



## MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES, ON 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 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
Sharon Scully	District Administrator
Susan Scally	Asst Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Enda Walsh Executive Engineer

### 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 J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District September 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

#### **Matters arising from Minutes**

Councillor E. Moran advised that he was not happy with the response he received regarding the Cluain Doire estate in Templemore. He stated that the developer needs to carry out repairs to make the estate safe and he requested an update on the issue.

The Director of Services confirmed that he would follow up the matter with Kieran Ladden and request Kieran to contact Eddie directly with an update.



### **3. Thurles Municipal District - Draft Budgetary Plan 2024.**

Paddy Brennan, Sarah O'Callaghan and Claire Ryan, Financial Management Accountants, Finance Section were all in attendance for this item.

Paddy made apologies for Mark Connolly, Head of Finance who was unable to attend the Meeting.

A copy of the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan 2024 was circulated by email on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, giving the required 7 days' notice and was also circulated with the Agenda in accordance with Section 102(4A)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001.

Paddy outlined the Thurles Municipal District Draft Budgetary Plan for 2024 to the Members and highlighted the following:-

- General Municipal Allocation for 2024 will be €211,815 which is a decrease of €3,221 on 2023.

The table below sets out the provisional allocation per District based on population.

#### **Tipperary County Council - General Municipal Allocations (GMA) 2023 Allocated based on 2022 Population**

	Population based on 2022 Census	Allocation € GMA based on 2022 Population
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	20,191	114,689
Clonmel Borough District	25,003	142,023
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District	44,532	252,951
Nenagh Municipal District	40,879	232,202
Thurles Municipal District	37,290	211,815
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,895</b>	<b>953,680</b>

Paddy advised the Members that the practice of setting aside some of the GMA allocation to use for capital and match funding projects was good practice and urged Members to do the same this year.

The Members asked that the following be taken into consideration when allocating full Council budget:-



- Grants towards festivals and tourism related projects.
- Funding to carry out repairs to back entrances.
- Parking charges should be equalised across the County which is not the case at the moment.
- Contributions to Leisure facilities in particular contribution to Thurles Swimming Pool which reduced by €30,000 from 2022 to 2023.

Paddy replied to the Members as follows:-

- The process requires each director to submit proposals for 2024 but realistically the proposals will exceed income.
- There will be tough decisions to be made in the Budget 2024.
- All items are taken into consideration and a preliminary meeting will take place with the Chief Executive and issues that have cropped up in previous 12 months will be considered.
- The reduction in the GMA for 2024 is due to the allocation being based on 2022 census rather than the previous 2016 census.
- Parking charges are being looked at with a view to synchronising all charges across the County.
- Contributions to all leisure facilities has decreased.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:-

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 102 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, we, the Members of Thurles Municipal District, hereby adopt the overall Draft Budgetary Plan 2023 providing for an expenditure of €211,815 for the Municipal District subject to agreement on allocations to specific projects."

The Cathaoirleach thanked Paddy, Sarah and Claire and they left the Chamber.

#### **4. Grant Application from Moyne Community café and shop.**

The District Administrator advised that Lisheen Windfarm Trust provides funding for payment of grants to community/voluntary groups in the area towards capital expenditure incurred by them.

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

"The 3<sup>rd</sup> application received from the Moyne Community Shop CLG for the provision of a Community Shop and café for Moyne Village under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust be approved and paid as recommended by the Trust."



## **5. To note Review of Draft Tipperary LECP.**

Margo Hayes, Administrative Officer, Community & Economic Development was in attendance, by zoom, for this item.

The Draft Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 was noted.

There were no questions relating to same.

## **6. Proposed Taking in Charge of Ardlui and Caislean Court, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.**

A Report on Proposed Taking in Charge of Ardlui and Caislean Court, Thurles, was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Hanafin, seconded by Councillor J Ryan and resolved:-

"That pursuant to the provisions of Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and being satisfied that the roads are of public utility, and having considered the financial implications for the local authority and any submissions made, it is hereby ordered that the roads serving the housing estates known as

### **Ardlui, Thurles, Co. Tipperary Caislean Court, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**

be declared a public road. In addition, any open spaces, car parks, sewers, water mains and service connections within the attendant grounds of the development are taken in charge, as outlined in red on the attached map, which was on public display during the prescribed period and the Director of Services Report to Members for the October 2023 Thurles Municipal District Meeting".

## **7. Agree name for proposed new housing development of 46 houses in Roscrea at Glencarrick. Selected names are:**

- **Monaincha Park**
- **Dun Cré**
- **Rosemary Gardens**

The District Administrator advised the Members that a name needs to be chosen for the new housing development of 46 houses in Roscrea at Glencarrick. The suggested names are (i) Monaincha Park, (ii) Dun Cré and (iii) Rosemary Gardens.



Councillor M. Smith questioned where the proposed names came from and suggested that the Council involve the schoolchildren in Roscrea in choosing a name for the estate and in particular those at Scoil Cormac which is neighbouring the site of the new development.

Councillor N. Coonan seconded the proposal and Councillor S. Lee also supported the proposal.

The District Administrator advised that the proposed names were suggested by the Architect of the project and there is a timeframe involved due the ESB connection.

It was agreed that as an initial response, a letter be written by the Cathaoirleach to Scoil Cormac to involve them in choosing a name for the new development.

## **8. 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 Members raised the following queries: -

- Provision of signs at Sean Treacy Avenue, Thurles – 'Slow Zone' or 'Children at Play'.
- Flooding at Clobanna Bridge near Rossestown – floods of 1 to 1.5 feet deep occur at this location during heavy rainfall.
- Field beside the new housing estate Dun Muilleán on Mill Road Thurles is in need of maintenance and clean up.
- Footpaths and road at Derheen Thurles in need of attention – can the footpaths at Derheen be included in the Footpath Programme?
- Road markings at the top of Liberty Square Thurles are not clear as drivers coming onto the Square from Parnell Street and Friar Street are unclear as to who has the right of way. There have been a number of accidents at this location. It was suggested that 'Yield' signs be painted on the roads from Parnell Street and Friar Street.
- There are a number of schools in the town centre of Thurles but there are no signs advising caution when approaching these schools.
- Can the gullies in the town be cleaned due to fallen leaves?
- Issue with some public lights in the town not working, in particular, on the Jimmy Doyle Road and at Bowes Corner.  
The new Smart lights installed were to be colour changeable but this does not seem to be operational.
- Can the footpaths in Willowmere Drive Thurles be included the Footpath Programme?
- Compliments to the Outdoor Staff Templemore Area for road marking outside St Joseph's School, Borrissleigh.
- Footpaths at The Mall, Templemore are in an awful state.



- The sign for Talavera, Templemore on the small bridge is missing.
- Issue with rubbish in the Templemore Town Park in particular at the playground.
- Issue of lights not working in Orchard Court Templemore is ongoing for some time and needs to be addressed urgently for the safety of the residents in the estate.
- Assurances that the Christmas lights in Templemore will be erected before the last Friday in November – delay with the erection of lights in previous years.
- Storm water causing flooding on the N62 at McDonalds Roundabout?
- Road surfacing on small bridge after Youngs Oil Depot is showing signs of substantial wear.
- Commend the outdoor staff on their work during Storm Agnes – there were a number of trees down that had to be dealt with.
- Health checks should be carried out on trees – there is an issue with Ash Dieback on trees at Grange and New Park.
- Provision of signage into Villages around the District similar to other Villages in the County.
- N75 Capital Liberty Square - when will work commence on the N75 Liberty Square Thurles? It had been postponed to Quarter 1 2024.
- Surface on the town side of Barry's Bridge is worn and in need of attention.
- Report to the TII that the flashing sign at Pouldine School is not working again.
- It was suggested the all applications for funding be brought before the Members so that they can review unsuccessful applications and establish where they are failing. It will ensure that Thurles MD are getting their fair share of funding available.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:

- The issue with flashing sign at Pouldine not working will be reported to the TII.
- The issue with road surface at Barry's Bridge will be reported to the TII.
- There is no update on the work at N75 Liberty Square.
- The Council will support a scheme for the provision of signs on approaches to Villages in the District.
- Ash Dieback is a national issue. The Council look after this issue in Council estates but have no remit on private lands. It can be highlighted to landowners during the hedge cutting process.
- Meeting with GSSs on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and emphasis will be put on cleaning of gullies.
- Engineer will inspect bridge deck surface after Youngs Oil Depot and apply for Geo App funding if necessary.
- Engineer will review stormwater flood locations with the GSS on the N62.
- Contractor has been appointed for footpaths at The Mall, Templemore.



- There are sufficient bins provided in Templemore Town Park including a number of big belly bins. It is not intended to install any further bins in the Park or in the Town Centre.
- Missing sign for Talavera at the small bridge will be examined.
- Footpaths at Willowmere Drive Thurles will be inspected – Phase 2 of the Templemore and Thurles Footpath Programmes are due to commence.
- Issue with public lights at Jimmy Doyle Road and Bowes Corner will be forwarded to Michael Tierney for attention as well as the issue regarding the changing of the colour of the lights.
- There are road markings highlighting schools in the town centre of Thurles but the provision of signs will be examined.
- The issue of right of way at the top of Liberty Square Thurles will be referred to the Safety Inspector TII.
- Meeting is scheduled with the TII regarding Liberty Square Phase 2.
- Footpaths at Derheen Thurles will be examined with a view to include in a future Footpath Programme.
- An application was submitted under the Town & Village Renewal for the field beside Dun Muilleán Mill Road Thurles. The application was not successful but efforts will continue to secure funding. There are no proposals to carry out any further maintenance at this location.
- The issue at Clobanna Bridge will be investigated.
- Signage at Sean Treacy Avenue Thurles will be examined in line with guidance policy.
- Meetings have taken place with the Contractors for erection of Christmas lights in Templemore and Thurles and it is agreed that the lights in the District will be ready for switch on by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

The Director of Services replies to queries as follows:

- The position regarding lighting at Orchard Court Templemore will be checked.
- All applications for projects being brought in front of the Members – both successful and unsuccessful – is a good idea.
- There will be a workshop in January to discuss all projects and look at projects for 2024.

## **9. 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 and taken as read: -



Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	The 'preferred' design solution and option assessment is being agreed with the prescribed statutory stakeholders, prior to finalising the design detail and presenting to all stakeholders and the Elected Members Meetings and Workshops with the MD Elected Members and the public stakeholders is planned for October/November 2023. A Part 8 planning application is expected to be lodged in Q4 2023. Subject to planning approval the final design and tendering stage could commence in mid-2024.
Market Quarter - Thurles	Finalise Detailed Design by end of October 2023. Procurement of Main Works contractor. Construction to commence Q1 2024.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Bord na Mona employees to construct the 7.8km of new track. Construction commencement in September of lifting of the rail tracks with completion in Q1 2024.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Procurement for external consultants to prepare a detailed Feasibility Study of Bushcraft Centre located on Bord na Mona Lands. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1 2024.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	Construction works commenced May 2023. It is planned that construction works will take 13 months to complete.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Awaiting written contract from the Department in regard to requirements for this approved project to proceed on a phased basis. A Design Team to be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding Dept.
Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Agreed that a Final Draft of the Roscrea TCF Masterplan will be submitted to TCC at the end of June and complete by July. Official Launch of TCF Master Plan to be arranged for Q4 2023.





Vacant Housing Units	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	2
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	7
	In Progress	4
	Awaiting Budget Approval	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

Members raised the following queries: -

- Applicants of the Paint Scheme for Liberty Square Thurles are having difficulties securing painters so can the scheme run into Q1 or Q2 2024?
- Update requested on the legacy dumps in Thurles – Monanearla and at the back of the old Dwan’s factory on Brittas Road. Thurles Town Council had set aside money over the years for the rehabilitation of the dumps.

Also the old Town Dump in Templemore which is now covered by a pitch – residents and parents are worried about possible leakage of gases.

- Sale of site beside old Lidl supermarket on Abbey Road Thurles. It would be beneficial for the town if the Council were to purchase this site as a business park, CPO money had been put aside for such a venture.
- River Maintenance Programme – can a decision be made on what work can be carried out and when?
- Are all EV charging points in operation?
- Can litter picks be carried out along the river bank walk?
- Issue of dumping at The Mall River bridge in centre of Roscrea town. It has been reported to Environment but nothing has been done about it. Door to door inspections need to be carried out.

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- The EV charging points in Parnell Street Thurles will be operational within the next couple of weeks. All other EV charging points are operational.
- 6 to 7 submissions were received regarding river maintenance. The Ecologist called out and met with landowners and work will be carried out based on his recommendation. Work to be carried out will be minimal due to constraints as pointed out previously by LAWPRO.
- Litter picks are being carried out on River Suir walk and strimming back takes place 2 metres either side of walk.
- Environment are looking after the legacy dumps in the County and they will be asked to contact Members directly on this issue.
- The possible purchase of site at Abbey Road Thurles will be followed up internally to establish the correct procedure.



## **10. Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion for the October Monthly Meeting.

## **11. Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

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

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:-

- The Phelan family The Market House Pub Roscrea on the passing of Mickey RIP. Mickey was very involved in the GAA.
- The Collins family Killea Templemore on the passing of Margaret (Maggie) who passed in her 101<sup>st</sup> year RIP.
- The Boland family Broomhill Killenaule on the passing of Kathleen RIP who was mother-in-law to Martin Campion.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Peter Ryan, former Tipperary County Council Councillor on his superb achievement in completing 586 km run from Malin Head to Mizen Head. Peter raised over €82,000 for the NCBI.
- All Tidy Towns Committees in the Districts who increased their points in the recent Tidy Towns Awards 2023. Huge work is carried out by the Committees each year.
- Moycarkey Borris Junior A Camogie Team who won the Junior A County Final at The Ragg on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

## **13. Any Other Business.**

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

SIGNED:  , DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  , DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR