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## **MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE MUINTIR NA TIRE HALL, MAIN STREET, LITTLETON, ON 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

The Cathaoirleach welcomed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils from Littleton National School to the Meeting. He also thanked the District Director, District Administrator and Muintir na Tíre Committee for allowing the December Meeting to take place in Littleton.

### **1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.**

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

### **2.1 Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD.**

It was proposed by Councillor M. Lowry, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District November 2023 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

### **3.1 ERCD Section briefing on JTF LECP process/application.**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Brian Beck, Director of Services, Community and Economic Development to the Meeting.

A report was circulated to the Members in relation to a €24 million fund launched to support the Just Transition Fund in the Midlands region for which TCC had submitted an application for a €5m grant. The application is in relation to the development of 10 acres of land at the old Lisheen



mine site to advance the Bio-economy in the region through new biotechnology industries.

An additional application for a further grant of €1m was also submitted by TCC which involved the submission of a detailed design for the development of 10 acres of land to the rear of the engineering building at the Lisheen site.

Furthermore, a concept paper has been submitted to the Department in relation to the development of a business park at Templemore that would support the community and help develop facilities in the Town. The concept paper has been accepted and TCC is now invited to complete a design and plan of the proposed project.

The Members welcomed the proposed project and acknowledged the huge level of work that took place behind the scenes. They spoke of the huge level of job losses following the closure of Lisheen Mine and recognise the potential of this project to create jobs. The establishment of Thurles as an education hub and the development of the bio-economy industry should be combined to take advantage of the resulting synergy.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Can more detailed information be circulated in relation to the Templemore project.
- Has there been consultation between TCC and private industries in the area in relation to the planned development at Templemore.
- Have TCC been in contact with local clubs in Templemore in relation to the proposed development of the land, lots of clubs in the area are keen to expand.
- Can the Members be provided with a list of all applications submitted for 2023, i.e. those that were successful and those that were not. Some applications, e.g. some ORIS and Town & Village applications, did not perform as well as it was hoped, e.g. Mill Road walkway, so these unsuccessful applications need to be examined as they are important community projects.
- Has there been any communication from Garda HQ regarding the joint monitoring of CCTV between the Gardai and TCC. The cameras for Littleton CCTV are ready to go, only requiring permission from the Gardai.

Replies to queries raised as follows: -

- TCC were only informed of the possibility of grant funding for Templemore last week and the deadline is 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Therefore, TCC intend to engage with the Templemore Development Association in relation to the development of the lands at Templemore.



- The plan does look at how the land in Templemore will be serviced as it is about developing tourism in the area; it is not a housing project. However, a developer will be able to connect to the serviced land if required.
- TCC are competing against 8 other Counties and need Templemore Development Association and other relevant parties to back the Council.
- TCC are engaging with the Development Association. As the application is under Just Transition, there must be a very strong job creation element to the application. TCC is doing its utmost to include the sporting clubs in the application but the main focus must be on Job Creation.
- TCC CCTV Policy will go to the January meeting of TCC for adoption. TCC is in constant communication with the Gardai. The adopted Policy will be submitted to the Gardai so there is no ambiguity regarding what is required. To date there has been no communication from the Gardai in relation to the joint monitoring of community CCTV.
- The Department changed the rules in relation to planning permission for many schemes during the year. All applications from the MD are in competition with applications from other MDs. There is a scoring mechanism in place.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Brian for his presentation and he left the Meeting.

### **3.2 Agree name for proposed new housing development of 46 houses in Roscrea at Glencarrick.**

The District Administrator advised that the following were the selected names for the proposed new housing development of 46 houses at Glencarrick, Roscrea:-

- Radharc na Carraige - Carrig Hill View
- Clós Naomh Crónán - St. Cronan's Close
- Céide na Darach - Oak Drive
- Cluain Dála - Meadow Corner
- Céide Damer - Damer Drive

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor S. Lee that the chosen name for the proposed new housing development of 46 houses in Roscrea at Glencarrick be '*Radharc na Carraige*' - *Carrig Hill View*.

The Members thanked the pupils from Scoil Iosef Naofa , Roscrea who put forward the 5 potential names for the new housing development.



### **3.3 Proposed Declaration of a Public Road for Caislean Court, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**

A Report on the Proposed Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road at Caislean Court, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

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

"Pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the Road serving the area known as:

#### **Schedule**

<b>Location of Road</b>	<b>Length of road to be taken over</b>	<b>Starting Point</b>
Road leading to Caislean Court, Commons, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	145M	From its junction with R659 Cabra Road.

to be public, as per the map which was on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Services Report to the Members dated 20 November 2023."

### **3.4 Proposed Declaration of a Public road for Thurles Relief Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.**

A Report on the Proposed Declaration of a Road to be a Public Road at Thurles Townparks, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Lowry and seconded by Councillor J. Ryan that:-

"Pursuant to the provisions of Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, this Municipal District hereby agrees to declare the Road serving the area known as:



## Schedule

Location of Road	Length of road to be taken over	Starting Point	Terminal Point of Road
Thurles Townparks, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	117M	Junction N-62-14 (Slievenamon Road) with L-4107-0 (Clongour Road)	to Eastern end of Proposed Thurles Relief Road

to be public, as per the map which was on public display during the prescribed period and as outlined in the Director of Services Report to the Members dated 08<sup>th</sup> December 2023.”

### **4.1 Update from Community and Enterprise Section.**

Anthony Fitzgerald, Head of Enterprise, Community and Economic Development was in attendance for this item. An Economic, Community and Rural Development Report for the period June to December 2023 was circulated to the Members along with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Can the broadband plan be speeded up as there are currently 2,451 people in Littleton waiting for a broadband connection?
- Following a previous Notice of Motion regarding the establishment of a camper van park in Thurles a suitable location was to be examined. Has there been any development in this regard?
- Are there any plans to reintroduce the Community Action Plans that were in place previously in Littleton and other areas? The CAP brought a lot of agencies together and many great initiatives came from it.
- Will there be another round of the Community Recognition Funding announced?

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- The County on a whole is running well in advance of most other Counties with regard to broadband rollout. The issue will be raised with Simon Howe, Broadband Officer and reverted back to the MD.
- The establishment of the camper van park in Thurles will be examined and the background pertaining to the park will be looked at.
- Anthony will liaise with Marie Cox, Administrative Officer, Community and Economic Development in relation to the Community Recognition Fund.



- The issue in relation to the Community Action Plans will be referred back to the Section.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Anthony for his presentation and he left the Meeting.

#### **4.2 Update from Roads Capital.**

Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Roads Section was in attendance for this item. A District Roads Capital Report was circulated to the Members along with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Cathaoirleach attended a meeting, via zoom, with the TII in December to discuss 4 specific roads, previously agreed upon, in the MD. The outcome from the meeting was as follows: -

- Turtulla Cross: The TII anticipate that a Design Team will be appointed in 2024 to examine the junction.
- Tullaskeagh Junction: The TII stated they would, subject to funding, appoint a Design Team in 2024 to examine the junction.
- N62 Thurles to Templemore – The TII will liaise with their Regional Roads Safety Engineer to examine what improvements can be undertaken to improve safety on this road.
- Thurles By Pass – The TII stated that there will be a mid-term review of the National Development Plan (NDP) and advised that TCC do their utmost to get the Thurles By-Pass included on the NDP as otherwise the by-pass will not be considered.

The Members expressed their satisfaction at being afforded this annual meeting with the TII and welcomed the news in relation to Tullaskeagh and Turtulla junctions. However, they expressed their disappointment in relation to Thurles By-Pass and stated that it is vital that the MD do not miss this opportunity.

#### **5.1 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 thanked all staff, indoor and outdoor and the Members for their work and commitment throughout 2023.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Can the flashing speed sign on the Bohernamona Road, Thurles, that is not working, be fixed and speed signage be erected in the area?
- Can signage be erected on the Mill Road, Thurles to alert motorists to the presence of deer in the area.



- Can additional road safety signage be erected and road markings be reinstated at Dempsey Square junction, Thurles.
- Can the lighting outside the schools at Borris and Barnane be examined as they do not appear to be working properly?
- Can the MD ensure that reinstatement works are undertaken to a high standard? Reinstatement works by Uisce Eireann on the Mill Road, Thurles are very poor.
- Can a speed reduction sign be put in place at the Horse and Jockey?
- What works, bearing in mind the limited scope, can be undertaken by the Drainage Committee in 2024.
- Flooding issue at Rosemary Square, Roscrea needs to be addressed.

Replies to Members queries was as follows: -

- The issue of speeding on the Bohernamona Road will be investigated and the flashing speed sign will be checked.
- Road signage will be examined in relation to Dempsey Square junction, Thurles. Road markings will be undertaken during the Summer months and any illegal parking in the area will be addressed.
- Erection of signage for the Mill Road, Thurles in relation to the presence of deer in the area will be examined.
- Lighting outside schools in Borrisoleigh and Barnane will be checked to ensure they are operating correctly.
- Temporary speed signage will be installed in the Horse & Jockey Village in the very near future.
- The flooding issue at Rosemary Square has been examined and it appears that leaves were blocking the gully. The removal of the trees will only be considered if all other engineering options are not viable. A meeting will be organised in the new year to discuss same.
- The MD will undertake tree survey works on its rivers over the next couple of weeks and any identified blockages will be cleared. The Drainage Committee Plan for 2024 will be explored.

## **5.2 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	Workshops with the MD Elected Members were held in Q4 2024. The 'preferred' design solution and option assessment is being agreed with the prescribed statutory stakeholders, prior to finalising the design detail and presenting to the public. Public consultation in advance of the planning application is planned for January 2024. Discussions with the national URDF team will be required in early 2024 to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status. A Part 8 planning application is expected to be lodged in Q1 2024. Subject to planning approval the final design and tendering stage could commence in mid-2024.
Market Quarter - Thurles	Advertise tender documents on E-Tenders. Procurement of Main Works Contractor. Construction to commence Q1 2024 with a programme timeline to be agreed.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	All rail tracks are now lifted and removed by Bord na Mona. Site works progressing as planned with a projected completion date set for the end of 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	It is planned that construction works will take 13 months to complete, June/July 2024.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Department issued Notice on 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2023 to proceed with issuing the Verification and Due Diligence phase for the Project. Total Project Costs, Detailed Construction Costs, Funding, Inflation Costs and Project Milestones to be identified and sent to Department by TCC. An external Design Team will be procured once approval to proceed has been obtained from the funding Department in early 2024.





Roscrea Town Centre First Masterplan	Progress projects as set out in the Roscrea Town Centre First Action Plan (short-term 0-3 years). Identify funding opportunities and submit applications accordingly in line with funding calls. Funding of almost €50,000 was awarded to TCC under the ORIS in November 2023 for the Roscrea River Rooms project, to allow for the detailed design, planning and feasibility for a series of connected spaces along the riverside in Roscrea.										
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 719 1305 763">MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td data-bbox="1313 719 1380 763">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 763 1305 808">At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td data-bbox="1313 763 1380 808">11</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 808 1305 853">In Progress</td> <td data-bbox="1313 808 1380 853">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 853 1305 898">Awaiting Budget Approval</td> <td data-bbox="1313 853 1380 898">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="683 898 1305 943"><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td data-bbox="1313 898 1380 943"><b>19</b></td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	11	In Progress	1	Awaiting Budget Approval	6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>
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At Inspections/Costings Stage	11										
In Progress	1										
Awaiting Budget Approval	6										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>										

There were no queries raised.

### **6.1 Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **7.1 Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

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

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The family of Rev. Tadhg Furlong, PP Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary and formerly of Carhue, Dunderum.
- The family of the late Monsignor James (Séamus) Ryan, Cashel formerly of Newport and St. Patrick's College, Thurles.
- The family of Fr. Donal Cunningham, former PP of Upperchurch/Drombane, formerly of Ballyvalode, Oola.
- The family of Neil Kelly, Cloone, Templemore.
- Minister Heather Humphries and the Stewart family on the passing of their mother, Emily.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Moycarkey Borris GAA Club who recently won the County B Minor football final.



- Sergeant Tom O'Dwyer, Crime Prevention Officer who recently retired from An Garda Síochána.
- Tony O'Brien, former Mayor of Thurles; Tony celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday last week.

### **9.1 Any Other Business.**

None.

That concluded the official business of the December Meeting.

SIGNED:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

SIGNED:   
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2024