



## MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

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

**Also Present:**

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Eamon Lonergan | A/District Director         |
| Liam Brett     | Senior Engineer             |
| Thomas Duffy   | District Engineer           |
| Jim Ryan       | Executive Engineer          |
| Sharon Scully  | District Administrator      |
| Orla McDonnell | Acting Senior Staff Officer |

**Apologies:** Aoife Cahill Executive Engineer

### 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 N. Coonan and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

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

"That the Minutes of the June 2021 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### 3. **Update from Environment and Climate Change Section**

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer and Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer were in attendance via Zoom



for this item. An Environment and Climate Change Report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

- Infrastructure and Maintenance
  - Burial Grounds
- Community Services
  - Environment and Climate Action SPC Meeting
- Control of Dogs
- Control of Horses
- Derelict Sites
- Litter Enforcement
- Public Awareness
  - Pre-tenancy training discussions
  - 2021 Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign
  - On-line Green Schools Poster and Video Competition Awards
  - Reusable Cotton Bags for Tidy Towns
- National Spring Clean

The Members raised the following queries:-

- What level of remedies/powers are available to the Council in dealing with the issue of graffiti. There was an issue of graffiti approximately 6 months ago on the N62 in Roscrea and although it is not a regular occurrence, it does appear to be on the increase.
- Following a recent clean-up in Ashbury, there was substantial rubbish in the area again within two to three days of the clean-up. Could Housing Section and the Environment & Climate Action Section link in with each other in an effort to identify where the rubbish is coming from.
- Dog fouling is a big issue both in Templemore Town Park and Templemore Town. There are not enough bins available to tackle the problem.
- Can more signage be installed in Templemore Town Park to tackle the issue of dogs being let off their leash by their owners and allowed to run loose in the park.
- There are horses on a site in Templemore beside the graveyard and they appear to be neglected with nothing to eat or drink.
- Are there any Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Templemore and Thurles?
- Dumping continues to be an issue with particular hotspots such as Clover Bog, Two-Mile-Borris; behind Derrynaflan Housing Estate in Littleton and the Ghost Estate in Gortnahoe. How feasible would it be to use drones or CCTV in these known hotspot areas?
- Have the bin inspections that were suspended during Covid recommenced.



- Can an additional mutt mitt dispenser be located at the opposite end of the Village to where there is already a dispenser in Two-Mile-Borris as one dispenser is not sufficient.
- There was a recent incident of dog fouling on the new footpath in Liberty Square, Thurles just below Tesco, and the footpath was left in an appalling state. Are the CCTV cameras in Liberty Square being used?
- A pile of rubbish has recently become exposed following the cutting back of a long stretch of ditch on the road beyond Loughtagalla Cross, past Martin Shanahan's garage. As this is an approach road to Thurles do the Council intend to clean it up?
- Where in the MD will the Solar Bins be located and when will they be installed?
- Does the responsibility for clean-up of the area around the part of the River Suir adjacent to the back of Tesco in Thurles fall under the remit of the Environment & Climate Action Section or the OPW as the area is completely overgrown and needs to be cut back.
- Could a Workshop with the Councillors be set up to examine ways in which dumping in private lands can be tackled.
- What can be done to deal with the issue of littering outside business premises on Rosemary Street, Roscrea?
- Issue of dog fouling on graves in Roscrea Graveyard resulting in the caretaker have to clean it up.
- Can the bin surveys be resumed in an attempt to try and tackle the issue of fly tipping in rural and urban areas.
- There are safety concerns regarding the wall surrounding the Old Graveyard in Moycarkey.
- The car park at the Ragg Cemetery is in very poor condition. A temporary job was undertaken but it is now in need of further works.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Clearance has not yet been granted to resume the door to door bin surveys which are currently being done by letter and phone. Letters can issue to households in hotspot area based on available evidence.
- Local Tidy Towns Committees recently received hi-viz vests and dog fouling signs to try and tackle the issue of dog fouling.
- The neglected horses in Templemore fall under the remit of Animal Welfare within the Department of Agriculture. Environment Section will contact the Department if the horses have been abandoned.
- One car charging point is currently being proposed for the MD. Environment & Climate Action Section will liaise with Roads Section on this matter. There are several private charging points available in the District and exact locations can be viewed on-line.
- Evidence/witnesses are necessary in order to bring a dumping case to Court.



- Invasion of privacy issues need to be considered when deciding on the location of CCTV.
- The provision of an additional mutt mitt dispenser in Two Mile-Borris Village will be examined.
- The issue of dog fouling in Liberty Square, Thurles will be investigated to see if there are mutt mitt dispensers in the vicinity. Prosecutions with CCTV are very difficult to pursue.
- The location of the Solar Bins will be decided based on where the best gains are to be had for the bins.
- The location of mutt mitt dispensers in Roscrea will be examined to tackle the issue of dog fouling in the area.
- Messages on local radio and social media are regularly undertaken in an effort to tackle the issue of fly tipping.
- The cleaning of the River Suir area opposite Tesco in Thurles does not fall under the remit of the Environment and Climate Action Section.
- Before any safety works can be considered for Moycarkey Burial Ground, it needs to be established if the cemetery is in the ownership of the Church or the Council.
- There is no capacity in this year's budget to address the issue of the poor surface at the Ragg Cemetery Car Park. The issue will be discussed with the MD for consideration in the 2022 Budget.

#### **4. Update from Culture/Library Services/Fire & Emergency Services**

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance via Zoom for this item. A Report from the Section was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report examined the following items:-

- Library Activities
  - Re-opening of libraries
  - Easter Treats Workshop and on-line story times
  - Mindfulness Classes
  - Launch of the Sensory Toys and Resources Lending Service in Roscrea
  - Tipperary Studies Weekly Podcast
  - Official launch of the Digital Collection of Poor Law Union Records
  - Bealtaine Festival
- Arts Service
  - Poetry and Prose Collection by Tipperary Writers
  - Artist Support Schemes
- Heritage Services
  - Know your Locality Course
  - National Biodiversity Action Plan Actions
  - Commemorations Programme
  - Creative Ireland Programme
  - Royal Sites Bid



- Museum Services
  - Museum re-opening
  - Virtual Civic Reception
  - War of Independence Exhibition
  - Museum Promotional Video
  - International Museums Day
  - Digital Resources Project

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Given that all fire personnel are trained in administering First Aid and the fact that all Fire Engines are equipped with defibrillators, would it be feasible for Fire Personnel to be called to administer the defibrillator if an ambulance is not going to be available to attend to the injured party for some time.
- Are the libraries currently open to the public to come in to undertake study/research?
- Are there any plans afoot to try and pursue the promotion of the GAA Culture in Thurles given that there is such a project included in the Project Pipeline

Damien replied to the queries raised as follows:-

- The issue regarding Fire Fighters being called upon to administer the defibrillator in the event of an ambulance not being available during an emergency will be reverted back to the responsible person and a reply will issue.
- Currently the libraries are only offering a book lending service where a member of the public can browse to select a book, but no research or study is permitted as directed by the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- There have been tentative talks with the GAA previously pre-Covid but none in recent times in relation to the promotion of Thurles Town as a GAA Cultural Centre. The matter will be referred back to the Museum Curator.

## **5 Lisheen Windfarm Trust Application – Templeuoehy Community Playground Committee**

The Meetings Administrator advised that Lisheen Windfarm Trust provides funding for payment of grants to community / voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor N. Coonan that:



“The application received from the Templetuohy Community Playground Committee under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be accepted.”

## 6 District Engineers Report

The District Engineer’s Report was circulated in advance of the Meeting.

The Members discussed the new road layout at Clongour/Slievenamon Road, Thurles, following the opening of the new Lidl Supermarket in the area and raised the following issues:-

- Massive delays in getting through the traffic lights.
- A cycle lane that abruptly brings the cyclist directly into the flow of traffic is not fit for purpose and will prove dangerous to any cyclist.
- The width of some of the traffic lanes is very tight and needs to be reviewed.
- The sequencing of lights is incorrect.
- What were the findings from the Safety Audit that was supposed to be undertaken before the traffic lights went live.
- Safety issue heading out of town as the road narrows on the bend where the footpath juts out
- When schools return in September the traffic in the area will be chaotic and similarly during match days and during the Christmas period.
- Could a roundabout for the area be considered.
- There should be a yellow box junction outside Monadreen/Ashgrove housing estates where car owners are facing serious delays trying to access/exit the estates.
- Lidl have beautifully revamped the area of the riverside walk at the back of the supermarket, however, this has highlighted the poor standard of the existing walkway which is overgrown with nettles and briars.

Liam Brett, Senior Engineer replied to the queries as follows:-

- Roads Section are aware of the lights sequencing issue which generally takes a little bit of time to get correct. The sequence was altered on Friday last. A more elaborate control system, the Mova System, will be put on the lights but approximately two weeks of vehicular data is first required before the new control system is activated.
- People are not accustomed to having traffic lights in the area and have an initial tendency to slow down but gradually this will improve as people get used to the lights.
- Gardai will be present on match days to assist with the flow of heavy traffic.
- The feasibility of a roundabout was examined and was deemed not fit for purpose. It would have impacted too much on the houses in the area resulting in part of their front gardens being taken from them.



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- The issue of the footpath jutting out will be referred to the Roads Capital Section to examine.

Jim Ryan, Executive Engineer updated the Members in relation to the MD Roads Programme as follows:-

- There is one scheme on the main Road Improvements Programme outstanding, namely Abbey Road, Thurles. The road improvement element will be done in conjunction with the Low Cost Safety Scheme.
- Contractors are currently on-site at the N62 in Templemore and on completion the Contractor will undertake works on the R639 at Fenor Hill.
- There are 3 CIS Schemes to be finished, all of which are paid up and ready to go.
- The MD have 5 Climate Action Schemes.
- Works on Ileigh Road will be completed over the next 6 weeks.
- The original Road Improvements Programme outlined last March covered 31.5 kilometres of road; this was increased to 42km when all other extensions for road strengthening were included. An additional 9km of tertiary roads were included to bring the total of the road network improvements to 51km. A further 55 km of surface dressing will bring the entire total of the road network that will have been attended to this year in the Roads Programme to 106 kilometres.

The Members raised the following issues:

- Following the successful completion of the cycle-path from Roscrea to Birdhill, could the Council look at creating a similar cycle-path from Urlingford to Cashel.
- A pedestrian crossing is needed in Templemore on the N62 in the vicinity of St. Mary's National School and the Church of Ireland. Many parents have expressed their concern at the high volumes of traffic in the area.
- Can the ramps that were removed from Railway Road, Templemore be replaced.
- Issue with water ponding following heavy rain on the R661 at Holycross following the recent raising of gullies.
- Resurfacing works were undertaken last year at Holycross. However, during the current hot weather spell lumps of the road surface have come off with trucks.
- Can the sweeper be used to attend to the sizeable quantity of stone that is being left on the road following road works.
- What is the update in relation to the speed ramps at Bohernanave, Thurles that were supposed to be replaced.
- Can the footpath at Thurles Rugby Club be extended out as far as Martin Shanahan's garage. The bend on the road in this area is also dangerous and requires attention.
- Could a cycle lane be installed on the Thurles/Two-Mile-Borris Road.



- There is a deep gully at the entrance to Dún Lia housing estate, Thurles causing damage to cars.
- Issue with pot holes in Friar Street, Thurles and at the Ragg.
- Has an inspection been undertaken of the playground equipment in Thurles Town Park. Reports from parents are stating that the climbing equipment is not safe.
- When will the skateboard park in Thurles Town Park re-open following the recent damage to some of the skateboarding equipment.
- What is intended under the proposed Town and Village Renewal Scheme application for a Music Hub in Slievenamon Road carpark, Thurles.
- When are footpath repair works expected to commence in Rosemount housing estate and at Moyne Road, Thurles.
- Has the contractor been contacted to examine the public convenience in Thurles Town Park that appears to be out of order – it will accept coin but the door will not open.
- Backfill works at Bohernacrusha have not yet been undertaken.
- Trees are blocking the safety signage in Castle Park, Two Mile Borris and need to be cut back.
- Safety signage is required at Clover Lane, Borrisoleigh - where there are approximately 20 houses - in order to advise motorists to slow down as they come-off the motorway flyover to enter the estate.
- As you approach Gortnahoe Village from the Ballysloe side the flashing speed sign is misaligned and is pointing into a field.
- White lines required on the road in Ballybeg where works were recently undertaken.
- Will the bollards that were recently removed from Butler Avenue, Thurles, in order to undertake water works, be replaced?
- Do CIS applicants who previously applied to the scheme have to re-apply for consideration this year or will they automatically be notified.
- Overgrown hedges on the N62 need to be cut back as they are pushing people off the footpath.
- The top of Limerick Street, Roscrea is in a very poor state of repair and requires attention.
- Road Safety signage required at Roscrea National School.
- Bothar Mhuire, Templemore – can road works be carried out at this location.
- Has the design been completed on the N62 northern side as there is a huge safety issue in this area.
- Hedge trimming was undertaken at junctions on the N62, however the hedges at the side entrances were not cut back and require attention.
- Following recent heavy rain flooding took place both in Clonbawn and Rosemary Street, Roscrea and resulted in two houses being flooded.
- A letter was submitted to Tipperary County Council by some of its employees in relation to online abuse and intimidation and to date the employees have received no reply.





- Has there been any update from the SPC in relation to the provision of public lighting in specific areas outside the 60km speed zone, namely in Thurles on the R660 out as far as Dew Valley Meats and also on the N62 out as far as the An Post Sorting Office.
- There is a serious issue with the footpath on the N62 past Rosemount housing estate, Thurles as you head out towards the An Post Sorting office where trees have become uprooted and may need to be removed entirely.
- Public lighting needs to be addressed at the dispensary in Gortnahoe and also at Kevin's Park, Littleton where the lights are not working at one end of the estate.
- Low Cost Safety Scheme application proposed for Gortkelly Cross, Upperchurch.

The District Engineer replied to queries raised as follows:-

- The Low-Cost Safety Scheme will go ahead in September.
- Active travel are focusing on cycle-paths in urban areas.
- In line with Policy, the Council will not install public lighting in areas outside the 50km zone. The Council are continuing to work on upgrading the efficiency of the existing lighting stock.
- An application for the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Church Street/Mary Street, Templemore was submitted to the TII six weeks ago.
- Reinstallation of ramps at Railway Road, Templemore will be installed in due course.
- Following road improvement works, a period of one to two weeks is required before the sweeper can be introduced to sweep up any loose chippings.
- Members should inform the Executive Engineer of specific locations in Holycross where manholes require attention.
- All gullies/inlets will be addressed from August onwards.
- The issue regarding the ramps in Bohernanave, Thurles has been addressed. Some of the retrofit ramps were coming loose some time ago but have all since been attended to.
- The Contractor is due to return to deal with the interface area between houses and roads in Holycross in the next few weeks.
- The proposal to extend the footpath at Thurles Rugby Club will not be considered as it is not in keeping with Council Policy.
- Any pothole issues are to be logged as CRMs and will be dealt with accordingly.
- The issue of the gully at Dun Lia housing estate, Thurles should be logged as a CRM and will be dealt with accordingly. All issues in relation to gullies are to be logged as CRMs.
- All playgrounds in the District undergo weekly inspections. The Contractor is due this coming Thursday to fix the swing and the skateboarding area in Thurles Town Park.



- Music Generation have approached the MD under the Town/Village Music Hub in relation to the use of the derelict building in the Slievenamon Road Carpark, Thurles. An application for funding to carry out a feasibility study has been submitted.
- Footpath repair works will be undertaken in the third quarter of the year.
- There is a yearly maintenance contract on the public convenience at Thurles Town Park. The toilet will be checked to see if there is a problem with it and if so the contractor will be contacted to address the issue.
- The bollards at Butler Avenue, Thurles will be re-instated.
- All applicants that have applied under the CIS Scheme will be notified.
- It was understood that all hedges on the N62 and on Corville Road, Roscrea had been attended to, however the area will be examined to see if some areas were overlooked.
- Remedial roadworks for the top of Limerick Street, Roscrea will be considered.
- The Executive Engineer for Roscrea Area will check if the safety signage has been installed at Corville National School in Roscrea.
- Works on the N62 outside Templemore as you go towards Roscrea are programmed to commence in September.
- The flooding at Clonbawn is being addressed in conjunction with Irish Water, however the MD were unaware of recent flooding on Rosemary Street, Roscrea.
- The upgrading of the footpath at Carroll's Row, Roscrea is included on the footpath programme.

## **7 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.     | Services and utility diversions currently being undertaken. Footpath works have commenced on the southside at eastern end of the Scheme. |
| Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase II.     | Topographical survey currently being tendered.   |
| Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building. | The Council's Projects Engineer will meet with MIC, Farmers Market Representatives and all stakeholders at the end of July.              |
| The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1.                | Memorandum of Understanding and Land Licence Agreement being drafted. TCC carried out a preliminary Environmental Assessment.            |
| Holycross Tourism Centre.                       | Develop RRDF application for submission.   |



|  |   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|---|---|---|-----------------|-----------|
| Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza. | Stage 1 Tendering for construction to commence. Asbestos survey also completed.   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'.                            | Masterplan is being developed by Planning Section and will be delivered in workshop format to the Elected Members in the coming months for review.  |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| Main Street, Roscrea.  | Draft scheme extents prepared.  |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| Vacant Housing Units   | <table> <tr> <td>Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Tender Stage</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budgets submitted to Housing Section</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Completed to Covid-19 Standards as requested by Housing Section</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL MD</b></td> <td><b>26</b></td> </tr> </table> | Awaiting receipt of keys to property | 2 | At Inspections/Costings Stage | 9 | At Tender Stage | 4 | Budgets submitted to Housing Section | 1 | In Progress | 8 | Completed to Covid-19 Standards as requested by Housing Section | 2 | <b>TOTAL MD</b> | <b>26</b> |
| Awaiting receipt of keys to property                                 | 2   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| At Inspections/Costings Stage  | 9   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| At Tender Stage  | 4   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| Budgets submitted to Housing Section                                 | 1   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| In Progress  | 8   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| Completed to Covid-19 Standards as requested by Housing Section      | 2   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |
| <b>TOTAL MD</b>  | <b>26</b>   |                                      |   |                               |   |                 |   |                                      |   |             |   |   |   |                 |           |

The District Engineer stated that Liberty Square is progressing well and the work is of good quality. The Contractor is currently on 2 weeks holidays.

## **8 Notices of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

## **9 Correspondence**

Following on from the issue of the reduced capacity of Shannon Doc Services in the Roscrea Area since Covid and a written request to the HSE seeking a meeting to discuss the matter, correspondence has been received from the HSE who have asked that the MD write directly to the Shannon Doc Services to request a meeting to discuss the matter.

## **10 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy**

A vote of Congratulations was extended to:-

- Brian Lanphier, Cloughmartin, Thurles on winning the Captain's Prize at Thurles Golf Club yesterday.

A vote of Sympathy was extended to:-

- Matt and Jacinta Long, Brittas Road, Thurles on the recent death of their son Rory. Matt was a teacher at Thurles CBS for over 40 years and taught many of the Councillors.



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## **11 Any Other Business**

Councillor J. Ryan queried the fact that residents in Thurles who were heretofore able to avail of the Shannon Doc service at St. Mary's Health Centre in Thurles are now being asked to travel to Nenagh. The District Administrator will investigate the issue.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.

SIGNED:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.

SIGNED:   
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2021.