



# Management Report to Council



## This Month

- **Broadband Connection Points – Page 2/3**
- **Enterprise Centres/Digital Hubs/Shared Work Spaces – Page 3/4**
- **Upcycle Challenge Competition & Repair Directory – Page 16**
- **Water Pollution/Agriculture – Page 24**
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- **Local Government Service Catalogue - Page 52**



## July dates for your Diary

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 14:00: N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Briefing
<u>5</u> 10:00: N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction – Launch of Route Options Consultation	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 10:00: CPG Mtg, Video Conference  10:00 AILG Training – Delivering Effective Climate Action Strategy
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> 10:00: Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Mtg	<u>14</u> 11:00: Clonmel Borough District Meeting	<u>15</u> 10:00: Nenagh MD Meeting	<u>16</u> 11:00: TCC Plenary Mtg
<u>19</u> 10:00: LCDC Mtg  10:30: Thurles MD Meeting	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> 14:00: Carrick-on-Suir MD Meeting	<u>23</u>
<u>26</u> 11:00: Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD Meeting	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

## Report at a Glance



**Community & Economic Development & Tourism** 1-13



**Environment & Climate Action** 14-26



**Water Services** 27-39



**Housing** 40-47



**Corporate Services** 48-58

**Community and Economic Development Directorate  
(LEO & TOURISM)**

<u>New Policy/Strategic Issues;</u>			
Policy Changes/Updates	Date Adopted	Progress in Previous Month	Next Stage
Commercial incentive scheme	March 2021	Advertised on web site	Accept applications
Painting Enhancement scheme	May 2021	Advertised through 5 MDs	Up to 50% of costs eligible, max grant different in 5 MDs
Casual Trading	Adopted in Tipp Cahir Cashel MD	All 5 MDs reviewing	Adopted schemes will be advertised and new licenses issued
Tipperary Transforming	2021	Webinar arranged in March 2021	Project delivery

<u>Directorate Priorities</u>		
Major Current Issues	Progress to date	Next Stage
Outdoor seating and Dining grant	Advertised and 23 granted to date	Grant still open and extended to pubs
Thoroughbred country experience	Partnership between Kildare and Tipperary coco, Fáilte Ireland, HRI and providers	Project manager appointed Laura McGee and providers receiving training
Outdoor Dining Infrastructure Grant	Submission being prepared for Clonmel Abbey car park, Mitchell Street and East Lane; and Thurles Baker Street linking Friar Street and Parnell Street	Works to be carried out by 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2021

**LECP**

All reviews to date have been completed, we await guidance for the next LECP from the Department. TCC made a submission to inform the content of the guidelines.

**Craft Sector**

Computer Training was identified for 16 members of the Craft Sector through the Regional Skills Mid West Explore Programme. Currently work is progressing on the development of an online location for

all crafters in County Tipperary that will showcase their products and link to their social media presence under the <https://shop.localtipperary.ie> profile.

Continued work on the Crafts Code Interreg Project in identifying ways for the craft sector to be innovative will provide support to the sector in the new digital age.



### Digital Strategy

Review of all the actions in the Digital Strategy has been carried out in January 2021. All actions in the plan have momentum and activity from both Tipperary County Council and from our interagency partners in collaboration on its delivery. Consolidation of the strategy for 2021 is necessary given the impact COVID has had on the Digital Sector and the resulting disruption and dynamic changes to the economy. This work will be carried out in Quarter 2, 2021

### Broadband Connection Points (Branded as 'Connected Communities')

8 Connected Communities Broadband Connection Point are now Live in County Tipperary and are now connected to high-speed broadband before the rollout of broadband under the NBP reaches the surrounding areas. The Broadband Connection Points offer rural communities essential access to free high-speed internet access and they pave the way for the wider rollout of the National Broadband Plan, which as a project of tremendous size and scale will deliver world-leading Fibre-to-the-Home broadband directly to homes, farms and businesses. The list is as follows:

1. Aglish Community Hall,
2. Curreney Community Hall,
3. Drom Community Hall,
4. Killea Gaa Club,
5. Killoscully Community Centre,
6. Killurney Community Centre,
7. Moyglass Community Hall,
8. Rossmore Community Hall,

All are publicly accessible buildings, such as community centres and sports clubs and the owners/managers have volunteered their premises for community broadband use. These Connected Communities will provide an opportunity to transform the economic and social fabric of rural towns and communities by addressing the digital divide, improving lives, creating jobs and stimulating rural economic growth.



The purchase of equipment for the BCP's to include computers, printers, projectors and screens under the LEADER programme is underway following collaboration with Tipperary County Council. Tipperary ETB were also involved in providing equipment to a number of the BCPs in order to enable the roll-out of their community education services. Also all BCPs were included in an application for funding under the Town & Village Accelerated Projects 2020 for the upgrade of the halls or items to improve conditions so it can accommodate people in a digital hub environment. Now that the BCP's are connected, work will commence to deliver programmes and other opportunities in partnership with STDC/NTDC/ETB and others.

### Additional Broadband Connection Points

Ten new locations were selected to be connected in County Tipperary as follows:

1. Ballinahinch Community Centre, Rossfinch, Ballinahinch, Birdhill
2. Boher Parish Hall, Ballina
3. Ballylooby Castlegrance GAA Club
4. Donaskeagh Community Centre,
5. Fanure Community Hall, Roscrea
6. Kilcoleman Community /Burgess GAA Newtown, Nenagh.
7. Latteragh Community Centre, Sallypark, Nenagh
8. Terryglass Community Hall, Nenagh
9. The apple Camping & Caravan Park, Moorstown, Cahir
10. The Pavillion, Ballinderry SportsField, Nenagh

Work will commence on the delivery of these new Broadband Connection Points over the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021 and efforts to source funding for them for improvements in the facilities at each location, funding for equipment and collaborations from other agencies to delivery services, training and remote-hub environments.

**Enterprise Centres, Digital Hubs, Shared work spaces**

There has been ongoing development across the county to create or support availability of Enterprise Centres, Digital Hubs and shared work spaces. There are 9 existing projects and an update on each is laid out below:

Town	Project Description	Project Update
Cahir	To renovate existing library, courthouse and former council offices into Business centre	The Part 8 plans and application to convert the Craft Granary Cahir into a public library has been publicly advertised and the C E's Report for proposed development will be presented at the February MD meeting. Shortfall of 250k not yet secured.

Carrick	<b>Stable Lane:</b> Repurpose floor 3 of Carrick MD offices for shared work space	Lease finalised, T&V funding secured for Kit-out, Council and LEO funding secured for running costs. Covid challenging but currently 50% booked out.
	<b>Phase 2:</b> Expansion to 50 seats in a new location	Two Locations are under consideration. Funding was not successful under the Town & Village 2020 for the feasibility of Phase 2. Currently the group are looking at other funding options that might be available to them.
Clonmel	Phase 2 of <b>Questum</b> , Ballingarrane, Clonmel	Consultants to be procured to prepare Feasibility Report and Planning stage in Q3 2020 –Q1 2021 – funding not yet secured
Nenagh	<b>Streame</b> Enterprise centre	RRDF application for the Nenagh Digital Hub was submitted in December 2020, inc. Business Case and Executive Summary
Roscrea	<b>REACH:</b> Conversion of 11,450 sq ft former Tesco site to Business hub	A number of Board meetings in Qtr 3 and Qtr 4 2020. Lease of the premises now agreed. Tender published for professional fees, tender submissions reviewed and a contract currently being offered. First phase meetings on the design and layout took place early January and a number of other meetings scheduled for Qtr1 2021 with architectural firm.

Templemore	<b>Town Hall</b> - Repurposing to cultural enterprise centre	Architects EML have been appointed to progress the design in line with the Part VIII approval. Following on from this they will prepare the tender documentation and procure a main works contractor. The design is well progressed at present and would hope to finalise the design shortly
Tipperary	<b>Digihub</b>	Occupancy rates of 180 days in Q3/4. Reduced seat capacity by over 50% in order to comply with social distancing requirements. On-going funding and support from Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Local Enterprise Office required
	<b>Tipperary Innovation Engine</b> Repurposing of the Tipperary Technology Park to co-work spaces	Hennessy architects appointed for the design work. Initial options to be presented by end Feb 2021 with intention to procure a contractor in March. Aim to complete works by Q3 2022. Target to recruit Manager in Q3, and begin branding, marketing and securing clients.
Cloughjordan	Training space, Fab Lab, Workshop and manufacturing unit. Co-working space	Existing facility, located as part of Cloughjordan Eco village. 74,000 funding sourced from EI in 2020.

bring about a fundamental move to ensure that all businesses that are setting up in vacant premises are supported with stronger incentivisation to those that opt for town centre/prime retail areas across County Tipperary.

#### Painting and Enhancement Scheme

The Painting and Enhancement Scheme was undertaken in 2020 in all MD's with the following allocations. A new scheme was advertised in May and is available on the web site via five Municipal districts

#### Christmas Retail Support Programme 2020

Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the Tipperary Local Enterprise Office sought applications from Trader Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Community Groups, Farmers Markets, Craft Markets or those involved in the Craft Sector under the Christmas Retail Support Programme. The grant scheme targeted the provision of support for towns and villages to implement strategies designed to enable increased spending or retaining spend in Tipperary' towns and villages over the Christmas period.

The list of recipients is as follows:

Burcourt Community Council CLG	Cashel Tipperary	350.00
Duhill Community Council	Cashel Tipperary	350.00
Ballylooby/Castlegrace GAA club	Cashel Tipperary	350.00
St Marys Parish Cahir	Cashel Tipperary	400.00
Ardfinnan	Cashel Tipperary	600.00
Tipperary Excel Heritage Centre	Cashel Tipperary	700.00
Cashel Heritage & Development CLG	Cashel Tipperary	700.00
Newcastle Community Alert	Cashel Tipperary	1200.00
Knockavilla Community Council	Cashel Tipperary	1300.00
Tipperary Vintage Rally Group	Cashel Tipperary	2200.00
Cahir Development Association CLG	Cashel Tipperary	2200.00
TIRD chamber of Commerce	Cashel Tipperary	2200.00
Kilshelan Tidy towns	Clonmel Borough	1300.00
Clonmel Junction Arts Festival	Clonmel Borough	3000.00
GUJI Coffee Bar	Nenagh MD	0.00
Dromineer & District Development Association	Nenagh MD	350.00
Soeal Community Group	Nenagh MD	350.00
Ballycommon Sponsored Ride (BSR)	Nenagh MD	350.00
Ballinderry Development Association	Nenagh MD	350.00
Cloughjordan Community Development	Nenagh MD	1300.00
Ballingarry Community Initiative	Nenagh MD	1300.00
Nenagh Chamber	Nenagh MD	3000.00
Quintins way Christmas Festival Group	Nenagh MD	3000.00
Thurles Arts and Crafts Centre	Templemore Thurles	350.00
Thurles Tourist Office	Templemore Thurles	1600.00
Thurles Christmas Skyfest	Templemore Thurles	2000.00
Roscrea Town Christmas	Templemore Thurles	2200.00
<b>Recommendation</b>		<b>€36,500.00</b>

## Retail Supports Update

### Retail commercial Incentive Scheme

A full review of the Commercial Incentive Scheme was completed by a sub-group of the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC. This involved consultation with staff, applicants and recipients of the Grant. Changes that will bring improvements were identified for the next scheme and these are being recommended to the Council Members in the first quarter of 2021. The changes will

**Shop Local Tipperary Campaign**

The Shop Local Tipperary Social Media Campaign has gained traction and continues to grow. It promotes the commissioned messaging to the public across the county using strong imagery and all activity is fully branded as a Tipperary County Council initiative.

**Instagram Statistics**

	Page Followers	Total Page Likes	Average Post Reach per month
October 2019	570	607	3
June 2020	792	691	3,002

**Facebook Statistics**

	Page Followers	Total Following	Total Posts
October 2019	298	263	13
June 2020	838	577	64



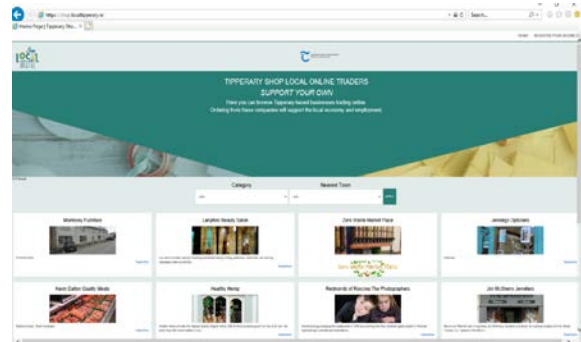
Recent collaborations with LEO to highlight the need to keep business local enabled a full radio campaign on Tipp FM and Tipperary Mid West Radio along with promotions on the social media channel tipperarylive.ie



**New promotional website for Tipperary Businesses.**

A new site was established by Tipperary County Council <https://shop.localtipperary.ie> to support businesses that are capable of online retail services during COVID. This now has 600 business on display drawn from across the county. The site is fully searchable - broken down by nearest town and also by categories of business type. Feedback from businesses is very positive and a full radio promotion was undertaken to highlight the service itself and separately to get businesses to register on it also.

This new site has the potential to become a service for further promotion of the Shop Local message in the future.



**Review of Casual Trading /Markets Bye-Laws**

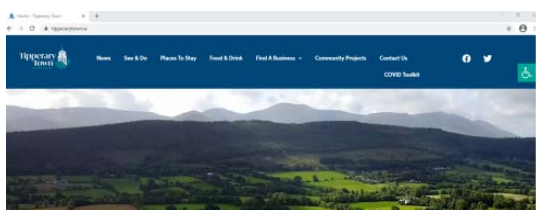
A Review of Casual Trading /Markets Bye-Laws was undertaken and provided to each MD for the next step of the process which involves provision of maps of the relevant areas to be included in the Bye-Laws of each individual MD area; the setting of fees for each relevant license category and consultation with members of the public in each MD. It is expected that the consultation resulting in revised Bye-Laws will be completed in each MD in 2021.

**Supporting Towns - Town & Village Accelerated Measures Funds 2020**

Funding was awarded to Thurles, Tipperary and Carrick-on-Suir MD's for Town Centre Initiatives to support the Retail Sector under

the Town and Village Accelerated Measures 2020. This will include a range of projects including website development, marketing, training and research (and support the the development of a new digital Hub by COSBA in Stable Lane).

Working directly in collaboration with Tipperary TIRD and Revitalisation Task Group the development of a new Brand and Website for Tipperary Town was achieved. Despite the challenge of COVID 19 restrictions a consultative process and information campaign was undertaken to ensure the views of the public were garnered and fully reflected in the final brand developed. The new brand was adopted by Tipperary County Council, Tipperary Revitalisation Task Group and TIRD/Chamber of Commerce and will be used widely across the town over the coming years.



### County Marketing Campaign

Working with organisations in Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, Cahir and Thurles area for the 2021 Tipperary, The Place The Time campaign. These new video testimonials will be released during Sept/Oct. 2021/

### TIPPERARY PROPERTY PORTAL

The property portal continues to be maintained and updated by Economic Development, with support from IT colleagues.

### M1 LEO Grants

LEO Tipperary – 2021 Quarter 1 Metrics			
	Annual Target	Q1 Performance	% +/- Annual Target
No. of Clients Approved Funding	42	10	24%
Job Commitments associated with Priming /Business Expansion	100	20	20%
No. of Mentoring Participants	400	95	24%
No. of Training Participants	1000	688	69%
No. of SYOB Programmes	5	2	40%
No. of SYOB Participants	80	22	28%
No. of Lean Projects	21	4	19%
No. of Green4Micro Projects	11	0	0%
No. of MFI Applications Submitted	19	5	26%
No. of TOVs Approved	60	19	32%

The table above provides the figures for Q1, 2021 and demonstrates that the LEO office is on target to achieve its targets for 2021. The office is well ahead in relation to training and management development/Start your own Business programmes (SYOB at 40% of the year covered). The take up on ‘Green4Micro’ has been poor. There are 4 participants in Q2 of the programme.

### Ballingarrane

Ciarán O’Shea, Project Engineer, has commenced work two days per week on the Ballingarrane. Questum phase 2 feasibility underway with a two pronged approach – food and life sciences. The joint project between the IDA and TCC will be going on ETenders by the end of June with a design team to be appointed by the beginning of September. Marie Cox, Staff Officer, started with the Economic Development section of C&E at the end of May and is assisting with the Ballingarrane projects. Initial core projects in the administration of the Clonmel Business Development Park and council owned enterprise units in Drangan and Ballingarry.



### National Bioeconomy Campus project in Lisheen.

One planning application in the system for a 4,000 sq.m. building for an engineering works and associated facilities. A second application in renewable power is expected by early July. There is a lot of continuing interest in 10/15 acre plots in the core industrial area of the site, and three initial meetings happened on site in Lisheen facilitated and attended by the Head of Enterprise.

### **Broadband Development**

#### The delivery and implementation of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) in County Tipperary.

The new NBI™ Fibre network is currently under-construction in County Tipperary. Tipperary will see an investment of €117M in the new high-speed fibre network.



Additionally, NBI™ and Open Eir crews has started road works in a number of townlands situate within the Tipperary DA087 and the Clonmel DA034 areas.

NBI™ has commenced public awareness/ local advertising (leaflet drops) in the Tipperary DA087.

An Section 254 Licence Application by NBI™ to commence the deployment of Overhead Fibre on the public road - in the Tipperary DA087 area is to be lodged shortly.

#### National Broadband Plan (NBP) - Schools Broadband Connection Points

**What is it?** 35 primary schools in County Tipperary will be connected to broadband by the end of 2022 as the rollout of the National Broadband Plan accelerates. These connections will be in place significantly earlier than the original completion date in 2026.

Schools BCPs are delivered under the National Broadband Plan (NBP) will ensure that primary school pupils in rural Ireland will be able to participate fully in the digital revolution that is taking place. A BCP at a school location will provide connectivity for pupils and teachers and will underpin the Department of Education's [Digital Learning Framework for Schools](#).

#### Assist Commercial Operators in delivering their Plans to progress the development of high-speed Fibre broadband services in Urban locations in County Tipperary.

**What is it?** The requirement for Operators to continue to build and enhance their services / and upGrade their legacy copper networks in the commercial (Urban) areas of the NBP in County Tipperary – in order to improve Customer access to high speed broadband services.

**SIRO**, continues to deploy high speed broadband (FTTH) in the towns of -

Nenagh (3,700 premises) Clonmel (8,693 premises) Roscrea (2,800 premises).



In June 2019 **Eir ltd** commenced the build of its new FTTH Investment Programme to upGrade its legacy copper network across the County. The footprint of the eir IFN Project will cover all Urban areas in the county with greater than 1,000 urban premises (10 towns in the county)

**Eir ltd** recently completed its Urban Fibre build Programme in Tipperary town in record time and delivering a total of 3,000 premises in 10 weeks.

In addition, Eir ltd has now also passed 7, 900 premises in Nenagh, Templemore and Cahir.

**Eir ltd - Open eir** also recently completed the deployment of high speed broadband FTTH to 16,000 rural premises in the National Broadband Plan - Intervention Area in County Tipperary - under its Commitment Agreement with the State.

**eNet** has over 133 Metropolitan Area Network Customer Connection (s) across the Eight (8) Urban eNet Networks in County Tipperary.

**To assist the Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Infrastructures Providers with coverage and capacity Improvements to 2G, 3G, 4G and future technologies (including 5G) in County Tipperary.**

**What is it?** The requirement for the Mobile Network Operators to continue to build and enhance their services /and up-Grade their wireless Networks / rectify capacity and coverage deficit areas/ and deploy new future technologies – in order to improve Customer access to high speed broadband wireless services and mobile phone services.

**Eircom ltd** continues to upgrade their 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G infrastructure in County Tipperary and has submitted a number of planning applications to the planning authority in order to seek to improve their services in these areas.

Eircom ltd has a policy of co-location and allowing other operators to use their infrastructure.

**Three Ireland** continues to deploy their new future Technologies (5G) Network in the County.

**Vodafone Ireland** has identified over 30 locations in the county that require network improvements and plans are at an advanced stage to progress a number of these.

**Cellnex Telecom** are actively progressing circa 15 locations for new telecommunication mast infrastructure in County Tipperary.

In the Portroe area / North Tipperary alone they are looking at solutions for the Terryglass, Carrigahorig,

the N65 Portumna road, Puckane, Dromineer, Nenagh North and Silvermines as Phase One of their plan.

In response to the Covid pandemic, **Imagine** continues to upgrade and expansion its WTTx network in County Tipperary.

As of February 2021, 62,793 homes and businesses in County Tipperary, are covered by the Imagine network from 22 Mast locations both within (11 no.) and in surrounding the counties.

**To complete the installation of a fully supported Free Wi-Fi Network at six in six towns.**

**What is it?** The Wifi4EU Scheme is an initiative of the European Commission and match funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development - which provides funding to local authorities to provide free Wi-Fi services in public places such as main streets, public parks, museums, arts centres and other public areas.

The European Commission Free Wifi4EU Network has been deployed in the towns of -

**Tipperary (14 APs)**

**Nenagh (11 APs)**

**Roscrea (6 APs)**

**Thurles (5 APs)**

**Carrick-on-Suir (5 APs)**

**Clonmel (5 APs)**

(note: AP is a free Wifi4EU Access Point)

All aforementioned APs are “Live” and delivering free WiFi services. The Launch of the WiFi4EU service in the towns of Nenagh and Roscrea is being planned.



**To progress a design solution with the Telecommunications Industry to pilot the concept of Shared Underground Telecommunications Infrastructure. This project is being piloted as part of the Liberty sq Refurbishment, Thurles**

**What is it?** In order to carefully manage roads networks and reduce major disruption resulting from multiple road openings, it is considered that local authorities will need to work closely with the telecommunication industry during the development and deployment phase of telecommunications underground infrastructure, and SMART technologies, in delivering more enhanced connectivity service experiences to urban areas, which will result in protecting our new footway and road surfaces, and deliver the Economic benefits of these future technologies.

### **TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Tipperary Transforming Launch, Supporting Tourism, Growing Resilience Webinar**

The Tipperary Transforming Webinar, held during March, featured the launch of the Tipperary Transforming Tourism Product Development 2020 -2030 and presentations from Tipperary County Council, Fáilte Ireland and Tipperary Tourism and welcomed 170 attendees. Promotion of the event reached over 260,000 people. Feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive. The plan is now available at the following link <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/community-and-economic-development/tipperary-transforming-tourism-product-development-plan-2020-%E2%80%93>

#### **Fáilte Ireland Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme**

This €17million Scheme focuses on the development of outdoor dining capacity nationwide. The Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme comprises two parts and is being delivered in partnership between

Fáilte Ireland and Local Authorities across the country.

- **Part One** of the Scheme provide funding for individual tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and increase their own outdoor seating capacity. Grants of up to €4000 are available with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. An online application process is in place through [www.tipperarycoco.ie](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie). Tipperary County Council hosted two webinars for interested businesses on May 17<sup>th</sup> with 41 businesses in attendance. We will continue to work with applicants and to promote the scheme over the coming months. The scheme was recently extended to wet pubs. To date 64 applications have been received.
- Funding allocated under **Part Two** will enable Local Authorities to develop permanent outdoor public dining spaces in up to two towns and urban centres to a max value of €200,000, similar to those that exist in various European cities. Two applications, for projects in Clonmel and Thurles, were prepared for submission by May 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021**

A new funding scheme to help local authorities open up and create public spaces and facilities dedicated to the arts, culture and festivals has been announced. The support will allow each local authority to adapt, equip or otherwise improve public spaces for cultural and events activities. The new scheme will take account of public health guidelines and of the needs of local arts and entertainment communities. Each local authority can apply for up to

€250,000 under the scheme. An application for a project in Clonmel is currently being prepared for submission.

#### **Fáilte Ireland Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme**

The Urban Animation Capital Investment Scheme is a new pilot Capital Grants Scheme for Local Authorities. Fáilte Ireland wishes to invest in the sustainable development of public realm and urban animation projects that have the potential to transform and re-imagine urban centres for visitors, while also creating vibrant and creative communities. An application has been prepared and submitted for the development of the Bishops Walk, Cashel.

**Dromineer** was awarded funding approval for the development of a state-of-the-art waterside amenity block through the Fáilte Ireland, Platforms for Growth Funding Scheme. Funding was announced on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Fethard and Cashel Historic Town Trail Signage**

The upgrade works to the Fethard and Cashel historic town trails signage are now complete. This was a joint project between Fáilte Ireland and Tipperary County Council and will deliver an enhanced visitor experience in both areas.

#### **Tipperary County Council wins Excellence in Local Government Supporting Tourism Award**

Tipperary County Council has won a Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award in the Supporting Tourism category for Suir Blueway Tipperary. This is a much-coveted award with strong competition from five other shortlisted local authorities. This win cements Tipperary's reputation as a tourism destination offering

excellence in visitor experience development, and specifically showcases the fine attributes of Suir Blueway Tipperary, providing another vehicle through which to promote Tipperary as a tourism destination.

### **Holycross Visitor Experience**

Tipperary County Council continues to support the community in Holycross to scope the possibility of developing a new visitor experience close to Holycross Abbey. To date the OPW and Fáilte Ireland have noted their support of this scoping exercise and a Tourism Impact Statement is currently being prepared.

### **Equine Tourism / Thoroughbred Country**

Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Tourism are working in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and Kildare Fáilte to develop equine tourism experiences across the county connected nationally through a Thoroughbred Experience Trail and to jointly deliver the Fáilte Ireland Thoroughbred Country Destination Development Plan. At a national level a dedicated Thoroughbred Country Executive has been employed to develop the product across the two counties. At a county level the Tipperary Equine Tourism Group are collaborating with the Tipperary Town Taskforce to develop an RRDF funding application that includes recreational tourism development connecting Tipperary Town with Tipperary Racecourse.

### **Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce**

The Tipperary Destination Resilience Taskforce recently developed a Destination Resilience Plan which will focus on the following five momentum projects for 2021 / 22.

1. Digital Destination Development
2. Activate the Outdoors
3. Packaging, Cross Selling and New Experiences
4. Unlocking Tipperary Communities
5. Events and Night-time Economy

Actions are progressing under each project including the following marketing actions.

### **Tourism Marketing**

**Mini-Campaign:** We completed a level 5 mini-marketing campaign, which was a soft-sell reminder to consider Tipperary when planning for holidays later in the year. Thus far, this campaign has resulted in over 320 pieces of published content, resulting in 1 million impressions across digital platforms. Engagement remains three times the industry standard across the platforms. Audience growth in 2021 is 6%.

**Nationwide:** on April 28th, RTÉ's Nationwide featured Tipperary's John Nallen of Minella Racing to hear all about their success with horses called after their family-run hotel, Hotel Minella in Clonmel, an excellent boost for our equine tourism product.

**Intercountry campaign:** We have completed a local campaign consisting of full-page adverts, full of inspirational images and suggestions for mini-breaks, radio adverts on Spin FM and Tipp FM. The campaign also promotes the concept of re-booting tourism from within the county.

**Main Campaign:** 2021 Marketing Campaign for Tipperary will be "The Insider Tipp", this aligns perfectly with Fáilte Ireland's Keep Discovering campaign. The campaign aims to leverage off the success of the 2020 campaign and take a deeper dive into the wealth of opportunities and activities available in

Tipperary. New content around outdoor activities will be created and shared on traditional media, radio, social media and podcasts.

#### **Elements of the national campaign:**

**Radio:** We ran #TheInsideTipp advert on Today FM for two weeks in June.

**Video:** A Tipperary Tourism hero video went live on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, with the soundtrack of Cat Dowling's recently launched single "Freedom". This was scheduled to go live on the day that intercounty travel was allowed for the first time in almost five months. In 2021 we will create three ambassador videos and one hero video to shine a light on the epic outdoors of Tipperary. These videos will go live throughout the summer months,

**PR:** Four Press Releases were issued full of lists of interesting things to do in Tipperary, this has achieved 21.4 million impressions. There are three fam trips lined up for July and a podcast with Fin O'Dwyer Historian for later in the year.

**Podcasts:** The Inside Tipp Podcast will interview interesting Tipperary people with great stories that showcase the beauty and unspoilt uniqueness of Tipperary from Lough Derg in the north down to the Suir Valley in the south. We have completed a pilot podcast with John Nallan of Minella Stables which will go live in July.

**Photography:** A photographer has been commissioned to capture villages and towns around the county. Five have been published on social media and received huge traction.

**Print:** Tipperary Tourism Members have received printed copies of the Q.R. code flyer; this flyer is ideal for display at reception; it has

digital links to all current brochures promoting things to see and do in Tipperary.

**Website | Google Advertising:** Four google adverts will run for the next six months with the intent to drive traffic to the website. We are constantly up-dating the website with new and relevant content.

**Failte Ireland Covid 19 Safety Charter –** continued promotion to ensure as many Tipperary businesses as possible sign up for the Covid 19 Safety Charter, currently, there are 146 businesses signed up.

#### **Lough Derg**

The **Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan** was successfully launched on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The PR campaign for the launch achieved €400,000+ worth of advertising value while potentially reaching an audience of 6,100,245. The media highlights included: Features on Newstalk, Drivetime, RTE Today with Maura & Daithi.

A **Destination Recovery Taskforce** was established for Lough Derg in July 2020. A Destination Resilience Plan was developed for 2021. Four critical areas of focus were highlighted as follows:

- The Lough Derg Adventure: 12 weekly challenges, each week a new challenge which will appeal to a different market segment, data will be captured on an app. The 12 challenges are on the HotFoot App, and will go live on the 2<sup>st</sup> of August. A marketing plan around the project was developed and will commence on July 5<sup>th</sup>
- The creation of a Lough Derg Evening experience
- PR: A PR calendar has been created, with three press releases before July 1<sup>st</sup> and a pause until mid-August and

then a big push of 5 press releases for the Autumn season.

- Best in class Visitor Information and Packaging.

### Marketing achievements thus far in 2021

1. A Lough Derg Flickr account has been created as a free image resource for trade and journalists. It contains 1,200 high-quality images of the region.  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/191111777@N04/albums>
2. A Lough Derg Vimeo account has been created with over eight terabytes of high-quality footage for trade and journalists to use to create awareness of the region.  
<https://vimeo.com/manage/folders/3098430>

**T.V.** The River Shannon, featured in the mini-series “The most scenic Rivers in the World” the program aired on **Channel 5 (U.K. T.V.) on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May**. The show will also be used on Canadian T.V. in the coming months, network to be confirmed.

**Nationwide** on April 30th, featured an entire show on Lough Derg, the great outdoors, and wildlife and local personalities.

**Digital** audiences grew by 17%, 704 pieces of content were published, and 1.58 million impressions created. We launched the 90-second hero video for Lough Derg.

### Munster Vales

Munster Vales is currently rolling out a **Community Engagement Programme** which is aimed at upskilling communities to welcome and retain tourists, enhancing the relationship between active community groups and Munster Vales. This programme is

currently rolling out in the Comeragh, Galtees and Knockmealdown areas.

Munster Vales received a wonderful review in the **Irish Examiner** showcasing Suir Blueway Tipperary and businesses across the region.  
<https://www.irishexaminer.com/lifestyle/travel/arid-40292009.html>

Two **familiarisation trips** took place in the June Bank Holiday Weekend with Irish Country Magazine and The Sunday World. Munster Vales have more press trips planned for July and August that will showcase tourism providers.

### **Munster Food Trails and Podcast**

Munster Vales is in the process of finalizing a new food trail itinerary which will be available for visitors through [www.munstervales.com](http://www.munstervales.com). In addition to this Munster Vales will launch a **podcast** which will showcase the type of offerings available to visitors in Munster Vales. The Podcast features RTE reporter and Meet Your Maker host Liam Geraghty who discusses with local experts a taste of the vales.

### **Support to St. Declans Way Trail Committee.**

Munster Vales hosted an *Introductory Workshop* to *St. Declan's Way Training Programme* facilitated by the expertise of The Tourism Space on *Friday, June 25th at 11 am*. The workshop provided an overview of what the training programme entails. The St. Declan's Way Training programme will commence in September and October with the following dates scheduled; September 13th, 20th and 27th 3.00 pm-4.30pm and October 5th, 12th and 19th 7pm-8.30pm.

## Environment & Climate Action Directorate

### Policy Changes & Updates

A meeting of the Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 by Zoom. A presentation on Sustainable Urban Drainage System was given on the day by Dr Fran Igoe, Local Authority Waters Programme. Mr. Dave Corbett, A/Executive Scientist with the Waste Enforcement section gave a presentation on Litter Legislation and Anti-Dumping Initiatives.

### Public Awareness Initiatives

#### Public Awareness

##### Winners in Green-Schools Irish Water Poster and Video Competition

Two Tipperary schools were winners in the online Green-Schools Poster and Video Competition Awards.

Molly Gantley from Cappawhite National School was a regional winner in the poster competition and a group of First Year students from Presentation Secondary School in Thurles won the runner up prize in the video competition.



Molly Gantley's Poster

##### Household Waste Pre-Tenancy Training



The section is working with the Housing Section to highlight to new households their responsibilities regarding household waste management. Staff carried out Pre-Tenancy training with 74 tenants by telephone and sent them information packs on the services at the civic amenity sites, recycling and tips for reducing food waste.



### Community Environment Fund 2020/2021



Students and teacher from Shronell National School

73 community groups shared in the grant allocation of €36,000 under the Community Environment Fund for the 2019/2020 programme. Shronell National School received €500.00 for creating a community garden.

### Spring Clean

The National Spring Clean was extended into May with a further 40 groups registering, bringing the total number of groups participating to 409. Supports provided included the distribution of packs and the rubbish collected was disposed of at the Civic Amenity Sites.



Ballina Tidy Towns Groups carrying out their litter spring clean

## Gum Litter Campaign



**Gum Litter Awareness Day**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr Michael Smith launched the 2021 Gum Litter Taskforce Campaign at Lismackin National School recently. The campaign is looking to build on the positive momentum of previous years' campaigns after being postponed last year due to COVID-19. Alongside the Green Schools and Tidy Towns programmes, this campaign aims to play a significant role in the overall reduction of litter and contribute to the betterment of the environment.

## Upcycle Challenge Competition & Repair Directory

The recently published Repair & Reuse Directory lists all service providers in County Tipperary that offer repair and reuse service. This is part of a waste prevention initiative. To raise awareness about the directory, the LAPN has funded a competition, inviting the public to participate in the upcycle challenge by submitting pictures of recycled items. There is a €1500 prize fund for the best five entries. 20 entries were received to date and the **closing date is the 30th July**.

### How to enter

- Step 1: Source something old or unwanted
- Step 2: Take a before photo
- Step 3: Take an after photo
- Step 4: Give brief description of materials used, work involved etc in up cycling.

All entries will be judged, and winners will be chosen and announced on Tipp FM. on Friday, 13th August.

There are further details about the competition on our website

<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/forms/cycling-challenge-repair-directory-environment>



Images of recycled items

## Community Services

### Dogs

3656 licences were purchased to date. 40 impounded, 13 rehomed, 16 to rescue, 19 reclaimed and 7 euthanized.

### Horses

18 horse queries were reported which resulted in 10 horse pickups.

### Abattoirs

Bovine	Ovine	Porcine	Caprine	Turkeys	Chickens	Deer	Abattoir Visits
691	2530	12	2	4539	335	84	264

## Infrastructure

### Civic Amenity Sites

62,481 customers availed of the services of the Civic Amenities sites

Waller's-Lot	12,341
Carrigeen Clonmel	15,207
Nenagh	14,421
Roscrea	12,665
Donohill	7,847

### Derelict Sites

The section continues to engage with the owners and to date, works have been completed on 13 derelict properties, rendering them no longer derelict.



Landfills

MD	Update
<b>Tipperary Cashel Cahir</b>	<b>Donohill</b>
	The monitoring of the landfill to ensure compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing.
<b>Nenagh</b>	<b>Ballaghveny</b>
	The intensive groundwater monitoring programme commenced in September 2019 and is continuing until September 2021. Monitoring of the landfill to ensure compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing. Ballaghveny landfill enabling works are continuing since the middle of July 2020 and are expected to be complete by July 2021.
	<b>Historic Landfills</b>
<b>Tipperary Cashel Cahir</b>	Landfill remediation detailed design and ecological surveys are ongoing in preparation of the application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent.
<b>Tipperary Cashel Cahir</b>	Preparation of Tier 2 & Tier 3 Environmental Risk Assessments (ERA) at four historic closed landfill sites at Dundrum and Knocklofty are ongoing.
<b>Thurles</b>	Preparation of Tier 2 & Tier 3 Environmental Risk Assessments (ERA) at four historic closed landfill sites at Brittas Road and Monanearla are ongoing.
<b>Carrick-On-Suir</b>	Consultant appointed to carry out the landfill remediation design and ecological surveys are to be completed in preparation of NIS for submission to the EPA and ABP.

## Burial Grounds



New Columbarium at St Patricks Clonmel

Burial Ground	Progress update
Ballina (Boher)	The construction drawings and pricing document are currently being completed by the consultants.
Fethard	The deposit for land was paid and the Part 8 drawings are at an advanced stage. The procurement of an Environmental Consultant to prepare the AA and SEA is progressing.
Cahir	The Cahir Parish committee is progressing the development of the burial ground and the section has committed to provide technical assistance.
Cloughprior	The National Monuments Section in the Dept was consulted on the development of the Burial Ground Extension. Negotiations have commenced with the preferred landowner and alternative sites are also being considered. The Hydro-Geological Assessment was completed.
Carrick on Suir	Discussions with the landowner are ongoing, prior to commencing the full Hydro-geological twelve-month assessment of the site.
Shanrahan	Ancillary works are planned for quarter four.
Kilmore	Boundary treatment works to be completed in 2021.
Tipperary Town	The section has approved funding to the MD for the civil works at the BG entrance and for additional parking spaces.
Thurles (St Patricks)	The resurfacing of the access roadways has commenced and works to be completed in 2021.
Borrisoleigh	Works to remove the overgrowth around the boundaries are planned.
Clonmel St. Patricks	The capital budget to fund the works for the main entrance to St Patrick's Burial Ground and public car park was approved.
Nenagh Lisbunny	The installation of a surface water drainage network to address high water tables issues at the site will commence shortly.



## Waste Management and Enforcement

### Glass, Cans & Textile Recycling

1711 tonnes of glass and 65 tonnes of cans were collected up to end of May 2021, which represents a 10% increase on the same period last year. 152 tonnes of textiles were collected from 80 locations. Unauthorised clothes banks are being removed when complaints are reported. The operators of two unauthorised banks were issued with notices under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act to authorise the sites or arrange for their removal.

### Waste Management & Enforcement

#### Waste Facility Permits:

2 Reviews received – 1 granted – 1 under consideration

2 New applications granted, and 3 permits require technical amendments

#### RMCEI

13 Waste Facility Permit inspections completed out of 13 planned

7 Certificate of Registration Inspections completed out of 6 planned

### Household Waste Inspections

# of Households Surveyed	58
# of Households with a Refuse Service	50
<b>% Compliance</b>	<b>86%</b>

### Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme 2021

Tipperary Co Co was successful in securing an allocation of €150,000 under the Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme 2021. The scheme aims to assist in the provision of new litter infrastructure, the replacement of existing litter infrastructure and servicing of infrastructure. This is a once-off funding scheme and priority will be given to the purchase of solar smart bins, which will accrue longer term benefits. The Section is currently working with the Municipal District Administrators to identify the best locations within their district that would provide the optimum benefits, in terms of reduced servicing of bins. The project must be completed by the end of October.

### Litter Fines

	Tipperary/Cahir /Cashel	Thurles	Nenagh	Clonmel	Carrick-on Suir	Total
Fines Issued	77	5	21	8	0	111
Cancelled	6	3	0	1	0	10
Paid	41	2	13	3	0	59
Outstanding	30	0	8	4	0	42

### Legal Proceedings:

- (1) Circuit Court Case in relation to a Litter Fine 13<sup>th</sup> of April be deferred to October on medical grounds relating to the defendant.

- (2) 20<sup>th</sup> April Thurles District Court: Prosecution for illegal dumping and stockpiling of waste at a private house. The owner failed to comply with a Notice under the Waste Management Act. 10.6 tonnes of waste were removed from the property.

The judge convicted the individual and awarded the Council costs of €2,500 and an additional penalty of €150.

- (3) 13<sup>th</sup> May Nenagh District Court:

Material dumped without a waste authorisation. Prosecution for 11 breaches of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. The defendants did not present themselves for court. Total fines imposed by the Judge amounted to €22,000, he also awarded investigation and legal costs of €6,281. The case is being appealed.



- (4) June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 Carrick on Suir District Court.

Waste from a septic tank was dumped in Carrick On-Suir Municipal District Area. Tipperary County Council took a case under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended for unauthorised disposal of waste.

The judge awarded a conviction and fined the defendant €2,500 and also handed down a 3 month prison sentence for 2 years (suspended). The judge also ruled that the fine be paid within 1 day. Costs were also awarded to TCC.

Currently there are 5 cases listed for hearing up to September.

**Waste Enforcements**

Waste Enforcement Category	# Issued	Status
Section 14 Directions (to remediate a site):	8	1 Withdrawn 3 Complied 4 On-Going
Section 55 Notice (to engage Env Consultant and carry out works):	3	3 On-Going
Prosecution recommendations:	18 (offences)	On-going

**Example of compliance with a Section 14 Direction:**

This related to a complaint regarding the accumulation of waste with no bin service. Following a site inspection, a direction under the Waste Management Act was served on the resident to remediate the issue and was told that failure to comply would result in prosecution. The Direction was complied with.



**Clean-up Before**

**Clean-up After**

**Additional Enforcements:**

Collaborated on 2 investigations with an Garda Síochána regarding the illegal disposal of Septic Tank Waste. One case is being prepared for the DPP by an Garda Síochána. Witness statements were provided by Council Inspectors to An Garda Síochána to assist with their case. The second case involves Roads Traffic Act, being undertaken by An Garda Síochána and the breaches under the Waste Management Act is being investigated by Council Inspectors. (This case involves the same individual prosecuted in June 2021 for a separate incident.)

**Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021**

12 applications were submitted in accordance with the application criteria. The Council was approved funding of €98,000 for 9 applications by the Department. The projects are outlined below.

- Mattress Amnesty Countywide



- Bikes for Africa Countywide
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects cover Tipp/Cashel MD
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects for Nenagh MD
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects cover Thurles Templemore MD
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects cover Carrick MD
- 1 Illegal Dumping Project for Clonmel/Cahir MD

## Climate & Energy



NZEB Winner

As part of a Sustainable Tipp initiative, aimed at raising awareness about Near Zero Energy buildings, a national competition was held last year inviting architects and homeowners to design a building that was energy efficient and carbon neutral. The winning entry was submitted by Walsh & Walsh Architects in Cahir for the upgrade of a 1940's cottage and are pictured receiving their cheque for €3,000 from Tipperary Co Co/Tipperary Energy Agency.

The Climate Action and Energy Committee met on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June and updates were given by the TEA and various sections involved in energy & climate action projects. A presentation on Building Control functions was given by the Fire Services Section.

Two Energy Audits were completed at the landfill sites. TEA will analyse the data generated and will make recommendations to optimise energy usage.

The monitoring and reporting of energy usage for 2020 was submitted to SEAI, and preliminary findings indicate a 4% improvement on the 2019 energy efficiency results of 39%.

- SEAI has developed a decarbonization tool to assist local authorities meet their 2030 Energy and Greenhouse gas emission targets which will be used to calculate the CO2 reductions and energy efficiencies.

## Environment Protection

### Water Pollution /Agriculture

On site planned inspections resumed in May in line with the Public Health Guidelines and the easing of restrictions. Activities undertaken in this area to date include:



- 400 River sample were taken as part of the WFD sampling program.
- 4 source protection investigations were completed.
- 27 Farm Inspections were completed.
- 4 Section 12 Notices pursuant to the Water Pollution Act were issued.
- 20 Nutrient Management Plans were submitted and assessed.
- 3 Section 4 Discharge License Reviews were completed.
- 50 S4 Discharge License Monitoring samples were taken and analysed.
- 64 complaints of water pollution incidents were investigated, and corrective actions implemented.
- Algal Bloom Monitoring at Lough Derg 10 water samples taken and analysed.
- The DWWTS( Septic Tanks ) inspections under National Inspection Plan -commenced in June with 61 in total planned across the county
- 1 successful legal action was undertaken taken for illegal dumping of septic tank waste with a large fine and suspended sentence handed down to the offender.
- An awareness campaign to promote the use of registered contractors for septic tank services is planned for the coming months.



## Planning Referrals

65 Planning applications were reported to the Planning Section to ensure potential environment impacts of proposed developments are identified and addressed at planning stage.

## Air & Noise Pollution

- The 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 , Tipperary Town & Nenagh is available for viewing on the airquality.ie website.
- Under the Creation of Woodlands scheme organised by the Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, 33 hectares of land was identified as suitable for the planting of native trees as part of our Climate Action plan. This will further enhance air quality while providing improved natural amenities.
- 58 Air & Noise complaints were investigated.

## Pollution Complaints

Category	Number
Air Pollution	24
Noise Pollution	34
Water Pollution	64
Total	122

## Requests under FOI /AIE/GDPR

Category	Request	Ombudsman /OCEI
Freedom of Information Act (FOI)	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>
Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>N/A</b>



/Closed Complaints 01<sup>st</sup> January – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Complaint Description	Tipperary/Cahir /Cashel		Thurles		Nenagh		Clonmel		Carrick-on Suir	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Air	5	9	3	8	1	6	4	24	3	15
Burial Grounds	1	0							1	
Derelict Sites	0	1		1		1			1	
Dog Control	5	30	3	8	4	76	9	25	3	9
Litter	16	191	30	146	22	156	17	83	11	95
Noise	4	4	1	2	7	1	9	4	3	2
Veterinary	2	5	1	8		4	3	2		4
Waste Enforcement	4	18	4	5	3	10	1	9	3	4
Water	9	10	4	4	5	12	4	7	5	3
Total Complaints Open/Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
	46	268	46	182	42	266	47	154	30	132
Total Complaints Received	<u>314</u>		<u>228</u>		<u>308</u>		<u>201</u>		<u>162</u>	



## **WATER SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

### **IRISH WATER INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-2024:**

Irish Water has 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 Irish Water'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 *Irish Water Revenue Control Revenue Control 3 (2020-2024)*.

This Decision Paper was issued against the backdrop of the new funding model for Irish Water brought about by:

- the Water Services Act 2017;
- the publication by Mr. Eoghan Murphy, TD, the then Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, of the Water Services Policy Statement on 21 May 2018, and
- his approval of Irish Water's Strategic Funding Plan 2019-2024 on 08 November 2018.

The Decision Paper was accompanied by Irish Water's Updated Investment Plan 2020-2024, entitled *Irish Water Investment Plan 2020 to 2024 Updated Investment Plan for CRU Review*, submitted by Irish Water in November 2019 to the CRU for review.

In April 2020 Irish Water submitted a further capital funding request to the CRU, which was reviewed in its entirety by the CRU. Having considered this request, the CRU, on 04 August 2020, published its Decision Paper entitled *Update to Irish Water's Revenue Control 3(RC3.5) - Irish Water's Updated Capital Investment Plan*. This Decision Paper took into account evidence related to commitment dates for projects that Irish Water plans to deliver in the period and information provided by a review of Irish Water's capital planning processes by Scottish Water International.

The Update sets out the total revenue that Irish Water can receive, through government subvention and from customers, to cover its efficiently covered costs during the period 2020-2024. This Decision Paper should be read in conjunction with the aforementioned Decision Paper published on 05 December 2019.

Further details on this economic regulatory control process may be gleaned from a perusal of the website of the CRU, [www.cru.ie](http://www.cru.ie).

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.

**Irish Water Infrastructure Projects for County Tipperary:**

<b>B. Schemes at Pre-Construction/Design</b>	<b>Contract Name</b>	<b>Current Scheme Status</b>
Clonmel WRZ WP1 – Remedial Action List (RAL) and Boil Water Notice (BWN) Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Upgrading and expansion of existing Monroe Wellfields; and</li> <li>- Construct Pipelines from Monroe to Clonmel and on the Mountain Road.</li> </ul> <p>This will increase water supply into Clonmel and allow for the removal of the Boiled Water Notice on Mountain Road and rationalisation of Poulavanogue Water Treatment Plant.</p>	Irish Water appointing Consultants to the project.
Roscrea Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Jacobs Engineering Consultant. Model built and verified for existing network. Irish Water to prepare strategy plan by end 2021.
Thurles Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Jacobs Engineering Consultant. Model built and verified for existing network. Irish Water to prepare strategy plan by end 2021.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme (Design Build Operate (DBO) 1 year operate, operate starts once contract signed)	Wastewater Treatment Plant and Network Upgrade	Irish Water appointed EPS Contractor/Consultant. Planning application documents and EIS estimated to be submitted in Q1 2022. Estimated to start construction in late 2022/early 2023.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	ARUP Engineering Consultants completed Draft Drainage Area Plan and model for Irish Water. Irish Water to review.
Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant progressing with full design. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 19 May 2021. Estimated to start construction in Q3 2022.



Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 09 March 2021. Estimated to start construction in mid 2022.
Tipperary Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Planning Application estimated to be submitted in July 2021. No construction works until 2025.
Fethard Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Planning Application estimated to be submitted in Q4 2021. Estimated to start construction in late 2022.
Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 20 May 2021. Estimated to start construction in late 2022.

In 2020, Irish Water 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 above table 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 Irish Water 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):**

Irish Water 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.

#### **(1) Watermains Rehabilitation Works:**

- 1) 2021 works:  
Ardfinnan (1km), substantially complete;  
Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan (0.2km), ongoing ;  
Davis Road, Clonmel (0.48km), complete;  
Kilfeacle to Thomastown (0.8km), at design;  
Templetuohy (0.15km), complete ;  
Carrick-on-Suir N24 rehabilitation works (0.6km of various pipe sizes at junctions), ongoing.

#### **2) Back Yard Services replacement ongoing at Tipperary:**

Phase 1 works replaced 220 number lead shared services in the following locations: Marian Terrace, Saint Michael's Avenue, Cashel Road, O'Connell Road, Dillon Street, Saint Patrick's Avenue and Dawson Villas. This phase of works is the first to be approved of the planned 3 phases which, subject to Irish Water approval, aim to progress the removal of almost 1,000 back yard lead services from the water supply in Tipperary.

The process of transferring the water supply from the rear to the front of each dwelling is a slow procedure which will require engagement and agreement with all the properties affected. It is planned that the removal of all the back yard services will add to the quality and sustainability of the water supply to Tipperary and reduce leakage, in a major way, in the old lead and cast-iron pipes.

Phase 2 works ongoing in Canon Hayes Park.

Consultation with householders in other areas ongoing.

- 3) Back yard services replacement (32 no.) in Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan ongoing.





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

## **(2) National Disinfection Programme:**

Irish Water 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.

The following update describes current progress on the National Disinfection Programme in County Tipperary in respect of Phase 2 Necessary Upgrade Works at various locations throughout the county:

- (i) Works ongoing at Lingaun, Coalbrook, Cordangan, Crotty's Lake and Stooke.
- (ii) Design ongoing at Hollyford, Dualla, Riverstown, Lorrha, Coolbawn (Nenagh), Newport and Borrisokane.

## **(B) NETWORKS PORTFOLIO DELIVERY (WASTEWATER):**

Irish Water 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 Irish Water.

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

Irish Water 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 and Borrisokane. A preliminary design review is ongoing. The provision of any identified works may require a prior grant of permission from Tipperary County Council as planning authority.



Planning application for upgrade to Borrisokane WWTP submitted on 10 June 2021.

**(2) Flow Monitoring and Sampling Programme:**

A Flow Monitoring and Sampling Programme is underway at a number of wastewater treatment plants throughout the county.

**(3) Provision of Chemical Bulk Storage Tanks:**

The provision of chemical (ferric sulphate/chloride) bulk storage tanks is planned for a number of wastewater treatment plants throughout the county.

**(4) 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.

**(5) 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.

Irish Water 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.

**(6) Wastewater Pumping Station Programme:**

Consultants appointed by IW 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 Irish Water workshops.

**CONCLUSION:**

It should be noted that progression of the above projects is dependent on Irish Water and on the availability of the resources necessary to deliver same. Engagement by Water Services with Irish Water is ongoing in respect of the above.



## **IRISH WATER NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PLAN:**

The Irish Water 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 Irish Water's customers and communities, whilst safeguarding public health and the environment.

Irish Water published its Draft Framework Plan, the first phase of its National Water Resources Plan, for public consultation.

The NWRP aims to safeguard public health, facilitate growth and meet the challenges of climate change over the next 25 years.

For the first time, the NWRP will provide a country-wide analysis to identify the water we have, the water we use, the water we need and any potential risk to water quality. It sets out the methods and options to meet these shortfalls in a resilient and environmentally sustainable way and is accompanied by a Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report and a Natura Impact Statement, which looks at how the Plan considers its impact on the environment.

The NWRP will:

- calculate the demand for water from homes, businesses and industry now and into the future;
- assess the amount of water available in existing supplies;
- assess the impact of weather events such as drought on our water supplies; and
- identify areas where there is not enough water supply to meet demand, or where there is a risk to water quality.

A 10-week public consultation sought feedback on the Irish Water NWRP Draft Framework Plan and associated environmental reports and was completed on 12 March 2021. Following the receipt of 84 submissions, including one from Tipperary County Council, Irish Water, on 26 May 2021, finalised and adopted the Framework Plan.

For more information please visit [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp).

Irish Water has now commenced the Phase 2 development of four Regional Water Resources Plans which will set out the options to address identified needs across all of Irish Water's supplies. Irish Water will be again seeking the public's views as each of the Regional Plans will be subject to public consultation. In this respect, further engagement with Tipperary County Council will take place.

This will include a workshop with all elected members which will provide an opportunity for engagement by senior management from Irish Water with the elected members on the Regional Water Resources Plans as they impact on County Tipperary.

Irish Water will also avail of the opportunity afforded by this workshop to present an update to the elected members on its Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region.

While arrangements for the workshop have yet to be finalised, it is likely to be held during September 2021. As at present, having regard to the national Level 5 restrictions mandated by the Government of Ireland in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the workshop will be held by Zoom.



### **IRISH WATER SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES PROGRAMME:**

Irish Water'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 Irish Water infrastructure.

On 27 July 2020 Irish Water 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 Irish Water on 11 November 2020 to discuss the above settlements, possible solutions and cost estimates.

Final decisions on which projects progress will be made by Irish Water. At that stage, Tipperary County Council will be notified of the successful project(s) which will then be progressed as per Irish Water's capital investment delivery processes. It is anticipated that Tipperary County Council will be notified of successful projects on a staggered basis from Q3 2021 as project details are agreed.

### **NON-DOMESTIC WATER CHARGES:**

On 16 June 2021 Irish Water issued a note on the introduction of the new non-domestic tariff framework for Irish Water's business customers, which is to go live on 01 October 2021, with Irish Water to begin issuing letters in the coming weeks to customers to outline what changes they can expect to see from October. The decision to confirm the new date for implementation was taken by the regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). The changes were due to go live on 01 May 2020 originally but were deferred to 01 May 2021 and again to 01 October 2021 due to the considerable uncertainty for businesses under the essential Government public health guidelines due to COVID-19.

Irish Water noted that "The new framework will standardise charges across the country while recovering the cost of providing water and wastewater services to non-domestic customers. The vast majority of customers will see either a decrease or an increase of less than €250 per annum, in their annual bills. For the minority of customers who will face larger increases in their annual bill, Irish Water will put in place a number of important support measures. Connections that see an increase of €250 or more will be gradually transitioned to the new tariffs over three years. For connections that will face an increase of €750 or more, we will automatically apply a 10% cap to their annual bill increase in any one year. Throughout this process, both Irish Water and the CRU have examined international best practice and consulted with representative groups and individual businesses across the country. This approach has greatly helped in developing charges that are clear, simple and fair to all."

Irish Water is encouraging businesses to visit [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie) where they can assess the impact of the new charges on their future bills using our online calculator tool available on [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie).

The new charges will be on a national basis, i.e. there will be no local variation and they will have a fixed and a variable element. Existing billing frequencies will remain as they are until Irish Water carries out a review. Details of the new charges are provided at <https://www.water.ie/for-business/billing-explained/charges/> and an executive summary is available at <https://www.cru.ie/cru-publishes-decision-on-new-tariffs-for-irish-waters-non-domestic-customers/>.



## **COUNCIL WORKSHOP WITH IRISH WATER:**

Workshops with Irish Water for the elected members have taken place at the Civic Offices, Thurles on 27 October 2017, 12 April 2018, 02 October 2018, 03 April 2019 and on 30 September 2019.

A series of workshops, conducted on a District basis, took place during the period from 28 September 2020 to 06 October 2020, with remote connection by representatives from Irish Water and the facility for remote connection by the elected members also.

A similar series of workshops, conducted by Zoom on a District basis, was recently carried out in the period 15 April 2021 to 29 April 2021.

## **RURAL WATER PROGRAMME:**

The Rural Water Programme principally covers the following:

- (i) group water schemes; and
- (ii) group sewerage schemes, the provision of which requires the active participation of the householders concerned.

The focus of the Rural Water Programme for 2021 in respect of group water schemes is to address remaining inadequacies in the quality of drinking water so as to ensure compliance with the priorities set down in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended, through:

- (i) the provision of treatment and disinfection facilities;
- (ii) source protection measures; and
- (iii) the rehabilitation and upgrade of distribution systems.

The unprecedented national circumstances occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic paused much of the civil works activity with the result that progress has been slow. With social distancing requirements it has been impossible to hold meetings required for the scheme amalgamation and rationalisation process. A number of group water schemes are meeting digitally; however, it is a challenge.

Progress on the above programme of work was reviewed by the Rural Water Committee at its meeting held by Zoom on 05 May 2021. The next meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2021.

## **Capital Grants for Group Water Schemes:**

Tipperary's average annual investment via capital grant is €500,000 with capital grant payments at €528,047.35 as at 31 December 2020.

The Rural Water Team within Water Services recognises the commitment of the group water scheme sector in progressing capital projects to the extent of this expenditure, given the difficulties arising from having to comply with public health measures, such as construction work paused and difficulties encountered meeting group water schemes, and engineering and other personnel involved in driving these projects.

Some of the projects underway are:

- Cunnahurt Knockalton Group Water Scheme: new source;
- Ardcroney-Frolic-Luska Group Water Scheme: new source under investigation;
- Graigue Pouldine Group Water Scheme: finalising new source commissioning; and
- Rahealty-Clobanna Group Water Scheme: civil works contract snag list.

Consulting Engineer's Report: a Brief, Maps and Appendices are with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) for review prior to publishing on eTenders website. A meeting with the Department to discuss same is awaited.

27 Group Water Schemes have returned statements noting their agreement to become involved, with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Water Services anticipates a response from the DHLGH shortly.

It is expected that the DHLGH will invite Tipperary County Council to gather projects for consideration under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2024 in Q3 2021. Requests for watermain improvement funding must be accompanied by supporting documentation (step testing, analysis of unaccounted for water (UFW) and display that one is addressing the point where most water is being lost as distinct from the area with most leakage points).

### **Annual Maintenance Subsidy for Group Water Schemes:**

Annual Maintenance Subsidy (AMS) payments, in 2020 amounted to €580,175.54 distributed over 69 group water schemes. This is the first year Tipperary County Council has had an application for Advance Annual Maintenance Subsidy, payment of which (€4,365) is included in the total payments. An Advance AMS can be paid where a group water scheme is experiencing financial issues. It is calculated at 70% of the previous year's AMS. The invitation to apply for AMS was posted to 72 group water schemes on 26 January 2021.



**Figure 1 Frost and water pipe network March 2021**

The Rural Water Team within Water Services continues to work with all group water schemes and with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes to ensure that schemes' reliance on this Advance AMS is minimised.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the Rural Water Team within Water Services has been in contact with group water schemes accepting electronic submissions and responding electronically where possible. Group water schemes are allowed to submit claims despite being unable to hold an annual general meeting and where it has not been possible to present audited accounts to members at an annual general meeting. Such schemes are to ensure that, at the earliest opportunity, annual general meetings and presentations take place. This year the DHLGH has set a closing date of 01 October 2021 for receipt of recoupment claims from Tipperary County Council. Requests for payments to group water schemes after that date cannot be recouped until 2022.

### **Alia:**

The Rural Water Programme also covers the following grant schemes and expenditure on these grants is recoupable from the DHLGH:

- (a) grants payable pursuant to the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house (known as well grants);
- (b) grants payable pursuant to the Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2013, which Regulations have been superseded by the:
  - (i) the Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020;
  - (ii) the Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance for Prioritised Areas for Action) Regulations 2020; and

- (iii) the Housing (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Financial Assistance for High Status Objective Catchment Areas) Regulations 2020  
  
(known as septic tank grants);

and

- (c) grants payable pursuant to the Domestic Lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016 (known as lead piping grants).

It should be noted that the assessment of the applications under the grant schemes at (b) above, including site inspections, are carried out by the Environment and Climate Action Section.

Further details on these schemes follow:

**Revised Private Well Grant:**

A revised Private Well Grant Scheme is now in place and operating from 05 June 2020.

Conditions are largely unchanged and the Scheme is still demand-led. The Scheme has an appeal system built into it. There are 3 headings under which an application may be made:

Treatment: installing an ultra-violet (UV) system, pre-filter system, iron or manganese, etc. filter:  
100% of approved costs, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000.

Upgrade: new pump, pressure vessel, structure and electrics of pump house:  
85% of approved costs, subject to a maximum grant of €3,000.

New source: drilling, dressing, sealing well head:  
85% of approved costs, subject to a maximum grant of €5,000.

An applicant can apply under any of these headings or combinations as follows:

Treatment and Upgrade or Treatment and New Source.

An applicant **cannot** apply for both New Source and Upgrade.

On 15 January, 2021, the DHLGH introduced a cut-off date of 30 March 2021 in respect of the former private well grant scheme. An extension to this date was sought by the Rural Water Team. On 24 March 2021 the DHLGH informed all local authorities of an extension until 30 June 2021 for applicants to have work completed and submit claims and until 30 September 2021 for local authorities to submit claims and address items where water quality reports are causing delay in submitting claims. The extension is especially welcome and facilitates the Rural Water Team in its contacting persons who may need a little extra support.

**Well Grants:**

Invested 2021		Applicants
Former Scheme:	€28,619.47	15
Revised Scheme:	€148,403.	23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€177,023</b>	<b>38</b>

As at 02 July 2021, 63 applications have been received with 47 grant approvals issued.



**Septic Tank Grants (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems):**

No applications have been received in 2021 to date.

The Domestic Wastewater Treatment System Grant Scheme has also been revised. There are now 3 headings under which an application can be considered. Technically, the conditions are unchanged. The income limit has been removed. The maximum grant payable has increased from €4,000 to 85% of eligible costs or €5,000 whichever is the lesser figure.

Each of the following is a separate scheme and an applicant cannot be assisted under a combination of these schemes. Each scheme requires the applicant to have registered the domestic wastewater treatment system with *Protect our Water* by 01 February 2013; where the dwelling was erected after that date, the applicant must have registered within 90 days of connecting to the domestic wastewater treatment system.

Each scheme requires that the home is the applicant's principal place of residence (not applicable to holiday homes, for example). Each scheme has an appeal system built into it.

**(a) DWWTS National Inspection Plan:**

This is the most similar scheme to the former scheme with virtually no change in conditions under which an applicant qualifies and an increased maximum payable. This is not demand-led. The Environmental Protection Agency notifies Tipperary County Council of the areas where inspections can be carried out and the number of inspections to be carried out annually. Only those homeowners inspected can be considered for assistance under this scheme.

**(b) DWWTS Prioritised Areas for Action (PAA):**

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 outlined Prioritised Areas for Action nationwide. The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) promotes the scheme in Prioritised Areas for Action, identifying homes where domestic wastewater treatment systems may be a risk to water quality and notifying the homeowner in writing. This enables the homeowner to apply to Tipperary County Council to be considered under the DWWTS PAA Scheme. Receiving such a letter does not mean the homeowner must apply for a grant and carry out improvement works. Neither will this be used in enforcement proceedings. It is the homeowner's decision to pursue an application and works under the DWWTS PAA Scheme.

To apply for consideration, the homeowner forwards a completed application form, the LAWPRO letter along with a scope of works put together by a competent person, to Tipperary County Council. Staff from the Environment and Climate Action Section carry out a site visit to verify the application for qualification purposes and the scope of works outlined by the competent person on behalf of the applicant. The applicant is advised in writing as to eligibility for the scheme and can proceed with eligible works. Once work is complete a second site visit is carried out by staff from the Environment and Climate Action Section. Where all is in order, the file proceeds to payment.

**(c) DWWTS High Status Objective Catchment Area:**

Potential applicants satisfy themselves that their home is within a High Status Objective Catchment Area (there is an interactive map online), then submit an application form and a scope of works prepared by a competent person, to Tipperary County Council. The Council carries out a site visit verifying whether or not this application is eligible for consideration. The homeowner is notified in writing of eligibility (or not). Where eligible, the applicant can proceed with having work carried out, which is followed by an eventual post-works site visit and processing of payment.

Public interest in these 3 Schemes is quite strong.



### Lead Piping Grants:

One application has been received as at 02 July, 2021. Work is complete; payment (€4,000, the maximum allowable) has been made to the applicant and a recoupment claim forwarded to the DHLGH.

### WATER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION:

On 23 February 2021 Deputy Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage published a Policy Paper on Water Sector Transformation entitled *Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper: Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly-Owned, Regulated Water Services Utility*. The Policy Paper, Frequently Raised Topics, and accompanying press release, are available on [www.gov.ie/housing](http://www.gov.ie/housing). All new publications appear on the homepage under the Publications heading with the press release appearing under the Press releases heading.

The Policy Paper:

- sets out the Government's vision for the future of water services;
- addresses the provision of water services as set out in the Programme for Government, entitled *Our Shared Future*, published on 15 June 2020;
- considers the water sector transformation process; and
- concludes by requiring the key stakeholders to engage to agree a framework to move towards an integrated public water services utility.

Further developments are awaited.



Housing  
Directorate



**New Policy/Strategic Issues**

<b>Policy Changes/Updates</b>	<b>Current Position/Progress made</b>	<b>Next Stage</b>
<b>Review of allocation scheme</b>	The revised allocation scheme was adopted at the June council meeting with a minor amendment.	It will be forwarded to the Minister for housing for approval.
<b>Choice Based Letting</b>	Pre-contract negotiation with proposed provider in final stages.	Expected introduction to be Q4 2021
<b>Review of Housing Adaptation Grants</b>	P2 & P3 grants for 2019 have been offered to applicants.	Ongoing monitoring of applications.
<b>Disability Strategy</b>	Draft strategy issued to relevant agencies for consideration in June.	Draft to be submitted to housing agency

### Housing Delivery

The 2018-2021 Housing delivery programme continues to be rolled out with:

- Construction works on site/commencing at 22 locations providing 322 dwellings.
- 3 schemes at tender stage providing 27 dwellings.
- 6 schemes at Part 8 planning stage providing 36 dwellings
- 4 schemes in the early stages of the 4 stage approval process providing 116 dwellings

Overall delivery targets under Rebuilding Ireland have been exceeded in the period 2018-2020 with a further 30 build units delivered to date in 2021 despite the impacts of Covid 19 on the construction sector.

### 2021 Construction Programme

<i>Address</i>	<i>No of Units</i>	<i>Current Status</i>	<i>Next Stage</i>
<b>Coolnamuck Road, Carrick on Suir</b>	30	Decision required on third river crossing.	Stage 1 submission to Department
<b>Mountain Road, Cahir</b>	43	Stage 1 Approved	Design Team Appointed
<b>Templemore AHB, Main Street, templemore</b>	14	Stage 1 Approved	Stage 2 Submission
<b>Glencarrick, Roscrea</b>	47	Stage 1 Approved, Design Team Appointed	Stage 2 Submission
<b>Church Street, Templemore</b>	2	Stage 2 approved	Part 8 advertised
<b>William Street, Clonmel</b>	4	Stage 2 approved	Part 8 advertised in July
<b>Boherclough Street, Cashel</b>	9	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 Approval
<b>Comeragh Drive, Clonmel</b>	2	Stage 2 approved	Part 8 advertisement in July
<b>Grove Street, Roscrea</b>	9	Stage 2 approved	Part 8 advertisement
<b>Woodview Close, Nenagh</b>	10	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 Approval
<b>Borrisoleigh</b>	12	Stage 2 approved	Preparation of Part 8
<b>Camphill Communities, Carrick on Suir</b>	7	Stage 2 approved	On hold with Camphill
<b>Ardcrony</b>	4	Stage 3 Submitted	Stage 3 Approval
<b>Moyne</b>	9	Stage 3 Submitted	Stage 3 Approval
<b>Portroe</b>	14	Stage 4 Submitted	Stage 4 Approval



<b>Ballyclerihan</b>	14	Contractor Appointment	Delivery 2022
<b>Bansha</b>	14	Stage 4 Approved	Contractor Appointment
<b>Donohill</b>	8	Contractor Appointment	Delivery 2022
<b>Two Mile Borris</b>	23	Contractor Appointed	Delivery 2022
<b>121 Ard Na Greine, Clonmel</b>	2	Contractor on site	Delivery 2021
<b>Cormac Drive, Nenagh</b>	12	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021/2022
<b>Mulcair View, Newport</b>	11	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021/2022
<b>Mitchel Street, Thurles</b>	1	Substantially Complete	Delivery 2021
<b>Mill Road, Thurles</b>	28	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
<b>Borrisokane</b>	16	Contractor on site	Delivery 2021
<b>Hazel Close, Carrick on Suir</b>	14	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
<b>Cois Na hAbhainn, Mullinahone</b>	3	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
<b>Knockanrawley, Tipperary</b>	28	Completed	2021
<b>Abbey Street, Cahir</b>	10	Contractor on site	Delivery 2021
<b>Cluid Ballygraique Road, Nenagh</b>	5	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
<b>Prior Park Grove, Clonmel</b>	41	Turnkey Works ongoing	Delivery 2021/2022
<b>Templetuohy</b>	10	Contractor on site	2021
<b>Cloughjordan Mullinahone</b>	2	Completed	Delivery 2021
<b>Mullinahone</b>	10	Contractor on site	Delivery 2022
<b>SPADE Deerpark Road, Cashel</b>	2	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
<b>Cluid Housing Association, Glenconnor, Clonmel</b>	9	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
<b>Tuatha, Kickham Street, Carrick on Suir</b>	13	CAS Application submitted, Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
<b>Thurles Lions Trust, Stanwix Homes, Thurles</b>	19	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
<b>Glenconnor Road, Clonmel</b>	29	Turnkey, Works commencing	Delivery 2022/2023

**Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) & Long Term Leasing (LTL)**

New RAS properties, incl voluntary units	24
New LTL properties	6
Rent Reviews carried out 2021	95

**Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)**

HAP tenancies set up in 2021	184
Total active HAP tenancies	1882
Average weekly HAP set up	7

**Energy Efficiency**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has issued a revised allocation of €1.624 million to Tipperary County Council for the retrofitting of a minimum of 60 local authority-owned houses in the county under the Energy Efficiency Programme.

This is in conjunction with the Midlands Retrofit Programme that has already begun construction in phase 1 for an additional 60 houses.

Progress to date:

**Midlands Retrofit Programme**

Works have begun on Phase 1 of the Midlands Retrofit Programme at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe. Plumbing works have commenced and a number of heat pumps have been installed and are now in operation. Windows and doors, insulation, lighting, ventilation and further works are due to follow.

Phase 2 of the programme has a contractor appointed and is due to commence in July. This phase includes 20 houses in Priory Place and Woodville Crescent in Templemore.

Phase 3 has been tendered out and the successful contractor is in the process of being appointed. This phase includes 24 houses in Thurles, Templetuohy and Rathcabbin.

**National Energy Efficiency Programme**

Phase 2 of the programme includes another 60 houses to be retrofitted.

The selection of the houses is being finalised with the Tipperary Energy Agency who are carrying out pre and post works surveys and Building Energy Ratings (BER) certifications. Approval will be sought for the selected houses in the near future from the department for inclusion in the programme. After the works, the BER of these homes will typically be B2. They cost of heating these homes will be substantially cheaper than similar sized homes which are heated by gas or oil.

The delivery of the works will be split into two contracts and tendering will proceed as soon as pre-& post-works surveys are completed.

Works will typically involve insulation, upgrades of windows and doors and installation of heat pumps (renewable energy heating systems), as committed to under the Programme for Government. This will

help Ireland's efforts to combat climate change as approximately 40% of Ireland's energy-related carbon emissions are from buildings.

### Housing Grants

The Council received a total allocation of €3,271,795 in 2021 for private housing adaptation grants of which €654,359 is to be provided from Tipperary County Council's own revenue resources. P2 & P3 applicants for 2019 have now been informed that their applications can proceed.

An additional €1,000,000 in funding was received for allocated to L/A DPG grants in May 2021 and housing engineers are progressing works to avail of this extra funding, as a matter of urgency.

Grants - 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021	2021 Budget	Total Allocated	No. Of Applications
Housing Adaptation for People with A Disability (HGD)	€2,000,000	€1,947,770	238
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	€200,000	€113,455	49
Housing Aid for Older People (HOP)	€1,071,795	€1,067,755	218
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€3,271,795<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>€3,128,980</b>	<b>505</b>
Local Authority DPG Grants	<b>€1,347,627</b>	<b>€1,347,627</b>	<b>76</b>

### Voids

The number completed from 01/01/2021 to 31/5/2021 is 57.

### Vacant Houses – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

District	Approved Applicants	Vacant Houses <sup>2</sup>	% vacant houses <sup>3</sup>
<b>Carrick</b>	353	23	0.4%
<b>Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel</b>	862	81	1.5%
<b>Clonmel</b>	662	20	0.4%

<sup>1</sup> Please note, the Occupational Therapist Budget for assessing applications is not included in the above figures but is covered by the 2021 allocation.

<sup>2</sup> In addition to the vacant houses there are additional properties being held for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project and Isolation Hubs.

<sup>3</sup> Calculated as a percentage of overall housing stock

<b>Nenagh</b>	757	28	0.5%
<b>Templemore/Thurles</b>	954	55	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3588</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>3.9<sup>4</sup></b>

#### Offers of Tenancy – 31st May 2021

	Offers	Accepted	Pending	Refused	Nomination to AHBs
<b>Carrick</b>	35	23	1	11	9
<b>Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel</b>	68	53	0	15	15
<b>Clonmel</b>	16	11	1	4	3
<b>Nenagh</b>	34	24	0	10	12
<b>Templemore Thurles</b>	46	33	0	13	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>51</b>

#### Homelessness

In line with government policy, the focus of the homeless team has been on the prevention of clients entering emergency accommodation and thus the homeless cycle with the use of private rented accommodation with the aid of HAP as the primary option for homeless clients. The homeless prevention officers working in tandem with the HAP Place finder Service have been very successful in achieving this aim.

There were 242 homeless presentations for 2021 to end May.

There are currently 12 single clients and 1 family with 1 child in emergency accommodation. Three of the 12 singles are long term i.e. in excess of 6 months. There is an exit plan in place for each client.

The HAP Place Finder Service has contributed to the success in this area by the creation of 221 Homeless HAP tenancies since its introduction. From January to June 2021 a total of 66 HAP place finder tenancies have been created in the county. These tenancies were in respect of clients who were street homeless or potentially street homeless and are the most vulnerable of our clients.

The Council has sought and received approval from the Department to appoint a second HAP Placefinder for the north of the county and the post has been advertised.

Under the Housing First model 12 units have been provided to accommodate the most complex of homeless cases with wrap around supports.

The START programme, a 2-year pilot initiative in the south of the county, supports persons at risk of becoming homeless due to significant mental health challenges. To date we have accommodated 6 such

<sup>4</sup> There are additional vacant properties being held for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project and Isolation Hubs. The above figure excludes demountable's and houses being sold.

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 a North Tipperary Intensive Support programme in the north of the county and the Council is currently engaged with this programme to ascertain how it could be mainstreamed.

The TSS which has a county wide remit (with the recent appointment of a TSS officer to the Nenagh office) provides support for 43 LA tenants who need help in sustaining their tenancy ensuring that they remain in their accommodation that is suitable to their needs. In addition, the TSS service has taken on a number of Traveller family units to help them sustain their current tenancy. As outlined above this service has also taken over responsibility for support of clients under the START programme.

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.

### 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. It is a companion strategy for the Repair & Lease scheme, providing additional social housing options. Buy and Renew can target the purchase of both disused and older vacant homes and assist in the improvement of derelict and disused areas within our villages and towns. The level of support with the Repair and Lease Scheme has recently increased to €60,000. Recent attendance at the district meetings by the vacant homes officer sought the support of the elected members in promoting and informing the public of the options available under both schemes and feedback has been positive to date.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Rebuilding Ireland home loan is a Government backed mortgage which was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. An applicant can apply to borrow 90% of the market value of the property to a maximum of €250,000 in Tipperary. This loan offers two rate products; 2.745% fixed for up to 25 years and 2.995% fixed for up to 30 years.

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Applications

01/01/2021 to 31/5/2021

Number of Applications Received	63
Number of Valid Applications Received	23
Number of Loan Applications Approved	15
Number of Loans Issued	6
<b>Total Value of Loans Issued</b>	<b>€766,800</b>





### Tenant Purchase Scheme Allocations

01/01/2021 to 31/05/2021

Formal applications to purchase received	24
Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued)	7
Sales completed	2
<b>Total proceeds of sales received</b>	<b>€126,210</b>



## CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Policy/Strategic Issues	Status
Audit Committee Work Prog	Completed
SPC Scheme	Completed
Corporate Plan 2020-2024	Completed
Service Delivery Plan 2021	Completed
Annual Report 2020	Completed
Communication Strategy Implementation	In Progress
Social Media Policy & Protocol	In Progress
Associated Companies Governance Policy & Guidance document	In Progress

### Directorate Priorities

#### Audit Committee

The last meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 1<sup>st</sup> July by Video Conference. The following items were discussed:

1. Briefing from Chief Executive - Joe MacGrath
2. Thurles Municipal District Update - E Lonergan, S Scully, T Duffy
3. Audit Report – Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report - S Maher
4. Progress Update Internal Audit Plan - Sandra Maher
5. Update on outstanding internal audit recommendations – Sandra Maher
6. Report & AFS - Liam McCarthy
7. MTO Management Letter 2020 - Liam McCarthy

8. Audit Committee Work Programme 2021 – S Maher
9. Management reports to council, March, April, May, June 2021
10. Cyber Security Audit Recommendation Progress Update - Ger Lynch

The next Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> September by Video Conference.

#### Service Delivery Plan 2021:

The service delivery plan for 2021 was adopted by the Council at their meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021, a copy of which is now available to view on the Council's website.

#### Annual Report 2020

The draft report was presented to the Council and adopted at the June meeting and a hard copy of the report has been published for each member of the Council. The Plan is also available to view on the Council's website and at each of the Council's Municipal District Offices and Library branches.

#### Insurance Management

Public Liability/Pothole Claims to period 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021:







Pothole - 53  
Public Liability - 48  
**Total Claims – 101**

### Communications Strategy

Tipperary County Council’s Corporate Plan provides a vision for how we propose to deliver our services working with our communities, our citizens, our Councillors and our staff. Key to this is good communications across the Council to deliver our message and tell our story.

Some of the activities promoted since the last report include the following: -

**Achievements May-June 2021**

<p><b>Once In A Generation’ Opportunity Sees Mid-West Councils Work Together</b></p> 	<p><b>Watch out for the pollinator areas around the Clonmel District</b></p> 
<p><b>Shop safely and shop local in Tipperary</b></p> 	<p><b>Resurfacing at Templemore Park</b></p> 
<p><b>First of the new lighting poles installed on Liberty Square Thurles</b></p> 	<p><b>Nenagh Leisure Centre reopens</b></p> 
<p><b>Clonmel preparing for Junction Festival</b></p>	<p><b>Conservation works Newport Courthouse</b></p>



**Road resurfacing on R497 Griffin's Cross Templederry**



**Bins being emptied over the Bank Holiday weekend**



**Outdoor seating for Friar Street Thurles**



**Work in progress Liberty Square Thurles**



**New columbarium St Patricks Cemetery Clonmel**



**Lower Gate in Cashel improvements**





Fire and Rescue

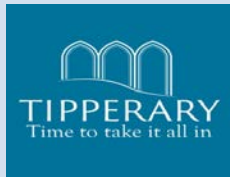


Sports Partnership



Tourism

Promoting holidays and staycations in Tipperary



Libraries  
Something for everyone



### Local Government Service Catalogue – update

The final phase of the Local Government Service Catalogue project has commenced and it is anticipated to have the Service Catalogue website live in July 2021. Tipperary County Council is participating in the pilot phase of the project to fine tune the integration between local authorities and the Service Catalogue website.

1,100 services have been catalogued and will be included in the website. Public users of the website will be facilitated with a search functionality basics and topics, sub-topics, types and by local authority. Local authorities will have additional functionality to select services provided locally, to provide a link to their website, to download a list of services and to integrate the catalogue with external third-party systems.

#### Summary of Services



## Customer Service Update

### Non-Geographic Number (NGN) Consolidation with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Telephone numbers are managed by ComReg with the core objective of promoting and protecting the interests of Irish consumers. In December 2018, following extensive research and to public consultations, ComReg published its final Response to Consultation and Decision D15/18 in relation to five classes of Non-Geographic Numbers (1800, 1850, 1890, 0818 and 076).

ComReg introduced two measures to address the cost of using such numbers and to tackle confusion among consumers about the differences between numbers and their reluctance to call these numbers. The measures are;

- Geo-linking Condition: From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, a call to an 1850,1890,0818 or 076 NGN costs no more than calling a landline number. This means that if landline calls are included in a “bundle of call minutes” then NGN calls are also “in bundle”. No separate charge will apply for any NGN call (unless the bundle of call minutes has been used up).
- NGN Consolidation: From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, the five NGN ranges will be reduced to two. The 1850, 1890, and 076 ranges will be withdrawn and the 1800 (Freephone) and 0818 range will remain.

As you are aware, this Council introduced a single county wide phone number in 2014 as a result of the amalgamation of North and South County Council into a single local authority. At the time, there were several area codes used by members of the public to contact the County Council throughout the county. It was agreed at the time, to use the NGN (0761) prefix number as the public facing contact number for Tipperary County Council as it was part of the Government initiative at the time to reduce call costs for both public bodies and customers. The proposed numbering agreed was 10 digits long and commenced with 0761 e.g. 0761 06 5000 and 0761 06 6000. This system has been in operation for the past 7 years and has operating well for the Council and its customers, however the decision by ComReg to retire the 0761 number will have implications for the Council in terms of cost and customer relations.

The solution proposed is to provide a 0818 number for our customer facing services and Customer Service Desk and to provide a range of numbers on the 052 geographic range to facilitate matching up our existing last four digits on the 0761 06 5xxx and 6xxx range. Calls to 0818 are included in customers call bundles that include calls to landlines. Out of bundle, these calls are charged a “standard rate” which is no more than calling a landline number.

To facilitate the implementation of this new numbering system with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, this Council will be carrying out an awareness campaign in Q3 & Q4 via its local and social media channels.

Customer Service Desk Activity

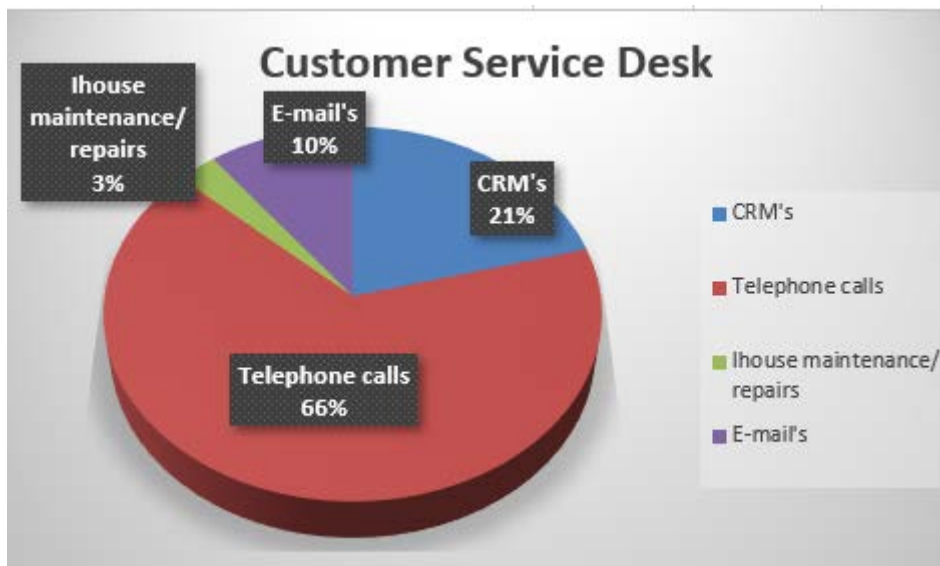
24 April – 18 June (8 week period)

Customer Service Statistics

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

- Anti Social Behaviour Log
- Environmental complaints register
- Fix your street
- NVDF system (motor tax)
- Ihouse

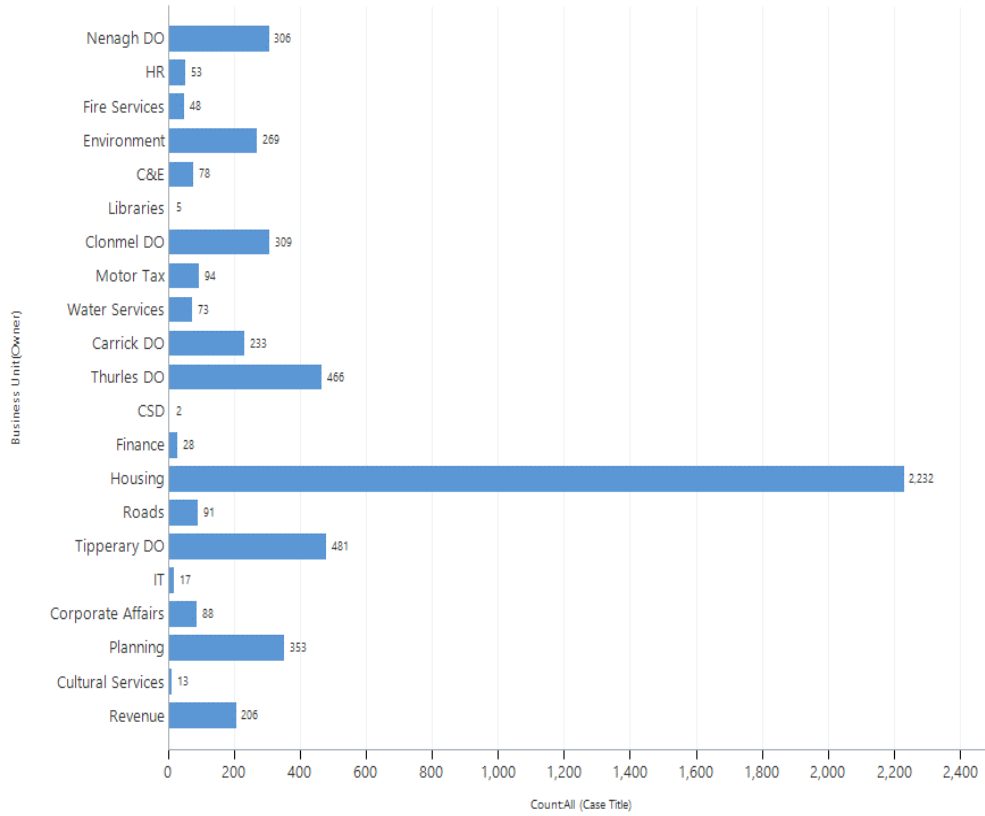
CRM's	5,536
Telephone calls	17,527
Ihouse maintenance/ repairs	755
E-mail's	2,749



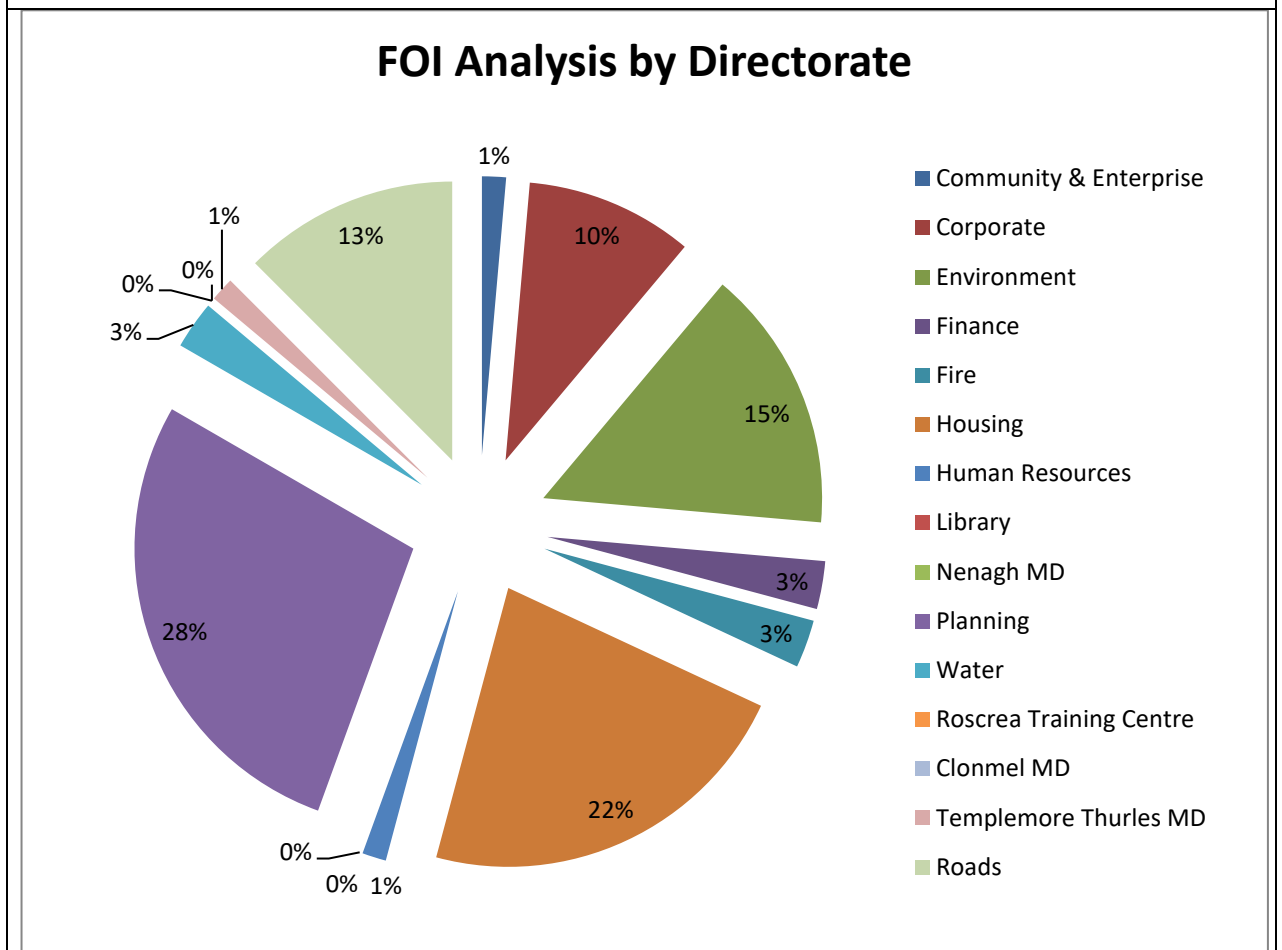
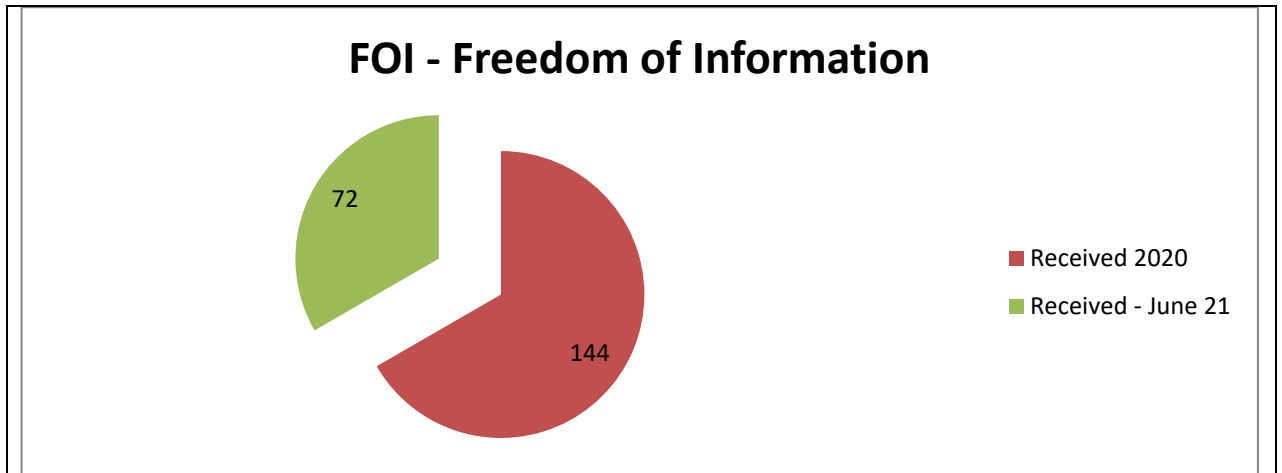


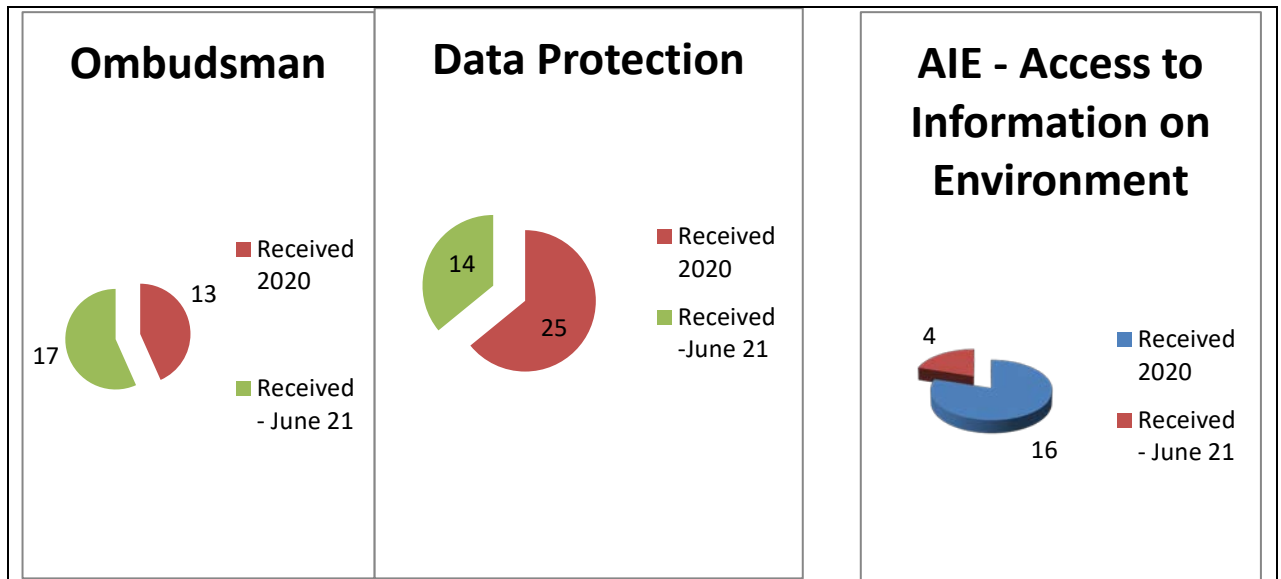


Customer Relations Management (CRM) system –per section



Information Management





Property Management

Land Disposal - Section 183 Resolutions as of 25/06/2021			
Year	Approved	Outstanding	Resolved
2018	27	1	26
2019	33	0	33
2020	24	9	15
2021	21	9	12

Schedule of Property Transactions o/s

- Gortnahoe, Co. Tipperary
- Glenconnor, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
- Brickendown, Cashel, Co. Tipperary
- No. 2 Redmond Square, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary
- Melview, Burgagery Lands West, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
- Old Cashel Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel
- Ballyrichard, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary
- Knockmorris, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
- Callan Street, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary
- The Mall, Templemore



Corderry, Galbally, Co. Tipperary
Graigue Lower, Killenaule
Stereame Business Park, Nenagh
54 Childers Park, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
No. 1 Ashbury Park, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary
No. 5 Fontenoy Terrace, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
No. 2 Fontenoy Terrace, Thurles
Templedowney, Toomevara, Nenagh
Lahasseragh, Nenagh