



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

Present: Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Kay Cahill Skehan, William Kennedy, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy Ryan and Seán Ryan.

Also Present:

Mark Connolly	Director of Services
Liam Brett	Director of Services
Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

There were no Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest raised at the Meeting.

2.1 Minutes of the (i) Special Meeting of Thurles MD held on 4th December 2024 and (ii) January Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD held on 20th January 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Thurles Municipal District, held on 4th December 2024, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District January 2024 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 20th January 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



3.1 Update from Economic Community and Rural Development Section.

Mary Ryan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, Áine Roche, Community Safety Coordinator, Lindsay Cleary, Integration Support Coordinator and Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Coordinator, Economic Community and Rural Development Section were in attendance for this item. An ECRD Report for the period 31/10/2024 to 01/02/2025 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- When will the Feasibility Study on the Littleton Bog Experience be finalised and what is the plan following the feasibility study.
- When will evaluation take place to select the eight qualifying Community Recognition Fund projects from the County and.
- How is the Healthy Tipperary Fund administered?
- When is it anticipated that the Roscrea Enterprise and Community Hub (REACH) building in Roscrea will be up and running.
- It is vital that TCC continue to support tourist offices throughout the County to ensure their future is set in stone and that funding continues to be made available to them as they play a huge role in stimulating tourism in the County.
- What is the progress to date on the partnership agreement between the RPO's and Industry Partners under Just Transition Funded Projects.
- What is the update regarding the Ukrainian families in the Thurles area under the Local Authority Integration Team.
- What is the update regarding the granting of a Section 5 Change of Use having being granted to the Racket Hall, Roscrea.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The issue regarding the selection of the Community Recognition Funded projects will be referred to Valerie Kavanagh, Administrative Officer and will be reverted back to the MD.
- Funding for the Healthy Ireland was through Pobal in 2023 and involved pre-picking a specific cohort in line with local consultation. There is a large traveller community in Littleton. Funding is committed until December 2025 after which funding for a new area will commence.
- Work on the REACH building in Roscrea will be complete this coming Friday. It is anticipated that the building will open in early to mid-April 2025 once the fit-out is complete. Tipperary ETB and Herdwatch will be the anchor tenants of the building.
- The issue regarding the provision of funding to tourist offices will be referred to Caroline Rice, Tourism Development Officer and reverted back to the MD.
- The issue regarding the progress on the partnership agreement between the RPO's and Industry Partners under Just Transition Funded



Projects will be referred to Elaine Cullinane, Economic Development Officer and reverted back to the MD.

- A new working group for dealing with Ukrainian families has been established with representatives from ETB, Barnardos and the NTDC. Welcome packs have been prepared and a survey regarding sports and community is now complete.

3.2 Update from Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity.

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian, Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity was in attendance for this item. A Culture Report, to include Biodiversity Service and Museum Service for the period December 2024 to January 2025 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Damien updated the Members regarding recent works on Roscrea Library under the Small-Scale Works Programme where new piping, painting and shelving was installed. Damien also stated that the provision of signage for Thurles Library is currently with Consultants.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- The entrance steps at the Source are very dirty and require cleaning.
- Do the libraries intend to undertake the STEM workshops, as were undertaken last November, on a continuous basis.
- Following the recent meeting of the Tipperary Biodiversity Forum in Cabragh Wetlands, when is it anticipated that the Plan will be published.
- If funding becomes available could Roscrea Library be considered for a magic table.
- When will the final external works, including parking, at the new Templemore Library be complete.
- What is the update regarding the tenancy for the old Templemore Library?
- Are there sufficient power sockets at the new Templemore Library as it is intended to do a display of lights from the building at Christmas time.

Replies to queries were as follows: -

- The glass work and the steps at the Source Library are cleaned once per year as they do get dirty quite easily. They were cleaned last March and will be cleaned again in 2025.
- STEM workshops are built into the Library Annual Programme. The library has established formal links with colleges such as TUS, SETU and Mary Immaculate College whom they work with to organise events such as robotics, 3D printing, Lego, etc. and the Universities are very happy to be involved.



- Damien will check out the recent meeting of the Tipperary Biodiversity Forum at Cabragh Wetlands and revert back to the MD.
- Magic tables are very expensive and also incur a high maintenance cost but are very worthwhile. If funding becomes available, Roscrea Library will certainly be considered.
- There are still a number of external works to be undertaken to the new library in Templemore including the traffic barrier. Damien will check the precise works and their timeframe and revert to the MD.
- There is a plan in place for the leasing of the old Templemore library.
- The installation of power sockets to allow for lighting outside the new library in Templemore will be undertaken by the MD.

4.1 District Engineer's Report.

Thomas informed the Members that the District Road Works Programme commenced on Monday 10th February.

The Members raised the following issues: -

- Is there any update from Irish Rail regarding the old railway bridge at Cloughmartin where a high section of the wall has collapsed?
- The central monument and surrounding seating at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles is in a poor condition and requires attention.
- The road surface on Slievenamon Road, Thurles is in a very poor state of repair and requires immediate attention.
- Would it be possible to move the pedestrian crossing at Bowes Corner back from the junction; the pedestrian crossing seems to be very near the junction for traffic coming from Matthew Avenue onto Friar Street.
- Residents at Iona, Butler and Innisfallen Avenue Thurles have expressed their disappointment following the recent speed survey undertaken in the area. The residents feel that traffic calming measures are needed in that area.
- Issue of flooding at Polly's pub in Templemore needs to be addressed; the gullies in the area may be blocked.
- Issue of road surface wearing away at Castleiney resulting in drivers encroaching onto a private residence in order to avoid the poor road surface.
- When will the road works at Borrisoleigh commence.
- Can the MD engage with Roads Capital Section to ensure that the Inner Relief road for Thurles continues to progress now that the land ownership issue is resolved?
- When will rehabilitation works at Holycross Bridge commence, the funding is available and the works are well overdue.
- Are the proposed safety improvement works at the Ragg, which include the removal of a ditch and shrub planting, a continuation of the safety works recently undertaken in the area.
- At the January Meeting, the Members were invited to submit roads that were damaged due to the recent poor weather conditions. Will the MD



receive additional funding from the Department to address these roads, such as the N62, Horse & Jockey to Thurles road.

- When will the road improvement works on the N8, from Littleton to the Horse & Jockey, be undertaken.
- When will the District white lining programme commence and can the vertical indicators that are broken be fixed/replaced in line with the white lining programming.
- Will new applicants be added to the LIS scheme when it opens in July and must previous applicants re-apply or will they remain on the list. There is still a substantial level of work to be done.
- Has the retrofitting programme for the District commenced yet as there are still a number of tenants waiting for it.
- Will it be possible for the MD to change the speed limit on Butler, Iona and Innisfallen from 50km to 30km per hour when the new urban area speed limits are introduced nationally.
- Regarding the Munster Hotel redevelopment, who is undertaking the Feasibility Study, how much will the study cost and who are the stakeholders?
- What is the update in relation to the infill at the Mall, Templemore following An Bord Pleanála's rejection of the proposal submitted by the MD.
- Following the recent road improvements works in Templetuohy, which are excellent, can traffic calming measures be put in place as the wide-open road is encouraging speeding in the area.
- Issue with potholes on the Lisheen Road at both sides of the road.
- Lighting issue is ongoing at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea with only one or two lights currently working.
- What is the update regarding the installation of additional lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea?
- Have TCC appointed the new lighting contractor yet; there are two lights in Roscrea town that have not been working for several weeks now.
- A stretch of road on the N62 at the Tipperary/Offaly boundary as you come into Roscrea is deteriorating at a rapid pace and requires attention.
- The road surface at the top of Derrymore requires attention.
- Road safety measures are needed and speed limits require review on the Corville Road, Roscrea. The area is a 50kph speed zone but there is no safe crossing for those using Corville National School which has 320 pupils. It is deeply disappointing that an application under a low-cost safety scheme for traffic calming measures in the area was not accepted. Ramps will only serve as a short term measure and therefore the MD need to revert to the Department seeking approval to long-term safety measures in the area.
- Can mobility parking bays be installed at The Source car park as two doctors have recently opened a practice in the area and there are no disability parking bays in the vicinity.



Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- Thurles MD will make further contact with Irish Rail regarding the old railway bridge at Cloughmartin as no reply has been received to date.
- The MD will liaise with Ruairi Boland, Senior Executive Engineer regarding refurbishment of the central monument and surrounding seating at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Thurles.
- Thurles MD will continue to undertake interim road improvement works on Slievenamon Road pending the TII Road Improvements Works Scheme.
- The location of the pedestrian crossings at Bowes Corner follows the pedestrian desire lines and a Road Safety Audit has been completed as part of the design to ensure compliance with DMURS.
- There is currently compliance with the 50kph speed limit in Butler, Iona and Innisfallen Avenues, however it is likely that it will be reduced to 30kph in the upcoming speed limit review.
- The issue of flooding at Polly's pub in Templemore will be investigated.
- The issue of the road surface wearing away at Castleiney, resulting in drivers encroaching onto a private residence in order to avoid the poor road surface, will be investigated.
- A Section 38 has been approved for works at Borrisoleigh. The works will commence during a school holiday period.
- Thurles MD will continue to put pressure on Roads Capital Section to ensure that the Inner Relief road for Thurles continues to progress now that the land ownership issue is resolved.
- Funding for rehabilitation works at Holycross Bridge has been secured, however, there is a delay in obtaining Ministerial consent to the works which is necessary due to the bridge being listed as a national monument.
- The proposed safety improvement works at the Ragg are a continuation of the safety works recently undertaken in the area and will include an extension of the footpath down to the Ballycahill junction and realignment of the junction.
- A costing for roads requiring repairs following the recent poor weather conditions was submitted to the Department in January. No reply has been received from the Department to date.
- Funding for road improvement works on the N8, from Littleton to the Horse & Jockey, has been approved and will be completed as part of the current Roads Programme.
- The MD have a stock of vertical indicators in place and will replace any broken ones in tandem with the white lining programme when it commences in once the salting of roads has ceased.
- The LIS scheme is currently oversubscribed. Prior to the reopening of the new scheme, the MD will liaise with the Members regarding the new rules. The LIS scheme does permit new applicants to be added.
- The MD have received no communication from Housing Section to date regarding the commencement of the retrofitting programme. The issue will be referred to Housing for an update.



- Procurement of Consultants with the relevant expertise to survey the Munster Hotel in terms of its long-term use is currently underway. The result of the survey will determine the direction that the MD take.
- The MD are currently awaiting the Consultant's Report regarding the infill works at the Mall, Templemore.
- Design works for traffic calming in Templetuohy, following recent road improvement works in the area, are currently being prepared.
- The issue with potholes on the Lisheen Road will be examined.
- Replacement of lighting at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea has been requested.
- The installation of additional lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be considered as part of the monies allocated for lighting infills.
- Following the recent storm, the ESB imposed a national stand down on all lighting contractors which was only lifted last week. The resultant backlog is in the process of being cleared.
- The MD will ask the TII for an update regarding the project status of a deteriorating stretch of road on the N62 at the Tipperary/Offaly boundary as you come into Roscrea.
- The issue of poor road surface at the top of Derrymore will be investigated by the MD.
- Unfortunately, the application under the LCSC for road safety works at Corville, Roscrea was unsuccessful. A speed survey will be undertaken and the MD appreciates that, given the size of the school, safety works are needed to create a safe environment and will, therefore, revert to the NTA in an effort to secure a funding timeline.
- Representations can be submitted as part of the current bye law review for the installation of mobility parking bays at The Source car park where two doctors have recently opened a practice.

The District Engineer advised the Members that budgets will be available in the next four weeks after which a Workshop with the Members will be scheduled.

4.2 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

A revised District Project Pipeline Plan for the MD, as outlined in the table below, was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
THURLES	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Progress with construction works, planned completion date October 2025.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Tendering to commence Q1 2025 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design.



	Discussions with the National URDF Team and TII will be required in 2025 now that Part 8 is approved and detailed design completed to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.
Mill road Footpath (phase 2)	ORIS funding application submitted 2025.
Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Funding under Community Recognition Fund sought.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Appointment of Consultants to carry out a Feasibility Study in progress. Final draft for review due in Q1 2025. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1 2025. This project is located in the Carrick MD therefore, all elements will be handed over to Carrick MD.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Project funding from NTA approved for 2025. Works programme for Q2/3 2025.
Road Safety Works - Turtulla Junction	Capital Section reviewing options and costings.
Thurles Inner Relief road	Detailed Design.
Munster Hotel Site Redevelopment	
Cycle and Walking corridors - Thurles Town	
ROSCREA	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Brief and Tender Docs for the engagement of a design team advertised on E-Tenders on 8 th November to procure a Design Consultant to carry out detailed Design. Evaluate tender and award the winning Consultant. Commence detailed design.
Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Project will now be considered for RRDF call 4. If successful, under this funding stream, a tender brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a design and upgrade of Main Street and laneways to include public realm works.



Reimagined Castle Street - Roscrea	Advertise on E-Tenders in Feb. 2025. Procure Consultants and commence design.										
REACH Enterprise and Community Hub											
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings											
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Seek funding streams.										
TEMPLEMORE											
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	GMA funding proposal sought from Elected Members.										
The Mall River – Infill Works											
Templemore Town Park Maintenance Plan	Short, medium and long-term actions identified within the plan for maintenance and future development. Actions will be worked through over the coming years.										
Templemore Landbank Master Plan	Funding application under Just Transition funding for Masterplan submitted by ECRD Directorate was successful. Consultants to be appointed.										
Main Street Enhancement works, Templemore	The Project will be considered for the next RRDF Call 5. If successful under this funding stream, a brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a new design and upgrade of Main Street and to include public realm works.										
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit Works ongoing</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>19</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2	At Inspections/Costings Stage	8	In Progress	9	Retrofit Works ongoing	0	TOTAL	19
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2										
At Inspections/Costings Stage	8										
In Progress	9										
Retrofit Works ongoing	0										
TOTAL	19										

The District Engineer advised the Members that an application under ORIS for a pedestrian footpath on the Mill Road, Thurles has been submitted by the MD. Several Districts are submitting applications under this scheme but unfortunately only one application from the County can go forward to the Department for approval for this category of funding.



Councillor J. Ryan welcomed the project but he expressed his concern regarding the huge increase in traffic that will be generated in this area if the Inner Relief Road is constructed and he stated that plans must be put in place to make this stretch of the Mill Road safer.

4.3 Contributions to Sporting Clubs – Youth Involvement/Female Participation – closing date for noting

It was noted that the closing date for the Contributions to Sporting Clubs – Youth Involvement/Female Participation is Friday 21st February, 2025.

4.4 Contributions to Residents' Associations for Estate Enhancement Works – closing date for noting

It was noted that the closing date for the Contributions to Residents' Associations for Estate Enhancement Works is Friday 21st February, 2025.

4.5 Date to be agreed for the March Monthly Meeting

It was agreed that the March Monthly Meeting would be held on Tuesday 18th March @ 2 p.m. as the scheduled meeting date of 17th March is falling on St. Patrick's Day.

5.1 Notice of Motion.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Michéal Lowry and Councillor Shane Lee – NOM ID 2930

Councillors M. Lowry and S. Lee, formally moved the following Notice of Motion in their name: -

Calling on this district to seek an urgent update from the HSE National Ambulance Service as to how it is addressing the lack of resources for emergency response in the Thurles District, when they envisage the Thurles and Roscrea ambulance bases will be fully crewed and confirm the number of advance paramedics currently rostered in both Thurles & Roscrea Vs the numbers in 2016.

Reply to NOM ID 2930

If there is consensus among the elected members, Thurles MD will seek an urgent update from the HSE National Ambulance Service as to how it is addressing the lack of resources for emergency response in the Thurles District, when they envisage the Thurles and Roscrea ambulance bases will be fully crewed and confirm the number of advance paramedics currently rostered in both Thurles & Roscrea Vs the numbers in 2016.



The Members stated the following:

- This issue is ongoing but has been getting worse and it would be remiss of the Municipal District not to do anything about it. There appears to be a reluctance by the HSE to train and upskill paramedics and advanced paramedics.
- The average call-out time for an ambulance is anticipated to be 19 minutes but it is 1hr 40mins in this area.
- Revenue have recently declared that any paramedic who takes his vehicle home while not on-call will be subject to Benefit In Kind despite such paramedics being expected to answer calls when not on-call.
- The MD need to get clarification on the official number of paramedics and the issue of BIK needs to be addressed at Ministerial level.
- Following an asthma attack in Roscrea recently, a person waited two hours for an ambulance to arrive and sadly that person subsequently died.
- The ambulance service is currently crumbling as there are not enough crews and staff and the HSE are not incentivising the roll, the pay is not sufficient for the long, unsociable hours worked.
- When Nenagh A&E Department was closed in 2008 the Government said they would increase the number of paramedics and ambulances. Back then there were 4 advanced paramedics in the area, now there are none.
- In January crews were only operating at 50% capacity.
- An advanced paramedic had to travel from Ennis at the weekend to respond to a call in this area.
- Why are the HSE allowing a paramedic to work almost as many hours voluntarily as their paid work.
- Paramedic Union Reps need to get involved.

It was agreed that the MD would write to the HSE seeking clarification on the number of paramedics and advanced paramedics in this area and write to the Minister for Finance seeking to reverse the BIK on an emergency vehicle.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

The Meetings Administrator advised the Members that the MD have written to Uisce Eireann inviting them to attend the March monthly meeting but no reply has been received to date.

The Meetings Administrator further informed the Members that following a Notice of Motion raised at the January Meeting regarding the water outages at Gortnahoe and surrounds, the MD wrote to Uisce Eireann on the matter but no reply has been received to date.



7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

A vote of sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Michael O'Sullivan (RIP), Jockey following a tragic horse-riding accident at Thurles racecourse earlier this month.

A vote of congratulations was extended to:

- Thurles CBS Secondary School on winning the Dr. Harty Cup Final when they beat St. Flannan's College, Ennis and to the team Mentors Niall Cahill, Pa Dunne, Stephen Maher and Aidan Stakelum.

8.1 Any Other Business.

The Meetings Administrator reminded the Members to submit their nominations for the 2025 Civic Reception. She advised that Paul Collins, MC will be present in early March to interview each Member regarding his/her nomination.

Councillor S. Lee expressed his concern at the small grants given by TCC to St. Patrick's Day Parade Committees. He stated that it can cost anywhere between €1,500 to €2,000 to hire a pipe band for the event and Committees are trying to run a Parade on a very tight budget. He requested that the MD look more favourably on such committees and increase their allocation.

That concluded the official business of the February Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 18th March 2025

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 18th March 2025