



## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<b><u>Also Present:</u></b>	Mark Connolly	Director of Services
	Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
	Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
	Jim Ryan	Executive Engineer
	Sharon Scully	District Administrator
	Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Councillor Shane Lee

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

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

### **2.1 Minutes of (i) February Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and (ii) Special Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District February 2025 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

It was proposed by Councillor J. Ryan, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy and resolved:

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Thurles Municipal District, held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."



### **3.1 Update from Housing.**

Deirdre Flannery, A/Administrative Officer, Helen Butler, Administrative Officer and Eoin Delaney, Executive Engineer, Housing Section were in attendance for this item. A Housing Services Report for the period 01/01/2025 to 28/02/2025 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries: -

- Has there been any communication from the Department to increase the HAP limits or the threshold of €30,000 for social housing assistance. Thurles town is currently very poor for housing provision with the average rental price for a two-bed apartment at €1,500 per month. Lots of people who qualify for HAP cannot secure accommodation and others who are just above the income threshold of €30,000 fail to qualify for social housing assistance.
- When will the Cluid Housing Development at Dun Lia Thurles be complete.
- What is the update regarding the various retrofitting schemes in the district, in particular with regard to Tara Drive, Gortnahoe where there are issues with the air-to-water heating systems.
- Are TCC on course with regard to funding for Priority 1, 2 and 3 and who specifically is in charge of dealing with the housing grant allocations.
- What is the update regarding the development at Cuchulainn Road, Thurles.
- Is there any flexibility with the Choice Based Letting (CBL) system to allow a tenant to view/bid on houses with a greater number of bedrooms from what they are approved?

Replies to queries raised were as follows: -

- The limits for Social Housing Assistance are set at national level and TCC have no discretion in this regard. With regard to HAP, TCC do have the discretion to apply a 35% increase above the approved rent limits. There has been no communication from the Department regarding any change to the thresholds.
- It is likely that the Cluid Housing Development at Dun Lia, Thurles will come on stream at the end of 2025.
- Housing surveys in Thurles District under the energy retrofit scheme will be undertaken next September.  
It is intended to establish a maintenance scheme that will identify all of the issues with the heating systems at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe.
- The issue regarding the availability of funding to undertake works under Priority 1, 2 and 3 of the Housing Grant Allocation Scheme will be checked and reverted back to the District.  
Sharon McLoughney, Housing Section is dealing with the scheme.



- The housing development at Cuchulainn Road, Thurles, is progressing. The design is complete and it is anticipated that the scheme will proceed to Planning by mid-2025.
- Choice Based Letting (CBL) does not permit a tenant to view/bid on houses with a greater number of bedrooms from what they are approved. The issue will be reviewed by Housing Section to see if there is scope within the system to amend the current settings.

#### **4.1 To formally approve draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2025.**

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

"in accordance with Section 103A of the Local Government Act, 2001, as inserted by Section 58 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted."

#### **4.2 To formally approve the 2025 General Municipal Allocation**

It was proposed by Councillor P. Ryan, seconded by Councillor K. Cahill Skehan and resolved:-

"that the General Municipal Allocation 2025 be apportioned as follows: -

Village Enhancement Works – South	<b>€ 25,000</b>
Village Enhancement Works – North	<b>€ 25,000</b>
Backlanes Thurles	<b>€ 40,000</b>
Smart Bins in the MD	<b>€ 10,000</b>
Christmas Lighting Contributions:- Borrisoleigh, Clonakenny, Clonmore, Gortnahoe, Holycross, Littleton, Moyne, Roscrea, Templetuohy, Two-Mile-Borris, Horse & Jockey, Ballysloe	<b>€ 15,500</b>
Festival & Events Grant Schemes	<b>€ 20,000</b>
Residents Associations Grant Scheme	<b>€ 15,000</b>
Capital Project Seed Monies	<b>€ 7,845</b>
LPT Monies	<b>€144,000</b>
<b>GMA ALLOCATION 2025</b>	<b>€302,345</b>



### **4.3 District Engineer's Report.**

The Members raised the following issues:-

- What is the update regarding the CCTV in Thurles town.
- Can anything be viewed from the CCTV in Littleton?
- Public lighting is necessary and should be provided on the footpath at Ardnacrusha out as far as Dew Valley Meats in Thurles which employs up to 400 people.
- Is there any way that the road improvement works required on Kickham Street, Thurles can proceed given that the design works are complete? There is currently no funding allocation from the TII to undertake the works.
- What is Thurles MD's allocation under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) following the grant to TCC of over €1 million under this scheme.
- Has the MD received any funding to date from the Department to deal with the roads that were damaged as a result of the bad weather, in particular, at road junctions.
- The double yellow lines at the Derheen, Thurles have completely faded and need to be reinstated.
- Can the vertical indicators, where they have been knocked over, be replaced and the white lining, where necessary, be applied.
- Who is liable for the costs of repairing the barrier at the junction of Liberty Square and Slievenamon Road, Thurles following damage from road vehicles.

The barriers have been damaged on both sides of the junction on several occasions and pedestrians continue to walk outside of the barriers.

- There is a damaged bollard in Roscrea town centre that requires attention.
- Can the pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Templemore be relocated back to where it was temporarily located as its current location is not safe?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- J&N Security previously undertook a review of CCTV cameras in Thurles town; all cameras require upgrading. Prior to 2025 there was no budget available for CCTV but as there is now funding available, the MD will progress the upgrading of the CCTV by first seeking approval from the Garda Commissioner.
- J&N Security are currently preparing costs for the CCTV in Littleton.
- With regard to the provision of public lighting at Ardnacrusha, Thurles out as far as Dew Valley Meats, it is not in keeping with TCC policy to provide public lighting outside the 50kph speed zone.
- The MD will liaise with the Roads Capital Section, regarding the proposed road improvement works required on Kickham Street, Thurles.



- The MD will obtain the breakdown and allocation to Thurles MD of the Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) funding.
- The Department have stated that there is currently no funding available to deal with storm damaged roads.
- Works on implementing line markings, vertical indicators, signage and headless signs will all be a priority for the MD.
- The MD will pay for the costs of repairing the damaged barrier at the junction of Liberty Square and Slievenamon Road through the TII National Road Maintenance as there is no way of knowing who the offender is.  
The barrier on the right-hand side heading towards Slievenamon Road has been damaged once since the upgrade works and the MD will make adjustments to this barrier. The other barrier has not been damaged since the Liberty Square upgrade works and therefore no adjustments will be made at this side.
- The damaged bollard in Roscrea town centre will be examined.
- The current location of the pedestrian crossing is the desire line from schools and the town park. A survey has been completed and results are currently being compiled before the MD revert back to the TII. The results of the survey may warrant an additional crossing but further analysis will be required for the TII.

#### **4.4 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan**

A revised 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
<b>THURLES</b>	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Progress with construction works, planned completion date October 2025.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Tendering to commence Q1 2025 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design. Discussions with the National URDF Team and TII will be required in 2025 now that Part 8 is approved and detailed design completed to finalise the position with costings, funding requirements and Gateway/programme status.
Mill road Footpath (phase 2)	ORIS funding application submitted 2025.
Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Funding under Community Recognition Fund sought.



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. Final draft for review due in Q1 2025. Feasibility Study to be completed for Q1 2025. This project is located in the Carrick MD therefore, all elements will be handed over to Carrick MD.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Project funding from NTA approved for 2025. Works programme for Q2/3 2025.
Road Safety Works – Turtulla Junction	Capital Section reviewing options and costings.
Thurles Inner Relief road	Detailed Design.
Munster Hotel Site Redevelopment	
Cycle and Walking corridors – Thurles Town	
<b>ROSCREA</b>	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Brief and Tender Docs for the engagement of a design team advertised on E-Tenders to procure a Design Consultant to carry out detailed Design. Evaluate tender and award the winning Consultant. Commence detailed design.
Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Project will now be considered for RRDF call 4. If successful, under this funding stream, a tender brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a design and upgrade of Main Street and laneways to include public realm works.
Reimagined Castle Street - Roscrea	Advertise on E-Tenders in Feb. 2025. Procure Consultants and commence design.
REACH Enterprise and Community Hub	
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings	
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Seek funding streams.





<b>TEMPLEMORE</b>											
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	GMA funding proposal sought from Elected Members.										
The Mall River – Infill Works											
Templemore Town Park Maintenance Plan	Short, medium and long-term actions identified within the plan for maintenance and future development. Actions will be worked through over the coming years.										
Templemore Landbank Master Plan	Funding application under Just Transition funding for Masterplan submitted by ECRD Directorate was successful. Consultants to be appointed.										
Main Street Enhancement works, Templemore	The Project will be considered for the next RRDF Call 5. If successful under this funding stream, a brief will be prepared for Consultants to produce a new design and upgrade of Main Street and to include public realm works.										
Vacant Housing Units	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr> <td>Awaiting design from Housing Capital if Major Refurb</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td><td><b>20</b></td></tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	4	At Inspections/Costings Stage	4	In Progress	11	Awaiting design from Housing Capital if Major Refurb	1	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>
MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	4										
At Inspections/Costings Stage	4										
In Progress	11										
Awaiting design from Housing Capital if Major Refurb	1										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>										

### **5.1 Notice of Motion.**

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **6.1 Correspondence.**

A reply was received from Uisce Eireann in relation to Notice of Motion in the names of Councillors S. Ryan and K. Cahill Skehan.

Councillor S. Ryan acknowledged the reply from Uisce Eireann. He said he would keep an eye on the situation and contact Uisce Eireann again if necessary.



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

Votes of sympathy were extended to:

- The family of the late Aidan O'Dwyer (RIP), following a short illness. Aidan was an instructor at Thurles Leisure Centre.
- The family of the late Carmel Laffan (nee Egan) (RIP), Templemore and formerly of Kilcommon following her sudden death.
- Dolores Fahey, Tipperary County Council Civil Defence Officer, following the passing of her brother Frankie Fahey (RIP), Glenegad, Clonmel, Co. Waterford.

Votes of congratulations were extended to:

- Thurles CBS Secondary School on winning the 2025 All Ireland Post Primary Schools Croke Cup Final when they beat Presentation College, Athenry.
- Nenagh Ormond RFC on winning the Bank of Ireland Munster Rugby Senior Challenge Cup when they beat Old Crescent RFC and in particular to Willie Coffey, Toomevara and Nicky Irwin Thurles.
- John Kenehan and the entire committee of the Thurles St. Patrick's Day Parade and also the committee of the Littleton St. Patrick's Day Parade.
- Coláiste Phobal on winning the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools Senior D Hurling Final after beating Grennan College, Thomastown.

## **8.1 Any Other Business.**

It was noted that the April Meeting is scheduled for Easter Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April and it was therefore agreed that this Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April @ 2 p.m.

That concluded the official business of the March Meeting.

SIGNED:

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

SIGNED:

  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025