



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 15th JUNE 2026

Present: Councillor Seán Ryan, Cathaoirleach, presided.

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

<u>Also Present:</u>	Mark Connolly	Director of Services
	Kieran Malone	Senior Engineer
	Thomas Duffy	District Engineer
	Enda Walsh	Executive Engineer
	Deirdre Dunne	District Administrator
	Susan Scally	Asst Staff Officer

Apologies: Councillor Eddie Moran
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 May Monthly Meeting of Thurles Municipal District held on 18th May 2026.

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

"That the Minutes of the Thurles Municipal District May 2026 Monthly Meeting which was held on the 18th of May 2026, be adopted as a true record of the business transacted at the Meeting."

3.1 Lisheen Windfarm Trust Applications.

Three applications have been submitted under the Lisheen Windfarm Trust from:

- Moyne Athletic Club for the rewiring of the clubhouse.
- Moyne Templetuohy Parish Forum Committee for the completion of the upgrade of the Parish House, Moyne.
- Moyne Voluntary Housing Association for the upgrade of two houses for the elderly.

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



“that applications received from (i) Moyne Athletics Club, (ii) Moyne Templetuohy Parish Forum Committee and (iii) Moyne Voluntary Housing Association be approved.”

4.1 Update from (i) Economic, Community & Rural Development and (ii) Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development.

LEO

Mary Ryan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer was in attendance for this item.

Mary gave a presentation to the Members on the Business Supports provided by LEO through provision of the following services:

- Mentoring & Business Advisory Services
- Financial Supports
- Training
- Productivity Supports

Mary advised that:

- There have been 24 grant applications approved at a value of €768,619 which has the potential of creating 66.5 jobs to May 2026 and €3.5m leveraging investment.
- 14 of the approved applications fall within Thurles MD under Measure 1 which includes 1 under 10+, 4 under Business Expansion, 2 under Feasibility, 1 under Market Explorer and 6 under Energy Efficiency Grant.
- Approval has been given for applications under the Lean, Green and Digital Programmes in the sum of €297,168. Examples of support provided include helping businesses improve their carbon footprint – this is aimed at businesses like restaurants and bars (replacing fridges, air con, etc).
- Mentoring and training – training has been provided to 389 people; 38 participants received training to ‘Start Your Own Business’, 24 of 29 schools participated in Student Enterprise Programme and 40 have received One to One Mentoring.
- The Student Participation is important as it encourages our next generation of entrepreneurs – Sean Brett is now running his own business selling covers for slurry pits. Participation by 271 students from secondary schools with three national winners in the National Finals from Carrick on Suir, Rockwell and Clonmel Secondary Schools.
- LEO supported 14 engineering and manufacturing companies to attend the MACH Exhibition in Birmingham to look at robotics / automation in the engineering sector.



- I Left You a Note Ltd, a Ballina based travel technology company will represent LEO Tipperary at this year's National Enterprise Awards due to take place on Thursday next.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Is there a fair spread in the district availing of the grants?
- What led to the rise in the number of approved applications under Green for Business?
- Is there a limit on the type of business that can apply for grant aid?
- The Cathaoirleach advised that Rockwell College was very proud of their student Aiden Humphries whose company EcholQ won the Innovation Award in the Senior Category at this year's Student Enterprise Programme National Finals.

Replies to queries were as follows:

- 14 of the approved grant applications are within the Thurles MD so there is a very good spread in the district. There have been benefits in all sectors but a lot of pubs in Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea have availed of the Energy Efficiency Grant.
- The level of support under Green for Business has increased. A report and recommendation on upgrades which will benefit businesses is established and the businesses can then apply for grant aid. There is a capital investment of €6m nationally and applications are received until all monies are spent.
- The main focus is on manufacturing businesses who have an export ambition and provide international trade of service however the scope has widened. Meetings with businesses take place, one on one, to figure out what supports can be of use to that business.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Mary for her presentation and Mary left the Chamber.

SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Valerie Connolly and her team from Sports Partnership were also in attendance for this item.

Valerie advised the Tipperary Sports Partnership (TSP) is a local sports partnership established by Sport Ireland via the Tipperary County Council to coordinate, promote and develop recreational sport in Tipperary.

Tipperary Sports Partnership was formed in 2015 through an amalgamation process between North Tipperary Sports Partnership and South Tipperary Sports Partnership. There is a team of 9 people in the Sports Partnership.



She advised that:

- The Local Sports & Physical Activity Plan 2026 – 2030 is currently with designers and it is the aim that this Plan will be launched in September 2026.
- The main objectives of the Plan include (i) Active People & Communities, (ii) Active Spaces & Places and (iii) Active Communications & Partnerships and gave a brief outline of each objective.
- By 2030, Tipperary aims to achieve measurable increases in physical activity levels of children, adults and older people; build stronger volunteer and leadership networks and create a County where everyone can access opportunities to be active wherever they live.

Valerie introduced each member of the team who were in attendance together with an outline of their duties and gave a PowerPoint presentation and video of work that has been carried out by them.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Acknowledged the great work carried out by the Sports Partnership and the important projects shown in the presentation/video. It is also welcomed that the Presentation Students were involved which will also help their development.
- Could they include equine as one of the sports provided? A recent event in Roscrea at the David Maher Equestrian Centre proved very successful with a lot of people showing interest.
- Therapy with horses has shown to be very successful as not all children enjoy ball sports. Care for horses and responsibility will give children from disadvantaged areas confidence.
- In 2012 Thurles won the European Town of Sports and it is very disappointing that this is not highlighted anywhere in the town and is an insult to those who worked to achieve this accolade as well as those who presented it. Can anything, such as signage, be done to take advantage of this achievement?
- Can anything be done to encourage young people to continue in sports as there is a drop-off of interest in some young people once they reach 18.
- Will the handball alley in Castleiney be utilised?
- Funding for infrastructure required in Council Playgrounds for disabled children -is this an issue in Council facilities across the County?

Replies to queries was as follows:

- The Partnership try and look at minority sports and link in with sports groups to create more opportunities.
- The query regarding the 2012 European Town of Sports is not under the remit of the Sports Partnership and would be an issue for the MD.



- The Partnership try a number of sports in towns through schools.
- Infrastructure is required in some areas and they are working through accessibility issues through the SP Action Plan Universal. There is only a small funding stream to provide equipment for disabled and in 2025, they provided a hoist for a swimming pool.
- In 2026 they have applied for access for bikes on the Blue Way.
- Funding by Sports Partnership is not open to the public. Sports Ireland provide funding to Sports Partnership who will consider applications from groups or will go to clubs/groups for ideas.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Valerie and her team and they left the Chamber.

4.2 Update from Library Services, Culture and Biodiversity.

Melanie Scott, Arts Officer and Ann Marie Fleming Biodiversity Officer were in attendance for this item. A Culture Team Report dated 15th June 2026 was circulated to the Members, in advance of the Meeting, and taken as ready.

Melanie advised the Members that May was a big month for the Library/Arts Sections with the Library holding 150 events to celebrate Bealtaine 2026 across the County. The Tipperary Bealtaine Festival Programme was launched at The Source Arts Centre/Thurles Library on 29th April 2026 featuring Jim Ryan of The Mill and Cait Ni Riain with Songs of May & Summer.

Melanie highlighted events held by the Library/Arts over the past few months, including:

- Local Artist, Lynn Kirkham held a series of Multimedia creative workshops in Templemore Park, collaborating with a local group to develop a unique Bealtaine Art Trail.
- Damer House Gallery in Roscrea hosted a screening of Rootstock.
- The Tipperary Bealtaine Festival Programme in Care Settings, which provides older people living in nursing homes, hospitals and day care settings access to arts and creativity. Performances were held in the Hospital of the Assumption Thurles and Padre Pio Holycross this year.

Melanie also advised that Culture Night Tipperary 2026 will be celebrated on Friday 18th September 2026 with events ranging from live music to arts events. Funding is available but applications for funding will close on Thursday next 18th June

Ann Marie Fleming, Biodiversity Officer outlined a number of events which have taken place including:



- Biodiversity Week 2026 held from 15th to 24th May – highlights included a foraging walk at Lough Dhoire Bhile, a bat walk in Templemore Park and “Planting for a Changing Climate” workshop at Cabragh Wetlands.
- A Conference/Workshop on *Building Better for People & Biodiversity: Policy to Practice* took place on 14th April, hosted by the Irish Green Building Council and attended by 13 members of TCC Staff.
- On 15th April the first Munster Artificial Light at Night Conference was held. The event highlighted how artificial lighting affects species behaviour, habitats, and ecosystems and also opportunities to reduce impacts through better planning, design and management of lighting in our built and natural environment.
- Funding applications under the Local Biodiversity Action Fund and the Heritage Council Biodiversity Action Plan Scheme were successful and will be used to facilitate a range of biodiversity and community engagement projects across the County.
- The Draft County Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 – 2031 is available for public consultation from 10th July 2026 to 7th August 2026.

The Members raised the following queries:

- Complimented Melanie on all the work carried out.
- Issue of overgrowth at River Suir, in particular, at the back of Dunnes Stores, Thurles. It is dangerous as anyone walking along the river walk will not be aware where the river edge is due to the overgrowth and this needs to be cut back.
- How can the Council get the message regarding grass cutting out to the general public?

Replies to queries raised were as follows:

- If there is a health and safety issue, then the area can be examined with a view to cut back the overgrowth on the river walk.
- It is a slow process to change the mindset of people but efforts will continue through education, community and using tidy towns.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Melanie and Ann Marie and they left the Chamber.

5.1 District Engineer’s Report.

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

Queries raised by the Members were as follows: -

- Road surface at Bridge/ Thurles Castle is in poor condition. Can contact be made with TII as last time work was carried out, traffic was at a standstill. We need to ensure this does not happen again.



- There was no pedestrian crossing included in the works at Kickham Street/Dublin Road, Thurles – is it possible to install one near Ely's Centra?
- Road at Fianna Road, Thurles is crumbling away and is in need of repair.
- Update request on safety works at Turtulla Cross – there was another accident at this location recently involving three cars.
- When will work on the extension of Parnell Street Carpark, Thurles take place?
- Footpath reinstatement at Clonmore Village has not been fully completed.
- There is a stretch of 20/30 metres on the Bog Road at Knock that is in a bad state of repair.
- Speeding in Knock Village – this is a busy area and a system needs to be put in place to slow down traffic. Signage is needed as there is a house at this location. Flash speed system was previously installed but the issue has not been rectified.
- Road markings required at the crossroads at Couraguneen Graveyard, there is none there at present.
- Was a response received from Cluid regarding the road into Tullaskeagh regarding provision of ramps. The road down from this is within the Council's control and signage is needed.
- Has ownership of the pipe hanging off the N75 Bridge been ascertained? It was agreed that when the water level dropped, the pipe would be removed but it is still there.
- Extra pedestrian crossing required in Templemore. It is a national route. People are not using the current crossing.
- Continuous white line needed on the Dunkerrin Road to Roscrea to calm traffic.
- Survey on N62 road bordering Offaly to Roscrea at Loughnavatta. It is in a deplorable state.
- Works have taken place on the Templemore side but not on the Roscrea side of road. Upper Derrymore side is in very poor condition.
- Compliments to Medical Centre – well received.
- Update on ramp in Slievenamon Road carpark – cars driving at speed.
- Can data from the radar speed sign in Two Mile Borris be monitored.
- Footpaths at Derrynaflan Avenue Littleton in need of repair.
- Is the roads programme on schedule?

Replies to queries raised was as follows:

- Congratulations to Councillor Sean Ryan on his appointment as Cathaoirleach.
- The roads RI programme is on schedule and is expected to continue so.
- Surface dressing is behind due to weather conditions but it is expected to make up lost programme in coming weeks.
- Priority on footpath repair this year and footpath at Derrynaflan Avenue Littleton will be considered. Members should submit any other areas they feel need examination.



- Will continue to monitor the data from radar speed survey at Two Mile Borris.
- Roads Capital will attend the July Monthly Meeting to give an update on safety measures at Turtulla Cross and upcoming Part 8.
- Will check with Roads Capital on funding for works at Loughnavatta. The first steps with this project will be the appointment of a consultant for the design process.
- Provision of extra pedestrian crossings in Templemore will be down to submission of a Section 38 and TII approval funding.
- Identification of ownership of the pipe at the N75 Bridge was not obtained. However, once river levels reduce, pipe will be removed.
- Inspection will be carried out on footpaths at Clonmore, Tullaskeagh and Couraguneen.
- The first phase of line marking in the MD has been completed.
- Speed survey was carried out at Knock and the average speed did not warrant further speed control measures. TCC must be guided by protocol in place and follow tiered steps. Further data collection will be drawn down and analysed.
- The TII have been notified of the road condition at Suir Bridge, Thurles. In the meantime, patching will be carried out. Will get back onto TII to look at it and come up with proposals to keep traffic flowing in town during repairs.
- During capital works at Kickham Street/Dublin Road, Thurles it was not identified that a pedestrian crossing was required.
- No update on the extension to Parnell Street Carpark, Thurles.

5.2 Update on District Project Pipeline Plan.

An update on District Project Pipeline Plan 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	Construction works completed. Handover of carpark and building completed. One 19 café is open to the public. Farmer Market-Market 54 operating weekly. External signage to be installed. Final account and snag to be finalised.
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 in Q4 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 appointed.
Development of Mews Building, Slievenamon Road Carpark	JTF Application submitted March 26. Town and Cities Funding application submitted in May 26 to purchase buildings and carry out a Feasibility Study. Waiting on feedback.
Littleton Labyrinth Walkway and Cycleway - Phase 2	Identify the best routes back into the villages. Landowner approval.
Simple 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	
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. Stage 1 advertised on E Tenders to procure a contractor, assessing Tenders. Construction works estimated to commence in Q4 2026.
Main Street Enhancement Works Design - Roscrea	Tender brief and Tender documents completed and Stage 1 advertised on E Tenders to procure a Consultant for a new design of Main Street and laneways, to include public realm works and the development of Walsh's Printers Site.
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 22nd Jan in Roscrea to present design options. One-way system trial run on Castle Street took place 9th-14th February. Present the preferred design option to Elected Members. A Consultation evening was held for the traders 14th April to present design options, survey results and case studies.										
Roscrea Biodiversity Looped Walk	Part 8 submission for approval and secure funding stream. Application submitted in April under EU Just Transition funding to develop the walkway – Unsuccessful.										
Rosemary Square Footpaths & Pedestrian Crossings											
Installation of Skateboard Park adjacent to the swimming pool	JTF Application submitted March 26.										
TEMPLEMORE											
Templemore Town Carpark, Dunkerrin Road	Appoint contractor to carry out works.										
The Mall River – Infill Works	Consultant appointed and draft design plan drafted. Ongoing consultation with landowners in progress.										
Templemore Town Park Maintenance Plan	In consultation with Department of Agri to access funding to deliver re-plant projects and management of forestry.										
Templemore Landbank Master Plan	Part 8 submission.										
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> <tr> <td>MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>At Inspections/Costings Stage</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>Gone to Tender</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>In Progress</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td><td>27</td></tr> </table>	MD Awaiting receipt of keys to property	1	At Inspections/Costings Stage	10	Gone to Tender	1	In Progress	15	TOTAL	27
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At Inspections/Costings Stage	10										
Gone to Tender	1										
In Progress	15										
TOTAL	27										



6.1 Notice of Motion.

There were no Notices of Motion received.

7.1 Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

8.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations.

Votes of Congratulations were extended to: -

- Tipperary Minor Hurlers and their manager, James Woodlock on getting through to the Electric Ireland GAA All Ireland Minor Hurling Final.
- Knock GAA who won the Mid Junior Hurling League Final.
- Peake Villa FC on their historic double win – Premier League 2025/2026 Season and the Tipperary Cup Final 2026.

There were no Votes of Sympathy.

9.1 Any Other Business.

As there was no other business, that concluded the minutes of the June Monthly District Meeting.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: 20th July 2026

SIGNED: _____

MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

DATE: 20th July 2026

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