



MINUTES OF THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES, ON 19th JUNE 2023

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

Eamon Lonergan	Director of Services
Liam Brett,	Senior Engineer
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 S. Lee, seconded by Councillor S. Hanafin and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the May 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15th May 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3. Lisheen Windfarm Application for Inspection – Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Lee and seconded by Councillor N. Coonan that:

"The application received from the Moyne Templetuohy GAA Club, for the refurbishment of the old dressing rooms and toilets at Moyne Templetuohy GAA club and the supply and laying of tarmacadam, under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be approved."



4. Update from Housing

Kieran Malone, Executive Engineer and Shane Grogan, Administrative Officer were in attendance for this item. A Housing Services Report for the period 01/01/2023 to 31/05/2023 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- What is the update in relation to the replacement of loose chippings in Dun Muilleann housing estate, Thurles.
- Have TCC any control over the provision of houses to charities such as the Sean McVerry Trust who subsequently house tenants with serious issues in inappropriate areas and are background checks undertaken on a tenant being housed under this scheme?
- What is the update in relation to houses in Templemore and Borrisoleigh where retrofit works are being undertaken which are taking considerable time and are being left unfinished with no heating in some instances.
- What is the timeline for the completion of the 20 vacant houses awaiting minor repairs and the 3 vacant houses awaiting major refurbishment within the MD
- When will the position of the Community Liaison Officer be filled? It is vital that the newly appointed Community Liaison Officer must continue to engage with Gardai.
- Are all Council houses eligible for purchase under the Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme; some tenants have stated that they cannot buy out their house.
- Have TCC purchased any houses under the Tenant in-Situ Scheme?
- What is the update in relation to Department funding approval for the construction of 46 houses in Glencarrick, Roscrea?

Replies to queries raised are as follows:-

- The issue of loose chippings in Dun Muilleann housing estate, Thurles is currently with the Architect to identify a solution. Members will be informed of an outcome in due course.
- There are several different retrofit schemes currently ongoing, some under housing central and some directly through the MD. If specific addresses can be supplied to Housing Section in relation to the houses undergoing retrofit works that have been left unfinished then the specific retrofit scheme can be identified and the issue addressed.
- The timeline for the completion of the 20 vacant houses awaiting minor repairs and the 3 vacant houses awaiting major refurbishment will be checked and referred back to the Members.
- Interviews for the appointment of a Community Liaison Officer are currently ongoing and it is intended to fill the post as soon as possible.



- A Stage 3 funding submission has been sent to the Department for approval for Glencarrick, Roscrea.
- The Council have an obligation to house even the most difficult of tenants and unfortunately, some tenants present with challenges. TCC have engaged with the Housing First Policy. The Council will not condone illegal activities and in instances where there are concerns, processes and procedures are in place to report the concern to the Council.
A Service Level Agreement is in place with all housing charities who take on LA properties under licence.
- The Council can restrict the purchase of certain classifications of houses under the Tenant Purchase Scheme for example, adapted houses. The scheme is operated in a clear, transparent manner and any feedback received in relation to the Scheme will be taken on board and included in the next review which will be in approximately 12 months' time.
- TCC are purchasing or have purchased in excess of 50 houses under the Tenant in Situ Scheme. Exact figures for the Scheme can be provided to the Members via the MD.

5. Update from Economic, Community and Rural Development.

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer was in attendance for this item. An Economic, Community and Rural Development Report was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting. The Report was taken as read. Kathleen informed the Members of the following:-

- A survey under the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is currently ongoing.
- Tipperary Age Friendly Expo is commencing on 22nd June and will provide information and talks to support positive ageing in the County.
- The Tipperary Shop Local Campaign is ongoing at present; Members are invited to like, share and tag items in relation to the campaign.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Can the ancestral connection between King Charles of England, who is a descendant of Lady Elizabeth Poyntz, Blackcastle, Thurles, be utilised to invite the Royal Family to Thurles as it would be a huge economic benefit to the town?
- What criteria was used for the awarding of funding under the Community Recognition Fund. It was very disappointing that lots of deserving groups did not receive any funding under this Scheme.
- Will the Community Recognition Fund be awarded on an annual basis?
- Why has the *Accounting for Small Businesses* programme that was run by LEO been removed? This was an excellent programme that lots of small businesses availed of.



- Is the Dig Once Principle being applied to all capital projects, as it was in Liberty Square, Thurles refurbishment Project?
- How will the Just Transition Fund support SME's i.e. what ancillary services might develop as a result of the Just Transition Fund?
- What model will be used going forward for the Community Action Plans in particular Littleton Community Action Plan.

Kathleen replied to queries as follows:-

- TCC Tourism Officer and the MD District Administrator will discuss the appropriateness and practicality of inviting the Royal Family to Thurles.
- This was the first year of the Community Recognition Fund and it is currently unknown if the fund will continue on an annual basis. There were a very large number of applicants. The criteria for awarding the grants will be examined and reverted back to the Members via the District Administrator.
- The issue in relation to the removal of the Accounting Package for small businesses will be discussed with LEO.
- The Dig Once Policy was a pilot scheme run when Thurles town was developing its town centre. It was completed in November 2022. Those conduits that were developed at the time can now be used for development into the future.
- The Just Transition Fund consists of two streams of funding; the first stream relates to trails and tracks under which the MD or Bord Na Mona can apply for funding. The second strand of funding is the tourism product strand under the Regenerative Tourism Scheme. Applications will open in July/August and it will be known then who will be eligible to apply and for what activity.
- An update in relation to the Littleton Community Action Plan will be checked out and reverted back to the MD.

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 advised the Members of the following:-

- Two additional LIS Schemes have been offered.
- One additional CIS Scheme has been offered.
- Development Levies – Surveying works are ongoing at Bohernacrusha, Templetuohy and Borrisoleigh.
- Surfacing Dressing Programme – Commencing on 3rd July next.
- MD currently waiting for Members to submit outstanding tertiary allocations.



The Members complimented the Engineers on the level of work undertaken throughout the District and raised the following queries:-

- How can the MD deal with land that was previously set aside for road straightening that is now interfering with sightlines, such as at Brown's Lane on the Beakstown Road?
- Do the MD have a maintenance programme to address issues of sightlines being interfered with due to overgrowth.
- Gullies in towns and villages need to be cleaned out while the weather is good and prior to any severe downpours.
- The road surface at Liberty Square, Thurles in the vicinity of the AIB Bank and the Arch Bar is in a very poor state of repair.
- The footpaths in Liberty Square, Thurles are in a very dirty condition and need to be cleaned.
- What is the update in relation to improvement works needed for Main Street, Roscrea?
- What is the update in relation to the provision of footpaths on the Roscrea Road out of Templemore, beyond Wallace's Garage on the left-hand side?
- Are there bye-laws in place in relation to the Glebe playground in Roscrea. Adults are loitering in the area and engaging in drinking and other activities in the area.
- Is there legislation in place to deal with scooters operating at high speed on footpaths?
- The approach road to Roscrea on the N62 from Birr is in a poor state of repair and sightlines are obscured due to overgrowth and the issue needs to be addressed.
- The road surface is deteriorating on the N62 at Derrymore as you come off the flyover and requires attention.
- Following recent works at Carrick Hill Roscrea, residents are unhappy as they understood that the plan was to step in the bank a small bit which did not happen. They feel that during periods of heavy rain the chipping will be washed away.
- Following a Section 183 disposal of a piece of ground, which is now lying idle and overgrown, the residents of the Haven housing estate, Roscrea are having difficulties trying to negotiate this junction.
- Why have works that were scheduled for Q3 2023 on the N75 Thurles/Two-Mile Borris Road been postponed to January 2024?
- When will Caisleán Cuirt housing estate, Thurles be advertised for taking-in-charge?
- When will the white lining programme commence?
- When will the mobile flashing speed signs, scheduled for Littleton, Horse and Jockey and Two Mile Borris villages, be implemented?



Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- Junctions have been cut in areas where land that was previously set aside for road straightening is now interfering with sightlines and the MD are looking at a permanent solution to the issue.
- A programme will commence next week to address issue of overgrowth at junctions on National Roads.
- Gullies are being cleaned on an ongoing basis, however, the GSS's will continue to monitor them.
- Remedial works will be undertaken to address the poor road surface in Liberty Square, Thurles in the vicinity of the Arch Bar/AIB Bank.
- A contractor has been appointed to clean the footpaths in Liberty Square, Thurles.
- The final draft of the Town Centre First proposal includes improvement plans for Main Street, Roscrea.
The funding of projects identified in the Plan will now be identified as a priority.
- The MD are following up with the TII in relation to the provision of a footpath on the Roscrea Road out of Templemore, beyond Wallace's Garage, on the left-hand side.
- The issue in relation to anti-social behaviour at the Glebe playground in Roscrea will be raised at the Community Policing Meeting.
- Legislation is expected later this year in relation to the operation of scooters. No information is available to date.
- Improvement works on the N62 approach road to Roscrea from Birr have been identified in the Roads Capital 3-Year Programme that is currently being prepared for the TII.
- The issue of the road surface deteriorating on the N62 at Derrymore has been referred to Roads Capital.
- The improvement works recently undertaken at Carrick Hill, Roscrea have substantially improved safety in the area for both the driver and pedestrian and no further works will be undertaken. However, the works will be monitored.
- The overgrown land at the Haven housing estate, Roscrea is in private ownership. The MD will issue a notice to the landowner in relation to the sightline issues.
- Works that were scheduled for Q3 2023 on the N75 Thurles/Two-Mile-Borris Road have been postponed to January 2024 as consultation is still ongoing with the TII in relation to these works.
- Advertising for the taking in charge of Caislean Cuirt housing estate, Thurles is being dealt with by Roads Central.
- The white lining programme has been sent out to the Contractor.
- The mobile flashing speed signs will be implemented into the villages later this year.



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:-

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 Q3 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 September 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	Construction works commenced May 2023. It is envisaged that Construction works will take 18 months to complete. Meetings with Community Groups ongoing.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Handover of Project from Planning to Thurles MD. Design Team to be procured. Awaiting written contract from the Department in regard to requirements for approved projects to proceed.
Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Meetings are on-going with the consultants O'Mahony Pike (scheduled fortnightly).



	<p>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.</p>												
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Retrofit works to be completed first</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Budget submitted for approval</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	6	In Progress	7	Retrofit works to be completed first	1	Budget submitted for approval	2	TOTAL	17
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TOTAL	17												

There were no issues raised by the Members in relation to the District Project Pipeline.

8. Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

9. Correspondence.

Correspondence was received and circulated to the Elected Members in advance of the Meeting from Iarnród Éireann following a recent submission made by Thurles MD in relation to the Thurles-Cork rail service.

Councillor Jim Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the reply from Iarnród Éireann and stated that the news was positive with the increased capacity of an additional 41 Inter City Railcars and the review of its train timetables.

10. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The family of David O’Sullivan, RIP. David worked at the Source Arts Theatre, Thurles and was involved in numerous musical events around the town.
- The family of the late Anna Slattery RIP. Anna was mother to Pat Slattery, former Director of Services, Tipperary County Council and mother-in-law to Ruth Hennessy LAWPRO
- Margaret Hough, Templemore Arms Hotel, on the death of her father Joe RIP.

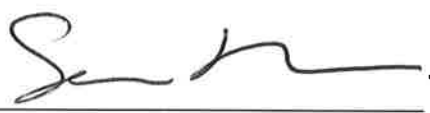


Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Durlas Og on their qualifying for the forthcoming U15 Feile and Peil GAA competition.
- The Peake villa Junior A team on winning the Tipperary Southern and District League.
- Thurles Community Choir on its first event in the Source Arts Theatre on 16th June last.
- The Moycarkey/Borris boys U11 hurling team who secured a silver medal in the Munster Outdoor Community Games in UL.

11. Any Other Business.

As there was no other business that concluded the June Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 17th July, 2023
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 17th July, 2023
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

