



MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 18TH OCTOBER 2021

Present: Councillor Seamus Hanafin Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Sean Ryan and Michael Smith

Also Present:

Eamon Lonergan	A/District Director
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
James Hayes	A/Senior Staff Officer
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Peter Ryan

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

"That the Minutes of the September 2021 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20th September be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Thurles Municipal District - Draft Budgetary Plan 2022.

Liam McCarthy, Finance Officer and Sarah O'Callaghan, A/Senior Staff Officer, were in attendance via Zoom for this item. A copy of the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2021 was circulated by email on 8th October, 2021, giving the required 7 days' notice and was also circulated with the Agenda in accordance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Mr. McCarthy outlined the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2022 to the Members and highlighted the following:-



- The GMA sets out the discretionary funding that is allocated to each Municipal District.
- The GMA does not replace the main strategic, non-discretionary expenditure of the Council.
- The total provisional allocation for the General Municipal Allocation for 2022 is €953,680. 2022 sees a slight increase over 2021 in the GMA allocation for Thurles MD.

The table below sets out the provisional allocation per district based on population.

Tipperary County Council - General Municipal Allocations (GMA) 2022
Allocated based on 2016 Population

	Population based on 2016 Census	Allocation € GMA based on 2016 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	19,440	116,197
Clonmel Borough District	24,310	145,306
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District	42,099	251,634
Nenagh Municipal District	37,728	225,507
Thurles Municipal District	35,976	215,036
Total	159,553	953,680

It was approved by the Members and resolved:-

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, we, the Members of Thurles Municipal District, hereby adopt the overall Draft Budgetary Plan 2022 providing for an expenditure of €215,036 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

4. To agree (3) priority Roads items for the District for inclusion on the Agenda for Tipperary County Council meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

An update on the District Works programme was circulated to the Members by email with the Agenda.



Following discussion, the following roads were put forward by the Members as the roads to be considered for inclusion on the Agenda for Tipperary County Council's meeting with the TII:

- Priority 1 - Thurles by-Pass/Thurles Inner Relief Road
- Priority 2 - N62 between M8 and M7 motorways
- Priority 3 - N75, Thurles.

5 District Engineers Report.

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

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Are there any plans in place to address the issue of the collapsed boundary wall at Moycarkey Cemetery?
- Street lighting is required at St. Kevin's Park, Littleton.
- There is no footpath on Abbey Road from Thurles Railway Station down as far as the former Taylor's garage.
- Flooding issue at Bohernanave, Thurles.
- The road surface in the Ulster Bank carpark, Thurles is in very poor condition and requires attention.
- 'Children at Play' signs required at Derrynaflan Drive, Littleton.
- Can the road sweeper be brought in to address the very dirty condition of the road outside the construction site of the Ned Hayes Park at Two-Mile-Borris.
- Continuous white line is needed in Moycarkey Village and at the junction in Galbertstown.
- Issues with trees blocking the light at Rosemount, Thurles making it very dark.
- Flooding issue as Cloncleigh, Two-Mile-Borris as you turn down from Ballyduff.
- When will the Active Travel Scheme at Two-Mile-Borris commence and can a similar scheme be implemented at Littleton National School as well as the implementation of safety measures there.
- Has a start date been agreed for the improvement works at Parnell Street carpark, Thurles.
- Has there been any reply from the correspondence with Laois and Kilkenny County Councils in relation to the establishment of a Joint Drainage Committee between them and Tipperary County Council.
- Has a timeline been agreed to progress the road improvement works at the Ragg and can the Ballycahill junction be included in those improvement works.
- Old historic walls and Church ruins in Boulick Cemetery are in a very poor state of repair and need to be addressed.
- Footpaths and trees in Mount George, Borrisoleigh are in a very dangerous condition and require attention.
- Can the bollards outside the Church in Templemore be removed?



- Some houses in Chapel Street, Templetuohy, that are currently undergoing works to have new heating systems installed, have no water for the past three weeks due to the works.
- When will the tree cutting programme commence?
- Is there funding in place to implement safety signage in school areas.
- Maintenance and clean-up of Main Street, Roscrea needed as there are lots of weeds in the area.
- Do the MD have a multi-faceted approach with the Gardai, local residents and the Council in order to deal with illegal bonfires in the District.
- The issue of damaged footpaths caused by uprooting trees in housing estates should be brought to the attention of the Planning Section.
- When will the OPW funded works at Galbertstown take place.
- Can a filter lane be added to allow for cars turning into Gairm Scoil Mhuire at Castlemeadows, Thurles.
- Double yellow lines are needed behind the two new disabled parking bays at Liberty Square, Thurles in order to prevent cars parking in the location and blocking the entry/exit of the disabled parking pays.
- The Municipal District must continue to pursue those landowners who do not cut back their own hedges.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- There are plans afoot to address the footpaths in Rosemount, Thurles and remove some of the trees that are causing the issue.
- The OPW funded works at Galbertstown will commence with ground works. The Archaeological works will take place after Christmas and during a dry period as weather conditions can have an implication on trench works. It is anticipated that works will take place in Quarter 2, 2022.
- The double yellow lines required at the disabled parking bays in Liberty Square, Thurles will be put in place this coming week.
- Landowners who do not comply with hedge-cutting will be followed up year upon year.
- The installation of a filter lane at Castlemeadows, Thurles outside Gairm Scoil Mhuire will be considered as part of a plan for Active Travel in the area.
- Thurles MD will correspond with Environment Section in relation to the wall at Moycarkey cemetery and the old historic walls and church ruins at Boulick Cemetery.
- The safety signage in the District is currently being examined. Funding is available and schools are being prioritised.
- It is anticipated that the improvement works on Parnell Street carpark, Thurles will commence after Christmas.
- The issue of maintenance at Main Street, Roscrea will be examined.
- The issue of illegal bonfires needs to be addressed, in the first instance, from within the community. If any illegal bonfires are



reported to the MD the information will be forwarded on to Environment Section.

- Issue of dangerous trees in Mount George, Borrissleigh will be investigated. The footpaths in the estate will also be looked at and included on a priority list if necessary.
- The bollards outside the Church in Templemore will be examined to determine if they can be removed. The Gardai have previously advised the MD that the area is difficult to police. A car can easily be removed if it parks in the area but a caravan would be trickier to remove.
- Lighting issue at St. Kevin's Park, Littleton is being addressed.
- Positive talks have taken place with landowners in relation to the improvement works for the Ragg. A topographical survey is required and a consultant will be engaged. The works will be a priority for next year.
- Reminder letters regarding the establishment of a Joint Drainage Committee between Tipperary, Kilkenny and Laois County Councils will issue.
- The issue of the dirty road outside the Ned Hayes Construction site at Two-Mile-Borris is the responsibility for the Contractor.
- Road lining at Galbertstown Cross and Moycarkey Village will be examined.
- Active Travel at Two-Mile-Borris will commence in early November.
- Cloncleigh is included in the Roadworks Programme to address the flooding issue in the area.
- The MD have met with the Principal from Littleton National School and the implementation of safety measures in the area will be pursued.
- 'Children at Play' signage will be examined for Derrynaflan Drive housing estate, Littleton.
- Road marking for Ulster Bank carpark, Thurles will be undertaken.
- The inclusion of a footpath from the Thurles Train Station to the former Taylor's garage on Abbey Road, Thurles is currently at concept design state.

6 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles	The Contractor is advancing all underground and new paving works in Phase 5 of the Project (Hayes Hotel to O'Donovan Rossa Street)
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase II	Topographical survey procured, meetings held with TII on site. Archaeological Survey procured. Tree survey procured. Heritage Impact Assessment procured.
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 and construction drawings and tender



	documentation.
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1	Appropriate Assessment screening completed. Preliminary drawings are currently being prepared in-house
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.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Restricted Tendering Procedure is completed and the tender assessment is underway.
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Gantly Road masterplan was presented to elected Members on 6th October.
Main Street, Roscrea	Review of previous plans and reports.
Vacant Housing Units	Awaiting receipt of keys to property At Inspections/Costings Stage 9 At Tender Stage Budgets submitted to Housing Section 2 In Progress <u>12</u> TOTAL 23

The A/District Director outlined to the Members the current status of the District Project Pipeline. A date will be set to meet with the Members in person in December to examine the Project Pipeline and recalibrate where the pipeline is going for 2022.

The Members acknowledged the huge works that have been undertaken on the District projects and they raised the following queries:-

- The provision of CCTV for Thurles town has been debated for several years now but how can the delivery of the project be gotten over the line as it is apparently a funding issue.
- Old Baker Street, Thurles needs overall maintenance to tackle issues such as weeds and general tidying of the Street.
- Has there been any progress in the tendering process for the Littleton Labyrinth.
- What plans are in place to deal with the Old Mall, Templemore now that the new channel is open. Community groups are concerned and anxious that Consultants, if appointed, must engage with the locals.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The delay with the CCTV for Thurles was due to the issue of Joint Data Controllers. This issue has now been resolved for the Fethard CCTV Project so it is anticipated that the Thurles CCTV Project can be advanced and it is now back on the Agenda for Thurles MD. The District



Administrator has met with J&N Security Consultants who had submitted a quote for the project last year and an up-to-date quotation is currently awaited from them. While there is a 40% grant available from the Department of Justice, the funding for the ongoing maintenance of the scheme may be an issue.

- The District Administrator had a meeting with the residents from Old Barker Street, Thurles and it was agreed that the Street will be power washed and some painting will take place. The Baker Street Outdoor Dining Project will set the template for materials and colours throughout the town so it will be of a high quality.
- Engagement with residents is ongoing in relation to the Old Mall in Templemore and a workshop with the Members will be held in 6 weeks. The project will then go to the Templemore Development Association.
- Thurles MD are the lead partners with Bord na Mona for the Littleton Labyrinth with whom lots of discussions have taken place. The Ecological survey is complete, Preliminary Designs are complete and the project will go to Part 8 shortly. Weather dependent, it is hoped that actual works will commence Q1/Q2 of 2022.

7 Notices of Motion

Notices of Motion.

(a) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan Id 2266

"I am calling on both this District Council and the OPW to carry out a full and thorough cleaning of the River Suir in Thurles to include the annual removal of the completely overgrown vegetation and weed species that is covering the river especially along the River Walk."

Reply to Notice of Motion

"The Thurles MD have contacted the OPW who in turn have confirmed that they do not have responsibility for annual maintenance for overgrown vegetation on the Suir River. The MD have subsequently contacted the Inland Fisheries Ireland in this regard and we await a response."

Councillor J. Ryan stated the importance of determining who is responsible for the maintenance of the River. He stated that it has never been so overgrown; people cannot fish in it and it looks appalling. He awaits the response from the Inland Fisheries Ireland. Meantime he has requested that the traffic cones dumped in the area be removed.

(b) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan Id 2269



"I am calling on both Transport Infrastructure Ireland and this District Council to review its decision to install traffic lights at the Lidl junction in Thurles to instead look at installing a roundabout."

Reply to Notice of Motion

"The Tipperary County Council Capital Section has responded as follows:

The Thurles Link Road is a significant Scheme and warranted an An Bord Pleanála Decision under S177AE of the Planning and Development Act 2010 (as amended). As part of this Planning Process various junction options were assessed including a roundabout. Traffic and junction modelling were used to choose the best option. A key consideration in making the roundabout option redundant was the number of residential properties to be facilitated with direct access or removed. The scheme including the traffic light junction was subsequently approved by An Bord Pleanála."

Councillor J. Ryan stated that feedback from the public suggests that traffic jams in the area have increased following the installation of the traffic lights. Yellow box junctions are needed at Rosemount and Monadreen estates.

The Members supported Councillor J. Ryan on the issue. They agreed that yellow box junctions be installed and suggested that a filter lane be put in if a roundabout is not feasible to allow a two-way traffic flow. It was also noted that the traffic lights do not pick up cyclists.

(c) Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Seamus Hanafin Id 2287

"As part of the final stage of Enhancement Works at Liberty Square, I am calling on the District to support my motion to finance a one-off Painting & Enhancement Scheme for the businesses on Liberty Square, in order to allow the properties to maximise the impact of the investment in the public realm works"

Reply to Notice of Motion

"Thurles District would welcome and support the motion from Cllr Hanafin and will commit to examine available funding opportunities to deliver a Painting & Enhancement Scheme for the businesses and residents on Liberty Square in 2022.

The Districts preference would be to have a scheme that is designed appropriately to ensure maximum effectiveness and compliment the multi million-euro investment in Liberty Square, while acknowledging the role the businesses and residents played during the works"



Councillor Hanafin expressed his satisfaction with the reply. He stated that businesses had made a lot of sacrifices with the levels of noise, dust, etc. during the works and the buildings now needed to be freshened up. He stated a palette of colours should be specified from which applicants will choose.

8 Correspondence.

Following MD correspondence with the HSE in relation to the dispatch of Fire Service Staff who are trained as emergency First Responders to attend emergencies to administer CPR, a reply has been received from the Office of the Director of the National Ambulance service.

The correspondence states that the Pre-Hospital emergency Care Council (PHECC) Priority Dispatch Standard does authorise the use of Fire Service staff whom are trained as emergency First Responders to respond to specific categories of emergencies in a co-response or first response capacity but not in a transporting capacity. Authorisation for the National Ambulance Service to request the dispatch of Fire Services to such incidents must be granted by the relevant Local Authority.

Councillor J. Ryan requested that Tipperary County Council should implement this service in instances where an ambulance is not immediately available. However, Councillor Lee stated that it is important that we do not get the Council involved in something that the HSE are responsible for and the first port of call should be to 999.

9 Votes of Congratulations / Sympathy.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:-

- James Scott, Kyleneo, Horse & Jockey, Manager of the Ireland U17 Ladies Soccer Team on winning all their group matches in the European U17 qualifying campaign.
- Fr Tom Fogarty, PP Moycarkey, June Doherty and Alix Noonan on their new publication '*Moycarkey Musings*' which was launched on Friday night last.
- Liam O' Donchu, Ballymoreen, Littleton on his new book entitled '*Semple Stadium. Field of Legends*'

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The Graham family, Ballybeg, Littleton, on the recent death of Paddy Graham, long-time member of Thurles Order of Malta and father of Anthony Graham, Civil Defence, Tipperary County Council.
- Patsy Horan, Ballycurrane, wife of Pat Horan who is involved in the Thurles Source Arts Theatre.



- Stone family, Monahincha on the death of Gerry Stone, brother to Kieran Stone, G/O Roscrea.

10 Any Other Business.

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

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 15th November, 2021

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 15th November, 2021