



# Management Report to Council



## This Month

- Regional & Local Roads Allocations – Page 4
- Grant Allocations for National Roads/Greenways/Active Travel – Pages 5/8
- Rural Regeneration & Development Fund Page 17
- Planning Applications/Decision Marking for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2024 – Page 19
- Fire Services Page 21
- Civil Defence – Pages 22
- Library Service – Page 24
- Arts Service – Page 32
- Heritage Service – Page 33
- Biodiversity Service – Page 35
- Museum Service – Page 35
- Finance Report – Pages 37
- Increased Cost of Business Grant – Page 38
- Information Technology – Page 41



## April dates for your Diary

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 10:00 Corporate Policy Group Meeting
<u>8</u> 10:00 TCC Plenary Mtg Nenagh	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>15</u> 10:30 Thurles MD Mtg	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> 11:00 Clonmel BD Mtg	<u>18</u> 10:00 Nenagh MD Mtg	<u>19</u>
<u>22</u> 11:00 Tipp/Cahir/Cashel MD Mtg	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> 14:00 Carrick-on-Suir MD Mtg	<u>26</u>
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>			

## Report at a Glance



**Roads and Transportation Directorate**

1 - 12



**Libraries & Culture Directorate**

24-36



**Planning & Development/Emergency Services Directorate**

13 - 23



**Finance & Information Technology Directorate**

37-42

**ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION DIRECTORATE**



**New Policy/Strategic Issues**

**Policy Changes/Updates**

A meeting of the Infrastructure SPC was held on 15 March 2024.

The following items were considered:

- 2024 Allocations for National, Regional and Local Roads
- 2024 Allocations for Active Travel Schemes and Greenways
- Update on Major Capital projects
- Parking Charges - issues paper regarding review and consolidation of charging regime.

The next meeting of the SPC is scheduled for 20 May 2024.

**Directorate Priorities**

**Major Current Issues**

Major inter-urban routes

**Progress to date**

2 no. N24 projects notified on NDP 2021-2030:

**Cahir to Limerick Junction:** Arup appointed Oct 2019 for Phase 1-4. Website launched August 2020. Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility complete in September 2020. Transport Options & Alternatives Public Consultation complete August 2021. Phase 2: Preferred Transport Solution announced May 2022. TCC published the Options Selection Report in March 2023. Phase 3: Design Update No. 1 took place on 23 January 2023.

**Waterford to Cahir:** Arup appointed by Kilkenny County Council August 2020 to complete Phase 1-4. Website launched February 2021.

**Next Stage**

**Cahir to Limerick Junction:** Phase 3: Design and Environmental Evaluation Processes has commenced. This will define land take required for the preferred option. Design Update No. 2 planned for Q2 2024. ABP Application programmed Q1/Q2 2025.

**Waterford to Cahir:** Phase 2 – The Option Selection Report is due to be published in Q2 2024. TII has not provided an

	Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility complete April 2021. Phase 2: Options selection commenced and options were announced 3 May 2022. The Proposed Transport Solution was announced on 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2024. A non-statutory public display of the Preferred Transport Solution was held from 23 January to 9 February 2024. Four in-person public displays were held in Carrick, Clonmel, Cahir and Mooncoin.	allocation for 2024 and funding is required for the project to progress to Phase 3.
Capital Programme 2024	Implementation of Programme	Progress schemes and draw down grant funding before end of TII financial year.
Implementation of Operational Road Works Programme 2024	Implementation of Programme	Completion of programme within budget and drawdown of available grant funding.
Implementation of Active Travel Investment Programme 2024	Implementation of Programme	Completion of programme within budget and drawdown of available grant funding.
Rural and Community Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLÁR</li> <li>• Community Involvement Scheme 2024</li> <li>• Local Improvement Scheme 2024</li> </ul>	Implement in conjunction with Districts and Community and Enterprise Department <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland <b>2040</b></p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail Department of Rural and Community Development</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe Our Rural Future</p> </div> </div>	<p>Successful CLÁR projects will be progressed in 2024.</p> <p>The allocation for Community Involvement Schemes in 2024 is awaited.</p> <p>The Local Improvement Scheme 2024 opened for applications on 10 January 2024, with a closing date of 9 February 2024. Applications are currently being assessed.</p> <p>LIS Allocation for 2024 is awaited.</p>
Consultation	Consultation with TII, Elected Members and staff.	Annual Meeting with TII to be scheduled in Q4 2024.

**R498 Latteragh Realignment Scheme – Advance Works Contract Q1 2024**



**Site Clearance and Fencing in advance of Main Works Contract.**



**Department of Transport (DoT)**

<b>Tipperary County Council Regional and Local Roads Allocations 2024</b>	
Restoration Improvement	€17,738,500
Restoration Maintenance	€2,425,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€2,122,500
Discretionary Grant	€4,787,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€910,500
Specific Imp. Grants	€380,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€3,075,000
Safety Improvement Works	€600,000
PSCI: Survey Support	€44,000
Training Grant	€129,500
Drainage Works	€1,073,000
Former National Roads	€690,000
Cycle Signs	€3,300
Speed Limits (Housing Area Signage)	€27,045
Speed Limits (Rural Speed Limit Signage)	€29,500
Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works	€933,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€804,600
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>€35,772,945</b>



**Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)**



**2024 GRANT ALLOCATIONS  
FOR NATIONAL ROADS**

<b>Tipperary County Council – National Roads Allocations 2024 (Initial)</b>	
<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Allocations 2024</b>
<b>National Primary</b>	
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	€2,625,000
Pavements incl. Safety Works	€3,850,000
<b>National Secondary</b>	
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	€475,000
Minor Works	€270,000
Pavements	€620,000
<b>Both National Primary and National Secondary</b>	
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	€20,000
Engineering Support for National Primary, National Secondary, and Pavement Design and Supervision	€500,000
<b>Total Improvement Allocations 2024</b>	<b>€8,360,000</b>
<b>Construction of New Roads</b>	<b>Allocations 2024</b>
NDP – N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction	€650,000
<b>Total Construction of New Roads Allocations 2024</b>	<b>€650,000</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>Allocations 2024</b>
Total National Primary Maintenance & Route Lighting	€338,023
Total National Secondary Maintenance & Route Lighting	€357,120
Engineering and Winter Support to the National Primary and National Secondary - Maintenance Programme	€88,300
<b>Total Maintenance Allocations 2024</b>	<b>€783,443</b>
<b>Total TII Grant Allocation for National Roads</b>	<b>€9,793,443</b>



## 2024 GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR GREENWAYS

<b>Greenways</b>	<b>Allocations 2024</b>
Cashel to Cahir Greenway- Cashel to Cahir Town	€80,000
East Limerick Greenway (Tipperary)	€100,000
Lough Derg Greenway – Ballina to Dromineer	€80,000
Marlfield Blueway Clonmel – Convent Rd to Marlfield	€80,000
Suir Blueway, Gas House Bridge – Suir Island, Clonmel	€150,000
Suir Blueway – Marlfield to Cahir – Marlfield Village to Swiss Cottage	€80,000
Suir Blueway – Waterford Greenway Link – Carrick on Suir to Kilmeaden	€120,000
Local Authority Greenways Support 2024	€100,000
<b>Total Greenway Allocation 2024</b>	<b>€790,000</b>





**ACTIVE TRAVEL**

On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 the council received notification from the National Transport Authority of an allocation of €4,499,000 for Active Travel Schemes in 2024 (see full details hereunder).

Project Name 2024	2024 Allocation
Old Bridge to Suir Blueway Link	€35,000
Cashel Road Active Travel Scheme, Clonmel	€900,000
R445 Lisbunny - Nenagh Active Travel Scheme	€703,000
Active Travel Connectivity, Supervalu Junction, Cahir	€20,000
Clairin Footbridge, Carrick On Suir	€570,000
Birdhill Active Travel Scheme	€5,000
SRTS (R1) Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel	€25,000
SRTS (R1) Gaelscoil Chluain Meala, Clonmel	€850,000
SRTS (R2) St. Brigid's Nationals School, Donaskeagh	€45,000
SRTS (R2) Cullen National School	€2,000
SRTS (R2) St Marys Central National School, Killenaule	€5,000
Davis Road Active Travel Scheme Clonmel	€15,000
Nenagh Urban Greenway	€35,000
Quarry Lane - Cullenagh (R494) Active Travel Scheme, Ballina	€25,000



Project Name 2024	2024 Allocation
Newtown - Active Travel Connectivity Scheme	€5,000
Cahir Road Active Travel Scheme, Cashel	€10,000
Emly Village Footpaths	€80,000
Carrick Beg Footpath Improvements, Carrick on Suir	€60,000
R445 Roscrea Footpath and Cycleway scheme	€10,000
Castlemeadows Active Travel Scheme Thurles	€80,000
Inch National School	€10,000
Nenagh Local Transport Plan	€3,000
Thurles Local Transport Plan	€3,000
Clonmel Local Transport Plan	€3,000
Active Travel Staff Costs	€350,000
Ardfinnan Bridge	€150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€3,999,000</b>
<b>Allocations Through Other NTA Funding Streams</b>	
Bus Stop Enhancement Programme	€500,000
<b>Total NTA Allocation 2024</b>	<b>€4,499,000</b>



Directorate Projects (Capital)		
Project	Progress to date	Next Stage
<b>Neenagh Municipal District</b>		
N65 Carrigahorig to Balleiragh Bridge	This scheme involves raising the road level to mitigate flooding of a section of this road. Preliminary design work continues on this challenging scheme. A ground investigation has been completed and the scheme has been formally categorised as a Minor Improvement Scheme. The Council has received approval from TII to appoint a consultant to continue with the preliminary design. A tender competition for design phases 1 and 2 has been completed.	Preliminary design (Phases 1 and 2) will commence when TII funding becomes available. No funding allocation has been provided by TII in 2024.
N65 Carrigahorig Pavement Improvement Scheme	The scheme in the village of Carrigahorig involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ road pavement improvement works</li> <li>▪ addressing a number of road safety issues</li> <li>▪ the renewal and widening of footpaths in the village</li> <li>▪ the extension of footpaths to the speed limit on the Portumna side and to the R493 Terryglass Road on the Borrisokane side of the village</li> <li>▪ public lighting improvements</li> <li>▪ some public realm improvements.</li> </ul> RPS consultants have been appointed to continue with the preliminary design and complete planning procedures for the scheme. Consultation with local residents and stakeholders has commenced which will inform the design of the scheme.	It is anticipated that the Preliminary design will be completed and planning procedures commenced in Q2 2024.
<b>Thurles Municipal District</b>		
N62 Thurles Outer Bypass	Route Selected in 2011 and reserved corridor in place. TCC lobbying for it to be included in the next NDP.	Continue lobbying for scheme to be included in the next NDP.
N62 Slievenamon Road Thurles, Phase 2	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 447m of pavement on the N62 road through Thurles. The works consist primarily of planning and inlay work. Other works include the replacement of existing footpaths, provision of essential pedestrian infrastructure such as crossing areas, build outs and public realm improvements. Consultants were appointed and the preliminary design and Part 8 planning process has been completed. A tender competition for consultants for the detailed design phase has been completed.	It is anticipated that consultants will be appointed in Q2 2024 to complete the detailed design subject to availability of funding.



N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 1km of road pavement on the N75 National Secondary road within the town of Thurles from its junction with Mitchel Street to the Anner Hotel. The scheme is at preliminary design stage.	It is anticipated that work will commence Q3 2024.
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Directorate Projects (Capital)		
Project	Progress to date	Next Stage
<b>Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District</b>		
N24 Carrick-on-Suir Pavement Strengthening	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of 3.5km of pavement on the N24 National Primary route. GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd were awarded this contract in July 2022. Works are substantially completed and will be followed by a maintenance period.	12 months maintenance period.
<b>Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District</b>		
Project	Progress to Date	Next Stage
(N24 Main Street) N74 Fr Mathew Street, Tipperary Town	This scheme involves the N74 Fr Mathew Street in Tipperary Town. Preliminary and detailed design stages are completed. Tender competition for the procurement of a Contractor for the works was completed in 2023.	Appointment of Contractor with work commencing in Q2 2024.
N24 Knockagh Roundabout approach	This scheme comprises the pavement strengthening of approximately 1.6km of the N24 National Route extending east from the Knockagh Roundabout. TII have approved the Preliminary Design. The scheme obtained Part 8 Planning approval at the July 2023 meeting of the Municipal District. The scheme will be Tendered for construction in Q1 of 2024.	Preparation of detailed design and tender documents. Tendering process in Q2 2024.
<b>Clonmel Borough District</b>		
N24 Moangarriff to Twomilebridge Pavement and Traffic Calming	This is a continuation to the east of the Clonmel Inner Relief Road to a point beyond the 60kph speed limit and is approximately 1.6km in length. This scheme involves traffic calming and the inclusion of improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities as well as road pavement strengthening. Preliminary Design is under way along with liaison with TII Road Safety engineers.	The Planning process will commence following obtainment of TII technical approvals.



<b>Strategic Non-National Road Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Progress to date</b>	<b>Next Stage</b>
R498 Road Realignment at Latteragh Bends	The CPO was published in August 2020, an Oral Hearing was held on 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> December and the CPO was confirmed on April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 without modifications. RPS consultants were appointed on 3 November 2022 to complete the design work and procure a works contractor for the scheme. The detail design was substantially completed in Q4 2023. Advance works were completed in Q1 2024.	Archaeological investigations to commence in Q2 2024. It is anticipated that a Contractor for the Main Works will be appointed and works commence in Q3/Q4 2024.
Ballina/Killaloe By Pass Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme	The Main Contractor for the scheme is John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd. Works commenced on site in August 2022.	The scheme will take approximately 3 years to complete. Currently the scheme is more than 50% complete.
Thurles Inner Relief Road	Thurles Inner Relief Road is a proposed local link between the N62 and the Mill Road. The proposed scheme comprises approximately 1.1km of new road with: a signalised junction on the Slievenamon Road at the Clongour Road junction; a new priority junction with Mill Road and 5 no. intermediate priority junctions to provide access; 50-metre span tied bowstring arch crossing of the River Suir; public lighting; flood alleviation works along the River Suir. This scheme is on the NDP and DoT approval will be required to allow it to go to detailed design. Lidl has completed construction of a section of the road for access to new store.	Ongoing discussions with DoT regarding approvals. Ongoing land acquisition discussions.

### Roads Staff Training session on Location of Underground Services

Below is a picture of Roads Staff who attended a review in Thurles MD on 23 February 2024, of underground detection equipment to help staff on the ground identify and locate buried cables. Also pictured are Denise and Tom from UDE Ltd.





**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**

<u>New Policy/Strategic Issues</u>			
<u>Policy Changes/Up-Date</u>	<u>Current status</u>	<u>Progression in Previous Months</u>	<u>Next Stage</u>
<b>Clonmel Local Area Plan</b>	Plan Came into effect 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	CE reports provided and to decide whether to make Plan in February 2024	Section 55 process ongoing transfer protected structures to Tipperary Development Plan 2022
<b>Nenagh Local Area Plan</b>	Plan Came into effect 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	CE reports provided and to decide whether to make Plan in February 2024	Section 55 process ongoing transfer protected structures to Tipperary Development Plan 2022
<b>Thurles Local Area Plan</b>	Plan Came into effect 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2024.	CE reports provided and to decide whether to make Plan in February 2024	Section 55 process ongoing transfer protected structures to Tipperary Development Plan 2022
<b>Section 55 review record of protected structures for Clonmel, Nenagh Thurles</b>	the structures will now be included on the Record of Protected Structures for the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028. This will ensure that the Protected Structure status of each structure within the previous Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles Town Development Plans is maintained.	Notice of review advertised and owners notified, closing date for submissions is 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024.	Review any submissions received
<b>Residential Zoned Land Tax</b>	Public Notice period for submissions on 2024 RZLT maps published on 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2024. Submissions invited until 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Final Map for 2023 published on 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2023, taking account of determinations and appeal decisions made on Draft and Supplemental Map	Consideration and determination of Submissions. Further survey, assessment to be undertaken and Supplemental map to be prepared.



	for inclusion / exclusion or 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 if submission relates to zoning change.	submissions, and any other relevant changes.	
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<b>Town Centre First (TCF)/ Town Regeneration Officer (TRO)</b>			
<b><u>Policy Changes/Up-Date</u></b>	<b><u>Current status</u></b>	<b><u>Progression in Previous Months</u></b>	<b><u>Next Stage</u></b>
<b>Town Centre First Policy</b>	<b>Carrick on Suir - Funding confirmed for new TCF Plan</b>	Meetings with COSTEDC & Municipal District to finalise tender brief.	Ongoing
	<b>Draft Newport TCF Plan .</b>	Draft Plan published for submissions. Town Team formed	Finalise draft.
	<b>Nenagh TCF Plan to be prepared.</b>	Meetings with MD re new Town Team	Secure THRIVE funding
	<b>Thurles Renewal Strategy to be updated to TCF Plan</b>	Meetings with MD re new Town Team & updating strategy	Secure THRIVE funding
	<b>TCF Suite of Funding supports for towns &lt; 10,000</b>	Agree allocations & notify Councillors	Ongoing

<b><u>National Planning Framework: Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (Project Implementation)</u></b>		
<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Progress in Previous Months</u></b>	<b><u>Next Stage</u></b>
<b>Templemore Town Hall Enterprise and Cultural Centre with Civic Plaza</b>	Construction commenced end of May, 2023 and is in progress.	Complete construction works circa July, 2024.
<b>Thurles Market Quarter - Regeneration through</b>	Request for tenders advertised on e-Tenders in December, 2023 with closing date for submission of tenders on 16 <sup>th</sup> . February, 2024.	Prepare Final Business Case for the Department. Award the contract for the construction stage in Q2 2024.





<b>Recreation, Education and Support for Local Producers</b>	Tender evaluation completed in March, 2024.	Commence works in Q2 2024 with estimated completion in Q2 2025.
<b>Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter-A Tourism Led Regeneration Plan</b>	Preliminary Business Case completed. Surveys completed. Part 8 Planning completed.	Project is substantially complete.
<b>Rialto Digital and Enterprise Hub, Nenagh</b>	Masterplan completed. Stage 2 approval received by Housing Section from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for 12 social housing units in the masterplan area. Part 8 Planning completed. Detailed design in progress.	Complete detailed design.
<b>Activating Cahir’s Town Centre Regeneration Strategy – Category 1</b>	Verification documentation completed and submitted to the Department on 20 <sup>th</sup> . December, 2023. <b>Library</b> - Detailed design at an advanced stage. Tender documents under preparation. <b>Car Park Site</b> –Demolition and enabling works contract in progress.	Obtain Approval in Principle from the Department.  <b>Library</b> –Complete detailed designs. Undertake review of tender documents. <b>Car Park Site</b> – Complete demolition and enabling works circa mid-May, 2024.
<b>Reimaging and Regenerating Gantly Street towards an Age Friendly Neighbourhood for Roscrea</b>	Verification documentation completed and submitted to the Department on 20 <sup>th</sup> . December, 2023. Brief for the engagement of a design team under preparation.	Obtain Approval in Principle from the Department.  Finalise Brief for the engagement of a design team.

**National Planning Framework: Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (Project Implementation)**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Progress in Previous Months</u>	<u>Next Stage</u>
<b>Thurles: Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 2 Western end of Liberty Square and junctions to approach roads</b> -Options Report completed. Workshops undertaken with Thurles MD Members and preliminary design agreed. Extensive consultations ongoing with other statutory bodies.	<b>Phase 2</b> - Commence Part 8 Planning in May, 2024 and complete in July, 2024.
<b>A Pathway to a Low Carbon Society: A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy driving the Transformational Urban Regeneration of Nenagh Town Centre</b>	Stage 2 tender documentation for the engagement of a design team completed. Request for Tenders issued to the 6 shortlisted companies through e-Tenders in March, 2024.	Complete tendering process, assess tenders received and appoint design team in Q2 2024.
<b>URDF Call 3</b> URDF Call 3 seeks to tackle long term vacant and derelict buildings and sites across URDF towns and cities primarily in order to accelerate the provision of residential development and regenerate town centres. An allocation of €5m has been approved for Tipperary County Council under this Call and €1m of this allocation has been paid in advance to assist with early activity under an approved acquisition programme in the URDF designated towns of Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles.		
<b>Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – Fifth Call, Category 1 Projects</b> 3 applications were submitted and details as set out below		

### Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Funds: Projects completed to date

The following projects are delivered.

- Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration – Kickham Barracks Regeneration Phase 1 and Clonmel Regional Sports Hub
- Tipperary Town Regeneration: Market Yard and River Ara Walkway
- Fethard Town Park
- Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan - A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter - Category 2
- A Pathway to the Regeneration of Cahir Town Centre – Re-establishing the Historic Square as the Living-Working Quarter - Category 2

- Kilsheelan -Revitalisation of Rural Villages: A Model for Cluster Housing & Low Carbon Planning – Category 2
- Thurles: Liberty Square Enhancement -Phase 1 New Car Park and Eastern end of Liberty Square

### Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – Fifth Call, Category 1 Projects

Three applications have been submitted under the Fifth Call for Category 1 projects under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. The closing date for submission of applications was 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at 12 NOON.

### Goldcrop & Stable Lane Regeneration

This funding proposal involves land activation works to the 1.2ha long-term vacant Goldcrop site which is strategically located in the town centre and the development of an off-street car park at Stable Lane which will be within walking distance of Carrick on Suir's town core. The proposed investment will build on a significant project currently being delivered in the town centre that is being funded under the RRDF. Proposed works at the Goldcrop site will consist of (i) demolition and removal of eight existing derelict buildings (ii) demolition and removal of boundary walls facing onto The Quay; (iii) demolition and removal of the existing weighbridge located within the site; (iv) all associated site and ancillary works. These essential advance works will pave the way for future development on this town centre site. Proposed improvements at Stable Lane consist of (i) demolition of underutilized buildings and (ii) the creation of a convenient new off-street car park which will incorporate EV charging points, sheltered bicycle parking and sustainable urban drainage systems such as permeable paving and bio-retention rain gardens in order to contribute to an improved ecological system within the town. The Goldcrop & Stable Lane Regeneration Project is a strategic intervention that seeks to leverage public investment, community engagement, and collaborative efforts to bring about positive transformation in Carrick on Suir, making it a more vibrant and resilient town centre and contributing to the overall well-being of the community. **The project value is €3,653,145 and grant funding of €2,922,526 is being sought through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.**



### Revitalising Nenagh's Historic & Cultural Quarter

Tipperary County Council has prepared a four-pillar revitalisation strategy for Nenagh's Historic and Cultural Quarter on foot of two successful applications for RRDF Category 2 funding. The revitalisation strategy identifies four pillars for regeneration; Tourism Growth and Cultural Development; Public Realm and Placemaking; Economic Development; and Residential Development. This project seeks funding to deliver a number of elements identified under Pillars one and two of the strategy as follows:

(i) installation of audio-visual equipment in Nenagh Castle bringing visitors back in time to experience the spectrum of cultures and perspectives through 800 years of Nenagh (ii) restore and repurpose the Governor’s House into a heritage centre with a particular focus on the rich music heritage of Nenagh area (iii) redevelop the truncated cell block of Nenagh Gaol into a flexible exhibition space focused on Nenagh’s penal past, provision of a retail unit and creation of a peaceful pocket park (iv) conservation and restoration works to The Gate House to ensure its survival as one of Nenagh’s most prominent buildings and (v) significant public realm enhancements that will transform Banba Square into an inviting civic space that is pedestrian dominant. The extensive public and stakeholder consultation undertaken on the four-pillar strategy was intrinsic to the development of this project. Proposals identified in this project seek to provide a high-quality tourism offering in the town which will increase footfall thereby having a positive knock-on effect on local businesses and the local economy. The revitalised people focused civic space in the heart of the town will make it more attractive for visitors, locals and prospective residents while ensuring that Nenagh’s most important buildings are better incorporated into the everyday movements of the town. **The project value is €9,985,521 and grant funding of €7,988,417 is being sought through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.**



### **Tipperary Town Social, Community and Heritage Led Regeneration of Dan Breen House and Tipperary Courthouse and Bridewell**

This proposal involves the regeneration and repurposing of Dan Breen House and Tipperary Courthouse and Bridewell. The re-development and reuse of Dan Breen and the Courthouse & Bridewell are identified as priority projects in The Tipperary Town Revitalisation Strategy and Action Plan to 2035 which was undertaken by the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Taskforce with significant input from the public. Proposals aim to reduce long term unemployment, increase access to further education and training, reduce social disadvantage, reduce vacancy, enhance historic buildings and improve quality of life. Works will



involve (i) the alteration, refurbishment, extension and repurposing of the centrally located Dan Breen House (former Council offices vacant since 2011), into a dynamic services, education, training and social impact centre operated by Youth Work Ireland-Tipperary and Tipperary ETB (ii) the refurbishment, alteration, repurposing and extension of the Courthouse and the refurbishment, alteration and repurposing of the Bridewell buildings into a social development,

education and training services centre for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities which will be operated by MooreHaven. The long-term sustainable use of the sites will be secured, buildings of heritage importance will be conserved, vacant building stock will be enlivened and much needed services will be provided that together will drive socio-economic development in the town and contribute to the towns revitalisation. **The project value is €9,974,202 and grant funding of €7,979,362 is being sought through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Match funding of €1,994,840 is being provided by MooreHaven and Youth Work Ireland Tipperary who will also be responsible for the operational costs of the facilities on completion of the works.**

### Local Area Plans

Work has commenced on the preparation of proposed Local Area Plans for Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir with the intention to publish Q3. Work has also commenced on Cashel and Templemore Local Area Plans.

### Conservation Grant Schemes 2024

The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2024** the allocation for Tipperary County Council under the scheme for 2024 is **€126,400**. This year Tipperary County Council also received an extra allocation of **€30,341** under the supplementary ring-fenced funding for historic thatched structures.

We received 42 applications under the scheme for 2024. There were 21 successful applications, awarded grants ranging from €2,500 to €18,000 and applicants were notified.

The **Historic Structure Fund 2024**. Tipperary County Council received 19 applications under the various streams for the scheme. There were 6 successful applications, awarded grants ranging from €10,000 to €50,000 and applicants were notified.

### Planning Applications – Decision Making from 1/01/24 to 29/02/24

Application Type	Number of decisions made	Number Granted	Number refused	Number of Decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	Number of Decisions reversed by An Bord Pleanála
Individual House	29	29	0	0	1
Housing Development	5	4	1	0	1
NIA/EIA	0	0	0	4	0
Other Applications	140	139	1	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>



### Enforcement Proceedings

There were 34 complaints received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024. During this period 28 Warning Letters and 6 Enforcement Notices were issued.

### Taking in Charge: Estates

Applications Being Processed	DPI Developments	Taken-in-Charge in 2023	Taken-in-Charge To-Date in 2024	With District & Awaiting Approval	Applications Received in 2024
24	21	4	0	0	0

- 0 developments (0 housing units) have been taken-in-charge to-date by Tipperary County Council in 2024.
- 2 housing estates are currently awaiting District approval at present.
- 0 taking-in-charge applications have been received to-date in 2024.
- There are currently 21 Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) housing estates in County Tipperary which the Planning Authority is unable to progress at present.

### Planning & Emergency Services SPC

The first meeting of the Planning & Emergency Services SPC for 2024 was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Updates were given on Residential Zoned Land Tax, Emergency Services, Planning workload update and project Ireland 2040 update. The next meeting is due to be held in May 2024.




## FIRE SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL




<b>SECTION PRIORITIES</b>		
<b>Major Current Issues</b>	<b>Progress in Previous Month</b>	<b>Next Stage</b>
Major Emergency Management	Tipperary County Council has taken over the Chair of both the regional steering & working groups.	Coordinate and administer this function in the region for 2024/2025
Building Control	Commencement notices and fire safety certificates continued to be submitted for assessment.  Onsite inspections ongoing	Complete annual inspection programme for 2024 reaching Dept. guideline targets
Quality, Health & Safety	Audit to ISO 45001 & 9001 completed in Jan 2023 – successfully certified to both standards	Implement annual objectives as per service delivery plan
Fire Safety	Fire Safety Strategy prepared and signed off for delivery in 2024	Primary schools programme underway along with station visits by schools at end of school year.
<b>ADMIN/LICENSING PROCESSES</b>		<b>To 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>
<b>Number of Emergency Calls Attended</b>		<b>302</b>
<b>Number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications Received</b>		<b>22</b>
<b>Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted</b>		<b>30</b>
<b>Number of Disability Access Certificate Applications Received</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted</b>		<b>25</b>
<b>Number of Commencement Notices Received</b>		<b>132</b>

## Civil Defence

Activities	Ukrainian Response
<p><b>Tánaiste honours long serving Civil Defence Volunteers at a medal ceremony in Trinity College Dublin.</b></p>	<p>Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, Michael Martin TD presented long service medals to over 100 members of Civil Defence from across the country in a national award ceremony held in Trinity College Dublin. Medals were awarded for 30, 40, 50, and even 60 years of service to Civil Defence and the wider community.</p> <p>Tipperary Civil Defence members were amongst those who were awarded medals on the day.</p> <p>Mr Declan Costello, Instructor from Clonmel was presented with a 30-year service medal, Gerard Barry also an Instructor from Clonmel received his 40 years' service medal and Mr. William O Shea from Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary was awarded an outstanding 50 years' service medal for his service to Tipperary Civil Defence. What an outstanding achievement and dedication to serving the community.</p> <p>The Tánaiste, in his address to participants said "I am delighted to formally honour the long and distinguished years of service to these Civil Defence members". He spoke of the invaluable role Civil Defence in search &amp; rescue, flooding, adverse weather and other events, as well as the ongoing assistance to the Principal response agencies at time of crisis.</p> <p>The Tánaiste also acknowledged that Civil Defence volunteers focussed on the value of their service to both the State and their communities and noted the camaraderie and community spirit of Civil Defence.</p> <p>Civil Defence Officer, Dolores Fahey was honoured to attend with the Volunteers from Tipperary, and was extremely proud of the members for their combined service of 120 year of volunteering to Civil Defence.</p> <div data-bbox="496 1335 1219 1818" data-label="Image">  </div> <p>Pictured L to R <i>Matt Peters A/ACDO, William O Shea 50 Years' service, Tánaiste Michael Martin, Declan Costello, 30 Years' service, Dolores Fahey Civil Defence Officer, Gerard Barry 40 years' Service</i></p>



<p><b>Health &amp; Safety Risk Assessment Review</b></p> <p><b>Training</b></p>	<p>Following the successful completion of Stage 1 Audit for NSAI 45001 certification the section is now engaging in the on-going maintenance of this standard with a review of annual work plan, team development plan and preparation for PDP</p> <p>Civil Defence training is ongoing both with weekly classes and in the Civil Defence College in Roscrea with the upskill of Emergency Medical Technicians. This training is in line with requirements of the Pre-Hospital care council standard. Local training includes First Aid Responder, driving assessment and induction of new members. Cardiac First responder training was also provided to Tipperary County Council staff in March</p>
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<p><b>Raising of the Flag on St Patrick's Day</b></p>	<p>Tipperary Civil Defence were honored to attend the traditional raising of the flag at 8am in St Patrick's Well, Clonmel. The ceremony is attended by the Mayor, Elected Representatives, members of the twinning committee, distinguished guest from abroad, members of the O.N.E and other invited guests. It traditionally marks the beginning of St Patrick Day in the area. A big thank you to Bernadette Dempsey who also represented Civil Defence at the morning parade and followed by doing a reading at the Irish mass on St Patrick Day with the other invited guests.</p>  <p><i>Raising of the Flag at St Patrick's Well Clonmel at 8am on St Patrick's morning.</i></p>
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## Library Service



- Brian Gallagher, author of *Across the Divide, Taking Sides, Secrets and Shadows, Stormclouds and Friend or Foe* visited Clonmel library to talk about his works and the writing process on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Over 120 Pupils from St. Oliver's NS, Gaelscoil and Sisters of Charity attended these talks. This event was held as part of Ireland Reads Day.



- Clonmel Library hosted a drawbot workshop on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils from Ballyneale NS, Sisters of Charity NS, Saint Mary's Parochial School and Gaelscoil Chluain Meala attended the workshop which was held as part of the South East Engineering Festival 2024.



- Manchán Magan, Author of *'Listen to the land speak: a journey into the wisdom of what lies beneath us'* visited Clonmel library on 11<sup>th</sup> March to speak about his book and research. This event took place as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge.
- Clonmel Library hosted a poetry workshop by Jenny Cox & Eileen Acheson from Write Minds on 6<sup>th</sup> March. Write Minds are a local group who aim to create a safe and fun space to develop your writing using creative prompts.



- The Memories of Thurles People and Places exhibition officially launched on 6<sup>th</sup> February in the Source Library Thurles by Cllr Seamus Hanafin. The exhibition showcases the photography of the

late Donal Sammon, owner of Sammon Pharmacy. The collection also includes artefacts from Donal's pharmacy, housed in the historical Devlin's Medical Hall on Liberty Square. Over 100 people attended the launch.



- Thurles Library hosted a SEAI energy clinic on 13<sup>th</sup> February where SEAI advisors were available to meet. The purpose of this open clinic was to learn how to become more energy-aware and efficient and discover available grants and supports



- Thurles Library gave a demonstration of the Tovertafel Magic Table to patients and staff of the Hospital of the Assumption. Library Staff member Jackie Kennedy gave a full demonstration by Jackie to staff and clients in The Dementia Unit on 26<sup>th</sup> February.



- Staff in Cashel Library held a Valentine's Craft Workshop for children on 9<sup>th</sup> February.



- Cashel Library launched a new initiative, *The Memory Café* on 11<sup>th</sup> February. This warm and inviting monthly gathering is designed to bring together individuals connected

to dementia, their families and carers. The aim of the cafe is to provide a supportive environment where you can connect with others who understand and share similar experiences.

- **Mná Month:** Cashel Library have dedicated the entire month of March to the celebration of women since 2020. The library hosts a series of free Mnásome events over the course of the month, available to all person's regardless of pronoun. Creativity and community are two stays in Cashel Library's philosophy of engagement with our patrons.
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From L-R. Suzanne Brosnan, Branch Manager, Cashel Library, Dee Morrissey and Cllr Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD

- Mná Month was officially launched by Cllr Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary-Cahir-

Cashel MD on 1<sup>st</sup> March. A concert by Tipperary musician Dee Morrissey was the headline act of the launch.



- A workshop entitled "*It's all about me*" was held in Cashel Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> March as part of Mná Month. The workshop was facilitated by Noeleen Watson. Noeleen is a wellness facilitator, an energy healer, a life coach/mentor, angel card reader, poet and author This was a craft workshop with a twist and focused on helping women find their voice and purpose.





- Cashel Library held a workshop entitled Stone Mad on 8<sup>th</sup> April which was facilitated by Philip Quinn. Philip a sculptor, living and working in Tipperary. Participants in this workshop made pendants or “worry stones” using limestone and marble. These were sanded and polished and etched with rune and other symbols. This event took place as part of Mná Month.



- As part of World Book Day celebrations, St. Michael’s Junior boys school took part in a series of events and activities in Tipperary Town Library on 7<sup>th</sup> March.



- Tipperary Town Library held a lovely inter-generational sing-song with our toddler story-time group and Young at Heart from Knockanrawley Resource Centre on Valentine’s Day.



- Tipperary Town Library held a Seachtain na Gaeilge coffee morning on 10<sup>th</sup> March where over 25 people attended and took part in craic agus ceol.



Breda O'Meara, Nenagh Library with members of St. Cronans Day Care Centre

- Nenagh Library held a St. Brigid's Day Workshop on 1<sup>st</sup> February for St. Cronan's Day Care Centre who created beautiful St. Brigid's crosses, celebrating the occasion of St. Brigid's Day
- Tipperary Childcare Committee held a public information session in Nenagh Library on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



- Local Astronomer John Flannery presented a lecture entitled "Adventures Across the Universe" in Nenagh Library on Tuesday 12th March. Over 40 people of all ages attended this event which was held as part of Irish Astronomy Week



- To celebrate Social Prescribing Day, Nenagh Library hosted a coffee morning where people got to meet their local Social Prescribing Link Worker, Rachel Browne. Social prescribing is a free service available to people over the age of 18, offered by the HSE Ireland. The aim of social prescribing is to connect people to community groups and activities to promote their wellbeing.



- Templemore Library have commenced a new Intergenerational Knitting club with the first meet-up taking place on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Parents/grandparents along with children are shown the basics of

knitting by our regular craft group members. The parent and child are shown how to get started and learn together. 20 children along with 15 adults attended the first session.

- Templemore Library has set up a new book clubs aimed at children that are reluctant readers or do not have English as a first language. Library Staff select a theme each month and then look through the selected books to find a fact or an image which is explored through drawing, Lego and games.



- Templemore Library held a series of LEGO workshops in February and March as part of the new Branch Library LEGO Club.



- Carrick-on-Suir Library hosted a talk entitled “A Chip Off the Block of Earth: How the Moon Was Formed” by Cathal O'Donghaile on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Cathal is an active astronomer with a keen interest in radio astronomy. His talk covered how the Moon was initially formed and explained how it became the sight we know and love from our night skies, as well as giving everyone an update on how the progress to get man on the moon again is going. The talk was attended by a class from Edmund Rice Secondary School and several members of the public.
- To celebrate World Wetland’s Day, Carrick-on-Suir Library hosted two talks from Brian White of the Carrick Lions Club on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. These talks focussed on the local wetlands, and the fauna and flora that need wetlands to thrive and their importance to the environment. A class from Ballyneale N.S. and a class from Presentation Primary School Carrick attended.



- Carrick-on-Suir Library held a special Seachtain na Gaeilge Tráth na gCeist for local schools, in conjunction with the Conradh na

Gaeilge. Five local schools sent two teams each, Presentation Primary School, CBS Green School, An Gaelscoil, Rathgormack NS and Newtown Upper NS. A great morning was had with a team from Newtown Upper NS coming 1st, a team from Presentation Primary School coming 2nd and a team from the Gaelscoil coming 3rd.



- Roscrea Library held a Sustainable Goals Upcycling workshop for children on 16<sup>th</sup> February. Participants learned about sustainable goals and made a Birdfeeder using recycled materials.



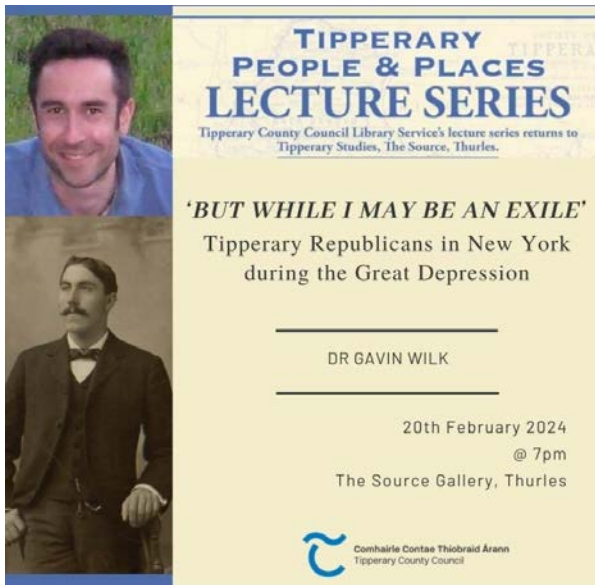
- Roscrea Library hosted a Talk on the Book of Dimma by local historian and author George Cunningham which took place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.



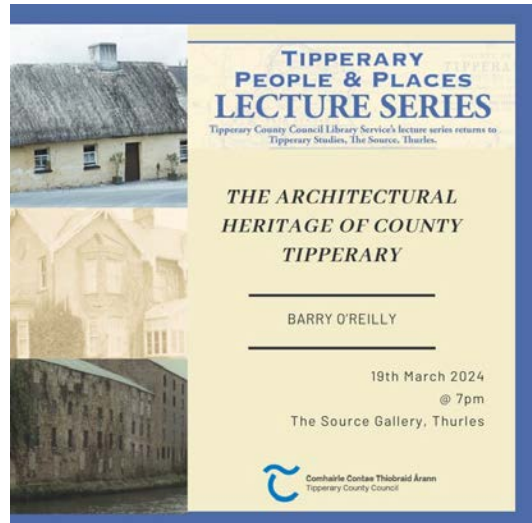
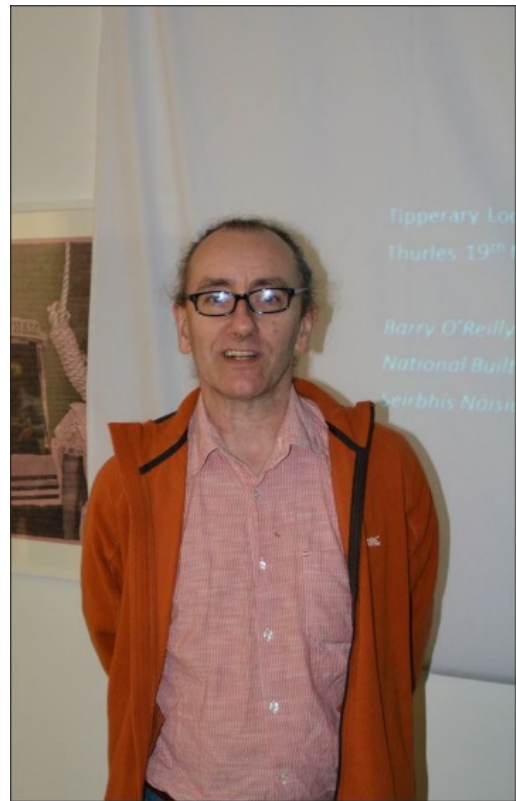
- Roscrea Library now hosts a monthly English Conversation Group for those who want to improve their spoken English. This group meets on Thursday afternoons.
- To celebrate World Book Day on 7<sup>th</sup> March, Killenaule Library collaborated with St. May's National School Killenaule for a full day of activity taking in the whole school. Claire Grant, Killenaule Library visited the school and completed two story time sessions with the junior classes. Later that day, the middle classes visited the library for a story and browsing time.



Tipperary Studies



- Dr Gavin Will delivered a lecture entitled *“But while I might be an exile: Tipperary Republicans in New York during the Great Depression”* on 20<sup>th</sup> February as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.



- Barry O'Reilly delivered a lecture entitled *“The architectural heritage of County Tipperary”* on 19<sup>th</sup> March as part of the Tipperary People and Places Lecture Series.

### Arts Service

- A range of grants and schemes to support Arts Development in the county were advertised in January and February 2024 as follows:
- **Tipperary Arts Act Grant Scheme** – intended to assist organisations in stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts or in improving standards in the arts in the county.
- **Tipperary Artists Awards** – intended to support professional artists under three categories, professional development, creation of new work, reaching audiences.
- **Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Scheme** - two bursary awards to professional artists living in Tipperary to develop work at the County Monaghan workplace for artists.
- **Local Drama Scheme** - Up to two development awards annually to assist groups in developing skills within the group/enhancing production values/availing of further training/availing of professional input or for other development needs/special projects.
- **Artist in Primary School Scheme** - The aim of this scheme is to give pupils in schools all over the county the opportunity to work with a professional artist on a once-off unique project to be originated and planned between the artist and the school. Independent assessment panels are being convened during late March and early April to assess applications with the aim of supporting as much quality arts

activity across the county as possible.

### **Tipperary Bealtaine Festival Artists Training 2024**

- Each year in the month of May, Bealtaine is presented as an annual festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. Preparations for the Tipperary Bealtaine festival have begun and a number of projects led by Tipperary Bealtaine artists are now underway across the county. Recognising the need to support these artists in their professional development, the Tipperary Arts Office held a training session on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March at the Creative Places Tipperary HQ, Tipperary Town. The training day was led by award winning visual and socially engaged artist Marie Brett and focused on best practice when working creatively with older people. It involved practical and creative exercises and discussions and incorporated peer learning as well as opportunities for networking and sharing expertise and practice.

### **Visual Artists Ireland facilitated Professional Development Training for Tipperary Artists in 2024: The Visual Artists Guide to Accessing Funding**

- Well known curator and writer, Marianne O’Kane Bol, facilitated the Artists Guide to Accessing funding webinar on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January. This was an opportunity for Limerick, Tipperary and Clare based visual artists to take a closer look at all things ‘Funding and applications.

### **Introducing Clare, Limerick and Tipperary: Artist’s Networking Event**

- Limerick, Tipperary and Clare based visual artists were invited to come

together for discussion with curators and programmers at Limerick City Gallery of Art on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. This was an opportunity to make connections with artists, curators and art organisations. Curators joining on the day were Dermot Browne, Niamh Brown and Valeria Ceregini.

**Further events will be rolled out over the coming weeks:**

- Studio & workspaces (Webinar and Clinics)
- Sustainability and the artist (Café)
- Artist in Schools (Webinar)

**Creative Brain Week welcomes World Health Organisation Arts & Health Lead Christopher Bailey to St Conlon's Nursing Unit, Nenagh**



Musicians-on-Call programme musicians pictured with Christopher Bailey, St Conlons, Nenagh. From L-R: Colin Kenny, Grainne Hope, Christopher Bailey, Liam Merriman, Eoin O'Meachair.

- Christopher Bailey is the Arts and Health Lead at the World Health Organization and a co-founder of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab. The lab looks at the evidence base for the health benefits of the arts by building up a global network of research centres to look at effective practice as well as the foundational

science of why the arts may benefit physical, mental and social wellbeing. On Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, Christopher Bailey visited the Musicians on Call programme at St Conlon's Nursing Unit in Nenagh, as part of a wider tour of the west coast of Ireland. The Musicians-On-Call programme involves musicians visiting hospitals and healthcare settings across Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, performing for patients and residents. The programme aims to bring high-quality live music to vulnerable older members of our communities. It is led by Limerick City and County Council Arts Office in partnership with Clare and Tipperary County Council Arts Offices.

[Heritage Service](#)

**County Heritage Plan Actions:**



Heritage and Biodiversity Officers with CE AND Senior Staff from Heritage Council and staff from National Monuments Service and NPWS.

- Joint training with Heritage and Biodiversity Officers took place in Meath with presentations from the Department and NPWS as well as site visits to new land acquired for national park
- Funding has been allocated from the Heritage Council for this year's programme

- The initial ICAN meeting took place in Cahir in February with our 6 pilot sites and the Tipperary portal and logo is now being designed and the groups are undergoing training to help get the websites up and running.
- A new Heritage plan is currently being drafted and the Heritage Forum will meet to discuss in coming months.

### **Irish Walled Town Network**

- The AGM of the IWTN took place in Trim County Meath on the 21 March. Róisín O Grady was appointed to the Management Committee as town representative for the Tipperary Towns for a 2-year term
- The new IWTN Strategy 2024 was launched at the AGM



Heritage Officers from Irish Walled Towns Network at IWTN Strategy Launch with Peter Carey Chair of IWTN, Virginia Teehan CE of Heritage Council and Cllr Tommy Reilly, Cathaoirleach Meath County Council

### **Creative Ireland Programme:**

- A total of €138,035 was allocated under Creative Ireland grant schemes for 2024. 17 groups were

allocated funding under the community grant and a further 9 received Project Awards.

- A further scheme to deliver Cruinniú na nÓg Creative Irelands day of National Creativity for Youth was launched in March. Cruinniú na nÓg takes place on June 15<sup>th</sup> this year.

### **Royal Sites Bid**

- Mapping of OUV attributes of all 6 sites is completed
- Negotiations on MOU with Department are well underway and will be finalised shortly
- A Comparative Analysis Study has commenced and a report will issue in the coming months
- Recruitment is currently taking place for a Royal Sites Project Coordinator
- Stakeholder and public engagement programmes will be rolled out in the coming months

### Biodiversity Service



Scohaboy Bog, Cloughjordan

#### February 2024

- The Biodiversity Office arranged an event at Cabragh Wetlands in Celebration of World Wetlands Day 2024. The event included project presentations of the Biodiversity Leadership Training Programme at Cabragh Wetlands.
- The Biodiversity Officer organised community visits to discuss biodiversity measures in Silvermines and Shallee

#### March 2024

- The Biodiversity Officer attended the Tipperary PPN Environment groups meeting
- The Biodiversity Officer attended the closing ceremony and certificate presentation for the Biodiversity Leadership Training Programme at the TUS Campus Clonmel
- The Biodiversity Officer organised a community visit to Scohaboy Bog (Cloughjordan)

### Museum Service



- The Paddy Cashin Photographic Exhibition has seen huge public engagement with 100s of visitors visiting the Museum. The images displayed Feb - April '24 are 1987 – 1989. Each month a new year will be exhibited.



- ARTiculation Ireland is a public speaking competition which promotes the appreciation and discussion of art, artefacts and architecture in secondary schools throughout Ireland. The competition seeks to engage students between 16-18 years, regardless of background or experience, with art, artefacts and architecture to develop the confidence and ability to express

their opinions and conclusions. The Tipperary Regional Final of ARTiculation 2023/24 was held Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March in the Council Chamber, Clonmel. 8 students participated representing 5 schools from across Tipperary County. Participating schools were Gael Cholaiste Cheitinn, Clonmel, CBS Highschool, Clonmel, Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel, CBS, Nenagh and Ursuline Secondary School, Thurles.

What's On - Think/Workshop

**HEDGE SCHOOLS - 'of the people, for the people, by the people'**

Speaker: Antonia McManus

How could free peeing hedge schools, which had emerged during the Cromwellian era, and spread during penal times, come to dominate Irish education for 230 years? What attraction did they hold for impoverished parents? What prompted hedge schoolmasters to teach during parish times, and to continue to do so independently? How did the Westminster Government and Ireland's Catholic Church, the establishment of the national education system in 1831, transformed control of Irish education. Parents, however, continued to support the hedge schools, and it was a national disaster - the Great Famine of the 1840s - that ended the hegemony of the end of the hedge schools.

● Tue 2.30pm  
● 10.00am - 1.00pm  
● 100, Lower Chapel Street, Lower Market, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E17 1D99

**EDUCATION**

LECTURE 06  
ANTONIA McMANUS  
HEDGE SCHOOLS: 'of the people, for the people, by the people'

WEDNESDAY  
MAR 2  
2024

Programme:  
Dr Antonia McManus is Director of the School of Education, Trinity College, Dublin, where she taught the History of Education for ten years. She was the first Director of the pioneering primary teacher education programme at Marino College, Dublin. She is author of the book *Hedge School and No Walls*, (SPU 2013, Prior, Curlew Press, 2020), *Irish Academies: The Educational Legacy 1810-1910* (London, 2016) and a regular on *13* (Clonmel) (2010-2016) *Laura Party* (radio), *Radio na Gaeltachtaí* and *RTE* (television). The best history for Education teachers can be found in *Education* (2012).

- The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Lecture series continued with Lecture 6 entitled *Hedge Schools – of the people, by the people* by Antonia McManus took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. There were 54 people in attendance. The final lecture in the series Lecture 7 entitled *The role of Religion in Education* will be held on April 6<sup>th</sup>. All lectures are being recorded and uploaded to our website [www.hiddenhistory.ie](http://www.hiddenhistory.ie) afterwards. Currently working on next series – with a change in format to include a one-day seminar in north Tipperary.



### Donations Received

Donations received by the Museum in February and March included:

- Midwifery cert from early 1900s.
- WW1 Christmas Tin
- Fencing Swords, complete with face guard and gloves – with Clonmel Fencing Club logo
- WOI era Flute and Spoon (used while incarcerated)

### Conservation:

- The wake Blanket has been returned from Rachel Phelan, Conservator. It has been cleaned and mounted for display ready to framing by David Kirwan on site. It will be mounted later this summer by Sven Habermann, Conservation Specialist.
- The Kirby Material has responded well to Silica gel packs- monitoring to be continued going forward.



**FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE**

**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**

Year to Date 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

		EXPENDITURE				INCOME			NET	
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
<b>A</b>	Housing & Building	9,995,455	47,811,603	21%	37,816,148	9,824,346	47,104,166	21%	37,279,820	(171,109)
<b>B</b>	Road Transport & Safety	6,266,112	60,638,999	10%	54,372,887	2,854,307	41,698,401	7%	38,844,094	(3,411,805)
<b>C</b>	Water Services	2,221,945	14,930,489	15%	12,708,544	2,032,216	14,366,139	14%	12,333,923	(189,729)
<b>D</b>	Development Management	4,290,099	23,356,907	18%	19,066,808	2,237,039	11,031,135	20%	8,794,096	(2,053,060)
<b>E</b>	Environmental Services	4,997,740	52,473,153	10%	47,475,413	2,272,019	32,619,608	7%	30,347,589	(2,725,720)
<b>F</b>	Recreation & Amenity	2,517,310	15,841,198	16%	13,323,888	480,040	2,668,927	18%	2,188,887	(2,037,270)
<b>G</b>	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	373,983	2,012,720	19%	1,638,737	267,052	1,327,851	20%	1,060,799	(106,931)
<b>H</b>	Miscellaneous Services	3,141,462	17,088,811	18%	13,947,349	2,858,121	18,186,945	16%	15,328,824	(283,341)
<b>LG</b>	Local Property Tax	0	0	0%	0	4,759,473	28,556,840	17%	23,797,367	4,759,473
<b>RA</b>	Rates	0	0	0%	0	6,100,372	36,593,868	17%	30,493,496	6,100,372
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>33,804,106</b>	<b>234,153,880</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>200,349,774</b>	<b>33,684,986</b>	<b>234,153,880</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>200,468,894</b>	<b>(119,120)</b>



**Capital Account – Year to Date 29<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

	<b>Expenditure</b> Expenditure YTD €	<b>Income</b> Total income YTD €
<b>A</b> Housing & Building	6,500,436	5,140,012
<b>B</b> Road Transport & Safety	1,151,548	998,100
<b>C</b> Water Services	605,019	144,924
<b>D</b> Development Management	1,543,206	1,401,696
<b>E</b> Environmental Services	56,992	216,896
<b>F</b> Recreation & Amenity	173,911	90,000
<b>G</b> Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	22,414	30,759
<b>H</b> Miscellaneous Services	21,398	25,199
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,074,924</b>	<b>8,047,586</b>

<b>Collection Rates</b>	<b>YTD 202402</b>	<b>YTD 202302</b>	<b>YTD 202312</b>
<b>Rates</b>	6%	6%	90%
<b>Rents</b>	61%	56%	92%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	99%	88%	99%

***Note regarding Rates figures -***

- 2023 year-end % takes account of Specific Doubtful Arrears, unlike the current month end figure.



## COMMERCIAL RATES

As at 09/02/2024 Rate Accruals for 2024 amounted to **€36,602,233**.

Arrears of **€5,520,979** were brought forward from 2023, giving the total amount to be collected as **€42,123,212**. Write offs in the amount of **€18,246** have been processed to end February 2024.

Receipts of **€2,339,900, (6%)**, were recorded to 29/02/2024.

## INCREASED COST OF BUSINESS GRANT

Registration for the ICOB Grant is now open. Eligible ratepayers can logon to [www.icob.ie](http://www.icob.ie) to register. All eligible rates customers have been written to advising them of the grant and how to register.

The grant is available to qualifying businesses as a contribution towards the rising costs faced by businesses. The grant is intended to aid businesses but is not intended to directly compensate for all increases in wages, or other costs, for every business

The grant is based on the value of the Commercial Rates bill received by an eligible business in 2023.

- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of <€10,000, the ICOB grant will be paid at a rate of 50% of the business's Commercial Rate bill for 2023.
- For qualifying businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rate bill of between €10,000 and €30,000, the ICOB grant will be €5,000.
- Businesses with a 2023 Commercial Rates bill greater than €30,000 are not eligible to receive an ICOB grant.

### What businesses are eligible to receive the grant?

- The business must be a commercially trading business currently operating from a property that is commercially rateable.
- The business must have been trading on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 and must intend to continue trading for at least three months from the date of Registration.
- The business must provide confirmation of their bank details.
- The business must be rates compliant. Businesses in performing payment plans may be deemed to be compliant.
- The business must be tax compliant and must possess a valid Tax Registration Number (TRN).



The closing date for businesses to confirm eligibility and to upload verification details will be 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

Please note that Tipperary County Council reserves the right to claw back any grant payment which is later found to be incorrect. This includes any circumstances such as error by the recipient business or the local authority making the payment, or where a business makes a false declaration of eligibility.

### RATES PAYMENT INCENTIVE SCHEME 2024

Approximately 4,150 (90%) of customers are eligible to benefit from our Rates Payment Incentive Scheme in 2024. If fully subscribed and availed of this could achieve total reductions in their rates of €648,249.

The terms for our Rates Payment Incentive Scheme for 2024 are: -

- Applied to all ratepayers with an annual rates bill of up to €26,000.
- To avail of the Early Payment Reduction of 6%, subject to a maximum of €600, payment of rates must be made in full, by 31st July 2024.
- Customers paying by Direct Debit can avail of the scheme if payment is made by September 2024.

The scheme is open to customers with arrears on their accounts where they pay a minimum amount which is equivalent to the annual rates by the same timelines outlined above, and enter into a structured payment plan to address and eliminate arrears.

### VACANT PROPERTY RELIEF

Commercial Rates remain payable on vacant property. Where a property is vacant on the date of making the rate, owners must notify the local authority and advise that the property is vacant and for letting, or is closed for refurbishment or repair.

Vacancy relief will be applied to qualifying property in accordance with the following scale:

Category	% Relief	% Payment
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill up to €5,000	100%	0%
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill over €5,000, but less than €10,000	80%	20%
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill over €10,000	60%	40%

## DIGITAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

### Networks, Infrastructure, Phones

- Prepared a request for tender and went to the market for a Managed Print Services Contract
- Negotiating with a Supplier regarding our virtualisation software licencing.
- Email - decommissioned the old MS Exchange related servers. Upgraded the domain controllers.
- Continued to assist with IT Elements of building works in Civic offices Clonmel and Parnell Street. Facilitated staff moves.
- Continued to upgrade network equipment in the buildings.

### **Security**

- Continued with security segmentation project
- Commenced the project to replace the security software on all our smartphones
- Continued with online security training.
- Completed an organisation wide phishing test and provided follow up training where relevant.
- Continued to patch our systems.
- Continued with our 'Vulnerability Management as a Service (VMaaS)



### Business and GIS Systems

#### **New Increased cost of business portal**

Facilitated Finance's new cloud-based system for the Increased Cost of Business Grant Scheme which was rolled out via the MyCoCo portal.

#### **Support and Upgrades**

- Updated the iHouse System to version 4.0
- Continued to replace older unsupported architecture hosting systems such as:
  - GenWaste (used by Civic Amenity Sites)
  - The Flood Forecasting System
  - Fire Services Rostering and Scheduling software
  - Museum and Archive systems
- Continued to support the suite of existing business systems including:
  - Security Patching
  - Application troubleshooting
  - System upgrades
  - Systems Analysis
  - User Support

#### **GIS Systems**

- Completed three new Local Area Plans and uploaded to both Internal and [External](#) GIS
- Continued with the roll out of the updated version of MapInfo to 29 users
- Upgraded GIS Layers with data received from External agencies
- Facilitated 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Requests for Data
- Provided desktop support for AutoCAD, LabWorks, ArcGIS, MapInfo, Sat Nav updates

### Mobile Phones and Billing

- Provided corporate phones and setup on management tools.
- Assisted TCC Staff with mobile phone queries
- Liaised with third party suppliers and continued to process invoices
- Commenced preliminary analysis for the procurement of Mobile Voice and Data Communications and Associated Products and Services through the Office of Government Procurement Framework.

### General Tasks

- Continued development of ICT Health and Safety to maintain ISO 45001 status
- Assisted in Procurement for TCC IT Section

### Websites and eDevelopment

- Developed automated system for HR 'Family Friendly Schemes' for staff use.
- Developing new system to deal with 'Housing Voids' for improved administration for Housing staff.
- Upgraded and relaunched Consultations Portal  
<https://consultations.tipperarycoco.ie> to provide further improvements in functionality, accessibility and security.

- Commenced redevelopment of the Property Portal- vacant commercial premises across the county.
- Provided guidance and advice, and published Residential Zoned Land Tax scheme, new Local Area plans for Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles, Town Enhancement Schemes (online submissions), Ballaghveny landfill Community Gain Fund- Applications, Public Additions to the RPS, Draft Town Centre First Plan for Newport Town, Community Regeneration Fund.
- Provided support and maintenance for internal systems and 20+websites
- Progressed further a core update of Tipperary County Council website from Drupal 9 to Drupal 10
- Made Amendments to Legal Cases System
- Produced NOAC Returns to Department

### All Teams

- Continued to provide technical support to staff and elected members
- Continued to manage and support business systems, websites, geographical, social media, phones, desktop, devices and network system.

