



MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 20TH MAY 2024

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<u>Also Present:</u>	Mark Connolly	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 March Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District April 2024 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15th April 2024 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Update from Economic, Community & Rural Development

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer and Geraldine Manning, A/Administrative Officer, Community and Economic Development were in attendance for this item. An Economic, Community and Rural Development Report to Thurles MD dated May 2024 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Geraldine and Kathleen updated the Members on the main items contained in the Report and the Members raised the following queries: -

- Assurances needed that Thurles MD will get its appropriate share of the Community Recognition Fund and how is it planned to distribute the grant available; €1.4m across 5 Districts.
- What is the update in relation to Thurles Skateboard Park which has been closed for almost one year now.



- Have TCC engaged with the owners of either of the two castles in Thurles for acquisition as they pose a great tourism opportunity for Thurles town.
- Have TCC made any formal enquiries with the British Royal Family to take advantage of the fact that ancestors of the British Royal Family are buried in Thurles.
- Are there any plans afoot to extend the town bus service in Clonmel to any other towns within the County?
- Under the HSE and Health Ireland SunSmart Programme how will the sunscreen dispensers be refilled and can the specific location of the dispensers be disclosed.
- How can the CCTV for Littleton be advanced now that the Gardai and TCC will act as joint Data Protection Controllers? The cameras themselves will need upgrading. The Gardai have appointed a liaison Garda Sergeant but funding will have to be made available.
- Can anything be done to advance the National Broadband Plan for Littleton which is in the 7th year of a 7-year plan for the broadband exchange update with 2,400 people currently waiting for connectivity.
- When will the results of the Community Recognition Fund be made available.
- Is there any scope to widen the brief of the Tourism Activator Position in order to access more funding?

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The Community Recognition fund is a limited pot of money. An Evaluation Committee are currently examining all applications where each application will be scored on *work already done, the numbers who will benefit from the proposal and who was previously awarded funding under the Scheme.*
- Funding is being sought under various funding streams, including the Community Recognition Fund, to undertake remedial works to Thurles Skateboard Park where there is an issue with the materials that were originally used.
- The proposal to acquire the Castles in Thurles will be referred back to the Tourism Development Officer. However, for such a project to succeed applicators on the ground are needed to make the application under the Just Transition Fund and a Feasibility Study would need to be undertaken.
- The proposal to utilise the connection between Thurles town and ancestors of the British Royal Family will be referred back to the Tourism Development Officer.
- The extension of the town bus service, currently operating in Clonmel, to other areas in Tipperary will be investigated.
- The location and refilling of the Sunscreen Dispensers will be checked and referred back to the MD.
- A CCTV Policy is in place and an update will be sought regarding the Littleton CCTV Project.



- The timelines for the national Broadband plan will not be shifting, however, the Plan is well ahead of schedule and will be completed ahead of the planned timeline.
- There is a huge opportunity for the Tourism Activator to expand her role, not just under Just Transition, but also under Fáilte Ireland and LEADER. Potential projects identified at community level will require people coming together to activate those plans into real actions.

3.2 Update from Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance for this item. A Culture Team Report dated May 2024 was circulated to the Members, with the Agenda, in advance of the Meeting. Damien advised the Members that the Biodiversity Officer, Ann Marie Fleming, will begin the process for the Biodiversity Plan and it will include representations from Members, Bord na Mona, the IFA, Inland Fisheries Ireland and BirdWatch Ireland.

The Members raised the following issues:

- What can be done to address the massive overgrowth, particularly during the Summer months, at the bridge on the R. Suir in Thurles. Anglers have advised that it is impossible to fish in the area.
- The overgrowth from the R. Suir at the back of Lidl and Dunnes Stores in Thurles is so great that it is not obvious that it is a river underneath the vegetation as there is no water flow.
- There is concern in Templemore that some of the clubs, e.g. knitting club, currently accommodated in the library will no longer be accommodated following the relocation to the new library.
- Can the Biodiversity Officer liaise with Tidy Towns Groups to improve their biodiversity scores in the Tidy Towns Competitions?

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The issue regarding the overgrowth on the R. Suir at the bridge and at the back of Lidl and Dunnes Stores will be referred back to the Biodiversity Officer.
- The new Templemore library will be twice the size of the current library operating on two floors and community groups will continue to be accommodated in the new library.
- The issue regarding the Biodiversity scores of tidy town groups will be referred back to the Biodiversity Officer.

4.1 Part 8 development – Roscrea Recycling Centre: -

This development consists of upgrade works at Roscrea Recycling Centre to make the facility more fit for purpose. The upgrade works will allow for



a split-level floor where waste will be located, thereby allowing for safer use of the facility.

The Members welcomed the development at the Recycling Centre, acknowledged that it is a great facility in the area and complimented all staff involved.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Smith, seconded by Councillor N. Coonan: -

“that the Part 8 Chief Executive Report PT8TT85 on the upgrade works at Roscrea Recycling Centre, Dublin Road, Demesne, Roscrea, which will allow for a drop in the floor level where waste receptacles are located, allowing for safer use of the facility by customers and improved access to service vehicles be approved.”

4.2 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: -

- Issue with cars parking on both sides of the entrance into Cabra Court, Thurles. These cars are blocking the sightlines exiting from the estate and there are no road markings on the cycle lane. Either the cycling lane will have to be removed or signage installed.
- Issue of poor sightlines at the Cloughmartin/Yellow Lough Road junction outside Thurles.
- Issue of very poor road surface at Brownstown Junction which requires attention.
- Issue with drainage in Dun Muilleann housing estate, Thurles as all the gardens are experiencing flooding.
- Issue with Air to Water Systems installed in houses in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe not working properly since their installation.
- When will the works at Templemore Flood Relief Scheme be complete and what is the update in relation to the walkway beside the river that was proposed 3-4 years ago.
- A joined-up approach between the Gardai and TCC needs to take place to tackle the issue of speeding in built-up areas.
- Issue with sewerage for some houses that are backing onto Templemore Town Park.
- Is there a programme in place for changing public lighting; some estates have not yet been changed over to the LED lights.
- Issue with poor sightlines at Shanbally Cross, Moycarkey which is ongoing for some time now.
- Can the Retirement Village Templemore be included in the planned works that the MD are undertaking in Orchard Court?



- Lots of junctions throughout the District are closing in on themselves due to the high level of growth which needs to be addressed.
- What is the update regarding the Japanese Knotweed programme. It is still an issue in Two-Mile Borris.
- Following on from the recent traffic count that was undertaken in Kickham Street, Thurles can the MD liaise with the TII regarding the installation of a pedestrian crossing in the area which is very busy with traffic.
- Can the TII be contacted regarding safety measures required when exiting the junction at Drish Bridge onto the N75 just outside Thurles.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The issue with cars parking on both sides of the entrance into Cabra Court Thurles will be addressed as the cycle lane is included on the programme for marking.
- Issue of poor sightlines at the Cloughmartin/Yellow Lough Road junction outside Thurles will be examined by the Engineer to see if any low-level safety measures can take place.
- Issue of very poor road surface at Brownstown Junction will be examined for inclusion in the upcoming 3 Years Roads Programme.
- The flooding/drainage issue in Dun Muilleann housing estate, Thurles will be examined by the Engineer and Foreman.
- All houses with an air to water system installed are included in a yearly maintenance schedule and issues will be addressed as they arise.
- The application to backfill the River Mall under the Templemore Flood Relief Scheme is with the OPW and the scheme is nearing completion.
- A speed limit review is being undertaken and we are waiting on Department guidance regarding same.
- The issue with sewerage for some houses that are backing onto Templemore Town Park is an Irish Water issue.
- The replacement of lights with LED lights will be discussed with Michael Tierney, Lighting Engineer.
- Cllr. S. Ryan to provide landowners contact details to the MD in order to progress the issue of poor sightlines at Shanbally Cross, Moycarkey.
- The MD do not have the budget to undertake works in estates that have not been taken-in-charge.
- All junctions throughout the District requiring grass cutting will be addressed in June.
- The MD have a programme in place to treat Japanese Knotweed in the District. The knotweed is treated twice per year and will be treated again shortly. Please advise the MD of any new locations of growth.
- The Section 38 design for Kickham Street Thurles has been finalised and no controlled pedestrian crossing is included in the design.
- The MD will consult with the TII regarding safety measures at the Drish Bridge/N75 Junction.



4.3 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	Subject to planning approval the final design and tendering stage could commence in mid-2024. Discussions with the national URDF team will be required in 2024 once Part 8 is approved and detailed design completed to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction to commence Q3 2024 with a programme timeline of 14 months.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Site works progressing as planned with a projected completion date set for the end of June 2024. Official opening date TBC.
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. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q4 2024.
Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre and Civic Plaza	It is planned that construction works will take 13 months to complete, August 2024.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Department issued Notice on 22 nd 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 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 Q2 2024.



Main Street Enhancement Works, Roscrea	Finalise the initial Design Brief and Scope of Works and proceed to Tender Stage for the engagement of an external Design Team in Q3 2024 to develop designs and advance the project through the Part 8 planning process, subject to funding availability and tenders received.										
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>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awaiting budget</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>16</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	5	In Progress	10	Awaiting budget	0	TOTAL	16
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The Members raised the following issues: -

- Is it know what specific month the construction works at Thurles Market Quarter will commence?
- Is Littleton Labyrinth on target for completion of works?
- It is hoped that the Part 8 for the River Suir Walkway will proceed as planned. The project will require significant funding.
- The removal of all-day parking from Slievenamon Road carpark Thurles has still not been resolved despite a commitment given one year ago.
- What is the update in relation to the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Abbey Road, Thurles?

Replies to issues raised were as follows: -

- Members will be informed when works commence at Thurles Market Quarter.
- The Littleton Labyrinth is on target for completion.
- The Part 8 for the River Suir Walkway will be advertised next week.
- The removal of all-day parking from Slievenamon Road carpark will be dealt with through the upcoming review of the Parking Bye Laws scheduled to take place later this year.
- Works on the installation of a pedestrian crossing at Abbey Road, Thurles will commence in June/July.

5.1 Notices of Motion.

Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan – ID 2810

Councillor J. Ryan formally moved the following Notice of Motion in his name:-



I am calling on this District to install traffic calming measures in Gortnahoe village as a matter of urgency due to the high level of daily speeding traffic passing through it particularly at the school.

Reply to Notice of Motion:

In the past 8 years there has been substantial intervention from the Thurles MD to address pedestrian safety and speed reduction measures in the village of Gortnahoe, for example:

- Installation of slipform kerbing to tighten carriageway and junction widths.
- Installation of a controlled pedestrian crossing.
- Installation of railing to the front of the school.
- Installation and widening of footpaths in the area.
- Installation of driver speed signs entering the village.
- Installation of lining and signage for pedestrian and vehicular management.

It is proposed to carry out a speed survey to assess the extent of driver non-compliance within the 50kph speed limit and based on this assessment we will consider applying allowable options as per the Traffic Management guidance on Vertical Deflections subject to funding. We have also met recently with School Reps in this regard.

In the interim we will notify Án Garda Síochána of reported speeding in the area, especially around school collection and drop-off and seek their feedback on the matter.

Councillor J. Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the reply. He stated that the works undertaken by the District had assisted with speeding in the area, he welcomes the speed survey and will await the result of same.

Councillor S. Ryan stated that the speed detector signs do have a positive effect on speeding. He asked if a raised table at the school and vertical deflection, such as in Clerihan Village, might also be considered.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence

7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of Denis (Dinny) Kelly, Crannagh, Templetuohy, Thurles.



- The family of Kathleen Moloughney (nee Delaney), Rosemary Street, Roscrea. Kathleen produced excellent publications and was highly regarded in the Roscrea Heritage Society.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to:

- Tipperary Senior Camogie Team on winning the National Camogie League Division 1A Final against Galway in Croke Park.
- Noel Joyce who claimed his 5th All-Ireland Senior Scor Sinseal Crown recently in Killarney as he represented JK Brackens GAA Club. Congratulations also to his two daughters, who have qualified for the Munster Fleadh.
- BT Harps, Templemore on winning the U13 Shield.

8.1 Any Other Business.

Councillor Sean Ryan thanked all the other Members for the cooperation and courtesy extended to him during his year as Cathaoirleach. He wished the best to all those seeking re-election and expressed his wish for a happy retirement from Local Government to Councillors Seamus Hanafin and Noel Coonan.

That concluded the official business of the May Meeting.

SIGNED:


CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 15th July 2024

SIGNED:


MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 15th July 2024

