



MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD ON 20th FEBRUARY 2023

Present: Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present: Eamon Lonergan Director of Services
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 S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the January 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 16th January 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Thurles Local Area Plan – Report on Submissions.

Sadbh Hanley, Executive Planner and Clare Lee, Senior Executive Planner were in attendance for this item. A Report on submissions for the Thurles Local Area Plan 2024 - 2030 Pre-Draft Consultation Stage was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

Sadbh gave a briefing on the status of the Thurles Local Area Plan. She stated that an invitation to make submissions had run from 4th November to 5th December, 2022 and a public drop-in event was held at The Source, Thurles on 15th November, 2022. A number of submissions were made.



The next stage of the Plan will be to publish the Draft Local Area Plan which will go on public display from July until September.

Workshops on the Draft LAP will be held for the Elected Members and submissions will be invited from stakeholders and the general public.

The Members thanked Sadbh for her report and they raised the following issues:-

- Parking is a crucial part of town life and this needs to be borne in mind as part of the Local Area Plan.
- A number of submissions were made concerning properties which are not within the remit of the LAP.
- Is it too late to make submissions to the Plan at this stage?

Sadbh and Clare replied to queries as follows:-

- Sites that are outside the remit of the Plan will be addressed in the County Development Plan.
- All submissions will be published on line. The Draft LAP will go on public display in July at which stage submissions will be invited from stakeholders and the general public.

4. Update from Planning.

Ann Marie Devaney, Senior Planner and Kieran Ladden, Senior Executive Engineer were in attendance for this item. Marion Carey, Executive Planner attended via Zoom. A Planning Briefing Report was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and was taken as read.

The Members raised the following issues:-

- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Caisleán Cúirt, Thurles.
- Does the funding provided under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 for the Conservation of Protected Structures cover funding for the engagement of a Conservation Architect?
- Stradavoher Court which is a private housing estate in Thurles is an eyesore in the town with ongoing illegal dumping and anti-social behaviour a big issue. The original planning application conditions sought for the provision of a central waste area in the estate but it was never put in place.
- What is the update in relation to the taking-in-charge of Carden's Court, Templemore which is currently in a poor state with rubbish.



Replies to queries were as follows:-

- The funding provided under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023 for the Conservation of Protected Structures does cover funding for the engagement of a Conservation Architect
- Kieran will revert to the MD in relation to the taking-in-charge of Carden's Court, Templemore.
- A CCTV survey has been undertaken for Caisleán Cúirt and a site resolution plan is being prepared.

5. Update from Libraries & Cultural Services/Biodiversity.

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance for this item. A report was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting which was taken as read.

Damien informed the Members of the following new additions to the Library Service:

- The C Pen Readerpen – to support independent reading and learning.
- The Acorn Tablet – Irelands first Age-Friendly Smart Tablet.
- LOTE (Languages Other Than English) – for children, in particular non-nationals, to enjoy books in LOTE.

The Members thanked Damien for his Report and welcomed the additional services being offered by the Library Services. The following items were raised:

- Given that the Library building in Thurles is a modern building, could the Sensory Pod in the Library be replaced with a specific Sensory Room?
- When will the post of Biodiversity Officer be filled and what specific projects will that person be involved with, for example, will the Biodiversity Officer liaise directly with villages.
- When is the Age Friendly Roscrea Community Inclusion Arts Project, that will reflect on the history of the area, expected to be complete and is it planned to roll the Project out to other towns in the MD?

Damien replied to queries as follows:-

- The Libraries are currently engaging with HR Section in relation to the appointment of the Biodiversity Officer. The Biodiversity Officer will offer support to Communities and will also work with the Heritage Officer.
- The creation of a sensory room in Thurles Library would require major structural works. The Department currently do not provide financial support towards structural works.



6. 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 stated that a Workshop would be held with the Elected Members in the coming weeks to discuss the Roadworks Programme for 2023.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Can a Programme of Works be prepared to address the large amount of litter on all approach roads into Thurles town. Dumping of full rubbish bags is also an issue that needs to be addressed.
- What is the update in relation to legislation and the use of CCTV to investigate dumping.
- Can the MD liaise with the Gardai in relation to littering?
- A wheelchair user in Roscrea is unable to use Derrymore Bridge due to an accessibility issue.
- Can the Speed Indicator Signs be moved between the villages every 2 to 3 weeks in an effort to change driver behaviour?
- Can the greens that were extended out following contract works in Littleton last Summer be addressed as they were left in an unfinished condition.
- Has there been any update from the Department in relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Liskeveen, Littleton?
- When will snagging at Ned Hayes Park housing estate in Two-Mile-Borris be undertaken?
The road parallel to the estate that was used by the contractor during the works is in a bad condition and needs to be included as part of the snagging list.
- What is the update in relation to the flashing speed sign at Pouldine that is still not working.
- Can the proposed works on the N75 in Thurles from the Anner Hotel to Liberty Square that are scheduled for Q4 2023 be undertaken instead during the Summer months when the schools are closed as the works will cause major disruption to traffic in the town.
- The following issues in Dun Muilleann, Mill Road, Thurles have yet to be addressed:-
 - Lack of signage causing postal issues.
 - Upgrading of footpaths to tarmac.
 - Re-plastering and painting of wall where an ESB junction box was removed.
- Issue of potholes on Kickham Street, Thurles and in particular in the vicinity of Ely's Centra and Aldi supermarket.



- The residents of Old Baker Street, Thurles are very happy with the new look to the Street, however the issue of weeds and litter on the street needs to be addressed.
- Can a railing be installed at the Ringfort, Derrynaflan, Littleton to alleviate dumping in the area?
- The carpark at Castleiney needs to be addressed as it is in a poor state and is causing damage to cars.
- Issue of dangerous junction at Moyneard Cross, Moyne needs to be examined.
- The footpath at Patrick Street, Templemore is in a poor state of repair and needs to be addressed.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- A meeting will take place to examine the issue of a wheelchair user in Roscrea being unable to access Derrymore Bridge.
- Roads staff are currently tendering for a contractor to carry out a litter pick on approach roads to towns.
The issue of behaviour and awareness will also be examined and additional funding will be sought to help alleviate the problem.
- CCTV can be used for enforcement purposes and if part of the solution to the problem then it will be used. Bags of dumped rubbish are examined for identification purposes. The Council are also working with businesses in the County to examine night time dumping.
- The MD will liaise with the Gardai to investigate issues of dumping.
- The application for the Low-Cost Safety Scheme at Liskeveen was not successful and will be re-submitted this year.
- The issue of the road parallel to the Ned Hayes housing estate being in a poor state of repair following works by the Contractor will be referred to the Housing Engineer.
- The speed indicator signs will be moved throughout the villages to help change driver behaviour.
- The flashing sign at Pouldine is being repaired.
- A Section 38 for the works on the N75 from the Anner Hotel to Liberty Square, Thurles will be submitted to the March MD meeting.
The issue of the works being undertaken during the summer months when the schools are closed can be discussed at that time with Roads Central who will be in charge of the works.
- The housing estate at Dun Muilleann, Mill Road, Thurles is still under retention.
The issues raised will be forwarded to Housing Capital.
- The potholes at Kickham Street, Thurles will be examined.
- Rubbish bins are provided in Old Baker Street, Thurles and litter picks are undertaken on a rotational basis. Weed spraying will be undertaken.
- The carpark at Castleiney will be examined.
- The dangerous junction at Moyneard Cross, Moyne will be examined.



- The fencing at Derrynaflan, Littleton has been erected to help alleviate the dumping issue in the area.

7. 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:-

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Options assessment and selection of a preferred option design with key statutory stakeholder. Meetings and Workshops with Elected Members and the public Stakeholders in Q2 2023. A Part 8 Planning Application in Q4 2023.
Proposed Market and Extension to Farm Building, Thurles	Agree Final design. Construction Works to commence in Q3/Q4 2023. Meetings with MIC and Farmers Market ongoing. Stakeholders ongoing.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Bord-na-Mona employees to construct track. Construction commencement prog August 2023. Ongoing discussions with Bord na Mona 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	Seek approval from the Department to proceed with the project. Award the Contract to the successful Tenderer in Q1 2023. Works to commence in Q2 2023.
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	Public consultation commenced



Templemore Town Streetscape Enhancement Project	Concept at this stage.	
Vacant Housing Units	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	4
	In Progress	9
	IPB Insurance Assessment	1
	Retrofit works to be completed first	1
	TOTAL	16

The District Project Pipeline Plan was not discussed as a Workshop on this item is to be held immediately after the MD meeting.

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

It was noted that the closing date for receipt of applications for Contributions to Sporting Clubs – Youth Involvement/Female Participation is Friday 24th February, 2023. Details of same can be found on the Council Website.

9. Contributions to Residents’ Associations for Estate Enhancement Works – closing date for noting.

It was noted that the closing date for receipt of applications for Contributions to Residents’ Associations for Estate Enhancement Works is Friday 24th February, 2023. Details of same can be found on the Council Website.

10. Notices of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

Councillor Jim Ryan requested that the MD write to Iarnród Éireann and the Minister for Transport requesting that an earlier train from Dublin to Cork be added to the Iarnród Éireann rail schedule as currently it is not feasible for students and workers to travel by train from Thurles to Cork as the first train will not arrive in Cork until 9.40 a.m.



Councillor P. Ryan supported Councillor J. Ryan in his request and stated that she had been in correspondence with Iarnród Éireann last year in this regard wherein they stated that their 2023 Schedule had yet to be determined. Councillors S. Hanafin and S. Ryan also supported this request.

12. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The O'Hara family, Gurtmullen, Roscrea on the recent passing of Tina O'Hara, sister to Jerry O'Hara, Water Services Section.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

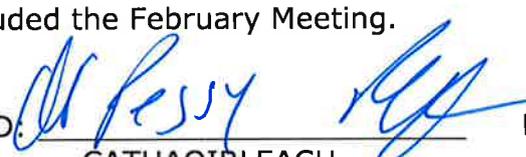
- Kerry Condon, Thurles, on winning an Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in the film '*The Banshees of Inisherin*' at the 2023 BAFTA Film Awards.
- Jockey Seán Quinlan who rode his 500th win at Ayr earlier this month.
- Brian Gleeson, Loughmore who represents Ireland in the Rugby U20's Six Nations Championship 2023
- Bryan O'Mara, as captain of the University of Limerick winning team in the Fitzgibbon Cup.
- Congratulations to MIC, Thurles on winning the Higher Education Ryan Cup
- Dan and Hazel Quirke, Clonoulty on their legacy to sports people through the establishment of the Dillon Quirke Foundation which aims to fight Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS).

13. Any Other Business.

Councillor S. Ryan requested that the Festival Grant awarded to Two-Mile-Borris last year, towards their annual festival, be increased as the costs of running the event are substantial and the costs for 2022 far exceeded the grant received for that year.

That concluded the February Meeting.

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20th March, 2023

SIGNED:


MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20th March, 2023