provided on the approach roads to Thurles.
- Input from Members in regard to the areas in Littleton, Ballysloe and Borrisoleigh where footpaths are to be improved.
- The fountain at Templemore Town Park is out of order since the development of the new garden.
- Consideration be given to a contribution of €200.00 to Ballysloe towards Christmas lighting.
- Establish why Clonmore has not been selected for footpath improvements under the Village Enhancement Works.

The District Director responded as follows:



- The Contingency Fund can be reduced to €1,722.00 in order to increase the contribution to €10,000.00 towards the Ability Swing, Roscrea.
- Clonmore can be prioritised for footpath improvements in the 2019 General Municipal Allocation.
- Additional funding may be provided by IPB Insurances towards repair of footpaths this year and the conditions attached are not yet known.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:-

"That the General Municipal Allocation 2018 be apportioned as follows:

GMA 2018	€
Matching Funds Special Projects	10,000.00
Festivals & Events Grant Scheme	8,200.00
Job Creation	15,000.00
Ability Swing, The Glebe Playground, Roscrea	10,000.00
Contribution to Roscrea Christmas Lighting Improvements	6,000.00
Footpath improvements at Castlepark, Roscrea	10,000.00
Improvements to the Lake and provision of Wild Flower Garden Templemore Town Park	25,000.00
Contribution to the new Playground, Templetuohy	10,000.00
Improvements to College Lane, Thurles	20,000.00
Thurles Signage Plan	10,000.00
Footpath Improvements, Two-Mile-Borris	10,000.00
Footpath Improvements Littleton	25,000.00
Footpath Improvements Ballysloe	25,000.00
Footpath Improvements Borrisoleigh	25,000.00
Christmas Lighting contributions:	15,500.00
Borrisoleigh, Clonakenny, Clonmore, Gortnahoe, Holycross, Littleton, Moyne, Roscrea, Templetuohy, Two-Mile-Borris	
Residents Association Grants Scheme	15,000.00
Contingency Fund	1,722.00
Total GMA 2018	241,422.00



4. **Adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018.**
5. **Update on the 2018 Work Programmes.**

It was unanimously agreed that items 4 and 5 on the Agenda be taken together.

The District Engineer outlined the Draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2018 for the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District covering road maintenance, housing maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of amenities, drainage works and burial ground maintenance, copy of which was circulated at the Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor M. Smith 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 2018 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Templemore-Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted."

The Members raised the following points:

- The cost of the carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery represents $\frac{4}{5}$ of the total General Municipal Allocation for 2017 and a detailed breakdown of the cost should be provided to the Members.
- The condition of the Archerstown Road / Mill Road has deteriorated since the works at Suir Bridge commenced. There are also overgrown hedges along these roads that need attention prior to roadworks on Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- The manhole outside the Ursuline Boarding School is in need of repair.
- The roadway from the Anner Hotel to the roundabout is in a deplorable condition.
- Update on safety works required outside Inch National School and the provision of a small carpark.
- The Dark Road is in need of a proper upgrade due to its high usage.
- The white lines on the Cassestown Road have not been replaced after surface dressing.
- Update on the commitment to install flashing lights at Rahealty School.
- The cost per unit to repair a pothole.
- Update on timeframe for work to be completed at Maxfort & Coolkip, Horse & Jockey.
- Issue of illegal dumping on the Cosán Felim Inch Loop Walk.
- Establish if additional funding is being provided to repair damage to roads caused by the extreme weather event recently experienced.



- The need to use a higher grade material particularly on roads prone to flooding.
- Establish drainage teams in the District to prevent water holding on roads.
- Effect immediate repairs to the roadway outside the Gortahoola Handball Alley as there is a 24 hour fund raiser taking place on 7th April, 2018.
- Slievenamon Road, Thurles is one of the busiest routes into Thurles and the Contractor should be asked to minimise disruption during the roadworks.
- Safety concerns at Golden Grove Road, Roscrea, particularly at drop off/collection times outside Scoil Eoin.
- Update on the replacement of the wetpour surface in the playground in Templemore Town Park.
- Provision of pedestrian crossing along the Clongour Road, Thurles, which could be installed during the current works.

The Acting District Engineer replied as follows:-

- The roadworks at Slievenamon Road, Thurles are scheduled to begin next Tuesday 3rd. April, 2018.
- The works at the Suir Bridge, Thurles will be completed by Friday 30th March, 2018.
- Council Officials met with representatives from the TII last Thursday and inspections/photos were taken of the roadway from the Anner Hotel to the roundabout and the N62 on the Roscrea and Thurles approaches to Templemore. It was also impressed on them to prioritise these areas and a reply is expected next week.
- The design phase for the N62 at Camblin, Roscrea is progressing well.
- A meeting will be arranged with Fiona Bohane in regard to safety issues at Killinan junction which have been raised by the Members and an update will be provided at the next Municipal District Monthly Meeting.
- The Restoration Improvement Programme has commenced and it is expected that 50% to 60% of the work will be completed by April.
- Pothole repairs and hedge cutting will be carried out at Archerstown Road/Mill Road and a resolution to the flooding issue will be explored during the Summer months.
- The Ragg junction has been included in a Low Cost Safety Scheme and Inch National School will be consulted in regard to the traffic calming proposals. The Council does not have a remit in the provision of car parking facilities for schools.
- The Dark Road can be included in the 3 Year Roads Programme.
- Pothole repairs are ineffective during inclement weather and the situation should improve over the next 8 to 10 weeks.
- The flooding issues at Maxfort and Coolkip, Horse & Jockey will be addressed.
- Potholes will be filled outside Gortahoola Handball Alley in advance of the event.



- Replacement of the white lines at Cassestown will be addressed.
- It was pointed out at the February Monthly Meeting that there was no funding to provide flashing speed signs at Rahealty School.
- Works ceased on the replacement of the wetpour surface in the playground in Templemore Town Park due to inclement weather and it is expected that the improvements will be completed before the Easter break.
- The request for a pedestrian crossing on Clongour Road, Thurles, will be referred to the TII.

6. Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Grants Scheme 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that:-

- 5 Tidy Towns Committees have not reapplied this year for funding and 2 new applications have been received. 2 applications received relate to Drombane and the application received by Upperchurch/Drombane Development Association will only be considered. It was agreed that where possible, the Members would contact the groups that did not reapply with a view to applications being received before the April Monthly Meeting.
- There are 4 Burial Ground Committee applications that have not been submitted to date and Members should encourage the Committees to submit applications in the next few days for inclusion in the 2018 Scheme.
- There are 43 applications submitted by Sporting Bodies to date which includes 10 new applicants and 5 Sporting Bodies that received funding in 2017 did not reapply.
- There are 40 applications received from Residents Associations to date which includes 7 new applicants and 5 that received funding in 2017 did not reapply.

It was unanimously agreed by the Members that the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Grants Scheme 2018 for Residents Associations and Sporting Bodies be closed with effect from today.

7. Fix Date for Drainage Committee Meetings - The Black, Cromogue, Clodiagh, Farneybridge/Ballinahow and Roscrea/Templemore River Drainage Committees.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that the Drainage Committee Meetings were no longer statutory meetings.

It was agreed that:



- i. The meetings of the Drainage Area Committees for The Black, Cromogue, Clodiagh, Farneybridge/Ballinahow and Roscrea/Templemore River Drainage Areas be held on Wednesday 23rd. May, 2018 commencing at 10:00am allowing approximately 15 minutes to each Committee.
- ii. The adjourned Templemore-Thurles Municipal District Community Safety Committee meeting take place from 11.30am to 12.15pm on Wednesday, 25th. April, 2018 and the April Monthly Meeting commence at 12.15pm.

8. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	The Part 8 documents for improvements to Market Square are almost complete. Tender documents for the provision and installation of interpretive and orientation signage in Roscrea under the Roscrea Signage Strategy have been advertised on e-Tenders.
Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	Tender documents are almost complete. It is envisaged that a Contractor will be on site circa May.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	The contractor for the Advance Works Contract which involves the demolition of Griffins shop and site clearance works will commence on site this week. Half of the Slievenamon Road carpark is required by the Contractor for the period of 2 weeks from next Tuesday and Thurles Chamber has been informed.
Thurles Town Park.	Only one valid 'Expression of Interest' for the old farm building has been received. The application for permission to operate a CCTV system in Thurles Town Park which includes the relocation of the server from the old Council offices in Slievenamon Road to Thurles Garda Station was submitted to the Chief Superintendent yesterday. The process is complicated and subject to the approval of the Garda National CCTV Advisory Committee who only meet every quarter.



Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.	Work is progressing on the development of the car park.
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 S. Ryan.

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

""That the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District would seek to improve the visibility at the junction of the N75 near Two Mile Borris village and the Littleton road with the erection of reflectors at the junction and the installation of a turning lane to facilitate and make it safer for traffic turning right."

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

"It is not possible to install a turning lane due to the width of the carriageway. Reflectors will be erected at this junction."

b) 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 Government leaving out the Thurles Bypass project in its 2040 Development Plan, I am seeking a deputation meeting with the Minister for Transport to outline the importance of this project to the economic and social future of Thurles."

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

"The Notice of Motion will be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration."



The District Director confirmed, in response to a query raised by Councillor J. Ryan, that a recent traffic count had been undertaken during the design stage of the Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme.

c) 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 for an update from this Council and from other relevant authorities on what steps are being taken to possibly help prevent any further town centre shop closures in Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea."

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

"The Notice of Motion will be referred to the Director of Community and Economic Development for a response."

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined initiatives that have been undertaken and projects in progress in Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles and she undertook to email the details to the Members. She advised that the launch of "A Marketing Study of Thurles" which was undertaken by MIC students, St. Patrick's College, on behalf of Thurles Town Centre Forum will take place in The Source on Tuesday, 10th April between 6pm and 7pm.

The Members lauded the work undertaken by Kathleen Prendergast, Community & Economic Development Section, in encouraging people to shop local.

10. Correspondence.

i. Bord na Móna

The letter received from Bord na Móna was dealt with at the start of the Meeting.

ii. Tipperary County Council - Early Payment Scheme

The Cathaoirleach read out correspondence received from Mr. Liam McCarthy, Finance Officer, regarding the benefits to rate payers who avail of the Tipperary County Council's Early Payment Scheme.

11. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

28th. March, 2018.



The Cathaoirleach proposed a Vote of Sympathy with the Butler Family, Bouladuff, Thurles, on the death of Eamonn, former member of the Cromogue Drainage Area Committee.

Councillor S. Ryan proposed a Vote of Sympathy with the Mulcahy Family, Holycross on the death of Paul, former Senior Engineer with Tipperary County Council.

12. Any Other Business.

The introduction of a new pricing system at the Roscrea Amenity Site should be deferred due to lack of advertisement of the charges and the site being unfinished.	The District Director undertook to refer the concerns to Environment Section.
Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities & Amenities 2016 -2019.	The District Director advised that a photo call should be arranged with successful applicants to raise the profile of the Council who provide significant financial assistance to organisations countywide.
Councillor D. Doran requested that a letter be issued to the HSE highlighting the lack of ambulance cover in this District and there is no extra ambulance service on Match days in Thurles.	
The issuing of parking fines on the Holycross Road during the last Match day in Thurles was unfair and unwarranted given that drivers were complying with instructions from stewards not to park within the area of Semple Stadium.	
Contact needs to be made with the Gardai to address anti social behaviour and the consumption of intoxicating liquor in Thurles Town Park.	The issues can be raised with the Superintendent who will be in attendance at the Community Safety Committee Meeting in April.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.



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SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 25th. April, 2018.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 25th. April, 2018.