



## MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 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
Liam Brett	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
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 E. Moran and seconded by Councillor S. Lee and resolved:

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

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

Ann Marie Devaney, Senior Executive Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer, were in attendance via Zoom for this item. A Planning Briefing Note September, 2021 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

- County Development Plan
- NPF: Urban Regeneration and Development fund
  - Thurles Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 1
  - Thurles Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2



NPF: Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

- Templemore Cultural and Enterprise Centre with associated Civic Plaza
- Thurles Market Quarter
- Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy
- Holycross Rural Immersion Centre – Mainistir
- Conservation Grant Schemes 2021
- Historical structure fund 2021
- Taking-in-charge Update
- DPI Developments
- Planning Application statistics 2021
- Enforcement Proceedings 2021

Ann Marie gave an update to the Members on the draft County Development Plan 2022-2028 – there have been 2,600 on-line hits to date with Facebook attracting 450 and twitter attracting just under 200 hits. A PPN webinar has been held and there is another one scheduled to take place. A webinar with Comhairle na nÓg and a public webinar will also be scheduled.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- When will the plans for Phase 2 of Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme be available.
- What is the timeframe for the Roscrea Area Plan.
- Have Planning Section received correspondence from the MD in relation to resurfacing works for Parnell Street carpark.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Ashgrove Estate and the issue with the lights in the estate. Can the junctions within Ashgrove be included as currently signage within the estate is very poor, it is difficult to know who has right-of-way at junctions. Speed ramps also need to be put in place.
- What is the update in relation to the taking in charge of Cluain Doire, Templemore. Health and safety is an issue within the estate as houses are in an unfinished state. A timescale is needed to get a resolution to issues with dilapidated buildings.
- What is the update in relation to the taking in charge of Caisleán Court, The Commons, Thurles.
- The planning conditions in the Retirement Village, Templemore have not been adhered to. Lighting is in a bad state and there are issues with the entrance. The health and safety of elderly people is being compromised.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The Developer for Ashgrove has indicated defects to be complete by the end of the month. A lighting schedule has been prepared. Some



lights are turned on while some light heads need to be changed. CCTV is required for underground services and footpath defects also need to be addressed. Signage and road junctions will be included in the Report. The estate will be brought up to a high quality.

- Cluain Doire, Templemore is a Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (DPI) estate. The Council currently have 6 DPI estates with Irish Water and a further 5 DPI estates will be referred to Irish Water next year. Cluain Doire will be included in the 2022 DPI list for Irish Water. DPI is a slow progress. Meantime, the Council are looking at works that can be undertaken in an emergency situation. The estate will be examined next week to see if any other issues can be addressed. External consultants are preparing a report which should be complete by the year end.
- It is anticipated that Caisleán Court will be taken in charge in the next few weeks if no unforeseen issues are raised during due diligence.
- An Enforcement file has been opened in relation to the Retirement Village in Templemore. It was never intended to take this estate in charge as it is a private estate.
- Background work is currently taking place on Roscrea Local Area Plan. It is anticipated that work on the Plan will commence in Q2 2022.
- The Programme for the submission of the Part 8 for Phase 2 of Liberty Square is anticipated in Q4 2021 or Q1 2022. Consultants are currently preparing a review.
- Short-term remedial works can be undertaken on Parnell Street carpark if they are required. It is anticipated that Parnell Street Carpark scheme will be advanced in Q1/Q2 of 2022.

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

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

- IW Capital Investment Plan (CIP)2020-2024
  - Roscrea Sewerage Scheme Drainage Area Plan
  - Thurles Sewerage Scheme Drainage Area Plan
- Networks Portfolio Delivery
- Source Rationalisation Programme
- Irish Water Capital Delivery Programme
  - Countywide Disinfection program for water treatment plants
  - Countywide Health and Safety Upgrades Program
  - Countywide Wastewater Treatment Plant Chemical Bulk Storage
- Rural Water programme

The Members raised the following queries:-



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- Issue of burst water main in Ballymoreen area appears to be happening on a regular basis.
  - Source Rationalisation Scheme - Is there the capacity to amalgamate these schemes into bigger schemes.
  - Can Irish Water provide an explanation as to why rationalisation is taking place.
  - There is an issue with underground wastewater in Ashgrove and Monadreen housing estates, Thurles. CCTV is needed to investigate the issue.
  - What is the update in relation to the sewerage issue at The Rock, Ballycahill. The issue is ongoing for several years now.
  - Parts of Roscrea that previously had never experienced flooding are now subject to it. Some houses were badly flooded in the last few months.
  - Despite the works undertaken in the area, Ashbury Road, Roscrea is still subject to flooding and given that the system is a combined system this is a health and safety issue.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- The idea behind the Rationalisation Scheme is that there will be one main treatment plant as opposed to several much smaller treatment plants. The Scheme will not affect Group Water Schemes which will continue to operate. The schemes on the Rationalisation Scheme are all public schemes which are run by Irish Water.
- Water Services to request from Irish Water that Rationalisation be included as an item on the Irish Water Workshop that is scheduled with the Members.
- The issue of flooding in the Ballymoreen/Horse and Jockey area will be investigated.
- Ashgrove housing estate, Thurles is still a private estate. The issues in Monadreen, Thurles are primarily caused by trees in the area causing blockages.
- An upgrade of Ballycahill Sewerage is being undertaken by Housing Section.
- Water services are aware of the flooding issues in Roscrea and have spent considerable time examining the situation. They are currently trying to develop a solution to the problem.
- The gullies in Kennedy Park, Roscrea are the responsibility of Roads Section. Water Services constantly liaise with Roads Section on any relevant issues.

## **5 District Engineers Report**



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

The Members raised the following issues:-

- When will the speed surveys be undertaken at the following locations in Thurles: Butler Avenue; Iona Avenue; Innishfallen Avenue; Stradavoher; Cabra Road; Mill Road and Bohervaroon.
- Yellow box junctions are required outside Rosemount and Monadreen housing estates, Thurles to assist motorists in exiting from these estates following the recent installation of traffic lights outside the new Lidl supermarket in the area.
- Issue with overgrown trees uprooting paving outside 86 Kennedy Park, Thurles.
- The upgrading of the roundabout on Abbey Road, Thurles is too narrow for HGV's to safely navigate. The high curbing is already damaged from tyres. Can an audit be undertaken?
- Speed ramps are needed at the entrance to Cabragh Court housing estate, Thurles.
- Flashing speed lights are required outside Littleton National School. Engagement with local residents should first be undertaken.
- Road lining required in Clonakenny Village, opposite the Church.
- There is a bad pothole in Templemore just before the second entrance to Oakdale.
- The timeframe for completion of enhancement works under the Streetscape Enhancement Scheme is not practical given that the timeframe for completion of works is mid-November. Can the money be ringfenced until the weather is better for undertaking the works? There are also a limited number of contractors available to undertake the works.
- When is the expected start date for draining of Littleton Graveyard.
- The flashing speed sign at Pouldine is broken and needs to be fixed.
- Has there been any response from Laoise and Kilkenny County Councils in relation to the establishment of Joint Drainage Committee amongst the three local authorities.
- Inspections need to be undertaken in relation to overgrown hedges and enforcement letters must issue.
- Has there been any update from the TII in relation to the proposed installation of a pedestrian crossing at Kickham Street, Thurles.
- There are no road markings on the road at Galbertstown Cross.
- Can the Council re-apply for Clár Funding for a flashing speed sign at Grange. The area is very busy given the popularity of the walks in the area.
- When will the list of proposed footpath improvement works be made available.
- The issue of water lodging on the N62 on Patrick Street, Templemore – near the bridge - needs to be addressed.



- Signage for Templemore in Borrisoleigh Village is very poor from both the Thurles and the Nenagh sides and needs to be addressed.
- The fencing that was erected 2 to 3 years ago down by the Mall in Templemore is falling down. The fencing needs to be fixed into the river itself.
- Will the fencing issue at Má Teine, Templemore be complete before the year end?
- Lorries are driving up on the footpaths at Brophy Terrace, Roscrea tearing up the footpaths which have only recently been upgraded. Can the Council write to companies or erect bollards to prevent this from happening?
- Can the Council confirm if it is shores or soak pits in Kennedy Park, Roscrea as the area is flooding during periods of heavy rain?
- The shore off the roundabout at Parkmore, Roscrea is blocked and needs to be addressed before the winter.
- Flashing speed signs are not working in Templemore and Roscrea.
- Flooding issue at Oakdale Estate, Templemore.
- Can lining works be undertaken on the Dunkerrin Road in Templemore which is used by locals.
- If the MD are pursuing landowners from previous years in relation to hedge cutting, can enforcement proceedings be instigated rather than merely writing letters to these landowners.
- Reconfiguration of the traffic lanes by the addition of filter lanes is required at the Lidl traffic lights in Thurles to allow for a 2-way traffic flow.
- Can the potholes on Slievenamon Road, Thurles be addressed urgently?
- Issue of provision of street lighting in areas outside the 60km zone needs to be addressed.
- What is the update in relation to the upgrading of the Devils Bit carpark.

Replies to queries raised was follows:-

- It is acknowledged that Slievenamon Road, Thurles is in poor condition. The money spent to address the potholes will be the very minimum, given the impending upgrade of the road. It is anticipated that the pot holes will be addressed within the next 4 to 6 weeks.
- The MD made considerable success last year in relation to tackling hedge cutting by going on site and meeting directly with landowners. All efforts to address the issue must be exhausted before taking the matter to the Courts. The Council are, however, taking a stronger stance with landowners on the matter.
- The flooding issue at Oakdale, Templemore will be investigated.
- The MD will examine the Dunkerrin Road, Templemore with a view to undertaking works this year.





- The District Engineer will consult with the GSS to establish if the drains in Kennedy Park, Roscrea are drains or soak pits.
- The MD want to resist implementing bollards to prevent driving up on footpaths at Brophy Terrace, Roscrea. If Members are aware who the offenders are, can they let the MD know and the issue will be investigated.
- The flooding issue on the N62 will be examined.
- The blocked shore at the Parkmore roundabout, Roscrea will be uploaded as a CRM to be addressed.
- The MD will be completing a check of all flashing speed signs to see what is working and what is not working. The flashing speed signs in Templemore and Roscrea that are currently not working will be examined as part of that investigation.
- The issue of water lodging on the N62 at Patrick Street, Templemore will be examined.
- The issue of poor signage for Templemore in Borrisoleigh Village will be examined.
- A Part 8 for the Mall River, Templemore will be submitted in the next 8 weeks and will address the issue of fencing in the area.
- The list of footpath improvement works is currently being compiled.
- The issue of installing a flashing speed sign outside Littleton National School will be investigated, however any issue of speeding should be referred to the Gardai in the first instance.
- An application under Clár for the installation of flashing speed signs in Grange Village will be re-submitted.
- The road lining at Galbertstown Cross will be addressed.
- Can the Members inform the MD of the location of any hedges that need cutting back and it will be investigated.
- The MD have not received any reply to date from either Laoise or Kilkenny County Councils in relation to the establishment of a Joint Drainage Committee amongst the three local authorities.
- The MD have informed the TII on numerous occasions of the faulty flashing speed sign at Pouldine.
- There is currently no start date for the commencement of drainage works in Littleton graveyard.
- The road lining at Clonakenny Village, opposite the Church will be examined with a view to adding it to the list if possible.
- The pothole in Templemore at Oakdale Housing estate will be uploaded as a CRM to be addressed.
- The speed surveys required at numerous locations in Thurles will be undertaken.
- The overgrown tree outside 86 Kennedy Park, Thurles will be uploaded as a CRM to be addressed.
- The final reinstatement works at the roundabout on Abbey Road, Thurles will be complete this week. The purpose of the works is to slow down the traffic.



- The installation of speed ramps is generally a last resort to tackle the issue of speeding. Speeding at Cabragh Court, Thurles needs to be referred to the Gardai in the first instance.
- It is acknowledged that the timeframe for the completion of works under the Streetscape Enhancement Works is quite tight. P. Slattery, Director of Services, has written to the Department to request that the date for completion of the works be extended.
- The installation of yellow box junctions outside Monadreen and Rosemount housing estates, Thurles will be examined by the Roads Capital Section.
- The issue of the Lidl lights will be discussed with the Roads Capital Section. The MOVA system has not yet been implemented but its installation is imminent.
- The issue in relation to the installation of public lighting in areas outside the 60km zone will be examined.
- The installation of a pedestrian crossing in Kickham Street, Thurles will be raised with TII and Capital Section.
- The District Engineer is meeting with Coillte in early October to discuss the long-term plan for the Devil's bit for the provision of a carpark to enhance the location.

## 6 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles.	Southside practically completed and the northside works commenced in July.
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 procured for mid-September. 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'.	The consultants are to develop the Gantly Road proposals to Part 8 standard.	
Main Street, Roscrea	Review of previous plans and reports.	
Vacant Housing Units	Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	7
	At Tender Stage	4
	Budgets submitted to Housing Section	
	In Progress	<u>9</u>
	<b>TOTAL MD</b>	<b>21</b>

The Members raised the following queries:-

- When will the tenders for the Littleton Labyrinth be sent out and what is the expected timeframe for works.
- Councillor Smith expressed his disappointment that the Monahincha Scheme was not submitted to the Department for approval. He stated that over 18 months of hard work had gone into the proposal.
- The Members were not made aware of any proposal under the Safe to School Scheme – Corville School, Roscrea - to make Corville a one-way-system. No drawings were presented to them at any stage. A one-way-system is not the correct solution and it will not be supported. Therefore the name of the scheme should be reconsidered in any plans to make the area safe.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- The Part 8 for the Littleton Labyrinth will be complete before Christmas and then the scheme will progress to Construction stage. The surface works will be done in-house.
- A meeting is scheduled for early October with the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Coillte to re-examine the Monahincha project and ensure their consent is obtained so that a proposal can be submitted to the Department next year.
- The proposal to make Corville a one-way-route was examined with the Active Travel Section and Roads Section. Options were weighed up and a topographic survey was undertaken. A Consultants Report is currently being prepared to get the best proposal in relation to getting to school safely. The school was approached. However, residents have not been approached as the Project has not yet progressed to that level.

## **7 To consider the 3 Year Roadworks Programme 2022 – 2024**



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A schedule outlining the proposed 3 Year Roadworks Programme 2022 – 2024 was circulated at the Meeting, the contents of which were noted by the Members.

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

“The 3 Year Roadworks Programme 2022 – 2024 as circulated at the Meeting be adopted.”

## **8 To consider the 2-year CIS Scheme 2022 – 2023**

A schedule outlining the proposed 2 Year CIS Scheme 2022 – 2023 was circulated at the Meeting, the contents of which were noted by the Members.

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

“The 2 Year CIS Scheme 2022 – 2023 as circulated at the Meeting be adopted.”

## **9 Notices of Motion**

Notices of Motion.

### **NOM Id 2254 – Councillor Jim Ryan**

“I am calling on both Irish Water and Tipperary County Council to upgrade the public underground waste water piping system in Thurles so that the ever-increasing instances of flooding in areas such as Butler Avenue, Friar Street, Kickham Street, Stradavoher, etc can be prevented going forward.”

Response to NOM Id 2254

“The recent flash flood event on Friar Street and Butler Avenue has been brought to the attention of Irish Water. In tandem Thurles MD and Water Services are analyzing the existing network and potential short-term solutions to address the problem.”

Councillor J. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the response. He stated that the underground piping in Thurles is outdated resulting in areas flooding. The issue has been ongoing for years. The Gardai recently had to call on the Fire Services to pump water from a flooded area. The flooding issue will impact on insurances going forward. Councillor J. Ryan would like to see a reply on the matter from Irish Water.



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Councillor J. Ryan was supported in his Notice of Motion by Councillors S. Hanafin, S. Ryan and M. Lowry. They stated that areas of the town that previously had not flooded were now coming under threat. The works need to be sorted out as a matter of urgency due to the impending works at Bowes Corner.

Gerry Robinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services acknowledged that Water Services are aware of the issue and are liaising with Roads Section to try and find a temporary solution. The long-term solution will involve underground works to be resolved by Irish Water. He advised the Members that the issue be raised at the forthcoming I. W. Workshop in an effort to exert pressure on Irish Water.

### **NOM Id 2255 – Councillor Michael Smith**

“I am asking the Municipal District to consider providing a Disabled Parking space close to the pedestrian crossing in Templemore.”

Response to NOM Id 2255

“A working group has been established within Thurles Municipal District to review the current Car Parking Bye Laws for the three towns in the District.

Disabled car parking spaces will be looked at as part of this Review.

It is anticipated that Draft Car Parking Bye Laws will be before Members at the February 2022 MD meeting for approval.”

Councillor M. Smith expressed his satisfaction with the response and is pleased that the issue will be examined.

### **10 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

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

A vote of Congratulations was extended to:-

- John Commins, Blackcastle Farm, Two Mile Borris on being one of six food producers nationally to be selected for the Grow with ALDI Development Programme.
- Noel Dundon, Tipperary Star, Friar Street, Thurles on being appointed Editor of the Tipperary Star.



- Moycarkey Under 16A Camogie team in winning the County Camogie Final.
- Moycarkey Under 14A Camogie team in winning the County Camogie Final.
- The Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles on being selected as one of six finalists nationally in the Certified Irish Angus Schools Competition.
- Ann O'Grady, on her retirement as Editor of the Tipperary Star.

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

- Sheila Gleeson and the Gleeson family Archerstown, Thurles on the death of her husband Pat. Pat is a brother in law of Timmy Quirke and uncle of Deirdre O Shea, employees of Tipperary County Council.

## **12 Any Other Business**

- The District Administrator related to the Members details of a funding allocation of €86,200 for Baker Street, Thurles for outdoor facilities. The plan is for outdoor covered areas, outdoor seating, planters, lighting, tables and chairs and quotes have been requested from suppliers. The preferred seating selected for Baker Street will set the standard for other outdoor public seating in the town. The District Administrator is to set up a meeting between the residents and traders in the vicinity to take on board their requests and the Members will be invited to attend that meeting. There was an issue with Christmas lights on Baker Street last year and it was stated that perhaps this is something that could be incorporated into the plan.
- Can the MD clean out the gullies and undertake weed killing in Baker Street? The area has not been looked after by the Council since the street was taken-in-charge.
- Councillor J. Ryan requested that the '*Welcome to Thurles*' be updated as the existing signs are completely outdated.

The District Administrator advised that under the Thurles Renewal Scheme plans are afoot to undertake a signage strategy in Thurles.

- Any Members with proposals for the 2022 Roads Programme should be raised with the Engineers. The Programme for Works is to be agreed by mid-December.

That concluded the official business of the Meeting.





Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

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Thiobraid Árann,  
Oifig Cheantar Bardasach  
an  
Dhurlais, Ascaill an  
Chaisleáin, Durlas,  
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SIGNED:  DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2021  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR



