



MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES, ON 15th MAY 2023

Present: Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Noel Coonan, Seamus Hanafin, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry, Jim Ryan, Seán Ryan and Michael Smith.

Apologies: Councillor Eddie Moran

Also Present:

Eamon Lonergan	Director of Services
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Enda Walsh	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 N. Coonan, seconded by Councillor S. Ryan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the April 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 17th April 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Lisheen Windfarm Application for Inspection – Templetuohy Coursing Club.

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

"The application received from the Templetuohy Coursing Club for the upgrading of their club facilities, creation of a new entrance, making and levelling of a new roadway, securing fencing and for the improvement of existing boxing facilities to facilitate animal husbandry under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be approved."



4. Update from Planning.

Marie Ryan, Senior Executive Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer, were in attendance for this item. A Planning Briefing Note was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Has the sustainability of rural enterprises been considered following the recently adopted County Development Plan? Job creation for rural areas is hugely important.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Caisleán Cuirt and Ardlui, Davis Road, housing estates in Thurles
- What is the update in relation to the appointment of a permanent Conservation Architect to the Council?
- Is there any way that Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) estates can be advanced in situations where developers have long left the estate such as in Brookfield, Rossmore and Hayfield Manor housing estates in Thurles.
- What solution can be offered to address the issues at the Retirement Village, Templemore – the development would appear to fall between two stools where Planning Section have no role.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Cluain Doire and Orchard Court housing estates, Templemore?

Replies to queries was as follows:

- It is a policy of Tipperary County Council to fully support rural Enterprises at pre-planning stage. Both LEO and LEADER are on-hand for advice and information on rural enterprises.
- While there is currently no Conservation Architect appointed to Tipperary County Council, the Vacant Housing Officer can provide assistance in relation to vacant buildings
- Caisleán Cuirt has been submitted to Roads Section for taking-in-charge and is expected to be advertised in the coming week. This process will take approximately four to six weeks before going to the Elected Members for approval.
- Ardlui, Davis Road, Thurles, is a Category A estate (new estate). A Technical Report, along with TIC Map, have been submitted to the Roads Section.
- In 2018 TCC issued a full funding application to the Department to resolve its DPI estates but unfortunately no funding was received. A Working Group has now been established nationally to examine DPI estates and it will issue a Policy paper to guide Local Authorities. It is anticipated that the Policy Paper will issue shortly.
- The Retirement Village, Templemore is a private walled estate and was never intended to be taken-in-charge. TCC have examined its



obligations to the estate and will not be taking it in charge. Any issue regarding outstanding works such as lighting, roadways etc. are a civil matter.

- Both Cluain Doire and Orchard Court, Templemore are DPI estates. TCC will await the DPI Working Group Policy Paper before any decision is made.

5. Update from Library/Cultural Services/Biodiversity.

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance for this item. A Culture Team Report was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report was taken as read. Damien informed the Members of the following:-

- The Bealtaine Festival is currently up and running with events being held every day for the month of May. This is a very important Festival, particularly for the elderly.
- Tipperary County Libraries have been successful in ring-fencing funding for an Artistic Programme over a four-year period.

The Members thanks Damien for his report and raised the following issues:-

- Has there been any update from Codema in relation to the Home Energy Kits?
- Is there sufficient access to the C-Pens at Thurles Library as they are extremely important to students, and in particular to RACE (Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations) applicants?
- What is the update in relation to the recruitment of a Biodiversity Officer.
- Who is responsible for the opening/locking of the Source Library car park?
- What is the update in relation to the Visual Artists Ireland facilitated Professional Development - funding can be difficult in this sector and application forms can be difficult to complete.
- Are people being made aware of the availability of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Programme and has there been significant uptake regarding same.
- When is it anticipated that the new library in Templemore will be ready and are there plans afoot for the existing library building.

Damien replied to queries as follows:-

- There was a delay with Codema in relation to the Home Energy Kits, however they have confirmed that the kits will be ready by the end of June.
- The C Pens are available in Thurles Library and additional pens have been applied for under Dormant Funds.



- Sanction for the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer has been granted from the Department. The position will be advertised shortly.
- The Library are currently working on a solution in relation to the opening times of the Source car park and it is anticipated that the issue will be sorted soon.
- The issue in relation to the Visual Artists facilitated Professional Development will be confirmed with the Arts Officer and will be referred back to the Members.
- Works are due to commence on the Templemore Library as of today and the contract is for a 13-month period. The existing library building is currently under review in relation to its use following the departure of the Library to the new building.

6. Fix date and time for the Annual Meeting of Thurles Municipal District.

It was agreed by all Members:-

“that the Annual Meeting of Thurles Municipal District will take place on Monday 19th June, 2023 at 10.00 a.m. in the District Chamber, Thurles Municipal District Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles.”

7. District Engineer’s Report.

An updated District Engineer’s Report for the MD was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The District Engineer advised the Members of the following:-

- TII have approved funding to carry out remedial works on the N75 junction at Two-Mile-Borris.
- OPW have approved funding to undertake remedial works to a piped stream through private property in Gortahoola, Drombane
- Funding has been approved under the Built Heritage Scheme to undertake specialist maintenance and cleaning of the Wolfe Tone Monument in Liberty Square.
- Surface Dressing has been delayed by one week and will now commence on the 22nd May.

The Members thanked the Engineers for the tremendous work throughout the District and raised the following queries:-

- Trucks are still continuing to use Cuchulainn Road, Thurles despite there being a weight restriction on this road. Can the current signage on Parnell Street be made more obvious to ensure truck drivers adhere to the weight restrictions?



- Some of the road markings on Liberty Square, Thurles have been reinstated, however not all of them have been and there is still confusion amongst road users.
- The junction at Moycarkey is dangerous and can be difficult to negotiate. Can it be upgraded to make it safer, such as the introduction of rumble strips in the area.
- The issue of grass cuttings being left on the hard areas following works at the green area in Kennedy Park and an area at the McDonald's roundabout, Roscrea needs to be addressed.
- What is the update from the TII regarding measures to reduce the steep incline of the bridge on the way towards Two-Mile-Borris.
- What is the update in relation to the snagging works outstanding in Littleton following recent works under the Active Travel Scheme.
- Has a contractor been appointed to cut the grass verges at junctions throughout the District?
- When is the White Lining Programme expected to commence?
- When will the EV charging points for Parnell Street and Slievenamon Road, Thurles be in operation.
- There is a drainage issue on the Littleton Road that will need to be addressed in conjunction with the planned road improvements works in this area.
- Can the Semple Monument be included as part of the recently approved funding for the cleaning of the Wolfe Tone Monument, Liberty Square, Thurles.
- Who is responsible for the maintenance of the back lanes to Council houses? Currently illegal dumping, overgrown weeds and poor surface on the back lanes at College Green, Thurles are issues that need to be addressed.
- The road and footpath surfaces in Borroway, Thurles are in a very poor state of repair and need to be addressed.
- Can additional speed ramps be installed in Rosemount housing estate, Thurles where there are approximately 250 houses.
- What is the update in relation to the extension of the footpath and public lighting on the Mill Road, Thurles where numerous facilities are located such as Thurles Gaels GAA Club, a waste facility plant and a garden centre.
- What is the update in relation to the infill of the Mall, Templemore as no works have taken place for some time now.
- Can the OPW be brought into a meeting to provide an update on the Mall River Works in Templemore.
- Residents at Ard Mhuire housing estate, Templetuohy cannot get home insurance due to over-hanging trees. The safety of children in the area is also affected.
- Issues of overgrowth and poor sightlines need to be addressed at the junction of the Haven/Parkmore, Roscrea.
- Can Thurles MD correspond with Offaly County Council in relation to the issue of overgrowth at a graveyard in Co. Offaly where a lot of Tipperary people are buried.



- What is the timeline in relation to the upgrade works at Drombane Village River Wall?

The District Engineer replied to queries raised was as follows:-

- The existing signage in relation to the weight restriction on Cuchulainn Road is the approved TII standard signage, however, the issue will be referred to the TII and will also be discussed with the Gardai in relation to monitoring of the situation.
- The TII will be contacted in relation to re-assessing the road markings in Liberty Square, Thurles in an effort to alleviate confusion amongst motorists.
- Landowners were contacted last year in relation to the poor sightlines at Moycarkey Junction but no progress has been made. The MD will endeavour once again to get the hedgerows removed with landowner consent.
- The issue of grass cuttings being left on hard areas in Roscrea will be discussed with the GSS and the contractor.
- There has been no update from the TII regarding any remedial measures to alleviate the steep bridge on the way towards Two-Mile-Borris.
- The snagging works due in Littleton following recent works under an Active Travel Scheme will be undertaken.
- A contractor has been appointed, commencing in June, to cut the grass verges at junctions on national routes throughout the District
- A white line schedule has been prepared and sent to a contractor. Works will be undertaken throughout the year on the areas identified.
- The ESB have been requested, as a priority, to connect the EV charging points in Parnell Street car park, Thurles however one of the mini-pillars has to be replaced before connection can be made.
- The drainage issue on the Littleton Road will be addressed in conjunction with the planned road improvement works in this area.
- The funding available for the cleaning of the Wolfe Tone Monument, Liberty Square, Thurles is not sufficient to cover the cleaning of the Semple Monument also. The MD will consider submitting an application for the Semple Monument in 2024.
- The MD have undertaken some low maintenance works on the back lanes to Council houses, however, there is currently no budget capacity for maintenance on a regular basis. Issues regarding dumping will be discussed with Environment Section.
- Borrowway is not included in the current Roads Programme but the issue will be examined.
- There are already two speed ramps, which were recently re-painted, in conjunction with speed signage in situ in Rosemount housing estate, Thurles.
- Funding streams are currently being examined and negotiations with landowners ongoing, in relation to the extension of the footpath on the



Mill Road, Thurles and the existing road lighting in the area will be examined.

- Part of the Mall footpath, Templemore and the wall will be reinstated this year. The MD are preparing an application to An Bord Pleanála to carry out infill works to the Old Mall River and will request the OPW to attend the MD to give an update on the scheme. Works at Black Castle Road will not be delayed by the planned works at the Mall and it is anticipated that they will be completed before the year end.
- The issue of over-hanging trees preventing residents at Ard Mhuire housing estate, Templetuohy from being able to obtain home insurance will be examined by the District Engineer.
- The Council do not own the land at the junction of Haven/Parkmore, Roscrea. However, the stop line can be brought forward and the implementation of further measures to improve safety and sightlines in the area will be examined.
- The MD will contact Offaly County Council regarding the issue of overgrowth at a graveyard in Co. Offaly.
- It is anticipated that the upgrade works at Drombane Village River Wall will be undertaken between June and September.

8. Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

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

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Preferred design Option agreed. Next step to finalise design and present to stakeholders and the Elected Members. Meetings and Workshops with Elected Members and the public stakeholders in Q3 2023. A Part 8 planning application in Q4 2023.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building, Thurles	Finalise Detailed Design by end of Q2 2023. Procurement of Main Works contractor. Construction to commence Q3/Q4 2023.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Bord na Mona employees to construct track. Construction commencement Prog August 2023. Ongoing discussions with BnM as part of a Project Steering Group. Options routes for proposed windfarm ongoing
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Procurement for external consultants to prepare a detailed Feasibility Study of



	Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona Lands.												
Holycross – Tourism & visitor Centre	Funding application under RRDF was unsuccessful. The future of the project to be considered in line with all available funding streams.												
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	It is envisaged that Construction works will take 18 months to complete.												
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Handover of Project from Planning to Thurles MD. Design Team to be procured.												
Roscrea Town Centre First Master Plan	Meetings are on-going with the consultants O'Mahony Pike (scheduled fortnightly). (March Evening public workshops to take place. March 15 th Primary School forum group. March 23 rd . town team Strategy lecture. Agreed that a Final Draft of the Roscrea TCF Masterplan will be submitted to TCC at the end of June and complete by July.												
Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Meeting are ongoing with the consultants O'Mahony Pike (scheduled fortnightly). March 11th - Walking tour of town or workshop with Elected Representatives. March 14th (Online) Evening Public Workshop to take place. March 15th - Primary School focus group. March 22nd - Town Team Strategy lecture. Agreed that a Final Draft of the Roscrea TCF Masterplan will be submitted to TCC at the end of June and complete by July.												
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit works to be completed first</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Properties to be referred to Housing as major refurb</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property		At Inspections/Costings Stage	8	In Progress	8	Retrofit works to be completed first	1	Properties to be referred to Housing as major refurb	2	TOTAL	19
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property													
At Inspections/Costings Stage	8												
In Progress	8												
Retrofit works to be completed first	1												
Properties to be referred to Housing as major refurb	2												
TOTAL	19												

The Members raised the following issues:-

- Can Thurles MD apply for funding for the 2nd phase of the Littleton Labyrinth under the Fáilte Ireland €68m Regenerative Tourism Scheme



which is part of a €169m EU Just Transition Fund and are there any other ancillary projects that the MD can apply for under this Scheme?

- Can the MD apply for a parking area in Thurles for use by camper vans under Tourism funding?

Replies to queries raised by the Members were as follows:-

- The MD hope to apply for the 2nd Phase of the Littleton Labyrinth and the Bushcraft Centre under the Fáilte Ireland Regenerative Tourism Scheme. A Steering Group has been established countywide to determine suitable projects. A further update will be given to Members in advance of the next MD Meeting.
- There are 2 funding streams available under the Fáilte Ireland Regenerative Tourism Scheme, namely; Track & Trails and Tourist Amenity Projects. The District Administrator will liaise with the Tourism Development Officer in relation to the feasibility of applying for a camper van parking area under this Scheme.

9. Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

10. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

11. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The Kennedy family, in particular former Thurles Town Council Councillor John Kennedy on the passing of their mother Anne (Nance) Kennedy.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Tipperary Senior Camogie Club and in particular Karen Kennedy, daughter of John Kennedy, former Thurles Town Councillor, on winning the Munster Senior Camogie Championship Final by defeating Clare. Karen was joint captain on the day.
- Thurles Drama Group on finishing 3rd in the All-Ireland Drama finals for their performance of 'The Seafarer'; to Matt Treacy on winning the title of Best Supporting Actor for his role in the Play and to Margaret McCormack who was in the running for Best Director for the Play.
- Gortnahoe/Glengoole GAA Club on their official opening of their new pitch and facilities on 14th May and in particular Vincent Ryan Chairperson of the Club.




- Nore Valley Walkway Group, Clonakenny who opened the first stage of their walkway.
- Roscrea Musical Society on their recent successful performance of the musical 'Oklahoma'. The Society wish to acknowledge its gratitude to Thurles MD for its financial contribution.
- Brody Lee, Roscrea, son of Councillor Shane Lee, who was part of the Ireland U16 Squad that travelled to Italy for an international soccer tournament.

12. Any Other Business.

The District Engineer requested that all Councillors submit their nominations for local tertiary roads as soon as possible.

That concluded the official business of the May Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 19th June, 2023
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 19th June, 2023
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR