



MINUTES OF THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 16TH JUNE 2025

Present: Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

Also Present:

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
Susan Scally	Asst Staff Officer

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of May Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 19th May 2025.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District May 2025 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 19th. May 2025, 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, Mairead Winters EU Just Transition Tourism Activator, Áine Roche Community Safety Co-Ordinator and Marie Maher Sports Partnership were in attendance for this item.

An Economic, Community & Rural Development Update for the period 01.02.2025 to 01.06.2025 for Thurles Municipal District was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.



The Members raised the following queries:-

- Complimented the ECRD on the Littleton Labyrinth promotional video which is now available.
- When is the feasibility study for the Littleton Bog Experience going to be completed?
- Is the National Broadband Plan for Littleton on target? The need for hi speed broadband is essential
- Congratulations to Rockwell College Students, Sean Cahill and Paddy Corcoran who won the national Innovation Award for their business Studytock at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Final held in May.
- Update on the Community Safety Scheme?
- Significant funding has been received by groups under the Community Recognition Fund which is very beneficial. Can you confirm when the next phase of funding will be available and can assistance be given to Monahincha Walking Trail with application for future funding in particular for Park and Wildlife.
- Two applications were unsuccessful under the Community Recognition Fund – (i) The Tourist Office Thurles and (ii) Provision of playground in Littleton Village.
Thurles Tourist Office had applied for funding for a tourism bus which would collect tourists from train station and bring them to various heritage sites in Thurles and surrounds. It would be a game changer for tourism in the area so where can the Tourist Office go from here?
There is no playground in Littleton Village and parents have to travel to other towns / villages to avail of playgrounds for their children. Littleton Village is a large enough village to have its own playground.
- It is great to see that the Loughtagalla Park and Residents Association have received more funding under the Community Leader Programme for the redevelopment of the Loughtagalla Biodiversity Park.
- Clubs who had applied under Community Recognition Fund were very disappointed as they were not aware that their application had not left the District for consideration. In particular, the Thurles Tennis Club who had applied for funding for a paddle court. They have the location for the court so is there any funding/support available to help them progress the project?
- What proposals are there for the Lisheen Mine Site? It is great the site is being used and a number of the previous operators of the mine are keen to get involved in its future.
- Can you elaborate on the Pathways to Resilience Programme which is included in the Report?



Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The Littleton Feasibility Study is now complete and a draft of same was received earlier this morning. Bord na Mona will have control of the Littleton Bog Experience which is viable with a 3rd party. The Bushcraft Centre will not stand alone but will be in conjunction with the Activities and Visitor Centre.
- Under Scheme B of the EU's Just Transition Fund four Tipperary projects have been awarded almost €1million in funding to develop tourism accommodation in the county -
 - Noan Country House, Thurles
 - Forest Lane Lodges, Thurles
 - Ely Haven in Templemore
 - Cloncannon Biofarm in Roscrea
- Draft Regulations for the Community Safety Forum have been sent by the Dept of Justice to the Chief Executive and Brian Beck for review and comments. The draft regulations have also been sent to other local authorities for review. It is hoped the regulations will be prepared by June and signed off by the Minister in September. Nominations for representatives will be requested. It will then go back to the Minister for Justice for correct regulations and guidance before the Community Plan can be commenced.
- The issue of playground for Littleton Village will be passed onto Eoin Karr, Playground Co-Ordinator who will liaise directly with Councillor J. Ryan
- The timeline for the National Broadband is ahead of schedule but the ECRD will follow up with a date of completion for Littleton.
- A design team for the Lisheen Master Plan has been appointed and the team has engaged with stakeholders, relevant agencies, researchers/experts and operators of similar facilities for research, scale-up and facilities with an eye to the bioeconomy sector.
- TCC is one of two local authorities in Ireland to be accepted onto the Pathways 2 Resilience Programme. The Baseline Report is expected in June 2025 with Climate Resilient Strategy, the Climate Resilient Action Plan and the Climate Resilient Investment Plan expected in February 2026. Notification will issue to the Members for their input on the Programme.
- ECRD will discuss the tourism bus project for Thurles with the Section Head for inclusion in Tourism Budgets 2026 and will revert with reply.

Kathleen, Mairead, Áine and Marie left the Chamber.



3.2 Update from Cultural Services/Libraries & Biodiversity.

Damien Dullaghan County Librarian and Marie McMahon Clonmel Museum Curator were in attendance for this item. An Culture Report for the period February to May 2025 was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Damien outlined some successful events that have taken place and advised that a full report will be presented at the Plenary Meeting in July:-

- the Jim of the Mills show in all 5 Districts of the County.
- Mná Month with 150 events throughout the County.

Marie advised of events and exhibits at Clonmel Museum including artefacts like the Bloody Sunday Jersey, a series of 3 to 4 exhibits available on-line, Loan Box based on New Age Show. She also advised of a new exhibit taking place celebrating the '1980s' and Vincent Hanley, a Clonmel native, who presented MTUSA in the 80s. The last recording of MTUSA was presented at the Clonmel Junction Festival and is now available in the Museum. The Heritage Council are also working to ensure that traditional crafts are restored within the County and the 'When next we meet' festival was also very successful.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Can the Bio Diversity Officer attend the Monthly Municipal District Meetings?
- Can an update on the underground carpark at The Source be given. At the moment it is not officially open and causing issues for those attending at The Source.
- Will the Bio-Diversity Plan be included as part of the County Development Plan going forward?
- Will the Bio Diversity Officer be available to give advice to Tidy Towns Committees; marks for the Committees have increased due to previous advice given.
- Best wishes were extended to Mary Guinan-Darmody Local Studies Librarian who retired recently and who will be a big loss to the service.
- Congratulations to all those involved in the Cruinniu na Nog festival which took place recently.
- Congratulations to the Men's Shed, Thurles who built and donated a wooden handmade display unit. The display unit will be used to showcase the handmade projects which the Mens Shed design and build.
- It is great news that the Local Link Office is relocating to the old Library in Templemore.



Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Damien will ask the Bio Diversity Officer to come to the next MD Monthly Meeting
- Damien will investigate and reply directly to Councillor J. Ryan regarding the underground carpark at The Source, Thurles.
- The Bio-Diversity Plan is complete but due to the timing of the SPC, it will be presented earlier than September and adopted in Q4 2025.
- Stephanie Woods has replaced Mary Guinan-Darmody in Local Studies, Thurles Library.
- The Library were delighted to be able to accommodate Local Link in the former library in Templemore.

Damien and Marie left the Chamber.

4.1 Thurles Education Destination – Presentation by Seamus Hoyne, Head of Centre, TUS Thurles Campus.

Seamus Hoyne, TUS and Colin Cummins Tipperary ETB were in attendance for this item. An apology was given for Prof. Jennifer Johnston who was unable to attend.

A presentation on Thurles Education Destination was circulated to the Members. Seamus advised the Members that a collaborative effort between TUS Thurles, MIC Thurles and Tipperary ETB Archerstown to promote Thurles as a destination for Further and Higher Education. This is a pilot initiative with 3 main priorities:

- Marketing and promotion of programmes to attract students to study in Thurles.
- Enhancing the student experience in Thurles.
- Engagement and outreach activities.

There is approximately 1500 students in Thurles across the three Institutions.

Colin advised that their aim is to create Thurles as an area for education and to ensure that the students enjoy the college life experience. Thurles has a lot to offer and the support of the MD is key.

The Members made the following comments:-

- Education is a serious pull factor to Thurles.
- Thurles has always been a great hub of education with 4 Secondary Schools including 2 Boarding Schools.
- Student college experience is very important for both the students and their parents.



- Engagement should be made with the North Tipperary Sports Partnership who will identify all the clubs / societies in Thurles. Thurles were awarded the 2012 Sports European Town which is a very prestigious award.
- Examine the holding of a Race Day at Thurles Racetrack similar to those held in Limerick.
- Consider kayaking, canoeing or similar on the River Suir.
- Email contacts for the group are contained in the presentation and all feedback is welcome.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Seamus and Colin for their presentation and they left the Chamber.

Congratulations from Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive, Sinead Carr, attended the Meeting and apologised for not being able to attend the Annual Meeting.

She thanked Councillor M. Smith for his dedication to the District during his year as Cathaoirleach and wished Councillor P. Ryan all the best in her role as Cathaoirleach for the coming year.

The CE then left the Chamber.

4.2 Formally Approve Thurles Municipal District Back Lanes.

It was proposed by Councillor Shane Lee, seconded by Councillor Kay Cahill-Skehan and resolved:-

"That the Thurles Municipal District Back Lanes Scheme be adopted."

Councillor Cahill-Skehan requested that a review be carried out every 12 months to ensure the best use of monies.

4.3 District Engineer's Report.

An updated District Engineer's Report was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The District Engineer advised the Members :-

- Works at the Templemore Junction in Borrisoleigh will commence this week for an approximate 3 week duration. The MD are also working with NTA with a view to installation of further speed reduction measures in the village. The speed display sign has also been relocated from Horse & Jockey to outside the GAA field in Borrisoleigh.



- A Section 38 for Corville Roundabout and proposed one way system in Roscrea will be advertised next week.
- The Roads Programme is progressing well. The Contractor, Arkill t/a Kellys of Fantane, will be back at the end of the month to complete remaining works, in urban areas, around schools etc and it is estimated that a six week duration is needed to complete the remaining programme.
- Surface dressing re-commenced this morning in the MD, on rotation with Nenagh MD, and again progress has been very good due to favourable weather conditions. It is estimated that the surface dressing programme will be largely completed during this 3 week visit.
- The Outdoor Road Staff will focus on sign maintenance and bridge maintenance once the roads programme nears completion.
- Margin cutting on local and regional roads junctions is ongoing and grass cutting on national route junctions will take place in the next two weeks. Tenders for same are in today.
- NTA works in The Ragg are nearing completion with speed ramps to be installed in the coming weeks to finish this phase. The remaining DL/Low Cost Safety works for the installation of footpath and works to the Ballycahill Junction will take place in September.
- A proposed design for works at Templetuohy has been agreed and we hope to have a Section 38 advertised at the end of the month.

Queries raised by Members are as follows:-

- There is no public lighting on the River Walk at the back of Dunnes Stores.
- Traffic calming measures needed in Kilcooley Way estate – can speed ramps be installed?
- Can graffiti on Castle in Thurles be removed?
- Trees at Cluain Glas and Willowmere Drive Thurles need to be cut back.
- Condition of footpaths at Bohernanave and Childers Park Thurles.
- Vegetation in River Suir by the Castle was cut back a few weeks ago but is in need of cutting back again.
- Can a road side barrier be installed on the Littleton to Glengooole Rd where surfacing has recently taken place.
- Criteria for LIS applications which are due to be made in July - how will new applications be dealt with compared to older applications?
- Can Liskeveen be included again in the Low Cost Safety Scheme due in September?
- Verge cutting on junctions on the N62 and N75 national routes.
- All white lines and double yellow lines need to be replenished.
- What traffic system will be used for the Borrisoleigh Works and how long will the work take?
- Road markings at Currabaha crossroads are gone on both sides of the road and in need of being replaced.



- What is the position with the carpark at Dunkerrin Road, Templemore?
- There has been another accident at the no 7 Bridge on the N62. It is in need of repair and speed signs or a flashing light indicating a bridge as is in place in other areas.
- Contact with farmers regarding cutting of hedgerows – the IFA have a text system with farmers and this could prove beneficial to get in touch with all farmers.
- Issues with speed on the N62, slow marking and crossing markings required.
- The pedestrian crossing at Market Square Roscrea is hazardous to pedestrians with vehicles backing onto the crossing. A review of the crossing needs to take place.
- When is the contractor coming back to Tullaskeagh under the Tidy Towns Painting Scheme?
- Can a register of line markings in the towns / villages and at junctions be kept so as markings fade, they are regularly refreshed?

Replies to queries raised as follows:-

- TCC are waiting for a reply from TII regarding crossroads.
- The TII have been consulted on the no 7 Bridge and will check if the surface is skid resistant. All signage is in place.
- No work planned for Dunkerrin carpark – have requested funding.
- Road marking at Currabaha Cross will be examined.
- It will be a stop/go traffic system at Borrisoleigh with traffic using one side of the road at all times.
- Junctions on the N62 and N75 will be carried out in the next two weeks.
- Liskeveen cross will be included in the applications for Low Cost Safety in September.
- Members will be informed of new criteria under LIS.
- Safety barrier will be installed on the Ballyboy Road – proposed entrance to BNM site.
- Cutting back of vegetation at the River Suir is on the programme of works.
- Tree cutting will be addressed in September once the season begins.
- Reinstatement of damaged footpaths is programmed to commence later in the summer. Works will be prioritised by the engineers.
- There is a protocol to follow regarding traffic calming measures.
- The District Administrator will contact the owners of the Castle in Thurles as it is private property.
- The issue of providing public lighting at River Suir is due to bio diversity and the fish. There is ducting in place so a funding stream will be looked at.
- The contractor for the mural at Tullaskeagh is expected back this week.



- It is intended to identify areas where hedgecutting is required and contact will be made with the owners during the cutting season.

4.4 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

An updated report on the Capital Projects 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
THURLES	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Progress with construction works, planned completion date October 2025.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Tendering to commence Q2 2025 to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design. Discussions with the National URDF Team and TII will be required in 2025 when detailed design is complete to finalise costings, funding requirements and gateway/programme status.
Mill Road Footpath (phase 2)	ORIS funding application submitted 2025.
Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Draft tender docs for issue.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Littleton Bushcraft Centre	Consultants appointed to carry out a Feasibility Study. Final draft complete. Feasibility will now be presented to the Members in due course. This project is located in the Carrick MD.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Project funding from NTA approved for 2025. Works programmed 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	Feasibility study carried out. Valuation sought.
Cycle and Walking corridors – Thurles Town	Await approvals from NTA - currently on a priority list.



ROSCREA	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Tenders evaluated and winning tender awarded. Contracts signed and Pre Start Meeting complete. Detailed design commenced in June 2025.
Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Project put forward for RRDF call 4, submitted 14 th March, awaiting outcome. 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	Evaluate tender and award the winning design consultants. Commence design in Q2 2025
REACH Enterprise and Community Hub	REACH Office now open.
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings	
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Await application process outcome.
TEMPLEMORE	
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Funding application submitted under Town & Village Renewal.
The Mall River – Infill Works	Consultant appointed and draft design plan drafted. Ongoing consultation with landowners in progress.
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 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	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	3
	At Inspections/Costings Stage	12
	In Progress	11
	TOTAL	26

The Members raised the following issues:-

- What is the update on CCTV for Littleton?
- Funding of €50,000 for repairs to Skateboard Park in Thurles are welcomed but the amount will not cover the cost of the repairs. Where do we go from here and will the Skateboard Park be re-opened by the end of the year?
- What is the decision regarding infill at the Mall River Templemore? The previous plan did not go ahead.
- Market Quarter in Thurles – (i) How many car parking spaces will be available once the project is complete and (ii) Can the space be used for Christmas markets?
- What is the update on funding for footpath at Mill Road Thurles?
- What is the update on the Munster Hotel?
- When will work at Kickham Street Thurles commence?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- J & N Consultants have been appointed to review the CCTV Scheme in Littleton and provide advice on what upgrades are required and the cost of same.
- The cost of work at Thurles Skateboard Park is significant. A tender brief is currently being prepared which will indicate the final cost. Once that is known additional monies from TCC own resources will be sought to complete the project.
- There will be a public information session regarding plans for The Mall Templemore.
- Work at the Thurles Market Quarter is on track to be completed by October 2025. The MD are seeking vendors for the market space. Any group interested in using the space should submit their proposals to the MD.
Carparking spaces will be as follows once works are complete -
29 carparking spaces plus 2 disability parking spaces.
- Thurles MD Staff and MIC are currently in discussions regarding the Munster Hotel site and its future use.
Updates will be provided to Elected Members as they are agreed.
- Works on Kickham Street, Thurles are due to commence within the next four weeks.



5.1 Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion.

6.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

7.1 Votes of Congratulations/Sympathy.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to:

- The Bannon Family, Ballycahill on the passing of Marie, mother-in-law of Theresa Bannon who works with Local Links.
- The Brennan Family, Upperchurch on the passing of Joe, retired member of An Garda Síochána.
- The Butler Family, Ballynonty on the passing of Paddy, father of Helen Butler who works with Tipperary County Council.

Votes of congratulations were extended to:

- David Brennan whose latest novel is being launched in Bookwork, Thurles tomorrow night.
- Scoil Cormac who had a hugely successful fundraiser to raise funds to adapt buses to accommodate their students.
- Pastoral Council who helped organise the Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk from St Cronan's Church to Monaincha Abbey in Roscrea on Sunday 15th June.

8.1 Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

That concluded the official business of the June Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 21st July 2025

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 21st July 2025