



MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 18TH NOVEMBER 2024

Present: Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

Councillors Kay Cahill Skehan, William Kennedy, Shane Lee, Micheál Lowry, Eddie Moran, Jim Ryan, Peggy Ryan and Seán Ryan.

Also Present:

Mark Connolly	Director of Services
Liam Brett	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 October Monthly Meeting of Thurles MD.

Councillor E. Moran stated that an issue he raised at the October Monthly Meeting regarding the No. 7 Bridge on the N62 Thurles to Templemore Road needs to be addressed. He stated that there have been numerous accidents at this location and action is required.

The District Engineer stated that the No. 7 Bridge has been reported to Irish Rail. He advised that there is signage in place and the hedging has been cut back but speeding is the primary cause of accidents in this area. The MD will contact the Safety Section of the TII in this regard.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor E. Moran and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District October 2024 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 21st October 2024 be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



3.1 Update from Economic, Rural & Community Development.

Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer, Lindsay Cleary, Integration Support Coordinator, Mairead Winters, EU Just Transition Tourism Activator and Valerie Connolly, Sports Partnership Coordinator, Community and Economic Development Section, were in attendance for this item. A copy of the ERCD Report dated November 2024 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Kathleen outlined a few small changes that have occurred since the Report issued, as follows:

- The Local Enhancement Programme – the 2025 Scheme was launched on 7th November. The TCC allocation of €240,984 consists of a capital allocation of €206,558 and a current allocation of €34,426.
- Christmas Retail Support Grant – grants have been awarded under this Scheme.
- The Love Tipperary Voucher – the voucher is a collaboration between TCC and Tipperary Chamber. Businesses are being encouraged to sign-up to sell and receive the cards, in particular 'Corporate Gifting' at Christmas. All money must be spent within the County and 0% commission applies for the first 12 months.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Over €900,000 was awarded under the Tipperary Community Recognition Fund 2024. Will those groups that were unsuccessful in the 2024 allocation be informed as to how the funds were allocated.
- Is it possible to put pressure on the National Broadband Scheme in order to speed up the expected timescale for completion of the Littleton Exchange, currently anticipated as 2025/2026. The Littleton Exchange has 2,400 customers and it can no longer be considered a luxury for homeowners.
- Can Economic and Community Development make funding available to some of the community tea rooms in the District that are struggling financially. These tea rooms are at the heart of communities and need to be supported in order to secure their future.
- If there is any surplus funding available under the Christmas Retail Support Grant; could funding be made available for a specific initiative.

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- Kathleen will liaise with the relevant person in Community and Economic Development regarding funding awarded under the Community Recognition Fund 2024.



- The Broadband Programme is currently ahead of schedule in terms of delivery timescale, however, Kathleen will liaise directly with the Broadband Officer to confirm precise project timelines.
- Kathleen will liaise directly with the relevant person in Economic and Community Development regarding the provision of funding to some of the community tea rooms in the District that are struggling financially.
- The Christmas Retail Support Grant has a tight budget which will be spread across the District. Kathleen will liaise directly with Councillor S. Lee regarding the provision of funding under this Scheme for his proposed initiative.

3.2 Update from Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity.

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian was in attendance for this item. A Cultural Team Report, dated 18th November, 2024, was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Damien gave the Members an update on the new Templemore Library and stated that the internal fit-out is currently ongoing, including IT, networks, snagging, etc.

The Members congratulated Damien on the new Library, stating that as an historical and landmark building, it is great to see its redevelopment and they raised the following queries: -

- Has a date been agreed for the opening of the Templemore Library.
- The wheelchair/buggy ramp at the Source Arts Centre is quite narrow and steep and is awkward and difficult for someone using a wheelchair or if pushing a buggy with a toddler on-hand.
- There is no signage for Thurles Library at the front of the building.
- What is the update regarding the remedial works on the underground carpark at the Source.
- Has a tenant been selected for the old library building in Templemore and if so when will it be occupied.

Damien replied to queries as follows: -

- No date has yet been agreed for the official opening of the Templemore Library. However, given that it was renovated through RRDF funding, it will be officially opened by a Minister and this will take place sometime after the General Election.
- The ramp at The Source is constructed of precast concrete and is over 20 years old. There is currently a structural engineer on site in the building and Damien will liaise with him regarding the ramp and steps.
- It is intended to implement appropriate library signage and the TCC logo in 2025.
- The issue regarding the remedial works at the underground carpark at The Source will be referred back to the MD.



- Discussions are ongoing in the background regarding a tenant for the old library in Templemore.

4.1 Consider Chief Executive's Report PT 8TT136 on Part 8 Development – Phase 2 Liberty Square Public Realm Scheme.

The Press and other Sections presenting at the Meeting were asked to leave the Chamber as this item was held 'In Committee'.

Following the meeting it was proposed by Councillor P. Ryan and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan that the Chief Executive's Report PT8TT136 on Part 8 Development – Phase 2 Liberty Square Public Realm Scheme be deferred.

It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the MD on 4th December @ 4p.m. for this item.

4.2 Agree name for proposed new housing development at Gantly Road, Roscrea.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Kennedy and seconded by Councillor E. Moran that the new name for the proposed new housing development at Gantly Road, Roscrea be 'Damer Close / Áras Damer'.

4.3 Agree name for proposed new housing development at Ashbury, Roscrea.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Lee and seconded by Councillor E. Moran that the new name for the proposed new housing development at Ashbury, Roscrea be 'Munster Keep'.

4.4 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 issues: -

- Are there adequate supplies of salt in stores to deal with any impending bad weather?
- Are Hogans Drain and Pipe Cleaning Ltd available to clear up any blocked drains in the District.
- Who are responsible for the old Eircom building in Castle Park, Thurles. The building is in a very dilapidated state and the footpaths in the vicinity are in a very poor state of repair.
- The road markings in Liberty Square, Thurles are confusing to people and need to be revisited.



- The signage at the pedestrian crossings in Friar Street and Parnell Street, Thurles are getting struck by high-sided vehicles.
- Poor sightlines need to be addressed at the Ballycahill to Ragg junction as you drive from Ballycahill.
- What is the update regarding the lighting at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea. The level of lighting from the current lights is not adequate.
- What is the timeframe for Irish Rail to complete the works at Monastery Road, Roscrea. The works are currently causing mayhem in the area.
- There is an area in Kennedy Park, Roscrea where the lighting is very poor and people, not from the area, are congregating. The behaviour of these people on Halloween night was disgusting and inappropriate and lighting in the area needs to be improved.
- Issue of flooding at Oakdale Park, Templemore. Funding was secured several years ago to address this issue but works were never undertaken and the flooding continues to reoccur.
- Is it possible for the District to open the water table in specific places in order to allow floodwater to drain in areas of low-lying land?

Replies to queries raised was as follows: -

- TCC stock levels for salt are currently at 100%. The depots cannot hold any additional salt.
- Hogans Drain and Pipe Cleaning Ltd are on-site to deal with blocked drains in the District and the GSSs are aware of the problem areas.
- The building at Castle Park, Thurles is the responsibility of Eircom. The MD will contact Eircom to discuss the issue.
- All road markings in Liberty Square, Thurles are currently visible and compliant.
- Space constraints restrict the available space at the pedestrian crossings in Parnell Street and Friar Street, Thurles. The MD will assess the situation.
- A reply has already issued regarding the poor sightlines at the Ballycahill to Ragg junction.
- A meeting took place last week between the contractor and Michael Tierney, TCC lighting engineer regarding the refurbishment of the light heads at the Glebe Playground, Roscrea.
- The works ongoing by Irish Rail at Monastery Road, Roscrea are programmed to be complete next week.
- The lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be examined to see if there is a gap in lighting in the area and to identify what can be done to rectify the issue.
- The MD are not aware of funding having ever being secured for flooding at Oakdale Park, Templemore. Remedial works would involve going in on private land as the gullies in the estate are only soak pits. The MD will examine this issue.
- It is possible under the Roads Act to open the water table in specific places in order to allow floodwater to drain in areas of low-lying land.



4.5 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

An updated District Project Pipeline Plan for the MD, as outlined in the table below, was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Decision on the Part 8 at the November District Meeting. Tendering to commence Q4 2024 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design. 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 commenced in August 2024 with a programme timeline of 14 months.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 1	Finalise the licence agreement, construction works complete. Complete final snags, 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 14 months to complete. Internal works complete, external works on-going. All works to be completed mid-December. Official opening date TBC.
Gantly Road in Roscrea - <i>An Age Friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Brief for the engagement of a design team complete. Advertised on E Tenders on 8 th November to procure a Design Consultant to carry out detailed design. 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	Project charter will now be considered for the next RRFD call to fund the project. If successful under this funding stream, a brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a new design and upgrade of Main Street and laneways, to include public realm works that will invite people to stay and enjoy the dynamic town centre and enhance safety of all users.											
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 654 1310 707">MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td> <td data-bbox="1310 654 1390 707">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 707 1310 761">At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td data-bbox="1310 707 1390 761">10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 761 1310 815">In Progress</td> <td data-bbox="1310 761 1390 815">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 815 1310 869">Retrofit Works ongoing</td> <td data-bbox="1310 815 1390 869">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="678 869 1310 922">TOTAL</td> <td data-bbox="1310 869 1390 922">17</td> </tr> </table>		MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	10	In Progress	5	Retrofit Works ongoing	1	TOTAL	17
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TOTAL	17											

The Members raised the following issues: -

- Has there been any progress regarding funding for Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth?

The Meetings Administrator replied to the query raised as follows: -

- Planning Section are liaising with Bord Na Mona, the project lead for funding for Phase 2 of the Littleton Labyrinth. Currently no funding stream has been announced by Bord na Mona for Phase 2 of the project.

5.1 Notices of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

7.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

There were no votes of sympathy/congratulations.

8.1 Any Other Business.

Councillor S. Ryan wished all those running in the forthcoming General Election the best of luck.



Comhairle Contae Thibraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Comhairle Contae
Thibraid Árann
Oifigi Cheantar Bardasach
Dhurlis, Ascaill an
Chaisleán, Durlas
Co. Thibraid Árann

Tipperary County Council,
Thurles Municipal District
Office, Castle Avenue,
Thurles,
Co. Tipperary
E41 KA44

t 0818 06 5000
e customerservice
@tipperarycoco.ie
tipperarycoco.ie

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 16th December 2024

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 16th December 2024