Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

16th February 2024

A Chara, Iarthar ort bheith i láthair ag Cruinniú Míosúil de Buirge Chluain Meala Dúiche, a bheidh ar siúl i Seomra na Comhairle, Halla an Bhaile, Sráid Parnell, Cluain Meala, ag 11.00 am ar an dé Céadaoin 21 Feabhra, 2024.

You are hereby requested to attend the Monthly Meeting of Clonmel Borough District to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Parnell Street, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary on Wednesday 21st February, 2024, at 11.00 a.m.

Mise le meas,

Carol Creighton

Meetings Administrator

Agenda

6.1 Councillor Michael Murphy (Ref ID 2754)

That the Council would install speed ramps within the Shamrock Hill estate. Real and genuine concern amongst parents of young children living in the area around speed and traffic volumes. Note that this road is used as a pickup point for children exiting St Peter and Paul's National School and also acts as a link road between the Prior Park Road and Thomas Street.

6.2 Councillor Michael Murphy (Ref ID 2755)

That the Council would carry out a review of the operation of the traffic lights at the Crescent Junction adjacent to the Highschool, in particular that an additional filter light would be added for traffic approaching the junction from Kings Street that would allow them turn right onto Thomas Street towards Clonmel Railway Station.

6.3 Councillor Michael Murphy (Ref ID 2760)

That the Council would top the trees along the by pass as you approach the Cashel Road Roundabout from the Cahir side at the earliest opportunity, those same trees that are causing a significant nuisance to residents living along Ardgaoithe Drive - (Reference my previous NOM in this regard back in 2022, these works were to be completed in the 2022 Programme and subsequently in 2023).

6.4 Councillor Richie Molloy (Ref ID 2762)

That Clonmel Borough District would insert speed ramps in the Rockfield Estate due to concerns of the residents due to excessive speeding in the area.

6.5 Councillor Richie Molloy (Ref ID 2763)

That Clonmel Borough Council install a disabled parking bay outside number 43 Connolly Park due to parking issues for elderly resident with a lot of medical issues.

6.6 Councillor Pat English (Ref ID 2769)

That Clonmel Borough District request T.I.I. Project Appraisal Team to look again at their preferred transport solution for the Clonmel Town Section of their proposal on the N24 Waterford to Cahir Transport Solution. The omission of a Bypass around the Town of Clonmel must be looked at again, given the future 30% expansion estimates for the town of Clonmel in the Local Development Plan.

6.7 Councillor Pat English (Ref ID 2770)

That Clonmel Borough District look at upgrading/replacing the public footpaths in New Toberaheena

housing estate. The existing footpath is in poor condition in parts, especially outside No 10 New Toberaheena.

6.8 Councillor Pat English (Ref ID 2771)

That Clonmel Borough request Uisce Eireann (Irish Water) to upgrade the existing storage/plants and water supply from the existing treatment plants at Poulavanogue and Glenary. The proposed closure of the Poulavanogue plant is been opposed by the members of the Clonmel Business Network and the public of Clonmel.

6.9 Councillor Siobhán Ambrose (Ref ID 2772)

That this Council contacts TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) looking for an update regarding the possible future provision of student accommodation within the Kickham Barracks site. (ref my previous motion on this issue)

6.10 Councillor Siobhán Ambrose (Ref ID 2773)

In welcoming the ongoing rollout of social housing developments within the town of Clonmel can I have an update on this council's current proposed social and affordable housing plans for 2024 for both Clonmel town and also the rural villages around Clonmel.

6.11 Councillor Siobhán Ambrose (Ref ID 2774)

That under the Council's 2024 Roads Programme that consideration is given for the re-surfacing of the Tullohea Road in Kilcash. (ref my previous representations).

Chief Executive / Delegated Officers Orders

7.1 Chief Executive/Delegated Officers Orders - Period up to 16th February, 2024

Delegation Orders up to 16th February 2024.pdf   **Page 94**

Correspondence

8.1 Correspondence

Votes of Sympathy / Congratulations

9.1   Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

AOB

10.1 Any Other Business

Invitees

Siobhan Ambrose

Sinead Carr

Ms Carol Creighton

Niall Dennehy

Pat English

Cllr John FitzGerald

Ms Mary Irwin

Ms Nicola Keating

Joe MacGrath

Cllr Richie Molloy

Michael Murphy

Mr James Murray

Ger Walsh

Clonmel Borough District Protocol for Zoom Meeting

The following rules will apply in relation to how the meeting will be run to ensure everyone can make a useful contribution:

1. The Mayor will at the outset, call a roll call of participating members and ensure that they can hear and see those in attendance;

2. Each Member participating will confirm that they can hear and see the proceedings and also ensure that there are no other persons present who are not entitled to be either hearing or seeing the proceedings and/or recording the proceedings;

3. All Members will mute their microphone until they are called on to speak by the Mayor;

4. Any Member that wishes to ask a question/query should click on the "Participant" tab at the bottom of their screen and then click on the "Raise Hand" tab which should appear to the right of the screen. This will allow the Mayor and host to see who wishes to speak;

5. The Mayor/Meetings Administrator will indicate which Members have raised their hand to speak;

6. The Mayor will call on those Members in sequential order to speak or raise a question/query on that particular agenda item;

7. The Mayor will then call on any Member attending at a meeting room in either of the Civic Offices by video link to raise any queries;

8. The relevant Staff Member will reply to the queries raised;

9. Each speaker should mute their microphone immediately after speaking;

10. If a Member loses connectivity or leaves the meeting, they should inform Georgina O'Loughlin by email to georgina.oloughlin@tipperarycoco.ie;

11. All members of the media will be required to turn off their video and mute their microphone throughout the full proceedings and must maintain silence and observe any direction given by the Chair or by the Meetings Administrator;

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2024

Present:
Councillor Richie Molloy, Mayor
Councillor Michael Murphy
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor Pat English
Councillor John Fitzgerald
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy

In Attendance:
Ms. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services
Ms. Liz McGrath, A/ District Administrator
Mr. James Murray, Senior Engineer
Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, A/Staff Officer

Also in Attendance:
Mr. Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, Environment & Climate Action
Ms. Orla Kelly, A.O., Environment & Climate Action
Ms. Catherine Seale-Duggan, CWO, LAWPRO
Mr. Brian Casey, Environmental Technician, Water Services
Mr. Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads
Ms. Iga Skowronska, Clerical Officer, Clonmel Borough District
Ms. Myriam Madigan, Member of the Public

The Mayor opened the meeting by expressing a vote of sympathy to:
Councillor John Fitzgerald and family on the passing of his Mother, Mrs. Jane Fitzgerald,
The family of the late Ger Ambrose and
The family of the late Bishop William Lee.
A minute silence was observed in their memory.

Item 1.1 Zoom Protocol
There was nobody in attendance by Zoom.

Item 2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest
Ms. Liz McGrath, A/District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

Item 3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th December, 2023.
The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 13th December, 2023, as presented, were proposed by Cllr. Pat English, seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose and agreed by all.

Arising from Minutes
There were no matters arising.

Councillor Dennehy referenced his notice of motion which was brought to the December Meeting regarding live broadcasting of all Borough District Meetings and Workshops for 2024. The Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that a reply had previously issued to him in relation to this matter.

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Item 4.1 Attendance of Representative From Directorate Environment and Climate Action

The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read. Mr. Denis Holland informed the Meeting that a workshop will be held for the Members on the Local Authority Draft Climate Action Plan on the 1st February, 2024 at 2.30pm by Zoom. Members will be requested to adopt the Draft LACAP at the February plenary meeting.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the revised septic tank improvement grant scheme and the increase to €12,000 from the 1st January, 2024. She asked if there was a proposal to carry out a media campaign to highlight this increase, asked about the cost to upgrade a septic tank system and if a survey had been carried out to see how many are not fully compliant.
- In relation to the Dog Neuter Vouchers, Councillor Ambrose asked if these vouchers cover the full cost or if they are partial vouchers.
- Councillor Ambrose complimented and thanked the staff working at the Carrigeen Recycling Centre and highlighted the success of the mattress amnesty which took place.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the fact that the Section had committed to continue funding the Picker Pals programme into the 2024 academic year and asked how many schools in Clonmel were involved in the programme.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the work carried out on the Climate Action Plan.
- Members expressed their delight with Clonmel being ranked no. 6 out of 40 towns/cities in the Irish Business Against Litter Survey and thanked the outdoor staff along with Clonmel Tidy Towns for their work in achieving this result.
- Councillor English asked for an update on funding for works at St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor English welcomed the rollout of the Community Climate Action Plan.
- Councillor English welcomed the progress to date on the Derelict Sites in Clonmel.
- In relation to the Household Waste Surveys which were carried out, Councillor English requested an update on the action taken against the households which were found to be non-compliant.
- Councillor English welcomed the increase in the Septic Tank Grants and requested an update on the restrictions applied to them.
- Councillor Murphy raised the issue regarding the condition of the pathways in the Cemetery in Rosegreen and asked if there is a capital budget to repair them and make safe over time.
- Councillor Molloy concurred with the members in expressing his congratulations to the outdoor staff and Tidy Towns Committee in relation to the success of Clonmel in the recent Irish Business Against Litter Survey and also asked for clarification on the dog neutering vouchers.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:
Denis Holland thanked the members for their positive support.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the septic tank grants, Denis Holland informed the members that restrictions will apply to the grant as this is part of a National Inspection Plan dictated by the E.P.A. Mr. Holland stated that there will be a local and national publicity campaign highlighting the revised Scheme. Regarding the cost of installing a septic tank system, Mr. Holland estimated the cost at €15,000 to €20,000

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stating that the cost is dependent on soil conditions. Grants will only be processed where an inspection has taken place.

- In relation to the query raised regarding funding for the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Mr. Holland confirmed to the members that capital funding is available for these works.
- Regarding the query raised in relation to the condition of the footpaths at Rosegreen Cemetery, Mr. Holland informed the meeting that he will liaise with the Borough District to see where works can be progressed on a phased basis and revert to Councillor Murphy.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the household waste surveys, Orla Kelly informed the members that where households do not dispose of waste in the correct manner they are liable to prosecution.
- Ms. Kelly informed the members that there are a limited number of dog neutering vouchers available to Tipperary County Council and these are distributed free where, after consultation with the Dog Wardens, hardship cases have been identified.
- Ms. Kelly informed the meeting that there are 4 classrooms in Tipperary taking part in the Picker Pals Programme and stated that she would revert to Councillor Ambrose to let her know if any of these schools were in Clonmel.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Holland and Ms. Kelly for their attendance at the Meeting.

<u>Item 4.2 Attendance of Representative From Directorate LAWPRO</u>
The Report as circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.
Catherine Seale-Duggan introduced herself to the members, as she is newly appointed to the position and outlined her role supporting public participation and working with community groups.

<u>Questions raised by the Members were as follows:</u>
- Councillor English expressed his disappointment that the water quality in Tipperary had deteriorated so significantly over the years and asked what the pressures are on the water supply and how these issues can be rectified.
- Councillor Dennehy commented on the deterioration of the supply in the last 12 years noting that during this time Irish Water was established.
- Councillor Ambrose asked how much of the €50 million allocated up to 2027 in national grants will be made available to Tipperary.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding the level of engagement with the farming community and enquired what types of funding will be made available to farmers.
- Councillor Ambrose asked who is responsible for issuing enforcement proceedings in relation to water pollution.
- Councillor Fitzgerald stated that Tipperary is renowned for its agricultural and dairy industry and asked what engagement and clear guidelines can farmers expect to improve water quality.

<u>Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:</u>
- Brian Casey informed the meeting that the Agricultural Industry was putting the largest pressure on water pollution.
- Mr. Casey informed the members that the Environment Section has a role in relation to water quality and that LAWPRO is not an enforcement agency with their role being to

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engage and look at specific targeted areas which have been identified. Mr. Casey stated that there are a range of different Agencies involved in enforcement proceedings in relation to water pollution e.g. Environment, Inland Fisheries etc.

- Mr. Casey informed the members that a decision hasn't been made in relation to the funding Tipperary will receive on the National Grants.
- Mr. Casey stated that the EIP (European Innovation Partnership Fund) will fund measures and advise farmers on how to reduce losses of nutrients, sediment and pesticides to water from agricultural land.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Casey and Ms. Seale-Duggan for their attendance at the meeting.

<u>Item 5.1 Update on Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme by Michael Scully</u>

Michael Scully updated the members in relation to the flood alleviation scheme at Marlfield Lake. Mr. Scully stated that surveying works and modelling have been completed on the lake and an options development report has been produced by the Consultants which was presented for public consultation in 2023. Two preferred options were picked and Tipperary County Council met with senior members of the OPW to review these options. Michael outlined the options to the Members and stated that a further public consultation meeting will be held in the Talbot Hotel in March. Michael also informed the members that a flood management plan has been drafted and finalised for Marlfield Village. It is hoped to have contactors on site towards the end of 2024 to commence works on the sluice valve at the lake and to undertake ground investigation works.

<u>Questions raised by the Members were as follows:</u>

- Members thanked Michael for his report stating that it was all very encouraging.
- Members raised queries regarding the timeframes involved after public consultation, whether funding was guaranteed once design picked and the timeframe for the works.

<u>Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:</u>

- Michael stated that it is a very complex and unique scheme which makes it hard to put a timeline on construction and design. It may be 2026 at the earliest before the planning process is completed after which time a specialist contractor will have to be sought to carry out the works.
- In relation to funding, Michael informed the members that the funding is not ringfenced but that the OPW have confirmed funding for the Project.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Scully for his attendance at the Meeting.

<u>Item 6.1 Report of District Administrator</u>

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

<u>Questions raised by the Members were as follows:</u>

- Councillor Ambrose requested an update on the signage at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer for his work on the installation of the new playground equipment at Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works which are due to commence on the Blueway in March/April.

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- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the installation of signage and seating in Marlfield which are due to commence shortly.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the imminent appointment of the Contractor to commence works on the Performance Space at the Abbey Street Car Park.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was any further update on the Market Place development.
- In relation to the demolition of the Clonmel Arms Hotel, Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update in relation to the development of the site.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the removal of the old telephone kiosks around the town.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the URDF funding application.
- Councillor English requested an update on the funding for the cluster housing in Kilsheelan.
- Councillor English asked if a reply had been received from the Chief Superintendent in relation to the reduction of the garda numbers in Clonmel and, if not, requested that a further letter be sent.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to the erection of the gates at the Sports Hub which will enhance security at the site.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the funding for the works to be carried out at Suir Island Bridge.
- Councillor English requested an update on the Tree Strategy.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update in relation to progress at the Market Place Site.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the Suir Island Amenity Park.
- Councillor Murphy highlighted the outdoor gym equipment installed for elderly residents in Kilsheelan and asked if this initiative could be looked at for Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Murphy raised the issue of litter accumulating at the Railway Station and asked that Irish Rail be contacted in relation to same and requested that the 2 litter bins which were removed by Irish Rail be reinstated.
- Councillor Molloy concurred with Councillor Murphy in relation to the accumulation of litter at the Railway Station and also raised the issue regarding the lack of public toilets at the location.
- Councillor Fitzgerald raised the issue regarding litter and weeds on the footpaths at Mulcahy Park and asked if this could be looked at.
- Councillor Dennehy referenced his Notice of Motion which he had brought before the October, 2021 Meeting. He wanted a plebiscite to be put before the people regarding their support or lack thereof in relation to the Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014 which abolished Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council and requested details on the preparations in place to present to the people on the 8th March, 2024.
- Councillor Dennehy queried the demolition of the Clonmel Arms Hotel and the building at the corner of O'Neill Street asking if these demolitions were subject to Planning.
- All members spoke in support of the development of the Clonmel Arms Hotel stating their full support of the developers.
- Members welcomed the roll out and success of the town bus service and asked if it will be extended to areas surrounding Clonmel.
- Councillor Murphy asked that the members be provided with contact details for the N.T.A. in order to provide feedback on the service.

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- In relation to the Railway Station, members asked if there was any further update on the upgrading of the timetable for Clonmel.
- In relation to the installation of the CCTV, members acknowledged the work carried out at council level and requested that a letter be written to the Garda Commissioner requesting a timeframe for the installation of same and to highlight the urgency attached to this.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- In relation to signage and security issues at the Sports Hub, Liz McGrath, A/District Administrator informed the members that she will follow up on same.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the CCTV installation, the Manager informed the members that she will forward a letter to the Garda Commissioner.
- The A/District Administrator stated that she will follow up on the issues raised in relation to the litter and updated timetable at the railway station with Iarnród Eireann. The District Manager informed the members that she will liaise with the Environment Section and contact Irish Rail with a view to finding a solution at the station on the litter issue.
- In relation to works on the performance space at Abbey Street Car Park, the A/District Administrator informed the meeting that the tenders are being evaluated at the moment.
- The A/District Administrator stated that she will follow up and progress the removal of the old telephone kiosks.
- That A/District Administrator informed the members that she will follow up with the Chief Superintendent for a reply regarding the reduction of the garda numbers in Clonmel.
- In relation to the Suir Island Amenity Park/Bridge Ms. McGrath informed the members that the planning application is with An Bord Pleanala and a decision is due by the 2nd May, 2024.
- Ms. McGrath informed the meeting that work is ongoing on the progression of the Tree Strategy.
- The A/District Administrator informed the members that she will revert to them with contact details for the NTA.
- In relation to Suir Island Gardens, the A/District Administrator informed the members that tenders are currently being assessed.
- The A/District Administrator informed the meeting that the suggestion raised regarding the outdoor gym equipment at Mulcahy Park can be examined and a reply will issue to Councillor Murphy.
- In relation to the query raised in relation to the litter and weeds in Mulcahy Park, the District Engineer stated that she will follow up on same.
- The District Manager informed the meeting that she along with Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive had met with the owners of the Market Place Site and that she will revert with an update in mid-February.
- In relation to the URDF Funding Application, Liz McGrath informed the members that there was no update on same.
- In relation to the query raised on the Cluster Houses in Kilsheelan, the District Manager informed the meeting that the Planning Directorate will engage with and update the members on funding.

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- In relation to the query raised by Councillor Dennehy in relation to his previous notice of motion, the District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that she will revert to him on this.
- The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that she will ask the Planning Section to reply to him regarding his query on development at O'Neill Street.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the development of the Clonmel Arms Hotel, the District Manager informed the meeting that a dangerous structure notice was issued to the owners which resulted in the demolition of the building. The District Manager stated that she will circulate an update on same to Councillor Dennehy

Item 6.2 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor English requested an update on the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the play equipment at Denis Burke Park and Elm Park.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the works on the chapel at Kickham Plaza.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the street lights in Lisronagh at the bottle bank.
- Councillor English asked for an update regarding the projects being progressed under Active Travel.
- Councillor English asked if the footpath is being progressed from Raheen House to the old Technical School under the IPB Footpath funding.
- Members asked for an update on the installation of speed ramps at Honeyview Estate, Ard Fatima, Ardgaoithe Drive, Heywood Drive. They also asked if signage could be erected in housing estates to reduce speed and to make drivers aware of children in the area.
- Councillor Ambrose highlighted the letters that had issued regarding the improvement works on the N24 and encouraged members of the public to attend the public meetings being organised.
- Councillor Ambrose requested an update in relation to the bend at Rathronan and the Ballybeg Junction.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the timeframe for works on the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to gully cleaning around the town.
- Councillor Ambrose thanked Gillian Flynn, A/Senior Executive Engineer for her role in providing the new footpath at Rosegreen National School.
- Councillor Ambrose raised concerns regarding safety issues around the Gaelscoil and Loretto schools.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update regarding resurfacing works in Kilcash Village..
- Councillor Murphy asked when the speed limit review process will commence and what the role of the members will be.
- Councillor Murphy raised issues regarding speed at the Powerstown National School and asked if a review needs to be undertaken or if the members can amend the speed limit.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the preferred route for the N24.

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- Councillor Murphy raised the issue of the lack of a controlled pedestrian crossing between Moangarriff and Poppyfields along the Clonmel By-Pass and stated that a flyover pedestrian crossing should be given consideration.
- Councillor Murphy asked if minor public realm works could be carried out in the prime retail area of town e.g replacement/painting of existing litter bins, erection/painting of signposts and a schedule of minor realm works for 2024 be prepared.
- Councillor Molloy asked if a belly bin could be installed in Upper Irishtown to target litter in the area.
- Councillor Molloy welcomed the news regarding the meeting held recently with the District Manager, Chief Executive and the owners of Market Place. He also complimented Maureen Purcell and S.T.A.G. for the painting works carried out by them to improve the exterior of the buildings.
- Councillor Molloy asked if consideration could be given to power washing the pedestrian area through Market Place.
- Councillor Molloy highlighted the recent issues with water outages in the northern end of town and stated that there needs to be better communication between the members and Irish Water.

Queries raised by the Members which Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer responded to were as follows:

- In relation to the gates at Sheehy Terrace/O'Neill Street, the District Engineer informed the meeting that a contractor has been appointed and the works should be completed in February.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that the design works have been completed in relation to the additional works at the Chapel at Kickham Plaza and stated that she will check with the Arts Officer regarding funding and revert back.
- In relation to the query raised regarding the lights at Lisronagh, the District Engineer informed the meeting that she will follow up on same.
- In relation to the query raised on the installation of speed ramps, James Murray informed the meeting that under Active Travel a new suite of measures to create low speed areas is being implemented to include raised pedestrian crossing points which has been brought to the Roads Strategic Policy Committee. Mr. Murray agreed to look and review areas where the installation of speed ramps has been agreed during the coming year.
- Mr. Murray informed the members that a review meeting was held with the Department of Transport on the 18th December, 2023 to discuss timelines for the next speed limit review.
- In relation to the Active Travel Scheme, the District Engineer informed the meeting that there is no official information on the projects that will be going ahead and that we are still awaiting information on the portion of works that will hopefully go ahead at the Gaelscoil and Cashel Road.
- In relation to the query raised on works under IPB Funding, the District Engineer informed the meeting that there was a reduction in the IPB funding this year and is currently awaiting budget details.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that Rathronan has been submitted for inclusion in the 2024 Minor Safety Improvement Scheme.
- In relation to the works at Ballybeg Junction, the District Engineer said that she will follow up on same.

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- In relation to the works at the entrance to St. Patrick's Cemetery, the District Engineer stated that a design has been prepared and tender documents will now be prepared.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that gullies will continue to be monitored and cleaned where necessary.
- In relation to resurfacing works at Kilcash, the District Engineer informed the meeting that resurfacing will commence once works in the village have been completed by Irish Water.
- The District Engineer informed the members that she will follow up on the minor public realm works in the prime retail areas of town.
- In relation to the request to install a belly bin in Upper Irishtown, the District Engineer stated that bin usage is currently being reviewed and this location will be looked at as part of this review.
- The District Engineer informed the meeting that she will look at the possibility of power washing Market Place.
- In relation to the pedestrian crossing on the N24, the District Engineer referred to the presentation to be given by the Consultants on Friday, 19th January, 2024 stating that a briefing will be held with the members before the presentation.

Item 6.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme
The Report was noted by the Members.

Item 7.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 12th January, 2024.
These were noted by the Members.

Items 8.1 to 8.6– Notice of Motion
Before the Notices of Motion were discussed, Councillor Niall Dennehy raised the issue regarding a Notice of Motion he had submitted for the meeting which related to the appointment of the Chief Executive but which was not recorded on the Notice of Motion Register for circulation with the Agenda.

The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that his motion was not recorded as it was deemed not to meet the requisite criteria and this had been explained to him prior to the meeting. The District Manager informed Councillor Dennehy that the elected members of Clonmel Borough District Council or members of the public do not have a direct role in the selection process for the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. This appointment is carried out through the Public Appointment Services with the selected candidate being ratified (or otherwise) by the Plenary Council. All Clonmel Borough District Members are members of the Plenary and can therefore ratify the appointment or object to the appointment of the Chief Executive as they see fit when it is put before them at the Plenary Council session. Councillor Dennehy noted the reply.

Motion 2737 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy
That the footpaths within the Ashcourt Housing Estate in Clerihan are given urgent attention having regard to their dangerous condition. Many of the footpaths are showing significant damage as a result of trees planted when the estate was built, in may instances there are dangerous breaks causing ridges which are a trip hazard. Furthermore, where trees have been removed, holes or gaps remain.

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2024**

REPLY:
Repairs to a portion of footpaths in Ash court will be carried out as part of IPB funding in 2024.
The motion was seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald.
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2743 was proposed by Cllrs. John Fitzgerald/Michael Murphy
That the Borough Council as a matter of urgency install a "Smart Bin" in Rosegreen Village in accordance with previous discussions at the Borough Council.
REPLY:- A meeting with the Tidy Towns Committee has been proposed to discuss this issue. A date for this meeting has yet to be confirmed.
The motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2744 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy
Following on from previous works along the L7205-2, that the remaining sections are considered for resurfacing under the 2024 Area Roadworks Programme having regard to it's poor condition as you head back towards Clerihan
REPLY:-
This road will be considered for this year's road works programme subject to the availability of a budget for the works and prioritisation based on its condition rating.
The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2746 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose
Following a recent onsite meeting with residents in Highfield Grove that his Council looks at improving the sightlines for motorists exiting this estate by upgrading this junction.
REPLY:
The sightlines can be improved by the prevention of parking on the junction and the removal of the hedge on the corner property to the low wall level. With these measures, the sightlines would be adequate and in accordance with the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.
The motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy
Councillor Ambrose to talk further with the District Engineer on this.
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2747 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose
That following representations from the Kilsheelan/ Kilcash Parish Council that this Council looks at both upgrading the public lights around the bus stop opposite the Ormonde Stores and in tandem looks at the provision of a footpath from this bus stop down Chapel road and into the village
REPLY:
Public lighting and footpaths are generally only provided within the speed limits in towns and villages. This location is outside the speed limits of Kilsheelan Village and therefore we will not be in a position to provide such infrastructure at this location.
The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy
The reply to the motion was noted.

Motion 2748 was proposed by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose
Following representations from residents in Fairfield's that this Council looks at the provision of additional car parking spaces within the estate in 2024

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2024

REPLY:
Having reviewed the parking in Fairfields, I am satisfied there is adequate parking in this estate. Each house in Fairfields has at least one off street parking space and 16 houses in the estate have two off street spaces available. In addition, there are 31 spaces located in dedicated parking bays, 6 of which were provided in 2023. There is further on street parking also available. The ratio of amenity area in Farifields is now down to 17% of the estate. Therefore, I do not propose to provide any further parking spaces in Fairfields.
The Motion was seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy
The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 9.1 Correspondence
There was no correspondence to be noted.

Item 10.1 Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations
Votes of sympathy were expressed by the Members at the beginning of the Meeting.

Item 11.1 Any Other Business
No other business was discussed.

Signed: _____   Dated: _____

      Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Signed: _____   Dated: _____

      District Administrator

Economic, Community and Rural Development Report to Municipal District	
Municipal District	Clonmel MD
Month	February 2024
Themeatic Area	The update includes planned actions specific to Clonmel MD since the last meeting in December 2023. For full information on all county projects please see the relevant Plenary Management Report
Community	**Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)** Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029 Framework Local Economic and Community Plan The Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was adopted at the Council meeting in December 2023. The LECP sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county. The LECP Plan (LECP) is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy. Currently, the Initial Implementation plan is being developed and will be finalised by Q1 2024 **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme** SICAP Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme A review of the SICAP programmes for both North and South Tipperary was carried out by the LCDC in January and this was the final review of the

2018-2023 programme. STDC worked with 42 Local Community groups and 473 individuals in 2023

The new SICAP 2024 to 2028 programme commenced in January with Annual Budgets for 2024 of €702,348 for NTDC and €867,090 for STDC. There is an additional provision for New Arrivals in 2024 with €123,218 allocated to NTDC and €128,194 allocated to STDC bringing the total SICAP allocations for 2024 for the County to €1.569 million and €251,412 towards new arrivals. The new programme places a renewed focus on targeting those who are most disadvantaged in society with an enhanced focus on progression outcomes along with a quality Community development approach. Climate Justice is included as a core programme theme and support for Social Enterprises features more prominently.

Both Development Companies have Annual Plans for 2024 setting out how they will deliver their targets across the 12 target groups along with the 8 thematic focus areas and the 3 Local Priority Target Groups (LPTGs).

Local Enhancement Programme Grant Applications Open

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 grant is open until February 22nd supporting groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The fund also includes ring-fenced funding for Women's Groups i.e. community projects and groups that support the ethos of women's sheds and other such groups or projects aimed at providing social networks for women. Grants are expected to be in the region of €500-€1500. Details and forms on the link

https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/community/community-enhancement-programme/local-enhancement-programme-2024

Quality of Life

Healthy Ireland Fund 2023 – 2025

Progress reports and financial returns are currently been done on funding spent for 2023 and will be submitted back to Pobal on 16th February on approval of returns and reports for 2023 funding will come through for 2024 and as per original application the healthy Ireland funding is for 2023-2025 and pre-allocated for:

Lifestyle & Behaviour Risk Outcome Area: Indicator ↓ Increase in % of adults and children who are physically active Wellbeing Factors Outcome Area Indicator ↓ Increase in % of people over 50 + engaging in one or more social activities at least once a week

Geographical areas pre-picked Nenagh, Cahir, Clogheen, Moycarkey Borris.

Period & Hygiene Poverty

EOI sent in for funding for 2024 and if successful for funding Tipperary County Council will work with the same partners that received the funding in 2023.

Community Support Fund Well-Being Boards and communication boards for playgrounds.

Healthy Tipperary in partnership with Connecting for Life, Mental Health Ireland, Tipperary GAA, and Tipperary County Council purchased 75 boards to supply each of the County's GAA clubs and facilities. This initiative has already been rolled out in Wexford, Kilkenny, Limerick, Laois, Cavan, and Meath, and was originally developed by Connecting for Life and Mental Health Ireland. The aim is to highlight the services available to people and create suicide awareness and mental health awareness within the community. These boards provide vital information to anyone who may

need it. Healthy Tipperary in partnership with Tipperary GAA secured the funding through the Community support fund. These boards are currently been delivered out to the clubs and an official launch with Minister Mary Butler in attendance dates to be finalised by end of February.

Tipperary County Council have worked with the Charity "Finding Charlie's Voice" which is an Irish Registered Charity (CHY22899) that supports children and young adults with speech and language communication needs in Ireland. The group created these boards that allow children who have difficulty communicating verbally to express themselves in a variety of settings. Tipperary County Council is currently working on the images and logos and proofing for final print. Each MD will receive the boards for all of their playgrounds an official launch will take place with dates to be confirmed, below is a picture of a sample board that Kerry County Council has in their playgrounds.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Clonmel

The LDO is linked with Active Travel and the Clonmel District Borough Engineer on progressing this development project for the community of

Oldbridge, finalising the Business case and Old Bridge will take occupancy of the derelict property.

Marlfield resident's group has submitted a business case to Clonmel Borough, are awaiting approval before progress can be made on this project.

Youth Prescriber

LDO is working with Barnardos on a pilot for youth prescribers for 6- to 10-year-olds.

TUS SEED fund projects

LDO is working with TUS to continue on the cancer care cards with a VR reality project for Cancer patients and also in supporting the Food Poverty Hub in TUS campus.

Inclusive Social Network

The network continues to meet and progress in how social activities are delivered out of school and out of education in the community for children and young people with disabilities. The LDO is currently collaborating with HSE Development Officer from the Goldstar programme, Tipperary Volunteer Centre, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, and Age Friendly Tipperary to develop a train trainer and training programme for Inclusive Access and Disability Awareness training. The intention is to develop a panel of trainers who have disabilities in each MD area that will be drawn to deliver training across the county, to businesses, schools etc. Cafes in Clonmel have shown interest in taking this training and becoming inclusive cafes. Update - This training will take place in February/March 2024.

Quality of Life/Substance MisUse Alliance Clonmel

Substance Misuse Sub Group

- Community Conversations follow-up meetings took place with Hospitality and Retail on 10th January, Clubs and Societies on 16th January & Lived Experience on 22nd January

- On 30th January Substance Use Policy Training Workshop took place in Talbot Hotel 7 pm to 9 pm
- Subgroup working on Charter of Substance Misuse services in Clonmel.
- February will also see the final Community Conversation take place with the schools and parents
- The action plan will reflect proposals to address across all areas.

Planet Youth Project is considered with other partners including TETB, CYPSC, SHCP, HSE & TCC.

- Planet Youth school surveys are being finalized with partners in Tipperary and Wicklow. The school surveys aimed at TY students are a very comprehensive health and well-being, substance use survey
- Meetings progress with secondary school sector in Q1 2024 in relation to the rollout for 2024
- Ethical permission in line with Planet Youth surveys in Galway and Roscommon being agreed
- Final agreement with Icelandic Partners contract signing to be completed by the end of February 2024

Tipperary Age Friendly

- Tipperary Older Peoples Council will attend the Regional HSE (CHO5) Seminar on Positive Ageing on 4th March.
- Tipperary Older Peoples Council aims to host a seminar on 21st March focusing on rural transport provision and health and wellbeing, further information will circulate when finalised.
- Tipperary Age Friendly will host a range of dementia awareness training across County Tipperary in 2024 with particular partnerships with Tipperary GAA
- Tipperary Age Friendly will host their annual EXPO in the TUS College campus on Thursday 20th June 12 to 3 pm

Comhairle na n-Óg

Following the AGM in October 2023, all vacant seats are now filled across Tipperary with a very diverse grouping from urban and rural areas, including members of the Syrian, Roma & Travelling communities.

Drugs & vaping was the theme selected for the next term so the members are working on defining this theme and deciding how to action it. New networking links for this theme, including An Garda Síochana, will be established for 2024.

The Clonmel/Carrick/Shir sub-group has chosen the topic of the use of cocaine amongst young people in Tipperary and is planning a youth event to highlight the facts and dangers of cocaine use.

A teambuilding day took place in Cabragh Wetlands in November last where all members received an overview of the organisation and received committee skills training as part of the new term. New officers were also elected. The first meeting of the new team took place on 2nd December in Tipperary Town.

Decision-Makers Work

- Members presented to PPN Plenary events in Rosegreen & Holycross
- Patrick Corbett and Ben Kennedy attended a Youth Mental Health conference in Kilkenny to showcase their work in this area
- Olivia D'arcy (South Co-Chair) and Niamh Brennan (South Vice-Chair) presented to the TCC members in January 2024 outlining the work of Tipperary Comhairle and their workplan for the year ahead
- National Assembly member, Abigail Strappe, is our National Assembly member from Tipperary and attends online and in-person activities on behalf of Comhairle. For the upcoming Climate Action Assembly, a second member will also attend.
- Nenagh members were nominated and won the group section of the Garda Youth Awards which was presented to them on Thursday, 8th February.

'*Tipperary Together'* Community Newsletter

Tipperary Together', is a broad community-focused newsletter that showcases supports and content of interest to community-based groups and individuals. The '***Together Tipperary'*** newsletter is issued online on the last Friday of every month and is shared on partner websites and social media.

We would also request that community groups who would like to provide content for the newsletter e-mail tipperarytogether@tipperarycoco.ie or contact a member of the community team on 0818 06 5000.

Tipperary PPN

Tipperary PPN continue to provide information on grants, training, and workshops through the monthly newsletters. For more information visit https://www.ppntipperary.ie/

Sports

Participation

- TSP has linked with Secondary Schools in Clonmel for the delivery of the 2024 Paddles Up programme. The delivery has been scheduled for April with CTI, High School, Loreto and the Presentation School.
- An Inclusive Paddle Up programme has been scheduled for April with participants from the National Learning Network.

- A Teen Connect Event is currently been planned for Clonmel with Canoeing Ireland. The event is planned for 23rd March.
- In partnership with Rowing Ireland and Clonmel Rowing Club the 'Get Going Get Rowing' programme is currently been scheduled
- Expressions of Interest were sought from Schools for support for the Cycle Right Programme, it is expected Primary Schools from Clonmel MD will be supported.
- TSP linked with Table Tennis Ireland and supported their Table Tennis at Home initiative. Families from Clonmel MD took part in the initiative.

Education & Training

- To date in 2024, 2 online Safeguarding workshops were delivered with 28 participants, including volunteers from Clonmel MD receiving training, Further Safeguarding Courses are planned for the Spring.
- Disability Inclusion Training planned for the end of February.
- TSP linked with TUS to deliver the Sports Club Administration Course which was completed in January. Participants from Clonmel MD took part in the programme.
- TSP continues to carry out research with TUS to examine 'Can Virtual Reality be used to coach canoeing skills to new canoeists and, if so, how effective is it compared to traditional canoeing coaching methods?' This is been carried out in Clonmel.

Funding Scheme

- The TSP 2024 Coaching & Development Scheme for Sports Club is currently been drafted and will be open to Clubs from Clonmel MD.

Sports Infrastructure

- Work continues on the development of Phase 2 of the Innovation project 'Suir V' (Virtual Reality of the River Suir) to further develop and enhance the experience and to deliver outreach programs.

- TSP continues to support the development of the Sports Hub on Frank Drohan Road on the TUS campus.
- TSP & Canoeing Ireland are in discussions with Tipperary County Council concerning the development of a canoeing feature on Suir Island.
- A new hoist is been procured for the Clonmel Swimming Pool through the TSP SIDP Dormant Account.

FAI Club Mark:

The FAI Club Mark is an award based on best practice in the governance, The aim of the FAI Club Mark: Establish minimum operating criteria for football clubs, provide clubs with a road map to good governance, management, and administration, increase club's capacity to operate effectively and grow football in communities throughout Ireland.

Suirside FC, Rosegreen Rangers FC and Slievenamon Celtic FC/Kilsheelan United have all registered for the FAI Club Mark Award. Clonmel Town FC continue to work toward completing their application.

Club project workshops held with clubs who have registered or obtained the FAI club mark award. These workshops will be ongoing to help support club development.

FAI Coach Education: (South Tipperary):

- 2 x PDP 1 Course completed via blended learning (online through zoom) and (in-person) 37 participants.

- 1 x Fundamentals of GK Course (in-person) with 24 participants.

- 1 x Safeguarding 1 Course with 23 Participants (South Tipperary).

Walking Football:

Weekly coaching sessions continue with local Clonmel groups such as Rehab Care, Bridgewater & and Knocklofty are just about to resume once again at Clonmel Town FC's facility.

KickFit:

This program is a weekly initiative for football participation amongst females in a recreational capacity. Clonmel Town FC have completed a Q4 2023 program and now they are transitioning to a club lead program with our support.

Disney Playmakers:

UEFA Disney Playmakers: This is a new programme that the FAI are running alongside UEFA and Disney in clubs across Ireland for girls aged 5-8 years who are not currently playing football. The program invites these girls to step into the magical world of Disney as they take their first steps on their football journey.

Slievenamon Celtic /Kilsheelan United FC have again been working with us in early 2024 as they prepare to start their 2024 programs.

Emerging Talent Programme (ETP):

ETP league squads have been supported at both boys' and girls' levels from U12-U16 within the TSS&DL. In addition, Tipperary boys and girls are now beginning their assessments at our Regional Centre of Excellence.

Tourism	**Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference**

This event is organised for the Cashel Palace Hotel for Wednesday 21st February and spaces are filling rapidly. There has been good media coverage for the event. Anyone with an interest in tourism in Tipperary is invited to attend and there is an excellent line up of speakers including tourism operators within the county and elsewhere, plus Tourism Ireland Chief Executive Designate and Failte Ireland Director of Regional Development. www.tipperary.com/conference

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'Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference' is set to take place this year in Cashel

Tipperary's tourism and hospitality industry reps are invited to register attendance

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Tourism leaders plan to elevate Tipperary

An Elevate Tipperary Tourism conference will be held in Cashel on February 21

By Reporter
06 Feb 2024 5:47 PM
Email: news@nationalist.ie

Building on tourist sector in Tipperary, such as attractions like Garrykennedy (above), will be discussed at the event.

Supporting Tipp's tourism industry

■ Conference taking place on February 21

WITH a challenging environment facing the tourism and hospitality industries, Tipperary County Council, in conjunction with Tipperary Tourism, are hosting the 'Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference' on Wednesday, February 21, at the Cashel Palace Hotel in County Tipperary, as a welcome support to the industry in the county. The event will offer a series of engaging discussions for the industry to gain in-depth insights and practical advice.

Featuring inspirational speakers from tourism businesses from both within the county and around the island, plus industry leaders including Chief Executive Designate of Tourism Ireland, Alice Mansergh, and Fáilte Ireland's Director of Regional Development, Paul Keeley, the audience will hear of opportunities which they can capitalise on to help steer their business or community organisation towards in 2024 and beyond.

The objective is to inspire and motivate, and with the contributors, including conference moderator and expert in Regenerative Tourism, Tina O'Dwyer from Tourism Space, this full-day programme commencing at 9.30am in the stunning Cashel Palace Hotel surrounds will most definitely achieve this.

Anyone already operating in the tourism industry in Tipperary, large or small operator, sole trader or employer, or considering establishing a business in this sector in the county is welcome to attend, along with community organisation representatives with an interest in tourism.

Beyond the information and inspiration from the line-up of speakers, there are great opportunities for those gleaned from networking with others in the sector, and the sharing of knowledge and contacts. Some of the event's expert speakers will include Niall Heenan, Owner of Fuchsia Lane Farm, Nuala Musqueteer, Managing Director, of Aillwee Burren Experience, Olivia Duff of Boyne Valley Food Series, Dr Michael Martin, MD The Titanic Trail, and Karen Ronan from Shannon Region Conference and Sports Bureau. The extensive panel discussion will also be honed to focus on 'Irish Tourism and Leading in a Changing Landscape'.

There will also be information stands provided by the two development companies - North Tipperary Development Company and South Tipperary Development Company, who will be available to share information surrounding the forthcoming LEADER funding. The Tipperary Local Enterprise Office will also be on hand to promote their supports, as will Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism who can answer queries on operating an activities business in Ireland.

Underlining its vision, Tipperary County Council has its sights set on further developing the destination with an ambitious strategy, working through collaboration with the Tipperary tourism and hospitality industry.

Tipperary County Council's Tourism Marketing and Development Officer, Caroline Rice, will officially reveal the Tipperary Tourism Marketing Plans for 2024 and explain how the audience can participate in the 'Back the Brand' Programme, elevating the Tipperary brand and connecting and synergising Tipperary Tourism's efforts.

Caroline Rice says: "This is a not-to-be-missed event for anyone in Tipperary's tourism and hospitality sector. Not only will we be sharing the tourism vision for Tipperary on the day but the host of discussions on key areas such as sustaining a tourism business in today's climate, a representative approach to tourism and more will be on offer, with key insights from our industry experts."

Tipperary Food Producers Network will also host a marketplace at the event, with the opportunity to sample some products and network with their members. Tours of the recently completed Bishop's Walk and of the Cashel Palace Hotel itself will also be available to delegates.

REGISTRATION DETAILS
Attendance at the event is free of charge, but advance registration is mandatory. Please contact caroline@tipperary.com to receive a booking link and to ensure your place at this County tourism conference. Please note that there is limited availability.

Audit on Accessible Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Angling in Tipperary

Funded via ORIS 2022 and Tipperary County Council, this important audit will map the facilities across the entire county in terms of their level of accessibility. The consultants contracted for this project, Alan Hill and Deirdre Lewis, will also present recommendations for future developments, based upon their findings.

Economic Forum Meeting

Tourism Marketing and Development Officer presented to the Economic Forum during the month, highlighting awareness of the ongoing challenges to the tourism sector in Ireland and Tipperary, and emphasising the importance of supporting the businesses to develop and thrive.

South East Collaboration

The Tourism Marketing and Development Officer attended a meeting with other tourism officers from the South East area – Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, and Waterford, organised by Ireland South East Development Office regarding an action in the South East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 that relates to the five-county councils working collaboratively on tourism initiatives. The projects addressed included Greenway and Blueway linkage, the region's garden trails, and South East Food Stories.

County Tipperary Chamber Skillnets

The Tourism Marketing and Development Officer attended the January Skillnets Steering Group meeting, where Tipperary Tourism's recent training needs survey results were shared with the group. The importance of Digital training to the tourism sector was emphasised and we look forward to working with Skillnets in providing relevant sector-specific programmes.

Tourism Website

Completed thorough audit on the Tipperary.com website, so that it can now be populated with updated information heading into the 2024 season.

Tipperary Food Producers Network

Continuing to build on collaboration between the tourism and food sectors in Tipperary, including planning how to work together in 2024. The first initiative is with the presence of Tipperary Food Producers Marketplace at the Elevate Tipperary Tourism conference in February, and Tipperary Food Producers are featured on the lunch menu.

Tracks and Trails Programme

Production of the 'Tipperary' program has now been completed. The transmission date by RTE is subject to change, but looks like May 2024, with a prime time slot.

Munster Vales

Marketing

Munster Vales is running very strong digital marketing campaigns focusing on promoting small tourism-related businesses in the region and highlighting the events and offers available to visitors and local communities.

MV is working in collaboration with Tipperary Tourism, Failte Ireland, and many more agencies to represent this beautiful region on a national and international level to specific target markets.

MV has a list of influential content creators scheduled to visit the region in the coming months. This content will reach a large audience and encourage more visitors to explore the walking trails, the Suir Blueway, the heritage offerings such as Ormond Castle and Fethard Horse Country Experience, and sample the locally grown food and drinks.

	ORIS Funding Munster Vales are waiting to hear if they will be awarded ORIS funding for this year. If successful the existing maps and brochures will be updated, reprinted, and distributed widely throughout the region. This will help to raise awareness of the strong tourism offering in this area. **Internal Fam Trips** Munster Vales is planning many internal fam trips for the tourism businesses as there is a demand from the businesses to explore the region, meet fellow businesses, and see what they have to offer. This helps with cross-promotion and familiarity and strengthens the tourism network.
LEO	**Jobs Announcement January 2024** Minister of State Neale Richmond announced that 6,640 jobs were created by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices across the country in 2023 supporting 7,167 Companies. The highest number of jobs it has done since the support mechanism was established in 2014. A total of 2,131 net jobs were created throughout the 31 LEOs across the Country. Tipperary ranked 7 with 96 net jobs created for 2023 working with a portfolio of 266 clients. **Measure 1 – Direct Grant Support** The Evaluation & Approvals Committee evaluated and approved a total of €720,014 at 5 EVAC Meetings in 2023. Funding on the following projects – 6 x Feasibility Grants for €79,950 17 x TAME Grant for €33,516 2 x Priming Grant for €31,246 and 12 x Business Expansion grants for €573,142. 1 x IP Start €2,160. A total of €939,111 paid out in M1 grants approved & TOV Vouchers in 2023

Trading on Line Vouchers

A total of 72 vouchers were approved in 2023 worth €140,032

Productivity Supports applications approved 2023

Digital Start – 13 approved

Green for Business – 4 approved

Green for Micro – 8 approved

LEAN for Micro – 24 approved

Training Programmes completed 2023

127 Programmes completed with 1,897 participants

Start Your Own Business Course (SYOB)

15 Programmes completed with a total of 193 participants

Management Development Programme

14 Programmes completed with 110 participants

Mentor Assignments 2023

691 Mentor assignments approved

Micro Finance Ireland (MFI)

A total of 17 applications were supported in 2023

The main metrics for 2024 have now been set with a strategic focus on the following areas:

- Ongoing strategic alignment with Enterprise Ireland

- Focus on Businesses employing 10+

- First Time Exporters

- Addressing the Productivity Challenge

- Digital Transformation

- Micro Enterprise Green Strategy

We will continue to work with our client base of 266 Companies focusing on First Time exporters and supporting them on their journey.

Ongoing promotion of programs such as Green for Business and Digital for Micro. *We will also be promoting the Energy Efficiency Grant of €5,000 announced last year to help support Companies with the financial investment towards implementing energy efficiencies based on their Green for Business plan.*

LEAN for Micro

Lean for Micro is designed to encourage clients to adopt Lean business principles in their organizations to increase performance and competitiveness. Lean is for all companies, regardless of sector – it is not just for manufacturing companies. Lean tools and techniques are helping companies across the globe to address competitiveness issues within their businesses by building the capability of their people to identify problems, improve operations and create a more innovative organisation. In a nutshell, Lean is about doing things quicker, and better and saving costs. Lean strives to remove waste and to continually improve a company.

Green for Business

The Green for Business programme aims to assist businesses in lowering their carbon footprint, reducing costs, and improving the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.

LEO Tipperary will continue to promote this support around the County. promoting Green for Business -Sustainability and Energy Efficiency for Micro and Small Industries.

Digital Start

Small businesses need to maximise every advantage -and implementing a digital strategy can give businesses a real edge. Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office-funded clients* that digital edge - from optimising processes to deliver a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

Student Enterprise Awards 2023/2024

LEO Tipperary Student Enterprise Programme

This year 27 out of 29 schools across the County registered with 2,200 students participating on the programme.

County Final *this year will take place on the **23rd of February** at **TUS Campus Thurles.***

Programme launched at St. Mary's Secondary School in Nenagh, a long-standing and enthusiastic supporter of the enterprise programme. Mary Ryan and Tina Mulhearne representing LEO Tipperary introduced the programme to the assembled entrepreneurs offering very valuable and timely advice "The seed for enterprise starts with that one idea which will hopefully turn into a business".

This year for the first time The Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) is running a national competition for LCVP students. Students can submit the work they have done as part of their LCVP portfolio to be in with a chance of winning a National Award and €500 prize money plus the chance to showcase their work at the National Final 2024.

Photo: Class photo has students from TY & 5th year St. Mary's Nenagh with their teachers, Intellectual Property of Ireland staff, and LEO Tipperary staff.

Upcoming Events:

Friday 9th February – 8 am to 10 am - The Local Enterprise Office will support the Clonmel Town Team with their upcoming event: Breakfast Briefing 'Leveraging Local Supports for Business Growth' for business owners taking place on the 9th of February in the Talbot Hotel Clonmel from 8 am to 10 am.

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment with special responsibility for Business, Employment, and Retail, Neale Richmond, TD will attend and speak at the briefing.

Friday 9th February – 10:30 am – 12 pm Minister of State Neale Richmond will meet and greet LEO clients both existing and ones that have progressed from LEO to Enterprise Ireland over the past number of years. The event will take place in Questum Clonmel.

Local Enterprise Week 2024

Local Enterprise Week takes place this year from the 4th – 8th March with 17 events taking place across the County. Events will take place both online and in person.

Economic

The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme.

The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme contributes to vibrancy and vitality of the towns and villages in the County through the provision of a grant for new businesses that utilise vacant premises for their start-up location. Over 45 grants were processed since the scheme commenced in 2022 with 22 of these relating to 2023 – and 3 to 2024. Of these 10 in the Clonmel MD area. In addition, A number of recent applications are currently being processed for which it is expected that grants will issue. Businesses Continue across a range of services including: Fitness studios, Work Space, Beauty/Hair-dressing, Cafes/Coffee Shops, Crafts, Garage and Print. Since inception the scheme has only refused one grant and this was due to the property seeking a grant was located in an industrial zoned area and this is deemed ineligible under the conditions of the scheme.

Full details of the scheme and the link to applying are all available on an information portal at www.tipperarycoco.ie/cvis.

The Christmas Retail Support Grant Scheme 2023

The Christmas Retail Support Grant Scheme 2023 continued to funding organisations in County Tipperary to support the towns and villages in retaining their footfall. The activities under this scheme varied from festivities and entertainment that create a joyous and happy atmosphere and bring people and children into the towns and villages and assisted with the retention of these potential customers to the businesses in the towns and villages. The events were very varied and ranged from Santa switching on the lights and parading in the town to choirs and dance by the community groups.

| County Tipperary Chamber | Clonmel | Santa Coming to Town | 5000 | |
| South Tipperary Arts Centre | Clonmel | Christmas Craft Showcase | 500 | 5500 |

The Painting & Enhancement Scheme

The Painting & Enhancement Scheme offered funding for painting and general improvements to commercial building frontages; the erection of planters; floral hanging baskets or other environmental improvements and the removal of inappropriate contemporary signage, fittings and general clutter and the replacement with shop fascia signage. The 2024 scheme is under preparation and will be based on the review of the 2023 scheme.

Online Directory for Local Businesses that sell online.

The online directory of businesses at https://shop.localtipperary.ie continues to be hosted on the Tipperary County Council Website. The directory highlights any business that purchases can be made online in County Tipperary. It is fully searchable by category or by nearest town so it offers a very simple way for people to find shops in their locality for specific categories of goods or services.

Shop local Tipperary Retail Newsletter

A large database of over 500 businesses in the county has been generated and this is used to targeting information about Training Events, grant schemes and other useful information for shop owners and businesses in the county. A quarterly newsletter is issued with the latest updates for the retail sector from around the county and nationally and a competition is included to support businesses also.

The Shop Local Social Media Campaign

With so many people using social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram every single day, the importance of social media promotion as a marketing strategy highlighting the diverse offerings of businesses and service that we have right on our doorsteps across County Tipperary. The fruits of ongoing promotions on the Facebook and the Instagram sites continues to instil a sense of pride and support for the retail and business offerings in County Tipperary. The number of followers is growing and has a reach of over 50,000 which is up 41% on last year. Shop Local Tipperary pages continue to send out the message to the communities and individuals of the importance of keeping business close to your home and community open and surviving.

We continue to promote local businesses across the county with a bumper set of competitions that are well received by the retailers and the local communities also. The winners span the full county area so there is great spread of the word of Shop Local.

The Retail Edge – A symposium for the Retail Sector in County Tipperary.

A free event has been organised for the Retail Sector to provide some focused training relevant to the very challenging times that the sector is currently experiencing. Knowledge-sharing, growth and empowerment for the sector are the main themes of the event. This event will be held in the Horse and Jockey on March 6th, commencing at 5.30pm with a supper and opening at 6.30pm by Cathaoirleach Gerard Darcy. 4 key speakers will cover the important themes of; The current environment for the Retail sector, how to achieve exceptional results in sales; How to address the challenges of creating an online option for your business and Direct information for retail employers on how to ensure compliance with Employment Law and also how to attract and retail your team in retail. We are looking for support in promoting this event at any opportunity available.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

The SPC met on December 5th, 2023 and on February 6th, 2024. The items covered on the Agenda included:

- County Tipperary Tourism
- Lough Derg Tourism
- Munster Vales
- Thoroughbred Country
- Demonstration on the Workwise Tab on the www.tipperary.ie site.
- Nomination of Cllr Mairin McGrath as the replacement for Cllr Peggy Ryan on Tipperary Energy Agency
- Local Development Community Plan Public Consultation Sign-Off
- Presentation on the current status of the National Broadband Project Intervention Area Project in County Tipperary
- The economic and enterprise impact of the farming sector in County Tipperary
- Social Enterprise Opportunities - Social Impact Assessment
- Social Enterprise Engaging and Developing Community and Rural Enterprise

The current SPC will conclude after the last meeting to be held on May 7th 2024 and it is expected that a new SPC will be in place for a September 2024 meeting.

The Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Following input to the economic elements by the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC, the LECP was adopted by the members of Tipperary County Council in December 2023. The LECP now sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic (and community) development of County Tipperary. The LECP will enable delivery of actions from national and regional strategies at a local level and it will integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single overarching strategy. Currently, the Initial Implementation plan is being developed and will be finalised by April 2024.

Marketing of County Tipperary as a Remote Working Location.

Funding was awarded under the Towns and Villages Funding 2022 for a Marketing Campaign to promote remote working opportunities and facilities in County Tipperary. This fund was targeted to develop a successful remote working promotional campaign that will align with Government policy and priorities as outlined in Town Centre First and Our Rural Futures. Stage 1 of the project was to develop a brand for the remote working offering in the county. Following a procurement process, Designedly, based in Thurles was appointed as the company to facilitate and assist in designing this new brand.

Launching the new brand assets was completed by the end of 2023 and they are now available on a range of platforms including a new tab on www.tipperary.ie

One Little Studio in Ballina was recently awarded the contract to focus on the promotion of county Tipperary as the ideal location for people to work remotely. A team of the relevant parties, including those in the enterprise, community-based providers, and private providers of digital hubs, has formed and this team will lead the different marketing activities over the coming months.

	Renewable energy Jobs in Co. Tipperary. Nephin Energy has announced the creation of its renewable energy company Nephin Renewable Gas (NRG), which will have its operational headquarters in the Engine, Tipperary Technology Park in Tipperary town, with an ambition to become the leading producer and supplier of biomethane in Ireland. Currently employing 11 staff it plans to expand its workforce. Tony Yates stated that as Biomethane can play a major role in helping Ireland meet its climate ambitions by reducing emissions and supporting the decarbonization of otherwise hard-to-abate sectors such as manufacturing, transport, and agriculture, it is envisioned that there is an opportunity, in addition to producing biomethane, for hundreds of direct and indirect jobs to be created all around rural Ireland from the operation and maintenance of the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr Simon Coveney TD. **County Tipperary Digital Strategy** The County Tipperary Digital Strategy continues to be driven by Tippeary County Council. The infrastructural elements are led out by the Broadband Officer. All other actions are delivered in an interagency approach across the County.
Economic	**TCC Bioeconomy Development:** TCC has recently led the applications for Just Transition Funding under various funding streams including a Bioeconomy stream and LECP stream.

The project under the Bioeconomy stream: **BioScaleUp'** proposes the demonstration of 6 innovative biobased technologies at the national multipurpose bioeconomy pilot facility at Lisheen Thurles. Operating for up to Technology readiness level (TRL) 7 the facility will function as a platform for the collaboration between RPOs, SMEs, and large industries for process development & scale-up of biobased products and processes, enabling conversion of renewable feedstocks into biobased chemicals, biobased materials, food ingredients, biofuels and other bioproducts by using technologies: biomass pretreatment, biocatalysis, fermentation, and downstream product recovery and purification.

'Biomethane for Carbon and Community':

Led by a partnership between TCC, The Technological University of the Shannon, the Tipperary Energy Agency, and the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation, this funding application seeks to set out a Biomethane Development Office centered on the National Bioeconomy Campus. It will, over two years, undertake very detailed feasibility, with intense stakeholder and community outreach and collaboration to enable the development of a Biomethane Processing Centre within the Campus and sourced from suppliers of biomass from the DZ and wider region.

LECP Funding Stream:

Lisheen Application: To develop a large-scale serviced landholding in public ownership, in an area severely impacted by the loss of peat and mine industry employment, facilitating the creation of jobs with a bioeconomy focus. These rural-based sustainable jobs will be created by companies utilising the innovative technologies being developed within the adjoining pilot bioeconomy facility in the Lisheen National Bioeconomy Campus.

Templemore Application: Activation of a publicly owned landbank in the town of Templemore for the purposes of providing lands to assist in meeting the employment and recreational needs of those within the Just Transition area.

TCC is collaborating with and supporting the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation on a number of EU bioeconomy related projects on an ongoing basis. Recent projects include ABC Economy, AgRefine and Rural BioUp.

ABC Economy: targets waste streams arising from food production / processing and forestry in Ireland to develop new bio-based products and generate energy. These new products and energy systems will maximise the value of waste, whilst reducing environmental impacts.

AgRefine: a European Training Network that trains 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) in the necessary skills and knowledge to position Europe as the global leader in developing an agri-bioeconomy industry based on advanced biorefinery technologies. AgRefine will disrupt the mechanism by which biomass is currently being used by cooperatively integrating innovative stand-alone technologies so that the highest values and socio-economically beneficial products per input substrates can be achieved.

Rural BioUp: The RuralBioUp project will strengthen the cooperation among regional key actors and knowledge holders, empowering them to establish an inclusive and long-lasting ecosystem to support the mainstreaming of bio-based business models in rural areas. The project will do this using a threefold approach:

1.   One-stop-shop digital tool to support stakeholders in making informed decisions by providing data from previous projects and science results.

2.   Regional Hubs will be established to involve stakeholders in a multi-actor platform to implement activities and actions to ease the adoption of bio-based solutions.

3.   Regional Hubs will be empowered with coaching, mentoring, and training activities during the project.

Broadband	**Digital Connectivity**
	Smart infrastructure' or 'Digital infrastructure' is the utility of the twenty-first century. It underpins every aspect of the modern economy and all aspects of smart cities/ villages. This includes cellular wireless - 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G - and Wi-Fi, wired (including full-fibre) technologies, Internet of Things (IoT), and emerging non-terrestrial networks such as low-earth orbit satellites.
	Digital connectivity is being delivered across the State primarily through the Commercial investment of the telecommunications industry. The government will take measures to drive increased Gigabit and 5G connectivity, including complementing commercial investment in infrastructure with Government-led initiatives and facilitating other strategic enablers.
	1. National Broadband Plan (NBP)
	The 2012 National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the Government's initiative to deliver high-speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.
	High-speed broadband services will be delivered to every premise in Ireland through a combination of (a) commercial investment by the telecommunications sector within an area (known as the (NBP) Commercial (BLUE) area) and (b) State intervention in those areas where commercial providers acting alone will not provide this service (known as the (NBP) State led-Intervention (AMBER) area)
	Table 1 below - **(NBP) County Tipperary Statistics**
	#

National Broadband Plan (NBP) – *County Tipperary Statistics*[1]		
Total Number of Premises	*85,278*	*100%*
Number of Premises situate in the (NBP) State led- Intervention (AMBER) Area	*30,545*	*36%*
Number of Premises situate in the (NBP) Commercial Investment (BLUE) Area	*54,677*	*64%*

Note:

[1] Information sourced at:

https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5634d-national-broadband-plan-map/

2. (NBP) State Led-Intervention Area known as the "AMBER" area

To deliver the National Broadband Plan (NBP) State led-Intervention "AMBER" area, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) went through a rigorous procurement process to choose a company to design, build, operate and manage a new very high capacity network (VHCN) on behalf of the state. Following the award of this state led-contract in November, 2019. **National Broadband Ireland (NBI™)** was established and together with its build partners - including KN Group, Actavo, TLI and SECTO commenced the roll-out of high-speed Fibre broadband to every home, business, Farm and school (regardless of how rural or remote) in the National Broadband Plan (NBP) state led-Intervention "AMBER" Area in the Country.

In May 2021, **NBI™ commenced works to deploy high-speed Fibre cable to over 30,545 premises in rural County Tipperary** - including 21 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs); 35 rural BCPs – National Schools; 20,079 homes; 3,951 Farms; 5,305 Residential/ commercial businesses and 1,210 Commercial premises.

The current NBI™ build status / and Projected delivery timelines for a customer Fibre service connection within the **Clonmel Borough District** are shown in -
Table 2 below -

NBI™ Deployment Area	Number of Premises	Current Project Status	Anticipated Connection Time Frame [2]
DA024 Carrick-On-Suir	1,971	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA026 Cashel	2,265	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA034 Clonmel	1,615	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA134 Mullinahone	1,719	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA019 Cahir*	3,027	Network build in-Progress	March 2024-May 2024

Notes:

[2] dates provided above are estimated and based on the current view of **NBI™**

* civil works in progress in these Deployment areas.

The Network rollout for the National Broadband Plan (IA) is divided into 227 Deployment Areas (DAs) across the country (including 21 Deployment Areas (DAs) in County Tipperary).

These are typically areas of approximately 25 km in radius and, in total, they cover 96% of Ireland's landmass. The architecture of the network design is specifically based on the design of the NBI network extending from the eir Exchanges or the Metropolitan area Networks managed by Enet. It is based on an engineering design that allows

NBI™ to get to every premise as quickly as possible working within the confines of how fibre networks are built. Each DA creates a 'fibre ring' which is essential to ensure reliability and resilience. The **NBI™** fibre rings are built with back-ups, ensuring that in the event of one fibre cable being disrupted, the whole network continues to perform. The network design utilises existing eir / enet infrastructure to a very significant degree.

Table 3 below – identifies the current status of the new NBI™ Network Deployment in Tipperary.

NBI™ Build Stage	**NBI™ Network Deployment Figures** for County Tipperary per January 31st, 2024.
Stage 1,2 and 3	Total number of – 100% of Tipperary Premises are **"SURVEY COMPLETED"**
Stage 4	Total number of Premises with Network **"BUILD IN PROGRESS" is 6,354 (21%)** Currently working in (6) NBI™ Deployment Areas in the County. In total, over 70 **NBI™** Planning Applications have been determined (under Section 254 of the planning act, 2000 (as amended) by Tipperary County Council to date, for development consisting of placing 1,423 new poles and 3,682 Km of new Fibre Network cable. All s254 applications submitted in 2023 have been determined by TCC within a timeline of 4-6 weeks. c.426 Road Opening Licence (ROL) applications have been submitted on MRL to date and Granted within 1/2 weeks. **TCC Resources to Project delivery** –

		3x Admin Team 9x MD Roads Licence Conditioners 4x MD Planners 5x MD District Administrators 2x Senior Engineers 1x Broadband Officer 1xEE (Road Management Office)
	Stage 5	Total number of – **"Premises Passed with Network Fibre"** and **"BUILD COMPLETE" is 14,314 (47%)** These Premises can now **"place an Order/ pre-Order"** for a **"New Service Connection"** with an approved Retail Service Provider (RSP) https://nbi.ie/where-can-i-buy/
	Stage 6	Total number of - **"NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS"** is **3,640 (25%)** of Premises Passed with network Fibre. Recent National Broadband Ireland comment – "Only 3,600 premises have already been connected which is below the average take-up rate Nationally, so we are encouraging Tipperary residents, farms and businesses to visit https://nbi.ie/eoi/ and; Enter their Eircode to check their status"

Table 4 below – identifies the **NBI™ projected time-Lines** to complete the staged delivery of the

(NBP) State led- Intervention (AMBER) Area in **County Tipperary**

Stage 1,2 and 3	**Percentage Survey Complete:** *By end of 2023: 100%*
Stage 4	**Percentage Build Commenced:** *To date: 70%* *By end of 2024: 94%* *By end of 2025: 100%*
Stage 5	**Percentage Build Complete:** *To date: 48%* *By end of 2024: 59%* *By end of 2025: 86%* *By end of 2026: 100%*

NBI™ does not sell broadband services directly to Customers. They operate a Wholesale Service where they partner with **Retail Service Providers (RSPs)** throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customers door. The Retail Service Providers that are currently setup and certified to sell **NBI™** Network services include for -

Kerry Broadband, Atlantek Broadband, Three, Clare WiFi Networks, Lightnet Telcom, Roctel, BBnet, eir, Chill Wifi, Real Broadband, Budget Broadband, HiSpeed, Rural Wifi, Westnet, Carnsore Broadband, NuWave, Ivertec, Elio Networks, Mynet, Magnet, Zintek, ClearWave, Fastcom, Rocket Broadband, Aptus, Premier Broadband, Rural Broadband, Vodafone, Sky, Pure Telecom, Regional Broadband, Net1, eBroadband, Viatel, Eurona Ireland, Blacknight, Beacon Broadband, Tipp Broadband, KerNet, Whizzy Internet, Airwave, MTS, IMS, IFA, Digiweb and 6NET.

More (RSPs) will be added as the new **NBI™** Network continues to be rolled out across Ireland, unleashing the unlimited potential of every individual and organisation in the country – Refer to the following links for more details here:

https://nbi.ie/where-can-i-buy/

National Broadband Ireland - Steps to getting Connected which provides Information to Members of the Public re the Phased delivery of this new Fibre Network.

National Broadband Ireland - Frequently Answered Questions provides Important details re Fibre Facts, Rollout, Getting Connected and details re any Broadband Connections Points (BCPs) in this area.

In order to be **kept informed** re the **NBI™** Fibre deployment in County Tipperary - please Sign-up for Local Up-dates at: https://nbi.ie/eoi/

3. **Connected Communities –** the **(NBP) Broadband Connection Point Initiative**

The (NBP) Broadband Connection Point Initiative will unlock the potential in our Rural communities in County Tipperary.

Whether that is connected to work, the creative arts, eHealth, educational support, or business support, the BCPs will be supported to provide the digital services that their communities need.

"These premises are not merely a stop-gap measure ahead of the arrival of the National Broadband Plan (NBP IA) we hope that they will instead become long-term community assets,

fixtures of their communities, providing next-generation services to Tipperary's rural heartlands."

New Website launched in Q4, 2023 https://www.tipperarybcp.ie/

High-quality digital connectivity offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform rural Ireland.

It will support the sustainability of rural communities by enabling more people to continue to live and work in rural locations and encouraging others to relocate to rural areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of digital connectivity in supporting many aspects of our daily lives. Throughout the crisis, digital connectivity helped many people to avoid becoming socially isolated;

It enabled students to continue their education through online learning, and it demonstrated its potential to support economic activity through remote working and the delivery of services online.

Improved connectivity and digital innovation will help communities to have greater outreach.

It will support older people to live independently in their communities, but with access to more support and services through connected technologies.

It will mean a better quality of life for rural dwellers, enabling people to access online information (including government services) and resources including the provision of online services such as e-education and personalised e-health care. In the longer term, it is envisaged that many of the BCPs will act as a central point for the provision of digital services in the community.

The (NBP) BCP delivery Programme is completed in County Tipperary and the following 21 Broadband Connection Points (BCPS) known as the

"Tipperary BCP Network" are connected and provide free Public WiFi Services to Members of the Public; including -

1) **ROSSMORE COMMUNITY HALL**, ROSSMORE, CASHEL, E25D429
2) **DROM COMMUNITY HALL**, DROM, BORRISOLEIGH, THURLES, E41X285
3) **CURREENEY COMMUNITY HALL**, CURREENEY, KILCOMMON, THURLES, E41XC62
4) **AGLISH COMMUNITY HALL**, AGLISH, ROSCREA, E53E132
5) **KILLURNEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**, KILLURNEY, BALLYPATRICK, CLONMEL, E91H7W4
6) **MOYGLASS COMMUNITY HALL**, MOYGLASS, FETHARD, E91WK25
7) **KILLOSCULLY COMMUNITY CENTRE,** KILLOSCULLY, NEWPORT, V94FK20
8) **KILLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE**, KILLEA, TEMPLEMORE, E41T6Y0THE
9) **THE PAVILLION**, BALLINDERRY SPORTSFIELD, BALLINDERRY, NENAGH, E45 F627
10) **BALLINAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE**, ROSSFINCH, BALLINAHINCH, BIRDHILL, V94 CVC0
11) **BOHER PARISH HALL**, BOHER, BALLINA, V94 EY06
12) **FANURE COMMUNITY HALL**, FANURE, ROSCREA, E53 AE02
13) **KILCOLEMAN COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE**, BURGESS GAA CLUB, PAIRC NA NGAEL, KILCOLEMAN, NEWTOWN, NENAGH, E45 YH76
14) THE APPLE CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK, MOORSTOWN, CAHIR, E21 YX33
15) **DONASKEAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**, DONASKEAGH, E34 AK24
16) **TERRYGLASS COMMUNITY HALL**, TERRYGLASS, NENAGH, E45 FC42
17) **BALLYLOOBY CASTLEGRACE GAA CLUB**, KILROE, BALLYLOOBY, E21 TA47
18) **LATTERAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE**, SALLYPARK, LATTERAGH, NENAGH, E45 EF68

19) **GURTAGARRY COMMUNITY HALL**, GORTAGARRY, TOOMEVARA, NENAGH, E45 FA43

20) **LISMACKIN COMMUNITY HALL**, LISMACKIN, ROSCREA, E53 Y589

21) NORTH TIPPERARY FOOD WORKS, MAIN STREET, REARCROSS, NEWPORT, V94YW08

The **Broadband Point Initiative (BCP) Initiative in County Tipperary** is a collaborative effort involving -

the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Rural and Community Development, National Broadband Ireland, Vodafone Irl, the Local Authorities and Managers of the BCP sites.

https://www.tipperarybcp.ie/

The receipt of DRCD Funding supported its community involvement and our aim is to further develop the "Tipperary BCP Network" into a more active network of "remote Digital Hubs – connected hubs" which will support and compliment the development of a National Hub Network, which is a key action of the Our Rural Future, Ireland's Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.

Working with the DRCD, a number of public and private sector partners, a number of pilot digital thematic programmes are being developed seeking to upskill members of the -

Public with no digital skills and also supporting the exploration of STEAM subjects and coding by students and their families.

These Digital literacy Courses offered new skills to learn, work, and navigate everyday life in our digital world. The skills involve the ability to use devices, software, and apps safely and with confidence. Acquiring digital skills is as important as physical access to broadband infrastructure and seeks to enable individuals and communities to maximise the benefits of high-speed broadband connectivity.

The pilot digital thematic Programmes that are currently being rolled out across the "Tipperary BCP Network" include for –

An Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) - Boher BCP – We had hoped to have up to 8 participants for the pilot programme in partnership with Microsoft Philanthropy and FIT however, we ended up having 15 register and attend on the day. This was aimed at many different sectors i.e. community, volunteers, individuals, business people. We now have committed to running this Programme for a further four days in our BCP network and also have a full day assigned for business people as part of the **National Local Enterprise Week 2024** running on Thursday March 7th [Artificial Intelligence Workshop with Microsoft and LinkedIn - Local Enterprise Office - Tipperary](#)

Ballinderry BCP ran a SMART Skills programme in November, 2023 for members of their community that wish to learn more about using SMART technology. ETB Tipperary facilitated this training and have developed bespoke programmes that are going to run in many of our BCP spaces. They have also started a Remote Workers Networking group.

Boher BCP ran Smartphone courses 'Get to know your Smartphone' and 'Smartphone for Farmers' in November to December, 2023 facilitated by ETB Tipperary. They are also developing an GSDAT peer led programme with the Disability Gold Star Project, and HSE Disability Services.

OurKidsCode with Trinity College continues to run from strength to strength.

Killoscully BCP Digital Champions training day is on February, 10th – and due to the demand and interest shown from our community volunteers - we are now planning to run a second Digital Champion training event later this year.

Introducing the brAIn waves Series: Enhancing AI Literacy in Post-Primary Education. We are working with Microsoft DreamSpace to branch out of the Primary School network to the post primary.

We have an event in Thurles TUS Campus Friday 23rd February in conjunction with Student Enterprise and the teachers from all of our Tipperary Secondary schools.

MakeCode for micro:bit – we are working with Student teachers from Mary Immaculate College Thurles to support the delivery of STEAM subjects and coding in National schools in County Tipperary.

The Tipperary BCP Network Newsletter -

We plan to publish a Newsletter with related articles re our journey to date in March 2024.

4.   **(NBP) - Commercial Investment in Gigabit Network services within the (NBP) Commercial (BLUE) area**

The telecommunication sector employs approximately 25,000 people and has invested circa €3.3 billion over the past 5 years in new and upgraded networks. Recent announcements from Virgin Media, SIRO, and eir indicate that the vast majority of premises in urban and suburban areas will be covered with - fiber-to-the-home services (FTTH) - Gigabit Network services - being made available to all these locations by 2028.

The NBP Commercial investment will result in Gigabit Network services being made available to the vast majority of premises, in Primarily Urban and Suburban areas covering circa 77% of the premises across the State.

In County Tipperary - the New Gigabit "Fibre" Network (s) are for the most part being built by **SIRO**, **Virgin Media** and **Open eir (Eir Ltd)**

 "SIRO" was launched in 2015 as a joint venture between ESB and Vodafone to deliver the first 100% fibre-to-the-building broadband across regional Ireland. Their Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Network is built using the ESB's overhead and underground infrastructure, ensuring a fast, reliable and sustainable Network.

"SIRO" recently announced plans to extend its FTTH Network footprint to the towns of **Thurles**, **Cashel,** and **Tipperary** as part of their ongoing network rollout across County Tipperary. In Thurles and Cashel, SIRO plans to connect over 5,000 Premises to high-quality fibre broadband, and this rollout out is on track to be completed during Q4 2023. SIRO's FTTH Network is already available in the towns of **Clonmel**, **Nenagh,** and **Roscrea** and to date, they have invested over €20 million in bringing world-class connectivity to County Tipperary. "SIRO" does not sell broadband services to customers. They operate a wholesale service where they partner with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customer's door – see link for more details https://siro.ie/broadband-for-home/

As part of the Liberty sq, Thurles Refurbishment Project –
Tipperary County Council trailed new innovative technologies with the
support of the telecommunications industry to pilot the -

"Dig Once" principle - and innovative uses of existing technologies to
deliver more effective public services through the Government's Digital
Innovation Programme – including the development of an extensive
network of passive ducts and chambers under the public footway - to
pilot the use of the standard known as "underground Shared
Telecommunications Physical Infrastructure" SIRO started using this
pilot Infrastructure in November 2022 and it is now available to the
telecommunications industry to use.

In 2019, **EIR Ltd** commenced the roll-out of their IFN Project in County
Tipperary - which aims to cover a majority of the NBP commercial areas
in the county.

To date, Open eir has passed c38,000 premises with Gigabit Network
services (FTTH) including the towns of -
Nenagh;
Ballina/ Killaloe;
Tipperary;
Templemore;
Thurles;
Clonmel and;
Cahir, County Tipperary.

Their FTTH deployment works commenced in the town(s) of Cashel,
Roscrea, and Carrick-on-Suir in November 2022 and the footprint of
this programme is currently being extended to/ planned for -
Newport;
Two-mile Borris;
Cappawhite;

Fethard;

Borrisokane;

Ardfinnan;

Borrisoleigh;

Clogheen;

Cloughjordan;

Emly;

Mullinahone, County Tipperary in Q4, 2023/ 2024.

Under its "Commitment Agreement" with the State in 2017 – OPEN eir recently completed the Rural deployment of its Gigabit Network to c16,000 premises in County Tipperary.

When these programs are completed, c2026 - approximately 60,000 premises in the County will have access to an Open eir FTTH connection – given an Financial Investment by Eir Ltd in the County of circa €30 million.

"Open eir" does not sell broadband services to customers. They operate a wholesale service where they partner with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customers door –

see link for more details https://www.openeir.ie/open-eir-irelands-largest-wholesale-full-fibre-network/

Enet "Open Access Networks" operates a Wholesale Network Service using the existing State funded underground "Metropolitan Area Networks"
In total, (8) Metropolitan Area Networks have been deployed in the county and located in the towns of **Clonmel** (deployed under Phase 1 c.2004) and **Cahir**, **Carrick-on-Suir**; **Cashel**; **Nenagh**; **Roscrea**; **Templemore**; and **Tipperary Town** (deployed under Phase 2, 2007)

These underground Networks, which are also being used by NBI™ as part of the NBP IA roll-out, are capable of delivering virtually unlimited bandwidth to their Customers and to date;

Enet has delivered over 130 network service connections and their end Users include for Schools, Bank Branches, SMEs, Credit Union offices, Gov Departments and State Agencies (Hospitals/Garda Stations etc)

5. Commercial Investment in Fixed Wireless high-speed broadband Services (FWA)

Fixed wireless access (FWA), uses Radio waves to deliver internet services between two stationary locations such as a mobile tower and a customer's home or office.

a)   "Imagine broadband" continues to upgrade and expand - its WTTx network (FWA) services in County Tipperary and over 60,000 premises and businesses in the County are covered on the – Imagine Network from 22 Mast/ and Tower locations situate both within and in surrounding counties – refer to link: Imagine Link The focus of Imagine is on rural areas with no connectivity – and where NBI™ Fibre cable is not expected to be deployed until 2025/2026

b)   There are a number of Companies 3 operating in County Tipperary who are also Offering (FWA) Services including –
   a.   Arra Communications www.arra.ie
   b.   Celtic Broadband www.celticbroadband.ie
   c.   Echoitbroadband www.echoitbroadband.ie
   d.   Wirelessconnect www.wirelessconnect.ie
   e.   Munster Wireless www.munsterwireless.com
   f.   RuralBroadband www.ruralbroadband.ie
   g.   Premier (Wireless) Broadband www.premierbroadband.ie
   h.   Pure Telecom www.puretelecom.ie

i. Bbnet Broadband www.bbnet.ie
j. Orion Broadband www.orcs.ie
k. Imagine www.imagine.ie
l. Magnet Network https://www.magnetplus.ie/
m. Other ₃

Notes:

₃   other Companies may also be offering (FWA) services in County Tipperary that are not listed above.

c) SpaceX **(StarLink)** offer's high-speed, low-latency broadband internet services in remote and rural locations in County Tipperary - using Emerging non-terrestrial networks such as low-earth orbit Satellites. Refer to link: https://www.starlink.com/

6. Commercial Investment in Mobile Phone (MP) and Mobile Broadband (MB) Services

A Mobile Network Operator (MNO), also known as a wireless service provider, wireless carrier, cellular company, or mobile network carrier, is a Provider of wireless communications services that owns or controls all the elements necessary to sell and deliver services to an end User, including radio spectrum allocation, wireless
network infrastructure, back haul infrastructure, billing, customer care, provisioning computer systems, and marketing and repair organizations.
There are three MNOs operating in Ireland; namely **Three Ireland**, **Vodafone PLC**, and **Eircom Limited**. There are also seven mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs) using the main networks to deliver mobile services. These Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) lease wireless telephone and data spectrum from the aforementioned major carriers for resale.

The Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) offer the following technologies -

- **2G** emerged c1995 and support voice calls and SMS, with relatively low data speeds.
- **3G** emerged in the early 00s and support voice calls and higher data speeds than 2G.
- **4G** appeared around 2011 and support faster data speeds than 2G and 3G. A 4G network does not support traditional voice calls like 2G and 3G, but can support an Internet Protocol (IP) voice service called Voice over LTE (VoLTE).
- **5G** supports new technologies, faster speeds through lower latency and higher throughput.

The telecommunications regulator "ComReg" has a Mobile Signal Checker Map that is searchable by Eircode and by Mobile Phone Operator (MNO) to see what Outdoor data services (incl 5G) might be available in a particular area.

This map is available at https://coveragemap.comreg.ie/map.

The world's economy is at a pivotal point as we see a move towards an increasingly connected society driven by the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and Big Data.

The pace of adoption of these types of technologies will become the basis for long-term national economic growth. The impact of these emerging technologies will be underpinned by the connectivity that 5G offers.   5G stands for "Fifth Generation" wireless technology, also known as the next evolution of mobile technology after 4G LTE.

5G will bring faster speeds through lower latency and higher throughput, improved efficiency and reliability, as well as increased capacity to sustain a massive increase in the number of connections between devices and the internet.

The current status of the commercial 5G Network deployment -

- Vodafone's 5G network is currently live in selected areas across 26 counties in Ireland.
- Three Ireland's 5G network has 85% population coverage.
- eir's 5G network rollout continues to expand, with coverage to over 70% of the population in all 26 counties.

The current 5G deployment model used by the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) is to upgrade their existing high-power Macro-cell Infrastructure with 5G-ready equipment. However -
in order to meet the emerging/   ever-increasing appetite for bandwidth-demanding services –

MNOs are starting to densify their Networks through the deployment of additional network infrastructure (including small-area wireless access points (SAWAPs) at street level and as the operational range of a SAWAP signal is limited – it means that (SAWAPs) must be installed relatively close to users/ and the Internet of Things (IoT) to provide connectivity.

7.   The European Commission - wiFi4EU Initiative

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/wifi4eu

WiFi4EU is a ground-breaking initiative that promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including public areas,

public buildings, libraries, and museums in municipalities throughout Europe.

The "Tipperary Wifi4EU Network" consisting of 51 Free-public wifi Access Points across 6 towns was completed in 2021 with the support of Funding from the European Commission and the Department of Rural and Community Development and is currently being maintained by Tipperary County Council and;

Magnet plus across 51 free-public WiFI Access Points (SAWAPs) located in the towns of -

Nenagh x14,
Thurles x5,
Roscrea x6,
Tipperary x14,

Carrick-on-Suir x6 and;
Clonmel x6.

The "Tipperary WiFi4EU Network" has been deployed with the support of the Local Chamber of Commerce and the Property Owners, who kindly agreed to permit WiFi equipment to be attached to their Shop Façade's facing onto the Public Street/ area.   The demand for Free on-street Wi-Fi connectivity, first introduced in Tipperary town in September 2020 has grown Exponentially over the past three years with an –

Total of 4,637 customers (154 customers per day) using the "Tipperary WiFi4EU Network" which is a free service (per Operator Event Analytics Wifi4EU) in November, 2023.

Live   **Historic**   Customer Profiles

START DATE
01-November-2023

END DATE
30-November-2023

Footfall

Gender
♂ : **No Data**
♀ : **No Data**

Unique Visitors
👥 : **4637**

Total Logins
👥 : **4637**

Total Impressions
🖥 : **5232**
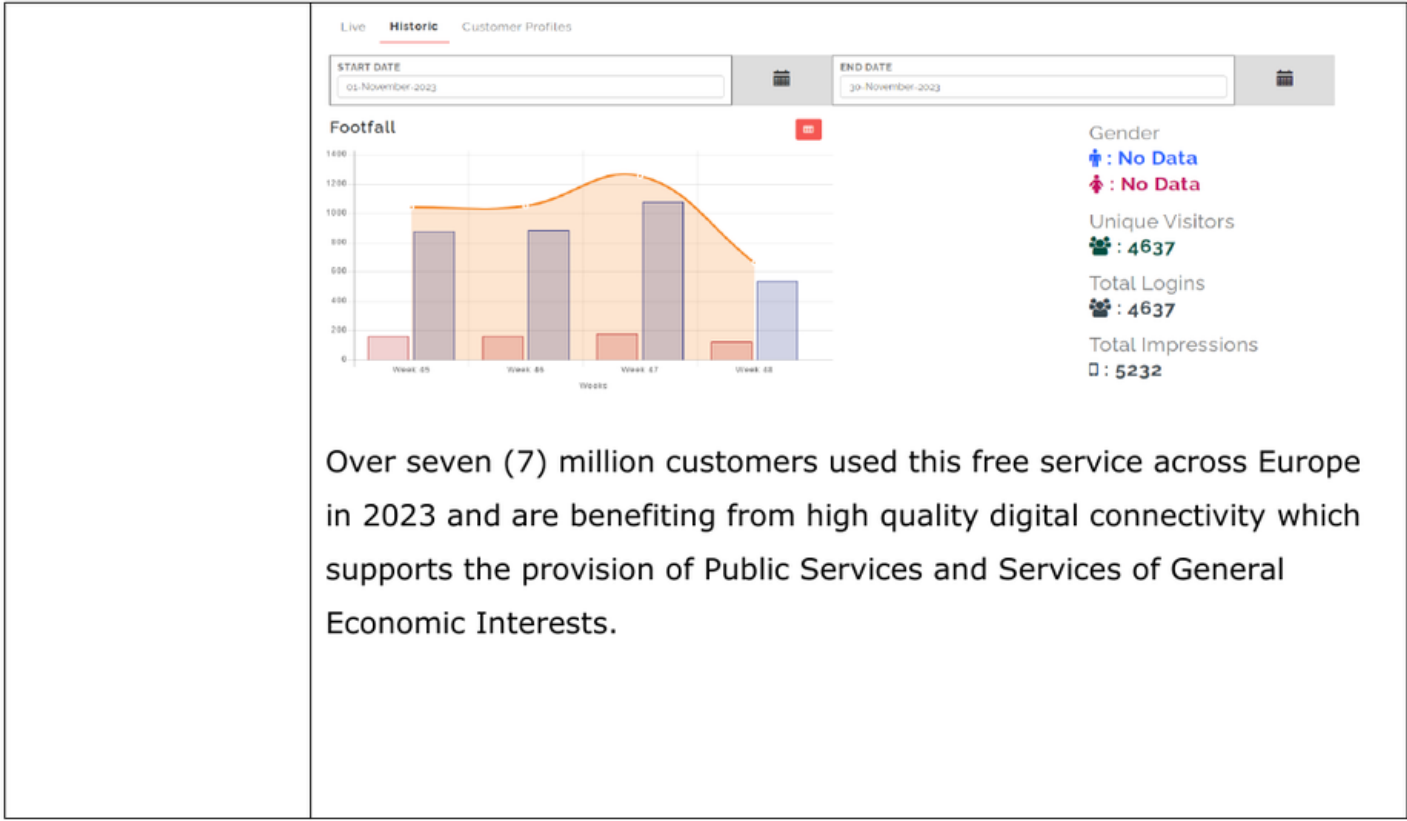
Over seven (7) million customers used this free service across Europe in 2023 and are benefiting from high quality digital connectivity which supports the provision of Public Services and Services of General Economic Interests.

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Culture Team Report
Clonmel Borough District
21st February, 2024

Library Activities

IT Grant for Libraries:

- The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a grant scheme for the purchase of IT equipment for Public Libraries in October 2023. Tipperary County Council secured 100% grant funding of €79,808.64 which will be used to replace all 79 Public Internet PCs across all 12 Branch Libraries. This new suite of equipment will be rolled out to Clonmel Library by the end of Q1, 2024

- Clonmel Library hosted a Halloween Party on 31st October as part of the Children's Book Festival.

- Clonmel Library organised a sing-song with Ollie Harte and Liam O Shea on 4th October. This event was held as part of Positive Ageing Week.

- Clonmel Library held a Kinia STEM workshop on 4th November. Participants learned about the science of electricity by assembling the Kinia city kits. This event was held as part of Science Week 2023.

- Clonmel Library held an Age Friendly Sing along with local musicians Ollie Harte and Liam O'Shea on 9th December. Over twenty-five people participated in an interactive and fun sing-along.

- Clonmel Library held a Match Attax Card Swapping Event on 16th December. The card swapping event was a huge hit among children, who traded Match Attax and Pokemon cards with tremendous enthusiasm.

- Clonmel Library Book Club was thrilled to welcome Niamh Prior, the author of "Catchlights", to our annual Christmas party on 13th December. Niamh read from some of her works and spent time with the book club members.

Tipperary Studies
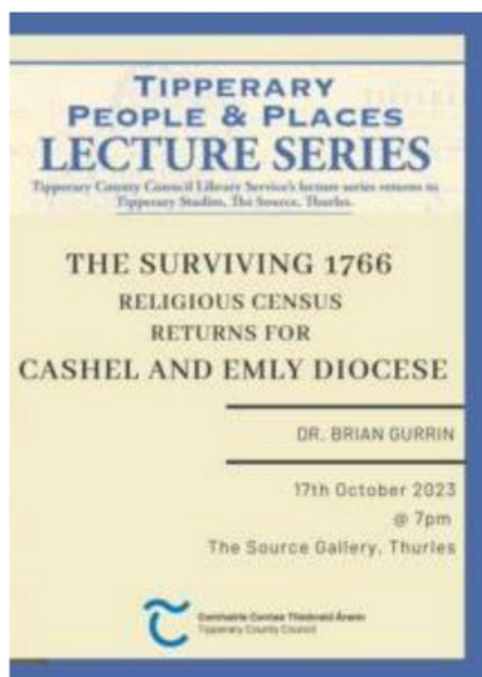
- Dr. Brian Gurrin delivered an engaging talk entitled *The surviving 1766 religious census returns for Cashel & Emly*

diocese on 17th October as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.
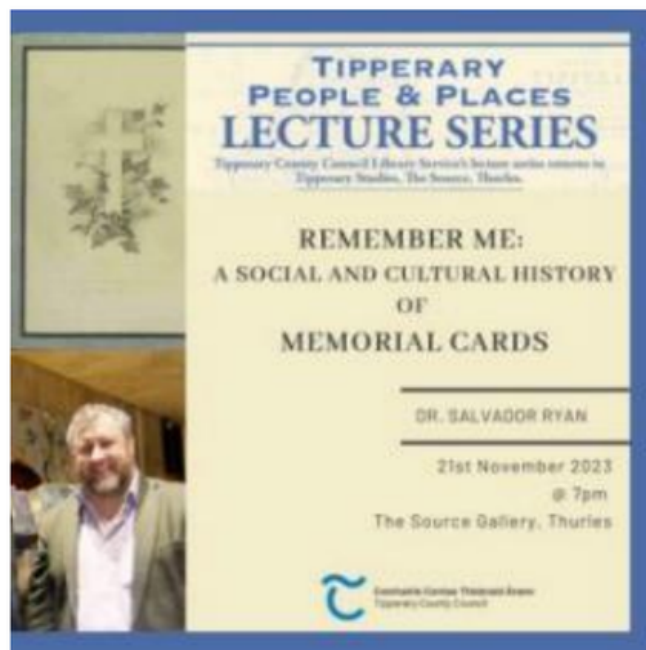
- Dr. Salvador Ryan delivered a lecture entitled *Remember me: a social and cultural history of memorial cards* on 21st November as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.

CHRISTMAS AND THE IRISH
A Miscellany
Salvador Ryan (ed.)

- Christmas and the Irish: a miscellany which was edited by Prof. Salvador Ryan was officially launched in the Source, Thurles on 12th December.
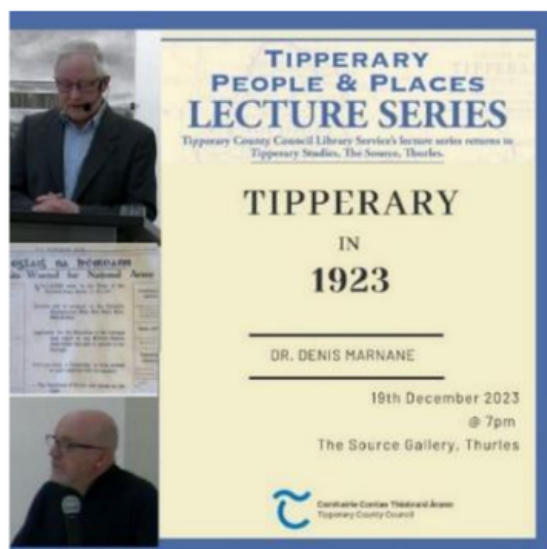
- Dr. Des Marnane delivered a lecture entitled *Tipperary in 1923* on 19th December as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.

- Ross Drummond delivered a lecture entitled *Medieval Tipperary: Recent findings from archaeological excavations from Tipperary town & Borrisokane* on 23rd January as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.

Arts Service

From L-R, Melanie Scott, Arts Officer, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Ann Marie Keaveney, Arts Office, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council

- The *Tipperary Artist Directory,* https://tipperaryarts.ie/, a new website showcasing professional Tipperary Artists was launched in the first week of October 2023 by Cllr. Gerard Darcy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council. This website is designed to act as a resource to promote the work of artists and arts practitioners living and/or working in Tipperary. The directory includes contact details, artist bios, images and links to websites and other work of Tipperary artists, across all art-forms, which can be used as a resource for festivals, curators, producers, collectors and collaborators.
- A range of grants and schemes to support Arts Development in the county were advertised in December for 2024 as follows:
  Tipperary Arts Act Grant Scheme – intended to assist organisations in stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or in improving standards in the arts in the county.

Closing date is Thursday 22ⁿᵈ February 2024 at 12 noon.

- The **Tipperary Artist in Primary Schools Scheme** - intended to give pupils in schools all over the county the opportunity to work with a professional artist on a once-off unique project to be planned between the artist and the school. **Closing date is 9ᵗʰ February 2024 at 12 noon**.

- **Tipperary Artists Awards** – intended to support professional artists under three categories, professional development, creation of new work, reaching audiences.

- **Local Drama Scheme** - Up to two development awards annually to assist groups in developing skills within the group/enhancing production values/availing of further training/availing of professional input or for other development needs/special projects.

- **Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award** - Tipperary County Council will fund two bursary awards to professional artists living in Tipperary to develop work at the County Monaghan workplace for artists.

  Closing date for above 3 schemes is Thursday 29ᵗʰ February 2024 at 12 noon.

- The Arts Office also co-ordinates the **Tipperary Festivals & Events Scheme** on behalf of Tipperary County Council which supports festivals throughout the county. **The closing date for 2024 is Wednesday 14ᵗʰ February at 12 noon.**

Supporting Artists:

- Professional development training and events, in addition to supporting artists development, also provide important networking opportunities for artists in Tipperary and is an area of arts office support consistently identified by artists as of value. This spring we continue our online training provision in partnership with Visual Artists Ireland and partner local authorities in Limerick and Clare.

- Visual Artists Ireland serves as the representative body for professional visual artists in Ireland. As part of this partnership programme a webinar titled 'An Artists Guide to accessing Funding' will be presented on Thursday, January 25th. The session, facilitated by Marianne O'Kane Boal, will take a closer look at all things 'Funding and applications' with free access granted to artists living and working in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare. Marianne O'Kane Boal, a renowned curator and writer specializing in art and architecture, will delve into various aspects of funding and application processes during the session.

Tipperary Bealtaine 2024 Open Call

- In December 2023, Tipperary Arts Office issued an open call to artists based in County Tipperary to submit a proposal for an engagement project or event targeted at older people, culminating in a showcase during the month of May as part of the Tipperary Bealtaine Festival. Each year in the month of May, Bealtaine is presented as a nationwide festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. Tipperary Arts Office together with colleagues in the Library Service present an extensive, interactive programme throughout the county. The open call, which closed in January, attracted a significant number of high-quality proposals resulting in the successful approval of funding for seven projects. A total of 11 artists based in Tipperary, representing various art forms will lead projects for Tipperary Bealtaine 2024.

-

Six in The Attic – A new partnership with the Irish Theatre Institute

Áine Ryan

Áine Ryan is a writer and performer from Co. Tipperary. She recently won the 'New Writing' Award at London Pub Theatre Awards 2023 for her multiple five star reviewed play, Paddy goes to Petra. Other plays include critically acclaimed Kitty in the Lane and co-writer of 'From Out the Land'.

- The Tipperary Arts Strategy 2023-207 identified a need to create new opportunities to facilitate "networking and collaboration opportunities for artists" and to seek support for the "development of new work by Tipperary practitioners (particularly in the area of theatre)". We are delighted to work with the Irish Theatre Institute (ITI) as a partner on an initiative which supports playwrights and theatre makers called Six in the Attic and Virtual Attic 2023/24.

  Six in the Attic (SITA) is a year-long artist development programme. SITA supports a community of playwrights and theatre makers to engage, explore, develop, debate, and collaborate on their projects and practice, both in-person and online.

  Selection for the programme was made by open call published in October 2023. This year marks a new partnership approach with Tipperary Arts Office, Galway City Arts Office, Leitrim Arts Office, Roscommon Arts Centre and Wexford Arts Office. One artist from each of these counties was selected for SITA 2023/24.

  The Six in the Attic & Virtual Attic Artists for the 2023/24 programme were announced in December and we are delighted that Áine Ryan was selected as the Tipperary artist participating in this inaugural year.

PRINTS FOR SCHOOLS Initiative

- An opportunity for Second Level Schools to utilise unique artworks in curriculum delivery.

An exhibition of 32 contemporary prints by Irish artists is available to borrow from the Tipperary Arts Office for cultural and educational purposes.

The prints are specially packed for easy handling and transport and include works by well-known Irish Printmakers including Alice Hanratty, Des Mac Mahon and David Lilburn. In addition, printmaking workshops are offered to participating schools while the exhibition is in the school.

The Exhibition is currently on loan to Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré school for the period January to March 2024- plans are to transport it to St. Joseph's CBS Nenagh next.

Heritage Service

Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Aniela Nowak, Eva Birsthisle Nenagh Arts Centre, Virginia Teehan CE Heritage Council and Dr Martina Moloney Chair of Heritage Council at Heritage Week Awards 2023

National Heritage Week

- Congratulations to Nenagh Arts Centre who were runners up for the Climate and Sustainability Award at the National Heritage Week Awards held in Gloster House Co Offaly in October.

County Heritage Plan Actions:

- Applications are currently underway for 2024 Heritage programme and will be submitted in February
- The Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) project will begin work in February with 6 groups, including Tipperary in the Decade of Revolution. The Tipperary site will be launched later this year

Virginia Teehan C.E Heritage Council, Malcolm Noonan T.D. Minister of State for Heritage & Electoral Reform, Róisín O' Grady Heritage Officer TCC, Dr Martina Moloney Chairperson of the Heritage Council

- ***Opening the door to Irelands heritage: A collection of Local Authority Heritage Officer projects*** was launched by Minister Malcolm Noonan at the Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny on 10th January. The publication documents 31 projects from around the county that have been supported by Local Heritage Officers and the Heritage Council over the last three years.

Irish Walled Town Network
- The AGM of this network will take place in March
- Interpretation and Events scheme will launch shortly and an application will be submitted to highlight the counties walled towns.

Creative Ireland Programme:
- A new Creative Communities Engagment Officer, Ann Marie Keaveney has been appointed to deliver the Creative Ireland progamme in the county
- The Community Grant Scheme and Project Call both closed on February 2nd and following assessments successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible

- A further scheme to deliver Cruinniú na nÓg Creative Irelands day of National Creativity for Youth will launch later in the year

National Heritage Week

- National Heritage Week will take place from 17th to 25th August this year and the theme will be 'Connections, Routes and Networks'. A Heritage Week grant scheme to support groups putting on events/completing projects for Heritage Week will be launched in June.

Community Monuments Fund

- Applications for the Community Monument scheme closed to the public on 1 February 2024. A number of very successful projects have been carried out with this fund

over the last 3 years and a number of our archaeological monuments have been secured because of it.

Biodiversity Service

- In December the Biodiversity Officer attended Heritage and Biodiversity Officer training in Kilkenny.

Hedgerows IRELAND

Event: Why Hedgerows Matter - Sat Jan 13th

January 2, 2024

Hedgerows Ireland

Why Hedgerows Matter
Free Event
January 13th, 2024   10am to 1:30pm
at Pat Maher's farm, Freighduff, Cashel E25D211

Hedge laying demonstration with Richard Markham, certified contractor

Hedge cutting demonstration with Philip Hickey, certified contractor

Question and Answer session on TAMS schemes with Dermot Grogan DAFM

Presentation on barn owls and other hedgerow birds with Aine Lynch and team from Birdwatch Ireland

Short presentation from Pat Maher, Alan Moore (Hedgerows Ireland) and Jimmy Duggan (local historian)

Information/demonstration including owl/bird/bat box making by Cashel's Men Shed, natural dyeing by Lucy Moore, local honey by Gerry Ryan, elder flower cordials by Irish Hedgerows Ltd and more

- The Biodiversity Office supported a Hedgerows Ireland event in Cashel on 13th January. This was a very well received event with 120 in attendance.
- The Biodiversity Officer attended the launch of the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan (2023-2027) in the Botanic Gardens on 25th January. Following this launch, Tipperary County Council will now begin the process of producing the County Biodiversity Action Plan (2025-2030).
- We are currently preparing grant applications for the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) and the Heritage Council Grant Scheme. In 2024 these schemes will provide up to €116,000 of funding to support biodiversity projects and the creation of the Biodiversity Action Plan in County Tipperary.

Museum Service

- The Museum in conjunction with Tipperary County Council Workplace Partnership Committee held Staff Wreath Making Workshops in Clonmel and Nenagh Civic Offices in December

- The Museum held Clay Workshops in December where students from Raheen College, Clonmel enjoyed an interactive workshop
- **Rachel Blackmore Material:** Following on from the Museum's segment on RTÉ's the Today show and as Part of the Thoroughbred horse Experience, the Rachel

Blackmore Goggles and accompanying images have now been put on display in the Museum.

- The 11th Annual Lecture series continued with in December 2023 with a lecture by Clodagh Grubb entitled *Education for all: A Quakers view.* The January lecture was given by Joseph Doyle which was entitled *Clonmel District Model School, 1849-1877.*

- Inspired by the Museum's collection, local artist Orla McDonagh held a Children's Pottery Workshop on 10th January.
- **_The Paddy Cashin Photographic Exhibition_** has seen huge public engagement with hundreds of visitors

visiting the Museum to view the collection. The images displayed December – January 24 are 1985 & 1986 and going forward each month, a new year will be exhibited.

- **Thoroughbred Country Horse:** Tipperary Museum & Channons Forge were assessed for their market readiness for the Thoroughbred Country Experience by Deirdre McDonald *The Innovate Room* on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. A report will be sent to Fáilte Ireland and later sent to the Museum for comment.

L to R: Kate Twohig 'When Next We Meet', Stephen McGrath 'Guitarist', Eoin Hally 'When Next We Meet', Marie McMahon Managing Curator Tipperary Museum and Dirk Baumann Sound and Lighting Producer @ Tipperary Museum.

- The Museum received funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to host live performances for the Night Time Economy. In December, Tipperary bands and performers took to the intimate stage and setting of Tipperary Museum of Hidden History where they performed for a full house.

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

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Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Clonmel Borough District – February 2024

No.	Item	Update
1.	Project Ireland 2040 Funds – URDF – Approved Projects	**Kickham Site: -** • Plans for the new garda station remain on target with funding secured and commencement in 2024. • Phase 2 ETB/TUS joint preliminary business case and designs underway. • The Arts Officer has applied for funding in December 2023 to progress additional works within the Chapel. **Regional Sports Hub: -** The project is now in the defects liability stage and the contractor is working through the snag list at present. **Clonmel Public Realm -** The revised Preliminary Business Case is currently under review by the Department of Transport (DoT). Subject to approval from the DoT, thereafter the report will be issued to the Dept. of the Environment.
2.	URDF Call 3 URDF Call 4 Suir Island Amenity Park (incl. Bridge) Suir Island Gardens	Work in Clonmel District is progressing and property owners will be approached to upgrade/sell to Council by agreement or CPO. Hopeful that the 4th URDF Call will be announced early in 2024 No update since the last meeting. The planning application is still with An Bord Pleanala for determination. The public consultation period and deadline for making submissions/observations has now passed. 3 no. submissions were received. TCC is currently formulating responses to submissions where appropriate. The application is due to be decided by 02/05/2024. Tender evaluation and Tender Assessment Report is now complete. Report is under review by management.
3.	Marlfield Town & Village Renewal Project	Footpath works are complete from lake entrance to crossroads at St Patricks Well. All other works complete.
4.	Performance Space – Abbey St Car Park	Tender evaluation and Tender Assessment Report is now complete. Report is under review by management.
5.	Market Place	Date was set during meeting between Remcoll and Chief Executive and Director of Services to have meeting date with planning during February in relation to a submission. Planning will revert to the District with an update following their meeting.

6.	Clonmel Arms Hotel	Ongoing consultation between the contractors and the council throughout the demolition phase. Work progressing in line with the Section 3 notice issued.
7.	C.C.T.V. Scheme Extension	Commissioners Office have been written to and we await response in relation to approval for progressing the installation of CCTV in the town.
8.	Tree Strategy	Last comments gone back to consultants with local photographs for the Strategy. Workshops will be held when draft complete by the consultants. Members will be notified when workshop date suggested by consultants.
9.	St Patricks Cemetery Entrance	Tender for Appointment of Contractors for works to St Patricks Entrance are due in on the 22nd Feb.
9.	Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme	No update since the last meeting with Michael Scully however he does plan that there will be another public information session towards the end of March
10.	Playground Equipment	Equipment and works in Mulcahy Park playground are complete. Investigation to be undertaken at Denis Burke Park and Elm Park playgrounds, however inspections due back from ROSPA (Parks Inspections Company).
11.	ORIS	Suir Blueway: - Preliminary design complete. Detailed design and contractor procurement to be completed by February/March 2024. Works on site to commence after the flood season (March/April 2024).
12.	Additional updates: -	• Preparations for St. Patricks Day progressing and the committee have met a number of times. Parade will be on the 17th March at 3pm from Irishtown to Parnell St. • Tipperary Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2024 is now open for applications. The closing date for receipt of applications was last Wednesday.

Report Prepared By: Carol Creighton, Administrative Officer, Clonmel Borough District

14th February 2024

2023 Road Works Programme (RWP) - Update for District Council Meeting on 21st February 2024

2023 Restoration Improvements (RI) - Wet mix/Macadam/Recycling, etc.) - Already Agreed as part of the 2022 - 2024 Road Works Programme (RWP)

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
L - 1409 -1	Attykit Rosegreen	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-6501-0	Rathkenty Lisronagh	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-1409-1	Rosegreen Village West	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-2501-3	Ballypatrick Village to N76	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-6503-0	Carraigwillian	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-6517-0	Heathview Kilcash	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-1408-0	Bawnatanvoher Rosegreen	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
R-688-5	Rathduff Upper Cashel Road	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
R-689-3	Market Hill	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-3272-3	Market Hill Jxn to Cahir	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
R-688-6	Rathduff Upper Cashel Road	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%

2023 Road Maintenance (RM), (Surface Dressing)

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
L1408-0	Rathsallagh, Rosegreen	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L2513-0	Ballydine	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L2509	Drumdeel	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L2514-0	Kylanoreashy	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L7207-0	Ballynattin	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-3280-0	Clashaniska	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-3277-0	Ballingarrane North (Garryroe)	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-3277-0	Ballingarrane North	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-6503-0	Monroe	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-7205	Lavally	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L-3620	Marlfield - Coole	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%

Drainage Grants for 2023

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
R688	Clerihan	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
R689	Fethard rd	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
L2514 -0	Kylanoreashy	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L1409-1	Attykit Rosegreen	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%

Discretionary Improvement Works (Clonmel Town and Environs)

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Rathronan Crossroads Resurface & Kerbs	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Baron Park Main Rd - Resurface Patches	Adam Coffey & Hugh Houlihan	Complete	100%
	Street lighting Lisronagh	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Street light at bus stop and Bottle banks - awaiting contractor	0%
	Rathronan Close	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Summerhill Drive - Traffic Calming	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Junction tightening to be carried out at the entrance to the estate in 2024.	0%
	13 Ard Fatima - Install 2 Speed Ramps	Nicola Keating & Hugh Houlihan	Junction tightening to be carried out at the entrance to the estate in 2024.	0%
	Honeyview Estate - Install a Speed Ramp	Nicola Keating & Hugh Houlihan	Junction tightening to be carried out at the entrance to the estate in 2024.	0%
	Joyces Lane/The Quay	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Resurfacing to be completed 2024.	0%
	Cherrymount	Hughie Houlihan	Complete	100%
	Auburn Park	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Gates at O'Neill St./Gordan St. Car Park	Adam Coffey & Hugh Houlihan	Tender awarded - Contractor has commenced.	80%
	Macadam Patchworks in Clonmel Town	Adam Coffey	Complete	100%

Red Roads

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
L-6515	Tullohea	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L - 2514 -0	Kylanoreashy	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-7272-0	Ballincor	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L-2514 -0	Butlerstown	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%

Community Involvement Scheme- Currently being assessed

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Mary Lacy O'Shea	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Withdrawn by applicant on 2nd June 2023.	N/A

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS Schemes) - Currently being assessed.

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Jerome Tobin, Lisbalting	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	**100%**

Safety Improvement Scheme 2023 (Low Cost Accident Scheme)

	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
R - 688-6	Rathduff	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	**100%**
R-687-3	Jamestown	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	**100%**
R688-4	Ballybeg	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	**100%**
R688-4	Mocklerstown	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	**100%**

Bridge Rehabilitation Works.

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Gas house Bridge (2022)	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	**100%**
L - 6513	Sir Thomas's Bridge	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Tender docs 70% complete. Structural design 70% complete. Plan to be out for Tender by End Feb	**10%**

HD30 - Capital Maintenance on National Road Pavements 2023 (Pavement Repairs & Drainage Works)

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Yet to be finalised.			

NP HD15 & HD17 National Route Fencing Retrofit Projects 2023

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	CLMD M. Works-Fencing Retrofit 19 on the N24	Emma Ryan	Project Assessment is ongoing	15%

Active Travel Measures for 2023 (subject to final agreement with the NTA)

Cost	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
€35,000.00	Old Bridge to Suir Blueway Link	Gillian Flynn	Consultants working on Planning pack & Environmental reports. This is a Part 8 planning application. Consultations with the Soccer Club have resulted in a change in alignment.	**10%**
€900,000.00	Cashel Road Active Travel Scheme, Clonmel	Gillian Flynn	Developing the design to obtain NTA approval to proceed to construction.	**15%**
€25,000.00	SRTS (R1) Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel	Gillian Flynn	Awaiting approval to proceed to Part 8	**10%**
€850,000.00	SRTS (R1) Gaelscoil Chluain Meala, Clonmel	Gillian Flynn	Developing the design to obtain NTA approval to proceed to construction.	**15%**
€15,000.00	Davis Road Active Travel Scheme Clonmel (Previously TCC/21/0014 Light Segregation Schemes)	Gillian Flynn	Consultant working on the planning documents and drawings following NTA peer review, awaiting approval to proceed to Part 8	**10%**
€3,000.00	Clonmel Local Transport Plan	Gillian Flynn	Local Area plan & Local transport plan on the agenda for the TCC Monthly meeting on 12th February :To consider the proposed material alterations to the Clonmel Local Area Plan 2024-2030 and the Chief Executive's report on the submissions received in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.	**90%**

	Clonmel to Marlfield Greenway	Gillian Flynn	Consultant working on the planning documents and drawings - An Bord Pleánala application.	10%
	Marlfield to Cahir Greenway	Gillian Flynn	Phase 0 SAR Approved by TII. Feasibility Report Phase 1 submitted to TII for approval, progression to Phase 2 dependent on N24 Transport Solution & approval of Feasibility report	5%

Climate Change Adaptation

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
L-6517	Road flooding- Brittas	Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L2502-2	Ballypatrick - Drainage and resurfacing	Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
L6511-0	Drainage and resurfacing - Toor	Emma Ryan	Complete	100%
R-707	Drainage and resurfacing - Cherrymount	Adam Coffey	Complete.	100%

Towns & Villages Renewal - (€200,000 - Received January 2021)

Road Number	Project Name and Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
L-3287-0	**Marlfield Village Renewal Project**	Nicola Keating/Adam Coffey	Complete	100%

IPB Footpath Funding

	Project Name & Location	Project Manager	Project Details	% Project Complete
	Dr. Croke Place (concrete laneway)e	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Carrigeen - Both sides between Nos. 46 & 47	Adam Coffey	Length = 50m; Area 50sq.m. Works will be done in Q1 2024	0%
	Raheen Road - Raheen House to the Tech	Adam Coffey	Will form part of Active Travel - Safe Routes To School Scheme.	N/A
	College Avenue	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	River St	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Elm park	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Gael Schoil	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Morton St	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Western Rd Cul de sac	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Queen St	Hugh Houlihan & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%

Development Contribution Levies for 2021 (€209,467)

	Kilcash Village	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Resurfacing works surveyed, tender documents being prepared - Irish Water have finished their work. Works to be completed in the coming weeks.	10%
	Clonmel	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
	Rosegreen Village	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%

Development Contribution Levies for 2022 (€248,293)

Clerihan Village	Clerihan Village	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
Lisronagh Village	Lisronagh Village	Nicola Keating & Adam Coffey	Complete	100%
Kilsheelan Village	Kilsheelan Village	Nicola Keating & Emma Ryan	Complete	100%

Capital Projects Programme - Update for Council Meeting February 2024

Project Name & Details	Detailed Project Status
Clonmel Public Realm	The revised Preliminary Business Case is currently under review by the Department of Transport (DoT). Subject to approval from the DoT, thereafter the report will be issued to the Dept. of the Environment.
Suir Island Amenity Park (incl. Bridge)	The planning application is with An Bord Pleanala for determination. The application is due to be decided by 02/05/2024.
Suir Island Gardens	Tender evaluation and Tender Assessment Report is now complete. Report is under review by management.
Performance Space – Abbey St Car Park	Tender evaluation and Tender Assessment Report is now complete. Report is under review by management.
ORIS:- Suir Blueway	Preliminary design complete. Detailed design and contractor procurement to be completed by February/March 2024. Works on site to commence after the flood season (March/April 2024).

Clonmel Borough Municipal District.
Vacant Housing Report.
Municipal District Meeting, 21st February 2024.

Breakdown of Vacant Houses.

Total number of vacant houses:	24
Housing Capital responsible for works:	11
CBD responsibility:	13

Break down of Clonmel Borough District Vacant Houses

Awarded to contractors:	2
Prepared for tender:	4
Being prepared for tender:	4
Pending award to contractors.	3

Housing Capital.

Major Refurbishment in conjunction with Housing Capital:	2

Notes:

· Received keys in last fortnight:	0
· District not responsible (keys not yet issued to Dist	0
· Housing Capital to complete first stage works:	1
· Housing Capital with complete responsibility:	1

Order Number	Subject	Details	Order Date	DelegatorList	Council Meeting	District
36984	Section 254 Licence - Scaffolding Licence	Erection of Scaffolding/hoarding at 115 Irishtown, Clonmel, Co Tipperary from 5th February 2024 to the 29th March 2024.	31/01/2024	Creighton, Carol	21/02/2024	Clonmel Borough District
36976	Section 254 Licence - Scaffolding Licence	Scaffolding Licence for Tinsley Construction Ltd, Cashel Road, Buraggery Lands West, Clonmel, Co Tipperary for the erection of scaffolding/hoarding at Robert A Merry & Co Ltd. from 14th February 2024 to 14th April 2024.	12/02/2024	Creighton, Carol	21/02/2024	Clonmel Borough District
36969	Casual Trading Licence	Casual Trading Licence - Patrick Hartigan, Monroe East, Ardfinnan, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, a Casual Trading Licence in respect of Pitch No 1, Kickham Street, Clonmel, Co Tipperary from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024	30/01/2024	Creighton, Carol	21/02/2024	Clonmel Borough District