



## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**Present:** Councillor Seamus Hanafin Cathaoirleach, presided.  
  
Councillors Noel Coonan, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry,  
Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Sean Ryan, Peggy Ryan and  
Michael Smith

**Also Present:** Eamon Lonergan A/District Director  
Thomas Duffy District Engineer  
Jim Ryan Executive Engineer  
Sharon Scully District Administrator  
Orla McDonnell Staff Officer

### Welcome.

The Members welcomed Councillor Peggy Ryan to her first MD Meeting after being co-opted following the resignation of her brother, former Councillor Peter Ryan. The Members acknowledged the indelible mark left by Peter and the huge contribution he made as a Councillor.

### Annual Meeting between TII and Elected Members.

Before commencing with the first item on the agenda, the Members discussed the recent annual meeting between the TII and Elected Officials whereby the TII advised that the inclusion of a proposed Thurles By-Pass is outside the remit of the TII.

Councillor Hanafin stated that it is incumbent on the current Elected Members to push the issue hard over the next few years to ensure that the Thurles By-Pass be included on the TII Agenda.

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

“that Thurles MD write to the Minister of Transport to meet with a delegation from Thurles MD to discuss the Thurles Bypass in order to include the project in any future plans for funding”.

### **1. Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.**

There were no Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest raised at the Meeting.



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## **2. Adoption of Minutes.**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the November 2021 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

## **3. Nomination to Board of Thurles Swimming Pool DAC to replace former Councillor Peter Ryan.**

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan:-

"that Councillor Peggy Ryan be nominated to the Board of Thurles Swimming Pool DAC to replace former Councillor Peter Ryan."

## **4. Update from Community & Economic Development.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer who was in attendance via Zoom for this item. A C&E Report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

- Community /LCDC
- Grant Schemes
  - LEADER
  - Town & Village
  - Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme
  - CLAR
  - Community Enhancement Programme
- Other Initiatives
  - SICAP
  - Healthy Ireland
  - Age Friendly
  - PPN
  - JPC
  - General Community Projects
- Sports
  - Initiative 1 and 2
- Tourism
  - Strategic documents Policies and Plans
  - Tipperary Tourism & Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce
  - Initiative 1
- Broadband
  - To assist the delivery and implementation of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan (NBP)



- Identify and Deliver the high-speed Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) in County Tipperary
- Schools Broadband Connection Points
- To assist the Commercial Operators in delivering their plans to deliver high speed broadband services in urban locations in County Tipperary
- To assist the Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Infrastructures Providers with coverage and capacity improvements to 2G, 3G, 4G and future technologies (incl. 5G) in County Tipperary.
- To complete the installation of a fully supported Free Wi-Fi Network across and extensive Network of Public Access Points at designated locations in County Tipperary.
- To progress a design solution with the Telecommunications Industry to pilot the concept of Shared Underground Telecommunications Infrastructure
- Economic Development
  - Retail Supports
    - Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme
    - Christmas Retail Supports Grants
    - Painting and Enhancement Scheme
    - Shop Local Tipperary Campaign
- Digital
  - County Tipperary Digital Strategy
  - County Tipperary Remote Working Strategy
  - Digital Enterprise Hubs
  - Tipperary, The Place, The Time – Marketing Campaign
  - Commercial Property Portal
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Request that Community and Economic Development keep on their Agenda the provision of a digital hub for Thurles Town. There are several high-profile buildings in Liberty Square that could be utilised for the delivery of the digital hub in a central location.
- Given the importance of mental health, and in particular during Covid, can the partnership between Comhairle na nÓg and Jigsaw be promoted.
- Can Community and Economic Development make plans for and organise a 'Tipperary Day' in 2022 that would showcase what the County has to offer and would encourage people to come to the County. A similar endeavour was undertaken in Mayo and proved very successful.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-



- Community and Economic Development will readily engage in relation to the establishment of a digital hub in Thurles town if there is a group of people in Thurles that have the drive and determination to push it.
- The request in relation to the promotion of the relationship between Comhairle na nÓg and Jigsaw will be referred back to Community and Economic Development Section.
- Further to a query raised by Cllr Noel Coonan at the November meeting of Thurles Municipal District, an Architect has been appointed to the REACH programme in Roscrea. Tenders are currently being prepared and it is expected that the contract will be awarded by the middle of 2022 and construction will commence in August 2022. They are currently trying to secure an Anchor tenant.

##### **5. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.**

##### **6. District Engineer's Report.**

Item 5 District Project Pipeline Plan and Item 6 District Engineer's Report were both taken together at the Meeting. The District Engineer and the Executive Engineer gave a report on the undertakings of Thurles MD for the year 2021. The report included the following items:-

- There were no serious accidents associated with any of the MD works for 2021
- Budgets over the past 5 years have seen a substantial increase up from €10.9m in 2016 to €18.7m in 2021. This is a €7.8m or 74% increase. This figure excludes capital monies available through URDF/RRDF associated with Templemore Town Hall and Liberty Square, development levies, bond monies.
- This increase is predominately seen in Roads but also Active Travel, OPW works and climate adaption works. These extra works are being delivered with the same amount of staff resources as was available in 2016 and in the middle of a global pandemic.
- In 2022 it is hoped to continue progressing both headline and minor works with equal vigour. However, there are new regulations and obligations coming into effect in January 2022 surrounding traffic management for roadworks, which will have an effect on the MD's ability to deliver the same quantity of works and projects.
- Focus for Q1 of 2022 will be the implementation of these new regulations to ensure compliance across the District.

##### **End of Year Review 2021**

##### **▶ Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 1**

Project Description: Widening of footpaths with new high-quality paving, realignment of carriageways, pedestrian crossings, new Liberty Square car park, provision of dedicated loading and short-term car parking/set down areas and feature lighting including smart low energy lighting;



Funding Stream: Urban Regeneration Development Fund/Commercial Rates/Transport Infrastructure Ireland

- ▶ Market Square Enhancement, Roscrea  
Project Description: Widening of footpaths with new high-quality paving, realignment of Market Square Junction to improve traffic circulation and pedestrian crossings, provision of three controlled pedestrian crossings, provision of dedicated loading and short-term car parking/set down areas and provision of street furniture and soft landscaping.  
Funding Stream: TCC Development Levies
- ▶ River Suir & Drish Walking Route Phase 1  
Project Description: Refurbishment of existing 1.5km riverside walking route between Clongour Road and Thomond Road, Thurles.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Funding
- ▶ Abbey Road Roundabout, Thurles  
Project Description: Safety Improvement works at high accident count location. Works consisted of junction tightening, new roundabout and footpaths, road resurfacing works and landscaping.  
Funding Stream: Department of Transport, Low Cost Safety Scheme
- ▶ Cooleenbee Drainage Works  
Project Description: Install new drainage to remove historic road flooding in the area.  
Funding Stream: Climate Adaptation Grant
- ▶ Barnane Floodworks  
Project Description: Raise existing road level by approximately 1.2m to allow safe passage of vehicles affected by the yearly flooding due to an adjacent seasonal turlough.  
Funding Stream: Climate Adaptation Grant
- ▶ Barnane Floodworks  
Project Description: Raise existing road level by approximately 0.5m to allow safe passage of vehicles affected by the yearly flooding due to low ground levels.  
Funding Stream: Office of Public Works
- ▶ Priory Demense Templemore – Minor Flooding Works  
Project Description: Installation of 670m of 225mm storm water pipe to remove flooding risk to local properties in the area  
Funding Stream: Office of Public Works
- ▶ Drom Village Drainage Works  
Project Description: Installation of drainage and reshaping of existing road to remove water from road surface during rainfall events.  
Funding Stream: Climate Adaptation Grant
- ▶ Moycarkey Village Drainage Works  
Description: Installation of drainage and reshaping of existing road to remove water from road surface during rainfall events.  
Funding Stream: Climate Adaptation Grant
- ▶ Clonakenny Road Improvement L707  
Project Description: Installation of drainage and reshaping of existing road to remove water from road surface during rainfall events.  
Funding Stream: Climate Adaptation Grant



- ▶ Safety Improvement Works Templeuohy  
Project Description: Provision of warning signage, skid resistant surface on approach road and new rough textured surface to an area of road which is prone to high accident counts during freezing conditions.  
Funding Stream: Low Cost Safety Scheme
- ▶ Upperchurch Footpaths  
Project Description: The aim of this project is to connect the existing school and cluster of housing for elderly with Creche, Community Hall, Church and Village Centre to allow safe passage for children and elderly people living in the Village.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme & GMA
- ▶ Cycle Route between Nenagh & Roscrea  
Project Description: Utilise the hard shoulder on the old national route to provide a safe cycle path.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme
- ▶ Borrisoleigh Footpaths  
Project Description: Widening of a section of footpath connecting Main Street to the GAA field.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme
- ▶ Cycle Friendly Infrastructure Two-Mile-Borris  
Description: Provision of cycle paths and footpaths linking existing housing estates to the local Primary School. The provision of a pedestrian crossing and raised table at entrance to local Primary School was also completed as part of the project.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme
- ▶ Roscrea Age Friendly Footpaths Phase 1  
Description: Replacement of existing damaged footpaths.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme
- ▶ Turraneen Bridge, Drombane  
Description: Replace existing bridge structure with new precast bridge  
Funding Stream: Bridge Rehabilitation Works Fund
- ▶ Rusheen Bridge, Borrisoleigh  
Description: Replace existing bridge structure with new precast bridge  
Funding Stream: Bridge Rehabilitation Works Fund
- ▶ Clonmore Bridge, Clonmore  
Project Description: Removal of vegetation, overhanging trees, debris and branches. Repairs were made to a section of the bridge parapet with pointing stone works, cleaning and painting of parapet walls.  
Funding Stream: Bridge Rehabilitation Works Fund
- ▶ River Cleaning Roscrea/Templemore/Farney covering Clodiagh/Black/Cromogue Rivers  
Project Description: Under the guidance and supervision of an ecologist, works consisted of the removal of vegetation, overhanging trees, debris and trees blocking the natural path of the rivers.  
Funding Stream: Office of Public Works
- ▶ Benamore Footpath Works, Roscrea  
Description: 600m of new footpath and public lighting were installed.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme



- ▶ Castleiney Footpath Works  
Project Description: 1.5m of footpaths were installed providing a safe route from the primary school to the local amenities.  
Funding Stream: Active Travel Scheme
- ▶ Footpaths Repairs throughout the County  
Project Description: Replacement of existing damaged footpaths  
Funding Stream: Irish Public Bodies
- ▶ Templemore Playground Enhancement  
Project Description: Additional playground equipment installed  
Funding Stream: Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) Grant supplemented by TCC Own Funds
- ▶ Christmas Lighting - Templemore and Thurles  
Description: Additional Christmas lighting was procured and installed in Templemore and Thurles towns.  
Funding Stream: TCC Own Funds
- ▶ Fencing Retro Fit National Routes  
Description: Replace post and rail with post and tensioned wire on all National Routes in the District.  
Funding Stream: TII

#### **HOUSING**

- ▶ 123 Housing units were part of the Retrofit Scheme in 2021 in Thurles District.  
These houses were upgraded to a B2 standard or better.
- ▶ Prelet works were carried out to 38 vacant housing units by District staff in 2021.  
Pre-let works were carried out to bring these units back into Housing stock in order to allow them to be available for re-letting.

An updated report on Capital Projects for the MD was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting as outlined in the table below:-

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	The works are substantially completed for Phase 1 of the Scheme. Paving works will be completed this week and remaining ESB poles and overhead wires are programmed to be removed during the weekend of the 18 <sup>th</sup> December. Snagging of the project will take place in January 2022 to close out the project.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase II	Topographical Survey complete. Meetings held with TII on site. Archaeological Survey complete. Tree survey procured. Heritage Impact Assessment complete. Preparation of preliminary option designs and Part VIII drawings are ongoing.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm building	Tender documentation is currently being prepared for the engagement of an external Design Team to prepare detailed design,



	construction drawings and tender documentation. Continue stakeholder discussions and appoint a design team Q1 2022.												
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1	Meetings ongoing with Bord na Mona regarding management, design and construction details. Part VIII drawings completed for review and Part VIII submission Q1 2022.												
Holycross Tourism Centre	Application under RRDF was made in July 2021 to cover the detailed design for the development of multi-purpose facility with tourism at its core in order to boost rural economic development. Awaiting funding announcement by Dept.												
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Meeting held with local Consultative Group last week regarding final design for construction. Following this meeting the Design Consultant will finalise detailed designs. Commence the tender process for a Main Works Contractor Q1 2022.												
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Workshop presentation to the Elected Members was held on 8 <sup>th</sup> December. Prepare submission for funding under call 3 Cat 1 RRDF, Public Part VIII's.												
Roscrea Enhancement Pan	A review of the previous Enhancement Plan has taken place. Expressions of interest from new committee members will be sought early in 2022.												
Vacant Housing Units	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td>Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Tender Stage</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budgets submitted to Housing Section</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>15</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></td> </tr> </table>	Awaiting receipt of keys to property	3	At Inspections/Costings Stage	8	At Tender Stage		Budgets submitted to Housing Section		In Progress	<u>15</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>
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The Members thanked the Engineering, Outdoor and Administrative staff of Thurles MD for the huge level of work undertaken during the year and acknowledged the good relationship that exists between the Members and the Executive.

The following queries were raised:-

- In addition to Thurles and Templemore, can Roscrea be included in the Christmas lighting plan for 2022. The business community do an excellent job in relation to the lights but they are run on a shoestring budget.





- What is the update in relation to the provision of road markings at junctions in Ashgrove housing estate, Thurles.
- Can bollards be erected at the courtesy road crossing outside the County Bar on Liberty Square, Thurles to prevent cars from mounting the crossing thus allowing pedestrians to get from one side of the road to the other which was an issue recently.
- A footpath needs to be installed on Abbey Road, from Thurles Railway Station down as far as the former Taylor's garage as currently there is no footpath here.
- When will the resurfacing works and markings be undertaken for both Ulster Bank and Parnell Street carparks, Thurles.
- 'Welcome to Ballysloe' signage is needed for Ballysloe village.
- The toilet in the Cathedral Street Carpark Thurles is not working. A number of complaints were received from members of the public attending the recent Christmas festival in the Townpark.
- What is the update in relation to the safety measure works planned for Bowes Corner, Thurles.
- Can the road be cleaned outside the new Council housing development at Two-Mile-Borris as it is extremely dirty.
- There is a patch of road between Littleton and the Horse and Jockey that is eroding and requires attention.
- What is the update in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing for Kickham Street, Thurles.
- What is the update in relation to the flashing lights at Pouldine school.
- Has there been any reply from Kilkenny County Council in relation to the establishment of a joint River Committee for the River Goul.
- Do the Members have any discretion in relation to the roads selected for gritting during icy weather conditions. Carney's Hill, Gortnahoe should be included in the gritting programme.
- Road safety issues at Loughnavatta on the N62 where an accident occurred a few days ago.
- Ongoing driving and safety issues at Market Square, Roscrea need to be addressed.
- Road safety measures for Rosemary Square, Roscrea need to be considered following another near accident recently.
- What is the update in relation to Harry Wall's Cross following a bad traffic accident very recently.
- There is a dangerous junction at Close Corner coming from the Garda College in Templemore. There was another accident in the area a few nights ago.
- Public toilets need to be provided for Templemore Park.

The District Engineer replied by saying that plans to address most of the issues raised were in the Project Pipeline and any other specific issues raised will be replied to off-line.

The District Director reflected on everything that was delivered by the District for 2021. He stated that it was remarkable the level of works completed



during the year given with €8m additional funding for the year and the same staff compliment. He acknowledged the collaborative relationship between the Members and the Staff.

He said that the MD Project Pipeline will allow us to realise what the vision for the District is and stated how Roscrea was the only town in the County to secure the €100k for the undertaking of a Master Plan that will help identify Schemes to be delivered.

## **7. Notices of Motion.**

### **(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Sean Ryan Id 2328**

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

“That the Thurles Municipal District would seek through CLAR funding or otherwise to install speed feedback signs in the village of Grange as a matter of urgency”

Reply to NOM

“An application for Clár funding to install speed feedback signs in the village of Grange was submitted in 2020 and 2021. An application for Clár funding for this project will be made again in 2022.”

Councillor S. Ryan stated that Grange is a very important tourist attraction in the area and the issue of speeding needs to be addressed. He requested that if no funding is available through CLÁR funding, that alternative funding streams be examined.

Councillor Seamus Hanafin seconded the Motion.

### **(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan Id 2329**

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

“I am calling on this District Council to carry out a detailed design plan for Pouldine Junction in order to make it more safe for motorists and local school users.”

Reply to Notice of Motion

“The Pouldine Junction is located on the N62 Horse and Jockey to Thurles Road. All national routes are under the control of Transport Infrastructure Ireland and any alterations or designs associated with the national road network must be implemented through TII.



While TII are fully aware of the current safety issues at this junction the district will once again stress to them the importance of possible design solutions to address these issues."

Councillor Jim Ryan stated that this issue has been raised previously at a meeting with the TII. He requested that the Council prioritise this matter and prepare the design plan for the junction to be submitted to the TII.

Councillor Sean Ryan seconded the Motion.

### **8. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

### **9. Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.**

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-


- Former Councillor David Doran on the passing of his father Paddy.
- The Kennedy family, Drombane following the death of Gerard.
- The family of Martin Hughes, Thurles.

Votes of congratulations were extended to:-

- Loughmore Castleiney GAA Club on a very successful year winning both the hurling and football County Championship.
- Rachael Blackmore on winning the International BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2021.

### **10. Any Other Business.**

As there was no further business, that concluded the Official Business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

