



# Management Report to Council








## This Month

- Digital Hubs – Page 2/3
- LEO Grants - Page 6
- National Broadband - Page 7
- Excellence in Local Government Supporting Tourism Award – Page 11
- Waste Management and Enforcement – Page 18-20
- Irish Water Investment Plan - Page 23
- Irish Water National Resources Plan - Page 29/30
- Water Sector Transformation – Page 35
- Rural Water Programme - Page 31
- Housing Delivery - Page 37/40
- Performance Indicators – Page 48

# March dates for your Diary

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>1</u> 10am Infrastructure SPC Meeting	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 10:00 CPG Mtg
<u>8</u> 11am TCC Plenary Mtg	<u>9</u> 10am Audit Committee Meeting	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>15</u> 10am LCDC Mtg 10:30am Thurles MD Mtg	<u>16</u> 11am Clonmel BD Mtg	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> 10am Nenagh MD Mtg	<u>19</u>
<u>22</u> 11am Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD Mtg	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> 14:00 Carrick-on-Suir MD Mtg	<u>26</u> 2pm Councillor Workshop – N24 Waterford/Cahir
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		

## Report at a Glance

	<b>Community &amp; Economic Development &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>1 - 14</b>		<b>Environment &amp; Climate Action</b>	<b>15 -22</b>
	<b>Water Services</b>	<b>23 - 36</b>		<b>Housing</b>	<b>37 - 46</b>
	<b>Corporate Services &amp; Human Resources</b>	<b>47 - 57</b>			

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

<u>New Policy/Strategic Issues;</u>			
Policy Changes/Updates	Date Adopted	Progress in Previous Month	Next Stage
LEO Circular 11 90% TOV rate is changing to a 50% rate from January 2021	February 2021		
LEO Circular 12: Refundable Aid Condition Removal from Business Expansion Grants.	February 2021		
Outdoor Spaces Grant	No close date		

<u>Directorate Priorities</u>		
Major Current Issues	Progress to date	Next Stage
Ballingarrane, Questum phase 2 and IDA lands	Part of IDA Strategy	
Business hubs in all main towns and BCPs in rural areas	Hubs in Carrick, Tipp and Roscrea underway 8 BCPs done	

**LECP**

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC reviewed the economic elements of the LECP and signed off on the activities for 2020.

**Craft Sector**

Computer Training was identified for 16 members of the Craft Sector through the Regional Skills Mid West Explore Programme. An online location for all crafters in County 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.

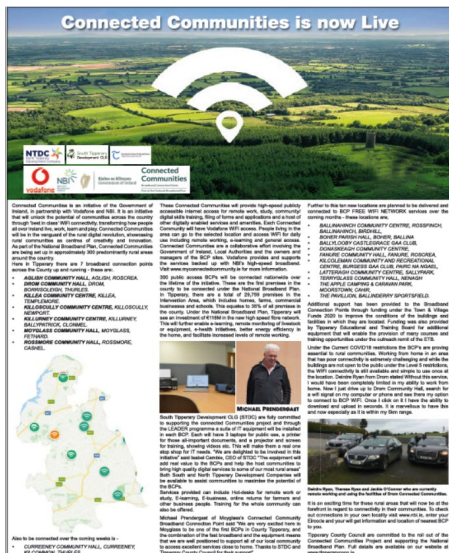
**Broadband Connection Points (Branded as ‘Connected Communities’)**

8 Connected Communities Broadband Connection Point are now Live in County Tipperary. The list is as follows:

1. AGLISH Community Hall,

2. Curreeny 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,

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. Heather Humphreys T.D., Minister for Rural and Community Development congratulated Tipperary on their BCP network as part of the Connected Communities Initiative.



Leader and ETB have supported the purchase of equipment. 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 BCPs 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 Castlegrange 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

**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	Part 8 done, and architect appointed
Carrick	<b>Stable Lane:</b> Repurpose floor 3 of Carrick MD offices for shared work space	Centre open and occupied, LEO funding secured for running costs.
	<b>Phase 2:</b> Expansion to 50	REDF application for phase 2 feasibility

	seats in a new location	
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	Funding secured, and tender drawings being prepared for construction and fit out.
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.
	<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 of March 2021 with intention to procure a contractor in May. Aim to complete works by Q4 2021. 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.

## 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. The changes will 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 full review is underway of the scheme and it is expected that a new scheme for 2021 will be launched by the end of March 2021 with similar allocations to 2020.

Municipal District	Cashel Tipperary	Clonmel	Templemore Thurles	Nenagh	Carriock on Suir
Grant allocation €	4317	5695	5092	2980	1960

### Christmas Retail Support Programme 2020

Grantees were awarded funding to be spent on activities including advertising, promotions, street entertainment or other expenses for their Christmas events. On account of the COVID19 challenges, emphasis was placed on projects and events that were hosted out-of-doors. Versatile and innovative approaches were favored.

There was 29 applications from across the County and funding was awarded to all with the exception of one which was for activity that was included in another application. A wide range of activities were funded including outdoor markets, santa drive-through, shop local promotions and bespoke christmas light events. The list of recipients is as follows:

Burncourt 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
Kilsheelan 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>

### 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

	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

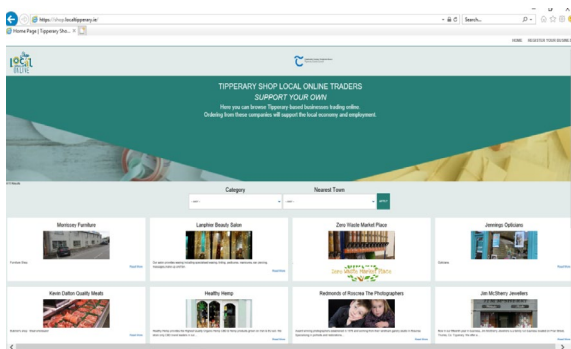


### New promotional website for Tipperary Businesses.

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, including a new digital Hub by COSBA in Stable Lane), the development of a new Brand and Website for Tipperary Town was achieved. .



### County Marketing Campaign

New video testimonial content was created for Tipperary, The Place The Time (TTPIT) during 2020. Economic Development worked with successful Tipperary based companies to create this new content, including DMS Governance Cashel, FRS Roscrea, Fiserv Nenagh and Technopath Ballina. Our social media platforms for TTPIT were used to promote the videos, as well as a print media PR campaign.

A 2021 campaign has started and companies based in Clonmel, Cahir, Thurles and Carrick on Suir have been identified, and have agreed to come on board.

### TIPPERARY PROPERTY PORTAL

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

## M1 LEO Grants

Measure 1	Output 2020
<b>Number of Clients Approved Funding:</b>	
Feasibility: Number:	9
Priming: Number:	15
Business Expansion: Number:	11
TAME: Number	20
No. of projected potential new jobs associated with Approvals (Priming & Business Expansion)	118

Jobs:	Output 2020
LEO Client Portfolio	278
Total Portfolio Employment (All Jobs, both FT & PT)	1365
Gross Jobs Created (All Jobs both FT & PT)	274
Net Jobs Increase (All Jobs created minus all Job Losses)	16

Trading On Line Vouchers:	Output 2020
No. of Trading Online Vouchers approved	434

Measure 2
<b>Training/Development Programmes (All Training and Networking events)</b>
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes
No. of SYOB Programmes
No. of Participants attending SYOB Programmes
No. of Management Development Programmes
No. of Business Coaches assigned to Clients
<b>Mentoring:</b>
Total Number of individual mentoring – (participants availing of one to one mentoring – one to one engagement by a Mentor with one client)
Total Number of group mentoring participants – (are all group mentoring engagements or clinics where a mentor engages with a group of clients.
Total Number of Mentoring Participants (both one to one and

Progression Pathway:	Output 2020
Number of Clients transferred to E.I.	4

Schools Entrepreneurship:	Output 2020
Number of Schools Participating (Secondary schools only engaged in school enterprise programmes)	25
Number of Students Participating	2425
<b>Competitiveness</b>	<b>Output 2020</b>



No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert *	26
No. of Companies who will undertake Green Start Programme	0

<b>Export Enterprise Development Programme</b>	<b>Output 2020</b>
No. of Clients undertaking Export Enterprise Development Programmes in Enterprise Ireland	4

<b>MFI:</b>	<b>Output 2020</b>
Number of Applications submitted	26

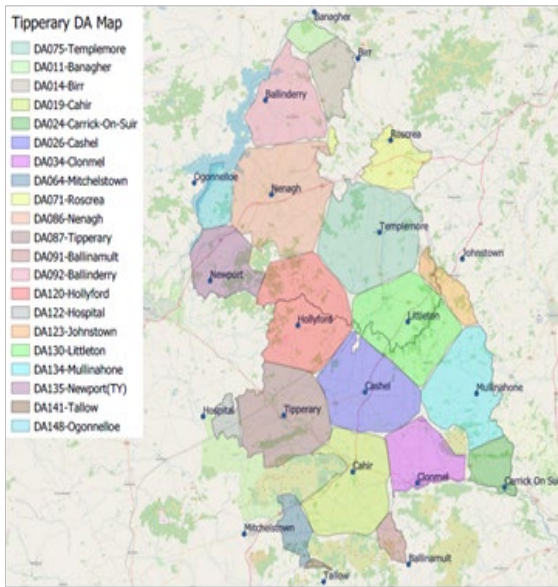
### National Broadband Plan



In Tipperary, there are 29,759 premises in the Intervention Area (IA), which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and 35 National schools. Under the National Broadband Plan, Tipperary will see an investment of €118m in the new high-speed fibre network. In June 2020 - National Broadband Ireland (NBI) commenced Road Surveys in the Tipperary

Deployment Area	Delivery Status - per February, 2021
DA075-Templemore	
DA011-Banagher	
DA014-Birr	
DA019-Cahir	
DA024-Carrick-On-Suir	Survey
DA026-Cashel	Survey
DA034-Clonmel (NBI Exchange)	Survey Hedge cutting
DA064-Mitchelstown	
DA071-Roscrea	Survey

(NBI Exchange)	
DA086-Nenagh	Survey to commence – March 1 <sup>st</sup>
DA087-Tipperary (NBI Exchange)	Survey Hedge cutting
DA091-Ballinamult	
DA092-Ballinderry	
DA120-Hollyford	
DA122-Hospital	
DA123-Johnstown	Survey
DA130-Littleton	
DA134-Mullinahone	
DA135-Newport(TY)	
DA141-Tallow	
DA148-Ogonnelloe	



Map of NBP DA – Tipperary County

Three (3) Core Network Areas are planned and located in the towns of Roscrea, Tipperary and Clonmel. NBI has already completed their Surveys of these exchange locations.

**Commercial Investment in high-speed Fibre Broadband**

**SIRO**, a joint venture of VODAFONE and the ESB, continues to deploy high speed broadband (FTTH) in the towns of Nenagh (3,700 premises), Clonmel ( 8,693 premises), Roscrea (2,800 premises).

Further SIRO investment in the County is planned to be announced in 2021.



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 programme in Tipperary town in record time. A total of 3,000 premises were passed in 10 weeks. In addition, they have also passed 7, 900 premises in the following towns:

- Nenagh,
- Templemore,
- 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** had commenced the deployment of an open access fibre broadband Network in the town of Templemore. This project was subsequently suspended (project lambay suspension) given the Covid-19 Restrictions.

There are now over **133 Metropolitan Area Network Connection (s) across the eight (8) County Tipperary Urban eNet Networks** and are either operational or in the process of coming on stream.

Their end users are a real mix of life in Business in the county made up of-

- Schools
- All of the larger FDI employers in these towns
- Bank Branches and Credit Union offices
- Supermarkets
- Gov Departments and State Agencies (Hospitals/Garda Stations etc)
- Other telecoms Infrastructure

### **Commercial Investment in Mobile Phone and Mobile Broadband**

The Mobile Network Operators, including Vodafone, Three, Eir and Imagine (who provide for 4G LTE broadband and VOIP services) continue to build and upgrade networks in County Tipperary and this has led to significantly enhanced call and text reliability, 4G, 4G (plus) and 3G services.

**Cellnex Telecom** - who build telecommunications Infrastructure - are now actively progressing circa 15 locations for new telecommunication 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.

Phase One progressed in 2020 with Phase 2 beginning in early 2021.

### **Commercial Investment in high-speed Fixed Wireless Broadband**

**Imagine Broadband** - who have been building an Fixed Wireless LTE Broadband Network in the County - since 2017

They have a total of 43,760 premises in the County which are now covered for broadband connectivity, which includes for 18,213 premises within the rural areas of the County.

In May, 2020 a new section of Imagine's Network was completed in the Nenagh Md covering 2,630 premises, this includes for 1,125 premises in the Amber area of the NBP.

High-Speed Broadband is now available in the following townlands Puckaun, Kevanstown, Coolbaun, Ballinderry, Terryglass, Portumna Bridge, Aglish, Borrisokane, Templemartin, Kildarby, Conger, Ardcroney and all townlands in between.

### **Future Technologies**

The Telecommunications Industry has agreed to participate in the build of a pilot Shared underground Telecommunications Infrastructure with Tipperary County Council and others to order to develop Future technologies and Smart Place telecommunications Infrastructure as part of the Liberty Square Refurbishment Project, Thurles, County Tipperary which plans to;

- a) develop a generic under-ground passive solution to Shared underground Telecommunications Infrastructure with Industry –  
The principle of active infrastructure sharing (will be subject to a code of practice) will also be developed.
- b) develop a future proof solution (infrastructure that is scalable, a long term investment that's fit for purpose)

### WiFi4EU Initiative

Tipperary County Council has completed the installation of a fully supported Free Wi-Fi Network across an extensive Network of public Access Points, at designated locations (six (6) towns) in County Tipperary, under the European Commission WiFi4EU Programme and as match Funded by the DRCD.

Location	Number of Free WiFi AP's deployed in the town	Free WiFi Access Point Status
Tipperary	14	All APs Live
Nenagh	11	All APs Live
Roscrea	6	AP's not yet Live
Thurles	5	AP's not yet Live
Carrick-on-Suir	5	All APs Live
Clonmel	5	All APs Live



### TOURISM

#### **Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce and New Resilience Plan**

A Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce has been established to co-ordinate recovery at a destination level. The role of the taskforce is to agree actions with and between the stakeholders, identify and capitalise on opportunities as they arise over the next 12-18 months and to align destination marketing efforts with Irelands Ancient East and Irelands Hidden Heartlands and the Discover Ireland Marketing Campaign. This new stakeholder group is led by Tipperary Tourism in co-operation with Failte Ireland and supported by Tipperary County Council. Stakeholders from across the industry and across the county are represented, working together to specifically address issues arising from Covid-19.

A workshop to develop a Tipperary Destination Resilience Plan is taking place on March 2nd to map out actions to support the industry over the next 12 months.

#### **Collaboration and Communication**

Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Tourism continues to collaborate with Fáilte Ireland and the Irelands Ancient East and Irelands Hidden Heartlands teams to develop and promote Tipperary as a tourism destination. In relation to Tipperary businesses, a closed Facebook group provides instant updates to businesses regarding topics of interest including financial supports, grants schemes, training and marketing initiatives. Furthermore bi weekly newsletters have issued detailing same.

#### **Digital Training Directory**

Following a survey of the industry in November, and subsequent discussion and alignment with the Local Enterprise Office, Tipperary Education and Training Board, Tipperary Skillnet and Fáilte Ireland a

comprehensive digital training directory has been developed and circulated to Tipperary Tourism members. It is also available on [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com). Training opportunities are promoted through regular newsletters, the Tipperary Tourism Closed Facebook Group on a weekly basis and through Twitter.

### **Re-Imagining Tourism in Tipperary**

As a direct tailored response to the digital training needs survey a new iteration of the Re-Imagining Tourism in Tipperary Programme will run for five weeks from March 15th. This programme was very popular in 2020 and provides an important communications platform directly with Tipperary Tourism members where their voices are heard first hand and their needs and concerns can be addressed.

### **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.

### **Visit Fethard Town & Village Funding**

The community in Fethard secured funding to prepare a Visit Fethard campaign to roll out in line with the reopening of tourism businesses in 2021. This project, supported by Tipperary County Council, will see the development of a new audio trail, web presence and digital and video content for Fethard leveraging off Tipperary Tourism and Irelands Ancient East brands. This project

will integrate with the historic town's heritage trail upgrade and The Butler Trail APP.

### **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.

### **Just Transition Funding for Littleton Labyrinth.**

Tipperary County Council in partnership with Bórd na Mona has been successful in a recent funding application to the Just Transition Fund for €780,000 to develop the first phase of Littleton Labyrinth, essentially this project encompasses a peatway from Horse and Jockey to Glengoole encircling Lough Daoire Bhile. Included in this project is a feasibility and business plan to develop the concept of a Bushcraft Survival and Activity Centre first mooted in the Tipperary Transforming, Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030.

### **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme**

The following Measure 1 Applications have received funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020. €166,000 in total has been awarded to Tipperary County Council.

Tipperary Hiking -creation of a digital interactive Tipperary Outdoor Recreational Activities map on the [www.tipperary.com](http://www.tipperary.com) platform.

Tipperary Mass Path, Tipperary Town.

Bothar na Marbh, Cashel.

Cahir Viaduct

Lough Derg Interactive Map.

Munster Vales Interactive Map.

Munster Vales Slow Adventure Campaign.

### **New Tourism APP**

Funding of €30,000 has been secured under the Town and Village Renewal Accelerated Measures Grants Scheme to develop a new tourism APP, the APP will initially focus on Suir Blueway Tipperary and is expected to develop over time into an all county tourism APP complementing www.tipperary.com and significantly enhancing the Tipperary Tourisms digital presence.

### **Tipperary Transforming, Tourism Product Development Plan 2020-2030 Launch & Cashel Destination Town Plan Update**

Plans are currently progressing to host an industry briefing for Tipperary Tourism members to formally launch the Tipperary Transforming Plan and to provide an update on the Cashel Destination Town Plan. This event will present details of the Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce, planned marketing activities for 2021 and act as a launch event for the Tipperary Tourism Membership Scheme 2021.

### **LEADER Application**

The LEADER application for marketing services 2021 has been approved with funding of €57,937 awarded, 50% from South Tipperary Development Company and 50% from Tipperary County Council. The funding awarded will assist Tipperary Tourism's marketing actions in the year ahead.

**Interactive Map:** ORIS funding received to create an interactive digital map to showcase outdoor activities around the county.

### **Marketing 2021 Campaign**

**Mini-Campaign:** A level 5 marketing campaign underway, as a soft-sell reminder to consider Tipperary when planning for holidays later in the year.

**Main Campaign:** The 2021 Marketing Campaign for Tipperary will be **"The Insider**

**Tip**", this aligns perfectly with Failte Irelands Keep Discovering campaign. New content around outdoor activities will be created and shared on traditional media, radio, social media and podcasts.

**Failte Ireland Covid 19 Safety Charter** – to ensure as many Tipperary businesses as possible sign up for the Covid 19 Safety Charter, 112 businesses signed up to date.

**Asset Sharing** Almost two terabytes of footage was gathered around the county in 2020.

**Regional Press and Radio** -the 2021 campaign will have a focused local inter-county campaign to encourage travelling and shopping locally.

### **Lough Derg**

**Lough Derg Visitor Experience Development Plan,** The Lough Derg VEDP & Screening documents, were adopted by the Lough Derg Marketing Group on December 2nd. It is envisaged this plan will be launched in March 2021.

**Discovery Points** LEADER funding has been awarded to create visitor focused discovery points at locations around the lake, this project will commence on March 1st.

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

- The Lough Derg Challenge: 12 weekly challenges, each week a new challenge which will appeal to a different market segment, data will be captured on an app. The purpose is to invite visitors to partake in an activity in their own

time, thus avoiding mass gatherings. This challenge will be co-sponsored by Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

- Create a Lough Derg Evening experience: Develop five new destination wide experiences focused on evening outdoor entertainment. E.g. Night-kayaking, night swimming, evening hikes.
- PR: Develop a P.R. calendar focused on seasonal occasions, the Lough Derg Challenge and innovative packages.
- Best in class Visitor Information and Packaging. Develop an online brochure and itineraries.

**Marketing:** In 2020 an innovative marketing plan was executed, including P.R., podcast sponsorship with Blindboy, Radio and local press media. As a result of this awareness Lough Derg reported a significant increase in followership and website traffic in 2020. Digital audiences across all social media more than doubled in the last 12 months, and 8 million impressions were created. A new digital marketing plan will be implemented in 2021.

**Interactive Map:** ORIS funding was applied for and received to create an interactive digital map to showcase Blueway activities on and around Lough Derg.

**T.V.** Filming completed on the River Shannon for a feature on **Channel 5 (U.K. T.V.)** on the most scenic rivers in the world; broadcasting date in March to be confirmed.

**Nationwide** In talks with nationwide about a feature on Lough Derg wildlife for filming in Q2 2021.

**Content:** A 7-day shoot took place on Lough Derg sponsored by the ORIS and IHH in September 2020. One hero video and nine mini-videos have been created for use in the 2021 campaign. Eight terabytes of footages

have been sub-clipped and made available on Vimeo, for business around the lake to use in their marketing. Also available for use is over 1,000 images, which have been catalogued and uploaded to Flickr, with inspirational written pieces.

**Photography:** A talented photographer has been commissioned to capture content for 50 social media posts to be circulated throughout 2021.

**Training:** A bespoke training programme for tourism businesses to help them use this new content will be organised, administered and promoted.

**Trade Communications:** A monthly newsletter will be circulated to the tourism sector around Lough Derg, detailing:

Training

New video and images available

Supports

## Munster Vales

### Munster Vales Strategic Development Plan:

The Munster Vales Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025 was launched in November to a virtual audience of 100 people. Chairperson Pat Slattery described how the plan aligned with the Council's Community & Economic Development goals in further developing and sustaining the wellbeing of our communities through economic development and enterprise development for tourism related businesses, community engagement and further developing the cultural and recreational areas.

### Community Engagement Program:

This program is funded by LEADER and meets the demand of the communities in this region to gain a greater understanding of the role that tourism can play in the communities and to enhance the relationships between



agencies, community groups and tourism related businesses. There are 40 people participating in this course from the Galtee and Knockmealdown region.

### **Suir Blueway Tipperary**

In partnership with Tipperary County Council we are exploring the possibility of a feasibility study to link Suir Blueway Tipperary with Waterford Greenway.

### **Funding**

Leader funding has been approved in principle for Covid Support and marketing for rural tourism businesses and communities. ORIS Measure 1 funding received for two projects. 1) Development of a Digital

Interactive Map 2) The rollout of a Slow Adventure Campaign

### **Marketing:**

A new digital marketing strategy has been implemented with emphasis on supporting tourism related businesses through the pandemic and further engaging with the domestic target market through interactive and brand recognition campaigns.



## Environment & Climate Action Directorate

### Policy Changes & Updates

The Strategic Policy Committee is convening a meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March

### Public Awareness

#### 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 17 tenants by telephone and sent them information packs on the services at the civic amenity sites, recycling and ways of reducing food waste.

#### Repair Directory



The section received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency in 2020 of €3,500 to compile a Repair & Reuse Directory of service providers available in Tipperary that offer a repair and reuse service as part of waste prevention initiative. This aims to encourage people to repair or reuse items rather than throw them away. 1,000 Repair and Reuse Directory booklets were published, and they will be available to the public through the libraries, Civic Offices, Municipal Districts Offices, Resource Centres and Citizens Information Centres. A competition will be held to promote the directory.

### Dog Licences Awareness



To increase the number of dogs licenced, 4,000 leaflets were distributed to households in the Cahir area in January, advising them of their obligations to licence their dogs.

### Dog Fouling Awareness Campaign



A pilot campaign to raise dog fouling awareness is planned for Tipperary Town and Thurles. Hi Vis jackets will be distributed to the public and these can be obtained from SuperValu shops in Tipperary Town and Thurles from mid-March. Depending on the success of the pilot, it is intended to roll out this programme to other Municipal District areas in April and May.

## Community Services

### Dogs

There were 1,069 Dog Licences purchased during this period. 28 dogs were impounded, with 15 rehomed and 5 reclaimed.

### Horses

The number of horse queries processed to date is 6, with 2 horses seized.

### Abattoirs

	<u>Bovine</u>	<u>Ovine</u>	<u>Porcine</u>	<u>Caprine</u>	<u>Deer</u>	<u>Abattoir Visits</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>53</b>



## Infrastructure

### Burial Grounds

Burial Ground	Progress
<b>Ballina (Boher)</b>	Part 8 Planning Permission granted. The Construction Drawings & Pricing Document is currently being completed by Consultants.
<b>Fethard</b>	Land Acquisition at advanced stage. Part 8 Drawings commenced.
<b>Cahir</b>	Progressing with developing Burial Ground.
<b>Cloughprior</b>	Hydro-geological Suitability Assessment completed. Negotiations commenced with Landowner prior to commencing with full Hydro-geological 12 Month Assessment
<b>Carrick on Suir</b>	Preliminary Hydro-geological Assessment completed. Archaeological Assessment to commence
<b>Shanrahan Burial Ground</b>	Land Acquisition Conditional Works to commence
<b>Kilmore Burial Ground</b>	Land Acquisition completed. Boundary Treatment Works to commence
<b>Tipperary Town</b>	Upgrade Access/Egress and provision of additional Parking. This is part of the NRA Roads Scheme Project
<b>Thurles (St Patricks)</b>	Resurfacing of Access Roads. Commenced, Works to be completed
<b>Borrisoleigh</b>	Removal of Overgrown Boundary. Works to commence

### Civic Amenity Sites

16,236 customers have used the Civic Amenities to date in 2021.

Waller's-Lot	3,534
Carrigeen	3,760
Nenagh	3,816
Roscrea	3,237
Donohill	1,701

The Civic Amenity Sites are currently developing a grey water collection system, which will enable the sites to collect rain water and reuse it for washing the facilities, thus reducing the amount of metered water used on site. Works have begun on installing newly purchased compaction equipment at the Roscrea Civic Amenity, to be followed by installation at the Nenagh Civic Amenity.



### **Derelict Sites**

In 2021, one property has been added to the derelict site register and two properties were removed, having been rendered no longer derelict. An updated copy of the register was published on our website on 15/02/2021. Derelict Site Levies for 2021 have issued to the relevant owners. The section continues to engage with owners in relation to their properties, although current Government restrictions prevent any works being carried out.

## **Waste Management and Enforcement**

### **Glass, Cans & Textile Recycling**

3,962 Tonnes of glass and 146 tonnes of cans were collected from the 113 Bottle/Can bring locations in 2020. This represents an increase of just over 1,000 tonnes (35%) of glass from 2019, mainly due to Covid-19. This presented many challenges, such as the glass collectors' capacity to take in the increased tonnage and also the demand for glass cullet has dropped significantly due to many sectors being closed, such as the construction industry, which uses glass cullet for sand blasting. 2020 saw an increased focus on signage and CCTV operations at our bring bank locations, which has resulted in a notable drop in illegal dumping at these locations. Stickers were placed on every bottle bank in the county, promoting awareness on how to dispose of glass and cans correctly and the contact numbers for reporting overflowing bring banks.

## **Waste Management and Enforcement**

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awareness on how to dispose of glass and cans correctly and the contact numbers for reporting overflowing bring banks.

### New Skips



The Section has purchased 17 new skips, along with 4 new waste compactors, at a cost of €169,115.65. These new skips and compactors will be based in Nenagh and Roscrea Civic Amenity Sites. These skips are part of the plan to manage and improve the waste contracting services at the civic amenity sites.

### Textile Recycling

In May 2020, Tipperary County Council organised the placement of clothes bank receptacles at each of our bottle bank locations. This resulted in the collection of 247 tonnes of textiles for recycling in the eight-month period. The items were recycled and re-used in a number of different industries. Some were sold overseas as clothing and items which were of a lower quality were recycled into cloths/rags for the motor industry or used as furniture filling.

### Household Waste Inspections

17 surveys were carried out by correspondence due to Covid-19 restrictions. 10 of these households were compliant and 7 were requested to provide evidence to demonstrate compliance.

Litter Fines	Fines Issued	Cancelled	Paid	Outstanding	Legal Proceedings
	17	2	5	10	0

### Enforcement Actions

Legal Proceedings for 4 cases regarding breaches of the Waste Legislation have been deferred to March and April. One case in breach of the Litter Pollution Act has been deferred to March.



1 site required the serving of a Direction under Section 14 of the Waste Management Act to remedy it.

1 site required the serving a Notice under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act.

Collaborated with the Gardai regarding incidents involving illegal dumping of tyres and burning of vehicles and with National Parks and Wildlife/Gardai regarding the dumping of deer carcasses.

### Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021

The council is awaiting an announcement from the Department regarding the criteria and funds for the 2021 initiative. 8 Big Belly Bins were installed in Carrick-on-Suir, 2 in Mullinahone and 2 in Fethard.

### Illegal Dumping Cleanups

Roscrea 2 locations	Moyne – 1 location	Carrick – 1 location
Thurles – 2 locations	Nenagh – 3 Locations	Tipperary – 2 locations

## Climate & Energy

### Climate Change Training programme

The online climate change training programme has commenced with the raising awareness module, which was delivered to all members of the Energy & Climate Action Committee recently, the championing leadership module for senior management and the elected members is scheduled to be delivered shortly and modules for staff will be delivered throughout the year.

### Sustainable Tipp

TEA is engaging with the various agencies in the preparation of the extension to the Sustainable Energy Action Plan 2017-2020 for a further 18 months until the New Climate Action Plan is prepared and adopted.

### Community Engagement Climate Change

In association with the C&E Section, a series of climate conversations are being organised with representatives of the Comhairle na Oig network to engage the views of young people on climate change, which will feed into the 2021 Climate Action Plan.



## Environmental Protection

### Air Pollution

Live information on Air Quality in Clonmel, Tipperary Town & Nenagh can be retrieved at EPA website [www.airquality.ie](http://www.airquality.ie). The status of the air in all towns is rated as good and is compliant with the CAFE directive. A Traffic emission study undertaken in Thurles and Tipperary Town will be ready for reporting in April. This data will be shared with the EPA for publishing.

### Water Pollution /Agriculture

Planned Inspections were restricted in this period. All Pollution incidents were investigated as per HSE guidelines. Activities undertaken to date include:

Approx. 150 River samples were taken as part of the WFD sampling program across the county.

12 water pollution incidents occurred, were inspected and appropriate corrective action taken

10 Farm inspections were completed in response to pollution incidents

1 Section 12 Notice has been issued and 1 Warning letter issued in response to Water Pollution risk.

7 Nutrient Management Plans were submitted and assessed.

A project identifying Farms with derogations and high nitrates usage level has been undertaken to further assist in our water quality management remit.

Engagement with LAWPRO is ongoing and the section made a presentation on Water Quality challenges associated with Agricultural intensification at the Regional Operational Committee meeting

2 Legal Actions (1 S12 Water Pollution Act & S34 Waste Management Act) deferred by the courts in 2020 to 2021.

### Planning Referrals

27 Environmental Reports on Planning application were submitted to the Planning Section to ensure potential environment impacts of proposed developments are identified and mitigated at planning stage.

### Projects Planned

The Section is participating in the Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine led Creation of Woodlands Scheme, to identify publicly owned lands for the planting of native trees as part of the Climate Action Plan. This will further enhance air quality, while providing improved natural amenities in Tipperary. The continuation of a survey of established car dealers to assist in the identification of rogue deco paint traders. This was undertaken in 1 MD in 2020.



Open/Closed Complaints 01<sup>st</sup> January – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Complaint Description	Tipperary/Cahir /Cashel		Thurles		Nenagh		Clonmel		Carrick-on Suir	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Air	2	1	0	1	0	0	14	4	1	1
Burial Grounds	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derelict Sites	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Dog Control	2	6	1	1	8	24	2	9	1	0
Litter	9	58	16	50	12	47	8	19	7	30
Noise	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Veterinary	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
Waste Enforcement	5	0	1	0	2	3	3	1	1	1
Water	7	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0
Complaints Open	27		20		25		28		12	
Complaints Closed		67		54		77		35		33
<b>Total Received</b>		<b>94</b>		<b>74</b>		<b>102</b>		<b>63</b>		<b>45</b>





## 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:**

A. Schemes in Construction	Contract Name	Consultant	Contractor	Current Scheme Status
Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme Contract 2 (Water Treatment Plant and Pipelines) (Contract Cost €9.5M)	Thurles Regional Water Supply Scheme Contract 2 Design Build Operate (DBO) Water Treatment Plant at Bohernacrusha, Holycross, Thurles and Pipelines	Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited	Glan Agua Limited	Completed.

B. Schemes at Pre-Construction/Design	Contract Name	Current Scheme Status
Clonmel Town and Rural Water Supply Scheme (Water Abstraction, Water Treatment Plant and Pipelines)	Clonmel Town and Rural Water Supply Scheme – Water Intake Works, Water Treatment Plant, Reservoirs and Pipelines (Design Build Operate (DBO) Contract)	Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited Engineering Consultant.  The main scheme is currently delayed due to issues with awaited abstraction licence legislation.  Irish Water is to progress an alternative project involving increasing the supply from the Monroe wellfield into Clonmel. Irish Water to issue full details.
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 to progress with full design, EIA and planning documentation. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Planning Application estimated to be submitted in Q1 2021. Estimated to start construction in late 2022.
Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Decision to grant permission for upgrade works issued on 03 February 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 Q1 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. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Planning Application estimated to be submitted in Q1 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 Sharex 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) Proposed 2021 works: Ardfinnan (1km); Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan (0.2km); Davis Road, Clonmel (0.48km); Kilfeacle to Thomastown (0.8km); and Templetuohy (0.15km).
- 2) Back Yard Services replacement ongoing at Tipperary:

The project began with Phase 1 works to replace 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.

- 3) Back yard services replacement (32 no.) in Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan to start in 2021.
- 4) First Fix programme is ongoing.

**(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 to start 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.

Foul sewer rehabilitation works took place at Father Sheehy Terrace, Clogheen and at Market Place, Clonmel during November to December 2020.

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

Irish Water has procured J.B. Barry and Partners Limited as Engineering Consultants to assess a number of wastewater treatment plant sites to assess if the provision of new inlet works, storm tank, sludge treatment (or combination of these) would be worth progressing to improve plant operation. The sites identified are Borrisokane, Kilsheelan, Holycross and Limerick Junction. A preliminary design review is ongoing. The provision of any identified works will require a prior grant of permission from Tipperary County Council as planning authority.

#### **(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. A grant of permission issued to Irish Water by Tipperary County Council, as planning authority, on 25 September 2018 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 documentation submitted by Irish Water with the planning application indicated that 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; however, redesign of the settlement tanks is ongoing and it is expected to be constructed in Q1 2021.



#### **(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 from 08 December 2020 until 16 February 2021, which date was



extended to 01 March 2021. Following this consultation period Irish Water will finalise and adopt the Framework Plan and commence 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.

The reports can be viewed online and downloaded at [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp).

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

### **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 Q1 2021 as project details are agreed.

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

On 03 July 2019 the CRU published its Decision on Irish Water's Non-Domestic Tariff Framework. The purpose of the framework is to generate a harmonized suite of tariffs for non-domestic water and wastewater customers. A harmonized approach will benefit Irish Water's customers in terms of transparency, simplicity and equity. The framework sets out the "rules" for how tariffs are designed and how customers will be transitioned to their new tariffs over time, as well as the new non-domestic tariff rates.

This framework of charges will replace the existing charges, which had been set by each local authority prior to 01 January 2014. 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/>.

The new non-domestic charges were to take effect on 01 May 2020 but have been deferred. The CRU, in conjunction with the then Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and Irish Water, announced on 31 March 2020 that they had agreed to approve Irish Water's proposals to defer the implementation of the new non-domestic tariff framework for business customers, in recognition of the potential financial difficulty for non-domestic customers over the coming months. In 02 November 2020 the CRU announced a revised date of 01 May 2021 for the new set of national water and wastewater business charges to come into effect.





The CRU website states: *The CRU felt that any further delays would limit the positive benefit to smaller business customers who will experience a bill decrease under the new arrangements. The new tariffs encourage water conservation and will mean lower bills for many businesses forced to use less water due to COVID-19 restrictions, as the new tariffs will lead to bills that better reflect their reduced water consumption.*

### **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.

The most recent workshops have been conducted on a District basis 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.

Water Services is currently engaging with Irish Water in relation to the format of future workshops with the elected members. As Irish Water is considering this matter at present, further details are not available.

### **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 at Civic Offices, Nenagh, on 21 October 2020, with some members in attendance by remote connection. The meeting scheduled for 12 January 2021 was postponed and it is anticipated that the meeting will be held, by Zoom, in March 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.



The larger projects during 2020 were as follows:

- Rahealty-Clobanna Group Water Scheme: civil works contract to be completed in February 2021 (snag list to be attended to);
- Gurteenakilla-Plunkett Street Group Water Scheme: completed its snag list for an interconnection pipe;
- Ardcroney-Frolic-Luska Group Water Scheme: new source under investigation;
- Abbeyville-Lorrha Group Water Scheme: watermain upgrade and source protection carried out; and
- Consulting Engineer's Report: eTendering exercise to be carried out shortly to procure the services of a consulting engineer in relation to a process of amalgamation and rationalisation of group water schemes in County Tipperary:  
Phase 1: Preliminary Report; and  
Phase 2: Design and Contracts.

27 group water schemes have returned statements noting their agreement to become involved, with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Engagement with the Rural Water Unit in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) is ongoing in relation to this process.

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.

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. 87 applicants awarded since 2014 have been contacted to get in touch with the Rural Water Team within Water Services without delay. All work, documents, site visits and payment to the applicant and recoupment from the DHLGH must be completed by 30 March 2021. 54 applicants have responded. Where work has not started one may withdraw and apply under the revised scheme bringing one's award with one. Where work has started there is no choice but to continue on the former scheme and ensure that all elements, as outlined above, are completed by 30 March 2021. Every effort is



being made to support and assist all these applicants. An extension to this cut-off date of 30 March 2021 has been sought from the DHLGH.

**Well Grants:**

Invested 2020		Applicants	% At Maximum	Treatment.	Up grade	New Source
Former Scheme:	€74,580.48	40	63%			
Revised Scheme:	€91,473.40	28	% At Maximum	95% (19 Applicants)	0%	50% (5 Applicants)
			Value:	€19,769.29	€24,044.30	€47,659.81
			No. of Applicants:	20	13	10
<b>Total:</b>	<b>€166,053.88</b>	<b>68</b>				

As at 19 February 2021, 16 applications were received with 10 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.

**Lead Piping Grants:**

One application has been received as at 19 February 2021 and is under consideration.

**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.



Dualla Public Water Supply



Dualla Public Water Supply

HOUSING  
DIRECTORATE



**New Policy/Strategic Issues**

Policy Changes/Updates	Current Position/Progress made	Next Stage
<b>Review of Housing Allocation Procedures &amp; Potential of Choice Based Letting</b>	Draft Allocation Scheme and CBL brought to February Plenary Meeting and adopted by Elected Members	Adopted Allocation Scheme forwarded to the Minister of Housing for approval.
<b>Choice Based Letting</b>	Working Group in place	Expected introduction Q4 2021
<b>Review of Housing Adaptation Grants</b>	Progress report considered at SPC in January	Progress on new scheme to be kept under review
<b>New Communication Protocol re Allocation &amp; Assessments</b>	Discussed at SPC and Councillor Workshop in January 2021	To commence in March 2021.

**Housing Delivery**

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government identified a Target of 625 Social Housing Units to be delivered by Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the Approved Housing Bodies for the period 2018-2021 as part of Rebuilding Ireland, through Build, Acquisition, and Long Term Leasing. This is in addition to separate HAP and RAS targets.

In the period 2018-2020 657 units of accommodation have been provided in Tipperary or 105% of the target with 12 months of the timeline remaining. Covid has had an impact on delivery across the country with construction stopped for a period in 2020 and again from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to date with the exception of sites where delivery can be achieved up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021. This is a recent derogation - previously it had applied to sites with delivery by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021. 4 such sites were designated as essential sites in Tipperary namely, Cloughjordan, Knockanrawley, Mitchel Street and more recently Templetuohy for a phased delivery.



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

- Construction works on site at 11 locations providing 169 dwellings
- A further 35 dwellings with the Contractor Appointed at 3 locations
- 4 schemes at Tender Stage providing 59 dwellings
- 2 schemes advertised for Part 8 providing 13 dwellings
- 86 dwellings in the early stages of the 4 Stage Approval Process

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

New RAS properties, incl Voluntary units	12
New LTL properties	3
Rent Reviews carried out 2021	48

### Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP Tenancies set up in 2021	33
Total Active HAP Tenancies	1881
Average weekly HAP set up	8

### 2021 Construction Programme

<i>Address</i>	<i>No of Units</i>	<i>Current Status</i>	<i>Next Stage</i>
Coolnamuck Road, Carrick on Suir	30	Decision Required on Third River Crossing	Stage 1 submission to Dept
Church Street, Templemore	2	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
William Street, Clonmel	4	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
Boherclough Street, Cashel	12	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
Comeragh Drive, Clonmel	2	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
Grove Street, Roscrea	9	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
Castle Crescent, Nenagh	8	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 Advertisement
Glencarrick, Roscrea	30	Advertised for Design Team	Stage 2 submission
Borrisoleigh	12	Stage 2 Approved	Preparation of Part 8
Camphill Communities, Carrick on Suir	7	Stage 2 Approved	On Hold with Camphill
Ardcroney	4	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 Decision
Moyne	9	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 Decision
Ballyclerihan	14	On E-tenders	Stage 4 submission
Bansha	14	On E-tenders	Stage 4 submission
Donohill	8	On E-tenders	Stage 4 submission
Two Mile Borris	23	Tender Assessment	Stage 4 Submission





Mullinahone	10	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
121 Ard Na Greine, Clonmel	2	Contractor Appointed	Delivery 2021
Thurles Lions Trust, Stanwix Homes, Thurles	19	Stage 4 Approved	Contractor Appointment
Cluid Housing Association, Glenconnor, Clonmel	9	Contractor Appointed	Delivery 2022
Portroe	14	Contractor Appointed	Delivery 2022
Cormac Drive, Nenagh	12	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Mulcair View, Newport	11	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Mitchel Street, Thurles	1	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Mill Road, Thurles	28	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Borrisokane	16	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Knockanrawley, Tipperary	28	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Abbey Street, Cahir	10	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Prior Park Grove, Clonmel	41	Turnkey, Works Ongoing	Delivery 2021/2022
Templetuohy	10	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Cloughjordan	2	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2021
Kilcooley Way, Gortnahoe	5	Complete	
Drummin Village, Nenagh	8	Complete	
Nenagh Approved Housing Turnkey at Strylea, Fethard	3	Turnkey, Completed	
Grange Road, Ballina	4	Complete	
Drummin Village, Nenagh Focus Ireland	13	Complete	
Glenconnor, Clonmel	26	Complete	
Rosanna Close, Tipperary Town	18	Complete	
Co Operative Housing Ireland, Ashgrove, Thurles	17	Complete	
Mill River, Carrick on Suir Tuatha AHB	22	Completed	
Longfield, Boherlahan	3	Part V, Completed	
Turnkey project at Abbey View, Fethard	21	Completed	
Turnkey at An Grianan, Killenaule	14	Completed	
Turnkey at An Ardan, Borrisokane	13	Completed	
An Duiche, Tipperary Town, Respond	43	Completed	
Thurles Lions Trust, Monastery Close, Thurles	34	Completed	
Gortataggart, Thurles	2	Completed	
Mulcair View, Newport	3	Completed	
Treacy Park, Carrick-on-Suir	1	Completed	



The Barracks, Borrisoleigh	2	Completed
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Cabragh Bridge Traveller Accommodation	6	Completed
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*The Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Governments 4 stages of approval are:*  
*Stage 1: Layout Design and confirm approval of scheme for Expenditure*  
*Stage 2: Assess project prior to Statutory Approval Submission*  
*Stage 3: Approve Detailed Design Solution and Pre Tender Cost Estimate*  
*Stage 4: Review Tender Returns in advance of Contract Award*

## Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

Tipperary County Council is housing 45 families in 2020/2021 as part of Ireland’s international commitments arising from the humanitarian crisis in Syria. In 2019 an interagency steering group was established to assist the resettlement process and a scoping exercise was undertaken to determine the most appropriate locations to house the families. Arising from this work, four locations were identified (Nenagh, Templemore, Tipperary Town, and Clonmel). Youth Work Ireland (Tipperary) has been appointed as the implementation partner for this project. They will provide resettlement assistance for an eighteen month period and establish a support structure for the families once the project is completed. The resettlement process has begun with 25 families settled in Clonmel, Nenagh, Templemore and Tipperary Town. The remaining 20 families will be welcomed to Tipperary in the early months of 2021.

## Energy Efficiency

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has allocated €1.277 million to Tipperary County Council

for the retrofitting of a minimum 47 local authority-owned houses in the county. After the works, the Building Energy Ratings (BER) of homes will typically be B2. They will be expected to be substantially cheaper to heat than similar homes heated by oil or gas.

The works are part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme and funded by the Carbon Tax. 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. About 40% of Ireland’s energy-related carbon emissions are from buildings. The works are broken into 3 phases with 2 phases tendered to date and the third phase is being surveyed. It is anticipated that works will commence in Q2 2021 and be completed by the end of Q3 2021.

## Housing Grants

The Council received a total allocation of €3,246,170 in 2020 for Private Housing Adaptation Grants of which €649,234 was to be provided from Tipperary County Council’s own revenue resources. The Council has not yet received confirmation of the 2021 allocation.



The Council received a total allocation of €534,812.83 for Local Authority DPG's in September 2020 but got final approval for €583,040.51. All Local Authorities are allowed to spend up to 65% of their previous year's allocation pending receipt of their full 2021 allocation in order to progress works throughout the year.

Applicants who are seeking a grant for roof insulation, wall insulation, boiler and heating control upgrades, solar panels, etc ,should

contact the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) - Tel: 1850 927000 for more information, as these works are not available under the Housing Grants Schemes.

Housing Grants completed processing the back log of P2 & P3 applications received in 2017 & 2018 and are currently reviewing 2019 P2 & P3 applications.

Grants 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	2020 BUDGET	Total Amount Expended	No. of Applications
Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability (HGD)	€2,396,170	€2,142,217	153
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	€110,000	€109,773	26
Housing Aid for Older People (HOP)	€700,000	€689,648	123
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€3,206,170</b>	<b>€2,941,638</b>	<b>302</b>
Local Authority DPG Grants	<b>€534,812.83</b>	<b>€583,041</b>	<b>28</b>

Please note, the Occupational Therapist Budget for assessing applications is not included in the above figures but is covered by the 2020 allocation

## Voids

Number Completed from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020	158
Number completed in January 2021	5



## Vacant Houses - Position as at 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2021

District	Approved Applicants	Vacant Houses	% vacant houses -v- overall housing stock
Carrick	351	28	0.5%
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel	852	65	1.2%
Clonmel	656	14	0.3%
Nenagh	723	33	0.6%
Templemore/Thurles	914	54	1.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3496</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>3.7%</b>

In addition to the above Vacant houses there are additional properties being held for the Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project and Isolation Hubs.

## Offers of Tenancy in 2021

	Offers	Accepted	Pending	Refused	Nominations to AHBs
Carrick	15	10	2	3	4
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel	27	14	7	6	6
Clonmel	0	0	0	0	0
Nenagh	14	9	1	4	7
Templemore Thurles	23	15	2	6	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</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. Please find set out here under the figures for homeless presentations for 2020 which indicates a 56% success rate

for the prevention of clients entering emergency accommodation. In monetary terms this has seen a reduction in expenditure on emergency accommodation from €736,000 in 2019 to €435,000 in 2020 which represents a 59% reduction.

Homeless Presentation 2020	Homeless Preventions 2020
319	180

It is envisaged that there will be a continued reduction on the dependency on emergency B&B accommodation as the Council is



considering the introduction in 2021 of its Own Front Door Service for emergency accommodation. Under this service the Council will provide three units of accommodation to be managed by Focus Ireland for use as emergency accommodation.

There is currently only 1 client in long term emergency accommodation i.e. in excess of 6 months and he is to be housed under the Housing First programme shortly.

THE HAP Place Finder Service has contributed to the success in this area by the creation of 179 Homeless HAP tenancies since its introduction. This success continues as evidenced in January 2021, 12 potential homeless clients have sourced HAP accommodation with the aid of the service.

Given the success of the HAP Placefinder in the south of the County, the Council has sought approval from the Department to appoint a second HAP Placefinder for the north of the County and is awaiting confirmation of same

The multi disciplined Homeless Action Team continues to provide a forum whereby a care and case management approach is adopted to put in place an exit strategy for each client who needs emergency accommodation whether with support from HAP, Approved Housing Bodies, RAS or Council housing. A sub allocation team has been established to identify the most suitable housing option for those in emergency accommodation.

Under the Housing First model introduced in the south of the county in 2020, 12 units of accommodation were to be provided for the most vulnerable of approved housing applicants. To date 11 units have been provided and it is hoped that the final unit will be in place shortly. The model is successful in that we have 11 of our most complex cases in secure accommodation with wrap around services ensuring that they maintain their tenancy.

A Submission is now with the Department seeking to extend this service to the north of the county and expand the service in the south of the County.

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 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 Tenancy Sustainment Service which has a county wide remit (with the recent appointment of a TSS to the Nenagh office) provides support for 41 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.



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 and we are actively seeking a greater take up as a result in 2021

### Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Rebuilding Ireland home loan is a Government backed mortgage which was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. You can 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 31/01/2021

Number of Applications Received	5
Number of Valid Applications Received	2
Number of Loan Applications Approved	2
Number of Loans Issued	1
Total Value of Loans Issued	€85,000

## Tenant Purchase Scheme Allocations

01/01/2021 to 31/01/2021

Formal applications to purchase received	1
Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued)	4
Sales completed	1
Total proceeds of sales received	€67,500.00



## Traveller Accommodation Programme

Tipperary County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme, following consultation with traveller agency groups outlines the accommodation requirements of the Travelling Community over a five year period from 2019 to 2024. To date the targets set out in the plan have been met for 2019 and 2020 the Council is aiming to provide 25 units of standard accommodation for traveller families in 2021.

In addition the Council intends to provide a caretaking service for group housing/halting sites in the south of the county and it is envisaged this will be in place by Quarter 2 2021.

The Council is also obliged to prepare a 3 Year Capital Programme and the current Programme covers the period 2020 to 2022. This Programme provides for upgrade works, new build, site remedial works, etc. so as to improve the living conditions of the travelling community.

Please find hereunder the proposed Capital Works for 2021 and the current position in relation to each project.

Tipperary County Council 3 Year Capital Plan – Traveller Accommodation – 2020 -2022					
TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION SCHEMES					
PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE (e.g. Group Housing/ Halting Site)	Expected Completion Date	Description of Project	CURRENT POSITION	
Wallers Lot, Cashel	Halting Site	2020	Extension to House 4	Gone to tender	
Wallers Lot, Cashel	Dwelling	2020	Refurbishment Works – “Lawrence’s House”	Gone to tender	
Heywood Road, Clonmel	Halting Site	2020	*Refurbishment of existing bays. * Removal of roadside mound. *Road re-surfacing works	Project tendered, contractor being appointed and works to commence April 2021	
Ballybeg Littleton	Dwelling	2020-2021	Extension (3 bedroom)	Part 8 being prepared to be advertised in March 2021	
Ashbury	Halting Site	2020-2021	Add bedrooms to 2	Tender being	



Roscrea			tigins	prepared for Departmental Approval
Parkmore Roscrea	Halting Site	2020-2021	Add bedrooms to 4 tigins	Part 8 to be advertised April 2021.
Lisnaviddogue Templemore	Dwelling	2022	Demolish existing house and construct 5 bedroom house due to overcrowding	Part 8 approved and costing being prepared for Departmental Approval.
Chapel Lane Roscrea	Extension	2022	Extension (1 bedroom)	Tenders being assessed.

The Traveller Accommodation Capital Team is currently working on the Capital Design Works Programme for 2022.





## CORPORATE SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

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

### Directorate Priorities / Updates

#### Audit Committee

Two meetings of the Audit Committee took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and the 24<sup>th</sup> February by zoom. The following items were discussed:

1. Update on outstanding audit recommendations
2. Presentation to Audit Committee from Local Government Auditor - Fiona Clancy
3. Presentation from Corporate on NOAC Performance Indicator Report 2019– Ger Walsh
4. Review of Audit Plan 2021
5. Review of Statutory Audit Committee Reports
6. Overview of Internal Audit undertaken on Roscrea Regional Training Centre
7. Management Report to the Council, December 2020, January 2021

#### Ethical Framework

This framework imposes a statutory duty on all in the service to maintain proper standards of

integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

#### Annual Declaration

Under Section 171 of the 2001 Act, every member must prepare and furnish to the Ethics Registrar before the end of February, an Annual Declaration in writing containing particulars of his or her declarable interests and an undertaking that he/she has read and understood the Code of Conduct for Councillors and to have regard to and be guided by the code in the exercise of his or her functions.

#### Political Donations by Elected Members

31 January 2021 was the deadline for the reporting of political donations by elected members.

#### Annual Report 2020

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

the Council, the adoption of which is a reserved function.

Work has commenced on the collation and drafting of the Annual Report for 2020 and a draft of the report will be submitted to the Council at its April meeting.

### Service Delivery Plan 2021:

The service delivery plan for 2021 is currently being drafted and will be submitted for the consideration of the Council at the April meeting. This plan will be consistent with the budgetary provisions estimated to be necessary for the Council to carry out its functions during 2021. The adoption of the plan is a reserved function of the Council;

### Performance Indicators:

#### Report on Performance Indicators 2019

- 6th annual performance report;
- 39 indicators across 11 areas but we are actually measuring over 80 indicators in total;
- Areas that Council require improvement –
  - housing vacancy rate and re-letting time;
  - Pte rented dwelling inspections and non-compliance rate;
  - PSCI rating for regional and local roads in category 1-4;
  - No of households availing of 3 bin service;
  - levels of litter pollution;
  - library visits and
  - no of jobs created;
- Summary of performance at a glance across 66 indicators
  - Ranking 1 - 5 = 10 indicators over 4 areas;
  - Ranking 5 - 10 = 19 indicators;
  - Ranking 11 - 20 = 27 indicators;
  - Ranking 21 - 31 = 10 indicators;

#### 2020 Indicators – Request for Data

- Deadline for submitting data is Friday 30th April 2021;
- For 2020, there are 42 local authority performance indicators covering the following areas:
  - ✓ Housing (H1 to H6);
  - ✓ Roads (R1 to R3);
  - ✓ Water (W1 and W2);
  - ✓ Waste/Environment (E1 to E6);
  - ✓ Planning (P1 to P5);
  - ✓ Fire Service (F1 to F3);
  - ✓ Library/Recreation (L1 to L2);
  - ✓ Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2);
  - ✓ Corporate (C1 to C5);
  - ✓ Finance (M1 to M4);
  - ✓ Economic Development (J1 to J4);
- The impact of covid-19 will need to be recognized and accounted for in the report and further improvements in data quality will be looked at in the gathering and presenting of data for the 2020 report;
- The following indicators have been amended for 2020:
  - ❖ The guidance under H1 has been amended to include further clarifications;
  - ❖ The guidance under H5 B to D has been amended and the data for this indicator will now be obtained directly from the DHLGH;
  - ❖ Indicator E1 has been amended to measure the % households based on those in agglomerations of >500 instead of the 2016 census household figure;
  - ❖ The name of indicator E4 has been amended to "E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status";
  - ❖ The guidance for Libraries has been amended to include further clarifications;

- ❖ Under indicator C3, local authorities are asked to confirm if there was a change
  - ❖ to their cookie policy and when it came into effect;
  - ❖ A new indicator has been added to the Finance section, M3 - Public Liability Claims;
  - ❖ A second new indicator has been added to the Finance section, M4 - Overheads;
  - ❖ A new indicator has been added to the environmental section, E6 - Public Lighting;

### Register of Electors:

**Live Register** - The Live Register of Electors 2021/2022 was published on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 and came in to force 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Tipperary County Council has 130,00 Local Government Electors. Notice was published in Local Papers on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 advising the Live Register was published and detailed changes to voting rights of British Citizens living and voting in Ireland. As England have now left the European Union British citizens living in Ireland can no longer vote in European Elections but can continue to vote in Local and Dáil Elections.

### Insurance Management

Public Liability/Pothole Claims -  
Period 1/12/2020 to 17/02/2021  
Pothole - 17  
Public Liability - 15  
**Total Claims – 32**

### Coroner Service

Statistics for period 1<sup>st</sup> Dec to 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2021

No. of deaths reported: 143  
No. of Post mortems/Inquests: 24  
No. of Undertaker Removals: 32

### 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 January – February 2021

<h4>Arts</h4>  <p><b>“Going Digital” Spring Series</b></p> <p>A NEW 12 week online programme for Co. Tipperary Artists Running from 4 Feb to 22 April 2021 Delivered by artist/folklorist Michael Fortune</p>	<h4>Sports Partnership</h4>  <p><b>Get Tipperary CTC's Walking 21 Day Walking Challenge</b></p> <p>CTC CLONES COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE NENAGH</p>
<h4>Grants from the Districts apply online</h4>  <p>Applications Grants</p>	<h4>N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction</h4>  <p><b>N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction Public Consultation Constraints Study</b> January 2021</p>
<h4>Tipperary Together – the power of extraordinary community response</h4>  <p><b>KEEP WELL IN YOUR COMMUNITY</b></p>	<h4>Free webinar for older road users</h4> <p>Life may have changed because of Covid-19 but road safety has never been as important</p> <p>Let's work together to keep the roads of County Tipperary safe!</p>  <p>Registrants will be emailed with a link in advance of the sessions</p>
 <h4>Traveller Counselling Service</h4>	<h4>Connected Communities bringing broadband to Tipperary</h4>  <p><b>Connected Communities is now Live</b></p> <p>NTDC JC NBS Connected Communities</p>

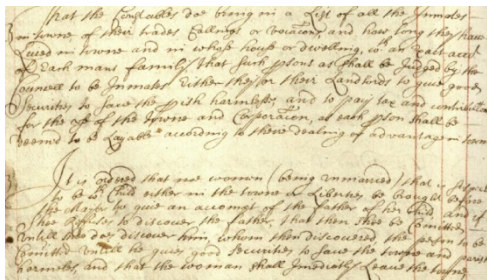
**Virtual blas international summer school for traditional Irish music and dance**



**Local Improvement Scheme**



**8 February – 334 years ago**



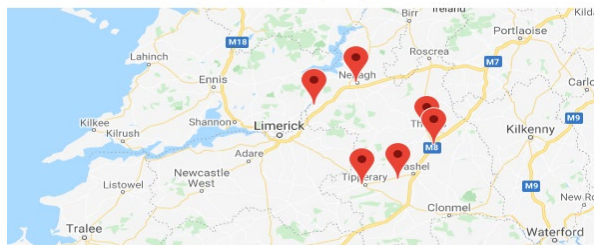
**Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021**



**Road Closures**

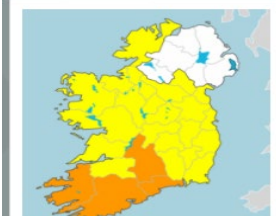
**CURRENT CLOSURES AND ROAD ALERTS MAPS**

This is a view of active road alerts across the county today.



**Orange rainfall warning**

**Media updates status orange rainfall and yellow wind warnings**

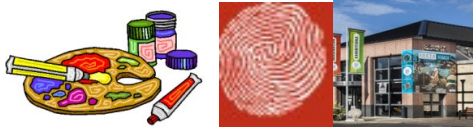


Communications focus

Summary of some items PLANNED for promotion

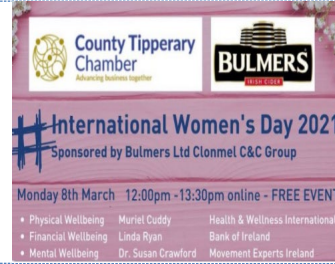
March-June 2021

Arts/Events/Festivals/Heritage/Museum



Grants/Schemes and Virtual options available through social media follow on Facebook and Twitter  
Tipperary Arts Office  
Tipperary Museum of Hidden History

Community and Enterprise



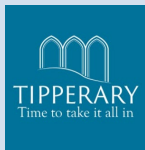
Environment and Climate Action



Sports Partnership



Tourism



Promoting holidays and staycations in Tipperary



Libraries  
Something for everyone



## Local Government Service Catalogue – update

The first phase of the project is completed the Local Government Service Catalogue by functional area, the cataloguing of **937** public-facing services across **Planning and Building Control, Economic Development, Tourism and Local Enterprise, Roads and Transport, Community, Sport and Childcare, Housing, Environment, Veterinary and Cemeteries, Libraries, Corporate, Parks, Open Spaces and Public Realm, Arts, Culture, Heritage and Conservation.**

You can find draft catalogues on the LGMA website at [www.lgma.ie/en/servicecatalogue](http://www.lgma.ie/en/servicecatalogue)

### Summary of Services Catalogued to date



## What's Next

### Technology Solution

In Phase 2 of the project, a tender competition for a technology solution to support the catalogue was published in October. The tender evaluation is complete and the team hope to appoint the contractor in January 2021.

### Plain English Review

The Project Team is engaging with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) to carry out a plain English review of the language used in the service catalogue. We need to be sure that the language used in the catalogue complies with the Customer Communications Toolkit for the Public Service (Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and National Disability Authority) so that the catalogue is clear, consistent and accessible for all users.

## The remaining services to be reviewed for the catalogue

Functional Area	Number of Services (Estimated)
Human Resources	10
Finance	30
ICT/Digital Services	20
Fire and Emergency Services	36
Water Services	35
Miscellaneous	20

## Customer Service Activity

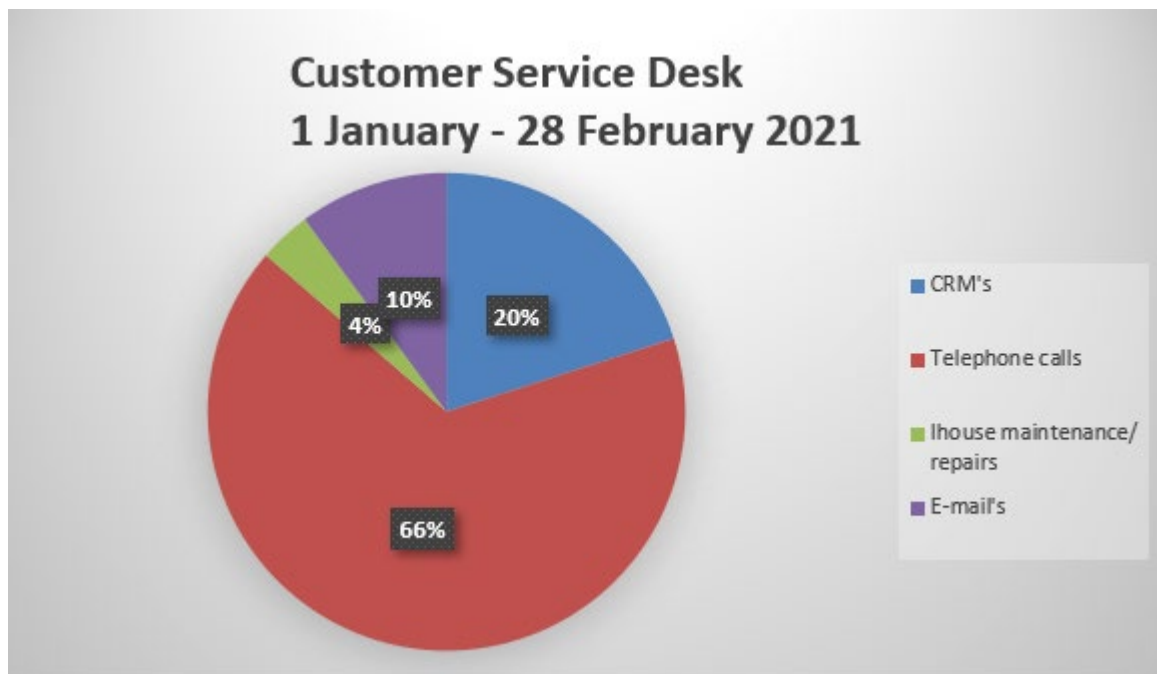
### Period 1 January 2021 – 28 February 2021

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

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

#### Customer Service activity – CSD staff

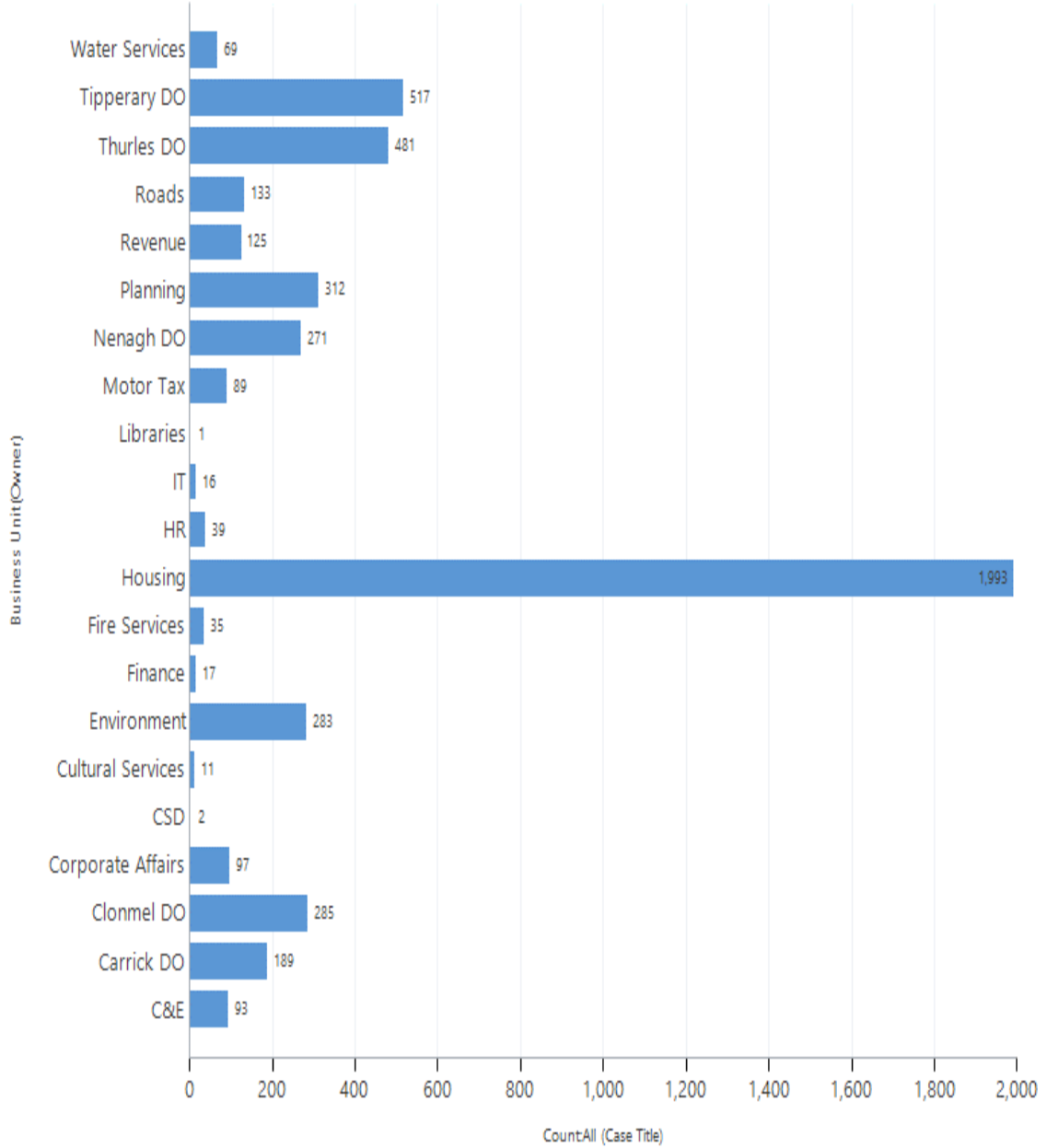
CRM's	5,058
Telephone calls	16,737
Ihouse maintenance/ repairs	888
E-mail's	2,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,235</b>



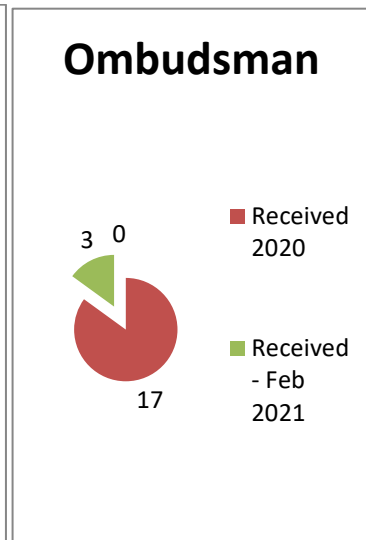
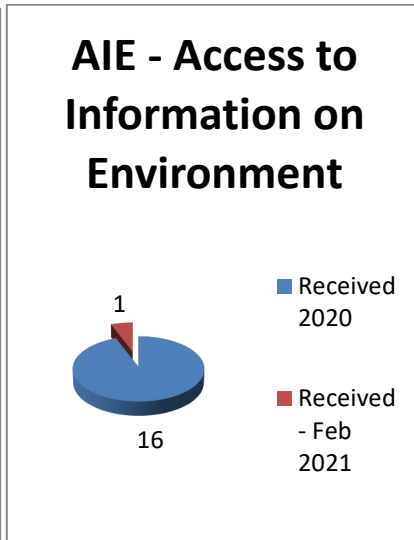
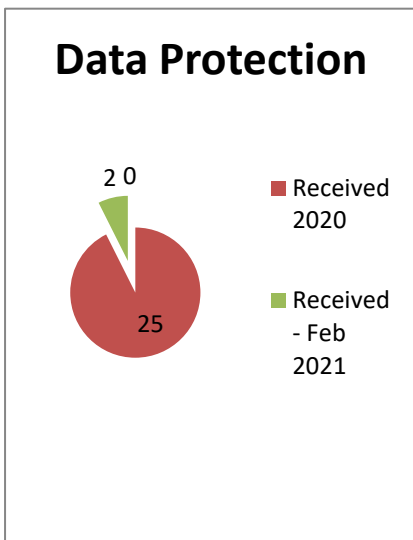
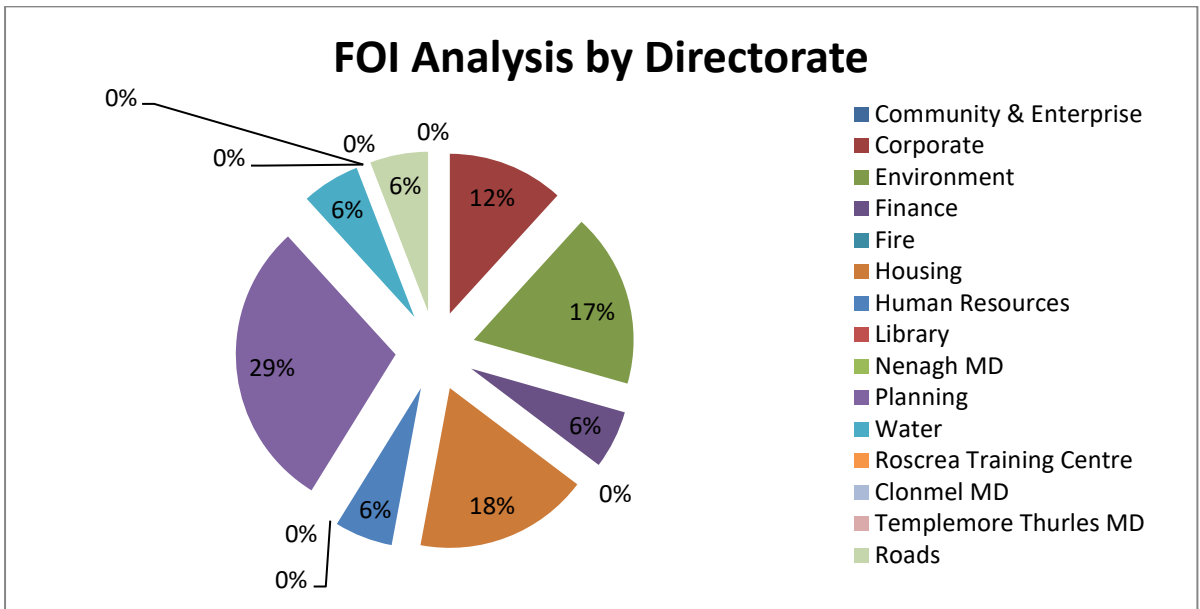
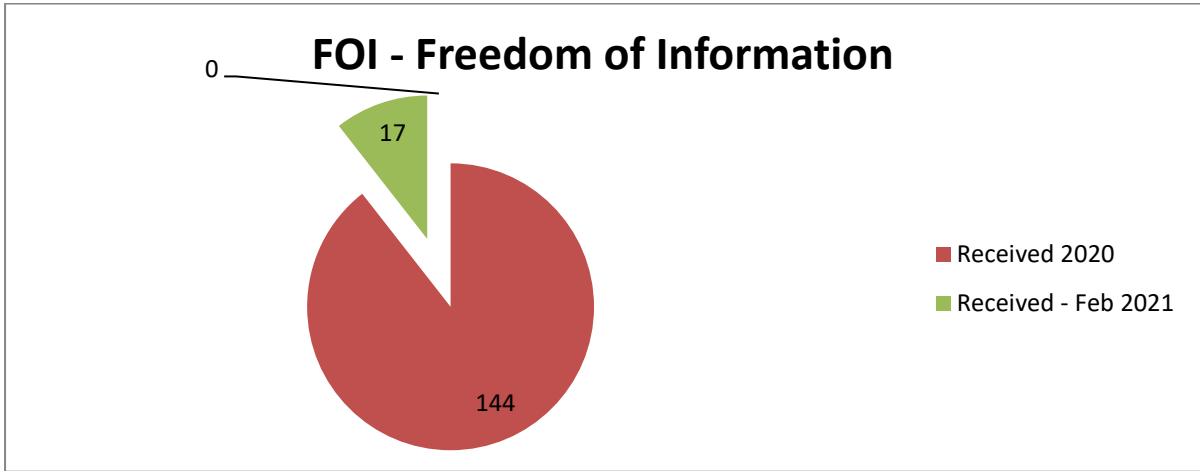




CRM – Customer Relations Management System – breakdown per Section



**Information Management**





## Property Management

Land Disposal - Section 183 Resolutions approved by Council and managed by CPU - Period to: 28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2021			
Year	Approved	F/I Requests	Resolved
2018	27	2	25
2019	33	0	33
2020	24	10	14
2021	10	10	0

## Schedule of Property Transactions o/s

Gortnahoe, Co. Tipperary
Powerstown Demesne
Glenconnor, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Brickendown, Cashel, Co. Tipperary
No. 2 Redmond Square, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary
Tipperary Hill, Musgasty, Tipperary Town
Melview, Burgagery Lands West, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Old Cashel Civic Offices, Friar Street, Cashel
Ballyrichard, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary
Knockgarve, Aghnameadle Ormund Upper, Borrisoleigh, Co. Tipperary
Erasmus Smith House, Church Street, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
Knockmorris, Cahir, Co. Tipperary
Callan Street, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary
Newcastle, Co. Tipperary
The Mall, Templemore
Templedowney, Toomevara, Nenagh
No. 1 Galtee View, Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary
Caherabbey Upper, Cahir, Co. tipperary
Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Corderry, Galbally, Co. Tipperary
Townsland of Clashganny West, Newcastle, Tipperary
Pill Road, Balylynch, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary
Graigue Lower, Killenaule
Carragaun, Cahir
Stereame Business Park
Borris, Twomilebridge Thurles