



## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

**Present:** Councillor Seamus Hanafin Cathaoirleach, presided.  
  
Councillors Noel Coonan, Shane Lee, Michéal Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy 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
Orla McDonnell	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. Ryan, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:

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

### 3. Update from Environment and Climate Change

Marion O'Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Orla Kelly, Administrative Officer and Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer were in attendance for this item. An Environment Section Update Report for the period 01.01.2021 to 31.12.2021 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting. The Report covered the following :

- Infrastructure and Maintenance
  - ≈ Burial Grounds
- Control of dogs
- Control of Horses
  - ≈ Reports received
  - ≈ Pick-ups
- Derelict Sites



- Litter Enforcement
- Public Awareness

Marion stated that 6 smart bins will be installed in the MD and that there has been a 13% reduction in the number of complaints received in 2021 compared to the previous year.

She stated that derelict sites are still being actively worked on, however each case is unique and they do take time.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Where in the District are the smart bins located?
- The bins on Main Street, Gortnahoe are not being emptied.
- A new inside casing is needed for some of the public bins in the MD.
- Has there been an update in relation to the upgrade of the wall outside Moycarkey Cemetery which is in a poor state of repair.
- Can Councillors suggest areas where CCTV cameras could be put in place to tackle illegal dumping or are there implications under GDPR.
- Will the pathways in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles be included in the works when the roadway is being re-surfaced as some of the pathways are a trip hazard?
- There is an issue of trees overhanging onto graves in St. Patrick's Cemetery resulting in leaves and bird droppings tarnishing the graves.
- Additional bins are needed in Thurles Town Park where rubbish appears to be an issue.
- The public toilet in Thurles Town Park is out of service regularly as the door will not open after putting in money and the issue needs to be addressed.
- Following recent works at Borrisoleigh Graveyard, there are items left behind at the Cemetery by the workers that need to be removed.
- Following the easing of Covid-19 Restrictions do Environment Section intend to resume the door to door calls to tackle the issue of illegal dumping in hotspot areas.

Marion replied to queries raised as follows:-

- Orla Kelly is currently working with Thurles MD on the location of the smart bins within the District.
- MD to liaise with Environment Section in relation to bins not being emptied in Gortnahoe.
- Moycarkey Burial Ground is not in the ownership of the Council. The carpark and the burial ground itself are in the ownership of the Parish and contact should be made with the Parish Committee.
- There is no issue in relation to GDPR and the location of the CCTV cameras as CCTV evidence can be used in Court. The mobile CCTV unit can be moved to suspected dumping hotspot areas.



- Environment Section will liaise with the MD in relation to the issues of the pathways being a trip hazard and the trees overhanging onto graves in St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- The bins in Thurles Town Park are smart bins which means that, not only can they hold a larger capacity, but also an alert is issued when the bins are full.
- The public toilet in Thurles Town Park does not fall under the remit of the Environment Section.
- The items left behind by the workers at Borrisoleigh Cemetery, following recent works in the area, will be removed.
- Environment Section expect that the door to door calls to households to address the issue of waste will resume. They are also writing to households regarding rubbish disposal to which a good response has been received and it is being followed up but it does require continual monitoring.

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

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian who was in attendance via Zoom for this item. A Culture Team Report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The report outlined the following:-

##### **LIBRARY SERVICES**

- Covid-19 Library restrictions update
- Bingo Reading Initiative
- Children's Book Festival – on-line author school visits
- Planet Activity packs in conjunction with Science Foundation of Ireland.
- Tipperary Studies
- Local Live Performance Scheme 2021 – Round 1
- Artists in Primary School Scheme 2021

##### **HERITAGE SERVICE**

- County Tipperary Holy Wells Audit
- National Bio-diversity Action Plan
- Barn Owl Project
- Eradication of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed
- Community Monuments Fund
- Creative Ireland Programme

##### **MUSEUM SERVICE**

- Thoroughbred Country Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP)
- Halloween Lotions, Potions and Notions
- On-line Irish Civil War Lecture Series 2021-2022
- Museum in a Box Service
- Culture Night
- Initiatives



Damien stated that the library is open full hours with PC's available to members of the public but the libraries are restricted from holding events/activities in the library branches. However, there are lots of on-line activities and lots of Cultural outdoor activities.

The Members thanked Damien for his Report and raised the following issue:-

- Have Tipperary County Council made a judgement in relation to Fire Service Personnel responding as First Responders to emergency calls when an ambulance is not immediately available. The Ambulance Service have confirmed that the Fire Service can respond as First Responder to emergency call-outs provided they have a defibrillator and have the required training. Other County Councils have given the go-ahead to their Fire Service to respond to such issues.

The District Administrator replied to this query saying that, as this issue was previously raised as a Notice of Motion, it would now be referred to the Plenary Meeting.

#### **5. Lisheen Windfarm Trust Application – St. Mary's Church, Moyne**

James Hayes, Senior Staff Officer, Planning Section was present via Zoom for this item. James outlined the background to the Lisheen Windfarm Trust Application and how it provides funding for payment of grants to community / voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them.

This application is for the provision of a disabled toilet and baby-changing facility in a new annex to be built onto St. Mary's Church, Moyne.

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

"That a grant as per application received from St Mary's Church, Moyne be paid as recommended by the Lisheen Windfarm Trust."

#### **6. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan**

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

Item 6 District Project Pipeline Plan and Item 7 District Engineer's Report were both taken together at the Meeting. The District Engineer stated that James Dowling, MD Project Manager has moved to Laois County Council and the MD are currently awaiting his replacement. He explained that the Schedule of Proposed District Works is expected to commence in March, weather depending, and Contractors are booked.



An updated Report on Capital Projects for the MD was circulated to the Members, in advance of the Meeting, as outlined in the table below:-

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme, Thurles Phase I	The works are substantially completed for Phase 1 of the Scheme. Paving works will be completed this week and remaining ESB poles and overhead wires are programmed to be removed during the weekend of the 18 <sup>th</sup> December. Snagging of the project will take place in January 2022 to close out the project.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase II	Topographical Survey complete. Meetings held with TII on site. Archaeological Survey complete. Tree survey procured. Heritage Impact Assessment complete. Preparation of preliminary option designs and Part VIII drawings are ongoing.
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, construction drawings and tender documentation. Continue stakeholder discussions and appoint a design team Q1 2022.
The Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1	Meetings ongoing with Bord na Mona regarding management, design and construction details. Part VIII drawings completed for review and Part VIII submission Q1 2022.
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. Awaiting funding announcement by Dept.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Meeting held with local Consultative Group last week regarding final design for construction. Following this meeting the Design Consultant will finalise detailed designs. Commence the tender process for a Main Works Contractor Q1 2022.
Gantly Road 'Age Friendly Neighbourhood'	Workshop presentation to the Elected Members was held on 8 <sup>th</sup> December. Prepare submission for funding under call 3 Cat 1 RRDF, Public Part VIII's.
Roscrea Enhancement Plan	A review of the previous Enhancement Plan has taken place. Expressions of interest from new committee members will be sought early in 2022.





Vacant Housing Units	Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	11
	At Tender Stage	0
	Budgets submitted to Housing Section	2
	In Progress	<u>6</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>

The Members raised the following queries:-

- When re-lining is taking place following the planned improvement works in Parnell Street and Ulster Bank carparks, can the car spaces be made a little bit bigger to make them more accessible.
- Can the MD apply for funding for new equipment for Thurles Town Park that would be suitable for teenagers, such as a zipwire, as the current facilities, while excellent, are intended for younger children.
- Can funding be sought for the bog walk in Two-Mile-Borris that would link the village out to Clover Lane, Skehane. There is currently no footpath in the area.
- Has there been any update in relation to provision of public lighting and upgrading of junctions in Ashgrove housing estate, Thurles.
- Has there been any update in relation to the provision of street lighting out as far as Dew Valley Foods in Thurles.
- Can the gate in Templemore Playground be locked? Following recent works at the playground, the gate has not been locked even though it was heretofore.
- What is the update in relation to the junction at Roadstown, Drom?
- Speed ramps needed on Church Avenue, Templemore outside St. Colmcille's School in order to address the issue of speeding in the area.
- When will the lighting at the Devils Bit Cross be undertaken?
- Can the MD apply for funding for the provision of toilets at Templemore Town Park?
- Can funding under a low-cost safety scheme be sought for works at Tranagh Cross, Gortnahoe just before the Creamery at Fennor – there are two bad bends in the area.
- Has there been any update in relation to the provision of a pedestrian crossing at Kickham Street, Thurles.
- What is Council policy in relation to speed feedback signs that are not working. There is currently one in Moycarkey that is facing into a field and requires attention.
- Is there a budget available to address dangerous trees in housing estates that need to be cut back, e.g. Church View, Littleton?
- Has there been any reply from Kilkenny County Council in relation to the establishment of a Joint River Committee for the River Goul?
- When will the white line road markings be addressed – they were scheduled to be undertaken in Moycarkey village and other areas last year but have still not been addressed.



- Can the TII extend the footpath outside Pouldine School on the N62 past Pouldine School when they are undertaking the planned safety improvement works in the area as it is a busy area with lots of children.
- The R502 Templemore to Templetuohy Road is in a very poor state of repair and requires attention.
- Can the MD liaise with Irish Water to ensure that Irish Water undertake its necessary works in Cluain Bán housing estate, Roscrea before the MD commence its works under the Roads Programme in order to ensure that the IW works are completed initially?
- When is the speed review being undertaken in the District?
- Lighting needs to be addressed urgently in the Glebe playground, Roscrea as it is a dark space in a busy space.
- Can the N62 Birr Road, at its junction with the L3104, be considered for a low-cost safety scheme as it is a busy stretch of road.
- There is a dangerous bend on the Carrick Road, Roscrea. The Council own the land on the left-hand side so it might be possible to address the issue.
- There is an issue in relation to mobility and wheelchair access in Roscrea town. Specific actions to address this issue were agreed to be undertaken following consultation with Age Friendly Roscrea but to date have not been done. Specific areas requiring attention can be pointed out to the District Engineer.
- Can the Members be provided with a Schedule as to when works will be phased over the next few weeks in order to have timelines for the public.
- The issue of street lighting on all approach roads to Thurles needs to be examined.
- Coming off the M8 roundabout and onto the N62 heading towards Thurles, near Pouldine, there is a pinch point on the road. Could a setback area be created to address this pinch point as this is a popular area for both walkers and cyclists.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The speeding issue at Pouldine has been referred back to Roads Capital Section for further review. The NTA will not fund any footpaths in the area as it is in 100kph zone.
- The issue regarding the provision of street lighting in areas outside 60kph zone has been referred back to Capital Section.
- The commencement of the resurfacing works at Parnell Street, Thurles is dependent on the Contractor. The works will be done in localised phases.
- Works on Ulster Bank carpark will take place during the School's February mid-term-break; details of which will be posted on public media.
- Work on the footpaths in Roscrea, that were agreed to be addressed following consultation with Age Friendly Roscrea, will be undertaken as a priority.
- The issue of the dangerous bend on the Carrick Road, Roscrea will be referred back to the Executive Engineer for the District for examination.



- An application under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for road improvements at Tranagh Cross, Gortnahoe can be submitted to the Department in September 2022 when the Scheme is open for applications.
- The issue of poor lighting in the Glebe playground, Roscrea has been referred back to Roads Central for examination.
- The MD will liaise with Irish Water prior to commencing any works at Cluain Bán Housing Estate, however, under the 3-year Works Programme works are not scheduled to take place in Cluain Bán until 2023.
- The MD will examine the issue of the road deteriorating on the R502 Templemore to Templetuohy Road.
- The speed review for the District will be undertaken by Roads Capital.
- Unless urgent, white lining on roads will be addressed during dry weather as per the Schedule outlined in the Programme of Works.
- An update will be sought from Kilkenny County Council in relation to the establishment of a Joint River Committee for the River Goul. Kilkenny County Council currently do not have any river maintenance funding.
- Trees in housing estates that are considered dangerous will be examined by the MD.
- The speed feedback sign in Moycarkey that is facing into a field will be addressed.
- The provision of a pedestrian crossing at Kickham Street, Thurles has been referred to Roads Capital for review as part of the road upgrade. No update has been received to date.
- The provision of public toilet in Templemore Town Park is now included in the District Pipeline Plan and is at concept stage.
- The MD are currently awaiting confirmation of funding in the 2023 Budget before the junction at Roadstown can be considered.
- The lighting at the Devil's Bit Cross has been referred to Michael Tierney, Roads Section.

## **8. Notices of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

## **9. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence

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

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:-

- Moycarkey Borris Team who won the Tipperary U21A Hurling title.
- Colaiste Phobal Senior Camogie Team & Management, Roscrea on winning the Munster Senior C Camogie Final.





Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- The Morrissey Family, Clonmel on the death of Willie, father of Cora Morrissey, Housing Section, Tipperary County Council.
- The Bourke Family, Upperchurch on the death of Phil.

**11. Any Other Business.**

- Councillor J. Ryan requested that the MD write to the HSE in relation to the setting up of a Covid-19 test centre in Thurles as there are test centres in Clonmel and Nenagh.
- Councillor J. Ryan requested that the MD write to the Gardai in relation to the unacceptable behaviour of individuals drinking in public places and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

SIGNED:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

SIGNED:

  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2022.

