



Management Report to Council



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April dates for your Diary

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 10:00 CPG
<u>12</u> 10:00 TCC Plenary Mtg	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> 10:00 Nenagh MD Mtg	<u>16</u>
<u>19</u> 10:00 LCDC Mtg 10:30 Thurles MD Mtg	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 11:00 Clonmel BD Mtg	<u>22</u> 14:00 Carrick -on-Suir MD Mtg	<u>23</u>
<u>26</u> 11:00 Tipperary/Cahir/Cashe 1 MD Mtg	<u>27</u> 14:30 Housing SPC	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

Report at a Glance



**Roads and Transportation
Directorate**

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ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION DIRECTORATE



New Policy/Strategic Issues - Infrastructure SPC meeting held on 1 March 2021

Policy Changes/Updates

A meeting of the Infrastructure SPC was held on 1 March 2021 and the following items were considered:

- Roads Capital programme - presentation by John Nolan, Senior Engineer
- Draft Policy on the Provision of Disabled Parking Spaces in Residential Areas presented to SPC.
- Draft Policy to be agreed at June SPC meeting and recommendation to Plenary Council will follow.
- Next meeting scheduled for 1 June 2021.

Directorate Priorities

Major Current Issues	Progress to date	Next Stage
Major inter-urban routes	<p>Submission on N24 to NPF. Two no. N24 projects notified on NDP 2027: <u>Waterford to Cahir.</u> Consultants Arup appointed by Kilkenny County Council in August 2020 to complete Phase 1 to 4.</p> <p><u>Cahir to Limerick Junction.</u> Arup appointed on 22 October 2019 to complete Phase 1 to 4.</p>	<p><u>Waterford to Cahir:</u> Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility is underway and will be completed Q1 of 2021. Website launched in February 2021.</p> <p><u>Cahir to Limerick Junction:</u> Phase 1: Concept and Feasibility completed in September 2020; Phase 2: Option selection has commenced and is due to be completed by April 2022.</p>
Capital Programme 2021	Implementation of Capital Programme	Progress schemes and draw down grant funding before end of TII financial year.
Implementation of Operational Road Works Programme 2021	Implementation of Programme	Completion of programme within budget and drawdown of all available grant funding.



Rural and Community Schemes (CIS, LIS, CLÁR)	Implement in conjunction with Districts and Community and Enterprise Department	<p>CLÁR 2020 – 3 schemes approved, to be completed in 2021.</p> <p>CLÁR 2021 – Expressions of interest in Measure 1 invited.</p> <p>2021 CIS Scheme – applications on hand for 2021 and schemes being offered at present. Allocation 2021 €1,194,000. The Council expects to advertise CIS for new applications during 2021, for the next two-year programme.</p> <p>2021 LIS Scheme – 45 applications received which have been referred to Districts for investigation. 2021 Allocation awaited.</p>
Consultation	Continued consultation with TII, DTTAS, Elected Members and staff	Annual Meeting with TII held on 3rd November 2020. Cathaoirleach of the Council and each Municipal District, Mayor of Clonmel Borough, chair of Infrastructure SPC and Roads Management participated in the meeting.
Public Lighting	Public lighting policy adopted in May 2018	Implementation of policy ongoing
Road Safety	First all-county strategy adopted in June 2018	Implement Strategy in conjunction with Road Safety Together Working Group. New strategy to be developed in 2021. Meeting of the Road Safety Working Together Group held on 24 February 2021 to consider Annual Report 2020.
2021 National Roads Allocations	Initial allocation €8,307,116	Circulated to members
2021 Regional and Local Roads Allocations	Initial allocation €29,526,858	Circulated to members
2021 Active Travel Allocation	Initial allocation €4,633,000	Circulated to members
2021 Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works	Initial allocation awaited	



Department of Transport (DoT)
REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS ALLOCATIONS 2021

Tipperary County Council Regional and Local Roads Allocations 2021	
Restoration Improvement	€15,221,000
Restoration Maintenance	€2,546,500
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	€1,820,000
Discretionary Grant	€4,772,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€695,000
Specific Imp. Grants	€150,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	€500,000
Safety Improvement Works	€560,000
Speed Limits	€27,900
Cycle Signs	€6,500
Active Travel	€168,405
Training Grant	€129,500
Drainage Works	€1,192,053
Community Improvement Scheme	€1,194,000
PSCI: Survey Support	€44,000
Former National Roads	€500,000
Total Allocation	€29,526,858



2021 GRANT ALLOCATIONS
FOR NATIONAL ROADS

Tipperary County Council – National Roads Allocations 2021	
Improvement	Allocations 2021
National Primary	
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	€250,000
Major Schemes	€1,025,000
Pavements	€900,000
National Secondary	
HD15 and HD17 Minor Works	€500,000
Minor Works	€2,000,000
Pavements	€2,480,000
Engineering Support to Local Authorities for National Primary and National Secondary, and Pavement Design and Supervision	€300,000
Total Improvement Allocations 2021	€7,455,000
Maintenance	
Total National Primary Maintenance	€370,481
Total National Secondary Maintenance	€393,335
Engineering and Winter Support to the National Primary and National Secondary - Maintenance Programme	€88,300
Total Maintenance Allocations 2021	€852,116
Total TII Grant Allocation for National Roads	€8,307,116



Directorate Projects (Capital)		
Project	Progress to date	Next Stage
Nenagh Municipal District		
N52 Borrisokane Street Improvement Works	Construction commenced in November 2018 and has reached substantial completion in January 2021.	Final snag items including works to plaza, utility poles and all other general finishing works are expected to be completed in Q2 2021.
N65 Carrigahorig to Balleiragh Bridge	This scheme involves raising the road level to mitigate flooding of a section of this road. Preliminary design work continues on this challenging scheme.	The next phase, which has commenced involves ground investigations and specialist geotechnical advice in order to further inform the design team of available options.
N65 Carrigahorig Pavement Improvement Scheme	This scheme was originally intended to be a re-alignment of 0.6km section of the N65 on the southern approach to Carrigahorig village. The scheme has since developed into a pavement improvement scheme which deals with a number of road safety issues in the village and will also involve the provision of an extension of footpath from the village to the R493 Terryglass Road. Feasibility work has been completed and the Preliminary Design stage has commenced.	Preliminary design work will continue in 2021.
Thurles Municipal District		
Thurles bypass	Response received from TII to Plenary Council letter of September 2018, Thurles bypass is not on the National Capital Plan.	Secure funding to deliver the Inner Relief Road project and finalise land acquisition.
N62 Slievenamon Road Thurles, Phase 2	This scheme involves improvement of National Secondary route between the Dunnes Roundabout and junction with Liberty Square. Topographical and Pavement Condition Surveys complete. Consultants appointed, draft design 95% completed.	Design to be completed and Part 8 to be advertised in 2021.
N62 Templemore approach roads	Two schemes on the Thurles Road and Roscrea Road approaches to the town. N62 Templemore (Thurles Road) – The scheme starts at the junction of the N62 and the R501 and continues south for approximately 2km. Works commenced in November 2020 and are substantially completed.	Final snag items are being completed.
N62 Templemore approach roads	Two schemes on the Thurles Road and Roscrea Road approaches to the town. N62 Templemore (Roscrea Road) – The scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 400m of road pavement on the N62 National Secondary road on the northern approach to Templemore.	Design work is underway and it is anticipated that construction will commence in Q3 2021.



N62 Crescent to new roundabout Roscrea	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 0.5km of road pavement on the N62 National Secondary road within the town of Roscrea. Works commenced in November 2020 and are substantially complete.	Final snag items are being completed.
N62 Kilnoe (M8) to Thurles Road South	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 5.5km of pavement on the N62 National Secondary Road from Kilnoe (M8) to Thurles Road South.	The scheme is currently at preliminary design stage with consultants about to be appointed to carry out design work.
N75 Liberty Square to Anner Hotel	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 1km of road pavement on the N75 National Secondary road within the town of Thurles from its junction with Mitchel Street to the Anner Hotel.	The scheme is currently at preliminary design stage.

Directorate Projects (Capital)		
Project	Progress to date	Next Stage
Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District		
N24 Carrick-on-Suir Pavement Strengthening	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of 3.5km of pavement on the N24 National Primary route. Part 8 Planning approved at Carrick on Suir Municipal District meeting in July 2020. Design work is being undertaken by Tramore House Road Design Office.	Detailed design and contract documents are in preparation for Tender.
N76 Grangemockler Pavement Strengthening	This scheme includes pavement improvement and traffic calming through the village, improvements to footpaths, landscaping and pavement strengthening. Feasibility Report submitted to TII for approval. Draft Preliminary Design report prepared and Draft Part 8 prepared. Site Investigations ongoing.	Subject to Feasibility Report approval, submission to TII of preliminary design report to be followed by a Part 8 Planning process.
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District		
N74 Ballyhusty Realignment	This scheme involves the realignment of approx. 1km of the N74 at Ballyhusty. A Compulsory Purchase Order was advertised in September 2020 and submitted to An Bord Pleanála for approval.	CPO has been approved and Notice to Treat has been issued in March 2021. Tender Documents are being prepared.
N24 Main Street and N74 Fr Mathew Street, Tipperary Town	This scheme involves a significant upgrade to the public realm through the centre of Tipperary town between Church Street and Cashel Road. The scheme is 1.6km in length and encompasses two national routes through the town, the N24 and N74. The Part 8 for the scheme was passed in January 2021, but the Municipal District Council decided not to proceed with the N24 Main Street element of the scheme.	The Fr Mathew Street element of the scheme is at final design stage and it is anticipated that works will commence before the end of 2021.
N74 Golden to Knockroe Pavement Improvement Scheme	This scheme involves the rehabilitation of approximately 2.5km of pavement on the N74. The scheme is located approximately 4km west of Cashel Town.	The scheme is currently at preliminary design stage with consultants to be appointed to carry out design work.



N24 Ballydrehid Realignment	This scheme involves the preparation of proposals for possible improvements to the N24 at Ballydrehid. Feasibility report submitted to TII.	Awaiting TII response
N24 Knockagh Roundabout approach	This scheme comprises the pavement strengthening of approximately 1.6km of the N24 National Route extending east from the Knockagh Roundabout. Draft Preliminary design report prepared, Draft Part 8 documents being prepared.	Complete preliminary design for submission to TII for approval, followed by Part 8 planning process.
Clonmel Borough District		
N24 Clonmel Inner Relief Road Pavement Improvement	This scheme involved the rehabilitation of approximately 7.3km of pavement on the N24 National Primary road in county Tipperary. Construction commenced in October 2019 and works have now been completed.	12 months Defects period commenced.
N24 Moangarriff to Twomilebridge Pavement and Traffic Calming	This is a continuation to the east of the Clonmel Inner Relief Road to a point beyond the 60kph speed limit and is approximately 1.6km in length. This scheme involves traffic calming and the inclusion of improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities as well as road pavement strengthening. Preliminary Design is under way along with liaison with TII Road Safety engineers.	The Planning process will commence following obtainment of TII technical approvals.

Strategic Non-National Road Projects

Project	Progress to date	Next Stage
R498 Road Realignment at Latteragh Bends	Part 8 procedures and preliminary design work is completed. The CPO was published in August 2020 and an Oral Hearing held on 1 st & 2 nd December 2020.	A decision from An Bord Pleanála is awaited.
Ballina/Killaloe By Pass Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme	Progress/Steering Committee meetings held monthly, Clare County Council is lead authority. Planning procedures, the Oral Hearing and design have been completed.	A minor works contract for site clearance and laying a section of sewer is underway and will be completed in Q2 2021. It is anticipated that the tender competition for the works contract will be completed in Q3 2021, the main works contract will be awarded in Q4 2021 and the scheme, subject to funding approval, will commence in Q1 2022 taking approximately 3 years to complete.



Thurles Inner Relief Road	The proposed scheme comprises approximately 1.1km of new road with a signalised junction on the Slievenamon Road at the Clongour Road junction, a new priority junction with Mill Road and 5 no. intermediate priority junctions to provide access. The scheme includes a 50-metre span tied bowstring arch crossing of the River Suir along with ancillary drainage, attenuation ponds (2 no.), ducting, water mains, public lighting and flood alleviation works along the River Suir.	Negotiations for land acquisition are ongoing. Secure funding to deliver the Inner Relief Road project and finalise land acquisition. Lidl commenced construction of a section of the road for access to new store which is now substantially complete.
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IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON SERVICE DELIVERY

The Covid -19 risk continues to be managed in line with government guidelines and our own Response Plans. The current Level 5 restrictions have delayed several projects where works are not considered essential services. However, in accordance with the exemptions, maintenance works on essential infrastructure has continued.

ROADWORKS PROGRAMME (2021) - TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Roadworks Programme 2021 has commenced, including:

- Import of Surface Dressing Grit to grit depots for 2021
- Tendering for Supply of Bitumen for 2021
- Tendering for Supply of Tarmacadam, Wetmix, and Recycling services for 2021
- Completion of preparatory works on identified sites
- Review of Health and Safety documentation and creation of Site Safety files
- Macadam works have commenced on a number of sites.



ROADS ADMINISTRATION

Admin / Licensing Process During 2021	Number
Roads Abutting Certificates Requested	160
Roads Abutting Certificates Issued	118
Abnormal Loads Permits Requested	29
Abnormal Loads Permits Issued	27
Road Opening Licence applications received	215
FOI requests processed	3
AIE requests processed	0
Estates Taken in Charge 2021	
Ash Court, Cahir Road, Clonmel	
Springfield Grove, Rossmore Village, Tipperary Town	
Springfield Crescent (part of), Rossmore Village, Tipperary Town	
Proposed Estates currently on Public Display for Taking in Charge Process	
Friarsfield, Killenaule Road, Fethard (Phase 1)	
Friarsfield, Killenaule Road, Fethard (Phase 2)	
Meadowlands, Moangarriff, Clonmel	
Proposed Estates to go on Public Display for Taking in Charge Process	
Cluain Orga, Golden Road, Cashel	

BUS STOPS / SHELTERS



Tipperary County Council has submitted a number of applications to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for identified locations throughout Tipperary to upgrade or install wheelchair accessible bus stops and /or bus shelters.

Bus Shelter Programme:

- Grangemockler
- Davis Road Clonmel

Wheelchair bus stop including shelters

- Carrick on Suir x 6 (TII Capital project)
- Stereame, Nenagh x 2.

A number of other locations are being discussed with the NTA, some of which are contingent on capital projects.

The Stereame bus stops have been assigned numbers:

The **Eastbound shelter 52523** will be outside ALDI, Springfort Retail Park;

The **Westbound shelter 52524** will be Opposite ALDI, Springfort Retail Park, Limerick Road, Nenagh.

CLÁR MEASURE 1

The Council, under CLÁR Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures made a submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development for funding for 6 projects in 2020. Three applications under Measure 1 received approval to proceed with an allocation of €79,628, and these projects will be completed in 2021.

Following the launch of CLÁR 2021 by Minister Humphreys on 15 March, Expressions of Interest in Measure 1 for 2021 have now been invited.

ROAD SAFETY

In February the Road Safety Section, in collaboration with the Road Safety Officer in Cork County Council, held a webinar for Older Road Users in counties Tipperary and Cork.

Topics included:

- Pedestrian Safety
- Cycle Safety
- Motorway and Roundabout Driving
- Medical Issues/Eye Sight and Driving
- Winter Ready Driving
- Drink and Drug Driving
- Seat belts
- Fatigue and Mobile phone use when driving.

Speakers on the day were:

- Professor Desmond O'Neill, Royal College of Physicians
- Mr. Michael Kavanagh, Driving School Manager, Aviva Driving School
- Ms. Mary Murphy, Roads Section, Tipperary County Council
- Garda Conor Gately, Community Garda, Femoy
- Ms. Caroline Casey, Road Safety Officer, Cork County Council

In March in co-operation with our colleagues in Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny County Councils we ran a competition in conjunction with Beat 102 103 asking listeners to create a road safety video on 'Tik Tok'.

The target audience of Beat 102 103 is the 15-34 age group. This competition ran for three weeks with the winning entry being chosen by Beat 102 103 at the end of March. The winning video will be posted on our social media channels in due course.

A media campaign with the Tipperary Star, the Clonmel Nationalist and Tipperary Live urged walkers/runners to remove headphones, make eye contact with drivers, not to cross until traffic has stopped and to always “**Be Bright at Night**”. The article below ran on Tipperary Live:

Don't be a distracted walker

Tipperary County Council is advising walkers and runners not to wear headphones when enjoying the outdoors as they can block out the sound of traffic approaching. Remember that you may hear traffic approaching a bend on a country road but the traffic cannot hear or see you. The extra second or two, that hearing approaching traffic gives you to step in, might just save your life. So, unplug and don't be a distracted walker.

When crossing the road always make eye contact with the driver to make sure he/she has seen you and is aware that you want to cross the road. Don't walk until traffic stops, even on a pedestrian crossing.

Always wear hi-vis clothing. You are four times more likely to be seen during the day and 400 times more likely to be seen at night.

Always be ‘Bright at Night’.

Road Safety Section also ran an advert with the Nenagh Guardian in their Farming pullout. The advert targeted walkers/runners on rural roads and promoted the message to be careful when meeting farm machinery and to always wear hi vis clothing.



PILOT MAINLINE MOTORWAY AVERAGE SPEED SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEM



Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the Road Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána have announced the installation of motorway average speed safety cameras on the M7 in Tipperary (between Junction 26 Nenagh (West) and Junction 27 Birdhill).

Analysis of traffic data by TII shows that speeding is typical of driver behaviour on low traffic volume sections of the motorway network throughout the country. This type of driver behaviour is very dangerous, and it is compounded during rain or hail showers increasing the potential of serious accidents.

TII has analysed speed data on the M7 corridor since 2017 and identified speeding as a significant issue with approximately 40% of drivers exceeding the 120 km/h speed limit on certain sections. Further, the data identified that speeds are not being appropriately moderated in response to adverse weather conditions such as heavy rain or low road temperatures.

Key Data for the M7 Corridor J21 to J28 (2017 Figures)

- 41% of cars were exceeding the 120 km/h speed limit
- 31% of cars were travelling at up to and including 135 km/h
- 10% of cars were travelling above 135 km/h
- Only a 2% reduction in cars travelling at above 135 km/h in response to adverse weather.

The pilot average speed safety camera system will be deployed between Junction 26 - Nenagh (West) and Junction 27 - Birdhill covering both directions and will be Ireland's first mainline motorway based system. An identical system has been operational within the Dublin Tunnel since mid - 2017 and it has been hugely successful in improving driver behaviour as regards speeding with the number of drivers exceeding the speed limit of 80 km/h dropping from about 55% to just over 10%.

The specific locations chosen have been subject to frequent weather-related/micro-climate events (mostly hail) resulting in increased collision frequency in the area. The locations also have suitable sites to host the required equipment, enable appropriate signage, conspicuously and visibility requirements to be met, and have associated infrastructure that has allowed proper baselines to be established for the study.

The installation of equipment at the M7 sites commenced on the 8th of March 2021 and will be followed by a period of testing and commissioning. At the M7 locations, motorists will soon see the roadside equipment being deployed for the camera system. This will include the yellow poles and cameras traditionally associated with speed measurement equipment.

The 'go-live' date for operations will be determined by An Garda Síochána and there will be a formal press briefing/announcement at least 10 days prior to that time. This is to help raise awareness of the safety cameras and to encourage all road users to slowdown and help save lives.

Prior to the commencement of any operations, the average speed zone will be clearly identified by appropriate signage and Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be used to inform motorists of the go-live date along with additional press briefings.

The objective is to secure compliance, not prosecutions.



NENAGH MACHINERY YARD SITE RE-DEVELOPMENT

The Part 8 Planning application for the re-development of the Nenagh Machinery Yard and Civic Amenity Site was submitted on 26th March 2021.

A presentation on the project was made to the Members of the Nenagh Municipal District on 18th March 2021.

WINTER MAINTENANCE POLICY TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

The Winter Maintenance Service involves the pre-salting of National Primary and Secondary Routes and major Regional Roads and routes of strategic importance.

The operational winter maintenance period as determined by TII shall be 15 October 2020 to 30 April 2021.

Thus far it has been a busy winter maintenance season with an increase in the number of salting treatments and the average volume of salt required per treatment.

SWAT SEVERE WEATHER ASSESSMENT TEAM

Tipperary County Council has in place a Severe Weather Assessment Team (SWAT), which comprises the Director of Services, Senior Engineers Roads, Senior Engineer Water Services, Administrative Officer Roads, each District Engineer, Machinery Yard Engineer, Duty Engineers (winter maintenance) and SEO Corporate Services.

During severe weather events, the SWAT team meets regularly to assess the situation and decide what action is necessary, providing regular updates to the Council's website and social media channels. To date in 2021 the SWAT team has met on 4 occasions following yellow and orange weather alerts in February 2021.

PUBLIC LIGHTING

A Public Lighting policy was adopted by the Council in May 2018. All public lighting queries are dealt with daily by the Roads Section, the Customer Service Desk and the Municipal/Borough Districts. SSE Airtricity is notified of the relevant queries and corrective action is taken as appropriate.

Tipperary County Council has responsibility for the management and maintenance of more than 17, 288 lights in the county and public lighting is one of the biggest users of energy in the Council's overall energy usage.

Upgrading of lights to LED is ongoing throughout Tipperary. Applications for funding to upgrade lights on the National routes in 2021 have been sent to TII who are now assessing these.

The Council will continue to avail of external funding where same is available from SEAI, TII and EU funding for energy efficiency projects.

Tipperary County Council and SSE Airtricity have reviewed all work practices to comply with the working recommendations for dealing with Covid-19 and its related restrictions.

For the benefit of Councillors, the following are the options available to facilitate reporting of public lighting faults:

- **Internet: www.airtricitysolutions.com**
- **Phone: Airtricity Utility Solutions Call Centre - 1850 372 772**
- **Customer Services, Tipperary County Council - 0761 06 5000**



ROAD MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

PUBLIC LIGHTING AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT

Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the RMO and 23 other local authorities has signed up to participate in a large-scale street lighting upgrade to LED. The primary aim of the project is to enable Local Authorities to reach their statutory energy efficiency target to be 33% more energy efficient by 2020. The Project will also significantly help LA's reach their new 2030 target of 50%.

A Section 85 Agreement has been signed by Tipperary County Council and Kilkenny County Council for the authorisation of Kilkenny to take the lead in this project.

Approx. 280,000 lights are to be retrofitted in this project, 14,000 of these will be in County Tipperary.

Local Authorities participating in the Project:

There are 24 Local Authorities participating in the Project as follows:

Eastern Region:

Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wicklow, Kildare, Offaly, Westmeath, Meath, Longford and Louth.

North West Region:

Donegal, Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Longford, Monaghan, Cavan, Roscommon, Galway City and Galway County.

Southern Region:

Cork County, Kerry, Limerick City and County, Waterford City and County, and Clare.

The southern region project has gone out to tender. Work is ongoing on the preparation of the tender documents for the Eastern Region.

INTERREG NORTH WEST EUROPE SMART SPACE PROJECT



Smart-Space aims to facilitate the uptake of smart lighting in small/mid-size municipalities to enhance energy-efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions.

Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Energy Agency are partners in the Smart Space project. In Tipperary, the project will replace standard street lights with LED street Lights. These new LED lights will be equipped with smart technology motion detectors which will monitor movement. For example, when a street or car park is quiet the LED Smart Lights dim down, which saves energy and reduces CO2 emissions.

The three pilot areas which have been chosen in Tipperary to take part in the project are Thurles, Clonoulty and Drangan. In Tipperary 600 street lights will be upgraded in this Pilot Project. The villages of Drangan and Clonoulty along with approximately 50% of the street lights in Thurles Town have been prioritised for upgrading. 40% of the associated cost is being funded by Tipperary County Council with the remaining 60% being funded through Interreg North West Europe (EU).

The Project in Tipperary was advertised on e-tenders, with SSE Airtricity being awarded the tender. Replacement of lights will commence in Q2 2021.

The SMART-SPACE project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under the transnational cooperation programme Interreg North-West Europe.

www.nweurope.eu/smart-space



INVITATION TO A SERIES OF FREE WEBINARS via Online Platform ZOOM

1 April 2021 - 3 June 2021

The NWE region faces a big challenge to shift towards a low carbon economy by 2050. The use of smart public lighting has a large potential for energy efficiency and carbon reduction.

The SMART-SPACE project is all about the creation, demonstration, monitoring and evaluation of a smart light system that can be adjusted to the specific needs of different municipalities in the NWE region.

Webinar 1: Smart public lighting as a step towards sustainability

held on Thursday 1 April 2021, as the first in a series of three free webinars.

Please save the date for:

Webinar 2

The value of smart public lighting for improving the life of citizens

Thursday 29 April 2021, 09:00 - 10:30 am

Webinar 3

Creating a smart light system: lessons learned from the SMART-SPACE project

Thursday 3 June 2021, 09:00 - 10:30 am

Registration:

To attend the free webinars, registration will be required via the platform Eventbrite in due course. If you would like registration links, please contact the Roads Department: patricia.fogarty@tipperarycoco.ie

HEDGE CUTTING

The hedge cutting season ended on 28 February 2021.

Tipperary County Council would like to thank the owners and occupiers of land adjoining roads who inspected trees and hedges on their property during the hedge cutting season to ensure that they did not pose a danger to road users.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Please note that Regulations 49 and 50 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 make it an offence to plant, disperse, allow dispersal or cause the spread of invasive plant species. Further information regarding the control and management of invasive plant species can be found on www.invasivespeciesireland.com

ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME 2021



The Programme for Government published in June 2020 includes significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes.

As part of that overall Programme, €50 million has been made available to the National Transport Authority for the funding of walking and cycling projects in local authorities across the country during 2021.

The aim of this funding is to support the development of high-quality urban cycling and walking infrastructure outside of our cities and so this investment is specifically targeted at towns and villages across the country.



For the first year of this programme, the NTA indicated that it will welcome proposals for consideration in respect of the following categories of projects:

- a) New or improved access to town centres, schools or other major destinations for walking and/or cycling;
- b) New or upgraded cycle facilities, providing segregation from motorised traffic on key routes in and approaching towns and villages;
- c) New footpaths for pedestrian connections or upgrading/renewal of existing footpaths;
- d) Filtered permeability schemes, conferring “short-cut” advantage to pedestrians and/or cyclists to access key local destinations;
- e) New or improved **urban** greenways, providing for commuter connectivity in addition to recreational/amenity use, with linkages to the town street network;
- f) Conversion of temporary COVID interventions to permanent layouts;
- g) Improved access to public transport, including improved waiting facilities in town centres; and
- h) Development of focused transport studies for larger towns, to identify networks and projects for implementation later in this programme.

The Roads Department has been liaising with the NTA in regard to a 2021 Active Travel programme and welcomed the announcement by the NTA on 29 March 2021 of an allocation of €4,633,000 for Tipperary County Council.

New Rural Active Travel Investment Programme Distributes over €70 Million in year one of a five-year plan.

The National Transport Authority and Minister for Transport Eamon Ryan have announced spending totalling €72.8m for 340 sustainable transport projects in 19 local authorities. The announcement is the first ever major active travel investment programme for rural Ireland. The €72.8m announced for rural counties, is greater than the entire 2019 funding for a national walking and cycling programme.

The NTA had originally earmarked €50m for this scheme but due to the volume of project proposals being developed by local authorities, it has been increased to over €70m.

Speaking at the announcement Minister Ryan said:

“This allocation marks another significant step forward in providing green sustainable transport options to those outside of the large urban centres.

Developing high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone is what this funding will help to accomplish.

The projects being funded today will make a real difference to rural communities across the country and this is only the beginning.

I look forward to seeing these projects progress over the coming year and to developing high quality walking and cycling networks over the course of this government”.

Details of Tipperary County Council allocation is outlined hereunder:



Active Travel: 2021 Allocations: Tipperary County Council		
Project Code	Project Name	2021 Allocation
TY/21/0001	Transport Studies/Mobility Plans: Towns including Clonmel, Nenagh, & Thurles	€100,000
TY/21/0002	Irishtown Walking and Cycling Route, Clonmel	€60,000
TY/21/0003	Coleville Road Footpath Improvement Scheme	€310,000
TY/21/0004	Abbey Rd to Marlfield Footpath Improvement Scheme	€310,000
TY/21/0005	N52 Footpath/Cycle track Lighting Scheme	€250,000
TY/21/0006	New/Improved Pedestrian & Cycle Schemes: Including works in Nenagh, Cashel, Thurles & Roscrea	€371,000
TY/21/0007	New Footpaths Package A: Including works in Killusty, Kilcash, Nenagh, Portroe & Newport	€408,000
TY/21/0008	New Footpaths Package B: Including works in Cashel, Ballyporeen, Ardfinnan, Clogheen, Donaskeigh, Hollyford & Toem	€396,000
TY/21/0009	New Footpaths Package C: Including works in Castleiney, Loughmore, Upperchurch, Benamore & Thurles	€420,000
TY/21/0010	New Footpaths Package D: Including works in Killenaule, Cloneen & Mullinahone	€395,000
TY/21/0011	Footpath Improvements Package A: Including works in Cloughjordan, Cahir, Cashel, Tipperary Town, Ballagh, Cappawhite, Dundrum & Cullen	€486,000
TY/21/0012	Footpath Improvements Package B: Including works in Tipperary Town, Clogheen Village, Borrisoleigh, Roscrea & Carrick Beg	€417,000
TY/21/0013	2020 Covid Programme - Contractual Liability – Hanley's Place & Kenyon Street, Nenagh	€110,000
TY/21/0014	Light Segregation Cycle Schemes	€200,000
TY/21/0015	Low Cost Junction Tightening/Pedestrian Crossing Schemes	€200,000
TY/21/0016	Low-Cost Permeability Measures	€100,000
TY/21/0017	Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure	€100,000
Total		€4,633,000

Flood Risk Management Plan Projects (5)



Project Overview

The approved projects build on the work of the Flood Risk Management Plans that were developed for the county as part of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme (CFRAM).

The Suir and Shannon Upper/Lower Flood Risk Management Plans identify various areas at risk of fluvial flooding where viable schemes could be developed. Five (5) such schemes are currently being progressed by the Local Authority.

Project Description

The initial objective of the project is the identification, design and submission for planning consent of the five identified Flood Relief Schemes at:

- Knocklofty
- Holycross
- Golden
- Killaloe/Ballina
- Nenagh

These schemes are, by means of a cost benefit review, deemed technically, socially, environmentally and economically viable. The goal is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the areas within the scope of the works. A separate flood scheme at Marlfield Lake, Clonmel, is undergoing a viability review and is likely to be added to the programme of works in 2021.

It is hoped that further schemes at Ardfinnan, Borrisoleigh, Cahir, Fethard, Newcastle, Roscrea and Thurles will receive approval for progression in the coming years.

Budget Source

OPW, via National Development Plan 2018-2027 (€1 Billion)

Budget Breakdown

- Knocklofty €400,000
- Holycross €300,000
- Golden €970,000
- Killaloe/Ballina €310,000
- Nenagh. TBC
- Marlfield Lake. TBC.

Expected Outcomes

- Cost beneficial schemes that are adaptable to future changes.
- 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) level of defence.
- Low maintenance and sustainable design.



Marlfield Lake Clonmel

The Council is liaising on a regular basis with the OPW to assess flood risks at Marlfield Lake, identify potential solutions and develop a project management response to the implementation of the solution identified. A briefing has been provided to Councillors in the Clonmel Borough District and further updates will be provided as the project progresses.



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

New Policy/Strategic Issues			
Policy Changes/Up-Date	Current status	Progression in Previous Months	Next Stage
County Development Plan 2022-2028	Commenced	The Chief Executive's Report was considered at March 8 th Plenary Council whereby the Elected Members issued directions to the Chief Executive regarding the content of the draft Plan.	The Draft Plan is now being prepared and will be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration by 31 st May 2021. Workshops with the Elected Members will be scheduled in June 2021.
Cahir Local Area Plan 2021-2027	Under preparation	Public Consultation on Proposed Material Alterations from 22 nd January 2021 to 22 nd February 2021.	The Cahir Local Area Plan and CE Report on the submissions received on the material amendments to be considered by the Council at the plenary meeting on the 12 th April 2021.

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

Project	Progress in Previous Months	Next Stage
Tipperary Town Regeneration	Market Yard - Detailed Design for construction phase completed. Tender Assessment Report on tenders received for construction stage completed. River Ara Walkway - Permission granted by An Bord Pleanála on 1st November, 2020. Bridge design and fencing contract are completed. Tenders received for detailed design consultancy services.	Market Yard – Final Business case to be compiled for submission to Department once costs for the River Ara Walkway are known. Works will take approximately 4 months to complete. River Ara Walkway – Documents for Pre-Tender Approval-Decision Gate 2 returned to the Department and further information requested is currently being compiled. Main works must be undertaken between July, and September, 2021.
Fethard Town Park	Final design completed. Groundworks and pitches which are being funded by Coolmore commenced November 2020 but had to cease in January 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Final Business Case pertaining to the pavilion and car park submitted to the Department in February, 2021.	The Delivery Team is working with the Partners and the Department of Rural Affairs to finalise the full scope of the project which is being funded by the grant. Works on the first phase of development is currently suspended due to COVID restrictions. Work will re-commence when Government Guidance permits.



Templemore Cultural and Enterprise Centre with associated Civic Plaza	Design team appointed September, 2020. Part 8 Planning completed. Presentation on design options delivered to Thurles MD Members and Consultative Group in February, 2021. Preferred design agreed.	Completion of detailed design circa end of March, 2021. Tender Documents for construction stage currently being compiled. Construction stage scheduled to commence July 2021 for an 18-month period.
Nenagh Historic and Cultural Quarter	Steering Group and Implementation Group established. Final Business Case-Decision Gate 3 approved by the Department in February, 2021 for the appointment of the design team. Initial meeting with proposed design team took place on 9 th March, 2021.	Contracts currently being prepared for the appointment of the Design team. Detailed designs and Part 8 Planning to be completed by end of November, 2021.
Carrick-on-Suir Regeneration Plan	Design team appointed on 22 nd December 2020. Public Consultation Strategy prepared and public consultation has commenced.	Surveys in progress. Extensive public consultation underway with dedicated website in place. Concept designs (Healy Park, Main Street, North Quay) and detailed designs (Castle Street, Sean Kelly Square) to commence in April, 2021. Detailed designs and Part 8 Planning to be completed by end of November, 2021.
A Pathway to the Regeneration of Cahir Town Centre	<p><u>Cahir Market House Business Centre – Part 8 Planning</u> approved 15th December 2020. Final Business Case-Decision Gate 3 submitted to the Department on 3rd March, 2021 for approval to the appointment of the design team.</p> <p><u>Cahir Town Centre Public Realm</u> The procurement of the design team for the public realm works is being undertaken as part of establishing a Public Realm Framework for the County. Tenders for the design of the car park submitted through e-Tenders on 11th March, 2021.</p>	<p><u>Cahir Market House Business Centre –</u> Awaiting a decision on the approval of the design team and project management services by the Department. Detailed designs to be completed by November, 2021.</p> <p><u>Cahir Town Centre Public Realm</u> Advertise for design team for Cahir Town Centre Public Realm and appoint consultants circa end of April, 2021. Assess tenders received for the car park and appoint consultants for the design of the car park in April, 2021. Purchase of two opportunity sites being finalised. Detailed designs and Part 8 to be completed by November.</p>

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

Project	Progress in Previous Months	Next Stage
Thurles: Liberty Square Enhancement Project.	The new Car Park off Liberty Square opened on 1 st October, 2020. Site clearance and service crossings in the lower portion of the Square are completed. Main drainage works almost complete in the central area of Liberty Square.	Completion of shared infrastructure installation and connections to the new drainage network in the central area of Liberty Square. Replacement of footpaths to commence in April, 2021. Expected completion of the Scheme in Q1 of 2022.
Clonmel: Transformational Regeneration.	Regional Sports Hub - Approval received from the Department to the appointment of the contractor for the construction stage. Kickham Barracks Regeneration Phase 1 - Approval received from the Department to the appointment of the contractor for the construction stage.	Regional Sports Hub - Contractor will be appointed upon lifting of Level 5 COVID restrictions. Programme duration is approximately 12 months. Contractor will be appointed upon lifting of Level 5 COVID restrictions. Programme duration is approximately 12 months.

PLANNING SECTION

County Development Plan

The Pre-Draft ‘Shaping Our Future’ consultation stage ran from 18th September to 16th November 2020. 190 submissions were received during the public consultation period, and have been summarised and considered by the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive’s Report on submissions was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration on 15th January 2021. A Workshop with the Elected Members was held on 17th February 2021. The Chief Executive’s Report was considered at the March 8th Plenary Council Meeting whereby the Elected Members issued directions to the Chief Executive regarding the content of the draft Plan. The Draft Plan is now being prepared and will be issued to the Elected Members for their consideration by 31st May 2021. Workshops with the Elected Members will be scheduled in June 2021.



A dedicated website was set up on the Council planning website; this can be accessed at <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/cdp>, and will remain available as a key source of information over the two year process of plan-making. In addition, the planning section dedicated Twitter page @planningtipp will be constantly updated.

Cahir Local Area Plan 2021-2027

In accordance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) a new Local Area Plan is being prepared for Cahir, which will set out the land use strategy for the town to ensure the town can grow, support employment and homes, and can do so sustainably.

The Proposed Cahir LAP was published on 25th Sept 2021 and submissions were invited until 9th Nov 2021. 143 submissions (from 129 individuals) were received. A Chief Executive's Report was prepared which summarised each of the submissions and provided responses and recommendations on foot of these submissions for the consideration of the members of the Council. On 11th Jan 2021, the Council considered the Proposed LAP and the CE Report and resolved to amend the Proposed LAP in accordance with the CE recommendations subject to 2 further amendments. The Proposed Material Alterations to the Cahir LAP were published on 22nd Jan 2021 and submissions invited until 22nd February 2021. 22 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's Report is now being prepared which will be circulated to the Elected Members for consideration. Members will consider the Chief Executive's Report and the Proposed Material Alterations to the Cahir Local Area Plan at the Council Meeting on 12th April 2021.



Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy

The final Thurles Town Centre Renewal Strategy was noted by the Elected Members of Thurles MD on the 18th January, 2021. The Strategy strives to create a thriving and vibrant town centre for Thurles which will support the future growth of the town and the needs of its residents, visitors and businesses. The community and businesses of the town took the opportunity to input into the Strategy during the two consultation periods which included workshops and a dedicated online portal. The final document sets out a number of projects that can be developed in the town centre over the next ten years.



Killaloe-Ballina Enhancement and Mobility Plan

Clare County Council and Tipperary County Council have commenced the preparation of a Killaloe-Ballina Town Enhancement and Mobility Plan. The Plan will facilitate a coordinated approach to public realm enhancements within Killaloe and Ballina, providing a clear vision for Killaloe and Ballina as linked settlements. Specific measures, designs and schemes will promote the towns' complementarity, and create an overall focus on their joint strengths and opportunities in terms of functionality, aesthetics and the changing transport and mobility profile of the towns as a result of the future Killaloe Bypass and Shannon Bridge crossing. A Draft Plan will be published early in 2021.

Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund: Project Implementation

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2027 established four new funds to help drive the specific core priorities detailed in the NPF (National Planning Framework). These four funds included an Urban Regeneration and Development Fund administered by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The following projects are currently being delivered.

Clonmel 2030 Transformational Regeneration seeks to develop a multi-dimensional, public/private/community partnership proposal for Clonmel, which will re-imagine how civic, cultural, educational, enterprise and tourism can work together to regenerate and create a new role for the town. The project includes four intrinsically linked and integrated pillars, namely: Kickham Barracks Regeneration, Clonmel Regional Sports Hub, Clonmel – Flights of Discovery and Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement. Funding was received for proposed Category A works in 2019 relating to Kickham Barracks Regeneration Clonmel Regional Sports Hub.



uses
and

Kickham Barracks Regeneration - Works on the car park were completed in December, 2020. Approval has been received from the Department to the appointment of the contractor for the construction stage and work will commence on lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Programme duration is 12 months.

Regional Sports Hub - Approval has been received from the Department to the appointment of the contractor for the construction stage and work will commence on lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Programme duration is 13 months.

The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.

Liberty Square Enhancement Project Thurles seeks to deliver a vibrant Liberty Square at the heart of Thurles: a place to live, shop, work, socialise, play or “hang-out”. The revitalised Liberty Square will become an engine for growth in and around Liberty Square and will enhance the attractiveness of Thurles as a place to live and a place for investment / employment. The new Car Park off Liberty Square opened on 1st October, 2020. Works on Liberty Square are being progressed with expected completion by January, 2022. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.



Tipperary Town Regeneration - This is a significant regeneration project for Tipperary Town which will greatly enhance long term sustainable tourism for the area. It will include an upgrade of the Market Yard as a pedestrian priority area, linking the Excel Heritage Centre to Market Yard and the Town Centre and, an 800 metre walkway along the River Ara, including two loop walks. Funding of €600,000 has been approved under the **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund**. **Market Yard** – Detailed designs for the construction phase have been completed. Final Business Case currently being compiled for submission to the Department once costs for the River Ara Walkway are known. Works will take four months to complete.

River Ara Walkway – Planning Permission granted by An Bórd Pleanála on 1st November, 2020. Bridge design has been completed. Documents for Pre-Tender Approval returned to the Department and further information requested is currently being compiled. Main works must be undertaken between July and September, 2021. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.

Fethard Town Park

The project proposal is for the development of a community sport and recreational campus, incorporating a community pavilion, playing pitches, walkways, parkland and open spaces. The project was developed through a partnership approach with Coolmore Ireland, Cashel and Emly Diocese and Healthy Ireland. Final design for project completed. Groundworks and pitches commenced November, 2020 and have currently paused due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Delivery Team is working with the Partners and the Department of Rural Affairs to finalise the full scope of the project which is being funded by the grant. Works on the first phase of development is currently suspended due to COVID restrictions. Work will re-commence when Government Guidance permits.



Works on the first phase of development is currently suspended due to COVID restrictions. Work will re-commence when Government Guidance permits.

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

The project proposal is a flagship urban regeneration project to conserve and establish Templemore Town Hall as an economic, cultural and community hub of the town, the District and the Mid-West Region. The project was prepared by the Council in partnership with Garda Training College, Templemore College of Further Education, Templemore Community Development Association, the Local Enterprise Office and the Tipperary Energy Agency. Preliminary designs agreed. Detailed designs to be completed circa end of March 2021. Construction stage scheduled to commence in July, 2021 for an 18 month period.

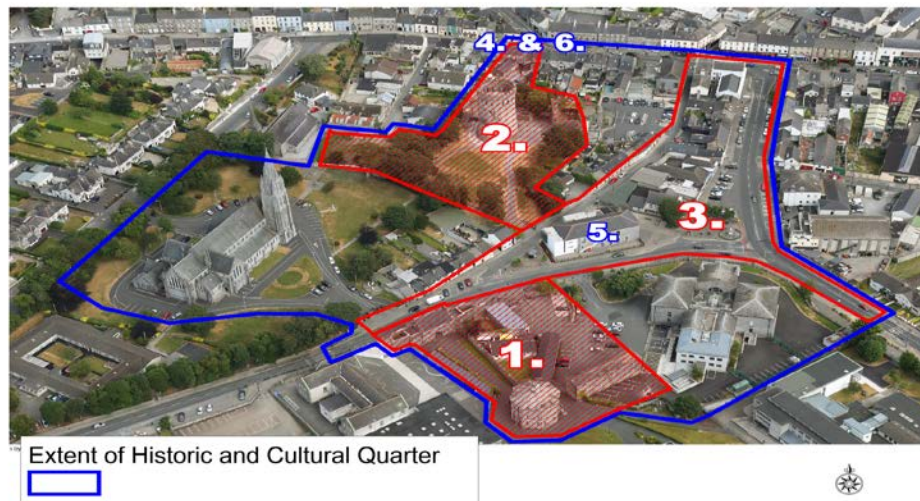


Urban and Rural Regeneration and Development Fund: Funding Calls

A call for applications for funding under the **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** for Category 2 (project development) applications closed in 28th February 2020. Three applications for Category 2 funding were made and were successful.

Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter A Tourism-led Regeneration Plan

A Plan to regenerate specific existing buildings and civic spaces of distinction and value within Nenagh (including The Gaol, The Castle and Banba Square) to stimulate tourism growth and revitalise the local economy/visitor economy within a context of tourism-led regeneration, comprising arts, history, heritage and culture. The focus will be on the development of 3 Flagship Pillars and 3 Supporting Pillars, collectively offering an immersive tourism experience. The project value is **€866,712,00**. The project was awarded **€650,000** under the fund. Contracts are currently being compiled for the appointment of the design team following procurement and Department approval. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.



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

Plan for the town, through investment in orientation and public realm enhancement actions, to build on its relationship and synergies with the Suir Blueway (west) and the historic Ormond Castle Quarter (east) and thereby regenerate the town centre as an immersive visitor destination and rural town in its own right. The project value is **€487,500.00**. The project was awarded **€365,000** under the fund. Design team appointed on 22nd December, 2020. Concept designs (Healy Park, Main Street, North Quay) and detailed designs (Castle Street, Sean Kelly Square) to commence in April, 2021. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.



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

A suite of measures that will re-vitalise Cahir's historic Square as a living-working quarter. The project will provide a dynamic town centre Square with a focus on pedestrian priority and civic space. The re-development will be focused around Market House, a flagship Business Development Centre based in one of the most historic buildings on the Square. The project value is **€842,987**. The project was awarded **€632,000** under the fund. The Council is awaiting a decision by the Department on the approval of the design team and project management services for the development of Cahir Market House Business Centre. Tender documents, design stage, for Cahir Town Centre Public Realm currently being compiled. Acquisition of two opportunity sites being finalised. Tenders received for the development of the car park are currently being examined. The Project Management Plan for the delivery and implementation of this project is ongoing.

A call for applications for funding under the **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund** for Category 1 (shovel ready) applications closed in 29th May 2020. Two applications have been submitted as follows:

Clonmel 2030 - Transformational Regeneration

The application builds on the existing project at Kickham Barrack and the Regional Sports Hub, seeking funding to complete this ambitious, multi-annual integrated urban regeneration project developed for Clonmel by TCC and its partners.

The aim of "Clonmel 2030 - Transformational Regeneration" is to transform Clonmel

The proposals presented for funding include the following integrated pillars:

Kickham Barracks Regeneration (Phase 2) -

Phase 2 includes for new Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT) and Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB) Campuses and an Arts and Cultural Venue within the historic buildings on the site. This second phase will complete the transformation of the site from a former inaccessible Military Barracks to a civic, cultural and educational shared campus quarter.

In addition a new Garda Station is proposed for the site.

Clonmel – Flights of Discovery! –

This pillar represents an international tourism product of scale encompassing four interlinked visitor hubs all of which are built around Clonmel's industrial and heritage past and which facilitate immersive interactive experiences.

- Dowd's Lane Bulmer's Vat House Visitor Centre - Re-development of the former town centre site of Bulmer's cider production into a historical and cultural "visitor experience" with capacity to attract up to 100,000 visitors per annum.
- Suir Island Amenity Park - It will include appropriate high-quality interactive recreational & heritage interpretative structures, amenity spaces, and a new pedestrian bridge linking the island and the adjacent newly constructed car park back into the town centre.

- West Gate Interpretative Centre - to provide a creative and immersive visitor experience into Clonmel's industrial, commercial and literary past associated with Charles Bianconi and Anthony Trollope.

Clonmel Public Realm Enhancement

In order to deliver on the overall project vision the key public streets in Clonmel will be transformed, re-imagined and significantly upgraded. This includes the Primary Retail Area (PRA), adjacent streets and Mick Delahunty Square. This will improve the attractiveness and liveability of the town.

This pillar will connect with the proposed pedestrian bridge linking to Suir Island and will be the key component in connecting all of the pillars back into the town centre.

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

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage announced on 19th March 2021 funding of €9.52 million for this project under 'Call 2' of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF). The proposal is to develop a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Energy, to be the anchor and catalyst for the redevelopment of Martyr's Road Regeneration Quarter, a 10 ha. strategic site of brownfield lands and underutilised properties located in the heart of Nenagh Town Centre.

The Centre of Excellence, taking reference from best international practice, will uniquely host a range of public agencies working collaboratively to deliver innovative solutions from training and development, to new cutting-edge research on technologies, to incubating low-carbon social enterprises. The Centre has been designed to be Ireland's first carbon neutral and energy positive building.

The works to be supported also include Public Realm and Amenity Enhancement to Friar Street Civic Plaza, Martyr's Road Town Park, Martyr's Road streetscape improvements, including cycleways.

The €9.52 million in approved funding is in addition to €15.98 million in approved URDF funding for two 'Call 1' projects: 'Liberty Square Thurles' and 'Clonmel' bringing the total URDF funding approved for Tipperary to date to €25.51 million.



Rural Regeneration and Development Fund – Third Call

Four applications have been submitted under the Third Call for Category 1 projects for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, the closing date for submission of applications was 1st December 2020:

Nenagh Digital Hub

Tipperary County Council is seeking funding to develop a digital hub at Stream Business Campus in Nenagh. The project would deliver a major new facility for the promotion of enterprise development across economic sectors, indigenous industry, micro – enterprises and small and medium enterprises. The overarching aim and purpose of the facility is to promote economic development and increase employment opportunities by connecting companies, remote workers and local communities. The project value is **€6,439,296** and grant funding of **€5,795,366** is being sought through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Thurles Market Quarter: Regeneration, Education and support for Local Producers is a collaboration between Tipperary County Council, Thurles Lion’s Club and Mary Immaculate College Thurles. The project will provide a designated market space in the town centre for local food and craft producers, artists and performers; will offer a location in the centre of a cluster of civic spaces to be enjoyed by locals and visitors while also acting as a base for the MIC Students’ Union.

Total project cost is **€2,846,613**

Total RRDF Funding sought **€2,789,681**



Kilsheelan Cluster Housing Project

The project has been developed as a demonstrator scheme to show the practical implementation of Tipperary County Council’s ‘**Design and Best Practice Guidelines for Cluster Housing**’. The guidelines include a series of case studies illustrating how sustainable design solutions can be developed across a range of village types and site options. This project will be model for serviced site developments across the country and an initiative to revitalise villages in Tipperary and across the country. The scheme was subject to a Part 8 process, approved by the Elected Members in July, 2019. The total project cost is **€613,171** and **€61,317.10** is being sought under the fund.

Cashel Town Park and Public Realm Works

Tipperary County Council is seeking funding to develop an innovative Tourism Experience set at the base of the Rock of Cashel which will greatly enhance the visitor experience and expand capacity at one of Ireland's most iconic visitor attractions. In line with Ireland's Ancient East, Castles and Conquests & Vikings Visitor Experience Plan, this attraction will grow the Rock of Cashel into an immersive cluster of tourism experiences increasing capacity, dwell time, bed nights and extending the tourism season. The park will also host local events and festivals and provide a valued amenity space to the local community. The project value is **€3,737,976** and grant funding of **€3,364,178.40** is being sought through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Conservation Grant Schemes 2021

The **Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2021** seeks to encourage conservation of structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in certain cases, structures within Architectural Conservation Areas. Grants awarded under this scheme range from the minimum of €2,500 to the maximum of €15,000.

The closing date for new Applications was extended to the 22nd February 2021 due to the Level 5 Lockdown. Tipperary County Councils nominations had to be with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for the 12th March 2021. There was a three week assessment process that was led by our grade 1 Conservation Architect.

In total Tipperary County Council received 29 Applications for funding. Following review, 18 projects have now been nominated to the Department for funding. The Department will now assess the Tipperary County Council nominations and revert with their decision.

The **Historic Structure Fund 2021** seeks to support conservation works to heritage structures in both private and public ownership. The focus is on conservation and enhancement of historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public and will seek to:

- enable larger scale conservation works to be carried out on heritage structures which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support;
- encourage the regeneration and reuse of heritage properties and help to secure the preservation of protected structures and/or historic-culturally significant assets; and
- support the investment of private capital in labour-intensive projects to conserve historic structures in public and private ownership for community use.
- There are two new elements to the scheme this year, a pilot scheme for Vernacular Structures and a pilot scheme for Historic Shop Fronts.

The closing date for new applications was extended to the 22nd February 2021 due to the level 5 Lockdown. Tipperary County Council received 13 Applications for funding under this scheme. The assessment process was led by our Grade 1 Conservation Architect.

6 projects have now been nominated to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for funding. The breakdown of nominated projects is as follows;

- 3 Projects nominated under Stream 1
- 1 Project nominated under Public Ownership
- 1 Project nominated under Vernacular Scheme
- 1 Project nominated under Historic Shop Front Scheme

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage will now assess these nominations and revert with the projects that will receive funding.

Town Walls

Works complete for 2020 in Carrick on Suir and a presentation on Carrick on Suir was given by TCC at the AGM and launch of the 2021 Funding programme by the Heritage Council. Works in Cashel have been postponed until Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

Figure 1: Works complete at Carrick on Suir



Planning Applications – Decision Making from 1/01/21 to 25/03/21

Application Type	Number of decisions made	Number granted	Number refused	No. of Decisions appealed to An Bord Pleanala	Decisions reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Individual House	48	48	0	1	0
Housing Development	7	7	0	1	0
NIA/EIA	1	1	0	1	1
Other Applications	186	181	5	4	0
Total	242	237	5	7	1

Planning Agents’ Webinar Workshop

A Planning Agents’ Webinar Workshop on E-Planning has been arranged for 15th April, items to be covered are the piloting of E-Planning in Tipperary County Council, current guidelines for submitting a planning application and there will be an update on the new EPA Code of Practice, 2021 for domestic waste water treatment systems which will come into effect on 7th June, 2021. It is hoped this workshop will



be of benefit to agents who are lodging planning applications. Those invited to attend include architects, engineers, architectural technicians, planning consultants, etc. The workshop will be advertised on the Council's website and social media platforms.

Enforcement Proceedings

There were 22 complaints received from the 1st January to the 28th February 2021. During this period 20 Warning Letters and 5 Enforcement Notices issued.

Taking in Charge: Estates

Being processed	Taken in Charge 2021	Advertised	New applications 2021
47	3	3 + 4 due to be adv.	6

FIRE SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL



SECTION PRIORITIES		
Major Current Issues	Progress in Previous Month	Next Stage
Major Emergency Management	<p>Finalising the Business continuity software package.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with both the SE and MW regional steering groups.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Final workshop with supplier and delivery of the system - on hold due to travel restrictions from UK.</p>
Building Control	<p>Commencement notices and fire safety certificates continued to be submitted for assessment.</p> <p>Onsite inspections have recommenced.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Ongoing evaluation of all work practices with regard to the Covid-19 situation</p>	<p>Complete annual inspection programme for 2021 reaching Dept. guideline targets</p>
Health & Safety	<p>Training Centre reopened in Clonmel</p> <p>-----</p>	
Fire Safety	<p>-----</p> <p>Delivery of those elements of our annual strategic plan which can be delivered through the various stages of this Covid-19 emergency.</p>	<p>Prepare for completion of targets set out in 2021 annual plan.</p>



CURRENT PROJECTS		
Project	Progress in Previous Month	Next Stage
Templemore Fire Station	Works completed.	Arrange official opening.
Cashel Fire Station	Tender process completed and recommendation issued to Department.	Receive approval to proceed and appoint contractor.
Roscrea Fire Station	Improvement works included in Department allocation.	Currently out to tender for design team.
New appliances	Department have approved provision of two new Class B fire appliances for Tipperary	Arrange preparation of procurement documents.

ADMIN/LICENSING PROCESSES	To 29th March 2021
Number of Emergency Calls Attended	299
Number of Fire Safety Certificate Applications Received	17
Number of Fire Safety Certificates Granted	19
Number of Disability Access Certificate Applications Received	15
Number of Disability Access Certificates Granted	15
Number of Commencement Notices Received	67

Health, Safety & Quality Management

Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service have operated a Safety Management System in compliance with the international standard ISO 45001: 2018 and a Quality Management System in compliance with the international standard ISO 9001: 2015 for a number of years. In 2018 it was decided to integrate both management systems and apply for a single audit and certification through the National Standards Authority

of Ireland. In early March of this year an Auditor from NSAI spent 1 days on site visiting Cahir and Tipperary Town fire stations and meeting with fire service staff across the county for a further 2 days via Zoom.. The audit yielded no non-conformances with either standard and the service continues to have an integrated management system certified to both ISO 45001 and ISO 9001 - the only such integrated certification for any fire service in the country.

Seveso III Exercise for MSD (Ballydine)

As part of the requirement to test the External Emergency Plans required by S.17 of S.I. 209 of 2015, it was required to review and test the MSD Ireland (Ballydine) External Emergency Plan for 2020 held jointly by the three Principal Response Agencies who are designated as Local Competent Authorities under S.I No. 209 of 2015 namely An Garda Síochána (Tipperary), Health Service Executive (South East) and Local Authority (Tipperary). Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and both Government and Public Health restrictions imposed as a result, the exercise was postponed until March 2021.

The exercise went ahead on 10th March in the Hydra Suite in Clonmel Fire Station under the direction of the Exercise Director Ms Carol Kennedy, Assistant Chief Fire Officer. The exercise was designed to fulfil a number of aims and objectives. While some of the objectives are common to each Principal Response Agency (PRA), others were specific to the individual PRA concerned.

Participants from each of the PRAs along with staff from MSD spent the day dealing with a simulated chemical spill at the Ballydine site. It was noted on the day that this was the first time that such an exercise has been undertaken using the Hydra technology and feedback on the day was very positive.



Aerial View of MSD (Ballydine)

Tipperary Civil Defence

Response

Tipperary Civil Defence continues to respond to the COVID crisis. We continue to provide support transport and backup daily to Clonmel Meals-on-Wheels, with the delivery of hot meal to the vulnerable in the community.



We continue to provide clerical backup and meet and greet assistance to the Blood Transfusion Service Board at their donation clinics.

Patient transport still forms part of our response transferring patients for routine appointment and inter facility transfer.



Patient Transfers and Transport

Civil Defence EMT practitioners & volunteers have been involved in assisting with transport and transfer of patients for routine appointment, chemo treatment and outpatient appointments and in addition COVID positive patients to the isolation hub in City West Dublin



Assistance at the COVID Test Centre

Assistance at the mass vaccination centers in Clonmel & Nenagh

We are back once again supporting the HSE staff at the test Centre in Munroe with the packing and preparation of testing kits, preparing in excess of 1500 kits per week



Tipperary Civil Defence is currently involved in the planning and rollout of the vaccination centers in Clonmel and Nenagh. The role of volunteers could be to meet and greet, patient assistance and general assistance in the smooth running of the vaccination facility.

Training

Due to level 5 restrictions on site training has been temporarily suspended. Some of our Volunteers have however engaged in on line training using the HSE training portal hseland.ie

hseland.ie
Cúram le Eolas

**Children
First**

Library Service

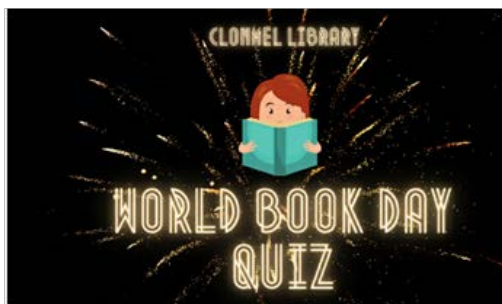
Capital Project – Conversion of Craft Granary into a Public Library:



- Part 8 Planning Permission was approved at the February meeting of the Tipperary – Cahir – Cashel MD. The detailed design and tendering for the new Library has now commenced.



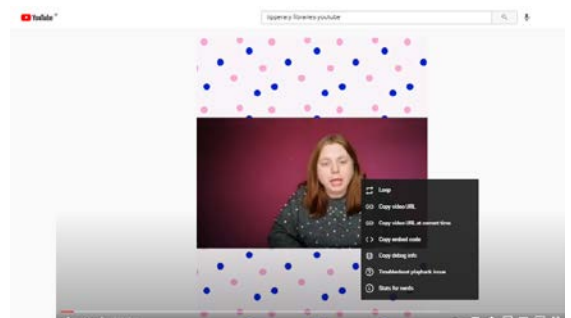
- Ireland Reads is a public libraries initiative, in partnership with publishers, booksellers, authors and others under the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. To celebrate this, staff at Clonmel Library recorded thirty two Library staff reading a page each from *The President's Cat*. This video received over 320 views.



- Clonmel Library organised an online quiz on 4th March to celebrate World Book Day.



- Clonmel Library organised a series of events to mark St. Patrick's Day. These included a Children's art competition and colouring competitions. In addition, the Library was lit up in green to celebrate the day.
- Thurles Library organised an online craft session for making Mother's Day gifts. This class was given by Library staff member, Miriam McMahon

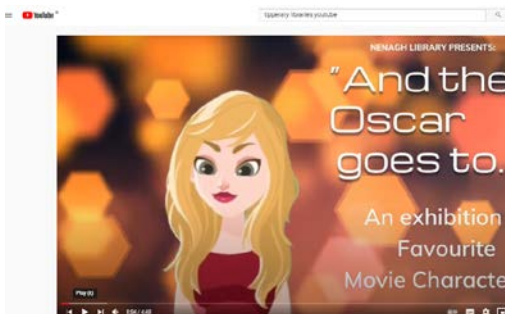


- Staff in Thurles Library organised an Online Lego Club Engineer's Week Challenge: Children made one of 3 engineering themed Lego projects, a marble maze, a catapult or a Lego pulley and there was a great response to this challenge
- Thurles Library organised a Big Book Quiz for World Book Day. The quiz was for 5th & 6th class, with 12 classes taking part. Drom NS were the winners.

- Nenagh Library have organised a new online initiative entitled **5 Fun Facts** with Jackie. This commenced in March and will run for 6 weeks. Every week, Library staff member Jackie Kennedy tackles a marvel in nature and gives 5 Fun Facts on each animal.



- Nenagh Library staff have organised a series of online workshops to mark World Book Day and Mother's Day. These included Arts and Craft Sessions.



- Nenagh Library host an online movie club for children which meets

on a monthly basis and has been very well received to date.

- Staff at Cashel Library organised an online seminar entitled Pain, Posture and Presence by Neil Dennehy, neuromuscular therapist as part of the Healthy Ireland programme.



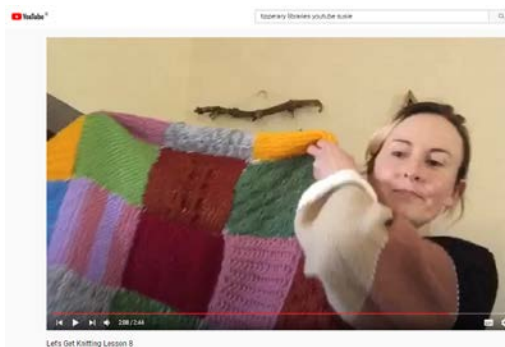
- Cashel Library organised a series of Irish language storytimes for Seachtain na Gaeilge. These were read by Library staff member, Mary McCormack



- Staff in Cashel Library have started a weekly storytime and crafts session which is broadcast online every Saturday morning. This is hosted by Library Staff member, Suzanne Brosnan.



- Staff at Tipperary Town Library have continued the **Hidden Gems** initiative which encourages citizens to explore the beautiful scenery of County Tipperary within 5km of their homes. Library staff and users are encouraged to take photographs of the area they live in while on walks. These photos are then submitted to staff in Tipperary Town Library who publish them on the Library Facebook page and YouTube Channel.



- Tipperary Town Library continues to hold weekly online knitting classes with Library Staff member, Valerie Madden.



- Staff in Tipperary Town Library have started a new initiative called Sunday Bakes. A new video demonstrating how to bake snacks and treats is broadcast online every Sunday morning.

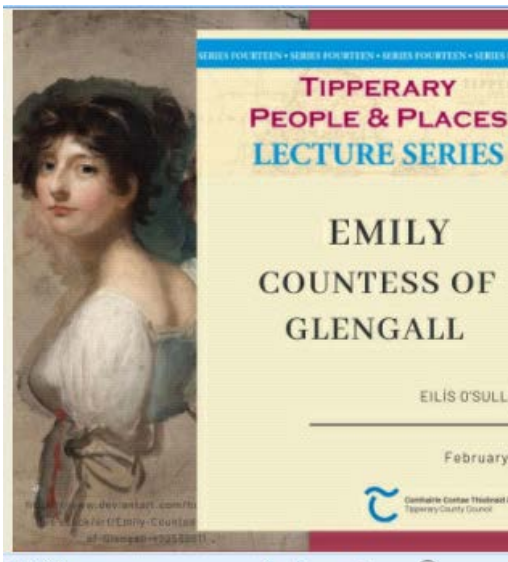


Carol Delany, Carrick-on-Suir Library with Dolores Fahey, Civil Defence

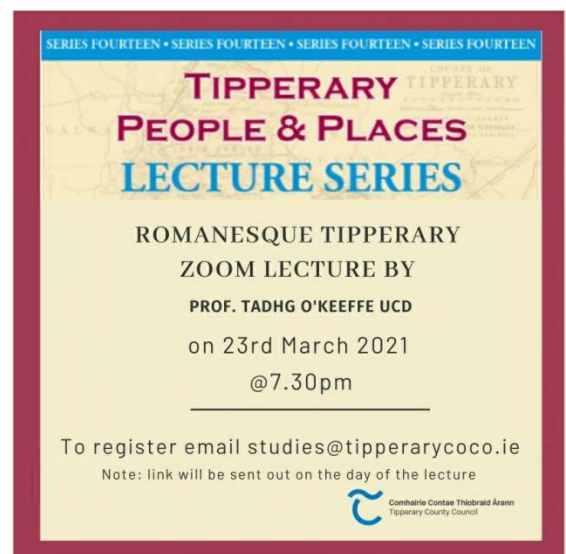
- Carrick-on-Suir Library will be the local partner in a new national campaign entitled Grow It Forward. This is a key part of the Eating Well Pillar under the Government Keep Well 2020-2021 campaign during Covid-19. It focuses on giving food growing kits to 50 000 people throughout the country with 25,000 kits will be accessible through the national libraries, which are key centres of local communities. The

kits will consist of an envelope containing 5 packets of seeds, a GIY Growing Guide and 10 gift tags (to encourage everyone to Grow It Forward by sharing the seeds harvested from their vegetables with their friends and family). The packs will contain seeds for Beetroot (Detroit Globe), Carrots (Autumn King), Tomatoes (Sungold), Peas (Greenshaft) and Oriental Greens (Mix).

- The Tipperary Studies Weekly Podcast (www.tipperarystudies.ie) series continues to attract new listeners. There are now over 80 podcasts available on a variety of historical matters relating to County Tipperary



- The February People and Places lecture took place online on 23rd February with Eilis O'Sullivan giving a lecture entitled '**Emily Countess of Glengall**'.



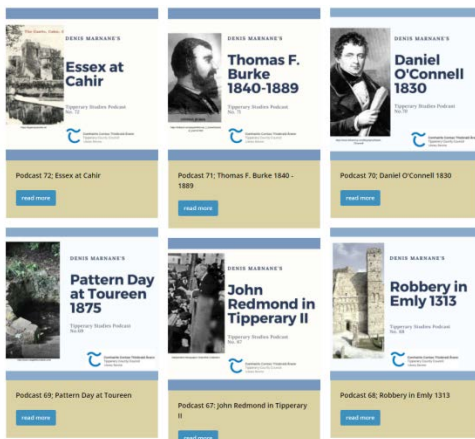
- The March lecture took place online on 23rd March with Prof. Tadhg O'Keeffe giving a lecture entitled '**Romanesque Tipperary**'.

All lectures in the current Tipperary People and Places series can be viewed online at <https://tipperarystudies.ie/lectures/>

[Arts Service](#)

Tipperary Healthy Ireland Cultural Projects Award 2021

- As part of the Keep Well Initiative and with a specific focus on the “switching off” element, the Cultural Team curated a range of resources and programmes to support local wellbeing between January and March 2021.



with Tipperary County Libraries & Ruth Farrell Horticulturist; A video on making nest boxes with Birdwatch Tipperary and online Music appreciation projects for over 60's with musician Suzanne Buttimer, not to mention the Making of a Virtual Radio Drama with Tudor Artisan Hub in Carrick on Suir, there was something for all interests. The Birdwatch Ireland Video remains available on the Keep Well page
www.tipperarycoco.ie/keepwell



- Through an open call to creatives, cultural organisations, artists and heritage specialists in Tipperary, 10 exciting and diverse online programmes were supported. From music projects with Men's Sheds to Circus workshops for teenagers and young adults; A Farming and Gardening series with Cloncannon Bio farm; a month long online programme of creativity & wellness with The South Tipperary Arts Centre; The Sofa Symphony - Listening Party a weekly journey through classical masterpieces with musician Eamon O'Malley; Instructional gardening workshops



- Following the hugely successful 'Going Digital Workshops' last summer aimed at supporting artists in responding to new ways of working due to COVID-19, we are currently running a 12 week follow on more intensive Digital Skills Spring programme for Creative Practitioners in Co. Tipperary.
- The new programme began on 4th February and runs until 22nd April. During this time the artist trainer

will deliver a programme based on identified needs. Participants will get a chance to produce digital work using newly developed skills in a supportive and creative setting. One-on-one sessions with people based on their individual needs are also a key part of the programme. This programme is being delivered by artist Michael Fortune who works as a lecturer on the Digital Media Module in the Education Department of Limerick School of Art and Design. Twenty Tipperary artists are currently undertaking this course.

Insights Series

- As part of the Arts Office's ongoing commitment to development opportunities for the arts sector in Tipperary, we have invited a number of leading players in the arts in Ireland to share insights into their work and practices at this very strange time for everyone. We will hear how they have adapted their work in recent times and the possibilities for the future. Anne Clarke founder of Landmark Productions and one of Ireland's leading theatre producers, Sinead McPhillips an experienced Communications Consultant working primarily in the arts and culture sector with organisations such as Galway International Art Festival and Baboró International Arts Festival for Children and Jo Mangan, Artistic Director/CEO of The Performance Corporation, and Director of Carlow Arts Festival will share their insights during March and April. These events are an open invitation to artists and the arts community to meet over a series of events to share ideas, challenges and information at time when most are

isolated and unable to work with others.



- **The Tipperary Bealtaine Festival** which celebrates creativity in older age is currently in planning for an online event for 2021 during May in partnership with Tipperary Library Service. We are working with our colleagues in Tipperary Age Friendly to support older people in getting online and in accessing Cultural Content during April through two workshops aimed at supporting them in navigating the Tipperary Bealtaine programme and other

cultural content by encouraging family and friends to support older people in making the initial connection to zoom to avail of these two specially designed training sessions.



- **Tipperary Youth Theatre** aims to make participation in the arts accessible to young people between 13 and 17 years and encourages the exploration and development of all art forms in particular theatre and the performing arts. This initiative is part of the County arts programme supported by the Arts Council and delivered by The Source Arts Centre in Thurles and Nenagh Arts Centre in Nenagh. Both groups continue to meet online for their weekly workshops to ensure continuity of engagement with young people. We have extended the usual term of Youth Theatre this year to support both groups in continuing to meet for weekly workshops and rehearsals during Level 5 restrictions.

[Heritage Service](#)

County Heritage Plan Actions Update:

- **An audit of Holy Wells in the county:** Procurement is now

underway to appoint a team to undertake survey.

- **The Bolton Library Film project** is collaboration with the Heritage Office, Tipperary County Council Library Service, the Glucksman Library University of Limerick, Representative Church Body Library and the Diocese of Cashel. Procurement is now underway to secure a company to research and film the documentary.
- **Raising Awareness Programme:** This will be a one year programme of talks and projects with communities raising awareness of their heritage.

National Biodiversity Action Plan:

Multi annual funding was secured in 2020. However the budget was increased nationally in 2021 so an additional application was submitted for the following projects

- Wetlands Survey of County (phase 1 desktop and sample sites)
- Barn Owl project: with Birdwatch Ireland extension of last year's monitoring programme and a video of work of Barn Owl experts in Tipperary
- Expanded programme with Offaly County Council eradicating Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed from the Little Brosna River.
- Invasive Species Workshops and Awareness programme

Community Monuments Fund:

- Increased funding for 2021 has been announced for this scheme. Applications from the public are due in by April 12th and short listing will be completed in advance of applications to Department.

Commemorations Grant Scheme

- Assessments took place in February and the following projects were allocated funding:

Third Tipperary Brigade Old IRA Commemoration Committee	Annual Programme
Cahir Social and Historical Society	Kidnapping of DI Gilbert Potter
Daughters of Dun Iascaigh	International Women's Day event
Source Arts Centre	Ceasefire
Tommy Lee Commemoration Committee	Tommy Lee Commemoration
Up Till Dawn Productions	Overlook-The Kickham Barracks Story
Fethard Historical Society	Tommy Lee Booklet and Lecture
Tipp Excel Centre	Tipperary in 1921 – Wartime Wedding & Truce
Sean Nugent	Jim O Keefe Commemoration
Cloughjordan Historical Society	Modreeny Ambush
Thomas MacDonagh Museum	Thomas MacDonagh Weekend

- Historian in Residence:** Procurement is underway to appoint Historian in Residence
- Public History Project:** Site selection is currently underway with 'Landscapes of Revolution' Team and will be announced shortly.
- Tipperary in Documents Series:** One of the highlights of the commemorations programme is the collaboration between Tipperary Studies and Dr Denis Marnane looking at major events through the lens of local history sources. The final instalment focusing on the Civil War is currently being produced and will launch later this year.

Creative Ireland Programme:

- Assessments for the Community Grant Scheme and Open Call Scheme were carried out in March and the following projects were offered funding.

Community Grants Scheme

Burncourt Community Council	Everard Commemoration
Tipperary Town Revitalisation (Heritage Group)	Tipperary Town Video
Dromineer Nenagh Literary Festival	Dromineer Nenagh Literary Festival
Nenagh Players	Trainee
Knockavilla-Donskeigh Community council	Below in Clonmel
Refresh Thurles	Creating Ripples
Cahir Social and Historical Society	Summer Festival at the Castle
YouthWORK	I spy with my

Ireland Fethard/Killenaule	young eye
Clonmel Applefest	Apple Heritage Fair/Blueway Sunday
Newcastle Tidy Towns	A camera on Caislean Nua
Feile Brian Boru	Feile Brian Boru
Youth Work Tipperary Town	Re-Imagining Dead Spaces
Silvermines Historical Society	Drawing Time in Sivermines.

Open Call Scheme

Maurice Caplice	Bínsí Críonna (Wise Benches)
Birdhill Tidy Village & Melissa Ryan	Open Air Art Trail
Stagecraft Youth Theatre	Ar mhaith leat damhsa
Cashel Arts Festival	A Century of Decades
The Source Arts Centre Thurles	The Sugar Tapes
Cloughjordan Circus Club	Summer Camp
Print Van Go/Aoife Barrett	Lost Links
Liam Heaphy, Patricia Looby Ann Gildea	Dúshraith
South Tipperary Arts Centre	Youth Audio Theatre
Laoise Carey & Niamh Flynn	Irishness: Two Way Street
Clonmel Junction Festival	Clonmel Identity – an exploration of ‘Identity: What’s In A Name?’

- Cruinniú na nÓg will take place on 12 June this year. Programmes are currently being put in place by Tipperary Libraries, South Tipperary Arts Centre, Nenagh Arts Centre and

Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. It will be a mixture of online and in person activity depending on public health guidance at the time. Programme will be launched nationally in coming weeks.

Museum Service

Reopening strategy

- The Museum is currently closed under level 5 restrictions. However, Museum staff are working on a new Strategic Plan to Reopen with their cultural partners Tipperary Libraries. A series of PR initiatives will commence in the coming weeks and months to promote the Museum.

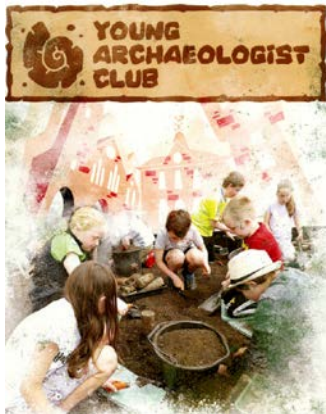


- President Michael D. Higgins sent a letter of appreciation to the Museum on their successful ‘Rediscovery of Mick Delahunty's Lost Recordings’. To date museum staff have sent out 2,500 copies to cocooning individuals, couples and families. The museum Curator Marie McMahon continues to promote this project and has received over 2,000 emails, letters and calls from enthusiastic fans.

- Due to Government Restrictions the Education and Outreach Department has refocused its **Children and Family Events** to an online platform and is using a mix of Facebook posts, YouTube Tutorials and Zoom events to make access easy for everybody.
- The image below is a sample of the work the museum is undertaking with its designer and production team to bring this era to life through images, research and artefacts. Final design panels will be signed off early April & installed end April '21.



- Tipperary Museum are collaborating with the Clonmel Junction Festival to produce a project called 'Cabinets of Curiosity'. This will be Cross Generational and includes TY students from Presentation & High School Secondary students with local stalwarts – Maureen Purcell, Danny Carroll and Peig Rossiter.



- The next Young Archaeologist Club Zoom event is planned for Mid-April where Dave Swift will look at uniforms, guns and weapons of the War of Independence
- The Museum worked with **Workplace Partnership** on a series of video tutorials for Council staff on You Tube with art and craft tutor Elke Wilson. Videos included a Mother's Day workshop online and St. Patricks Day workshop. Over thirty staff participated.



- **Tipperary County Council Workplace Partnership Forum & Tipperary Museum of Hidden History** took the lead on motivating our own frontline staff to coordinate a series of crosswords, music trivia, word searches and history quizzes for TCC staff... we have over 50 - 70+ staff engaging weekly – Easter Quiz is proving popular. A new series '*Energy Boot Camp 2021*

‘with Katie Murphy Acupuncturist & Intuitive Mentor will be rolled out over April 2021. To date over 70 staff have registered to participate in the programme.



- The Museum’s Collection Officer Jayne Sutcliff is currently working with a specialist company to maximise the storage capacity of our onsite storage facility by reimaging the space. This will allow for easier access to the collection and flexibility to move throughout the store, which is at capacity.



FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Year to Date 28th February 2021

		EXPENDITURE			INCOME			NET		
		Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
A	Housing & Building	6,127,519	34,559,408	18%	28,431,889	5,762,171	34,709,748	17%	28,947,577	(365,348)
B	Road Transport & Safety	6,266,561	59,048,543	11%	52,781,982	2,860,608	41,786,965	7%	38,926,357	(3,405,953)
C	Water Services	2,313,526	14,885,125	16%	12,571,599	2,075,682	14,444,814	14%	12,369,132	(237,844)
D	Development Management	2,391,292	14,611,039	16%	12,219,747	1,105,572	5,451,283	20%	4,345,711	(1,285,720)
E	Environmental Services	3,928,686	29,570,114	13%	25,641,428	1,504,486	12,402,770	12%	10,898,284	(2,424,201)
F	Recreation & Amenity	2,110,031	13,813,198	15%	11,703,167	404,059	2,605,159	16%	2,201,100	(1,705,972)
G	Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	334,788	1,929,188	17%	1,594,400	272,297	1,272,475	21%	1,000,178	(62,490)
H	Miscellaneous Services	2,650,658	16,486,224	16%	13,835,566	1,227,826	9,271,617	13%	8,043,791	(1,422,831)
LG	Local Property Tax	0	0	0%	0	4,526,111	27,156,665	17%	22,630,554	4,526,111
RA	Rates	0	0	0%	0	5,966,891	35,801,343	17%	29,834,452	5,966,891
	Totals	26,123,060	184,902,839	14%	158,779,779	25,705,702	184,902,839	14%	159,197,137	(417,538)



Capital Account – Year to Date 28th February 2021

	Expenditure	Income
	Expenditure YTD €	Total income YTD €
A Housing & Building	2,284,318	5,427,678
B Road Transport & Safety	643,276	-
C Water Services	1,070,641	148,762
D Development Management	1,203,685	511,262
E Environmental Services	333,262	1,000
F Recreation & Amenity	53,646	-
G Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	11,941	-
H Miscellaneous Services	392,668	14,994
Total	5,993,437	6,103,695

Collection Rates	YTD 202102	YTD 202002	YTD 202012
Rates	9%	15%	75%*
Rents	85%	77%	97%
Housing Loans	68%	66%	94%

* 2020 Year-end collection rate is as per AFS, and takes account of Specific Doubtful Arrears, unlike the end of February figures. The year-end collection rate has also been affected by the Rates Waiver Scheme in the sum of €12.5m which reduced the total amount for collection, thereby reducing the collection %.

For prior year comparison purposes, if the waiver income had been included in the amount collected, the collection rate would have been 83%.



COMMERCIAL RATES

During March 2021 Rate Demands for 2021 in the amount of €35.7m have issued to all customers. Due to the Rates Waiver in 2020 we have deferred income in 2021 from 2020 in the amount of €3m – this arises where customer accounts are in credit due to the application of the waiver.

COVID 19 COMMERCIAL RATES WAIVER SCHEME

The 2020 Covid19 Rates Waiver Scheme has been fully implemented and the waiver has been applied to the appropriate customer accounts. The duration of the waiver covered a nine month period. The total amount of rates waived in 2020 was €12,493,093.

We are currently in the process of applying the Waiver Scheme for Commercial Rates for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2021. The waiver for 2021 is more restrictive than the 2020 scheme, most offices and industrial premises will be in the excluded category for 2021 along with businesses that are categorised as vacant property, windfarms, global utility networks, banks, building societies and public services. We will be writing to all excluded categories shortly and they will have the right to appeal if they feel that there are incorrectly excluded.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR COVID (SBASC)

The Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment has recently launched the Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) which is intended to target those businesses with operating costs that do not qualify for the COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS) operated by the Revenue Commissioners. The eligibility criteria for both schemes are similar. The main difference between SBASC and CRSS is the requirement, in the case of CRSS, for the public to have access to a business premises. SBASC also aligns with recently announced grant schemes for the tourism, arts and entertainment sectors.

The grant, which is available as a contribution towards fixed costs to assist a business to keep operational for an eventual re-opening, is only available to an applicant operating from a rateable property. The scheme covers the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021. Each eligible applicant will receive a payment of €4,000 with an additional payment of €4,000 from May 2021 to applicants continuing to meet the scheme eligibility criteria, which is set out on our website <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/news/small-business-assistance-scheme-covid-sbasc>

The closing date for applications for the initial grant under SBASC is 21 April 2021.

EARLY PAYMENT SCHEME FOR COMMERCIAL RATES 2021

Due to the unprecedented impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent economic fallout we have adopted our early payment scheme for Commercial Rates for 2021 as set out below.



- Applies to all ratepayers with an annual rates bill of up to €12,000 for 2021.
- To avail of the Early Payment Reduction of 5%, subject to a maximum of €500 pay your rates in full, (less the reduction under the Waiver Scheme*) by 30th September 2021.

The scheme is open to customers with arrears on their accounts where they meet the following requirements:

- a) Pay a minimum amount which is equivalent to the annual rates, net of waiver, by the same timelines outlined above and
- b) Enter into a structured payment plan to address and eliminate arrears.

VACANT PROPERTY RELIEF

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

The following vacancy relief on rates will apply in County Tipperary for 2021.

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

Category	% Relief/Payment
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill up to €5,000	100% Vacancy Relief
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill over €5,000, but less than €10,000	85% Vacancy Relief 15% to be paid
Qualified Vacant Properties with a rates bill over €10,000	70% Vacancy Relief 30% to be paid

No vacancy relief will be granted without a properly completed Application Form, signed and witnessed by a Garda, Commissioner of Oaths or a practising Solicitor, and relevant payment. The Application Form must be accompanied with appropriate evidence of efforts made to let the property, (evidence may include copies of online/newspaper advertisements, Letting Agents brochures, evidence of adequate “To Let” signage, etc), or, if the property is closed for refurbishment, evidence showing that substantial works were carried out during the period of vacancy.

Application Forms should be submitted when period of vacancy has ended, or if property remains vacant, at year end.

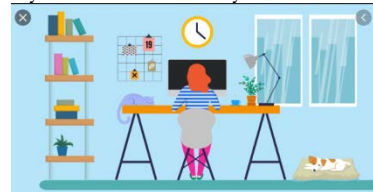
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

Networks & Infrastructure

- Made significant progress on the project to implement a new IT infrastructure platform for the organisation. The infrastructure has been installed in the Nenagh data centre, system tested and UAT tested. As of the end of March all but two systems have been migrated over to the new infrastructure without any User down time. The migration of the remaining two systems will be in the first week in April.
- Made significant progress on the implementation of a new unified central phone system for the organisation. The system has been installed, system tested and UAT tested. The server side of the system has been migrated over to our new infrastructure in the data centre. The numbering systems have been changed where appropriate, the intranet phone book updated and user operational notes issued. Phones have been placed on desks for the majority of our Users, and the majority of staff have now been migrated over on to the new system. This has occurred without virtually any down time for our Users. The offices now live include: Nenagh Civic Offices, Clonmel Civic Offices, Machinery Yard Nenagh, Tipp Town Library, Clonmel Library, Thurles DO Building (all extensions including Library and Transport Link), Thurles Source, Carrick DO, Cashel City Hall, IT Section Nenagh, Ballingrane House, LAWCO Office, LASTNG Office, SOLAS Office, Tipp Swimming Pool, Donohill Landfill Site, Nenagh Recycling Centre, Roscrea Recycling Centre, Ballinveany Landfill Site, Carrigeen Site Clonmel and Fire Station Nenagh.
- Implemented the necessary measures to deal with the global MS Exchange email-Hafnium vulnerability. Fortunately, the organisation was not compromised by this vulnerability. Scanning tools were run to check for indicators of compromise on a regular basis, and logs, servers and files interrogated and findings investigated. The web mail external channel into our email system was rebuilt, a global password reset was executed and location of access to web

email is being geographically constrained. TCC liaised closely with the national cyber security centre (CSIRT), other Local Authorities and our external email consultants to assist in the process.

- Completed the implementation of two factor authentication on the web email system
- Continued to support staff who have the facility to work remotely from home.



- Continued to upgrade our Microsoft Office estate to MS Office 2019.
- Continued to upgrade our Windows 7 PCs to Windows 10 in line with our Windows upgrade programme.

Web Site and eDevelopment

- Assisted in publishing details on part 8s, grants, regeneration plans, action plans and questionnaires on to web site.
- Continued management and support of a number of internal business systems and websites.

Business Systems and GIS

Planning

- Continued to facilitate and support the piloting of the national online planning project (ePlan)
- Provided GIS support for county development plan
- Updated Planning GIS Apps

Housing

- Commenced data cleansing of iHouse Data for national system.
- Progressed the Choice Based Letting project



Environment

- Initialised project for new Environmental Complaints system
- Updated the 'Bring Site' GIS digitiser

Finance

- Commenced install of the Ascendas product for Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC)
- Provided Finance H&S Audit with eLearning tools.

Roads

- Commenced the rollout of Autocad LT 2021 upgrade

Corporate/Organisation/HR

- Prepared NOAC Service performance indicators
- Develop and roll out new eLearning module for CRM superusers
- Upgrade several clients with CRM 2015
- Tested new phone to replace Samsung A42
- Provided new mobile data plan for councillor iPads and provided SIMS

Technical Support

Continued to provide technical support to staff and elected members, for business, web, geographical, desktop and network systems.