



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 16th MARCH 2026

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
Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
Deirdre Dunne	District Administrator
Orla McDonnell	Staff Officer

Apologies: Jim Ryan Executive Engineer

1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest.

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

2.1 Minutes of the February Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 16th February, 2026.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District February 2026 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 16th February 2026, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Templemore Demesne Masterplan – Phase 1: New four-way signal-controlled traffic junction at the existing three-way priority junction of the N62 (Roscrea Road) with Oakdale Park, new primary access road and Foul Pumping Station.

It was proposed by Councillor W. Kennedy, seconded by Councillor M. Smith and resolved:

That the Templemore Demesne Masterplan – Phase 1: New four-way signal-controlled traffic junction at the existing three-way priority junction of the N62 (Roscrea Road) with Oakdale Park, new primary access road and Foul Pumping Station is approved.



4.1 Update from Housing Section.

Breda Ryan, Administrative Officer, Gillian Barry, Administrative Officer and Eoin Delaney, Assistant Engineer, Housing Section, were in attendance for this item.

A Housing Services Report covering the period 1 January 2026 to 28 February 2026 was circulated to the Members with the Agenda in advance of the Meeting. The Report was taken as read.

The Members raised the following issues:

- How much of the €40m fund, announced by Minister Browne to bring social homes back into use, will Thurles MD qualify for?
- Are TCC on target to achieve the vacancy rate target of 2% by 2027?
- When will TCC receive its allocation for Priority 1, 2 and 3 works and will Priority 3 works be addressed this year.
- Will those houses in estates that were missed during the phased energy upgrade retrofit schemes be included in the scheme at a future date?
- Is TCC currently in a position to tender for the retrofit of houses in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe and is the scoping exercise nearing completion?
- The construction of new housing in Roscrea is very welcome. However, these developments must be supported by adequate footpaths, amenities and essential services, which are currently lacking. There are also serious concerns about safe access to schools and the town centre.
- Confirm how much TCC received in development levies from the Glencarrick and Friary Walk developments and outline where this money was allocated?

Councillor M. Smith proposed that the MD write to Clúid seeking a meeting with the housing body regarding its financial contribution towards the footpath needed at the Glencarrick side. The proposal was seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy.

- What criteria does the Housing Section consider when allocating housing? There is a case involving a young, single woman in her mid-thirties with two small children who has been housed beside a male tenant of whom she is fearful.
- There is a severe housing crisis in the Thurles District with many people unable to secure accommodation and a number of evictions occurring following recent legislative changes. What landbanks does TCC hold in the Thurles area; how many houses could be delivered on these sites and is there planning permission in place? Are any sites shovel-ready?
- Is the Government willing to provide funding to TCC to support the purchase of HAP properties when they come on the market?
- It was very disappointing that when residents of Glencarrick estate requested a financial contribution from Clúid for grass cutting, the request was refused.
- The Tullaskeagh junction is a dangerous crossing that requires attention.



- There is no safe pedestrian crossing in Rosemary Square, Roscrea creating a serious safety concern.

Replies to queries raised was as follows:

- TCC has received €869,000 for voids and €570,380 for planned maintenance, to be distributed across the districts.
- TCC will endeavour to maintain the vacancy rate, currently at 1.73%, below 2%.
- A 2026 grant allocation of €5.461m has been received for priorities 1,2, and 3. P1 and P2 works are progressing and P3 works will also take place this year.
- Members should submit a list of houses that were not included during the phased energy upgrade retrofit schemes to the MD and they can be considered at a later stage.
- Re-surveying works are ongoing in relation to the retrofit of houses in Tara Drive, Gortnahoe and a package of works is being prepared.
- Housing Section will confirm the amount received by TCC in Development Levies from the Glencarrick and Friary Walk developments and will revert to Councillor Smith.
- The District Administrator will write to Clúid seeking a financial contribution towards the footpath at the Glencarrick side. Furthermore, a representative from Housing Section will be meeting with Clúid on 1st April and the issue regarding a financial contribution towards a footpath and grass cutting in Glencarrick estate will be flagged at the meeting.
- It is likely that the single woman in her mid-thirties, who was housed beside a male tenant, bid on the house she is in through the Choice Based Letting (CBL) service. However, the issue can be discussed privately between the Member and a housing staff representative.
- A site was recently purchased on the Dublin Road, Thurles and a design team will be appointed over the coming months. Housing Section will also check what other landbanks TCC has in the Thurles area.
- It was noted that the Tullaskeagh junction is a dangerous crossing and requires attention.
- It was noted that there is no safe pedestrian crossing in Rosemary Square, Roscrea which presents a serious safety concern.

Breda, Gillian and Eoin left the Chamber.

5.1 To formally approve draft Schedule of Municipal District Works 2026.

It was proposed by Councillor S. Ryan, seconded by Councillor W. Kennedy 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 2026 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Thurles Municipal District be and is hereby adopted."



It was noted that an additional €88,841 is available for 2026 under the Town and Village Development Fund.

5.2 District Engineer's Report.

The District Engineer advised that the District Engineer's Report is not yet available as the Roads Programme is currently being finalised.

The Members raised the following queries:-

- The upper end of Liberty Square, near Supermacs Restaurant, is deteriorating significantly and requires remedial works in advance of the planned refurbishment of the area.
- Road markings throughout Thurles generally require refreshing. When is this work scheduled to take place?
- What is the update regarding the speed survey for the Moyne Road/Loughtagalla/Borroway area of Thurles? A designated pedestrian area is needed in this location.
- Ramps are a most effective way of slowing traffic, yet there appears to be a reluctance within the MD to install them. Will the MD consider installing ramps in areas where speeding is a recurring issue, such as Castle Avenue and Matthew Avenue, Thurles?
- Will the MD have any input into the proposed national reduction of speed limits from 50kph to 30kph in urban areas? While 50kph is too high in many cases, 30kph may be too low.
- Councillor Lee thanked the MD for repairing the public lighting at Kennedy Park, Roscrea.
- Speeding remains a significant issue on the R433 Clonmore Road where residential homes and a school are located.
- What is the update on the installation of ramps in Borrissoleigh? Are additional ramps planned near the graveyard?
- A resident with a disability in Parkmore, Roscrea is experiencing severe difficulty due to water flowing into his property, preventing him from safely entering or exiting his home.
- Road markings on the R639 (old N8) have deteriorated badly in several places, particularly on the Littleton to Urlingford stretch, where the hard shoulder and white lines can be difficult to see.
- What is the update regarding the bridge at the Black River, Two-Mile-Borris which was recently struck by a milk lorry, causing part of the structure to fall into the river?
- Additional public lighting is required in Moycarkey village.
- When will Hogan's Drain Cleaning be engaged to carry out drain maintenance works across the District?
- Given that the LIS scheme is currently heavily oversubscribed, will it now close for the foreseeable future to allow the existing applications to be processed?



Is there a marking awarded to reflect how long a person has applied to the LIS Scheme?

- What is the update on the installation of a ramp at the entrance to Slievenamon Road carpark, Thurles at the Liberty Square side?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:-

- The upper end of Liberty Square, near Supermac's Restaurant, where the road is deteriorating, will be examined.
- The road marking season is approaching. GSSs and Traffic Wardens have been asked to note any areas that require refreshing. Members are also requested to submit any locations they believe need attention so they can be reviewed.
- Consultation is ongoing with two landowners in relation to the Moyne Road/Loughtagalla/Borroway area of Thurles. A significant speed reduction is planned for this location and it is a priority for development levy funding.
- The MD is guided by the Policy for installation of speed reduction measures as agreed by the Roads SPC.
- Reducing speed limits in specific locations from 50km/h to 30km/h is not automatic, unlike the previous change 80km/h to 60km/h. A 30km/h limit would be difficult to enforce and is not practical in many areas. A workshop with Members is scheduled for April to discuss a draft proposal on where the 30km/h zones will be implemented in towns. An Garda Síochána will also be involved in preparing the proposal which will then go to public consultation.

Following a robust exchange of views on the introduction of ramps in urban areas to address speeding concerns, it was proposed by Councillor W. Kennedy and seconded by Councillor S. Ryan that the Members take a short recess. The meeting was adjourned for five minutes. Upon resumption, the District Director sought a retraction of specific statements from a Member regarding matters arising. The Meeting then resumed normal business.

- A recommendation has been made to designate the R433 Clonmore Road, Templemore around the school area, as a 30km/h zone to address speeding in the area.
- The installation of ramps in Borrisoleigh is an NTA pilot project. The works will be followed up to confirm the current status of the scheme.
- The stretch of road between Littleton and Urlingford is long and white lining is being installed on this route. However, there is presently no other funding available for any other lining works.
- Schools will be prioritised when determining public lighting needs, however, a complete list of required locations will be compiled.
- A total of 250 applications were received for the LIS scheme, 90 of which are in the Thurles District. Approximately 10 applications per year can be processed. Applications are currently being assessed and prioritised. The scheme cannot be temporarily closed as TCC is required to advertise



periodically to secure Department funding and applicants must reapply at that point. Although this may appear unfair to previous applicants, circumstances or Department criteria may have changed.

Any applicant who has applied previously, will automatically receive 50% of the total possible marks.

- The MD is currently waiting on the Contractor to undertake works on installing a ramp at the entrance to the Slievenamon Road carpark at Liberty Square, Thurles.

5.3 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

Project Name & Details	Next Phase Works/Actions
THURLES	
Market Quarter - Thurles	Construction works are progressing. Extension of programme of work to March 2026. Delay in ESB connection.
Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2 Design - Thurles	Contracts signed with the successful consultant, Aecom. Detailed design commenced in Q1 2026 with a 12-month timeframe for completion of design. Discussions with the national URDF Team and TII are ongoing, detailed design is ongoing and stakeholder engagement has commenced. Once detailed design complete, costings to be finalised and discussions with URDF re: 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 Carpark	
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 approvals from NTA – currently on a priority list.
ROSCREA	
Gantly Road, Roscrea – <i>an age friendly Neighbourhood</i>	Site surveys complete. 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 Q3 2026.
Main Street Enhancement Works Design - Roscrea	Tender brief and Tender documents being prepared to advertise on E-tenders to procure a Consultants for a new design of Main Street and lane ways, to include public realm works and the development of Walsh’s Printers site. Advertise on e-Tenders in the coming weeks.
Reimagined Castle Street Design - Roscrea	Preliminary design has commenced. Site surveys commenced. Presentation to elected members presented with concept options. Stakeholder engagement completed. Community consultation evening was held on 22 nd Jan in Roscrea to present design options. One-way system trial run on Castle Street took place 9 th -14 th February. Present the preferred design option to Elected Members. Submission of Part 8 in Q2 2026.
Roscrea Biodiversity Looped Walk	Part 8 submission for approval and secure funding stream.
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.
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	Consultants 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>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone to Tender</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>29</td> </tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	0	At Inspections/Costings Stage	16	Gone to Tender	3	In Progress	10	TOTAL	29
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The Members raised the following queries:-

- What is the update in relation to the Castle Street project? Given the significant role of the Office of Public Works (OPW) in the Castle complex, it seems natural they would be involved in the Scheme. However, it appears they have not contributed to date and they should be invited to participate. What are the project timelines?
Should the MD meet with the business community and consultants regarding Castle Street following the petition submitted by local businesses after a recent survey of the business community.
- What is the update on the CCTV system for Littleton? This project has now been on the agenda for ten years.
- The CCTV for Roscrea needs to be kept on the Agenda also.
- What is the update regarding the boulders at the Littleton Labyrinth, which were to be spaced out to allow cyclists to pass through.
- Has there been any progress on the proposed Skateboard Park in Roscrea?
- When will the remedial works at Dunkerrin car park take place? The area is full of potholes and requires urgent attention.
- What is the update regarding the infill project at the Mall, Templemore. No progress appears to have been made since the workshop held twelve months ago.
- Where does the MD currently stand in relation to the management and water quality of the River Suir and what direction is anticipated for the future.
- When will the remedial works at Thurles Skatepark Park commence?



- Will provision for a bus stop be included outside Coláiste Mhuire in the Active Travel works currently underway in the Castlemeadows/Semple Stadium area, Thurles?
- Has any progress been made regarding the proposed future use of the Munster Hotel, Thurles?
- The MD was complimented on the organisation of the 10-mile road race, being run in conjunction with Moycarkey Coolcree Athletic Club on 29th March which will help further showcase the Littleton Labyrinth.

Replies to queries were as follows:-

- Car park surveys are to be procured through the appropriate channels and once that process is complete, full information will be provided to the Members.
LUC Consultants have contacted local businesses regarding the one-way system. The MD will revert to traders in response to their petition and businesses will be informed of the next milestones.
The MD will liaise with LUC Consultants to determine the role of the OPW in the Castle Project.
- The MD is currently working with Corporate Services in relation to CCTV. Littleton and Borrisokane are top of the priority list. GDPR requirements must be addressed first and any updates will be reported back to the Members.
- The boulders at the Littleton Labyrinth will be spaced out over the coming weeks.
- The Roscrea Skateboard Park Project is one of seven projects included under an active funding call within the Just Transition Programme. Only the Thurles and Carrick MDs have access to this funding.
- A contractor has been appointed to carry out remedial works at the Dunkerrin car park. However, the same contractor is also engaged to undertake works on the Mill Road, Thurles and commencement will depend on which contract begins first.
- The infill project at the Mall, Templemore will go to tender shortly to appoint a consultant to submit a Part 8.
- There are significant challenges ahead regarding the management and water quality of the River Suir. Currently farmers are under severe pressure in relation to slurry spreading which has been particularly difficult due to high rainfall levels. This raises concerns about nutrient levels entering the river.
The MD is engaging with LAWPRO and Thurles Lions Club to undertake water sampling. However maintaining the river's current status is already challenging and any improvements will be a gradual process.
- Remedial works at Thurles Skatepark Park are programmed to commence in August.
- A bus stop will be provided for outside Coláiste Mhuire for the set-down of children as part of the Active Travel works currently underway in the Castlemeadows/Semple Stadium area.



- The MD are currently engaging with consultants to ascertain the viability of securing the Munster Hotel in Thurles.

6.1 Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J. Ryan ID 3110.

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

I am calling on the relevant bodies to come together and construct a footpath out to Drish Bridge on the Thurles to Two-Mile-Borris Road.

Reply to Notice of Motion was as follows:-

We are not guided to consider the installation of a new pedestrian footpath from the existing 50kph zone on the N75 outside Thurles for a distance of approx.770m for reasons as follows:-

This is a National Route (N75) and the speed limit is 100 kph.

There are no urban settlements within or connecting to the 770m catchment which may warrant relocation of the 50kmp zone.

Provision of footpaths outside the 50kph is generally not allowed in the county and there must be clear extenuating circumstances for the consideration of same. There are no such circumstances for consideration in this case.

Councillor Ryan stated that he understood the Engineers' viewpoint, however, he emphasised that the area is very busy walking route and is extremely dangerous. He noted that there are numerous examples across the County where footpaths extend beyond the 100kmp zone, such as Cahir to Bansha, Turtulla, and several others.

Councillor Ryan also pointed out that there are houses on both sides of the road as well as Murphy Machinery. He explained that there is a small section of footpath that already extends beyond the 100 kph zone, along with another stretch of footpath at Drish Bridge and he would like to see the gap between these two paths closed.

He stated that he was disappointed with the response received and asked that the matter be reconsidered based on the points he had raised.

The Motion was supported by Councillors K. Cahill-Skehan and S. Ryan. Councillor Cahill-Skehan stated that she walks this route regularly. She explained that during wet weather it is not feasible to walk on the hard shoulder. Following the planned Mill Road works, this route will become even busier. She noted that people prefer a looped walk rather than an out-



and-back route and requested that this item remain on the agenda as safety in the area is a significant concern.

Councillor S. Ryan stated that this is a very dangerous stretch of road. He noted that pedestrians are required to cross to the far side of the road at Drish Bridge, as drivers exiting onto the main road do not have visibility of pedestrians already on the main road.

The District Engineer stated that the current focus is on the Mill Road walkway which will provide a safe orbital route. While the issue will be noted, it will not be included on the agenda at this time.

7.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

8.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

A vote of sympathy was extended to:-

- The family of the late Richard Loughnane, RIP, 16 Limerick Street Roscrea. Richard worked in Water Services for more than twenty years

A vote of congratulations was extended to:

- Jessie Buckley on winning the Oscar for the best Actress and the staff of the Ursuline Convent Thurles where Jessie was a boarder.
- Aidan Humphries, on winning the Senior Category at the Tipperary Student Enterprise Awards (County Final) with his project Echo IQ. Aidan is a TY student at Rockwell college.
- Rob Carney and Billy Hayes, who represented Ireland in the Rugby U20 Six Nations Championship World Cup which finished 2nd overall.

8.2 Any Other Business.

Councillor S. Lee expressed his disappointment that neither Roscrea nor Littleton St. Patrick Day parades were included in the social media advertisement on the TCC page. He congratulated all those involved in organising the parades, thanked the volunteers and Tipp FM and acknowledged the support provided by the MD towards funding.

Councillor J. Ryan stated that the parades are a wonderful celebration of our culture and it is great to see communities coming together.

Councillor M. Smith wished the organisers of the parades well.



The Meetings Administrator will meet with the Cathaoirleach later today to discuss the Civic Awards in advance of the Civic Awards Ceremony taking place later this year.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a happy St. Patrick's Day and that concluded the official business of the March Meeting.

SIGNED: 
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20th April 2026

SIGNED: 
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20th April 2026