



## **MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WHICH WAS HELD IN THE DISTRICT CHAMBER, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICES, CASTLE AVENUE, THURLES ON 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026**

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Micheál Lowry

**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
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 December Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2025.**

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District December 2025 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meetings."

### **3.1 Update from LAWPRO.**

Ruth Hennessy, Executive Scientific Officer, Maggie Morrissey, Senior Community Water Officer and Darragh Kelly, Community Water Officer were in attendance from LAWPRO.

Ruth and Maggie gave a brief outline of recent LAWPRO activities as follows:-



- A two-day Workshop on the ecology of the River Suir took place in November. Participants were drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including students, community representatives, elected representatives and individuals with an interest in the topic. The Workshop was given by Ecologist Ken Whelan who was assisted by LAWPRO scientists and community staff. There was strong engagement throughout. Participants visited the river, then in full flood, and also travelled to Loughmore and Castleiney. Overall it was a very positive two days.
- A Meeting held in Murphy's Pub, Templemore in November was attended by over fifty people. Templemore was chosen as it is central to the Municipal District. Community Groups, Elected Representatives, farmers, anglers and other interested parties were in attendance.
- LAWPRO support applicants under three different schemes; Community Water Development Fund, Catchment Support Fund and Small Grants and Events.
- The Community Water Development Fund supports organisations who are planning projects that demonstrate direct water quality actions. Projects must fall into the following categories: river restoration, urban or rural nature-based solutions, feasibility studies, Blue Dot catchments, fish habitat enhancement.
- Cabragh Wetlands have been a recipient under the Catchment Support Fund in 2024 and 2025.
- Small Grants and Events Scheme is for community groups who wish to apply for funding for small scale initiatives and events and covers events such as World Wetlands Day, Biodiversity Week, Science Week, etc.
- The EPA has published a report on Water Quality in Ireland 2019-2024. In Tipperary there was no change in the overall numbers of water bodies achieving satisfactory ecological health, with 33% of monitored surface water bodies at high and good status. Ten water bodies improved status, however these improvements were offset by eighteen water bodies where status declined.
- Nationally, LAWPRO is examining where changes are occurring and what trends are emerging but in Tipperary the number of rivers declining in water quality outweighs those improving.
- Phosphorous concentration levels are improving but continued progress in this area will help drive overall improvements in water quality.

The Members raised the following queries:

- What was the outcome of the recent information event in Clonakenny held by Centenary Agri and LAWPRO?
- What is the latest update regarding discharge into the River Suir from the Castle Bridge in Thurles, down as far as Lidl where 14 discharge pipes are discharging liquid into the river?
- Previously, funding was available through the Drainage Committees, which were very effective for addressing water quality issues, such as



those in the River Blackwater. Is it now the case that work on rivers can only be carried out on a case-by-case basis?

- What type of issues are inspectors finding on farms and are these issues mainly occurring on dairy farms where cows are moved four times per day?
- How long does it typically take to see improvements in water quality and why are improvements declining in Templemore?
- Is there anything that can be done to improve the river quality of the River Clodagh? While dredging is not permitted, are there any alternative actions that could be taken?
- Sometimes the positive impact of fishing can be overlooked. The Brosna, Nore and Suir rivers were once widely used for fishing and people would travel to fish in them.
- What is the current update on the River Suir project and associated mapping work?

Replies to queries raised was as follows:

- There was strong engagement with Teagasc at the information event at Clonakenny. Stakeholders for the River Suir were brought together and several events are planned for this year. These will be launched locally next week are part of a wider campaign.
- The investigation into liquid being discharged from the Castle Bridge in Thurles, down as far as Lidl, is to be investigated and is likely to take place during the Summer months when the river levels are lower. This work will be carried out in conjunction with the Environment and Climate Action Section. The Wastewater Treatment Plant in Templemore will also be examined to ensure there are no unexpected issues occurring.
- The Drainage Committees did not operate under LAWPRO. Any river work undertaken must be carried out with great sensitivity. Rivers have natural flow patterns and interventions, such as drainage works, can alter the river's roughness, damage natural fish habitats and change flow conditions. For example, altering a slow-moving section to fast-moving can lead to increased erosion and sediment transport which may then be deposited downstream and reduce flow capacity.
- LAWPRO does not carry out farm inspections; these are undertaken by the Environment and Climate Action Section. LAWPRO provides advice to farmers.

Michael Moroney explained that farmers receive advance notice of a farm inspection, along with an indicative list of items that may be addressed, such as storage capacity and improper run-offs.

- Improvements in water quality depend on many factors. Reducing high levels of phosphorous can lead to a relatively quick recovery in a river while nitrogen issues typically take longer to resolve.
- Tourism is an important aspect of rivers and a key motivation for improving water quality in addition to protecting habitats. The social and amenity value of rivers is highly significant.



- Progress is being made on the River Suir project and a report is expected to be issued at the end of the year.

Ruth, Maggie and Darragh left the Chamber.

### **3.2 Update from Environment and Climate Action.**

Michael Moroney, Senior Executive Officer and Nicola Keating, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment & Climate Action Section were in attendance for this item.

An update from the Environment and Climate Action Section for the Thurles Municipal District, covering the period 01/09/2025 – 31/12/2025, was circulated to the Members in advance of the Meeting and taken as read.

The Members extended their best wishes to Michael in his new role. They raised the following queries:

- Has the Environment and Climate Action Section expanded its use of CCTV to combat illegal dumping?
- When will the list of successful applicants under the Climate Action fund be available and when was the list submitted to the Department for approval?
- What is the current position regarding the wall at Fennor Graveyard? This is an old and historic cemetery and the boundary wall requires attention.
- Compliments were paid to the Christmas Tree initiative noting it is an excellent scheme.
- Concerns were raised regarding tenants who are not maintaining their properties appropriately. Some houses are in poor condition with issues such as rubbish accumulation, rodent activity and foul odours/smells which are unfair on neighbouring residents. Members highlighted the need for joined-up thinking between the Housing Section and the Environment and Climate Action Section and queried what consequences apply for such behaviour.
- An update was sought on the old dump on the Leugh Road in Thurles. Residents have concerns about potential pollution, bad odours and possible impacts on water quality. When will the Certificate of Authorisation to undertake remedial works be issued? It was noted that action was promised more than thirty years ago.
- The Circular Cup Community Events initiative was acknowledged as a very positive scheme and it is felt it would be valuable if rolled out for local festivals.
- A query was raised about the high number of horses being impounded and why owners were not reclaiming them.



- What was the reason for the big increase in the number of surrendered dogs, which rose from 178 dogs by the end of December 2024 to 243 by the end of December 2025.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:-

- The Environment and Climate Action Section is currently running through the administrative, legal and surveillance requirements in relation to CCTV for two pilot projects. This is expected to be completed in the coming weeks, after which the initiative will be rolled out to other sites across the County.
- The application under the Climate Action Fund will be submitted to the Department at the end of February. Applicants will be notified once a response is received.
- The issue concerning the wall at Fennor Graveyard is still under review and an appropriate funding stream has yet to be identified.
- The Environment and Climate Action Section are actively engaging with the Tenant Liaison Officer and Environmental Enforcement Team regarding concerns about tenants who are not maintaining their properties. Under the tenancy agreement, tenants are required to have a waste collection service in place and the Environment Section will work with the individuals concerned. Although the issue is complex, there are avenues for action under both the tenancy agreement and pollution legislation.
- The EPA issued a draft approval in 2023 regarding the old dump on the Brittas Road in Thurles and responses have been submitted. This dump is classified as a moderate risk meaning it will not be addressed until all high risk (Category A) dumps have been remediated, a process likely to take several years. No remedial works will take place until then. However, the issue of odour from the site will be examined.
- The Circular Cup Community Events initiative is now operational. Nine local Authorities, including Tipperary, are participating in the initiative.
- The majority of impounded horses have no identifiable owners. While individuals may believe they own them, they rarely have documentation to prove ownership. Approximately 99% of impounded horses are successfully rehomed.
- There is no single cause for the increase in dog surrenders. Since Covid numbers have increased but the vast majority are rehomed or transferred to dog welfare organisations.

#### **4.1 Dates to be set for Community Safety Meetings 2026.**

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Smith and seconded by Cllr. S. Ryan that the Community Safety Meetings for 2026 will be held on the following dates:

- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November



It was further agreed by the Members that the Community Safety Meetings for 2026 will be held at 9.30am.

#### **4.2 Update on Annual Meeting with TII.**

Kieran Malone updated the Members on the recent annual meeting with the TII which took place last December. He outlined that the priority schemes submitted to the TII were as follows:

- **N62 Slievenamon Road, Thurles** – Currently at detailed design stage
- **Thurles By-Pass** – The route originally considered in 2011 is now being reassessed by Roads Capital.
- **N62 Ballybrista** – Currently at design stage
- **Tullaskeagh** – Consultant appointed

He also noted that the 2026 roads allocation has not yet been received from the Department.

The Members raised the following queries:

- The Thurles-Templemore Road is in a very poor state of repair, is very busy and urgently requires improvements works.
- Turtulla Cross, Thurles – is there any update from the Department regarding improvement works at this junction which has been raised as an issue for several years?
- Has the Department provided any update on how the Municipal District can recoup funding from TII for monies spent on the N62?
- The junction at Tullaskeagh requires immediate attention due to the high number of accidents in the area, including a fatality.
- The bridge on the N62 adjacent to Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea is in a dangerous condition with parts of the structure falling away.
- The N62 from the Tipperary/Offaly boundary to Thurles is in very poor condition. In particular the Roscrea–Templemore section is in a deplorable state, with significant flooding occurring along the route.

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- Roads Capital are aware that the Thurles-Templemore Road requires remedial works; however, progress is constrained due to limited TII funding.
- An update on improvement works at Turtulla Cross, Thurles will be issued within the next day or so.
- The overspend on road works was approved by TII at the end of year reconciliation.
- As per update from Roads Capital, a designer has been appointed for the design of the Tullaskeagh scheme and the project is progressing.
- The matter has been referred to TII to address any issues relating to the bridge at Coláiste Phobal, Roscrea.



- Roads Capital are aware of the poor condition of the N62 from the Tipperary/Offaly boundary to Thurles. However, as the roads programme is heavily dependent on funding, it is difficult to initiate new schemes while still working through the backlog of existing schemes.

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

The District Engineer advised the Members that the MD are currently working on the 3-year Roads Programme.

The Members raised the following queries:

- There were two recent accidents on the Dunkerrin Road, Templemore and with many families living along this stretch, speed-reduction measures and improved signage are needed to slow traffic.
- The Dunkerrin Road, Templemore should be added to the salting route; accidents occur whenever there are icy conditions and the road is now being used more frequently since works commenced on the Latteragh Road.
- Is there any update on a Low Cost Safety Scheme to remove the dangerous bend at Loughtagalla, Thurles from Thurles Rugby Club to Martin Shanahan's garage?
- Is mould an issue in Council houses and if so, should the District allocate funding to address it? Numerous tenants have submitted complaints regarding mould and dampness.
- Traffic-calming measures are required at the Dun Lia housing estate in Thurles.
- Double yellow lines are needed outside the entrance to the two houses at Laurel Grove on the Dublin Road, Thurles where residents frequently have their access blocked. These markings were promised during the recent road improvement works in the area.
- Safety measures required at Grove Cross beyond Rahealty school.
- The Christmas lights on Baker Street, Thurles were not turned on over the Christmas period. The nine ratepayers on the street are disappointed that the area is not being maintained by the Council.
- A case should be made to include the Thurles-Rahealty Road on the salting schedule as more than 130 children attend the school.
- Is funding available to address the flooding issue at the Horse and Jockey?
- The Templemore to Johnstown Road is only salted as far as Templetuohy but motorists assume the entire route is salted.
- There is an ongoing issue with public lighting in Roscrea where numerous lights reported ten to twelve weeks ago remain out of service and clarification is sought on when the public lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea will be switched on.



Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- There is no speed reduction measure planned for the Dunkerrin Road, Templemore.
- TCC is currently operating at maximum capacity in relation to the road salting schedule across the County however the proposal to include the Dunkerrin Road and the Thurles-Rahealty Road will be referred to the Senior Roads Engineer.
- No update has yet been received on the Low-Cost Safety Scheme to address the dangerous bend at Loughtagalla, Thurles from Thurles Rugby Club to Martin Shanahan's garage.
- All cases of mould and dampness are dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The MD has guidance available on how to manage condensation related issues, which may arise from tenants drying clothes indoors at this time of year, although some cases may involve genuine dampness problems.
- Traffic-calming measures are already in place in the new section of the Dun Lia housing estate and speed reduction measures in the older part of the estate have yet to be installed by the contractor as part of the planning permission.
- It is anticipated that the Certificate of Practical Completion for Kickham Street Works will be issued within the next couple of weeks after which the MD will review the need for double yellow lines at Laurel Grove on the Dublin Road, Thurles.
- The provision of safety measures at Grove Cross beyond Rahealty school will be investigated.
- The fault with the Christmas lights on Baker Street, Thurles was reported to the Contractor, however, it could not get resolved in time for Christmas.  
The District Administrator is happy to meet with Baker Street residents/ratepayers to discuss any concerns regarding the maintenance of the street.
- The flooding issue at the Horse and Jockey, caused by a blocked storm line in the area, will be addressed.
- Regarding public lighting in Roscrea, some delays are due to TCC awaiting ESB connections, while others relate to the maintenance contractor. The MD is currently awaiting the ESB to provide a connection for the public lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.

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

<b>Project Name &amp; Details</b>	<b>Next Phase Works/Actions</b>
<b>THURLES</b>	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction works are progressing. Extension of programme of work to February 2026 – Delay in ESB connection.



Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 - Thurles	Contracts signed with the successful consultant, Aecom. Detailed design to commence in Q1 2026 with a 12-month timeframe for completion of design. 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)	Meet with landowners and Thurles Lions Trust to progress project. Tender of contractor through eTenders Framework.
Redevelopment of Thurles Skateboard Park	Contractor to be appointed.
Development of Mews Building, Slievenamon Road	
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Semple Stadium/Teagasc Offices - footpaths	Works programmed for Q1 2026.
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.
Upper River Suir Management Plan – Pilot Project	Discussions ongoing regarding leading out of working group and next steps.
Cycle and Walking corridors – Thurles Town	Await approval from NTA – currently on a priority list.
<b>ROSCREA</b>	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Site surveys completed. Preliminary Design complete. Preliminary design presented to the Elected Members. Detailed design underway, expected to be completed in early Q2 2026. Construction works estimated to commence in Q2 2026.
Main Street Enhancement Works - Roscrea	Tender brief to be prepared for Consultants to produce a design and upgrade of Main Street and lane ways, to include public realm works and redevelopment of Walsh’s Printers.
Reimagined Castle Street - Roscrea	Preliminary design has commenced. Site surveys to commence.



	<p>Presentation to elected members presented with concept options. Stakeholder engagement completed. Community consultation evening to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan in Roscrea to present design options.</p>												
Roscrea Biodiversity Looped Walk	Prelim design in advance of Part 8 submission.												
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 in 2026.												
<b>TEMPLEMORE</b>													
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 round of RRDF Calls. The project will need to be phased. 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>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone to Tender</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Investigate if major Refurb required</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>29</b></td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	19	Gone to Tender	2	Investigate if major Refurb required	1	In Progress	6	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>
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The Members raised the following queries:-

- There appears to be some confusion or misinformation circulating suggesting that TCC intends to pedestrianise Castle Street, Roscrea under the Roscrea Town Centre First Plan.
- What is the current status of the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Templemore.
- Is there any update on the installation of traffic calming ramps in Borrisoleigh to address speeding through the village?
- Are the proposed plans for the Mall Infill in Templemore essentially the same as those outlined by the consultant last year?
- The lights at the pedestrian crossing on Abbey Road, Thurles have been turned off for several months. Is the height of the lights the reason for the delay in switching them on?
- When is the Market Quarter, Thurles expected to open and has the ESB connection been completed yet?

Replies to queries were as follows:-

- TCC have no plans to pedestrianise Castle Street under the Roscrea Town Centre First Plan.
- Design drawings for the installation of an additional pedestrian crossing in Templemore have to be completed in-house by the MD – this will create a substantial drain on MD resources. It is hoped that the project can be completed in 2026 subject to approvals.
- Remedial works in Borrisoleigh are expected to commence this week subject to weather conditions.
- The proposed plans for the Mall Infill in Templemore is as briefed by the Consultant and the Part 8 will be submitted in due course.
- The lights at the pedestrian crossing on Abbey Road, Thurles are installed too high and require adjustment. The MD is also awaiting ESB connection before they can be activated.
- The ESB connection at Market Quarter, Thurles has now been completed. The contractor is expected to finish the remaining works within the next three weeks, after which the individual leasing the café will move in. The first Farmers Market in the area, organised by a newly established market group, is scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> February and has already attracted significant interest.

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

There were no Notices of Motion.

### **6.1 Correspondence.**

There was no correspondence.



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

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

- The family of the late Niamh Kinnane (RIP), Upperchurch, Thurles. Niamh was committed to rural development and was a recent recipient of an MD Civic Award
- The family of the late Liam Coen (RIP), Rossmore, Cashel. Liam was a long-standing member of The Rebel Hearts
- The family of the Very Rev. James Egan (RIP), Knockavilla Donaskeigh Parish and late of Lisheen, Moyne.
- The family of the late Steve Crofton (RIP), Parkmore, Roscrea. Steve was actively involved as a volunteer in his community.
- The family of the late Seamus (Tiny) Butler (RIP), Mill Road, Thurles. Seamus was heavily involved in rugby and fishing.

Votes of congratulations were extended to:

- Upperchurch/Drombane GAA on winning the All Ireland Club Intermediate Hurling Championship where they beat Tooreen.
- Ursuline Convent, Thurles on winning the Munster Junior A Camogie Final when they beat Presentation Convent, Thurles.
- Jessie Buckley who won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress for her performance in Hamnet. Jessie was a student at the Ursuline Convent Secondary School.

## **8.1 Any Other Business.**

The District Director informed the Members that this was Sharon's final meeting as District Administrator as she will be taking up a new position in the Environment and Climate Action Section. He stated that Sharon has been of immense assistance to him, commending her work ethic, attention to detail, calm manner and dedication to the role.

The Members joined the District Director in expressing their appreciation for Sharon. They highlighted her dedication, professionalism, understanding, fairness and practical approach. They noted the passion she brought to the role, her strong leadership and her sound common sense. They also acknowledged how accommodating she was and remarked that the MD was a better place because of her contribution.

The Members wisher her every success, along with good health and happiness in her new role within the Environment and Climate Action Section.

Sharon thanked everyone for their kind words, saying that she had gained great satisfaction from her role as District Administrator and that she would miss the District terribly.



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That concluded the official business of the January Meeting.

SIGNED:   
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

SIGNED:   
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

