



**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**  
Tipperary County Council

# Playground Policy

## 2017



<b>Playground Policy Table of Contents</b>		
<b>Section 1: Rationale</b>		<b>Page No</b>
1.1	Introduction	<b>6</b>
1.2	Aim of the Policy	<b>6</b>
1.2.1	Duration of the Policy	<b>7</b>
1.3	Methodology	<b>7</b>
1.4	Exclusions from this Policy	<b>8</b>
1.5	Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)	<b>8</b>
1.6	Smoking in playgrounds	<b>8</b>
<b>Section 2: Playground Policy</b>		
2.1	Introduction	<b>10</b>
2.1.1	International Context	<b>10</b>
2.1.2	National Policy	<b>10</b>
2.1.3	Local Policy – Pre-merger	<b>11</b>
2.1.4	South Tipperary Playground Development Policy (2003)	<b>11</b>
2.1.5	South Tipperary County Council Review of Playground Policy (2009)	<b>11</b>
2.1.6	County Development Plan – Post Merger	<b>12</b>
2.1.7	Tipperary County Council Local, Economic and Community Plan (LECP)	<b>12</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>National and Local Funding</b>	
2.2.1	LEADER funding	<b>12</b>
2.2.2	Department of Children and Youth Affairs	<b>13</b>
2.2.3	Development Levy Funding	<b>13</b>
2.2.3.1	Funding levels	<b>13</b>
2.2.3.2	Evaluation of new playgrounds	<b>13</b>
2.2.4	Local Fundraising	<b>14</b>
2.3	Fundraising issues	<b>14</b>
<b>Section 3: Spatial Distributions of existing Playgrounds and Current Practices</b>		
3.1	<b>Location of existing playgrounds in County Tipperary</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Map 1:</b> Location of Playgrounds in County Tipperary	<b>15</b>
3.1.1	County Tipperary Settlement Hierarchy	<b>16</b>

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

	<b>Table 1:</b> Tipperary County Settlement Hierarchy	<b>17</b>
	<b>Map 2:</b> Playgrounds by Settlement Tier	<b>18</b>
3.1.2	Playgrounds at Service Centre Level	<b>19</b>
	<b>Table 2:</b> Service Centers with Playgrounds	<b>19</b>
	<b>Table 3:</b> Service Centers without Playgrounds	<b>20</b>
3.1.3	Local Service Centres	<b>20</b>
	<b>Table 4:</b> Local Service Centers with Playgrounds	<b>20</b>
	<b>Table 5:</b> Local Service Centers without Playgrounds	<b>21</b>
3.1.4	Municipal Districts	<b>21</b>
	<b>Map 3:</b> Nenagh Municipal District	<b>22</b>
	<b>Map 4:</b> Templemore Thurles Municipal District	<b>23</b>
	<b>Map 5:</b> Cashel- Tipperary Municipal District	<b>24</b>
	<b>Map 6:</b> Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District	<b>25</b>
	<b>Map 7:</b> Clonmel Borough District	<b>26</b>
3.1.5	Locational Issues and Summary	<b>27</b>
3.2	<b>Outline of Current Ownership Models</b>	<b>27</b>
	<b>Map 8:</b> Ownership of Playgrounds in County Tipperary	<b>28</b>
3.2.1	Current Ownership and Maintenance Models	<b>29</b>
3.2.2	Issues arising from Current Ownership Models	<b>30</b>
3.3	<b>Maintenance, Inspection, Insurance and Repair Procedures for Playgrounds in Tipperary</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>Map 9:</b> Playground Maintenance by Responsible Body	<b>31</b>
3.3.1	Current Operational Structure for Council Owned Playgrounds	<b>32</b>
3.3.1.1	Inspection, Maintenance and Repair Procedures	<b>32</b>
3.3.2	Current Operational Structure for Community Owned Playgrounds	<b>33</b>
3.3.2.1	Current Maintenance and Repair Procedures for Community Owned Playgrounds	<b>34</b>
3.3.3	Issues Pertaining to Inspection/Maintenance/Repair	<b>35</b>
3.4	<b>Playground Costs</b>	<b>36</b>
3.4.1	Maintenance Costs	<b>36</b>
3.4.1.1	Maintenance Cost Issues	<b>36</b>

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

3.4.2	Insurance Costs	<b>37</b>
3.4.2.1	Insurance Costs issues	<b>37</b>
3.4.3	Inspection Costs	<b>37</b>
3.5	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Section 4: Proposed Revised Development Procedures and Operational Procedures for Playgrounds in Tipperary</b>		
4.1	Introduction	<b>39</b>
4.2	Key Considerations for the Provision of New Playgrounds	<b>39</b>
4.2.1	Regional Towns/Sub Regional Towns/District Towns	<b>40</b>
4.2.2	Service Centres	<b>41</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 1: New Playground Facilities</b>	<b>43</b>
4.3	New Procedures for the Provision of New Playgrounds	<b>43</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 2: Structure for Developing New Playgrounds</b>	<b>44</b>
4.4	Revised Proposals to address the Inspection/Repair/Insurance Requirements of <b>Existing</b> Playgrounds	<b>46</b>
	<b>Option 1: Fully Community Owned &amp; Maintained</b>	<b>46</b>
	<b>Table 6: Fully Community owned and maintained</b>	<b>46</b>
	<b>Option 2: Fully Council Owned and maintained model</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Table 7: Fully Council owned and maintained</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Option 3: Community Playgrounds maintained by the Council</b>	<b>47</b>
	<b>Table 8: Community playgrounds maintained by the Council</b>	<b>47</b>
4.4.1	Revised Maintenance Procedures	<b>48</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 3: Maintenance Procedures for Existing Council Owned Playground Facilities</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 4: Maintenance Procedures for Existing Community Owned Playground Facilities</b>	<b>48</b>
4.4.2	Oversight and Management for Maintenance Model of All Playgrounds (Existing and New)	<b>49</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 5: Oversight and Management Structure</b>	<b>51</b>

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

4.4.3	Central Monitoring Structure	<b>51</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 6:</b> Monitoring and Reviewing Mechanism	<b>52</b>
4.4.4	Future Maintenance Funding	<b>52</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 7:</b> Maintenance Funding	<b>53</b>
4.4.5	Additional Actions	<b>53</b>
	<b>Recommendation no 8:</b> Additional Actions	<b>53</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		<b>55</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	List of playgrounds by Settlement Tier	<b>56</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	IPB Insurance Criteria	<b>58</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Outline of Steps Required in the Development of New Playgrounds	<b>59</b>
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Inspection and Maintenance Procedures: Roles and Responsibilities	<b>62</b>
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Playground Daily/Weekly Visual Inspection Form	<b>64</b>
<b>Appendix 6</b>	Questionnaire	<b>65</b>
<b>Appendix 7</b>	List of Council owned MUGAs and adult gym equipment	<b>69</b>
<b>Appendix 8</b>	Tipperary County Settlement Hierarchy Data Source <a href="http://www.tipperaryinfo.ie/sites/default/files/Settlement">http://www.tipperaryinfo.ie/sites/default/files/Settlement</a>	<b>70</b>

## **Section 1: Rationale**

### **1.1 Introduction**

Tipperary County Council recognises the importance of children as citizens of the county with the right to participate in the civic life of County Tipperary. Central to the rights of children, is the right to play in appropriate and safe surroundings.

Play is an essential element of a child's physical, psychological and emotional development and encourages social interaction, learning and problem solving in a creative and imaginative fashion. The benefits of play also include increased physical activity. Playgrounds; therefore, should be an integral part of the services provided to the public, to allow more children the opportunity to play outside and to contribute to the development of a child friendly community. Playgrounds may also be seen as an attractive facility in the locality for existing residents, potential residents and tourists alike.

The provision of playgrounds, whether by the Council or the local community, should be of the highest standard. Playgrounds should be appropriate to the needs of children and accessible to everyone.

### **1.2 Aim of the policy**

The purpose of this document is to

- Bring clarity and consistency of approach to the management and maintenance of those playgrounds who have been the recipients of public funding pre and post the merger of Tipperary County Council

- Outline the type of supports and structures available for the existing and proposed playgrounds which community groups with a responsibility for playgrounds, can avail of
- Identify criteria for publicly supported playground development where there is
  - (a) an identified deficit
  - and/or
  - (b) where they are required as a result of a particularly identified deficit in a settlement that already hosts a playground facility.
- This policy will also be open to supporting new, innovative and unique play projects in exceptional circumstances and where there is a strong case for same.

This policy document recognises that publicly funded playgrounds cannot be provided and sustained in all areas. Hence the role of this document is to prioritise where best to expend scarce funds. Public funds will be firstly directed to areas that meet the criteria (as set out in Section 4) of this document. However, it does not prevent other non-prioritised communities from developing, maintaining and operating their own play areas with non-public funds.

### **1.2.1 Duration of the policy**

The playground policy will be reviewed within 2 years of adoption; in order to monitor the performance of the policy and its actions. It is envisaged that the policy will be valid for the period 2017-2019.

### **1.3 Methodology**

Information regarding the ownership, management, development and funding of playgrounds in County Tipperary was gathered through a tailored questionnaire (See Appendix 6), targeted at appropriate Tipperary County Council staff who have had responsibility for playground maintenance and to appropriate personnel associated with community playground committees.

Notwithstanding the above endeavors, there are some limitations with the playground data collated (loss of corporate knowledge; change in committee members etc.) and the document should be read in this context.

### **1.4 Exclusions from this Policy**

Tipperary County Council Playground Policy relates to playground provision in partnership with the local community. This policy does not include playgrounds provided by commercial enterprises as part of their commercial operations and activities.

### **1.5 Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)**

Whilst closed-circuit television (CCTV) is desirable for any new playground this is not a mandatory.

Where a playground has a CCTV in place or is considering including CCTV in a new playground (as an ancillary item to the playground infrastructure), for the purposes of the maintenance agreement between the community and the Council, this CCTV must be aligned with County Tipperary Joint Policing Committee 'Policy paper on CCTV provision in public places'.



Any commitment from the Council to include CCTV in the maintenance policy will be dependent on a very clear agreement between the community and the Council outlining the extent of the CCTV maintenance agreement.

The maintenance agreement regarding CCTVs is limited to CCTVs in playgrounds only and does not include CCTV in other areas (including adjoining facilities).

Capital replacement for CCTV will remain the responsibility of the community to fund.

## **1.6 Smoking in playgrounds**

All existing playgrounds and any new playgrounds under the scope of the Tipperary County Council Playground Policy must display no smoking signs and endorse a smoke free policy in the children's playground.

## Section 2: Playground Policy:

### 2.1 Introduction

A number of policy developments at international, national and local level have provided greater awareness of the need for play and playgrounds in recent years. This section outlines this policy context which informs the development of playground policy in County Tipperary.

#### 2.1.1 International context

Article 31 of The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), states:

*'The child has the right to rest and to engage in leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts'.*

#### 2.1.2 National Policy

The Irish Government ratified this UN Convention in 1992. The National Children's Strategy (2002) highlighted the importance of play and recreation in Objective D:

*"Children will have access to play, sport, recreation and cultural activities to enrich their experience of childhood".*

It is interesting to note that children in the consultation phase highlighted that the lack of adequate play and recreation facilities was a major issue. 'Ready, Steady, Play! – The National Play Policy' (2004) and 'Teenspace: A National Recreation policy' (2007) emphasise the important of play and play facilities and provide a framework and strategy for future development of recreational facilities.

### **2.1.3 Local Policy – Pre-Merger**

#### **North Tipperary Draft Play and Recreation Strategy (2009)**

North Tipperary County Council, the County Development Board and various agencies developed a draft play and recreation strategy in 2009. The report outlined the importance of play and recreation in children's lives and provided objectives that should be achieved through the lifetime of the plan. One of the aims of the plan was to *'improve the quality and safety of playgrounds and play areas'*.

Some of the specific initiatives relating to playgrounds included an audit of playgrounds and of the need to advertise the availability of these facilities.

#### **2.1.4 South Tipperary Playground Development Policy (2003)**

The South Tipperary Play Policy was developed by the members of the Corporate Affairs and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) through a series of workshops, consultations, research and field trips during 2002/3. The policy outlined the context, maintenance, ownership, cost, development and location of playgrounds. The policy was adopted by the members of South Tipperary County Council in December 2003. The playground policy was incorporated into the County Development Plan which was adopted in 2005.

#### **2.1.5 South Tipperary County Council Review of Playground Policy (2009)**

This review investigated whether targets set down in the South Tipperary Playground Development Policy were met and what recommendations could be put in place for the future. A series of recommendations emerged from this review which has also informed the outcome of this document.

### **2.1.6 County Development Plan – Post Merger**

Access to facilities and the need for play is outlined in the South Tipperary and North Tipperary County Development Plans (as varied):

*“The Council will seek to ensure that adequate and safe amenity and recreational open space and facilities, including community facilities, **playgrounds** and centres, are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work in line with the provisions of the Sustainable Residential Development Guidelines in Urban Areas”.*

### **2.1.7 Tipperary County Council Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Section 3.1 of the Community and Social Inclusion plan of the LECP outlines community and social inclusion facilities in County Tipperary. A map of the location of playgrounds in County Tipperary is included and highlights that there is generally a good coverage of playgrounds located throughout the county. However, a number of areas are mentioned in the plan which do not have a playground, particularly Newport, Cappawhite, Cloughjordan and Ardfinnan.

## **2.2 National and Local Funding**

### **2.2.1 LEADER Funding**

The Local Development Strategy for Tipperary has been approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. A total of just over €10million over 6 years will be assigned to County Tipperary under this programme. Where it is identified as a priority of the Local Development Strategy, some funding may be assigned to the additional development of playgrounds but the funds will not be as significant as under the previous

programme due to other competing demands and the direction of the new programme. In addition, cognisance needs to be taken of the on-going burden and cost of maintenance and repair once the capital infrastructure has been installed.

### **2.2.2 Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DYCA)**

The playground capital scheme is funded through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and a maximum fund of €20,000 per local authority is generally available on an annual basis. Funding is available for both Council owned and community owned playgrounds, but the application must be facilitated by the local authority. Matching funding/resources are also required to be provided by the Council.

### **2.2.3 Development Levy Funding**

Playgrounds have been funded through the Council's own development levy funding scheme in the past. Whilst no "scheme call" is in place at the moment, a scheme may be available in the future. The availability of funding for playgrounds under this scheme; will be determined by the areas prioritised and outlined in this document and as informed by the objectives of the LECP and as agreed by the SPC for Housing Culture and Community (as per the adopted Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities and Amenities 2016 - 2019).

#### **2.2.3.1 Funding levels**

Funding from this scheme would include land purchase, equipment, fencing and optional closed circuit television (CCTV). Funding rates and amounts will be as per the parameters and thresholds set out in Tipperary County Council's Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities and Amenities 2016-2019.

### **2.2.3.2 Evaluation of new playgrounds**

The Independent Evaluation Committee of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) will assist with the assessment of playground applications for funding under this scheme and will provide a recommendation to the Council Management Team for their consideration. The management team will prepare a report to put before the elected members of the Council for noting outlining the process, and the input by the various structures.

### **2.2.4 Local Fundraising**

Community playgrounds can be partially or fully funded by local fundraising. Local fundraising can take various forms and can also involve donations from companies and organisations.

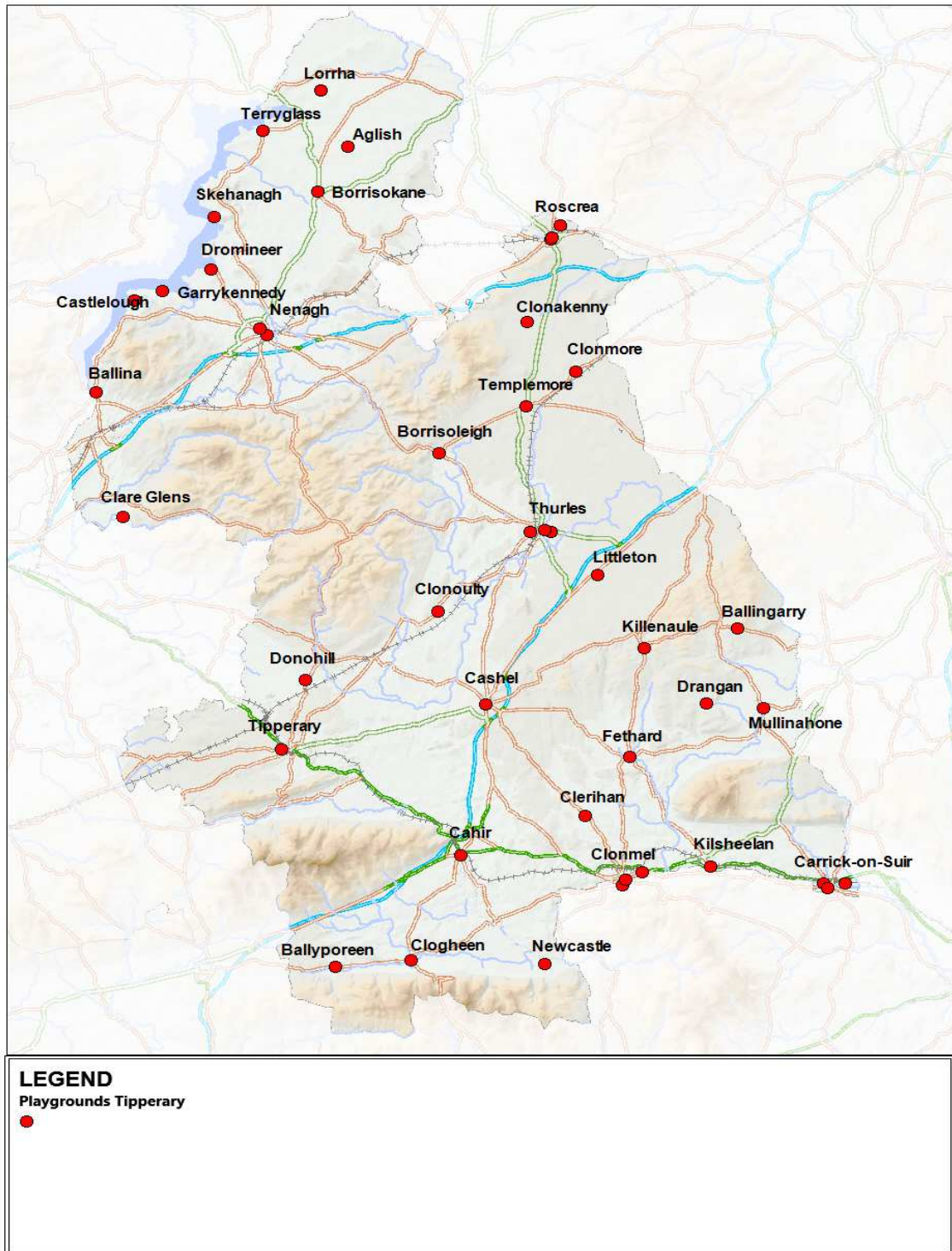
## **2.3 Fundraising Issues**

Capital fundraising; whilst challenging is not a significant concern. However, fundraising for on-going maintenance of a playground once the playground is opened is as an issue with all models. A local community may feel that they are being burdened by the cost of playgrounds, even though the playground services a larger area and visitors alike. It is the sustainability of these committees in the long-term which may put the viability of the playgrounds at risk. Likewise a Council's resources (financial and personnel) are not infinite; given the other significant demands made of it. In addition, the more numerous the playgrounds, the greater the funding challenges for local government and both of these issues need to be addressed in any new model.

## Section 3: Spatial Distribution of Existing Playgrounds and Current Practices

### 3.1 Location of playgrounds in County Tipperary:

Map 1: location of playgrounds in County Tipperary



As detailed in Map 1, there are 44 playgrounds in County Tipperary. The length of time that playgrounds have been in existence varies but many playgrounds were developed from the late 2000s onwards. From Map 1, it can be seen that whilst there is an apparent gap in provision in the area between Cappawhite and Silvermines, there is a good distribution of playgrounds throughout most of County Tipperary in most of the key settlements.

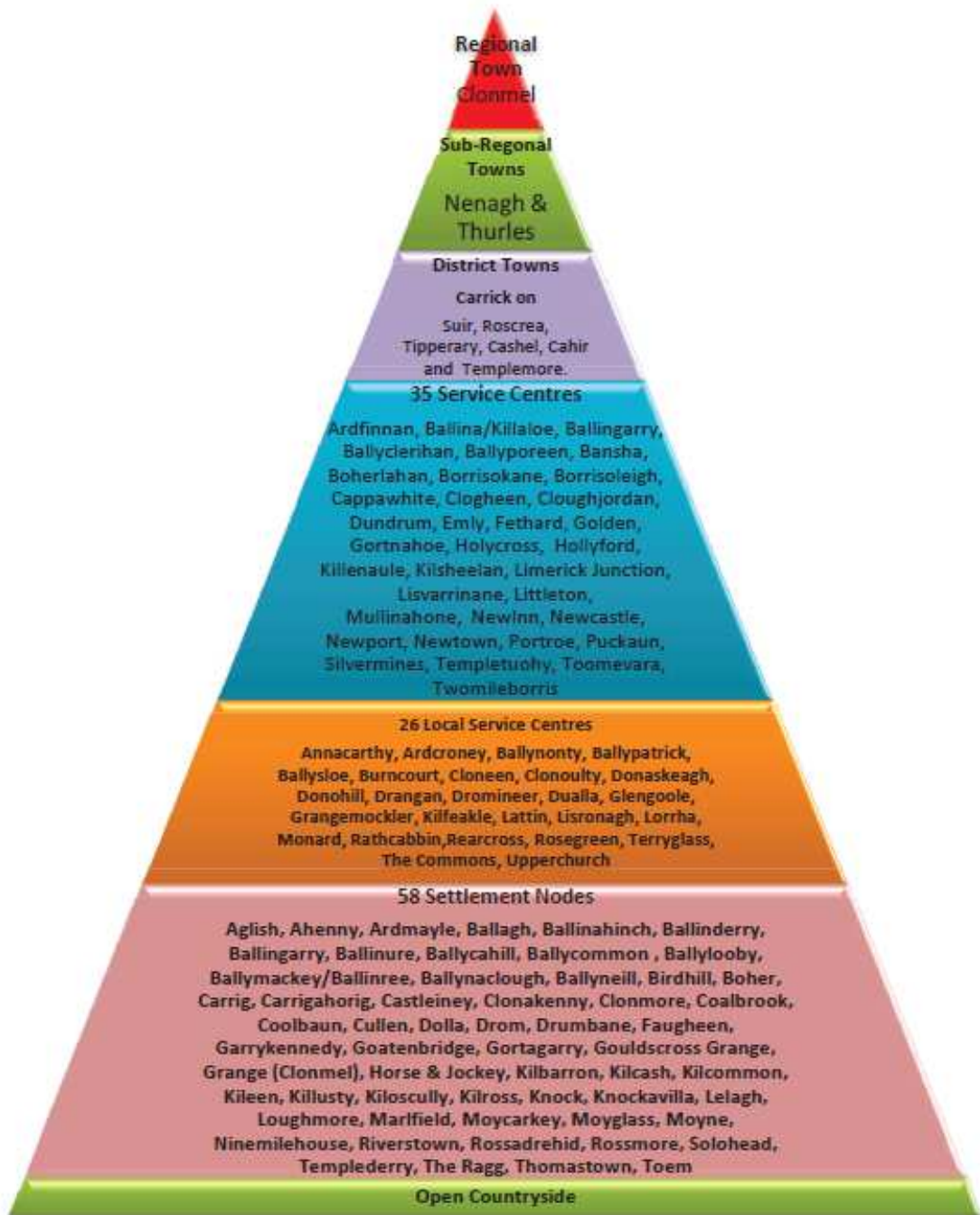
### **3.1.1 County Tipperary Settlement Hierarchy**

Following the amalgamation of North and South Tipperary, the County Development Plans (as varied) set out a Settlement Hierarchy to include a range of settlements in County Tipperary. There are 128 settlements in the county divided into 6 tiers (Regional Town, Sub-Regional Towns, District Towns, Service Centres, Local Service Centres and Settlement nodes). Map 2 provides an overview of the location of playgrounds in County Tipperary based on their settlement tier.

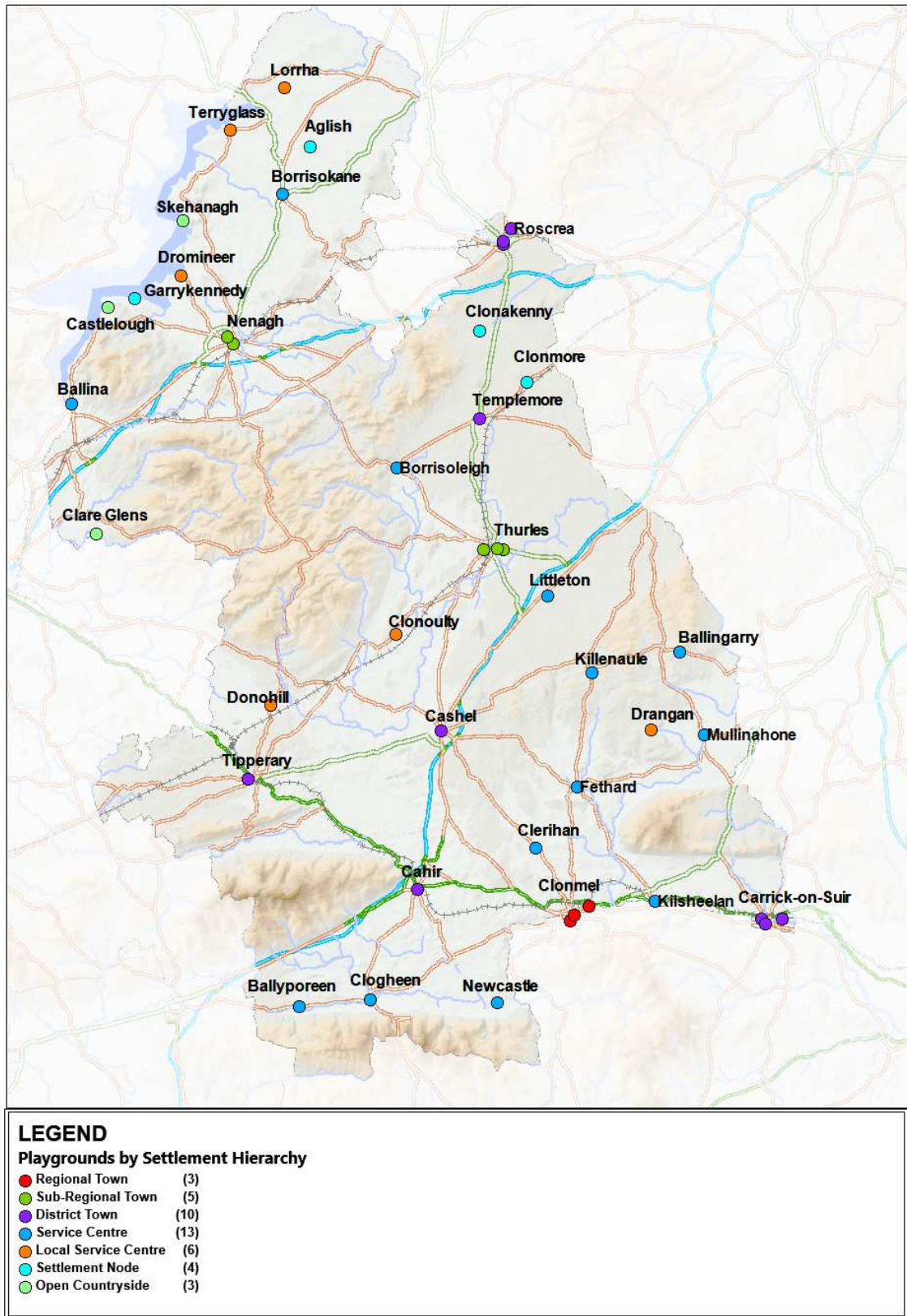


**Table 1: Tipperary County Settlement Hierarchy**

*As set out in Tipperary County Development Plan*



Map 2: playgrounds by settlement tier



The purpose of the settlement tiers is to bring clarity to the role a settlement is expected to fulfill at the various tier levels. Ideally, all significant settlements should host a playground facility of appropriate size and quality to that tier. Currently playgrounds are provided in the regional town (Clonmel); all sub regional towns and all District towns. Appendix 1 provides details of same.

As evidenced above, some towns have more playgrounds than others, however it should be noted that development of playgrounds was actively encouraged in disadvantaged areas in recent years and may explain the location of playgrounds in certain areas and/or a particular policy decision was made to develop play facilities around a key tourism destination (Lough Derg).

### **3.1.2 Playgrounds at Service Centre Level**

The settlement tier below a District Town is a Service Centre and these have an important market and rural service role to play in the context of supporting a wider rural catchment area. A number of settlements (13 out of a total of 35) at service centre level currently accommodate a playground facility.

**Table 2: Service Centres with playgrounds, County Settlement Hierarchy**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Area</b>
1	Ballina
2	Ballingarry (Carrick-on-Suir MD)
3	Ballyporeen
4	Borrisokane
5	Borrisoleigh
6	Ballyclerihan/Clerihan
7	Clogheen
8	Derrynaflan Housing Estate, Littleton, Thurles
9	Fethard
10	Killenaule
11	Mullinahone
12	Newcastle
13	Kilsheelan

The remaining 22 Service Centres do not possess a playground facility.

**Table 3: Service Centres without playgrounds, County Settlement Hierarchy**

No.	Area	No.	Area
1	Ardfinnan	12	Limerick Junction
2	Bansha	13	Lisvarrinane
3	Boherlahan	14	New Inn
4	Cappawhite	15	Newport
5	Cloughjoran	16	Newtown
6	Dundrum	17	Portroe
7	Emly	18	Puckaun
8	Golden	19	Silvermines
9	Gortnahue	20	Templetuohy
10	Holycross	21	Toomevara
11	Hollyford	22	Twomileborris

### 3.1.3 Local Service Centres

The local service centre tier accommodates small rural settlements, a number of which have minimal service facilities and support a small catchment area. 6 of the 26 Local Service Centres have playgrounds.

**Table No. 4 Local Service Centres with playgrounds**

	Name of area
1	Clonoulty
2	Donohill
3	Drangan
4	Dromineer
5	Lorrha
6	Terryglass

The remaining 20 Local Service Centres do not possess a playground facility.

**Table No. 5:- Local Service Centres *without* playgrounds**

No.	Area	No.	Area
1	Anncarthy	12	Kilfeackle
2	Ardcrouney	13	Lattin
3	Ballynonty	14	Lisronagh
4	Ballypatrick	15	Monard
5	Ballysloe	16	Rathcabbin
6	Burncourt	17	Rearcross
7	Cloneen	18	Rosegreen
8	Donaskeagh	19	The Commons
9	Dualla	20	Upperchurch
10	Glengoole		
11	Grangemockler		

The lowest settlement tier, the “settlement node” generally does not host a playground facility with the exception of three settlement nodes; AGLISH, Clonakenny and Garrykenny. Two playgrounds are located in open country side, namely, Skehanagh (near Coolbaun) and Castlelough.

### **3.1.4 Municipal Districts:**

The following maps provide a spatial overview of the number and location of playgrounds per municipal district.

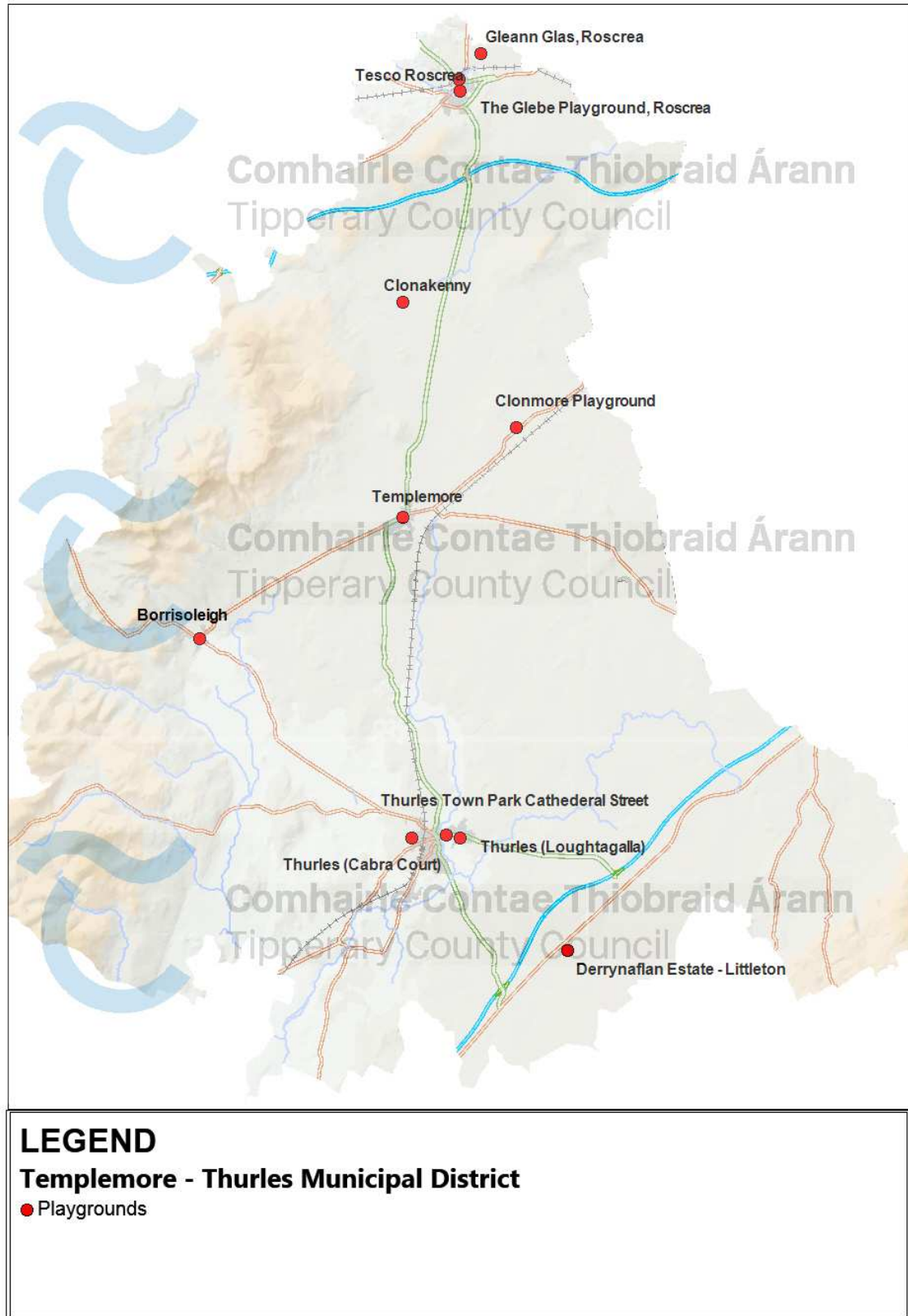
Map 3: Nenagh Municipal District



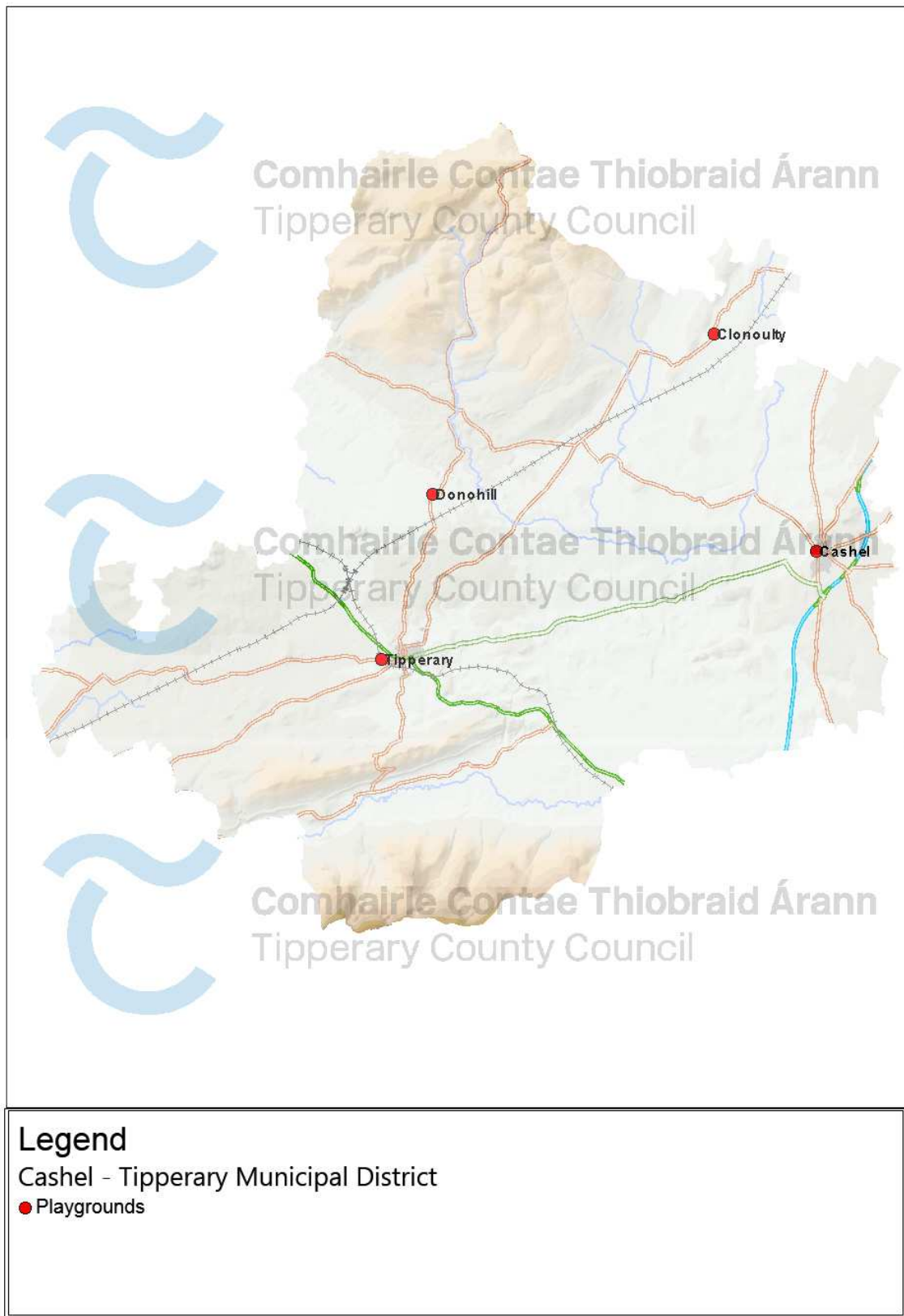
Nenagh Municipal District has a good distribution of playgrounds and it is noted that there is a significantly higher proportion of playgrounds in the Lough Derg region, which may be recognition of the need for child centred facilities in strong tourist areas in order to cater for and attract tourists.



Map 4: Templemore - Thurles Municipal District

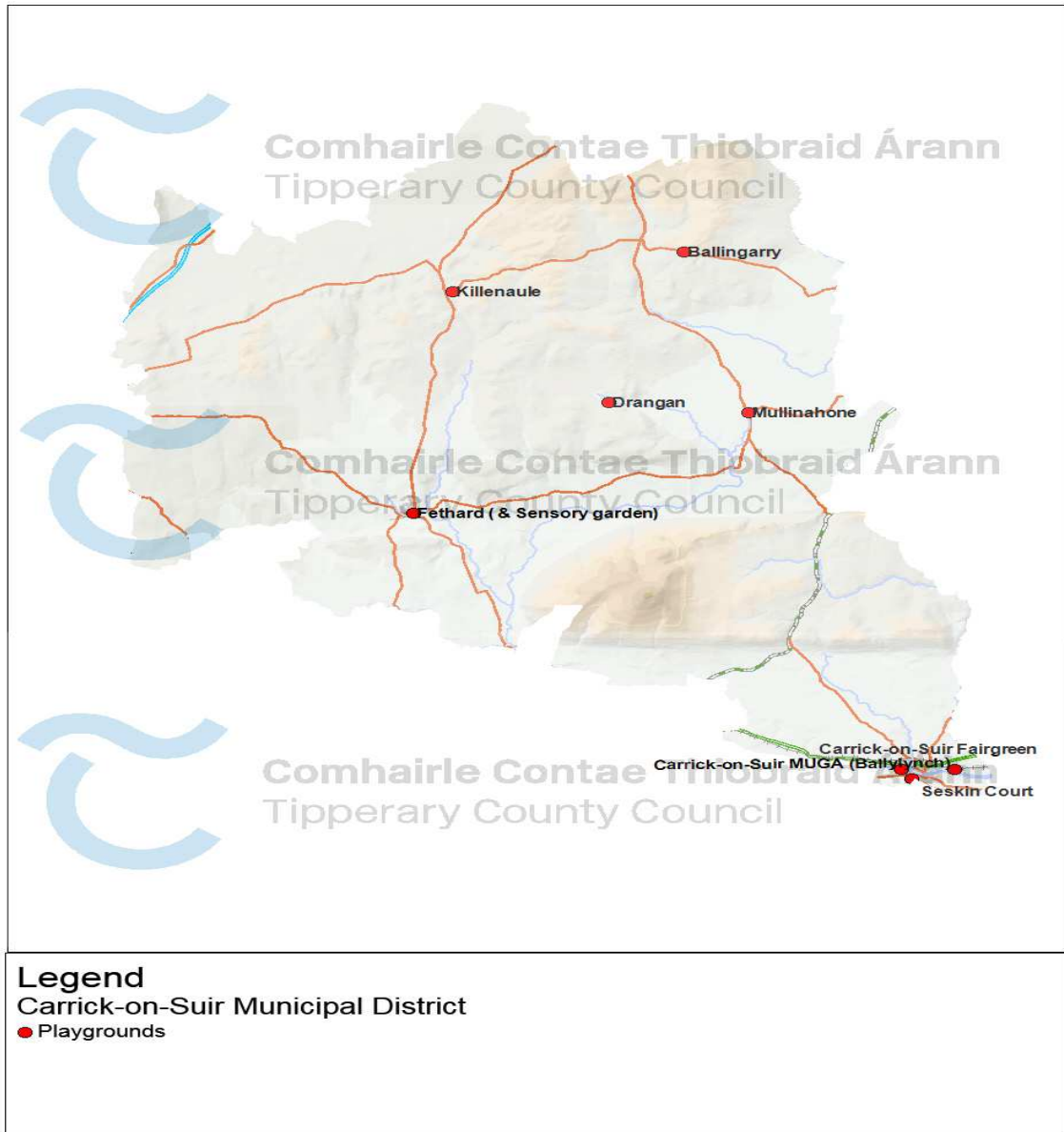


Map 5: Cashel - Tipperary Municipal District

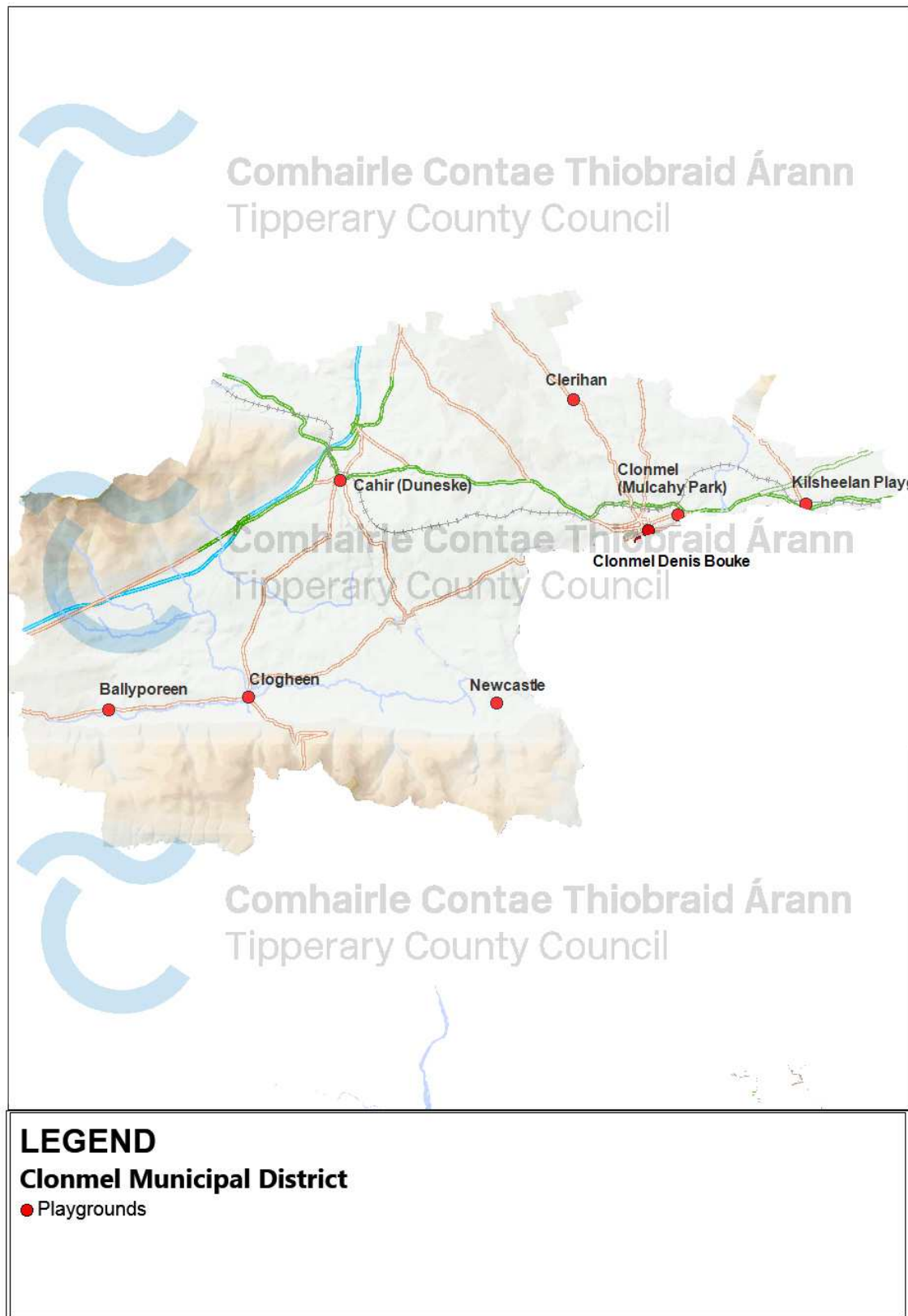




Map 6: Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District



Map 7: Clonmel Borough District



### **3.1.5 Locational issues and Summary**

Overall, all key population centres have access to one or more playground facilities.

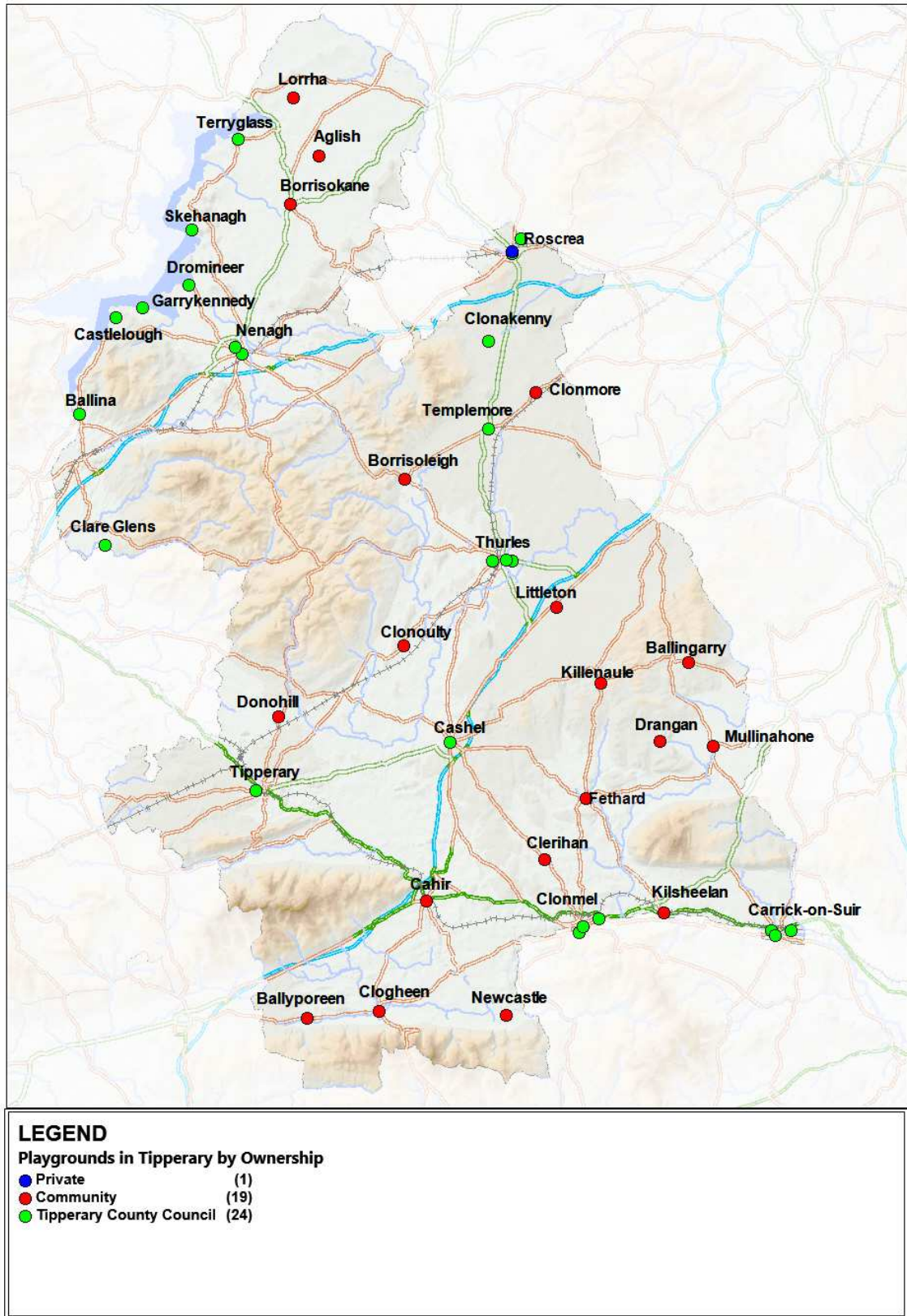
In the context of any proposed new playground developments in those areas where there are currently no facilities, it will be important to prioritise the development of such facilities based on the settlement hierarchy level (based on the County Development Plan Policy), and amongst other criteria, the level of youth dependency in the area, (the LECP priority), the proximity of those settlements to other settlements who already have a facility and the level of deprivation in the area. Notwithstanding all of the above, the achievement of the above objective will be determined by the level of resources available and the commitment and structures of local communities, including their capacity to engage with the process.

### **3.2 Outline of Current Ownership Models:**

This sub-section provides an overview of ownership models of the current facilities and any issues arising from current ownership models that need to be addressed in the new policy.

This section also highlights that playgrounds in County Tipperary are owned, managed, operated, inspected and maintained in various ways.

Map 8: ownership of playgrounds in County Tipperary



Playgrounds are either owned by the Council or by the community (playground committee, community organisation etc.). These 2 playground ownership types can be split into 3 distinctive models for maintenance purposes.

### **3.2.1 Current ownership and maintenance models**

- **Playgrounds owned and managed by Tipperary County Council**

24 playgrounds are owned and managed by Tipperary County Council. These playgrounds are located on the map 8.

- **Playgrounds owned by the Community but managed and maintained by the Council**

3 playgrounds are owned by the Community but managed and maintained by the Council. These playgrounds are located in AGLISH, BORRISOKANE and BORRISOLEIGH.

- **Playgrounds owned and managed/maintained by the Community**

16 playgrounds are owned and managed/maintained by the community. In some instances, lease agreements are in place between the community playground committee and Tipperary County Council or another land owner.

There are benefits and disbenefits associated with all models and it is not absolutely necessary that all playgrounds follow the one model (as different circumstances may arise that meets local needs) but it is important that there is a clear rational approach taken with respect to any new playground developments; that there is clarity on roles and responsibilities and that there is some consistency of approach in the context of key Council supports to existing playgrounds, irrespective of the model used.

### **3.2.2 Issues arising from current ownership models**

In the Municipal Districts/Borough Districts of Tipperary - Cashel; Carrick-on-Suir and Clonmel, playgrounds that are community owned and maintained are linked into the Council for inspection purposes. (These playgrounds have agreed a lease arrangement with the Council).

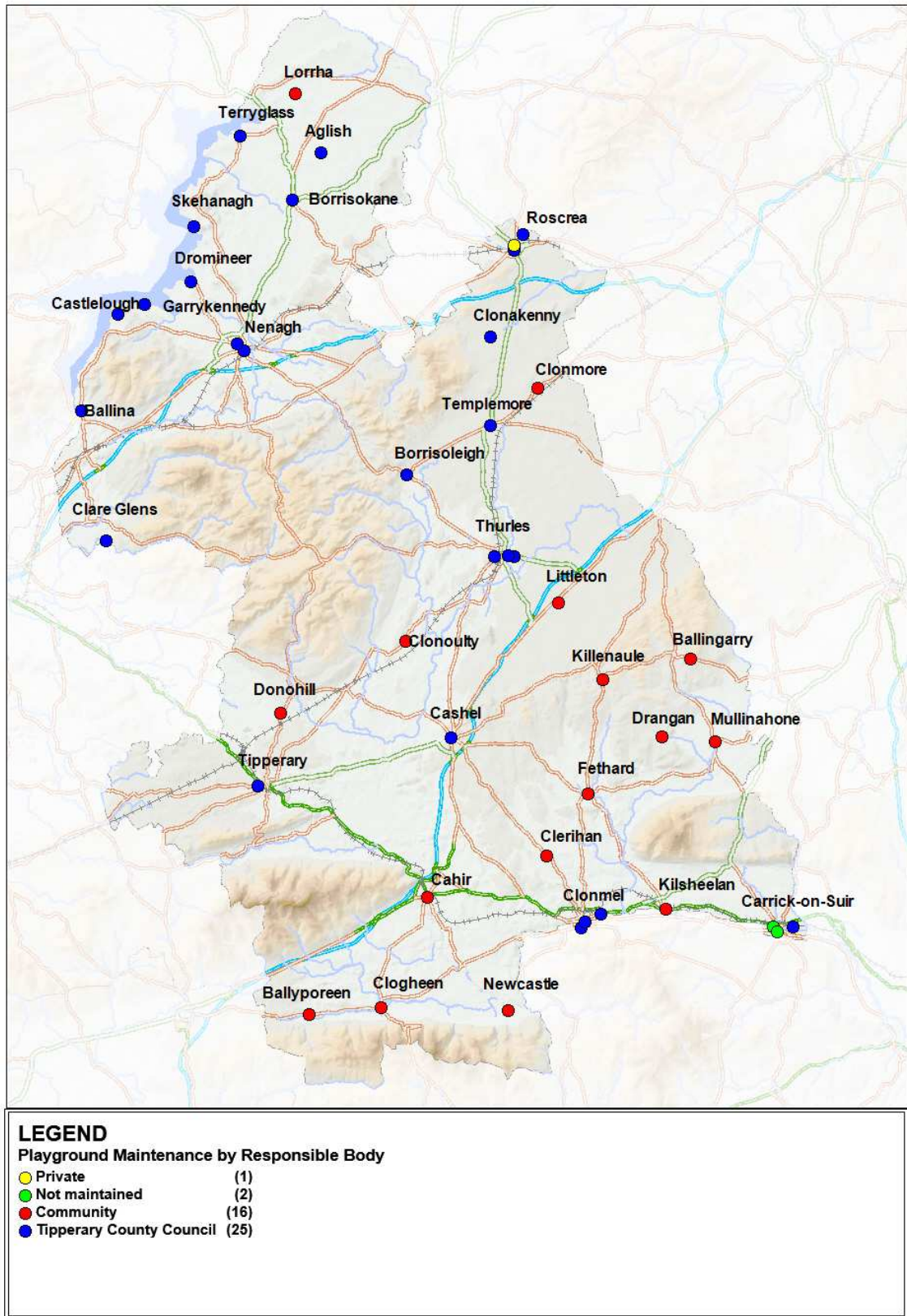
Regarding maintenance of playgrounds, it is becoming more apparent over time; that some playground committees do not remain very active following the opening of the playground. Committees in a community playground are aware that inspections and maintenance needs to be carried out. In a number of instances, it has been noted that members of the committee are no longer involved in the committee once their children are too old for the playground and that new members are not interested in joining. This is an issue in some playgrounds whereby there is no committee in place and only one or two members of the community take care of the playground.

### **3.3 Maintenance, Inspection, Insurance and Repair Procedures for Playgrounds in Tipperary**

The maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of either the Council or the community. Map 9 shows the current maintenance structure of playgrounds in County Tipperary.



Map 9 Playground Maintenance by responsible body



### **3.3.1 Current Operational Structure for Council Owned Playgrounds**

In the municipal districts of Nenagh and Templemore - Thurles where playgrounds were largely developed by the Local Authority pre-merger, the Council for the most part takes responsibility for the inspection, insurance, maintenance and repair of the playgrounds. Even where playgrounds are owned by the community in the Nenagh district, with the exception of Lorrha, the Council carries out inspection, maintenance and repair on community playgrounds.

The Council has similar responsibilities for those playgrounds in its ownership in the Borough District of Clonmel and the Municipal Districts of Carrick-on-Suir and Cashel-Tipperary.

#### **3.3.1.1. Inspection, Maintenance and Repair Procedures**

It is a condition of Irish Public Bodies insurance, the Council's insurance company; that playgrounds, within its ownership (or where it has been agreed with the community that the Council cover the insurance of the community owned facility) are inspected weekly and are incorporated into the weekly routine of existing Council staff.

If, following an inspection by Council staff; there is a need for maintenance/repair, the following occurs:

- Carpenters can carry out minor repairs on playgrounds
- If the maintenance required is more specialised, then a local playground company is contacted in order to carry out the repairs. This may be part of an existing guarantee



with the playground company or the Council may contract a playground company to carry out the work if the guarantee has expired

However, it is noted that this process is not adhered to in all instances and more robust monitoring methodologies need to be employed to ensure that the Council meets the best practice standards.

### **3.3.2 Current Operational Structure for community owned playgrounds**

The municipal/borough districts in the South of the County clearly differentiate between Council owned playgrounds and community owned playgrounds. The community was given a stronger role in the development of playgrounds with support from the Council pre-merger. The policy at the time required a community group to be in place to drive the development of the playground, consult with stakeholders and children, liaise with playground installers, fundraise as well as act to maintain, supervise and manage the playground asset once it is in place.

The Council in the South of the county in turn provided the following support to those committees responsible for community owned playground facilities in the southern municipal/borough districts of the county:

- Capital public funds
- Insurance cover
- Inspection of the facility on a weekly basis by a staff member with the appropriate training

- procedures and processes for communities in relation to maintaining and inspecting the premises (in line with IPB requirements) on a daily basis and reporting mechanisms
- Follow up with the playground committees to ensure deficiencies are addressed or close it down if they are not
- Supports to the community to put a robust playground structure in place

Where the community owns the playground in the 2 northern Municipal Districts, the Council has traditionally taken responsibility for the inspection and maintenance of these playgrounds (with the exception of Derrynaflan (Littleton) and Lorrha). The same inspection process as for Council owned playgrounds in the northern municipal districts applies to this cohort of playground facilities also.

### **3.3.2.1 Current Maintenance and Repair procedures for Community**

#### **Owned Playgrounds**

The process for inspecting the community owned play facilities in the South of the County are as follows:

- The playground committee takes responsibility for daily general checks on the playground and liaise with the Council staff if there is a significant issue
- The community playground is inspected by a Council staff member (with the appropriate training) on a weekly basis who passes on the inspection reports to the district engineer/administrator
- If an issue arises as a result of the inspection reports, the Community and Economic Development Section is contacted by the District Administrator, who in turn liaise

with the community representative informing them of the issue and requesting them to address same within a fixed timeframe

- If an issue is of a serious nature, the playground can be closed
- If the issue is not satisfactorily addressed, the Council moves to close the playground/facility in the interest of health and safety until the issue is resolved

As above, it is noted that this process is not adhered to in all instances and more robust monitoring methodologies need to be employed to ensure that the Council and community meets the best practice standards.

### **3.3.3 Issues Pertaining to Inspection/Maintenance/Repair**

A number of issues pertain to both models namely:

- More robust and best practice models need to be delivered and monitored in order to reduce risk of injury or risk of additional unnecessary costs
- The “community owned” reporting process can be unwieldy and time consuming. Concern could be raised in the length of time between the inspection carried out and the community being alerted to the problem or between the community being made aware of the problem and the issue being resolved. The issue of communities ‘fixing’ playground equipment may in itself be problematic regarding health and safety and insurance coverage.

## **3.4 Playground Costs:**

### **3.4.1 Maintenance Costs**

The maintenance of Council owned and maintained playgrounds is the responsibility of the Council. In the north of the County, as previously mentioned, some of the community playgrounds are also maintained by the Council.

Regarding funding for the ongoing maintenance of community playgrounds and whereby there is no maintenance agreement in place with the playground provider; or the maintenance agreement has ran out of time, this is usually catered for through local fundraising.

The most common repair issues include the wear and tear equipment and of the play surfaces (which can become a trip hazard and may leave the committee/Council open to litigation). The life cycle of the playground may also need to be addressed in order to see if a complete or partial overhaul is required in the future.

#### **3.4.1.1. Maintenance Cost issues**

It is worth noting, that the issue of fundraising for the maintenance of community playgrounds may become more onerous in the long-term when more maintenance and repairs are required due to the passage of time.

In addition, the more playground facilities there are, the more costly the maintenance budget will be for the Council. It will also impact on the time spent by Council staff on managing and maintaining same.

### **3.4.2 Insurance Costs**

Insurance costs are usually met by the Council whereby the playground is owned by the Council and/or where there is a lease in place with the Council for a community operated facility. Community playgrounds, that do not have a lease, generally pay for the insurance of the playground themselves and this can be generated through fundraising. Where the Council is responsible for insuring the playground, the requirements of IPB must be met in full (see Appendix 2 for details of criteria to be met).

#### **3.4.2.1 Insurance Cost issues**

In some cases, it was not always clear who was taking responsibility for insurance and this deficiency only comes to light when incidents arise. Some community playground committees insure playgrounds, others don't. An up to date list needs to be drawn up outlining which playgrounds are covered by the Council insurance (no list is currently available). The issue of the Council not covering the insurance costs of those community facilities which have no lease arrangement with the Council has also been raised.

### **3.4.3 Inspection Costs**

Currently, playground inspections for Council owned/managed facilities or community owned facilities where a lease with the council is in place, are carried out by Council General Service Staff (GSS) and is included in the weekly routine of their work. In some cases, playgrounds are not inspected by Council staff and inspections are carried out by members of playground committees. Some playgrounds which are community owned (and no lease with the Council) are not inspected on a regular basis by playground committees. No

playground committee had a member trained in playground inspections, in some cases, no formal inspection process is followed and inspections are not documented on playground inspection sheets. Inspection costs are a reality for the Council (additional work for GSS, training and administrative costs etc.). Similarly, there is a cost to the community in the time allocated to inspections and the cost of training of members of their committee.

### **3.5 Conclusion:**

Whilst there are clear procedures in place in terms of insurance, maintenance, inspections and repairs for both Council owned and community owned facilities, it is clear that these procedures have weakened over time either as a result of changing staff, changing structures or changing committees. Any new policy needs to clearly set out how it will a) ensure that playgrounds are insured appropriately; b) inspected appropriately and c) repaired appropriately for all playground facilities. A monitoring and procedure process also needs to be put in place to ensure that best practice is maintained at all time, irrespective of the model used.

## **Section 4: Proposed Revised Development Procedures & Operational Procedures for Playgrounds in Tipperary**

### **4.1 Introduction**

This section will outline a framework for the provision of new playgrounds in the county. Future developments, where public funds are used, will be based on where the need for a playground is greatest, rather than if land becomes available or in response to a community who happens to be the best organised. A more consistent approach to maintenance procedures for existing and newly developed playgrounds is also being proposed.

### **4.2 Key Considerations for the Provision of New Playgrounds**

All settlements from Regional town down to and including District Towns have access to playground infrastructure. Choices have to be made in the context of limited funding and in the context of supporting communities to deliver on the provision of playground facilities.

There is likely to be insufficient public funds available during this council term to support playground development in all areas required in the County. In order to assist with the prioritization of scarce resources it is incumbent upon the Council to ensure that any playgrounds supported with public funds is within the context of having due regard to the areas of greatest need and which is in compliance with the County Development Plan and the Local Economic and Community Plan.

On this basis, it is proposed that any public funding which becomes available is undertaken on the basis of a 1:2 spend in favour of the Service Centres. (Therefore, for every one regional town/sub regional town and district town supported, there will be two Service

Centres supported). Should the urban centres not be in a position to access the funds (or deem that no further funding is required), then the full funding should be expended at Service Centre level. No public funds will be allocated to playground infrastructure in those settlements located below the Service Centre Level at this point in time due to the deficits in the Service Centre level (unless there is an exceptional case as per section 1.2, bullet point 4).

The provision of new playgrounds will not be located within a residential development. Any new playground, if provided as part of a housing development must be an area which is clearly open, accessible and welcoming to the broader public and identified as an area suitable not only to that Scheme of Housing Development but also available to other residents and visitors within the environs of that settlement.

Funding rates and amounts will be as per the parameters and thresholds set out in Tipperary County Council's Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities and Amenities 2016-2019.

It should be noted that in most instances, the allocation of the grants awarded will be on a competitive call basis.

#### **4.2.1 Regional Towns/Sub Regional Towns/District Towns**

*(Clonmel; Nenagh; Thurles; Tipperary; Carrick-on-Suir; Roscrea; Cahir; Cashel and Templemore)*

All of these have a playground facility but in some areas the level of provision or type of facility is inadequate. Should public funds become available, the following criteria will be used to assist in prioritising applications made to include the following criteria:



- Areas with highest youth population
  - Areas with greatest proportion of youth per head of population
    - Areas with no infrastructure
      - Areas where current infrastructure is inadequate in context of its location
    - Existence of a suitable community structure to deliver the project and manage same
      - Level of readiness of the application (ownership/permissions/licenses etc.)
        - Level of funding raised
          - Recognition of community capacity

**4.2.2 Service Centres:** There are 35 Service Centres. Of these, 13 currently have access to playground facilities. Under the lifespan of this Council, it is unlikely that all of the remaining 22 will access funding to develop play infrastructure in their areas. On this basis, should public funds become available, the following criteria will be used to assist in prioritising applications made

- Villages designated as Service Centres in the Settlement Hierarchy and which currently have no existing playground facility
- Those Service Centres which have experienced an increase in population relative to other Service Centres in addition to:
  - Level of population growth in an area

## *County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

- Number of youth population
  - Proportion of the youth population
    - Existence of a suitable community structure to deliver the project and manage same
      - Level of readiness of the application (ownership/permissions/licenses etc.)
        - Level of funding raised
          - Recognition of community capacity

In addition, the following secondary criteria will also be considered where applications are on a par with each other

- Existence within a Clár area – (aligned with Service Centres only)
- Level of deprivation
- Proximity of the centre in question to another District Town, Service Centre or Local Service Centre with an existing playground facility - Cognisance must also be taken of the existence of a playground facility already in the parish area in which a new applicant is applying
- Ability of the centre in question to cater for other Local Service Centers who do not have access to a playground facility

## **Recommendation 1: New Playground Facilities**

Arising from this analysis, it is suggested that playgrounds be prioritized in the following way:

- 1 playground per Regional Town/ Sub Regional Town/ District Town
- 2 playgrounds per Service Centre

(It is proposed that any public funding which becomes available is undertaken on the basis of a 1:2 spend in favour of the Service Centres).

- No playground below a Service Centre will be supported with public funds and all playground applications will be assessed as per the criteria as set out in the Policy

### **4.3 New Procedures for the Provision of New Playgrounds:**

Funding opportunities for playgrounds may not be as plentiful as in previous years, and a multi-stakeholder approach may be required for funding. Given the experience to date, it is clear that there are positives and negatives associated with both Council owned sites and community owned sites. There are very strong benefits to a community being involved – it means a real buy in from the community; will ensure ongoing community support and reduces the potential level of vandalism. In addition, it ensures that it meets the needs of that particular community. Likewise the Council can address some of the deficiencies of the community operated playgrounds by addressing the issue of insurance; managing the inspections and maintenance in a more robust and appropriate manner and assisting with a lot of the work relating to the operational costs of the playground. Hence, it is proposed

that in the development of any new playground, a stronger partnership approach is taken and that each of the partners plays to its own particular strengths.

### **Recommendation 2: Structure for Developing New Playgrounds:**

Future new playgrounds which are to be the recipient of public funds, will be expected to be undertaken on a partnership arrangement basis between the community and the Council. In particular the following new procedures will be followed:-

- a) The priorities of this document will be met, including the implementation of the necessary policies and procedures outlined below
- b) An appropriate monitoring structure will be put in place by the Council to ensure the risks are being appropriately managed
- c) The community group will be fully involved in the establishment, design, operation and maintenance of the Playground facility
- d) Clarity will be provided as to the role and responsibilities of each of the partners in the process through a formal arrangement, including from the Community's perspective:-
  - a. Agreement by the Community to enter into a maintenance lease agreement with the Council
  - b. Agreement by the Community to raise match capital funds where necessary
  - c. Agreement by the Community to host an annual maintenance fund raising function which will assist in contributing towards the cost of maintaining same/replacement of defective play equipment. Contribution €1,000 (for

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

those that are seeking the addition of a CCTV, a contribution of €1,500 will be required given the additional maintenance costs associated with same)

- d. Agreement by the Community to actively manage the playground and to carry out daily inspections to ensure the playground is kept in a safe, clean and tidy fashion
- e. Agreement by the Community to respect the decision of the Council to close off or remove key pieces of defective play infrastructure or close the playground in its entirety if there are significant health and safety concerns
- f. Agreement by the community to sustain a robust playground committee

And including from the Council's perspective:-

- Agreement by the Council to cover the cost of the insurance where a lease is in place
- Agreement by the Council to inspect the facility on a weekly basis by appropriately trained individuals
- Agreement by the Council to maintain appropriate records of the inspection of the facility
- Agreement by the Council to carry out repairs to defective equipment in a timely manner and cover cost of same
- Agreement by the Council to ring fence funds for the maintenance and repair of playgrounds
- Agreement by the Council to support the establishment of appropriate playground committees

- g) Follow guidelines/Best Practice for playground inspection and operation

- h) Respect the consultation processes outlined in this document when developing new facilities
- i) Meet the requirements of our insurers in the development and management of the facility

Appendix 3 outlines the various steps required in the development of any new playground and Appendix 4 outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of both parties under this new maintenance procedure.

#### **4.4 Revised Proposals to Address the Inspection, Repair, Insurance Requirements of Existing Playgrounds**

As indicated in the previous sections, there is an issue with different practices and procedures in relation to playground maintenance, insurance and inspections. There needs to be an approach which is as consistent as is reasonably practicable and which still allows existing models to exist. The Tables below provide a very quick overview of the advantages and disadvantages of the differing models

##### **Option 1: Fully Community owned and maintained**

**Table 6: Fully Community owned and maintained**

	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	No maintenance needs to be carried out by Council staff	No certainty that maintenance will be carried out to a satisfactory standard
<b>Inspections</b>	Does not add additional work to GSS workload	Carried out by untrained community representatives No robust reporting procedure in place
<b>Insurance</b>	Lease agreement not required for insurance purposes	Insurance costs must be borne by the community
<b>Repairs</b>	No repairs carried out by Council staff	No certainty that maintenance will be carried out to a satisfactory standard

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

<b>Community Involvement</b>	Community responsibility in all aspects of playgrounds	No communication and reporting between Council and playground committees
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## Option 2: Fully Council owned and maintained model

**Table 7: Fully Council owned and maintained**

	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	Certainty regarding regularity and standard of maintenance	All maintenance needs to be carried out by Council
<b>Inspections</b>	Certainty regarding regularity and standard of maintenance	No responsibility or involvement of community
<b>Insurance</b>	Lease agreement in place for insurance purposes	Insurance costs and possible claims must be borne by the Council
<b>Repairs</b>	All repairs to be carried out by Council staff in a satisfactory manner	Additional cost of repairs to Council budget
<b>Community Involvement</b>		No involvement of community in playgrounds

## Option 3: Community playgrounds maintained by the Council

**Table 8: Community playgrounds maintained by the Council**

	<b>Advantages</b>	<b>Disadvantages</b>
<b>Maintenance</b>	Certainty regarding regularity and standard of maintenance	Will require additional workload for GSS
<b>Inspections</b>	Certainty regarding regularity and standard of maintenance Additional inspections and cleaning by community representatives	Additional work to GSS workload
<b>Insurance</b>	Lease agreement required for insurance purposes	Insurance costs and possible claims must be borne by the Council
<b>Repairs</b>	All repairs to be carried out by Council staff in a satisfactory manner	Additional cost of repairs to Council budget
<b>Community Involvement</b>	Community involved in overseeing their respective playgrounds Community is supported by Council funding	Potential dis-engagement by the Community

	can be accessed through community groups	
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Given the diversities in the above models, a new realigned procedure needs to be put in place. This needs to take into account the current situation regarding ownership, inspections, funding, maintenance and insurance requirements of playgrounds in County Tipperary. The suggested approach is a best practice model based on the current successful elements of playground management as outlined in the 3 models above.

#### **4.4.1 Revised Maintenance Procedures:**

A new maintenance procedure for all existing playgrounds in the county is outlined below

#### **Recommendation No. 3: Maintenance Procedures for Existing Council Owned Playground facilities**

- All Council owned playgrounds will continue to be inspected, maintained, funded and insured by the Council and inspections and maintenance will align with the requirements IPB and with Appendix 4: Inspection and Maintenance Procedures – Roles and Responsibilities

#### **Recommendation No 4: Maintenance Procedures for Existing Community owned Facilities**

Where it is not already the case, existing community owned playgrounds, may enter into a lease with the Council (once the Council is satisfied that the playground is in order). The playground would remain in the ownership of the playground committees and the lease would outline the responsibilities of both the County Council and the playground committees. In this model, the Council is



- responsible for the management and control of the playground, including
  - insurance
  - weekly inspections
  - routine maintenance of the equipment
  - service, replace, remove playground equipment – this would be based on the GSS reports carried out by Council
- The committee must continue to ensure that the playground is kept free of litter, is kept clean and free from vandalism, provides routine maintenance and contacts the Council if equipment is damaged or defective
- The Committee would also apply for public funding where necessary and appropriate
- The Committee would continue to raise funds annually for the ongoing repair, upkeep and replacement of defective equipment and transfer same to Council who will ring fence funds for playground use only. Annual contribution €1,000 (€1,500 in the case of those with CCTV).

#### **4.4.2 Oversight and Management Structures for Maintenance**

##### **Model of all Playgrounds (existing and new)**

The inspection and maintenance of all playgrounds would be based on the best practice inspection model.

Key to this model is the appointment of a coordinator at municipal district level, whose role is to ensure that playgrounds are being inspected and maintained, based on completed inspection reports submitted by GSS.

## **Recommendation No 5: Oversight & Management Structure**

The following model will be developed in each Borough/Municipal District as follows:

- A Coordinator (to be identified by the Borough/Municipal District) will be assigned responsibility for playgrounds in the municipal district area
- Inspections are carried out by a General Service Supervisor (GSS), who is trained to carry out these inspections. (This involves a one day training course with a relevant company). This certificate of training must be renewed every 3 years
- Each week; inspection reports are submitted to relevant coordinator in the Municipal District. The coordinator must be satisfied with these reports and sign off on same
- The inspection reports will be operated on a green, orange and red risk score inspection regime. Green means that no maintenance is required. Amber denotes that maintenance required. If a playground falls within a red category, the area must be closed off. All amber and red incidents are collated into a monthly report for the management of the Municipal District, which includes the follow-up on each incident
- Complaints from the general public are directed to the coordinator, who contacts the relevant GSS for follow-up
- A proposed standardized Playground Inspection Sheet is attached as Appendix 5

Although not currently in operation to date; it is envisaged that a more in-depth annual inspection be carried out. This is a more detailed inspection (2 day training is required for this - 1 day in addition to the original 1 day training mentioned above). It is also advised

that 1 detailed inspection of a playground be carried out by an outside company each year (for example, ROSPA which will act as a benchmark for all other sites).

Where a community is satisfied that it's wholly community owned facility is operating satisfactorily and it is not interested in falling in under the Council structure, this decision will be respected.

Where it is clear that a community playground is not being maintained and that there is no possibility of a playground committee taking responsibility for the community facility, the Council will seek to close this playground in the interests of health and safety (having done all within reason to address the issue).

#### **4.4.3 Central Monitoring Structure**

It is important to ensure that on an all-county basis that the model being proposed is validated on a regular basis and that an assurance can be provided that there is a consistent approach being taken in the different Districts across the county. In order to ensure consistency of approach, it is proposed that the Community and Economic Development Section will take on the central monitoring role on behalf of the Management Team and the Strategic Policy Committee.

#### **Recommendation No 6: Monitoring and Reviewing Mechanism**

- The Community and Economic Development Section will take responsibility for reviewing the implementation of this playground procedural policy
- The Community and Economic Development Section will collate an annual report based on reports received by the Municipal Districts. This annual report will be

presented each year for the management team and the SPC for Housing and Community to consider

- Internal audits will be carried out on a regular basis and this information will feed into the above review process

#### **4.4.4 Future Maintenance Funding:**

A maintenance funding stream needs to be set up to ensure that this new procedure is appropriately implemented.

#### **Recommendation No. 7: Maintenance Funding**

- Each municipal/borough district would set aside a budget for playground maintenance/repair. It is estimated that c. €3,000 per playground would be required per annum
- Each Municipal/Borough District is responsible for accessing/supporting access to the DYCA annual capital playground fund – The Community and Economic Development Section will collate submissions on behalf of the MD/BD and submit to the relevant authority on behalf of the Council
- Each community owned facility (which operates under this new Council supported system) would also host annual fund raising events to contribute €1,000 (€1,500 for those with a CCTV) to the Council to assist with repair/maintenance and replacement. Where this does not occur, it could have implications for the ongoing repair/replacement/maintenance of the facility, particularly in terms of prioritization

#### **4.4.5 Additional Actions:**

A number of other issues were raised during the assessment process, actions for which are identified below:

#### **Recommendation No 8: Additional Actions**

- All Council staff that currently inspects playgrounds to be provided with relevant training, and a trained 'stand in' employee must be available during the absences of regular staff. This is the responsibility of the MD/BD appointed person
- To assist with the cost area, Community and Economic Development Section to carry out an investigation of the playgrounds that are currently within warranty (with the assistance of the communities and MD/BD offices). Options could be explored to decide whether one playground supplier is contracted to fix all equipment in existing playgrounds in the county
- When funds are available, some consideration should be given to holding a competitive bid for those playgrounds whose infrastructure is in a dilapidated/aged condition through the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) Capital Grant Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation process or other similar scheme.
- The Community and Economic Development Section will take responsibility for assisting in the setting up of playground committees and ensuring that they are part of a larger more robust community structure and have the appropriate governance structures in place
- The Community and Economic Development Section will arrange for a section of the Council website to include a page listing all playgrounds on a map and table format.

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

- As part of this new playground policy, each Municipal District should erect clear directional sign posting of playgrounds in County Tipperary in order to promote greater awareness of same

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** List of playgrounds by Settlement Tier

**Appendix 2** IPB Insurance Criteria

**Appendix 3** Outline of Steps Required in the Development of New Playgrounds

**Appendix 4** Inspection and Maintenance Procedures: Roles and Responsibilities

**Appendix 5** Playground Daily/Weekly Visual Inspection Form

**Appendix 6** Questionnaire

**Appendix 7** List of Council owned MUGAs and adult gym equipment

**Appendix 8** Tipperary County Settlement Hierarchy

## APPENDIX 1:

### List of Playgrounds by Settlement Tier

**Table 1:** List of Playgrounds: County Settlement Hierarchy (Variation number 2)

Settlement tiers	Name of area	Number of playgrounds
Regional Town	Clonmel	3
Sub-Regional Town	Thurles	3
Sub-Regional Town	Nenagh	2
District Town	Tipperary Town	1
District Town	Friar Street, Cashel	1
District Town	Cahir	1
District Town	Templemore Town Park playground	1
District Town	Roscrea	3
District Town	Carrick-on-Suir	3
Service Centre	Ballina	1
Service Centre	Ballingarry	1
Service Centre	Ballyporeen	1
Service Centre	Borrisokane Playground	1
Service Centre	Borrisoleigh	1
Service Centre	Clerihan	1
Service Centre	Clogheen	1
Service Centre	Derrynaflan Housing Estate, Littleton, Thurles	1
Service Centre	Fethard	1
Service Centre	Killenaule	1
Service Centre	Kilsheelan	1
Service Centre	Mullinahone	1



*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

Service Centre	Newcastle	1
Local Service Centre	Annacarty	1
Local Service Centre	Clonoulty	1
Local Service Centre	Donohill	1
Local Service Centre	Drangan	1
Local Service Centre	Dromineer	1
Local Service Centre	Lorrha Playground	1
Local Service Centre	Terryglass, Terryglass Harbour	1

## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **IPB Insurance Criteria**

Playgrounds that are covered by Tipperary County Council's Irish Public Bodies insurance policy must adhere to the following:

(a) Weekly inspections of each facility be carried out by either

- (i) Suitably qualified employees or
- (ii) Suitably qualified third party contractors

and records of such inspections be available, setting out the date of inspection, name and qualifications of the person carrying out the inspection and the action taken.

(b) All defective or dangerous equipment is immediately removed and not reinstated unless satisfactorily repaired

The conditions of insurance must be met by the County Council in order to ensure that the insurance of playgrounds is valid, should a claim arise.

### APPENDIX 3:

#### Outline of Steps Required in the Development of New Playgrounds

Number	Objective
<b>PLAYGROUND PROVISION</b>	
1	Establish the need for the playground in that area which includes lack of playgrounds in the surrounding areas, increasing population and youth population in particular and a high level of deprivation
2	Identify a playground committee which is a sub set of an existing robust resilient community structure or an existing development association
3	The community must work with the Council in identifying a site and with regard to planning permission and designing the facility

Number	Objective
<b>PLANNING</b>	
1	The location of playgrounds should comply with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plans and as set out in the Playground Policy and be in prominent sites that are easily accessible by everyone, allow supervision, adequate lighting, a well-used and visible area, sufficient car parking spaces, access for emergency vehicles etc.
2	Checklist for communities when enquiring about the provision of a playground in their area which will include ownership, lease agreements, committees responsibilities, funding, accessibility, types of equipment
3	In conjunction with the planning section, guidelines for appropriate sites should be developed which would include issues such as sunlight, fencing, local landscape, seating, parking, sensitivity to the local environment etc.

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<b>4</b>	As far as practical, facilities should be clustered together to allow a maximum use of resources and informal supervision of the facility/playground
<b>5</b>	A financial strategy to be put in place by the community to address capital funding requirements
<b>6</b>	An operational annual community fundraising plan to be put in place by the community which demonstrate the community commitment to the facility

<b>Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<b>CONSULTATION</b>	
<b>1</b>	Ensure consultation with the local community is carried out
<b>2</b>	Ensure consultation with children and young people within the community
<b>3</b>	At County level, any playground or play strategies should consult with Comhairle na nÓg

<b>Number</b>	<b>Objective</b>
<b>DESIGN</b>	
<b>1</b>	Design of the playground should be of a high standard
<b>2</b>	Design of the playgrounds should be in consultation with young people
<b>3</b>	Work in partnership with the local community to ensure appropriate and sustainable playgrounds - it must be inclusive and include minority groups within the community
<b>4</b>	Young people with disabilities - additional needs should be catered for in the design of new playgrounds so that it is accessible to all
<b>5</b>	Suitable seating should be appropriately located in playgrounds, highlighting that all age groups visit playgrounds with young children

*County Tipperary Playground Policy 2017*

Number	Objective
<b>SUSTAINABILITY</b>	
<b>1</b>	Encourage active involvement by the local community in the ownership, design and routine maintenance of the playground
<b>2</b>	Utilise playgrounds as venues for public events, to develop a sense of a 'community space'
<b>3</b>	Encourage playgrounds to become a tourist attraction and include an appropriate local information point if desired

Number	Objective
<b>Funding</b>	
<b>1</b>	The Provision of New Playgrounds seeking Public Funding will initially only be considered where the provision is in a Service Centre or Higher as per the County Tipperary Settlement Hierarchy.
<b>2</b>	Applications for Public Funding will be assessed with the terms of this Playground Policy Criteria for new playground provision together with the public funding streams terms and conditions and their selection criteria.

## **APPENDIX 4:**

### **Inspection and Maintenance Procedures: - Roles and responsibilities**

The new maintenance policy involves the following:

1. Extend Tipperary County Council's insurance policy, to cover all playgrounds in the County, subject to the terms and conditions of this insurance (Irish Public Bodies) and that the playground equipment is in good working order prior to the lease being put in place
2. The Council will implement a maintenance regime in all municipal districts based on the proposed Tipperary County Council model (as outlined previously), with standardised reporting structures and reporting sheets
3. The Council will have responsibility for weekly inspections by trained personnel, the filling of inspection reports, repairing and maintenance of playground equipment
4. A playground coordinator will be identified in each municipal district area, to ensure that playgrounds are inspected, that maintenance is carried out and that issues relating to playgrounds are reported back to municipal district level
5. Where a playground is in the ownership of a playground committee or other community organization, a lease will be provided outlining the role of both the Council and the committee
6. Committees will be responsible for keeping the playground litter free and any other daily routine maintenance measures
7. All staff will be trained in a more detailed inspection reporting procedure
8. An appointment of a relevant company to carry out an independent yearly inspection of playground – the MD selected will cover the cost of the inspection

9. Document the guarantee arrangements between playground suppliers and playgrounds. Investigate the possibility of contracting one playground maintenance company in the future, which could lead to significant savings as a result of economies of scale. Each Municipal District will have ownership of their respective playground files
10. An internal review and audit will be carried out on a select number of playgrounds on a yearly basis

### **Role and responsibilities of the Council under new maintenance policy**

- Carry out weekly inspections
- Include in Council insurance
- Repairs
- A ring fenced fund to be put in place to assist with the management and maintenance of playgrounds
- Each playground to have a file, to be held in the Municipal District, managed by a Coordinator (to be identified by the Borough/Municipal District), with standardised procedures for operational purposes, to be available for internal audits on a yearly basis
- The Community and Economic Development Section will monitor and review all playgrounds on an all-county basis based on approved procedures in conjunction with the management team

### **Role and responsibilities of the community under new maintenance policy**

- Daily inspections and liaison with GSS (General Services Staff)
- Remove litter
- Access funding for replacement play infrastructure (such as community development funds and LEADER) and provide matching funds
- An active playground committee must be linked in with a robust structure such as the community development association or community council to ensure long-term commitment and sustainability
- Community must commit to contributing annually €1,000 (€1,500 for those with a CCTV) towards the cost of repair/maintenance

**APPENDIX 5:**

**Playground Daily/Weekly Visual Inspection Form**

Site:

Date: .....

Time: .....

Equipment	Checked	Risk Score			Comment
		Red	Amber	Green	
1. (name e.g. flat swings)					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
<b>Cleanliness</b>					
<b>Surfacing</b>					
Tiles					
Wet Pour Rubber					
Loose Fill – woodchip, bark, sand					
Tarmac					
Grass/Safagrass matting					
<b>Other Items</b>					
Gates					
Fencing					
Seats					
Litter Bins					
Signs					
Planting					

Comments .....

Inspected by: ..... Submitted .....

Action required: .....

.....

.....

Action Taken: .....

Signed:..... G.S.S. Date:.....

Signed:..... Administrative Officer Date:.....



**APPENDIX 6:**

**Questionnaire**

**TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL PLAYGROUND POLICY  
REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE  
JANUARY 2016**

**PLAYGROUND NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Location/Age/Ownership and Management**

**A** Where is the Playground Located? (exact location)

\_\_\_\_\_

**B** When was the Playground Installed?

\_\_\_\_\_

**C** Who owns the Playground?

\_\_\_\_\_

**D** Who manages the Playground?

\_\_\_\_\_

**E** Is there a lease agreement in place? (If yes, please give details)

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Site**

**A** How was the site for the playground identified?

\_\_\_\_\_

**B** Do you feel that the site is suitable?

YES

No

If No, please explain:

---

**C** Who identified the site?

---

**D** If this site was identified by the community, did the Local Authority support the group in identifying the site?

YES  No

**E** Do you think that the playground is an adequate size?

YES  No

**F** Is the playground visible (secure with supervision)?

YES  No

**G** Is there access to toilets/baby changing facilities or a café (large Playgrounds only)?

YES  No

### **3. Equipment**

**A** Who installed the equipment? \_\_\_\_\_

**B** What type of equipment was installed? \_\_\_\_\_

**C** Were you happy with the performance of the Playground Providers?

---

**D** What ages does the equipment cater for?

---

**E** Has any of the equipment been broken and if so it has been replaced reinstated?

---

**F** Have there been any issues with security of the playground?

YES

No

**4. Community Involvement**

**A** Was there a community group in place to develop the playground?

YES

No

**B** Is that group still in place?

YES

No

**C** Did the group consult with other groups/areas that had developed playgrounds?

YES

No

---

**D** Were children's ideas taken into consideration during the development process?

YES

No

**5. Funding**

**A** How was the Playground Funded?

---

**B** Did Fundraising take place?

YES

No

---

**C** How is the maintenance of the Playground funded?

---

**D** Was any private funding provided for the Playground?

YES

No

**6. Inspections (Please attach a copy of your playground maintenance inspection sheet)**

**A** Is the Playground inspected regularly (State how often)

The Local Community \_\_\_\_\_

The Local Authority \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Who carries out the inspections?

\_\_\_\_\_

**C** Are these inspections carried out as part of the daily/weekly routine of the worker/community person or only when issues arise?

\_\_\_\_\_

**D** Does the person carrying out the inspections have the appropriate training? Is their training up to date?

\_\_\_\_\_

**E** Who receives the inspection reports and follows up on these issues?

\_\_\_\_\_

**F** Who is responsible for organising maintenance?

\_\_\_\_\_

**G** What happens if a piece of equipment needs to be replaced?

\_\_\_\_\_

**H** Have ROSPA inspected the playground?

\_\_\_\_\_

## **7. Other Agency Involvement**

Have you got any support from?

LEADER

Equipment providers

Other agencies (please list) \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 7: List of Council owned MUGAs and Adult Gym Equipment**

### **MUGAS:**

- Ballina
- Castlough
- Nenagh
- Tipperary Town
- Clonmel

### **Adult gym equipment:**

- Ballina
- Tipperary Town
- Templemore Town Park

**APPENDIX 8: Tipperary County Hierarchy Settlement**

