



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2023





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Introduction







Cathaoirleach Foreword

Agus muid ag machnamh ar imeachtaí na bliana seo caite, tá áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Chomhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann do 2023 a chur i láthair. Is léiriú í an tuarascáil seo ar thiomantas agus athléimneacht ár gcomhaltaí, ár bhfoirne agus ár gcomhdhamhnaí i bhfianaise na ndúshlán nach bhfacthas a leithéid riamh cheana.

As we reflect on the events of the past year, I am pleased to present the Tipperary County Council Annual Report for 2023. This report serves as a testament to the dedication and resilience of our council members, staff, and constituents in the face of unprecedented challenges.

It was a honour and privilege for me to be elected as the tenth Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council on Friday 25th June 2023 unopposed, at our Annual Meeting held in Knockavilla Community Centre.

Upon being elected, my focus was to continue to support the development of economic and tourism-related projects such as the Rialto Digital and Enterprise Hub and Nenagh's Historical and Cultural Quarter, continue to promote the Brand Tipperary, Progress the development of the Climate Action Plan, progress the provision of housing, secure additional URDF & RRDF funding for towns throughout the County so that plans in place for the development of those towns would come to fruition, ensure the progression of the N24 and Shannon River Crossing Schemes and the alleviation of road flooding issues at Carrigahorig.

The year 2023 tested our community in ways we could never have imagined with the ongoing supply crisis in Housing, increasing energy costs, rising inflation and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza/Palestine. Yet, through it all, we have demonstrated our unwavering commitment to serving the people of Tipperary with integrity, transparency, and innovation. Despite the obstacles that came our way, we have worked tirelessly to uphold our vision of fostering a thriving, sustainable, and inclusive county for all. Throughout this report, you will find a detailed account of our accomplishments, initiatives, and progress made in various areas, from infrastructure development to community engagement, environmental sustainability to economic growth. Our achievements are a testament to the collaborative efforts of all those involved – from our dedicated employees to our invaluable partners and stakeholders.

During 2023, Tipperary County Council continued to coordinate and endorse significant festivals and events while collaborating with other entities to highlight the County. I had the honour of engaging with communities and individuals in Tipperary and beyond, attending diverse events that showcased the abundant talents present in our esteemed Premier County.



Serving as Cathaoirleach, I witnessed first-hand the exceptional and invaluable efforts undertaken by numerous voluntary and community-based groups and organisations throughout the county to enhance their communities. I wish to commend the towns and villages that were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals in the National Tidy Towns competition, marking 66 years of community transformation. The phrase “Working together” aptly encapsulates the essence of Tidy Towns, demonstrating the power of community and how collective small actions can have a significant impact on ensuring our communities become more sustainable places to live, work, and play for generations to come.

Specific highlights during the year included;

- “We Love Nenagh” taking first place at the Pride of Place community awards in the population over 4,000 category.
- The conferral of Civic honours to Shane and Trevor Breen, Cashel in recognition of their unique national or international success in the field of Horse Jumping.
- Civic Welcome accorded to the Polish Ambassador Her Excellency Anna Sochanska
- Approval for the Nenagh Sustainable Energy Centre at Martyr’s Road that will provide training on renewable energy and a practical showcase of the renewable energy technologies in use;
- Irish Planning Institute Awards 2023 (Highly Commended) - Tipperary County Council – “Activating Cahir’s Town Centre Regeneration Strategy”
- Energy and Farm Diversification Show - Gurteen College
- Completion of Newport Town Park

Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to driving positive change and making Tipperary a better place to live, work, and thrive. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to shape a brighter future for our county.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, for his guidance and support throughout the year. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the staff of the Council at all levels, both indoor and outdoor, who have contributed to the success of Tipperary County Council in 2023. Your hard work, passion, and dedication have been instrumental in our achievements.

I wish to acknowledge the work of the local media who attend our meetings and are a vital conduit for the general public in terms of keeping them informed of what is happening in the county.

A special word of thanks to my Leas-Cathaoirleach, Seamus Hanafin, and Councillor Roger Kennedy who presided as the previous Cathaoirleach for their invaluable support during my term as Cathaoirleach.

Finally, thank you to my fellow Councillors in Tipperary County Council for your continued support and partnership. Together, we will continue to build a stronger, more vibrant Tipperary for generations to come.

Warm regards,

Cllr Ger Darcy

Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council



Message from Chief Executive, Joe MacGrath

I am pleased to join with the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ger Darcy in presenting our 2023 Annual Report, which is the Council's fifth and final report of its current term outlining our work in delivering public services and infrastructural projects across the county.

Reflecting on the past decade as Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council, I am reminded of the remarkable journey we have taken together, the dedication and commitment of our staff and councillors and the significant milestones that have been achieved over that period.

Throughout the years, we have faced numerous challenges and uncertainties, but our collective resilience and adaptability have allowed us to maintain and enhance the level of services provided to the citizens and communities of Tipperary. The year 2023 was no exception, as we navigated through several global economic crises including escalating energy prices, inflation and the impacts of the war in Eastern Europe.

The Council achieved much in 2023 through our ambitious capital programme, leveraging investments from national initiatives such as the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF), the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF), Active Travel, Town Centre First, Housing for All, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, Town and Village Renewal, and the Community Recognition Fund. These initiatives have not only transformed our physical infrastructure but have also enriched the lives of our communities and visitors to our county.



The following were key initiatives achieved during 2023:

- Opening of the new Kickham Plaza Civic Space and public realm on the historical grounds of the former army barracks in Clonmel;
- Opening of the Regional Sports Hub on the TUS campus, Clonmel;
- Completion in partnership with Fethard Town Park and the Department of Rural and Community Development, a new multi-purpose sport and recreation campus incorporating a 26-acre park with two full-size playing pitches, training areas, 3km of walking pathways, a community pavilion with changing facilities, café, gym, fitness studio, sensory garden, extensive parkland and car parking;
- Completion of the Bishops Walk in Cashel to increase pedestrian access and connectivity between the town centre and the Rock of Cashel;
- Commencement in partnership with Clare County Council of the new Shannon River crossing between Ballina and Killaloe and the water and wastewater treatment plant for Newport;
- Commencement of work on the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration scheme
- The signing of contracts for the new Cashel Fire Station;
- Commencement of work on the refurbishment and repurposing of Templemore Town Hall to provide a new home for Templemore Library as well as cultural and enterprise areas and community facilities;
- Appointment of a design team for the development of a new Library for Clonmel;
- Appointment of a design team for the development of a new historic and cultural quarter at Banba Square, Nenagh
- Appointment of a design team to reimagine Tipperary Town Courthouse and Bridewell to create a hub for adults with intellectual disabilities.
- Official opening of Housing Developments throughout the county at Ned Hayes Park, Two-mile-Borris, Long Orchard Park, Templetuohy and Glenconnor Hill, Glenconnor Close and Glenconnor village, Clonmel with Minister Darragh O'Brien, our Cathaoirleach and District Chairs. The Council achieved all targets set by the Government in the delivery of our housing programme under 'Housing For All'. The year witnessed a significant up-scaling in the public sector housing programme which will both continue and further expand in 2024 and 2025;
- The launch of the new Library Service website;
- The launch of the new "Town Centre First" blueprint for Roscrea, the first town in Ireland to do so.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to the management team and staff of Tipperary County Council, the members of the Council, Corporate Policy Group members, the six Strategic Policy Committees, the work of our five Municipal Districts, and all other committees for their unwavering dedication to the delivery of essential services to the public.

Special appreciation goes to our Cathaoirleach Cllr Ger Darcy for his outstanding commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm throughout 2023, as well as Leas-Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Hanafin, all the Municipal District Cathaoirleach – Councillors Richie Molloy, Clonmel BD; John Rocky McGrath, Nenagh MD; Sean Ryan, Thurles MD; Declan Burgess, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD; and Kieran Bourke, Carrick-on-Suir MD and all those who have supported and assisted us during the year.

As we look towards the future, let us continue to work together with determination and unity, building on our past achievements and overcoming future challenges to create a brighter and more prosperous Tipperary for all.

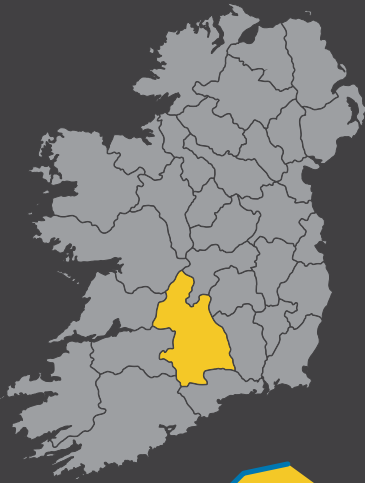
My thanks to you for your continued support and collaboration.

I am pleased to recommend this report for adoption by the Council and wish you all good health and happiness into the future.

Joe MacGrath
Chief Executive



Of the 32 counties Tipperary County is



6th
largest by
area

11th
largest by
population

4,282km²

167,895
(preliminary figure 2022)



Tributaries of the Shannon run through the northern part of the county and into Lough Derg.

LOUGH DERG

Arra Hills

M7

The region is part of the central plain of Ireland, but the diversified terrain contains several mountain ranges

Silvermine Mountains

KEY ARTERIAL ROUTES

Dublin: M7, M8
Waterford: N24

Train lines:
Dublin & Waterford

NEWPORT

is the fastest growing town. The population increased 10.5% between 2011 & 2016.



The River Suir runs through the southern & central portion of the county.

M8

THE GOLDEN VALE

A rich pastoral stretch of land in the Suir basin which extends into counties Limerick and Cork. No part of the county touches the coast.

Galtees Mountains

N24

KEY ARTERIAL ROUTES

Limerick: M7, N24
Cork: M8

Train lines:
Cork & Limerick

Knockmealdown Mountains

CLONMEL

is the largest town in the county, with a population of over 17,000 people.



Tipperary
Population

84,256
FEMALE

83,639
MALE



3,904
Dual Irish Citizens
in Tipperary

Vision Statement

Tipperary - A vibrant place where people can live, visit and work in a competitive and resilient economy, a sustainable environment and an inclusive and active community





FIONA BONFIELD
LABOUR PARTY



PHYLL BUGLER
FINE GAEL



JOHN CARROLL
FIANNA FÁIL



GERARD DARCY
FINE GAEL



JOE HANNIGAN
NON-PARTY



HUGHIE McGRATH
NON-PARTY



JOHN ROCKY McGRATH
NON-PARTY



SEAMUS MORRIS
NON-PARTY



MICHAEL O'MEARA
NON-PARTY



MICHEÁL ANGLIM
FIANNA FÁIL



TONY BLACK
SINN FÉIN



DECLAN BURGESS
FINE GAEL



JOHN CROSSE
FINE GAEL



MICHAEL FITZGERALD
FINE GAEL



MARY HANNA HOURIGAN
FINE GAEL



ROGER KENNEDY
FIANNA FÁIL



MÁIRÍN McGRATH
NON-PARTY



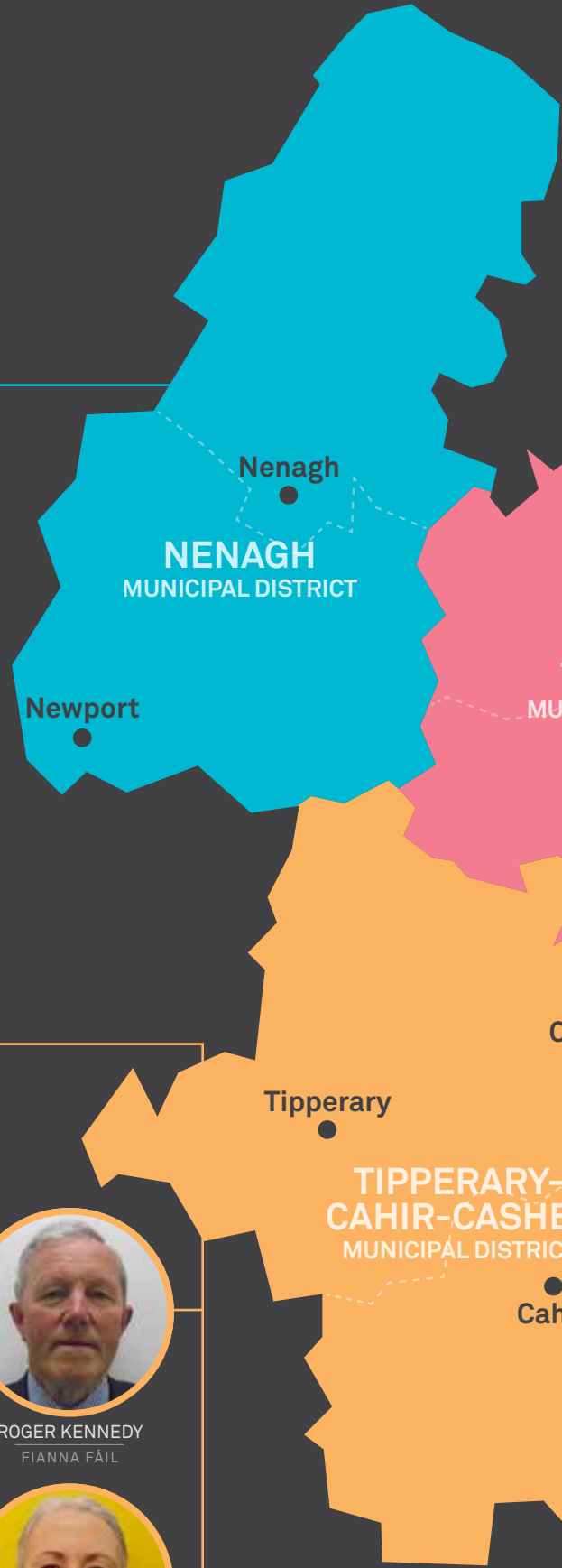
ANDY MOLONEY
NON-PARTY

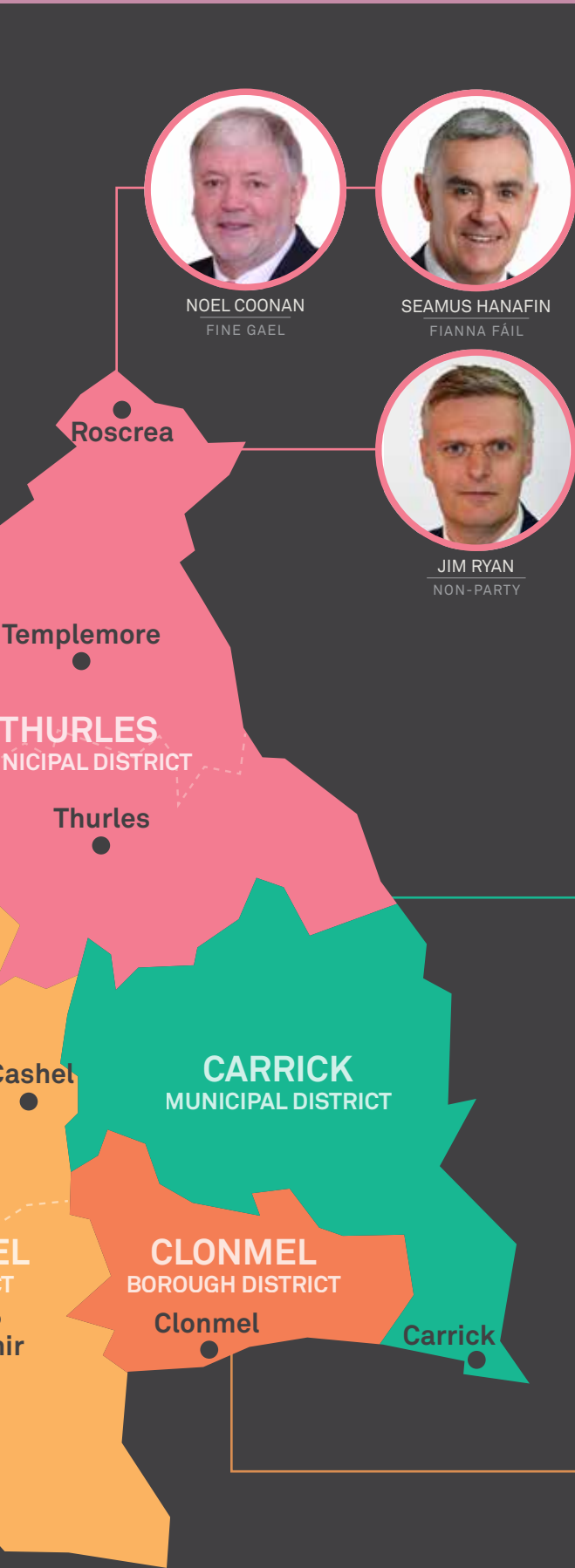


MARIE MURPHY
FINE GAEL



ANNEMARIE RYAN
SINN FÉIN





NOEL COONAN
FINE GAEL



SEAMUS HANAFIN
FIANNA FÁIL



SHANE LEE
NON-PARTY



MICHEÁL LOWRY
NON-PARTY



EDDIE MORAN
NON-PARTY



JIM RYAN
NON-PARTY



PEGGY RYAN
FINE GAEL



SEAN RYAN
FIANNA FÁIL



MICHAEL SMITH
FIANNA FÁIL



KIERAN BOURKE
FIANNA FÁIL



DAVID DUNNE
SINN FÉIN



MARK FITZGERALD
FINE GAEL



IMELDA GOLDSBORO
FIANNA FÁIL



KEVIN O'MEARA
NON-PARTY



SIOBHÁN AMBROSE
FIANNA FÁIL



NIALL DENNEHY
NON-PARTY



PAT ENGLISH
WUAG



JOHN FITZGERALD
FINE GAEL



RICHIE MOLLOY
NON-PARTY



MICHAEL MURPHY
FINE GAEL

MEMBERS OF TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL



Senior Management Team

MR. JOE MACGRATH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE



MS. SINEAD CARR

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Housing • Ukrainian Refugee Accommodation Response
- Deputy Chief Executive

Delegated MD: Clonmel

Directorate: Clonmel



MR. MARCUS O'CONNOR

DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Roads & Transportation • Active Travel
- Health and Safety • LASNTG • CSCS

Delegated MD: Nenagh

Directorate: Nenagh



MR. EAMON LONERGAN

ACTING DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Environment and Climate Action • Human Resources.

Delegated MD: Thurles Municipal District

Directorate: Clonmel



MR. ANTHONY COLEMAN

ACTING DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Shared National Local Authority Service • LAWPRO

Delegated MD: Carrick-on-Suir

Directorate: Nenagh



MR. MARK CONNOLLY

HEAD OF FINANCE

Directorate Functions

- Finance • Information Technology • Motor Taxation.

Delegated MD: Thurles Municipal District

Directorate: Nenagh



MR. BRIAN BECK

ACTING DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Economic, Community & Rural Development
- Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity
- Corporate Services.

Delegated MD: Carrick-on-Suir

Directorate: Clonmel



MS. SHARON KENNEDY

ACTING DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Directorate Functions

- Planning & Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition) • Emergency Services and Emergency Planning

Delegated MD: Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel Municipal District

Directorate: Nenagh



MS. ROSEMARY JOYCE

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Nenagh Municipal District



MR. GER WALSH

SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Corporate Services

Delegated Functions Framework

effective from 4th December 2023

Director of Services/ Head of Finance	Directorate Functions	District Function
Sinead Carr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Ukrainian Refugee Accommodation Response • Deputy Chief Executive 	Clonmel Borough District
Marcus O'Connor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads & Transportation • Active Travel • Health & Safety • Local Authority Services National Training Group (LASNTG) • Construction Skills Certification Scheme Office (CSCS) 	Nenagh Municipal District
Eamon Lonergan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & Climate Action • Human Resources 	Thurles Municipal District
Anthony Coleman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared National Local Authority Service: • Local Authorities Waters Programme (LAWPRO) 	
Mark Connolly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Information Technology • Motor Taxation 	
Brian Beck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic, Community and Rural Development, • Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity • Corporate Services. 	Carrick on Suir District
Sharon Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Development (including Town Centre First and Just Transition) • Emergency Services and Emergency Planning 	Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel Municipal District



LIAM MCCARTHY

Retired 30th June 2023



STEPHANE DUCLOT

Resigned 7th May 2023

Annual Meeting Of Tipperary County Council 2023

The Annual Meeting of Tipperary County Council was held in Knockavilla Community Centre, Knockavilla, Co. Tipperary, at 11.15 a.m. on Friday 30th June 2023. Mass for past members was celebrated in the Church of the Assumption, Knockavilla at 10.30am in advance of the Annual Meeting.

On the day Cllr Ger Darcy was elected Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council for the year 2023-2024 and Cllr Seamus Hanafin was elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach for the term.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Ger Darcy



Cathaoirleach Cllr Ger Darcy – Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Seamus Hanafin



Tipperary County Council Members along with Chief Executive Joe MacGrath and Meetings Administrator Ger Walsh

Our Economy







Roads & Transportation

The Policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as planning and resources allow.

Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee

(to include Roads, Transportation and Water Services)

The Infrastructure SPC (Roads, Transportation and Water Services) was established following the Local Elections 2019 and held four meetings in 2023.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP:

COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Michael O'Meara (Chair)
- Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald
- Cllr. Micheál Anglim
- Cllr. Kieran Bourke
- Cllr. Hughie McGrath
- Cllr. David Dunne
- Cllr. Declan Burgess
- Cllr. Kevin O'Meara
- Cllr. Jim Ryan
- Cllr. Mark Fitzgerald

SECTORAL/PILLARS

Public Participation Network Representatives:

- Mr. Ger Shanahan
- Mr. Brian Pope
- Mr. Liam Browne

Agriculture & Farming:

- Mr. Peter Farrell

Business, Commercial & Tourism:

- Ms. Michelle Aylward

Development Construction:

- Mr. Seán Reidy

Trade Union

- Mr. Philip Brett

Policy & discussion items included:

- 2023 Allocations for National, Regional and Local roads
- 2023 Allocations for Active Travel Schemes and Greenways
- Tipperary Road Safety Strategy - Vision Zero and Safe Systems Approach
- N24 Project Updates
- EV Charging Infrastructure
- HVO Alternative Fuel Trial
- Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme (PLEEP)
- Road Traffic and Roads Act 2023: E-scooters, E-bikes and E-mopeds
- Review of Policy on Local Improvement Schemes
- Age Friendly Ireland Parking Space Guide
- Traffic Management: Vertical Deflections Policy Principles.



County Tipperary Road Classification

Lengths in Municipal Areas (per km)

National

Municipal Area	Nenagh	Thurles	Clonmel	Tipperary Cahir Cashel	Carrick	Totals
Motorway	39.00	38.00	0	39.00	6.00	122.00
National Primary	0	0	25.40	36.12	9.91	71.43
National Secondary	52.38	52.37	9.07	20.39	11.08	145.29
Total	91.38	90.37	34.47	95.51	26.99	338.72

Regional, Local and Tertiary

Regional	276.69	154.90	58.87	272.18	135.55	898.18
Local Primary	494.74	487.98	130.00	547.00	244.00	1903.72
Local Secondary	453.66	398.86	67.03	537.27	258.30	1715.12
Local Tertiary	260.86	242.46	98.05	321.92	131.25	1054.54
Total	1485.95	1284.20	353.95	1678.37	769.10	5571.56

Totals

Overall Total including Mo- torways	1577.33	1374.57	388.42	1773.88	796.09	5910.28
Overall Total excluding Mo- torways	1538.33	1336.57	388.42	1734.88	790.09	5788.28



Summary of Road Grants 2023

National Roads 2023 Allocations:

Improvement	€ 7,641,000
Maintenance	€ 836,084
Greenways	€ 1,400,000
Total	€ 9,877,084

Non-National Roads 2023 Allocations:

This category refers to Regional and Local Roads. The maintenance and improvement of these roads in 2023 was funded by the Department of Transport, in addition to the Council's own resources.

The Council received grants for non-national roads amounting to €35,321,781 in 2023, as follows:

Discretionary Maintenance	€4,800,500
Restoration Maintenance (incl. Supplementary RM)	€4,548,392
Restoration Improvement	€19,407,415
Bridge Rehabilitation	€1,121,001
Safety Improvement Works	€605,000
Drainage Works	€1,191,998
Cycling signs	€11,000
Strategic Regional & Local Roads	€443,015
Specific Improvement Scheme	€681,000
PSCI Survey Support	€37,313
Climate Change Adaptation Projects	€907,887
Training Grant	€129,500
Former National Roads	€600,000
Community Involvement Schemes	€804,600
Speed Limits (Housing Area Signage)	€19,660
Speed Limits (Rural Speed Limit Signage)	€13,500
Total Regional and Local Road Allocations 2023:	€35,321,781
Own Resources Allocation 2023:	€8,506,633

The Discretionary Grant of €4,800,500 was used to supplement the Council's own resources for ordinary maintenance of Regional and Local roads. The Council's own resources allocation for 2023 was €8,506,633.

Major Capital Schemes

Project Ireland 2040 – Our Plan (National Planning Framework and National Development Plan) sets out the investment programme for National Road infrastructure.

Outlined below is the current position in relation to major projects:

Major Road Improvement Scheme - N24 Waterford to Limerick:

In January 2018, two schemes were notified to TII by the Department of Transport:

- **N24 Waterford to Cahir** – Kilkenny County Council advised as Lead Authority
- **N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction** – Tipperary County Council advised as Lead Authority.

Both N24 projects were notified on the National Development Plan 2021 – 2030. Arup and Partners Ireland Ltd., t/a Arup won two separate appointments and are the Design Consultants on each of these projects.

N24 Waterford to Cahir:

Consultants Arup were appointed by Kilkenny County Council in August 2020 to complete Phases 1 to 4 and a project website was launched in February 2021.

Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility, was completed in April 2021.

Phase 2: Options selection commenced in 2021 and options were announced on 3 May 2022. Phase 2 is due to be completed in Q1 2024. A Proposed Transport Solution will be announced and a Public Consultation Process will be opened on same.

 *Project Ireland 2040 sets out the investment programme for National Road infrastructure*

N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction:

Consultants Arup were appointed by Tipperary County Council on 22 October 2019 to complete Phases 1 to 4 and a project website was launched in August 2020.

Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility, was completed in September 2020. The 'Transport Options and Alternatives' Public Consultation took place between 25 June and 6 August 2021.

Phase 2: Options selection was completed and a Preferred Transport Solution was announced on 23 May 2022. Tipperary County Council published the Options Selection Report in March 2023.

Phase 3: Design and Environmental Evaluation Processes has commenced. This will define the land-take required for the preferred option. Design Update No. 1 took place on 23 January 2023.



N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction: Corridor refined Jan 2023, (reduced to 100m in width and Active Travel proposals in Green) Project Website: <https://n24cahirlimerick.ie/>



N24 Waterford to Cahir Project: Study Area Project Website: <https://n24waterford2cahir.ie/>

National Primary and National Secondary Routes

Works were planned and carried out on National Primary and National Secondary routes during 2023 as follows:

National Primary Road Improvements

- N24 Carrick-on-Suir Pavement Scheme: This scheme involves the rehabilitation of a total of 3.5km of pavement on the N24 national route in County Tipperary. The Scheme was tendered in May 2022 with the Contract awarded to GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd., in July 2022 and Works commenced in September 2022. The contract period for the Works was 90 weeks and they were substantially completed in 2023. Landscape works will be ongoing in Spring of 2024. The Contract includes maintenance of landscaping for 3 years.
- N74 Fr Mathew Street, Tipperary Town: The Fr Mathew Street element of the Scheme is at tender award stage and construction will commence early in 2024.
- N24 Knockagh Roundabout: This project involves pavement rehabilitation and improvement to geometry over a 1km section directly to the east of Knockagh Roundabout. The scheme includes a shared footpath and cycle facility. It will also address two High Collision Locations on the N24. The project obtained Part 8 Planning approval in July 2023 and will be published for Tender in early 2024, subject to funding by TII. Separately in 2023, surface texture improvements were carried out on the roundabout carriageway and approaches by the TII MMarc maintenance contractor in advance of the 1km scheme.
- 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) is expected to commence in Q1 2024, subject to the availability of TII funding.
- N65 Carrigahorig Village Pavement Improvement Scheme: this scheme in the village of Carrigahorig involves road pavement improvement works and addresses road safety issues; renewal, widening and extension of footpaths in the village; public lighting and public realm improvements. The Preliminary Design stage has commenced and it is anticipated that this stage will be completed and planning procedures commenced in Q1 2024.
- 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 planing 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. The preliminary design and Part 8 Process is completed. A tender competition for consultants for the detailed design phase has been completed. It is anticipated that consultants will be appointed in Q1 2024, subject to availability of funding, to complete the detailed design in 2024.

National Secondary Road Improvement

- N62 Thurles Outer Bypass: the route for this scheme was selected in 2011 and a reserved corridor put in place. TCC wishes for it to be included in the next National Development Plan.
- N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel Thurles: 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 and is expected to commence construction in Q2/Q3 2024.
- N74 Golden to Knockroe Pavement Improvement Scheme: this scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 2.5km of pavement on the N74, approximately 4km west of Cashel Town. The scheme was completed in September 2023.
- N76 Grangemockler Village Pavement Scheme: this scheme involved the rehabilitation of approximately 1km of the N76 national secondary road through the village of Grangemockler. The project included road safety measures, improved footpaths and landscaping. This scheme was advertised through public tender and the contract was awarded in June 2022 to GLAS Civil Engineering Limited. The contract was substantially completed in April 2023 with the maintenance period continuing to April 2024. The landscaping element of the works will be further maintained by the contractor for a period of three years.

Strategic Non-National Road Projects

- **Thurles Inner Relief Road:** this is a proposed local link between the N62 and Mill Road, Thurles. This scheme is in the National Development Plan and Department of Transport approval will be required to allow it to go to detailed design. The next step is to secure funding to deliver the Inner Relief Road Project and to finalise land acquisition. Discussions are ongoing with the Department of Transport in respect of this scheme.
- **R498 Road Realignment at Latteragh Bends:** this project involves a Compulsory Purchase Order. RPS Consultants have been appointed to complete the detailed design, procure and supervise a works contractor. The detailed design was substantially completed in Q4 2023. A contractor for the Advance Works (fencing and site clearance work) has been appointed. Advance works and archaeological investigations will commence in Q1 2024. It is anticipated that a contractor for the Main Works will be appointed and the main works will commence in Q3 2024.
- **Ballina/Killaloe By-Pass Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme - Clare County Council** is the lead authority. John Sisk & Sons (Holdings) Ltd have been appointed as the main Contractor. Works commenced on site in August 2022 and the scheme will take approximately 3 years to complete. Currently the scheme is more than 50% complete.



Ballina/Killaloe Shannon Bridge Crossing works in progress

Active Travel Investment Programme

In 2023, Tipperary County Council received an allocation of €4.633m to improve cycling and walking infrastructure throughout the county.

A sample of some of the Active Travel Projects implemented in Tipperary is provided below:

Borrisokane Community College Footpath linkage:

The installation of footpaths between Borrisokane Community College to the community pitches located East of the Community College has been completed.



R445 Roscrea - Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme:

The R445 Roscrea project includes the provision of a walking and cycling path between the Limerick Road Roundabout and the Templemore Roundabout connecting into the Parkmore Industrial Estate in Roscrea.



Cahir Road Active Travel Scheme, Cashel:

The project includes the installation of cycle tracks, improved footpath connectivity, improved crossings and junction tightening along the R639 (Cahir Road) in Cashel.



Rosegreen Active Travel Scheme:

This project extended the existing footpath on the L1409 to connect residents en-route to the village of Rosegreen.



Safety Improvement Works on Regional and Local Roads

A sum of €605,000 was spent on Safety Improvement Works at a number of locations on Regional and Local Roads throughout the county during 2023.

Works took place at the following locations:

- R498-40 Junction with L4131-0 Ragg
- L4130 Allengort Drombane
- R494/L6037 Loughtea near Ballina
- R494-127 Monroe Newtown
- R687-3 Jamestown
- R688 Ballyclerihan
- R688-6 Rathduff
- R866-4 Ballyclerihan
- R691-8 Ballingarry Lower
- R689-4 Killenaule Road Fethard
- R661 Gorteenamona

Community Involvement Schemes

The Community Involvement Scheme refers to the upgrading and improvement of local public roads where residents contribute 10% of the cost of the works. A total of 17 schemes were completed in 2023 across the Municipal and Borough Districts. Grant funding in the sum of €804,600 was received from the Department of Transport in 2023 under this scheme.

Local Improvement Schemes

In accordance with the Local Improvement Scheme Memorandum of February 2002, improvement works can be carried out on private/non- public roads. There must be more than one landowner on the LIS road and the road must be open to the public. A local contribution is an integral part of the LIS scheme and it varies from 10% to 15% depending on the number of residences on the road. A total of 20 schemes were completed in 2023 as part of the first round of funding and 20 schemes were completed as part of Round 2 funding across all Districts. Grant funding in the sum of €1,864,526 was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

CLÁR 2023

CLÁR funding of €38,541 was received from the Department of Rural and Community Development for two Measure 1 projects completed in 2023:

- Clonakenny Playground
- Drombane Village Car Park.

Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Grant funding on €1,121,001 was received from the Department of Transport in 2023 for rehabilitation works to 15 bridges throughout the county.

Machinery Yard

The Machinery Yard, which has bases in Clonmel and Nenagh, provides a support service to engineering based activities for all of Tipperary County Council. The core service objective is to provide machinery (i.e. vehicles, plant and equipment) at a reasonable cost to assist District based staff to carry out their functions. The machinery yard has approximately 204 council owned vehicles and 10 leased vehicles under its control, with a replacement value of circa €4.2 million. In addition, it maintains approximately 20 District vehicles which would have an additional replacement value of circa €1.2 million.

The activities of the Machinery Yard include:

- Fleet management in compliance with the Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) Act 2012
- The inspection, operation and maintenance of the Council fleet, including requirements under Statutory Instrument S.I. 348 of 2013 Road Safety Authority (Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness) (Vehicle Maintenance and Repair) Regulations 2013
- The supply of plant and machinery as required to the Districts and other sections of the Council
- The acquisition and disposal of plant and machinery
- To have available the staffing levels and skills necessary to efficiently maintain and operate the council's plant and machinery fleet
- Arranging the long-term and short-term hire of commercial machinery for the Districts.

The council operates a computerised and automated fuel storage and dispensing system at Clonmel, Cahir, Cashel, Nenagh, Tipperary and Thurles depots to avail of the cost reduction achievable with bulk purchases through the OGP National Framework. The Council operates its own machinery garages in Clonmel and Nenagh to meet the maintenance requirements for the various items of machinery. At present there is a foreman fitter, six fitters and two apprentice fitters in the Clonmel workshop and a foreman, two fitters and two apprentice fitters in the Nenagh workshop. Two of these fitters have just qualified and we will advertise for two new apprentices in the coming year. There are 12 full time drivers and 8 seasonal drivers based in the Nenagh Yard and 14 full time drivers and 8 seasonal drivers based in Clonmel.

The Machinery Yard provides technical guidance and experience to the Districts for their Road Works Programme as well as the latest machinery. The programmes work out of bases in Nenagh and Clonmel and completed approximately 1,400,000m² of surface dressing throughout the county in 2023, managed by Senior Executive Technicians based in Clonmel and Nenagh.

The Council added to the fleet of velocity patching units in 2023. Pictured is Chief Executive Joe MacGrath receiving the keys of the latest addition to the fleet. The patchers are used by the Districts for pothole filling and patching of roads. The velocity patcher is a one-man operated machine that delivers a computer calibrated mixture of aggregate and binder directly into the pothole or road defect under high velocity ensuring a cost effective, reliable solution to problematic road maintenance issues.





The machinery workshop is responsible for regular inspection of all commercial vehicles in the fleet, the servicing and maintenance of trucks, pickups, vans, tractors, specialised surface dressing and winter maintenance equipment, as required by the manufacturers' specification, and the repair of vehicles as required.

Improvement works are continuously being carried out in the Machinery Yard depots. In the past year this included replacement of the lighting in the building in Clonmel with energy efficient LEDs. Wallers Lot depot in Cashel also had the outdoor lighting upgraded.

As part of our Climate Action Plan Tipperary County Council trialled the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in a number of vehicles ranging from vans to tipper trucks instead of conventional diesel. The use of this product continues and as part of our commitment to a greener fleet it will be further extended to our velocity patching units in 2024.

As part of our Capital replacement programme, two new 26Tonne tipper trucks were procured with delivery expected in 2024.

In October, the Machinery Yard hired a mechanical paver and paved the first road within the county with council staff operating all the machines as part of a trial. The road was successfully completed and the Machinery Yard is currently planning to complete similar work in 2024 should suitable sites be identified.

Nenagh Machinery Yard and Civic Amenity Site

The proposed upgrade of the Machinery Yard and the attached Civic Amenity Site in Nenagh completed Part 8 Planning in 2021. The geotechnical site investigation was procured in Q4 2022 and was completed in Q3 of 2023. A tree survey was also completed in Q4 2023. The project will now move to detailed design stage in 2024.

Winter Maintenance

The Winter Maintenance Service consists of four distinct phases namely:

- Pre-salting of National Primary and Secondary routes and major Regional roads and routes of strategic importance
- Salting and sanding of ice-bound National and Regional routes
- Clearance of snow by means of snow ploughs from National and Regional routes
- Clearance of snow by means of snow ploughs or mechanical loaders from county roads.

Phase 1 is termed precautionary treatment and is generally timed to be completed approximately two hours before the start of freezing conditions.

Winter maintenance of roads in Tipperary is prioritised on the following basis:

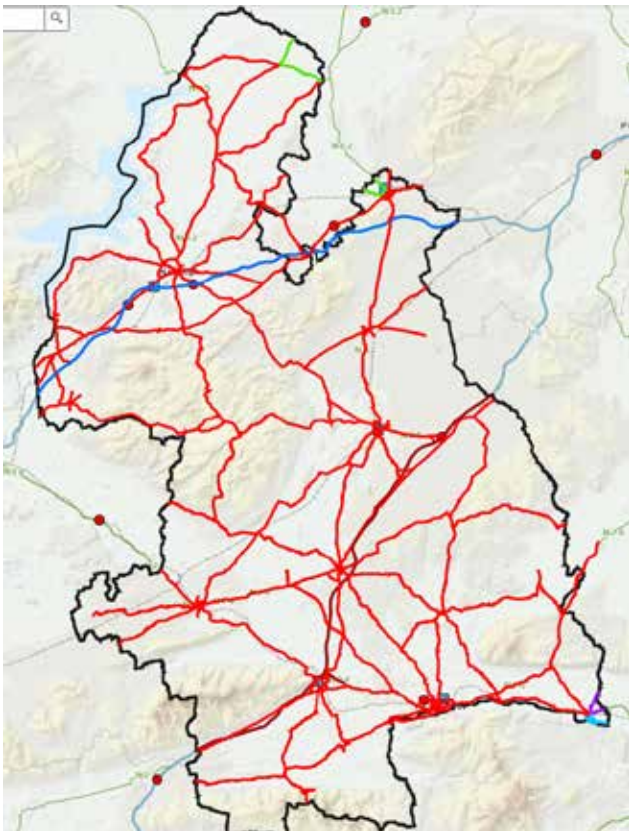
- Priority 1: National roads, and Regional roads of strategic importance
- Priority 2: Regional roads with high volume of traffic using the road
- Priority 3: Urban roads and Local roads on a priority basis, urban centres.

In extreme weather events Priority 1 routes will take precedence over Priority 2 routes in terms of allocation of available resources.

The winter maintenance period lasts from mid-October to 30 April each winter with the aim of keeping priority routes safe and as free as possible from wintry hazards. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides grant funding for the winter maintenance of National Primary and National Secondary roads within the county and the Department of Transport provides grant funding for other roads. These grants are supplemented by Tipperary County Council as necessary. Winter maintenance salt is purchased nationally by TII and distributed to Local Authorities. The county has a roster of four ice-cast Duty Engineers who are responsible for the use of the Weather Bureau Service to examine the forecast and track the conditions for the area, in order to issue instructions for winter maintenance based on specialist forecasts and local information.

The Winter Maintenance Service is managed and operated by the Machinery Yard. Twelve crews are rostered on a weekly basis using five (5) No. 6 tonne and five (5) No. 9 tonne salt spreaders, mounted on council trucks, and two (2) Prewet 9 tonne salting trucks, to pre-salt Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes (approximately 1,100 km) in the event of forecast of overnight frost/ice. Tipperary County Council has Section 86 Agreements with Offaly, Waterford and Kilkenny County Councils on a quid pro quo basis for cross-boundary treatments of routes to increase the efficiency of the operation.

Snow ploughs can be fitted to the salt spreading trucks when snow is forecast and the clearance of snow by ploughing will commence as soon as snow depths on all or part of the Priority 1 network exceeds 30mm. A complete schedule and map of pre-salting routes, and cross boundary agreements is published annually on the council's website <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie>



Map of Salting Routes in Tipperary

TII maintains a national reserve of salt for distribution to local authorities in the event of forecast of a severe weather event, i.e. a prolonged cold snap, or blizzard conditions. The Council's covered salt storage capacity is now in excess of 3,000 tonnes and salt storage barns are located in Cahir (600 tonnes), Cashel (350 tonnes), Clonmel (600 tonnes) and Nenagh (1,500 tonnes). This is deemed sufficient to cover a 5-day snow event.

Tipperary County Council completed 680 runs over the last season, spreading over 4,500 tonnes of salt at a cost of over €1 million.

Severe Weather/Storm Damage

Tipperary County Council has a Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT) to deal with weather alerts as they arise.

The team comprises of the:

- Senior Engineers (SE) Roads,
- District Engineers (5) and
- Senior Executive Engineer OPW Flood Schemes
- District Executive Engineers as required
- Representative from Corporate Services
- Administrative support.

The group is under the chairmanship of the Senior Engineer (Roads Central) and other relevant staff are added to the group depending on the event being considered.

The SWAT generally meets by video conference. The Severe Weather Policy dictates that on receipt of all Orange and Red weather alerts from Met Eireann a meeting of the group is convened. This meeting takes place on receipt of the alert to enable the team to assess the alert and its implications for council services. The SWAT then determines the appropriate level of response.

Every warning is considered in the context of other relevant information available to SWAT, i.e. information from the Ice Cast System, local knowledge of roads, infrastructure, vulnerable communities etc. Depending on the nature of the weather impact assessment, a warning and/or a Severe Weather Activation Plan instruction should be issued to all appropriate sections of the Council as well as to relevant principal response agencies. The SWAT team met on four occasions during 2023 in response to significant weather alerts.

 **680 winter maintenance runs were completed, spreading over 4,500 tonnes of salt, at a cost of over €1 million**

Public Lighting

The Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of public (street) lighting throughout the county. Public lighting maintenance is carried out under contract with Enerveo Ireland Ltd. Energia supplies the electrical power to the lighting network. The total number of public lights in the Tipperary network is circa 18,575.

Public lighting represents 38% of the Council's entire energy usage, and 65% of the Council's electricity usage. The Council has introduced LED lights in recent years in order to reduce the maintenance bill, as LED's have to be maintained less frequently. Furthermore, LED's are more energy efficient with up to 50% energy savings being made. By the end of 2023, Tipperary County Council had 6,652 or circa 36% of its lighting stock as LED lights.

The Council is obliged to meet National Public Service Efficiency Targets. This means that energy consumption must be reduced by 50% by 2030. Tipperary County Council has signed the Covenant of Mayors to give effect to this commitment.

RMO Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

Tipperary County Council is participating in a National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project, which will see 11,600 lights upgraded to LED across Tipperary. The national project is being rolled out on a regional basis with Tipperary County Council included in the Eastern region. Kilkenny County Council is leading the project in the region.

Under this contract, 83,000 lights will be upgraded across 9 counties, including Tipperary. Upgrading to LED lights will help the council to meet energy efficient targets while reducing energy and maintenance costs. Nationally, there are 21 local authorities involved in the project which will upgrade approximately 205,000 public lights, under a total investment of €150m. Once complete, the project will reduce CO² emissions by 20,000 tonnes each year, while saving the local authorities €12m in energy and maintenance costs annually.

The appointed contractor Killaree Lighting Services KLS has completed the survey of all street lights in Tipperary and is now in the process of carrying out lighting designs for the County. The installation of the new LED street lights will commence in 2024.



Do Chomhairle:
ag lasadh ár bpobal –
ag cosaint ár n-aeráid

Your Council:
lighting our community –
protecting our climate

e-Parking

Tipperary County Council has implemented 'Tipperary eParking', a cashless parking system for the county. The system allows users to pay for parking via an app or online in all nine towns in Tipperary where paid parking operates. The nine towns in Tipperary that operate e-Parking are Cahir, Carrick on Suir, Cashel, Clonmel, Nenagh, Templemore, Thurles, Tipperary Town and Roscrea.

Benefits of the e-Parking service include the ability to process transactions remotely, meaning that users don't need to display a ticket before leaving their car, or even return to the car to extend their parking – all of this can be controlled via the app on a smartphone. Users will no longer spend time scrambling for change to park their car. As e-Parking is a cashless system this cuts down on paper use and potential litter in towns from disused pay and display tickets. Use of the service continued to increase in 2023.



Taking in Charge of Estates

A total of 4 estates were taken in charge during 2023:

Municipal/Borough District	Name of Estate	Date Taken in Charge
Carrick-on-Suir MD	Mill House Park, Carrick-on-Suir	31/10/2023
Thurles MD	Caislean Court, Thurles	16/10/2023
Thurles MD	Ardlui, Thurles	16/10/2023
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD	Rocksprings, Kilross	19/12/2023



eParking is a cashless parking system available in 9 towns where paid parking operates

Road Safety

In 2023, Tipperary County Council, in conjunction with its partners in the Road Safety Working Together Group (Road Safety Authority (RSA), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), An Garda Síochána (AGS), Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service and the HSE/National Ambulance Service (NAS)) launched the second strategy for road safety in county Tipperary. The Strategy covers the period to 2030 and includes a Phase 1 Action Plan to 2024. Further Action Plans will be developed for the years 2025-2027 and 2028-2030.

The Strategy is based on the Government Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and is underpinned by Vision Zero and a Safe System Approach, which sets the ambitious target of reducing fatalities and serious injuries by 50% by 2030, and eliminating deaths and serious injuries on the roads by 2050. The objective of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy 2022-2030 is to create a greater awareness of road safety through our stakeholders to reduce the number, severity and life-changing impact of road collisions in Tipperary by advancing Vision Zero in line with the Government's Road Safety Strategy.

The Strategy examines local issues relevant to Tipperary. It offers a strategic direction for road safety in Tipperary in terms of safe roads and roadsides, safe speeds, safe vehicles, safe road use, post-crash response, safe and healthy modes of travel and safe work-related use. This requires a coordinated approach between all the stakeholders to provide a focus on collision and casualty reduction in the county and aims to improve overall safety levels within our communities.

It is the sincere hope of all the stakeholders that the focus on Road Safety in county Tipperary will contribute to collision and casualty reduction in the county over the lifetime of the Strategy. The Strategy encourages all members of the community to play an active part in reducing fatalities and injuries on Tipperary's roads by taking responsibility for their own behaviour as road users.

The Road Safety Section published a new brochure "Road Safety for Older Adults" in 2023, which offers road safety tips for pedestrians, on the use of medicines and driving, using roundabouts and meeting cyclists on the road.

Four meetings of the Collision Prevention Team (CPT) were held in 2023, at which the District Engineers and the Roads Policing Unit discussed any road safety issues identified in Tipperary, and tried to find solutions to them. Three meetings of the Road Safety Working Together Group (RSWTG) were also held. This is an inter-agency working group which co-ordinates road safety policy and implements it at a local level.

Visits have resumed to schools, family resource centres and other interested facilities with the Virtual Reality (VR) headsets provided by Aviva Driving School. Several road safety awareness campaigns were completed in local media.



Pictured at the launch of the Tipperary Road Safety Strategy:

Front-left to right: Mary Murphy, Assistant Road Safety Officer, TCC; Regina Staunton, Senior Road Safety Promotion Officer, RSA; Michèle Maher, Road Safety Officer, TCC;

Back-Martin Moore, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Tipperary Fire and Rescue Services; Marcus O'Connor, Director of Roads and Transportation, TCC; A/ Superintendent Mark Allen, An Garda Síochána; Inspector Declan Boland, An Garda Síochána; A/Superintendent John O'Connell, An Garda Síochána; Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation, TCC; James Murray, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation, TCC.



Our sincere condolences go to the families, friends and affected communities of those involved in serious road crashes in Tipperary in 2023, which resulted in a number of fatalities and serious injuries. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

Roads Abutting Certificates

A total of 842 applications for Roads Abutting Certificates were received during 2023 and 795 Certificates were issued.

Abnormal Load Permits

A total of 273 applications for Abnormal Load Permits were received during 2023 and 258 permits were issued.

Road Opening Licences

The 'MapRoad' Roadworks Licencing system (MRL) administered by the Road Management Office (RMO) is the national system for the management and processing of roadworks licence applications. Once a utility or civil contractor is registered on the MRL system, this registration enables them to apply to any Local Authority in the country for a road opening.

The procedure used on the MRL system is based on the "T" model. "T" model licences contain limits such as total excavation area, advance notification periods, licence validity periods, number of days allowed for works to take place and distances between excavations.

- T1 Notification: A T1 Notification is required when it is intended to perform works of high impact due to the extent or complexity of the proposed works. A T1 Notification is not a licence. The notification process allows adequate time for consultation and joint planning between the applicant and the authority.
- T21 Licence: Following determination of the T1 notification by the roads authority, the applicant subsequently submits T21 licence(s) for the project.
- T2 Licence: Works of moderate to significant impact
- T3 Licence: Works of low impact
- T4 Notification: A notification of emergency works as defined under legislation. A T2 or T3 licence may be subsequently required to complete the works that are not of an emergency nature.
- T5 Notification: A notification by the applicant to the local authority of completion of works carried out under T21, T2, T3 or T4.

The RMO in conjunction with local authorities continues with its programme of improving efficiency in the management of Road Opening Licences by considering and implementing various Service Level Agreements (SLA's). The National Deposit Scheme SLA was implemented in 2019. This limits the overall cost of deposits for member utilities while maintaining enough security for the Council against the unsatisfactory reinstatement of the road. The scheme is managed by the RMO and Tipperary County Council is part of the scheme. The National Deposit Scheme does not apply to private contractors. The Group Water Scheme SLA commenced in March 2020 and applies to participating Group Water Schemes in respect of reinstatement deposits. The Monthly Billing Agreement SLA was also implemented in September 2019. There are 8 utilities under this agreement.

Following on from the previous SLAs, the National Centralised Billing Process for utilities road licensing commenced from 1st October 2020. On behalf of all local authorities under the framework, the RMO is authorised to invoice utilities using a single monthly national invoice. Payment is made to the RMO, who then refund monies received to each individual authority on a quarterly basis. Under this national approach, each utility will receive one monthly bill as opposed to one from each local authority, thereby creating efficiencies. In respect of Tipperary County Council, centralised billing was implemented for 4 utilities in 2020 and a further 3 utilities in 2021, bringing the total number under this billing process for this Authority to 7 utilities. Plans are in place to implement centralised billing for the 1 remaining utility. It is intended that any new major utility company will be aligned to this billing and payment process as part of their registration on the MapRoad Road Opening Licence System in the future.

In addition to the implementation of these agreements, the Council's Road Opening Licence Conditioners continue to undertake Road Opening and Reinstatement Training Courses (Basic and Advanced). This will ensure that the Roads Authority has suitably trained personnel to carry out conditioning, monitoring, on-site inspection of works in progress and inspection of completed works.


The automated granting of T3 licences to defined major utilities commenced on a phased basis in December 2021 and was implemented by this authority on 20th June 2022. All 31 authorities are facilitating this functionality as of the 9th May 2023. The RMO in conjunction with local authorities has formulated National Standardised Conditions to support systemised granting of T3 (minor roadworks) licences in MRL. To enable this system, the road authority had to review the road/street names on the road schedule; Traffic Impact Number (TIN) associated with each road and Road Licensing Areas/Teams in each District. Authorities will have an opportunity to input data relating to Special Engineering Difficulties (SED's).

In 2023, Roads Section received 1,340 Road Opening Licence online applications. In conjunction with the Districts, the Council favourably determined 83 T1 notifications including 22 Section 254's in respect of various utility projects throughout the County and granted 245 T21 licences associated with these projects. During the year, 748 T2, 133 T3 and 33 T4 licences were also granted.

National Broadband Ireland (NBI) continues to deliver its programme for rural broadband in Tipperary which commenced in 2021. As part of this programme, NBI applied for a total of 103 T1's, of which 30 were submitted during 2023. Thirty-one no. Notifications were granted in 2023 with 84 granted in previous years. Twenty-two of the T1 Notifications granted in 2023 were in respect of applications under Section 254 of the Planning Act processed on the RMO MapRoad Road Opening Licence system. This involved co-ordination between the Planning and Roads Departments and the co-operation of the District Administrators, facilitated works to proceed in a timely manner.

Total Number of Road Opening Licence Applications in 2023:

Type	Number Received	* Number Did not Proceed	Number Effective	Number Granted
Section 254	20	0	20	22
T1	69	5	64	61
T21	283	8	275	245
T2	797	49	748	748
T3	138	5	133	133
T4	33	0	33	33
Total	1,340 *	67	1,273	1,242

 **1,340 Road Opening Licence applications were processed in 2023**

Tipperary County Council Community Employment Scheme

Tipperary County Council has supported Community Employment Schemes since their introduction, in partnership with the Department of Social Protection. The Scheme sponsored by the Roads Directorate operates over various locations including the towns and environs of Cahir, Cashel, Clonmel and Tipperary Town and the communities of Boherlahan, Clonoulty/Clogher, Holycross, Kilsheelan and Rosegreen with approval for 30 participants.

The Community Employment Scheme involves a range of activities including:

- Horticultural, landscaping and environmental improvement projects
- Maintenance works in parks, towns, and cemeteries
- Environmental Work/Driver/Road Crossing Warden

Emphasis is placed on providing valuable employment experience and training for participants. All participants benefit from mandatory Health and Safety training which is a transferable skill, required in similar work places. After achieving mandatory training, participants then follow on with job related or skill specific courses. The Tipperary community benefits by having cleaner towns, the improvement of amenities and landscaping of areas. Participants gain in skills, confidence and self-esteem that enable them to work as part of a team within their own community. Many of the participants on the scheme have secured employment either during or directly after their involvement.

Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Studies

During 2023, Tipperary County Council completed 2 schemes at:

- L-4129 Gortnahoola, Drombane, Thurles
- R-698 Gortnahoe Village, Thurles.

The Office of Public Works (OPW) provided funding under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works and Studies Scheme in the sum of €29,700 and €21,605 respectively with Thurles Municipal District providing the balancing 10% of the costs of the two schemes. The Council received approval to carry out a scheme at L-7160-0 Ballycastle Road, Templemore, originally scheduled to be carried out during 2021/2022. The works at this location are reliant on the completion of the adjacent OPW advance works on Abbey Lane. Therefore, it is estimated that the works at Ballycastle Road will commence and be completed during 2024.

Also, the OPW provided funding approvals in 2022/23 in respect of Cooper's Lot, Cashel in the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District. The funding will allow consultants to be procured to carry out geomorphological analysis, hydrological modelling and modelling assessment. The assessments commenced in 2023 and are due for completion in 2024. The OPW is currently assessing 2 further minor works application submitted by the Council at Ardfinnan and Ballylooby, Co. Tipperary, both located in Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District.

The Council acknowledges the continued support of the OPW and the co-operation of landowners when carrying out scheme works. Roads Section and Districts will continue to investigate locations where there are reports of flooding, and bring forward further Minor Flood Relief Schemes in 2024 where feasible flood relief measures and cost beneficial engineering solutions are identified to provide protection to "at risk" properties.

Marlfield Lake and Catchment Area

All surveys have now been completed for the scheme and a Public Consultation was undertaken in early 2023. An options report was produced and two preferred options were agreed with both being brought to further public consultation in Q1 2024. Several interim measures are being implemented prior to the main scheme, including conveyance improvement, sluice valve upgrade works, temporary pumping measures and tree clearance along with pre-contract SI works. A management plan has been prepared and a simulation event has been run to stress test the plan.

Flood Relief Minor Projects (FRMP)

Flood Relief Minor Projects (FRMP) involves projects of greater than €400,000 and up to €1 million in estimated value. Three locations in the county of Tipperary are amongst the first tranche of 50 flood relief projects identified by the OPW countrywide for priority implementation. Schemes at Holycross, Knocklofty, and Ballina/Killaloe are under development/design currently with the expectation that planning applications for the schemes will be submitted in 2024.

The Nenagh scheme has been upgraded to a larger scale scheme than previously envisaged and early surveying and site investigation works are currently underway, with the purpose of identifying the areas for more detailed analysis to allow for a scope of works to be defined and consultants appointed to develop a preliminary design.

Discussions are still ongoing with the OPW in relation to identifying an appropriate mechanism for progressing the Golden scheme.

Single Consent Forest Road Application

Section 8 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2018, makes provision for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to act as the consenting authority for the construction, maintenance or improvement of a road that serves a forest or woodland and ancillary works. This section was enacted by order dated 7 February, 2020 (S.I. No. 39/2020).

Applicants for a Forest Road Works licence, that includes a forest road entrance from a public road, (excluding national roads), or the material widening of an existing entrance are required to submit certain documentation to the Department. These documents are forwarded to the local authority as part of the mandatory consultation process. The Council has eight weeks from the date of receipt of the documents in which to respond.

The Department advises the Council amongst others of the decision. A copy of the applicant's Commencement Notice is also provided with an opportunity for comment within two weeks. On completion of the works, the Council may submit observations within 28 days of the date of the Completion Certificate, which is submitted by the applicant.

The Department of Agriculture produced the 'Forest Entrances - Requirements for Mandatory Consultation' document, and the 'Technical Standard – Design of Forest Road Entrances' document, following consultation with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Department of Transport. Bodies applying for a Relaxation or Departure to a Technical Standard should contact the Council before formally applying to the Department. In 2023, 10 responses were submitted to the Department with the remaining 1 2023 referral due for report in 2024.

Pavement Management System

Tipperary County Council roads department uses the RMO's national Pavement Management System (PMS) as a key element in the management of the roads asset in the county. The electronic database is in place for all Local and Regional roads. The available maps displayed on this system provide colour coded information on the road category, width, length, previous works completed and historical and present surface condition on a scale of 1 to 10 for each road category using a visual survey and mechanical survey data.

This information allows Tipperary County Council to assess, prioritise and design the appropriate road treatments for the different road categories. The system is automatically updated from the surveyor's handheld device when a section of roadway is surveyed. Pavement improvement works are captured on the system, building into a multi-annual record of completed projects. The Pavement Management System software is maintained by the Road Management Office (RMO). There are annual survey requirements to be achieved to ensure the data in the system is up to date and relevant.

Hedge Cutting



Under Section 70 of the 1993 Roads Act, the owner or occupier of land is required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation on the land is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road or the maintenance of a public road.

Where a tree, shrub, hedge or other vegetation is a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road or where it obstructs or interferes with the safe use of a public road or with the maintenance of public road, a road authority may serve a Notice in writing on the owner or occupier of the land.

Between 1 March and 31 August each year it is an offence under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and the Heritage Act, 2018 to cut, curb, burn or otherwise destroy any vegetation growing on any land not then cultivated or growing in any hedge or ditch. During the Hedge Cutting Season in 2023 Tipperary County Council placed notices in the local newspapers in January and September and issued press releases to the local media. A total of 192 Hedge Cutting Notices were issued to landowners/occupiers between September 2023 and December 2023.

National Construction Schemes Office (NCS)

Tipperary County Council is providing verification and accreditation services on behalf of SOLAS (the Further Education and Training Authority) at the National Construction Schemes (NCS) Office which was established in Nenagh in October 2018.

The NCS Office is responsible for approving candidates who have undertaken a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) or Quarrying Skills Certification Scheme (QSCS) Programme with public and private sector SOLAS Approved Training Organisations. The services provided cover all of the CSCS and QSCS training programmes that are delivered nationally and the office corresponds with approximately 60 Approved Training Organisations nationwide.

In 2023, the office processed 3,746 packs verifying 12,530 learners who had undertaken one or more of the 36 courses available under the CSCS and QSCS suite of programmes. The successful candidates were approved by the NCS office and received their SOLAS Experienced Operator Cards.

The National Construction Schemes Office is also responsible for approving the successful candidates for Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Level 5 certificates and distributing these certificates to candidates via the Approved Training Organisations.


Examples of the programmes verified and accredited include; Signing Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks; Locating and Avoiding Underground Services; Health and Safety at Roadworks and Plant Operator Programmes such as 360 Excavator Operations, Telescopic Handler Operations, Front Loading Site Dumper Operations and Mobile Crane Operations etc.

Previously the verification and accreditation process was delivered by twelve Education Training Boards before SOLAS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Tipperary County Council in July 2018 to transfer the verification and accreditation processes to Tipperary County Council for a period of five years up to the 31st of August 2023.

After piloting the service for seven months, in May 2019 the NCS Office became responsible for providing verification and accreditation services nationally in the Republic of Ireland for CSCS and QSCS programmes. In September 2023, SOLAS entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding with Tipperary County Council for this Council to continue to provide verification and accreditation services on behalf of SOLAS in the National Construction Schemes Office in Nenagh for a period of two years up to the 31st of August 2025.

In 2023, the office continued to deliver the Internal Verifier Training Programme to the Approved Training Organisations. The training was delivered to a total of 24 personnel in 2023 and the programme will continue to be offered and delivered to the Approved Training Organisations in 2024.

In summary, 2023 saw a noticeable increase in activity in terms of the number of packs submitted for processing and learners put forward for verification. However, the level of service delivery remained at an exceptionally high level and standard. It is anticipated by the SOLAS Construction Services Unit that, based on current trends, activity will remain high in terms of the number of participants seeking training across the suite of CSCS and QSCS programmes in 2024.

 *12,530 learners were verified in 2023 under the CSCS and QSCS suite of programmes*



LASNTG (Local Authority Services National Training Group)

Background

LASNTG is a shared service, delivering training courses across a range of areas. The overarching LASNTG committee is chaired by a Local Authority Chief Executive. The governance of LASNTG is achieved through five oversight groups namely the Roads Services Training Group (RSTG), Water Services Training Group (WSTG), Environmental Services Training Group (ESTG) and Fire Services Training Group (FSTG) and the new Planning Services Training Group (PSTG) each comprised of representatives from the relevant bodies within the sector and chaired by a local authority Chief Executive.

The group oversees and quality assures the delivery of over 180 courses from single day courses and refreshers up to QQI level 9 post graduate courses. Details of the various courses are available to view at the following website <https://www.lasntg.ie/master-courses>.

These courses are ordinarily specifically designed to meet the training needs of the sector and are delivered through:

- Five local authorities hosted by Regional Training Centres at Roscrea (Co. Tipperary), Ballincollig (Co. Cork), Ballycoolin (Dublin), Castlebar (Co. Mayo) and Stranorlar (Co. Donegal). See figure 1.
- LASNTG also works in partnership with the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo, (formerly Sligo IT) and South Eastern Technological University (SETU) Carlow (formerly Carlow IT) who between them deliver a total of 15 courses at QQI level 6 to 9 that have been designed to support the Local Government Sector.



Figure 1: The five Regional Training Centres (RTC's)

2023 Update

One of the key achievements of 2023 was the creation of an additional training group to support the planning service. The Planning Services Training Group had its first meeting in March 2023. The Group is now developing courseware that is planned for delivery to learners in late 2024.

2023 Conferences

Conferences are key events to enhance capacity within the sector. The conference not only provides an opportunity for experts to share information, guidance and best practice but also for people within the sector to network, discuss and learn from other Local Authorities and key stakeholders.

In 2023 the Water Services Training Group Conference was held in Whites of Wexford on the 12th of October. This conference was particularly key in supporting and informing both Uisce Éireann and Local Authority staff of the significant change the sector and staff are working through as the single public service utility transfer embeds. The conference was attended by approximately 150 delegates.

Topics covered include:

- The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage perspective
- The Uisce Éireann Transition Update
- Vision 2025 - The strategic plan, the European Perspective and emerging policy
- Delivering the Capital Investment Plan
- Developing people and capacity
- Integrated Drainage Planning
- Catalysing a culture of sustainability in water services
- Collaboration to support growth.

The Environmental Services Training Group conference was held in the Clayton Hotel, Galway on the 14th of September.

Some key areas covered include:

- Ireland's climate ambition
- Local Authority Climate Action Planning
- Protecting our water sources
- National Agricultural Inspection Programme
- Waste Management Plans for The Circular Economy
- Effective communications and PR to enhance stakeholder engagement
- Greenhouse gas statistics.

The Roads Services Training Group conference was held on the 9th and 10th May. The conference was attended by approximately 160 delegates.

The main areas covered included:

- Transport Priorities for Investment
- Asset Management - Active Travel, Public Lighting
- Climate Action Planning, Council Fleet Management, Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement, Climate Adaptation and Climate Action Planning
- Public Spending Code and Contract Documentation
- ATU Sligo Third Level Courses
- Electric Vehicle Charging Network and the National Cycle Network
- Temporary Traffic Management
- Insurance considerations.

Quality Assurance

Quality Assurance is a significant consideration for training delivery and development and in 2023 LASNTG continued to build on the monitoring programme introduced in 2022.

In 2023, LASNTG put 733 learners through QQI courses for certification across areas such as Temporary Traffic Management, Water Treatment Plant Operation, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operation, Site Suitability Assessment for on-site Wastewater Treatment Systems, Firefighting Skills, Hazardous Materials, Pump Operations, Using Breathing Apparatus and Transportation Incidents.

Enrolment in Third Level Institutes

LASNTG works collaboratively with both SETU (South East Technological University) Carlow Campus and ATU (Atlantic Technological University) Sligo Campus to deliver a number of QQI courses particularly relevant to the Local Authority Sector and the following summarises the number of students enrolled in these courses.

Courses and Numbers in SETU-Carlow campus

Course Description	Number
Certificate in Building Control Minimum Competency	9
Certificate in Environmental and Planning Legislation	44
Certificate in Road Programme Management	60
Grand Total	113

2023 RTC training Days

In 2023 there were almost 34,000 training days delivered across the 5 RTC's. This indicates a further increase of 10% on 2022.

	Ballincollig	Ballycoolin	Castlebar	Roscrea	Stranorlar	Total	% of total for each group
Roads	1811	1234	1833	2615	1059	8552	25%
Water	786	1025	995	888	559	4253	13%
Environment	147	22	44	1839	158	2210	7%
Fire	572	460	437	2440	480	4389	13%
Other	2571	2696	4525	2003	2707	14502	43%
Total	5887	5437	7834	9785	4963	33906	

Courses and Numbers in ATU-Sligo campus

Course Description	Number
Certificate in Certificate in Drinking Water Treatment Operations	11
Certificate in Waste Water Treatment Operations	5
Higher Certificate in Water & Wastewater Operations	3
Certificate in Waste Regulation	0
PG Dip of Science in Water Services Management	4
Masters of Science in Water Services Management	5
Engineering in Bridge Engineering	1
Certificate in Road Maintenance Engineering & Network Management	3
Certificate in Engineering in Road Engineering and Design	0
PG Diploma in Engineering in Road and Transport Engineering	0
Master of Engineering in Road and Transport Engineering	5
Certificate in Road Safety Audit and Engineering*	0
Grand Total	37

External Training Providers Framework 2023-2025

LASNTG, in conjunction with the five RTC's, provides a significant number of training courses through the utilisation of external providers. The procurement of such a service is via a framework from which the Regional Training Centres run mini competitions. In 2023, this framework was established and will be operational until the end of 2025. The establishment of such a framework is an extremely challenging undertaking as it requires the assessment of the competence of over 50 training providers to deliver approximately 180 courses. The potential value of contracts across the 5 RTC's over the lifetime of the framework will be of the order of €10-€15 million.

 *LASNTG continued to develop new training programmes in 2023*

Development of New Training Programmes

There has been much training development undertaken in 2023. The key programmes developed are:

RSTG

- Road Opening and Reinstatement Refreshers
- An overhaul of the SETU-Carlow Roads Management Course to include Active Travel, Climate Action and other policy changes.

WSTG

- The primary course development initiative was the new disinfection course which has been piloted and signed-off and rollout begins in Q1 of 2024
- Water and Wastewater plant operator's refresher programmes.

ESTG

- Solid Fuel Regulations: Changes in Solid Fuel Regulations required that a training programme be rolled out across all Local Authorities
- Petroleum Vapour Regulations: Developed and delivered this in collaboration with the EPA.

Training Budget Expenditure

The training budgets in 2023 were again expended in excess of 90%.



Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme



LOCAL AUTHORITY Climate Action Training Programme

The Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme has been devised to activate the CCMA endorsed Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan, 2019. The 2019-2023 training programme provided a framework from which local authority 'climate action leadership and capacities' is supported and enhanced, in response and fulfilment of Action 150 of the Climate Action Plan 2019.

The Climate Action Training Programme is comprised of a suite of six training pillars, each tailored and designed to specific target groupings within local authorities, to develop climate action capacity, to deliver on the actions of the adaptation strategies/action plans and to begin to advance positive influence across all functions and activities performed by local authorities.



The coordination, development and procurement of training courses under the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme was delivered by the LASNTG (Local Authority Services National Training Group).

It should be noted that 2023 was the last year of the current delivery model.

The numbers trained under each of the pillars to the end of December, 2023 are highlighted in the table below.

Table 3 Summary of Training Completed to End of December 2023

LA CATP Pillar	Number of Training Places Delivered
<i>Championing Leadership</i>	1,335
<i>Raising Awareness</i>	16,419
<i>Building Capacity</i>	1,942
<i>Empowering Change</i>	217
<i>Delivering Action</i>	Approx. 4,800
<i>Actioning Policy</i>	2,225
Total	26,938

Total No. of Staff/Elected Members Trained Approx. 22,500

Training Delivery Approach Breakdown

Online	In Person	Blended
20,941	5,566	431

- This brings the total number of training places delivered (2021 – 2023) to just under 27,000. These places have been provided to staff and elected members from across all 31 Local Authorities.
- Climate Action training continues to be developed and tailored to meet the needs of specific training groups.

The updates of particular note are: -

- A framework of procured trainers has been established to deliver the Delivering Action climate action training programme. This training programme is targeted at outdoor staff and training delivery will continue via the five Regional Training Centres into 2024. A bespoke online version for Fire Service staff is currently under design and development and will be available for rollout in Q1 of 2024.
- An updated version of the Raising Awareness online climate action training programme for indoor staff was made live and available to new staff in 2023 and will be made available again in Q1 2024.

Feedback

It is clear from the feedback obtained that:


- Local authority staff are more confident in their ability to incorporate climate action into their work on a day-to-day basis and understand the need for climate action to be at the forefront of their thoughts.
- The training provided has not only increased the knowledge and capacity of staff but improved their understanding of the relevance of climate change when making decisions in their everyday duties.
- However, it is also clear that ongoing training and upskilling is a necessary requirement and while all new staff are being provided with some broad but basic level of training, additional dedicated and focused training will be required as we move forward.

The Next Phase of Climate Action Sectoral Training

2023 was the last year of the current SLA and the associated training model. LASNTG has been working with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office to create a strategy to support the next phase of training development and delivery. There is an interim Service Level Agreement in place for a number of months prior to a likely phase two contractual arrangement with LASNTG for the next phase.

The approach for the next phase is:

- A steering group, chaired by Liam Conneally, CE of Galway County Council has been established to assess and prioritise needs and to oversee the development of a foundational training plan.
- A Master Review of the 2021 – 2023 training programme and a survey of the sector is ongoing to identify training needs to support further climate action related training across all functions of local government, and support LA Climate Action Plan implementation.
- Under the new training programme, annual training delivery plans will be developed by the EM CARO and LASNTG and approved by the steering group to ensure effective training delivery to the sector.

 *27,000 climate action training places delivered 2021-2023*





Planning & Development

Introduction

The Planning Section of the Council administers the Planning legislation as contained in the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the various Regulations made there-under.

Development Management

Development Management involves the evaluation of planning applications and various other applications under planning legislation, within the regulatory time frame and ensuring that interested parties have access to all available information which will enable them to assess proposed development. The planning register is available for viewing online at www.tipperarycoco.ie. Set out below are figures for 2023 planning applications.

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	189	178	11	3	3
Housing Development	20	20	0	3	1
NIA/EIA	10	9	1	4	0
Other Applications	739	718	21	14	7
Total	958	925	33	24	11

Number of Planning Applications received in 2022

A total of 1379 planning applications were received from 1st January to 31st December 2023 compared to 1441 for 2022, a decrease of 4.3%. 305 applications were deemed invalid and 53 were withdrawn. During the year 958 applications were decided with 925 being granted planning permission (96.5%) and 33 being refused (3.5%). Further information was requested in 454 cases.

Development Plans/Local Area Plans

Local Area Plans for Clonmel, Nenagh, Thurles and Roscrea

With the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 now in place, progress on the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAPs) for the Key Towns and District Towns in the County is well advanced. The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out a Core Strategy for the development of towns and villages in the County. The plan sets out the character, potential and vision for growth as demonstrated in the Town Profile Plan for Key and District Towns which will inform the preparation of a new Local Area Plan.

The Planning Section commenced the development of the Roscrea, Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles LAPs in Autumn 2022 and developed each of the LAPs through the different stages of the process for adopting the Plans since that time.

In September 2023, Elected Members decided to make the Roscrea Local Area Plan 2024-2030. This Plan came into effect on 23 October 2023, replacing the Roscrea Local Area Plan 2012.

Draft LAPs were published on 28 July for the Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles LAPs. Material Alterations to the draft were published on Friday 17 November. The Draft Plans and Material Alterations were brought before the Elected Members at the February 2024 Plenary meeting where the Elected Members decided to make the Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles Local Area Plans. These Plans will come into effect on 25 March 2024, replacing the exiting Town Development Plans for the respective towns.



With the Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 now in place, progress on the preparation of Local Area Plans (LAPs) for the Key Towns and District Towns in the County is well advanced

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Residential Zoned Land Tax provisions of the Finance Act 2021 set out criteria to facilitate the identification of lands which fall within the scope of the tax. The Planning Authority are responsible for preparing and publishing maps based on this criteria. These maps are to be based on the local authority development plan and where relevant, local area plan zoning maps i.e. where land is zoned and suitable for residential development. The legislation also sets out certain lands which are to be excluded from the scope of the tax.

Draft maps were published on November 1st 2022 and were subject to a consultation period until January 1st 2023. A total of 91 submissions were received. These submissions have been reviewed, and where necessary, a referral to statutory consultees and internal sections of Tipperary County Council, was issued, requesting information to assist with determinations of submissions. A formal determination, where necessary, was required to be notified to the landowner by 1st April 2023. Sixty two notifications of determinations were issued by Tipperary County Council.

Tipperary County Council has been notified by An Bord Pleanála of 18 no. appeals received. Determinations have been made by ABP on these appeals (16 upheld and 2 reversed)

In addition, a further review and assessment has been undertaken to identify any additional sites that come into scope for the tax. These sites have been included on a Supplemental Map, which was published on 1st May 2023, and on which submissions could be made not later than 1st June 2023. 1no. submission was received on the Supplemental Map. A formal determination by Tipperary County Council on this submission was notified to the landowner by 1st August 2023.

A Final Map was published on 1st December 2023, taking account of determinations and appeal decisions made on Draft and Supplemental Map submissions, and any other relevant changes including changes on foot of the annual Uisce Éireann's WWTP capacity register and zoning changes that come into effect prior to 1st Nov 2023, most notably the new Roscrea LAP 2023-2029. (<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/rzlt>).

It was announced in Budget 2024 that the RZLT has been deferred by 1 year. The tax was due to take effect from 1 February 2024. This means that the first liability date will instead be 1 February 2025 and will be charged annually from 1 February 2025 onwards (subject to the passing of Finance (No.2) Bill 2023).

Town Centre First (TCF) / Town Regeneration Officer (TRO)

The Council is continuing to implement the National Town Centre First Policy launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2022. The Town Regeneration Officer worked with the Roscrea Town Team to deliver the first Town Centre First Plan in the country under the pilot scheme in 2023. This new Plan for the town aims to map out potential development and establish a vision for Roscrea's future. It has a focus on tackling dereliction and vacant properties and making the town centre a more attractive place to live, work, socialise and run a business.

The Town Centre First funding initiative aims to help re-imagine and revitalise rural communities as part of the National Town Centre First Policy. Town Centre First Plans will provide concepts and projects for towns to seek support from multiple funding streams, including the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, (RRDF) and the Town & Village Renewal Schemes. In 2023, Town Teams were established in Carrick on Suir and Clonmel and Town Centre First Plans were completed in Mullinahone and Killenaule. TCF Plans are already in place for Tipperary Town and Clonmel.

 *The Council is continuing to implement the National Town Centre First Policy launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2022*

Project Ireland 2040: Regeneration and Development Funds

Project Ireland 2040 established four new funds to help drive the specific core priorities detailed in the NPF (National Planning Framework). These four funds included an Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Planning Department leads the preparation and development of the strategic projects for consideration by the Government Departments while the Municipal Districts coordinate their delivery.

The following projects have been successful in being awarded funding and are currently being delivered under these Schemes.

Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration seeks to develop a multi-dimensional, public/private/community partnership proposal for Clonmel, which will re-imagine how civic, cultural, educational, enterprise and tourism uses can work together to regenerate and create a new role for the town. The project includes four intrinsically linked and integrated pillars, namely: Kickham Barracks Regeneration, Clonmel Regional Sports Hub, Clonmel Flights of Discovery and Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement. Funding was approved in 2019 under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund for Kickham Barracks Regeneration Phase 1 and Clonmel Regional Sports Hub. Total project costs amount to €16,075,901. Current URDF funding approved for these two elements amounts to €11,507,615. **Kickham Barracks Regeneration Phase 1** - Works are completed. **Clonmel Regional Sports Hub** - Works are completed.



Kickham Barracks Plaza Completed



Clonmel Regional Sports Hub Completed

Liberty Square Enhancement Scheme Thurles seeks to deliver a vibrant Liberty Square at the heart of Thurles: a place to live, shop, work, socialise, play or “hang-out”. The revitalised Liberty Square will become an engine for growth in and around Liberty Square and will enhance the attractiveness of Thurles as a place to live and a place for investment/employment. Funding was approved in 2019 under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund to undertake works to the Eastern end of Liberty Square and to develop a new car park off Liberty Square. Additional funding was secured in March, 2021 to undertake enhancement works to the Western end of Liberty Square and the junctions of the approach roads. Total project costs approved amount to €10,700,291. Total funding secured through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund amounts to €5,390,291. Phase 1–Car Park and Eastern end of Liberty Square–The new Car Park off Liberty Square is completed and works to the Eastern end of Liberty Square are completed. Phase 2–Western end of Liberty Square and junctions to approach roads– Options report completed. Preliminary design agreed. Extensive consultations ongoing with other statutory bodies.



Eastern End of Liberty Square Completed

Pathway to a Low-Carbon Society: A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy driving the transformational urban regeneration of Nenagh

The proposal is to develop a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, to be the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr’s Road Regeneration Quarter, a 10 ha. strategic site of brownfield lands and underutilised properties located in the heart of Nenagh Town Centre. The Centre of Excellence, taking reference from best international practice, will uniquely host a range of public agencies working collaboratively to deliver innovative solutions from training and development to new cutting-edge research on technologies and incubating low-carbon social enterprises. The Centre has been designed to be Ireland’s first carbon neutral and energy positive building. The works to be supported also include public realm and amenity enhancements. Total project costs approved amount to €12,700,000 and funding of €9,525,000 was secured through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund towards the works. Stage 1 of the Restricted Procedure prequalification procurement process completed for the appointment of a multi-disciplinary design team. Approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage to develop a detailed Project Brief and Procurement Strategy which includes the engagement of a design team and completion of detailed design as required under Decision Gate 2 – Pre-Tender Approval. Stage 2 tender documentation for the engagement of a design team are almost complete. Communications Plan and branding for the Centre has been completed and the name of the Centre agreed as the “Sustainable Energy Centre of Excellence”.



Sustainable Energy Centre of Excellence, Nenagh

Tipperary Town Regeneration

This is a significant regeneration project for Tipperary Town which will greatly enhance long term sustainable tourism for the area. It includes an upgrade of the Market Yard as a pedestrian priority area, linking the Excel Heritage Centre to Market Yard and the Town Centre and an 800-metre walkway along the River Ara, including two loop walks. Total project costs approved amount to €1,442,018 and funding of €1,081,513 has been approved for the project under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Market Yard- Works are completed. River Ara Walkway- Works are completed.



Market Yard Completed



River Ara Walkway Completed

Fethard Town Park

The project consisted of the development of a community sport and recreational campus, incorporating a community pavilion, playing pitches, walkways, parkland and open spaces. The project was developed through a partnership approach with Coolmore Ireland, Cashel and Emly Diocese and Healthy Ireland. Funding of €3,003,445 was approved for the project under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to construct the pavilion and towards public realm works. The pitches, stand and community annex of the pavilion were funded by the Magnier Foundation (Coolmore Ireland). This project was completed in early April, 2023 and opened to the public on 8th. April, 2023. The official opening was undertaken by Minister Heather Humphreys on Sunday, 18th. June, 2023.



Fethard Town Park Completed

Templemore Town Hall: Enterprise and Cultural Centre with associated Civic Plaza

The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve and establish Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town, the District and the Mid-West Region. The project was prepared by the Council in partnership with the Garda Training College, Templemore College of Further Education, Templemore Community Development Association, the Local Enterprise Office and Tipperary Energy Agency. Total approved project costs amount to €4,014,746 and funding of €3,011,060 was secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Approval to proceed to Implementation Stage was received from the Department of Rural & Community Development in April, 2023. Works commenced on site in May, 2023 and are on track for completion in June, 2024.



Works in progress on Templemore Town Hall

Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter

A Tourism-led Regeneration Plan - A Plan to regenerate specific existing buildings and civic spaces of distinction and value within Nenagh (including The Gaol, The Castle and Banba Square) to stimulate tourism growth and revitalise the local economy/visitor economy within the context of tourism-led regeneration, comprising of arts, history, heritage and culture. The focus will be on the development of 3 Flagship Pillars and 3 Supporting Pillars, collectively offering an immersive tourism experience. Total approved project costs amount to €896,712 and funding of €672,534 was secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Surveys completed. Visitor Experience, Concept Development and Predesign completed. Part 8 Planning was advertised on 29th. November, 2023 with closing date for submissions on 18th. January, 2024.



Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan 'A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter'

A plan for the town through investment in orientation and public realm enhancement actions and build on its relationship and synergies with the Suir Blueway (West) and the historic Ormond Castle Quarter (East) thereby regenerating the town centre as an immersive visitor destination and rural town in its own right. Total approved project costs amount to €487,500 and the project was awarded €365,625 under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This Category 2 project is completed which entailed completion of detailed designs and Part 8 Planning.



Photomontage of proposed improvements at Main Street, Castle Lane and Strand Lane, Carrick on Suir

A Pathway to the Regeneration of Cahir Town Centre: Re-establishing the Historic Square as the Living-Working Quarter

A suite of measures that will re-vitalise Cahir's historic Square as a living-working quarter. The project will provide a dynamic town centre Square with a focus on pedestrian priority and civic space. The re-development will be focused around Market House, a flagship Business Development Centre based in one of the most historic buildings on the Square. Total project costs amount to €986,354 and funding of €663,362 has been secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. This Category 2 project is completed which entailed completion of detailed designs and Part 8 Planning.



Thurles Market Quarter: Regeneration, Education and support for Local Producers

A collaboration between Tipperary County Council, Thurles Lion's Club and Mary Immaculate College Thurles. The project will provide a designated multi-functional space in the town centre for local food and craft producers, artists and performers and will offer a location in the centre of a cluster of civic spaces to be enjoyed by locals and visitors alike. Total approved project costs amount to €3,825,700 and funding of €3,443,130 has been secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Preliminary and detailed design completed. Request for Tenders for the engagement of a contractor for the construction stage advertised on e-Tenders in December, 2023 with closing date for submission of tenders on 16th. February, 2024. Ongoing meetings are being held with stakeholders.



Kilsheelan - Revitalisation of Rural Villages: A Model for Cluster Housing and Low Carbon Planning

The all-in costs for this particular project have proven prohibitive and do not represent good value for money for the Council to proceed with the development of the sites. The Department of Rural & Community Development has approved the recategorisation of the project to Category 2 which ensures commitment of funding to completion of detailed design. The Council is fully committed to working with landowners on the implementation of the cluster development guidelines on other suitable sites within the County in an effort to address population decline, breathe life back into our villages and ensure their viability into the future.



Rialto Digital & Enterprise Hub, Nenagh

This project provides for the preparation of detailed designs and planning for the adaptive re-use of the former iconic 1940's Rialto cinema into a modern digital and enterprise hub facility. The associated brownfield site will be master-planned to explore the potential for further digital and enterprise office space, the creation of a new streetscape along Emmet Place, the provision of town centre residential units and the delivery of a new public amenity heart in the town centre. The overarching aim and purpose of the proposal is to promote economic development and increase employment opportunities while preserving and saving a protected historic structure which was purchased by the Council in December, 2020. Total approved project costs amount to €1,511,059 and funding of €1,208,847 has been secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Design team appointed in February, 2023. Preliminary design is completed. Draft Preliminary Business Case completed. Part 8 plans and particulars advertised from 15th November, 2023 to 12th. December, 2023 with submissions accepted up to 4th. January, 2024.

Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan - 'A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter - Delivering Our Community's Ambition'

This project follows on from the successful Category 2 RRDF application for the planning and design of extensive public realm enhancements in the town centre, development of Suir Blueway linkages and the regeneration of the Ormond

Castle Quarter. Improvements will consist of (i) installation of high-quality public realm in Main Street, Sean Kelly Square, Greystone Street, Bally Alley Street and Chapel Street ; (ii) provision of a new Enterprise and Digital Hub in a vacant town centre building on Main Street (iii) the creation of an arrival point at Sean Healy Park through design, enhancement and orientation measures and the integration of the Suir Blueway into the town centre through the creation of shared spaces along the Quays and linkages to Main Street.; (iv) public realm upgrade of Castle Street and repurposing of Ormond Castle Park as a high-quality Amenity and Biodiversity Park. Total approved project costs amount to €17,989,387 and funding of €14,391,509 was secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Due Diligence & Verification Stage completed. Approval in Principal issued by the Department of Rural & Community Development in April, 2023. Multi-disciplinary design team appointed in September, 2023 following procurement process. Approval to Proceed to Implementation Stage with Phase 1 works in Healy Park, Strand Road and Ormond Park issued by the Department in September, 2023. Contractor appointed for Phase 1 works in October, 2023 and works commenced on site in November, 2023. Separate procurement process undertaken for the appointment of a design team for the Digital Hub during 2023 and detailed designs together with Part 8 Planning are now completed.



Carrick on Suir Phase 1 Works in Progress

Activating Cahir's Town Centre Regeneration Strategy

This project follows on from the successful Category 2 RRDF application for the planning and design of a new Business Development Centre in the heart of Cahir, public realm enhancements in the centre of the town and the development of a car park on a central backland site. Improvements will consist of (i) the restoration and redevelopment of the vacant Cahir Market House and former Council Offices into a Business Development Centre; (ii) the refurbishment of the historic Granary building to provide a state-of -the-art library for the community; (iii) Cahir Square Public Realm Enhancements to include prioritisation of pedestrian and cyclist movements and the redistribution of public realm in favour of recreational space; (iv) the provision of a new car park on disused backlands off Church Street which will involve the demolition of two derelict vacant buildings that were acquired by the Council under the Category 2 approved project. Total approved project costs amount to €14,894,686 and funding of €11,915,749 was secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Car park site - Approval received from the Department of Rural & Community Development to proceed with the demolition of the former Castle Court Hotel and ancillary buildings. Request for tenders advertised on e-Tenders in October, 2023 and the appointment of a contractor was at an advanced stage by year end. Library - design team appointed to prepare detailed designs and oversee the construction stage of the library. Preliminary design is completed. Revised Part 8 for the increased library footprint approved in September, 2023. Detailed design is in progress. Approval received from the Department of Rural & Community Development to proceed to the Due Diligence & Verification Stage in November, 2023 and verification documentation was returned to the Department in December, 2023.



Reimagining and Regenerating Gantly Street - Towards an Age Friendly Neighbourhood for Roscrea

This project will deliver a transformational change to the public space around Gantly Road and promote regeneration of town centre brownfield land through the activation of the surrounding lands. The project will be the catalyst and first phase in the implementation of the Gantly Street Age Friendly Neighbourhood masterplan area. The works will involve (i) the realignment of Gantly Street to provide for improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in accordance with Age Friendly principles; (ii) the creation of high-quality public realm areas and footpaths; (iii) extensive bio-retention rain gardens and (iv) the provision of water service and utilities infrastructure to service the Gantly Street Age Friendly Masterplan area. The regeneration and re-imagining of Gantly Road is critical to the overall delivery of the Gantly Street Age Friendly Neighbourhood Masterplan area into the future which will transform a central area of Roscrea, create opportunities to provide homes, business and amenity space for local residents to enjoy and lead to knock-on socio-economic benefits for the whole of the town. Total project costs amount to €5,639,145 and funding of €4,511,316 was secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. Approval received from the Department of Rural & Community Development on 22nd. November, 2023 to prepare the Verification documentation under the Due Diligence & Verification Stage. Verification documentation submitted to the RRDF Unit on 20th. December, 2023.



Conservation Grant Schemes 2023

The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2023** sought to encourage conservation of structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in certain cases, structures within Architectural Conservation Areas.

Due to price inflation and the difficulties in securing skilled trades people a number of projects were unable to proceed this year. However, Tipperary County Council was able to reallocate this funding to the projects that did proceed availing of our full allocation of €126,400 under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and €21,377 under the Ring Fenced Thatch Funding. The following grants were paid out in October and the monies were recouped from the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government.

Project Name	Funding
1798 Wolfe Tone Memorial, Liberty Square, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	€10,390.00
Coalfield House, The Commons, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.	€7,300.00
St. Mary's Church, Bailey Street, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary	€15,000.00
Lower Gate House, Lower Gate St, Cashel, Co. Tipperary	€4,300.00
Bawnbeg, Coolagarranroe, Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	€5,000.00
Church of St John the Baptist, Clonoulty, Tipperary	€15,000.00
Dromore House, Newport, Co Tipperary	€9,000.00
Ballyboe, Ballypatrick, Co Tipperary	€4,070.00
Cahir Presbyterian Church, Abbey Street, Cahir	€14,800.00
St. Marys Church of Ireland, Thurles	€9,000.00
McGrath's Shop, Main Street, Fethard, Co. Tipperary	€10,540.00
Grenane House, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary	€6,500.00
Ballybrado House, Ballybrado House, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	€6,000.00
7 Castle Street, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	€9,500.00

Projects who received Extra Funding under the Supplementary Ring-Fenced Funding for Historic Thatched Structures are as follows:-

Bawnbeg, Coolagarranroe, Burncourt, Cahir, Co. Tipperary	€13,377.00
Labourers Cottage, Greenmount, Newcastle	€8,000.00

The **Historic Structure Fund 2023** sought to support conservation works to heritage structures in both private and public ownership. The focus is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public.

The core aims of this fund are to:

- **enable** larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- **encourage** the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and to help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or culturally significant assets;
- **support** the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use;
- **support** employment in the conservation and construction industries;
- **build resilience** in our heritage properties to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

Tipperary County Council nominated 7 projects to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and 4 of these projects were successful.

All 4 projects proceeded and received their grants in October, 2023 as follows:-

T Mason Building, Friar Street, Thurles (Stream 1 Historic Shopfronts)	€14,800.00
Peahill, Ballylooby, Cahir, Co. Tipperary (Vernacular Structures)	€10,000.00
Suir Mills, Cashel Road, Barnora, Cahir, Co. Tipperary (Stream 1)	€45,000.00
Alta Villa, Cashel Road, Barnora, Cahir, Co. Tipperary (Stream 1)	€37,500.00

Taking-in-Charge of Estates

Four estates were taken in charge in 2023 - a total of 45 housing units.

Developments TIC by Municipal District in 2023		
Municipal District	No of Developments TIC	No of Housing Units
Nenagh	0	0
Clonmel	0	0
Carrick On Suir	1	4
Thurles	2	36
Tipp / Cahir / Cashel	1	5

Planning & Emergency Services SPC

Four meetings of the Planning & Emergency Services SPC were held in 2023. At the first meeting held on 14th March 2023 an update on Roscrea, Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles Local Area Plans and a Project Ireland 2040 update.

At the second meeting held on 13th June 2023 updates on Residential Zoned Land Tax, Department Circulars, Emergency Services and Just Transition.

At the third meeting on 12th September 2023 updates on Residential Zoned Land Tax, Emergency Services and Temporary Time-Limited Waiver of Development Contributions and Just Transition.

The fourth and final meeting for the year held on 1st November 2022 updates on Local Area Plans, Emergency Services, and Town Centre First.

The membership of the Planning & Emergency Services SPC is as follows:

Sector	Name
10 Councillors	Chair – Michael Fitzgerald
	Hughie McGrath
	Micheál Lowry
	Michael O'Meara
	Joe Hannigan
	John Carroll
	Roger Kennedy
	Phyll Bugler
	Ger Darcy
	Marie Murphy
1 Agriculture & Farming	Tim Harty
1 Business Commercial & Tourism	To be nominated
1 Development Construction	John O'Shaughnessy
3 PPN	Mike Edwards
	Patti O'Neill
	Joshi Kuldeep

Enforcement

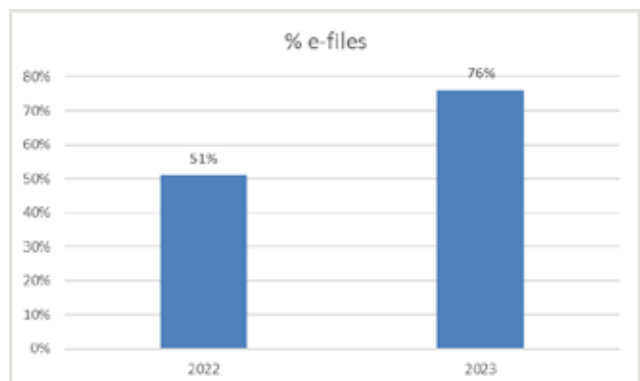
The enforcement part of the Section deals with compliance with the conditions of permissions granted, collection of development contributions and follow up of reports received from the public and/or council officials of possible unauthorised development.

In accordance with Section 154 (14) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the statistics from 1st January to 31st December 2023 are as follows:-

Complaints investigated	181
Warning Letters issued	167
Enforcement Notices issued	31
Prosecutions initiated	15
Cases closed	378

E-Planning

In association with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), Tipperary Planning Authority has successfully completed the pilot of phase one and two planning portal <https://planning.localgov.ie>. The percentage of planning applications submitted online continues to steadily increase. Set out below are the comparison figures % of E- applications received for 2023 compared with 2022 in Tipperary. All lplan authorities are now live on the planning portal and Tipperary County Council's role as a pilot county is now successfully completed.



Four meetings of the Planning & Emergency Services SPC were held in 2023

Economic, Community & Rural Development Directorate

Economic Development



The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme

The Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme contributes to vibrancy and vitality of the towns and villages in the County through the provision of a grant for new businesses that utilise vacant premises for their start-up location.

Over 45 grants were processed since the scheme commenced in 2022 with 22 of these relating to 2023 – and 3 to 2024. Of these 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 issue.

Business availing of the grant were drawn from a wide range of services including: Fitness studios, Work Space, Beauty/Hair-dressing, Cafes/Coffee Shops, Crafts, Garage and Print.

Since inception the scheme has only refused one grant and this was due to the property seeking a grant was located in an industrial zoned area and this is deemed ineligible under the conditions of the scheme.


Promotion of the scheme is continuing through a number of different channels. Direct marketing via mail-shot with Auctioneers, Solicitors and Accountancy practices in the County results in the details of the scheme being provided at the point of purchase/sale or when committing to starting up a new business and registering the company with their accountant.



Direct promotion to the public continued on local radio stations at times when people are travelling to and from their place of business. One very successful campaign was the (which will now complete out as a full sentence using the current Tipp FM's Traffic and Travel with Tipperary County Council: "Are you a new business based in a previously vacant premises? Check out tipperarycoco.ie/cvis to see if you are eligible for a grant under the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme".

On Local papers adverts were taken out in full colour to remind people of the availability of the grant and reminders are posted on social media on the Shop Local Tipperary Channels.

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

 *Are you a new business based in a previously vacant premises? Check out tipperarycoco.ie/cvis to see if you are eligible for a grant under the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme*

The Christmas Retail Support Grant Scheme 2023

The Christmas Retail Support Grant Scheme is a very popular grant scheme that funds organisations in County Tipperary who host events that will improve footfall into the towns and villages over the Christmas period. In 2023, a budget of €46,250 was awarded towards the scheme.

The activities under this scheme varied from festivities and entertainment that create a joyous and happy atmosphere and bring people and children into the towns and villages and assisted with the retention of these potential customers to the businesses in the towns and villages.

The events were very varied and ranged from Santa switching on the lights and parading in the town to choirs and dance by the community groups.

MD Location	Name of Event	Grant Awarded
Carrick-on-Suir	Cloneen Village Christmas	€250
Carrick-on-Suir	Christmas Wonderland Festival	€700
Carrick-on-Suir	Light Up Fethard Fair	€1,300
Carrick-on-Suir	Christmas in Carrick on Suir	€2,500
Clonmel	Santa Coming to Town	€5,000
Clonmel	Christmas Craft Showcase	€500
Nenagh	Childrens Christmas Party	€300
Nenagh	Christmas Market	€300
Nenagh	Nenagh Country Market	€400
Nenagh	Rathcabbin Lights Up 2023	€500
Nenagh	Christmas Gathering Singalong	€500
Nenagh	Christmas Market	€1,000
Nenagh	Newport Christmas Market	€2,000
Nenagh	Christmas at the Castle	€2,800
Thurles	The Source Arts Pyjama Party	€400
Thurles	Glengoole Christmas Festival	€500
Thurles	Christmas at Farmers Market	€500
Thurles	Nollag le Chéile - Christmas	€2,500
Thurles	Christmas Shopping Festival	€2,500
Thurles	Thurles Christmas Skyfest	€2,800
Thurles	Santa's Grotto - Thurles	€2,800
Thurles	Taste of Christmas	€2,500
Thurles	Thurles Shop Local Christmas	€2,800
Tipperary	Christmas PJ Movie	€400
Tipperary	Christmas Bonanza	€500
Tipperary	Monard Christmas Fair	€500
Tipperary	Christmas Thank You	€500
Tipperary	Winter Solstice Walk	€1,000
Tipperary	Ardfinnan Christmas Festival	€1,000
Tipperary	Christmas 2023 Events	€1,000
Tipperary	Christmas Retail Programme	€2,500
Tipperary	Christmas in Tipperary Town	€2,500
Tipperary	Christmas Market + Tractor Run	€300
Tipperary	Christmas in New Castle	€700

The Painting & Enhancement Scheme

The Painting & Enhancement Scheme in 2023 continued to offer 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.

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 from which 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.

This newsletter has enabled retail business to easily identify training that would support their business activity and also information on grant schemes that they may be eligible to apply to.



The Shop Local Social Media Campaign

Tipperary County Council is critically aware of the value of the Retail sector to the county and the importance placed on this is reflected in the provision of a strong Shop Local Tipperary Social Media campaign throughout the year by the council.

The Retail sector is the biggest employer in the county and Tipperary County Council's 'Shop Local Tipperary' online social media campaign continues to provide promotions that remind all citizens and people in the county, and further afield, of the value and services provided locally by our retail sector. The platform is also used by retail businesses themselves to promote their offerings and reach a large number of people on our social media pages. Of course, with some great prizes people that enter our competitions benefit if they are lucky to win a voucher for a Tipperary shop of their choice – and those that enter help us by pushing out, to their friends and followers, the message of Shop Local Tipperary. The target audience of Shop Local Tipperary posts are people living in Tipperary and we seek to continually remind them of the variety of businesses right on their doorstep and how important it is to keep those business going by shopping locally.

We use 'organic' social media reach which is best for building long-term relationships and trust with your audience – 'organic reach' refers to the number of people or unique users who see a post on a social media platform or page which is not paid for or not as a result of an advertisement by the social media provider. This 'organic reach' means that people that view our pages and competitions are in a position to purchase from the business in their local community any day of the week because they live near some of the businesses within their locality or community.

This platform provides a great way to keep the shops and businesses in County Tipperary to the fore with the many users of Facebook and Instagram in our county and society today.

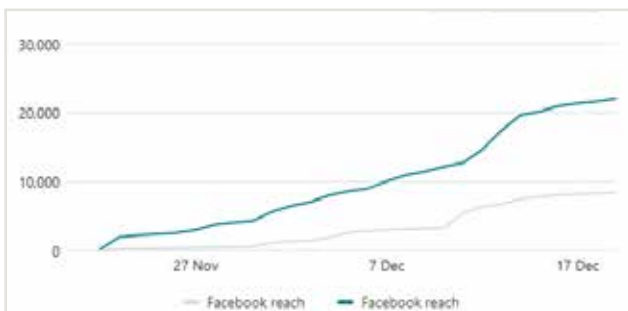
Year on Year we have seen phenomenal growth in our campaigns and we will continue to promote and support this important sector.



With so many people using social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram every single day, we cannot understate the importance of social media promotion as a marketing strategy highlighting the diverse offerings of businesses and service that we have right on our doorsteps across County Tipperary. The fruits of ongoing promotions on the Facebook and the Instagram sites continues to instil a sense of pride and support for the retail and business offerings in County Tipperary. The number of followers is growing and has a reach of over 50,000 which is up 41% on last year. Shop Local Tipperary pages continue to send out the message to the communities and individuals of the importance of keeping business close to your home and community, open and surviving.

We continue to promote local businesses across the county with a bumper set of competitions that are well received by the retailers and the local communities also. The winners span the full county area so there is great spread of the word of Shop Local. Our Shop Local Tipperary Christmas 2023 campaign reached over 40,000 people who viewed and interacted with our posts. Along with this, each of those that interacted with our competitions shared with at least one person on their friend list and named a shop in County Tipperary that was a favourite of theirs (under a number of different themes – Butchers, Sports Shop, Clothes Shop, Local supermarket and toy shop).

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.





Competition Time

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

Closing Date Sunday 11th of February

Shop Local Tipperary is supported by Tipperary County Council



CONGRATULATIONS TO Giveaway Winners

Liz Laffan - Mitchel House Restaurant

Mandy Keyes - Mani Restaurant Clonmel

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 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.

Ongoing outcomes for development efforts in regard to the delivery of suitable accommodation to attract workers, include remote workers, to County Tipperary includes:

- 2 new private operators have entered the market – Republic of Work Clonmel and Flexi Desk in Nenagh.
- The REACH project in Roscrea has secured the final funding required to complete the development and it has moved into the next phase of development now.
- Thurles MD has secured funding for a small remote working centre in Templemore as part of their RRDF application.
- Ongoing operations in Carrick on Suir has seen the amalgamation of Stable Lane into the ‘Townhouse’ Centre and this is now a working hub that is fully occupied. Funding was secured under RRDF in Carrick-On-Suir for a new Digital /Enterprise location in the town and this is progressing well and at design stage now.
- Tipperary Technology Park in Tipperary town has recently welcomed Nephin Renewable Gas (NRG), with its operational headquarters in the ENGINE. The company has the 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.



- The development of a Digital Hub/Enterprise Centre in Cahir under the RRDF is progressing with the first element of the RRDF application commenced in late 2023

The Program Management Group for the County Tipperary Digital Strategy provided a full update of all the current actions by the various action leads.

Tipperary Education and Training Board:

A wide range of IT and Technology courses including certified and non-certified courses were delivered by TETB. To support learner access to courses, the a Technology Equity Scheme in provided over 200 laptops and devices on a loan scheme to learners across the County, ensuring learners who did not have access to devices could continue to engage in learning and as promotion for the use of digital technologies to all citizens.

A range of programmes have been developed in the Digital Tech space: Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Building Digital Business Skills, Certificate in Social Media for Digital Marketing and Certificate in Digital Business Solutions are now being run through TETB.

TETB delivered 2 traineeships in the ICT area – Microsoft Traineeship and ICT Support Specialist Traineeship. These programmes provided the learners with the technical skills and knowledge to operate at a high level and supported the role out of broadband in several areas.

TETB also provided a range of courses with Social Media/Website content, open to volunteers and community organisations. Two specific programmes took place through the Community Education provision in both Tipperary Town and Borrisokane which were specifically, although not exclusively, aimed at volunteers.

A specific action to identify and support organisations or initiatives that aim to increase young people's awareness of, and engagement in, coding was included in the Strategy and the following activity from TETB addressed this:

- Specific coding courses have proved difficult to fill and to engage learners in over the past year. A number of coding programmes which are relevant for young people have been identified and efforts are underway to develop new strategies to integrate coding and related programmes into the work of Youthreach, Youthwork, and CTC's across the county.
- There currently are element of coding and software development being delivered as part of the wider youth provision in the County and there are a number of initiatives in place in schools across the county, including Coder DoJo.
- TETB has had significant provision in ICT, Basic Computers, Social Media, Digital Media, but have an ongoing gap when it comes to 'CODING'. The development of taster programmes and other initiatives will be looked at as a specific issue as part of 2023 Area Based Planning.
- TETBs Further Education Campus in Templemore ran Software Development and Software Development. These programmes include programming and coding.
- While Software Testing is not directly classed as 'Coding' it is a related field with significant potential for employment in the county. Software Testing - ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level, have been provided in Tipperary.

Youth Work Ireland-Tipperary have worked to promote the importance of digital creativity such as software coding among young people. 19 Staff Graduated from Maynooth Level 8 Digital Creativity Certificate which has equipped them to run numerous STEM programmes in 10 different Youth Projects in the county. Over 100 young people participated, typical programmes would involve motor boards, building scribble bots, solar fans, solar cars, Digital solarcoppers and Scratch programming.



Industry 4.0/5.0 Smart Digitalisation

Digital operations encompasses end-to-end digitization and data integration of the value chain, offering digital products and services, operating connected physical and virtual assets, transforming and integrating all operations and internal activities, building partnerships and optimizing customer-facing activities. Known now as Industry 4.0 and this is in transition now to Industry 5.0 reflecting the speed of change in the sector.

Mastering Industry 4.0/5.0 requires a deep understanding of collaboration, the commitment of top management and a clear business strategy to make the transition. Companies that fail to embrace this radical change will likely struggle to survive.

The digital transformation to Industry 4.0 starts with collecting data, then adds artificial intelligence to make sense of that data. Smart factories employ IoT devices that connect machines and computers to get a clear picture of the manufacturing facility with real-time data.

The Government has issued a National Smart Specialisation Strategy for innovation 2022-2027. The Southern Region has a plan for the development of smart specialisation strategy. In order to expand the understanding of the topic businesses in County Tipperary was targeted in May for an event in the Digital Manufacturing Ireland in the National Technology Park in Limerick.

Marketing of County Tipperary as the ideal Remote Working Location.

WORKWISE
Tipperary

 Economic Cluster Treatment Area
Tipperary County Council

TIPPERARY
THE PLACE, THE TIME

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.

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

One little Studio in Ballina have been 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 is now leading out a range of marketing activities.

EU 50 Celebrations

May 8th, 2023 was Europe Day - the 50th anniversary of our EU membership since our decision to join the EEC in 1972.

Communities across the country celebrated this special day and Tipperary County Council partnered with the North and South Branches of Tipperary Macra Na Feirme for a live debate on the theme of our membership of the EU. The Motion explored the fact that ‘Membership of the EU may be our greatest protection from today’s challenges’. A very exciting debate, with the two teams contesting each other’s ideas, fully engaged the audience.

Both Macra na Feirme branches have a very strong tradition in debating and they have held national awards in the skill of debating a number of times in the past. An evening of great entertainment was had by all.



In what was a very tight debate, the winning team, by a margin, was North Tipperary Macra. Team Members were William Clancy, Bill Gleeson, Sean Kelly, and Reanne O’Dwyer.



Winner of the Best Speaker Edel Ryan



South Tipperary team members, Tom Long, Anita Lonergan, Mary McCarthy, and Edel Ryan were delighted to receive a specially commissioned medal.



A specially commissioned medal was presented by Cathaoirleacht Rodger Kennedy to C.E. Joe MacGrath.




Bioeconomy Development in Tipperary:

National Bioeconomy Campus - Lisheen:

Two projects are currently underway at the National Bioeconomy Campus and wider decarbonised zone-Revive Environmental have commenced construction of a 40,000 sq.ft. building at the entrance of the campus and Naringtech has the steel and cladding structure complete on the first phase of their project in Derryville.

Photo below.



 Two projects are currently underway at the National Bioeconomy Campus and wider decarbonised zone-Revive Environmental have commenced construction

The table below gives a description of existing and planned Enterprises at Lisheen.

Existing and Planned Enterprises at Lisheen

Revive Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased 17ha in 2018 from Vedanta. Brokered through ECRD. • LEO client from 2020 to 2023 • Transferred to Enterprise Ireland in 2023 • Now employing over 100 people directly • Building 40K sq.ft under construction • Operational in Lisheen end of 2024
Naring Tech Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased 13.75ha in Derryville in 2022 • Procured planning permission Q1 2023
Acorn Recycling Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchased circa. 150 acres in core industrial area in 2022 • Planning permission for workshops adjacent to former administration building in 2023. • Currently under construction. • Employing 70 people from location mid 2024
Soleirtricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 122MW solar PV development on former Tailings Management Facility (TMF)
Irish Bioeconomy Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in former engineering building and AgriChemWhey project location. • Capital equipment on order. • 2nd funding application through Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine for Just Transition Funding (JTF) to the value of €5m in process.
Trifol Resources Littleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at former Bord na Mona briquette factory • Successful in €3m R&D JTF funding in 2022. And €1.5m from Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications
Sabrina Integrated Services (SIS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at former Bord na Mona Briquette factory. • 2019. Joint venture between SIS (Chinese company) and Bord na Mona. Since 2022, wholly owned by SIS. • Investment of over €20m in facility in last four years. • Employ 50 people

Just Transition Funding:

TCC has recently led the applications for Just Transition Funding under various funding streams including a Bioeconomy stream and LECP stream.

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

'Biomethane for Carbon and Community':

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

LECP Funding Stream:

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

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

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

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

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



Rural BioUp:



The Tipperary kick off meeting of RuralBioUp took place in mid November in the Horse and Jockey, starting with a tour of the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen. TCC were represented at this meeting by Elaine Cullinan Economic Development, Mary Ryan LEO and Clare Lee, Climate Action Co-ordinator.



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

The project will do this using a threefold approach:

1. One-Stop-Shop digital tool to support stakeholders in making informed decisions by providing data from previous projects and science results.
2. Regional Hubs will be established to involve stakeholders in a multi-actor platform to implement activities and actions to ease the adoption of bio-based solutions.
3. Regional Hubs will be empowered with coaching, mentoring and training activities during the project.

The Irish Bioeconomy Foundation is responsible for the Regional Hub in Ireland which will be focussed on the Midlands/Midwest region.

Tipperary County Council is the Regional Hub Contact Point in Ireland.

The role of the Hub Contact Point is to be a representative of the region and provide local knowledge as well as help organise events and encourage stakeholder engagement during the meeting.

National Bioeconomy Week:

TCC were represented at the launch of National Bioeconomy Week in October 2023 at the Southern Regional Assembly in Waterford by Elaine Cullinan, who took part in a panel discussion, giving the TCC perspective on a Local Authorities role in the development of the Bioeconomy.



Romania Workshop

Elaine Cullinan participated in a full week workshop in Iasi, Romania in mid November, representing Tipperary as the contact hub point for Ireland based out of Lisheen. These EU meetings and best practise sharing will form an important part of what happens in the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen over the next decade.



Tourism

Tourism Development

Tipperary Angling & Accessible Outdoor Recreation Activities Development & Promotion

The overarching aim of this Audit and Recommendations study is to improve accessibility to outdoor recreation and angling in Tipperary, providing a policy-led and evidence-based roadmap to improve access and promotion to outdoor activities for ALL across the county.

Key objective outputs include an audit of relevant outdoor recreation and angling facilities in Tipperary in terms of accessibility, and a review of the audit findings with recommendations for future enhancement of the recreation and angling offerings from a universal access perspective.

Funded by ORIS 2022, this project is referenced in the Tipperary Tourism Marketing Experience and Destination Development Plan 2016 – 2021.

Alan Hill and Deirdre Lewis have been appointed as consultants after a tender process.

Just Transition Fund

To facilitate a just transition towards a low-carbon economy in the Midlands, the EU and Government of Ireland, established a €169million Just Transition Fund for the period 2023-2026. As part of this fund, the EU awarded Fáilte Ireland €68million for a Regenerative Tourism Scheme to invest in the sustainable development of tourism in the Midlands with the aim of creating jobs and sustaining communities. The fund supports transition of an identified area in Tipperary, including Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles Municipal Districts, within Ireland's Ancient East to a carbon neutral destination through funding of sustainable tourism projects that are designed to have significant regenerative impacts on local communities and peatlands. The fund will be used to create more reasons for tourists to visit the Midlands and to ensure they have memorable experiences when they are here. There are a number of different support streams within this Fund.

State of the Season Research

The Tipperary State of the Season Pulse Survey was conducted by Tipperary Tourism and Tipperary County Council with the aim of gauging the health of the county's tourism sector. The report is based on feedback voluntarily provided by businesses participating in the survey. It compares tourism businesses' performance – accommodation, activity providers and attractions January to August 2023 to the same period in 2022.

The full State of Season Report is available at: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/68475349/tipperary-state-of-season-2023>

Highlights include:

- Considering the business environment, the feedback is as positive as we might have hoped for.
- 85% of Tipperary businesses surveyed experienced Growth (70%) or Parity (15%), when compared with the same period in 2022. 15% experienced a Downturn. This shows a positive trend, but recovery is still underway and businesses are still struggling.
- The report sheds light on the various factors influencing business outcomes, from the nature of operations to the diversity of source markets. It's clear that success in our industry is multifaceted and complex.

Tipperary Tourism Training Needs Assessment

A 2023 survey of tourism trade in Tipperary demonstrated an overwhelming demand for Digital Upskilling, with 96% of Tipperary businesses seeking digital or marketing-connected training, indicating a desire to shift towards greater online presence as a key strategy.

This feedback will help determine the Training Programme in 2024 for industry capacity building. Full report at: <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/68573716/tipperary-tourism-training-needs-survey-2023>

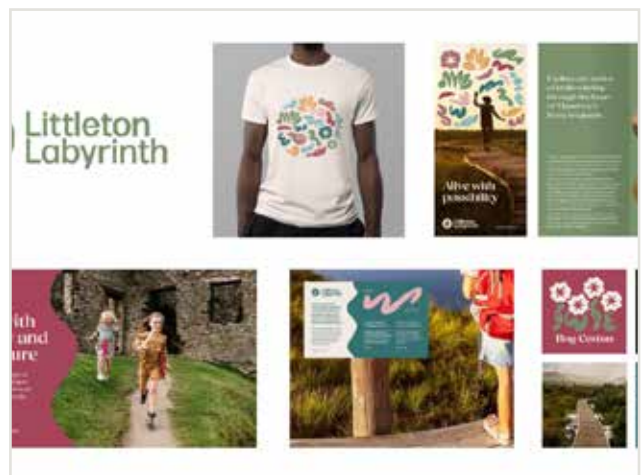
Equine Tourism / Thoroughbred Country

Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Tourism continue to work in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and Kildare Fáilte on the development of equine tourism experiences across the county, connecting nationally under the Thoroughbred Country Experience brand, to jointly deliver the Thoroughbred Country Visitor Experience Development Plan.



Littleton Labyrinth Branding

Tipperary Tourism is working with Bord na Mona and Tipperary County Council and a wider steering group to develop a network of recreational ‘peatway’ trails as a new tourism and recreational product. Resulting from Leader funding secured in 2022, design agency DesignWorks was appointed to create the Littleton Labyrinth Brand Strategy. This element of the project focused on developing a brand design to be used in building recognition of the offer going forward and also guide the design direction of other aspects of the project, including interpretation panels, trail maps, and signage.



Suir Blueway

Suir Blueway/ Waterford Greenway Public Consultation Meeting took place in Clonmel in March. The aim of this Fáilte Ireland organised event with local businesses was to share high-level information on the concept and opportunities associated with the Blueway. It also facilitated tourism businesses attending to engage with the Blueway and cross-sell with each other. Tipperary County Council provided a high-level overview of the investment that has already gone into the Blueway/ Cycleway and future plans.

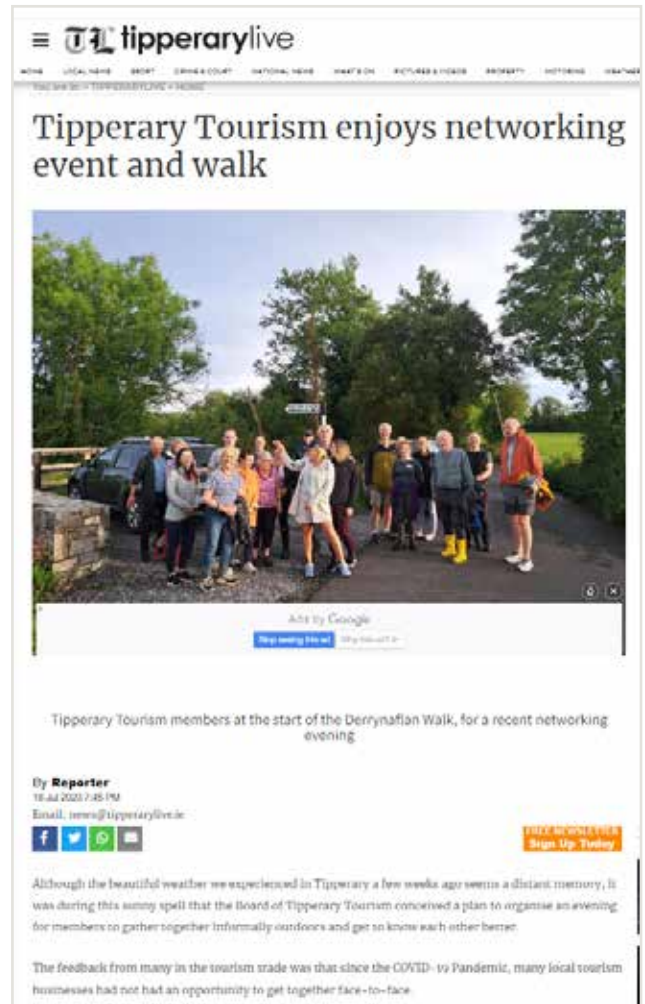


Overseas – Meitheal

The Tipperary Tourism Marketing and Development Officer and Destination Lough Derg Marketing Officer attended Fáilte Ireland’s Meitheal in Killarney in March. It was a valuable opportunity to connect with other Tourism Officers from across the island and meet overseas Tour Operators seeking inspiration, maps and itineraries.




Summer Networking Event - Derrynaflan

Tipperarylive
HOME LOCAL NEWS SPORT CRIME & COURT NATIONAL NEWS WHAT'S ON FEATURES & OPINION BUSINESS HOTSPOTS HEALTH

Tipperary Tourism enjoys networking event and walk



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Tipperary Tourism members at the start of the Derrynaflan Walk, for a recent networking evening

By Reporter
18 Jul 2023 7:45 PM
Email: news@tipperarylive.ie

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Although the beautiful weather we experienced in Tipperary a few weeks ago seems a distant memory, it was during this sunny spell that the Board of Tipperary Tourism conceived a plan to organise an evening for members to gather together informally outdoors and get to know each other better.

The feedback from many in the tourism trade was that since the COVID-19 Pandemic, many local tourism businesses had not had an opportunity to get together face-to-face.

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, many local tourism businesses had not had an opportunity to get together face-to-face. Collaboration and working together are proven to make a destination stronger. This event in the Horse and Jockey and along the Derrynaflan Trail was well attended from tourism businesses and community group representatives from all parts of Tipperary. Good media coverage was also achieved.

Promotional Events

The Time for Tipperary stand featured at the Gifted event in the RDS, Dublin in December. Working in partnership with Tipperary Food Producers Network, this opportunity served to reach a very important demographic, to promote Tipperary as a destination.


There was tremendously positive feedback over the 5 days, both from visitors to the stand and from Tipperary partners on the stand.



Tracks and Trails Filming

Tipperary County Council in conjunction with OPW and Coillte funded an episode in the Series 11 of Tracks and Trails on RTE.

Filming took place in October, with a team helping to curate the content including the Rural Recreational Officer, Tourism Section, Tipperary Sports Partnership, Tipperary Tourism, local community members. The route featuring is from Cahir Castle to Swiss Cottage, to Ardfinnan and Liam Lynch Memorial along St. Declan's Way and the Blueway. The programme will air in Spring 2024 on RTE.

 *Collaboration and working together are proven to make a destination stronger*

September Networking Event

Tipperary Tourism organised a well-attended networking event in the Glen of Aherlow in September. After refreshments and networking, the majority of the group set off along what was once part of the original Bianconi road system, with local guide, Jimmy Barry, as far as Christ the King. The event was a great success in connecting people from within Tipperary Tourism's membership. Those attending the walk included people from the Hotels sector, Self-catering, Community tourism, Activities, Tour operator, Chauffeur drive, from various corners of the county.



Survey of Community-Based Tourism (CBT) amenities

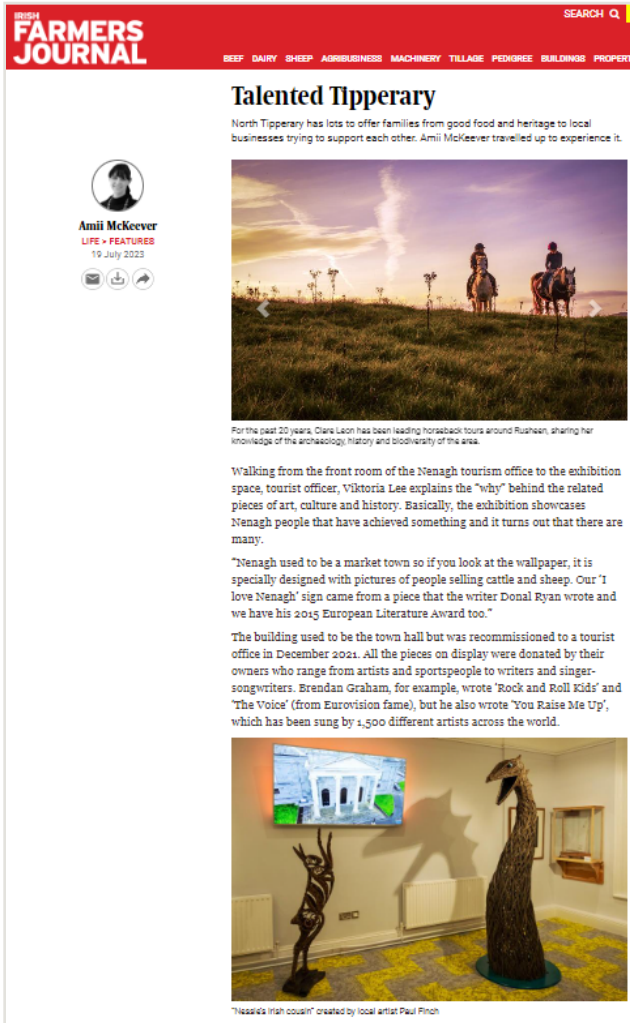
Tipperary Tourism assisted Fáilte Ireland with their Survey of Community-Based Tourism amenities, Ireland's Ancient East (IAE), 2023. It is a follow up survey to a 2019-20 study, which indicated that communities and CBT are playing a significant role in delivering an authentic and meaningful visitor experience across Ireland's Ancient East (IAE). The purpose was to update the original baseline in the wake of the Covid pandemic and to share the findings/ learnings across the IAE region.

Widespread Media Coverage including:

Press Coverage - National

Irish Farmers Journal journalist Amii McKeever visited in July, coverage in both printed and digital editions.

<https://www.farmersjournal.ie/talented-tipperary-767968>



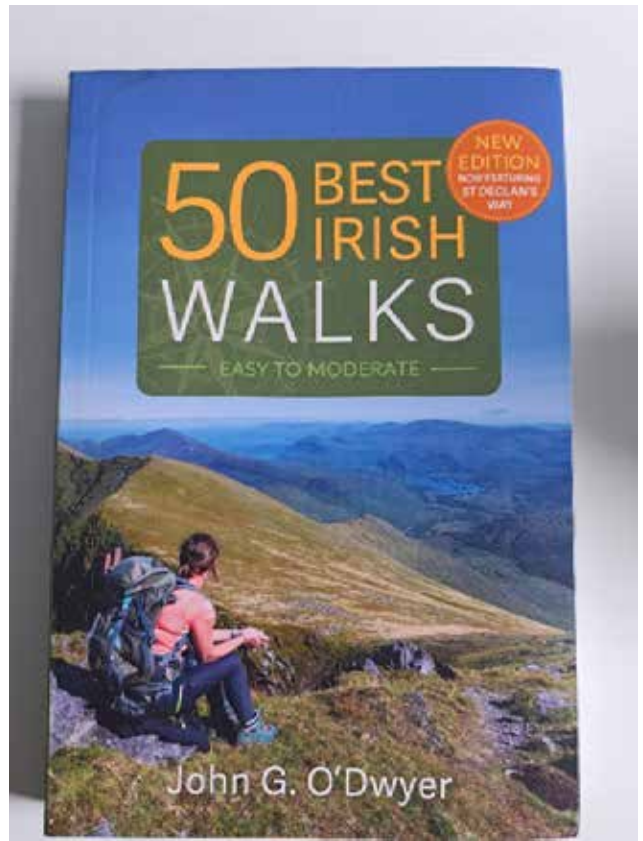
International Press Feature

St. Declan's Way was featured in the summer in the National Geographic Traveller magazine:




Print

Written by Tipperary Tourism Chairperson, John G. O'Dwyer, 50 Best Irish Walks features many popular walks in County Tipperary, distributed widely.



International Reach

Assistance and inspiration from the Tourism section was provided to Symbio Studio in the US for a production titled "Made in Ireland with Love". Filming took place at Brookfield Farm and Inch House Black Pudding, focusing on local 'makers'.

 *Communities and Community Based Tourism are playing a significant role in delivering an authentic and meaningful visitor experience*

Destination Lough Derg

Destination Lough Derg Marketing Highlights

Visitor Monitoring

Funded by ORIS 2021, six visitor counters were installed around Lough Derg hiking and walking trails. The 2 counters in Tipperary are located at Garrykennedy and The Lookout.

The Lough Derg Legendary Food Trail



Sample of Digital Promotion of Tourism Ireland Germany

Destination Lough Derg was awarded an Agri-Food Tourism Grant valued at €21,094.50 from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This grant was instrumental in funding a mentoring and awareness campaign, centring around the unique food products in the Lough Derg region.

Marketing assets include:

- A brand developed to align with the Destination Lough Derg overarching brand
- A hero video and three reels for social media
- A webpage
- Adverts and editorials in local media
- PR influencer and journalist visits and associated write-ups and promotions to follow
- A visitor-focused brochure

The assets created were promoted via a digital campaign, a partnership with Tourism Ireland France and Germany; local advertising and national PR coverage.



A comprehensive digital campaign together with a PR campaign garnered over 1.7 million impression.



Sample of National Coverage in Irish Country Magazine



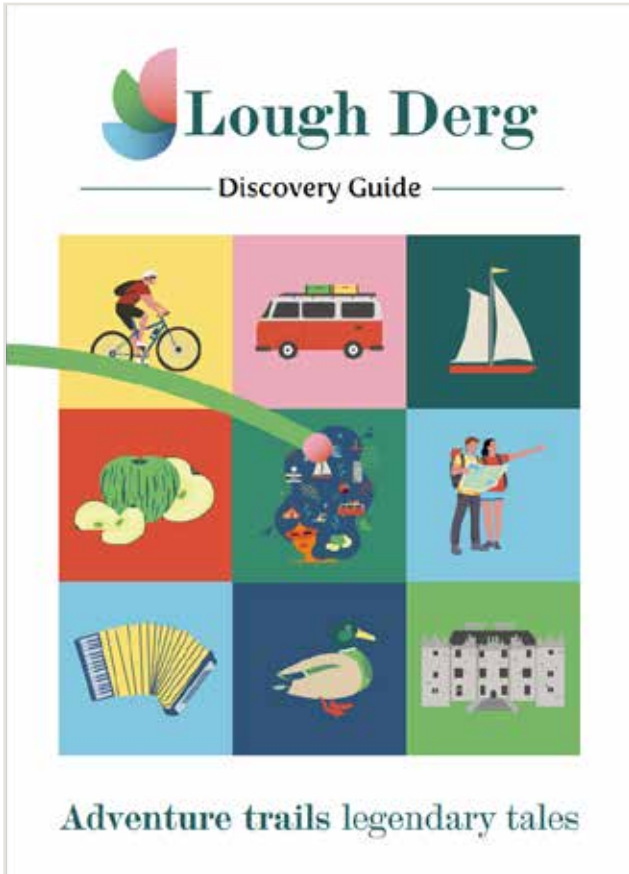
Sample of Regional Coverage in the Nenagh Guardian

Dromineer Designated Bathing Area

An application is in progress and will be submitted in March 2024 with a view to designating Dromineer as a designated bathing area. The public consultation was completed in November and received support from local businesses and residents.

Master Brochure

A new 36-page master brochure complete with dynamic QR codes has been designed, printed and is being distributed for the destination.



Video - Headstones to Homesteads

A project to create content for Genealogy promotions was undertaken in the Autumn, two videos and copy and testimonials were sourced for the website. The project will create awareness of the services provided around Lough Derg.

Social Media

Destination Lough Derg’s social media has made significant progress in 2023. With a total audience growth of 6.1%. The current audience stands at an impressive 25,286 followers, reflecting the increasing interest in Lough Derg as a tourism destination. Throughout 2023, we successfully published 518 items across our four social media platforms, generating a remarkable reach of 2.5 million people. Our efforts resulted in an impressive 4.9 million impressions, further expanding the visibility of our brand.

Adventure Lough Derg APP

The updated version of the Adventure Lough Derg App is live in APP stores. The update includes fun features, videos and imagery which bring the adventure APP to life.



Overseas Fam Trip

Le Boat, in association with Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and with the assistance of Destination Lough Derg, organised a familiarity trip for the Le Boat sales team from Australia, South Africa, France, Germany, Canada, and the US on the Shannon for 1 week in June. 2.5 days were spent south of Portumna bridge in Terryglass, Ballina/Killaloe, Portumna and Mountshannon.

Munster Vales

Munster Vales Hubs

Munster Vales received ORIS funding to develop, install and launch two interactive visitor information kiosks in Clonmel and Dungarvan. This action was set out in the Strategic Development Plan 2020 – 2025. The kiosks received over 20,000 views in the first six months. The kiosk lists a directory of all tourism related businesses in the region, a range of itineraries and highlights. The kiosk in the Talbot Hotel Clonmel was launched in October 2023.



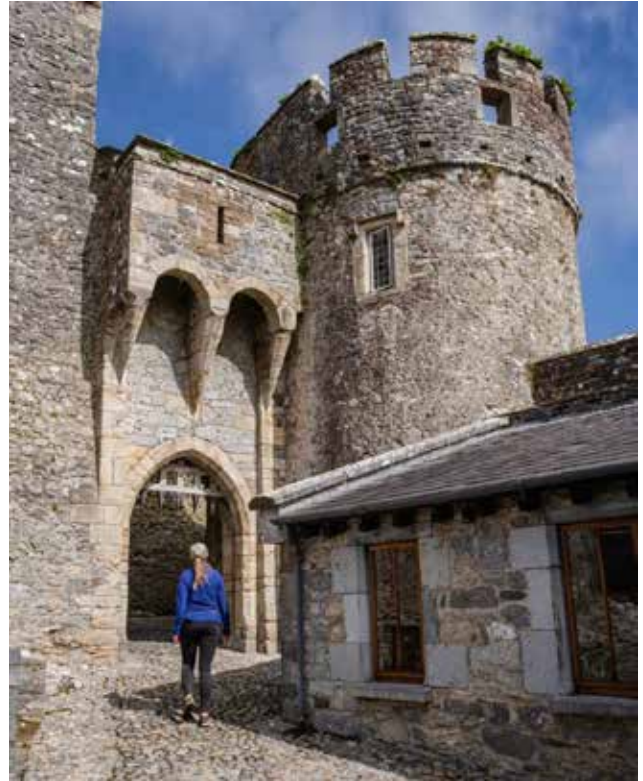
Networking Event

The launch of the kiosk was incorporated into the Munster Vales annual networking event. The event attracted over 80 attendees from tourism related businesses and community groups. Speakers on the day included representatives from the IAAT, Failte Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office and South Tipp Development Company, all of whom provided practical and useful information.



Marketing and PR

Munster Vales executed a 52-week marketing campaign in 2023. Significant efforts ensured that substantial awareness was created for the destination. A marketing mix of digital, print and PR resulted in 5 million positive impressions of Munster Vales as a destination. Munster Vales welcomed six media personnel to experience the great outdoors, the heritage and the high quality food offering in the region.



Training

With thanks to the funding and support from the four Local Enterprise Offices, Munster Vales was in a position to provide bespoke training for 145 people working or volunteering in the tourism space in 2023. The training helps to upskill and sustain existing employment and creates new opportunities on an entrepreneurial level.

Product Development

Munster Vales are in the process of applying for LEADER funding for a feasibility study on motorcycle tourism to assess the viability of this area as a destination for motorcyclists from the international and domestic market and are also seeking funding for innovative marketing campaigns.

Munster Vales plans to carry out a scope project on the potential Munster Vales Way which could connect the existing five long-distance walks from Carrick on Suir to Charleville, therefore creating a unique walking product. This is in line with the Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025.

Broadband

Digital Connectivity

Smart infrastructure' or 'Digital infrastructure' is the utility of the twenty-first century. It underpins every aspect of the modern economy and all aspects of smart cities/ villages. This includes cellular wireless 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G, Wi-Fi, wired (including full-fibre) technologies, Internet of Things (IoT), and emerging non-terrestrial networks such as low-earth orbit satellites. Digital connectivity is being delivered across the State primarily through the Commercial investment of the telecommunications industry.

The government will take measures to drive increased Gigabit and 5G connectivity, including complementing commercial investment in infrastructure with Government-led initiatives and facilitating other strategic enablers.

National Broadband Plan (NBP)

The 2012 National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the Government's initiative to deliver high-speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest. High-speed Fibre broadband services will be delivered to every premise in Ireland through a combination of –

- Commercial investment by the telecommunications sector within an area (known as the (NBP) Commercial (BLUE) area)
- State intervention in those areas where commercial providers acting alone will not provide this service (known as the (NBP) State led-Intervention (AMBER) area)

Table 1 - (NBP) County Tipperary Statistics

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

Note¹ Information and Mapping sourced at:

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

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

To deliver the National Broadband Plan (NBP) State led-Intervention "AMBER" area, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) went through a rigorous procurement process to choose a company to design, build, operate and manage a new very high capacity network (VHCN) on behalf of the state. Following the award of a State contract in November, 2019 –

National Broadband Ireland (NBI™) was established and together with its build partners - including KN Group, Actavo, TLI and SECTO commenced the roll-out of high-speed Fibre broadband to every home, business, Farm and school (regardless of how rural or remote) in the National Broadband Plan (NBP) state led-Intervention "AMBER" Area in the Country.

In May 2021, NBI™ commenced works to deploy FTTH cable to over 30,545 premises in rural County Tipperary including 21 BCPs; 35 National Schools; 20,079 homes; 3,951 Farms; 5,305 Residential/ commercial businesses and 1,210 Commercial premises.

The current Status for the delivery of the (NBP) State led-Intervention (AMBER) area is shown in Table 2 below –

Deployment area	Number of Premises	Current status of Deployment area	Project delivery time-lines
DA024 Carrick-On-Suir	1971	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA026 Cashel	2265	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA034 Clonmel	1615	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA120 Hospital	312	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA123 Johnstown	426	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA134 Mullinahone	1719	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA086 Nenagh	2852	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA071 Roscrea	1029	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA087 Tipperary	2964	Available to Pre-Order/ Order	
DA091 Ballinamult*	341	Network build in-Progress	January 2025- June 2025
DA092 Ballinderry*	1588	Network build in-Progress	January 2025- June 2025

Deployment area	Number of Premises	Current status of Deployment area	Project delivery time-lines
DA011 Banagher*	7	Network build in- Progress	July 2025- December 2025
DA019 Cahir*	3027	Network build in- Progress	March 2024- May 2024
DA147 Ogonnelloe*	560	Network build in- Progress	July 2025- December 2025
DA141 Tallow*	39	Network build in- Progress	July 2024- September 2024
DA014 Birr	685	Survey Complete	January 2026- December 2026
DA120 Hollyford*	2016	Survey Complete	January 2025- June 2025
DA130 Littleton	2460	Survey Complete	January 2026- December 2026
DA064 Mitchelstown	437	Survey Complete	January 2026- December 2026
DA135 Newport	1151	Survey Complete	January 2026- December 2026
DA075 Templemore	2753	Survey Complete	July 2025- December 2025

Note² dates provided above are estimated and based on the current view of NBI™

The Network rollout for the National Broadband Plan (IA) is divided into 22 Deployment Areas (DAs) in County Tipperary. These are typically areas of approximately 25 km in radius. The architecture of the network design is specifically based on the design of the NBI™ Network extending from the eir Exchanges or the Metropolitan area Networks managed by Enet. It is based on an Engineering design that allows NBI™ to get to every premise as quickly as possible working within the confines of how fibre networks are built. The network design utilises existing eir / enet Over head and Under ground infrastructure to a very significant degree. Table 3 below identifies the current Status of NBI™ FTTH Network Deployment in Tipperary.

Joe Lavin, Chief Commercial Officer, National Broadband Ireland, said: We are rolling out the National Broadband



Plan high speed fibre network with minimum speeds of 500 megabits per second to over 30,000 premises in Tipperary. The benefits of the speed and reliability of NBI fibre are huge. Tipperary residents who connect will be able to work, study and play online all at the same time without interruption. For farms and businesses, high-speed broadband unlocks opportunities to expand and innovate.

Current status	NBI™ Network deployment Figures for County Tipperary – per January, 2024.
Stage 1,2 and 3	100% of Tipperary Premises are “Survey Completed”
Stage 4	Total number of Premises with Network “BUILD IN PROGRESS” is 6,354 (22%) In total, over 70 NBI™ Planning Applications have been determined (under Section 254 of the Planning Act, 2000 (as amended) by Tipperary County Council to date for development consisting of placing 1,423 new poles and 3,682 Km of new OH Fibre Network cable. All s254 applications submitted in 2023 have been determined by TCC within a timeline of 4-6 weeks. c.426 Road Opening Licence (ROL) applications have been submitted on MRL by NBI™ and Granted within 1/2 weeks. TCC Resources to Project as-required on a Daily basis – 3x Admin Team; 9x MD Roads Licence Conditioners; 4x MD Planners; 5x MD District Administrators; 2x Senior Engineers 1x Broadband Officer and 1x EE (RMO)
Stage 5	Total number of “Premises Passed with Network Fibre” is 14,314 (47%) These Premises can now “place an Order/ pre-Order” for a “New Service Connection” with an approved Retail Service Provider (RSP)
Stage 6	Total number of “NEW SERVICE CONNECTIONS” to date is 3,640 (January, 2024)

Table 4 below identifies the projected time-Lines to complete the delivery of the (NBP) State led- Intervention (AMBER) Area in County Tipperary

Stage 1,2 and 3	Percentage Survey Complete: 100%
Stage 4	Percentage Build Commenced: 70% By end of 2024: 85% By end of 2025: 100%
Stage 5	Percentage Build Complete: 47% By end of 2024: 59% By end of 2025: 86% By end of 2026: 100%

NBI™ does not sell broadband services directly to Customers. They operate a Wholesale Service where they partner with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customers door.

For more information - please refer to the following links: <https://nbi.ie/where-can-i-buy/>

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

National Broadband Ireland - Frequently Answered Questions provides Important details re Fibre Facts, Rollout, Getting Connected and details re any Broadband Connections Points (BCPs) in this area and in order to be kept informed re the NBI™ Fibre deployment, please sign up for Local Up-dates at: <https://nbi.ie/eoi/>

(NBP) Commercial Investment in Gigabit Network Infrastructure known as the “BLUE” area

The NBP Commercial investment will result in Gigabit Network services being made available to the vast majority of premises in Primarily Urban and Suburban areas covering circa 77% of the premises across the State (and 64% in county Tipperary) The new Gigabit “Fibre” Network (s) are for the most part being built/ deployed by SIRO, Virgin Media and Open eir (Eir Ltd) in county Tipperary

“SIRO” was launched in 2015 as a joint venture between ESB and Vodafone. Their Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Network is built using the ESB’s overhead and underground infrastructure, ensuring a fast, reliable and sustainable Network.

“SIRO” recently announced plans to extend its FTTH Network footprint to the towns of Thurles, Cashel, and Tipperary as part of their ongoing network rollout across County Tipperary. In both Thurles and Cashel, it plans to connect over 5,000 Premises to high-quality fibre broadband, and this rollout out is on track to be completed during Q1 2024.

SIRO’s FTTH Network is already available in the towns of Clonmel, Nenagh, and Roscrea, County Tipperary. To date, they have invested over €20 million in bringing world-class connectivity to County Tipperary.

“SIRO” does not sell broadband services to customers. They operate a wholesale service where they partner with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customer’s door – see link for more information: <https://siro.ie/broadband-for-home/>

In 2019, EIR Ltd commenced the roll-out of their IFN Project in County Tipperary - which aims to cover a majority of the NBP commercial areas in the county. To date, Open eir has passed c38,000 premises with Gigabit Network services (FTTH) including the towns of Nenagh; Ballina/ Killaloe; Tipperary;

Templemore; Thurles; Clonmel and Cahir. FTTH deployment works commenced in the town(s) of Cashel; Roscrea and Carrick-on-Suir in November 2022 and the footprint of this programme is currently being extended/ at design stage for Newport; Two-mile Borris; Cappawhite; Fethard; Borrisokane; Ardfinnan; Borrisoleigh; Clogheen; Cloughjordan; Emly and Mullinahone in Q4 2023/ 2024.

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

When these two programs are completed - c2026 - approximately 60,000 premises in County Tipperary will have access to an Open eir FTTH gigabit connection – given an Financial Investment by Eir Ltd in the County of circa €30 million. “Open eir” does not sell broadband services to customers. They operate a wholesale service where they partner with Retail Service Providers (RSPs) throughout Ireland who is turn deliver a service to the customers door – see link for more details <https://www.openeir.ie/open-eir-irelands-largest-wholesale-full-fibre-network/>

Any premises located in a (NBP) BLUE area who is experiencing difficulties in obtaining high speed broadband - that is defined as minimum speeds of 30Mbps download and 6Mbps upload – are advised to contact their broadband service provider (RSP) to investigate the issue in the first instance and to determine the reason why broadband speeds are slow or that a service cannot be provided. Where an satisfactory response is not received from Industry - the National Broadband Plan division of (DECC) can review this location using this special form at [Web Form](#).

Commenting on the announcement, SIRO CEO, John Keaney said:



SIRO’s ongoing roll out in County Tipperary demonstrates our commitment to delivering high quality, fast, resilient and future proofed fibre broadband. Thurles is now SIRO’s fourth town in Tipperary to receive our full fibre connection, making the town a more attractive place to invest in, work, and live in. Overall, once build works are complete SIRO’s network will be available in six Tipperary towns.

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

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

- “Imagine broadband” continues to upgrade and expand - its WTTx network (FWA) services in County Tipperary and over 60,000 premises and businesses in the County are covered on the Imagine Network from 22 Mast/ and Tower locations situated both within and in surrounding counties. The focus of Imagine is on rural areas with no connectivity and where NBI™ Fibre cable is not expected to be deployed until 2025/2027.
- There are a number of ISP Companies offering (FWA) Services in county Tipperary and for details – refer to link: <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/>
- “SpaceX” offer’s high-speed, low-latency high-speed broadband internet services in remote and rural locations in County Tipperary - using Emerging non-terrestrial networks such as low-earth orbit Satellites. Refer to link: <https://www.starlink.com/>

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

A Mobile Network Operator (MNO), also known as a wireless service provider, wireless carrier, cellular company, or mobile network carrier, is a Provider of wireless communications services that owns or controls all the elements necessary to sell and deliver services to an end User, including radio spectrum allocation, wireless network infrastructure, back haul infrastructure, billing, customer care, provisioning computer systems, and marketing and repair organizations.

There are three MNOs operating in Ireland; namely Three Ireland, Vodafone PLC, and Eircom Limited. There are also seven Mobile Virtual Network Operators (MVNOs) using the main networks to deliver mobile services.

At the end of Q3 2023 there were 9,532,361 mobile subscriptions in Ireland, including mobile broadband (‘MBB’) and Machine to Machine (‘M2M’). If mobile broadband subscriptions (383,896) and M2M subscriptions (3,411,242) are excluded, the total number of mobile voice subscriptions was 5,737,223. <https://www.comreg.ie/media/2023/12/ComReg-23114R.pdf>

In Q3 2023 Three Ireland had the largest share of mobile subscriptions including MBB and M2M at 45.5%. This was followed by Vodafone Ireland with 31.5%, Eir with 14.7%, Tesco Mobile at 4.8% and OAOs at 3.5%.

There was 2,035,330 2G, 908,443 3G, 5,184,553 4G and 1,404,035 5G mobile subscriptions in Q3 2023. The telecommunications regulator “ComReg” has a Mobile Signal Checker Map that is searchable by Eircode and by Mobile Phone Operator (MNO) to see what Outdoor data services (including 5G services) might be available in a particular area. This map is available at <https://coveragemap.comreg.ie/map>.

The world’s economy is at a pivotal point as we see a move towards an increasingly connected society driven by the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence and Big Data. The pace of adoption of these types of technologies will become the basis for long-term national economic growth. The impact of these emerging technologies will be underpinned by the connectivity that 5G offers. 5G stands for “Fifth Generation” wireless technology, also known as the next evolution of mobile technology after 4G LTE. 5G will bring faster speeds through lower latency and higher throughput, improved efficiency and reliability, as well as increased capacity to sustain a massive increase in the number of connections between devices and the internet.

The 5G network (s) coverage is currently -

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

The current 5G deployment model used by the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) is to upgrade their existing high-power Macro-cell Infrastructure with 5G-ready equipment. In order to meet the emerging/ ever-increasing appetite for bandwidth-demanding services – the MNOs are starting to densify their Networks through the deployment of additional network infrastructure (i.e. 5G micro cells) at street level and as the operational/ coverage range of a typical 5G cell is limited – it means that an extensive number of 5G cells are required to be deployed relatively close to end user/ and the Internet of Things (IoT) to provide connectivity.

The “Tipperary Wifi4EU Network”

WiFi4EU is a ground-breaking initiative that promotes free access to Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens in public spaces including public areas, public buildings, libraries, and museums in municipalities throughout Europe.



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



The “Tipperary Wifi4EU Network” consisting of 51 Free-public wifi Access Points across 6 towns was completed in 2021 with the support of Funding from the European Commission and the Department of Rural and Community Development and is currently being supported by TCC and maintained by Magnet plus (ISP) across 51 free-public WiFi Access Points (SAWAPs) located in the towns of Nenagh x14, Thurles x5, Roscrea x6, Tipperary x14, Carrick-on-Suir x6 and Clonmel x6.

The European Commission carries out remote operational monitoring of the “Tipperary Wifi4EU Network” to ensure that its functioning as per the funding agreements.

The “Tipperary WiFi4EU Network” was deployed with the support of the Local Chamber of Commerce and the Property Owners, who kindly agreed to allow telecommunications equipment to be attached to their shop Façade’s facing the public street/ area.

The “Tipperary WiFi4EU Network” is supported by Tipperary County Council and the demand for Free on-street Wi-Fi connectivity, first introduced in Tipperary town in September 2020 has grown Exponentially over the past three years with c51,000 customers using the “Tipperary WiFi4EU Network” in 2023.

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

Connected Communities - Broadband Connection Point Initiative



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

connectedhubs



New Website launched in 2023 alongside a promotional video and a BCP logo and branding.
<https://www.tipperarybcp.ie/>

The Broadband Point Initiative (BCP) Initiative in County Tipperary is a collaborative effort involving the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Rural and Community Development, National Broadband Ireland, Vodafone Irl, National Broadband Ireland, the Local Authorities and Managers of the BCP sites. The (NBP) BCP delivery Programme is completed in County Tipperary and the 21 Broadband Connection Points known as the **“Tipperary BCP Network”** are connected and providing free Public WiFi Services to Members of the Public.



Map 1 - BCP Locations with public access to Free WiFi services (per Municipal District)

Working with the DRCD and a number of public and private sector partners, including KINIA, TETB, Microsoft DreamSpace™ and Trinity College OurKidsCode, a number of pilot digital thematic programmes were delivered on behalf of Tipperary County Council seeking to upskill members of the public, primary school children, community volunteers and citizens. Based on the success of Tipperary’s pilot programmes these have now been rolled out in other counties with Tipperary leading the way developing these programmes and providing advice and guidance on best practice to other county councils.

Learning in the Hubs



Boher BCP became a member of TUS Learning Gate initiative allowing them deliver 3rd level programmes in their BCP hub



Microsoft Dream Space Inaugural Showcase the first-of-its-kind event saw 181 primary school students from Tipperary travel to One Microsoft Place to showcase their STEM-based projects. The innovative projects presented by the students addressed various challenges related to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Amadean Moore Walsh, Principal of Drom National School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary said:


“It is such an honour to be here at One Microsoft Place as we celebrate our students’ hard work and dedication to creating digital solutions for today’s sustainability challenges. We’re so grateful to Tipperary BCP Network, Microsoft Ireland and the DreamSpace™ team for not only sparking an interest in STEM among the students, who often have limited access to digital opportunities and giving them an opportunity to showcase their efforts here today, but also for supporting us as teachers to develop the digital skills needed to continue to nurture this interest in the classroom.”



Tipperary is building a strong network and community of family coding clubs across the county including training and supporting Community Digital Volunteers.



BCPs screened The Race from Monday 3 July until Sunday 27 August and Tracks in the Snow at Christmas time along with many other events promoting Arts and Culture in the BCP’s.

 *Community Centres and Parish Halls have been transformed to energy centres at the heart of the rural community giving world wide access to the citizens of the area. Whether that is connected working, digital skills, the creative arts, eHealth, educational supports, business supports, the BCPs are now supporting the provision of services that their community needs*



Overall Winner National .IE Digital Town Awards 2023.

A number of Digital Projects by Tipperary BCP Network were category winners also.

- Community Digital Winner Rossmore BCP Scratchers Coding Club.
- Agri-tech Winner” in Smart Skills for Farming Communities

These Awards recognise and reward projects with a digital element that have been created by town groups and local communities. They promote awareness, knowledge, use and understanding of digital by its citizens, businesses and communities highlighting the benefits and possibilities of digital and celebrate the digital achievements of local towns, big and small.



Results for 2023

Tipperary Local Enterprise Office supported 266 companies in 2023, creating 98 net jobs, the seventh highest absolute gain in job numbers across the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in the country. Over 1,500 individuals were supported on business and management development programmes across the county and in collaboration with other agencies such as the TETB, Tipperary Chamber, South East Regional Skills office and Mid West Regional Skills office. 3 companies were transferred to the Enterprise Ireland suite of supports – Revive Environmental (covered in Lisheen commentary earlier); Verve Tipperary based start-up Zerve has raised \$3.8 million in pre-seed funding - Ireland South East which raised 3.8m dollars in a funding round in 2023 and Emere Procurement, a company that has developed a digital platform for digitizing trade in developing markets. All three companies established and grew through the feasibility and priming grant route from 2018 to 2023. Previous companies transferred to EI continue to expand and grow, the most notable being Shorla Oncology, which completed its third seed capital round in 2023: <https://shorlaoncology.com/press-release-shorla-oncology-secures-35m-series-b-funding-round-to-advance-its-oncology-product-portfolio/>

National Women's Enterprise Day "NWED"

Empowering Business Together was the theme of the LEO Midwest conference for female entrepreneurs who took part in Ireland's National Women's Enterprise day at the Clayton Hotel Limerick on Thursday, 19th October. This event is a collaboration event with our colleagues in LEO Limerick & LEO Clare.

NWED is a flagship event for the Local Enterprises Offices around the Country. The focus of the full day programme was on female entrepreneurship and attracted extensive media attention. Across the conference, 140 attendees networked, engaged with leading industry experts and acquired valuable knowledge about the extensive range of supports available from LEO.

 *Empowering Business Together was the theme of the LEO Midwest conference for female entrepreneurs who took part in Ireland's National Women's Enterprise day*



Picture: Nationalist Press Release Picture: NWED event Clayton Hotel Limerick on Thursday, 19th October



Picture: NWED 2023 Clayton Hotel Limerick

Student Enterprise Competition 2023

2023 saw the return of the In-Person Student Enterprise Programme County Final since 2019 held at TUS Thurles Campus on Monday 6th March 2023. Student Enterprise is an initiative, funded by the Government of Ireland through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices in local authorities throughout the country, saw 25,000 students from almost 500 secondary schools across the country take part.

Students from Tipperary were represented very well in the prize giving ceremony at the National Final in what is Ireland's largest entrepreneurship programme for second level students that took place on Friday 5th May 2023 in Croke Park. Their commitment and hard work paid off with Tipperary students having their businesses recognized at national level.

Students from Ursuline Secondary School Thurles won **Most Commercial Potential** for their business **Phone K.O.S.I.E** in the very competitive **Senior Category**.

CBS Thurles **Premier Woodworking** were awarded **2nd place** nationally in the Intermediate Category.

Coláiste Dún lascaigh's Rian O'Keeffe won 1st prize nationally in the **'My Entrepreneurial Journey'** category.

Also, on the day four 1st year students from Coláiste Dún lascaigh got a very special mention at the final prizegiving for their fundraising for the **Dillon Quirke Foundation** having raised **€30,590** with their Student Enterprise Programme business **Ard Foireann**. On the day they were also treated to a tour around Croke Park and photos on the side line to mark their extraordinary fundraising efforts.

Participating Schools	24/29 Secondary Schools
Participating Students	1868
Male	1085
Female	783

County Finalists	Senior	Intermediate	Junior
	113 Students	27 Students	35 Students
	30 Teams	10 Teams	12 Teams



Year on year the Student Enterprise Programme continues to showcase the very best of Irish ingenuity and entrepreneurship amongst our secondary school students. This programme is a stepping stone on the next stage of their entrepreneurial journey. From our class of 22/23 we will see some business leaders and global entrepreneurs of the future emerge.





Our Environment







Environment & Climate Action Section

The Environment and Climate Action Section is responsible for developing initiatives and delivering programmes that protect and enhance our local environment. Other functions include waste management /enforcement, climate/ energy, landfill restoration, burial ground management, derelict sites and community services/ environmental awareness.

Some key projects delivered over the year included progress on preparing a Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 for the county, the launch of the Community Climate Action Fund, preparation and adoption of the Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 and the progression of transfer of waste from the Shannon Vermicomposting facility, Rathcabbin to Ballaghveny Landfill.

Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee

The SPC met on four occasions in 2023. The Section engaged with the Tipperary Public Participation Network to work jointly on environmental and climate action initiatives.

Climate & Energy



Climate Action Plan

In accordance with the Local Government Climate Action Charter and the National Climate Action Plan - Delivering Effective Climate Action 2030 (CCMA), the Council is required to reduce its own Green House Gas emissions by 51% and to deliver a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

In addition, the Council is required to advocate for, influence and co-ordinate climate action in its own policies and practices, and in its many dealings with citizens, business and communities. The County Council Climate Action Office is supported by a new Climate Action governance structure, with a Climate Action Team across all Council service areas reporting to a Climate Action Steering Group at senior management level.



Collaborative meetings of the Climate Action Team

A key function of the local Authority is the preparation of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) for the period 2024 - 2029. It is the function of the LACAP to set 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. The Climate Action Team actively participated in the development of draft climate actions to be delivered over the lifetime of the LACAP.

The Draft LACAP was published on the 23rd September 2023 for a period of over 6 weeks and set out 100 ambitious actions, along with opportunity areas and actions for the Tipperary 'Decarbonising Zone'.


Consultation processes included:

- A press release that issued to 41 media contacts;
- Email notifications to statutory bodies and to many relevant stakeholders;
- Documents were available and on-line submissions invited at [Tipperary County Council Consultations \(tipperarycoco.ie\)](https://www.tipperarycoco.ie);
- Tipperary County Council's social media networks were used, with weekly themed publications issued;
- Elected Members were briefed at the July Plenary meeting and a dedicated workshop on the Draft Plan was held on 26th July 2023. The publication of the Draft Plan was also noted at the September Plenary meeting;
- Radio interviews were held with Tipp FM and Tipp Mid-West Radio;
- Targeted stakeholder consultation with respect to the Decarbonising Zone;
- PPN Meetings (Cabragh Wetlands) and Online webinar 12th October; and
- Five Public drop-in events in Libraries.

Submissions received during the consultation period were summarised in a Chief Executives' Report on Submissions and resulted in a number of proposed modifications to the draft LACAP. The report on submissions will inform the consideration by the Elected Members of both the draft LACAP and proposed modifications in early 2024. The LACAP must be made with or without modifications in advance of the statutory deadline of the 24th February 2024.



Delivering Climate Actions

 *The Draft LACAP was published on the 23rd September 2023 for a period of over 6 weeks and set out 100 ambitious actions*

Community Climate Action Fund

The Department for the Environment Climate and Communications allocated €700,000 to Tipperary County Council for the first tranche of the Community Climate Action Fund. The fund is provided to finance community climate action projects and initiatives for capacity building within local communities. Applications opened on the 6th December, 2023.

Projects can address the five themes listed below:

1. Energy;
2. Travel;
3. Food and waste;
4. Shopping and recycling; and
5. Local climate and environmental action.


Engagement with community groups across the five districts of Tipperary County Council has been very positive during the year. Community groups have shown great interest in the Fund and the ability to carry out climate action projects in their communities. Successful projects will be announced later in 2024.



Launch of the Community Climate Action Fund:
 Cllr. Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Marie O'Donnell, Community Climate Action Officer, Ann Marie Fleming, Biodiversity Officer.



Marie O'Donnell presenting on the Community Climate Action Fund at an Information Day held in Thurles and at the launch of the Community Energy Plan in Tipperary at the Tipperary Excel Heritage Centre.

 *Engagement with community groups across the five districts of Tipperary County Council has been very positive during the year*

Community Services

Complaints

The number of environmental related complaints received in 2023 was 2,055, which was an increase of 17.5% against 2022 figures. The table below shows the breakdown of the categories of complaints received.

Complaint Category	% of Overall Complaints
Air	2.9%
Animal Related	29.9%
Infrastructure	1.9%
Litter	37.2%
Noise	2.6%
Waste Enforcement	21.1%
Water	4.4%

Litter Management

During 2023, in accordance with the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 (as amended), Tipperary County Council replaced its existing Litter Management Plan. A Draft Plan to cover the period 2024 – 2026, was prepared and submissions were invited during a public consultation process, which took place in July / August 2023. The Plan was adopted by resolution of Tipperary County Council at its meeting held on the 27th October 2023.

The Plan affirms Tipperary County Council’s commitment to tackle litter throughout the county and aims to encourage awareness and community participation. The Plan sets out 7 high level objectives and 54 actions to prevent and control litter in the county over the next three-year period. A copy of the Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 can be downloaded from the Tipperary County Council website.



Launch of the Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026: Cllr. Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Eamon Lonergan, Director of Services pictured with Staff of Tipperary County Council and Members of the Nenagh Tidy Towns Committee.



Implementation of the Litter Management Plan 2024-2026 will be kept under review and Tipperary County Council will continue to provide litter management and prevention services such as; street cleaning, emptying of public bins, anti-litter awareness programmes / supports and enforcement of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended).

The following table show the number of fines issued in 2023.

Fixed Payment Notice (FPN)	Litter Fines issued	FPN issued for giving vehicle to an unauthorised Collector	FPN issued to unauthorised Waste Collectors	Total No. of FPNs issued
No. of FPNs issued in 2023	122	103	17	242

Tidy Town Grants

The Council continued to support Tidy Towns Groups in 2023, by providing Tidy Towns Grants. In 2023, 119 Tidy Town Committees received grants totaling €194,535.

Burial Grounds Maintenance Grants


In 2023, the Council continued to support the work of voluntary Burial Ground Committees and provided 262 grants totaling €188,371.

Derelict Sites

As of year-end, 71 properties were on the Derelict Sites Register and 54 further owners were being engaged with in relation to remediating their properties.

During 2023, 56 Section 8(2) Notices issued (intention to place on Derelict Sites Register) and 34 Section 8(7) Notices issued (placing on the Derelict Sites Register).

34 properties were added to the Register in 2023, whilst 6 properties were removed.

 *As of year-end, 71 properties were on the Derelict Sites Register and 54 further owners were being engaged with in relation to remediating their properties*

Veterinary

Horses

During 2023, 35 horse queries were reported to the Council, which resulted in 45 horse pickups.

Dogs

A total of 282 dogs were surrendered or seized by the dog wardens in 2023, of which 20 dogs were reclaimed, 197 dogs sent to rescues, 29 dogs were re-homed, and 43 were put to sleep. The Section continues to work with the animal welfare organisations in the re-homing of dogs and is supported by its dog control unit in Knockalton, Nenagh.

The number of dog licences purchased in 2023 amounted to 7,468.

Food Safety Inspections

There are 14 abattoirs, 1 poultry plant, 20 small meat manufacturing plants and 3 registered premises based in the county. A total of 924 visits to the abattoirs and poultry plant took place to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland animal welfare and hygiene standards in abattoirs, prior to slaughter and post mortem.

During these visits, 1,936 cattle, 6,414 sheep, 105 pigs, 14 goats, 2,681 deer and 12,426 poultry were inspected.



Environment Protection

Water Quality

Water Pollution /Agriculture



- 724 samples were taken as part of Water Framework Directive (WFD) sampling programme.
- 59 monitoring samples were taken in respect of effluent discharge licences issued, pursuant to Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended.
- 74 Farm inspections were carried out.
- 10 Source Protection investigations were undertaken.
- 21 Nutrient Management Plans have been submitted and assessed.
- 40 Septic Tank Inspections were performed under the National Inspection Plan.
- 455 Drinking Water samples were taken as part of the Rural Water Programme, 40 of which were investigative follow up samples.
- 22 on site Drinking Water Audits were performed (Small Private Supplies).

Legal Notices arising from Inspections related to water pollution

- 3 Section 12 Notice were served pursuant to the Water Pollution Act 1977 (as amended).
- 4 cross-reports were issued to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

Planning Referrals

In 2023, 101 Planning applications were assessed with reports provided to the Planning Section to ensure potential environment impacts of proposed developments were identified and mitigated at planning stage.

AIR

Tipperary County Council along with Limerick City and County Council and Clare, Offaly and Laois County Councils undertook a joint project funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) to address compliance and enforcement of the Solid Fuel Regulations, which came into operation on the 31st October 2022. The objective of the project was an intelligence gathering operation to identify the percentage of non-compliant fuels on the market and the primary source of same.

The project focused on solid fuel sampling, as sampling is an important and critical process in the monitoring, regulation and enforcement of the sale and distribution of solid fuels such as coal and wood. It is an essential step in ensuring environmental safety standards are being met and producers, distributors, sellers and users are complying with the Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529 of 2022). The project will continue and conclude in early 2024.



Air Inspections

- Air Pollution Act 1987 (Solid Fuels) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 529 of 2022) -31 onsite inspections were carried out.
- European Union (Installations and Activities Using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012 - 5 certificates were issued; 6 inspections were carried out and 4 annual reports were received.
- European Union (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012 - 3 certificates were issued and 3 onsite inspections were carried out.
- Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations, 1997 - 14 petroleum vapour inspections were carried out and 22 certificates were issued.

Air Monitors

- The current status of air quality in all towns monitored is rated as good and is compliant with The CAFE directive.
- Live Information on Air Quality in Clonmel and Tipperary Town can be retrieved at airquality.ie
- The EPA has launched a national air quality forecast in 2023. This new service will show expected Air Quality Index for Health. This is especially important for vulnerable groups, like individuals with respiratory disease. For more information see airquality.ie

Awareness

An awareness campaign, based on the DECC “Clean Air Campaign”, was run on all social media platforms urging the public to choose low smoke fuel for better health outcomes



Rural Water Programme

Annual Maintenance Subsidy

72 Schemes received an invitation to apply for an Annual Maintenance Subsidy in 2023. Applications were received from all schemes and Annual Maintenance Subsidies to the value of €623,650 were paid.

Current Capital Projects:


There are 7 Group Water Schemes (GWSs) currently engaged in capital projects, assisted by the rural water team. €50,398 was invested in 2023.

Private Well Grants:

In 2023, 81 new applications were received, with 72 grants being awarded. A total of €316,151.42, was invested in 2023.

Septic Tank Grants:

During 2023, two applications were received and €5,000 was paid.

 *72 Schemes received an invitation to apply for an Annual Maintenance Subsidy in 2023*



Landfills

Ballaghveny landfill



Ballaghveny Landfill - Cell 10B commenced filling, 23rd March 2023



Ballaghveny Landfill - Cell 10B being filled with waste, 9th November 2023

Waste acceptance at Ballaghveny recommenced on 22nd September 2021. The Wedge Cell and Cell 10B are currently being filled with contaminated soil & stone and wood ash, which is being mixed with stabilised waste from the former Shannon Vermicomposting facility in Coolross, Rathcabbin. During 2023, the landfill accepted a total of 48,991.85t of waste, which is 99.98% of the licensed intake limit of 49,000t/a.

The amount of leachate produced at Ballaghveny landfill in 2023 has increased by +34% on the same period in 2022. This increase was anticipated due to the reopening of the landfill. The wet months of March, July and October to December also contributed to this increased leachate generation.

The allocation of money from the Landfill Community Gain Fund (CGF) 2022, has been completed with Letters of Offer to the three successful applicants.

The allocation of funds from CGF 2022 is as follows:

Organisation Name	Brief Project Description	CGF 2022 Allocation
Ballinree Church	Maintenance and upgrade of the windows and doors to Ballinree church	€4,586.00
Ballymackey Football Club	Construct new clubhouse / kitchen / lobby area	€55,000.00
Ballymackey Women's Shed	New equipment for group activities	€2,682.95
Total 2022 (awarded in 2023)		€62,268.95

The value of the 2023 Community Gain Fund is expected to be approximately €62,200 and will be made available for distribution in 2024.

Donohill landfill

The leachate volumes produced at Donohill landfill has increased ca. +20.4% on the same period in 2022.

The monitoring of both landfills in compliance with their respective waste licence conditions is ongoing.

Rathcabbin Waste Removal

The removal of waste from the former Shannon Vermicomposting (SVC) facility in Coolross, Rathcabbin commenced on 2nd December 2021.

From January to October 2023, Ballaghveny Landfill had accepted 13,498.14t of waste from SVC at Rathcabbin.

The total amount of waste removed (up to the end of December 2023) from SVC Rathcabbin is 30,968.55t, which is estimated to be 88% complete.



SVC Rathcabbin – large areas of waste for removal during summer 2023

Historic Landfills

Tipperary – Cashel – Cahir **Tipperary Town** - Landfill remediation detailed design and ecological surveys were completed. Applications were submitted to An Bord Pleanála for development consent and the compulsory purchase of lands necessary for the rehabilitation of the closed landfill.

Tipperary – Cashel – Cahir Applications for Certificates of Authorisation (CoA) are pending decisions by the EPA for the **Dundrum** and **Knocklofty** historic landfills. Environmental monitoring of the historic landfills is ongoing.


Contracts were completed on 22nd November 2022, appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessments of closed landfills including those at: **Killeigh, Cahir; Caherabbey, Cahir and Deansgrove Cashel**. The risk assessment of these sites is ongoing.

Thurles – Templemore - Applications for Certificates of Authorisation (CoA) are pending decisions from the EPA for the **Brittasroad** and **Monanearla** historic landfills. Environmental monitoring of these historic landfills is ongoing.

Contracts were completed on 22nd November 2022 appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessments of closed landfills including: **Kiltillane, Templemore**. The risk assessment of this site is ongoing.

Carrick-On-Suir **Connawarries, Carrickbeg** – A consultant was appointed to carry out landfill remediation design. Ecological surveys are to be completed in preparation of Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for submission to the EPA and An Bord Pleanála.

Nenagh Contracts were completed on 22nd November 2022, appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessments of closed landfills including: **Shesheraghscanlon, Borrisokane**. The risk assessment of this site is ongoing.

 *The value of the 2023 Community Gain Fund is expected to be approximately €62,200 and will be made available for distribution in 2024.*

Infrastructure

Civic Amenity Sites



Nenagh CAS skips

The five Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) at Clonmel, Donohill, Nenagh, Roscrea and Cashel accepted 17,135 tons of waste in 2023, this included waste accepted into the transfer station at Waller's-Lot.

The average proportions of waste accepted into the Civic Amenity Sites can be seen in the table below:

Household Waste	40%
Dry Recyclable	8%
Timber	11%
Waste Metal	6%
WEEE	8%
Garden and DIY	13%
Newsprint and Cardboard	5%
Other	8%

The CASs accept a wide range of materials including household, dry recyclables, paper, cardboard, plastic, timber, garden waste, DIY waste, glass, and metal, waste electrical goods, batteries, textiles, waste oil and household hazardous waste for recycling. All materials leaving Waller's-Lot CAS and the Waste Transfer station were sent for recycling, mechanical treatment and repurposing.

In 2023, a total of 115,914 customers visited the Council's CASs, which represents a 3% decrease since 2022. However, the average spend per customer increased by 10% in 2023. This is consistent with an increase in charges for the acceptance of certain waste materials (to meet current market conditions) and an increase in volume of material brought to site by each customer.

A Part 8 planning application has been submitted for Roscrea CAS to extend the facility to include a drop-down area for skips.

Textile Receptacles

There are 80 clothes/ textile pods located at bring bank locations in the county.

432 Tonnes of textiles were collected for recycling in 2023, this reflects a 2% increase on the previous year.

Bring Banks

3,256 tonnes of glass and 103 tonnes of cans were collected from 113 bottle and can bank locations throughout the county. This reflects a decrease of 5.2% for glass from 2022 and a decrease of 4.5% for aluminium cans on the previous year.

Waste Management and Enforcement

During 2023, the Environment and Climate Action Section was proactive in issuing enforcement directions and Notices:


Notice	No. issued
Section 14 Directions issued (to remediate a site):	23
Section 55 Notices	1

Prosecution Cases

The Environment and Climate Action Section were active in the area of instigating legal proceedings where legislation was not being adhered to.

The table below shows prosecutions taken by the Section in 2023.

Litter / Waste Prosecution	No. of Prosecutions	Details
Litter	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Successful Cases; 2 Cases dismissed Total amount awarded in court €5,300.
Waste	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Cases successful; 3 Cases unsuccessful; 17 Cases put forward for court hearings in 2024 Total amount awarded in 2023 €34,354.

 *Tipperary County Council received approx. €115,600 for projects under the 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI), funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications*

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2023

Tipperary County Council received approx. €115,600 for projects under the 2023 Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI), funded by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. This initiative funds projects aiming to carry out measures for prevention, abatement, education and enforcement of illegal dumping. In 2023, 7 such projects were rolled out by Tipperary County Council, including 3 county-wide projects: Mattress Amnesty Days, Household Hazardous Waste Days and an Anti-Roadside Litter / Dumping Campaign. A further 4 localised clean up and abatement projects were carried out to tackle illegal dumping at known blackspots.

The largest portion of expenditure was spent on the 3 county-wide projects, with 35% being spent on the Mattress Amnesty Days, 27% on the Anti-roadside Dumping / Littering campaign and 22% on the free Household Hazardous Waste Days at the Council's Recycling Centres. Approximately 1,300 mattresses and 12 tonnes of household hazardous waste (paints, pesticides, chemicals, oils etc) were collected under this initiative in 2023.



Mattresses collected at Nenagh Recycling Centre during Mattress Amnesty July 2023

As part of our anti-roadside litter campaign "Think before you Throw", a clean-up week was launched and ran from 21st to 27th August. This proved very successful with 47 groups (with an estimated 680 volunteers), registering throughout the county. Clean up packs were provided to groups who signed up and waste collected was disposed of at the Council's Civic Amenity Sites. 8 Groups won a prize of €250 each to fund a sustainable community project in their area.

The campaign’s focus was to urge everyone to take personal responsibility for disposing of their waste and litter correctly to “Keep Tipperary’s Roads Litter Free.” A radio campaign was launched on Tipp FM and BEAT FM in early October and targeted social media messaging was also used to highlight this issue to motorists and passing pedestrians.



Launch of Clean up Week- Cllr. Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive with Staff of Tipperary County Council and Members of the Marlfield Village Committee.



Toomevara GAA Club participants in Clean up Week



Emly Tidy Town participants in Clean up Week

Household Waste Inspections

During 2023, 429 Household Waste Inspections were undertaken, with 54 households categorised as non-compliant for not submitting evidence of how they dispose of their household waste.

Inspections carried out in 2023 under Waste Management Legislation

Waste Management Legislation	Inspections
Facility Permit & Registration Regulations 2007-2015	364
Collection Permit Regulations 2007-2015	170
Packaging Regulations	18
End of Life Vehicles Regs	8
Tyres/Waste Tyres Regs	21
WEEE Regulations & Battery Regulations	24
Farm Plastics Regulations 2001	32
Plastic Bag Levy Regulations	4
Commercial Food Waste Regulations	14
Household Waste Inspections Bye-Laws	429
Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Regulations	28
Checkpoints for Waste Movement	11
Unauthorised Waste Activity	13



Example of a Multi-Agency Checkpoint to assess compliance with Waste Collectors Skip truck etc. Thurles 2023



Example of an un-authorised waste activity September 2023



Burial Grounds



Burial Grounds Capital, Minor and Improvement Works

The table below includes burial ground minor and improvement works:

Burial Ground	Progress update
Ballina (Boher)	Boundary works and excavation works commenced on site in Quarter 3, 2023. Works are ongoing with an expected completion date in Quarter 1/Quarter 2, 2025.
Fethard	Land acquisition negotiations are now completed. The Environment and Climate Action Section has completed the Fethard Burial Ground Part 8 planning and development process. Boundary works commenced on site in Quarter 4, 2023. Works are ongoing with an expected completion date in Quarter 1/ Quarter 2, 2025.
Cahir	The Section commenced with Part 8 documents for a new burial ground in Cahir. Part 8 Planning is to be lodged in Quarter 2/ Quarter 3, 2024.
Solohead/Monard	A potentially suitable site was identified and a hydrologist engaged by the Section. Preliminary site suitability trial holes were completed on site and the consultant's report has indicated that the site maybe suitable, subject to further Site Assessment.
Carrick on Suir	Land acquisition negotiations are agreed with landowners. The Council has commenced with the land acquisition.
Shanrahan	All boundary wall works were completed in Quarter 3, 2023.
Kilmore	Extension to existing burial ground with new boundary walls, access road, car park, drainage and associated landscaping works were completed in Quarter 4, 2023.
Cloughprior	The National Monuments Service was consulted in relation to the development of the burial ground extension during the Part 8 process. A geophysical survey as requested by National Monuments Services, deemed the site and adjacent site unsuitable. A constraints study was completed to assist in identifying alternative suitable sites within the parish. The Section is actively exploring alternative suitable sites within the parish.
Thurles (St Patrick's)	Surfacing of the access road and widening the existing road and corners in the lower section of the burial ground are completed.
Holycross	New access road and plinths were completed in Quarter 2. New Lawn cemetery section and urn plot section was constructed in Quarter 4, 2023.
Kilnarath BG Newport	Phase 2 of structural works were completed in Quarter 3, with a Community Monument Fund (CMF) Grant of €80,000.
Clonmel (St Patrick's)	A new section, providing additional plots to St Patricks Graveyard, was completed in Quarter 3, 2023.
Newcastle Ground	Burial The Burial Ground was reconfigured with new plinths to facilitate gravedigging and access to plots.
Lisbunny Nenagh	The boundary fence was reconfigured. New plinths and footpaths were installed in the middle of the grave yard.

Environmental Awareness Programme 2023

25 initiatives supporting climate change in communities, energy efficiency, waste prevention, and the circular economy were delivered throughout 2023.

Some of the projects completed in 2023 included:

Project	Project Details
Green Schools	28 schools were awarded their Green Flags in 2023.
National Spring Clean	303 groups and an estimated 6,800 individuals registered for the National Spring Clean to take part in litter clean ups throughout the county.
National Tree Week	1,200 native tree saplings were distributed to 66 community groups during National Tree Week.
Wild Flowers Initiative	400 boxes of wildflower seeds and 800 packs of bulbs were distributed to community groups and schools and at farmers markets in Cahir, Cashel, Thurles and Nenagh.
Dog Fouling Awareness	Provision of anti-dog fouling signage and stencils to Municipal Districts for erection in black spots.
Barn Owl Preservation Project	Barn Owl boxes were constructed with support from Cashel and Thurles Men's Sheds and distributed to farmers participating in the Lorrha Barn Owl project.
Awareness Trailer Summer Show Promotions	My Waste food waste roadshow promotion at Tipperary Age Friendly Expo Thurles, Clonmel Show, Bansha Show and Cahir Heritage Day with distribution of 1,000 food waste caddy packs.
Pre-Tenancy Training	Pre-Tenancy training delivered to 64 tenants with information and advice on waste prevention and segregation.
Picker Pals Programme	The Picker Pals programme was supported in 20 primary school classrooms throughout the county.
Gum Litter Awareness	The National Gum Litter Taskforce visited Nenagh on 15th August as part of its interactive roadshow. The Roadshow works with local authorities and communities across the country to carry out fun and engaging education and awareness initiatives.
Roadside Dumping Social Media Campaign / Litter Pick Week	Targeted social media campaign on Roadside dumping with hard hitting messages and images of real dumping incidents. Litter Pick Week - 47 groups / estimated 680 volunteers registered to take part in the Tipp Litter Pick week in August 2023.
Climate Action Week	A Climate Action course was held in the Cabragh Wetlands on 7th October, covering topics such as planting for climate change and food waste reduction in the community.
SDG Week	To celebrate SDG week, events were held in Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel Libraries on food waste prevention and recycling.
Sustainable Christmas	Promotion of sustainable Christmas measures on Tipp FM's "Ours to Protect" radio series. Promotion of Tipperary County Council's Civic Amenity Sites and free Christmas tree recycling.

The Year 2023 in Photos



Scoil Chormaic Cashel – Green Schools Award Ceremony



ClIr. Ger Darcy Cathaoirleach and ClIr. Marie Murphy at the Clonmel Show promotion stand



Cahir Tidy Towns planting for National Tree Week



Rathkeevin NS - Picker Pals



Awareness Trailer display at Cahir Heritage Day



Thurles Mens Shed with completed Owl Nesting box



New Inn Tidy Towns Group Litter Pick Week



Flowers being distributed at the Mart



Gum Litter Taskforce visiting Nenagh



Clogheen Tidy Towns Spring Clean



Clogheen NS Green School Committee Spring Clean



Water Services

Uisce Éireann Investment Plan 2020-2024:

UÉ Submitted its Third Interim Revenue Control proposal (known as IRC3) to the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) for the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2024. This incorporates UÉ's Investment Plan for the period 2020-2024. The CRU's determination on this proposal was made with the publication of its Decision Paper on 05 December 2019, entitled UÉ Revenue Control Revenue Control 3 (2020-2024). UÉ has commenced consultation on Stage 1 of the 2025 – 2029 Investment Plan. TCC made a submission on Stage 1 by deadline of 5th May 2023.

UÉ Investment is prioritised where it can deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.

The table hereunder provides an update of the current status of capital projects in County Tipperary.

UÉ Infrastructure Projects for County Tipperary:

B. Schemes at Pre-Construction/Design	Contract Name	Current Scheme Status
Clonmel WRZ WP1 – Remedial Action List (RAL) and Boil Water Notice (BWN) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrading and expansion of existing Monroe Wellfields; and Construct Pipelines from Monroe to Clonmel and on the Mountain Road, Clonmel. <p>This will increase water supply into Clonmel and allow for the removal of the Boil Water Notice on Mountain Road and the rationalisation of Poulavanogue Water Treatment Plant.</p>	<p>Nicholas O'Dwyer Consultants appointed to the project.</p> <p>Preliminary surveys ongoing at Monroe Wellfields.</p> <p>Drilling of new borehole at Carrigwillim completed. Yield testing completed and quality testing results received August 2023</p> <p>Watermain works on Mountain Road</p>
Roscrea Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Model built and verified for existing network. UÉ appointed Jacobs Consultants. Design phase ongoing for construction stage works.
Thurles Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Model built and verified for existing network. UÉ appointed Tobin Consulting Engineers. Design phase ongoing for construction stage works.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme (Design Build Operate (DBO) 1 year operate, operate starts once contract signed)	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	UÉ appointed EPS Contractor/Consultant. Planning application documents and EIS to be submitted Q4 2023/Q1 2024. Estimated contract award in Q4 2024.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	ARUP Engineering Consultants completed Draft Drainage Area Plan and model for UÉ. UÉ to review.
Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Tender awarded December 2022. DB works commenced 09 March 2023
Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Tender awarded December 2022. DB commenced on 05 June 2023.
Tipperary Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 06 September 2021. Estimated to start construction works in 2025.
Fethard Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design Phase ongoing. Planning permission granted on 18 May 2023. Estimated contract award in Q1 2024.
Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 20 May 2021.
Goatenbridge Water Treatment Plant	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	Glan Agua Early Contractor Involvement (ECI). Construction ongoing. Estimated Completion Q1 2025.

Investment Plan Portfolios:

In 2020, UÉ restructured the delivery of the Investment Plan into three streams, as follows:

1. Water Portfolio includes all projects and programmes relating to water treatment plants, water quality, trunk watermains, reservoirs, energy efficiency and dam safety;
2. Wastewater Portfolio includes all projects and programmes relating to wastewater treatment, sludge management, trunk networks and drainage area plans; and
3. Networks Portfolio includes leakage reduction programme, water networks regional contracts, growth and development programmes and sewer rehabilitation.

The table on previous page lists those projects in County Tipperary which form part of the water and wastewater portfolios.

In respect of the Capital Delivery element of the Investment Plan, these ongoing programmes are designed to prioritise spending as effectively as possible, by identifying where funding is most needed through a focus on specific asset condition and performance, identifying root causes of problems and addressing these.

The programme addresses issues such as:

- water quality;
- water availability;
- health and safety;
- environmental regulatory compliance (per the Environmental Protection Agency);
- public health and environmental risk;
- energy efficiency; and
- maintaining levels of service through addressing underperforming assets.

All projects put forward by Tipperary County Council are reviewed by UÉ before approval.

As part of Capital Delivery, projects are underway in County Tipperary under a number of headings. The following update describes the current position on a number of these projects in relation to water and wastewater.



(A) Networks Portfolio Delivery (Water):

UÉ has established a new contractor framework to replace the existing frameworks and has appointed Shareridge Limited to the Mid-West Region which covers Counties Tipperary, Limerick and Clare.

The scope of services covered by this framework includes the following:

- new watermains and service laying;
- below ground network rehabilitation work;
- backyard lead replacement;
- District Metering Areas (DMA) establishment;
- pressure reducing valves (PRV) works; and
- minor works to include leak repair, public side lead works and metering.
- Non-domestic meter surveys

Watermain Rehabilitation Works:

(1) Watermain rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation 2023 Works Proposed:

- Carrick-on-Suir Urban Realm Project (1.686km), design;
- Kilcommon (1.12km), completed;
- Puckane (1.363km), due to commenced in Q4 2023;
- Albert Street Western Park, Clonmel (0.75km), commenced in Q2 2023
- Rathmoy to Ragg (1.913km)
- Monastery Road Roscrea (0.2km), completed

(2) Back Yard Services replacement ongoing in Carrick-on-Suir:

Works ongoing to remove back yard services in Carrick-on-Suir in the following areas:

- Marian Avenue, Pearse Square, O'Mahony Avenue, Saint Molleran's, Connolly Park, O'Hickey Place, Maple Court, Kennedy Terrace, Saint Nicholas Park, Árd Mhuire and Seán Treacy Park.

(3) Back Yard Services replacement in Cashel:

UÉ approved the commencement of works in Q4 2023 to remove backyard services in Cashel in the following areas:

- Árd Mhuire, Upper Friar Street, Cathal Brugha Street, McCan Street, Lacey Square and Abbeyside.
- The aim is to progress construction of 0.6km of new watermains and the removal of almost 130no. backyard services. This will require engagement and agreement with all the properties affected.
- The removal of all the backyard services will add to the quality and sustainability of the water supply and reduce leakage.

(4) First Fix programme is ongoing. By email, dated 22 April 2021, UÉ notified the elected members of changes to the programme, including a widening of eligibility criteria.

(5) Non-domestic meter survey ongoing in Clonmel.



National Disinfection Programme:

UÉ is undertaking a National Disinfection Programme. This Programme will:

- improve drinking water quality;
- ensure compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended;
- remove supplies from the Remedial Action List (RAL) as maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency;
- reduce the risk of the issue of Boil Water Notices or the formation of trihalomethanes (THM); and
- provide improved control of the disinfection systems.

The Disinfection Programme will be carried out in 2 phases:

Phase 1: Water Treatment Plant Assessment:

This stage involves the assessment of the condition and performance of the existing disinfection systems at water treatment plants across the country. This will determine the works required to ensure that the treatment plant disinfection process meets the specified requirements.

Phase 2: Necessary Upgrade Works:

Some of these works may include upgrade of chemical storage and dosing infrastructure, upgrade of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection systems, upgrade of monitoring systems and generation of Critical Process Alarms.



(B) Networks Portfolio Delivery (Wastewater):

UÉ has appointed AECOM (Project Management) and Terra Solutions contractor to carry out sewer network rehabilitation works as part of regional sewer rehabilitation projects. The scope of works within each regional contract will be defined gradually through inputs from Water Services engineers, closed circuit television (CCTV) surveys, etc., to identify and prioritise asset upgrade requirements. No start date has been indicated by UÉ.

(1) Wastewater Inlet Works, Storm Tank and Sludge Programme:

UÉ has procured EPS to assess a number of wastewater treatment plant sites to assess the provision of new inlet works, storm tank, sludge treatment (or combination of these) to improve plant operation. The sites identified are Newtown, Puckane, Portroe, Dromineer, Borrisokane and Limerick Junction. The provision of any identified works may require a prior grant of permission from Tipperary County Council as planning authority. Planning permission granted for upgrade works on Limerick Junction on 27th July 2023 (storm tank, sludge reed drying beds, ancillary works).

Construction works ongoing in Borrisokane WWTP, Puckane WWTP, Dromineer WWTP and Newtown WWTP.

(2) Small Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Programme:

Under the Small Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Programme, the wastewater treatment plant at Carrick Street, Mullinahone was identified for improvement works, to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant, to include construction of inlet works, new process units and below ground storage tanks, landscaping and associated ancillary works including new below ground pump chambers and pipework. The population equivalent of the agglomeration of Mullinahone is 608. Consequently, it is in receipt of a licence from the Environmental Protection Agency. The above works are substantially complete.

(3) National Certificate of Authorisation Programme:

Wastewater treatment plants which serve an agglomeration where the population equivalent is less than 500 are in receipt of a Certificate of Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency as the environmental regulator. Those plants serving a population equivalent in excess of this threshold are in receipt of a licence from the environmental regulator.

UÉ has a National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP). Pursuant to this programme, feasibility studies and site investigations are underway in relation to a number of wastewater treatment plants throughout the county which are in receipt of the said certificate of authorisation.

(4) Wastewater Pumping Station Programme:

Consultants appointed by UÉ are currently assessing a number of wastewater pumping stations to improve pumping station operations. The consultants have produced draft concept design reports for pumping stations at Borrisokane Park; Riverstown, Birr; Murroe Road, Newport; Riverside, Ballina; and Killenure, Knockavilla. These will be reviewed at UÉ workshops.

In relation to Killenure, Knockavilla, Water Services is engaging with UÉ concerning the replacement of the existing on-site wastewater treatment plant serving the housing development at Killenure Court, Knockavilla with a pumping station to facilitate direct connection to the municipal WWTP serving Knockavilla. In this respect, the initial ground and civil works are completed and the equipment and electrical installation works remain to be progressed, which works are dependent on an electricity upgrade to the site.

(5) Source Rationalisation Programme:

The aim of this UÉ programme is to rationalise small water schemes into bigger schemes. The schemes currently being assessed for rationalisation under the programme are Two-Mile-Borris, Horse and Jockey, Littleton, Upperchurch and Glengar. UÉ has appointed a contractor. The design is ongoing and construction works are estimated to start in 2023. Planning granted for Pouldine booster station on 27 February 2023.

- Upperchurch was connected to the Kilcommon Water Supply
- Glengar connection to Ironmills commenced q3 2023'

Tipperary County Council will promote other suitable water schemes which meet the criteria.

UÉ National Water Resources Plan:

The UÉ National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) is Ireland's first 25-year strategic plan enabling us to move towards safe, secure, reliable and sustainable water supplies for all of UÉ's customers and communities, whilst safeguarding public health and the environment.

UÉ published its Draft Framework Plan, the first phase of its National Water Resources Plan, for public consultation in 2021. The Plan is now finalised and adopted and available at www.water.ie/nwrp

UÉ is progressing the Phase 2 development of four Regional Water Resources Plans which will set out the options to address identified needs across all of UÉ's supplies. UÉ will seek the public's views during the public consultation for each Regional Plan.

UÉ held a workshop, via Zoom, with all elected members on 06 December 2021 which provided an opportunity for engagement by senior management from UÉ with the elected members on the Regional Water Resources Plans as they impact on County Tipperary.

UÉ also availed of the opportunity afforded by this workshop to present an update to the elected members on its Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region and on its Capital Projects for County Tipperary.

Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region, which covers only a portion of the former Tipperary North, took place from 14 December 2021 to 14 March 2022, extended to 08 April 2022. TCC forwarded its submission on the Draft RWRP -EM on the 11 March 2022. The Plan is now adopted.

Public consultation on the Draft NWRP South West Region took place from 01 June 2022 to 24 August 2022. This Draft Regional Plan covers only a very small area within County Tipperary, i.e. south of Ballyporeen, which lies within the catchment of the River Blackwater. The Plan is now adopted.

The Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the South East Region, which covers the former Tipperary South and the remainder of the former Tipperary North, has been published and the public consultation on same will run from 11 July 2023 to 03 October 2023. TCC will forward a submission prior to this deadline.

UÉ also invited the elected members to a webinar on 28 July 2023 to present the Draft RWRP- SE, and associated environmental reports, and to answer any questions which the elected members might have about UÉ's plans to provide long term sustainable water supplies in that part of County Tipperary covered by the Draft Plan.



*The Plan is now finalised
and adopted and available
at www.water.ie/nwrp*



UÉ Small Towns and Villages Programme:

UÉ's Revenue Control 3 (RC3) Investment Plan 2020-2024 includes the Small Towns and Villages Programme (STVGP). This programme is primarily intended to provide capacity in wastewater treatment plants to cater for growth in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. The STVGP is limited to supporting growth in settlements already served by UÉ infrastructure.

On 27 July 2020 UÉ notified Tipperary County Council that 7 settlements in County Tipperary had been identified for inclusion in the STVGP. These are: Cloughjordan, Golden, Holycross, Kilsheelan, Lisvarrinane, Newcastle and Silvermines.

Tipperary County Council has submitted supporting information in relation to these settlements and a workshop for Planning and Water Services staff took place with UÉ on 11 November 2020 to discuss the above settlements, possible solutions and cost estimates.

On 30 September 2021, UÉ advised that funding is to be provided to provide additional wastewater treatment capacity at Kilsheelan and Lisvarrinane as part of the STVGP.

UÉ issued update to TCC on 08/05/23. The update including seven additional qualifying settlements, Limerick Junction, Borrisokane, Twomileborris, Mullinahone, Boherlahan, Cloneen and Hollyford. TCC replied to UÉ on 08/06/2023.



National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021:

UÉ announced on 31 March 2022, plans to upgrade twelve wastewater treatment plants nationally that will benefit rural communities and protect local rivers. Grangemockler in County Tipperary is one of these twelve.

This project will be funded by the European Union under Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021.

Pre-planning meeting between UÉ and TCC took place on 19th May 2023.

Council Workshops with Ué:

A Workshop with UÉ for the elected members was held on 26th April 2023.

A further meeting took place in September led by John Dempsey of Uisce Eireann, setting out the future engagement proposals by UE with the elected members.

Developments During 2023

01/01/2023 – Separation of Irish Water from Ervia and rebranding as Uisce Eireann (Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022).

08/05/2023 – Master Co-operation Agreement (MCA) signed by Uisce Eireann and Tipperary County Council. This replaces the existing Service Level Agreement 2014-2025 and remains in place up to 31/12/2026. It provides for the assumption by Uisce Eireann of the management and direction of TCC Water Services staff and enables a Support Services Agreement (SSA) to be finalized between UE and TCC.

Q1/Q2 2023 – Data sharing by TCC with UE.

26/06/2023 – Personal Identifiable Information (PII) shared by TCC with UE.

20/09/2023 – This is known as the 'Effective Date' i.e. the date on which UE assumed direct management and control of TCC Water Services staff.




Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO)



Tipperary and Kilkenny County Councils continue to lead the national shared service the “Local Authority Waters Programme” (LAWPRO) which fosters cooperation and collaboration between local authorities and relevant public bodies both locally and nationally to produce positive water quality outcomes in our rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, and groundwater, as required by the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD).

LAWPRO operates a matrix structure, with five regions and functional areas including catchment science and communities teams. LAWPRO’s Water Framework Directive (WFD) team expanded from a staff complement of 60 to 75 in 2023 following approval and budget allocation by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for phase one of LAWPRO’s Implementation Plan. A phase 2 Implementation Plan was submitted to DHLGH in 2023 for further expansion of the programme in 2024.


 *LAWPRO operates a matrix structure, with five regions and functional areas including catchment science and communities teams*

LAWPRO in partnership with Teagasc, the Agricultural Sustainability, Support and Advisory Programme (ASSAP) and Dairy Industry Ireland (DII) submitted a water quality improvement project application to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and succeed in a bid for funding in a competitive call under the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) initiative of Ireland’s Rural Development Programme. A budget of €50m over 5 years is being allocated to the project by DAFM. DHLGH has agreed to fund the administrative costs of the Water EIP with €10m allocated over 5 years including recruitment of a new project team.

Currently staff members in Tipperary are located at LAWPRO headquarters in Ballingarrane, Clonmel; and at Heffernan House, Rossmore Neighbourhood Centre, Tipperary Town where the Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) team is based.


Overview of Work Programme 2023

LAWPRO’s work programme is set out at national level by Ireland’s River Basin Management Plan and the actions contained within, which are prioritised and delivered in line with available resources.



About LAWPRO

- Local Authority **shared service**, working with all **31 Local Authorities**, 5-regions structure
- Coordinating **LA sector’s obligations** for river basin management planning (**EU Water Framework Directive**)
- **Funded by** Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage
- LAWPRO’s three core functions:
 - **Coordination** on behalf of Local Authorities and public bodies,
 - *Regional Committees*
 - **Community engagement** at a local level, nationwide.
 - **Catchment science and management** to inform decision making,
 - *Working in Priority Areas for Action (PAA) identified in the plans*
 - *Building capacity within Local Authority sector - knowledge sharing and training*
- Advocating for a healthy water environment, with multiple benefits for health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate, and local communities.



Coordination

Tipperary County Council is a member of the South East Regional Water and Environment Management Committee and its supporting Regional Operational Committee. LAWPRO coordinates and provides secretariat to the quarterly regional committee meetings.

LAWPRO, along with the EPA and National Biodiversity Data Centre, continues to progress an online platform for citizen science freshwater biomonitoring in Ireland. In parallel, a basic level citizen scientist’s manual is being developed with UCC & UCD. Macroinvertebrate citizen science data continues to be gathered from trained members of the public. The information is mapped and available to view through the LAWPRO website.



LAWPROs Coordination Role

- LAWPRO Programme delivery
- National level representatives
- Regional structures (committees)
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Building relationships: stakeholder cooperation and collaboration
- Facilitating knowledge transfer and learning
- Wide dissemination of best practice

Collaboration Between Public Bodies



Catchment Management and Science

LAWPRO's catchment scientists have developed innovative local catchment assessment methods focussed on water quality restoration in 189 Priority Areas for Action (PAAs), nationally. The PAAs in County Tipperary are: Ara, Borrisoleigh, Clashawley, Lingaun, Aherlow. Because of this approach water quality challenges in the PAAs are now well understood at 'field scale' and this has allowed for the identification of where measures are required to address issues identified.

Water Framework Directive

LAWPRO's WFD work plan covers several areas, which include:

a. Catchment Assessment

- i. A focus on completion of local catchment assessments and reporting on 2nd Cycle Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) was prioritised in 2023. Over 560 referrals have been made to ASSAP and 63 to other bodies including local authorities documenting the pressures found during assessments.
- ii. LAWPRO rolled out two 8-day CSM training courses to local authority and implementing body staff in 2023. Approximately 70 participants completed the three modules.
- iii. Planning for 3rd cycle PAA work was advanced, including review of assessment protocols, reporting, communications and engagement with implementing bodies on the development of a Catchment Management Plan template.

b. Blue Dot Catchments Programme

- i. LAWPRO continued to coordinate the Blue Dot Catchments Programme in 2023, which is a collaborative programme being delivered by a range of agencies as a means of focusing attention and resources towards the protection and restoration of our high-status waters. The Programme Steering Group meets 4 times a year to discuss all topics linked to this shared objective.
- ii. In 2023, LAWPRO delivered a number of actions in support of the Blue Dot catchments Programme including:
- iii. Training to over 60 staff in the ACRES Co-operation Project Teams
- iv. Blue Dot Engagement Fund administration
- v. LAWPRO is a project partner in the Waters of LIFE Integrated Project which aims to help reverse the deterioration of Ireland's most pristine waters, and complements the work of the Blue Dot Catchments Programme.

River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

- i. Comments were submitted to DHLGH on the draft plan.
- ii. Works on a number of draft RBMP actions were advanced including the development of the Catchment Management Plan template, Catchment Community Fora and evaluation of the Resilience Project.

Communications

- i. New LAWPRO WFD and Water EIP Communications Leads appointed.
- ii. An integrated Communication Plan drafted for the WFD and the Water EIP teams.

Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to Surface Water Management

- i. A series of NBS webinars were organised and delivered in collaboration with Engineers Ireland
- ii. A new engineer has been recruited to further promotion and integration of NBS across the public and private sectors.

Community Water Development Fund

The Community Water Officer for Tipperary continued to work with community and farming groups in 2023 to implement projects and develop awareness of local water bodies. Capacity building, technical guidance, and support was provided to various local projects including projects in Cloughjordan and Ballinderry on the Ballyfinboy River, and Tidy Town groups in Cahir (River Suir), Tipperary Town (Ara River) and Mullinahone (Mullinahone stream).

Technical support and guidance were provided to community groups on the control and management of alien invasive species on their local rivers in Toem, Cappawhite, Thurles and Clonmel. Farming groups were supported in the upper Mulkear, upper Nenagh and the Fishmoyné river. Networking and training events were supported in Cabragh Wetlands for various wetland type projects and groups. Awareness on water quality, biosecurity, project planning, local biodiversity and community climate actions featured in capacity building work and in all engagements with communities across Tipperary.

In 2023, the Community Water Development Fund (CWDF) made grant support offers to:

- Fethard Tidy Towns Committee for the Clashawley river project.
- Munster Ringing Group in Tipperary for a water rail ringing study.
- Cloughjordan CoHousing for reimagining water in neighbourhoods and for workshops on water quality, wastewater and rainwater harvesting in Cloughjordan.
- SuirCan Environmental for invasive plant species (with a focus on giant hogweed and Himalayan balsam) mapping and mitigation on the River Suir and its tributaries.
- Mullinahone Tidy Towns for local river signage and a river clean up.

Another significant CWDF project supported by LAWPRO included a partnership project on the Lower Ballyfinboy River with Ballinderry Development Association, Tipperary County Council, Inland Fisheries Ireland and ESB Fisheries Conservation which is focused on riparian management, river restoration work, local farmer engagement and community outreach work.

In terms of water literacy and public awareness, various projects were supported, including events marking Heritage Week, which ran from 12th to 20th August 2023 with the theme our 'Living Heritage'. A community-based event involving Tipperary Town Tidy Towns group was held on 19th August in advance of Water Heritage Day. It focused on the biodiversity value of the Ara River in the new town park along the river in Tipperary town.

Other awareness events in Tipperary supported this year included:

- World Wetlands Day: Networking event, Cabragh Wetlands & CWF (Cabragh Wetlands, 23 February)
- Eco Show Boat Arts Lab: Connecting Communities Across Ireland (Lough Derg, Dromineer, 12th May)

Capacity building supports were provided to:

- The Ballinderry Development Association, which received training and technical support for groups involved with the establishment of the Ballyfinboy River Catchment Management Association.
- The Cabragh Wetlands Trust where the Community Water Officer continued to work closely with the group on the delivery of training (River Guardians), networking and public awareness as part of the wider social and development goals of the Cabragh Wetlands Trust.



Technical support and guidance were provided to community groups on the control and management of alien invasive species on their local rivers in Toem, Cappawhite, Thurles and Clonmel.

Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project

During 2023 LAWPRO commenced implementation of the Water European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Project in partnership with Teagasc / ASSAP and Dairy Industry Ireland.

The Water EIP is an agri-environmental project providing grant funding for farmers to implement targeted actions to reduce losses of nutrients, sediment and pesticides from agricultural lands. The total project budget is €60m consisting of €50 million for farm measures, as well as other catchment-based initiatives where water quality issues are identified and require actions on agricultural lands.

The scheme will focus on supplementary measures for water quality but will also include co-benefits such as aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, climate action and natural flood management measures.

The project specifically focuses on reducing losses of phosphorus, nitrogen, sediment and, where relevant, pesticides to water from agricultural lands by promoting the adoption of innovative best practice in nutrient management, the application of nature-based natural water retention measures (NWRM) and other suitable measures at the farm level following the principals of integrated catchment management (ICM) and science.

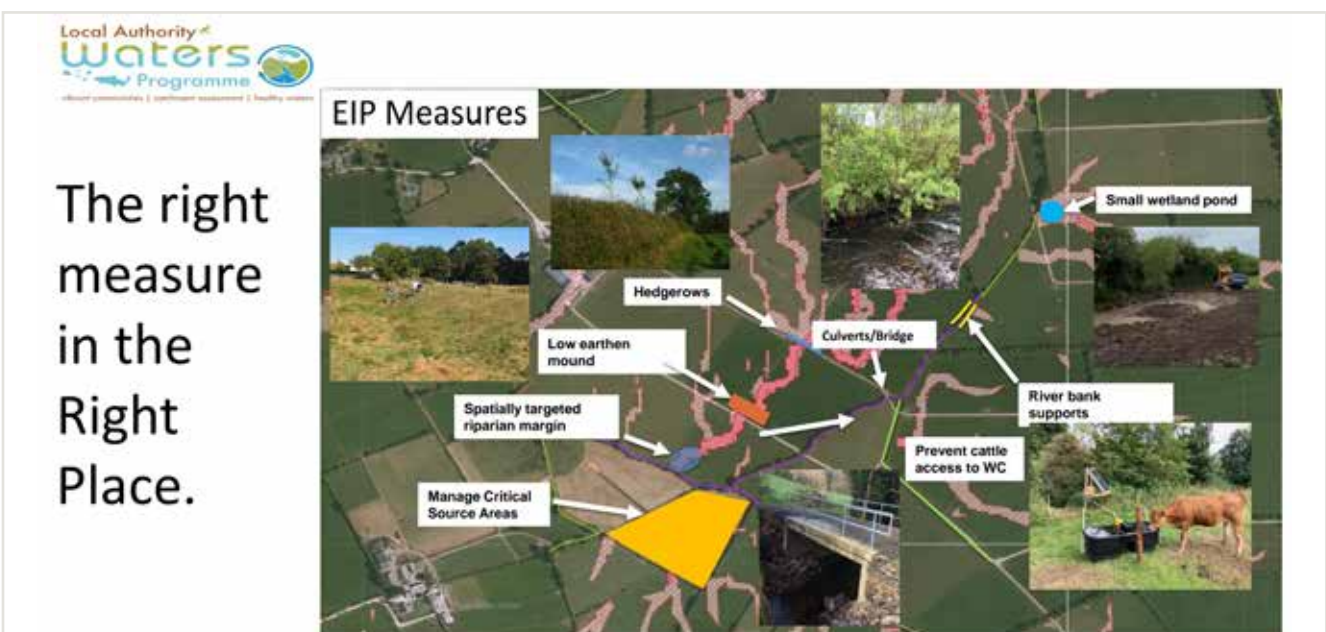
Following much preparatory work in 2023, the project moved to the implementation phase with agreements being developed with DHLGH and DAFM, and drafting of a separate Memorandum of Understanding between LAWPRO and project partners Teagasc and DII.

Project offices have been set up in Rossmore Neighbourhood Centre in Tipperary Town and a number of staff appointed including Project Lead, Finance Lead and the Communications and Engagement Lead with recruitment of other posts in progress. The overall team will have a staff complement of 19.

A Water EIP Research Hub has also been established and involves researchers from a number of institutions including University College Cork, University College Dublin, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Atlantic Technical University and the James Hutten Institute UK. This innovative approach will complement core project evaluation and will facilitate input from the academic community and applied research.

The Water EIP team took part in the poster session at the Teagasc Agricultural Catchments Programme (ACP) Conference in Wexford in November 2023 and an informal information session was also held.

A pilot phase of farm visits was held throughout October 2023 to test the efficacy of the approach. Forty-seven farms were engaged by ASSAP advisors across several farm sectors including tillage, dairy and dry stock. The farms were selected to ensure a variety of agricultural pressures were represented. These visits have validated the proposed process and have also led to a refinement of the measures to provide clarity for both advisors and farmers. The grant payment system is at development phase and the first grants paid to farmers.



Supports to Local Authorities in 2023

LAWPRO has proposed water quality improvement actions for inclusion in the Local Authority Climate Action Plans which also align with the Water Framework Directive and the draft River Basin Management Plan. A guidance document has been prepared and shared with local authority climate action teams.

Training in catchment science and management (CSM) has been provided to local authority and implementing body staff.

LAWPRO co-ordinates the sharing of information between the Department of Agriculture and local authorities and manage the data sharing agreements to provide LPIS (land parcel identification system) and nitrates information to local authorities.

Environmental Health and Safety Up-date

The environmental health and safety management system operated by LAWPRO is certified to two ISO standards - ISO 45001 (health and safety standard) and ISO 14001 (environmental management).

Certification to these standards is awarded by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) and LAWPRO was re-certified in 2023.



Communications and Public Engagement

Community Engagement Role

- Awareness raising
 - *national, regional, and local.*
- Public participation & engagement
 - *listening to communities and supporting local projects.*
- Partnership & networking
 - *working together for common goals*
- Main focus - RBMP priority areas for action
 - *Also aiming to protect existing high-status water bodies*



LAWPRO attended the 2023 National Ploughing Championships in Laois and hosted a stand in the 'Nature and Heritage' marquee.

GAA Green Clubs – Phase II clubs are now advancing actions under 5 themes (waste, water, biodiversity, energy, and transport). LAWPRO has supported club activities with a water fund, administered by the GAA to the value of €30,000. Clubs were invited to apply for funding up to €1,000 to undertake water-based activities linked to the Green Clubs toolkit.

LAWPRO provided a prize fund of €3,500 under the nature-based solutions category of An Taisce's GLOBE Programme for student projects.

National Heritage Week took place from 12th – 20th August 2023 with Water Heritage Day on 20th August. Partnership agreement for Heritage Week and Water Heritage Day were signed with the Heritage Council. LAWPRO provided funding to community groups to host water related events and encouraged groups to apply for the Water Heritage Award.

As part of the Tidy Towns Regional Awards LAWPRO, Inland Fisheries Ireland and Waterways Ireland co-fund the Waters and Communities Award.



Water Heritage Day: LAWPRO's Community Water Officer ran a Heritage Week event with Tipperary Town Tidy Towns group, focused on the biodiversity value of the Ara River (19th August)



World Wetlands Day: Networking event to mark World Wetlands Day in Cough Wetlands with the Community Wetlands Forum (23 February)



World Wetlands Day: Networking event to mark World Wetlands Day in Cabragh Wetlands with the Community Wetlands Forum (23 February)



Major partnership project on the Lower Ballyfinboy River with Ballinacree Development Association



LAWPRO at the National Ploughing Championships 2023



Fire & Rescue Services

The Council maintains fire brigades in twelve fire stations located in Nenagh, Clonmel, Thurles, Roscrea, Carrick on Suir, Tipperary, Templemore, Newport, Borrisokane, Cloughjordan, Cahir and Cashel. The dedicated crews, together with modern vehicles and equipment, ensured delivery of a prompt, efficient and effective response to 1779 incidents on a 24/7 basis in 2023.

This is supported by the Munster Regional Control Centre located in Limerick City Fire Station, which receives calls from the public through the 999/112 service and mobilises the appropriate fire service resources in Tipperary.

Services such as administration, fire safety activities, dangerous substances licensing, building control and major emergency management are delivered from the Fire Service Headquarters at Limerick Road, Nenagh and from the Clonmel Fire Station at Heywood Road, Clonmel.

Training, Safety and Quality Management


A comprehensive training program was carried out in 2023 by all members of the service and the service successfully retained its certification to ISO 9001 and ISO 45001 in January 2023.

New Firefighting Kit

In early 2023 Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service took delivery of two new sets of structural fire kit for every firefighter in the county at a total cost of approximately €350k. There have been significant developments over the past 5 years in terms of thermal performance, damage resistance and the lightweight design and comfort of new kits. We have been monitoring these developments for some time and felt that now is an optimal time to invest in our kits.

Developments across the sector have seen a move towards the gold coloured kits for ease of decontamination. The kits have all been individually sized and represent the first time that such a bulk procurement of PPE has been undertaken in the service.



 *The dedicated crews delivered a prompt, efficient and effective response to 1779 incidents in 2023*

New Fire Appliances

Two new fire appliances were delivered to Roscrea and Tipperary Town Fire Stations in 2023. The appliances were constructed by Emergency One at a total cost of just in excess of €400k per appliance which was fully funded through the capital programme of the National Directorate For Fire & Emergency Management.



New Fire Appliances in Final Stages of Build in Scotland

Fire Safety

In addition to the operational activities, the Fire Service was also very active in promoting fire safety and continued to inspect public-assembly buildings in an effort to meet the obligations under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.


Activities undertaken in 2023 included:-

Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

In an effort to increase ownership of smoke alarms across Tipperary, the community smoke alarm scheme was launched in late 2016 and continues to this date. This scheme allows members of the public to contact the Fire Service via their local community groups with the aim of receiving a Home **Fire Safety Check** by members of the Fire Service. This gives the fire service an opportunity to carry out a fire safety check on the house, installing smoke alarms where necessary while communicating to the householder advice on fire safety issues and addressing any such concerns the occupant may have. To date over 2,100 Home Fire Safety checks have been carried out throughout the county, much of these checks were carried out in rural Tipperary targeting the most vulnerable people.

However, it should be noted that 2020/2021 saw a dramatic reduction in the number of home fire safety checks due to public health/government restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid pandemic. When requested we did issue smoke alarms to a small number of vulnerable households to be installed by the householder. It is intended to re-introduce this scheme as soon as possible once restrictions permit it.

It is noted that our original target (Community Fire Safety Strategy 2015-2020 Recommendation 1) to increase smoke alarm ownership by 10% across the county has been met during the lifetime of the strategy.

 *Over 2,100 Home Fire Safety checks have been carried out throughout the county*

Station Tours

Throughout the year we saw a huge increase in demand for fire station tours. This is a fantastic way to connect with the communities we serve and to spread the 'Fire Safety' message. Where possible we will always try to facilitate these requests and are delighted to welcome schools back into our stations. We have also carried out a number of visits to preschools and are always delighted with the interaction from students and teachers alike. This year we placed a special emphasis on the 'STOP, DROP and ROLL' technique and have even created a short original cartoon to demonstrate this.

It remains a priority for Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service to engage with the public in regard to all matters relating to Fire Safety, in doing this we as a community can reduce the risk and subsequent consequences of a fire occurring.



Transition Year Youth Fire Service Programme

Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service

YOUTH FIRE SERVICE PROGRAMME

Reach higher. See further.
Shine Brighter.

Week 1: Fire Safety

Learn the basics of Fire Safety, what to do and more importantly what not to do, become a Fire Safe member of your community. We also take a look at what happens when things go dangerously wrong.

Week 2: Careers in the Fire Service Calling 999 / 112


Learn how to make that all important call to the emergency services, when to make it and when not to make it. Plus all you ever need to know about joining your local Fire Service.

Week 3: Fire Marshal Training 1

Begin your fire marshal training by learning what is expected, roles and responsibilities of a Fire Marshal. At the end of this lesson you will be able to create a fire escape plan and show it.

Week 4: Fire Marshal Training 2: Practical Element

Learn how to correctly use a fire extinguisher on live fires, experience first hand firefighter techniques and procedures.



Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Fire Marshal Certificate - Certificate valid for 3 years

Community Fire Safety has always been to the forefront of Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service, through our Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, our 3rd Class Primary Schools Programme and many more initiatives with which we strive to help our communities take a more active role in their own fire safety. While we have always been very active promoting Fire Safety at a primary school level there has, up to now, been less of an opportunity to do this at a secondary school level. In 2023 we continued with the delivery of our Youth Fire Service Programme. This is aimed at the secondary school senior cycle, primarily, but not limited to, transition years. This programme runs in conjunction with the secondary school curriculum covering areas such as Fire Science, Case Studies and even Career Investigation (where we look to the Fire Service for potential career opportunities). There is both a theoretical and practical element to the programme, which seems to appeal to all, both student and teacher alike.

At the end of this 4-week programme students will understand the basics of fire safety and their responsibilities both in and out of the workplace. They will also gain first-hand experience in dealing with small fires and extinguishers. In addition to this, students will obtain a certificate in Fire Marshal training which will be valid for 3 years and can be taken into industry.

Currently we have put more than 300 students through the Youth Fire Service Programme and all feedback has been very positive. Interest in the programme is also very high and many schools have already come forward to request that their school be considered for this programme in 2024.



Social Media

To date both a Facebook page and Twitter account has been set up for Tipperary Fire & Rescue Service and are working extremely well with approximately 16,464 followers on Facebook and 1,848 on X (formally Twitter).

The 'Test it Tuesday' campaign continues to encourage people to test their smoke alarms every Tuesday. Our biggest 'Test It Tuesday' reach in one week reached over 3,200 followers but averages approximately 2,550 per/week. To enhance this campaign TFS also created new online content utilizing a short video showing the public how to test their alarm we are also using an outside projector with a test-it-Tuesday message in Clonmel Fire Station which can be seen at night, to encourage people to test their alarms weekly.

The accumulative reach of all posts in 2023 was just over 1.4 million. Our biggest post of the year reached 130,000 people and was engaged with over 30,000 times across X and Facebook.

Social Media continues to be an important means of spreading both the fire safety and road safety messages. During the industrial action, we used these platforms to engage with the public to reassure them and to advise them to continue to call 999/112 for help if they required it.


A brief summary of our social media statistics are as follows:

- 18,312 followers of our Tipperary Fire and Rescue social media platforms. An increase of just under 300 followers from this time last year.
- Posts covered both fire safety/ fire calls/traffic issues and general fire notices/ water awareness/ public advice...
- Over 8450 'followers are located in County Tipperary and 13,648 in Ireland This figure is a minimum as some Facebook users don't declare the town, county or country they live in.
- We had a reach of 234,158 over the course of the year,
- Our most viewed facebook 'post' reached 130,000 (approx.), safety notice and our most viewed X (formally Twitter) post (condolences to the victims of an RTC) was viewed over 13,000 times
- Our Facebook page was visited 26,000 times- giving us a huge reach.
- Our 'Test It Tuesday' campaign reaches an average of just under 2550 Facebook users' p/week.
- Tipperary Fire Service continues to be the most followed/ liked Retained Irish Fire Service page on Facebook and ranks as the 3rd most followed Fire Service in the Country, ranking only behind Dublin and Cork.

Cashel Fire Station

Construction of our new fire station at Wallers Lot in Cashel neared completion in late 2023.



 *The accumulative reach of all posts in 2023 was just over 1.4 million*



Recruitment Drive



In order to attract prospective Firefighters to the Fire Service, Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service have undertaken great efforts to promote and attract people to the sector. In the past number of months, firefighters from across the county have taken a more proactive approach to this. A number of 'Open nights' and 'Recruitment Days' across Tipperary were held, where Firefighters displayed their skills and answered any questions the public may have about joining the service.

Firefighters in Clonmel and Tipperary Town also took to the streets handing out information packs and flyers. These efforts were matched by a social media campaign in conjunction with media interviews, career talks and attendance at a county careers expo held in Thurles earlier in the month. These efforts to date have yielded a number of applicants putting themselves forward for consideration.





Civil Defence

Civil Defence is a volunteer-based organisation that supports the Principal Response agencies, Government Departments, and state agencies during national, Regional and Local emergency and non-emergency events. Civil Defence also assists at a wide range of community, local Authority, sporting and charitable events. Tipperary Civil Defence is a respected organisation with highly trained volunteers providing a valued and appreciated support to the emergency service and the wider community.

2023 was once again an extremely busy year with response to the Ukrainian Refugee crisis to the fore of our activities, which included transport to medical appointments, First Aid and general support to housing section of Tipperary County Council in the relocation of residence to more long-term accommodation.

Our commitment to the Community is on-going with first Aid and Ambulance cover for sporting cultural and charity events.

Training of our volunteers is of paramount importance both weekly and specialise training is on going at local, regional and National level.

The 2023 Civil Defence Act

In June 2023 the Civil Defence Act was signed into law by the President. This Act provides a consolidated legislative basis for Civil Defence operations. The Act clearly identifies the core skills and functions of Civil Defence

In addition to the Act a new code of practice for volunteers was also introduced. The purpose of this code of practice is to set out standards of practice and integrity of Civil Defence volunteers. It also includes guidelines on grievance & discipline and the roles and responsibility of the volunteer.

Volunteer & Equipment Management System. (V.E.M.S)

In 2023 the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch introduced the new Volunteer & Equipment management system (V.E.M.S) This system will record volunteer's registration details, training records and records of achievement. The system also provided a management system for equipment & vehicles and fleet management. It also has a portal to allow volunteers to view their own records of training, opportunity to progression and upcoming training and community activity events.

Response to the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

Throughout 2023 Tipperary Civil Defence remained heavily involved in assisting both the Housing Section of Tipperary County Council and the Lions Trust Housing Organisation, Thurles with the provision of assistance at registration, medical and First Aid cover, transport to medical appointments, social protection appointments and assistance in the transport of families to more permanent accommodation Civil Defence has also been involved in the provision of Cardiac First Responder training , and Food Safety training to staff at the rest centre.

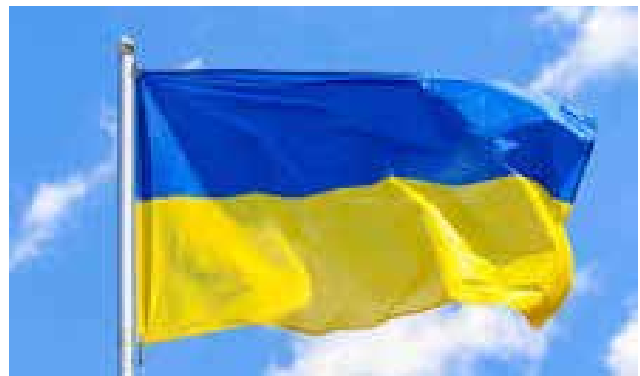



Image | Ukrainian Flag

 *2023 was once again an extremely busy year with response to the Ukrainian Refugee crisis to the fore of our activities*

Searching for Missing Person

Provision of Assistance to An Garda Siochanna in the search for missing persons in an interaural function of Civil Defence. 2023 saw our teams assisting at both local level and in support of neighbouring counties. Our search capacity is enhanced by well-trained search managers, search responders, our air scenting search dog and modern drone capacity.



Image 2 Civil Defence Search Operations for a missing person

Health & Safety

In 2023 Tipperary Civil Defence section migrated over to the new ISO45001 Health & Safety Standard. This is an excellent achievement for the section and to the commitment of our staff and volunteers. Reviews are ongoing of our Risk Assessments and response plans.

Training

Following the introduction of the V.E.M.S system there is now a minimum training standard for all our volunteers. Training in 2023 was predominantly spent bringing all our volunteers up to this standard.

Recertification of Instructors and Emergency Medical Technicians (E.M. T's) also took place. Specialised training in Food Safety, Search Skills and K9 activities was also undertaken. Training was also held with the Defence Forces in Critical Incident Stress management. (C.I.S.M)



Image No 3 Equipment familiarisation & training.

New Vehicles

Tipperary Civil Defence received funding from the Dormant Account funding for the replacement of our current and end of life general purposes van. A Ford Transit, long Wheel base van was purchased in 2023. This vehicle is now operational and a real asset in our response to search for missing persons and in particular our response to the Ukrainian crisis.

Also, in 2023 we received an upgrade to our Ambulance fleet with the arrival of 181 D 12670 from the National Ambulance Service



Image No 4 Dormant Account Funded Ford Transit van & Ambulance donated to our fleet by the National Ambulance Service

Presentation of Covid-19 Recognition Medal & Long service medals

Late in December 2022, Tipperary Civil Defence Volunteers were honoured to attend a National Ceremony and Medal presentation in Croke Park, Dublin to recognise the outstanding commitment and professionalism, and community spirit demonstrated by our selfless volunteers through the COVID19 crisis. Recognition medal were presented by Minister Simon Convey. The ceremony was also attended by the HSE and National Ambulance Service. Brian Beck A/Director of Service for Civil Defence at the time also attended.

Local follow-up ceremonies were held for those that could not attend the Dublin ceremony. Local ceremonies were attended by Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Paul Brophy, Department of Defence and Dave Carrol, A/Director of Service at the time.

At the local ceremony Long service medal were also presented to volunteers with 10, 20, 30 and an outstanding 40 years' service to Tipperary Civil Defence, the Community of Tipperary and beyond.

Image No 5 Special Medal commissioned & presented to volunteers in recognition of the outstanding response to COVID 19 crisis.



Image No 5 Local ceremony held to present COVID 19 recognition medal to Volunteers



Image No 7 Mr Rory Walsh receiving his 40 years long service medal for service to Tipperary Civil Defence. Pictured are Joe MacGrath Chief Executive Tipperary County Council, Paul Brophy Department of Defence and Dave Carroll, A/Director of Service



Image No 8 Recipient of 30 years' Service medals



Assistance at the Fire at Wexford General Hospital


A major emergency was declared in 2023 as a fire broke out at Wexford General Hospital. Civil Defence played a significant role in the evacuation of patients from the burning hospital to alternative medical facilities Tipperary Civil Defence were delighted to be able to assist with provision of both an Ambulance and a minibus and crew. Inter County and Regional co-operation is paramount.



Image No 9 Emergency Services attending Fire at Wexford General Hospital



Image No 10 A Sample of some of Civil Defence Ambulance fleet that attended at Wexford general hospital

 *Tipperary Civil were one of 6 Counties that were asked to attend the National Ploughing championship to showcase Civil Defence equipment*

New Recruits to Civil Defence

2023 saw the recruitment of 10 new members to our team. They have all reached the minimum training standard and are now all operational. They are attending regular training and participating in duties at many of our community events



Image 10. Some new Recruits on their first Duty in support of their community for Darkness into light walk.



Image No 11. Civil Defence currently recruiting

National Ploughing Championships

Tipperary Civil were one of 6 Counties that were asked to attend the National Ploughing championship to showcase Civil Defence equipment and to provide a public demonstration and information of Cardiac First Response and use of the defibrillator.

Tipperary Civil Defence attended on a very wet day and in very muddy conditions. Our volunteers performed a demonstration of CPR and encouraged participation of the public. This was also a major showcase of Civil Defence response capacity and of our equipment.



Image 12. The Civil Defence CPR demonstration and public training stand at the Ploughing Championship.

Our Community







Housing Directorate

Housing Strategic Policy Committee

Role

The role of this Strategic Policy Committee is to assist the Council in formulating Housing policy.

The membership is comprised of members of the County Council, representatives from the PPN, Trade Union, Business Sector and Development/Construction Sector.

Membership

Tipperary County Council

- Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan,
- Cllr Shane Lee,
- Cllr David Dunne,
- Cllr John McGrath,
- Cllr Pat English,
- Cllr Michael Smith,
- Cllr Kieran Bourke (Chair),
- Cllr Roger Kennedy,
- Cllr Noel Coonan,
- Cllr Marie Murphy.

External Representatives

- Moira Merrigan (PPN),
- Sara Bourke (PPN),
- Iva Pocock (PPN),
- Michael Madden (PPN),
- Tom Gallahue, Development/Construction,
- Michelle Aylward (Business/Commercial),

During 2023 the SPC focused on a number of key areas within housing including:

- The council's Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy
- Options for providing grant aid for double glazed windows and doors & implications of same
- Approved Housing Bodies processes within the Council.
- Discussion on options to addressing one bed needs.
- The Housing First model as presented by Focus Ireland.
- Presentation from Department of Social Protection on Community Welfare Service.
- An update on homeless services
- Consideration of Regional Homeless Action Plan 2023-2026
- Review & consideration of Tipperary County Council's revised Housing Allocation Scheme.

Five SPC meetings were held in 2023. Two SPC sub-groups were also formed and a number of meetings held throughout the year. The first sub-group was formed to focus on specific items within the housing allocation scheme to include succession, tenancy breaches and homelessness. The 2nd sub-group to focus on a short-term and medium-term plan for rough-sleepers.

There were also a large number of agenda items addressed and issues reviewed prior to submission to the wider Council meeting.

Housing Need

The gross social housing need in the county at the end of 2023 was 3338. Of this figure approximately 60% were either approved for transfer or in receipt of social housing support in the form of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). The net housing need was therefore 1,336 persons.

Of these approved households, the following is a breakdown of the housing type required:


SHS1 (one bed unit)	657
SHS2 (two bed unit)	401
SHS3 (three bed unit)	250
SHS4 (four bed unit)	27
SHS5 (five bed unit)	1

Housing Allocations

In 2023 Tipperary County Council received a total of 2,283 housing applications. Following review of each application 1,783 were deemed to be valid.

There were 1,444 housing assessments carried out during the year resulting in:

- A total of 513 applicants being offered tenancies of Local Authority dwellings in 2023.
- 20 persons refused offers of Local Authority dwellings in 2023 which represents a 3.9% refusal rate.
- 68 applicants were nominated to Authorised Housing bodies
- 581 persons housed in total by the Council over the year.

 *In 2023 Tipperary County Council received a total of 2,283 housing applications. Following review of each application 1,783 were deemed to be valid.*

Choice Based Lettings

Choice based Lettings is a system where dwellings are advertised on a dedicated website and approved housing applicants are asked to submit an expression of interest on a dwelling in which they are interested.

In the event that there is more than one applicant interested in any one dwelling and all have the same basis of need, the applicant who is longest on the list with that area as an area of choice will be given priority.

During 2023:

- 193 offers of accommodation have been made to applicants who expressed an interest,
- There were 6 refusals representing a 3.6% refusal rate through CBL
- The Council will continue to operate a dual system (traditional and CBL) to ensure that we facilitate those applicants who, for whatever reason, cannot access CBL.

Housing Rents

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 which places an obligation on the tenant to inform the Council where a change has occurred in their income.

- The total number of Rent Accounts for year end 2023 is 6184, this figure includes Local Authority houses, RAS & Long Term Lease houses
- The net amount of rent arrears as at 31st December 2023 is €1,611,412¹ which is a reduction of €xx when compared to Dec 2022.
- The percentage collection for rents increased from 90% in 2022 to 92% in 2023 and is expected to increase further as those tenants in arrears work through their agreed payment plan.
- The average rent in 2023 was €59.98.

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.

¹ This is comprised of a total in rent arrears of €2,326,980 minus the rent credits of €715,538.

Voids Programme

A total of 140 vacant houses had works completed which enabled them to be returned to use in 2023. The cost for these works totalled €4.1 million (inclusive of a number of long-term voids). The Housing Section works closely with all Districts to ensure the efficient turnaround of vacant houses to ensure that they are allocated and tenanted in a timely fashion. Vacancy levels have remained under 2% as a result of all this work.

Social Housing Leasing Initiative (SLI) / Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

Under the above Schemes, the Department of the Housing Planning and Local Government has allocated funding for local authorities to lease residential properties from private landlords. The schemes allow the Council to lease good standard accommodation in the private rental sector on medium to long term contracts. These properties are used to provide accommodation for social housing applicants who are currently unable to provide suitable accommodation from their own resources.

Progress:

New properties	Contracts
RAS Private	84
RAS Voluntary	12
Long Term Leased Units	0
Mortgage to Rent	16
Total	112

Rent reviews constitute a significant body of work carried out by the Housing team and during the year the following RAS/LTL/MTR reviews were carried out:

Rent reviews	
RAS Private	164
Voluntary RAS	0
Long Term Leased Units	115
Mortgage to Rent	9
Total	388

Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Assistance Payment scheme (HAP) is a form of social housing support, providing rental assistance for approved housing applicants to secure accommodation in the private rented sector. There were 253 housing applicants assisted under the Scheme in 2023. There were 1636 active HAP tenancies at the end of 2023.

Homeless Services

The focus of homeless services during 2023 continued to be the prevention of clients entering emergency accommodation and thus the homeless cycle. A significant effort also went into actively managing the accommodation needs of those who received a Notice To Quit from their Private Landlord.

Homeless Presentations

The Homeless team dealt with 524 presentations at our Housing Counter in 2023. The team managed these presentations by hosting 9 clinics across the county every week in Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles.

The purpose of these clinics is to:

- carry out homeless assessments,
- complete prevention work through mediation with family, friends etc.,
- provide advice and information,
- signpost to support services, and
- in exceptional cases provide B&B emergency accommodation



The Homeless team dealt with 524 presentations at our Housing Counter in 2023. The team managed these presentations by hosting 9 clinics across the county every week in Clonmel, Nenagh and Thurles.

Homeless Prevention

The use of private rented accommodation with the assistance of HAP is the primary option for those presenting as homeless. The 2 Homeless Prevention Officers, working in tandem with the HAP Place finder Service operate to secure such accommodation.

Prevention work was carried out by the HAP place finder on 54 of these presentations. They facilitated 36 singles and 4 families in securing private rental HAP accommodation and thereby avoiding being placed in emergency accommodation.

The council received 66 NTQ's in respect of RAS and LTL properties and 138 NTQ's in respect of HAP properties in 2023. In 2023 the council purchased 55 properties in respect of Notice to Quit tenants and all other tenants whose accommodation could not be purchased were accommodated in either HAP properties, RAS/LA/AHB properties.

The multi-disciplinary Homeless Action Team continues to provide a forum whereby a care and case management approach is adopted to put in place an exit strategy for each client availing of emergency accommodation support. This strategy will identify the most suitable option for these clients whether it is HAP, RAS, Approved Housing Body accommodation or council housing.

Under the Cold Weather Initiative 3 rough-sleeper own door units were introduced in Clonmel in Q4 2023. This service provides access to 13 beds to individuals presenting as street homeless with complex issues, including addiction and mental health. The service, supported by KVHA, operates from 9pm-9am and the units are staffed by a shift attendant and security.

The Own Front Door model of emergency accommodation continued to be rolled out in 2023 to reduce reliance on B&Bs as the primary method of providing emergency accommodation and to deliver a more holistic approach to homeless presentations thereby reducing the traumatic stress associated with residing in emergency accommodation. In 2023, the council has expanded this model to provide 21 units of emergency Own Front Door accommodation to homeless families and single people.

The OFD emergency accommodation units were fully occupied though-out the year and 6 singles and 7 families were re-accommodated from OFD to either HAP properties or LA houses with a further 4 allocations in the pipeline for Q1 2024.

The council has also introduced a new pilot Own Front Door project providing emergency accommodation to homeless individuals experiencing enduring mental health conditions. This is a collaborative project between TCC, HSE mental health team and an AHB. This pilot will be expanded in Q1 2024 to provide 5 units of accommodation.

NOVAS and Matthew Burke House who are based in Thurles are supported financially to provide accommodation to vulnerable individuals who also struggle to maintain their tenancies due to substance abuse or health reasons. The Local Authority works in partnership with this AHB to progress those clients to move to more permanent accommodation in a timely manner.

Under the Housing First model, 17 units of accommodation continue to be provided for our most complex vulnerable tenants with wrap around services ensuring that they sustain their tenancy.

The START programme is an initiative in the south of the county which supports persons at risk of becoming homeless due to significant mental health challenges. In 2023 this programme supported 6 such clients. They are provided with wrap around mental health services to ensure that they are able to maintain their tenancy. A similar support service is provided by the North Tipperary Intensive Support (NTISS) programme on an outreach basis in the north of the county and the Council is the lead partner along with the HSE and Focus Ireland in providing this service to 46 clients.

The housing section currently accommodates two support workers to deliver the Tenancy Sustainment Service programme (TSS) for those tenants who struggle to sustain their tenancy and who are neither Housing First clients or clients who are availing of the START or NTISS service. In 2023 the TSS service provided support to 94 individuals who required support in this area.

The Council will continue to work with other mainstream service providers to maximise the supports that can be provided to the most vulnerable of our clients and provide them with every opportunity to have access to a safe home. This will include the roll-out of further OFD units and extending partnerships with AHB's to provide accommodation supports.

Tenant Purchase Scheme

The Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 was introduced under the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) Regulations 2015 and the rules of the scheme were amended in 2022 by the Housing (Sale of Local Authority Houses) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.

The eligibility criteria for the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme 2016 are outlined below:

- The minimum reckonable income amount is €12,500.
- The length of time you must be in receipt of social housing supports is 10 years.
- In the case of joint tenancies, both the applicant and the joint tenant must be in receipt of social housing supports for 10 years.
- Applicants whose primary source of income is the State Contributory or Non-Contributory pension can apply under the scheme.

Tipperary County Council received 79 applications from tenants to purchase their house in the year.

Formal applications to purchase	79
Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued)	63
Sales completed during 12 months	21
Total proceeds of sales received	€1,354,600

Loans

The Local Authority Home Loan is a government backed mortgage for first time buyers or other eligible applicants through local authorities. The scheme is for the purchase of new or second-hand residential properties and for self-builds.

Number of Applications Received	94
Valid	39
Approved	17
Number of loans issued	16
Total value of loans issued	€1,610,520

Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP)

The target under Housing for All was 887 units of accommodation set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage which was subsequently revised upwards to 1,125 units at the request of Tipperary County Council which will be met and exceeded by delivery of Local Authority and Approved Housing Bodies units. These will be supplemented by acquisitions, RAS units, Repair and Lease and voids.



Figure 1 Twomileborris

The following was the build delivery for 2023:

LA Build & Turnkey	138
AHB Delivery (Turnkey)	06
Part V	17



Figure 2 Stanwix, Thurles

The level of activity on social housing is spread across the county, with scheme sizes ranging from a single unit to a scheme size of over 60 units. The location of delivery is dictated by housing demand and availability of sites and in that context the Council is actively seeking strategic sites suitable for future housing delivery together with brownfield town centre sites that can regenerate an area and support the economic and social fabric of our towns and villages.



Figure 3 Abbey St, Cahir

Repair and Leasing Scheme

The level of financial support under the Repair and Lease Scheme, a companion strategy of the Buy and Renew scheme, has increased to €80,000. This was extended to allow developers to participate in the scheme in order to further enhance the delivery of long-term social housing supports.

The Department set a target of 19 units to be delivered under this scheme in 2023. 19 Units have been delivered with units located in Clonmel, Thurles and Nenagh.

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. There is continued engagement with landlords to bring more properties back into use through the purchase of both disused and older vacant homes. Buy and Renew will also assist in the improvement of derelict and disused areas within our villages and towns. In 2023 there were 5 properties purchased.

The owners of vacant properties considered suitable for social housing are identified where possible through advertising campaigns, local knowledge and through Land Registry and are contacted by letter and advised of the schemes available. i.e. Buy & Renew and Repair and Lease. Financial Institutions who have an interest in a vacant property would also be contacted. The owners are requested to contact the vacant homes officer to discuss their properties and the benefits of the schemes. Under legislation Local Authorities have powers to Issue Compulsory Purchase Orders and this will be considered where appropriate by Tipperary County Council. An interdepartmental team consisting of members from Planning, Fire and Building Control, Environment and Housing are available to discuss properties with owners. The 9 largest Urban centres as well as the second tier of larger towns where the largest need exists are the focus. A national website maintained by Mayo County Council is available to members of the public to identify vacant properties of concern. This is monitored by Tipperary County Council with properties listed being investigated.



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.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes

The Housing Adaptation Grants are available to assist in the carrying out of works that are reasonably necessary for the purposes of rendering a house more suitable for the accommodation of an older person or a person with a disability.

The Housing Adaptation Grant Scheme covers three types of grants operated by the Council.

- The Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability provides for the provision/adaptation of accommodation to meet the needs of people with a disability, works include access ramps, stair lifts, level access showers and extensions.
- The Mobility Aids Grant is a scheme to address mobility problems and works include level access showers, ramps, grab rails and stair lifts.
- The Housing Aid for Older People assists older people in carrying out necessary repair and improvements to their home.

The combined capital allocation, which was notified to this Council in 2023, for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability, for private dwellings, was €4,258,125 for private housing adaptation grants. A total of 687 projects were completed.

In addition, the Council received €2,344,736 to fund adaptation grants for Local Authority owned houses. This enabled 127 projects to be completed.

Due to this increased funding Priority 2 and Priority 3 applications from previous years were completed for both private grants and Local Authority owned homes thus allowing the opening up of the grants scheme for both private and local authority grants to Priority 1, 2 and 3 applications in 2023. The availability of this scheme will remain subject to funding being made available by central government.

Energy Efficiency Works

A target of 100?99 houses was completed under the Energy Retrofit Program and included units in Cloughjordan, Ballina, Roscrea, Borrisoleigh, Templemore, Thurles, Clonmel Town, Carrick-on-Suir Town, Tipperary Town and Cahir Town.

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

Qualifying works under the scheme typically involve insulation, upgrades of windows and doors and installation of heat pumps (renewable energy heating systems) up to a monetary limit set out by the scheme.

Traveller Accommodation

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024

Tipperary County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme, (TAP) which was approved by the elected members in 2019, outlines the accommodation requirements of the Travelling Community over a five-year period from 2019 to 2024. The projected housing units needed over the five-year period is 90. To date, the housing accommodation needs of 123 families have been provided for. A target of 25 units of accommodation was set for 2023 and this was exceeded with 26 of these catered for in 2023.

Need information and spend on our 3 year Traveller Accommodation Capital project and the 2023 spend on same along with numbers involved

The Council is in the process of preparing the next TAP which is set to run from 2024-2029.

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting

Tipperary County Council has held 4 Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee Meetings (LTACC) in 2023; in March, June, October and December. Items discussed included Traveller Accommodation Equality Plan, the current status of the Traveller Accommodation Programme including the mid-term review, an update on the Dormant Account Funding, the Council's 3-Year Capital Traveller Accommodation Plan, Homelessness within the Travelling Community, the Education Initiative and the Caravan Loan Scheme.

Traveller Dormant Account Funding

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provided funding through the dormant account scheme for measures to provide supports/facilities in Traveller Specific accommodation.

TCC were successful in receiving ongoing approval for funding for a number of projects.

Tipperary Traveller Educational Initiative

The Council in conjunction with other agencies, NGOs and members of the community commenced a process to support a Traveller Educational Initiative over a sustained 5-year period as a pilot in the Cashel educational catchment area.

Regeneration of Entrance to Waller's Lot Group Housing Estate

The Council was successful in receiving funding to regenerate the entrance to Waller's Lot Group Housing Estate. This was completed in 2023.

Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation

The Council undertook the Annual Count of Traveller Families and their Accommodation, as required under the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998. The total number of families was 410.



Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS)

Tipperary County Council acknowledges the progress that continues to be made by Approved Housing Bodies in the delivery of social housing units at various locations across the County.

Projects which were supported included:

- Focus Housing Association CLG availed of CAS funding to acquire 6 x 1 bed units at Irish House, Main St, Tipperary Town to house homeless persons. These units were acquired on a turnkey basis and are now fully occupied.
- Fethard & District Day Care Centre CLG have received Stage 1 CAS funding approval to proceed with a scheme which will see the old Presentation Convent in Fethard redeveloped to provide 14 social housing units. 7 of these will be refurbished units within the existing structure and a further 7 units will be built on site.
- FHIST Voluntary Housing Association CLG received Stage 2 CAS approval to proceed with a scheme to build 6 x 1 bed units at Morton Street, Clonmel. These units will be available to persons on the Council's waiting list with mental health difficulties.
- Thurles Lions Trust Housing Association have received Stage 1 CAS funding approval for the development of 6 x 1 bed units at An Clos, Croke St, Thurles. 3 of these units will be available for homeless persons and 3 will house older persons.
- Belmont Park Housing Association have received Stage 2 CAS funding approval for a scheme of 7 units at Gort an Oir, Fethard. These units will be used to house persons with disabilities. There will be 3 x 1-bed units and 4 x 2 bed units. This will provide 11 bed spaces which will accommodate 9 service users with overnight accommodation for 2 staff carers.

Kilkenny Voluntary Housing Association are working closely with the Council by acquiring a significant number of properties to house homeless persons on the Council's waiting list. In 2023, 22 such properties were acquired by Kilkenny Voluntary Housing Association. These properties were funded using the CAS scheme.



The CALF scheme allows the approved Voluntary Housing Bodies to access private or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) loans for the purchase of or construction of social housing.

Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF)

The CALF scheme allows the approved Voluntary Housing Bodies to access private or Housing Finance Agency (HFA) loans for the purchase of or construction of social housing. The CALF scheme allows them to borrow up to 30% of the cost enabling them to access commercial bank or HFA funding for the remainder.

The units then become available for social housing under a Payment & Availability Agreement with the Council.

Tuath Housing Association received approval under the CALF scheme to construct 40 units at Bregawn, Wallers Lot in Cashel, Co. Tipperary. These units are expected to complete by Q1 2025. Separately, Tuath have entered a turnkey arrangement to purchase an additional 2 units in the same location, and these 2 units are due for delivery in Q2 2024.

Respond have two large schemes in the pipeline which will yield 92 units in total. 48 units in Cahir (Farranlahassery) and 44 units in Cashel (Coopers Lot) are both being financed using CALF funding. 28 of the Coopers Lot units and 25 of the Farranlahassery units are due to be delivered in 2024 with the remaining 39 units to be delivered in 2025.

Respond are also hopeful of delivering 67 units in a scheme in Tyone, Nenagh and a CALF application will go to the Department in Q1 2024.

Cluid have CALF approval for 3 schemes totalling 127 units. A 61 unit scheme is due to be delivered in Dun Lia, Thurles by Q4 2025. A 16 unit scheme in Tipperary Town is scheduled for delivery by Q1 2025 and a 50 unit scheme in Roscrea is due to be completed by Q2 2025.

Mortgage to Rent

Approved Housing Bodies or a private operator in the market also purchase properties that become available under the Mortgage to Rent scheme and, facilitated by Tipperary County Council, lease these properties back to the owners over a 25-30-year term. This prevents the owners of the properties from becoming homeless and allows them to remain living in their own homes and their status changes from Borrowers/Owners to tenants.

In total, Tipperary County Council have facilitated the completion of 104 units under the mortgage to rent scheme since its inception. 16 units entered the scheme in the county in 2023.

Estate Management

Tipperary County Council continues to promote estate management initiatives and awarded amenity grants to Resident Associations under this Council's 2023 Estate Management Budget. This funding aims to enhance and develop the physical appearance of our Local Authority estates.

Training in the form of educational excursions and up skilling workshops are provided annually to help encourage ongoing participation from residents. Excursions took place to Lismore Castle and Gardens during the summer followed by a Christmas excursion to Kilkenny for adults and children to acknowledge the work carried out by residents in improving estates. These were very successful in promoting the use of plants to improve outdoor spaces in our estates. Mosaic Workshops started in Lisronagh in 2023 which were open to all resident committees and there is a plan in place to extend to other estates in 2024. Due to the increase of new estates coming on board an emphasis is being placed, during pre-tenant training courses, on the importance of resident participation in our Local Authority estates.



Figure 4 Walk through Lismore Castle Gardens

The Council's Community Liaison Officers work to address anti-social behaviour, providing pre-tenant training, also developing further training initiatives, involving inter-agency support and community and youth projects. They work closely with a number of organisations such as An Garda Síochána, the HSE, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, Túsla; Local Community and Family Resource Centres and others to improve the quality of life for all residents and tenants in Tipperary.

Tipperary County Council actively engages with all of our tenants on a continual basis around the issues relating to anti-social behaviour and estate management. The Council will follow up on all complaints of anti-social behaviour and investigate all breaches of tenancy. Where sustained and continuous breaches occur and there is persistent failure to engage with Council staff on the matters then the Council will engage in enforcement action up to and including repossession of properties.

In 2023 the Council were granted possession orders for 4 properties as a result of tenancy breaches. A further 1 possession order was granted for illegal occupancy. In addition, there were 4 further court orders granted for removal of illegal structures.

AHB Forum

There is continuous engagement with Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's) through the AHB forum. Over the duration of the Housing for All programme the AHB's have been tasked with delivering 40% of the 1,125 houses set to be delivered in the coming years. The AHB forum provides a means of managing delivery of that target.

The forum facilitates the Council to:

- provide details on the type and quantity of the housing need in specific areas of the county
- reduces competition in local areas to ensure that each AHB is maximising delivery county wide
- engage with AHB's to ensure the prompt tenanting of new and existing properties

The forum has helped to identify areas of need by linking in with other bodies; for example, the provision of housing for persons with a disability and the work required to identify all of the people who fall into this category and how best to provide the specialized housing and associated supports.

The formation of a second forum to allow for the direct interaction between housing officers from the AHB's and the Council has also made the process of selecting new tenants more efficient.

Disability Strategy


The second National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was published on 14th January 2022. It aims to facilitate access and provide a framework for people with a disability to the appropriate range of housing and related support services delivered in an integrated manner, which promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living with the user of the services at the centre of policies and plans.

Tipperary County Council has prepared a Disability Strategic Plan to cover the period 2022 to 2027. The Plan aligns with and informs both the National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) and the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The preparation of the local plan was coordinated and led by the Housing and Disability Steering Group, which is a working group of relevant service providers, including HSE, AHB's and service users chaired by the Council to oversee the delivery of disability services within the county of Tipperary.

The Tipperary Strategic Plan aims to facilitate access for people with disabilities to the appropriate range of housing and related support services. This Plan promotes equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living. The core goal of the Strategic Plan is to meet the identified housing needs of people with disabilities in Tipperary whether they are currently living in the community and or in a congregated setting. A key element is that the actions are guided and informed by the lived experiences of service users and that it puts their requirements at the centre of the strategy.

In 2023 there were 165 offers made to persons with a specific requirement.

Disability Mental Health	32
Disability Intellectual	3
Disability Physical	80
Disability Sensory	38
Exceptional Medical	12

 *The second National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027 was published on 14th January 2022*

Private Rented Accommodation Inspections

The Housing Authority is continuing to implement and affect enforcement of standards within the private rented sector.

During the year a total of 1,270 inspections were carried out. This included:

Inspection Statistics	1st inspection	2nd inspection
RAS	25	48
HAP	258	356
Private rented	441	115
Mortgage to rent	4	4
Long term lease	6	2
Physical & Virtual Inspections / Re-inspections	733	537
Total		1,270

Where necessary, letters issued to owners of property identifying items to be addressed and further follow up action is being taken to ensure compliance with the standards.

Health and Safety

In 2021 the Housing section retained the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) 18001 accreditation for occupational health and safety management.

In 2022 as part of a process of reduction of occupational injuries, including promoting and protecting physical and mental health, the Housing section successfully progressed to attain the ISO 45001 accreditation which is the new standard for management systems of occupational health and safety.

In 2023 the section maintained this standard following an NSAI audit and it is hoped to sustain this accreditation into the future and place Health and safety awareness at the centre of our work practices.

Affordable Housing

The purpose of the affordable housing initiative is to provide a pathway to home ownership to people who do not qualify for social housing and also do not have the means to afford to buy their own home. It is also designed to encourage use of existing unused or derelict housing stock by incentivizing people to take ownership of older vacant properties and bring them back into use.

Croí Cónaithe fund

This scheme has been expanded to include houses in rural areas and an applicant can now apply for one grant for their primary residence and one additional property which they will rent. This additional property must be registered with a tenancy with the RTB.

The same criteria apply for both types of grant application:

- Building must be empty for at least 2 years.
- Built before 31 December 2007.
- Up to €50,000 available as a grant. An additional €20,000 is available where an engineer certifies the building as derelict or dangerous.
- The applicant does not have to own the building when applying for the grant but the grant will not be paid until the sale of the building and works are complete.
- The works proposed must be approved in advance, following inspection by the local authority of the subject property
- The applicant must live in the building as the primary residence for a period of not less than 10 years.
- Grant must be used to renovate the existing dwelling or be within the ambit of exempt development under planning regulations, or as part of a planning application, if required, as part of a wider refurbishment.

Item	Quantity
No of applications received	332
Approved to date	211
No at Under Review by LA	15
No at Further Info stage	73
No of applications rejected	23
No of applications withdrawn	10
Applications under drawdown review	16
Legal Charge Stage	9
No of Grants Paid Out	0
Approval in principal value to date	€11,337,600

New build affordable schemes - a proposal for a shared equity scheme

The provision of Affordable Housing is a key plank of the Housing For All strategy. There are a number of key pathways within that area which are being pursued by Tipperary County Council to ensure that as wide a population as is possible can benefit from the strategy.

The provision of funding for the renewal of older or derelict properties is being facilitated through the Croí Cónaithe Vacant Homes Grant. To date Tipperary County Council has approved in principle over €11m in grants which will facilitate the reintroduction of over 300 buildings back into use as residential homes throughout the county.

In addition, we have approved almost €1.5m in local authority home loans with 15 loans approved. There are a further 19 applications being processed which have deemed to be valid thus affording more applicants the opportunity to avail of this scheme.

We have approved 20 of own tenants to purchase their homes from the Council. A further 61 tenants have been issued with letters of offer following applications to purchase their home.

The First Homes Scheme is a scheme run nationally which assists applicants to purchase a newly built home or construct a new build home through the provision of a low interest top up loan where the applicant is unable to get mortgage approval for the full amount of the cost. Tipperary County Council has been actively engaging with the private sector to increase awareness of this scheme and to date there have been 8 applications with 5 approvals.

The Council has identified a site for 4 self-built affordable homes in Boherlahan and has received approval from the Department to progress with this project. This Ready To Build scheme will make 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. It is planned to advertise these sites for sale in the first quarter of 2024.

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 will be made in Q1 2024 asking for expressions of interest from those developers who have an interest in providing affordable homes in the key towns and who already have planning permission. Depending on the response to this call, an application will then be made to the Department to access the AHF fund in a given area.

Ukrainian Refugees

The war in Ukraine is ongoing, resulting in the continuing displacement of Ukrainians. To date some 101,000 Ukrainians have entered the country with close to 2500 now living in the county.

Tipperary County Council through the Housing, Civil Defence, C&E sections and Local Development Companies in addition to support from key community groups have provided the following services in assisting with this humanitarian crisis:


- 2 x temporary rest facilities (one of which in Littleton is supported by THLT). 1784 arrivals in 89 number intakes. This is equivalent to 37,260 bed nights at an average cost of €59.19 per person per night.
- IRC Pledged Properties - 231 Ukrainians have been housed in both vacant and shared units.
- Offer a Home Pledged Property fully managed by the Council has facilitated the provision of 550 Ukrainians with housing in 164 properties.
- Commercial Operators:- there are some 25 commercial operators in the county and housing staff actively support the residents in these facilities to integrate into the broader community.
- Refurbished Properties: The Council is also actively engaging with and supporting the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integrity and Youth to identify appropriate properties which can be refurbished to accommodate additional BOTPs on an interim basis and a number of such properties are currently under consideration. One such property has been finalised in Cahir with a capacity for 16 number residents and will be tenanted shortly.

Modular Homes: The OPW has provided 62 such homes on their own site at Gortataggart, Thurles which are now fully tenanted.

Community Car Initiative- to assist those Ukrainians living in locations not on a transport route to access services. Currently operational with the intent to extend countywide.

Community Integration

The Council works closely with other agencies such as the H.S.E., Department of Social Protection, AGS, Education, Local Development Companies etc. in assisting the families housed and Ukrainians generally to integrate with the local communities and to access the necessary health, educational, income and other supports. To this end, the C.E.O. convenes a high-level Community Forum Group which meets monthly and includes all the relevant agencies, to track and ensure the provision of support and integration services for the Ukrainians. This model is replicated at service level to implement the policies formulated at the Community Forum Group.

 **Modular Homes: The OPW has provided 62 such homes on their own site at Gortataggart, Thurles which are now fully tenanted.**



Community

Department of Rural and Community Development Grants Schemes



2023 Town And Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

Building Acquisition Measure

The Building Acquisition Measure was introduced in recognition of the need to transform and regenerate town centres. The measure allows the Council to acquire derelict or vacant buildings with the intention of using 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
Arravale, Galbally Road, Tipperary Town	€165,000

Town and Village Renewal Main Scheme

The 2023 Town and Village Renewal Main Scheme was launched in July 2023. The Council submitted the following applications for this funding

- 1 application for grant funding of €500,000
- 4 applications for funding of up to €250,000

The funding announcement for these applications is expected in 2024.

 *The Building Acquisition Measure was introduced in recognition of the need to transform and regenerate town centres.*

2023 Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in the countryside areas across Ireland.

In 2023 the Council submitted the following applications under this scheme:

- 7 applications under Measure 1 – Grant funding up to €30,000
- 3 applications under Measure 2 – Grant funding up to €200,000
- 1 application under Measure 3 – Grant funding up to €500,000
- 2 applications for Project Development costs – covering development costs for Strategic Large Scale projects – Grant funding up to €50,000

On 21st November, funding was announced for 2 ORIS Project Development Measure projects as follows:

Project	Description	Approved Funding
Garrykennedy Upgrade	Engage consultancy services to undertake planning and design works for the upgrading of the Inner Harbour in Garrykennedy, including improved outdoor recreation, greening, safety and access of the harbour	€49,500
Roscrea River Rooms	Development of Roscrea River Rooms proposal, this will be a connected series of pockets of space where people can safely walk and gather to enjoy the riverside.	€49,999.50

The funding announcement for the remaining ORIS measures is expected in 2024.

CLÁR Scheme

2023 Clár Measure 1 Funding - Developing Community Facilities and Amenities

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 1st December 2023, the following 6 projects were announced as successful under Measure 1 Developing Community Facilities and Amenities of the 2023 Clár programme with a total funding allocation of €226,924:

Recipient	Project Description	Approved Funding
Gortnahoe - Glengoose GAA Club and Gortnahoe NS	Safety and surfacing works for Gortnahoe-Glengoose GAA Club grounds incorporating Gortnahoe NS and Gortnahoe Playground	€50,000
Ballingarry GAA	Upgrade the car parking amenity	€50,000
Upperchurch Drombane GAA	Install a new car park	€44,984
Galtee Rovers St Pecauns GAA Club	Community upgrade works to Galtee Rovers GAA Clubhouse and Walking Track	€46,854
Lattin Cullen GAA	External universal access toilets with baby changing facility	€18,886
Killea GAA	Upgrade of Flood Lighting for Killea GAA pitch	€16,200

Community Support Fund 2023

Tipperary was awarded €338,885 in November 2022 under the Community Support Fund. This once-off fund is allocated under the Department’s Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) and is administered locally by the LCDC. 184 community groups, sports clubs, and organisations were awarded a range of grants to support both operating costs and capital equipment purchases/improvements to facilities.

Community Recognition Fund 2023-2024

Tipperary was awarded €997,861 under the Community Recognition Fund, which aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. Thirty-three projects across the county were approved for capital costs for building and facilities upgrades, equipment purchases, and essential maintenance. A number of projects were completed in 2023, with others underway and due for completion in 2024.

Community Recognition Fund Projects

Sean Treacy Pipe Band



L-R: Gerard Neville, Sean Treacy Pipe Band, Cllr Sean Ryan, Cathaoirleach Thurles MD, John Moloughney Sean Treacy Pipe Band

Fethard Town Park



Fethard Town Park completed the installation of 400 spectator seats with a grant contribution of €32,000.

Durlas Óg CLG



L-R Larry Ryan (Life President Durlas Óg GAA), Jimmy Coppinger (Life President Durlas Óg GAA), John O’Connell (Chairperson Durlas Óg GAA)

Nenagh AFC Lighting Upgrade



Photo left to right: Shane O’Gorman, Greg Browne, Robert Ashman, Mick Buckley, Shay Coffey

Table of Community Recognition Fund Projects & Status

Project Name	Project Elements	Grant Award	Status
Fethard Town Park	Installing Seating in the Spectator Stand	€32,000	Complete 2023
Fethard RFC c/o Fethard Town Park	Purchase of Equipment	€26,000	Planned 2024
Clonmel Rowing Club	Purchase of 2 rowing machines	€2,500	Complete 2023
Dr Pat O Callaghan Complex (Clonmel Town Football Club CLG)	Installation of youth club recreation area for use by various groups	€117,500	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Borrisokane Town Park	Pathway resurfacing	€37,000	Planned 2024
Borrisokane Community Sports Ground	1. Water Connection 2. Signage 3. Fencing of Soccer Pitch	€10,000	Planned 2024
Templemore Community Service	Furniture	€2,000	Complete 2023
Nenagh AFC	Turn all our lighting to more efficient & cost saving LED lighting	€10,000	Complete 2023
Moycarkey Coolcree Athletic Club (Littleton)	Drainage of hardstand and grass area	€19,754	Complete 2023
Moycarkey Borris GAA Club (Littleton)	1. Toilet upgrade replacing all sanitary units/doors and plumbing. 2. Fencing	€58,000	Complete 2023
Roscrea Playground	1. Play area for children 2. Fencing a field at Chapel Lane	€25,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Bandhall - Littleton	1. 10 practice chanters complete with reeds. 2. 10 sets of practice drum sticks.	€1,700	Complete 2023
Templemore Town Park	1. Installation of play equipment 2. Removal of old railing at one end and extension of iron rail fencing to include new area.	€25,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Thurles Town Park	Installation of a zip line & agility/adventure course to include all safety equipment and mats	€25,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Thurles Islamic Community Centre	Furniture & AV equipment	€5,800	Complete 2023
Age Friendly Roscrea	Renovation of Office Area	€30,000	Planned 2024
The 4 Estates Association	Build a dog park	€15,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Durlus Óg	Regrade carpark and re surface with Tarmacadam incl Gullies, Linear drainage, perimeter footpath and lighting kerbs and markings	€35,000	Complete 2023
Moycarkey/Borris GAA Club (Littleton)	Essential works to the room and other works to get the MBL Mens Shed operational	€27,186	Complete 2023
Roscrea Abbey Community Centre Ltd	Repairs to building	€5,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Moycarkey Community & Centre (Littleton)	Borris Sports The completion of the yard and surrounds at the Centre to include tarmacadamming of parking and access areas and the preparation of a safe child play area	€75,000	Planned 2024
Tipperary Soccer Club	Repair works to pitch	€5,000	Planned 2024
Knockavilla Kickhams GAA (Dundrum)	Complete refurbishment of existing club rooms with a small extension to provide additional space to cope with expected additional demand.	€100,000	Planned 2024

Project Name	Project Elements	Grant Award	Status
Westons International Scout Centre (Dundrum)	1. Purchasing of new playground equipment + surround fencing 2. Removal of timber structure around zipline and replace with steel structure and safety rails	€23,450	Planned 2024
Dundrum Community Hall Ltd	1. To fit out the hall with chairs. 2. Disabled toilet. 3. Sports floor replacement 4. Electrical works & Security upgrades	€140,000	Underway 2023, complete 2024
Tipperary Revitalisation CLG	Town Community Bus for Thurles/Tipperary Town. Such buses provide free transport to community groups.	€55,000	Planned 2024
Dundrum Athletics Club	Lighting for track	€20,000	Planned 2024
Clogheen	Equipment costs for 6 groups in Clogheen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Paul's Community Hall CLG • Clogheen Tidy Towns • Fr Sheehy GAA Club • Shanbally United Football Club • The Rhododendron Festival Committee • Siul Eile 	€31,300	Underway 2023, complete 2024

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2023 (SICAP)


During 2023, 1293 Individuals were supported by SICAP across Tipperary and 103 Local Community Groups



The programme supports the capacity of Community Groups and can provide grants and support individuals to return to education, training, employment, and self-employment. In 2023, the budget was over €1,720,000. The 2023 SICAP Annual Progress Report for both lots was reviewed in January 2024 and the current SICAP Programme 2018-2023 finished on December 31st, 2023.



Careers Fair SICAP North Tipperary

 *The programme supports the capacity of Community Groups and can provide grants and support individuals to return to education, training, employment, and self-employment.*

Ukrainian support provided through SICAP Programme companies

The SICAP Programme Implementers were also funded to support the integration of the Ukrainian beneficiaries of Temporary protection. NTDC received €90,747 while STDC received €109,053. Both companies employed staff to assist with the integration of this new community. Work carried out includes supporting the Ukrainians as tenants in pledges accommodation (incl. setting up household utility bills), cultural and information events, familiarisation trips, support with English language access, and assisting with linkages with services such as GPs, schools, and medical care. In October 2023, both companies were invited to apply for additional funding and STDC was granted an additional €18,000 while NTDC applied for and was granted €32,764.



SICAP 2024-2028

The contract from the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) for the 2024-2028 period was officially signed on 18th December at the Horse & Jockey by the Chairpersons of the Implementing Partners - South Tipperary Development Company and North Tipperary Development Company, the Chairperson of the Tipperary Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Mr Eoin Wolahan and the Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council, Mr Joe MacGrath.

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusion locally through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, and public sector agencies.

SICAP is funded through the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-financing from the European Social Fund and is managed locally by Tipperary LCDC with support from Tipperary County Council. The new programme commenced on 1st January 2024.

The budget for the 2024-2028 programme is:

Lot Name and No	Maximum Framework Agreement Budget 2024-2028	SICAP 2024 Annual Plan Budget	New Arrivals* 2024 Allocation
22-1 Tipperary North	€5,415,499	€702,348	€123,218
22-2 Tipp Tipperary South	€6,618,250	€867,090	€128,194

*International Protection Applicants and Holders of Temporary Protection

Migrant Integration

The Diverse Tipperary Migrant Integration Strategy was launched in Bru Boru on September 19th by Minister of State Joe O'Brien. Actions from the strategy are being implemented. These include the provision of Public Participation Network information in different languages and the progression of the Roma Accommodation working group which is a cross-sectoral committee.



Migrant actions delivered in 2023 include the

- International Yoga Day events- Cashel
- Migrant Participation in St Patricks Day Parades
- Roma Work Group- Implementation Plan of the Public Sector Duty for Roma Accommodation
- Africa Day events, Thurles, Borrisokane, Roscrea and Carrick-on-Suir
- Support of the Eid al Adhah Islamic Events
- Translation of Public Participation Network Publicity



Eid al Adhah Islamic Celebrations, Thurles June 2023



Indian dancing at Cashel Patricks Day Parade



Africa day events



Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

The Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was adopted at the Council meeting in December 2023. The LECP sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county. The LECP Plan (LECP) is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy.



A well-attended community consultation was held in Killaule for input to both the LECP and The Local Development Strategy.

Consultation for the plan took place from March to September 2023.

- These include two rounds on in-person consultations (across the five Municipal Districts)
- Online consultations
- Focus groups
- Targeted consultation for marginalised groups and enterprises

The plan was adopted by both the Economic SPC and the LCDC before being brought to the members of Tipperary County Council

Joint Policing Committee



Four meetings were held in 2023 at which Chief Superintendent Colm O'Sullivan reported on the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the county.

In addition to strategy development work, the JPC also received informative presentations and considered other relevant policing matters.

Key highlights include:

- The amalgamation of the Clare/Tipperary Division was discussed. Under the new Clare-Tipperary Operating Model - all Garda Stations and former Districts have been aligned to a Community Engagement Functional Area with a Superintendent based in the following areas: Tipperary Central, East Clare Tipperary North and Tipperary South Central.
- The Southern Regional Networking Event for Joint Policing Committees was held on Tuesday 12th September in the Talbot Hotel Clonmel. The event provided an opportunity for participants to come together to discuss their work, hear what other JPCs are doing and discuss ways to enhance JPC effectiveness in the context of the JPC Guidelines. There was an emphasis on community safety, with discussions around the future Community Safety Partnerships which will be established by the Policing, Security and Community Safety Bill.
- The Divisional Crime Prevention Officer delivered a presentation on The SARA Problem Solving Method at the December meeting.
- TCC Housing Section Executives delivered a presentation on the Tipperary County Council Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.
- The JPC continue to maintain the Property Marking machine and provide this to Community Groups as part of a community-led safety programme. Community Gardai also borrow the machine to hold Community Safety events and also to mark items for individuals and groups at public events and gatherings.
- Training sessions on Property Marking were organised for volunteers from Community Groups in conjunction with the Garda Community Safety Officer in the 5 Municipal Districts during the Autumn. This has resulted in an increase in bookings for the machine from community groups and should act as a deterrent to theft.
- Tipperary JPC continue to support An Garda Síochána concerning crime prevention and safety initiatives.

LEADER Programme

LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014 to 2023

At the end of 2023, over €10 million in funding had been allocated across a range of LEADER-funded projects including the additional Food and Co-operation funded projects. Implementing Partners North Tipperary Development Company and South Tipperary Development Company continued to bring projects to the LCDC throughout 2023 to use decommitted funds from other projects and fully utilise the budget available to the County. Extensions allow for project activity up to 31/03/2024 and claims until 30/06/2024.



Official Community Walkway Lighting Up Celebration Event at Grange Community Walkway. Tipperary LCDC approved 75% LEADER funding of €20,475 to install lighting on the existing walkway to facilitate its use at night along with electricity into two storage containers.

Pictured are Committee members including Senator Garret Ahearn with Sara Bourke STDC, Eoin Wolahan LCDC Chairperson and Marie Cox, TCC

Leader 2023 to 2027

The partnership of Tipperary LCDC, Tipperary County Council, North Tipperary Development Company (NTDC) & South Tipperary Development Company (STDC) submitted a comprehensive Local Development Strategy for County Tipperary in July 2023. This was subsequently accepted and Tipperary and Carlow were announced as the first Counties to have their strategies approved. The budget for 2023-2027 for Tipperary is €7.8 million and is allocated across three key themes; Economic Development & Job Creation, Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development of Rural Environment & Climate Change.



Pictured at the signing of the Partnership Agreement and LEADER Funding Agreement for the 2023-2027 programme in December 2023


Front Row: L-R Michael Murray, CEO NTDC, Monica McElvaney, Chairperson NTDC, Eoin Wolahan Chairperson LCDC, Isabel Cambie CEO STDC, Simon Ryan, Chairperson STDC

Back Row: L-R Tipperary County Council: Marie Cox, Community Section, Brian Beck Director of Services, Joe MacGrath Chief Executive Tipperary County Council, Fiona Crotty Community Section



There were 3 Tipperary entries in the 21st Annual Pride of Place Awards 2023, with judging in August 2023 and the awards ceremony will be held in November 2023.

This year's entries were as follows:

Entry	Category
'We  Nenagh'	Population over 400
Fethard Town Park	Community Wellbeing Initiative
Tipperary PPN	Climate Action & Biodiversity

At the Pride of Place Awards in November, there were celebrations for Tipperary Nenagh proudly accepted the award for centres with a population of over 4000. The judges praised the efforts of all and referred in particular to the work done by the Ballygraigue Residents Association and their commitment to sustainability and biodiversity. They also noted the support from the elected members and staff of Nenagh MD.



Pictured with representatives from Co-operation Ireland are: John Hogan, IPBMI, Rosemary Joyce, Ger Darcy (Cathaoirleach), Angela Sheehan and Marcus O'Connor, TCC and Tom Darcy, Silver Arch Resource Centre, representing Nenagh who were the overall winners in the category 'Population over 4000'

Fethard Town Park came runner-up in the Community Wellbeing Initiative category.



Pictured among representatives from Co-operation Ireland are: Marcus O'Connor, Anthony Fitzgerald, Angela Sheehan, Ger Darcy (Cathaoirleach), TCC and Maurice & Anne Moloney, Fethard Town Park, who were runners-up in the 'Community Wellbeing Initiative' category

Congratulations also to Tipperary PPN on their nomination.

Tipperary County Council is proud to be associated with all our nominated community groups and acknowledges the hard work and commitment of everyone involved in Pride of Place.

Tipperary Comhairle na n-Óg

Comhairle na n-Óg is the elected youth council which gives young people a voice in the development of local policies and services in Tipperary. They are recognized as a national structure for participation by children and young people in decision-making throughout all 31 local authorities.

Tipperary Comhairle had a very busy and productive year in 2023:

- Chief Executive Joe McGrath met with the members at their Easter meeting in Nenagh
- Members did a presentation to Tipperary PPN at the plenary event in Rosegreen with great success
- Female members also attended the Woman in Politics event in The Source in Thurles.
- Members attended the National Showcase 2023 in Croke Park
- Comhairle has been involved in several consultations in Dublin including Young Voices on EU Dialogue and Mental Health Day in Youth Work Ireland.
- In June 6 members attended the Munster networking event in Limerick and linked with all the Munster Comhairlí.
- Caleb Ryan from Borrisoleigh finished his term on the National Assembly and Abigail Strappe was selected to replace him from Tipperary.
- Members engaged with TCC on Migrant Integration Strategy
- Olivia Darcy incoming Chair in South Tipperary was invited to attend a Mental Health event in Cahir House in November by Cllr. Andy Moloney did so to promote Comhairle's support for all youth mental health actions.
- At the AGM in October, Comhairle were facilitated by TCC staff to submit the TCC Draft Climate Action Plan
- Tipperary Comhairle made a presentation at a regional CYSPEC meeting in Kilkenny on 30th November.

Comhairle has ongoing representation on CYSPEC, VEC Youth Committee, Health Promotion Committee YWIT locally.



Members pictured with Chief Executive, Joe MacGrath at their annual meeting in Nenagh Council Chamber.



Cllr. Ger Darcy pictured with Omar Aljohwani at the launch of Tipperary Mental Health Week

'Tipperary Together' Newsletter

'Tipperary Together' is a broad community-focused newsletter which showcases supports and content of interest to community-based groups and individuals.

The 'Together Tipperary' newsletter issued online on the last Friday of every month and is shared on partner websites and social media.

We would also request that Council departments, TCC Members, community groups or any relevant groups that would like to provide content for the newsletter e-mail tipperarytogether@tipperarycoco.ie or contact a member of the community team at 0818 06 5000.

Tipperary Age Friendly




In January 2023 Tipperary Age Friendly hosted a Home Energy Supports event in the Anner Hotel Thurles.

Tipperary Age Friendly were delighted to support Bealtaine is Ireland's national festival which celebrates the arts and creativity as we age. Tipperary Arts and Tipperary Library Service have scheduled a vibrant mix of online and in-person events across the county in May.

In May 2023 Tipperary Age Friendly produced a newsletter celebrating its achievements and promoting events and activities, this was distributed to all the older adult groups in the county and through the library network.



In June 2023 Tipperary Age Friendly hosted its annual EXPO in the TUS College Campus Thurles. Tipperary Age Friendly supported community groups to achieve transport to enable their attendance on the day.

 *In May 2023 Tipperary Age Friendly produced a newsletter celebrating its achievements and promoting events and activities*






We had over 60 stands promoting Positive Ageing in the county, together with a wide range of speakers also on the day with over 800 in attendance.

On 12th September Tipperary Older Peoples Council held its AGM in the Anner Hotel in Thurles. Interim Chairperson, Mary McMahon, welcomed the large crowds to the event, including members of the Tipperary OPC Executive, Bridget O'Dea, Alice Teehan and Leo D'Arcy, who explained the structure of the Tipperary OPC and the Executive and their personal involvement, and all about and the advantages of being a member and the many age friendly activities that take place throughout the year for all involved.

Tipperary Age Friendly Business Ambassador, John Loneran, also addressed the meeting, outlining the importance of keeping the mind and body active to live a longer and healthier life.

Tipperary Age Friendly hosted a Regional Climate Action Workshop in Cabragh Wetlands Centre on 25th September. This workshop was facilitated by the Regional Climate Action Offices.

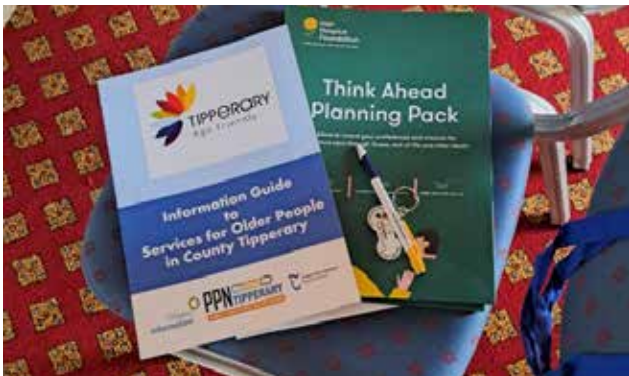


 *Tipperary Age Friendly hosted a Regional Climate Action Workshop in Cabragh Wetlands Centre on 25th September. This workshop was facilitated by the Regional Climate Action Offices.*

Positive Ageing Week 2023 1st to 7th October 2023

The theme for Positive Ageing Week 2023, an Age Action initiative, was to promote the agency of older people and to celebrate the contribution they make to our families, workplaces, communities and societies as a whole. Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Age Friendly provided a small grant scheme to support older adult groups support events during Positive Ageing Week 2023.

Tipperary Age Friendly also provided workshops Putting Your House in Order which featured the Irish Hospice Foundation and Lynch Solicitors. This event showcased making a will, power of attorney and practical advice on planning for our future recording our wishes and preferences. The workshops took place in Clonmel on the 3rd of October and in Nenagh and Thurles on the 4th of October.



Positive Ageing Week 2023 1st TO 7th OCTOBER										
Positive Ageing Week 2023 Community Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kilgobbin Quay, Ballinacorney: Senior Action Family Resource Centre will host Family Support: Older People involving our Children from 10.00 to 12.30. Contact: Nicola 022 0178036 Ardfert, Pook, Church and Church, Church: Ardfert & District Day Care and Pook's Shop will host a Music Followed by refreshments and entertainment from 2pm. Contact: Mairéad 085 7943229 Millstream, Park, Rosanna, Carrigrohane: Millstream Family Resource Centre will host a social singing event Open to All. Contact: Mairéad 085 7943229 Kearns, Nenagh, Park, Carrigrohane: Carrigrohane Shop will host an afternoon of music & song at Carrigrohane Nursing Home. Open to All. Contact: Ann-Maire 086 95461797 Admalty, Carrigrohane: Admalty & District Active Retirement Group will host an afternoon of music and refreshments from 2pm to 5pm. Contact: Bridget 086 8770042 	Positive Ageing Week 2023 Tipperary Age Friendly <p>Age Friendly Tipperary, in collaboration with local business, healthcare and social partners will offer a FREE seminar on managing your personal, medical and legal future. Learn about Wills, Enduring Power of Attorney, Advance Care Planning, amongst other FREE seminars.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Monday 1st October</td> <td>Hotel, Market, Clonmel, 10.15-11.45</td> <td>Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 2pm Week One</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 4th October</td> <td>Albion, Court Hotel, Nenagh, 10.15-11.45</td> <td>Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 2pm Week One</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>James, Hotel, Thurles, 10.15-11.45</td> <td>Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 4.30pm Week 1 & 2pm</td> </tr> </table>	Monday 1st October	Hotel, Market, Clonmel, 10.15-11.45	Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 2pm Week One	Wednesday 4th October	Albion, Court Hotel, Nenagh, 10.15-11.45	Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 2pm Week One		James, Hotel, Thurles, 10.15-11.45	Refreshments and registration 1.30pm. Start 4.30pm Week 1 & 2pm
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Tipperary Older Peoples Council Planning Day 4th December

On 4th December Tipperary Older Peoples Council facilitated a consultation with its membership on main thematic areas to

- Build support and interest among older people and other stakeholders in the Age-Friendly Programme
- Give older people and their organisations a strong sense that their views will influence the final strategy
- Identify how the various stakeholders and older people and their organisations can contribute to the programme
- Identify mechanisms by which the older adults in Tipperary can become genuine partners in the ongoing design and delivery of services in the county
- Gain expressions of interest to participate in Tipperary Older Peoples Council
- Ensure that the priorities and ambitions of all key stakeholder groups, particularly older people and their organisations are reflected strongly in the Age Friendly Action Plan for Tipperary

A summary report reflecting the summary of the views and opinions expressed during the consultation workshop was prepared and circulated to the Older Peoples Council and the Age Friendly Interagency Alliance.

The actions identified will be considered together with the 2023 Action Plan and will inform the development of the 2024-2025 Age-Friendly Action Plan. The Tipperary Age-Friendly Action Plan will complement the Implementation Plan for the Tipperary LECP 2-year implementation plans. The older Peoples Council will have further opportunities to input into actions over the lifetime of the Action Plan


 *A summary report reflecting the summary of the views and opinions expressed during the consultation workshop was prepared and circulated to the Older Peoples Council and the Age Friendly Interagency Alliance.*

Age-Friendly Roscrea Business Recognition Programme

30 businesses in Roscrea completed the Age Friendly Ireland Business Recognition Programme. For the past few years, businesses all over Ireland have obtained their Age Friendly Charters as part of the Age Friendly Ireland Programme, and have proudly displayed their Age Friendly status on their shop window or in their reception area. They know that by doing this, they signal strongly that our older community is welcome, resulting in loyalty and increased custom.

Age Friendly Roscrea Age Friendly held its recognition and Charter event with businesses who engaged with Age Friendly Business Training, together with the Tipperary Age Friendly Ambassador John Lonergan.



 *30 businesses in Roscrea completed the Age Friendly Ireland Business Recognition Programme*

Tipperary Understand Together



Tipperary Age Friendly continue our partnership and supports dementia awareness campaigns. Dementia cafes continue in Roscrea, Thurles, Tipperary Town and Glengoose. The virtual cafe in Nenagh and Ballina will transition to an in-person meeting in the new Family Resource Centre in Ballina/Killaloe and support the Alzheimer Society monthly meeting in the Nenagh library. The network of cafes will be supported by Tipperary Age Friendly in promotion and sourcing speakers. Tipperary Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland have also supported mindfulness programmes for families with dementia in Nenagh and Roscrea.

Healthy Tipperary



Healthy Ireland Fund 2023 – 2025

Under Strand 4 from 2023 to 2025, there was a change from an activity-led to outcomes led approach. There was a greater recognition of the social determinants of health and emphasis on evidencing the difference the work undertaken makes with the chosen target group and evidence base for the choice of actions undertaken.



There are 5 national outcome indicators:

1. Lifestyle & Behaviour Risk Outcome Area
2. Mortality & Morbidity Outcome Area
3. Wellbeing Factors Outcome Area
4. Environmental Factors Outcome Area
5. Socio-Economic Factors Outcome Area

At the October Tipperary LCDC meeting 2022, we agreed to select the Lifestyle and Behaviour Risk Outcome Area and the Wellbeing Factors outcome area.

Within this for Lifestyle and Behaviour our area of focus will be on the increase in % of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines and, in the Wellbeing Factors the increase in % of people aged 50+ engaging in one or more social leisure activities at least once a week.

Tipperary LCDC had to submit a new Healthy Tipperary Strategy and activities work plan relating to the 2 outcome areas by Friday 27th January 2023, together with the annual implementation plan and will align to the Tipperary LECP.

Funding was officially awarded from Pobal on 03/05/2023 for the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025. Meetings and completing of Service Level Agreements with each delivery partner required to include the payment schedule, KPI and timeframes for reporting:

Action Area	Older Adults	Physical Activity
Nenagh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Silver Arch Tipperary Partnership 	Sports Tipperary Partnership
Cahir		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tipperary Partnership Brothers of Charity Social Farming & STDC
Clogheen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vee Valley Day Care Centre St Pauls Community Centre 	
Littleton	NTDC (SICAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NTDC (Traveller Project) Tipperary Sports Partnership Social Farming
Overarching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tipperary Age Friendly STDC (Newsletter) Healthy Tipperary 	

- SLA refers to 2023-2025, delivery budget for 2023 only

HI conference and Launch of the Health Services Healthy Ireland Implementation Plan 2023-2027 took place in the National Convention Centre on Friday 7th both Áine Roche Healthy County Co-Ordinator and Cathriona Crowe Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer attended the event.

Period Poverty Scheme and Hygiene Security Project

Tipperary County Council and CYPSC secured funding from the Department of Health to roll out the Period Poverty initiative. The Healthy Ireland County Coordinator and Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer collaborated and following engagement on this project with relevant partners, the need for more products and services to be supported was highlighted, and by jointly working together we partnered with Silver Arch Family Resource Centre and Millennium Family Resource Centre.

Additional Period Poverty funding was allocated as a once-off initiative to explore the benefit of Hygiene Security products being distributed into the community.

On the 11th and 12th of January 2023 750 boxes were packed with Hygiene products and period poverty products were packed up and with the help of Tipperary Civil Defence, South Tipp Development Company and North Tipp Development Company the packs were distributed out to the services across the week. The services that received the hygiene packs were local family resource centres, Clonmel Hygiene Bank, Barnardo's, Youth Services across the county, Development Companies, and the Period Poverty Products went out through the Tipperary County Council Library Service and Youth Services across the County.



Healthy Ireland County Coordinator, Áine Roche & Slaintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer, Stephanie O'Callaghan with Pat Quinn from South Tipperary Development Company getting ready to deliver the Hygiene security fund boxes to South Tipperary.

Launch of two of Tipperary's very first Changing Places facilities

On Monday, September 22nd, Minister Anne Rabbitte, and Tipperary County Council, proudly inaugurated two of Tipperary's very first Changing Places Facilities. These two facilities were officially launched at FBD Semple Stadium Thurles. These facilities represent a significant step forward in enhancing accessibility and inclusivity for all members of our community. Tipperary County Council secured funding from the Department of Children, Equality, Integration, and Youth through the disability participation awareness fund. This funding was secured to install two Changing Places Facilities in the County of Tipperary and to identify two suitable locations and partners to award the funding to. The two partners and locations that were awarded the funding were:

FBD Semple Stadium Thurles: This initiative ensures that one of Tipperary's most iconic sports venues is now more inclusive and accommodating to all visitors, regardless of their accessibility needs.

Boher Community Hall Ballina: This Community-centric approach ensures that a vital gathering place is now fully accessible to individuals with disabilities, fostering inclusivity within the Boher community and surrounding bordering counties.



Tipperary Mental Health week

Tipperary Mental Health Week takes place from 7th – 14th October, numerous events and programmes taking place around the County Tipperary Mental Health Week committee is a group of interagency workers and volunteers Co-Ordinator of the group is Áine Roche and Claire Flynn mental health Ireland. Official launch to take place Friday 22nd September in TUS Thurles Campus.



Make Way Day 2023

Tipperary County Council hosted 'Make Way Day' for the county on Friday, September 22 with a walkabout done in Tipperary Town with the Tipp town branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association. The findings from the walkabout highlighted the different obstacles in the way and how the abuse of disabled parking spaces impacted people with disabilities were posted up on the Healthy Tipperary social pages and fed back into an online survey on the Make Way Day website. As part of the campaign, a person with a disability did a video recording of how the lack of disabled parking spaces and misuse of the parking spaces affected her everyday life this was shared on Healthy Tipperary's Social media pages to highlight the campaign and the day.

Below is some of the feedback from service users in the Tipperary Town branch of the Irish Wheelchair Association

Loads of people park on footpaths, it makes it very hard to get around.
- Jude

People parking in disabled parking spaces without permit or badge
- Kevin.

Uneven footpaths in every town
- Tony.

Wheelchairs going into dog foul.
- Catherine.

Footpaths are too narrow
- Pabick.

Wheelie bins on paths, blocking the way
- Dermot, Panny

Signs, menus + flowers outside shops.
- Kathleen.

there was bins on the footpath so I had to reverse my wheelchair to get off the footpath.

there was a big sign for a menu in the restaurant that was placed on the middle of the footpath so I wasn't able to pass it and had to turn around.

'Andrew'

Youth Mental Health Seminar Cahir

Healthy Tipperary was presented at the Youth Mental Health seminar that took place in Cahir House Hotel on 9th November. The event was hosted by Oak Park Foods along with Cahir Youth Club and Cahir Meet and Train.

Minister for State for Mental Health and Older People Mary Butler opened the event followed by Niamh O Gorman Development and Training Officer with Connecting for Life South-East, Garda Detective Sergeant Graham Deegan, Senator Frances Black, John Leahy HSE Drug Education Officer and Tommy Morrissey of Oakpark foods.



Community Support Fund Well-Being Boards

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.

Below is a picture of the wellbeing boards:



Communication Boards for Playgrounds

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.



Quality of Life Alliance

Quality of Life Alliance for Clonmel BD took place on 17.04.23 and following the meeting a mapping of services and agencies allying has taken place and a 2023 Action plan agreed.

 *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. ?*



Sláintecare Healthy Communities Clonmel

In early March the Local Development Officer was invited to present to the Inter-Departmental Principals Officers Oversight Group for the National Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The Local Development Officer presented on the Hygiene Security Project and the Home Energy Assessments Pilot – a fairer greening project.

Tipperary County Council were delighted to welcome Minister Naughton to Clonmel on the 20th of February, she received a warm welcome from the Mayor of Clonmel Borough District Pat English and the Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council Joe MacGrath. Also, extending the welcome were our HSE colleagues, and community partners, along with the Healthy Ireland County Coordinator and Sláintecare Healthy Communities Local Development Officer.

As Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Minister Naughton was interested to see how Sláintecare Healthy Communities is being implemented on the ground. Minister Naughton met with the HSE who are delivering a range of health and wellbeing programmes directly and through partnerships with community partners.



Minister Naughton met with the team from Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative who delivered a Home Energy Assessments Pilot through Sláintecare Healthy Communities.



Substance MisUse subgroup

Substance MisUse subgroup for Clonmel held its second meeting on the 16th of June with an agreed action plan. Substance misuse impacts all the quality of life determinants and the 3 action areas look at intervention, prevention, and safety and security. In each action area, there are preventative actions and education actions to achieve improved health and well-being in this area.

This subgroup has held Community Conversations about substance use engaging with the following cohorts:

- Vintners, Hospitality & local businesses – 18th October 2023
- Groups, Clubs & organisations 25th October 2023
- Lived Experience – 22nd November
- Parents, Schools – March/April 2024

This action allowed us to invite people together to support this initiative through their group cohort and to identify what part/what realistic actions you could add to the action plan, and make it a community plan not just a plan that is delivered by those working in Clonmel but also those living in the town.

Slaintecare Seed fund projects

The LDO is currently working with two resident groups in Oldbridge and Marlfield. Funding allocated in 2022 is still available to the Oldbridge residents to develop a community space on a derelict site. The LDO is linked with Active Travel and the Clonmel District Borough Administrator on progressing this development project for the community of Oldbridge. The Housing Section will be in a position to offer the building to the local committee by license subject to the local group accessing funds to do up the building and subject to the group being responsible for the repair and maintenance of the facility.

The residents of Marlfield would like to develop a local community space where they can hold activities, and meet up as a community without the need to travel to Clonmel town for such activities. They would like to hold activities, meetings, and coffee mornings, ideally, they would like a community garden at the same location but the priority they have identified is to have a space to meet in the immediate area of Marlfield. If they can materialise their plans to a point where funding can be allocated the LDO will support the community with their project. Funding being allocated is dependent on such a plan being practical for funding to be spent in 2023/2024.

Cancer Care Project

The launch of positive reflection cards for Cancer Survivors took place in Clonmel Aftercare Relaxation and Education (CARE) on Thursday 20th July and Circle of Friends Tipperary on the 18th July. This beautiful deck of 32 cards is designed especially for survivors and their families – each card with a piece of wisdom, a quote from someone who has been there to help them in their recovery. Some of them speak of the importance of relationships – I think positively and surround myself with positive people. Others highlight the importance of living in the moment – I walk the mountain and appreciate the trees, now I even hug them. You can pick a card as a thought for the day or the week. The cards are the creative output of an 8-month project funded by Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. The project was led by Dr Marie Walsh - a lecturer and researcher from the Digital Arts & Media Department who is based on the Clonmel Campus of the Technological University of the Shannon.



Inclusive Social Network

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

Home Energy Assessments Pilot

The Home Energy Assessments Pilot Evaluation project was undertaken in the context of increasing costs of living, and in particular, the rising costs of household energy needs leading to households experiencing or being at risk of experiencing energy poverty.

It is known that health is influenced by a myriad of social determinants and energy poverty is one such factor that impacts physical, mental, and social health. This project therefore sought to help address a social determinant of health. The project was also undertaken in the context of global climate change and the need to ensure energy use is efficient and reducing risks to the environment. The School of Humanities at South East Technological University was invited to report on this project and make recommendations for further evaluation or future such projects. A pilot project was undertaken by the Tipperary Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Age Friendly and the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (ECTC) between November 2022 and February 2023

Planet Youth Project

Planet Youth Project is considered with other partners including Tipperary ETB, Children and Young People Services Committee, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, HSE & Tipperary County Council

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

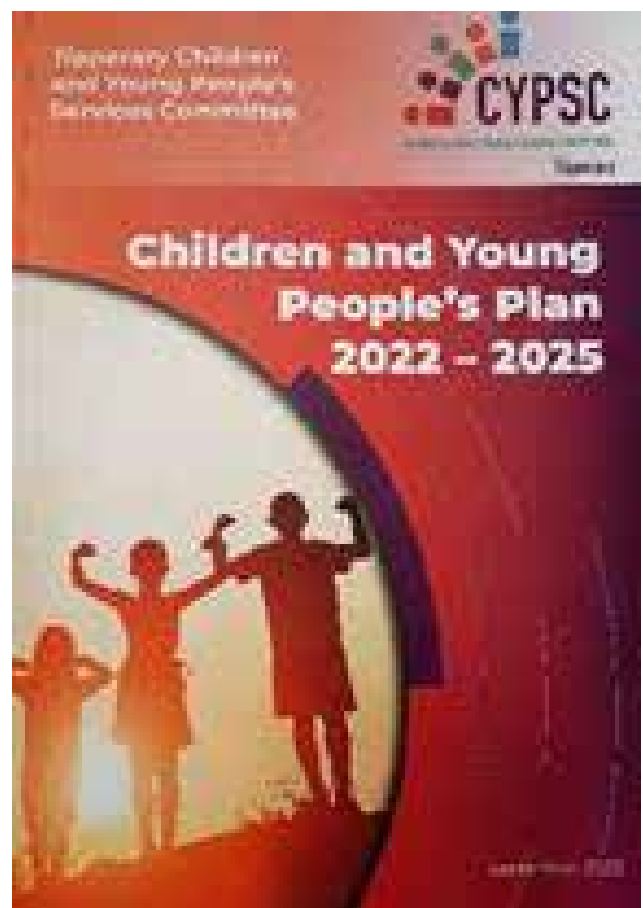


The Home Energy Assessments Pilot Evaluation project was undertaken in the context of increasing costs of living

Tipperary CYPSC



Tipperary CYPSC is a county-level committee that brings together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services for children and young people aged 0-24 years of age. The overall purpose is to work together to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people in County Tipperary. It provides a forum to identify and plan for key issues and ensure that the needs of children, young people and their families are addressed.




Tipperary CYPSC develops and implements a Children and Young People's Plan in a three-year cycle. The current plan will be implemented up to the end of 2025.

It is available at the following web address, <https://www.tipperarychildrenandyoungpeopleservices.ie/sites/default/files/content/Tipperary%20CYPP%202022-2025.pdf>

The chairperson of Tipperary CYPSC is the Director of Services for Economic, Community and Rural Development, Corporate Services, Libraries/Culture and Carrick on Suir MD. It is vice-chaired by the Tusla Area Managers for the Mid-West and South East.

In 2023, Tipperary CYPSC received funding of €28,000 from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Funded initiatives were related to Healthy Weaning, Emotional Literacy Development, Play Therapy, Youth Counselling, Family Learning, Out of School Learning and Social Support, and Therapeutic Support for Children with Autism and or Additional Needs. It received Healthy Ireland funding of €45,903. Funded initiatives were Planet Youth and training professionals across the county in the Parenting under Pressure parenting programme. It received IPSS funding of €50,000. This funding was focused on support for children and young people 0-18 years old living in IPACs and EACs across the county.

North Tipperary Development Company supported the delivery of initiatives in North Tipperary. These included therapeutic support, renovation of a community space and social activities. Tipperary County Council and Friends of Bridgewater House supported the delivery of initiatives in South Tipperary. These included resourcing an equipment bank, camps and group social activities and a number of one-to-one supports for children and young people to access social activity opportunities in the community. Tipperary CYPSC was successful in receiving a Pilot Parenting Awareness fund and a Tipperary Parent Hub website will be developed from this funding, as a point of information for parents and families in Tipperary.

 *Tipperary CYPSC is a county-level committee that brings together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services for children and young people aged 0-24 years of age*

Tipperary Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Tipperary PPN Community Wellbeing Vision is reflected in the Tipperary County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 and Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 stating that:

“Tipperary is an attractive, inclusive and welcoming county with community-minded people, diverse cultures and a rich heritage, where we respect and value one another. It is a positive and safe place to live. Our thriving and progressive economy is dynamic and enhanced by our strong local democracy and active community participation. Everyone enjoys a great quality of life with excellent local infrastructure, support and services. We live sustainably and work together to protect, enhance and enjoy our beautiful environment.”

In 2023, the PPN was, and continues to be, directly, involved with the process of developing the new Tipperary County Council Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2028, through being represented on the LECAP Advisory Steering Group. This has allowed both the Tipperary County Council and Tipperary PPN to work closely in developing a strategy in the county with the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county.

Another policy collaboration was through the delivery of a draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP). This entailed meeting with the very accessible Environment & Climate Action Section, building relationships with the new staff members and creating a communication path for the PPN Environmental Groups to be able to gather information to understand the LACAP's sectoral responsibilities and limitations, and, so, submit a realistic consultation document when the process opened.





Minister Joe O'Brien, Ruth Smith, PPN Coordinator and Kuldeep Joshi, PPN Secretariat member and Director at the launch of the Tipperary County Council's Migrant Integration Strategy and the attendees of this event

Tipperary PPN showcased at the National PPN Conference 2023 in Wicklow. Ruth Smith, PPN Coordinator, presented a workshop, with the support of Secretariat Member, Charles Stanley-Smith, on the current Community Climate Coaches project, funded by Pobal Community Climate Action Strand 2 funding and partnered with Cloughjordan Ecovillage's organisation, Cultivate.



Ruth Smith, PPN Coordinator, facilitating the workshop at the National PPN Conference

It was a huge surprise and honour for the PPN to be nominated, by Tipperary County Council, for the ongoing work on climate action and influencing policy by the PPN Environmental Pillar for a national Pride of Place Award. The Gala Awards ceremony was in Armagh and while the PPN weren't successful on the night, the pride that was felt due to the recognition supported PPN members to be even more engaged in their work to protect the environment and influence local policy for the community wellbeing of the whole county.




Pride of Place judges, County Council staff, PPN reps and staff members posing after the judging session at Cabragh Wetlands

The PPN held its plenaries in person in April in the Rosegreen Community Centre and in November in Holy Cross.



Members of Comhairle Na nÓg, Tipperary County Council and Tipperary PPN secretariat at the Plenary April 23

Both Plenaries were extremely successful with improved networking opportunities, local community talent showcased and both statutory and community presentations to support the work of the 80 or more community groups that attended both events.

 *It was a huge surprise and honour for the PPN to be nominated, by Tipperary County Council, for the ongoing work on climate action and influencing policy by the PPN Environmental Pillar for a national Pride of Place Award.*



Training included working with the other PPNs in the Southeast Region to support PPN reps on the counties' LCDCs and SPCs through learning more about influencing local policy and making an impact. Above are some of the Tipperary PPN reps and staff at the event.



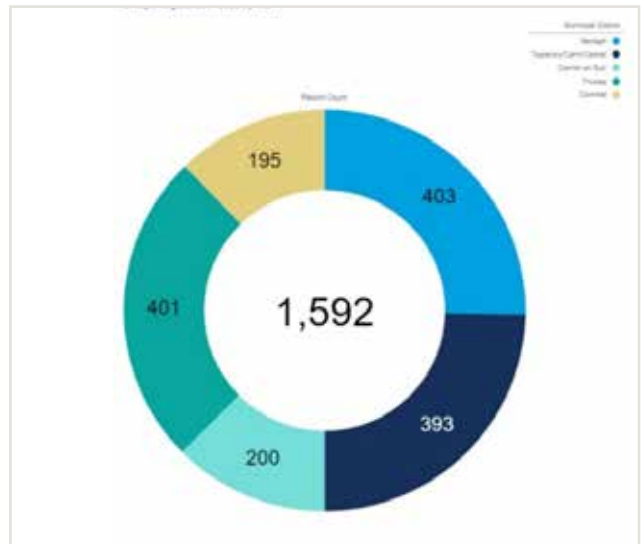
Other more local training was at Cabragh Wetlands, Holy Cross. The above group attended the PPN Sustainable Gardening Day, celebrating National Biodiversity Day.

The PPN circulates a newsletter to over 1600 members monthly. This newsletter showcases opportunities for participation in training, consultation and nominations to various Tipperary agencies and boards seeking community participation, including the PPN board, and the Secretariat. The newsletter also informs on any current and upcoming grant opportunities.

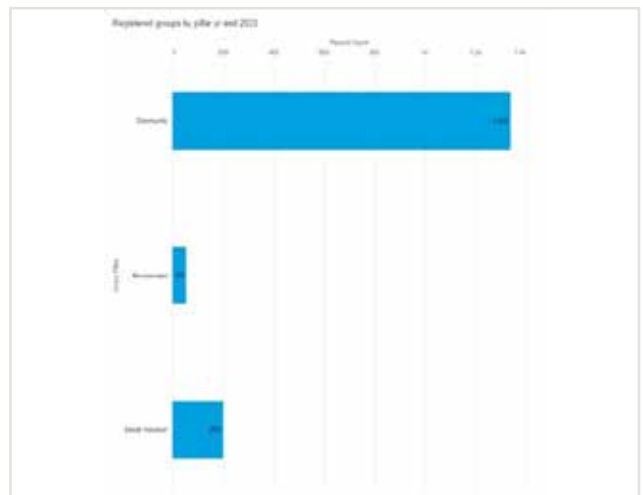
Tipperary PPN has a current membership of 1636 split across 3 Pillars:

1. Social Inclusion 207
2. Community & Voluntary 1375
3. Environment 54

2023 PPN membership at the end of the year (1592 registered groups) By Municipal District



By PPN Pillar



For more information, please view www.ppntipperary.ie

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

Recruitment of a new Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) commenced in 2023. One Coordinator, two Support Workers and one Admin Support Worker will make up the team, the primary role of which 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. LAITs are being established in all Local Authorities across Ireland. It is anticipated that the team will be in place early 2024.

Sports



In 2023, the Sports Partnership delivered 204 initiatives, programmes, events and courses with over 8,559 participants engaging with the Sports Partnership which includes 671 participants with disabilities, 5,796 young people and 2,092 adults. 51% of participants were female. The Sports Partnership successfully secured more than €600,000 in funding to support the delivery of its programmes and initiatives in Tipperary.

The implementation of TSP Strategic Plan 2016-2024 for Tipperary continued in delivering on the key objectives and actions to develop sport for all in our Community at all stages of life. In September, TSP signed off its Publics Statement of Compliance and TSP Assurance Statement with the Governance Code which was reviewed and signed off by the Board.

In brief, some of the Partnership's key achievements in 2023 include:

Community Participation

TSP worked with Sport Ireland and Operation Transformation concerning the promotion of fitness programmes and activities while supporting the one Operation Transformation leader in Tipperary.

A number of walking initiatives were delivered which included three 8 weeks Walking programmes - one in Rosegreen/Cashel with 14 participants, one in Nenagh with 20 participants and one in Cahir with 19 participants. A Couch to Peak 10-week programme was piloted in The Glen of Aherlow with 25 participants. This programme concluded with a hike to the top of the Galtymore. TSP linked with Tipperary Men's Shed Network and facilitated a Walk/Talk on the Suir Blueway for the Men's Sheds across the county with 18 participants.



Coach to Peak participants at the summit of Galtymore.

- The TSP 'Couch to 3k' 6-week podcast was promoted regularly during the year. This podcast is free to download from the TSP Website.

- TSP continued to support and promote the Tipperary Park runs year-round through social media channels. All Park Runs take place weekly on Saturday mornings at 9.30am.
- 4 Swim for a Mile (SFAM) training programmes were delivered over 12 weeks in Nenagh Swimming Pool, Sean Kelly Sports Centre Carrick on Suir, Clonmel Swimming Pool and Roscrea Leisure Centre with 56 participants taking part. On the final night of the programme participants swam a Mile and received a SFAM medal for their achievements.
- Bike Week took place during the week of the 12th to 21st May with a total of 25 initiatives been held across the County with over 600 participants. In October, TSP supported a Cyclocross event in the grounds of TUS, Thurles with Upperchurch Drombane Cycling.



A variety of pictures of people staying active on their bikes during Bike Week 2023.

- A number of water activities took place in the Outdoor Community Sports Hub on the River Suir which included the school's programme 'Paddles Up' with 3 secondary schools with 160 students. 25 primary school children from the Sisters of Charity school in Clonmel completed an Introductory Kayaking session. An integrated "Paddles Up" school programme was delivered in Cahir with 56 students from Colaiste Dun lascaigh.
- TSP continue to work with Colaiste Dun lascaigh in Cahir to deliver a Leaving Cert Canoeing programme for their school which will form part of their PE Leaving Cert.
- Four Inclusive Paddling Programmes were delivered, 2 with Scoil Aonghusa with 10 participants on one programme and 6 participants on the other, 1 with the National Learning Network with 16 participants and 1 with the Brothers of Charity with 7 participants.
- TSP supported 3 instructors from the Hub to complete REC3 First Aid Training.
- TSP supported "You can Move" Wellness Event on the Suir Blueway as part of National Cancer Survivors Day with 60 participants.
- Two-week long kids kayaking camps and two-week long teen kayaking camps were delivered during the Summer with 35 participants.



Children enjoying the Kids Kayaking Summer Camps.

- TSP linked with Canoeing Ireland and Clonmel Canoe Club to support 'For the Love of It' Summer Camps with 19 participants. TSP also supported Canoeing Ireland's 'For the Love of It' Paddling event with 60 participants. The Discipline of Freestyle continued to be supported with a Freestyle clinic with SE Freestyle delivered to 12 participants.
- Support was provided to the SE Viking Orienteering Club to host an Orienteering event for schools. TSP support orienteering through the provision of resources on the website.
- TSP linked with Clonmel Mountain Bike Club to host an Introduction to Mountain Biking Day at Careys Castle, Clonmel as part of HER Outdoors Week with 8 participants.

- A working group continues to support the development of The Community Sports Hub in Tipperary Town. Funding was secured for Phase 3 of the Hub. TSP worked with the Canon Hayes Recreation Centre to support the purchase of gym equipment. TSP continues to support the newly formed Badminton Club which operates in the Hub. A Badminton Coaching Course was delivered in association with Badminton Ireland to 8 participants. The Hub with the support of Sport Ireland developed a Kids Play Centre (ICOACHGIRLS) 10-week programme for inactive girls between the ages of 5 and 12 with 28 participants. In partnership with the FAI, the Gardai and Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force TSP ran 6 weeks of soccer and basketball in the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) on St. Michaels Avenue with 42 participants. The Hub were delighted to support the 'Her Moves' initiative with 20 inactive transition year girls from St. Ailbes. Other activities at the Hub included: Weekly Activator Walking for which walking poles are provided. A weekly circuit training class commenced in April for 20 older adults. People with Disabilities were supported with a Boccia programme with Moorehaven with 12 participants and a soccer programme with the Brothers of Charity and the FAI with 14 participants. Moorehaven Resource Centre continued to use the centre daily for activities including Tennis, Soccer and Gym use. Other groups also used the facilities at the Hub including Youth Work Tipperary, Scoil Chormaic and the Brothers of Charity. TSP supported Fundamental Movement Days with 36 participants from St. Michaels BNS and 30 students from St. Josephs Girls School. A 6-week Kick Fit soccer programme for women in association with the FAI was delivered with 9 participants. A presentation of Disability Activities for ETB was delivered and included the activities of Boccia and VI soccer with 23 participants. Linkages were maintained with local schools The Abbey, St. Anne's and St. Ailbes for the use of the hub for their leaving certificate PE programme and 15 students used the facilities for the 'Lets Get Rowing' programme with Rowing Ireland and Clonmel Rowing Club



Girls enjoying ICOACHGirls Programme

Young People/Schools Participation:

- Sports Hall Athletics programme was delivered in 7 primary schools to 1,489 students in the following Primary Schools– CBS Primary, Nenagh; Corville N.S., Lissenhall N.S., Newport Boys N.S., Nenagh Gael Scoil, Dromakeenan N.S. and St. Michael's Cloughjordan N.S.
- One Sports Leader programme was rolled out in Newport College with 16 students taking part.



Students from Newport College with their Sports Leader Certificates.

- TSP supported Clonmel Rowing Club and Rowing Ireland and delivered 10 'Get Going Get Rowing' programmes to 22 pupils from High School, Clonmel, 58 pupils from Presentation Secondary School Clonmel, 20 pupils from Gael Cholaiste Cheitinn, 33 pupils from Cashel Community School, 23 pupils from Clerihan N.S., 43 pupils from Sisters of Charity, 51 pupils from Powerstown N.S., 28 pupils from Gael Scoil Primary Clonmel, 69 pupils from Borriskane Community College and 19 pupils from the High School, Clonmel.
- A TrY Rowing Programme for TY students was completed with St. Ailbe's School with 20 leaders trained; Newport Community College with 26 leaders trained and Rockwell College with 25 leaders trained. Following training the TY leaders organised rowing for the junior sections of their respective schools.
- TSP continued to provide information to support primary schools to achieve their active school's flag.
- TSP supported South East Viking Orienteering's orienteering event in October in the Templemore Town Park with 260 participants and supported a 'Ready to Go Orienteering' training course for teachers in St. Joseph's CBS Nenagh in November to 12 teachers.
- The Cycle Right Programme was supported in 36 primary schools with 902 children benefiting across the County with support from Tipperary County Council and the HSE.

- The 6-week Wibbly Wobbly Balance Bike programme was delivered in association with the Tipperary Childcare Committee to 32 preschools across the County with over 824 children partaking. Funding support was provided by Healthy Ireland.

People with a Disability

- TSP supported the launch of Active Disability Ireland's "Active Healthy Me" Initiative. This initiative was signed up to by 30 services across Tipperary.
- TSP hosted two Sport4All Taster events. Golf4All was delivered in partnership with Golf Ireland, IWA and Thurles Golf Club with 30 participants. In partnership with Nenagh Hockey Club and Hockey Ireland 'Hockey4All' was delivered with 13 young people.
- TSP hosted our inaugural Sports Ability Day to showcase inclusive sporting opportunities across Tipperary in August. Activities included Boccia, Soccer, GAA, Cycling, Golf, Athletics, Hockey and Basketball with 72 people with disabilities attending with their guardians and services.



Participants enjoying Sports Ability Day 2023.

- Three Online Physical Activity Programmes were delivered. The 'Movement for All' programme ran with 128 participants from 10 disability services / organisations. A 10-week virtual active neuro exercise programme in collaboration with MS Ireland, Clare and Limerick Sports Partnership with 8 participants was delivered.
- TSP linked with Chronic Disease Centre Carrick on Suir and supported a physical activity session.
- TSP purchased equipment throughout the year to support participation on the water 2 triple open top canoes and 2 sit on top kayaks with all associated paddles. TSP also expanded its capacity to provide inclusive water sports with the purchase of a Hippocamp Wheelchair 2 Kayak Chariots and Transfer Benches.

- TSP supported a 6-week programme to Scoil Chormaic, Scoil Aonghusa and St. Anne's (Roscrea) including a yoga and exercise to music programme with 145 pupils participating from the 3 schools.
- A 6 - 8 Week Inclusive Swim Programme was delivered to 3 organisations Down Syndrome Tipperary (Thurles and Nenagh), Presentation Secondary School (Thurles) and Kilruane N.S. (Nenagh). This programme facilitated swim programmes for 47 people with disabilities.
- TSP supported a 3-week Learn to Cycle Programme in partnership with Autism Awareness Roscrea with 8 participants.
- Support was provided by TSP to the following clubs to help make their club more inclusive Peake Villa FC to establish a Football4All programme in Thurles, Roscrea RFC and Thurles RFC to establish inclusive Rugby, Moycarkey Borris GAA to expand their inclusive offerings, Nenagh Hockey Club for the establishment of Inclusive Hockey in Nenagh and Toomevara GAA to host a GAA4All taster event.
- A 5-week Boccia league was delivered in Borrisoleigh and Canon Hayes Recreation Centre, Tipperary Town with 30 representatives from 5 disability organisations. On the final day all came together for a friendly tournament in Thurles.
- Education and Training workshops were delivered to support the inclusion of people with disability in sport. An Autism in Sport Online Workshop was delivered with 18 participants with Active Disability Ireland along with Disability Inclusion in Sport Training for 20 participants. Disability Awareness Training was delivered to 12 TSP staff and board members. TSP is working towards a "Bronze Accessible Programme" to achieve Xcessible accreditation. Also, TSP delivered Disability Inclusion in-person training to Tipperary GAA Cul Camp head coaches with 20 participants.
- TSP Social Inclusion Disability Officer supported the NCBI & Vision Sports Ireland 'CampAbilities' camps.
- Mental Health Week was supported and events were promoted through Social Media.
- TSP linked with HSE Midwest for a HSE Healthy Dojo programme in Nenagh with 12 participants.

Marginalised Communities

- During the Summer TSP supported a 6-Week Wellness Through Activity programme with Youths from Silver Arch with 6 participants.

- TSP supported YouthReach Cappawhite with their Bike Maintenance & Training Programme with 25 participants. The refurbished bikes were made available for use by the group in the cycle training programme.



Youth Reach Cappawhite Community Bike Maintenance.

- The Sports Partnership linked with the HSE and supported Silver Arch with the delivery of 2 bi-weekly 8-week Green Exercise Programmes one in Spring and one in Autumn.
- TSP supported the Youth Reach Olympic Games Event where 190 young people from Community Training Centres attended from all over Tipperary.
- TSP supported 82 young people who are part of the migrant and LGBTI+ communities with summer activities.
- In partnership with YWIT and Nenagh CTC, youths from disadvantaged communities engaged with our 'Youth at Risk' programme. The YWIT Active8 Summer programme engaged 18 participants and 30 participants took part in the programme with Nenagh CTC.
- TSP linked with NTDC to support a Traveller Women Yoga programme in Littleton with 9 participants.

Women in Sport

- In 2023, two Sport Ireland campaigns were supported – Women in Sport Week in March and Her Outdoors in August.
- TSP supported Cahir Meet and Train to host their inaugural Women's Mini Marathon event in September with 450 participants.
- In partnership with Sport Ireland Coaching TSP delivered A Coaching Teenage Girls in Sport Workshop with 9 participants as part of Women in Sport Week.
- TSP supported Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Service with their 3 Blueway cycles with 18 teenage girls participating.
- During the Summer TSP linked with the FAI to deliver a Female Coach Education Programme with 12 participants.
- One of the successes was the delivery of two very successful “How to Train as a Midlife Woman” Workshops in Clonmel with 24 participants and Nenagh with 43 participants.



Participants enjoying How to Train as a Midlife Woman Workshop.

- TSP delivered a 5-week Swimmin Women Midlife programme at Ballina outdoor pool with 22 participants.
- TSP delivered six Swimmin Women 8-week training programme in 6 Swimming Pools in Carrick on Suir, Clonmel, Thurles, Nenagh, Roscrea and Tipperary Town. 89 females engaged in the programme.
- As part of the ‘Her Outdoors’ Campaign in August a number of initiatives were delivered. A ‘Women on the Water’ Kayaking programme at the Clonmel Outdoor Hub, A Circuit Training at the Canon Hayes Recreation Centre, A Swimmin’ Women Aqua Aerobics at Ballina Riverside Pool and a Women’s Dragon Boating Taster Session with The Clonmel Dragon Boating Club.

- TSP and the FAI supported a Kick Fit Programme with Moneygall Football Club and Killenaule Moyglass Ladies Soccer. A Kick Fit programme was also delivered in Two Mile Borris FC.
- TSP supported a 6-week gym programme in St. Mary’s Secondary School, Newport with 30 Transition year girls.
- The Hoops for Girls programme was supported with 186 participants from 8 schools.

Older Adults

- In May, TSP hosted a their Go for Life Older Adult Festival in the Anner Hotel, Thurles with 43 participants from a variety of older adult groups/organisations from across the County.



Participants at the TSP 2023 Older Adult Festival

- Two 6-week Walking Football programmes were held in Cashel with Cashel Men’s Shed/Tidy Town with 10 participants on each programme.
- TSP delivered 2 Aquafit programmes one in Roscrea Leisure Centre and one in Carrick on Suir with 56 participants in total with funds from Healthy Ireland.
- A Community Boccia Programme was developed in Nenagh, linking 4 groups COPD Nenagh, Ballinaclough ICA, Nenagh Hockey and Nenagh Olympic A.C. with 22 participants with funds from Healthy Ireland.
- TSP promoted GFL Exercise Programmes via social media throughout the year.
- TSP delivered an Activator Taster session in Fethard Town Park with 11 participants.
- TSP is part of the Tipperary Age Friendly Group and works closely with partners to develop and support the quality of life for older adults.

Club Support/Education & Training

- In 2023 the TSP Return to Sport Funding Scheme in partnership with Sport Ireland provided funding to 71 Sport Clubs. A total of €78,842.52 was allocated under this scheme.
- The TSP 2023 Coaching & Development Funding Scheme provided funding support to 30 clubs, with €22,903.57 awarded. The Scheme was supported by Sport Ireland and Tipperary County Council.
- One Community Facility was awarded funding totaling €17,730 under Sport Ireland Energy Support Scheme Phase 1.
- TSP promoted the Sports Capital Grant scheme to all clubs.
- TSP in partnership with TUS delivered a Level 6 Certificate in Sports Administration 'Running Sport' with 10 ECTS and linked with Limerick and Clare Sports Partnerships with 11 participants from Tipperary.
- As part of the Club Development programme, TSP continued to promote Code of Ethics training online via Zoom. Twelve Safeguarding 1 workshops along with two Safeguarding 2 and two Safeguarding 3 workshops were delivered throughout the year, with 204 volunteers/coaches receiving training.
- TSP delivered a 4-night Tipperary Sports Club Package (Sports Psychology, Sports Nutrition, Strength & Conditioning & Long-Term Athlete Development) with 22 participants.
- TSP delivered a Sports First Aid course to 21 participants.
- TSP linked with TUS with regard a 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.'
- TSP is represented on the Development Committees for the Regional Sports Hub Development on TUS campus, Frank Drohan Road in Clonmel and Fethard Town Park.
- TSP supported TCC to provide details to Sport Ireland to generate a National Digital Database of Sport Facilities within Tipperary.
- A Working Committee comprising of TSP, TUS, Canoeing Ireland, Tipperary Tourism and Clonmel Canoe Club continues to work on the Innovation Project at the Suir V. A Virtual Reality Experience of the section of Suir Blueway Tipperary from Sandy Banks to the Suir Island was produced. This is available to download to VR headsets. Funding for Phase 2 was secured. The project was promoted at Sport Ireland 'Get Active' at the National Ploughing Championships at Shine Event. It was also presented at the Sport Ireland Sport and Innovation Summit on November 28th. It was also promoted as part of the Clonmel Junction Festival with our partner TUS.
- The Sports Partnership continued to actively promote and market all its programmes and events, via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and along with relevant Press Releases sent to the local media.



Play Testing of the Suir V Virtual Reality Experience

FAI CLUB MARK



The 'FAI Club Mark' is an award based on best practices in the governance and administration of a football club.

1-Star Award:

Lough Derg FC have led the way in progressing from the entry-level award and has become the first within Tipperary to achieve the FAI Club One Star Award. Following Lough Derg FC, Moneygall FC achieved the One Star Award in March 2023.

Entry-Level Award:

Birdhill FC achieved the entry-level award in March 2023 placing them alongside Ballymackey FC, Lough Derg FC, Cahir Park, Two Mile Borris/St Kevin's FC, Holycross FC, Moneygall FC, Killavilla FC and Carrick United FC who have all received the FAI Club Mark entry level award.

Applied:

Ardcroney FC, Knigh United, Club DC, Nenagh AFC, Borrisokane FC, Arra Rovers FC, Nenagh Celtic, Clodiagh Rangers, Newport Town AFC, Peake Villa FC, Cloughjordan FC, BT Harp FC, Tipperary Town FC, Galbally United and Killenaule/Moyglass, Slievenamon Celtic/Kilsheelan Utd (SCKU), Ballingarry Albion FC, Suirside FC, Clonmel Town FC, Cashel Town Schoolboys/Schoolgirls and Rosegreen Rangers FC, have all applied for the FAI Club Mark and are currently being supported towards fulfilling the criteria to make an application for an entry-level award.

Work has commenced with Clonmel Celtic FC, Slievenamon Celtic FC/Kilsheelan Utd, Silvermines FC and Clerihan FC to progress their applications.

Circle K partnered up with the FAI as the title sponsor for the Club Mark. As part of this partnership, Circle K ran a draw where clubs registered for the Club Mark clubs could enter to win a cash prize. Both Moneygall FC and Cloughjordan FC were selected as winners of the draw and each club won €10,000.

Club Project

Club project is a new initiative to further support clubs who have completed the club mark award or have applied for the club mark. A series of workshops, practical sessions, assistance with governance, volunteer training and committee support were held.

Club project workshops delivered:

- Intro to Football – Academy development workshop x2 (42 participants)
- Injury reduction workshop (24 participants)
- 11v11 coaching workshop BT Harps (35 participants)
- Coaching workshop Newport Town AFC (15 participants)
- Coaching workshop North Tipperary clubs (54 participants)
- Coaching workshop Moneygall FC x2 (32 participants)

FAI Coach Education

Coach education was delivered across Tipperary in line with the 2021-2025 Coach Education Pathway.

This pathway provides coaches at all levels a clear direction for their development as a coach.

- X9 PDP 1 (164 participants)
- X2 PDP 3 (67 participants)
- X2 PDP 3 (38 participants)
- 7v7 Workshop (30 participants)
- 9v9 Workshop (30 participants)
- Intro to Football Workshop x2 (42 participants)
- Injury prevention Workshop (24 participants)
- 1 x GK Fundamentals 12 participants
- 1 GK National D Licence (10 participants)
- X3 Football Fitness intro workshop (91 participants)
- X9 Safeguarding 1 Course with (246 Participants)

Female Only Coach Education

The female-only coach education programme supported by the FAI Coach Education department and TSP commenced in June, with 13 female coaches from Tipperary who completed all modules leading up to the National D licence which was completed in August. (PDP 1, PDP 2, 7v7, 9v9, Football fitness intro).

FAI Schools

Football-themed Activity Books

The project is aligned with the national Right to Read Programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. Books were delivered to 23 schools in Tipperary by development officers in January. 650 students in the 5th and 6th classes received the activity books.



FAI Educational Themed Activity Books

Football schools coaching

Sessions held in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed in May

Futsal In The Yard

Futsal in the Yard is a 6-week programme aimed at 3-4th class pupils. The programme was delivered in Youhgalarra NS, Lissenhall NS, Clougjordan NS, St Michaels Cloughjordan, Drom NS, St Marys NS, Gurtagarry NS, Scoil Naomh Cualan, Moyglass NS, Lisvernane NS, Gaelscoil Thiobraid Árann, Rathkeevin NS, St John The Baptist BNS, Presentation Primary School Clonmel, Ballyneale NS, Ballylooby NS, Thomastown NS and Bunscoil na Cathrach NS, Scoil Mhuire Caislean Nua NS and Our Lady's Ballingarry NS.

FAI Football Camps

2023 FAI Football Camps

The INTERSPORT Elverys FAI Football Camps programme entered its 27th year in 2023. In total 20 FAI Summer Camps took place over July and August in Peake Villa FC, Moneygall FC, Arra Rovers FC, Shinrone LFC, Borrisokane FC, Arra Rovers FC, Rearcross, Newport Town AFC, Clodiagh Rangers FC, Killavilla FC, BT Harps FC, Birdhill FC, Slievenamon Celtic FC, Galbally FC, Clonmel Town FC, St Michael's FC, Two Mile Borris St Kevin's FC, Clonmel Town FC, Cashel Town FC and Cahir Park AFC.

FAI Primary 5's School Competition


The goal of this competition is to provide 4th, 5th and 6th class boys and girls the opportunity to participate against pupils across the county in football. Three blocks of county qualifiers across Tipperary were held along with a county final block and we welcomed the Munster Finals to Tipperary. Resulting from this Ballylooby NS qualified and represented Tipperary at the National Finals at the Aviva Stadium.

Overall, 120 schools from Tipperary participated in the Primary Schools 5s competition which was held over 28 dates across the three locations in Tipperary (Ballymackey FC, Cahir Park AFC, Two Mile Borris/St Kevins FC) with over 1500 participants. The events were supported by TY students from the following schools: Nenagh CBS; Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Thurles; Coláiste Dun Iascaigh; Thurles CBS; Presentation Thurles; Cashel Community School and Scoil Ruain Vocational School.

Fai Mrs Browns Boys Heartcare Programme

The Mrs Brown's Boys Heartcare programme is an FAI initiative for Grassroots football, funded by the Government, to provide subsidised defibrillators for Grassroots clubs in phase three of the Mrs Brown's Boys FAI Heart Care programme.

Moneygall FC, Nenagh AFC, Holycross FC, Cloughjordan FC, Birdhill FC, Clodiagh Rangers signed up to the FAI led Grassroots scheme that will see the clubs offered a state-of-the-art LIFEPAK CR2 (cellular version) defibrillator along with an eight-year mobile phone data plan and training for 10 people in Basic Life Support and use of an Automatic External Defibrillator.

 *In total 20 FAI Summer Camps took place over July and August*

Women's & Girls Football

Women's and Schoolgirls Football continued to grow with almost 25 clubs throughout the county having girl's football within their club structures.

The Tipperary Women's League pictured above entered and competed in the 2023 Angela Hurst Competition. In addition, North Tipperary's U19s Women's Team competed in this year's inter-league tournament with North Tipperary reaching the Final providing a pathway to allow players to transition from schoolgirls to senior women's football.

Both North Tipperary and South Tipperary schoolgirls seen below competed at the club, inter-league and Gaynor Cup levels also with

2023 Aviva Soccer Sisters Easter Programme

2023 was the first year of a newly revamped Aviva Soccer



Sisters programme. The objective of this programme is to retain girls in the sport through upskilling and awareness building amongst both coaches and parents. To support this, the FAI have developed coaching programmes to increase coaches' awareness of specific topics that may impact the girl's game e.g., menstrual cycle - by providing parents with necessary support and information, resulting in a better environment for the young girls.

Three workshops were delivered at Easter in Tipperary (BT Harps FC, Newport Town AFC, Cahir Park) with the support of Tipperary Sports Partnership. The workshops consisted of Parent education, Player education & Coach education. Teams from the host clubs travelled to a regional blitz with BT Harps & Newport Town participating in a blitz in UL. Newport Town subsequently got selected to represent Munster in the National blitz that will be held in the Aviva Stadium in April.

Aviva Future Stars

The Aviva Future Stars programme is the second point of engagement for girls in the sport and is aimed at 9 to 12-year-olds. An eight-week 'Aviva Future Stars' programme was held in Clonmel Celtic FC, Newport Town AFC, Borrisokane FC, Slievenamon Celtic/Kilsheelan United and Tipperary Town FC.

Aviva Girls In Green

The Aviva Girls in Green programme is the next phase on the pathway and an increasingly important one. An eight-week 'Aviva Girls in Green' programme was held in Birdhill FC and Cahir Park AFC and St Joseph's Borrisoleigh for girls aged between 13 – 16 years.

Uefa Disney Playmakers



UEFA Disney Playmakers is a new programme that the FAI are running alongside UEFA and Disney in clubs and schools across Ireland and is at girls aged 5-8 years who are not currently playing football. The sessions are based around some of Disney's most famous films. Training took place with the Disney Playmakers club & school coaches before the programmes launching in March in Nenagh AFC 21 new playmakers delivered trained up.

The programme was delivered in Nenagh AFC, BT Harps, Moneygall FC, Birdhill FC, Cloughjordan FC, St Marys Convent Primary School Nenagh, Peake Villa FC, Lough Derg FC, Killenaule Moyglass Ladies FC, Cahir Park AFC and Slievenamon Celtic FC (292 participants registered) and was delivered over 2 ten-week blocks.



KickFit Women's 5v5 League

Moneygall and BT Harps groups have since begun to play regular games and both clubs have also entered the women's 5v5 KickFit League which was developed to expand the number of clubs offering women's football in North Tipperary. The league commenced in November with a blitz event in BT Harps FC and Newport Town AFC. Killavilla, Birdhill, Newport, Borriskane, Rearcross, Moneygall, Newport, BT Harps, and Holycross all signed up for the newly formed KickFit 5v5 League. The league will continue as a series of 5v5 blitz events up to Q1 of 2024.



Kick Fit 5v5 Blitz

Kickfit Programme

The Kickfit programme which is a 8-week football fitness programme for women over the age of 18 gives women the opportunity to keep fit by playing football.

Moneygall FC have continued their KickFit group with members who want to play recreationally. In 2023 seven new Kickfit programmes took place at Cloughjordan FC, Borriskane FC, BT Harps FC, the Tipperary Community Sports Hub in the Canon Hayes and Killenaule Moyglass FC, Two Mile Borris St Kevins FC and Clonmel Town FC.

Fifa Women's World Cup Events

As part of a preparation event to support the FAI women's national team at the World Cup. A blitz was held in Moneygall FC with the playmakers from Moneygall FC, BT Harps FC, Lough Derg FC and Cloughjordan FC. A women's 5v5 tournament was held in Ballymackey FC with 8 teams in attendance including Moneygall's KickFit team. Several watch parties also took place across Tipperary during the women's World Cup. World Cup watch packs were provided to the host venues for the events.

Player Development

Emerging Talent Programme

Player Development (Boys and Girls) The Emerging Talent programme continues to promote the development of the elite underage male and female players in the county with centres of excellence in both the South and North of the county respectively.

FAI Centre Of Excellence

In addition, players from both the NTSFL and TSSDL have gone on from their Emerging Talents League Programmes to their Regional Centre of Excellence at boys and girls' levels. This has seen Tipperary players participate in regional weekly sessions and or blocks with many moving onto National Academy (selection of players from the regional centre of excellence) whilst also we have had several players play at provincial and international levels having progressed through this process.



Football Social Responsibility

Football For All

Football For All sessions were delivered weekly in Clonmel Town FC with Rehab Care Clonmel, Bridgewater Clonmel & Journeyman Program from Carrick on Suir. In addition to weekly sessions, this group took part in National Learning Network Southeast Blitz days further increasing their participation. Football For All sessions are also taking place within Cahir Park AFC Football For All.

In addition, Ballymackey FC's Football For all Cub programme continues to run weekly and participation numbers encouragingly continue to rise steadily. The older group in Ballymackey has since had their first blitz event with another FFA club in Limerick & Cork. Two of the participants in the older group have also been selected for the Munster Senior FFA development squad.



Football for All, Peak Villa

Peake Villa FC launched the FFA Club programme in April, Support has been provided to the club from the FAI Football For All Department including the delivery of a Disability Awareness Workshop with new club FFA coaches at Peake Villa. Ongoing support will be provided to the club where required. In addition, discussions are being held with Clonmel Town FC and Moneygall FC to assess the viability of setting up an FFA section within this club. In addition, Tipperary Clonmel Community Training Centre and Youth-reach programmes were supported to host their Mini Olympic Games.

KickStart 2 Recovery Programme

The programme aims to provide mental health service users with an opportunity to engage in a therapeutic, activity-focused and community-based group. A six-week programme was delivered in St. Cronins in Roscrea in August and September.

Walking Football

2 six-week Walking Football programme were held at the Tipperary Town Sports Hub with the Brothers of Charity and the programme continued successfully with Cashel Men's Shed / Spafield Family Resource Centre over two blocks in the spring and winter.

Intercultural

Africa Day took place in May, within Tipperary. An Africa Day Cup event was held in Borriskane FC over two days. Members from direct provision living in Borriskane & Roscrea attended the event which was held in partnership with Borriskane FC & NTCD with 120 participants.

An eight-week Club Bride programme was run in Borriskane FC in Nov – Dec with the aim of the programme being to integrate the members of Borriskane Direct Provision Centre into the club.



Africa Day

Youth & Outreach

In collaboration with Youth Work Ireland's (YWI) Cashel Youth Project, a summer programme with both boys and girls (20 participants each day) took place throughout June whilst in July a block of sessions at St Michaels Avenue MUGGA pitch in Tipperary Town in collaboration with Tipperary Sports Partnership, Tipperary Sports Hub, An Garda Siochana, Tipperary Town Revitalisation, Knockanrawley Resource Centre and Three Drive Family Resource Centre amongst others took place (30 participants each day). Positively, participants have joined St Michaels' FC and Tipperary Town FC from our MUGGA programme.



Mugga Programme, Tipperary Town

Late Night Leagues

A new pilot Late Night League format was successfully delivered in collaboration with An Garda Siochana in the Clonmel / Carrick district over a four week period in September / October. Youth and community groups from both areas participated with the initiative taking place at Clonmel Celtic FC.





Tipperary Museum of Hidden History



Overview

Tipperary Museum of Hidden History enables people to experience the cultural richness and pride of Tipperary through collecting, caring, interpreting and displaying the material history of our county for the enjoyment, education and benefit of all our users.

The Museum Service continued to deliver a high-quality amenity during 2023. Our priority projects included the Heritage Stewardship Project which advanced the transfer of traditional Irish skills with diverse communities, achieving Maintenance in the Heritage Council's Museum Standards Programme of Ireland, to create, a visually impactful exhibition of photographs from Tipperary Photographer, Paddy Cashin.

During the year, the Museum's strategy was to concentrate on engaging new visitors, advance on our digital presence and to create high impact local exhibitions, while maintaining the Museum Standards Programme of Ireland. We were acutely aware that our visitors sought onsite cultural stimulation and live experiential performances. This enabled museum staff to re-imagine new & innovative educational programming. With our augmented digital presence, new social media channels, and with part of our collection online, our visitors across the globe experienced greater engagement with Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.

Climate change

A key goal for Tipperary Museum is to meet the targets established in the Tipperary County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024 - 2029. The Museum is currently working with the Tipperary Energy Agency to develop a Building Services Design Feasibility Study of the building and to review our HVAC System. Through the Local Authority Museums Networks SMP, a focus on Climate Change will be addressed through a series of far reaching actions.

2023 Innovative Programming

Exhibitions

Untold Stories

Tipperary's Civil War exhibition was extended until June 2023, due to huge demand.



Above: Cathaoirleach Cllr. Rodger Kennedy, Representatives from An Garda Síochána, Historian John Flannery, Museum staff: Marie McMahon, Jayne Sutcliffe and Julia Walsh.



Above: Personal stories recorded and documented as part of our Untold Series

Paddy Cashin Exhibition

Through the lens of Tipperary photographer Paddy Cashin, the Museum produced a highly creative and interactive community exhibition themed around nostalgia and bygone years spanning 1970s -1990s events. Rolls of film were digitised and placed online.



L-R: Marc, Anne, Helen Cashin with Mayor Cllr. Richie Molloy and Marie McMahon Managing Curator



Avocado Bathroom Installation, where Paddy would have developed his photographs in his College Avenue home



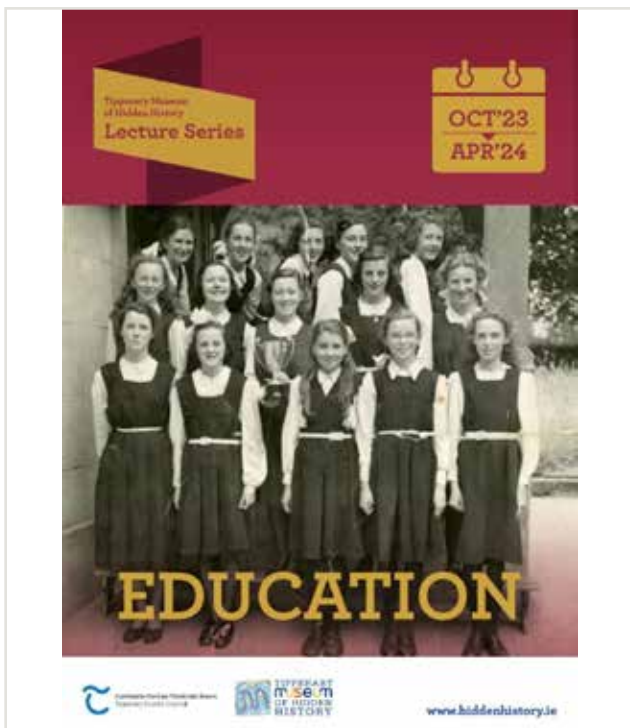
Above: Michael Fanning Digitised a complete body of work by the late Paddy Cashin. 10K + images were processed.

Visitors to the exhibition could scan a QR Code, this would bring you to our online gallery, where visitors are invited to name the people or events in each photograph. This additional interaction ensures that the museum records a comprehensive archive. Accessibility to our collection is a vital objective. Visit online via www.hiddenhistory.ie



Museum Lecture Series

The Museum’s Lecture Series continued into its 10th and 11th year, where the emphasis was on the subject of ‘The Big House’ and ‘Education’. In collaboration with TUS Digital Campus, Clonmel, the Museum hosted the lectures in its auditorium. The Museum received positive feedback about the location, access, coffee/tea, scones and the resumption of Saturday socialising and chats.



Museum Diverse Projects

LGBTQ+ Exhibitions

Local Authority Museums collaborated with the National Museum of Ireland to roll out new Rainbow Revolution History stands, across 12 Local Authority Museums.



Heritage Stewardship Project: ROCK PAPER SCISSORS Exhibition

This pilot project is on its second year and while the Museum has an extensive education programme, Museum Staff concentrated on our community outreach and socially engaged offering. This included programmes on traditional skills. Museum staff set up an Irish traditional skills programme with a focus on built heritage and inviting Irish and migrant communities living and working in Tipperary to participate. The results were very positive.



L-R: Ukrainian participants with Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ger Darcy, Michael Hughes Documentary Producer, Philip Quinn Stone Mason, Ciara Connolly and Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council



L – R: Coláiste Shliabh na mBan boys with Michael Hughes Documentary Producer, Philip Quinn Stone Mason, and Coláiste Staff



Museum Website Development

A major milestone for the Museum was the development of a new website www.hiddenhistory.ie. It enabled the Museum to offer an additional hybrid of services. Our lecture series was streamed live and facilitated those who could not attend in person. Equally, new content from our collection was also shared through our accessible website and YouTube Channel.



New Loan Boxes:

Fun & Games + Hearth & Home are both available to groups across Ireland – Schools, communities, HSE and nursing homes.

Contact museum@tipperarycoco.ie



Collections Care & Acquisitions:

R.T.E.s Today Show invited Tipperary Museum of Hidden History to exhibit material pertaining to equine and rural themes.

Items selected were: Chicken Coupe, Dole House, Jack B. Yeats painting, Purple Wedding Dress and Goggles worn by Rachael Blackmore, previously given to Dylan Goldbach. Dylan decided that he should donate the Goggles to the Museum and wrote a letter to Marie McMahon, stating his request (October 2023).

As a result of Dylan's kind gesture, Rachael decided to donate her Championship Silks to the Museum, see below:



L to R: TCC Ruth Maher with son Dylan Goldbach on the Today Show



L to R: David Nolan Museum, Jayne Sutcliffe Museum, Marie McMahon Museum, Dylan Goldbach, Dr. Claudia Kinmonth, Daithí Ó Sé Today Show

Dan Breen Material: David Nolan and Jayne Sutcliffe attended the Book Launch of John Connors new book, 'Dan Breen: The man behind the Myth', November in Ballykisteon Hotel, Tipperary Town. The Museum loaned a number of items associated with Dan Breen for the event including the newly acquired Razor, his Revolver plus his gold Fob Watch



Donations:

- Various books from the 1950's
- 1920's communion Dress, 1939 Santa Letter, Christening Robe and warming plate.
- Material associated with W.D Hemphill
- Dan Breen's Cut Throat Razor (purchase)

Conservation of Items:

A 1930s boy's Communion suit and Dr. Pat O' Callaghan's Travelling leather suitcase. The Grange Land League flag from Textile conservator Rachel Phelan, was returned to us in June.

Display: Conservator Sven Haberman mounted the Grange flag back on the wall along with displaying some of our Archaeological artefacts and a series of metal advertising signs in the foyer of the museum.



National Award for Museum:

MSPI Museum Standards Programme of Ireland:

Tipperary Museum of Hidden History was awarded Maintenance of Accreditation 2023. The award ceremony was held in Kilkenny Castle, July 2023.



Front Left to Right: TCC Cathaoirleach Cllr Ger Darcy, Council Member for the Heritage Council, Sheila Pratschke, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council Virginia Teehan, Managing Curator Tipperary Museum of Hidden History Marie McMahon, TCC Collections Officer Jayne Sutcliffe.

Back Left to Right: TCC Chief Executive Joe MacGrath, TCC Education Officer Julia Walsh and TCC Museum Officer Siobhan Wynne.



Local Authority Museum Network L.A.M.N. awardees at the Heritage Council Museum Standards programme of Ireland in Kilkenny Castle. Represented were Carlow County Museum, Cork Public Museum, Tipperary Museum of Hidden History and Donegal County Museum.

Documenting the Past:

The Museum's Collections Officer Jayne facilitated a workshop with the TY Students, from Clonmel High School about best practice, handling and organisation of photographic material. The TY students were given the task of organising the school archive of images.



Collaboration

Tipperary County Council's Museum, Heritage and Planning Departments came together to organise a one-day seminar for owners of vacant properties who are looking at ways of bringing them back into use.

The seminar was held in TUS Campus in June 2023.



Seasonal Events

The Museum continued to share online workshops / talks / film previews during Heritage Week and Culture Night. This has increased engagement by 60% and our online reach to over 100k+ in 2023.



Maths Week October:

The Education Department working with CALMAST from SETU brought the Museum Maths Trail to primary schools via the Maths Week Website and 217 students attended the Museum to complete the trail.

The trail was featured on TG4 Cúla News 18th October



Maths Week Website

Science Week:

Working with CALMAST from SETU the Education Officer hosted a Science Week event in The Talbot Hotel, Clonmel entitled 'The Science Behind the Past'. Six specialist archaeologists discussed and illustrated to approx. 300 students how science and history can work together to tell us about the past.

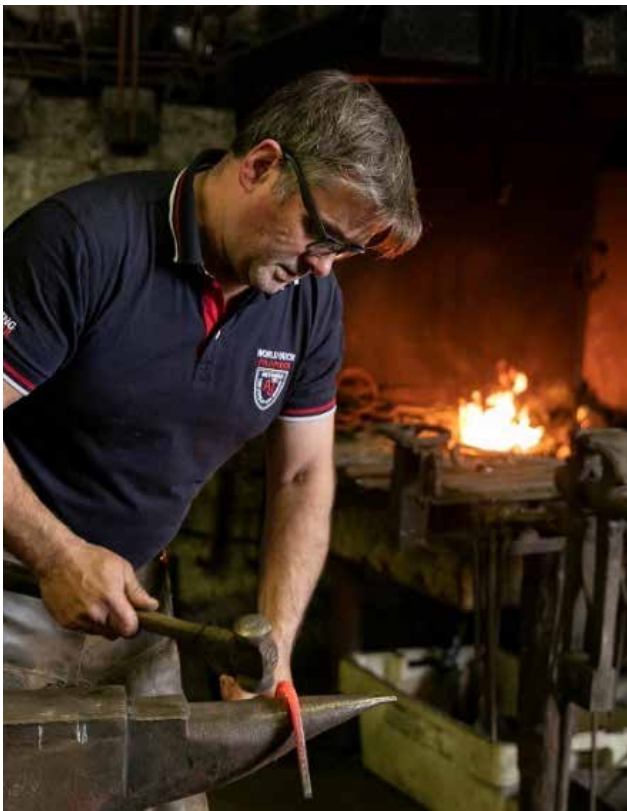


ARTiculation

The Museum continued to host the Tipperary ARTiculation competition in 2023. ARTiculation Ireland is a public speaking competition which promotes the appreciation and discussion of art, artefacts and architecture in secondary schools throughout Ireland. Participating students are offered the chance to deliver a ten-minute presentation before their peers and a wider audience about a work of art, an artefact or piece of architecture of their choice



Thoroughbred Country Horse Experience



Fáilte Ireland brought several groups on a Familiarization Trip to the Museum and to experience Joe Channons Forge (above) and to demonstrate techniques and local traditions.

Night Time Economy presents “Hidden Gems”, at the Museum



Late Night Music at the Museum features ‘Hidden Gems’, funded by Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Night Time Economy. Across 4 nights in Sept, October and November 23, Tipperary’s young, new and established bands took to the intimate stage and setting of Tipperary Museum of Hidden History.



Above L-R: Kate Twohig ‘When Next We Meet’, Stephen McGrath ‘Guitarist’, Eoin Haly ‘When Next We Meet’, Marie M,cMahon Managing Curator Tipperary Museum and Dirk Baumann Sound and Lighting Producer @ Tipperary Museum.

Clonmel Junction Arts Festival collaboration



The Museum Education officer Julia Walsh facilitated two tours for Clonmel Junction Festival as part of its “From Out the Land” project themed around Kichham Barracks. The first event was an “English/Polish Tour” of the Museum gallery. The second was a walking tour of Clonmel town looking at sites associated with objects previously viewed in the Museum.

Funding

Our budget from Tipperary County Council along with increased funding from our cultural partners, The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Heritage Council; SICAP; Environment; CREATIVE Ireland; and Culture Night has ensured our innovative and exciting programme of events and exhibitions has been realised in 2023 and will continue into 2024.



Heritage Services

The Role of the Heritage Office is to work with local communities and the local authority

- Promoting awareness and appreciation of the Heritage of Tipperary
- Promoting active conservation of the Heritage of Tipperary
- Supporting that gathering and dissemination of information on the Heritage of Tipperary.

This is delivered through the County Heritage Plan Programme, The National Biodiversity Action Plan programme, The Irish Walled Towns Network, Community Monuments Fund and other initiatives from the Heritage Council such as the Historic Towns Initiative. In addition to this the Heritage Office also delivers the Creative Ireland Programme for Tipperary in conjunction with the Councils Cultural Team and Creative Ireland and the Commemorations programme in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

In 2023 the Heritage Office collaborated with groups and organisations around the county the county to leverage funding and continued in our research and raising awareness programme drawing down funding of approximately €600,000



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

County Heritage Plan Actions

Raising Awareness Programme:

The Heritage Office continued with awareness raising activity across the programme which culminated in a very successful and busy Heritage Week in August.

Activities included

- Reinventing the Past-Old House New Home Seminar for owners of vacant properties in Thurles June 2023 in partnership with Planning Dept and County Museum.
- 2 short films on the life of Charles Bianconi
- Archaeology Guide to the Heritage of Cahir
- Photographic record of Clonmel Friary pre closure
- Feasibility Study for DW Parkes Gladstone St with The Irish Landmark Trust
- Conservation report and method statement on graffiti at St Marys Church Templemore
- Actioning Templemore Heritage Plan
- Series of Plaques based on Griffiths Valuation for Templemore
- Heritage of Templemore pullups
- Templemore Heritage trail reprint & guide to plaques
- Launch of Medieval Towns of Tipperary
- Geophysical Survey of Templeree graveyard
- Joined ICAN network, pilot meeting held in September and interviews with pilot groups November 28th
- Heritage Plan Consultation August -September

Heritage Week 2023

National Heritage Week, an annual celebration of Irelands rich heritage took place August 12th to 20th. This is a Heritage Council programme supported by the Local Authority Heritage Officers Network. The Heritage Office ran a Heritage Week grant scheme to support local groups celebrate their heritage. Over 85 events took place across the county.





Congratulations to Nenagh Heritage Centre who were runners up in the Climate and Sustainability Award at the National Heritage Week Awards in Offaly in October and to Cahir Social and Historical Society for winning the County Award.



Cahir Social and Historical Society



Nenagh Arts Centre



Cllr Fiona Bonfield with Eva Birdthistle receiving their award from Dr Martina Moloney Chair of Heritage Council and Virginia Teehan C.E Heritage Council

Irish Walled Towns Network

We were delighted to welcome the IWTN management Committee to Fethard during the summer for one of their board meetings. At this meeting the Heritage Officer for Tipperary was co-opted on the board to replace a member. The workshop on soft capping of walls and the AGM were attended by members from Tipperary. The Heritage Office commissioned a story board on the medieval towns of Tipperary which was launched at end of the year.



Walkabout with IWTN management committee in Fethard

National Biodiversity Action Plan

A number of initiatives were funded through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund in 2023.

This included

- County Wetlands Survey
- Alpine Newt Survey
- Quagga Mussel Survey
- Lough Nahinch underwater survey and hydrological modelling
- CloughJordan and Lough Nahinch Bird Survey
- Raising awareness grants for Tenplemore demesne biodiversity action plan and biodiversity week grants
- Sustainable gardening course.

Tipperary County Council also signed up to the Heritage Councils Biodiversity Officers programme and Ann Marie Fleming was appointed as Tipperary County Council's Biodiversity Officer in November 2023

Community Monument Fund

The Community Monuments Fund supports the production of Conservation Plans, interpretative measures and capital works on archaeological monuments in the ownership of the Local Authority and private landowners. It is an exemplar scheme providing 100% funding towards projects.

In 2023, Tipperary County Council administered seven successful projects

Boolabaun Castle (Phase 2)	Stabilisation Works	€75,605
Kilnarath Church (Phase 2)	Stabilisation Works	€100,000
Loughloher Castle	Vegetation removal	€28,831.50
Loughmoe Castle	Conservation Plan	€29,520
Monastic Site Emly	Holy well interpretation	€12,915
Kilsheelan Graveyard	Conservation Assesment	€8,487

Creative Ireland Programme

Creative Ireland Programme: is a cross departmental culture-based programme designed to promote individual, community and national wellbeing. It is coordinated by the Heritage Office in Tipperary in partnership with the Arts Office, the Library Service and the County Museum. The Creative Ireland Strategy was launched in February 2023 by Minister Catherine Martin at Farmleigh House.



The Heritage Office ran two schemes to encourage creativity in our communities. We funded ten community projects and ten projects under our Project Award Scheme



Cruinniú na nÓg the national day of free creativity for children took place on June 10th. Events took place across the County. The Heritage Office launched an open call in April to facilitate events across the county.



Decade of Commemorations

This was the final year of the Decade of Centenaries. Our Local Legacies grant programme allocated funds to 5 projects and the Aleen Cust workbook was launched at St Michaels School in Tipperary Town



Royal Sites UNESCO Bid

Tipperary County Council has been working with counties Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon and Armagh for the last number of years to progress the Royal Sites of Ireland for UNESCO designation as a world heritage site. We were delighted to be announced as one of 3 bids to get on the new Tentative List in July 2022 and have been working on progressing the bid.

A Mapping exercise was completed in 2023 mapping the OUV attributes of each of the 6 sites which will be the basis for the case for UNESCO designation for the Royal Sites. Discussions on a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department and Local Authorities began in late 2023 with work also beginning on a comparative analysis to progress the addition of Navan Fort on to the UK Tentative List. An Archaeology Ireland insert was produced on the Hill of Uisneach with one on the Rock of Cashel planned for 2024.

Arts Service

Tipperary A Place for the Arts 2023-2027 is a new Arts Strategy which was launched during 2023 with the overarching vision of “Making Tipperary a better place through the arts”. This new strategy provides a roadmap for Tipperary County Council to continue its work to support an environment where the arts can flourish to the benefit of artists, cultural producers, local communities and visitors to the county.

We work towards the continuing development of the arts in the county in partnership with a range of stakeholders including our funding partners The Arts Council. Our work is guided by the Tipperary Arts Strategy across four strategic priorities:



The work of the Arts Office requires a strategic, collaborative, and creative approach to meet its core principles of Imagine, Inspire, Invest. Tipperary County Council has developed a strong vision for the arts in the county through its desire to ensure that everyone who lives in or visits Tipperary has the opportunity to engage with and participate in the arts and enjoy a vibrant cultural life. The work of the team at Tipperary Arts Office in implementing this vision for the arts is multi-faceted and imaginative, and encompasses a wide range of services, actions, and activities. This includes provision of information and advice, advocating for the arts at a local and national level, brokering partnerships and collaborations, undertaking research and planning, seeking investment for the arts, and supporting artists, cultural producers and the arts infrastructure through the management of a range of schemes and programmes.

2023 was a busy and productive year across the arts sector with a focus on re-building engagement with audiences and supporting a range of activity, infrastructure and initiatives to develop the arts. We are looking forward to working with the arts sector across the county in implementing this new arts strategy over the next five years to maximise opportunities for arts development within the county.



Cllr. Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach launching The Tipperary Arts Strategy- April 2023

Initiatives to support the development of the *Arts in Education* are a key element of the Tipperary Arts Programme.

Artists in Primary School Scheme 2023

Artist in Primary Schools Scheme projects took place in twelve schools across the county with Tipperary artists in 2023 which was an increase on 2022 projects due to increased demand supported in partnership with our funding partner The Arts Council.

Projects were delivered across artforms from animation and theatre to visual arts and storytelling. 888 students across Tipperary participated in the 2023 scheme from all school types and size. This scheme is an important early point of access to the arts and is key to delivering on one of our desired outcomes, to achieve a demographic and geographic spread of arts provision across the county.



Ballinure NS with animation artist Mike Byrne



Scoil Lua Naofa, Lorrha with visual artist Lynn Kirkham



The **Prints for Schools Exhibition** is an arts office initiative to support access to original works of art by secondary school students. This touring exhibition can be borrowed by second level schools as a support to the school curriculum and allows art teachers to use original artwork in a way that best suits their needs. The exhibition was installed in St. Ailbe's School, Tipperary Town from January and a workshop on the processes involved in printmaking took place in the school.

Ukrainian Health and Well-being Support Arts Project

The Tipperary Arts office secured funding to coordinate a series of art engagement opportunities at congregated Ukrainian rest centres across Tipperary during 2023. The funding for this intervention was made available through the Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing support fund, the purpose of which is to promote health and wellbeing of Ukrainian refugees who have sought protection in Ireland.



Beginning in late February and concluding on March 24th, a total of 16 arts workshops took place across 3 sites in the county, with over 200 Ukrainian refugees in attendance. Participants ranged in age from young children to older adults. Six artists working in various disciplines including music and visual arts visited residential settings in Dundrum and Fethard and also the newly formed Ukrainian Community Centre in Thurles. Coordinators at each centre reported positively on the effects of the workshops, citing increased wellness and enhanced social and communication skills. The Arts Office will now look to support each of the centres coordinators in applying for further funding opportunities made available through Tipperary County Council such as 'Criunniu na nOg' in June and 'Culture Night' in September, in the hope of building on the connections made and providing further high-quality arts-based experiences for the Ukrainian community in Tipperary.



First Music Contact Regional Development project in partnership with **Tipperary County Council, Kerry County Council, Limerick County Council and Clare County Council**



First Music Contact in association with Tipperary County Council developed a programme of professional development workshops during 2023. First Music Contact is the lead national music organisation for resourcing musicians and the independent music sector in Ireland. They deliver projects at key stages of an artists' development, helping them develop real careers.

In advance of the workshops, musicians completed a questionnaire to inform First Music Contact about their requirements. Tipperary musicians were then invited to an Introduction to the Music Industry and First Music Contact supports workshop and panels on Approaching Irish Media, Reaching Online Audiences, Giggling outside Ireland and Management.

A second phase of workshops took place during March covering topics such as, Developing as an artist: A perspective, Publishing and Music Supervision, DIY, and Funding.

Tipperary Bealtaine Festival 2023

Tipperary Arts Office together with our colleagues in Tipperary Library service worked together once again to present the Tipperary Bealtaine Festival, an extensive, interactive programme running throughout the month of May celebrating creativity as we age across the county. This year's programme included over 120 events, a mix of workshops, live and online performance, exhibitions and socially engaged projects across a wide range of art forms including theatre, music, literature, film and visual arts.

The festival was launched in Roscrea Library by Cllr. Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach with an event featuring participants of Age Friendly Roscrea. Working with artist/folklorist Michael Fortune they showcased their work and findings from their recent folklore and reminiscence project. Michael and the group exhibited this material as a pop-up exhibition featuring images, text and films which was available to view in the library for the month of May.



Age Friendly Roscrea with artist Michael Fortune



Paddy Goes to Petra by Aine Ryan at Nenagh Arts Centre

Nenagh Arts Centre celebrated Tipperary Bealtaine festival with a number of free workshops (exploring topics such as ageing creatively and learning about local history) as well as live music and theatre performances, culminating in a performance of the play 'Paddy goes to Petra', written and directed by Upperchurch theatre maker Aine Ryan, on Tues 30th May. The work of Cloughjordan artist Helen Costello also featured, with her Seen Unseen exhibition on display in the Arts Centre throughout the month of May.



Mending Matters- Carrick on Suir

The Tudor Artisan Hub creative team presented a total of 6 workshops and demonstrations at the Sean Healy Library in Carrick on Suir, inviting participants to engage in their Mending Matters programme, and learn simple and practical skills to repair, repurpose and renew belongings.



The Tinctures, Tonics and and Teas Project in Clonoulty

Artist Aoife Barrett took her Print Van Go travelling studio to Clonoulty in 2023 to explore the joys of herbal health and the many and varied uses and needs for herbs. Aoife worked with Clonoulty's young at heart club and invited the wider community to drop in too. The Tinctures, Tonics and Teas project was based around creative workshops that involve planting and growing herbs, sharing herbal remedies, recipes, printmaking and textiles.



Katy Goodhue is a visual artist who lives and works in the Slieveardagh Hills and presented the Slieveardagh Recollection Collection at the Millennium Family resource Centre in Glengoole, an exhibition of items from a project where older members of the community come together to celebrate their collective and individual pasts.



Sound, Sight and Story Project, Newport


In Newport, artists Chelsea Canavan and Andy Spearpoint worked with Newport Day Care centre on Sound Sight and Story, a project where residents shared stories associated with items of personal significance to co-create artworks and soundscapes.



The Retracing Project, Burncourt

Aisling Fitzgerald and Joey Maguire led The Retracing Project with an aim to creatively engage older people with their childhood leisure memories through nature, art and heritage. Capturing stories and memories of Glengarra Wood and Mountain Lodge Burncourt, the project created a portal for social history to entwine with creative practice that engages with our natural and architectural heritage. Prompted by a reprinting of the original Nature Trail pamphlet of Glengarra Wood (courtesy of Galtee Honey Farm), a series of recorded interviews with senior citizens from the Galtee Vee Valley were featured, alongside woodland drone footage and interviews of retired foresters and former hikers, as part of a short documentary film.

The Tipperary Bealtaine Music Tour is a centrepiece of the Tipperary Bealtaine offering each year, and in 2023 professional musicians once again visited a number of day care centres, nursing homes and hospital settings—including Borrisokane Day Care Centre, St Conlon's Nenagh, as well as centres in Tipperary Town, Templemore, Thurles, Holycross and Cashel.

 **“Making Tipperary a better place through the Arts”**

Tipperary Arts Strategy Vision

Musicians on Call

Musicians-on-Call is a music in healthcare programme supported by The Creative Ireland Creativity in Older Age Award 2023.



Musicians-on-Call brings professionally trained musicians to work in healthcare settings in the Mid West Community Healthcare Region, to connect music-making opportunities to residents and healthcare staff in Nursing Homes and Community Hospitals. The Musicians-On-Call programme provides a music sharing experience that puts the residents' interests and choice at the heart of music making, by connecting closely with the setting before each visit and facilitating the residents to curate each visit through a two-way responsive engagement.

This regional project, led by Limerick Arts Office and delivered in partnership with Tipperary and Clare Arts Offices, Music & Health Ireland (working with local musicians) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) promotes health and well-being by improving the quality of life and cultural access for those who live and work in Healthcare Settings.

Working with the Older Person's Residential Services in the Midwest Community Healthcare Area across all 9 HSE Residential Nursing Units, the Tipperary area of the project included 12 live music events to 3 nursing homes in the Tipperary area; St Conlon's Community Nursing Unit, Nenagh; Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles and Dean Maxwell Roscrea.

Evidence has shown a huge increase in loneliness and isolation for older adults in residential care over the pandemic. Purpose, self-expression, autonomy, well-being, improved communication, maintenance of family connections, and enhanced relationship between staff and residents are some of the reported qualitative benefits of music in healthcare (Sheppard & Broughton, 2020).

This programme ran from June to October 2023 and in addition to the impacts described above, the project also developed a regional team of professional musicians with the skills and training to work appropriately and safely as healthcare musicians.

Invitation to Collaboration Project with Cashel Arts Festival & Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre

This was a collaborative project which received funding under The Arts Council's Invitation to Collaboration scheme for 2023. Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Theatre delivered intergenerational creative residencies in Tipperary, Kildare and Donegal that resulted in local performances in each area. In Tipperary we worked with The Cashel Arts Festival. The Tipperary Residency with Fidget Feet Aerial Dance Company took place around the Cashel area during the month of June and resulted in a community sharing as part of performances of Fidget Feet's House! Show during The Cashel Arts Festival in September.

In Cashel

- 722 community participants took part in 40 community workshops.
- 56 community participants took part in 3 Taster Days, taking place on 17th & 24th June, and 1st July at Larkspur Hall, facilitated by Fidget Feet
- 32 community members performed in the shows.




This project presented a unique public engagement opportunity for local communities. By incorporating themes of bingo and circus into one cohesive intergenerational opportunity, it attracted new audiences and allowed people of all ages and abilities to engage with the arts in new ways. Participants were engaged in multidisciplinary workshops including dance, theatre, circus skills, and bingo.

About Fidget Feet

Since 1998, Fidget Feet have created, established and nurtured the aerial dance sector in Ireland. 2023 marked Fidget Feet's 25th year and House was a big part of the 25-year celebrations. Having created and performed over 35 shows, both indoor and outdoor over the past 25 years. Fidget Feet has established itself as a leader, a creator, a performer and a trainer of aerial arts and circus in Ireland.

It was particularly significant for Tipperary to host this project celebrating Fidget Feet's 25th year as Tipperary (along with Donegal) was one of the first Local Authority Arts Offices to work with Fidget Feet in 1999 with a project in Roscrea.



 *The Arts Office Core Principles are:*
IMAGINE
INSPIRE
INVEST

Culture Night

Culture Night Tipperary 2023 attracted an audience of nearly 3000 people on the evening of Friday, September 22nd, while also engaging the participation of up to 70 artists and creative practitioners. Collaborating closely with our arts and cultural partners, we developed and coordinated 40 events, across 13 towns and villages. Tipperary came alive with a vibrant programme of live performances, exhibitions, workshops, tours, screenings and community initiatives. Events were held in Clonmel, Nenagh, Carrick on Suir, Cahir, Fethard, Borrisokane, Thurles, Tipperary Town, Cloughjordan, Cashel, Roscrea, Newport, Terryglass and Ballina. As in previous years, the main objective was to shine a light on the many creative initiatives happening across Tipperary, with the aim of motivating new and existing audiences to actively participate in the arts in their area and return to those same cultural venues for subsequent engagement.



Caption: Art, Climate, Community', South Tipperary Arts Centre, Kickham Barracks, Clonmel

Audiences were welcomed to Culture Night Late in the Ballroom at Hearn's Hotel Clonmel, presented by Clonmel Applefest, supported by the new Culture Night Late funding strand. This event was a vibrant celebration of music, storytelling and dance. The evening featured a captivating journey through Irish mythology with Orla McGovern's storytelling, a delightful blend of waltzes, tango and gypsy jazz by the jazz/klezmer band Fresh Air Collective, and a mesmerizing display of artistic skill by the hula hoop fire dancers, Stevie and Ro.

Tipperary Town saw an increase in Culture Night activity this year with the addition of the newly established 6s & 7s Gallery and the Creative Places Tipperary programme. Artist Gerry Carew, opened the 6s & 7s gallery in early 2023 and for Culture Night invited the community to explore her gallery and participate in workshops. Creative Places Tipperary Town collaborated with the Irish Wheelchair Association to capture the experiences of wheelchair users living in Tipperary Town, through the medium of song and visual art.

We celebrated the diversity of culture in Tipperary again this year with the 'Sunflowers Soniashnyk' exhibition, curated by artist Trish Taylor Thompson in Terryglass. This exhibition was a tribute to the Ukrainian national flower and was developed in collaboration with the Ukrainian communities in North Tipperary. In addition, Down Syndrome Tipperary enjoyed a joyous celebration of Down Syndrome Culture in their headquarters in Thurles. We also supported The Clonmel Theatre Guild who staged a rehearsed reading of the original comedy play 'Sacred Old Cow' at the Coachman in Clonmel. This production brought together both Irish and Indian actors, promoting cultural exchange.



Our Town Too: Creative Places Tipperary & the Irish Wheelchair Association, Tipperary Town



Who We Are: Down Syndrome Tipperary, Thurles



Culture Night Late at the Ballroom, Clonmel Applefest, Clonmel

Tipperary Artist Directory

The Tipperary Artist Directory, <https://tipperaryarts.ie/>, a new website showcasing professional Tipperary Artists was launched in the first week of October 2023 by Cllr. Gerard Darcy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council.



This website is designed to act as a resource to promote the work of artists and arts practitioners living and/or working in Tipperary. The directory includes contact details, artist bios, images and links to websites and other work of Tipperary artists, across all art-forms, which can be used as a resource for festivals, curators, producers, collectors and collaborators.



Switch 2023

Switch 'The Videos in the Windows' made a return to Nenagh as the evenings grew darker, featuring a diverse ensemble of international artists. Among the contributing artists were Cecilia Stenbom [UK], Bob Bicknell-Knight [UK], Dave Kemp [Canada], Marta Ciolkowska [Italy & Poland], Patricia Azevedo & Clare Charnley [Brazil & UK], Geska & Robert Brecevic [Sweden & Croatia], Melanie Manos [USA], Timo Kahlen [Germany] and Kuesti Fraun [Germany]. The participating writer this year was Nigel Quinlan [Cloughjordan].

From October 29th to November 5th, the collective works of the 'Switch' artists infused the town's daily fabric, transforming the landscape from 4pm -11pm in Nenagh. These video artworks served as a temporary intervention, offering a unique perspective that diverged from the usual rhythms of the town.



Printed copies of the 'little yellow book' containing the full programme of featured works were available to the public and online. Harald Turek, the lead artist and driving force behind the project, facilitated a number of open and free "switching on" walking tours which provided audiences with an opportunity to hear more about the project and each of the individual works.

Tipperary Youth Arts Hub

Artists and youth workers from Tipperary actively participated in two Youth Arts Hub Tipperary events this autumn. Led by Dave Kelly, the national training coordinator for Youth Theatre Ireland, the Creative Drama Approaches full-day workshop delved into a toolkit of facilitation techniques and activities for youth drama, specifically tailored for work with young people in October.

A second Youth Arts Hub Story Exchange training event took place in November with Visual artist Natalie El Baba. This distinctive training event, blended storytelling with visual art to foster empathy and establish meaningful connections. The workshop was designed to equip youth workers and artists with practical tools and techniques applicable in their work with young people, placing a particular emphasis on empathy and relationship building.

The Tipperary Youth Arts Hub aims to advance skills development, practice exchange and networking for youth workers, youth arts practitioners and artists involved in youth arts in Tipperary. It is a partnership initiative developed to strengthen the community of youth arts practice in Tipperary and better support youth arts provision locally in non-formal education and youth work settlements. Partners include Tipperary ETB, Tipperary Arts Office, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary and NYCI's National Youth Arts programme.



During 2023, 35 local community and voluntary groups were funded under the **Arts Act Grant** Scheme which enables and supports independent arts activities and events throughout the county, the value of this support in 2023 was **€38,350**. In addition, 33 artists were awarded funding under the **Tipperary Artist Awards**, intended to support professional artists under three categories, professional development, creation of new work, reaching audiences. The value of this support was **€28,312**. Two bursary awards were made to professional artists living in Tipperary to develop work at the **Tyrone Guthrie Centre**, a workplace for artists in County Monaghan under their Regional Bursary Scheme. Tipperary County Council also awarded a bursary to attend the **BLAS International Summer School of Traditional Irish Music & Dance** at the University of Limerick. The Blas bursary covers one week's tuition (one-week intensive of masterclasses, Irish language, lectures and concerts). The purpose of these bursaries is to support the professional development of artists.

Support, advice, training and/or funding was also provided to a range of artists, arts festivals and arts organisations throughout the County during 2023.



Library Services

Main Activities in 2023

Tipperary County Council Library Service continued to deliver a high-quality service during 2023. There were over 350,000 visits to libraries in Tipperary. Approximately 270,000 books were issued, with a further 150,000 issues of digital books, magazines, courses and newspapers. In addition, the Library Service recorded over 39,400 engagements on its Facebook page. By Christmas 2023, the Tipperary Studies digital site which has been operational since May 2021, exceeded the 1 million 'hit' mark.

New Library Website

Cllr Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, launched the new library website, in Nenagh Library, in October 2023. The new website, with its fresh look and simplified navigation, is designed to offer a user-driven experience. Allowing visitors to join the library, browse the national catalogue and explore research resources, the new website also includes dynamic content featuring events and news from every branch in the county.

A comprehensive guide to both branch and online services is included featuring information on new assistive services, remote printing, sensory toys and resources, local history archives, national initiatives and the new My Open Library service, which is now available at 5 branches.

The website also incorporates responsive design, allowing for seamless compatibility with all devices, including smartphones, tablets and desktop computers. This feature will enable users to access the library's resources anytime and anywhere, making the library experience more convenient and enjoyable. Additionally, an accessibility toolbar and a new webchat interface have been introduced to enhance interactivity and customisation.

Tipperary County Council Library Service is committed to providing free access to knowledge, promoting lifelong learning and strengthening our communities. This new website acts as a significant asset in helping to achieve these goals and signifies the commitment of Tipperary County Council Library Service to embracing digital trends and ensuring our services are easily accessible to all.



IT support from the Department of Rural and Community Development

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a grant scheme for the purchase of IT equipment for Public Libraries in October 2023. Tipperary County Council secured 100% grant funding of €79,808.64 which will be used to replace all 79 Public Internet PCs across all 12 Branch Libraries. In addition, the Library Service used this funding to purchase 21 laptops, 19 iPads and 2 iMac PCs. This new suite of equipment will be rolled out to all 12 Libraries by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

Re-opening of Cloughjordan Library

Cloughjordan Library re-opened on 5th May. Noirín Duggan, Branch Librarian, Borrisokane Library has been appointed as Branch Manager. Cloughjordan Library had been closed following the passing of Marie Brady, Branch Librarian. Marie gave 35 years of very loyal service to the citizens of Cloughjordan. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

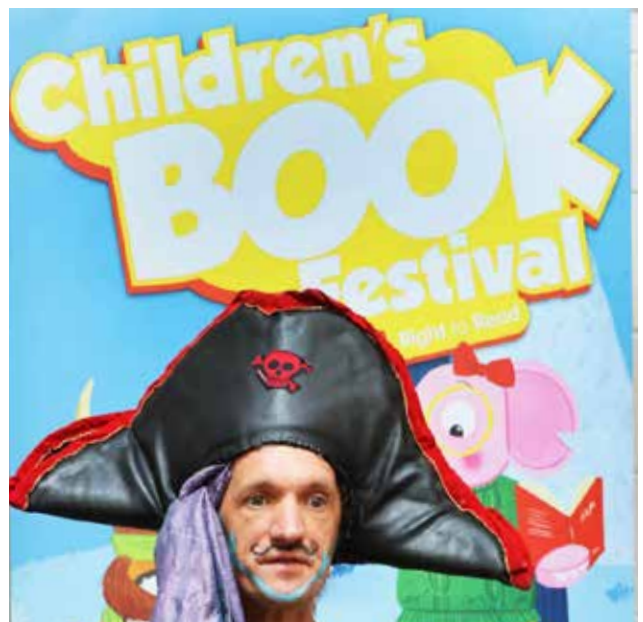
Bealtaine Festival 2023

The Tipperary Bealtaine Festival was officially launched on 5th May in the Roscrea Library by Cllr Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council. As part of this event, artist/folklorist Michael Fortune and participants from Age Friendly Roscrea showcased their work and findings from their recent folklore and reminiscence project. In Michael Fortune began work on a project with staff and participants from Age Friendly Roscrea recording stories, tales and memories in the centre and also in people’s homes. For the Tipperary Bealtaine Programme, Michael and the group have produced this material into a pop-up exhibition featuring images, text and films. A series of these films were shown at the launch and some of the participants spoke about their positive experiences.



Children’s Book Festival 2023

The Children’s Book Festival was officially launched on 2nd October in Nenagh Library by Cllr Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council. As part of the launch, the pupils of Bishop Harty NS in Ballinree were the audience for Arran Towers and his storytelling performance. Arran as “Old Father Time” was a mad clown full of adventurous stories about princesses, pirates and ghosts. With a few costume changes and lots of fun he fully engaged a rapt and enthusiastic audience. During the month of October, 52 reading related events were held in libraries, with 1,898 children from across the county attending.



My Little Library

The 'My Little Library Book Bag' initiative is a collaboration between Public Libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. As part of this initiative, a 'My Little Library Book Bag' is available free for every child starting school in 2023 to help them to prepare for this big step.

Each My Little Library Book Bag contains:

- Three books on starting school, making friends and being comfortable to be yourself
- A story card on going to the library
- A postcard the child can write or draw on and send to their new teacher, or bring to give to the teacher on their first day at school
- Their very own library card and special 'My Little Library' cardholder.

1,600 bags were distributed to children in Co. Tipperary who started school in 2023.



New Lending Services at Your Local Library

Citizen Science Kit: Tipperary County Council Library Service is taking part in a pilot project to make ecology equipment, in the form of a Citizen Science Kit, freely available for citizens looking to join the fight against biodiversity loss. It is expected the kits will be used by students looking to conduct their own studies, amateur ecologists and by community groups such as Tidy Towns, River Trusts and Field Groups who want to gather information to bolster local biodiversity projects. The kit is free to borrow for members of Tipperary County Council Library Service. This new service was launched in Carrick-on-Suir Library on 29th March.



C-Pens ReaderPen: The Readerpen is a state-of-the-art assistive technology designed to support independent reading and learning. Simply scan text with the Readerpen and it will read it aloud as you move over the words. Additional functions include a dictionary tool that will give you the instant definition of a word once you scan it. You can also scan and store text internally or scan it to a computer. There is also a voice recorder included which saves MP3 voice notes. This service has received the support of the Dormant Accounts Fund.



Home Energy Saving Kit: The kit contains five tools you can use to measure how your home uses energy and where energy might be escaping. Once you've measured your energy use, use the workbook to calculate how much it's costing, and how much you might be able to save on bills. When you've discovered where your energy is going, check out our easy to follow guide to start making real savings whether you own or rent, live alone or share your home.

Tipperary Studies

The Tipperary Studies digitisation project continues to go from strength to strength. Some highlights from 2023 include the John James Quinn, Ballypatrick, Clonmel, photographic collection. There was also a large collection of Thurles Town FC match programmes added to the site, from their time in the League of Ireland. Several volumes of admission registers from Cashel Workhouse, 1860s-1890s also attracted great interest. These resources are available to everyone, free of charge on the Tipperary Studies digital platform www.tippstudiesdigital.ie

The ever-popular lecture series continued for its 17th season, drawing large numbers of people to each lecture.



People reading the daily paper in front of Ballypatrick Post Office from the John James Quinn collection

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

The Healthy Ireland at Your Library programme, which establishes libraries as a valuable source within the community for health information. Healthy Ireland at Your Library has seen our libraries partner with health professionals and experts in the County, to deliver a programme of reputable, relevant and trustworthy health information events. From information sessions with Diabetes Ireland, healthy eating workshops, Pilates, and talks on children's health and sleep routine, the programme of events is wide and varied. Trish, who attended the healthy eating webinars, says "Got great tips ... so happy I signed up for it." In 2023, libraries held 20 events with 511 participants.

Franciscan Friary closes in Clonmel, but its legacy lives on.

Clonmel Library accepted a donation of over 100 titles from the Franciscan Friary's library collection. These titles were donated on 9th January with Anne Marie Mullins, Clonmel Library accepting the donation on behalf of Tipperary County Council. This collection is currently being catalogued and will be available to the people of Clonmel in the near future.

Mná na hÉireann celebrated at Cashel Library

Staff at Cashel Library hosted Mná Month which was a festival of events for the month of March that celebrates women. The festival was launched by Cllr Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council on 4th March. The opening of Mná Month began with a reception at the library followed by a performance from The Cedartowns. To celebrate International Women's Day during Mná Month, Cashel Library hosted an evening with Una Healy. Una Healy spoke about her life in Tipperary and beyond and also sang for the audience.

Sensory Services


Cllr Peggy Ryan, Cathaoirleach of Thurles Municipal District, launched the first in a series of social stories, in Roscrea Library on 24th April. A social story provides a social learning tool for people of all ages with additional needs, learning difficulties and those on the Autism Spectrum. They are short descriptions of a particular situation, event or activity, which include specific information about what to expect in that situation and why. The Social Stories are an addition to our Quiet Spaces and Quiet Time, currently being rolled out across the library network.



Donation of Wood Carving to the Source Library, Thurles

Thurles Library received a donation of a wood carving from the family of the late Phil Bourke in April 2023. Phil was born in 'The Hollow', Shevery, Upperchurch in 1926 and celebrated his 95th birthday in the company of his family just five days before his passing. In his 70s, Phil took up carving and excelled at it, creating fabulous pieces with intricate patterns from Bog Oak and other types of wood.

Phil's son, Phil Bourke Jr gave some context to the piece when speaking at the launch.

 *He felt that to provide historical context, he should begin with the 'Flight of the Earls' in 1607 and carve many of the influential characters and events in the intervening period up to the Easter Rising of 1916".*



Top of the House, 90!

As they say in bingo parlance, Top of the House, 90! Indeed, in Templemore Library there were plenty of memories shared when the Library hosted a very special celebration of our local Nonagenarians on 19th May. The Library welcomed twelve local residents who were aged over 90 for a gathering with plenty of treats, singing and an opportunity to catch up with old friends & neighbours. It is a huge milestone to make the 90-plus club and staff of Templemore Library wanted to make the morning as special as possible. Our special guests were treated royally with some wonderful music provided by the talented students of Ours Lady's Secondary School and an array of sandwiches and cakes. This event took place as part of the Bealtaine Festival.



AIB Press Photographers at Nenagh Library

Nenagh library hosted the AIB Press Photographers Association of Ireland Exhibition for three weeks commencing in mid-July. The exhibition was launched in the Civic Offices, Nenagh on 12th July by Cllr Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council with Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council also in attendance. Both current and outgoing Presidents of the Press Photography Association of Ireland, David Branigan and Paul Sherwood respectively, were also in attendance.

Energy Saving Information Day at the Source Library, Thurles

Thurles Library held an Energy Saving Information Day with Deirdre O'Brolchain from Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative on 20th June. This workshop was funded by the Climate Change Action Plan 2022 via Pobal.

Irish Sign Language at Clonmel Library

Clonmel Library hosted an Irish Sign Language event with the Hands in Harmony Deaf Community Choir and Mary Kiely, Mid-West School for the Deaf on 23rd September. This event was held to give citizens an introduction to ISL and got everybody involved with some great musical renditions. This event was held as part of Irish Sign Language Awareness Week.

Culture Night and the Schiesser factory at Carrick-on-Suir Library

Carrick-on-Suir Library hosted the Scheisser's Exhibition, "It Started with a Stitch", during September. The exhibition was created to remember the Textiles Era, the time that the Scheisser's was open in Carrick-on-Suir from 1971 to 1996. This multimedia exhibition included memorabilia, a film shown on a loop and a parade of vintage Paddington bears on loan from a former Schiesser employee that were styled to represent various aspects of the life and times of the factory employees, including some bears that were dressed as the employees once were.

As part of Culture Night on 22nd September, Carrick-on-Suir Library hosted two showings of the play, also titled, "It Started with a Stitch", an original drama remembering and celebrating Schiesser Textiles in Carrick-on-Suir, written and directed by Mary McGrath in collaboration with actress Paula O'Dwyer, who both worked in the Schiesser factory in the 1980s and '90s.

The Real Me Project – Tipperary Town Library

The HSE Gold Star project has secured funding to work in partnership with Tipperary Town Library to develop an Art project. This project which commenced at the end of November engaged with ten people with disabilities, who would like to explore and share their personal life experiences living in the community with a disability and expressing their story through art. The project will develop a collective large piece that will hang permanently on the wall at Tipperary Library and each participant will also make their own book, sharing what they would like to share about their own life stories and experiences of disability. The books will be presented to family and friends at the end of the project and the books will be held at the library and made available to people who would like to browse or explore disability issues in more detail.

Schools Completion Programme at Roscrea Library

Students on the Schools Completion Programme visited Roscrea Library on several occasions in February and March. The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a targeted programme of support for primary and post primary children and young people who have been identified as potentially at risk of early school leaving or who are out of school and have not successfully transferred to an alternative learning site.



Scene from the play "It Started with a Stich" at Carrick-on-Suir Library

Our People





Corporate Policy Group

The Corporate Policy Group (CPG) comprises the Cathaoirleach and the Chairpersons of each of the six Strategic Policy Committees, supported by the Chief Executive & Senior Management Team.

The role of the CPG includes advising and assisting the Plenary Council in the formulation, development, monitoring and review of policy for Tipperary County Council, however, full decision-making authority remains with the Elected Council. The group may also make proposals for the allocation of business between the Strategic Policy Committees and for the general coordination of such business.

The following Councillors were members of the CPG during the period January to December 2023:

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2023



ROGER KENNEDY



GER DARCY



IMELDA GOLDSBORO



KIERAN BOURKE



MICHAEL O'MEARA



MICHAEL FITZGERALD



SEAN RYAN



ANDY MOLONEY

No.	SPC	Councillor	Party Affiliation
1	Cathaoirleach (January to June 2023) Cathaoirleach (July to December 2023)	Roger Kennedy Ger Darcy	Fianna Fáil Fine Gael
2	Economic Development & Enterprise	Imelda Goldsboro	Fianna Fáil
3	Housing	Kieran Bourke	Fianna Fáil
4	Infrastructure (to include Roads, Transportation and Water Services)	Michael O'Meara	Non-Party
5	Planning and Emergency Services	Michael FitzGerald	Fine Gael
6	Environment and Climate Action	Sean Ryan	Fianna Fáil
7	Community, Culture and Library Services	Andy Moloney	Non-Party

During 2023, there were 11 meetings of the CPG and among the items considered at their meetings were:

Ethics Framework Compliance

- Annual Declarations under Section 171 of the Local Government Act 2001
- Disclosure of Donation Statement under Section 19E of the Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999

Consideration of Reports / Policies

- Ratification of Tipperary Women's Caucus
- Planning amendment legislation re LA Housing Developments
- Draft Litter Management Plan 2024-2026
- Climate Action Plan 2024-2029
- Draft Local Area Plans 2024-2030
 - Clonmel
 - Nenagh
 - Thurles
- Consolidated Civic Protocol
- Protocol for dealing with complaints made against a Councillor
- Training and Development Programme for Elected Members
- Monthly Management Reports
- Service Delivery Plan 2023
- NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2021
- Annual Report 2022
- National Roads Allocation 2023
- Annual Financial Statement (AFS) 2022
- Budget 2024 Process
- Overdraft Facility for year-ended 2023
- LAMA All Ireland Community & Council Award nominations

Presentations to the Council

- IDA
- SIRO
- HSE Mid-West
- Comhairle na nÓg
- National Broadband Ireland (NBI)

Council Workshops

- Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)
- Local Development Strategy
- CCTV Operation and Maintenance
- Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP)

Requests for Deputations

- Minister for Transport

Civic

(Civic Reception Conferrals, Cathaoirleach Invitations, Friendship agreements, Annual Civic Awards, Official Openings etc)

Requests

- **Tipperary County Council**
 - Shane & Trevor Breen, Horse Show Jumping
 - Memorandum of Friendship with Maryland, USA
 - Civil War ceremony in Dublin
- **Clonmel Borough Council**
 - 60th Anniversary of Clonmel Credit Union
 - Cuan Saor
- **Thurles MD**
 - Thurles Lions Club
 - Annual Civic Awards
- **Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD**
 - Shane O'Connor & Liam Carew, BT Young Scientist winners
 - Ladies Football clubs in the District
 - Cathaoirleach Awards

 **11 CPG meetings held during 2023**

Civic Events

Civic Reception

Civic Reception accorded to Shane & Trevor Breen, Cashel on 12th June 2023 in recognition of their contribution to Horse Jumping, representing Ireland on Nation's Cup Teams at European and World Championship levels and winning over the years, many Grand Prix including 2010 Lummen, 2018 Monaco and 2019 Dublin and in so doing bringing honour to the County of Tipperary.



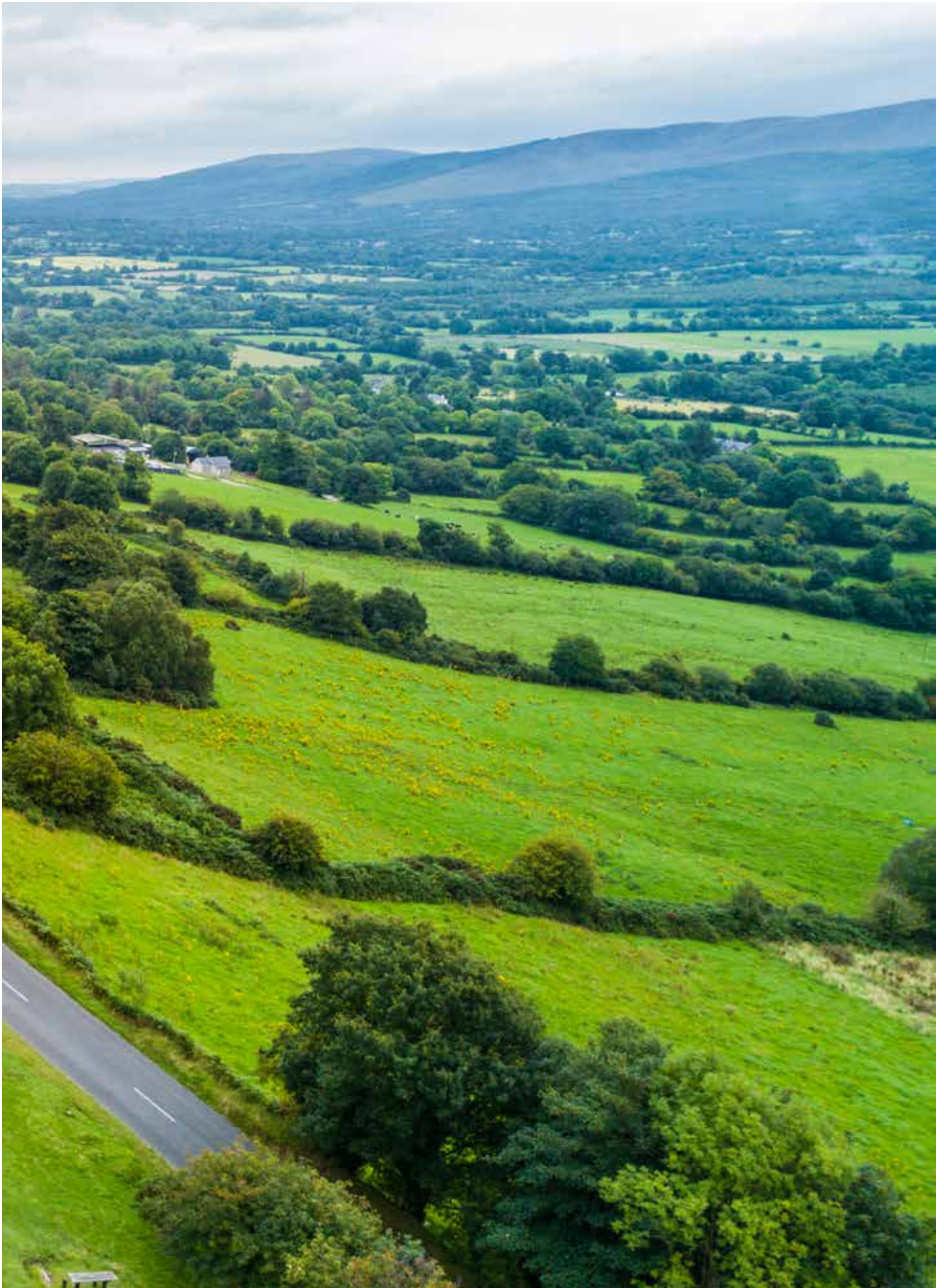
Civic Welcome

Cathaoirleach's welcome accorded to the Polish Ambassador to Ireland Her Excellency Ambassador Anna Sochańska, on the occasion of her visit to Nenagh, Co. Tipperary on Thursday 2nd February, 2023.



Friendship & Cooperation Agreement

Tipperary County Council entered into a Friendship and Cooperation Agreement with Maryland State, United States of America to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the Parties in the areas of international commerce, economic development, agriculture and equine industry, the arts and culture, tourism, and education.



Protected Disclosures Received in 2023

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosure Act 2014 requires the publication of an annual report by public bodies about the number of protected disclosures received in the preceding year and also for the publication of information concerning any actions taken in response to protected disclosures made.

This is the annual report of Tipperary County Council (“The Council”) for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

2023 cases

In 2023, the Council received 1 notification under its Protected Disclosure policy, in accordance with Section 6 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 relating to the payment of a contribution in lieu of re-housing. The disclosure was screened in under preliminary evaluation and it was concluded that there was no evidence of any non-compliance and that there was no further action required by the Council.

Other Disclosures received

In 2023, the HSE received a disclosure concerning a Nursing Home in Co. Tipperary, relating to compliance with Fire Safety and/or Building Regulations and management of clinical waste, staff, and resident files. The disclosure was screened in under preliminary evaluation and further information has been sought by the Council.



Communications & Customer Service

Tipperary County Council continues to improve our communications and engagement with all citizens and stakeholders in order to heighten awareness and understanding of our role and the services we deliver by promoting the services, supports and activities of the Council, managing the Council's online presence across the various digital and social media platforms. Everything we do is for our communities, citizens and our stakeholders, involve engagement by staff in customer service and communications on a daily basis.

Promotion of Council' activities and events, some of which include: -

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Templemore Town Hall which is due to be completed in July 2024, while in Carrick-on-Suir contracts have been signed in respect of the first phase of the regeneration of the town with further projects approved for Cahir and Roscrea, which was the first town in Ireland to launch a Town Centre First Strategy.

Active Travel projects



In 2023 Tipperary County Council was allocated €4.63m to 37 Active travel projects across the county which will improve pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in towns including Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel and Cahir and villages such as Ballylooby, Emly, Rosegreen, Killenaule and Donaskeigh.

Local Enterprise Office

The Local Enterprise Office liaised with secondary school students around the county and were successful at the national awards for student enterprise.

Library Service

The library service continues to evolve and a new website was launched in 2023, the new website has a fresh look and simplified navigation which is designed to offer a user-driven experience.

Civic Reception

Civic reception for Shane and Trevor Breen in recognition of their contribution to Show Jumping at National & International level and representing Ireland worldwide on Nation's Cup Teams



Housing

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD, officially opened 5 new Housing Schemes in February throughout County Tipperary in Clonmel, Two-Mile-Borris and Templetuohy, totalling 98 number homes (9 units developed by Cluid Housing Association in partnership with Tipperary County Council)





Promoted various national campaigns through digital and social media campaigns which included:

- Natural Christmas Tree Recycling
- Ireland Reads campaign
- Local Enterprise week
- Spring clean
- Bealtaine festival
- National Bike week
- Heritage week
- Culture night
- Tidy Towns
- Re-use month
- Road Safety week
- Your Council Day
- Carbon monoxide awareness
- Fire safety week

Online customer service initiatives 2023

Throughout the year, improvements have been made to the provision of online services. This is an area of opportunity to enable more accessible, timely interaction and automation of services with our customers.

Year on year, our web visitors and social media followers increase. These range from the main council website, <http://www.tipperarycoco.ie> to the Libraries/ Museum/Tourism and Events Guides.

Achievements 2023

Tipperary County Council's customer service centres in Nenagh and Clonmel aim is to enhance our level of customer service based on a dedicated, trained staff who provide a countywide service for customers including phone, email, postal items and our public counter. Tipperary County Council utilises the use of a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for logging and tracking customer queries to ensure a consistency on how all our customers are dealt with.



1	Customer queries processed through Customer Relations Management System (CRM)	28,364
2	Telephone calls answered	128,226
3	Average speed of answer	3 minutes
4	Average longest wait time	30 minutes
5	Media queries received	139
6	Web pages viewed	1,088,000
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook followers • Instagram followers • X followers 	<p>195,443</p> <p>12,509</p> <p>36,788</p>
8	Number of complaints from Irish Language Commissioner Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga	4

Irish Language E Training

The Council continued its training to support staff in providing services to members of the public who wish to do their business with us in Irish. Below is an extract from the address of our Chief Executive Mr. Joe MacGrath and photo from the Presentation of Professional Irish Certificates Ceremony held in Thurles Municipal District Offices on 27th November 2023.

Chief Executive

My sincere thanks to you Ms. Curtin for being here today with us for this Ceremony.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to present Certificates in Professional Irish to members of the Council's staff here today. A total of 38 have now received training mostly at either Level 3 or Level 4.

This learning investment by our staff enables the Council to improve our engagement with the public.

We can greet them in Irish and direct them to the services they require.

This in turn supports the Council in fulfilling its obligations under the Official Languages Act 2003, and the requirements of our Irish Scheme which was launched in May 2021.

The Council continues to encourage interested staff members in improving their Irish Language Skills.

A further round of training will commence in February 2024.



Front row left to right - Mary Mc Loughney, Marie Ryan, Rachel Granville, Ann Kelly, Mary Stephens

Back row left to right - Kieran Ladden, Yvonne Kennedy, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ellen Curtin Gaelchultúr, David Coleman, Irish Language Officer,



Information Management

Freedom of Information

FOI requests increased by 15 to 163 in 2023. Data Protection Subject Access Requests increased by 17, with AIE requests increasing by 8. Housing Section has the highest number of FOI requests at 51.

Information Requests received 2023

Freedom of Information	163
Data Protection Subject Access Requests	37
Ombudsman	28
Access to Information on the Environment	32




Data Protection / General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Council are committed to respecting and protecting the personal data of its customers.

Policies and procedures have been put in place to govern the various aspects of data protection including the Councils Privacy Statement and a CCTV and other Surveillance Technologies Policy.

The Council has appointed a Data Protection Officer and Data Protection Nominees for each Section and Municipal District.

 **163 FOI requests received in 2023**



Sports & Social Club

Clonmel Branch

The Sports and Social club continue to run a broad range of events and arrange the monthly draw with a bumper summer and Christmas draw.

Throughout the year John O'Mahoney brought us on tracks and trails with hill walking events around our beautiful county, always a great day out with food and drinks afterwards.

In March we went to the Bord Gais Theatre to see the musical "The Lion King" a wonderful show and a most enjoyable day out.

In May we had our Mystery Tour, which was very well supported and some great venues visited.

June had us at the Summer BBQ evening at the Clonmel Races with over 140 staff attending a great social evening and this is fast becoming our biggest summer event.

The Sports and Social club also supported the partnership events for retired staff Christmas lunch and the family Santa event in Clonmel.

We would like to thank all our members for their continued support. New members and event organisers are always welcome. If you are interested in organising an event or joining the Sports & Social Club please contact any member of the committee.



Marian Scully, Sports and Social Club Chairperson celebrates a significant birthday



Taking a break at the Liam Lynch Monument, Goatenbridge on the Knockmealdown Mountains

Committee Members:

Chairperson

- Marian Scully

Secretary

- Rosemary Purcell

Treasurer

- Anne Marie O'Flynn

Committee

- Stephen Ahearne
- Alison Blackmore
- Geoff Burke
- Tom Byrne
- Clarie Cooney
- Paul Farrell
- John Fitzgerald
- Jimmy Kelly
- Mick McCarthy
- Maeve O'Brien
- John O'Mahoney
- Mary O'Mahoney
- John O'Meara
- Gerard Quigley
- Geraldine Tobin



Human Resources

With close to 1,200 employees (full time equivalent and retained) on our payroll at the end of 2023, the unified Tipperary County Council remains one of the largest employers in the County.

The Human Resources Section is responsible for the delivery of the following service areas:

- Workforce Planning, Recruitment, remuneration and conditions of employment;
- Industrial Relations;
- Development and implementation of staff training/development programmes;
- Payroll resource for the shared service MYPAY;
- Superannuation (pension entitlements);
- Employee welfare/relations;
- Work-Life Balance - Family-friendly policies and arrangements;
- Industrial Relations;
- Maintenance of personnel records;
- The PEOPLE XD human resources software system;
- Data Analytics across a range of service areas;
- Performance Management and Development System (PMDS);
- Support to functional departments in all matters relating to human resources.

Workforce Planning and Recruitment

The objective of the Human Resources Department is to ensure that there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the Council on an ongoing basis.

The workforce staffing levels at the 31st December 2023 equated to a headcount of 1,186 or 1,122 Whole Time Equivalents. The Human Resource Section coordinates the ongoing management of the workforce plans, managing new entrants, staff transfers and staff departures in consultation with line management colleagues.

Where necessary the HR section will seek the approval of the Department to add to the current Work Force Plan. In 2023 a total of 23 sanction requests were submitted to the Department in respect of 91 positions across all service areas.

A total of 70 recruitment competitions were organised in 2023 (following on from 71 in 2022, 62 in 2021, 50 in 2020 and 67 in 2019). Of the competitions concluded 257 candidates were placed on panels equating to 65% of those interviewed. This yielded 100 new starters across the full range of disciplines including Administrative, Engineering, Technical, Scientific, Fire Services, General Operative and supervisory grades.

Industrial Relations

The Council continues to work in partnership with trade unions and employee representatives to achieve harmonious working relationships and improved working conditions with safe, effective and efficient work practices. The main trade unions engaged with are FÓRSA, SIPTU/LAPO, UNITE and CONNECT. The Council retains the services of the Local Government Management Agency as representation in disputes referred to third parties such as the Workplace Relations Commission and Labour Court.

In addition, the Council's Workplace Partnership Committee continues to be a source of engagement enabling the free flow of information on a consultative basis. The work of that committee also feeds into the area of employee welfare and wellbeing with many initiatives being brought forward on a continuous basis.

In 2023, as with previous years, the Council benefitted from a very stable Industrial Relations environment in a local context. However, nationally disputes in the area of Water and Fire Services did cause some disruption arising from industrial action and picketing by trade unions. It is a credit to the management, staff and our trade union partners that the impact to service delivery in a local context was minimal and that constructive and respectful relations were maintained throughout.

Staff Training & Development

In keeping with current national policy and the objectives of our Corporate Plan we continue to ensure that staff at all levels of the organisation have the opportunity to develop to their full potential and acquire the appropriate level of knowledge and skills to carry out their job. The Human Resources Section has a dedicated training team which is responsible for drafting and implementing a comprehensive training programme. Training requirements are based on the needs identified through the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) and during the year, prioritisation was given to Health and Safety Training, training required for specific roles and also developing new skills.

Furthermore, 25 staff members were provided with funding for third level courses under the Staff Education Assistance Scheme in 2023 to a value of €40,112.

In order to ensure effectiveness and value for money, training was mainly delivered in-house and at the Regional Training Centre, Roscrea using in-house and external trainers.

In December 2023 a Learning & Development Strategy (A Strategic Design & Planning Approach) document was developed and presented to the Senior Management Team and consequently agreed.

This document will evaluate the current delivery of training and plan for the future direction of the organisation, under the following headings;

1. Strategic Approach
2. Situational Analysis
3. Improvement Plan

This plan will result in a robust and inclusive strategy that will deliver on the expressed desire of the organisation to be an employer of choice, one who prioritises the development of its people in pursuit of the fulfilment of their full potential.

Superannuation

The Human Resources Department administers the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and Single Pension Scheme (SPS) and associated Spouse's and Children's and Widows and Orphans Pension Schemes for all grades.

It carries out the following functions:

- Calculation of retirement lump sums and pensions, death gratuities, preserved benefits and Spouses and Children's benefits etc.
- Transfer of service to and from other public sector bodies
- Preparation of pre-retirement benefit estimates;
- Generation of Annual benefit Statements for SPS members
- Calculation of revised benefits in line with sectoral pay increases.



Public Sector Duty (“The Duty”)

The Human Resources Section operates under the umbrella of equality, transparency and openness in all its dealings with staff and the public. In particular the section espouses public sector values and seeks to embed same into its processes, with particular emphasis on its recruitment processes.

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 places the Duty in the context of strategic planning. Tipperary as a consequence is required to set out an assessment of the equality and human rights issues relevant to its purpose and functions in a strategic plan, such as a Corporate Plan, in a manner that is accessible to the public.


Section 42(1) requires public bodies to have regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination;
- Promote equality of opportunity, and
- Protect the human rights of staff and service users.

A Public Sector Duty Implementation Strategy and Action Plan for the Council was approved by the Council’s Senior Management Team in December 2021. Following on from this in February 2022 an Executive Summary was designed and published in Arabic, Polish and Portuguese and is available in print and online.

In 2023 the Council’s probation policy was amended to reflect revised legislative provisions around the maximum duration of probationary periods. We further took the opportunity to review the policy in the context of the Public Sector Duty.

Additionally, HR participated in a workgroup charged with creating the conditions for the implementation of the Public Sector Duty as it relates to ROMA accommodation. In November 2023 the group published a draft Implementation Plan titled “Tipperary County Council: Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty in relation to Roma and Accommodation Provision”. The plan is scheduled for official publication in May 2024.

 *The Human Resources Section operates under the umbrella of equality, transparency and openness in all*

Performance Management & Development System (PMDS)

National policy continues to place a very high priority on the use of performance management and development systems in Local Government. Increased emphasis has been placed on ensuring that team development plans and personal development plans are in place for all teams and employees and that they are aligned with the Council’s Corporate Objectives. The PMDS system has been further broadened to include performance rating and 2023 saw these ratings applied for all staff throughout the organisation.

Gender Pay Gap

Arising from the enactment of the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 and the subsequent publication of the Employment Equality Act 1998 (Section 20A) (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations – May 2022, all organisations, (relevant employers), with greater than 250 employees were required to report on their Gender Pay Gap in 2022. Reporting was via a set of metrics provided in the Regulations using a June 2022 snapshot date. Local authorities used a 30 June 2022 snapshot date which was 12 months retrospective. Relevant employers were additionally required to set out the reasons for Gender Pay Gap differences and the measures (if any) being taken, or proposed to be taken, by the employer to eliminate or reduce such differences.

The regulations provided for reports to be published within six months of the snapshot date. In common with other Local Authorities, Tipperary County Council published its 2nd Report in December 2023. Similar to 2022, the Average and Mean Gender Pay Gap suggest a strong bias in favour of females, with a marked increase in the percentile between both years. The full report is available on the council website at www.tipperarycoco.ie.



Employee Welfare/Relations

The Council continuously strive to create a work environment that is conducive to promoting a healthy and progressive workforce.

Initiatives that have been taken include the following:

- Provision of an Employee Assistance Programme providing 24-hour access over 7 days to staff and their families;
- Access to an Occupational Health Professional;
- Employee Handbook;
- Superannuation Handbook (SPS);
- Information/Induction package to new employees;
- Pre-retirement Courses;
- Return to Learning Project.

Tipperary County Council facilitates the taking of various family-friendly leave arrangements including work-sharing, parental leave and carers leave. 2018 saw the introduction and adoption of a sectoral “People Strategy” which sought to focus on the development, capability and capacity of staff. Tipperary County Council continued the process of integrating it into all operational and functional areas of council activity in 2023.

Arising from the strategy the Council enhanced its staff support offering and rolled out a comprehensive **Employee Assistance Programme** covering a multitude of services and various means of access on a confidential basis free of charge to all employees and their immediate family members. HR note that there was welcome engagement with the services on offer during the course of 2023 and encourage staff to continue to engage with and benefit from this very important initiative.

 *The Council continuously strive to create a work environment that is conducive to promoting a healthy and progressive workforce*

PEOPLE XD HR Software System

The Local Government sector utilises People XD (formerly CORE HR) for all its HR, Payroll and Superannuation needs. Tipperary County Council also partners with Makodata with regard to the provision of Data Analytics as a means of accessing, understanding and reporting on the data contained in the People XD system. This enables the section to provide key strategic management reports across a range of business areas highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of those areas.

Blended Working

Following on from the Covid-19 flu pandemic and the success of “Remote Working” the Irish Government issued a Directive to the wider Public Service to introduce a system of Blended Working enabling staff to alternate between office and other locations (including the home) where appropriate.

In June/July 2022, Tipperary County Council developed an online application system to facilitate this which went live in September 2022. HR conducted a review of blended working in March 2023 and reported on same to the Senior Management Team and the Audit Committee. The findings of the review were generally positive citing it as a positive addition to the way of work, greater flexibility, a reduction in commute times and critically, no loss of productivity and enhanced work-life balance.



Digital/Information Systems

Technology plays an ever-increasing role in the daily lives of those in our communities and in our own working lives. Within this rapidly changing digital environment, Tipperary County Council is transforming into a digital enterprise where technology is critical to its operational effectiveness. In this highly complex environment, processes must be flexible and evolve quickly to meet user demands and provide the right solutions for the tasks in hand.

Our Vision

Our vision is to provide innovative, effective service delivery to our colleagues and to the Council's customers and stakeholders with best-in-class technology and systems.

Our Principles

Our customers, stakeholders and colleagues are at the heart of our service. We aim for simplicity, and our focus is on customer-centred design and delivery. In a rapidly changing digital and commercial environment, we wish to match and exceed service-user expectations. We take a proactive, collaborative approach; focusing on transformation, workable business solutions and accessible information-giving. We strive for exceptional performance through self-evaluation, openness to feedback and the pride we take in our work.

In conjunction with our colleagues, we strive to transform the way we do our business; change the way we work with colleagues and citizens, deliver faster and better outcomes and enable our Council colleagues to be more productive, more quickly. We strive to deliver a high-performance service that our colleagues and citizens expect and deserve; a service that will deliver a better return on investment and a better quality of life for those who use it.



Our Objectives

Our objectives are to provide an integrated, secure, safe and performant digital environment that will allow us to:

- Provide digital services for citizens and businesses;
- Facilitate the implementation and integration of systems through innovative business projects;
- Collaborate and exchange information across departments;
- Support corporate decision making and deliver more efficient business services;
- Provide an accessible, comprehensive customer service platform for the public, elected members and staff, through the use of information technology and the internet.
- Provide the tools, systems, solutions and infrastructure to enable the staff and the business sections achieve their business objectives.
- Provide a technical support service to staff and elected members in the areas of Networks, Infrastructure, Applications, Online Solutions, Web and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Our Achievements

In 2023, the Digital/Information Systems team achieved the following:

Online Services

Tipperary County Council continued to increase the availability of online services to our citizens and stakeholders.

Achievements included the following:

1. Implemented a new secure online payments system for Rents and Loans customers on the 28th November 2023. This system is called MyCoCo, and it allows customers to make payments online, view their transaction history, download invoices, statements and view payment receipts. To date, approximately 374 customers have self-registered on the system.
2. Made significant progress on the implementation of a new Parking Fines System. This system when implemented will be an integrated front and back office system. It will enable Wardens to issue tickets with smart phones, and the offender will be able to view photos of the offence real time online using a QR code from the ticket, and then to pay for the fine online. It is expected the system will go live in January 2024.
3. Continued with the enhancement of the HousingOnline Choice Based Letting (CBL) system. This system gives social housing applicants the chance to express their interest in available properties to the Council. The process is designed to be fair and equitable and to put choice at the centre of the allocation of properties. Tablet IT facilities were provided in public offices, to enable members of the public access the system, in the event that they did not have IT facilities at home. The system now has 216,005 logins since going live in early 2022
4. Continued to enhance, support and facilitate the Online ePlanning Portal, which enables members of the public and agents to submit online planning applications. Also enhanced the Preplanning Online applications system.
5. Completed the second phase of the project to upgrade our www.tipperarycoco.ie web site. This entailed incorporating more online initiatives, as required, finalisation of elements of the service catalogue and upgrade of Consultation and redaction portal.
6. Facilitated publication and online consultations on our web sites for:
 - Draft/Variations of Local Area Plans (Clonmel, Nenagh & Thurles)
 - Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) & Cahir/Cashel Greenway Consultation process.
 - Carrick-on-Suir Town Centre First online survey
 - 2024- Contributions to Residents Association for Estate Enhancement All MD areas
 - CLAR Funding 2023 Expression of Interest Form
 - Community Recognition Fund 2023- Expressions of Interest
 - National Play Day Grant
 - Sports Clubs Contribution Grant Scheme Application Form All MD Areas
 - Streetscape & Building Facade Enhancement Scheme 2022 for the towns of Tipperary, Cahir and Cashel
 - Approx. 50 + consultations were facilitated.
7. Published significant volumes of real time and up to date public information on to our web sites including
 - Severe Weather Salting routes and Weather Alert in interactive map (GIS) format on our web site.
 - Redevelopment and upgrade of Workwise (Remote Working Hubs) section of FDI website.
 - Mapped events, alerts and news, and shared them out via our various social media channels & websites.
 - The number of page visits to local authority websites was 3.3 million. These range from the main council website www.tipperarycoco.ie to the Libraries/Museum/Tourism and Events Guides.
 - The total number of followers of our social media accounts is 163,934.

8. Continued to enhance, upgrade and support the following websites;
 - Tipperary County Council <http://www.tipperarycoco.ie>
 - Consultation & Grants Portal <https://consultations.tipperarycoco.ie>
 - Tipperary Tourism web site (Tipperary.com) and
 - Tipperary Foreign Direct Investment Site (Tipperary.ie) – integration of property portal
 - Discover Lough Derg web site
 - TipperarySports.ie website (published a TippSports centralised dataset of sports facilities)
 - <http://www.whatsonintipp.ie>
 - <http://shop.localtipperary.ie>
 - <http://www.tipperaryarts.ie>
9. Enhanced and upgraded the online electoral register system in conjunction with the local government management agency (LGMA).
10. Continued to enhance our Customer Relationship Management system, which manages all queries, both from online (fix-it form) and telephone channels in our dealings with our citizens and stakeholders. Implemented a cloud-based solution for our Customer Services Desk Call Centre as a backup in the event of a major disruption event.
11. Continued with the provision, enhancement and updating of online external Planning GIS viewers (eGIS) and online document management systems (eDocs). Updated our online GIS systems with the latest versions of base GIS maps.
12. Continued with the provision of guest WIFI services in the main county buildings across the county.
13. Continued to keep our customer's digital data safe and secure. Improved on cyber security within the organisation (security awareness training, phishing tests, vulnerability management, segmentation, privileged access management, etc). Continued to liaise with the national cyber security centre (CSIRT), other Local Authorities and our external providers regarding security measures.
14. Continued to implement technology to ensure online services can be facilitated in the event of a disaster of major disruption event occurring. In particular, completed the move of elements of our Data Centre to a secondary site.
15. Worked with the Libraries Section to facilitate adequate solutions in the delivery of their online services.
16. Continued with the provision of IT facilities and services to our Elected members to enable them provide digital services to their customers
17. Continued to facilitate Video Conferencing facilities in the council chambers in Nenagh and Clonmel and the Municipal District chambers, to enable external stakeholders and the Press attend relevant meetings.
18. Continued to provide relevant public open data sets on our web sites. Mapped local facilities by Municipal District as follows:
 - <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/your-area>
 - <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/your-area/municipal-facilities>
 - <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=727c38ec2e9a4350a71911473298cb38>



Web/eDev Systems, Business Systems and Geographical information systems (GIS)

In addition to the delivery of online services outlined above, the Web/EDev, Business Systems and GIS teams achieved the following during the year:

Business Systems

Finance

- Completed the implementation of a new budgeting system called Budpay, which interfaces real time information from the Core HR system to the Agresso FMS. This entailed: updating firewall rules, configuring Oracle on the Agresso database server and linking relevant systems using ODBC technology
- FMS Agresso Upgrade project- Completed the move of the MS4 South Tipp (L1 to L5) to the new MS7 servers, with all interfaces upgraded. The E-Invoicing was commissioned.
- Disabled the last two of the old FMS Agresso MS4 Servers (6 in total).
- Assisted with addressing performance issues with our test Agresso environment - a new backup and logfile strategy implemented.

Housing

- Upgraded the back office I-House system to version 3.8 and then to 3.8.1 and then to version 3.9.1. These were significant upgrades and included i-House forms being upgraded, and the introduction of SSHA Reporting. The upgrades entailed:
 - i. Upgrading the “.Net” environment on the application server to accommodate new releases
 - ii. Facilitating UAT Testing
 - iii. Applying upgrade
- It is planned to progressing the upgrade to 3.9.2 (DEASP Tokens) in 2024.
- An Azure pipeline from I-House external contractor to our servers was reviewed. This pipeline would allow upgrades to be completed more efficiently

Planning

- Continued with the process of replacing the legacy planning Enforcements system (prepared a request for tender).
- Continued to provide mapping and GIS services for the publishing of the relevant Plans.
- Provided weekly updates to Planning digitisers.
- Implemented the Department’s Planning PACE system which replaces the internal PDC system for mapping planning application sites.
- Commenced the updating of internal and external Planning viewers
- Planning back office System - I-Plan. Upgraded IPlan to V5. This entailed:
 - i. Deploying new Application Server and configured TCC-IPLAN-2019
 - ii. Migrating existing iPlan to new Server
 - iii. Liaising with LGMA on role out of upgrade to new iPlan server and eplan/iDocs configuration.

General

- Reconfigured business systems impacted by the Email MS Exchange upgrade, which was performed by the Networks team. This included reconfiguring: Agresso, I-Docs, I Plan and CRM
- Provided corporate phones and setup on management tools.
- Assisted Staff with mobile phone queries
- Liaised with third party suppliers and continued to process Invoices





Websites and eDevelopment

- Provided support and maintenance for internal systems and 20+websites
- Continued to provide web training to staff for new www.tipperarycoco.ie website
- Developed a module for phase 2 of Blended working system for HR- Review Module
- Assisted with developing Climate Control sub site for Climate Action Team
- Continued to enhance several of the systems on the Sharepoint platform in particular, progressed the following:
 - Reports built for Dept returns- housing grants
 - Dynamic address look ups from Sharepoint to iHouse
 - Upgrade to Kwizcom plugins to support business systems
- Progressed the following projects
 - Property Portal rebuild & upgrade
 - Housing Guide- qualification matrix content & guide to schemes
 - TippSports centralised dataset of sports facilities
 - Local Area Plans- Clonmel, Thurles, Nenagh & Roscrea Amendments
 - Redeveloped the Anti-Social Behaviour System to incorporate look up to address system for tenants and improve data structure and workflows to increased efficiency of Tenant Liaison Officers
- Continued to maintain our internal communications platforms – the intranet

Geographical Information Systems (GIS)

- Continued with the updating of internal and external Planning GIS viewers
- Completed the retesting of the Property System GIS system
- Continued with the roll out of the updated version of MapInfo to 29 users
- Provided relevant analysis maps of the towns to Engineering staff.
- Continued to update our GIS systems with the latest GeoDirectory/Bord GAIS/ESB data received from these Agencies
- Facilitated 3rd Party Requests for Data
- Provided desktop support for AutoCAD, LabWorks, ArcGIS, MapInfo, Sat Nav updates
- Purchased new AutoCAD Licences renewed subscriptions for 43 AutoCAD LT Users, 18 AEC users, 5 AutoCAD Revit Lt Suites
- Worked on a violence and aggression register for Health and Safety system in conjunction with Health and Safety
- Published the ESB network and GAS networks on our internal mapping application. This is a significant benefit to our staff in a number of ways, not least from a Health & Safety perspective. Updates received regularly from both Utility Providers which will be reflected on the maps.



Roads

- Provided and published interactive GIS maps for new salting routes across the county.
- Updated the mapping systems with the new route options for the N24.
- Local improvement GIS for roads completed.

Networks, Infrastructure, Security & Phones

In addition to the delivery of online services outlined above, the Networks, Infrastructure, Security & Phone teams achieved the following during the year:

General

- Delivered maximum uptime and performance of Networks, Business Systems and IT Systems across all offices for all Users.

Email

- Upgraded the Email Exchange on-premise system from 2013 to 2019. 95% complete, continuing to work on decommissioning work.
- Continued to improve on email security -implementing a DMARC policy on e-mails (improves and monitors protection of our domain from fraudulent email)
- Continued to monitor and filter all inbound mails in current cyber crime climate
- Upgraded Mailmeter Archiving tool to latest version
- Assisted with export to Proofpoint for staff cyber security training

Building Works/Office Moves

- Facilitated staff and office moves in several offices across the organisation.
- Assisted with all IT Elements of building works which are on-going in Civic offices Clonmel and Parnell Street.
- Continued to upgrade network equipment in the buildings.
- Assisted with all IT Elements of new offices setups for Cashel Fire Station
- Setup staff in Cahir Erasmus Smith Building

Data Centre Secondary Site

- Completed the move of elements of our Data Centre to the secondary site. The second side of cluster is located in secondary site with 50% of VM Wares running directly from the site.
- Continued to progress the second phase of moving our resilient Government Networks connection.

Phones

- Continued with upgrade of desk phones to latest version hardware and the installation of softphones for blended workers.
- Implemented a cloud based solution for Customer Services Desk as a backup

Data Connectivity

Progressed new circuit provisions for the following:

- Wallers Lot / Cashel Fire station
- Clonmel Fire station, to replace existing wireless connection.
- Commissioned the new circuit for Parnell St Clonmel.
- Improved network speeds in Clonmel Waste Water Treatment Plant by upgrading on site fibre connection modules

Libraries Data Connections

- Completed the proof of concept for a wide area network solution (SD WAN) for several Library branches. Two solutions tested Meraki and CATO. CATO solution selected due to many issues with Meraki deployment. Recommendation issued to libraries re solution. Meeting organised to confirm approach.

Blended Working

- Developed and implemented a blended working management system
- Rolled out and provided blended working facilities to staff.
- Rolled out 'softphones' to blended working staff
- Continued to support staff who have the facility to work remotely from home.
- Continued to facilitate blended working requirements. Set up approx. 185 Users to date for blended working, all users required a hardware refresh and some additional software such as softphone

Video Conferencing - Zoom

- Progressed the update of Zoom facilities in the Planning meeting rooms. Indicative solution costs and cabling specifications provided to facilitate redevelopment works in Clonmel County Hall civic offices

Security

General

- Kept systems safe and secure
- Continued to manage the IT security operations services (SOC). This service provides a 24/7 monitoring of relevant devices for suspicious activity.
- Continued to liaise with the national cyber security centre (CSIRT), other Local Authorities and our external providers regarding security measures.
- Continued to work with external vendors to help reduce level of threat on our servers.
- Continued to decommission out of support servers and keep services running on supported environments

Vulnerability Management

- Continued to patch our systems.
- Renewed our 'Vulnerability Management as a Service (VMaaS) and renewed the underlying vulnerability management software (Qualys) licensing.
- 6,328 vulnerabilities closed since the initiation of the project.

Security eLearning

- Continued with online security training. Issued several training assignments over the course of the year.
- Completed several organisation wide phishing tests over the year and provided follow up training where relevant.

Privilege Access Management (PAM)

- Deployed Privileged Access Management solution to all server assets
- All IT staff and contractors now utilising PAM with relevant approvals in place
- Next phase is onboarding of domain admin accounts. Currently test domain admin account provisioned for relevant staff to test.

USB Device Restrictions

- Cortex XDR feature enabled to prevent users from connecting unauthorized USB devices to corporate devices
- Approach was to implement restrictions on test group of 150 PCs/Laptops. All helpdesk staff had access to allow temporary policy exclusions.
- Policy has been sent out to staff detailing allowed devices (TCC supplied encrypted USB sticks) and ruleset has now been applied across all the organisation

Micro segmentation project

- Deployed a system (Aria) for network operations and it is mapping application traffic.
- Selected a Vendor following request for quotes for a module of our Virtualisation software (NSX).
- NSX system deployment phase completed, testing and implementation is being progressed with contractors,

Using the cloud for Disaster Recovery

Completed a proof of concept for using the cloud infrastructure for disaster recovery. Not going to proceed with solution at present.

Tape to cloud

Completed a proof of concept for using the cloud infrastructure instead of tapes for backups. Basic functionality verified but didn't meet the success criteria of the test. Not going to proceed due to this issue and costs.



All Teams

All Teams:

- Provided a technical support service to our staff and elected members across the organisation.

Continued to provide technical support and maintenance for:

- the IT and Network systems such Email, File Services, Data Centre, Internet, Virtualisation technologies, Desktops, Servers, Database systems, etc.
- our business systems e.g. I-Plan, I-Docs, I-House, CRM, etc.
- our web sites and web systems e.g. www.tipperarycoco.ie, www.Tipperary.com; and the Intranet and Sharepoint
- our geographical and CAD information systems e.g. Planning Enquiry, Online Digitisers, etc; and training in same.
- phone systems, mobile phones and fixed lines phones.
- Applied patches where possible to business system's underlying technology
- Supported the suite of existing systems including Security Patching, Application troubleshooting, System upgrades, Systems Analysis, User Support
- Set up the main vendors on the new security privileged access management (PAM) system (Ascendas, Unit4, LGMA, Version1, CCAS, etc.)
- Compiled and published NOAC returns for websites, social media accounts and financial information.
- Continued development of ICT Health and Safety to maintain ISO 45001 status
- Assisted in procurement of ICT services for the various shared services and internal sections.



Archives


Our priority within the Archive function for 2023 was to begin to create a digital archive. As our earliest holding the minute book for Clonmel Corporation, 1687-1711, had already been digitised, we decided to continue with the minute books of this collection and now have scanned these from 1842-1945. Also, as part of a national project with the LGMA we scanned the minute books for all jurisdictions within County Tipperary from 1913-1923 and we're very much looking forward to working with our IT colleagues to make all of these accessible to the public.

We continued our work in clearing out our storage rooms in Carrigeen in order to carry out our long-term plan of expanding the use of the archives building in Carrigeen for archival collections. We took in a number of small collections and continued to grow our collection of property files which form an important part of the county archives.



As part of a working group, we made substantial progress in drafting a document control policy for use within the Health and Safety document management system and hope to have this document finalised in 2024.

An important part of the work carried out in 2023 was to begin the process of destroying material held by the Council with our storage providers, in line with the National Retention Schedule. This work will be ongoing over the next number of years.

 *Our priority within the Archive function for 2023 was to begin to create a digital archive*

Franchise Section

The Franchise Section is responsible for the preparation of the Register of Electors. This Register is a list of persons over 18 years resident in Tipperary who are entitled to vote in elections/referenda.

The Rolling Register published on 22nd February 2023 contained 128,478 Local Government Electors.

The following was a breakdown of the total electorate per Local Electoral Area in Tipperary:

Cahir	11,598
Carrick on Suir	15,975
Cashel-Tipperary	22,193
Clonmel	18,344
Nenagh	17,337
Newport	13,128
Roscrea – Templemore	14,094
Thurles	15,809
Total	128,478

Electoral Registration Process

The rolling register is a single live and continuously updated register. To apply to vote or update voting details an elector can apply online via www.checktheregister.ie or by paper form(ERF1).

Data Cleansing/Register Updating

During 2023 Tipperary County Council engaged with the public to encourage electors to update their voting details along with register to vote. Tipperary County Council carried out the following Public Awareness Campaigns:

- An Post Leaflet Drop to every household in Tipperary
- Local Media Campaigns – Meta Adverts on Facebook and Twitter



Municipal Districts





Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District

Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

The Annual General Meeting of the Carrick on Suir Municipal District Members was held on the 22nd June, 2023. Councillor Kieran Bourke was elected as Cathaoirleach and Councillor David Dunne was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach for the 2023-2024 term.



Left to right – Councillor Mark Fitzgerald - Councillor David Dunne - Councillor Kieran Bourke, Cathaoirleach-elect - Councillor Imelda Goldsboro and Councillor Kevin O' Meara

Performance of Municipal District Functions:

In 2023, the Municipal District members held its Annual General Meeting on the 22 June 2023 and eleven monthly meetings. Special meetings were convened respectively on the following occasions;

- On the 18 January 2023 to consider a Part 8 Planning consent for Carrickbeg Active Travel Scheme [P8.22.06].
- On the 22nd April 2023 to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of former Town Councillor Pierce O'Loughlin RIP.
- On the 5 September 2023 to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of former Town Councillor, John Dowley RIP.

Joint meetings of Carrick on Suir Municipal District and its neighbouring Piltown Municipal District were held on the 23 March 2023 and on the 18 October 2023, providing valuable fora for collaboration on areas of common interest across county boundaries. In addition, a safety and security meeting with An Garda Síochána took place on 27 April 2023.

Fethard Town Park

Fethard was buzzing on the 18 June 2023 with the weather co-operating beautifully on the auspicious occasion of the official opening of Fethard Town Park. If ever there was a way for public and private entities to collaborate, FTP was textbook. And what a result!



Cutting the ribbon at Fethard Town Park – left to right; Councillor Kevin O'Meara: Mr. Brian Beck, Director of Services: Councillor Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach Tipperary County Council: Mr. John Magnier; Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development: Councillor David Dunne, Cathaoirleach Carrick on Suir Municipal District; Councillor Mark Fitzgerald: Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive; Councillor Kieran Bourke: Councillor John Fitzgerald. Special guests, Katie Cahill and Matthew McGovern sporting their Tipperary and Ireland jerseys.

Sporting greats took to the field, to put the perfect seal to the celebration of the fantastic new multipurpose sport and recreation campus at Fethard Town Park.

The official launch, performed by Minister Heather Humphreys, T.D. marked the first project to receive funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund to be completed in Co. Tipperary. The €3million funding awarded by Minister Humphreys' department was testament to the positive impact of Project Ireland 2040 on rural development across the country.

The once derelict site adjacent to schools and residential areas was transformed into a 26-acre park with two full-size playing pitches, training areas, 3km of walking pathways, community pavilion with changing facilities, café, gym, fitness studio: sensory garden, expansive parkland, and car parking.

The phased project, which opened facilities incrementally over the previous 12 months, now boasts 2,500 users per week and is the Regional Centre of Excellence to Munster Rugby, Tipperary GAA, Tipperary Ladies Football and home to the many local clubs, groups, and schools in Fethard.

Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Tipperary County Council congratulated everyone involved in the Fethard Town Park project noting that the official opening was yet another example of Project Ireland 2040 in action. While the facility was years in the making, it was finally delivered thanks to the hard work and determination of all stakeholders.

Fethard Town Park would not only improve health and wellbeing of the community, it would also attract new residents, visitors and business investment to the area which was good news for locals and for the region. Mr. MacGrath affirmed that the project would not have been possible had it not been for the strong vision, support and commitment of the Magnier Family.

With a specific focus on health & wellbeing, Fethard Town Park welcomed a 'who's who' of international, national, county and community members to tog out in a 'A Game of Two Halves' to mark the occasion. On-field combatants included Rachael Blackmore, Seamie Callinan, Dorothy Wall [Munster Rugby] and a host of players representing local clubs and groups who showed their support for Fethard Town Park. Teams were managed by Tipperary Hurling Manager, Liam Cahill and Horse Racing Trainer Joseph O'Brien with Fergal Horgan 'temporarily' coming out of retirement to referee.

The project has been supported by the Magnier Family, of the Fethard based thoroughbred racehorse breeding operation, Coolmore. Speaking at the launch, John Magnier said *'Our support for Fethard Town Park is part of a broader commitment to the local area and the local people to deliver a legacy for future generations. We are delighted with how the park turned out and the extensive usage it is getting.'*

Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan (“A Journey from Suir Blueway to Ormond Castle”)

A ground-breaking grant allocation to Carrick on Suir Municipal District of €14.39 million from the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund [RRDF] to deliver “The Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan – ‘A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter – Delivering Our Community’s Ambition’ saw the establishment of a District Delivery Group to manage the ambitious development.



The project had evolved and developed over a number of years with invaluable support and input from Carrick-on-Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee and multiple stakeholders, and with extensive public consultation greatly influencing the design of the scheme.

Malachy Walsh & Partners, Engineering and Environmental Consultants and Nicholas de Jong Associates, Urban Design, who are leading providers of integrated design consultancy services across the Republic of Ireland with extensive experience in public realm schemes, were engaged by the Council in 2021, initially to design the scheme and bring it to planning stage, and subsequently to design and oversee the works.

Armed with its 'war chest' the District Delivery Group concluded that the best way to manage the project was to roll it out in five separate phases in order to achieve value for money in an ever-changing economic climate, exploiting the element of competition and falling inflationary conditions at each juncture.

The phasing of the project was ordered as follows;

- Phase 1 – Sean Healy Park, Castle Street (approach to Ormond Castle), Strand Walk and Ormond Castle Park.
- Phase 2 – Chapel Street, part of William Street, North Quay from Castle Lane to Dillon Bridge.
- Phase 3 – Digital and Enterprise Centre at Old Post Office, 43 Main Street.
- Phase 4 – Main Street, Seán Kelly Square, Greystone Street.
- Phase 5 – Strand Lane Car Park, remainder of North Quay with linkages to Main Street via the lanes.

Tipperary County Council acknowledges and appreciates that this scheme could only be realised through financial investment by traders as a result of rates increases and the Rural Regeneration Development Funding.

Phase 1_ Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan

The Council was delighted to announce that GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd. were awarded the construction works contract for Phase 1 of the Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan "A Journey from the Suir Blueway to the Ormond Castle Quarter". The value of this Phase 1 contract was €2,387,966.99 funded by the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and part funded by Tipperary County Council. The contract was signed on 24th October 2023 at Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District Offices, New Street, Carrick on Suir, and the contractor commenced works on site on the 20 November 2023.

Included in phase 1 are the following works:

- At Sean Healy Park – construction of new footpaths, hard paved areas, construction of an 'arrival point' and widening of the Suir Blueway including associated landscaping and services/utilities to serve the proposed and future uses.
- The Suir Blueway will be extended to connect to North Quay to provide cycleway and pedestrian linkages from Sean Healy Park to Ormond Castle.
- Upgrade of the Castle Street approach to Ormond Castle Park.
- Undertaking of ecological and amenity improvements within Castle Park grounds including new lighting along Strand Walk and repointing of Castle Park walls.



Pictured attending at Contract Signing for the Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan were–

Front row: Cathaoirleach Tipperary County Council Cllr. Ger Darcy, Cathaoirleach Carrick on Suir Municipal District Cllr. Kieran Bourke, Joe MacGrath CEO, Declan Foley GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd, Martin Fitzgerald GLAS Civil Engineering Ltd.

Back Row: Cllr. David Dunne, Brian Beck Director of Services, Marie O Gorman District Administrator, Denis Power Acting District Engineer, Ciarán O'Shea Project Manager, Peter O'Donnell Malachy Walsh and Partners.

We look forward to the completion of this scheme that will connect the existing streets, spaces and facilities in Carrick-on-Suir town and underpin the longterm vitality, viability and vibrancy of the town through a safer, enhanced and unique urban environment attracting tourism into the town.



Tipperary County Council acknowledges and appreciates that this scheme could only be realised through financial investment by traders as a result of rates increases and the Rural Regeneration Development Funding.

Schedule of Municipal District works:

At their monthly meeting held on the 23 March 2023, the Elected Members of Carrick on Suir Municipal District unanimously adopted a comprehensive schedule of Municipal District Works with an unprecedented total works value of €28.146 million.

The schedule provided for housing maintenance, road improvements and maintenance, footpath improvements, safety schemes, bridge rehabilitation, schemes such as the Local Improvement Scheme and Community Involvement Scheme, street cleaning, burial ground maintenance, maintenance of playgrounds, open spaces and drainage works in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District and the allocation represented an 8% increase on the previous year's allocation for these works.

Most significantly, it also included a capital budget of €17.994 million allocated to the Carrick on Suir Regeneration Plan, the majority of which derived from a grant of €14.39 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development with match funding provided from the Council's own resources and made possible by the incorporation of an increase in commercial rates approved by the Councillors at their Annual Budget Meeting.

Some other highlights of the programme included;

- Capital projects totalling €2.25million, funded by Transport Infrastructure Ireland [TII] included,
 - €900,000 for the N76 Pavement Improvement at Grangemockler scheduled to complete in Q.2 of 2023.
 - €1.2million for the ongoing N24 Carrick on Suir Pavement Improvement Scheme continuing in to 2024.
 - €150,000 for feasibility study currently underway with Consultants engaged in a project to connect the Suir Blueway at Carrick on Suir with the Waterford Greenway at Kilmeaden.
- A sum of €100,000 funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was assigned to design and construct a biodiversity park at Bogfield, Carrick on Suir, following on from commissioning of feasibility and constraints study in 2021, funded under the General Municipal Allocation.
- Discretionary Maintenance Grants for regional roads amounted to €586,739.
- A budget of €344,778 was allocated from 'Own Funds' towards maintenance of regional and local roads within the district.
- Restoration Maintenance was allocated a sum of €627,806 to carry out surface dressing to 15 no. roads totalling 19.6km.
- 14 roads were identified under the Restoration Improvement programme with a budget of €2,560,688 taking in a total of 18,176km.
- 'Red Roads' identified at Dinguib Killenaule, and at Rocks Road, Ballylanigan, Mullinahone were allocated €103,574 and €100,000 respectively under 'Own Resources' allocation, the former supplemented with a sum of €50,872 from the 'Towns Allocation' of €254,361.
- The balance of €203,489 provided for the 'Town Allocation' to cover road improvements, footpath improvements tree maintenance, public lighting and urban road maintenance within Carrick on Suir town.
- A sum of €130,000 was provided for bridge repairs at Ballylanigan, Mullinahone and at Gortnaglogh, Ballingarry.
- A sum of €111,067 provided for Community Involvement Scheme (5 applications on hands)
- The Local Improvement Scheme allocation amounted to €145,537
- Drainage Grant Works amounted to €164,544
- Climate Change Adaptation Grants totalled €205,207
- National Transport Authority [NTA] Active Travel projects at Carrickbeg, Cláirín Footbridge, Railway to Carrick on Suir Town Centre and Design associated with Killenaule School were allocated a total of €690,000
- 2022 Development levies assigned to village enhancements at Ballingarry, Ballynonty and The Commons amounted to €138,568
- CLÁR traffic calming and lighting at Drangan School had €30,000 approved.
- IPB funded footpath replacements were allocated €147,537
- A budget of €223,193 was provided for street cleaning at Carrick on Suir

Roadworks/Projects Undertaken in 2023



N76 Pavement Improvement Scheme at Grangemockler



N24 Pavement Improvement Scheme, Clonmel Road Carrick On Suir

- Surface dressing was completed on 15 roads in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District over a total of 19.6km under Restoration Maintenance programme at a cost of €627,806.
- Grangemockler Village was transformed with new footpaths, landscaping, climate action and traffic calming measures provided under TII-funded N76 Pavement Improvement Scheme at a cost of 1.1million.
- Some €2.8m was spent on improving and restoring 20km of roads at 14 different locations in the district.
- ‘Red Roads’ identified at Dinguib, Killenaule and at Rocks Road, Ballylanigan, Mullinahone were remediated at a cost of €254,446
- Safety improvement works were completed on the R691 at Ballingarry Lower at a cost of €70,000 and on the R692 at Killenaule Road, Fethard costing €30,000.
- Bridge rehabilitation grants funded the completion of works at Ballylanigan Bridge, Mullinahone (€80,000), at Gortnaglogh Bridge (€50,000) and Gullet Bridge (€90,000) the latter two located at Ballingarry.



Rehabilitation Works At Gullet Bridge Ballingarry 2023

- Drainage works were carried out at Glengoole: Ballincurry; Gregaugh; Poyntstown; Mountain Road Kylotlea; Rocks Road; Kilkennybeg; Rocklow Road; Ballinard; Cooleagh; Ballinure Village; Heathview; Lisadobber – to – Faugheen and Garrymorris – to – Castlejohn, at a combined cost of €164,544.
- Our Climate Adaptation Grant of €205,287 funded works at the following locations, variously raising the road levels and improving drainage, providing additional drainage pipes or new drainage crossings as appropriate;
- Mohober, Ballingarry; Crohane Lower, Ballingarry; Coolarkin, Grangemockler; Cregg Road, Carrick on Suir; Temple Michaël, Grangemockler; and at Killagh, Mullinahone.
- Remediation works were completed at Drangan Playground at a cost of 30,000 provided under CLÁR funding.



- Three projects were completed under the Community Involvement Scheme [CIS] (public roads) at a cost of €141,025.
- Four private roads were upgraded under the Local Improvement Schemes [LIS] in 2023 at a total cost of €228,900.

Active Travel

The Carrick on Suir Municipal District has benefitted in no small measure from the NTA's Active Travel Programme and with an overall allocation of €690,000, some four projects were progressed in 2023.



Carrickbeg Active Travel Scheme Phase 1 was completed with new footpaths constructed and a new car park delivered at Lower Waterford Road at an all-in cost of €150,000. The commissioning of the car park was a welcome addition to the local area



The proposed new footbridge connecting Cláirín estate on the southern side of the railway with St. John's Terrace on the northside, allocated €450,000 was brought to tender stage

- The Scheme to connect Carrick on Suir Railway Station with the Town Centre was allocated €70,000 for design, and progressed to planning consent in 2023; it was subsequently forwarded to NTA and Íarnród Éireann for sign off.
- In addition, the Killenaule Active Travel Scheme incorporating traffic calming measures adjacent to the primary school was allocated €20,000 for the design and production of Safety Route to School Report.

THE GOLDCROP SITE at North Quay, Carrick on Suir.



With the acquisition completed in November 2022 of this 2.7-acre town centre opportunity site located at North Quay and Castle Lane and spanning the distance between Dillon Bridge and the wonderful Tudor Manor at Ormond Castle, the Council set about engaging with the community and stakeholders to ascertain how the citizens of the town and hinterland would like to see it developed.

That task was taken up by the Town Centre First Team, who conducted community and business surveys during 2023 in order to guide the town's future towards developing their TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN.

The surveys devoted a specific section to the Goldcrop site inviting ideas for its future use and citizens engagement and feedback was very positive with some 383 respondents participating – see table 1 and feedback panel overleaf.

This data will inform the future uses to be set out in a master plan for the site with its delivery about to change the town centre beyond all recognition.


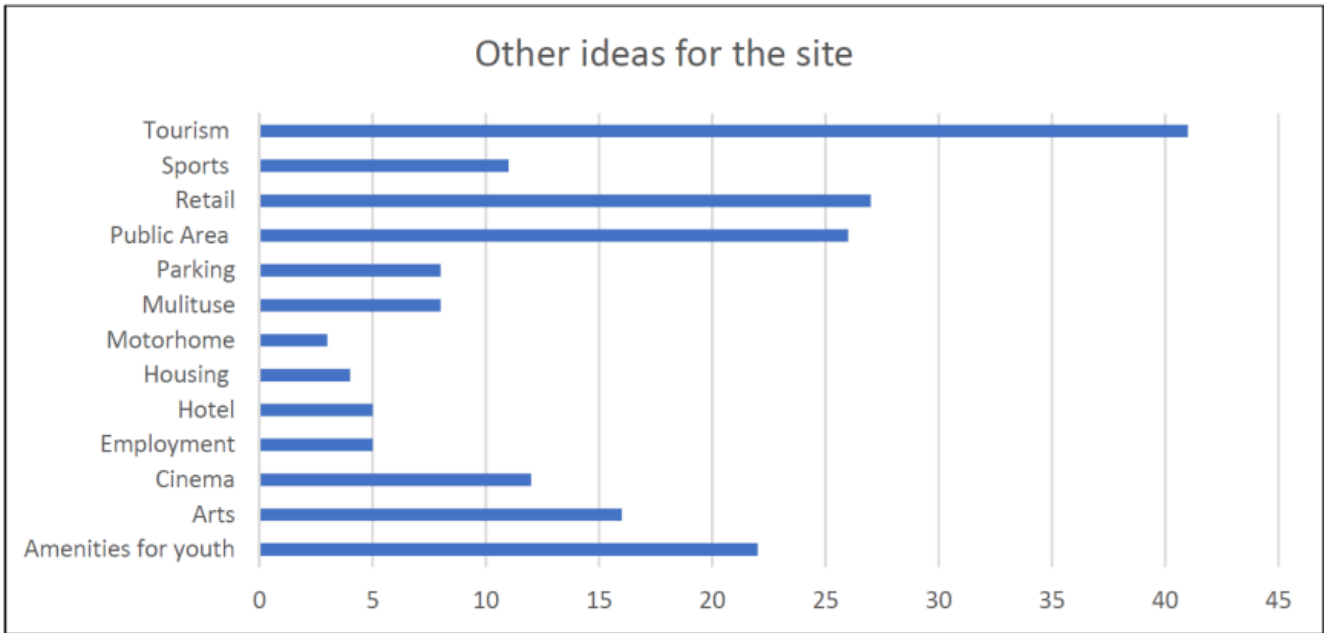
 *That task was taken up by the Town Centre First Team, who conducted community and business surveys during 2023 in order to guide the town's future towards developing their TOWN CENTRE FIRST PLAN.*

TABLE 1 – responses to Community Survey July-September 2023



Feedback and comments from Community Survey July-September 2023

“A place for teenagers to go”
“Create an attractive space for people to enjoy”
“Public plaza with river access and facilities to make use of this Public plaza with river access”
“Shopping centre with Penney’s”
“As a hub to connect the castle, Main Street and Blueway”
“Combination of facilities to promote the castle and the river”
“Recreational activities to attract tourism to the town”



Goldcrop Site Castle Lane, Northquay & Dillon Bridge, Carrick On Suir

Town & Village Renewal Scheme

The Bog Field Biodiversity Park, Carrickbeg.

Tirlán were most generous in providing a lease to Tipperary County Council of part of their lands within the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation, known locally as 'The Bog Field' thus allowing the Council to progress a project, initially started by the Carrick on Suir Lions Club some years earlier and delivering on the aspirations of the Carrickbeg Development Association to have an amenity park at Carrickbeg.

Works were completed in September 2023 and involved the clearing of overgrown vegetation, creation of an open space amenity for the public, along with construction of a 3-metre wide public footpath/cycle path and planting of 49 Irish native 10ft trees including oak, willow, gold acers, purple acers, silver birch and prunus. This site will continue to be managed in partnership with the Community Employment Scheme and Carrick on Suir Lions Club.



Taking-in-Charge of Estates

The members of the Carrick on Suir Municipal District resolved to take in charge the estate at Mill Crescent, John Street, Carrick on Suir at their monthly meeting held on the 22 September 2022. This 22-unit social housing scheme was developed on a brownfield site to an exacting standard in a most convenient town-centre location by JSF Construction Ltd., for Tuath Housing Association, an Approved Housing Body [AHB]. The development was funded under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility [CALF] channeled through the local authority from the Department of Housing, and comprised 10 no. 3-bedroom dwellings, 10 no. 2-bedroom houses and 2 no. 4-bedroom family dwellings.

A further resolution was passed by the members at their monthly meeting held on the 31 October 2023 with roads and services at Mill House Park duly taken in charge by the local authority. The development adjacent to Ash Park and the N24 at Carrick on Suir consisted of 5 no residences.

Assistance under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001

In 2022, the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District in exercise of its powers under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, provided financial support to the following community organisations.

Carrick-on-Suir Development Association

A grant of €3,500 was made to the Carrick-on-Suir Development Association (CoSDA). This annual grant supports the Association in its provision of a heritage and tourist information centre at Main Street in Carrick on Suir, in addition to a community centre at the Old Friary, Carrickbeg, Carrick-on-Suir; the group is also involved in a number of training schemes in the town and recently completed a major refurbishment of the fabric of the Heritage Centre at Main Street.

Carrick-on-Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee

A grant of €1,500 was made to the Carrick-on-Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee (COSTEDC). The committee comprises representatives from the Local Authority, the Business Association and the Development Association and was established in 2004. A dynamic group, it has prepared a strategic plan for Carrick-on-Suir – Vision 2030 - and is involved in a number of measures to promote the town at home and abroad.

Carrick-on-Suir Brass Band

A grant of €1,900 was made to the Carrick-on-Suir Brass Band. The Band has been established for many years and performs in public free of charge.

Sean Kelly Sports Centre

Carrick on Suir Municipal District is proud to support the Sean Kelly Sports Centre each year. The sports centre provides facilities for swimming and physical training and attracts thousands of visitors each year. A grant of €54,200 was provided to the Sean Kelly Sports Centre in 2023 funded from the local property tax.



A grant of €54,200 was provided to the Sean Kelly Sports Centre in 2023 funded from the local property tax

Tidy Towns Supports

Arising from applications submitted by 16 Tidy Towns Groups in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District, the Councillors awarded a grant of €750 to each applicant group in acknowledging the volunteers' trojan work for their respective communities throughout the year.

Tidy Town Awards 2023

In order to reward the strides made at national level in The National SuperValu Tidy Towns Awards 2023, supplementary grants were awarded by resolution of the members of Carrick on Suir Municipal District to those groups participating in the national competition.

At a reception held at the District Office, New Street, Carrick on Suir on Thursday 23 November 2023, the Cathaoirleach and elected members were delighted to welcome representatives of the District's Tidy Towns Committees to present them with their awards, celebrating their fantastic achievements in the SuperValu National Tidy Towns Awards 2023, held at Croke Park on the 6th October 2023, with town and villages increasing their marks year on year.



Moyglass Tidy Towns Overall District Winner with Cathaoirleach, Councillor Kieran Bourke

Moyglass received a particular mention having increased their score by an incredible 21 marks over the previous year.

Tidy Towns Support Scheme 2023		Tidy Towns Awards 2023			
	Initial Award	M a r k s 2022	M a r k s 2023	Increase in marks	A m o u n t awarded
Moyglass	No application	228	249	21	€2,000
Faugheen	€750	205	218	13	€1,500
Grangemockler	€750	200	211	11	€1,300
Ballingarry	€750	301	311	10	€1,200
Fethard/Killusty	€750	286	296	10	€1,200
Mullinahone	€750	299	309	10	€1,200
Killenaule	€750	294	303	9	€1,000
*Ahenny-Clashnasmuth	€750 €750	220	228	8	€1,000
Drangan	€750	320	328	8	€1,000
Cloneen	€750	326	333	7	€1,000
Ballynonty	€750	221	226	5	€1,000
The Commons	€750	267	271	4	€1,000
Ballyneale	€750	312	314	2	€1,000
Ballinure	€750				
Dualla	€750				
Glengoole	€750				

No entry in National SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition

**Ahenny and Clashnasmuth applied separately to Carrick on Suir MD Tidy Towns Support Scheme, but jointly to National SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition 2023*

Burial Grounds Grants

Each year, grants are awarded to burial ground committees to assist with the maintenance and upkeep of burial grounds throughout the district.

In 2023, grants were approved by the Councillors to provide support at the following 48 locations in the Carrick on Suir Municipal District.

Ahenny Carrick on Suir BG	€600.00	Kilvemnon Mullinahone BG	€800.00
Ballinalacken Glengoole BG	€800.00	Lanespark Burial Ground	€800.00
Ballingarry Church Graveyard	€600.00	Lismolin Burial Ground	€600.00
Ballyneale Parish Graveyard	€600.00	Magoury Drangan BG	€800.00
Ballinure Burial Ground	€800.00	Modeshill Mullinahone BG	€600.00
Calvary Graveyard	€600.00	Mogorban Parish Council	€600.00
Carrick on Suir Workhouse Restoration	€600.00	Nun's Graveyard	€600.00
Cloneen New BG	€800.00	Newtown Graveyard	€600.00
Cloneen Old BG	€600.00	Old Ballingarry BG	€800.00
Cooleagh Fethard BG	€800.00	Peppardstown Fethard BG	€800.00
Crohane Burial Ground	€600.00	Rathcoole Fethard BG	€800.00
Crosscannon Killenaule BG	€800.00	Raheen Graveyard	€600.00
Dualla Cemetery	€600.00	Red City Fethard BG	€600.00
Dualla Burial Ground	€600.00	River Street Killenaule BG	€800.00
Everardsgrange Burial Ground	€600.00	St. Johnstown Killenaule BG	€800.00
Famine Graveyard	€800.00	St. Joseph's Ballingarry BG	€800.00
Grangemockler Parish Graveyard	€600.00	St. Mary's, Killenaule	€600.00
Holy Trinity Fethard	€600.00	St. Mary's Drangan BG	€600.00
Isterkiernan Mullinahone BG	€800.00	St. Michael's Church Graveyard	€600.00
Killaghy Mullinahone BG	€800.00	St. Patrick's Faugheen	€600.00
Killmaclough Fethard BG	€800.00	Woodhouse BG	€600.00
Kilballyherbery Burial Ground	€600.00	Templemichael Graveyard	€600.00
Kilmurray Carrick on Suir BG	€600.00	Tullamaine Fethard BG	€800.00
Kiltinan Fethard BG	€600.00	Moyglass Graveyard	€600.00

In supporting these voluntary burial ground committees, the Council acknowledges the enormously valuable contribution invested by participants in tending to their respective communities' resting places.

Community Grants

Carrick on Suir Municipal District invited submissions from clubs and other organisations providing facilities or engaging in community-based projects in 2023.

Grants totaling €48,389 were made under the scheme which was funded through the General Municipal Allowance and provided support to the following groups;

Ballingarry Community Dev Group	€1,000.00	St Nicholas & Faugheen Parish	€1,000.00
Ballingarry Camogie Club	€800.00	Strylea Residents Assoc	€1,000.00
Ballingarry Community Games	€800.00	Ballyneale Community Hall	€1,000.00
Ballingarry Parish Field	€1,000.00	Mullinahone LGFA	€800.00
Ballyneale Parish Field	€1,000.00	Mullinahone FC	€800.00
Ballynonty Community Group	€800.00	Manor Close Residents' Assoc	€745.00
Carrick on Suir & District Angling Assoc	€500.00	Ballingarry Tidy Towns	€800.00
Carrick United FC	€1,000.00	Ballingarry Albion	€800.00
Castle Heights Resident Committee	€1,000.00	Ballingarry Community Centre	€1,800.00
CJ Kickhams	€800.00	Ballingarry Active Retirement	€800.00
Clairin Residents' Assoc	€480.00	Coolquill Residents Association	€300.00
Cloneen Sports Club	€1,000.00	Friars Field Residents Assoc	€500.00
Cluain Ard Residents Assoc	€370.00	Drangan Historic Assoc	€800.00
Drangan & Cloneen Heartsafe Group	€550.00	Cregg Lawn Residents	€800.00
Fethard Community Hall	€1,000.00	Lissadell Residents	€690.00
Galteemor Kickboxing Fethard	€1,000.00	Árd Álainn Residents	€800.00
Grangemockler Community Sportsfield	€1,000.00	Fethard Athletic Club	€1,000.00
Killenaule Community Enhancement	€1,000.00	Fethard Men's Shed	€674.00
Killenaule GAA Club	€1,000.00	Castle Court Residents Assoc	€1,200.00
Killenaule Playground Dev Group	€2,500.00	Mullinahone Tidy Towns	€1,750.00
Moyglass Tidy Towns	€980.00	Tipperary Greenway Project	€1,000.00
Mullinahone Community Council	€5,750.00	Slieve Ardagh Mining Group	€1,000.00
Slieveardagh Community Centre	€1,000.00	Realta Special Needs Sports Club	€1,000.00
Slieve Ardagh Rural Dev Group	€1,000.00		

The scheme continued to grow year on year with a 33% increase in the number of applications processed in 2023 as compared with the previous year.

Municipal Festivals

The Clancy Festival in Carrick on Suir continued to grow from strength to strength providing a wonderful showcase of music and cultural events attracting visitors from near and far. The festival was assisted with a grant of €5,200 in 2023 and was a great success.



A newcomer to the festival scene was the Commemoration on the 175th Anniversary of the 1848 Monster Meeting re-enactment held on Slievenamon on the 16 July 2023 with events held at all of the villages around Slievenamon to celebrate the heritage and folklore of the area. The event was very well supported despite the unseasonal and inclement weather on the day.

Community Festivals

Our local festivals provided a very welcome outlet for families during the summer months with grants providing support to the following groups;

- Brewery Lane Writers Weekend
- Ballylynch Community Coming Together Festival
- Ballynonty Community Field Day
- Fethard and Killusty Fancy Dress Parade
- Fethard Festival

Cathaoirleach Awards 2023



Recipients of Cathaoirleach Awards 2023 with their nominating elected members pictured at Fethard Town Park Pavilion.

A wonderful evening was spent celebrating and rewarding the marvellous achievements and talents of the members' nominees on 13 June 2023 hosted by Paul Collins of Ballywire Media in the 'state of the art' Fethard Town Park community and recreation campus.

Pictured left to right above are the recipients with their awards alongside their respective nominating member as follows;

- Irish Champion Boxer 2022 and 2023, Isabelle Hawkins of St. Nicholas Boxing Club, Carrick on Suir - nominated by Councillor Kieran Bourke.
- Aoibhe Twomey, Carrick on Suir - World Champion Irish Dancer 2023 - nominated by Cllr. David Dunne, Cathaoirleach.
- Jamie Strappe, representing Gavin Strappe and his band, Jig Jam, currently on tour in the US, and having played at The Grand Ole Opry, Nashville, considered one of the highest achievements in the music industry - nominated by Councillor Mark Fitzgerald
- Sr. Patricia Wall, Ballingarry Community Activist, and driver behind the establishment of the Millennium Family Resource Centre, founder members of Ballingarry Community Development Association and Slieveardagh Development Company- nominated by Councillor. Imelda Goldsboro
- Mary O'Shea (Coach) representing Mullinahone Ladies Gaelic Football Association, winners of Munster Intermediate Ladies Football Final in 2022 – the first time Mullinahone GAA Club was represented in Croke Park. – nominated by Councillor Kevin O'Meara.



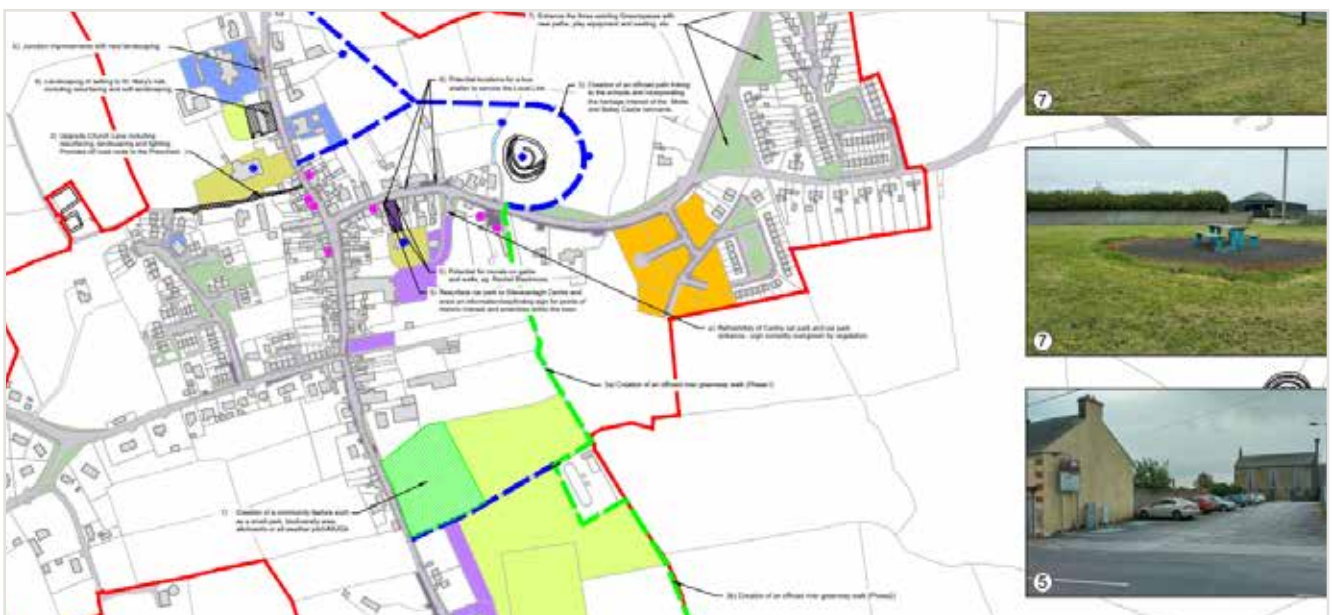
The hosts on the night; Left to right – Denis Power, A/District Engineer; Helen Cahill, Staff Officer; Councillor David Dunne, Cathaoirleach; Marie O’Gorman, District Administrator; and Paul Collins of Ballywire Media.

Town Centre First Enhancement Plans

The elected members of Carrick on Suir Municipal District set aside a budget from the General Municipal Allocation 2023 to fund the engagement of consultants to produce enhancement plans for Ballingarry, Killenaule and Mullinahone villages, building on some of the objectives set out in the county development plan for the respective settlements and harnessing the aspirations of the inhabitants who engaged wholeheartedly in the process.

Samuel McKeever of Nicholas DeJong Urban Design travelled to each centre to carry out an engagement with the respective communities. A series of brainstorming events were held in May 2023 with a very promising attendance at each centre throwing out their ideas and vision for their communities, ranging from measures to tackle vacancy and dereliction, to enhanced signage and wayfinding strategies, sensory gardens, greenways, community assets and amenities, landscaping and biodiversity projects, undergrounding of cables, improved street lighting and a myriad of other improvements.

The resulting plans are the communities’ wish list and will form the basis of applications to various funding sources to deliver those ideas such as Town Centre First, LEADER funding, Town and Village Renewal Schemes, Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme [ORIS] and the like over the course of the next few years.



Extract from Killenaule Town Centre First Plan 2023



Clonmel Borough District

At the Annual Meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 23rd June, 2023 Councillor Richie Molloy was elected Mayor and Councillor Michael Murphy was elected Deputy Mayor of the District for 2023/2024.



CIVIC RECEPTIONS

Clonmel Borough District accorded 3 Civic Receptions during 2023. A Civic Reception was accorded to the Franciscan Friars on the 7th January, 2023 on the occasion of the closing of the Franciscan Friary in Clonmel to recognise the loyal and distinguished contribution by the Friars to the Citizens of Clonmel and surrounding areas over the last 754 years.



On the 19th May, 2023 a Civic Reception was accorded to Clonmel Credit Union to mark their 60th Anniversary in recognition of their excellent service to the people of Clonmel and surrounding areas.

A Civic Reception was accorded to Cuan Saor on the 1st December, 2023 to mark their 30th anniversary in service and to recognise the invaluable support which they provide.



Tipperary Festivals and Events Grant Scheme 2023

Funding was allocated under the 2023 Tipperary Festivals and Events Grant Scheme in the Clonmel Borough District and it included groups in the categories below. The funding that the Council provides to Festivals and Events not only supports these groups to celebrate the arts, culture and heritage of the town but also serves to increase the level of vitality and vibrancy of the town centre bringing much needed footfall, bed nights and spend into the local economy.

Premier Category:

Clonmel Junction Arts Festival	€30,000
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Municipal Category:

Clonmel Applefest	€10,000
Clonmel Busking Festival	€15,000
Stagecraft 25 (Pricked)	€7,000
Cross Clonmel Cycling Event	€3,000
Finding a Voice	€3,300
When Next We Meet	€2,000
Kilcash – Slievenamon Festival	€2,500

Community Category:

Clontempo Choir	€300
Clonmel & District Canine Club Dog Show	€500
Long Way Round 21	€300
Camida Clonmel Duathlon 2021	€1,000
Clonmel Honey Show	€500
Bella Voci Choir	€300
Clonmel Pride	€1,000
Rosegreen Field Day	€500
Bridge Congress	€500
Choir Choir Choir	€2,500
Artist & Experimental Film	€2,000

St Patrick's Day Parade

2023 St. Patricks Day committee got together early in the year and worked at gathering as many groups together for the 17th March event. This year's Grand Marshall was scouting leader John Casey who has been involved in the scouts organisation for over 60 years. The parade started as usual in the afternoon at Irishtown led by Banna Cluain Meala and the day brought out thousands of spectators. A number of other side-line events to entertain children took place in Mary Street Car Park and in Kickham Plaza on the day. A great display was provided by all participating groups giving their best performances to the onlookers. A big thank you to all shop owners who decorated their windows for the weekend. Additional laneways and buildings were also lit up in green for the festive season.



Spring/Summer Festival 2023



A Spring/Summer theme was created once again in Mitchel Street and Marystone Mall with the bright array of coloured umbrellas. They remained in place for the duration of all the summer Clonmel Festivals. The artist benches were also re-painted throughout the town to bring additional colour to the streets.

Clonmel Junction Festival 2023

With Clonmel Junction Festival's strong commitment to providing a platform to local talent, while bringing high quality national artists to the town, the festival saw over 250 theatre-makers, musicians, visual artists and writers performing and exhibiting in over 60 separate events around town. With two new theatre productions created especially for Clonmel ('Hucklebuck' and 'Found'), interactive art exhibitions, and family-friendly street theatre shows, the town came alive in July for Clonmel Junction. From the kids who showcased their original music at Clonmel Junction Festival, to the Tipperary writers who provided an evening of new writing in English and Irish (with some Ukrainian, Polish and Hindi for good measure), the town came together to celebrate where all the arts meet at the 2023 festival.



'From Out The Land' premiered in September 2023 as part of the ART:2023 Decade of Centenaries programme. A large-scale outdoor production inspired by the stories of Kickham Barracks, the production brought thousands of people together to celebrate the history of Clonmel from the foundation of the state.

Clonmel Busking Festival

The Busking Festival 2023, which was held from the 11th – 13th August was the most successful Busking Festival to date. Large crowds were in attendance over the 3 days. Clonmel came alive with the busking rhythm and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere generated by the non-stop live performances around the streets and local public venues. Some of the headline musicians who opened the event for the weekend included AXIS, Cahir Men's Shed, Jukebox Gypsy and Mad Patsy. Busking competitions continued all day Saturday drawing interest from across the country – both young and old. Over 4,000 people gathered in Denis Burke Park on Sunday for the Lark at the Park where entertainment was provided by Banna Chluain Meala, The Waheys and Alan Power and Aftershocks. Other performers over the weekend included Dom O'Driscoll, The Dublin City Ramblers, Foul Play, The Pheasant Pluckers, The Kates and Riverbed Diamonds.



"After Eden" - Overall Winners of Busking Competition

Halloween Festival Clonmel

Clonmel's Zombie Walk was truly a community event with several groups and individuals giving their time, props and enthusiasm for free. The positive feedback which this event has received has been remarkable. Despite the poor weather conditions, hundreds of participants still turned out in their costumes and the walk proceeded from Kickham Barracks through Anglesea Street and into the Greyhound track where there were many activities lined up for the public for the following hours.

Busking Festival organisers working in conjunction with Clonmel Borough District staff (indoor and outdoor) prepared weeks in advance for this spectacle. Local artists provided the scares, entertainment and spooks along the way as well as other local Halloween fanatics who assisted with props, music, dance and art features on the night. Dracula in his coffin was a great hit with the young children along with Councillor Pat English providing amusement for children in the electric chair. Local Gardaí remained on site for the evening, enjoying the festivities and engaging with all participants.

Zombie Walk wouldn't have been the success it was without all the following:- Clonmel Borough Staff, Busking Festival Organisers, Mad Patsy; Wobbly Circus; "After Eden" Ruth Quinn Dance Troupe; "Axis" Clonmel Theatre Guild; Crazy Art with Mags; Derek Harvey; Billy Bop; Paul O'Donnell, Mulcahy House, Clonmel Training Centre, Clonmel Library, Garda Síochána, South Tipperary Arts Centre, Civil Defence and the Museum.



Christmas In Clonmel 2023



Saturday 2nd December - Santa Claus in Clonmel.

Clonmel Borough District, working closely with the new Town Team and the County Tipperary Chamber of Commerce hosted events and initiatives for the Christmas season. Santa Claus and his elves arrived to town on the 2nd December and was transported by his friends from the Fire Station to West Gate Car Park where he boarded his sleigh. He travelled down O'Connell Street turning the Christmas Lights on as he went. He was joined by performers from the Alison Cronin Dance School. The parade progressed through Clonmel and finished in the Kickham Barracks Plaza where "Banna Cluain Meala" and "After Eden" performed in front of a very large gathering. 2023 Christmas Lights and Christmas Events in Clonmel were all thanks to the contributions made by businesses throughout Clonmel and the surrounding areas.

Christmas Markets 2023 - Kickham Plaza.

A combined effort from the 4 secondary schools, Clonmel Borough District, Local Enterprise Office and Foroige created a tremendous atmosphere on Kickham Plaza over the weekend of the 16th December. It was fantastic to see the crowds who turned out in support of the work that the schools put into the event. It was even better to be able to purchase from local crafters and producers. It brought a much-needed boost of morale and feel good factor to both traders and customers alike. Huge effort was put into running the entire operation by all the students from the 4 schools. The live music added a fantastic festive atmosphere and the sheer talent from all the performers was a joy to witness. All the students were a credit to the schools involved. The plaza was such a great venue for this event within walking distance of the town with ample parking nearby.



Schedule Of Municipal District Works

In March 2023 the Members agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Clonmel Borough District.

Schedule of the main programmes affecting the Clonmel Borough District in relation to road and infrastructure during 2023 were:

Surface dressing works (RM) were carried out at:

L1408-0	Rathsallagh, Rosegreen
L2513-0	Ballydine
L2509	Drumdeel
L2514-0	Kylanoreashy
L7207-0	Ballynattin
L-3280-0	Clashaniska
L-3277-0	Ballingarrane North (Garryroe)
L-3277-0	Ballingarrane North
L-6503-0	Monroe
L-7205	Lavally
L-3620	Marlfield - Coole

Road strengthening (RI) works on public roads were carried out at:

L - 1409 -1	Attykit Rosegreen
L-6501-0	Rathkenty Lisronagh
L-1409-1	Rosegreen Village West
L-2501-3	Ballypatrick Village to N76
L-6503-0	Carraigwilliam
L-6517-0	Heathview Kilcash
L-1408-0	Bawnatanvoher Rosegreen
R-688-5	Rathduff Upper Cashel Road
R-689-3	Market Hill
L-3272-3	Market Hill Jxn to Cahir
R-688-6	Rathduff Upper Cashel Road
L-6515	Tullohea
L-2514-0	Kylanoreashy
L-7272-0	Ballincor
L-2514-0	Butlerstown
	Rathronan Crossroads Resurface & Kerbs
	Baron Park Main Rd - Resurface Patches
	Rathronan Close
	Cherrymount
	Auburn Park
	Macadam Patchworks in Clonmel Town



- Road patching, drainage and other maintenance of regional and local roads were carried out around the District.
- Safety Improvement Works were carried out at Rathduff, Jamestown, Ballybeg, Mocklerstown.

Drainage Works were carried out throughout the District. Drainage Grants were received for:

R688	Clerihan
R689	Fethard Rd
L2514 -0	Kylanoreashy
L1409-1	Attykit Rosegreen

Climate Adaptation grant was received for Brittas, Ballypatrick, Toor and Cherrymount for further drainage improvements.



Brittas Before



Brittas After

- Footpath Repairs were carried out at the following locations: Dr Croke Place Laneway, College Avenue, River St., Elm Park, Gael Scoil, Morton St., Western Road, Queen St
- Maintenance of LA housing units, based on Councils responsibility, priority and available budget.
- Voids/Pre-letting repairs, as required and based on budget allocation from centre. Based on necessary works to return a house to a habitable condition subject to available budget.
- Carried out street cleaning, litter management.
- Maintenance of St Patrick's Cemetery burial grounds.
- Management of parks and Open Spaces and Suir Blueway maintenance.



Monument New Quay Car Park

Marlfield Village Town & Village Renewal Project

A Town & Village Renewal grant for Marlfield Village was received in 2021. Works included the installation of an accessible fly-fishing access point on Suir Blueway at Sandybanks, viewing platform at Marlfield Lake, footpath improvements and biodiversity enhancements throughout Marlfield Village.

Works were completed in 2023.



Tidy Towns

Tidy Town Groups from the District were given continued financial support in order to continue with funding projects throughout the year. These groups included Kilsheelan, Clonmel, Kilcash, Marlfield, Rosegreen, Lisronagh and Clerihan.

The District acknowledges the commitment, pride and huge effort demonstrated throughout the year by each of the Tidy Town Groups in continuing to promote their towns and villages and having them look so well. The news of both Kilsheelan Tidy Towns and Clonmel Tidy Towns retaining their well-earned gold medals in the competition is a testament to the work that was put in over the year.



Extensive wildflower seeding on Clonmel Road, Kilsheelan.



Rosegreen Village

Amenity / Burial Ground Grants

Other funding provided to organisations and voluntary groups include tidy town grants totaling €12,000 allocated to 7 tidy town groups, €14,700 allocated to 21 burial ground committees and amenity grants totaling €9,396 allocated to 29 applicants.

Tidy Town Grants

No.	Name of Committee	Grant Awarded
1	Clonmel Tidy Town	€1,500
2	Kilsheelan Tidy Town	€4,000
3	Marlfield Tidy Town	€1,000
4	Rosegreen Tidy Towns	€2,000
5	Kilcash Tidy Towns	€1,000
6	Clerihan Tidy Towns	€1,000
7	Lisronagh Tidy Towns	€1,500
Total Grants Awarded		€12,000



Killaloe Burial Ground

Burial Ground Grants

Burial Ground Committee 2023	Grant Awarded
Baptistgrange BG Committee	€700
Rathronan BG Committee	€700
Old Clerihan Graveyard BG Committee	€700
Donoughmore BG Committee	€700
Burnchurch BG Committee	€700
Clerihan New BG Committee	€700
Killaloe BG Committee	€700
Marlfield BG Committee	€700
New Chapel BG Committee	€700
Old Kilsheelan BG Committee	€700
Rosegreen BG Committee	€700
St Mary's Churchyard BG Committee	€700
Templetney BG Committee	€700
Old Powerstown BG Committee	€700
Lisronagh Old BG Committee	€700
St. Nicholas Church & Grave BG Committee	€700
Shanavine BG Committee	€700
St Stephens Graveyard Committee	€700
Killusty Church Graveyard	€700
Powerstown Church Graveyard	€700
Lisronagh Church Graveyard	€700
Total Grants Allocated	€14,700

Amenity Grants

Residents Association	Amount to Pay
Ard Caoin Residents Association	€ 324.00
Auburn Estates Residents Association	€ 324.00
Barr An Aird Estate	€ 324.00
Beechwood Close Residents Association	€ 324.00
Beechwood Drive Residents Association	€ 324.00
Brookway Residents Association	€ 324.00
Cloughcarrigeen Residents Association	€ 324.00
Cois Coille, Kilcash	€ 324.00
Coleville Avenue Residents Association	€ 324.00
Crann Ard Residents Association	€ 324.00
Fán Aoibhinn & Droimeala Residents Association	€ 324.00
Garden Grove Residents Association	€ 324.00
Gort na Manach Residents Association	€ 324.00
Gort na Smol Residents Association	€ 324.00
Highfield Grove Residents Association	€ 324.00
Honeyview Estate Residents Association	€ 324.00
Inis na Managh	€ 324.00
Ivowen Residents Association	€ 324.00
Killusty Tidy Village	€ 324.00
Knockaun Court Residents Association	€ 324.00
Marlfield Village Residents Association	€ 324.00
Moylebrook Residents Association	€ 324.00
Old Bridge Community Association	€ 324.00
Redwood Gardens Residents Association	€ 324.00
Rosegreen Development Association	€ 324.00
Springfields Residents Association	€ 324.00
The Paddocks Residents Association	€ 324.00
Tivoli Heights Residents Association	€ 324.00
Wilderness Grove & Carrigeen Residents Association	€ 324.00
Total Grant Awarded	€ 9,396.00

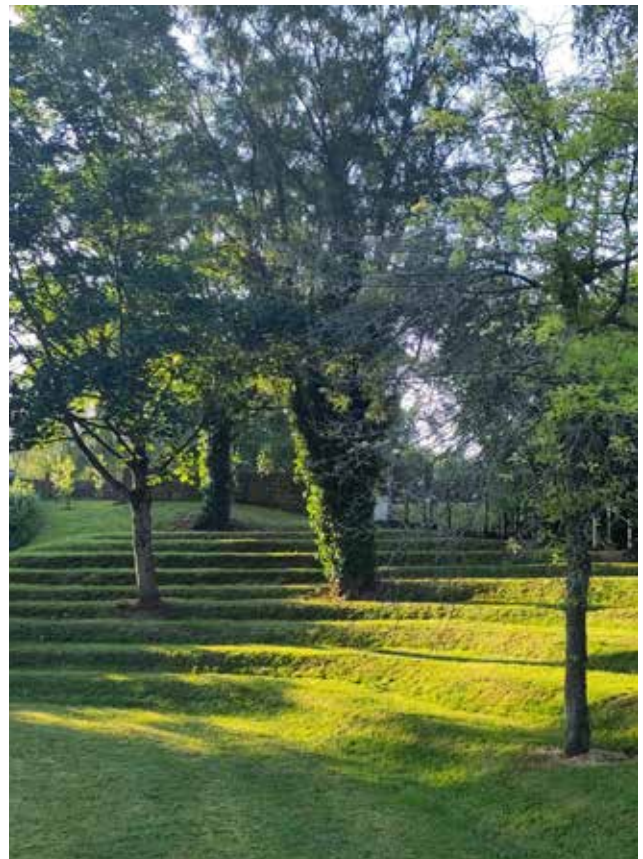
Clonmel Swimming Pool

Clonmel Swimming Pool is a 25m 5 lane pool located in Mick Delahunty Square. It operates 7 days a week from 6.30 a.m. to 10.00 p.m Monday to Friday and from 7.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m at weekends. Adult and Children lessons, water safety courses and a competitive swimming club are among the range of services provided. Facilities include a steam room and sauna, learner pool, gymnasium, weight room with wheelchair access, hoist and pool chairs also available.

In 2023 approximately 40 schools from Clonmel and the surrounding areas availed of the lessons provided at the pool where these students gained a valuable life skill. It is a well-priced facility for the community with concession rates available for Seniors and Students.

Playgrounds

Government funding was secured under the Play and Recreational Capital Grant to upgrade the playground in Mulcahy Park. These works were completed in 2023. A new public playground was also opened as part of the TUS Sports Complex Development in 2023. Clonmel Borough District carry out weekly inspections of all playgrounds in the District to ensure the health and safety of the users with any defects that are observed acted on and maintenance carried out.



Strategic Infrastructural Projects

“Clonmel 2030 - Transformational Regeneration” is an ambitious vision of considerable scale that is seeking to transform and change Clonmel’s town centre into a re-imagined, dynamic and energetic centre fit for purpose for its 21st century citizens. It proposes to achieve this through the re-activation of centrally located brownfield sites; creating new energized civic, cultural, educational, recreational and tourism spaces and seeks to combine these new uses in a manner that leverages and creates a new focus and purpose for the town. The vision will focus on better connectivity and access to the town and will strive to enhance the quality and attractiveness of the town resulting in increased critical mass and economic activity and be a town that all can take pride in. The key projects being progressed and/or achieved are as follows:-

A. Kickham Barracks Phase I And Clonmel Regional Sports Hub Projects

Under the Government’s Project Ireland 2040 Plan, and the ‘Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration’, 2 projects were completed and fully handed over in 2023.

Kickham Barracks Phase 1 – Kickham Barracks Plaza reached substantial completion in December 2022 and was officially opened by Minister Darragh O’Brien TD on 20th February 2023.



Clonmel Regional Sports Hub reached substantial completion in June 2023 and was thereafter opened to the public and sporting groups.

B. Kickham Barracks PHASE 2

Following the announcement in December 2022 by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris that approval has been given to Tipperary ETB to proceed to the next phase of the proposed development of a ‘College of The Future’ on the Kickham Barracks site, 2023 saw continued engagement between Tipperary County Council, TUS and Tipperary ETB in relation to advancing the development of the further education college. The Kickham Barracks campus estimated to cost approximately €94 million will host over 1,000 further education students and TUS higher education students.

In May 2023 Minister for Justice Simon Harris announced that approval has been granted to proceed with the development of a new Garda Station on the Kickham Barracks site through direct exchequer funding. The construction of the Garda Station is a long-standing strategic priority for the Council and An Garda Síochána. It is expected that building on the site will be commenced in late 2024/early 2025.



Concept drawing of proposed new Garda Station to be provided as part of Phase 2 of the Kickham Barracks Master Plan

C. SUIR ISLAND”

The Suir Island Masterplan promotes the development of Suir Island as a recreational amenity themed around the town's industrial heritage.

Funding was secured under Sláintecare Healthy Community Enhancement Scheme with Tipperary County Council providing match funding to complete phase 1 of this park which involves the development of a formal garden area on part of the lands on Suir Island. The design is complete and a call for tender to invite contractors to submit offers for the execution of the Suir Island Gardens Project Works Contract was published in November 2023 and works are expected to commence in late Q2 2024.

In order to improve pedestrian and cycle linkage between the south of the town and north of the town an ambitious bridge design was developed and finalized which not only connects the two sides of the River Suir but also creates a new public plaza area and links the new Bridge with the Suir Blueway. An application for statutory approval was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in September, 2023 with a decision expected in Q2 2024.

D. Abbey Street Performance Area

A dual-purpose space which will allow the Abbey car park facility to host performances during events and festivals was prepared during 2023. The proposed development will initiate the transformation of this area and will involve the provision of a covered stage area to be used for performing artists and additional features to enhance the audience space during the festival season. Improvements include architectural canopies, seating, lighting, and power points. When not in use as a performance space, it will be utilized for car parking purpose. A call for tender to invite contractors to submit offers for the execution of the Works contract was published in November 2023 and Works are expected to commence in Q2 2024.

E. Suir Blueway

The Blueway is a very important natural amenity in Clonmel and surrounding areas. It hosts a number of benefits to the user such as health, wellbeing, fitness and social interaction with the numbers using the Blueway continuing to increase in the last year. The District was successful in securing a further €450,000 as part of Blueway widening works. Design commenced in 2023 and works on site are expected to commence after the flood season in Q2 2024.

F. Project Ireland 2040 Funds - Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF) - 3rd Call

The URDF is a flagship element of Project Ireland 2040 and was established to support more compact and sustainable development, through the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland's five cities and other large towns, in line with the objectives of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the National Development Plan (NDP).

While the URDF programme will continue to support the progression of approved proposals and projects through their project lifecycles, the third round of funding support announced in January 2023, is specifically designed to address long term vacancy and dereliction across URDF towns and cities, and focuses on the acceleration of the provision of residential accommodation. This initiative is also in support of objectives under the revised Housing for All and Town Centre First policy.

Clonmel Borough District is seeking to tackle long term vacant and derelict buildings and sites across Clonmel and is actively utilising the third round of funding support for the activation of long term vacant and derelict buildings and sites for the provision of residential accommodation. The Council have mapped and identified the key relevant sites in 2023 and will actively engage with all owners to bring these buildings back into active use. Options of the council purchasing same through CPO will also be actively used where relevant and appropriate.

While the third round of funding is specifically tailored to help deliver specific objectives of the NDP and Housing for All, a fourth round of funding support is expected to be announced in 2024 and Clonmel Borough District will actively engage with this call to deliver in the three intrinsically linked and integrated development pillars of the “Clonmel 2030 – Transformational Regeneration”.




Suir Island Gardens Development 2024 and Widening of various sections of the Suir Blueway

Clonmel Town Bus Service

The National Transport Authority launched the new Clonmel Town Bus Service on the 11th December, 2023. The service has three new routes CL1, CL2 and CL9 which has improved connectivity for the town. Routes CL1 and CL2 connect Crann Ard, Poppyfields and Ard Gaoithe Business Park providing people with a reliable and frequent bus service operating every hour.

Route CL9 provides an early morning/late evening service which facilitates people who work early/late shift and also helps with onward travel to Kilkenny, Dublin City and the Airport. To date this new service is proving very successful.



 *Routes CL1 and CL2 connect Crann Ard, Poppyfields and Ard Gaoithe Business Park providing people with a reliable and frequent bus service operating every hour*


OPW - Flood Defence Scheme

The Clonmel Flood Defence Scheme is monitored and maintained by Clonmel Borough District. The scheme is 100% funded by the Office of Public Works. Continuous monitoring by the Engineers, technical staff and team in the District provides a safeguard against flooding in vulnerable areas. The prior warning of flood events and the indication of the severity is of benefit to inform the local authority staff, its emergency response partners and the general public in affected areas to take appropriate action to prepare for flood events.

The Marlfield Flood Relief Scheme is currently at Final Options Stage with a Public Consultation to be held in late March. Ground Investigation Works are expected to commence this year with a view to finalising the Preferred Option by the end of 2024. Tree Clearance works and other remedial works will be ongoing throughout the year.



Emergency Response Team on Training Day at Marlfield Lake

 *Continuous monitoring by the Engineers, technical staff and team in the District provides a safeguard against flooding in vulnerable areas*





Nenagh Municipal District

Cathaoirleach

The Annual Meeting of Nenagh Municipal District was held on 15th June 2023. Councillor John “Rocky” McGrath was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Hughie McGrath was elected Leas Chathaoirleach.



Cathaoirleach John “Rocky” McGrath

Schedule of Municipal District Works

In March 2023 the Members agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Nenagh Municipal District. This provided for a total expenditure of over €13.5 million. 110 schemes were completed in 2023 including roads, drainage and bridge schemes.

Under the Roadworks Programme the following works were undertaken:

- 42km were improved under the Restoration Improvement Programme
- 46km were surface dressed under the Restoration Maintenance Programme
- 2.5km was improved under the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)
- A major programme of works was carried out involving bridge repairs, drainage improvements, new footpaths and new HRA road surfacing
- A new road overlay was completed on the R494 in Portroe village.
- Approximately 750m of fencing retrofit was carried out, part of which was on the N52 at Tinlough, Carrig.



Remedial Works at Annaghbeg Bridge



Major improvement works in Portroe village



Fencing Retrofit at Tinlough, Carrig



Templederry Bridge - new bridge deck, parapets & safety barriers installed

Working with the Community

During 2023 Nenagh Municipal District continued to work with the community throughout the District in various ways. This included provision of funding through grants and contributions, liaison with voluntary groups and associations, liaison with business groups, provision of advice and support and assisting with a variety of events.

2023 was another very successful year for the Tidy Towns Committees across the Nenagh Municipal District. In total 26 towns, villages or communities in the Nenagh MD area entered the competition and the results were truly outstanding.

All centres showed an increase in the marks awarded with Ballinahinch, Ballinderry and Rathcabbin achieving an additional 19 marks each this year. Nenagh town, Ballina-Boher and Riverstown-Kileen received an additional 17 marks and no centre received less than an increase of 7 marks. The three top achievers were Terryglass (silver medal), Birdhill (highly commended and bronze medal) and Silvermines (commended and bronze medal). Nenagh Town retained its bronze medal.



Bridge erected over stream by Shallee Enhancement Group



Shallee Enhancement group created a beautiful flowerbed & bicycle sign post



Works completed by Templederry Tidy Towns group



Power washing works by CloughJordan Tidy Towns group

In recognition of the contribution made by communities across the district, funding was allocated in 2023 to 79 clubs & organisations, 41 residents associations, 22 festivals & events, 30 Tidy Towns Committees and 66 burial grounds committees within the Nenagh Municipal District.

Events supported included:

- Spleodar
- Fleadh Cheoil Thiobraid Árann
- CloughJordan Amphitheatre Season 2023
- Nenagh Castlefest
- Ard Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge
- Lorrha Lughnasa
- SCS Killaloe Music Festival
- Nenagh Snooker Open
- Dromineer-Nenagh Literary Festival

A full listing of all grant and contributions recipients is set out in this Report.

The Nenagh Municipal District Awards Evening took place on Monday 20th November 2023. Cathaoirleach of Nenagh MD, Councillor John “Rocky” McGrath made presentations to voluntary groups and individuals in a number of categories in recognition of their commitment, dedication and achievements in their respective areas. On the night a number of ‘Nenagh 800’ medals were presented – these were commissioned by the ‘Nenagh 800’ Committee and commemorated 800 years of the development of Nenagh.

Awards were made under the following categories:

- Tidy Towns Committees
- Residents Associations
- Burial Ground Committees
- Significant Achievements
- Sporting Achievements
- Best Cultural/Heritage Group



Ballinderry Tidy Towns Committee - Recipients of Nenagh Municipal District Award



Defibs for Life Committee - Recipients of Nenagh Municipal District Award



Ann Scroope – Recipient of Nenagh 800 medal alongside Cathaoirleach John “Rocky” McGrath



Nicola Welford - Recipient of Nenagh Municipal District Award



Ard Coillte Residents Association - Recipients of Nenagh Municipal District Award



Kitty Meagher - Recipient of Nenagh 800 medal

Details of Grants and Contributions 2023

Tidy Towns Grants

Aglisla Old School & Village Committee	€4,000
Adrcronev Community Development Committee	€2,000
Ballina Tidy Towns Committee	€5,000
Ballinahinch Tidy Towns Committee	€800
Ballinderry Tidy Towns Committee	€1,000
Ballingarry Tidy Towns Committee	€1,000
Birdhill Tidy Towns Committee	€1,500
Capparoo Tidy Towns Committee	€800
Carney Tidy Village	€500
Carrig Tidy Town Committee	€1,500
Carrigahorig Development Association	€2,000
Cloughjordan Tidy Towns	€1,600
Dromineer & District Development Association	€1,750
Garrykennedy Tidy Towns	€1,400
Kilbarron Development Association	€1,000
Kilcommon Tidy Towns Association	€1,000
Killoscully Development Association	€2,000
Lorrha Development Association	€1,000
Nenagh Tidy Towns	€10,500
Newport Tidy Towns	€6,000
Pike Residence Association	€500
Portroe Tidy Towns Committee	€1,300
Puckane Tidy Towns Committee	€3,000
Rathcabbin Development Association	€3,000
Riverstown Tidy Towns Committee	€1,000
Shallee Enhancement Group	€1,200
Silvermines Enhancement Group	€3,000
Templederry Tidy Towns	€1,500
Terryglass Improvement Association	€3,000
Toor Tidy Village	€800
Total	€62,650

Festival & Events Grant

Municipal:

Spleodar Halloween Arts Festival	€12,000
Fleadh Cheoil Thiobraid Árann 2023	€7,000
Irish Youth Circus Gathering	€5,100
Feile Brian Boru	€3,300
Cloughjordan Community Amphitheatre Season 2023	€4,650
Nenagh Castlefest 23	€15,000
Nenagh Childrens Film Festival	€3,000
Ard Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge	€1,500
Dromineer Nenagh Libery Festival	€5,500
Convergence 2023	€5,000
Classic Car Easter Egg Hunt	€250

Community:

Lorrha Medieval Conference	€1,000
Lorrha Lughnasa	€2,000
Killoscully Midsummer Community Gathering	€500
Nenagh Snooker Open	€1,500
Nenagh Snooker Irish Invitational Team Championship	€1,000
Ballina-Killaloe St. Patrick's Day Parade	€1,000
National Gents/Ladies Strokeplay	€2,500
Newport St. Patrick's Day Parade	€2,000
Ballinderry BEO	€1,500
Friends of Terryglass Village	€2,000
SCS Killaloe Music Festival 2023	€1,500
Judo Tipperary International Inclusion Friendship Games	€1,300

Total	€81,100
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Burial Ground Grants

Aglish Burial Ground	€678.38	Killenaive Graveyard	€678.38
Ardcrone New Cemetery	€678.38	Killodiernan Church of Ireland Graveyard	€678.38
Ardcrone Old Graveyard	€678.38	Killoscully Burial Ground	€678.38
Ballinaclough Graveyard	€678.38	Kilmastulla Graveyard Committee	€678.38
Ballingarry Church of Ireland	€678.38	Kilmore Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Ballinahinch New Graveyard	€678.38	Kilnarath Burial Ground	€678.38
Ballinahinch Old Graveyard	€678.38	Kilruane Burial Ground	€678.38
Ballinree Church Burial Ground	€678.38	Knigh Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Ballinree New Burial Ground Committee	€678.38	Kyle Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Ballygibbon Burial Ground	€678.38	Lisboney Old Cemetery	€678.38
Ballymackeogh Graveyard	€678.38	Lockeen Graveyard	€678.38
Ballymackey Burial Ground	€678.38	Lockeen Church of Ireland Graveyard	€678.38
Ballymackey Church of Ireland Graveyard	€678.38	Lorrha St. Ruadhan's New Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Birdhill Graveyard Committee	€678.38	Lorrha St. Ruadhan's Old Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Bonaham Burial Ground Committee	€678.38	Modreeny Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Borrisokane Old Church of Ireland	€678.38	Monsea Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Burgess Graveyard Committee	€678.38	Pallas Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Carrig Burial Ground	€678.38	Pike Burial Ground (Ballingarry)	€678.38
Castletown Burial Ground Committee	€678.38	Rockvale Cemetery	€678.38
Cloughjordan Burial Ground	€678.38	St. John's Newport COI Graveyard	€678.38
Cloughprior Burial Ground Committee	€678.38	St. Peter & Paul's Graveyard	€678.38
Congor Graveyard Committee	€678.38	St. Ruadhans Church of Ireland Committee	€678.38
Cragg Burial Ground	€678.38	Templederry Church of Ireland Committee	€678.38
Cuan Mhuire Burial Ground	€678.38	Templederry New Graveyard	€678.38
Curreeny Burial Ground	€678.38	Templekelly Burial Ground Committee	€678.38
Dromineer Graveyard Committee	€678.38	Terryglass Cemetery Committee	€678.38
Finoe Graveyard	€678.38		
Garrykennedy Graveyard Committee	€678.38		
Grawn Burial Ground	€678.38		
Grennanstown Graveyard	€678.38		
Kenyon Street Graveyard Committee	€678.38		
Kilbarron Church of Ireland Graveyard	€678.38		
Kilbarron New Graveyard Committee	€678.38		
Kilbarron Old Graveyard Committee	€678.38		
Kilboy Burial Ground Committee	€678.38		
Kilcommon New Burial Ground Committee	€678.38		
Kilcommon Old Burial Ground Committee	€678.38		
Kilkeary Burial Ground Committee	€678.38		
		Total	€44,773.08

Residents Associations

Ard Coillte Residents Association	€300	Hillcrest Manor Residents Committee	€400
Arravale Residents Association	€500	Iniscealtra Residents Association	€400
Ballygraique Estate Committee	€300	Killnasalla Residents Association	€300
Brooklands Drive Residents Association	€250	Lakeside Villas Residents Association	€250
Brookville Green Residents Association	€250	Lorrha Village Residents Committee	€300
Bruach Tailte Residents Association	€350	Lough Derg Cottages Residents Association	€150
Castle Court Residents Association (sub-committee of Terryglass Improvements Committee)	€300	Marine Village Residents Association	€250
Ciamaltha Meadows Residents Association	€300	Monaree Residents Association	€800
Cluain Caoin Residents Association	€300	Radharc Darach Residents Committee	€200
Coille Bheithe Residents Association	€350	Sallygrove Residents Association	€350
Cois Deirge Residents Association	€150	Yewston Residents Association	€300
Cnoc Ard Residents Committee	€300	Youghalarra Way Residents Association	€300
Cullenagh Residents Committee	€500	Tullow Residents Committee	€250
Derg Manor Residents Association	€250	Farmlough Residents Committee	€350
Droim na Coille Residents Committee	€300	Castleoak Residents Association	€300
Dromin Court Residents group	€150	Clonbealy Residents Association	€300
Drummin Village Residents Association	€350	Ardan/Shesheaghmore Residents Committee	€500
Fairgreen Residents Committee	€300	Mulcair Manor Residents Committee	€350
Glenree Residents Committee	€250	Carrig Rua Residents Association	€200
Glenwood Residents Committee	€200	Rearcross Residents Committee	€200
Harbour View Residents Committee	€150	Total	€12,550



Clubs & Organisations

12th Tipperary Newport Scouts	€250	Nenagh Community Allotments	€250
Aglish Sociable Ladies	€250	Nenagh Cricket Club	€250
Ardcrone Community Field	€250	Nenagh Eire Og Camogie Club	€250
Ardcrone Community Hall	€250	Nenagh Eire Og Hurling & Football Club	€250
Ardcrone FC	€250	Nenagh Golf Club - Ladies Branch	€250
Arra Historical & Archaeological Society	€250	Nenagh Hockey Club	€250
Ballina Handball Club	€250	Nenagh I.C.A.	€250
Ballina Ladies Football Club	€250	Nenagh Kairali	€250
Ballinaclough Sportsfield Committee	€250	Nenagh Masters Swimming Club	€250
Ballinahinch GAA	€250	Nenagh Neptune Swimming Club	€250
Ballymackey FC Ltd	€250	Nenagh Ormond Brass Band	€250
Ballycommon/Puckane CE CLG	€250	Nenagh Special Summer Camp	€350
Birdhill FC	€250	Nenagh Squash Club	€250
Boher Community Development Group	€250	Nenagh Toastmasters Club	€250
Borrisokane Athletic Club	€250	Nenagh Warriors Basketball Club	€250
Borrisokane Gospel Choir	€250	Newport Community First Responders	€250
Borrisokane Tennis Club	€250	Newport Community Text Alert Group	€250
Burgess Duharra Camogie Club	€350	Newport Historical & Archaeological Society	€250
Capparoo Womens Shed	€350	Newport Town AFC	€250
Cloughjordan Community Games	€250	Newport Womens Shed	€250
Cloughjordan FC	€250	North Tipperary Republican Memorial Committee	€250
CRK Drama Group	€250	Order of Malta Ambulance Corps - Nenagh Unit	€250
Curreeny Community Hall Ltd	€250	Puckaun & Carrig Senior Citizens Association	€250
Development Association Newport CLG	€250	Riverdale Pitch & Putt Club	€250
Farm Family Group	€350	SCEAL Society Limited	€250
Irish Kennedy Heritage Group	€250	Silvermines FC	€250
Kiladangan Juvenile GAA Club	€250	Silvermines Historical Society	€250
Killoran Community Centre	€250	Silvermines Juvenile GAA Club	€250
Kilruane MacDonaghs Camogie Club	€250	Silvermines Mens Shed	€250
Knigh Utd	€250	Silvermines Senior Citizens Christmas Party	€350
Lahorna Handball Club	€250	Stafford Day Service	€250
Lorrha/Dorrha Camogie Club	€250	Terryglass Angling & Conservation Club	€250
Lorrha/Dorrha Juvenile Club	€250	Terryglass Kilbarron Game & Conservation Club	€350
Lough Derg Sub Aqua Club	€250	The A Team Youth Club	€350
Lower Ormonde Branch O.N.E.	€250	Tipperary C.O.P.D. Support	€250
Mulcair Men's Shed	€250	Aglish Old School & Village Committee	€2,000
Nenagh Active Retirement	€250	Ballymackey Womens Shed	€350
Nenagh AFC	€250	Lorrha Rathcabbin Gun Club	€350
Nenagh Bridge Centre	€350	Choose Respect Committee	€800
Nenagh Classic Car Club	€250	Total	€23.350

Enhancement of Nenagh

A number of businesses benefited from the 2023 Painting and Enhancement grant schemes in Nenagh MD. This scheme was provided to improve the streetscape and public realm through supporting the owners of commercial properties to improve and enhance their properties and public areas.



Recipient of Nenagh Municipal District 2023 Painting & Enhancement grant scheme

Projects funded by GMA, Development Levies, Active Travel, etc

Birdhill Active Travel – a segregated cycleway and associated works were installed connecting Birdhill village to the train station. This project was completed at a cost of €100,000.



Cycleway from Birdhill village to Birdhill train station

A bicycle repair station was installed in Ballinderry Village as part of the Council's promotion of cycling.



New bicycle repair station in Ballinderry Village

Under Active Travel a new footpath was installed linking Borrisokane Community College to Borrisokane GAA field.



New footpath linking Borrisokane Community College to the GAA field

Footpath repair works were completed on footpaths at various locations around Nenagh town.



Repair of footpaths at Kickham Street, Nenagh



Footpath and resurfacing works at Dromineer

€15,000 was spent on road improvement works at the rear of the Silvermines Church.



Resurfacing works at Silvermines Church

Newport Town Park

Works on the Park were substantially completed in 2023. The official opening of the Town Park will take place on 22nd January 2024 and will be performed by the Minister for Housing, Heritage and Local Government, Darragh O'Brien.



Pump Track at Newport Town Park



Facilities at Newport Town Park

Discovery Points – Castlelough & The Lookout Portroe

As a follow on to the Architectural and Conservation Report which was completed in 2022, the Discovery Points Plan was completed in 2023. The outputs of the plan will feed into the Waterway Ireland/Fáilte Ireland's Signature Points project.

Newport Enhancement Plan/Town Centre First Plan

The Newport Enhancement Plan will become the Town Centre First Plan for Newport and aims to provide support for funding applications to deliver its provisions. A Town Team will be established to facilitate the process and arrangements are being made to finalise the draft plan.

Newport Courthouse & Bridewell

In 2023 the procurement of a consultant to prepare a feasibility study was undertaken and Scroope Design were appointed as consultants. Initial engagement has taken place with stakeholders with further meeting planned for January 2024.



Newport Courthouse & Bridewell

Ballina Access Promenade & Viewing Area

Consulting Engineers Jennings O'Donovan have commenced work on preparation of tender documentation for the works. As part of the conditions of planning permission from An Bord Pleanála, bat and otter surveys are necessary and will require the procurement of an Ecologist. An Archaeologist will carry out monitoring during construction. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is almost complete.



Concept drawing for Ballina Access Promenade & Viewing Area

Pride of Place




Nenagh was nominated by Tipperary County Council to represent Tipperary in the IPB Pride of Place Competition in the category for town with a population of over 4,000 people.

The Awards Ceremony was held in November in Armagh. The event which is an All-Island competition, recognises improvement made by local communities to create civic pride in their areas. Nenagh won the Pride of Place Award with the entry 'We Nenagh'. This was a collaboration of Nenagh community representatives, co-ordinated by Nenagh Municipal District, the Silver Arch Family Resource Centre and Clúid Housing. The input of Ballygraique Court Residents Association was a major factor in achieving this award.

Pride of Place Award



Judges with Nuala Kennedy, Nenagh & District Tidy Towns & Rosemary Joyce, District Administrator in the polytunnel at the Community Wellness Garden

 *The event which is an All-Island competition, recognises improvement made by local communities to create civic pride in their areas*



A young volunteer with Ruth Briggs in Ballygraique Court

Nenagh Tourist Office & Visitors Centre

Nenagh's Tourist office opened to visitors at the end of 2021. The Tourist Office, which is located in Banba Square in the former Town Hall, is open all-year round Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Victoria Lee, Guide/Information Officer has been providing information to visitors about places to go and things to do in the local area and beyond.

During 2023 the Tourist Office hosted a huge range of events such as live music & craft showcases, evenings of poetry and readings, tours and talks/presentations to primary school children.

In May 493 primary school students received a very informative and interactive talk on Water Safety from the RNLI.



Water safety talk provided by RNLI

During National Heritage Week there were a variety of events arranged and hosted such as guided tours, poetry/story readings, a genealogy presentation on how to trace ancestry and a dancing/traditional music showcase.



Guided tour during National Heritage Week

In October Nenagh Tourist Office hosted A Celebration of Nenagh to recognise the contribution made by people and businesses to the town. Fourteen of Nenagh's most well known residents received Nenagh 800 medals.



Noreen O'Sullivan - Recipient of Nenagh 800 Medal

Nenagh Tourist Office was shortlisted and "Highly Commended" in the top five in the Best Local Tourism Office Category for the Travel 2 Ireland Awards.

It was also approved to become a Fáilte Ireland recognised Community Tourist Office.

In 2023 the Tourist Office has also played host to some prestigious visitors including Deric Ó hArtagáin from Ireland AM; Irish Comedians – Deirdre O'Kane & Stephen Mullans; Irish Authors – Kate Kerrigan & Celine O'Donovan; Musicians – Brendan Shine & Walter Becker.

In September, the Tourist Office in conjunction with Nenagh Live hosted 'Hope for the Future – Young Composers and Songwriters Showcase' for Culture Night 2023. This was an intimate showcase of emerging Nenagh based artists performing a selection of new and previous unreleased original material.



TV3's Deric Ó hArtagáin's visit to Nenagh Tourist Office

Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter

In March 2023 a briefing to the Elected Members took place on the proposed scope of the project which includes Nenagh Castle, the Castle Field, the Gaol Complex (Governors House, Cell Blocks in the Courthouse Yard and the Gatehouse), Banba Square and associated public realm.

Consultation also took place with a number of stakeholders in the vicinity of the Historic and Cultural Quarter.



Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter

Work commenced on the next phase of the project which relates to planning and detailed design. This will incorporate a Part 8 process and a requirement for Ministerial consent in relation to properties in the ownership of the State.

The Historic and Cultural Quarter Part 8 proposals went on public display in November 2023.

In 2024 funding will be sought to progress this project further.



Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Rialto Business & Enterprise Hub

Robin Lee Architecture were appointed following the tender process for an Architect led Integrated Design Team.

Work commenced on the design and planning process. It is proposed to turn the protected structure into a business and enterprise hub with 98 workspaces over two floors and the construction of 13 no 1-bedroom units in the former store yard to the rear of the building. The residential units will be served by seven car parking spaces with soft and hard landscaping and bicycle parking. The building will have a changing place standard toilet facility, a meeting room, break out spaces and event spaces.

Part 8 proposals went on public display in November, 2023.



Proposed Image of The Rialto Nenagh

Nenagh Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy

In 2023 Departmental approval was received to proceed with Phase 2 of the procurement process for the appointment of the Design Team. Works have been finalised on the Design Brief for the procurement of the Design Team. It is aimed to have the team appointed in Q1 of 2024. Potential companies will be invited to submit tenders in early 2024.



Conceptual image for Centre of Excellence

Nenagh Live

In March 2023 Nenagh Live, in conjunction with local production company Spain AV, hosted a programme of festivities to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. This successful initiative featured an artisan market with a host of local vendors and producers selling their wares, along with three stages showcasing live music and the many talents of Nenagh and surrounding areas. The day was preceded by 'The Story of St Patrick' at Nenagh Castle from Monday 13th to Thursday 16th March when 655 primary school children visited the Nenagh Tourist Office, Nenagh Heritage Centre and Nenagh Castle to hear the story of St Patrick.



Nenagh Ormond Brass Band performing at St Patricks Day celebrations in Nenagh

On Sunday 26th November the official switch-on of Nenagh's Christmas Lights took place. As part of an outdoor musical extravaganza an open-air concert in partnership with Nenagh MD featured a symphony of characters, live bands, singers, musicians & performers which was programmed by Spain AV. The amazing display of the town's Christmas lights was switched on by the Cathaoirleach John 'Rocky' McGrath in conjunction with Santa Claus and Fran Curry from Tipp FM.

In December Nenagh Live presented 'Christmas at the Castle' which entailed a two-day Christmas festival and market. This festive experience was complete with family entertainment, stall holders, local vendors and a wonderful mixture of light displays, projections and music.



Light displays & projections at Christmas at the Castle event



The Magic of Christmas of Christmas at the Castle

Platforms for Growth - Dromineer

Work is progressing on the preparation of tender documents for the appointment of consultants for the detailed design, procurement of contractors and overseeing the demolition of the existing toilet block and the construction of a Facilities Centre for Water Sports Activity. Tender process will commence in Q1 2024.

As part of the An Bord Pleanála planning approval, Otter and Bat surveys were completed during 2023 with no issues identified.



Design Plan for Platforms for Growth Project - Dromineer

Designated Bathing Area

A public consultation meeting took place in Dromineer in November to discuss the proposed designation of Dromineer as a bathing area in accordance with the Bathing Water Directive. Proposals are currently being prepared by Destination Lough Derg Tourism Officer, Environment Section and Nenagh MD. The process commenced in 2022 with a submission to Tipperary County Council from Destination Lough Derg. A preliminary assessment was carried out by Tipperary County Council. Surveys were undertaken of visitor numbers and facilities. Environmental surveys are currently ongoing as is a Risk Assessment with Irish Water Safety. It is proposed to make an application to the EPA for official designation under the Bathing Water Regulations in March 2024 with a view to having a dedicated Bathing Area in place for summer 2024.



Proposed bathing area at Dromineer

Nenagh Traffic Management Plan - One Way System

Advanced works on the Nenagh One Way System commenced in Zone 1 with works taking place on the mid-block crossing in Pearse Street in November. The One Way System will come into operation in Q1 of 2024.



Nenagh Traffic Management Plan – One Way System

Public Consultation

Public consultation processes were undertaken in respect of:

- Bye Laws for the regulation of Amenity Areas in Nenagh Municipal District
- Nenagh Local Area Plan 2024-2030
- Nenagh Traffic Management Plan – One Way System
- Part 8 Rialto Digital and Enterprise Hub
- Part 8 Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter
- Bye-Laws for Casual Trading

Taking in Charge

No estates were Taken in Charge during 2023.

Casual Trading

Following the public consultation process the Casual Trading Byelaws in Nenagh Municipal District were adopted in April 2023. These byelaws were for traders interested in obtaining casual trading licences to operate at designated locations throughout the district and came into effect in June. A total of six licences were issued in 2023 – two in Ballina, 1 in Dromineer, 2 Garrykenedy and 1 in Castlelough. Licences must be applied for on an annual basis.

Ballina-Killaloe welcomes Basse-Goulaine

Ballina-Killaloe is in a twinning partnership with the town of Basse-Goulaine, a commune in the Loire-Atlantique department in western France. On Thursday 13th July 2023 representatives from their twinning committee arrived in Ireland for their third visit to Ballina-Killaloe. A civic welcome was accorded to the Committee by Nenagh Municipal District in the Civic Offices, Nenagh on Friday 14th July – Bastille Day. Following this the representatives of Basse-Goulaine were given a tour of Nenagh Tourist Office, followed by a visit to John Hanly & Co in Ballyartella. Over the weekend the group travelled to Limerick which included a visit to the famous Milk Market, an expedition to the International Rugby Experience and a tour of the Hunt Museum. Before returning to France the activities included a walk through the Polloughs Trail in Birdhill to view the wonderful display of art in a natural setting, followed by a music session in The Washerwoman in Ballina.



Representatives of the Twinning Committees of Basse-Goulaine and Ballina-Killaloe with Cllr. John 'Rocky' McGrath, Cathaoirleach of Nenagh Municipal District

Development Land at Lisbunny

In 2023 Tipperary County Council advertised for expressions of interest from developers and entrepreneurs interested in acquiring a prime 19.2 acre industrially zoned site at Lisbunny Business Park Nenagh for immediate development and job creation. Submissions are currently being assessed.



Aerial view of Lisbunny Industrial Estate

Funeral of Iconic Musician Shane MacGowan

On Friday 8th December 2023 the world media along with the family and many friends of Shane MacGowan descended upon Nenagh for the funeral Mass of the much-loved world renowned musician. The funeral Mass took place at St. Mary's of the Rosary Church. Following the Mass, the public had the opportunity to pay their respects as the funeral cortege moved through the streets of Nenagh. A traffic management plan was put in place for the duration of the funeral, 1,500 additional car parking spaces were provided along with completion of resurfacing works at Kenyon Street car park.



Musician Shane MacGowan RIP

Visit from Polish Ambassador

In February the Polish Ambassador to Ireland, her Excellency Anna Sochanska visited Nenagh and was accorded a Cathaoirleach's Reception by Tipperary County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Roger Kennedy.



Polish Ambassador Anna Sochanska

Press Photographer's Association of Ireland (PPAI) Exhibition

In July the launch of the Press Photographer's Association of Ireland (PPAI) Exhibition took place in the Civic Offices, Nenagh. This included a fascinating talk by Photographer of the Year, Mark Condren, who is a six-time recipient of this award. Over the course of his work Mark has visited Ukraine, Ethiopia, Somalia etc while covering some of the biggest stories in Irish news. The Exhibition featured over 100 photos covering areas such as sports, entertainment and the environment.



CEO Tipperary County Council, Joe MacGrath, PPAI award winning photographer, Mark Condren, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Ger Darcy and Nenagh District Administrator, Rosemary Joyce





Thurles Municipal District

1 Cathaoirleach

The Annual Meeting of Thurles Municipal District was held on 19th June, 2023. Councillor Sean Ryan was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Shane Lee was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Thurles Municipal District Members 2023



The following members sit on Thurles Municipal District:

Councillors

- Noel Coonan
- Seamus Hanafin
- Shane Lee
- Micheál Lowry
- Eddie Moran
- Jim Ryan
- Sean Ryan
- Michael Smith
- Peggy Ryan

2 Schedule of Municipal Works

On the 20th March 2023 the Members agreed the Schedule of Municipal Works for Thurles Municipal District.

Total expenditure of €11,402,307 was provided for and allocated to Roadworks, Housing Maintenance, Playground Maintenance, Amenities/Open Spaces, projects undertaken under the General Municipal Allocation, Drainage, Tourism Promotion and Maintenance of Public Conveniences.

Main programmes benefitting from funding include:

Housing Maintenance	€757,028
Roadworks	€8,638,072
Development Levy Projects	€278,830
Drainage	€52,512
Street Cleaning	€386,889
Burial Ground Maintenance	€248,943
Public Conveniences	€49,287
Amenity Area Maintenance	€657,210
General Municipal District Allocations	€215,036
Town Christmas Lighting	€80,000
Tourism Promotion	€38,500
	€11,402,307

The following infographic shows how this schedule of work was delivered at the end of the year.

Thurles Municipal District 2023 Programme of Works



Road Improvement Works
34km - €4.26m



Installation of Welcome to Roscrea
Approach Road signage



Red Roads
2km - €178k



Roscrea Christmas Lights
Investment **€15,000**



Climate Adaptation/Severe
Weather Road Works
750m road restoration @ €41k
Curraghnaboola Culvert @ €72k
Drombane Village River wall @ €80k



Construction of Littleton
Labyrinth Trail commenced



Road Maintenance Works
41km - €1.048m



Liberty Square Painting &
Enhancement Scheme



Community Involvement Scheme
3.6km - €251k



Cleaning of Wolfe Tone Statue,
Thurles - Bullt Heritage Investment
Funding



Templemore Town Hall -
construction commenced



Thurles Market Quarter
Design finalised



Maintenance Plan for Templemore Town
Park developed



Completion of Bowes Corner,
Thurles



Installation of Templemore Heritage
Laneway Signage



Thurles Zipline funding -
Community Recognition fund
€25,000



Installation of Outdoor Fitness Area
Templemore - Town & Village
Renewal funding **€51,000**



Thurles Dog Park funding -
Community Recognition fund
€15,000



Templemore Playground Installation -
Community Recognition funding **€25,000**



Civic Awards
Ceremony



Roscrea Town Centre First
Masterplan published



Civic Reception for
Thurles Lions Trust



Roscrea River Rooms Design -
Successful ORIS Funding Application



Commencement of Phase 1 The Ragg,
Low Cost Safety Project



TII Geo App Funding for works at -
Two Mile Borris Junction,
Slievenamon Road, Thurles,
Junction of O'Donovan Rossa &
Brittas Road, Thurles



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

3 General Municipal Allocation

The General Municipal Allocation is discretionary funding allocated by the Elected Members and is essential in funding many projects including grant schemes, Christmas Lighting Contributions and Village Enhancement Works across the District.

In 2023 the GMA amounted to €215,036 and was used to fund the following projects -

Village Enhancement Works - Clonakwenny	€ 15,000.00
Village Enhancement Works - Moycarkey / Ballysloe	€ 10,500.00
Town Centre Presentation Initiative - Thurles	€ 16,500.00
Town Centre Presentation Initiative - Templemore	€ 16,500.00
Town Centre Presentation Initiative - Roscrea	€ 16,500.00
Christmas Lighting Contributions-	€ 15,500.00
Festival & Events Grant Schemes	€ 13,536.00
Residents Associations Grant Scheme	€ 15,000.00

Town Centre Presentation Initiative



Historically, in Thurles MD 22 villages across the District had benefitted from GMA Village Enhancement Funding totalling €525,000 from 2015 to 2022.

In 2023 it was agreed by the Elected Members to take a different approach to the GMA allocation of €75,000 which had previously been spent in villages in the District.

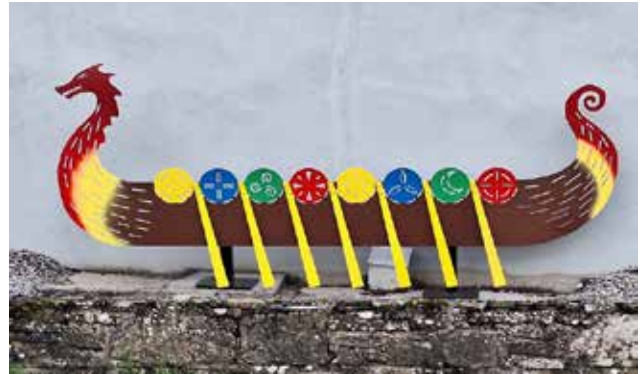
It was agreed that an allocation of €16,500 would be given to each of the three main towns in order to improve the Attractiveness & Liveability of our 3 Town Centres in line with Town Centre First principles


In conjunction with the Tidy Town committee's in each of the towns a programme of works was compiled.



In each of the towns, projects focused on new signage, planting and painting.

In 2023 each of our main towns received their highest scores to date in the National Tidy Town competition.



 *In 2023 each of our main towns received their highest scores to date in the National Tidy Town competition.*

4 Working with the Community

Tidy Towns Grants

Thurles Municipal District awarded grants to 26 Tidy Towns committees in 2023. All Tidy Towns Committees in the Thurles District delivered an impressive programme of works.



Roscrea Tidy Towns	€10,500.00
Refresh Thurles Tidy Towns	€1,100.00
Gortagarry Dev Committee	€1,100.00
Drombane Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Borrisoleigh Community Development	€1,100.00
Templetuohy Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Castleiney Tidy Village Committee	€1,400.00
Gorthnahoe Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Ballycahill Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Rathmoy, Borrisoleigh Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Shevry Dev Assoc	€675.00
Holycross Tidy Village	€1,400.00
Killea Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Two Mile Borris Tidy Village	€1,000.00
Knock Tidy Village Group	€1,400.00
Loughmore Tidy Village	€1,400.00
Upperchurch Drombane Dev	€1,400.00
Inch/Bouladuff Tidy Village	€2,000.00
Ballysloe Tidy Village	€1,300.00
Clonmore Dev Comm	€1,100.00
Templemore Tidy Towns	€2,524.00
Toomevara Community Dev	€1,200.00
Ballyboy Tidy Village	€1,400.00
Drom Tidy Village	€1,400.00
Horse & Jockey Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Littleton Tidy Village	€1,100.00
Clonakenny Tidy Villages	€1,100.00



Roscrea Tidy Towns



Littleton

Tidy

Towns

Burial Ground Grants 2023

Thurles Municipal District awarded grants to 54 burial grounds in 2023.

Rathnaveogue Burial Ground	€700.00	Templetuohy Burial Ground	€700.00
Upperchurch New Burial Ground	€700.00	Moyaliffe Graveyard	€700.00
Corbally Parish C.O.I.	€700.00	Moyne Old Cemetery	€700.00
St Marys Church Littleton	€700.00	Timoney Graveyard	€700.00
Drom Old Burial Ground	€700.00	Ballycahill Burial Ground	€700.00
Cooleeney Graveyard	€700.00	Moyne New Cemetery	€700.00
Gortagarry Church Ground	€700.00	Toomevara Church of Ireland	€700.00
Moycarkey Old Burial Ground	€700.00	Latteragh Graveyard	€700.00
Galboola Littleton	€700.00	Boullick Burial Ground	€700.00
Templeree Graveyard	€700.00	Knock Graveyard	€700.00
Ballymoreen Burial Ground	€700.00	Calvary Burial Ground Roscrea	€700.00
Loughmore Old Cemetery	€700.00	St Joseph's Templemore	€700.00
St Burchins Burial Ground	€700.00	Kilfithmone Graveyard	€700.00
Holycross Old Graveyard	€700.00	St Cronans Graveyard	€700.00
Aglisnagreen Graveyard	€700.00	Camblin Burial Ground	€700.00
Killea St James Burial Ground	€700.00	Kilcooley Union of Parishes	€700.00
Killea St Aodhs New Burial Ground	€700.00	Shyan Burial Ground	€700.00
Annameadle Burial Ground	€700.00	St Brigids Borrisoleigh Burial Ground	€700.00
Fennor Burial Ground	€700.00	Templebeg Graveyard	€700.00
Rahealty Burial Ground	€700.00	Temple Seacht Sean Borrisofarnye Burial Ground	€700.00
Moycarkey St Peters Burial Ground 2	€700.00	Glenkeen Burial Ground	€700.00
Moycarkey St Peters Burial Ground 1	€700.00		
Littleton St Kevins Burial Ground	€700.00		
Inch Old Graveyard	€700.00		
St Michaels Bouladuff	€700.00		
Quaker Burial Ground	€700.00		
Courageneen Old Burial Ground	€700.00		
Courageneen New Burial Ground	€700.00		
Clonakenny Cemetery	€700.00		
Boggaun Graveyard	€700.00		
Two Mile Borris Graveyard	€700.00		
St Cronans C.O.I.	€700.00		
Upperchurch Old Burial Ground	€700.00		
Durlas Eile - St Marys Thurles	€700.00		
Killinan Burial Ground	€700.00		
Kyleanna Burial Ground	€700.00		



Amenity Grants



Thurles MD awarded grants for maintenance and improvement works in housing estates to 39 Residents Associations in 2023

Marlstone Manor Residents Association	€750.00
Kiltillane Court Residents Association	€250.00
Cluain Airne Residents Association (1 - 17)	€350.00
Ashgrove Residents Association	€450.00
Carraig Duin Residents Association	€200.00
Windsor Grove Residents Association	€450.00
Oakdale Park Residents Association	€300.00
Knockanevin Residents Association	€350.00
Horse & Jockey Residents Association	€350.00
Ard Carraig Residents Association	€400.00
Loughtagalla Residents Association	€500.00
Castlecourt Residents Association	€200.00
Willowmere Drive Residents Association	€750.00
Sliabh Na Mban Meadows Residents Association	€250.00
Sli na Suire Residents Association	€750.00
Orchard Residents Association	€200.00
Hazelwood Residents Association	€750.00
Cluain Doire Residents Association	€300.00
Ard Ros Residents Association	€350.00
Orchard Court Residents Association	€300.00
The 4 Estates /Beechwood Lawns Residents Association	€550.00
The Willows Residents Association	€850.00
Church View Residents Association	€200.00
Caislean Cuirt Residents Association	€200.00
Cluain Airne Residents Association (2 Cul De Sac)	€350.00
Elmwood Residents Association	€650.00
Moyne Road Residents Association	€500.00
Ikerrin Court Residents Association	€500.00
Parkmore Manor Residents Association	€300.00
Castlepark Residents Association	€300.00
Cluain Ard Residents Association	€300.00
Cluain Glas Residents Association	€850.00
Farmleigh Residents Association	€300.00
Croke St Residents Association	€300.00
Rosemount Residents Association	€500.00
Dun Lia Residents Association	€500.00
Riverview Residents Committee Borrisoleigh	€300.00
Templemore Retirement Village	€300.00
The Glebe	€300.00

Sports Grants

Thurles MD awarded grants to 58 Sports Clubs in 2023

Moycarkey Coolcree AC	€350.00	Templemore Golf Club	€350.00
Gortahoola Racquetball Club	€350.00	Moneygall GAA	€400.00
Thurles Rugby Club	€800.00	Borrisoleigh Camogie Club	€350.00
Holycross Ballycahill Camogie Club	€350.00	Roscrea GAA Juvenile Club	€350.00
Knock GAA	€350.00	Thurles Gaels Ladies Football & Camogie	€350.00
Tipperary Knights	€350.00	Tipp Talons Basketball Club	€350.00
Tipperary Warriors Multisports Club	€350.00	Templemore Badminton Club	€350.00
Thurles Sarsfields Camogie Club	€650.00	Two Mile Borris St Kevins FC	€500.00
Drom Inch GAA Club	€350.00	Thurles Gaels GAA	€650.00
Holycross Ballycahill LGFA	€350.00	Drom Inch Juvenile GAA	€350.00
Borroway Rovers F.C.	€350.00	Gortnahoe Glengoose GAA Club	€350.00
Durlas Og Juvenile GAA	€800.00	Moyne Athletic Club	€350.00
Moyne Templetuohy Camogie Club	€350.00	Grange Badminton Club	€350.00
Moyne Templetuohy Ladies Football Club	€350.00	Thurles Hockey Club	€350.00
Templemore Ladies Football Club	€450.00	Sallypark St Odhrans FC	€350.00
Loughmore Castleiney GAA	€350.00	St Cronans Camogie Club Roscrea	€350.00
Killea GAA	€350.00	Holycross F.C.	€450.00
Templemore & District Gun Club	€500.00	Lakeside Pitch & Putt	€650.00
Moycarkey Borris Camogie & Ladies Football	€700.00	Peake Villa FC	€800.00
Roscrea Rugby Club Girls & Ladies	€350.00	Thurles Crokes Athletic Club	€800.00
Clonakenny GAA	€350.00	Thurles Community Games	€350.00
Clonakenny GAA Juvenile Club	€350.00	Thurles Town F.C.	€350.00
Roscrea Hurling Club	€350.00	Upperchurch Drombane Community Games	€350.00
Toomevara GAA Club	€350.00		
Gortnahoe Glengoose Camogie Club	€350.00		
Templemore Athletic Club	€800.00		
Killavilla United AFC	€350.00		
Roscrea Rugby Club	€350.00		
Thurles Golf Club	€500.00		
Upperchurch Drombane Juvenile GAA	€350.00		
Thurles Special Olympics Club	€350.00		
Templemore Active Retirement	€350.00		
Slieve Felim Raparees Ladies Gaelic Football & Camogie Club	€350.00		
Moycarkey Borris Gaelic For Mothers & Others	€350.00		
Blackcastle Templemore Harps	€800.00		



Painting and Enhancement Schemes 2023

The Streetscape & Shop Front Enhancement Scheme. This scheme provided grant aid to properties in the main retail areas of Thurles, Templemore & Roscrea to improve the streetscape.

17 applications were approved under this scheme in 2023

Youngs Garage	€500.00	Thurles Photo Station	€250.00
James J Kelly	€500.00	Thurles Dentist	€500.00
Margaret Hassey	€500.00	Seamus Hanafin Rossa Street	€500.00
J.J. Fitzgerald & Co., Solrs	€500.00	John McQuaid	€73.25
Hummingbird	€500.00	Sue Ryder Foundation Roscrea	€500.00
Keane Décor	€500.00	Old Handball Alley Roscrea Scout Hall	€500.00
Michaels' Jewellers	€320.00	Redmond Photography	€500.00
Silver Needles	€500.00	Sherry Fitzgerald Fogarty	€500.00



Redmonds Photography, Roscrea

5 Playgrounds & Amenities

Playgrounds

The following playgrounds and outdoor exercise facilities fall under the remit of Thurles Municipal District:

		Playground	Gym	MUGA	Skatepark
Roscrea Area	Gleann Glas	✓			
	The Glebe	✓			
	Clonakenny	✓			
Templemore Area	Templemore Town Park	✓	✓		
	Templetuohy	✓			
	Borrisoleigh	✓			
Thurles Area	Thurles Town Park	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Monakeeba		✓	✓	
	Loughtagalla	✓	✓		
	Cabra Court	✓			

These recreational facilities are inspected weekly by Thurles Municipal District staff along with annually by an expert independent specialist to ensure the long-term safety of the site, equipment and ancillary items.



The maintenance budget for 2023 for these recreational facilities amounted to: €30,034.

Playgrounds not only promote free-play, spark imagination and get children active for longer periods of time but also give parents and caregivers the opportunity to relax and spend quality with their children. The outdoor exercise equipment and playgrounds are well used facilities within the community.

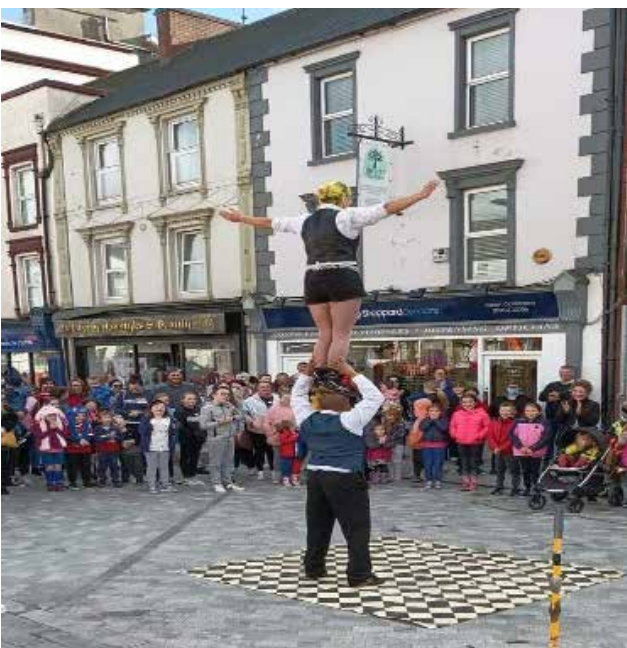


Templemore Town Park Playground



The Glebe Roscrea Playground

6 Festivals & Event



Christmas Events & Initiatives

Christmas Lights Grant

Thurles Municipal District awarded funding to 11 towns and villages toward the funding of Christmas Lights.



Roscrea	€9,000
Borrisoleigh	€1,000
Littleton	€1,000
Clonmore	€700
Moyne	€700
Clonakenny	€500
Holycross	€500
Gortnahoe	€500
Two Mile Borris	€500
Horse & Jockey	€300
Ballysloe	€300

Christmas in Thurles MD supported Thurles Chamber to turn on the Christmas lights in Thurles town. Santa came to town and met children in a specially designed Santa's Grotto on Liberty Square.



Thurles Municipal District invited all the Primary Schools in the Thurles Area to Colour the "Christmas in Thurles" poster to try and win a prize for themselves and their school.

Other Festivals

Grants were approved for a number of organisations and groups across the municipal district in 2023. The following is a list of festivals that took place.



Community Category :

Dancing at the Crossroads	€500
Thurles St Patricks Day Parade	€2,500
Careers day 2023	€500
International Women's Day 2023	€300
Ceiliuradh La Fheile Pdraig- St Patricks day celebration event	€800
Tipperary PPN Intercultural and Peace Celebration	€300
Roscrea St Patricks Day Parade	€1,000
Open Cross County Race Celebrating 75 years of Moyne Athletic Club	€300
Horse & Jockey Walking Festival	€300
Littleton St Patricks Day parade	€1,000

Municipal Category:

Tangle Around	€2,500
Taste of Christmas Roscrea	€6,500
Thurles Circling the Square 2023	€6,000
Thurles Halloween Arts Festival	€4,000
Liberty Music Festival	€4,000



Dancing at the Crossroads – Knock



7 Public Consultation

Part 8

Improvement Works and Active Travel Measures Scheme on the R498 at The Ragg, Thurles (Works Programmed to be completed Q2 2024)



Section 38:

Loughmore Village Active Travel Scheme, Loughmore, Co Tipperary (Works Programmed to commence Q2 2024)



8 Taken in Charge

The following estates with Taken in Charge during 2023


- Ardlui, Davis Road, Thurles
- Caislean Court, Thurles

9 Health & Safety

Thurles MD continues to hold a high standard in occupational health and safety. A National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) Surveillance Audit was undertaken in February 2023 to assess closure of audit findings from any previous audit, management review actions, complaint handling, changes to the organisation and management system, internal audits, continual improvement, legal compliance and operational control. The assessment was based on a review of the organisation's documented system and a sample of records, activities and personnel.

The audit noted the following -

- Excellent structure and integration of Management Review and Actions Plans in place in all activities and processes;
- Evidence of staff commitment to OH&S noted through dialogue with staff members during audit.
- Completion of a comprehensive culture survey with positive outputs welcomed.
- Evidence of embedding risk, opportunity for improvement and impact into all activities.
- Effective communication is a key priority within the section.
- OH&S included in all meetings as a priority.
- Successful migration to an on-line structured OH&S Management System.

 *Thurles MD continues to hold a high standard in occupational health and safety*

10 Capital Projects

Project Ireland 2040 Funds



Project Ireland 2040: Regeneration and Development Funds Project Ireland 2040 established four new funds to help drive the specific core priorities detailed in the NPF (National Planning Framework). These four funds included an Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) administered by the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Planning Department leads the preparation and development of the strategic projects for consideration by the Government Departments while the Municipal Districts coordinate their delivery. The following projects have been successful in being awarded funding in Thurles Municipal District and are currently being delivered under these Schemes.

URDF – Liberty Square Thurles Enhancement Scheme, Thurles seeks to deliver a vibrant Liberty Square at the heart of Thurles: a place to live, shop, work, socialise, play or “hang-out”.

The revitalised Liberty Square has become an engine for growth in and around Liberty Square and has enhanced the attractiveness of Thurles as a place to live and a place for investment/employment. Funding of €5,390,291 was secured through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund along with match funding of €5,310,000.

Phase 1:- The new carpark off Liberty Square opened on 1st October, 2020. Phase 1 works are completed which cover the South side of Liberty Square from Barry’s Castle to Executive Menswear and the North side from the former Stakelums Fashions to the Allied Irish Bank.

Phase 2: Additional €1m secured from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage on 16th March, 2021 to undertake improvement works to the Western end of the Square and approach roads. Scheme extent drawing completed. Surveys, assessments and data collection completed. Aecom Ireland Ltd appointed to prepare the Part 8 drawings and documentation. Options Report is now completed and the preferred design selected. Workshops on the preliminary design were held with the Members in October and November, 2023 and the preliminary design was agreed. Part 8 Planning will commence in Q1 2024 with completion in Q2 2024. Procurement of a design team will commence in Q3 2024 to prepare detailed design and oversee the construction stage.

Commencement of detailed design will begin in Q4 2024 and complete by Q2 2025.

Commencement of construction stage will begin in late 2025. The construction stage will not commence until upgrading works have been completed on the N62 Slievenamon Road and N75 Kickham Street, Thurles.



RRDF – Thurles Market Quarter

Thurles Market Quarter: Regeneration, Education and support for local producers is a collaboration between Tipperary County Council, Thurles Lion’s Club and Mary Immaculate College, Thurles. The project will provide a designated multi-functional space in the town centre for local food and craft producers, artists and performers and it will offer a location in the centre of a cluster of civic spaces to be enjoyed by locals and visitors.

Funding of €3,443,130 has been secured under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. The tender and evaluation process for the engagement of a design team was completed in April, 2022. A design team was appointed in September, 2022. Detailed design was completed in September, 2023. Tender documents for the construction stage were prepared by the design team. The request for tenders was advertised on e-Tenders with tender evaluation and award taking place in Q1 2024. Construction works will commence in Q2 2024 with estimated completion in Q3 2025. Works will be undertaken under two phases commencing with the farm building and phase two relating to the canopy will be carried out subject to sufficient budget remaining as agreed with the Department in May, 2023.



RRDF - Templemore Town Hall

Templemore Town Hall: Enterprise and Cultural Centre with associated Civic Plaza - The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town, the District and the Mid-West Region.

The project was prepared by the Council in partnership with the Garda Training College, Templemore College of Further Education, Templemore Community Development Association, the Local Enterprise Office and Tipperary Energy Agency. Funding of €2,107,500 was approved under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. The design team was appointed in September, 2020. Following the completion of the detailed designs, the tenders assessed and the Tender Assessment Report completed the final business case under Decision Gate 3 was submitted to the Department on 20th December, 2022. Project increases amount to €1,204,746 which includes an increase in the RRDF allocation of €903,560. The final business case and scope change to include the library was approved by the Department in April, 2023. The relocation of the ESB substation is complete. Contracts were signed on 27th April, 2023 and works commenced on 21st May, 2023 with good progress reported. The construction programme estimated by the contractor is 13 months and works are on target for completion in July, 2024.



The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town

Gantly Street, Roscrea

Reimagining and regenerating Gantly Street - Towards an Age Friendly neighbourhood for Roscrea. This project will deliver a transformational change to the public space around Gantly Road and promote regeneration of town centre brownfield land through the activation of the surrounding lands. The project will be the catalyst and first phase in the implementation of the Gantly Street Age Friendly neighbourhood masterplan area.

The works will involve

- i. the realignment of Gantly Street to provide for improved pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in accordance with Age Friendly principles
- ii. the creation of high-quality public realm areas and footpaths
- iii. extensive bio-retention rain gardens
- iv. the provision of water service and utilities infrastructure to service the Gantly Street Age Friendly Masterplan area. The regeneration and reimagining of Gantly Road is critical to the overall delivery of the Gantly Street Age Friendly neighbourhood masterplan area into the future which will transform a central area of Roscrea, create opportunities to provide homes, business and amenity space for local residents to enjoy and lead to knock-on socio-economic benefits for the whole of the town.

RRDF Funding of €4,511,316 was announced by Minister Heather Humphreys in 2022. Approval was received from the Department on 22nd November, 2023 to prepare the verification documentation under the due diligence & verification stage for submission by 21st December, 2023. All costings were reviewed as part of the process and verification documentation submitted to the RRDF Unit on 20th December, 2023. A design brief is being prepared to procure Design Consultants to carry out detailed design and detailed design will be completed by Q1 2025 with construction commencing Q2 2025.



Roscrea Town Centre First

The Council is continuing to implement the National Town Centre First Policy launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2022.

The Town Regeneration Officer worked with the Roscrea Town Team to deliver the first Town Centre First Plan in the country under the pilot scheme in 2023.

This new Plan for the town aims to map out potential development and establish a vision for Roscrea's future. It has a focus on tackling dereliction and vacant properties and making the town centre a more attractive place to live, work, socialise and run a business.

Projects include enhancements to the public realm in areas such as Castle Street, Main Street, and the historical laneways unique to Roscrea. These types of enhancements can include new streetscapes, urban greening, widening of footpaths, seating, all of which will make Roscrea more attractive. The Gantly Street Masterplan and the REACH Project (Roscrea Enterprise and Community Hub) are also listed as key projects in the Plan that will support the regeneration of Roscrea.



For the Plan to best fit the needs of the town and those who live and work in it, it was important to hear from the people it was designed to help. To facilitate this there were public consultations, workshops, focus groups, and surveys arranged to provide an input into the Plan.



Littleton Labyrinth Phase 1-Just Transition

The EU Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a brand-new fund created under the 2021-2027 programming round. It operates under Regulation (EU) (2021/1056) within the framework of the EU Cohesion policy. The Fund's single specific objective is to support the regions and communities in Europe that are most negatively affected by the transition to climate neutrality, ensuring that no one is left behind. In essence, the EU JTF aims to address employment, economic, social and environmental impacts that come with the shift away from carbon-intensive activities. In Ireland's case, the territory supported by the Fund will focus on the regions where there have been direct impacts from the move away from peat production and electricity generation from peat.

Littleton Labyrinth Project

Tipperary's bogs are liminal places of borders and edges, working landscapes generating energy and are now adaptive places responding to the new challenges of rural enterprise, carbon capture, the circular bio-economy and active transport. Castles and tower houses dot the fertile lands surrounding Littleton Bog, and the Slieveardagh uplands rise to the east with a way-marked walk at Grange offering extensive views over the landscape. The Littleton bog complex encompasses a range of bogs at various stages of cutaway and rehabilitation.

Tipperary County Council and Bord na Móna are collaborating to develop a new tourism and recreational product entitled 'Littleton Labyrinth', a series of linked recreational trails at Littleton, Co. Tipperary.



The first phase in the delivery of Littleton Labyrinth will see the development of a 7KM trail linking Loch Dhoire Bhile (3KM) and Derrynaflan (1.6KM) providing a new 11.6KM trail which follows the old Peat railway line, thereby greatly enhancing recreation, amenity, tourism and rural connectivity. Funding of €754,146 from by Transitional Leader Programme was granted in 2022. The project commenced in August 2023 with a completion date in April 2024.

Town & Village Renewal



Thurles Municipal District were again successful in obtaining grant funding under **Category 1** of the 2022 **Town and Village Renewal Scheme** from the Department of Rural and Community Development for development works at Templemore Town Park. The Town Park is a wonderful recreational amenity containing numerous meandering trails/paths around the picturesque woodlands and lake.

Grant funding, in the sum of €51,075, along with match funding from Tipperary County Council has been awarded to develop the outdoor exercise gym along with replacing the existing timber fence within the park. Project completed in 2023. This has enhanced the park and also expanded the fun activities on offer thus ensuring the park is a hub for social activity and community enjoyment. A place everyone wants to visit!

Community Recognition Fund



The 4 Estates Dog Park

The Community Recognition Fund 2023 aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

Thurles Municipal District undertook 3 of the projects, on behalf of local community groups, who were successful in obtaining grant funding.

Project details are as follows:

Community Group	Project	Grant Funding
Thurles Halloween Festival Committee	Arts Thurles Town Park Zipline	€25,000
Templemore Community Development Association	Templemore Town Park Playground upgrade works	€25,000
The 4 Estates Association	Residents The 4 Estates Dog Park	€15,000



Thurles Town Park Zipline

Civic Receptions

The Cathaoirleach and members of Thurles Municipal District awarded a Civic Reception on the 20th April, 2023 to the following recipients in recognition of their outstanding achievements in their various categories :



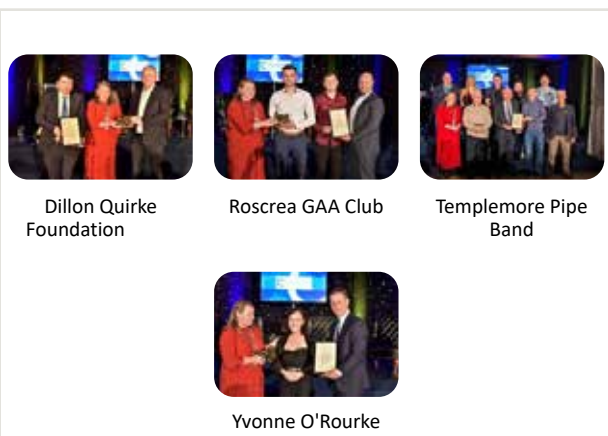
1. Dan & Hazel Quirke, Gorteenamona, Rossmore, Cashel to recognise the achievements of their foundation.
2. John Dwyer, The Rock, Ballycahill, Thurles to recognise his Shotput Achievements.
3. Noel Dundon, Rathcannon, Holycross, Thurles to recognise his achievements.
4. Roscrea GAA Club, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary to recognise the achievements of their club.
5. Templemore Pipe Band, Templemore, Co. Tipperary to recognise the achievements of their Band.
6. Templemore Tidy Towns, Templemore, Co. Tipperary to recognise their achievements.
7. Durlas Og GAA Club, Thurles, Co. Tipperary to recognise their clubs sporting achievements.
8. Upperchurch Drombane GAA Club, Upperchurch, Thurles to recognise the achievements of their club.
9. Yvonne O'Rourke, Limerick Road, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary to recognise her achievements.



Upperchurch Drombane GAA Club



Durlas OG GAA Club



CLÁR Funding

Tipperary County Council have successfully secured grant funding under Measure 1 of the CLÁR 2022 Scheme which is provided by The Department of Rural and Community Development.

Project details are as follows:

1.	Drombane Village Car Park	€23,400	Resurfacing works
2.	Clonakenny Playground	€15,141	Development and enhancement works at playground and adjoining car park

Tipperary County Council provided match funding for these projects and works were completed in 2023.



The Department of Rural and Community Development have, in December 2023, announced the projects who were successful in securing 2023 CLÁR funding. Thurles MD applied for funding to undertake enhancement works at Castleiney Village Car Park which was successful. Works will be completed in 2024.



Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District

The Annual Meeting of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District was held on 26th June, 2023. Councillor Declan Burgess was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Marie Murphy was elected Leas-Cathaoirleach.



From Left:- Cllr. Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach & Cllr. Marie Murphy, Leas-Cathaoirleach

Civic Reception, Cathaoirleach's Welcome & Cathaoirleach's Awards

Civic Receptions and a Cathaoirleach Welcome were hosted by the Cathaoirleach and District Members during the year.

These included the following;

- Civic Reception to Shane O' Connor & Liam Carew – Abbey C.B.S. Students who won BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) 2023 and also to acknowledge the support they received from the staff of the Abbey School and their families.
- Cathaoirleach Welcome to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, recipient of the 2022 Tipperary International Peace Award.
- Civic Reception to the Ladies Football Club, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel District
- Cathaoirleach Recognition Award 16th June, 2023 to 11 individuals / community groups.
- Cathaoirleach's Welcome for Dr. CP Joshi, Speaker of the House, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 29th June.
- Cathaoirleach's Welcome for Mautern Twinning Group Visit on Thursday 20th July
- Cathaoirleach's & Elected Members of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District celebrated at the Cathaoirleach Awards 2023 in Brù Borù.

Civic Reception to Shane O' Connor & Liam Carew – Abbey C.B.S. Students who won BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) 2023 and also to acknowledge the support they received from the Staff of the Abbey School and their families.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Michael Anglim and the Elected Members of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held a civic reception on Monday 24th April for Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew, winners of the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) 2023 at the Civic Offices, Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town. In addition to John Kiely, Abbey School Principal, and Niamh McCarthy, a science teacher at the school, the reception was attended by family and friends as well as members of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel town forums, and Deputy McGrath.

At the reception, the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Anglim, spoke about how their project highlighted secondary school as an important social outlet for students which stressed the importance of mental and physical health, as well as the impact of Covid 19. Councillor Anglim said, Liam and Shane had made their county, their school, and their families proud.

Councillor Anglim formally proposed a motion that the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District on behalf of the people of the District, accorded a Civic Reception to Shane O'Connor and Liam Carew being the highest honour they can bestow.

Leas Cathaoirleach Michael Fitzgerald seconded the proposal, stating that his fellow Councillors unanimously endorsed the holding of the Civic Reception. He also said it was really special to hold this reception for two bright future stars. Councillor Kennedy also praised the students and their work ethic, saying that their study will become a thesis in the future.

Joe MacGrath, CEO of Tipperary County Council stated that one simple action resulted in a positive outcome that changed young people's lives and he also noted the students' work ethic.




Cathaoirleach Welcome to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, recipient of the 2022 Tipperary International Peace Award

Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, recipient of the Tipperary International Peace Award, was accorded a Cathaoirleach's Welcome by the Councillor Michael Anglim and the Elected Members of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District on Tuesday, 2nd of May in the Civic Offices, Tipperary Town. Representatives from the Tipperary Peace Convention Committee were present including the Honorary Secretary of the Tipperary Peace Convention, Martin Quinn as well as committee members John Shanahan and Guy Jones of the Irish Lebanese Cultural Foundation.

At the reception Councillor Anglim spoke of how Ms. Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya was a global symbol of the peaceful struggle for democracy and how she and her husband Sergei are a major force in calling for free and fair democratic elections in Belarus.

Following the ceremony, Sviatlana attended a tree planting ceremony at the Circle of Friends Cancer Support Centre and visited the viewing point of Christ the King in the Glen of Aherlow.



 *Tipperary International Peace Award established in 1984 reflects the global nature of peace efforts and is awarded to individuals and organisations that have made significant impacts on peace and humanitarian causes.*

Ladies Football Club

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Micheál Anglim and Elected Members of the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District held a civic reception for the Ladies Football Clubs in the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel District.

The following clubs were recognised for their contribution to sport and to their communities; Aherlow, Ardfinnan, Arravale Rovers, Ballyporeen, Boherlahan Dualla, Brian Borus, Cahir, Cappawhite, Galtee Rovers, Golden Kilfeacle, Lattin Cullen, Rockwell Rovers and St Ailbe's / Emly.

In his remarks at the reception, Cathaoirleach Micheál Anglim thanked the clubs for their dedication and commitment to their clubs and communities. He stated that when he proposed the civic reception to his fellow Councillors, they all agreed unanimously. He said that the reception was hosted to show respect and gratitude to the Ladies Football Clubs which they richly deserve.

He formally proposed a motion that the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District on behalf of the people of the District, accorded a Civic Reception to the Ladies Football Clubs in the District being the highest honour they can bestow. This motion was seconded by Councillor Micheál Fitzgerald and supported by Councillors Ryan (Shiner), Moloney, Burgess, Kennedy, Crosse, McGrath, Murphy and Deputy Mattie McGrath and Deputy Martin Browne.

The groups were presented with scrolls and praised for its dedication and commitment to sport and the community by all those present at the event.



 *Ladies Football Club – The Cathaoirleach's reception was hosted to honour and show respect and gratitude to the Ladies Football Clubs throughout the Districts.*

Cathaoirleach's Recognition Award

On Friday 16th June Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michéal Anglim, was delighted to be in a position as Cathaoirleach of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District presented a Cathaoirleach Recognition Awards to 11 individuals for their dedication and hard work for the benefit of their Community.



Cathaoirleach's Welcome for Dr. CP Joshi, Speaker of the House, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 29th June

The Cathaoirleach Councillor Declan Burgess and members of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District welcomed Dr. C.P. Joshi, speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, to the Civic Offices in Tipperary Town on the 29th June 2023.

At the reception, the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Burgess, spoke of strengthening ties between Ireland and India. He then formally proposed a motion that the Cathaoirleach and Elected Members of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District accord a Cathaoirleach's Welcome to Dr. C.P. Joshi. This motion was seconded by Councillor Crosse and Dr. C.P. Joshi was then presented with a scroll and a gift.

Dr. C.P. Joshi expressed his sincere appreciation for the reception he received. He discussed the relationship between Tipperary and India, as well as the state institutions in Ireland and India. Following his visit to the Council Civic Offices in Tipperary town Dr. C.P. Joshi was meeting the Rajasthani Indian Society of Ireland in Dublin, where the Chief Secretary of the Rajasthan Assembly, Mr. Mahavir Prasad Sharma, and the Indian Ambassador, Mr. Akhilesh Mishra, were also present.



 *The Cathaoirleach Councillor Declan Burgess and members of Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District welcomed Dr. C.P. Joshi, speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, to the Civic Offices in Tipperary Town on the 29th June 2023.*

Cathaoirleach's Welcome for Mautern Twinning Group Visit on Thursday 20th July

A delegation from Mautern, Austria visited the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD on Thursday the 20th July 2023. Tipperary town has been twinned with Mautern in Austria since 2005. The group were welcomed by the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Cathaoirleach Councillor Declan Burgess and the Elected Members as well as members of the twinning committee.



Cathaoirleach's Awards 2023 in Brù Borù

The Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Burgess and the Elected Members of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District celebrated the Cathaoirleach Awards 2023 in Brù Borù, Cashel, Co. Tipperary on 2nd November, 2023.

The awards honoured and acknowledged the achievements of the following:

- Cahir Comhaltas
- Clonoulty Rossmore Vintage Club
- Staff of St Theresa's Hospital, Clogheen
- Shane O' Connor and Liam Carew (BT Young Scientists 2023)
- Newcastle Community First Responders
- Cathal Minogue (Today FM)
- Elaine Fitzpatrick and Fitzpatrick Printers
- West End Residents Association
- Fr. Bernard Frawley
- Dan & Hazel Quirke (The Dillon Quirke Foundation)
- Michelle & Marie Heffernan
- The Hogan Family
- Tipperary Cultural Films
- Diarmuid Barron (Munster Rugby)



The European Charter of Rural Communities

A Charter of European Rural Communities meeting in Ibanesti Romania was held on Thursday 6th to Monday 10th of July. It was an enjoyable experience for all involved. From tours of local sites, a culinary experience, lots of laughter, official meetings and workshops it was truly a really great few days meeting up with our European friends.

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel provide a contribution towards EU Charter Membership.



Europe Day

Europe Day celebrates Europe's achievements and unity, and commemorates the signing of the Schuman Declaration on 9th May 1950.

This event is held on 9th May each year.



Cllr. Roger Kennedy with some of the Cahir Friends of Europe Association, celebrating Europe Day in Cashel.

Schedule of Municipal District Works

In February 2023, the members agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works. This provided for a total expenditure in excess of €11.7 million in respect of housing maintenance; road improvements; street cleaning; maintenance of burial grounds and maintenance of amenity areas including playgrounds together with undertaking capital projects.

The main projects and programmes which benefited from funding were:

- Significant road strengthening, surface dressing and drainage works across the District.
- Bridge Rehabilitation works at
 - Aughnagross Bridge
 - Knockane Bridge
 - Shanbally Bridge
 - Arglo Bridge - Clonmore North
 - Ballintemple Bridge
 - Curraghmarky Bridge
 - Thonogue Bridge
 - Cahir Town Bridges
- Roads safety Improvement Schemes at
 - Gorteenamona
- Urban Improvements at
 - Friar Street Carpark
 - Cahir Town
 - The Lot Ballyporeen
 - James Connolly Park Surfacing
 - Main Street Tipperary Town
 - Bansha Road Tipperary Town
- Pedestrian crossing upgrades at
 - Cashel
- Outdoor recreation improvements at
 - The Green in Ardfinnan
 - River Ara Walkway, Tipperary Town
 - Bay Lough Carpark

Bishop Walk Cashel

The Bishop's Walk in Cashel was officially opened on Monday, 12th June, by Tipperary County Council's Cathaoirleach, Councillor Roger Kennedy. A large number of people attended the event, including Tipperary County Council CEO Joe MacGrath, along with Councillors, members of the Oireachtas, OPW and Cashel Palace representatives as well as clergy members.

The Bishop's Walk was designed to increase pedestrian access and connectivity between Cashel town centre and The Rock of Cashel. The archaeological sensitivity and historical significance of the area were considered during the completion of the project. Tipperary County Council worked closely with Paul Hogarth and Company, Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS), LMP, Ned Mullins Landscaping and Cooper Fencing. On the Bishop's Walk, visitors follow in the footsteps of some of Ireland's most powerful leaders from the 18th and 19th centuries.



The High Kings Loop, Cashel

On the 29th June 2023, the High Kings Loop in Cashel was officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Councillor Roger Kennedy. Among the attendees were representatives from Tipperary County Council and the Cathaoirleach of Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District, Councillor Declan Burgess.

This popular Cashel Walkway is an 8.5 Km looped walk starting at the Kiln, continuing to the Golden Road via Bothrín Bocht through a woodland section and returning along the Golden Road back to Cashel. The walkway was developed with funding from the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and Active Travel funding.



From left:- John Ryan, GSS, Dave Carroll, District Director, Cllr. Roger Kennedy, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council, Cllr Declan Burgess, Cathaoirleach Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD, Elaine Moriarty, OPW and John Egan, STDC.

Working with the Community to enhance Towns & Villages

Tidy Towns Grants 2023

The Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District Members awarded 40 grants as follows:-

No.	Name	Allocation 2023
1	Ardfinnan Tidy Towns	€2,200
2	Aherlow Road Residents Association	€1,000
3	An Duiche Residents Association	€1,000
4	Ballyporeen Community Council	€1,200
5	Bansha Tidy Towns	€1,200
6	Burncourt Community Council	€1,200
7	Cahir Tidy Towns	€5,000
8	Cappawhite Tidy Towns	€1,200
9	Cashel Tidy Towns	€5,000
10	Clogheen Tidy Towns	€1,200
11	Clonoulty Tidy Towns	€1,200
12	Churchview Residents Association, Lattin	€750
13	Donohill Tidy Towns	€1,200
14	Dun Chormaic Residents Association	€1,000
15	Duhill Community Council	€1,200
16	Emly Tidy Towns, Emly	€2,000
17	Goatenbridge Tidy Towns	€1,200
18	Grange Tidy Towns	€1,200
19	Highfield Residents Association	€600
20	Kilmananagh Residents Association	€1,000
21	Kilross Tidy Towns	€1,200
22	Lattin Tidy Town, Lattin	€1,200
23	Murgasty Residents Association	€1,000
24	New Inn Tidy Towns	€1,200
25	Newcastle Tidy Towns	€1,200
26	Oliver Plunkett Park Residents Association	€1,000
27	Summercove Residents Association	€1,000
28	Rossmore Tidy Towns	€1,200
29	Spafield Family Resource Centre	€850
30	The Rhododendron Walking Festival	€1,100
31	The Steeples Residents Association	€1,000
32	Tipperary Town Tidy Towns	€5,000
33	Golden Tidy Villages, Golden	€1,200
34	Rockview Residents Association, Cashel	€1,000
35	Thomastown Tidy Towns, Thomastown	€1,200
36	Woodlawn Residents Association, Cashel	€600
37	Ballylooby Community Council Cahir	€900
38	Crescent Court Residents Association, Cappawhite	€1,000
39	Rosemount Residents Association, Cahir	€600
40	Cullen Tidy Towns, Cullen, Co. Tipperary	€1,000
Total		€56,000

Photos of Tidy Towns Works

Cahir Tidy Towns

A sample of the many projects



Cahir Park a great amenity for all ages



New Trees

Over the past 2 years Cahir Tidy Towns have planted trees; 110 semi mature trees, 200 An Choill Bheag trees, 100 Trees on the Land Project, 200 National Coillte Tree Week, 6 Orchards of Ireland and many more saplings and beech and laurel hedging.



Most are native Irish and will be there for the decades ahead to enjoy. And make a great environmental impact on Cahir town and surrounds.



Townspark Beds




Town park beds

Feed the Ducks station.

The first solar powered duck feeder in Ireland installed in the Inch Field. Thanks to Matthew Knight from The Feed Ducks initiative who supplied and built it and to the council for help installing the feeder. This machine gives out wholesome food for ducks and geese and at €1.00, it's card only.

This was borne out of a need to reduce the amount of bread the ducks get as the large volumes of bread is bad for them



 *Cahir Inch Field successfully retained it's Green Flag status in 2023. The Green Flag Award is an international bench marking standard for parks and green spaces.*

SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition

The national SuperValu Tidy Towns competition is an annual contest organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development and supported other organisations including Tipperary County Council.

Many towns and villages in the district participated in the competition with the following receiving special recognition for their work:

- Well done to all the Tidy Towns Winners at the National Award Ceremony held in Croke Park on Friday 6th October
- Emly won a County First and a Gold Medal with 371 marks
- Cahir and Cashel won a Bronze Medal and are level with 354 marks
- Tipperary Town won a National Award “Young Persons in Tidy Towns Awards” also scoring 341 marks

Photos below at the National Awards Ceremony

Emly Tidy Towns



From Left:-Paddy Ryan Committee Member, Catherine Quish Treasurer, Patsy Hennessy Committee Member, Mary Kennedy, Jonas Callanan Chairperson and Denis Heffernan Committee Member



From left:- Cliff Cope & John Ryan Committee Members

Cashel Tidy Towns



From left:- Carmel Dolan , Mary Lonergan and Anna Burke.

Cahir Tidy Towns



Tipperary Tidy Towns

William Kinane, Siobhan Landers and Dinny Ryan who accepted the National award on behalf of Tipperary Tidy Towns

Burial Ground Grants 2023

Grants were allocated to 72 burial ground committees to assist with the maintenance of burial grounds in the district:

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District: Burial Ground Grant Allocations 2023

Grant Recipient	Allocation 2023	Grant Recipient	Allocation 2023
1 Annacarty-Kilpatrick Burial Ground	1,670.00	37 Loughkent Burial Ground Committee	735.00
2 Ardfinnan Burial Ground Committee	935.00	38 Loughloher Burial Ground Mtce Committee	735.00
3 Ardmayle Burial Ground	935.00	39 Monard Church of Ireland Burial Grounds	665.00
4 Ballinacourty Burial Ground	935.00	40 Mortlestown Burial Ground Committee	665.00
5 Ballinatemple Burial Ground	887.00	41 Mount Bruis Burial Ground Committee	735.00
6 Ballybacon Burial Ground Committee	887.00	42 Mullough Abbey Burial Ground Committee	665.00
7 Ballydrennan Burial Ground	665.00	43 Neddans Graveyard Ardfinnan	665.00
8 Ballysheehan Burial Ground	735.00	44 New Inn Graveyard Parish Committee	887.00
9 Bansha Old Burial Ground	887.00	45 Newcastle New Burial Ground Committee	665.00
10 Blessed Sacrament Golden	735.00	46 Newcastle Old Burial Ground Committee	887.00
11 Cahir Abbey Burial Ground	735.00	47 Old Church Street Cahir	887.00
12 Cahir New Burial Ground	935.00	49 Old Donohill Burial Ground Committee	735.00
13 Cahir Quaker Burial Ground Committee	735.00	49 Outrath Burial Ground Committee	887.00
14 Cappawhite Old & New Burial Ground	1,822.00	50 Protestant Burial Ground, Ardfinnan	665.00
15 Cashel Cathedral Burial Ground	887.00	51 Rossmore Church Grounds, Rossmore	665.00
16 Clonbeg Church St. Sednas Glen of Aherlow	665.00	52 Shanrahan Burial Ground Maintenance	1,552.00
17 Clonoulty Old & New & Clogher Burial Ground	2,335.00	53 Shronnel Graveyard Committee	665.00
18 Cullen Graveyard Committee	735.00	54 Solohead Burial Ground Committee	887.00
19 Derrygrath Burial Ground Committee	735.00	55 St John the Baptist Graveyard, Cashel	665.00
20 Duhill / Castlegrace Community Council, Clogheen	665.00	56 St. John the Baptist Graveyard, Clonoulty	665.00
21 Duhill Burial Ground, Duhill, Cahir	887.00	57 St. Johns Famine Graveyard, Tipperary	665.00
22 Emily Old/New Burial Ground Committee	1,600.00	58 St Mark's Famine Graveyard, Cashel	665.00
23 Garranlea Burial Ground Committee	665.00	59 St Mary's Church of Ireland Tipperary Town	665.00
24 Grange New Cemetery	935.00	60 St Senan's Burial Ground Committee	935.00
25 Hollyford Burial Ground Committee	935.00	61 St. Mary's Church Dundrum	665.00
26 Kiladriffe Burial Ground	735.00	62 St. Paul's Churchyard, Cahir	735.00
27 Kilcommon Cemetery, Cahir	665.00	63 Toem Burial Ground, Cappawhite	665.00
28 Kilfeacle Burial Ground	887.00	64 Tubrid Burial Ground, Cahir	735.00
29 Kilshane Burial Ground	735.00	65 Templenoe Burial Ground Committee	735.00
30 Knockgraffon Burial Ground	735.00	66 The Reigh Famine Burial Ground	887.00
31 Kyle Burial Ground Committee	665.00	67 Tullaghmeelan Graveyard Committee	735.00
32 Lady's Abbey Burial Ground Committee	735.00	68 Tullameelan Churchyard, Newcastle	665.00
33 Laggainstown Burial Committee	735.00	69 Whitechurch Ballylooby	735.00
34 Lattin Cemetery Committee	665.00	70 Laggainstown Burial Ground	735.00
35 Lattin New Burial Ground	935.00	71 Dangan Dargan Maintenance Group	735.00
36 Lena Rice Graveyard Parish Committee	665.00		
		Total	59,233.00

Maintenance photos of Burial Grounds



Bansha Old Burial Ground



Cashel Cathedral Burial Ground

Tipperary Festival & Events Grants Scheme 2023

Grants were allocated to 58 organisations and groups across the Municipal District in 2023 under the scheme.

The following events and activities took place and availed of funding.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

No.	Festival / Event	Applicant	Grant Award
1	The Ramble 2023	Hillwalking Community Radio Club	€400
2	Trathnon Bealtainne	Annacarty Donohill Active Retirement association	€500
3	Donohill Festival of Soccer	Donohill and District Soccer Club	€750
4	Glen of Aherlow Winter Walking Festival	Glen of Aherlow Failte Society	€750
5	Suaimhneas sna Coillte	Glengarra Mountain Lodge Conservation & Restoration Group c/o Burncourt Community CLG	€750
6	Burncourt Annual Pumpkin Festival	Burncourt Community CLG	€1,500
7	Ballyporeen Gala	Ballyporeen Gala Committee	€750
8	St Patrick's Day festival Cahir	Cahir Development Association CGL/Cahir Tidy Towns	€2,000
9	Funday Sunday festival Cahir	Cahir Development Association CGL/Cahir Tidy Towns	€2,500
10	Christmas Festival	Cahir Development Association CGL/Cahir Tidy Towns	€1,500
11	Cashel St. Patrick's Parade	Cashel St. Patrick's Parade Committee	€2,000
12	The Forge Players Annual Drama	The Forge Players, C/O Trish O'Brien	€750
13	Ballylooby CC St Patricks Day	Ballylooby Community Council	€600
14	Ballylooby Gala Day	Ballylooby Community Council	€750
15	Bally Senior Citizens Christmas Party	Ballylooby Community Council	€400
16	Discovering the biodiversity of the River Ara Walkway	Tipperary Tidy Towns	€1,000
17	Bansha Agricultural Show	Bansha Agricultural Show	€800
18	New Inn Christmas Lights	New Inn Tidy Towns	€800
19	St Declan's Way Walking event	Knockmealdown Active	€750
20	Triple C, CCC, Cahir Craic agus Ceoil	Rockwell Orchestra in association with Rockwell Music Academy	€800
21	Vee Valley Festival	St Pauls Community Council	€1,500
22	St Patrick's Day festival Cappawhite	Cappawhite Community Council Ltd	€800
23	Scare in Cahir	Friends of the playground Cahir	€1,000
24	Easter Trail	Friends of the playground Cahir	€500
25	Aherlow Kilross Community Christmas Market	Aherlow Kilross Community Council Clg	€500
26	Winter Solstice Walk	The Rhododendron Walking Festival Committee	€500
27	Autumn Equinox Sunrise Walk	The Rhododendron Walking Festival Committee	€500
28	Aherlow Kilross Senior Citizens Gala Christmas Party	Aherlow Kilross Senior Citizens Committee	€300
29	The Dom Ryan Memorial Tractor Run	Duhill Community Council	€750
30	The Duhill Festival of Wellbeing and Positive Ageing	Duhill Community Council	€750

No.	Festival / Event	Applicant	Grant Award
31	Boherlahan Community Sports	Boherlahan Community Association	€400
32	Galtee Challenge and Half Crossing	Galtee Walking Club	€750
33	Outstanding Pride 2023	Youth Work Ireland Tipperary (Tipp Town Youth Project)	€750
34	Multeen Players Drama Production	Knockavilla Community Council	€750
35	Summer Festival at the Castle	Cahir Social & Historical Society	€1,200
36	Christmas Market	Tipperary Chamber of Commerce CLG	€1,000
37	Halloween	Tipperary Chamber of Commerce CLG	€1,000
38	Christmas Switch on	Tipperary Chamber of Commerce CLG	€1,000
39	"In the Midst of Plenty" in the Theatre Tipperary	Enchanted Croi Theatre	€1,000
40	Trathnona Bealtaine	Cappawhite Active Retirement Association	€500
41	Cahir Trad Fest	Michael and Mary Harty	€2,000
42	St Patricks Day	Tipperary Chamber of Commerce CLG	€2,000
43	Ardfinnan Mega Family Fun Day	Ardfinnan Community Council	€2,000
44	Golden -Kilfeacle Festival on the Suir	Golden Kilfeacle Festival	€1,500
45	Federation of Indian Communities in Ireland	Federation of Indian Communities	€1,200
46	Kilross Tidy Towns	Remembrance Garden Event	€300
47	The Duhill Singathon	Duhill Community Council	€400
48	New Inn Festival - Mary Doyle Run & Oct Spookfest	New Inn Festival Committee	€500
49	Newcastle First Responder	Newcastle CFR	€500
50	Grange Community Council	Grange Annual Field Evening	€700
51	Golden into Light	Golden Tidy Towns	€1,500
Total			€48,100

MUNICIPAL GRANTS

	Applicant	Festival	Grant Award
1	Ballyporeen Music Maker Festival	Ballyporeen Community Council CLG	€5,000
2	Cashel Arts Festival 2023	Cashel Arts Festival	€14,000
3	The Rhododendron Walking Festival	The Rhododendron Walking Festival Committee	€3,000
4	General Liam Lynch Commemoration weekend	General Liam Lynch Commemoration committee	€3,000
5	The Tipperary Festival	The Tipperary Festival	€3,000
6	Donohill Festival	Donohill	€3,000
7	The Tipperary Festival	Tipperary Town Christmas Festival	€2,000
Total			€33,000
Overall total			€81,100

St. Patrick Day events that were held in the district:

St. Patrick's Day Parade, Cahir

The theme of this year's parade was Biodiversity, with a view to educating children about the eco climate and the environment. The parade started at 12 noon at Cahir Business Park on the Tipperary Road, and proceeded through the Square, Cahir, where a large stage was set up with music held before & after the parade by Paul Lafford. There was also a safe viewing area for Cahir community with special needs.

There was a great mixture of sports and community groups, local business, the local Ukrainian group, Ceoltas & Tipperary brass band.



St. Patrick's Day Parade, Cashel

The Theme of this year's parade was 'Back with a gang' celebrating the first parade in the town since 2019. The recent Harty cup triumph by Cashel Community School was celebrated and the parade was led by joint winning captains Roan Connolly and Ben Curriuan.

Many of the local sports clubs marched including groups from Cashel King Cormac's Camogie Club, other groups included Cashel FC, the local jujitsu club and local members of Tidy towns committee.

Great dancing and music could be seen with Irish dancing to the fore and some too from the Federation of Indian Communities of Ireland who put on a fantastic display on Main Street for the large turnout on the day.

Photos below of parade



St. Patrick's Day Parade Ballylooby

St. Patrick's Day event was held in Ballylooby on Sunday 19th March 2023. Groups/ business and local sports clubs, majorettes, the playschool, took part in the parade which was led by CJ Kickham band.



Photos above of parade

St. Patrick's Day Festival, Cappawhite

The St. Patrick's Day parade was held in Cappawhite on Friday 17th March. There were over 40 participating floats- including local GAA and sports clubs, tidy towns, community groups, shops, businesses, schools, pre-schools, active retired etc., as well as many businesses- garages, contractors and Vintage machinery etc.

The theme of the parade was 'Days gone by'. The two most senior members of the parish were the grand marshals. Old photos were up for viewing around the village and square. It was a very positive and enjoyable occasion for all that participated and attended. It brought good business to the local shops also- with good crowds in attendance. It was a positive and entertaining event for those of all ages in the community and surrounding areas.



St. Patrick's Day Festival, Tipperary Town.

Tipperary Town St. Patrick's Day parade was on Friday, March 17th. Shop windows were appropriately decorated for the day and the Maid of Eireann statue was adorned with national colours.

The St. Patrick's Day parade was led off by a colour party made up of members of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen followed by the CJ Kickham Brass and Reed Band. The beautiful stilt walker from the Wobbly Circus and her colleague on the unicycle added a sense of fun and excitement to the occasion. No parade would be complete without the main man and St. Patrick himself arrived in a vintage army vehicle complete with outriders from the Tipperary Vintage Rally, in appropriate national costume.



Photo's below of parade

Christmas Events & Initiatives

Contributions of €6,500 each were provided towards the provision of Christmas lights & voucher schemes in Tipperary, Cahir & Cashel towns.

Cashel Chamber of Commerce officially switched on the Christmas lights on Saturday 2nd December.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Declan Burgess meets Santa

Cahir Town officially switched on the Christmas Lights on Saturday 2nd December.



Tipperary Chamber of Commerce officially switched on their Christmas lights on Sunday 10th December



Christmas Lights Event with Cashel Brass Band



Photo from Tipperary Town Christmas Lights Event below with Eilish O'Carroll, who plays Winnie McGoogan in the hit TV comedy series, Ms. Brown's Boys.

Economic Development

Streetscape & Shop Front Enhancement Scheme 2023

The Streetscape & Shop Front Enhancement Scheme provided grant aid to assist owners or occupiers of 16 properties situated in the primary retail areas of Tipperary, Cahir, Cashel towns to improve the streetscapes through:

- Removal of inappropriate contemporary signage, fittings and general clutter and replacement with shop fascia signage, with an emphasis on hand painted signage;
- Painting and general improvements to existing shop fronts;
- Erection of planters, floral hanging baskets and other environmental improvements.

O Brien Street, Tipperary Town



Before Photo



After Photo

Church Street, Cahir Town



Before Photo



After Photo

Ladyswell, Cashel Town



Before Photo



After Photo

Golden villages Enhancement & Painting Grant Scheme 2023

The Golden Enhancement & Painting Grant Scheme improved the streetscape & public realm of the village.

A total of 13 properties were approved under the scheme during 2023. The grant approved was up to a maximum €300 or 50% of the approved cost of the works. A total of €3,900 was paid by the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District towards this scheme.

Main Street Golden



Before Photo



After Photo



Before Photo



After Photo

Clogheen villages Enhancement & Painting Grant Scheme 2023

The Clogheen Enhancement & Painting Grant Scheme improved the streetscape & public realm of the village.

A total of 8 properties were approved under the scheme during 2023. The grant approved was up to a maximum €300 or 50% of the approved cost of the works. A total of €2,394 was paid by the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District towards this scheme.

Main Street Clogheen



Before Photo



After Photo

Lower Main Street Clogheen



Before Photo



After Photo

Department of Rural & Community Development's Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS): Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2023

Expressions of interest were invited from property owners / occupiers in Tipperary Town for Main Street & Bank Place regarding works under the Street Enhancement Measures 2023 and 31 applications were received, assessed and letters of offer issued to applicants.

A wide variety of measures were supported under the scheme and all approved works had to be completed and grants paid to applicants before the end of

Works undertaken, and grants paid in

- Total grant amount paid = €114,498.03
- Total amount of grant applicants paid = 31
- Total value of works completed = €195,386.50
- Below are some of the properties that availed of the grant

42-44 Main Street, Tipperary Town



Before Photo



After Photo

68-72 Main Street, Tipperary Town



Before Photo



After Photo

1 Main Street, Tipperary Town



Before Photo



After Photo

Tourism & Recreation

Developing Cashel as a Destination Town in Ireland's Ancient East

Plans for Cashel Tourism and Recreation Park were prepared by the Paul Hogarth Company and approved by Elected Members following a Part 8 planning process. Detailed design plans are being prepared for the Bishop's Walk section of the park following consultation with National Monuments Section of the Department and construction work is planned for 2023.

The Council was awarded Fáilte Ireland funding of €500,000 for Cashel under the Developed and Emerging Destination Towns Capital Investment Programme. This funding is to assist in the implementation of a Cashel Signage Strategy and upgrading of the public plaza.

The Paul Hogarth Company were appointed as consultants to develop a Signage Strategy and new public realm plans for Cashel and they engaged in public consultation prior to proceeding to a Part 8 planning process which resulted in the Chief Executive's Report for the proposed development of Cashel Public Realm being approved by Elected Members at the October 2022 meeting.

The OPW also appointed Consarc Consulting to assess site options for a Rock of Cashel Visitor Experience development and to work with the OPW, Council and Fáilte Ireland on identifying suitable sites.

The site assessment report has been finalised and is being considered by the Partners' Steering Group which will progress the project to the design and planning stage, subject to the availability of funding from partners.

 *The Bishop's Walk element of the overall project was successfully completed and formally opened in 2023.*

Playgrounds & Amenities

Playgrounds and multi-use games areas (MUGAs) in the district are open with signage in place which states the rules and responsibilities of parents and guardians bringing their children to use these amenities.

Clonoulty Community Playground Committee has also signed a playground agreement with the Council covering Clonoulty playground.

Clogheen Playground

Works to upgrade Clogheen Playground and provide disabled toilet facilities in the adjacent public toilets building have been completed. Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District and Clogheen Playground Committee received CLAR funding of €50,000 to carry out the works. The playground has also been equipped with a new wheelchair-accessible roundabout.



Canon Hayes Playground

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District recently renovated and upgraded the Avondale Crescent playground. This playground is adjacent to Canon Hayes Recreation Centre in Tipperary Town. Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth and Tipperary County Council. The playground has also been equipped with a new wheelchair-accessible roundabout.



 *The Canon Hayes Playground is the focal playground in Tipperary Town and is complementary to the multi-use games areas developed by Tipperary County Council in the Town.*

Green Flag Awarded to Cahir Inch Field

The Inch field in Cahir is the only public area in County Tipperary to secure a Green Flag for Parks in 2023/24 – 101 such awards were made in Ireland by An Taisce who administer the Green Flag Award for Parks. The Green Flag Award scheme aims to encourage the provision of good quality public parks and green spaces that are managed in environmentally sustainable ways.



From Left:- John O' Meara, Cahir Foreman, Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District & Cllr. Andy Moloney, Cahir Tidy Towns.

Seán Treacy Memorial Swimming Pool

The Sean Treacy Memorial Swimming Pool is a Council run facility in Tipperary Town which adjoins the Canon Hayes Recreation Centre. The pool is open to the public from 10.00am to 8.45pm Monday to Friday and from 10.00 am to 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. It offers swimming lessons to adults and children on a group basis, one to one classes and 2 to one classes.



Photo of pool


Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force

New Plans for Tipperary Courthouse and Bridewell

Proposals to repurpose and fully restore Tipperary Courthouse & Bridewell have been welcomed in Tipperary Town, with MooreHaven set to become the new custodians of the historic buildings. An architect led design team is currently working on plans that will see the Courthouse & Bridewell campus repurposed as a hub for adults with intellectual disabilities, bringing a long vacant building back into everyday use. The project is a partnership between MooreHaven, Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Town Revitalisation.

Since its formation in 1981, MooreHaven has grown steadily and now provides a broad range of supports and services to 120 users through the work and commitment of over 80 staff. Demand for its services is expected to grow in the coming years and the Courthouse & Bridewell project is part of an ambitious expansion plan. MooreHaven's Chairman, Denis Kennedy, and his colleagues believe the Courthouse & Bridewell is an ideal fit for their service for a range of reasons, including its location and size. "Our staff and Board of Directors are excited to embark on this project which is progressing after significant planning and careful consideration. We are hugely committed to the services we provide to our users and their families and also recognise demand for our services is growing. We have been looking to expand to a new hub close to our main location on Tipperary Town's O'Brien Street for some time as our current locations in Tipperary and Cashel are at capacity. We are very pleased to work with Tipperary County Council on this project.

The proposal includes for the full refurbishment of all buildings and the grounds. A full public consultation is currently underway as part of the 'Part 8' planning application process, where drawings and the full project plan are viewable online and at Council offices, with the public and stakeholders invited to share their views on the proposal.

 *The Courthouse and Bridewell project fully encapsulates the drive towards heritage led regeneration in Tipperary Town.*

Creative Places

People in Tipperary Town have been taking part in more arts activities during the last year thanks to Creative Places, a project funded by the Arts Council and led by Youth Work Ireland Tipperary and supported by Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Town Revitalisation.

An exhibition in shop windows, family art club and Halloween workshops happening in Wellworths, art and wellbeing activities on the Market Yard and animation or music workshops in Excel, Tipperary Town. In September members of the Irish Wheelchair Association performed their own protest song for Culture Night. 2023 has been a busy and fun year for Creative Places.

The Creative Places project will run until Autumn 2025 and will involve local people working with artists to build a more vibrant and creative town.



Creative Places - Halloween



Creative Places – family art hub



Creative Places – Cultural Night

Tipperary Town Youth and Further Education and Training Centre continues to progress.

The old civic offices at Dan Breen House are set to undergo a major refurbishment in the coming years, and will be brought back in to use as a Youth & Further Education and Training Centre. The project is a collaboration between Tipperary County Council, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, and Tipperary Education & Training Board and is supported by the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force as a priority action under the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Strategy & Action plan to 2035.

The project will aim to provide the infrastructure to support a range of youth programmes and training opportunities in Tipperary Town and will target supports towards people from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds in particular. The project includes the provision of new classrooms and workshop areas, as well as office and a flexible event space. Research carried out by the Task Force shows that Tipperary suffers from very high levels of disadvantage relative to other comparable towns, with low educational attainment being a significant barrier for people trying to access the labour market. This new facility in the town will allow for greatly enhanced service and training provision, and will be a cornerstone in the efforts to address a myriad of socioeconomic issues that prevail in Tipperary Town.

The project was granted planning permission by Tipperary County Council during 2023. The partners hope to secure funding for the project in January 2024 ahead of starting the refurbishment project in late 2024.



Before photo



Architects impression


New Soloheadbeg Linear Walk

Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the Tipperary Town Revitalisation Task Force and other partners are progressing a new off road linear walk linking Limerick Junction to Soloheadbeg. The project was awarded € 42,500 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the design lead, with the project expected to go for planning permission in early 2024

Separately €200,000 has also been awarded under ORIS to upgrade the existing Tipperary Town to Limerick Junction walkway along the N24. The project includes pathway widening and resurfacing, pedestrian safety measures and other improvements, and is expected to commence in early 2024.

The projects are part of a broader plan to develop a way-marked walking route from Soloheadbeg Monument to the Glen of Aherlow via Tipperary Town to be developed in stages in the coming years.



 *The Solohead Linear Walk will provide a connectivity link between Soloheadbeg and Tipperary Town.*

Tipperary Technology Park

For the first time in many years all units within the building are occupied and this demonstrates that the demand for working in such an environment remains high and this is good news for both the centre itself and for Tipperary Town and its locality.

The key development in 2023 was the arrival of our new anchor tenant, Nephin Renewable Gas, who took up occupancy in July.

Nephin Renewable Gas will be constructing and operating a number of plants throughout the country where farm waste and other biodegradable materials shall be treated anaerobically to produce bio-methane gas. The logistics regarding the construction and subsequent operation of these treatment plants will be managed from their new office in Tipperary Town.

It is envisaged that Nephin Renewable Gas will employ up to 70 people in their office within an 18-to-24-month timeframe.

The Company has agreed a long-term lease of circa 4,100 sq. ft. of office space in Tipperary Technology Park that is managed by Tipperary Innovation Engine.

The space that is being leased to Nephin Renewable Gas comprises open plan office space along with adjoining private offices & a board room all of which were recently renovated and refurbished to a very high standard through funding provided by Enterprise Ireland and Tipperary County Council.

The facilities within the building are continuously being improved so that they meet the requirements of all that operate within the centre. In the new year a high-speed fibre internet connection will be activated and this will significantly enhance the IT functionality for all within the building.

Furthermore, the Hot Desk Room Facility (<https://tipperaryengine.ie/>) will also be upgraded in the 2024 to feature additional technology in the form of docking stations, dual screens and wireless keyboards & mice so this will ensure that Hot Desk users can work in a more comfortable and productive environment.




Town & Village Renewal & Rural Regeneration

River Ara Walkway Project

Works were completed on Tipperary town's long-awaited River Ara Walkway Project in May of 2023. The new walkway sits in over 3 acres of newly developed natural wildlife area that runs parallel to the River Ara for nearly 1km before it merges into Glenview Square and links to other popular walks around the town. A 3m wide tarmac walkway surface provides access for all to enjoy the walk. The nature playground area has proved to be very popular and the 50m long, 3.6m wide boardwalk, which cuts through the wetland area gives a unique insight into the ecosystem of the wetland. The area has been extensively planted with a wide variety of native Irish trees and hedging that will provide food and shelter for wildlife as they grow and mature. The wetland area has also been planted with specific wetland planting that will, as it grows and matures, provide for pollinators. Areas of wildflower have also been sown to increase the biodiversity levels of the grassed areas. Construction of an amphitheatre area and can be used for performances, outdoor learning and a gathering point for people who wish to take a break and relax in the natural surroundings.



River Ara Photo

 *The River Ara Walkway provides a first class recreation amenity to people of all ages in Tipperary Town. It is fully accessible and dog friendly.*

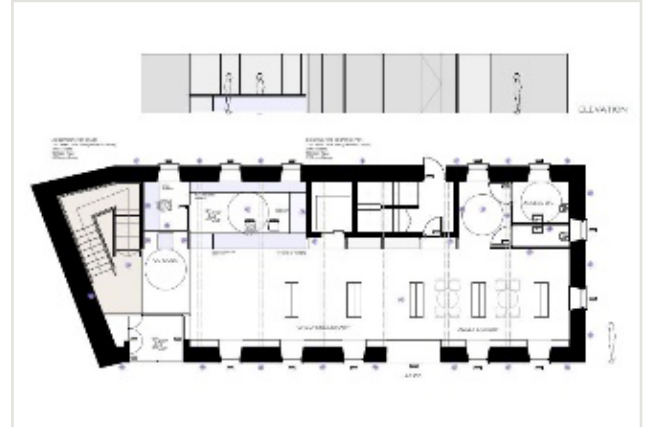
Activating Cahir's Town Centre Regeneration Strategy

This project is made up of 4 pillars:

- Cahir Town Centre Car Park
- Cahir Granary Library
- Market House Business Centre
- Cahir Public Realm.

In 2023, a Part 8 planning grant was approved for extension of the library proposal into the second floor of the Granary Building. This extension will allow the library to accommodate the following facilities: a children's library, adults library, an exhibition space, a sensory room, a makers space, podcasting studio, meeting room and study space. The detailed design of this project is ongoing.

Cahir Library images




In October 2023, Tipperary County Council issued a call for tender for the proposed Cahir Car Park Demolition and Site Enabling Works. This tender generated a high level of interest with nine tender submissions received. Tony Kirwan Civil Engineering was awarded the contract and this project will be carried out during Q1 & Q2 2024. It is hoped that the contract for construction of the new car park will follow on after this.

Cahir Demolition Image



The verification form has been submitted to the RRDF Unit in the Department for the suite of projects that make up the Activating Cahir’s Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and it is hoped that approval will be granted to proceed with these projects in early 2024.

 *Activating Cahir’s Town Centre will create a wonderful focal point at the heart of Cahir and deliver a first class library services befitting the community while also generating substantial off street parking.*

Tipperary Hills Improvement Works

In May of 2023 the part 8 planning permission for the improvement works to the Tipperary Hills was granted after months of public consultation. In July English Tarmac commenced works on the Tipperary Hills Improvement Project. The works provided for improved park access routes and pathways, new park benches and furniture, a new safe and protective access to the top of the National Monument Norman Motte, landscaping and planting of shrubs, hedge whips and semi mature trees, new historical and informative signage, improvements to the ‘Flat Hollow’ kickabout area, a dedicated dog exercise area, development of the Peace Path and reflective areas. The works were carried out in a phased manner with sections of the Hills being closed as the improvements works were ongoing. Civil works were completed in October and Planting was complete in December. The improvements have made the Hills more accessible, safer and more inviting place for people to visit and this in turn has led to a far greater use of the Hills by people of the town.

Tipp Hills Images



Welcome, Farewells & Retirements

Welcome

Tipperary Cahir Cashel Municipal District welcomed Anselm McGowan as our new District Administrator



Retirements

- Mary Lynch, Assistant Staff Officer, held on Friday 24th March.
- Mary O'Connor, Assistant Staff Officer, held on Friday 6th October.
- Pa Fitzell, General Operative.

Photo's Below



Mary Lynch

Mary O'Connor

Farewells

- Anthony Coleman, District Administrator / District Director
- Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer
- Catriona Crowe, Community Liaison Officer.
- Lisa Maher, Clerical officer, Environment & Climate Action.

Photos below



From Left:- James Swords, Senior Executive Engineer, Paul Farrell, Executive Engineer, Anthony Coleman, District Director.



From Left:- Anselm McGowan, District Administrator, Cathriona Crowe, Senior Staff Officer.



Lisa Maher, Clerical officer, Environment & Climate Action

Environment

Bulky Goods Collection Service Tipperary Town

In May 2023 Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District carried out a collection of bulky waste goods from householders in Tipperary Town

Photo below



Wildflower Garden Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD

The bee friendly wildflower garden is in full bloom at the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD. All the preparation and planting was done by the Tipperary town gardener Ger Kiely.



Before



After

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. International Women's Day was celebrated on March 8th in Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District Office and the theme of this year's celebration is embracing equity.



From Left:- Sharon Heffernan, Alice Roche, Adeline Walsh, Annette Heskett, Mairead Moloney, Catherine O' Connor, Verena McGrath, Mary Lynch, Camille Donovan, Deirdre Hayes & Mary Corcoran.

Film Crew at Cahir Castle

Cahir hosted the production of a new film for Netflix in 2023. The film is for "The Wayfarer" the first episode of the first season of a new series of Marco Polo.

The crew have also completed some filming at the Rock of Cashel.

The filming took place in Cahir Castle, outside the castle and in the Inch Field

The production was most welcome in the town as it meant an immediate economic benefit and a long-term benefit in terms of exposure to a global audience.



Photo by Cahir Media

Financials






Finance

The Finance Department is responsible for the overall control and management of the Council's finances, both Revenue and Capital. It is responsible for the short, and long-term financing of the Council's operations.

Included among the wide range of services provided by the Finance Department are:

- Financial Control, Cash Flow and Treasury Management
- Preparation of the Draft Annual Budget
- Preparation of the Annual Financial Statement
- Collection of Commercial Rates
- Collection and management of Housing Loans
- Non-Principal Private Residence - NPPR charge
- Administration and maintenance of the Financial Management System – Agresso
- All payments, including loan repayments and insurance premiums
- Monitoring the recoupment of government grants and subsidies
- Guidance in procurement to all sections
- Guidance in Green Public Procurement (GPP) to all sections
- Maintenance of financial records and the making of various reports and returns
- Internal Audit and checking section
- Motor Taxation

In the course of its work, the Finance Department liaises with all sections of the Local Authority.

 *The Finance Department is responsible for the overall control and management of the Council's finances*

Main Sections within Finance:

Financial and Management Accounting

Financial Accounting involves the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements (AFS), other statutory returns, reporting to external agencies and dealing with the Local Government Audit process.

Management Accounting involves the preparation of quarterly management reports to assist with budgetary control and the decision-making process within each directorate.

The Annual Budget process is managed in this section, in consultation with all the service divisions.

Treasury management, bank reconciliation, debtor management, monitoring of the Capital Account and ensuring draw down of grants are some of the other activities carried out by this section.



Revenue


In 2023 Revenue Section mainly dealt with the collection of Commercial Rates, Housing Loans and the Non-Principal Private Residence (NPPR) charge.

A total of €33,167,818 was collected in Commercial Rates during 2023.

The Housing Loans Team, based in the Revenue Section, Civic Offices Clonmel, continue to work closely with all local authority borrowers who are encouraged to engage with us at all times. In particular, where borrowers are in an arrears or in a pre-arrears situation, the team are available to discuss options to try to avoid an escalation of the problem. The team will meet with borrowers to review their financial situation in order to determine the best possible solution. All loan accounts are monitored on a monthly basis or as required. We endeavour to communicate with all borrowers in a fair and reasonable manner.

NPPR Charges in the amount of €416,511 were collected during the year.

1,233 Certificates of Discharge/Exemption were issued in 2023.

 *A total of €33,167,818 was collected in Commercial Rates during 2023.*

Revenue Collection

Debtor type	% Collected
Rents	92%
Housing Loans	99%
Rates*	90%

* As per Draft Annual Financial Statement (AFS), 2023 – Appendix 7, after allowing for specific doubtful arrears relating to:

- i. Vacancy applications pending or criteria not met, and

Accounts in examinership / receivership / liquidation, and no communication regarding likely outcome.

Accounts Payable

All invoices are certified for payment by the relevant sections of the Council and forwarded to the Finance Department.

These include payments for goods and services provided to the Council for both revenue and capital purposes. The payments are then processed and paid by the Finance Department. Checks are carried out for Tax Clearance Certificate or Sub-Contractor's Certificates as appropriate. Withholding Tax is deducted at the prescribed rate from payments in respect of 'Professional Services' and paid over to the Revenue Commissioners.

Procedures are in place to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 which came into effect on the 1st of January 1998, requiring local authorities to pay interest on payments which are not paid within the prescribed period.

Invoice		Statistics	
No of Invoices processed in 2022			
Quarter	Quantity		Value
Quarter 1	12,824	€	28,178,552.15
Quarter 2	12,140	€	36,100,982.38
Quarter 3	13,338	€	50,175,715.02
Quarter 4	13,028	€	56,846,836.19
Totals	51,330	€	171,302,085.74

Internal Audit

The role of internal audit is to provide independent assurance that the organisation's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively.

Internal Audit objectively examine, evaluate, and report on the adequacy of internal controls as a contribution to the proper, economic, effective and efficient use of resources.

During 2023, the Internal Audit section undertook a number of audits and the findings and recommendations from each audit were reported to management and the Audit Committee. Internal Audit continued to review the implementation of the recommendations from previous audits.



Procurement

The Procurement Section has a role in ensuring that Tipperary County Council has good purchasing practices in place. Procedures are designed to maximise value for money and to provide that all potential suppliers have a fair opportunity to tender. The general principles used in all elements of procurement are: equality of treatment, transparency, mutual recognition and proportionality. The procurement section works to provide high standards of openness, transparency and compliance with all relevant public procurement guidelines and legislation.

The Procurement section works with all sections to initiate Green Public Procurement (GPP), defined as: 'A process whereby public authorities seek to procure goods, services and works with a reduced environmental impact throughout their life cycle when compared to goods, services and works with the same primary function that would otherwise be procured'; as required by government policy.

It is government policy that all contracts above €50,000 for Goods, Services and Works Related Services, and contracts over €200,000 for Works are formally advertised on eTenders. www.etenders.gov.ie is the key national website where potential suppliers and service providers need to be registered in order to be kept informed of upcoming tenders. There is a range of guides on the www.tipperarycoco.ie website to assist potential suppliers find where to register and maximise their opportunities to tender for public sector contracts.

Agresso Financial Management System

The Agresso Support Team maintains the Council's Financial Management System, Agresso, helping to ensure proper control over the Council's financial records (an essential feature in the Council's system of Internal Control). The Agresso system was implemented in 2001 and was upgraded to Agresso Milestone 7 (MS7) in October 2022.

Agresso MS7 includes features which assist in the achievement of our business goals, including; automated workflow, web service access, procurement checks and enhanced controls.



Motor Taxation

Receipts – Offices Clonmel & Nenagh	€	%
Private cars and motor cycles	4,132,348	58.13
Goods and other vehicles	2,398,872	33.75
Miscellaneous	577,381	8.12
Total Revenue 2023	7,108,601	100.00

Discs Issued – Civic Offices & Online	€	%
Number of tax discs issued by Clonmel & Nenagh Motor Tax Offices 2023	41,392	20.15
Number of tax discs issued On-Line	163,971	79.85
Total Number Of Tax Discs Issued 2023	205,363	100.00

Postal Transactions	No.	%
Percentage of applications which are postal (Motor Taxation Transactions)	10,346	5.04%
Average number of postal applications and percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. motor tax transactions) from receipt of application		
(a) on the same day	10,280	99.36%
(b) on the 2nd or 3rd day	41	0.40%
(c) on the 4th or 5th day	9	0.09%
(d) over 5 days	16	0.15%

M.1 Percentage of motor tax transactions which:	2021	2022	2023
Are dealt with over the counter	4.33%	14.59%	15.12%
Are dealt with by post	11.76%	5.71%	5.04%
Are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online)	83.91%	79.70%	79.84%

M.2 Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. motor tax transactions issued) from receipt of application	2021	2022	2023
(a) on the same day	22,711	11,354	10,280
(b) on the 2nd or 3rd day	470	88	41
(c) on the 4th or 5th day	16	9	9
(d) over 5 days	105	39	16

M.3 Public Opening Hours	2021*	2022	2023
Average number of opening hours per week	20.00	20.00	20.00

*The public counter was closed during Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions

Motor Tax On-line

Tipperary County Council is continuing its policy of promoting the online motor tax facility www.motortax.ie.

The total number of tax discs issued to the 31st December 2023 amounted to 205,363. In percentage terms, the amount of discs issued on-line as of this date was 79.84% thereof.

A percentage of 79.70% was reflected for the equivalent period in 2022.

In addition, the Council also has offices located in Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary and Thurles Municipal Districts and these outlets cater for persons who do not have a Visa Debit/Visa Credit Card available to them but wish to renew their motor tax on-line. Payments are accepted in Cash or Postal/Money Order and the on-line renewal transaction is carried out by a member of staff. A total number of 763 transactions have been carried out by the three Municipal Districts from the 1st of January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

Facilities are also available for use by members of the public wishing to tax on-line at the Libraries in the County.

Clonmel Motor Tax Office relocated to Parnell Street, Clonmel on 31st October 2023.

Main Reports Produced by Finance:

The Annual Budget

The Finance Department prepares the overall Draft Revenue Budget in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Management Team.

The budget is presented to the Corporate Policy Group and to the Elected Members for adoption at the Annual Budget Meeting.

The Annual Financial Statement (AFS)

Each local authority is required to prepare an Annual Financial Statement (AFS) by the end of March of the following year and to publish it by the end of June.

The AFS is presented to members at a Council Meeting, and undergoes an independent audit by the Local Government Audit Service.

The AFS details the income and expenditure for the financial year for both revenue and capital. The Balance Sheet shows the assets and liabilities of the County Council at the end of the year.

Council & Management Reports

The management report provides details of the income and expenditure for the various services provided by the council, and is compared to Budget for purposes of ensuring proper and ongoing budgetary control.

Management reports are provided to the Management Team on a monthly basis and to the Council on a bi-monthly basis.

Department Quarterly Reporting

All Local Authorities report financial performance quarterly to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). These reports consist of a quarterly Income and Expenditure Report, a General Government Balance (GGB) Report which essentially consists of an abbreviated Balance Sheet, a Capital Account report and Debtors report.

In addition, various reports are produced for budget holders in Tipperary County Council relating to all aspects of the Council's activities.

Public Spending Code

All Irish public bodies are obliged to treat public funds with care, and to ensure that the best possible value-for-money is obtained whenever public money is being spent or invested. The Public Spending Code is the set of rules and procedures that apply to ensure that these standards are upheld across the Irish public service.

The Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report for Tipperary County Council for 2022 was published, and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in May 2023.

Financial Statement

The **Revenue Account** details monies spent and received on day-to-day items such as payroll, insurance, loan repayments, the purchase of materials and the maintenance of roads, housing, landfill sites, burial grounds, and so on.

There are four principal sources of Revenue Income for local authorities:

- i. Commercial Rates;
- ii. The provision of Goods and Services, e.g. Planning Fees, Rents;
- iii. Local Property Tax and
- iv. Other Grants e.g. Road Grants.

The Council's **Capital Account**, on the other hand, relates to the Council's activities in terms of creating assets, and various Projects having a multi-year timeframe. These include the building of Council houses and road construction. When such schemes are completed, the day-to-day receipts and expenditure incurred in their maintenance is accounted for in the Revenue Account. The monies spent by Tipperary County Council on capital projects are recouped by means of State Grants. Occasionally, the Council borrows money for such projects. Housing Loan Redemptions and Planning Contributions are also credited to the Capital Account.

Draft Revenue Account 2023

	Expenditure €	Income €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing & Building	42,371,389	42,972,478	(601,089)
Road Transport & Safety	63,145,112	43,819,615	19,325,498
Water Services	14,992,070	14,735,346	256,724
Development Management	18,052,926	10,262,159	7,790,768
Environmental Services	32,667,760	16,518,272	16,149,487
Recreation & Amenity	14,682,240	2,911,808	11,770,433
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	1,856,665	1,380,916	475,749
Miscellaneous Services	12,254,058	18,266,482	(6,012,424)
Local Property Tax / LGF		26,986,309	
Rates		36,494,604	
	200,022,222	214,347,989	
Transfer from / (to) Reserves			(14,318,364)
Surplus for Year			7,402
General Reserve at 1st January 2023			5,577,401
General Reserve at 31st December 2023			5,584,803

Draft Capital Account 2023

Programme	Expenditure €	Income €
Housing & Building	57,943,143	58,753,655
Road Transport & Safety	23,797,409	20,845,145
Water Services	4,945,990	5,041,763
Development Management	14,954,002	14,844,838
Environmental Services	4,762,910	3,996,087
Recreation & Amenity	2,480,643	687,229
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	208,528	224,014
Miscellaneous Services	5,290,629	217,969
Totals	114,383,254	104,610,700

Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC)

Introduction

I, Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive (CE) of Tipperary County Council am responsible for the Annual Financial Statement (AFS), prepared by the Head of Finance, in accordance with the accounting code of practice issued by the Minister under section 107 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

I certify that the financial statements of Tipperary County Council for the year ended 31 December 2023, are in agreement with the books of account and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting requirements of the Minister of Housing Local Government and Heritage.

The AFS is subject to external audit, by an auditor of the Local Government Audit Service, whose purpose is to form an independent opinion of the accounts and state whether the annual financial statement presents fairly the financial position of the local authority and of its income and expenditure for the period in question, and whether the transactions of the audited body conform with the statutory or other authorisation under which they purport to have been carried out.

The AFS reports on the day-to-day activity of Tipperary County Council in the form of the Statement of Comprehensive Income & Expenditure, summarised by Division. The Statement of Financial Position outlines the Tipperary County Council overall financial position as of the 31st of December 2023.

The *Statement of Comprehensive Income* represents expenditure and income on the day-to-day running of Tipperary County Council.

The key sources of income for Tipperary County Council are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Goods & Services	49,091,081	48,566,036
Grants & Subsidies	99,473,241	83,706,527
Rates	36,494,604	34,610,989
Local Property Tax	26,986,309	27,158,964

Both expenditure and income in 2023 have increased compared to 2022. This mainly arises due to a combination of rising inflationary costs, increased operational activity levels and additional funding for Capital projects provided through Commercial Rates.

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Income	214,347,988	195,993,282
Expenditure	(200,022,222)	(184,803,173)
Transfers to/from Capital	(14,318,364)	(11,186,064)
Surplus for the Year	7,402	4,4045
Opening Revenue Reserve	5,577,401	5,573,356
Closing Revenue Reserve	5,584,803	5,577,401

Income for current the year exceeded expenditure and transfers to/from capital resulting in a small surplus of €7,402.

The *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)* represents the total financial activity of the council for the year together with comparative year figures as appropriate.

The statement includes assets and liabilities as follows:

- Assets both recently constructed/purchased and historical assets
- Work in progress and preliminary schemes- mainly roads and housing
- Long Term Debtors – housing loans
- Current Assets- including Stock, Debtors, Cash at bank
- Current and long term liabilities- mortgage and non-mortgage loan borrowings
- Various Reserves/Balances

The Net Assets of Tipperary County Council at the end of 2023 total €4,005m and are as follows:

	Current Year	Previous Year
	€	€
Fixed Assets	3,927,053,107	3,866,967,120
Work in Progress	5,901,226	16,276,408
Long Term Debtors	84,822,582	69,454,090
Current Assets	113,990,915	130,667,722
Current Liabilities	(37,802,951)	(42,279,079)
Net Current Assets/ (Liabilities)	76,187,964	88,388,643
Creditors (Amounts greater than 1 year)	(88,662,695)	(93,262,799)
Net Assets/(Liabilities)	4,005,302,184	3,947,823,461

A *Statement of Funds Flow* was introduced as part of AFS 2011. While the guidance of International Accounting Standard 7 Statement of Cash Flows has been followed, the business of local authorities is substantially different to most private sector organisations and therefore some minor changes to the format have been agreed to ensure the data displayed is meaningful and useful within the local government sector.

System of Internal Financial Controls

As Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the Council. This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to Tipperary County Council. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.



Financial Control Environment

As Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council, I confirm that a financial control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee which as part of its work programme regularly review the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative Controls and Management Reporting

As Chief Executive of Tipperary County Council, I confirm that a framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability and, in particular, that:

- procedures for key business processes have been documented
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are systems in place to safeguard the assets of the local authority and
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines in operation.

Procurement Compliance

Tipperary County Council ensures that there is an appropriate and ongoing focus on good practice in tendering and purchasing and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant procurement guidelines.



Internal Audit and Audit Committee

As Chief Executive, I can confirm that Tipperary County Council has an Internal Audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter. Its work is informed by analysis of the financial risks to which Tipperary County Council is exposed and its annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. I am satisfied that there are procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

I can confirm that Tipperary County Council has an effective Audit Committee which carries out an annual effectiveness review of their activities. I can also confirm that an Audit Committee is in place in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

The statutory functions of Audit Committees as set out in section 59 and 60 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are as follows:

- I. to review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures within the local authority that has established it;
- II. to foster the development of best practice in the performance by the local authority of its internal audit function;
- III. to review any audited financial statement, auditor's report or auditor's special report in relation to the local authority and assess any actions taken within that authority by its chief executive in response to such a statement or report and to report to that authority on its findings;
- IV. to assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the local authority's performance of its functions; and
- V. to review systems that are operated by the local authority for the management of risks.

I recognise that the Audit Committee plays a crucial role in the governance framework of local authorities, particularly in the context of increased public sector accountability. They have an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of the local authority.

I acknowledge the Audit Committee's role in the risk management process and in the continuing review of the control environment and governance procedures in Tipperary County Council.

Risk and Control Framework

Tipperary County Council has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, mitigate those risks.

A corporate risk register is in place which identifies the key risks and evaluates and grades them according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Team on a regular basis. There is also a risk register in place for each service division and these are also reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibilities for the operation of controls are assigned to specific staff.

As Chief Executive, I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

Joe MacGrath
Chief Executive
 19th April 2024

Appendices





Members - Tipperary County Council

Carrick-on-Suir Electoral Area

Name & Address	Tel No.	e-mail Address	Political Party
Kieran Bourke, Ballyrichard, Cregg Road, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary	051-600306(O)/ 086-8049772	kieran.bourke@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
David Dunne, 42 Cregg Lawns, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary	086-3476317	david.dunne@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	SF
Imelda Goldsboro, Clashduff, Coalbrook, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	087-2444819	imelda.goldsboro@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Kevin O'Meara, Woodview, Killaghy, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary	087 - 2065864	kevin.omeara@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Mark Fitzgerald, The Thatch, Cloneen, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052 6131751/ 087 6359397	mark.fitzgerald@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG

Clonmel Electoral Area

Name & Address	Tel No.	e-mail Address	Political Party
Siobhán Ambrose, Dun Mhuire, Melview, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	086-3850242	siobhan.ambrose@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Niall P. Dennehy, 23 Inislounaght, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	086-2402753	niall.dennehy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Pat English, "Churchview", Rathronan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-6124014(h)/ 087-7684746	pat.english@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	WUA
John J. FitzGerald, D'Arcy's Cross, Clerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	086-2375473	johnj.fitzgerald@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Richie Molloy, 6 Heywood Drive, Ardgaoithe, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-6129362(h)/ 086-1967482	richie.molloy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Michael Murphy, "Orpen" 30 The Paddocks, Fethard Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-6127862(h)/ 087-3226699	michael.murphy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG

Nenagh Electoral Area

Name & Address	Tel No.	e-mail Address	Political Party
Fiona Bonfield, 87 Mulcair View, Newport, Co. Tipperary	061-378738(h)/ 086-1670863	fiona.bonfield@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	LAB
Dr. Phyll Bugler, Inchadrinagh, Ballina, Co. Tipperary	061-375027(h)/ 087-2807655	phyll.bugler@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
John Carroll, Kilcolman House, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	086-8041893	john.carroll@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Gerard Darcy, Clashateeaun, Ardcroney, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	067-38149(h)/ 086-2752838	gerard.darcy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Joe Hannigan, Kilbarron, Coolbawn, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	067-28020(h)/ 087-2566157	joe.hannigan@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Hughie McGrath, 19 Brooklands Drive, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	067-33452(h)/ 087-2559323	hughie.mcgrath@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Séamus Morris, Rathnaleen, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary	087-2859125	seamus.morris@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
John (Rocky) McGrath, Graunbeg, Killoscully, Newport, Co. Tipperary	086-1714224	rocky.mcgrath@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Michael O'Meara, Lissernane, Rathcabbin, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary	086-8379300	michael.omeara@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP

Thurles Electoral Area

Name & Address	Tel No.	e-mail Address	Political Party
Noel J. Coonan, Gortnagoona, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary	086-2427733	noel.coonan@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Seamus Hanafin, Clongour, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	0504-21144(w)/ 0504-23832(h) 087-2614000	seamus.hanafin@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Shane Lee, 34 Cois Carrig, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary	086-3296667	shane.lee@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Micheál Lowry, Raheen, Holycross, Co. Tipperary	0504-22022(w)/ 087-2897585	micheal.lowry@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Eddie Moran, Knocka, Drom, Templemore, Co. Tipperary	0504-31313(h)/ 086 2484363	eddie.moran@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Jim Ryan, Mill Road, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	087 7043785	jim.ryan@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Peggy Ryan, 136 Rosemount, Clongower, Thurles, E41 Y9R6	087 3887472	peggy.ryan@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Sean Ryan, 22 Church View, Littleton, Thurles, Co. Tipperary	087-4581455	seano.ryan@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Michael Smith, Behagloss, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary	0505-43500(h)/ 086-8525634	michael.smith@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Electoral Area

Name & Address	Tel No.	e-mail Address	Political Party
Micheál Anglim, Ballylaffin, Ardfinnan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	052-7466170(h)/ 086-0251277	micheal.anglim@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Tony Black, Lisbreen, Galbally Rd, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary E34 CY91	087-7465762	tony.black@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	SF
Declan Burgess, 1 Moore Lane, Cashel, Co. Tipperary	086-7330454	declan.burgess@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
John Crosse, Donohill Cross, Donohill, Co. Tipperary	062-76105(h)/ 087-9165851	john.crosse@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Michael Fitzgerald, Rathclogheen House, Golden, Co. Tipperary	062-72136(h)/ 087-2292126	michael.fitzgerald@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Mary Hanna Hourigan, Parkview House, Tipperary Road, Cappawhite, Co. Tipperary	062-75164(h) 085-8150689	mary.hanna@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Roger Kennedy, Camus, Cashel, Co. Tipperary	062-61296(h)/ 086-8161058	roger.kennedy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FF
Andy Moloney, Knocknaquil, Poulmucka, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	086-3609110	andy.moloney@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Máirín McGrath, Garrencasey, Newcastle, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary	087-2722236	mairin.mcgrath@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	NP
Marie Murphy, Kilballyboy, Clogheen, Cahir, Co. Tipperary. E21 HN63	086-8261387	marie.murphy@cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	FG
Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), "The Oaks", Cordangan, Tipperary E34 NY 10	087-3802825	annemarie.ryanshiner@ cllr.tipperarycoco.ie	SF



Staff Structure

Directorate: Finance & Information Technology

Mark Connolly, Director

Finance General

Section Head

- Claire Ryan, Financial Accountant
- Paddy Brennan, Management Accountant
- Sarah O'Callaghan, Management Accountant

Section Head – Other Grade

- Breda Moloney AO - Finance
- Peter Cleary AO - Revenue
- Rosarie Hickey AO - Motor Tax
- Eileen Horgan AO - Procurement

Information Systems

Section Head

Gerard Lynch, Head of IS

IS Project Leaders

- Yvonne Byrne
- Dermot Tobin
- Ruth Maher

Directorate: Roads and Transportation, Active Travel, Health & Safety and Nenagh Municipal District

Marcus O'Connor, Director

Roads

Section Head

- Liam Brett - Senior Engineer
- John Nolan – Senior Engineer (Capital)
- James Murray, Senior Engineer
- Paddy Crowley, A/Senior Engineer (Active Travel)

Section Head - Other Grade

- Shane O'Dwyer SEO - Local Authority Services National Training Group
- Michelle Maher AO
- Martin Dooley AO - Regional Training Centre

Health & Safety

Section Head

Liam Quinn, Health & Safety Advisor

Directorate: Planning and Development, Emergency Services & Emergency Planning, Libraries/Cultural Services/Biodiversity**Sharon Kennedy, Director****Planning****Section Head**

- Ann Marie Devaney - A/Senior Planner

Section Head – Other Grade

- Teresa Kiely, AO

Civil Defence**Section Head**

- Dolores Fahey - Civil Defence Officer

Section Head – Other Grade

- Matt Peters - A/Assistant Civil Defence Officer

Fire Services**Section Head**

- Dave Carroll – Chief Fire Officer

Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officers

- Ray O'Leary – Clonmel
- Eddie Ryan - Nenagh
- John Shinnors - Nenagh
- Gareth McLoughlin - Clonmel

Libraries**Section Head**

- Damien Dullaghan - County Librarian

Section Head – Other Grade

- Pat Bracken - Senior Executive Librarian
- Ann Marie Brophy - Senior Executive Librarian

Culture/Arts**Section Head**

- Melanie Scott AO - Arts Officer
- Roisin O'Grady - Heritage Officer

Section Head – Other Grade

- Marie McMahon - Museum Curator

Directorate: Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) & Tipperary, Cahir, Cashel Municipal District**Anthony Coleman, Director****LAWPRO Senior Management Team**

- Margaret Keegan, Regional Coordinator, Midlands & East and Head Office Operations Manager
- Fran Igoe, Regional Coordinator, South East & South West Regions
- Bernadette White, Regional Coordinator, Border & Western Regions
- Jimmy McVeigh, Regional Coordinator, Border Region
- Mairead Whitty, Project Lead, Farming for Water EIP

Catchment Managers

- Cormac McConigley - Western Region
- Niamh Rogan – South West region
- Eoin McAleer – Midlands and East Region
- Gary O'Connell – Border Region
- Ruth Hennessy – South East

Specialist Support Staff

- Sheevaun Thompson, Funding Lead
- Joe McNamara, Finance Lead
- Sadhbh O'Neill, Communications Lead

Directorate: Housing Services and Clonmel Borough District**Sinead Carr, Director****Housing****Section Head**

- Cora Morrissey - Senior Executive Officer
- Jonathon Cooney A/Senior Engineer

Section Head – Other Grade

- Sean Lonergan AO – Ukrainian Response
- Shane Grogan AO
- Helen Butler, AO

Directorate: Environment & Climate Action, Water Services, Human Resources and Thurles Municipal District**Eamon Lonergan, Director****Human Resources****Section Head**

Paul Murray - Senior Executive Officer

Section Head – Other Grade

- Ciara Byron AO

Environment & Climate Action**Section Head**

- Michael Moroney - Senior Executive Officer
- Denis Holland - Senior Engineer

Section Head – Other Grade

- Orla Kelly AO
- Ruairi Boland - Senior Executive Engineer
- Kieran McKenna - A Senior Executive Engineer
- Colette Moloney - Senior Executive Scientist

Directorate: Economic, Community & Rural Development, Corporate Services & Carrick on Suir Municipal District**Brian Beck, Director****Economic****Section Head**

Anthony Fitzgerald - Head of Enterprise

Section Head - Other Grade

- Mary Ryan – Senior Economic Development Officer
- Ita Horan AO - Local Enterprise Office
- Kathleen Prendergast – Economic Development Officer

Community**Section Head****Section Head - Other Grade**

- Margo Hayes AO
- Fiona Crotty AO
- Marie Cox AO
- Valerie Coleville AO
- Elaine Cullinan AO

Corporate Services**Section Head**

- Ger Walsh - Senior Executive Officer

Section Head – Other Grade

- David Coleman AO

Districts

District	District Director	District Administrator	District Engineer
Nenagh	Marcus O'Connor	Rosemary Joyce SEO	Barry Murphy SEE
Thurles	Eamon Lonergan	Sharon Scully AO	Thomas Duffy SEE
Clonmel Borough	Sinead Carr	Carol Creighton AO	Nicola Keating SEE
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel	Sharon Kennedy	Anselm McGowan SEO	James Swords SEE
Carrick-on-Suir	Brian Beck	Marie O'Gorman AO	Denis Power A/SEE

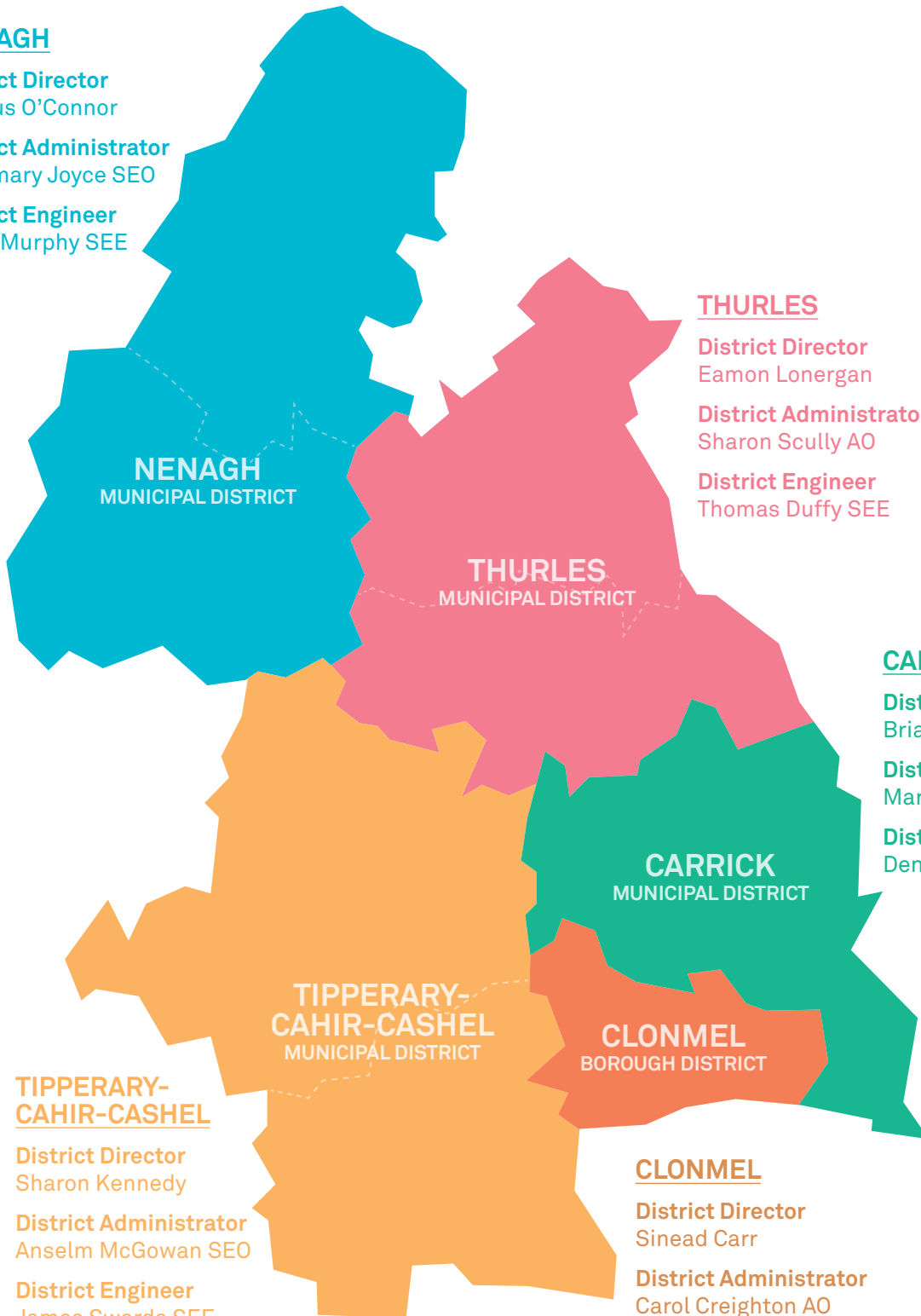
Municipal District Structure & Map

NENAGH

District Director
Marcus O'Connor

District Administrator
Rosemary Joyce SEO

District Engineer
Barry Murphy SEE



NENAGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

THURLES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

CARRICK
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

**TIPPERARY-
CAHIR-CASHEL**
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

CLONMEL
BOROUGH DISTRICT

THURLES

District Director
Eamon Lonergan

District Administrator
Sharon Scully AO

District Engineer
Thomas Duffy SEE

CARRICK

District Director
Brian Beck

District Administrator
Marie O’Gorman AO

District Engineer
Denis Power A/SEE

TIPPERARY- CAHIR-CASHEL

District Director
Sharon Kennedy

District Administrator
Anselm McGowan SEO

District Engineer
James Swords SEE

CLONMEL

District Director
Sinead Carr

District Administrator
Carol Creighton AO

District Engineer
Nicola Keating SEE

Conference / Training Attended 2023

Date	Conference Details	Location	Councillors in attendance
6th to 8th January	Celtic Conferences - The Finance Act 2022	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	7
3rd to 5th February	Celtic Conferences - Modular Housing in Ireland	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	5
21st to 23rd April	Celtic Conferences - Protecting your Mental Health as a Public Representative	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
15th & 16th September	La Touche Legacy Seminar	Greystones Golf Club, Wicklow	1
13th to 15th October	Celtic Conferences - A Practical Guide to Budget 2024	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	5
20th to 22nd October	Celtic Conferences - First Home Scheme	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	1
24th to 26th November	Celtic Conferences - Modular Housing in Ireland	McKevitts Hotel, Carlingford Co. Louth	4
1st to 3rd December	Celtic Conferences - Irish Social Welfare System	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	2

Date	Training Details	Location	Councillors in attendance
7th to 9th February	Associations of Irish Regions - Regions in Focus	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	9
23rd February	AILG Module 1 - A briefing on the Electoral Reform Act	Tullamore Court Hotel	1
25th February	AILG Module 1 - A briefing on the Electoral Reform Act	Raddison Blu Hotel Limerick	12
2nd to 4th March	LAMA Spring Seminar	Westlodge Hotel Bantry, Co. Cork	24
23rd March	AILG Module 2 - Local Authority Climate Action	Clayton Hotel Wexford	3
25th March	AILG Module 2 - Local Authority Climate Action	Fairway Hotel Dundalk, Co. Louth	10
28th March	Irish Rail - National Rail Capital Investment Agenda	Clayton Hotel Steamboat Quay Limerick	4
5th & 6th April	Suck Valley Way Conference	Gleesons Town House Roscommon	13
19th & 20th April	AILG Spring Conference	Hotel Kilkenny	18
19th April	EPA - Climate Change Lecture Series	Mansion House Dublin	2
19th April	Limerick Womens Caucus 'Embrace Empower Elect'	Istabrag Hall Limerick City & County Council	1
26th April	Uisce Éireann Workshop	Thurles Municipal District	14
18th May	See her Elected in conjunction with Tipperary County Council	Source Theatre Thurles	6
20th May	ToGetHer in Politics - Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	Royal Marine Hotel Dun Laoghaire	5
26th May	Count Her In Conference - Cork City & County Council	Cork City Hall	2
17th June	AILG Module 3 - Overview of Existing Planning Legislation and Policy Guidance	Avalon Hotel Kilkenny	7
20th July	Energy & Farm Diversification Show	Gurteen College	8
20th July	AILG Module 4 - Uisce Éireann	Raddison Blu Hotel Cork	5
22nd July	AILG Module 4 - Uisce Éireann	Raddison Blu Hote Sligo	7
21st July	Derelict in Donegal & Beyond Conference	Station House Hotel Letterkenny	11
7th September	Rural Water Services Conference	Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone	2
11th September	UCC - Securing our future	UCC	1
13th & 14th September	AILG Autumn Conference	Sligo Park Hotel	20
19th September	Uisce Éireann Workshop	Horse & Jockey Hotel Thurles	16
19th October	AILG Module 5 - Elected Member personal security	Kilmore hotel Cavan	1
21st October	AILG Module 5 - Elected Member personal security	The Rose Hotel Tralee	6
25th & 26th October	LAMA Autumn Seminar	Ard Rí House Hotel Tuam	21
16th November	AILG Module 6 - Road Safety	Tower Hotel Waterford City	3
18th November	AILG Module 6 - Road Safety	Clayton Hotel Galway	9

Councillors Meeting Attendance

1st January to 31st December 2023

Councillor Name	Total No. of Meetings	No. of Meetings Attended	Total % Rate of Attendance
Ambrose, Siobhán (FF)	37	34	92%
Anglim, Micheál (FF)	32	27	84%
Black, Tony (SF)	33	25	76%
Bonfield, Fiona (LAB)	32	30	94%
Bourke, Kieran (FF)	37	28	76%
Bugler, Dr Phyll (FG)	32	28	88%
Burgess, Declan (FG)	41	33	80%
Carroll, John (FF)	43	42	98%
Coonan, Noel (FG)	28	27	96%
Crosse, John (FG)	36	31	86%
Darcy, Ger (FG)	40	38	95%
Dennehy, Niall (NP)	28	26	93%
Dunne, David (SF)	31	25	81%
English, Pat (WUA)	37	29	80%
FitGerald, John (FG)	33	27	82%
Fitzgerald, Mark (FG)	33	24	73%
Fitzgerald, Michael (FG)	45	36	80%
Goldsboro, Imelda (FF)	38	38	100%
Hanafin, Seamus (FF)	29	28	97%
Hannigan, Joe (NP)	42	36	86%

Councillor Name	Total No. of Meetings	No. of Meetings Attended	Total % Rate of Attendance
Hourigan, Mary Hanna (FG)	28	26	93%
Kennedy, Roger (FF)	38	37	97%
Lee, Shane (NP)	28	24	86%
Lowry, Micheál (NP)	31	26	84%
McGrath, Hughie (NP)	35	28	80%
McGrath, John(Rocky) (NP)	29	26	90%
McGrath, Máirín (NP)	31	30	97%
Molloy, Richie (NP)	35	29	83%
Moloney, Andy (NP)	38	36	95%
Moran, Eddie (NP)	27	24	89%
Morris, Seamus (NP)	25	20	80%
Murphy, Marie (FG)	36	31	86%
Murphy, Michael (FG)	27	25	93%
O'Meara, Kevin (NP)	27	25	93%
O'Meara, Michael (NP)	40	38	95%
Ryan(Shiner), Ann Marie (NP)	32	27	84%
Ryan, Jim (NP)	28	24	86%
Ryan, Peggy (FG)	32	32	100%
Ryan, Sean (FF)	37	37	100%
Smith, Michael (FF)	24	21	88%

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Membership

Councillors	Economic Development & Enterprise	Housing	Environment & Climate Action	Infrastructure (Roads Transportation and Water Services)	Planning & Emergency Services	Community Culture & Library Services
Fiona Bonfield, LAB						√
Dr. Phyll Bugler, FG	√				√	
John Carroll, FF			√		√	
Gerard Darcy, FG					√	√
Joe Hannigan, NP	√				√	
Hughie McGrath, NP				√	√	
Séamus Morris, NP	√					
John (Rocky) McGrath, NP		√	√			
Michael O'Meara, NP				√*	√	
Noel J. Coonan, FG		√				
Seamus Hanafin, FF	√					
Shane Lee, NP		√				
Micheál Lowry, NP					√	√
Eddie Moran, NP			√			
Jim Ryan, NP				√		
Peggy Ryan, FG	√		√			
Sean Ryan, FF			√*			
Michael Smith, FF		√				
Kieran Bourke FF		√*		√		
David Dunne, SF		√		√		
Imelda Goldsboro, FF	√*					
Kevin O'Meara, NP				√		
Mark Fitzgerald, FG			√	√		
John FitzGerald, FG	√					√
Siobhán Ambrose, FF	√					√
Niall P. Dennehy, NP						√
Pat English, WUA		√	√			
Richie Molloy, NP			√			
Michael Murphy, FG			√			
Micheál Anglim, FF				√		√
Tony Black, SF	√					
Declan Burgess, FG			√	√		
John Crosse, FG	√					√
Michael Fitzgerald, FG				√	√*	
Mary Hanna Hourigan, FG	√	√				
Roger Kennedy, FF		√			√	
Andy Moloney, NP						√*
Máirín McGrath, NP	√					
Marie Murphy, FG		√			√	
Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), SF						√
Total	12	10	10	10	10	10

*Chairs Designate Strategic Policy Committee

Sectoral Representatives	Economic Development & Enterprise	Housing	Environment & Climate Action	Infrastructure (Roads Transportation and Water Services)	Planning & Emergency Services	Community Culture & Library Services
Seamus Hoyne, LIT	✓					
Pat Carroll, Agriculture	✓					
Laura Jones, Business/Commercial	✓					
Tom McGrath, Business/Commercial	✓					
Conor Mulcahy, Development & Construction	✓					
Vacant, PPN	✓					
Theresia Gruschbauer Suircan, PPN	✓					
Mary Spillane, PPN	✓					
Philip Brett, Trade Union		✓				
Tom Gallahue, Dev/Const.		✓				
Moira Merrigan, PPN Social Inclusion		✓				
Michelle Aylward, Business/Commercial		✓				
Sarah Bourke PPN		✓				
Iva Pocock, PPN		✓				
Michael Madden PPN		✓				
Baden Powell, Agriculture			✓			
Charles Stanley Smith, PPN Social Inclusion			✓			
Mary McMahon, PPN Environment			✓			
Charles Lamb, PPN Community & Voluntary			✓			
Davie Philip, PPN			✓			
Sarah Fogarty, Business/Commercial			✓			
Peter Farrell, Agriculture				✓		
Michelle Aylward, Business/Commercial				✓		
Sean Reidy, Dev/Const.				✓		
Philip Brett, Trade Union				✓		
Ger Shanahan, PPN Social Inclusion				✓		
Brian Pope PPN				✓		
Liam Browne, PPN				✓		
John O'Shaughnessy, Dev/Const.					✓	
Tim Harty, Agriculture					✓	
Kuldeep Joshi, PPN Social Inclusion					✓	
Patti O'Neill, PPN Environment					✓	
Clare Ryan O'Keefe, PPN Community & Voluntary					✓	
Vacant - Business/Commercial					✓	
John Butler, Business/Commercial						✓
Michelle Lawrence, PPN Social Inclusion						✓
Matt O'Meara, PPN Environment						✓
Peggy O'Brien, PPN Community & Voluntary						✓
Patrick Hanley, PPN Community & Voluntary						✓
Eamon Clancy, Agriculture						✓
Total	8	7	6	7	6	6
Total Committee	20	17	16	17	16	16

Associated Companies Register for Tipperary County Council

Company Name	Company Secretary	Directors	Community/Other Reps	TCC Nominees	Councillors
Nenagh Arts Centre Ltd	John Tooher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Molamphy • Suzannah O'Reilly • Sean Crowley • Tom Moylan • Virginia O'Dowd 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Scott • Marcus O'Connor • Rosemary Joyce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hugh McGrath • Fiona Bonfield • Joe Hannigan
Thurles Swimming Pool	Michael Ryan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deirdre O'Shea • Matt Shortt(retired DOS) • Michael Ryan • Vacant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Ryan • Peter Ryan
Thurles Regional Arts Centre Ltd	Michael Ryan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Ryan (until December 2022) • Peter Stocksborough (from Dec 2022) • Michelle Carew (resigned Feb 2023) Replacement TBC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam McCarthy • Michael Ryan • Matt Shortt • Damien Dullaghan • Eamon Lonergan • Melanie Scott 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Ryan • Seamus Hanafin • Peggy Ryan
Roscrea Swimming Pool Ltd	Eddie Loughnane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean Guilfoyle • Eileen Doherty 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eddie Loughnane • Liam McCarthy • John Jones • Patrick Slattery • Deidre O'Shea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Smith Jnr • Noel Coonan
North Genealogy & Services Ltd	Tipperary Heritage Rosemary Joyce	N/A		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcus O'Connor • Rosemary Joyne • Roisin O'Grady • Damien Dullaghan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerard Darcy • Hughie McGrath • Joe Hannigan
South East Regional Craft Centre Ltd	Ita Horan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liam Ahearne • Cyril Cullen • Mary Whelan • Mary Kinane • Maeve Sookram • Eileen Condon 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ita Horan • Karl Cashen • Jess Codd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marie Murphy • Michael Anglim • Siobhán Ambrose
Clonmel Development Company Ltd	Business Park Jim Dillon(appointed the 8th February 2022)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter Heneghan • Paula Carney-Hoffler(resigned 19th December 2022) • M i c h a e l Campbell(resigned 19th December 2022) • Paul Blanche 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim Dillon • Anthony Fitzgerald • Jonathan Cooney • Ita Horan (resigned 8th February 2022) • Ger Walsh 	N/A
Shannon Broadband Ltd	Jennifer Kearns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban McMahon • Jim Dore • Ray O'Driscoll • Ray Bell 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ger Lynch 	N/A

Company Name		Company Secretary	Directors		
			Community/Other Reps	TCC Nominees	Councillors
Tipperary Company	Tourism	Marie Phelan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isabel Cambie Una Ryan Todd McNamara Patrick Matin Killeen Elizabeth Nallen Noreen O'Sullivan John Egan Terry Cunningham Patricia McKeogh Marie Hennessy Sinead Delaney Cash 	Joe McGrath	N/A
Tipperary Energy Agency Ltd	Energy Agency	Francoise Hickey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seamus Hoyne James Owen Lewis Thomas Cooke Isabel Cambie Claire Ryan Walsh Marie Donnelly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liam McCarthy Marion O'Neill 	Michael Murphy
Munster Vales CLG		Triona O'Mahoney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Billy Duggan Aoife Potter Rose Carroll Declan Mulhearn Margaret O'Sullivan Christy Roach Jana Mannion Mary Barry Guerin Grainne Mannion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marie Phelan Pat Slattery Triona O'Mahoney 	N/A
Irish Foundation CLG	Bioeconomy	Liam Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin O'Connor Ramesh Padamati Michelle Collins John Morrissey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Fitzgerald 	N/A
Tipperary Park	Technology	Paul Murray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jacqui Finnan Anne Halligan Michael Maguire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ken Conway Paul Murray Anthony Coleman 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Fitzgerald John Crosse
Clonmel Resource Centre Ltd	Community	Cora Gentles	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ita Horan Pat Slattery 	N/A
Tipperary Delights Ltd	Culinary	Ita Horan	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pat Slattery Ita Horan 	N/A

Councillor Membership of Other Bodies

Councillors	A.I.L.G	South Regional Assembly	IPBMI	LAMA	Education and Training Board	Local Traveller Consultative Committee	Audit Committee	South Tipperary Arts Centre	Thurles Regional Arts Centre	North Tipperary Genealogy & Heritage Centre	Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Regional Health Forum South
Fiona Bonfield, LAB			√		√							
Dr. Phyll Bugler, FG					√							
John Carroll, FF												√
Gerard Darcy, FG										√		√
Joe Hannigan, NP										√		
Hughie McGrath, NP						√				√		
Séamus Morris, NP												
John (Rocky) McGrath, NP												√
Michael O'Meara, NP		√										
Noel J. Coonan, FG		√										
Seamus Hanafin, FF									√			
Shane Lee, NP					√							
Micheál Lowry, NP												
Eddie Moran, NP	√											
Jim Ryan, NP									√			
Peggy Ryan, FG									√			
Sean Ryan, FF												
Michael Smith, FF												
Kieran Bourke FF					√							
David Dunne, SF						√						
Imelda Goldsboro, FF												
Kevin O'Meara, NP												
Mark Fitzgerald, FG					√							√
John FitzGerald, FG								√				
Siobhán Ambrose, FF		√						√				
Niall P. Dennehy, NP												
Pat English, WUA					√							
Richie Molloy, NP						√						√
Michael Murphy, FG												
Micheál Anglim, FF				√	√	√						
Tony Black, SF												
Declan Burgess, FG					√							√
John Crosse, FG						√						
Michael Fitzgerald, FG	√											√
Mary Hanna Hourigan, FG	√				√							
Roger Kennedy, FF					√		√					√
Andy Moloney, NP												
Máirín McGrath, NP					√							√
Marie Murphy, FG							√					
Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), SF					√							
Total	3	3	1	1	12	5	2	2	3	3	5	4

Councillors	Regional Health Forum West	Local Community Development Committee	UCC Governing Body	Comhairle na nOg	Tipperary Sports Partnership	Tipperary Heritage Forum	Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit	Privilege & Procedure Committee	North Tipperary Food Enterprise Ltd	South East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force	Mid West Regional Drugs Alc0hol forum
Fiona Bonfield, LAB								√	√		
Dr. Phyll Bugler, FG									√		
John Carroll, FF	√	√									
Gerard Darcy, FG						√					
Joe Hannigan, NP		√					√				
Hughie McGrath, NP											
Séamus Morris, NP	√										√
John (Rocky) McGrath, NP											
Michael O'Meara, NP											
Noel J. Coonan, FG					√		√				
Seamus Hanafin, FF					√						
Shane Lee, NP											
Micheál Lowry, NP								√			
Eddie Moran, NP											
Jim Ryan, NP											
Peggy Ryan, FG	√				√					√	
Sean Ryan, FF											
Michael Smith, FF											
Kieran Bourke FF											
David Dunne, SF								√			
Imelda Goldsboro, FF							√				
Kevin O'Meara, NP											
Mark Fitzgerald, FG											
John FitzGerald, FG											
Siobhán Ambrose, FF							√	√			
Niall P. Dennehy, NP											
Pat English, WUA								√			
Richie Molloy, NP											
Michael Murphy, FG											
Micheál Anglim, FF											
Tony Black, SF											
Declan Burgess, FG		√		√							
John Crosse, FG											
Michael Fitzgerald, FG			√								
Mary Hanna Hourigan, FG											
Roger Kennedy, FF						√		√			
Andy Moloney, NP											
Máirín McGrath, NP				√							
Marie Murphy, FG								√			
Annemarie Ryan (Shiner), SF							√				
Total	3	3	1	2	3	2	5	7	2	1	1

Payments to Councillors 2023

Councillor Name	Representational Payment	Annual Allowance	Local Representational Allowance	Cathaoirleach's / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	Borough/MD Chair Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Conference Expenses	Training Expenses	Security Allowance	Mobile Phone Expenses	Cathaoirleach Invitations Expenses	Gratuity	Total Amount Paid to Councillors 2023
Ambrose, Siobhan	€28,922.93	€6,452.16	€4,824.72	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€4,339.47	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€45,239.28
Anglim, Micheál	€28,922.93	€6,573.48	€3,760.05	€0.00	2,897.75	€0.00	€700.00	€4,078.98	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€46,933.19
Black, Tony	€28,922.93	€4,968.94	€2,339.95	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€36,231.82
Bonfield, Fiona	€28,922.93	€6,648.96	€3,159.86	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€38,731.75
Bourke, Kieran	€28,922.93	€7,048.08	€5,029.10	€0.00	€3,150.73	€5,979.48	€0.00	€2,121.36	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€52,251.68
Bugler, Phyll	€28,922.93	€5,090.30	€4,889.70	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€687.92	€3,211.35	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€42,802.20
Burgess, Declan	€28,922.93	€5,505.12	€4,358.85	€0.00	€3,104.74	€0.00	€0.00	€1,729.43	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€43,621.07
Carroll, John	€28,922.93	€6,452.16	€960.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€4,092.62	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€41,127.71
Coonan, Noel	€28,922.93	€5,903.88	€960.00	€2,874.76	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€38,661.57
Crosse, John	€28,922.93	€6,352.56	€1,743.07	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€1,985.29	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,703.85
Darcy, Gerard	€28,922.93	€6,702.12	€960.00	€15,063.69	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€51,648.74
Dennehy, Niall	€28,922.93	€6,502.08	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€1,702.03	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€42,987.04
Dunne, David	€28,922.93	€7,048.08	€1,455.00	€0.00	€2,736.77	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€40,162.78
English, Pat	€28,922.93	€6,327.60	€1,440.00	€0.00	€5,933.48	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€42,624.01
FitzGerald, John	€28,922.93	€5,854.08	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€622.25	€4,299.75	€2,500.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€47,359.01
Fitzgerald, Mark	€28,922.93	€5,399.32	€4,985.94	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€2,043.51	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€41,351.70
FitzGerald, Michael	€28,922.93	€6,402.36	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€5,979.48	€700.00	€5,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€52,164.77
Goldsboro, Imelda	€28,922.93	€6,616.56	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€5,979.48	€696.21	€5,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€52,375.18
Hannafin, Seamus	€28,922.93	€6,452.16	€1,240.00	€3,012.74	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,627.83
Hannigan, Joe	€28,922.93	€6,918.60	€960.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€36,801.53
Hourigan, Mary Hanna	€28,922.93	€6,402.36	€5,148.30	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€4,927.85	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€46,101.44

Councillor Name	Representational Payment	Annual Allowance	Local Representational Allowance	Cathaoirleach's / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowance	Borough/MD Chair Allowance	SPC Chair Allowance	Conference Expenses	Training Expenses	Security Allowance	Mobile Phone Expenses	Cathaoirleach Invitations Expenses	Gratuity	Total Amount Paid to Councillors 2023
Kennedy, Roger	€28,922.93	€5,804.16	€960.00	€14,373.75	€0.00	€0.00	€445.98	€581.20	€0.00	€0.00	€1,644.82	€0.00	€52,732.84
Lee, Shane	€28,922.93	€6,789.24	€2,632.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€651.64	€636.58	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,632.39
Lowry, Micheál	€28,922.93	€5,704.56	€960.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€35,587.49
McGrath, Hughie	€28,922.93	€6,713.64	€3,060.00	€0.00	€2,736.77	€0.00	€691.15	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€42,124.49
McGrath, John Rocky	€28,922.93	€6,427.32	€960.00	€0.00	€3,265.72	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,575.97
McGrath, Máirín	€28,922.93	€6,713.64	€2,307.77	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€1,364.77	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,309.11
Molloy, Richie	€28,922.93	€6,452.16	€5,160.00	€0.00	€6,255.46	€0.00	€700.00	€3,026.02	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€50,516.57
Moloney, Andy	€28,922.93	€6,033.48	€3,196.54	€0.00	€0.00	€5,979.48	€700.00	€2,806.86	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€47,639.29
Moran, Eddie	€28,922.93	€6,028.56	€1,850.36	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€1,559.52	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,061.37
Morris, Seamus	€28,922.93	€6,452.16	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€507.44	€2,518.19	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€43,560.72
Murphy, Marie	€28,922.93	€6,897.00	€3,360.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€5,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€44,879.93
Murphy, Michael	€28,922.93	€6,897.00	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€4,570.77	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€46,250.70
Moylan, Tommy	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€13,547.25	€13,547.25
O'Meara, Kevin	€28,922.93	€6,616.56	€2,560.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€700.00	€3,164.27	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€41,963.76
O'Meara, Michael	€28,922.93	€6,746.04	€960.00	€0.00	€0.00	€5,979.48	€700.00	€2,395.06	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€45,703.51
Ryan (Shiner), Annemarie	€28,922.93	€6,832.32	€1,934.44	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€853.91	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€38,543.60
Ryan, Jim	€28,922.93	€5,804.16	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€39,887.09
Ryan, Peggy	€28,922.93	€5,754.36	€3,410.00	€0.00	€2,782.76	€0.00	€0.00	€445.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€41,315.05
Ryan, Sean	€28,922.93	€5,729.40	€5,160.00	€0.00	€3,219.72	€5,979.48	€697.25	€5,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€54,708.78
Smith, Michael	€28,922.93	€6,746.04	€5,160.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€773.99	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€41,602.96
Totals	€1,156,917.20	€252,762.76	€127,965.65	€35,324.94	€36,083.90	€35,876.88	€14,799.84	€79,227.78	€2,500.00	€0.00	€1,644.82	€13,547.25	€1,756,651.02

Performance Indicators

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023 (Annual)

Data is draft only for 2023 and final report will be available through NOAC on publication of Performance Indicator Report 2023 at the end of 2024

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Housing: H1, H2 & H4 Approved	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	5328	
	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023 (whether constructed or acquired)	195	
	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	22	
	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	2	
	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	5499	
	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme at 31/12/2023	0	
	A. The percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2023	1.80 %	
	The number of dwellings within their overall stock that were not tenanted on 31/12/2023	99	
	A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of local authority housing compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, divided by the no. of dwellings in the local authority stock at 31/12/2023, i.e. the H1E less H1F indicator figure	€665.22	
	Expenditure on maintenance of local authority stock compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, including planned maintenance and expenditure that qualified for grants, such as Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) grants for energy efficient retro-fitting works but excluding expenditure on vacant properties and expenditure under approved major refurbishment schemes (i.e. approved Regeneration or under the Remedial Works Schemes).		€3658064.14
Housing: H3 & H5 Approved	A. The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2023 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2023	34.87 wk	
	B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2023, averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2023	€30559.21	
	The number of dwellings that were re-tenanted on any date in 2023 (but excluding all those that had been vacant due to an estate-wide refurbishment scheme)	124	
	The number of weeks from the date of vacation to the date the dwelling is re-tenanted	4324 wk	
	Total expenditure on works necessary to enable re-letting of the dwellings	€3789341.68	
	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2023		
	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	1132	
	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	97.48 %	
	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	85	
	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023	1312	
Housing: H6 Approved	A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2023	28.57 %	
	The number of adult individuals classified as homeless and in emergency accommodation on the night of 31 December 2023 as recorded on the PASS system	42	
	The number out of those individuals who, on 31/12/2023, had been in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously, or for 6 months cumulatively within the previous 12 months	12	
Housing: H7 Approved	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	55	
	A. (2) Number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	55	
	A. (3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	55	
	B. Total annual energy savings in MWh from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	860.3 MWh	
	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme	201.1	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment	
Roads: R1 & R2 Approved	A. (a) The percentage of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	98.75 %		
	A. (b) The percentage of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	99.00 %		
	A. (c) The percentage of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	95.70 %		
	A. (d) The percentage of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	89.35 %		
	B. (a.1) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	2.47 %		
	B. (a.2) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	8.68 %		
	B. (a.3) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	32.58 %		
	B. (a.4) The percentage length of Regional roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	55.02 %		
	B. (b.1) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	4.48 %		
	B. (b.2) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	10.23 %		
	B. (b.3) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	25.61 %		
	B. (b.4) The percentage length of Local Primary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	58.67 %		
	B. (c.1) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	11.11 %		
	B. (c.2) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	12.42 %		
	B. (c.3) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	44.29 %		
	B. (c.4) The percentage length of Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	27.87 %		
	B. (d.1) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 1-4 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	30.53 %		
	B. (d.2) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 5-6 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	10.90 %		
	B. (d.3) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 7-8 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	35.70 %		
	B. (d.4) The percentage length of Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI rating of 9-10 in the 60 month period prior to 31/12/2023	12.22 %		
	A.1	Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023	30.0 km	
	A.2	The amount expended on regional roads strengthening work during 2023	€7261420.00	
	A.3	The average unit cost of regional road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€34.83	
	B.1	Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2023	19.8 km	
	B.2	The amount expended on regional road resealing work during 2023	€806378.00	
	B.3	The average unit cost of regional road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€6.48	
	C.1	Kilometres of local road strengthened during 2023	143.7 km	
	C.2	The amount expended on local road strengthening work during 2023	€15856311.00	
	C.3	The average unit cost of local road strengthening works per square metre (€/m ²)	€25.17	
	D.1	Kilometres of local road resealed during 2023	134.7 km	
	D.2	The amount expended on local road resealing work during 2023	€3988208.00	
	D.3	The average unit cost of local road resealing works per square metre (€/m ²)	€6.06	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Motor Tax: R3 Approved	A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023	83.19 %	
Water: W1 & W2 Approved	Percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements		
	The number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority as a percentage of total schemes registered	95.65 %	
	How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2023	110	
	Total number of registered schemes in 2023	115	
Waste: E1 Approved	A. The number of households which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at 31/12/2023	28146	
	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations of more than 500)	123.50 %	
Environmental Pollution: E2 Approved	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	1197	
	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	1143	
	A. Total number of pollution cases on hands at 31/12/2023	121	
	The opening number of pollution cases carried forward from the year end 2022	67	
Litter Pollution: E3 In Progress	A1. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was unpolluted or litter free		
	A2. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was slightly polluted		
	A3. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was moderately polluted		
	A4. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was significantly polluted		
	A5. The percentage of the area within the local authority that when surveyed in 2023 was grossly polluted		
Green Flag Status: E4 Approved	A. The percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2023	36.02 %	
	Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023	1	
	Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2023	28	
	Schools which held a Green Flag from 2022 and therefore do not require renewal until 2024	38	
Energy Efficiency: E5 In Progress	A. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)		
Public Lighting: E6 Approved	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	6965.62 MWh	
	B. Average wattage of each public light	96.28 W	
	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent	35.50 %	
	Number of LED lights in the public lighting system	6234	
	Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system	11325	
Climate Change: E7 Approved	1 a) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?	Yes	
	1 b) Does the local authority have a designated (FTE) Climate Action Officer?	Yes	
	2. Does the local authority have a climate action team?	Yes	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Planning: P1 Approved	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	32.13 %	
	Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority i.e. buildings where a valid Commencement Notice was served in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 by a builder or developer on the local authority	554	
	Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2023 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2023 undertaken by the local authority	178	
Planning: P2 & P3 Approved	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023	35	
	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority	68.57 %	
	Number of determinations confirming the local authority's decision (either with or without variation)	24	
	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated	230	
	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023	380	
	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	28.95 %	
	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0 %	
	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	71.05 %	
	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023	385	
	Number of cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	110	
	Number of cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	0	
	Number of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	270	
	Planning: P4 & P5 Approved	A. The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€28.28
AFS Programme D data consisting of D01 - Forward Planning, D02 - Development Management, D03 - Enforcement (inclusive of the relevant Programme D proportion of the central management charge) for 2023		€4748298	
A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt		45.45 %	
B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant		41.96 %	
The total number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were not withdrawn by the applicant		143	16 NUMBER FSC ON HANDS 1 NUMBER FSC INVALIDATED 1 NUMBER REFUSED
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of the date of receipt of the application		65	16 NUMBER FSC ON HANDS 1 NUMBER FSC INVALIDATED 1 NUMBER REFUSED
The number of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an agreed extended time period		60	16 NUMBER FSC ON HANDS 1 NUMBER FSC INVALIDATED 1 NUMBER REFUSED

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Fire Service: F1 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports	€59.48	
	AFS Programme E expenditure data consisting of E11 - Operation of Fire Service and E12 - Fire Prevention for 2023	€9985638	
Fire Service: F2 & F3 Approved	A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	0 min	
	B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.75 min	
	C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	0 min	
	D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.99 min	
	A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at scene is within 10 minutes	35.93 %	
	B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	48.13 %	
	C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	15.93 %	
	D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	24.91 %	
	E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	44.80 %	
	F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	30.30 %	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of fires from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	615	
	Number of these fire cases where first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	221	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	296	
	Number of these fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	98	
	Total number of call-outs in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire) from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	538	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	134	
	Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	241	
Number of these non-fire cases in which first fire tender attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	163		
Library Service: L1 Approved	A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census	2.09	
	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	441109	
	C. Library active members per head of population	0.16	
	D. Number of registered library members in the year	27719	
	Number of visits to its libraries from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per automatic counters if used	350169	There was an increase of 77,000 on 2022 figures, driven by a return to full opening hours, and increasing public confidence post-pandemic.
Library Service: L2 Approved	A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census	€31.70	
	B. The annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 1/01/2023 to 31/12/2023	€1.58	
	A. AFS Programme F data consisting of F02 - Operation of Library and Archival Service (inclusive of the relevant proportion of the central management charge for Programme F) for 2023	€5322028	
	B. The annual expenditure on new stock acquired by the library in the year	€265304	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Youth and Community: Y1 & Y2 Approved	A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	63.33 %	
	Total number of second level schools in the local authority area at 31/12/2023	30	
	Number of second level schools in the local authority area from which representatives attended the local Comhairle na nÓg AGM held in 2023	19	
	A. The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN	12.52	
	Total number of organisations included in the County Register (maintained in accordance with section 128 of the Local Government Act 2001) for the local authority area as at 31/12/2023	1590	
	Total number of those organisations that registered for the first time in 2023	159	
	Number of organisations that opted to join the Social Inclusion Electoral College on whatever date they registered for the PPN	199	
Corporate: C1, C2, C4 & C5 Approved	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2023	1089.50	
	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	3.98 %	
	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	0.26 %	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	10585.53 day	
	Total number of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023	642.42 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of self-certified sick leave days in 2023	0 day	
	Number of unpaid working days lost to sickness absence included within the total of medically certified sick leave days in 2023	742.75 day	
	If any staff are on long-term sick leave (i.e. a continuous period of more than 4 weeks), include a text note of the number of staff on long-term sick leave	121 Staff on Long Term Sick Leave over the course of the year	
	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023, divided by the WTE no.	€3483.89	
	Total ICT expenditure in 2023	€3795701	
	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	1.90	
	Total Revenue expenditure from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 before transfers to or from reserves	200022222	
Corporate: C3 Approved	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	18.65	
	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts (if any)	0.98	
	The cumulative total page views of all websites operated by the local authority for the period from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 obtained from a page tagging on-site web analytics service or equivalent	3131239	
	The total number of social media users who, at 31/12/2023, were following the local authority on any social media sites	163934	
	The number of social media accounts operated by the local authority	60	
	Indicate if there was a change to the cookie policies on the local authority sites and the date this came into effect	no change in 2023	

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Finance: M1 to M4 Approved	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€5562106	
	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€5569307	
	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€5573356	
	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€5577401	
	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€5584803	
	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	2.61 %	
	G. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023	€1191.35	
	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure		
	The 2023 Total Income figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€214347989	
	The 2023 Total Expenditure figure from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	€200022222	
	The 2023 Revenue expenditure excluding county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of HAP, MyPay, DRHE and Dublin Fire Services and is only applicable to Dublin City, Laois and Limerick		
	A. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	83.2 %	
	A. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	95.4 %	
	A. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2019	90.1 %	
	B. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	75.2 %	
	B. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	96.9 %	
	B. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2020	93.7 %	
	C. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	83.0 %	
	C. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	97.0 %	
	C. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2021	99.0 %	
	D. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	88.0 %	
	D. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	90.0 %	
	D. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2022	97.0 %	
	E. (a) Collection level of Rates in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	90 %	
	E. (b) Collection level of Rent & Annuities in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	92 %	
	E. (c) Collection level of Housing Loans in Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2023	99 %	
	E. (d) Collection level of HAP SSC for 2023		
	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023	€14.15	
	IPB Insurance: Number of notified claims for 2023	189	
	IPB Insurance: Number of settled claims for 2023	170	
	IPB Insurance: Total cost of settled claims for 2023	€2375362.73	
	Total cost of claims settled under excess for 2023	€642.68	
	Self-insured: Number of notified claims for 2023		
Self-insured: Number of settled claims for 2023			
Self-insured: Total cost of settled claims for 2023			
A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	13.85 %		
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure	38.38 %		
Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget	€27699227	overall CMC includes Print & Post Services SVC J04, and excludes Superannuation income 2023	
Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2023 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)	€76777589		

Topic	Indicator	Value	Comment
Economic Development: J1 to J5 Approved	A. The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	57.18	
	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	96.0	
	A. The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	42.88	
	B. The number of trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	23.82	
	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023	72	
	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023	40	
	A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	411.57	
	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	691	
	A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Yes	
	B. Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population	€145.35	
	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023	€24403870	









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