



**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TEMPLEMORE THURLES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT
OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON WEDNESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER, 2017**

Present: Councillor Seamus Hanafin, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<u>Also Present:</u>	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	A/Staff Officer

1. Adoption of Minutes.

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

"That the Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting which was held on the 25th October, 2017 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

2. Presentation by Housing Section.

The Cathaoirleach and Members welcomed Clare Curley, Director of Housing Services and Donal Purcell, A/Senior Executive Officer who were in attendance for this item. Copy of a Housing Services activity report for the District was circulated at the Meeting which highlighted the following:

- The 4 Stage Approval process for housing construction that is in place by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.
- The 4 stage approval process for housing construction that is in place by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.



- Updates on the approval status of proposed Housing Construction projects in the Municipal District.
- 26 no. units are to be provided in the District by Thurles Lions Trust and Novas Initiatives under the Capital Assistance Scheme.
- The Housing Adaptation Grants Scheme for private houses is open for new applications and an allocation of €3,032,731.00 has been secured from the Department.
- The allocation for Housing Adaptations Grants for Local Authority Houses is €457,437.00.
- There are at present 102 vacant houses in the County and 27 are located in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District with funding of €1,271,522.00 granted by the Department.
- The Council has purchased 15 no. units and has Sale Agreed on a further 12 no. units in the District.
- A total of 193 contracts have been completed in the District under RAS, Leasing and HAP in 2017.
- There are a total of 758 approved applicants for housing in the Templemore-Thurles Municipal District.

The Members made the following points/observations:

- Establish the reason for the delay in the commencement of construction of the 10 no. units at Glencarrig, Roscrea.
- Local contractors should be engaged by the Housing Authority to undertake works.
- Tenants of RAS and HAP houses are not being held accountable for their behaviour and the damage they cause to properties.
- The Council need to consider acquiring houses in the Littleton/Two Mile Borris area that are for sale and represent good value for money.
- There should be sanctions in place for tenants engaging in anti-social behaviour.
- Timelines on the construction of units in Gortataggart and the Mill Road, Thurles.
- Greater follow up is required on housing repair requests in Templemore.
- Explanation as to why a house in Mitchel Street, Thurles has been boarded up for the past number of years with no apparent progress.
- The number of applicants approved for housing in Thurles is high.
- The delay in the refurbishment of 14 Park View West, Templemore.
- The length of time taken before houses can be constructed is frustrating.
- Establish if applicants who were unsuccessful under the Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme in 2017 have to reapply in 2018.



Responses to the issues raised were as follows:

- Acknowledgement of the delay in progressing Glencarrig, Roscrea as there have been difficulties with the site access which Housing are endeavouring to resolve with all the relevant parties.
- The proposed construction of 25 no. houses on the Mill Road, Thurles is at Stage 2 of the approval process and consultation will take place under the Part 8 Planning Procedure in 2018.
- The Council is obliged to adhere to procurement procedure guidelines in the appointment of contractors.
- The Community Liaison Officers will investigate all reported incidents of anti-social behaviour pertaining to Council stock, RAS and leased units. Contracts under HAP are directly between the tenant and landlord.
- There are ongoing meetings with senior Department Officials regarding housing construction projects in the County.
- The Council must be very careful when purchasing houses to avoid creating any undue competition and it would not be considered prudent to purchase units in areas where a high percentage of social housing exits.
- There are a substantial number of approved housing applicants in good quality accommodation under HAP, RAS and Leasing.
- Responses to housing repairs in the District have improved and surveys are being undertaken in Templemore where a lot of repairs may not fall under the routine maintenance category.
- The District has in exceptional circumstances executed "tenant responsibility repairs" in accordance with the terms of the Tenants Handbook.
- The Council is not in a position to comment on the house at Mitchel Street, Thurles due to an ongoing legal issue.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Clare Curley and Donal Purcell for their reports and feedback and they left the Meeting.

3. Civic Receptions 2018.

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that the Civic Awards Night will be held in the Templemore Arms Hotel on Thursday 23rd November, 2017 commencing at 7.00pm. The protocol for the night was outlined to the Members and after a brief discussion, agreement was reached on the schedule of events on the night.



4. Update on 2017 Work Programmes and the 2017 Budgets.

Copy of expenditure to date on the Schedule of Municipal District Works was circulated at the Meeting.

John Jones, Acting District Engineer gave the following update on the 2017 Works Programmes:

- The Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Programmes are 100% complete.
- River drainage is 94% complete.
- The works at Castlemeadows under the Low Cost Safety Scheme should be completed within the next two weeks.
- Works at Scart, Roscrea are ongoing and scheduled for completion mid-December.
- Work on 5 projects under the Community Involvement Scheme and 13 projects under the Tertiary Roads Allocation will commence this month.
- Footpath reconstruction in Holycross and Templetuohy are ongoing under the GMA.
- Works under the Local Improvement Scheme are commencing this week.
- It is proposed to begin consultation with the Members on the 2018 Roadworks Programmes in January with a view to commencing works earlier in the year. A new 3 Year Roadworks Programme will also need to be drawn up next year.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Prepare a costing for the provision of steps and handrail at Moyne Road, Thurles and include proposals in next year's Budget.
- The provision of a footpath and public lighting on the Mill Road, Thurles out to the Kickham Park, Thurles.
- Installation of signage and road markings at the junction of Seskin lane at the Heath, Thurles.
- Cut back the trees in Relig Bhríde, Thurles which are encroaching on neighbouring properties.
- Write to Irish Rail regarding the poor condition of fencing and the removal of the barbed wire located on the Railway Bridge near Stakelums, Railway Road, Thurles.
- Consider the request from Ballysloe Tidy Towns Committee for the provision of a new footpath, traffic speed signs and more public bins with increased visits by the road sweeper to the village under the GMA 2018.



- Establish why all the stakeholders were not advised of the changes to the agreed works under the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Castlemeadows, Thurles.
- Update regarding the poor condition of Strogue Road, Templemore and works to the footpath at the ball alley in the park in Templemore.
- Address the issue of flooding at Knocka, Drom which has arisen since the road was resurfaced.
- Installation of public lighting adjacent to the car park of the public house in Ballysloe.
- It is essential that there is consultation on the final proposals for Market Square, Roscrea.
- Establish if national funding will be available to address the issue of Japanese Knotweed.
- Inlets and gullies need to be cleaned on an ongoing basis to ensure that surface water is removed particularly in problematic areas.
- Update on proposals to address flooding at Maxfort Cross and Coolkip, Horse & Jockey.
- The public lighting in the new carpark at Thurles Town Park and to the rear of The Source is not working.
- The request for the provision of a footpath on the Rahealty/Moyne Road at Loughtagalla, Thurles needs to be put back on the Agenda.
- The changes to the junction at the Horse & Jockey, Thurles are confusing.
- The emergency out of hours number should be a free phone number.
- Carry out essential repairs to the N62 on the approach roads to Templemore.
- Address the poor condition of the boundary wall on the Roscrea Road, Templemore.
- Kerbing is lifting on the footpath at Mary Street, Templemore near Centra.
- The provision of a roundabout at Killinan, Thurles should be put back on the Agenda for 2018.
- Consider the provision of traffic calming measure on Innisfallen Avenue and Butler Avenue, Thurles.
- Provision of footpath from Turtulla Cross to Archerstown Industrial Estate and provide details of the Consultants report on the junction at Turtulla Cross.
- Include the resurfacing of the road in Ard Mhuire, Templemore in the 2018 Roadworks Programme.
- Manholes on Cathedral Street, Thurles need to be brought up to road level.
- Provision of Council land to facilitate a car park for the Garda College in Templemore.
- Write to TII requesting the provision of a right hand turning lane at Pouldine Cross, Thurles. Repair the road surface at the Ballymoreen side of the junction.



Responses to the issues raised were as follows:-

- A survey of the trees in Relic Bhríde will be undertaken.
- The provision of steps and handrail at Moyne Road, Thurles will be examined in 2018 in the context of the availability of funding.
- A plan will be prepared in January 2018 for the replacement/repair of footpaths in the District.
- Discussions will be held with Ballysloe Tidy Towns Committee and Carrick Municipal District in regard to the requests received from the Committee.
- The only change to the junction at the Horse & Jockey was the renewal of roadmarkings.
- Some minor road repairs will be undertaken to the N62 on the Thurles approach road to Templemore town from the national secondary maintenance budget which is limited. The Council is reliant on funding from the TII for road improvements to national secondary routes.
- Possible solutions to the flooding at Maxfort Cross and Coolkip, Horse & Jockey are being explored.
- Repairs to the public lighting in the new carpark in Thurles Town Park and at The Source will be tended to shortly.
- The issue of the railing on the Railway Bridge at Stakelums, Railway Road, Thurles will be raised with Irish Rail.
- The cleaning of inlets and gullies is ongoing.
- A meeting will be held with Members and stakeholders regarding the works under the Low Cost Safety Scheme at Castlemeadows, Thurles.
- The District Director confirmed that he was available to speak to all parties involved in the request for the provision of land for a car park for the Garda College in Templemore.

5. Update on Projects.

Roscrea Enhancement Scheme	The Council is awaiting a final drawing for Market Square which will be sent to Roadplan for consideration. The design for the Signage Strategy is being prepared and should be ready in a few weeks.
Roscrea, Templemore and Thurles Town Enhancement and Painting Schemes 2017.	Some applicants have confirmed that they are not proceeding with works and the Council is awaiting submission of documentation to process some payments.



Repairs / Improvements to Templemore Town Hall.	The Consultant's Report has been prepared and works to the roof and external walls have been identified. There is interest in the building and discussions are ongoing.
Structures at Risk Fund 2017 – Blackcastle, Templemore.	Works are complete and the remainder of the ivy on the Bawn Wall will be removed in the New Year.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	Tender documents for demolition and site clearance works are almost complete and it is envisaged that these works will commence in early 2018.
Thurles Town Park.	i. 'Expressions of Interest' will be invited in December for the proposed use of the former farm building. ii. Meetings have taken place with a security specialist to progress the extension of CCTV to the Town Park.
Carpark at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.	The contractor has commenced rebuilding the boundary wall.
Templemore Town Park Extension	A meeting with the GAA is desirable as they are key to advancing the process.

6 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:

"I am calling on this Council to contact T.I.I. asking them to carry out a safety audit on Pouldine Junction."

The response circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting is as follows:

"Safety Audits were completed by the T.I.I some years ago on Pouldine junction and additional signage was erected as a result. The request for a further safety audit will be submitted to the T.I.I."



Councillor J. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response and urged that a right turning lane needs to be installed and the request referred to the T.I.I.

b) 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 reinstate the steel parking bollard between Derrynaflan Avenue and Derrynaflan Drive in Littleton which would prevent the footpath area between the two estates being used for motor access."

The response circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting is as follows:

"The bollard will be re erected in due course."

Councillor S. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response.

c) 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 put reflectors on the wall at the Rectory Cross in Ballybeg, Littleton to make the right turn at the cross more visible to motorists particularly at night time."

The response circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting is as follows:

"A survey will be undertaken of the junction to establish the most effective safety measures required."

Councillor S. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response.

7 Correspondence.

i. Request for 30kph speed limit on Bog Road between Moyne and Templetuohy

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised that Roads Section had undertaken a county wide speed limit review and that such a proposal was not included in the review and therefore could not be considered at this time.



ii. Festival & Events Grant Scheme

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that the closing date for receipt of applications under the Festival & Events Grant Scheme, as administered by the Community & Economic Development Section, is the 6th December, 2017.

iii. Rapid Programme

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members that Roscrea CAP and Littleton CAP Committees are eligible to submit applications under the RAPID Programme and to contact Margo Hayes, Community & Economic Development for further information. It was noted that the closing date for receipt of applications is 24th. November, 2017.

iv. Works at Blackcastle, Templemore Town Park

The Cathaoirleach read out an email from a member of the public complimenting the Council on the works that had been completed on the Archway in the Templemore Town Park.

v. Grants Schemes

The Acting Meetings Administrator advised the Members of the number of grant applications that remain unpaid due to incomplete documentation/ information. It was suggested that the payment of these grants should be publicised in some way as without the co operation of the Members they would not exist.

8 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy

There were no Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

9 Any Other Business.

i. Christmas Lights.

The Acting Meetings Administrator outlined the allocations agreed by the Members for Christmas Lights under the GMA 2017.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan that €500.00 be allocated to the Christmas Lights in Two Mile Borris which was agreed.



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thiobraid Árann,
Oifigí Cheantar Bardasach
an Teampaill Mhóir-
Dhurlais, Ascaill an
Chaisleáin, Durlas,
Co. Thiobraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Templemore-Thurles
Municipal District Office,
Castle Avenue,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary

t 0761 06 5000
e customerservice
@tipperarycoco.ie
tipperarycoco.ie

A discussion took place on the Budget allocated to Christmas lighting in Thurles which came about due to a number of rate increases over the years. The need for the development of a policy for equal distribution of funding across all services/sub-services in the County was highlighted.

ii. Christmas Parking Arrangements.

The Acting Meetings Administrator confirmed that parking in the public car parks in Roscrea and Thurles and throughout Templemore would be free on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas.

THAT CONCLUDED THE OFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20th. December, 2017.

SIGNED: _____
ACTING MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20th. December, 2017.