



## **MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 15th SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Present:** Councillor Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

**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

**Apology:** Councillor Michael Smith

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

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

### **2.1 Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 21st July, 2025.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District July 2025 Monthly Meeting, which was held on the 21st July 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

The Director of Services advised the Members that IT have engaged a Contractor to install Zoom in the Chamber but there is not a specific date for the completion of same.

### **3.1 Appointment of member to the following board:** **- Thurles Swimming Pool Limited (1).**

The Cathaoirleach sought nominations for the appointment of a member to the board of the Thurles Swimming Pool Limited.

There were no nominations received.



#### **4.1 Update from Environment and Climate Action Section:**

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Colette Moloney, Senior Executive Scientist were in attendance for this item.

An Environment and Climate Action Section Update for the period 01.05.2025 – 31.08.2025 for Thurles Municipal District was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- Issue of flooding in a number of areas in Thurles particularly Friar Street due to the combination system of sewerage and rainwater. Can Members be given the outcome of surveys carried out by Uisce Eireann during the Summer months.
- Update on historical landfill at Brittas Road Thurles. Previous application for funding was unsuccessful so do TCC have to apply again for grant.
- Of the Household Waste Surveys carried out to date, 90 properties were compliant – what happens with the properties who remain non-compliant.
- Further work needs to be done in litter black spots around the MD.
- Update on remedial works required on wall at Fennor Graveyard in Gortnahoe.
- Can the recent initiative – Free Electronic Waste Collection Event - that recently took place at Thurles Mart – be rolled out to Templemore and Roscrea?
- Water sampling undertaken as part of the Rural Water Programme – what is the standard of water required and is there work needed on it?
- Issue of dog biting walkers which is worrying and causing concern to residents/walkers in the Killinan area.
- It is a concern the number of horses that are being seized with none being reclaimed by their owners.
- It is encouraging to see the public awareness campaign and number of Air Inspections being carried out countywide.
- Public awareness campaigns aimed at teenagers/young people which have been very successful – initiatives such as Green Schools, Relove Fashion Competition and the Gum Litter Campaign.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Household Waste Surveys were carried out on 108 properties; 18 of the properties did not produce evidence of a waste collection service. This is an ongoing process with an avenue for legal proceedings if required and TCC will continue to pursue non-compliant properties. TCC had their first successful case last week but the property was not located in Thurles MD.



- An application for Cert of Authorisation for the historical landfill at Brittas Road, Thurles was submitted to the EPA but no final determination has been received on this application. Once a determination is received and the type of remedial works identified, an application will be made to the Department for monies to complete the works.
- Consideration will be given to work required on wall at Fennor Graveyard.
- There is a broad suite of awareness campaigns undertaken by the Environment and Climate Action Team and they are actively targeting young people/teenagers through social media and competitions.
- Issue of flooding is not under the remit of the Environment Section but rather Uisce Éireann.
- Incidents of dog biting are a civil matter between parties concerned. TCC cannot just lift any dog – they would mostly lift loose dogs. Incidents of this kind should be reported to An Garda Síochána.
- TCC have lifted a number of horses; a vast number of which are not reclaimed but the horses are rehomed as much as possible.
- The Regional Waste Management Office in conjunction with the local authority run the Free Waste Collection events. Michael will talk to them with a view to organising events in Templemore and Roscrea. There is criteria around collection areas and events in either town will not take place until 2026 at the earliest.
- Overall water tested under the Drinking Water Monitoring Scheme is very good. The engineer and scientist move swiftly if any issues are identified. Monitoring takes place in conjunction with the HSE. Further specifics can be given if required.
- Inspections under the Air Pollution Act are ongoing i.e. solid fuel retailers, petrol stations etc.

Councillor J Ryan clarified his query regarding flooding issues due to changing climate action and resulting heavy rainfalls. Michael replied that the issue was raised at the plenary meeting and Climate Action Quality Risk Assessments are ongoing with stakeholders.

#### **4.2 Update from LAWPRO.**

Ruth Hennessy, LAWPRO was in attendance for this item.

A LAWPRO Briefing Note September 2025 and a LA Waters Programme for Thurles MD were circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

Ruth advised the Members that Margaret Morrissey, Community Water Officer is the contact for any group who wish to apply for funding. She also advised that there are two vacant posts for a CWO for Tipperary and Waterford and it is hoped the posts will be filled shortly.



Ruth gave an Community Team Update under the following headlines:

- Funding 2025
- Catchment Support Fund 2025
- Citizen Science
- Roscrea – Barrier Mitigation on Bunow River
- Biodiversity Week, National Heritage Week and Water Heritage Day

She also gave a presentation on the Upper River Suir Priority Area for Action Desk Study.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The map shows most of the area is in moderate danger of drop in water quality for the last couple of years. How long does it take for results to be evident following remedial work by farmers?
- What can be done to avoid flooding of the River Gramoge in Borrisoleigh
- Why is the tributary of the River Suir at Braddock not being looked at? It can be dry for a number of months and then flood. Is there anything can be done to improve the river quality of the River Suir?
- What is the current role of Drainage Committees? Where will funding come from to carry out work required?
- The River Black near Mary Willies is full of vegetation and practically dry – can any remediation works be carried out here?
- Issue of vegetation in rivers is very evident from the photos contained in the presentation given. Is there anything that can be done with this issue?
- An incident occurred recently whereby a black substance was seen exiting a pipe into the River Suir at the bridge in Thurles. The local fishing club have counted 14 pipes exiting into the River Suir. The necessary steps are required to examine what is being pumped in the River.
- Work at the weir in Roscrea was acknowledged but what is the timeframe for Stage 2 of the work?
- The Rivers Suir and Nore are a great source of tourism with people coming from far and wide to fish. Brown trout is on the decline due to water quality. There is a history of salmon breeding on River Nore which is of huge importance to people.
- River Suir dips very low and vegetation issue is very evident – what remedy can be undertaken?
- Delight with funding given to Cabragh Wetlands where a lot of work has been undertaken.
- Is there a middle phase of work that can be carried out on rivers to improve water quality in addition to making rivers more aesthetically pleasing.



Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Water quality within the River Suir has improved with a nitrate reduction across the catchment area as a whole. There are still improvements to be achieved.
- The LAWPRO Team are not looking at flooding issues.
- Removal of vegetation is challenging and can lead to moving the issue downstream. It is difficult to remove without causing damage.
- It is proposed to hold a series of workshops with the community around water quality and what we expect from natural rivers.
- Some work on the pipes entering the River Suir in Thurles have been carried out by LAWPRO Scientists but the pipes are tied into the storm network and further investment is required in conjunction with Tipperary County Council.
- There is no set timeframe for work at the barrier in Roscrea. It is a rolling fund and a consultant is expected to be appointed in the next 3 / 4 weeks. An update can be sought once the consultant is engaged.
- The LA Waters Programme scope cannot be expanded at the moment. The programme is in place since 2022 and set to 2027. Tipperary County Council and the EPA have a monitoring programme in place and works are ongoing.
- Drainage Committees are not part of LAWPRO's remit.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Michael and Colette from Environment and Climate Action and Ruth from LAWPRO and they left the Chamber.

### **5.1 District Engineers Report.**

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

Queries raised by Members were as follows:-

- Can Ballymoreen Junction beside the graveyard be included in a Low Cost Safety Scheme? There was another accident there two weeks ago. It is a very busy junction and while the junction box was recently painted; signage is required.
- The installation of air to water heating systems in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe has proven to be disastrous. Some heating systems are not working and with Winter approaching, this is an issue that needs to be addressed.  
What were the results of the survey carried out?  
Is there a follow up by contractors who are awarded this type of contract and can it be included in the contract itself?
- Acknowledgement of the work of the Engineers and Outdoors Staff and works carried out on the roadway at Slievenamon Road, Thurles.
- What is the criteria for new applicants for the LIS Scheme due to reopen in January 2026?



- Hedgecutting season is now upon us – can the Council advertise in the paper and on media the obligation of landowners to cut back their hedges.  
There are farm organisations that would have a farmer text message system and this would be ideal to get the message out.
- Update on meeting with TII regarding priority roads put forward at last Monthly Meeting.
- Public light required at Kennedy Park Roscrea, it is an ongoing issue and needs to be addressed.
- Update on safety scheme & footpaths at Tullaskeagh Junction.
- Corville Road Roscrea – (i) when will ramps be installed and (ii) there is now a one way system and a barrier is needed for safety.
- Overgrown hedge on N62 Kennedy Park Roscrea.
- There are more traffic calming measures required at Barnane and Moyne Schools.
- The recent traffic calming measures in Borrisoleigh are not working and further work is required.
- Ramps installed at Richmond Grove Templemore are not effective and should be replaced by ramps similar to those installed at Railway View.
- Will the Café at the Thurles Market Quarter be up and running by Christmas?
- Update on extension to Slievenamon Road and Parnell Street Carparks.
- Update on the Munster Hotel.
- Is there a plan for a second pedestrian crossing on Abbey Road Thurles with works continuing to Jysk?
- Update on footpath at Mill Road Thurles and Part VIII.
- Compliments to Thomas and Jim for getting footpath at The Ragg completed.
- Can a follow up with Uisce Eireann be undertaken regarding potholes on roads where Water Regional Scheme works were carried out.
- Clarification if work on the main bridge in Holycross and on a piece of the adjoining wall that is damaged is going ahead.
- Another speed ramp closer to the hurling field in Ballycahill is needed. Can this be carried out as soon as possible?
- Traffic calming measures required in Borrisoleigh at the Templemore Road junction as well as measures on the outskirts of the town.
- Update on CCTV in Littleton.
- Two years ago Templetuohy Action Committee were set up to deal with speed in the village and at the school. It was to be a 3 stage process - Stage 1 outside the School is complete, Stage 2 outside Guilfoyles Shop is ongoing. Stage 3 related to the top of the Village at the graveyard – when will Stage 3 be completed?
- Update on the Skateboard Park in Thurles and timescale for works.
- Projects in general – going forward, can one project be listed as an item on the agenda for discussion?
- As well as hedgecutting, is it possible to cut down trees on road sides.



Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- Meetings have taken place with both Barnane and Moyne Schools but it is not intended to carry out works there.
- Consultation taking place with NTA regarding further traffic calming measures at both sides of Borrisoleigh, subject to funding.
- The Mall Infill will require a Part VIII – work will carry into 2026.
- Extension of carparks at Slievenamon Road and Parnell Street – the legal side is being looked at with the individuals involved. If successful, work will commence in 2026.
- An additional pedestrian crossing/footpath at Abbey Road Thurles is subject to funding. IPB will not fund new footpaths or crossings.
- Tony O'Mara issues Road Opening Licences so will follow up with Uisce Eireann Contractors on reinstatement works.
- The bridge at Holycross is a protected structure. Funds allocated for this will be transferred to work needed at the 24 bridge in Drombane. Will re-apply for funding in 2026 for the bridge at Holycross.
- Work on the ramp in Ballycahill will go ahead in the next 2 weeks.
- Work in Borrisoleigh is not finished – it is intended to complete snag list during the next School holidays.
- Ramps installed at Richmond Grove Templemore will be examined
- Tullaskeagh Junction is a capital scheme – update will be sought from the Capital Section.
- Will examine low level intervention measures at Ballyporeen such as lining and signage.
- A meeting is taking place with Housing Central this afternoon and the issue of air to water systems in Tara Drive will be discussed. The programme for repair is unlikely to be carried out this year but the MD will push for remedial works to be carried out.
- Only damaged, diseased trees or trees which are a traffic hazard should be considered for removal.
- Footpath at Mill Road Thurles is an ORIS application and there is no update yet. It is expected an update will issue in Q3 2025.
- Works at Thurles Market Quarter will extend to 1<sup>st</sup> week in November. It is hoped the café operator will be up and running by end of the year but this is subject to lead times.
- A business case has been submitted to Corporate Services for funding to carry out work to make the CCTV system in Littleton operational.
- Tender has been prepared for a contractor to carry out works to the Skateboard Park Thurles. This has to be signed off by the Procurement Section. It is expected that a contractor will be appointed before Christmas 2025 and works completed by August 2026.
- A meeting has taken place with MIC regarding the Munster Hotel and a further meeting is due to take place. An update will be given to the Members once all options are considered.
- The issue of a public light at Kennedy Park Roscrea will be passed onto Michael Tierney and it is expected that it will be installed before Halloween.



## 5.2 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
<b>THURLES</b>	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction works are progressing. Procurement of a café tenant is complete with Section 183 approved. Slight extension of programme of work with works due to now be completed in November 2025.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Tender brief advertised on E-Tenders on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> of July, to procure a consultant to carry out detailed design. Tender submission deadline 12 <sup>th</sup> September. Detailed design to commence in Q1 2026. Discussions with the national URDF Team and TII will be required in 2026 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 Q3 2025.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Project funding from NTA approved for 2025. Works programmed for Q4 2025.
Road Safety Works – Turtulla Junction	Capital Section reviewing options and costings.
Thurles Inner Relief road	Detailed design to be finalised.
Munster Hotel Site Redevelopment	Discussions ongoing with landowner and interested 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties.
Cycle and Walking corridors – Thurles Town	
<b>ROSCREA</b>	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Preliminary design is now complete and will be presented to the Elected Members in the coming weeks. Site surveys have commenced. Estimate construction works to commence in Q1 2026.



Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Project put forward under RRDF Call 4 for approval, submitted 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, awaiting decision. 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	LUC Consultant were the successful tenderer to carry out preliminary design, Part 8 and detailed design. LUC now formally appointed. Pre start meeting complete. Preliminary design has commenced. Site surveys to commence.								
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings									
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	Town and Village Funding Application 2025 unsuccessful. Other funding source to be identified.								
TEMPLEMORE									
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Funding application submitted under Town & Village Renewal 2025.								
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	Consultant appointed. Preliminary Plan to be presented to Elected Members at November 2025 meeting for comment.								
Main Street Enhancement Works, Templemore	The Project will be considered for the next RRDF Calls. 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> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td><td><b>30</b></td></tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	5	At Inspections/Costings Stage	15	In Progress	10	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>
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In Progress	10								
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>								



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Kieran Malone gave a presentation on the Thurles District Road Capital Projects as follows and current position as specified:-

#### R498 Nenagh to Thurles – Realignment at Latteragh Bends

It is planned that the Main Works Contractor will commence later in 2025 with an 18 month construction period.

#### Thurles Inner Relief Road

Tender documents for procurement of Consultant to manage Construction Design and Works are under preparation. This will be tendered shortly, subject to DOT approval.

#### N62 Thurles By Pass

The N62 runs through the centre of Ireland from Athlone through the midlands and terminates at the M8 motorway interchange at the Horse & Jockey.

The By Pass is essential to deal with congestion in Thurles town.

The project needs to be included in the next revision of the National Development Plan and TCC made a submission to the NDP review process in June 2025.

The project cannot progress until it is included in the National Development Plan and the project can move forward again.

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

#### NOM in the name of Councillor Jim Ryan – Id 3020

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

I am calling on this District Council to install traffic calming measures or speed ramps in Grange Village.

Reply to NOM:

An Garda Síochána, as the Road Traffic Authority has the ultimate responsibility for speed control enforcement.

Before implementing any traffic calming measures, it is essential to confirm the existence of a speeding issue. This involves a structured approach, beginning with a speed survey and consultation with An Garda Síochána where necessary. This will be followed by the installation of a temporary speed indicator signage and ongoing monitoring to assess whether the issue persists.



Further interventions will be guided by the Infrastructure SPC document '*Traffic Management Guidance on Vertical Deflections*', and any physical infrastructure will be subject to planning and funding approvals.

Councillor Ryan expressed his satisfaction with the reply.

Councillor S. Ryan seconded the Motion.

### **7.1 Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.

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

A vote of sympathy was extended to:-

- The O'Sullivan Family, Killea on the passing of Seán.

A vote of congratulations was extended to:

- Sharon Scully, District Administrator on her new role with LAWPRO.

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

There was no other business.

That concluded the official business of the September Meeting.

SIGNED:  DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
CATHAOIRLEACH

SIGNED:  DATE: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

