



## **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

**Present:** Councillor Noel Coonan Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee,  
Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peter Ryan,  
Sean Ryan and Michael Smith

**Also Present:** Eamon Lonergan District Director  
Thomas Duffy District Engineer  
Aoife Cahill Executive Engineer  
Sharon Scully District Administrator  
Orla McDonnell Acting Senior Staff Officer

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

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

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

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

"That the Minutes of the January 2021 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3. Update from Planning Section**

Nuala O'Connell, Senior Planner, Planning Section was in attendance via Zoom for this item. A report on Planning Services was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report examined the following items:-

- County Development Plan
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund  
Rural Regeneration and Development Fund
  - Liberty Square Enhancement Project, Thurles
  - Templemore Town Hall: Enterprise and Cultural Centre with associated Civic Plaza
  - Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy
- Taking-in-Charge Update



- Enforcement Proceedings

In addition to the report, Nuala stated that a Department decision in relation to the Agricultural Building in Thurles was still awaited and that Planning Applications for 2020 were up 10% on 2019.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Does Tipperary County Council intend to extend the existing 5 year time period for grant of planning permission during Covid restrictions?
- Is it anticipated that the plan to roll-out electronic planning applications by October, 2021 will go ahead and if so how will it operate?
- Can a planning applicant arrange a zoom meeting with staff from the Planning Section or is contact limited to phone only?

Nuala replied to queries raised as follows:

- The timeframe for the expiration of a planning application has not changed due to Covid. The same opportunity still exists for an applicant to apply for an extension of the Permission. The application must be made before the expiration of the original Planning Permission. Applications can be made directly to Marie Ryan, Senior Executive Planner.
- County Tipperary is leading a Pilot project for the Country in relation to electronic planning applications and roll-out will be next autumn. Applications can still be submitted in the conventional way. It is intended to hold a briefing to Members in advance of the roll-out of the Electronic System.
- It is possible for staff from Planning Section to engage with planning applicants via zoom provided the applicant indicates that is how he/she would like to engage with the Planning Office.

The Members thanked Nuala for her Report.

#### **4. Update from Water Services**

Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services was in attendance via Zoom for this item. A briefing report on the Water Services was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report examined the following items:-

- Irish Water Workshop for members – 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020
- Irish Water Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2020 – 2024
  - Infrastructural Projects:
    - Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme



- Roscrea Sewerage Scheme
- Thurles Sewerage Scheme
- Networks Portfolio Delivery
- Watermain Rehabilitation Works
  - Templetuohy – Phase 1 - works complete
  - Phase 2 – to commence on 15/02/2021
  - Back yard services works in Thurles Town – Complete
- Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme
- Rural Water Programme
  - Group Water Schemes
  - Group Sewerage Schemes
  - Administration of Grants

Gerry announced one amendment to his Briefing Document, namely, the commencement date for the Templetuohy works will be 17<sup>th</sup> February as opposed to 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The water supply in the Gortnahoe/Ballysloe area is very poor and has been for some time now with intermittent supply. Is it possible for the supply to these areas to be connected to the Fethard Water Supply Scheme?
- Fethard School recently had to close for a few hours due to no water supply.
- Request that Thurles MD write to Irish Water requiring clarification in relation to the poor water supply in the Gortnahoe/Ballysloe/Fethard area and to request a timeframe in relation to fixing the issue as well as the long-term plan for the area.
- Can anything be done to alleviate the issue of cold weather causing pipes to freeze for the residents of Cluain Airne/Monadreen area of Thurles?
- Can Water Services ensure that when the works at the Ballyduag Group Water Scheme are complete, the road will be returned to the standard it was in prior to commencement of the works? The road is currently in a dreadful condition.
- Poor/intermittent water supply in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe.

Gerry replied to the queries raised as follows:-

- Water Services have raised the issue of poor water supply with Irish Water in the Gortnahoe/Ballysloe/Fethard area numerous times and will continue to do so. Irish Water completed an upgrade of the Dualla Treatment Plant recently and it is anticipated that that should take some of the pressure from the Gortnahoe/Ballysloe/Fethard area.



- The issue of pipes freezing during cold weather in Cluain Airne/Monadreen area of Thurles is an issue for residents themselves as the houses are all privately owned.
- Upon completion of works at the Ballyduag Group Water Scheme a request that the road be returned to the standard it was in prior to the commencement of the works will be referred to the relevant section.

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

The District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the meeting. The District Engineer informed the Members that it is intended to hold a Workshop on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 10.30 a.m. provided the MD has been allocated its budgets for 2021.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Where the District is undertaking footpath improvement works in an area would it be wiser to repair the full footpath rather than partial improvement works.
- Will the road realignment works currently ongoing at the new Lidl Development allow a truck to make a left hand turn from Slievenamon Road onto Clongour Road?
- Sewerage pipes at the rear of houses at Fontenoy Terrace are continuously blocking. If the pipes to one house become blocked, it subsequently affects approximately 10 adjoining houses.
- Part of the Leugh Road, from the old dump site in Monanearla to Leugh School, is in very poor condition resulting in flooding and ponding of water in the area. Can this section of road be included in the 2021 Roads Programme?
- The road from Kilcooley Wall out to Grange Village is in very poor condition.
- Can an upgrade of the road in Moycarkey Village be included in the Village Renewal Scheme as it is in a bad state of repair? Patching works were undertaken recently in the area but it will not take long for the road to deteriorate again as it is a busy road.
- Flooding is an issue at Graiguemane between Ballysloe and Gortnahoe.
- The condition of the Slievenamon Road just before the roundabout is in very bad condition and contact needs to be made with the TII in this regard.
- Is there tertiary funding available to address the poor road surface at the back entrances to houses in Kennedy Park, Thurles.
- Can a pedestrian crossing be put in place in Lognafulla?



- Is it possible to extend and re-surface the footpath at the front of Pouldine School when the works commence in the area in the next few months.
- Has there been any further update from the TII in relation to the upgrading of the road from the Anner Hotel down to Cathedral Street which is in an extremely poor state of repair.
- Is it possible for Thurles MD to link up with Carrick MD to examine the poor road surface at the old briquette factory up to Ballynonty Village?
- Traffic Calming measures and a pedestrian crossing are required at the Ragg Village for which a Notion of Motion was previously submitted.
- Road safety measures are required for the Tonagha Junction on the Thurles to Two-Mile-Borris Road.
- Request that the MD write to the TII seeking funding to extend the current footpath on the Dublin Road out as far as Drish bridge to accommodate the huge numbers of people who walk in the area.
- Flooding is an ongoing issue and has been for several years on the N62 at Oakdale Park, Templemore.
- The footpaths at Kiltillane Court on the Clonmore Road are in a poor state of repair with two gullies slicking up from the ground.
- What is the update regarding the realignment works required at St. Joseph's School, Templemore?
- Speeding is an issue at St. Colmcille's School, Templemore which requires road realignment to alleviate the problem.
- Across the road from Taylor's garage in Templemore, the footpath on the left hand side out to Killea is in very poor condition.
- Improvement works are required in the car park on the Killea Road, Templemore.
- The availability of disability parking spaces in Templemore town needs to be examined as there are currently a very limited number of disability parking spaces within the town.
- Footpaths on the Mall in Templemore are in very poor condition.
- Flooding is an ongoing issue on the N62 in Templemore Town at Butler's Pub and Young's garage.
- The road at Collin's Cross, Drom, Templemore is extremely dark and dangerous and requires realignment.
- The poor condition of some of the footpaths in Mountgeorge, Borrisoleigh still need to be addressed.
- Footpaths in Borrisoleigh Village are in poor condition.
- Flooding is an issue on the N62 at Roscrea and the R445 past Stapleton's bakery where walkers are getting soaked by cars.
- Water ponding is an issue at Kennedy Park, Roscrea where the water appears to be falling short of the gully.
- Do inlets need to be opened up to relieve pockets of rainwater that are pooling on the N62 at Curragunneen on the Roscrea to Templemore Road.



- Following ESB reinstatement works at Tullaskeagh, the road is in very poor condition.
- When will the final resurfacing works at Abbey Road, Thurles be undertaken.
- When will road works on the R661 at Holycross be undertaken as the road is heavily used and is deteriorating badly.
- When will the list for the LIS Schemes be available and can a workshop be held to discuss those issues that are continually arising.
- The condition of 1.5 km stretch of road from O'Connell's Cross, Upperchurch is in very poor condition and in need of improvement works.
- The idea that an existing road will have to be removed from the current salting schedule in order to include another section of road is not practical and more funding needs to be sought from the Roads Section in order to tackle roads that are never salted such as the Dunkerrin Road and the Templetuohy Road.
- Can the footpath at Blackcastle Road, Templemore be investigated to fill in the section of footpath where there is a break in it?
- Who is the contact person within Thurles MD in relation to Housing and Roads issues?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- It is anticipated that the MD will eventually in the long term address complete footpaths in an area but before that can happen priority must be first given to areas where there is footpath failure in order to avoid PL Claims.
- The District Engineer will liaise with the Roads Senior Engineer (Peter Fee) in relation to road realignment at the Lidl Development at Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- The sewerage issue at Fontenoy Terrace is a matter for Water Services.
- The poor condition of the road surface at Leugh and Grange will both be discussed at the Workshop on Friday next.
- The poor condition of the road at the old Briquette factory and on to Ballynonty Village is not in Thurles MD area and therefore it will not be examined by the MD.
- No update has been made in relation to installing a pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures at the Ragg as a meeting with the local residents cannot be facilitated at this time due to Covid restriction
- As the footpath on the N62 out to Drish Bridge is outside the town speed limit area a footpath will not be installed.
- The road surface in Moycarkey Village will be investigated.
- The very poor condition of Slievenamon Road just before the roundabout needs immediate attention by the TII.



- There is no funding stream to address the back entrances to houses. However, the MD does intend to tackle this issue from its own funds much like a CIS Scheme requiring residents to contribute towards the works.
- The MD will undertake a speed survey to examine the issue of speeding at Lognafulla before a pedestrian crossing can be considered.
- The footpath at Pouldine School will be examined when works are taking place.
- Flooding issues in Templemore will be examined.
- Road lining cannot be undertaken during the current winter weather conditions.
- Remedial works to the car park of the Dunkerrin Road will commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year following completion of flood defence works in the area by the OPW.
- The issue regarding a lack of disability parking in Templemore town will be investigated.
- The OPW have almost completed its works at the Mall, Templemore. Work on the footpaths will commence later in the year.
- The upgrading of footpaths in Mountgeorge, Borrisoleigh is included in the 2021 works programme. The complete list of footpath repair works for 2021 is currently being compiled.
- Flooding issues on the N62 at Roscrea will be examined in conjunction with the GSS.
- The issue of water lodging at Kennedy Park, Roscrea and flooding on the N62 at Curragunneen on the Roscrea to Templemore Road will be investigated in conjunction with the GSS.
- Thurles MD are not aware of the reason why the ESB did not continue its works on the Glencarrig Road into Glencarrig itself.
- Irish Water has completed the work on Abbey Road. The procurement process is currently underway to engage a contractor to undertake the requisite works and it is intended works will commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year.
- It is anticipated that drainage works in advance of roadworks on the R661 at Holycross will commence in March.
- The LIS scheme will be discussed at the forthcoming Workshop with the Members. In relation to the CIS Scheme, Roads Central will publicly advertise for new applications later in the year.
- The issue of the poor road surface at Upperchurch will be discussed at the forthcoming Members' Workshop.
- Salting of the road at Dunkerrin and Templetuohy will be flagged with the Machinery Yard. However, the MD are currently operating at full salting capacity and extra funding will be required in order to increase the capacity.

The issue of the missing piece of footpath at the Blackcastle Road will be examined.



## 6. Update on Capital Projects

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	The contractor has been given clearance to completed main drainage works as they are crossing the N75 in Liberty Square.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre.	EML are appointed as Design Stage Consultants. Project and design update scheduled for 11th Feb. 2021 to Councillors and Consultation Group. The consultants are currently preparing tender documentation for issue in the 3rd quarter 2021.
Roscrea Enhancement Scheme.	The project is substantially completed however the contractor cannot progress to completion until current Covid restrictions are stepped down.
The Littleton Labyrinth' (Peatway).	The Just Transition Fund for the Littleton Labyrinth Project has successfully met the required criteria set down by the Department and has been made a provisional offer of €663,719.  A final offer will be subject to a normal verification assessment process.
The Old Rail line between Roscrea and Birr.	Correspondence has been issued to the original Birr-Roscrea Greenway steering group members to ascertain if there is any merit in re-visiting the proposals. It has been agreed that the group will be assembled in the near future to discuss the current status.
River Suir Walkway, Thurles.	Thurles Lions Club are in the process of writing to all affected landowners advising that they are examining the potential for a looped riverbank walk and getting preliminary views from the landowners. Application for funding of Phase 1 of the walkway has been submitted under Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure. Appointment of consultant to progress the project is ongoing.
Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme, Roscrea.	Work to enhance the roundabouts has been completed.





The District Director explained that the Project Workshop, which was originally anticipated to be held in January, will now be held remotely. The aim of the workshop is to provide an update on the current main projects and to identify future projects that can be put into the project pipeline for development over the next number of years.

## **7. Dates to be set for quarterly Community Safety Meetings 2021**

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Hanafin and seconded by Cllr. S. Ryan that the dates for the Community Safety Meetings for 2021 will be held in April, July, October and December at 10.00 a.m. immediately before the MD Meeting.

It was also noted that the Gardai have Zoom access if it is required for the meeting.

## **8. Tidy Towns and Burial Ground Grants, for noting of closing date**

It was agreed that the closing date for the Burial Grants 2021 will be 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

The Sports Club Grants and the Residents Grants are on-line applications and the closing date is 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021.

Any queries in relation to the grants should be directed to Louise Phillips, Thurles MD.

It was noted that the Templemore Graveyard Committee currently do not qualify for the burial ground grants. The District Administrator will examine if it will be possible for them to qualify.

## **9. Notices of Motion**

### **Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Shane Lee – id 2068:**

“I’m calling on this District Council to engage with Irish Water and other utilities providers to ensure that all required reinstatement measures are carried out to an acceptable standard upon completion of their work.”

The Response issued was:

“All engagement for road openings is dealt through the RMO Road Licensing System however there are specific elements of the IW and TCC Water Services structure which are currently being streamlined to



adhere fully to the RMO system. Engagement with IW/TCC will continue until full compliance with the RMO system is in place.”  
Councillor Lee acknowledged the response. He stated that the reality on the ground would appear to be different as the standard of the re-instatement works by various utilities is sub-standard.

## **10. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:-

- Bridie Greed, Gurteen and Kitty Maher, Shanakill, Roscrea having both celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays recently.
- Jim Ryan, Executive Engineer, Thurles MD and his wife Claire on the recent birth of their baby.
- James Scott on his appointment as Coach to the FAI National U17 Women’s team.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- Tom Barry former Thurles Town Manager on the death of his mother Eileen Barry, RIP.
- The McCarthy family, Churchview, Littleton on the death of Jimmy McCarthy RIP. Jimmy was involved in construction projects with Thurles MD.
- The family of Mr. Larkin, Caretaker of Killea Graveyard on the recent death of his wife Christine Larkin, RIP.
- The family of Joe O’Regan RIP, Monakeeba, Thurles who passed away recently. Joe previously worked on the CES Schemes with Tipperary County Council.
- Brid Farrelly on the death of her husband Jim Farrelly, Railway Road, Templemore.

## **12. Any Other Business**

### Contact Person in Thurles MD

In relation to Councillor Moran’s query as to who is the contact person in the MD, he was advised that the CRM system is the first point of contact. Thurles MD Engineering Staff can be contacted following that.

Taking In Charge Update – Ashgrove Estate, Thurles



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae  
Thiobraid Árann,  
Oifig Cheantar Bardasach  
an  
Dhurlais, Ascaill an  
Chaisleáin, Ourlas,  
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The Members were informed that a Planning Section Official recently met with the developer from Ashgrove Estate and gave him a snag list of works to address, mainly issues concerning cracked footpaths and lights. Works are currently suspended due to the Covid restrictions and it is expected that they will commence on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:   
CATHAÓIRLEACH DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

SIGNED:   
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

