



# Management Report to Council







## This Month

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# March dates for your Diary

| <u>Monday</u>  | <u>Tuesday</u>   | <u>Wednesday</u>  | <u>Thursday</u>                                  | <u>Friday</u>  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |   |  | <u>1</u>   |
| <u>4</u>   | <u>5</u>   | <u>6</u>  | <u>7</u>   | <u>8</u><br>09:30<br>10:00 CPG Mtg   |
| <u>11</u><br>11:00<br>TCC Plenary Mtg  | <u>12</u><br>10:00<br>Planning & Emergency<br>Services SPC mtg | <u>13</u>   | <u>14</u>  | <u>15</u><br><br>10:00<br>Infrastructure, Roads &<br>Transportation SPC<br>Meeting |
| <u>18</u>  | <u>19</u>  | <u>20</u><br><br>11:00 Clonmel BD Mtg                                 | <u>21</u><br><br>10:00<br>Nenagh MD Mtg          | <u>22</u>  |
| <u>25</u><br><br>10:30 Thurles MD Mtg<br><br>11:00 Tipperary-Cahir-<br>Cashel MD Mtg | <u>26</u>  | <u>27</u><br><br>11:00<br>Environment & Climate<br>Action SPC Meeting | <u>28</u><br><br>14:00 Carrick-on-Suir MD<br>Mtg | <u>29</u>  |

## Report at a Glance

|  |   |              |   |   |              |
|--|---|--------------|---|---|--------------|
|  | <b>Community &amp; Economic<br/>Development &amp; Tourism</b> | <b>1-25</b>  |  | <b>Environment &amp; Climate<br/>Action</b> | <b>26-30</b> |
|  | <b>Corporate Services</b>                                     | <b>31-38</b> |  | <b>Housing</b>                              | <b>39-51</b> |



Economic Community and Rural Development March 2024

| <u>New Policy/Strategic Issues:</u>       |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| Policy Changes/Updates                    | Progress in Previous Month  | Next Stage |
| LDS, LECP and SICAP                       | All completed. Roll out taking place.   |            |
| Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference 2024 | Conference held in February 2024  |            |
| <u>Directorate Priorities</u>             |   |            |
| Major Current Issues                      | Progress to date  | Next Stage |
| Local Enterprise Week                     | Takes place this year from the 4th – the 8th March with 17 events taking place across the County. |            |

**Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

Tipperary LCDC has met twice in 2024. There has been significant change in the membership with the LCDC welcoming 4 new members. The rollout of the new SICAP and LEADER programmes (with the associated policy/procedure) framework is currently a priority for the committee

**Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2023. (SICAP)**

2023 saw the end of the SICAP programme 2018-2023 and a new programme has commenced. The End of Year Appraisal review for 2023 was carried out by the LCDC in January 2024

The following Targets and financial information were noted for the 2023 programme

*Tipperary North*

NTDC KP1 Target 40/ Achieved 61  
NTDC KP2 Target 436/Achieved 820  
Total Budget €781,479.00 Spend 99%

*Tipperary South*

STDC KP1 Target 40/ Achieved 42  
STDC KP2 Target 436 / Achieved 473  
Total Budget €939,353.00  
Spend 97.42%

The budget for the 2024 programme is

- Tipperary North €702,348 with an additional €123,218 for New



Arrivals (i.e. International Protection or Ukrainians)

- Tipperary South €867,090 with an additional €128,194 for New Arrivals

### Local Economic and Community Plan

Following to adoption of the LECF Framework in December 2023, the initial Implementation plan is being developed. All agencies and organisations that are lead/convenors on action have been contacted regarding the plan development.

### Tipperary LEADER programme

The recruitment process for the Independent Evaluation Committees (one North, one South) is underway with a closing date of March 11th, information has been circulated via newspapers, PPN, email and social media. These committees will evaluate projects under the scoring system for presentation to LCDC. Appointing these committees will allow the LEADER programme to progress, initially with rolling calls and a targeted call planned for late 2024.

### Local Enhancement Programme

This programme closed to applications on 22/02/2024 with over 250 applications for the main programme (Total fund €178,046) and over 40 applications for the Women's Group strand (€35,609). Applications will be assessed for eligibility, and grant

monies allocated focussed on those areas with highest deprivation index

### Community Recognition Fund

Projects funded under this scheme continue to progress throughout Q1 and Q2 of 2024. No new allocation has been announced to date.

### Department of Rural and Community Development Funding Update

#### Town and Village Renewal

The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme was launched last July with a renewed focus on town centre economic and social recovery and regeneration. 5 applications up to the value of €1.186m were submitted to the Department and an announcement on funding is expected towards the end of Q1.

#### Building Acquisition Measure

This measure allows the Council to acquire derelict or vacant buildings to use these projects for town regeneration purposes in line with the aims of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. In 2023, the Council received the following funding under this measure to purchase these properties

7/8 Main Street (formerly Liz's Bar),  
Tipperary Town €220,000  
Galbally Road, Tipperary Town  
€165,000



## Clár Funding

### 2023 Clár Measure 1 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities – Tranche 2 Funding announcement

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. On 12th January 2024, the following 7 projects were announced as successful under Measure 1 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities of the 2023 Clár programme tranche 2 with grants totalling €229,975: -

- Cappawhite Community Council – Set up a Community Café – Grant funding of €27,014
- Boher Community Development Group – External lighting for inclusive MUGA and accessible community walking path – Grant funding of €23,697
- Scéal Community Ltd, Lorrha – Ground re-surfacing – Grant funding of €25,200
- Aglish Village Committee – Play Equipment upgrade and sensory garden – Grant funding of €49,950
- Castleiney Village Car Park (application by Tipperary County

Council) – Enhancement works at Castleiney Village Car Park – Grant funding of €17,424

- Rathcabbin Community Hall CLG – Upgrade of existing toilet facilities and installation of a wheelchair-accessible toilet – Grant funding of €49,790
- Donohill Development Council – Level, resurface and tarmac the car park at Donohill Community Centre to make wheelchair accessible for all – Grant funding of €36,900

### The LAMA (Local Authority Members Association)

The **LAMA** (Local Authority Members Association) **Community & Council Awards 2024** sponsored by IPB Insurance were held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

The 2024 awards, presented by Marty Whelan, saw a record number of 273 nominations across the 31 councils which was whittled down to 133 shortlisted projects in 26 categories.

The Tipperary County Council nominees were as follows:

- Best Community Health Project: Fethard Town Park
- Community Volunteer of the Year: Nicola Welford
- Best CSR Project in Community: Millennium Family Resource Centre, Tipperary



### Tipperary Age-Friendly

Tipperary Age Friendly held an Alliance Workshop in January, informed by the Older Peoples Council workshop in December. The 2024 -2025 Age Friendly Implementation Team will be agreed by the Alliance in March 2024.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March the Older Peoples Council Executive will attend a Regional HSE Health Seminar.

Planning is underway for our Annual EXPO in the TUS College Campus Thulres on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Tipperary Age Friendly circulated a Dementia Planting guide to all Tidy Towns groups in February, encouraging the group to consider sensory planting and also participation in dementia awareness training.

**Migrant Integration** The Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) is being established currently. Lindsay Cleary has been appointed as LAIT Coordinator. Two Integration Support Workers and one Clerical Support worker will be appointed in due course.

LAITs are being established country-wide as part of the process of implementing a new International Protection accommodation model which centres integration from day

one. The primary role of the LAITs is to provide ongoing integration support to International Protection applicants, Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection to enable them to live independently in the community.

The LAITs will also act as the direct point of contact, providing information, guidance and advice, answering queries as they arise and ensuring that they receive the necessary support, such as accessing employment, developing English language proficiency, childcare, healthcare services and linkages to local service providers and community activities.

The LAITs are not intended to replace mainstream service provision but to support cohorts in accessing these services.

### Sláintecare Healthy Communities Clonmel



**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.



### 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 16<sup>th</sup> February on approval of returns and reports for 2023 funding will come through for 2024 and as per the 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 the end of February.

Tipperary County Council partnered 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 the 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 have in their playgrounds.



### Comhairle na n-Óg

Tipperary Comhairle members Olivia D/A'arcy (Chair South Tipp) and Niamh Brennan (Vice-Chair South Tipp) presented to TCC members at their January meeting outlining the work of Tipperary Comhairle and their work plan for the year ahead.



***Olivia D'Arcy and Niamh Brennan presenting to the members of TCC at their January meeting***

Nenagh Comhairle members were nominated and won the group section of the Garda Youth Awards (Nenagh District) for their poster on ***Relationships and Consent*** which was presented to them on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February in Templemore.



***Pictured at the Garda Youth Awards in Templemore were Pauline Strappe, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, Angela Sheehan, TCC and Nenagh Comhairle members receiving the award***

### Tipperary PPN

Tipperary PPN continues to provide information on grants, training, and workshops through the monthly newsletters.

Tipperary PPN will host its first plenary of 2024 on 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Tipperary PPN supported by Tipperary County Council applied for funding under the Just Transition Fund to support the development of capacity and community mapping of facilities.

For more information visit <https://www.ppntipperary.ie/>.



## Tipperary Children & Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC)

Tipperary CYPSC continues to work through its Outcome Subgroups to implement the Children and Young People's Plan 2022-2025 for Tipperary. There was consensus at the January 2024 meeting that the CYPSC would support as convenor and partner body the listed actions within the proposed LECP Implementation Plan.

In 2024 Tipperary CYPSC funding will only be open for applications to its member organisations and the Tipperary CYPSC's Finance Group will hold an Information Session on CYPSC Funding streams for Young Ireland and Healthy Ireland 2024 funding on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2024, this will be held online. The Tipperary CYPSC Outcome Subgroups will select priority areas as a focus for 2024 and funding will be aligned to these priorities.

The Department of Integration has made available an International Protection Fund with up to a maximum of €50,000 available to each of the 27 CYPSCs across the country. The Tipperary CYPSC will work with community agencies and services in the county that currently provide support to identified IPAC and EAC centres in the county. This fund is for support to children and young people aged 0-24 years.

3 Outcome Group selections have selected their priority areas for development in 2024 to include Youth

Participation, Healthy Eating And Active Living, and Substance Use.



## Sports Partnership

Tipperary Sports Partnership has developed and is implementing its 2024 Operational Plan. To date, TSP has successfully secured €488,156 for the development of sports and physical activities in the County for 2024.

In January, 3 Swim for a Mile programmes commenced in Carrick, Nenagh & Roscrea with ?? participants aiming to complete a Mile Swim at the end of the programme. Two Swim for a Mile Events will be held in Carrick and Nenagh on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> April which will be run by Swim Ireland.

Currently, TSP is linking with Cycling Clubs across the County to deliver activities for BikeWeek 2024 which will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. Expression to host activities has been sought.

Plans are a foot for the delivery of the Paddles Up Schools Programme in the



Hub in Clonmel, the Integrated Paddling Programme in Cahir and Inclusive Paddling Programme in Clonmel & Cahir for April & May. Support is been provided for a new Canoe Club in Carrick on Suir. TSP is also working with Canoeing Ireland to facilitate a Teen Connect Activity in March.

The rollout of the Wibbly Wobbly Balance Bike programme has commenced with 6 Preschools participating with 135 toddlers taking part.

Expressions of interest were sought from Primary Schools for the Cycle Right programme. These are currently been assessed.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, TSP supported an Olympic Handball Schools Event with the Irish Olympic Handball Association in Tipperary Town with 120 pupils taking part.

The first week of March is '*Women in Sport Week*' where TSP will profile the participation of females in Sport along with TSP's female programmes. A Coaching Teenage Girls Workshop is also planned for 7<sup>th</sup> March. A Midlife Workshop will be delivered on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March in Carrick on Suir to support women to be active to kick off WIS week. In January, 24 females attended the workshop in Nenagh.

A new Her Moves programme has commenced in Tipperary Town

following the successful pilot in 2023. 24 teenagers from St. Ailbes & St. Annes are engaged in the programme which they have name 'Active Angels'. The programme will run until May.

The Annual Older Adult Festival is planned for 13<sup>th</sup> May in the Anner Hotel in Thurles. A series of 6 Go for Life Physical Activity Leaders (PALs) Workshops are planned for April & May in Thurles. The workshops will aim to provide training to leader who will then return to their organisation to set up activities.

TSP is linking with Tippfm to promote walking tails across Tipperary 'Walks & Talks'

To date, TSP has delivered 4 Safeguarding 1 workshops with 54 participants. Safeguarding 2 & 3 Workshops are planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of March respectively.

The Federation of Irish Sport selected its Tipperary Volunteer in Sport Award. Paddy Doyle from Moyne Athletic Club was named the 2023 County Tipperary Recipient. The Award is supported by the National Network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships.

Phase 2 of the 'Innovation Project – Suir V' in partnership with TUS, Canoeing Ireland and Clonmel Canoe Cub is been further developed to enhance the experience and to deliver outreach programmes. Currently, TSP and TUS are engaging with Secondary

Schools taking part in the Paddles Up programme using VR as a tool to encourage participants to engage in real-life canoeing with an emphasis on students who are nervous or fearful of taking part.

The Research project *'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?'* is continuing with TUS. Initial testing took place in September with further testing planned for 2024.

The National Digital Database is been promoted as a tool to find sporting activities and facilities in Tipperary. [www.GetIrelandactive.ie](http://www.GetIrelandactive.ie)



This report is an update on football initiatives and development within Tipperary between January and March 2023. Following on from 2023 we have been implementing and supporting programmes, clubs and leagues to continue to grow football participation for all in Tipperary. engaging heavily on a new FAI Football Pathways Plan alongside the planning,

### **FAI Club Mark**

The FAI Club Mark is an award based on best practices in governance in

football and aims to establish a minimum operating criterion for football club governance, management, and administration. In embarking upon this process, a simple application is made to register to proceed with an application. Clubs then proceed upon their journey by applying for an 'Entry-Level' status and can thereafter progress onto becoming a 1-star club.

Moneygall FC have now achieved the FAI One Star Award placing them alongside Lough Derg FC as the second club to achieve the One-star award in Tipperary.

Nenagh Celtic is also at the advanced stages of the application process and are expected to complete the process in the coming months.

Most recently Birdhill and Ballymackey FC achieved the entry-level award whilst Ballingarry Albion FC and Killenaule / Moyglass Ladies FC, Cashel Town Schoolboys/Girls FC, Tipperary Town FC, Suirside FC, Rosegreen Rangers FC and Slievenamon Celtic FC/Kilsheelan United, Clonmel Town FC, Arra Rovers, Borrisokane FC, Nenagh AFC, Cloughjordan, Newport Town AFC, Rearcross, Knigh United, Ardcroney FC, Clodiagh Rangers FC, Peake Villa FC, and BT Harps are working towards an entry-level application.



### Football For All

Peake Villa FC, Ballymackey FC, and Cahir Park AFC FFA club programmes continue a weekly basis. Ongoing support will be provided to Ballymackey where required. Moneygall FC has begun the process in setting up a FFA Section with a coaching workshop arranged in February for coaches from Moneygall and Ballymackey the planning process for the new section will launch in Q1 of 2024. In addition, early-stage support is being provided to Clonmel Town FC and Cashel Schoolboys/girls concerning the feasibility of a FFA section in their respective clubs.

### FAI Primary 5's

The FAI primary 5's school competition will launch on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> and will run up to May with 122 schools across Tipperary including schools hosting in-house blitz days in the lead-up to the competition launch. Schools playing to win their county in small, medium, and large schools in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> classes participating.

Two Mile Borris/St Kevins FC, Peake Villa FC, Ballymackey FC, and Cahir Park AFC will host the Tipperary Primary 5s for 2024.

In addition, transition year students from across Tipperary Secondary schools; alongside ETB, PLC, and College students will complete work experience for the primary 5s qualifiers and county finals in all locations and training will be provided to the

students to support the delivery of the programme.

### Disney Playmakers

Peake Villa, BT Harps, Birdhill FC, Nenagh AFC, Moneygall FC, Cloughjordan FC, Cahir Park AFC, Slievenamon Celtic/Kilsheelan Utd, Killenaule Moyglass Ladies FC and Gallbally United are preparing to return for their 2024 Disney Playmakers program which will invite new girls aged 5-8 years to participate in football for the first time.

### KickFit

Kick Fit is a fun, non-competitive social programme for women with the primary aim of keeping fit and creating a social group while encouraging the recruitment of coaches and players to clubs. It is managed by each club and supported by FAI Development Officers and FAI Women's Football Programme Coordinators.

BT Harps, Moneygall FC, and Clonmel Town FC have continued their KickFit group with members who want to play recreationally. The programme will also continue to be club led. Peake Villa has also expressed an interest in running the programme and planning is in place to support the delivery of a new programme at the club.

The KickFit women's 5v5 League has continued in blitz formats with games being held monthly expanding the opportunities for women to play football in a smaller format. Moneygall, Newport

Town, Birdhill, Borrisokane, Rearcross, BT Harps and Holycross have all participated in the events.

### Walking Football

We have been working with The Brothers of Charity and Cashel Mens Shed / Spafield Family Resource centre once again with the aim of resuming blocks of sessions from March.

### FAI Coach Education & Safeguarding

- PDP 1 X 3 (57 participants)
- PDP 2 (18 participants)
- 1 x Fundamentals of GK Course (in-person) with 24 participants.
- FAI Disability Coaching Workshop (12 participants)
- Safeguarding 1 Course (53 participants)

### Emerging Talent Programme

ETP league squads have been supported at both boys' and girls' levels from U12-U16. In addition, Tipperary boys and girls have been supported within Regional Centres of Excellence weekly.

## Tourism



### Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference 2024

Lots of pre-event promotion and media placement, national, local, social media, resulted in over-subscription of

this landmark Tipperary tourism networking event, with 200 signing up to attend this full day event in the Cashel Palace Hotel. Contributors included Alice Mansergh, Chief Executive Designate of Tourism Ireland and Paul Keeley, Director of Regional Development, Fáilte Ireland, amongst many tourism business managers and owners.



General Hotels Restaurants & Catering Tourism Events



### Top Speakers for Tipp Conference

Chief Executive Designate of Tourism Ireland, Alice Mansergh (pictured), and Fáilte Ireland's Director of Regional Development, Paul Keeley, will be keynote speakers at "Elevate Tipperary" which takes place on Wednesday, February 21st at The Cashel Palace Hotel.

The event is organised by Tipperary Tourism & Tipperary County Council. It will feature inspirational speakers from tourism businesses from both within the county and around the island, plus industry leaders.

Attendees will hear of opportunities which they can capitalise on to help steer their business or community organisation to success in 2024 and beyond within the currently challenging environment facing the tourism and hospitality sector.

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### Tipperary tourism operators invited to take part in major conference

With a changing tourism and hospitality landscape, Tipperary County Council is pleased to announce the Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference 2024, a landmark event for the industry in the county. The conference will offer a series of valuable insights, networking opportunities and practical advice to help tourism operators thrive in the current and future market. The event will be held at the Cashel Palace Hotel, Co. Tipperary, on Wednesday 21st February 2024. Registration and refreshments are provided free of charge for all attendees. Advance online registration is mandatory. The conference will feature a keynote address by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Heritage, a panel discussion with industry experts, and a series of workshops and networking opportunities. The conference is a must-attend event for anyone involved in the tourism industry in Tipperary. For more information, visit [www.tipperary.com/conference](http://www.tipperary.com/conference).

**Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference**  
February 21st 2024

Venue: Cashel Palace Hotel, Co. Tipperary E25 EF61  
Registration and Refreshments: 09.30am lunch and refreshments provided  
Conference close: 4.30pm  
Date: Wednesday 21st February, 2024

Attendance at the event is FREE of charge to all affiliated with tourism in Tipperary, or who aspire to be. Advance online registration here is mandatory.

Who should attend?  
Anyone with an interest in tourism and catering to visitors into Tipperary, including tourism businesses, community organisations and individuals.

Why Attend?  
To hear from the leaders in the Irish Tourism Industry about new opportunities in a changing tourism landscape. To gain valuable insights into the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in the tourism industry, helping participants stay ahead in a competitive market. To hear inspirational stories of individuals who have carved out a business in the tourism industry – be inspired and learn from them. To network with others in the Tipperary Tourism community – connect with industry experts, local businesses, and potential collaborators.

To register simply scan the QR code or visit [www.tipperary.com/conference](http://www.tipperary.com/conference)  
This webpage contains information on all our speakers & contributors and a full detailed schedule breakdown for the day.

## Media Coverage post-Elevate Conference



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## Tipp Plots the Future

The Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference which opened on Wednesday has brought almost 200 tourism industry representatives into force to put their best foot forward for Tipperary ahead of this coming tourism season.

Delegates included hoteliers, restaurant owners, activity providers – water sports, equestrian, hiking, Chamber of Commerce, public authorities, tour operators, educational establishments, caravan and camping park owners, tour guides, visitor attractions, bars, Tipperary Food Producers and many more.

Caroline Rice, Tourism Development and Marketing Officer for Tipperary, commented how “the

### 200 attend Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference

BY TRAVELEXTRA ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024

IRELAND



Alice Mansergh, Paul Keely, Adrian Vartels on stage.

Elevate Tipperary Tourism Conference brought 200 tourism industry representatives to Cashel Palace to showcase Tipperary's offerings for the upcoming tourism season, highlighting collaboration and support from various stakeholders across the sector.

**Photos of the Day**



**Positive Feedback:**

Numerous emails and gratitude for organising the event from the tourism sector, for example:

*“In the years of attending ‘tourism’ events organised by Tipperary County Council, today’s Elevate Tipperary Tourism was truly outstanding. What struck me most about it was the fact that so much planning and thought*

*had gone into it, that there actually is a plan, there is a structure and there is somebody at the helm who has the vision and drive to help all providers in the county work together to achieve Time For Tipperary’s goal”.*

*“It was a fantastic day, great speakers giving real, and genuine encouragement to us all. Also, a wonderful opportunity to meet and catch up with old friends many of whom I hadn’t seen since pre-Covid times.*

*And don’t get me started on the unbelievable food served to us all!!! I think everyone was blown away with the quality and variety on offer.*

*Once again, thank you for yesterday and for all that you do for us ‘small fry’ in the tourism industry in Tipp, your contribution and support is very much appreciated. I look forward to meeting up again to see where we can go from here”.*

*“The calibre of speakers you exposed the audience to was just brilliant and super insightful. I have no doubt that every single person attending got something from it. From an academic perspective, it was really quite thought provoking and it was wonderful to see the buy in from local businesses from around Tipperary”.*

## Audit on Accessible Outdoor Recreational Facilities and Angling in Tipperary

Funded via ORIS 2022 and Tipperary County Council, this important audit is underway and 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 on 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 link age, 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.

## Other Media Coverage

River Run House & Cottages made the Top 10 in the Reader Travel Awards 2024, and placed 9th amongst highly regarded and well-established businesses.



## Tracks and Trails Programme

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





### Training

Munster Vales carried out a training needs analysis with the tourism businesses in the region and commissioned Sybil Cope Consultant to provide 1:1 training with the business owners. This has been hugely successful as Sybil is teaching and empowering business owners on how to manage and update their presence on Google and online. The feedback has been fantastic.

### Marketing

Munster Vales welcomed two content creators to the Tipperary and surrounding regions in February. The two ladies experienced a guided hike in the Galtee Mountains, a tour of Mitchelstown Caves and Cahir Castle, a walk on the Suir Blueway, and meals in a variety of cafes and restaurants all of which were promoted through their Instagram channels to an engaged audience of over 60,000 people.

Munster Vales is working with a new photographer to capture imagery and videos in the Tipperary area. Tourism Ireland revealed through their consumer insights that visitors are seeking scenery, heritage, and cultural experiences. The new content will reflect this and a marketing campaign to target international visitors will be launched.

### Television Coverage

Munster Vales will feature in a segment on RTÉ's At Your Service with Francis Brennan later this year. Triona O Mahony will be recording a piece at the Vee to discuss the tourism challenges and prospects in the area and explore the opportunities that will come from the development of the Munster Vales and Tipperary Tourism brand.

### Economic Development

#### The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme.

The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme contributes to the 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 13 were in the Nenagh MD area, 10 in the Clonmel MD area, 6 in the Thurles MD area, 1 in the Carrick on Suir MD area and 13 in the Tipperary MD area.**

In addition, A number of recent applications are currently being



processed for which it is expected that grants will be issued.

Businesses continue across a range of services including Fitness studios, Work Space, Beauty/Hair-dressing, Cafes/Coffee Shops, Crafts, Garages and Print.

Since inception, the scheme has only refused one grant and this was due to the property seeking a grant being 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 apply are all available on an information portal at [www.tipperarycoco.ie/cvis](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie/cvis).

### **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 target 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 highlights the diverse offerings of businesses and services that we have right on our doorsteps across County Tipperary. The fruits of ongoing promotions on the Facebook and Instagram sites continue to instill 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.

**Some of our recent winners are shown below** and they all have indicated their delight with the campaign and the message that it delivers ..... Shop Local – Shop in County Tipperary.





**CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY WINNER**

**€500 SHOPPING SPREE**

**SAMANTHA MCELLIGOTT**

Shop Local  
TIPPERARY

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

SHOP LOCAL TIPPERARY IS SUPPORTED BY TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

**Competition Time**

Win a €100 Voucher to your favourite Restaurant in County Tipperary

**Closing Date Sunday 11th of February**

Shop Local  
TIPPERARY

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

Shop Local Tipperary is supported by Tipperary County Council



### 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 the 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.**

### County Tipperary Digital Strategy

The County Tipperary Digital Strategy continues to be driven by Tipperary 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 Development and Enterprise SPC

The SPC met on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://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 from the farming sector in County Tipperary
- Social Enterprise Opportunities - Social Impact Assessment
- Social Enterprise Engaging and Developing Community and Rural Enterprise
- The European Entrepreneurial Region Award 2027

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

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

Support to the Retail sector is deemed very important by Tipperary County Council as they, as a sector, are one of the main employers in the county and a major contributor to the vitality of the county. 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 6<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 5.30pm with supper and opening at 6.30pm by Cathaoirleach Gerard Darcy. 4 key speakers will cover “How to achieve

exceptional results in sales”; “How to address the challenges of creating an online option for your business” and “Information for retail employers on how to ensure compliance with Employment Law” and also “How to attract and retain your team in retail”. We are looking for support in promoting this event at any opportunity available. A copy of our promotional leaflet is shown below.

### **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 the 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 were appointed as the company to facilitate and assist in designing this new brand.

Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann  
Tipperary County Council

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office

Unlock Success with  
Tipperary's **FREE** Exclusive  
Retail Training Evening!

# The Retail Edge

## Raise your Game

Register now at [Eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie)  
Secure Your Spot with the QR Code!

Date: 6th March 2024  
Time: 5.30pm  
FREE Buffet Supper served at 5.30pm  
Symposium commences at 6.30pm sharp  
Venue: Horse and Jockey Hotel, E41AP86

**ABOUT THIS EVENT**  
Dive into a day of knowledge-sharing, growth, and empowerment for your retail businesses. Join us for an enlightening training event, where industry experts will guide you through essential topics to enhance your skills and transform your business.

**WHY ATTEND?**  
Our experts are here to address your specific challenges. So Invest in your future as part of the retail sector in County Tipperary! Be part of an event dedicated to growth, knowledge, and success.

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow retailers and industry professionals.
- **Stay Ahead of Trends:** Get insights into the latest trends shaping the retail landscape.
- **WIN two free tickets** to the Retail Excellence Ireland Retreat on May 22nd 2024.

**Customer Service Mastery**  
Learn the art of delivering exceptional service that keeps customers coming back with Aif Dunbar. One of the top performance coaches within the customer service and leadership industry today!

**Human Resources Insights**  
Gain valuable HR advice tailored to the retail sector. Tommy Smyth – providing expert advice on how to ensure your business is compliant with the basics of employment law and how to attract and retain an excellent team in Retail!

**Retail Digital Evolution**  
Aine O'Leary providing her first hand experience at the transition to online selling with her business Wardrobe+ to win the Medium Size Online Retailer of the year award.

**The Current Landscape**  
CEO Jean McCabe of Retail Excellence Ireland will set the scene with an insight to the economic climate and landscape for the Retail Sector.

100 Years of Local Enterprise Office  
REI Retail Excellence Ireland  
County Tipperary Chamber

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](http://www.tipperary.ie)

***One little Studio in Ballina were 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 enterprise, community based providers and private providers of digital hubs, have formed and this team will lead out the different marketing activities over the coming months.*** Keep a watch out for the various promotional activities and

like and share our social media posts.

### 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 to at least double that in 2024 and grow it further in the years ahead. 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.

### County Economic and Enterprise Forum:

This Forum met on February 6th 2024 . Presentations were delivered on:

- Town Centre First in County Tipperary
- Advancing Tourism in Tipperary in Challenging Times
- An overview of County Tipperary Chamber
- Updates from Member organisations.

Organisations / Companies present at the meeting included TCC, Fiserv, STDC, NTDC, TUS, ETB, SETU, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Tipperary Food Producers, Skanstec, Tipperary Chamber

### ABS Building Ballingarrane

#### *(Update February 2024)*

Following on from the publication of the preferred N24 route corridor, and consultation with Tipperary Roads Capital Section, the decision was made to move the proposed building 20m to the North. This decision was made to facilitate a longer term, conflict regarding any future dual carriageway upgrades of the N24 rather than the preferred corridor route directly impacting the positioning of the

building. All utility surveys and topographical works where practical are completed.

A revised Basis of Design was issued and it is expected that a planning application for the building excluding infrastructure will be lodged in Q2 2024.

### 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 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 were 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 delivering 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 in the programme.

***The 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 Mulhearn 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 – 8am to 10am** - 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 8am to 10am.

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 – the 8th March with 17 events taking place across the County. Events will take place both online and in person.



## Environment & Climate Action Directorate

### Climate & Energy

#### Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029



*Adoption of the Tipperary LACAP 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024*

At the February Plenary meeting of the Council the Tipperary County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) was made. The LACAP sets out how the Council will deliver on climate action (climate mitigation and climate adaptation) in areas within its own remit and how the Council through its actions, will seek to influence, facilitate and advocate for climate action across other sectors and communities in how they achieve their own climate actions and targets.

At the Council meeting the Elected Representatives also supported the renewal of the Council's commitment to the EU Covenant of Mayors (an initiative supported by the European Commission, bringing together thousands of local governments that want to secure a better future for their citizens).

#### **Community Climate Action Fund**

The Department allocated €700,000 to Tipperary County Council for the first tranche of the Community Climate Action Fund. This fund is provided to finance community climate action projects and initiatives for capacity building within local communities. Applications opened on the 6th December, 2023 and the deadline for receipt of application was the 27th February, 2024. Applications received are now being assessed.

### Policy

An Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The next SPC meeting is due to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.



## Public Awareness Initiatives

### Green Schools

The awareness team is carrying out Green School Flag assessments in 20 schools who are renewing their Green Flags. Schools have been working hard on finalising their applications, with a renewal deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> March.

### Civic Amenity Site Promotion

A new information recycling centre leaflet was distributed to every household in the county to promote and encourage the use of the services at the Council's 5 sites. A list of all items accepted, pricing, locations and opening times for each site have been updated on the new information leaflet.

### National Spring Clean

Registrations have opened for National Spring Clean 2024, with 144 groups registering in the first week. Groups are encouraged to register online to receive litter picking packs from an Taisce.

### Dog Awareness

Appeal to dog owners to keep their dogs under control this lambing season. A social media campaign was launched to urge dog owners to be extra vigilant and keep their dogs under control this lambing season.

### Tipperary Town Green Business Hub Initiative

The Tipperary Town Green Hub campaign aims to help hospitality businesses in Tipperary Town and surrounding areas to better manage their business waste, increase recycling rates and help reduce waste related costs, through mentoring and training supports. The project is led by Tipperary County Council in partnership with the Regional Waste Management Planning Office. Local businesses were invited to attend a launch on the 5<sup>th</sup> March at Ballykisteen Hotel, to learn more about this new initiative.

### National Tree Week

The Section has ordered 1,200 native tree saplings from the Tree Council of Ireland to distribute to Tidy Towns / Community Groups and Schools for national tree week to get the county planting.

### Tidy Town Grants and Burial Ground Maintenance Grant Scheme 2024

Tidy Town Grant and Burial Ground Maintenance Grant Schemes for 2024 were advertised in local newspapers on the week commencing 5th February, 2024. Completed forms are to be returned to the relevant Municipal District for processing and payment. Closing date for completed applications is Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

## Community Services

### Derelict Sites

There are currently **74** properties on the Derelict Site Register. The Section engaged with an additional **53** owners in relation to remediating their properties.

Up to February 2024, 2 Section 8(2) Notices were issued (intention to place on Derelict Sites Register) and 2 Section 8(7) Notices were issued (placing on the Derelict Sites Register).

### Litter Management Plan 2024 - 2026

The Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026 was formally launched in February 2024. This plan sets out 7 high level objectives and 54 actions, which will help to prevent and control litter over the next 3-year period.



**Launch of the Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026:**

## Veterinary Services

### Horses

2 horse queries were reported to the Environment and Climate Action Section, which resulted in 2 horse pickups, as at the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### Dogs

A total of 28 dogs were surrendered or seized by the dog wardens as at the end of February, 2024. The number of dog licences purchased up to the end of February 2024 was 1,546.

## Infrastructure

### Civic Amenity Sites

The total of customers who used the services of the Council's 5 Civic Amenity Sites, as at the end of February 2024 was 17,479.

## Burial Grounds

Burial Grounds Capital, Minor and Improvement Works (including Site Selection) continue at the following locations: Ballina (Boher), Fethard, Cahir, Solohead/Monard, Carrick on Suir, Kilmore, Shanrahan, Cloughprior, Thurles (St Patrick's), Holycross, Kilnarath, Clonmel (St Patrick's), Newcastle and Lisbunny Nenagh.



## Waste Management and Enforcement

Section 14 Notices continue to issue as the occasion arises.

### Legal Proceedings

Court proceedings, where warranted, continue for breaches under the Litter and Waste Management Acts.

### Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) Issued

As at the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024, a total of 31 Fixed Penalty Notices issued; 21 in relation to End of Life Vehicles at unauthorised facilities and 10 litter fines.

### Household Waste Inspections

A total of 31 household waste surveys have been carried out on houses in County Tipperary thus far in 2024.

### Circular Economy Act re CCTV usage to amend Waste Management Act and Litter Pollution Act legislation

The Minister has signed commencement orders that came into effect on the 15th February 2024 to allow for the lawful use of CCTV in accordance with:

- the Codes of Practice;
- the Waste Management Act, 1996 (Revised Acts ([lawreform.ie](http://lawreform.ie)));
- the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022, Section 32 ([irishstatutebook.ie](http://irishstatutebook.ie)); and
- to allow for the lawful use of Mobile Recording Devices in accordance with the Waste Management Act, 1996. (Revised Acts ([lawreform.ie](http://lawreform.ie))).

The WERLAs, with the support of a National Working Group, are currently working on guidance to assist Local Authorities in the implementation of the Codes of Practice.

## Landfills & Waste Removal from Rathcabbin

### Ballaghveny landfill

The monitoring of the landfill in compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing.

### Donohill landfill

The monitoring of the landfill in compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing.

### Rathcabbin Waste Removal

The former Shannon Vermi-Composting facility waste removal is estimated to be ca.95% complete.



### **Closed landfills**

An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication, for environmental risk assessments and Certificates of Authorisation for closed landfills within the county. Environmental monitoring of these historic landfills is ongoing.

## **Environmental Protection**

### **Water Pollution /Agriculture**

- The Sampling Programme pursuant to the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is ongoing.
- Farm inspections and notifications thereof continue.
- Other activities included: assessment of Nutrient Management Plans, Septic Tank Inspections, Section 4 licence sampling and sampling pursuant to the Rural Water Programme.

### **AIR**

**Air Inspections** - Inspections in relation to the solid fuel regulations continue.

### **Rural Water Programme**

The Work Programme of the Rural Water Team was presented to and reviewed by the Rural Water Monitoring Committee at its most recent meeting, which took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

An update on progress in the Rural Water Programme 2024 will be presented at the next meeting of the Committee, which is scheduled to take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## **Environmental Complaints**

As at the Feb 2024 a total of 309 environment complaints were received, during the same period 213 (69%) of the complaints were closed.



## CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

| Policy/Strategic Issues                                    | Status              |
|--|---------------------|
| Audit Committee Work Prog                                  | Completed           |
| SPC Scheme   | Completed           |
| Corporate Plan 2020-2024                                   | Completed           |
| Social Media Policy & Protocol                             | Completed           |
| Communication Strategy Implementation                      | Completed           |
| Service Delivery Plan 2023                                 | Ongoing/In Progress |
| Annual Report 2022   | At Draft Stage      |
| Associated Companies Governance Policy & Guidance document | At Draft Stage      |

### Directorate Priorities

#### Audit Committee

A meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The next meeting is scheduled for xx.

#### Register of Electors

Tipperary County Council currently has 131,750 Local Government Electors on the Rolling Register.

#### **Rolling Register**

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Cahir LEA              | 11,981         |
| Carrick on Suir LEA    | 16,205         |
| Cashel-Tipp LEA        | 22,857         |
| Clonmel LEA            | 18,802         |
| Nenagh LEA             | 17,763         |
| Newport LEA            | 13,552         |
| Roscrea-Templemore LEA | 14,412         |
| Thurles LEA            | 16,178         |
| <b>Total:</b>          | <b>131,750</b> |

#### **Annual Report 2023**

Tipperary County Council is required under Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001 to prepare and adopt an annual report not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June in relation to the performance of its functions during the preceding year and shall furnish a copy of the report to each member of the Council, the adoption of which is a reserved function.

Work has commenced on the collation and drafting of the Annual Report for 2023 and a draft of the report will be submitted to the Council in due course..

#### **Service Delivery Plan 2024:**

The service delivery plan for 2024 is currently being drafted and will be submitted for the consideration of the Council at the April meeting. This plan will be consistent with the budgetary provisions estimated to be necessary for the Council to carry out its functions during 2024. The adoption of the plan is a reserved function of the Council

#### **Insurance Management**

Public Liability/Pothole Claims

Period 01/01/2024 to 01/03/2024

Pothole - 17

Public Liability - 8

**Total Claims – 25**

#### **Coroner Service**

Statistics for period 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2024

No. of deaths reported: 91

No. of Post mortems/Inquests: 12

No. of Undertaker Removals: 9

## Communications and Customer Service Desk

The Communications team communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of matters of local and national interest

**Press Releases issued** 1 January – 29 February = 11

**Media queries** 1 January – 29 February = 37

## Digital and Social Media

The communications team monitors and updates social media channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council. Social media posts during period 1 January -29 February

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD</b></p>                       | <p><b>Tipperary Libraries</b></p>    | <p><b>LEO Tipperary</b></p>                     |
| <p><b>Tipperary Arts Office Arts Grant applications</b></p>  | <p><b>Tipperary Sports</b></p>    | <p><b>Planning Built Heritage</b></p>          |
| <p><b>Housing</b></p>                                        | <p><b>Clonmel Borough District Beat FM School Warden of the year</b></p>  | <p><b>LEO Tipperary Student Enterprise</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Tipperary Fire</b></p>                                 | <p><b>Tipperary Tourism</b></p>   | <p><b>Planning Draft Newport Plan</b></p>      |

| Communications focus Summary of some items PLANNED for promotion March - June 2024 |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Event  | Messaging suggestions  | Section   |
| <b>March</b>   |  |   |
| Seachtain na Gaeilge (1-17 Mar)  | Highlight events planned and opportunity to profile Irish Language services and officer. Potential to create content in Irish during the week.   | Libraries and Cultural Services                                 |
| World Book Day (March 7)   | Showcase library events planned for World Book Day and benefits of reading   | Libraries   |
| STEPS Engineers Week (4-10 March)  | STEPS Engineers week gives children the opportunity to discover engineering. Potential to profile engineers in your local authority and / or engineering work projects. Events may be planned at local libraries | Libraries   |
| Local Enterprise Week (Mar 4-8)  | Highlight and showcase events run by LEOs and LEO and local authority supports for business  | Local Enterprise Office   |
| International Women's Day (March 8)  | Highlight corporate events. Profile female councillors/staff, particularly women working in the local authority in non-traditional roles. Highlight work on the gender pay gap.                                  | Corporate Services  |
| St. Patricks Day (March 17)  | Showcase festival events planned in the area   | Municipal Districts   |
| <b>April</b>   |  |   |
| National Spring Clean (throughout April)   | Celebrate volunteers and Tidy Towns groups and showcase progress on areas classed litter free in the area as well as staff involved in keeping areas clean and pretty.   | Municipal Districts<br>Environment and Climate Action           |
| World Autism Day (April 2)   | Highlight caterings in LAs and LA owned facilities (sensory pods, etc).  | Libraries   |
| World Health Day (April 7)   | Promote Healthy Communities programme and sports and leisure facilities  | Community and Enterprise/Healthy Ireland/<br>Sports Partnership |
| National Workplace Wellbeing Day (April 28)  | Promote staff wellbeing and any health/mindful seminars/workshops in local authorities.  | Partnership   |
| <b>May</b>   |  |   |
| Active School Week (24-28 Apr)   | Showcase sports facilities and amenities/opportunities for ongoing activity by youth   | Municipal Districts/C & E                                       |
| Bealtaine Festival (May 1)   | Highlight local events and positive ageing initiatives   | Community and Enterprise<br>Age action                          |
| Student Enterprise Awards Programme Finals (May 5)                                 | Showcase finalists in your area, in collaboration with LEO messaging   | Community and Enterprise<br>LEO                                 |

|  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| National Volunteering Week (3rd week in May) | Celebrate events being run during the week and opportunity to highlight how local authorities engage with voluntary organisations through PPNs and other means. Profile of staff who do significant voluntary work. | Community and Enterprise              |
| <b>June</b>                                  |   |                                       |
| <b>Event</b>                                 | <b>Messaging suggestions</b>  | <b>Section</b>                        |
| Summer Stars                                 | Showcase library events   | Libraries                             |
| National Water Safety Awareness Week         | Profile of lifeguard service and water safety tips  | Municipal Districts<br>Swimming pools |
| National Bike Week (13-21 May)               | Showcase cycling infrastructure and greenways in the area and any planned initiatives   | Roads                                 |

### Customer Service Activity

**CSD staff also utilise the following systems for logging and looking up customer queries: -**

- CRM – customer relationship management
- Anti-Social Behaviour Log
- Environmental complaints register
- Fix your street
- NVDF system (motor tax)
- Ihouse

### **Customer Service activity – 1 January – 29 February 2024**

| Telephone calls | Emails | Ihouse queries | CRMs  |
|-----------------|--------|----------------|-------|
| 21,942          | 3,804  | 856            | 5,200 |

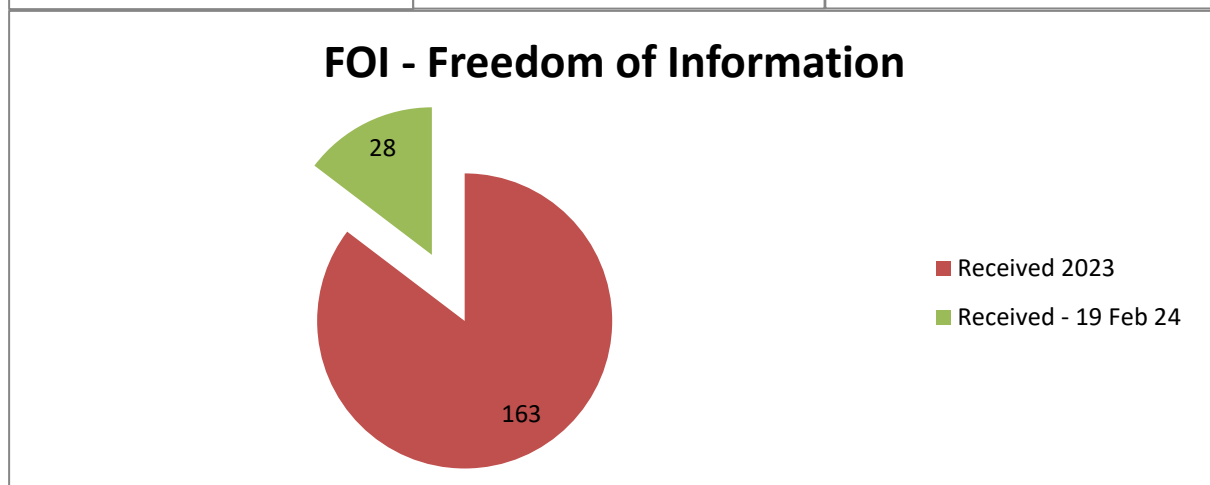
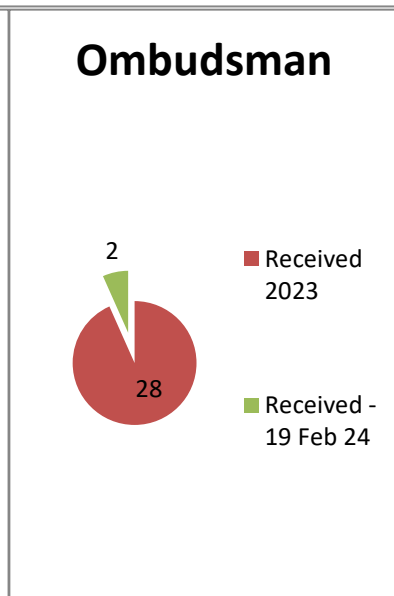
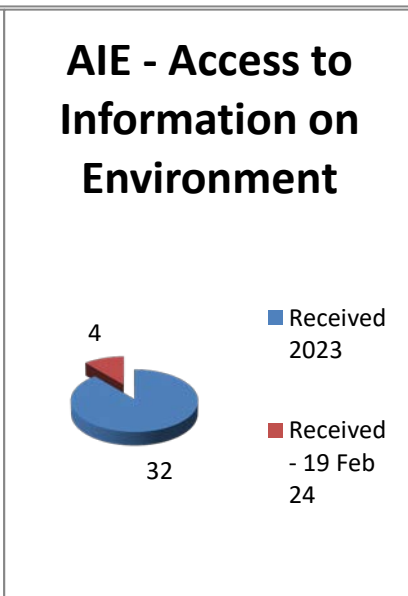
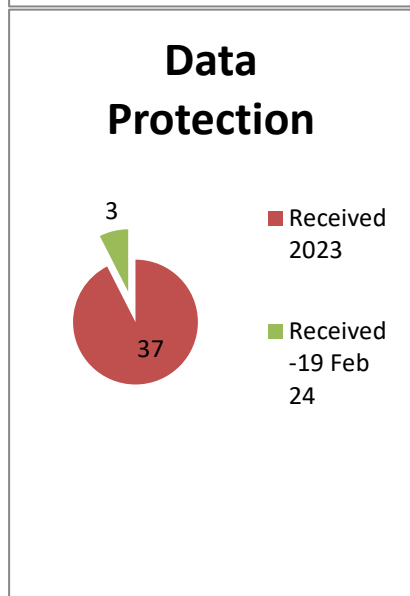
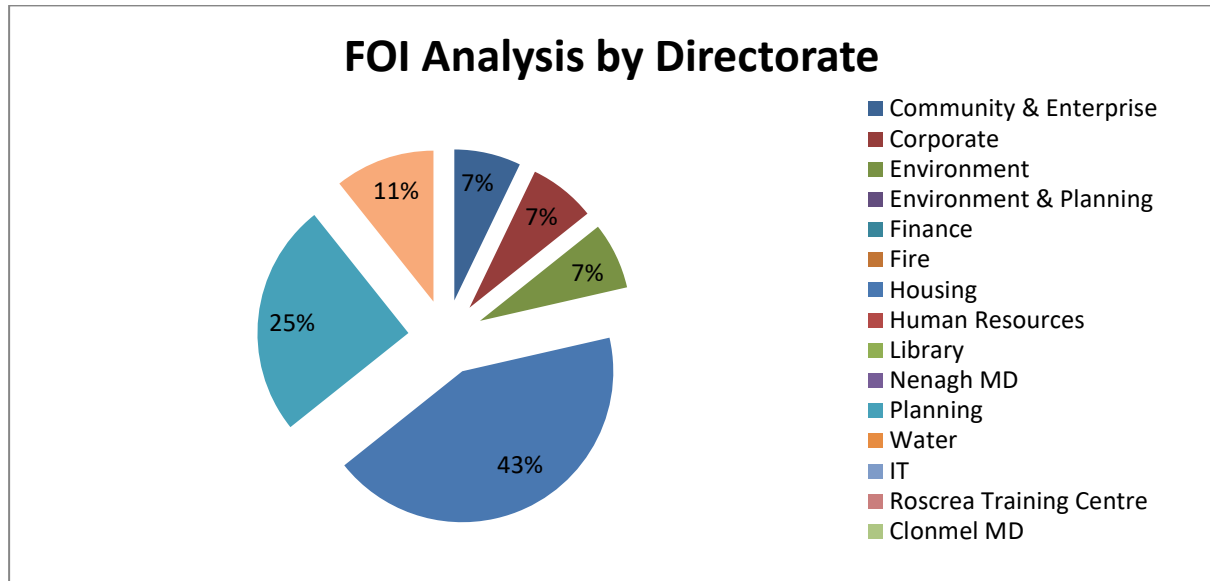
### CRM – Customer Relations Management System

1 January – 29 February 2024 – all cases

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Community and Enterprise | 51  |
| Carrick MD               | 254 |
| Clonmel BD               | 382 |
| Corporate Services       | 154 |
| CSD                      | 23  |
| Cultural Services        | 13  |
| Environment              | 266 |
| Finance                  | 16  |
| Fire Services            | 42  |

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Housing                   | 2117 |
| HR                        | 36   |
| IT                        | 2    |
| Libraries                 | 4    |
| Motor Tax                 | 20   |
| Nenagh MD                 | 523  |
| Planning                  | 263  |
| Revenue                   | 85   |
| Roads                     | 173  |
| Thurles MD                | 384  |
| Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD | 370  |
| Water Services            | 22   |

**Information Management**

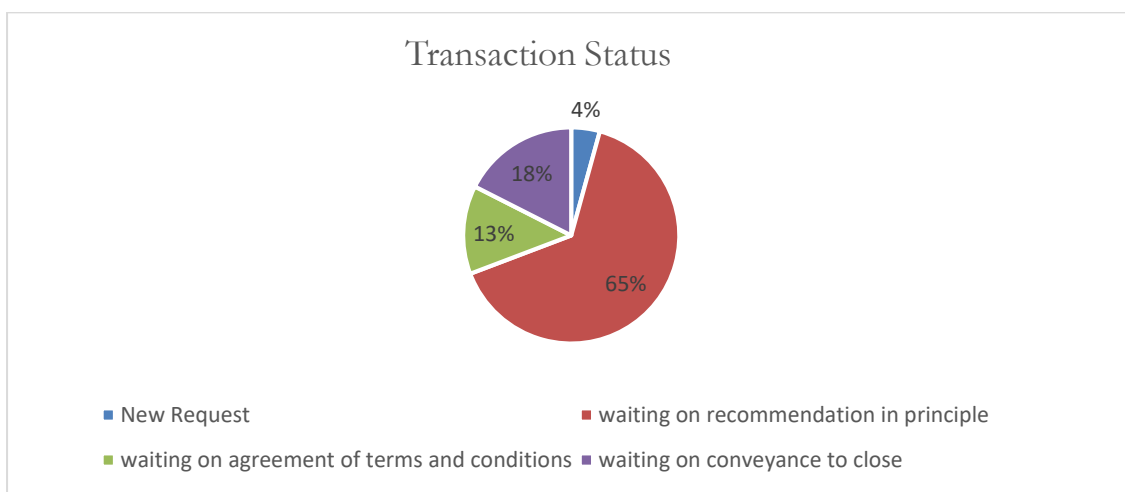
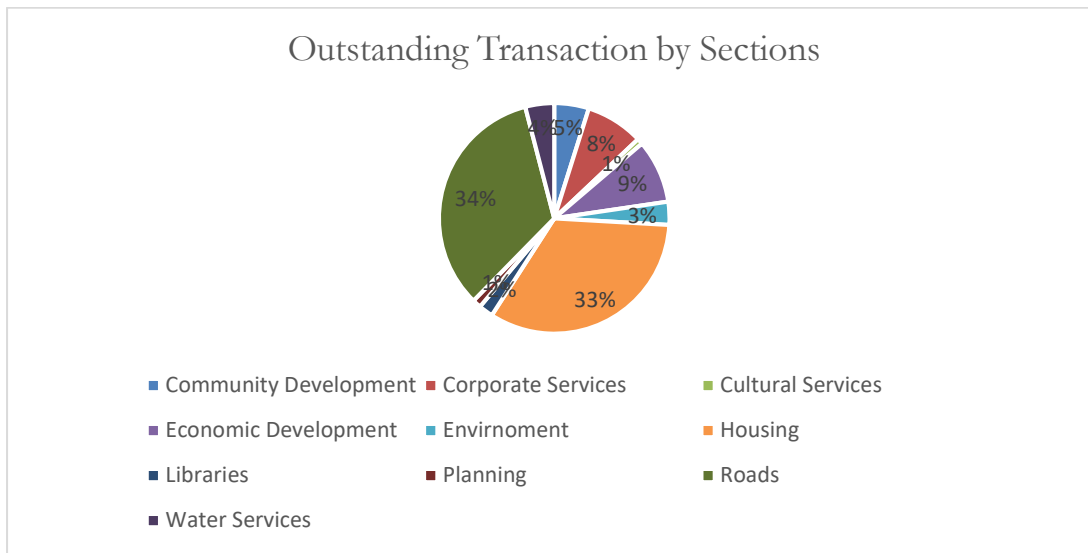


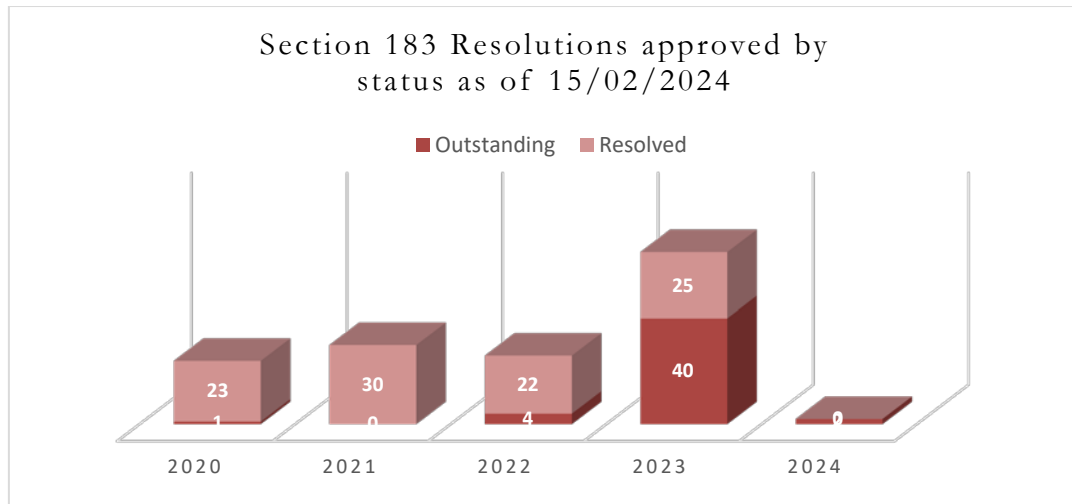
## Property Management

Property Unit, Corporate Services are responsible for managing Tipperary County Council Property Portfolio consisting of 241 buildings and 28 land banks throughout the entire county.

### Property related enquires/transactions as of 16/02/2024:

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| No. of open/outstanding transaction in 2024  | <b>234</b> |
| No of new transaction opened in 2024         | <b>32</b>  |
| No. of transaction closed in 2024            | <b>14</b>  |
| No. of transaction brought forward from 2023 | <b>221</b> |





Schedule of Property Transactions o/s

- The Mall Templemore
- Templemore Demesne, Templemore
- Yewston, Nenagh
- Heywood Terrace, Clonmel
- Main Street, Templemore
- Borrisokane,
- Wilderness Clonmel
- Old Bridge Clonmel
- Curragh, Portroe
- Borrisoleigh
- Lisbunny, Nenagh
- Kilballygorman, Ardfinnan
- Commons, Ardfinnan,
- Gortnahoe (boulick)
- Erasmus Smyth House, Cahir
- Foilaclug, Kilnamanagh Upper,
- Longfordpass South, Gortnahoe,
- Gort na Chlocharir, Borrisokane
- Fontenoy Terrace, Thurles
- Roscrea Business and Technology Park,
- Cormack Drive, Nenagh
- Slieve Locha, Garrykennedy Portroe,
- Unit 1, Ballingary Slievenardagh CITE
- Unit 2, Ballingary Slievenardagh CITE
- Brittas, Thurles
- No. 4 Galtee View, Bansha
- No. 22/26 Greenane Drive, Tipperary Town,
- Kilballygorman, Ardfinnan
- Lisbunny Bussiness Park, Nenagh
- Limerick Road, Nenagh
- Terryglass, Nenagh
- Terryglass Nenagh
- Tyone, Nenagh
- No. 1 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- No. 2 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- No. 3 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- No. 4 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- No. 5 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- No. 6 Michael Collins Row, Clonmel
- Old Bridge, Clonmel
- Rosegreen, Cashel,
- Ballyporeen
- Butlerstown, Ballyneale
- Monksgrange, Clonmel



### Letting Agreements:

Property Unit is responsible for the management of letting agreements, i.e. issuing of short term licences, issuing of invoices and responding to condition compliance enquiries and reviewing expiry dates and ensuring that the leases are correctly surrendered, i.e.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| No. of Short term licences issued as of 15/02/2024  | 12  |
| No. of Invoices issued as of 15/02/2024             | 49  |
| No. of Existing Agreement reviewed as of 15/02/2024 | 110 |
| No. of Agreements surrendered in 2024               | 0   |
| No. of New Agreement set up in 2024                 | 1   |



[Housing Directorate](#)



All figures relate to the period 01 January 2024 – 31 January 2024

**New Policy/Strategic Issues**

| <b>Policy Changes/Updates</b>  | <b>Current Position/Progress made</b>  | <b>Next Stage</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Affordable Housing</b>  | Advertise serviced sites now that approval has been received   | Application process finalised and applications assessed   |
| <b>Review of the Housing Allocation Scheme &amp; associated policies</b> | Allocation Scheme was adopted at the plenary meeting in January 2024.<br><br>Anti-Social Behaviour policy document, tenant handbook and tenancy agreement updates have been considered at the February SPC meeting         | Scheme is effective since 1 <sup>st</sup> February.<br><br>Anti-Social Behaviour policy to be approved by full council (reserved function.) |
| <b>Disability strategy</b>   | Meeting with relevant stakeholders to identify support pathways for disabled persons to enable them to live independently, with more choice and control over with who and where they live and included in their community. | Three-year capital plan based on disability strategy to be finalised.   |

### Housing Delivery

The current status of the projects is as follows:

#### 2022 – 2026 Construction Programme

| <b>Address</b>  | <b>No of Units</b> | <b>Current Status</b>                   | <b>Next Stage</b>                                |
|---|--------------------|---|--|
| Gort an Oir, Fethard Belmont Park Housing Association | 7                  | Stage 2 Approved                        | Stage 3 being prepared with planning application |
| Gortlandroe, Nenagh                                   | 27                 | With OGP for design team procurement    | Stage 2 Approval                                 |
| Puckane   | 21                 | Stage 2 Design                          | Stage 2 Approval                                 |
| Rathcabbin  | 6                  | Stage 1 Approval                        | Stage 2 Submission                               |
| New Line Road, Nenagh                                 | 10                 | With OGP for design team procurement    | Stage 2 Approval                                 |
| Clogheen  | 14                 | Preparation of Stage 3                  | Stage 3 Approval                                 |
| Ballingarry (South)                                   | 10                 | Design Team to be appointed through OGP | Stage 3 submission                               |
| Gantley Road, Roscea                                  | 16                 | Stage 2 submitted                       | Stage 2 Approval                                 |
| Morton Street, Clonmel                                | 6                  | FHIST, Stage 2 Approved                 | Submission of Planning Application               |
| Rialto site, Nenagh                                   | 12                 | Stage 2 Approved                        | Stage 3 submission                               |
| Mulcair Manor, Newport                                | 10                 | With OGP for design team procurement    | Stage 2 Approval                                 |
| CuChulainn Road, Thurles                              | 6                  | Stage 1 Approved                        | Under review with Thurles MD                     |



|   |    |                                      |  |
|---|----|--------------------------------------|--|
| Millersbrook, Nenagh                    | 13 | With OGP for design team procurement | Stage 2 Approval                                   |
| Mountain Road, Cahir                    | 43 | Finalising design for Section 179A   | Tender Scheme                                      |
| Templemore AHB, Main Street, Templemore | 23 | With ABP                             | Stage 3 Submission                                 |
| Ashbury, Roscrea                        | 10 | Design Team Appointed                | Stage 3 submission                                 |
| Fr Matthew Street, Tipperary Town       | 4  | Design Team Appointed                | Stage 3 submission                                 |
| Glencarrick, Roscrea                    | 46 | Finalising detail with UE            | Tender Scheme                                      |
| Church Street, Templemore               | 2  | Contractor On Site                   | Scheme completion 2024                             |
| Church Street, Templemore               | 4  | Turnkey, Dept Approved               | Awaiting on Contracts                              |
| Glenconnor Road, Clonmel                | 6  | Contactora on Site                   | Scheme completion 2024                             |
| Grove Street, Roscrea                   | 9  | Tenders being assessed               | Contract Award                                     |
| William Street, Nenagh                  | 7  | Finalising Stage 3 Submission        | S179A  |
| Borrisoleigh                            | 12 | Stage 2 approved                     | Design Team Appointment                            |
| Boherclough Street, Cashel              | 9  | Complete                             |  |
| Woodview Close, Nenagh                  | 10 | Complete                             |  |
| Ballyclerihan                           | 14 | Substantially Complete               |  |
| Donohill                                | 8  | Complete                             |  |
| Carrickbeg, Carrick on Suir             | 22 | Turnkey Contractor on site.          | Phased Delivery (9 Completed and other 13 Q2 2024) |

|                            |    |                                    |                           |
|----------------------------|----|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tyone Road, Nenagh         | 67 | Respond AHB, CALF submitted        | Commencement on Site      |
| Coopers Lot, Cashel        | 44 | Respond AHB                        | On site                   |
| Farranahassery, Cahir      | 48 | Respond AHB                        | On site                   |
| Dun Lia, Thurles           | 61 | Cluid AHB                          | On site                   |
| Wallers Lot, Cashel        | 42 | Tuath AHB                          | On Site                   |
| Glentarra, Roscrea         | 2  | Turnkey                            | Contracts with Solicitors |
| Dun Uisce, Cahir           | 1  | Turnkey Renewal                    | Contracts with Solicitors |
| Glencarrick, Roscrea       | 50 | Cluid AHB, With UE for decision    | Commencement on Site      |
| Springfort Meadows, Nenagh | 19 | Turnkey, Contracts being finalised | On Site                   |
| Wheatfields, Clonmel       | 38 | Turnkey,                           | On Site                   |
| Stradavoher Road, Thurles  | 32 | Turnkey                            | Contracts being finalised |
| Thomas Street, Clonmel     | 61 | Turnkey                            | Waiting on Contracts      |
| Ma Chaoin, Templemore      | 13 | Turnkey                            | Phased Delivery, On site  |
| Prior Park Grove, Clonmel  | 41 | Turnkey Project on Site            | Phased Delivery           |

## **Energy Efficiency Works**

### **Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP)**

The 100 units for 2023 have been substantially completed with final snagging works being completed on some units and post works surveys ongoing to close out.

Awaiting the confirmed department allocation for 2024, but are progressing the tender for engagement of consultants to survey units for the coming years.

A list of units has been assessed in accordance with the Departments guidelines which has been generated from units proposed by each Municipal District.



**RAS Voluntary January 2024**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| New properties  | 06  |
| Total tenancies | 340 |

**RAS Private January 2024**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| New properties           | 01  |
| Total tenancies          | 598 |
| Rent Reviews carried out | 26  |

**Long term lease January 2024**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Total tenancies          | 274 |
| Rent Reviews carried out | 24  |

**Mortgage to rent January 2024**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| New properties           | 0   |
| Total tenancies          | 104 |
| Rent Reviews carried out | 01  |

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) January 2024**

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| HAP tenancy set           | 15   |
| Total tenancies           | 1628 |
| Average weekly HAP set up | 04   |

### Inspections January 2024

|                  | 1 <sup>st</sup> inspection | 2 <sup>nd</sup> inspection |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| RAS              | 03                         | 04                         |
| Private rented   | 31                         | 33                         |
| Long term lease  | 0                          | 0                          |
| HAP              | 43                         | 26                         |
| Mortgage to rent | 1                          | 1                          |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>78</b>                  | <b>64</b>                  |

### Housing Grants

In 2023 the Council received a total of €4,258,125 in private grant funding and €2,344,736 for LA DPG's.

We anticipate that, as per previous years, we will receive initial approval to spend 65% of the 2023 budget pending confirmation of final allocation for 2024.

|   | Budget            | Allocated funds | No. of Paid Applications |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Housing Adaptation for People with A Disability (HGD) | €1,405,850        | €259,085        | 37                       |
| Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)                             | €127,805          | €8,183          | 02                       |
| Housing Aid for Older People (HOP)                    | €1,022,437        | €224,169        | 51                       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>€2,556,093</b> | <b>€494,436</b> | <b>90</b>                |
| Local Authority DPG Grants                            | €1,524,078        | TBD             | TBD                      |

### Voids Status January 2024

The number completed is 5.

- Tipp/Cashel/Cahir – 3
- Nenagh - 1
- Templemore/Thurles/Roscrea – 0
- Carrick - 1
- Clonmel – 0

### Vacant Houses as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024<sup>1</sup>

| District               | Approved Applicants | Vacant Houses | % Vacant Houses <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Carrick                | 340                 | 13            | 0.2                          |
| Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel | 782                 | 21            | 0.4                          |
| Clonmel                | 602                 | 18            | 0.3                          |
| Nenagh                 | 732                 | 20            | .4                           |
| Templemore/Thurles     | 822                 | 27            | 0.5                          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>3278</b>         | <b>99</b>     | <b>1.8%</b>                  |

### Number of Housing Applications received January 2024

There were 129 housing applications received of which:

- 69 were valid
- 60 were invalid

### Number of Housing Assessments carried out in January 2024

| Month        | Number of Assessments |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| January      | 59                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>59</b>             |

### Offers of Tenancy in January 2024

|                         | Offers    | Accepted  | Pending  | Refused  | Nomination to AHBs |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| Carrick                 | 17        | 17        | 0        | 0        | 1                  |
| Tipperary-Cahir- Cashel | 5         | 5         | 0        | 0        | 1                  |
| Clonmel                 | 14        | 14        | 0        | 0        | 4                  |
| Nenagh                  | 2         | 1         | 1        | 0        | 0                  |
| Templemore Thurles      | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0                  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>39</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>6</b>           |

<sup>1</sup> Includes available for letting and houses where works are being carried out

<sup>2</sup> Calculated as a percentage of overall housing stock

### **Choice Based Lettings**

- 27 offers of accommodation have been made to applicants who expressed an interest,
- 27 offers have been accepted.
- 0 awaiting decision
- There have been 0 refusals (0% refusal rate)

### **AHB forum**

There is continuous engagement with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) through the AHB forum on a quarterly basis and we intend to continue this process into 2024.

The AHB forum provides a means of managing the 40% delivery of their target under the HFA delivery plan.

The first meeting of 2024 with the AHB forum is due to take place in March and will be a face to face meeting.

### **Rent figures and overview for 2023**

The total number of Rent Accounts for year end 2023 is 6184. This includes Local Authority houses, RAS & Long Term Lease houses

The gross figure for rent arrears as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 is €2,326,980. Credits in 2023 on rent accounts were €715,538. This creates an overall net balance of €1,611,412, down from €2,079,209 in Dec 2022. This represents a fall in arrears from 12.4% in 2022 to 9% in 2023. The total rent collected at year end amounted to €16.3m.

The percentage collection for rents increased in 2023 to 92% from 90% in 2022. As the payment plans, which were put in place as a result of the rent reviews undertaken in late 2022/early2023, progress through the system, it is expected that this collection figure will rise over the next 2 years to be more reflective of our previous standard collection rate which was in excess of 95%. The Rents section works actively with any tenants who are in arrears to support them with payment plans. We also work closely with MABS and our tenants through our hardship scheme. Rents are calculated in accordance with a tenant's income and as per Tipperary County Council's Differential Rent Scheme. There is a requirement in the tenancy agreement for the tenant to inform the Council where a change has occurred in their income and abiding by this requirement will ensure that rent arrears do not occur. The average rent in 2023 was €59.98.



### Local Authority Home Loans January 2024<sup>3</sup>

|                                       |                |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Number of Applications Received       | 07             |
| Number of Valid Applications Received | 02             |
| Number of Loan Applications Approved  | 01             |
| Number of Loans Issued                | 0              |
| <b>Total Value of Loans Issued</b>    | <b>€60,000</b> |

### Tenant Purchase Scheme January 2024

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Formal applications to purchase received         | 02              |
| Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued) | 04              |
| Sales completed                                  | 02              |
| <b>Total proceeds of sales received</b>          | <b>€112,600</b> |

### Homelessness

There are dedicated clinics run by the Homeless team to assist persons who present as homeless to the housing section.

| Homeless Support Services January 2024         |                        | Number          |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|
| Homeless Clinics                               | No. of presentations   | 92 <sup>4</sup> |
| HAP Placefinder                                | No of prevention cases | 4               |
| Secured HAP accommodation from prevention work | Singles                | 6               |
|  | Couples                | 1               |
| HAP Placefinder - exit EA to HAP               | Singles                | 0               |
|  | Couples                | 0               |
| HAP Placefinder - exit EA to LA/AHB/RAS        | Singles                | 2               |
|  | Couples                | 1               |
| Number In emergency accommodation B&B          | Singles                | 19              |
|  | Families               | 2               |

<sup>3</sup> Applications received which is deemed to be invalid i.e. missing information will be returned to the applicant for updating. Therefore, not all applications received will be moved on to "Valid"

<sup>4</sup> 92 presentations refer to individuals attending homeless clinics for a variety of reasons including the following: NTQ's, at risk of homelessness, advice & information, request for forms, aftercare, individuals in EA, family breakdown, domestic violence.

|                         |                 |    |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----|
| Number in OFD           | No of units     | 20 |
| Number in Housing First | North           | 5  |
|                         | South           | 12 |
| NTITSS                  | Number of cases | 23 |
| START                   | Number of units | 5  |

There are currently 28 live NTQ cases (whose NTQ comes into effect in 2024) actively engaging with the Council's NTQ team regarding potential property acquisition or to source alternative accommodation.

### **Traveller Accommodation Programme**

Tipperary County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme, following consultation with traveller agency groups outlines the accommodation requirements of the Travelling Community from 2019 to 2024. We have currently accommodated 132 Traveller Families under this plan which is 47% in excess of the Plan target with a full year of the plan left to run.

Work is currently underway to prepare the TAP for the period covering 2024-2029. It is planned to engage with interested parties in the coming weeks to ensure consultation with as diverse a group of people and organisations as possible.

### **Ukrainian Refugees**

Tipperary County Council continues, in partnership with Local Development Companies and community groups to provide accommodation and support services to Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs) as follows:

- 1 temporary emergency rest centre in Clonmel (The rest centre in Littleton which was operated by Thurles Lions Trust ceased operation on 20/02/2024).
- IRC Pledged Properties – TCC supported IRC to accommodate 231 Ukrainians in both vacant and shared units.
- Offer a Home Pledged Property: The Council has facilitated the provision of 613 Ukrainians with housing in 182 properties.
- Commercial Operators: - there are 28 commercial operators in the county with a capacity for some 1200 BOTPs
- Refurbished Properties: The Council supports the relevant Departments to identify appropriate properties which can be refurbished to accommodate

additional BOTPs on an interim basis. One such property in Cahir is operational with a capacity for 16 number residents and it is expected that at least two more will come on stream shortly.

Modular Homes: 62 modular homes have been provided at Gortataggart, Thurles. A site in Clonmel is currently under consideration and further information will be provided to members once the Department have reviewed the site investigation reports and decided as to its suitability or otherwise.

### **Community Integration**

The Council continues to work closely with other agencies such as the H.S.E., Department of Social Protection, AGS, Education, Local Development Companies etc in assisting the families accommodated to integrate with the local communities and to access the necessary health, educational, income and other supports.

### **Vacant Property update since commencement of scheme**

#### **Croí Cónaithe fund (Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant)**

| Item   | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| No of applications received                      | 380      |
| Approved to date                                 | 248      |
| No at Under Review by LA                         | 18       |
| No at Further Info stage                         | 72       |
| No of applications rejected                      | 25       |
| No of applications withdrawn                     | 17       |
| Applications under drawdown review               | 27       |
| Legal Charge Stage                               | 9        |
| No of Grants Paid Out                            | 10       |
| Approval in principal value to date € 13,365,600 |          |

### **Buy and Renew**

The Buy and Renew scheme is designed to support local authorities (and approved housing bodies) to purchase and renew vacant housing units in need of remediation and make them available for social housing. The purpose is to bring more properties back into use through the purchase of both disused and older vacant homes. A target of 5 Buy & Renew properties has been set for delivery in 2024.

### **Repair and Lease**

The Repair and Lease Scheme, a companion strategy of the Buy and Renew scheme, has a financial incentive of €80,000 to encourage developers to participate in the scheme in the interests of delivering long term social housing supports for properties which have been left vacant/derelict or underused.

A target of 18 units has been set to be delivered in 2024. These units tend to be apartments as opposed to dwellings and are typically located in the towns.

### **Affordable Housing**

There are a number of key pathways under the Affordable Housing delivery mechanism which are being pursued by Tipperary County Council to ensure that as wide a population as is possible can benefit from the strategy. These include a) Croí Cónaithe Scheme; b) The First Home Scheme; c) Ready to Build Scheme; d) Affordable delivery through turnkey; e) affordable delivery through LA or AHB Build; f) Tenant Purchase Scheme and g) the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

The Council is already active in the area of Tenant Purchase; Local Authority Home Loans; and the Croí Cónaithe Scheme. In addition, the Council has now received approval from the Department to progress with the sale of 4 self-build affordable sites in Boherlahan. These sites are now available for sale through the Council website and we hope this will provide a facility to people who wish to build their own home in a village setting. If successful, other similar sites will be explored and rolled out. This scheme makes it possible for an applicant to build their own one off house through the provision of a low cost service site purchased directly from the local authority.

We also intend to offer affordable homes for sale to those applicants who qualify for the Affordable Housing scheme, subject to access to the Affordable Housing Fund. A call is currently being prepared and expressions of interests will be sought from those developers who have an interest in providing affordable homes in the key towns and who already have planning permission. It is hoped that such a process may also give a much needed boost to developers to also deliver additional private housing units. Following the EOI process, an application will then be made to the Department to access the AHF fund in a given area.

### **Policy changes for noting**

As indicated at the January meeting when the new Allocation Policy was agreed, the SPC reviewed the following documents at their February SPC meeting to ensure they were aligned with the new Allocation Policy:

- The tenancy agreement,
- The tenancy handbook and
- The Anti-social Behaviour Strategy.

The following changes were made to tenancy agreement

- The inclusion of 2 dogs per household
- Restricted breeds/cross-breed not allowed in local authority houses
- Clause included that any changes to future tenancy agreements will apply retrospectively to existing tenancy agreements.
- Removal of duplicate clauses for ease of reading.

The following changes were made to the tenancy handbook

- The inclusion of 2 dogs per household
- Restricted breeds/cross-breed not allowed in local authority houses.
- Reference to limitation of housing supports as set out in the housing allocation scheme for tenancy breaches so that it aligned with the recently adopted Allocation Policy.
- Reference to Permission to Reside so that it aligned with the recently adopted Allocation Policy.
- Insertion of reference to waste management bye-laws (waste collections shall not be presented for collection earlier 6.00p.m. on the day immediately preceding the collection day and removed no later than 9.00a.m. the following day.)
- Reference to amended tenant purchase guidelines effective 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024 so that the Handbook is up to date.
- Reference to Asbestos; the importance of contacting District before any works are carried out on houses built prior to 1990.

The following changes were made to the ASB strategy

- Legislation updated as required.
- Inserted a section in relation to the powers of An Garda Síochana – to outline the options that tenants have in addition to their LA tenancy rights.
- References to racism, data protection and social media abuse geared towards TCC officials.