



MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 17TH MAY 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	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

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 S. Hanafin and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the April 2021 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 19th April 2021 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. **Update from Planning Section**

Nuala O'Connell, Senior Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer were in attendance via Zoom for this item. A Planning Briefing Note was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

- New Policy /Strategic Issues
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
 - Thurles Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme – Phase 1
 - Thurles Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme – Phase 2
 - Templemore Cultural and Enterprise Centre with associated Civic Plaza
 - Thurles Market Quarter
 - Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy



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- County Development Plan
 - Conservation Grant Schemes 2021
 - Historic Structure Fund 2021
 - Taking-in-Charge – May 2021
 - Planning Application Status 2021
 - Enforcement Proceeding 2021

Nuala informed the Members that the Draft County Development Plan would be complete by the end of May or early June at which stage it would be presented to Members at a workshop.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Ashgrove and Caislean Court housing estates, Thurles.
- Who is the contact person within Planning Section regarding an application for the change of use from a retail business to café.
- The issues relating to the state of the Retirement Village in Templemore such as illegal dumping and poor lighting need to be addressed.
- Given the shortage of 1 bed houses within Thurles MD, could a scheme be introduced whereby the Council would acquire properties over town shop premises which are vacant and convert them into 1 bed homes.
- When do the Council expect to go to tender for Phase 1 of the Littleton Labyrinth and can an application be made now for Phase 2 of the Labyrinth.
- Will the new e-planning system be rolled-out as planned next October?
- The Council should use the new Development Plan as an opportunity to focus on brown field sites and to regenerate town centres.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Cardens Court housing estate, Templemore and Cluain Dara housing estate in Thurles which has been left in a poor state by the developer.
- Roscrea Town Plan 2012-2018, which was extended for a few years, now needs to be examined and a new plan developed.
- How can the issue of CCTV in Roscrea be progressed?

Nuala and Kieran replied to the queries raised as follows:-

- E-Planning will be rolled out in October as planned.
- A Workshop will take place as part of the County Development Plan process and brown fields can be examined as part of that process.
- It is proposed to examine and review the Roscrea Town Plan this year and it is anticipated that an update will be given to the Members in due course.



- It is anticipated that the taking-in-charge of Ashgrove housing estate, Thurles will take place at the end of the summer. All defects are currently being examined and worked through with the developer.
- It is anticipated that the taking-in-charge of Caisleann Court housing estate, Thurles will take place within the next few months. The estate was recently inspected and work is ongoing to address issues.
- Cluain Doire housing estate, Templemore was recently inspected and a technical report is now being prepared will be progressed over the coming weeks.
- The Retirement Village in Templemore is a private estate and therefore will not be taken-in-charge. Planning Section will follow up on the Enforcement File that was opened whereupon a letter issued to the developer. Planning Section will also liaise with the Environment Section in relation to the illegal dumping taking place within the estate.
- The issue of CCTV in Roscrea is currently being examined. Margo Hayes from Community & Enterprise is leading a community group which is progressing the matter.
A Feasibility Study has been carried out by J&N Consultants.
Issues similar to those experienced in Littleton around GDPR remain.
- It is anticipated that the Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1 will go to tender in June/July of this year and that an application for Phase 2 of the project will be submitted later in the year.

4. Update from Water Services Section

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

- Irish Water Workshop
- 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
 - Back Yard services works in Thurles Town
- Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme
 - Countywide disinfection programme for water treatment plants
 - Countywide health and safety upgrades program
 - Countywide Wastewater Treatment Plan chemical bulk storage
- Rural Water Programme
- Private Well Grants



- Group Water Schemes

The Members raised the following queries:-

- There have been several water outages in Thurles town recently with no advance warning to businesses and residents. Can notices be issued in advance of such outages.
- Following a major Irish Water job on the Thurles to Rossestown Road the edge of the road has been left in a deplorable condition as you approach Rossestown Cross. Can the road be reinstated to its previous condition?
- Ongoing issue of raw sewerage being pumped in the River Suir at Kavanagh Place, Thurles during periods of heavy rain.
- The contact telephone number for Irish Water is from Monday to Friday 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Can that number be made available 7 days per week to allow burst pipes to be reported and dealt with.
- Issue of several burst water pipes in the Gurteen and Ballysloe areas recently.
- The Shared Service Level Agreement between Irish Water and the Council is soon to change. Following this change, what input will the Council have in relation to leaks and outages.
- Issue of sewerage in Ashgrove housing estate, Thurles recently where several drains had to be cleared.
- Cluain Bán Estate, Whitepark, Roscrea issue of storm and waste water coming up through the drains during periods of heavy rain.
- Reinstatement works generally are of a poor standard within the MD.
- Number of outages in Clonakenny area on the N62. Outages have occurred 3 or 4 times recently. Does piping need to be replaced.

Gerry replied to the queries raised as follows:-

- The recent outages in Thurles Town have occurred suddenly and have been dealt with as quickly as possible by the men on the ground. In the event of a planned outage notices will issue to residents and businesses in the area.
- The Rural Water Engineer is due to meet with the Roads Engineer later this week to examine the issue in relation to the road at Rossestown.
- Irish Water are aware of the issue regarding burst watermains in Gurteen and Ballysloe and are planning to upgrade the pipes in the areas.
- Water Services will investigate the recent issue at Ashgrove, Thurles and revert back to the Members.
- Irish Water have an Area Drainage Plan for Thurles and Roscrea to alleviate floods and spills into rivers. Plans should be available within the next few months.
- The issue relating to outages in the Clonakenny area will be investigated.



5 Fix date and time for the Annual General Meeting at Thurles Municipal District

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor M. Smith and agreed by all Members:-

“that the Annual General Meeting of Thurles Municipal District will take place on Monday 21st June, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.”

6 District Engineers Report

The District Engineer announced that under the Roads Programme, road improvements are 60% complete and surface dressing will commence on 25/05/2021. The MD will meet with the Draining Committees in June and a reminder to all Members that proposals for Tertiary works should be submitted.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Can a safety audit be conducted to examine the new road markings at the Clongour junction, Thurles as when you drive out of town, one lane is very tight?
- Is there a programme for cleaning gullies in Thurles town?
- Request that outdoor crews tidy up areas following grass cutting.
- Ensure that the new cycle lane between Roscrea and Moneygall is kept free of debris.
- Consider the development of a cycleway on the N8 between Urlingford and Cashel.
- The gullies in Parnell Street, Thurles need cleaning.
- What is the update in relation to the footpaths in Rosemount estate, Thurles.
- The following roads in Thurles town are in a poor state of repair:- O'Donovan Rossa Street, Borrowway and Clongour.
- Issue of flooding during periods of heavy rain on Kickham Street, Thurles, in particular outside Aldi Supermarket and on the Dublin road outside Boomerang.
- Speeding traffic is an issue in Thurles at Butler Avenue, Bohervaroon, and Marlstone Manor.
- The surrounding wall at Loughtagalla Park, Thurles is in very poor condition and may be in danger of collapsing.
- Extend the footpath at Two-Mile-Borris out as far as Clover Lane.
- What percentage of LIS funding will Thurles MD receive following the recent County allocation of €700,000 and what lanes will be addressed.
- Has there been any update in relation to implementing a scheme aimed at addressing the dumping issues at back entrances of Council estates.
- Residents at Kennedy Park, Thurles are concerned over the high level of HGVs using the area as a means of avoiding the town.



- When will work commence on ditch cutting at road junctions as visibility at the junction at Shanballa in Moycarkey is currently very restricted due to overgrown hedges.
- When will the 'Children at Play' signs be erected in Castle Park Estate, Two-Mile-Borris.
- The top-half of the road from Ballysloe to Coalbrook, which is in Thurles MD area, is in a very bad state and requires attention.
- What is the update in relation to the footpaths in Moyne Road, Thurles.
- The gullies on Church Avenue, Templemore are full, apparently from a burst water pipe outside house number 36 on this street, and they require attention.
- Issue with manholes on Chapel Street, Borrisoleigh and the need for them to be reinstated.
- What is the plan in relation to Rosemary Square, Roscrea in terms of safety in the area.
- There is a sign not working in Lismacken, Clonakenny as you approach the school.
- Flooding is an issue on the N62 where water is falling short of the gullies.
- When will the contractor commence footpath repair works at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- Concern in relation to laying of new footpaths around existing Eircom Poles in Benamore, Roscrea recently where the poles have yet to be removed.
- There is a bad patch of roadway on the top of the Link Road to Gantly Road, Roscrea where the road narrows and road markings are also needed.
- Issue of flooding outside the GAA field in Templemore.
- When will work take place on the green area in Kennedy Park, Roscrea under the anti-dumping initiative?

The District Engineer replied to queries raised as follows:-

- The MD are awaiting a reply from Roads Capital in relation to the issue regarding the road markings at Clongour junction, Thurles which was referred to them for investigation.
- The issue of blocked gullies, Thurles will be referred to the Town Foreman with specific areas examined.
- The issue of tidying up areas following grass cutting will be discussed with GSSs.
- Final works on the cycle lane from Roscrea to Moneygall will be complete this week and road markings will be installed. The cycle lane will be kept free of debris.
- The footpaths in Rosemount and Moyne Road will be tackled in Phase 2 of the Footpath Repair Works for Thurles Town.
- The issue of flooding on Kickham Street and outside Boomerang on the Dublin Road, Thurles was previously addressed. Any recent flooding in



the area may have been as a result of flash floods which should quickly recede. If the issue persists the MD will address it.

- Speed surveys will be undertaken in areas of concern.
- The surrounding wall at Loughtagalla Park, Thurles will be examined.
- The provision of a footpath from Two-Mile-Borris to Clover Lane will not be undertaken due to the Council's policy of non-provision of footpaths outside the speed limit areas unless funding from another source, such as Leader funding, can be sought.
- Addressing the issue of back entrances is on the agenda but has not been advanced to date.
- In relation to HGVs using Kennedy Park, Thurles as a short-cut, there are currently several speed ramps in place in Kennedy Park, however, a speed survey can be undertaken to monitor the situation.
- Hedge cutting at junctions, in particular at national routes, will be undertaken.
- 'Children at Plan' signs will be erected in Castle Park, Two-Mile-Borris.
- Gullies at Church Avenue, Templemore and in Borrisoleigh will be examined.
- There has been no progress in relation to Rosemary Square, Roscrea however it is included on the Project Pipeline Plan.
- Speed signs at Lismacken and Clonakenny will be examined.
- The issue of flooding at Ashbury, Roscrea will be referred to the Engineer for the area.
- The laying of footpaths in Benamore, Roscrea had to proceed, despite the presence of the Eircom poles, due to a timeline in place with the Contractor.
- The poor condition of the road at Limerick Street, Roscrea will be looked at and may be included in the new Roads 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	Project Charter completed to apply for Category 2 URDF funding. Scheme extents drawing completed.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building	Funding approved.
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1.	Offer of funding complete. TCC to sign agreement and return.
Holycross Tourism Centre.	Develop RRDF application for submission.



Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza.	Design being developed, tender documents being prepared.
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Draft Masterplan complete. To be presented to Members at a workshop before the July MD meeting.
Main Street, Roscrea.	Draft scheme extents prepared.
Enterprise Hub, Roscrea	Costing and tender preparation.
Vacant Units Update	MD awaiting receipt of keys to property 0 At Inspection/Costing Stage 7 At Tender Stage 5 Budgets Submitted to Housing Section 3 In Progress 4 Completed to Covid-19 Standards 1 TOTAL 20

The District Engineer explained that the Liberty Square project was progressing well. The paving is well underway thereby allowing areas to be opened up to pedestrians and the workmanship is top class.

8 Notices of Motion

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan – ID 2155

"I am calling on Transport Infrastructure Ireland to install a pedestrian crossing along Kickham Street in Thurles."

Response

"The District will write to TII informing them of the representation to install a pedestrian crossing on Kickham Street, Thurles".

Councillor Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response. He asked about the feasibility of undertaking a Noise and Air Pollution Survey of the area to show the effect that HGV's are having.

(b) Notice of Motion in the joint names of Councillors S. Hanafin and S. Ryan – ID 2156

"We call on the Minister of transport to include the Thurles by Pass in the National Development Plan currently under review."



Response

"If the elected members are in agreement, this Notice of Motion can be referred to the Minister of Transport."

Councillor Hanafin expressed his satisfaction with the response. He stated that Thurles is one of the few towns in Thurles without a ring road. The inner-relief road is a short-term solution. The route corridor for the ring road was originally selected by TII and the land sterilised. The issue is raised every year and we need to get it on the National Development Plan.

Councillor S. Ryan stated that Thurles is choked up with through traffic and now that the town has secured University Status it will attract more people and traffic into the town.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:-

- Joe Bracken, Rossestown former PRO, GAA in recognition of his receipt of the GAA Writers Pro of the Year Award 2020.
- Sean Mocker, Two Mile Borris who secured 11th place in the European Shot Putt finals in Croatia recently.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- The Allen family, Talavera, Templemore on the recent death of Ailbe.

11 Any Other Business

- The HSE Roscrea Shannon doc service was understandably curtailed to a mobile service during the Covid-19 lockdown, however the HSE now intend to continue with a mobile service only for Roscrea, resulting in a significantly reduced service to what previously existed. It was proposed that Thurles MD write to the HSE requesting that normal services would resume once Covid restrictions are lifted.

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



“Thurles MD write to the HSE in relation to its proposed reduction to the Shannon Doc Service in Roscrea ”

- Councillor E. Moran requested that the MD install a public toilet in Templemore Town Park.
- The District Administrator advised Members of the Outdoor Grant of €4,000 available to businesses who wish to purchase outdoor furniture. Any businesses interested in the Scheme should contact the MD Office.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21st June, 2021.

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21st June, 2021.