



Management Report to Council







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March 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>3</u> 10:00 Community, Culture & Library Services SPC |
| <u>6</u> 10:00 Roads & Transportation SPC Meeting | <u>7</u> | <u>8</u> 14:30 Environment & climate Action SPC Meeting | <u>9</u> | <u>10</u> 09:30 Tipp/Cahir/Cashel MD W/Shop 10:00 CPG Mtg |
| <u>13</u> 11:00 TCC Plenary Mtg | <u>14</u> 10:00 Planning & Emergency Services SPC mtg | <u>15</u> 11:00 Clonmel BD Mtg | <u>16</u> 10:00 Nenagh MD Mtg | <u>17</u> St. Patrick's Day |
| <u>20</u> 10:30 Thurles MD Mtg | <u>21</u> | <u>22</u> | <u>23</u> 14:00 Carrick-on-Suir MD Mtg | <u>24</u> |
| <u>27</u> 10:00 Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD W/Shop 11:00 Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD Mtg | <u>28</u> | <u>29</u> | <u>30</u> | <u>31</u> |

Report at a Glance

| | | | | | |
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|  | Community & Economic Development & Tourism | 1 - 25 |  | Environment & Climate Action | 40 - 52 |
|  | Corporate Services | 26 - 39 |  | Housing | 53 - 68 |

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

| <u>Directorate Priorities</u> | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Major Current Issues | Progress to date | Next Stage |
| Local Economic Community Plan | Review completed, socio economic study, high level goals and work programme in progress | Consultation |
| Ukrainian support | Training and access to employment | Early stages |
| Enterprise Ireland | Strong emphasis on three objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green for micro; 2. Digitisation in business 3. Supporting businesses to export | LEO supporting business and will identify key business for support. |

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

The SPC met on December 6th 2022 and February 14th 2023 the items covered on the Agenda included:

- Tipperary Food Network
- Social Enterprise
- Retail Sub-Group on Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme
- LECP update
- SPC review and planning for 2023
- Settlement Strategy for County – Synergies between CDP and LECP
- Cross Border Trade
- Bio Invest Conference

Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme Promotions



The brand that was developed for the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme is now being used to market and promote the scheme.

18 applications have been successfully processed to date under the new system and a number of additional recent applications are currently being processed. Promotion of the scheme is currently underway Press and Radio. On local Tipp FM where the traffic and travel updates are announced with the following sting line: *Tipp FM's Traffic and Travel with Tipperary County Council: Are you a new business based in a previously vacant premises. Check tipperarycoco.ie to see if you are eligible for a grant under the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme.*

On Local papers over the Christmas period a full colour half page advert was issued to remind people of the availability of the grant.



Shop Local Tipperary

Promotions on Facebook and Instagram are proving to be effective with an increase in the numbers engaging.



15.3K ↑ 16.5%
Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior



Facebook

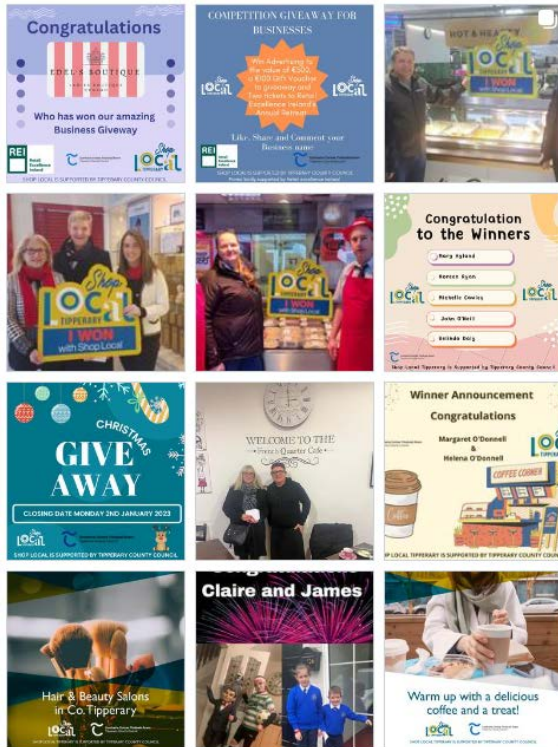
1.8K ↑ 8.6%
Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior



Instagram

Regular competitions have enabled better connection with businesses and shoppers across the county on the shop local messaging. This is reflected in the increase in followers and engagements on the two platforms – Facebook and Instagram.





In February a joint competition with Tipperary County Council and Retail Excellence Ireland targeting with businesses engagement was successful and was greatly appreciated by the business sector



Christmas 2022 Retail Support Programme
Tipperary County Council in conjunction with the Tipperary Local Enterprise Office sought applications from Trader Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Community Groups, Farmers Markets, Craft Markets or those involved in the Craft Sector under the

Christmas Retail Support Programme. The grant scheme targeted the provision of support for towns and villages to implement strategies designed to enable increased spending or retaining spend in 'Tipperary' towns and villages over the Christmas period.

The following grantees were awarded funding to be spent on activities including advertising, promotions, street entertainment or other expenses for their Christmas events.

Emphasis was placed on projects and events that will be hosted out-of-doors.

| Name of Group | MD Location | Name of Event | Grant Awarded |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|
| Clonmel Chamber of Commerce | Clonmel | Santa Event in Clonmel | 2500 |
| Clonmel South Tipperary Arts Centre | Clonmel | Christmascraft Exhibition | 1000 |
| Carrick-on-Suir Business Association | Carrick on Suir | Carrick-on-Suir Christmas Festival | 2000 |
| Cloneen Sports and Social Club | Carrick on Suir | Christmas Weekend Festival | 500 |
| Ballingarry Community Centre | Carrick on Suir | Ballingarry Christmas Festival 2022 | 700 |
| Nenagh Chamber of Commerce | Nenagh | Christmas in Nenagh | 2300 |
| Ternglass | Nenagh | Christmas Lantren Making | 500 |
| Nenagh Country Market | Nenagh | Weekly Country Market | 400 |
| Borrisokane Tidy Towns | Nenagh | Xmas Light Switch on | 1200 |
| Cloughjordan Community Development | Nenagh | Cloughjordan Christmas Festival of Lights | 1200 |
| Newport Development Association CLG | Nenagh | Newport Christmas Market | 1800 |
| Ballinderry Development Association | Nenagh | Ballinderry Christmas Markets | 400 |
| Rathcabbin Development Association | Nenagh | Rathcabbin Lights Up 2022 | 500 |
| Thurles Chamber of Commerce | Thurles | Thurles Shop Local for Christmas Promotion | 2300 |
| Thurles Christmas Skyfest | Thurles | Thurles Christmas Skyfest | 2300 |
| Thurles Farmers Market | Thurles | Christmas at Thurles Farmers Market | 500 |
| Roscrea Chamber of Commerce | Thurles | 12 Days of Christmas | 2000 |
| Roscrea Taste of Christmas Roscrea | Thurles | Taste of Christmas Roscrea | 2000 |
| Templemore Community Development | Thurles | Templemore Christmas Welcome Event | 2000 |
| Ballycahill Craft and Food Market | Thurles | Christmas Craft and Food Market | 400 |
| Drombane Hall | Thurles | Christmas Market/Festive Afternoon | 400 |
| Cahir Development Association | Tipperary | Christmas Retail Programme | 2000 |
| Cahir Farmers Market | Tipperary | Family Fun day at Cahir Farmer's Market | 500 |
| Cashel Arts Festival | Tipperary | Christmas on the Plaza | 2000 |
| Tipperary Chamber of Commerce CLG | Tipperary | EF Hunt | 2000 |
| Cappawhite Community Council | Tipperary | Cappawhite Community Council Christmas Fair | 700 |
| Ardfinnan Community Council | Tipperary | Ardfinnan Christmas Festivities | 1200 |
| Clogheen St. Pauls Community Council | Tipperary | St.Pauls Christmas Market | 700 |
| Golden Community Hall | Tipperary | Christmas Fair | 700 |
| Annacarty Donohill | Tipperary | Christmas Bonanza | 500 |
| Ballylooby Community Council | Tipperary | Christmas Market & Christmas Tractor Run | 400 |
| Burncourt Community Council CLG | Tipperary | Burncourt as it Sparkles | 500 |
| Cloughreen Rhododendron Festival | Tipperary | The Winter Solstice | 1200 |
| Knockavilla Community Council | Tipperary | Christmas Fayre | 400 |
| Monard Community Hall | Tipperary | Christmas Market/Fair | 500 |
| Mullinahone Christmas Fair | Tipperary | Mullinahone Christmas Fair | 700 |
| | | | 40900 |



Painting and Enhancement Scheme 2022

The sum of 20,044 was Provided to the 5 MD's divided as follows [based on population]

NENAGH 2,980
CARRICK 1,960
TIPPERARY 4,317
Clonmel 5,695
THURLES 5,092

A review of the scheme is underway and based on the findings a new scheme will be devised for 2023.

Industry 4.0/5.0 Smart Digitalisation

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

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

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

The Government has issued a National Smart Specialisation Strategy for innovation 2022-2027. The Southern Region has a plan for the development of smart specialisation strategy, In order to expand the understanding of the topic businesses in County Tipperary will be targeted for an event in Limerick U.L. that will showcase examples in May and in September an event will be hosted in County Tipperary that will provide information on the opportunity of Smart Specialisation for businesses in the county and details of any specific supports available for same.

Remote Working Strategy Update

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

- Feasibility Study completed in Clonmel by Clonmel Business Development Park.
- 2 new private operators have entered the market – Republic of Work Clonmel and Flexi Desk in Nenagh.
- The REACH project in Roscrea has secured the final funding required to complete the development and it has moved into the next phase of development now and tender out the project.
- Thurles MD has secured funding for a small remote working centre in Templemore as part of their RRDF application.
- Ongoing operations in Stable Lane, expansion to a new building “Townhouse” and funding secured under RRDF in Carrick-On-Suir for a new Digital Hub
- Tipperary Engine has progress to completion and is now available for use in Tipperary Town.

In July of 2022 the Governor of the Central Bank visited Tipperary Engine as part of his review of enterprise facilities for remote workers and enterprise centres.



The capital program of refurbishment and development of an innovation Digital Hub is complete and the newly refurbished facility is ready for occupation. A new manager is recruited and Marketing of the facility has commenced.

- Funding application is in development under the RRDF for a Digital Hub in Cahir.
- Rialto Project has been funded under RRDF in Nenagh
- **Feasibility Study for Digital Hub in Thurles**

A grant was made available from Enterprise Ireland funding under the REISS Feasibility Study Projects Fund to carry out an extensive Feasibility Study to establish the needs and provide possible solutions to the current lack of availability of suitable accommodation in Thurles Town for use as a co-working space, digital hub, workspace hub, or an Enterprise Development Hub that provides flexible co-

working and individual office spaces. This Feasibility Study is now underway and the results will be available in mid-March.

Feasibility Study for Digital Hub in Cashel

Cashel was identified as a gap in the county in regard to the availability of a remote working facility. A Feasibility Study application was successful under the 2022 Towns and Villages Funds. The study is underway and the findings will inform the next steps in regard to the requirements for the town.

County Tipperary Marketing as remote working location

The Tipperary Digital Strategy 2018-2021 and its subsequent review in 2021 identified the benefit that an increase in remote workers could bring to the County and recommended that further efforts should be made to promote County Tipperary, in which the excellent lifestyle, education and infrastructure provide the fundamentals for a great place to live and work. The Marketing and promotion of remote working is central to the Digital Strategy. This new brand will be targeted at business interests and individuals across the Country and to the Diaspora across the world. The brand will provide the base of an effective messaging strategy to support an increase in the uptake of interest in living and working in County Tipperary, the distinctive brand will inspire local, regional and international audiences. The brand will be sufficiently flexible and in keeping with the current branding on the website www.tipperary.ie, while attracting businesses and workers to Tipperary by promoting the County as a unique destination to live, work, and invest.

Funding was received for Remote Working Marketing under Town & Village Funds 2022 and work has commenced on a collaboration with all providers in the county (including BCP's) to promote the concept of the county being an ideal location for remote workers.

Stage 1 of the project is to develop a brand for the remote working offering in the county. Following a procurement process, Designedly, based in Thurles were appointed as the company to facilitate and assist in designing this new brand. The new brand gives a nod to the fact that County Tipperary is a fore-runner in addressing change, choosing to work wise and make Digital transformation a part of the county's growth. High speed broadband county wide and shared digital networks reduce commuting times, lower transport emissions, promote a better work-life balance and improved quality of life. County Tipperary has significant opportunities to work wise, for individuals and industry alike.



The importance of the new brand fitting with the Council Website and the Tipperary, The place, The Time marketing platform for the economic elements of the county was deemed critical and considered well in the process. Therefore, the new Brand sits well with both entities.



The next phase is to develop brand assets, to then deploy them to the relevant platforms including a new tab www.tipperary.ie

Digital Strategy Update

The County Tipperary Digital Strategy continues to be driven by Tipperary County Council. The infrastructural elements are lead out by the Broadband Officer. All other actions are delivered in an interagency approach across the County.

A meeting of the Program Management Group for the County Tipperary Digital Strategy was held in February 2023 and a full update of all the current actions were provided by the various action leads.

Tipperary Education & Training Board [TETB] provided an update on the range of training programmes that have been delivered across the county following the roll-out of the National Broadband Plan so that training events take place in a location soon after high-speed broadband becomes available.

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



A Blended/Online Learning pilot was piloted between Training Services and the Adult Literacy Services in September 2022. Along with this significant numbers of learners engaged with eCollege in 2022 which provided access to learners across the county to self-directed, online programmes in a wide range of subject areas. TETB also made its IT facilities available to learners who may have experienced difficulties with broadband access, particularly new arrivals from the Ukraine and other countries.

The Mitigation of Educational Disadvantage Fund, recently renamed the REACH Fund in 2022 was introduced in the county by TETB, funded through SOLAS. This fund provided funding to community organisations for initiatives that supported the mitigation of educational disadvantage. A key strand of this funding allowed for the support of IT initiatives that had educational or training components. Over €160,000 was allocated through the fund. An example of funding: Aherlow Kilross Community Council “Reconnecting with the Community” - older people in rural isolation - €8301 for Digital equipment - to hold classes for the local people in the area, older generations, Ukraine and non-national families, lone parent, long term unemployed and these classes would range from beginner computer lessons and how to use the internet.

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

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

In 2022 TETB provided a range of courses with Social Media/Website content, open to volunteers and community organisations. Two specific programmes took place through our Community Education provision in both Tipperary Town and Borrisokane which were specifically, although not exclusively, aimed at volunteers.

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

- Specific coding courses have proved difficult to fill and to engage learners in over the past year. A number of coding programmes which are relevant for young people have been identified and efforts are underway to develop new strategies to integrate coding and related programmes into the work of our Youthreach, Youthwork, and CTC's across the county.
- There currently are element of coding and software development being delivered as part of the wider youth provision in the County and there are a number of initiatives in place in schools across the county, including Coder DoJo.

- TETB has had significant provision in ICT, Basic Computers, Social Media, Digital Media, but we have an ongoing gap when it comes to ‘CODING’. The development of taster programmes and other initiatives will be looked at as a specific issue as part of 2023 Area Based Planning.
- TETBs Further Education Campus in Templemore ran Software Development and Software Development. These programmes include programming and coding.

While Software Testing is not directly classed as ‘Coding’ it is a related field with significant potential for employment in the county. Software Testing - ISTQB Certified Tester Foundation Level r Tipperary Training.

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

Tipperary County Council continues to increase the availability of online services to citizens through the delivery of a range of additional online services and consultation tools:

- Introduced a Housing Online Choice Based Letting (CBL) system in April 2022. This

system gives social housing applicants the chance to express their interest in available properties to the Council. The process is designed to be fair and equitable and to put choice at the centre of the allocation of properties. Available properties are placed on the online system, and housing applicants can log in and express an interest. The facility is available via web sites, smartphones, and facilities in the Council offices around the county. The CBL System went live in April 2022 and there has been 84,000 logins since it went live.

- Made significant progress on the project to upgrade our www.tipperarycoco.ie web site. This project is being progressed on a phased basis. The initial phase addressed underlying software security concerns, and entails a full rebuild of Tipperarycoco.ie, incorporating a service catalogue, migration of all content and a new look and feel to the web site. The new web site is scheduled to go live in mid Jan 2023.



- Developed a Holy Wells web site for the Heritage Section, showing details of all of the Holy Wells in County Tipperary. <https://ihwcbc.omeka.net/exhibits/show/wells-of-county-tipperary/wells-of-county-tipperary>

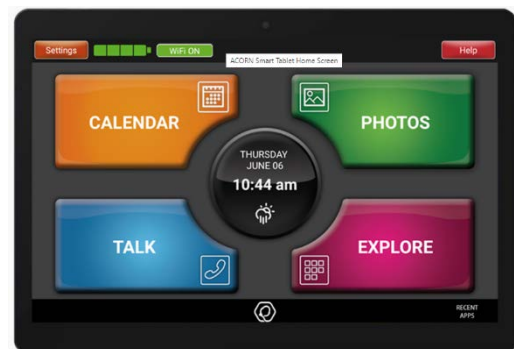


St Sedna's Well

- Developed and published Residential Zoned Land Tax maps and details on our web site, and facilitated online consultations and submissions.
- Developed and published Local Area plans on our web site and facilitated online consultations and submissions.
- Upgraded and improved existing Online Forms and Grant Application systems.
- Published Severe Weather Salting routes and Weather Alert in interactive map format on our web site.
- Facilitated publication and submissions re County Development Plan/Variations
- Upgraded the system to enable members of the public to log and submit faults, complaints and issues, and to plot the issue on a map, and submit photos.
- Continued to publish events, alerts and news on to our web site and share them out via our various social media channels.
- Developed and launched Online applications for Municipal District Schemes for Clubs & Residents Assoc Grants
- Continued to facilitate the Online ePlanning Portal, which enables members of the public and agents to submit online planning applications.

Library Staff continued to hold online events and activities in 2022 and there are now over 300 videos on the Library YouTube channel. In addition, the Library Service now offers podcast of lectures given in the Library including the Tipperary Studies People and Place lecture series.

- The Library Service continued to offer a range of digital services in 2022. These included:
 - The Public PC network which continues to be very well used
 - Free High-Speed Wi-Fi which is offered in all Branch Libraries
 - Remote Printing Service which allows users to print directly to Library Printers via a customer's personal mobile phones, tablets and laptops
 - 3D printing is now available in three branch libraries and will be rolled out to two more in 2023
 - The ACORN Tablet lending service was launched in 2022. ACORN is Ireland's first Age-Friendly smart tablet, Irish made and designed with the older person in mind. It is easy to use, easy to navigate and uncluttered, making online communication and access to the internet simple and rewarding for even the most inexperienced user. Any user who is a member of their local library can borrow an ACORN tablet and Library membership is free.
- Library Staff have attended a series of digital workshops given by the LGMA and continue to upskill on the latest digital technology.



- The Library Service has increased its investment in e-books in 2022 and again in 2023. E-books can now be borrowed directly from the online Library catalogue on the Library Website as well as through the BorrowBox App. This is the first time that Tipperary Libraries has offered e-books directly through the Library Catalogue and is a very positive development in Library e-services.

LECP

An LECP Advisory group was put in place for the development of the LECP 2023-2029 in accordance with the guidelines. In 2022, the group have focused on the development of a socio-economic statement, the development of High-Level Goals, and a Consultation Plan. It is envisaged that the consultation for the LECP and the consultation for the Local Development Strategy (Rural Development Programme 2023-2029) can take place jointly in 2023.

Bio-Economy Development in Tipperary

Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) has been awarded €1.25 million in funding by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine towards the development of two bioeconomy demonstration sites in Counties Tipperary and Offaly.

The TUS projects are focused on the development of bioeconomy demonstration sites – **one at the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation campus at the former Lisheen Mine site in Moyne, Co. Tipperary, led by**

Dr Paudie Murray and the LIFE Research Institute team (€1M) and the other at Mount Lucas, Co. Offaly (€250K). Collectively, these two projects make up almost 30% of the overall funding announced.

<https://tus.ie/where-research-meets-policy-tus-awarded-e1-25-million-by-dafm-towards-development-of-bioeconomy-demonstration-sites/>

EU Bioeconomy Projects with Tipperary County Council Involvement:



- Promotion of the Bioeconomy in EU rural areas
- Regional Hubs in six EU countries. Tipperary is one of these European Hubs
- Funded through the European Research Executive Agency
- Project Duration: October 2022 – September 2025



ABC Economy Project

- ABC Economy targets waste streams arising from food production / processing and forestry in Ireland to develop new bio-based products and generate energy. These new products and energy systems will maximise the value of wastes, whilst reducing environmental impacts.
- Two year research programme. Completed in 2022.
- Project partners UCD and Cré
- Focus on Monaghan and Tipperary County Councils



AgRefine - European Training Network (ETN)

- Training 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESR’s) in the necessary skills and knowledge to position Europe as the global leader in developing an agri-bioeconomy industry
- ETN consists of 15 highly interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral PhD projects each specialising in specific aspects of the bioeconomy
- Partners include: UCD, Universities and Research centres in Denmark, Vienna, Wageningen Netherlands, Greece, Bantry Marine Station
- Funded through the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme
- Project Duration: October 2019 – Spring 2023.



Jan Starke, Wageningen University

- TCC hosted one of the students from March – May 2021: Jan Starke, Wageningen University, Netherlands
- Jan’s research focuses on conflicts in industry-government-university collaborations. He completed a Case

study on Lisheen and presented a poster at a conference in Ghent University.

- Partner meeting in Ghent University, May 2022 followed by a conference on ‘The role of biorefineries in European Agriculture’

Italian SPRING Cluster Visit

IBF SPRING ‘Exploring Ireland’s Bioeconomy Together’ was a visit from the SPRING Cluster in Italy to Ireland organised by Irish Bioeconomy Foundation (IBF). On 4th October 2019 two Memorandum of Understanding were signed between IBF and Cluster SPRING and BIOCIRCE Master respectively. From 17th to 19th May 2022 Mario Bonaccorso, manager of SPRING, and members of SPRING Cluster visited Ireland to learn about Ireland’s growing bioeconomy. The group were hosted by the IBF with support from TCC.



Visit to Munster Technological University (MTU), the home of Circular Bioeconomy Cluster South West (CBCSW) on the second day of the trip.

Bioeconomy Ireland Week – October 2022



A BioEconomy group from Catalan, Spain visited Ireland during BioEconomy week 2022. They spent a day in Tipperary visiting Trifol, IBF, Rock of Cashel and Clonmel Civic Offices, where they were hosted by the Mayor and Cathaoirleach.

BioInvest Ireland 2023



The BioInvest Ireland (Belfast) project is organised by the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation and delivered with support from InterTradeIreland’s Synergy initiative. Synergy is a cross-border cluster initiative set up by InterTradeIreland, the cross-border trade and business development body.

Relevant to any early-stage company that is

- Involved in bioeconomy related sectors; agriculture/aquaculture, forestry, agtech/foodtech, nutrition, bio-based chemicals, biotech, home/personal care, bioenergy, & other bioeconomy sectors
- Actively looking for investments.

- Based or operating on the island of Ireland.

Tipperary County Council were represented by Elaine Cullinan and Anthony Fitzgerald at this event.

Broadband

Digital connectivity –

or ‘smart infrastructure’ or ‘digital infrastructure’ - is the utility of the twenty-first century. It underpins every aspect of the modern economy and all aspects of smart cities. This includes cellular wireless - 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G - and Wi-Fi, wired (including full-fibre) technologies, Internet of Things (IoT), and emerging non-terrestrial networks such as low-earth orbit satellites.

Digital connectivity is being delivered across the State primarily through the Commercial investment of the telecommunications industry. Government will take measures to drive increased Gigabit and 5G connectivity, including complementing commercial investment in infrastructure with Government-led initiatives and through facilitating other strategic enablers.

These Government-led initiatives include:

- a. the deployment of Gigabit network services through the National Broadband Plan’s State-led Intervention to primarily rural areas covering circa 23% of the premises across the State;
- b. ensuring 5G Spectrum continues to be made available, with appropriate coverage and deployment obligations

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the government’s initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with



Intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.

High Speed Broadband will be delivered to every premises in Ireland through a combination of -

- a. **Commercial investment** by the telecommunications sector
- b. a **State Intervention** in those areas where commercial providers acting alone will not provide this service

(NBP) State led-Intervention Area

To deliver the National Broadband Plan (NBP) State led-Intervention Area, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) went through a rigorous procurement process to choose a company to build, operate and maintain a high speed broadband network.

On 19 November 2019 the government signed the contract for the National Broadband Plan IA.

Following the award of the contract, Granahan McCourt incorporated a new Irish registered company, National Broadband Ireland - NBI™ to build, operate and maintain the network. They are now designing and preparing to build and operate Ireland’s new high-speed fibre broadband network in the intervention area. Their partners include KN Group, Actavo, TLI and Secto. A fifth Build Sub-Contractor, Gaeltec, has recently been added to the panel. Nokia is providing all the active equipment for the project and 4Site is NBI’s network design partner.

In total, there are over 30,349 premises located in the National Broadband Plan’s State -led Intervention Area (NBP IA) in County Tipperary - including

- 21 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs), and 35 rural BCP - National Schools
- 19,800 homes,
- 3,971 Farms,
- 6,545 residential/ commercial businesses and

Under this project the county will see an investment of €118M in new Gigabit network services in the county.

In June, 2021, NBI™ commenced Fibre deployment to deliver 22 NBP IA Deployment Area (s) in county Tipperary <https://nbi.ie/where-are-we-working/>

Each Deployment Area spans approximately 20 Km and is built around Local or Regional Exchanges housing NBI™ OLT Equipment. There are three Regional Exchanges in County Tipperary located in Roscrea, Tipperary Town and Clonmel and these exchanges connect to the NBI™ Data Centre in Dublin via existing high-speed Fibre Networks.

Table 1 below identifies the current NBI™ Projected delivery Time-Frames for each Deployment Area in the County.

| NBI™ Deployment Area | Anticipated Date for Connection* |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CLONMEL | Available to Order/Pre-Order |
| GORT | Available to Order/Pre-Order |
| JOHNSTOWN | Available to Order/Pre-Order |
| ROSCREA | Available to Order/Pre-Order |
| TIPPERARY | Available to Order/Pre-Order |
| CARRICK-ON-SUIR | January 2024 – June 2024 |
| CASHEL | July 2023 - September 2023 |



| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| HOSPITAL | January 2024 - June 2024 |
| MULLINAHONE | January 2024 - June 2024 |
| NENAGH | January 2024 - June 2024 |
| BALLINAMULT | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| BALLINDERRY | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| BANAGHER | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| CAHIR | May 2023 - June 2023 |
| HOLLYFORD | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| TALLOW | July 2024 - December 2024 |
| TEMPLEMORE | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| BIRR | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| LITTLETON | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| MITCHELS TOWN | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| NEWPORT | January 2025 - December 2026 |
| OGONNELLOE | January 2025 - December 2026 |

The breakdown **Figures for County Tipperary** - as of February, 2023

- a. Total number of NBP State led- Intervention Area premises covered in Tipperary: 30, 349
- b. Total number of NBP IA premises passed (per Feb, 2023) in Tipperary: 5, 805
- c. Total number of NBI™ new Customer Connections (per Feb, 2023) in Tipperary: 1,588
(27% uptake on Premises Passed)

- d. 100% of Tipperary premises will be surveyed by end 2023.
- e. Over 60% of premises will have build works commence by end 2022,
98% by end 2023
- f. Over 70% of Tipperary premises will have build complete by end 2024

Table 2 below identifies the current **Projected NBI™ delivery Time-Frames for County Tipperary**

| Year | Survey complete | Build commencing | Build complete |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 2020 | 20% | 10% | |
| 2021 | 51% | 20% | |
| 2022 | 86% | 61% | 20% |
| 2023 | 100% | 98% | 51% |
| 2024 | | 100% | 72% |
| 2025 | | | 98% |
| 2026 | | | 100% |
| 2027 | | | |

Over 45,000 Premises (including 30, 349 in County Tipperary and c15, 000 NBP IA premises from neighbouring Counties) will connect to Three (3) NBI™ OLT Regional Exchanges located in Tipperary Town, Roscrea and Clonmel.

Connected Communities –

Broadband Connection Points will unlock the potential in our rural communities.



Whether that is connected working, the creative arts, eHealth, educational supports, business supports, the BCPs will be supported to provide the services that their communities need.

These premises are not merely a stop-gap measure ahead of the arrival of the National Broadband Plan, it is our hope that they will instead become long-term community assets, fixtures of their communities, providing next generation services to Ireland’s rural heartlands.”

High quality digital connectivity offers an unprecedented opportunity to transform rural Ireland. It will support the sustainability of rural communities by enabling more people to continue to live and work in rural locations and encouraging others to relocate to rural areas.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of digital connectivity in supporting many aspects of our daily lives. Throughout the crisis, digital connectivity helped many people to avoid becoming socially isolated; it enabled students to continue their education through on-line learning; and it demonstrated its potential to support economic activity through remote working and the delivery of services on-line.

Improved connectivity and digital innovation will help communities to have greater outreach. It will support older people to live independently in their communities, but with

access to more supports and services through connected technologies.

It will mean a better quality of life for rural dwellers, enabling people to access online information and resources including the provision of online services such as education and personalised health care. In the longer-term, it is envisaged that many of the BCPs will act as a central point for the provision of digital services in the community.

The **(NBP) BCP delivery Programme** is now completed in County Tipperary – and the following Broadband Connection Points have been connected and are providing high-speed broadband services–

- 1) ROSSMORE COMMUNITY HALL,
ROSSMORE, CASHEL, CO.
TIPPERARY, E25D429
- 2) DROM COMMUNITY HALL,
DROM, BORRISOLEIGH,
THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY,
E41X285
- 3) CURREENEY COMMUNITY HALL,
CURREENEY, KILCOMMON,
THURLES, CO. TIPPERARY,
E41XC62
- 4) AGLISH COMMUNITY HALL,
AGLISH, ROSCREA, CO.
TIPPERARY, E53E132
- 5) KILLURNEY COMMUNITY
CENTRE, KILLURNEY,
BALLYPATRICK, CLONMEL, CO.
TIPPERARY, E91H7W4
- 6) MOYGLASS COMMUNITY HALL,
MOYGLASS, FETHARD, CO.
TIPPERARY, E91WK25
- 7) KILLOSCULLY COMMUNITY
CENTRE, KILLOSCULLY,
NEWPORT, CO. TIPPERARY,
V94FK20



- 8) KILLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILLEA, TEMPLEMORE, CO. TIPPERARY, E41T6Y0THE
- 9) PAVILLION, BALLINDERRY SPORTSFIELD, BALLINDERRY, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY, E45 F627
- 10) BALLINAHINCH COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROSSFINCH, BALLINAHINCH, BIRDHILL, V94 CVC0
- 11) BOHER PARISH HALL, BOHER, BALLINA, V94 EY06
- 12) FANURE COMMUNITY HALL, FANURE, ROSCREA, COUNTY TIPPERARY E53 AE02
- 13) KILCOLEMAN COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE, BURGESS GAA CLUB, PAIRC NA NGAEL, KILCOLEMAN, NEWTOWN, NENAGH, E45 YH76
- 14) THE APPLE CAMPING & CARAVAN PARK, MOORSTOWN, CAHIR, E21 YX33
- 15) DONASKEAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, DONASKEAGH, E34 AK24 (HSB connection to this building is "Fibre cable")
- 16) TERRYGLASS COMMUNITY HALL, TERRYGLASS, NENAGH, E45 FC42
- 17) BALLYLOOBY CASTLEGRACE GAA CLUB, BALLYLOOBY CASTLEGRACE GAA CLUBHOUSE, KILROE, BALLYLOOBY, E21 TA47
- 18) LATTERAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, SALLYPARK, LATTERAGH, NENAGH, E45 EF68
- 19) GURTAGARRY COMMUNITY HALL, GORTAGARRY, TOOMEVARA, NENAGH, CO. TIPPERARY E45 FA43
- 20) LISMAKIN COMMUNITY HALL, LISMAKIN, ROSCREA, CO. TIPPERARY E53 Y589

- 21) NORTH TIPPERARY FOOD WORKS, MAIN STREET, REARCROSS, NEWPORT, COUNTY TIPPERARY V94YW08

The BCP Initiative is a collaborative effort involving the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Rural and Community Development, National Broadband Ireland, the Local Authorities and Managers of the BCP sites.

The receipt of DRCD connected hubs Funding has supported our community involvement with remote villages and the aim to develop our Broadband Connection Points into active "Remote Digital Hubs".

The **Tipperary BCP Network** has completed a number of pilot Digital Skills and digital literacy courses.

Working with the DRCD, a number of public and private sector partners, these pilot programmes seek to upskill from no knowledge to working proficiency and to support the exploration of STEAM subjects and coding by school children and families.

"Digital literacy Courses will offer new skills to learn, work and navigate everyday life in our digital world. The skills involve the ability to use devices, software, and apps safely and with confidence"

Acquiring digital skills is as important as physical access to broadband infrastructure to enable individuals and communities to maximise the benefits of high-speed broadband connectivity. The internet and digital technologies are transforming the way people live and work, but figures from the Central Statistics Office show that use of these technologies decreases in older age categories.

An number of Digital Skills Training Programmes were rolled out in the Broadband



Connection Points in County Tipperary in 2022 in association with –

- a) Our Kids Code and Trinity College, Dublin
- b) Hi Digital and Vodafone and Active Retirement Ireland
- c) Microsoft Dream Space Den
- d) KINIA and Youth Work Ireland
- e) Our Rural Future: Digital Initiative Programme 2021 – TCC Smart Skills for Farming Communities (Tipperary)
- f) NALA
- g) Community Stakeholders

(NBP) Commercial Investment

The telecommunication sector employs approximately 25,000 people and has invested circa €3.3 billion over the past 5 years in new and upgraded networks.

Recent announcements from Virgin Media, SIRO and Eir indicate that the vast majority of premises in urban and suburban areas will be covered with a fibre to the home services with Gigabit network services being made available to these locations by 2028.

This Commercial investment will result in Gigabit Network services being made available to the vast majority of premises, in primarily urban and suburban areas covering circa 77% of the premises across the State.

The new Gigabit Network (s) in County Tipperary are being delivered by -

SIRO, who were launched in 2015 as a joint venture between ESB and Vodafone with the aim of delivering the first 100% fibre-to-the-building broadband across regional Ireland. The SIRO Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Network is built using the ESB's overhead and underground infrastructure, ensuring a fast, reliable and sustainable network.

SIRO, continues to deploy high speed broadband (FTTH) in the towns of Nenagh Clonmel and Roscrea (Phase 1)

In October, 2021 SIRO announced (Phase 2) of its fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) Network and under this Programme (FTTH) deployment works commenced in the towns of Thurles, and Cashel in June 2022 and are planned to commence in Tipperary town in Mid 2023.

Tipperary County Council is trialling new technologies with Industry to support the “Dig Once” policy, as part of the Liberty sq, Thurles Refurbishment Project and innovative uses of existing technologies to deliver more effective public services through the Government’s Digital Innovation Programme – including the development of pilot “Shared underground Shared Telecommunications Infrastructure” SIRO starting using this new Infrastructure in November, 2022.

In 2019, **EIR LIMITED** commenced the build of their IFN Project in County Tipperary which plans to cover all Urban areas in the county with greater than 1,000 urban premises. To date, EIR has passed over 19, 000 premises in Urban areas with Gigabit Network services in County Tipperary - namely the towns of Nenagh, Ballina/ Killaloe, Tipperary Town, Templemore, Thurles, Clonmel and Cahir.

In November, 2022 - Eir FTTH deployment works commenced in the town of Cashel and in the town of Roscrea in January, 2023 and FTTH deployment is planned to commence in the town of Carrick-on-Suir in Early 2023 and



in Fethard, Two-Mileborris and Cappawhite in Mid 2023.

Under its Commitment Agreement with the State - **OPEN eir** recently completed the deployment of its Gigabit Network to 16,000 premises in rural areas which was previously part of the National Broadband Plan's State-led Intervention Area (NBP IA), County Tipperary.

In total, EIR LIMITED has to date passed c. 35,000 premises with Gigabit Network Services in the County.

eNet has over 133 Metropolitan Area Network fibre optic Connection (s) across the eight (8) Urban eNet Networks in County Tipperary namely in the towns of -Clonmel (phase 1) and Cahir, Carrick-on-Suir, Cashel, Nenagh, Roscrea, Templemore, Tipperary Town (phase 2)

These locations are either operational or in the process of coming on stream. Their end users are a real mix of life in Business in the county made up of Schools, Bank Branches and Credit Union offices, Gov Departments and State Agencies (Hospitals/Garda Stations etc) <https://www.enet.ie/metropolitan-area-networks-mans/>

Imagine continues to upgrade and expansion its WTTx network (Fixed wireless high-speed broadband services) in County Tipperary and to date - over 58,486 premises and businesses in County Tipperary are covered on the Imagine Network from 22 Mast locations both within and in surrounding the counties. <https://bit.ly/3OZv9kV>

Commercial Investment

Cellular Wireless - 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G services

In 2021, 87% of people used a Mobile Device to access the internet (up from 73% in 2016), which corresponds to the number of regular

internet users (87% of people in 2021). Source: Eurostat, European Union survey on ICT usage in Households and by Individuals

Tipperary is served by three Mobile Network Operators (known as MNOs):

- a. Eircom Limited (“eir”),
- b. Three Ireland (Hutchison) Limited (“Three”) and
- c. Vodafone PLC.

All of these MNOs offer 2G Voice calls, 3G Voice and Data and 4G Data services and all three MNOs introduced 5G services in 2021.

The telecommunications regulator “ComReg” has a Mobile Signal Checker Map that is searchable by Eircode and by Mobile Phone Operator (MNO) to see what Outdoor data services might be available in a particular area. This map is available at <https://coveragemap.comreg.ie/map>.

The MNOs continue to maintain and deploy new Telecoms Infrastructure in order to -

- a. Improve Customer availability for 4G - LTE services
- b. Improve Customer availability for 5G services and as additional 5G spectrum is released, the scale and Geographic coverage of these services will continue to expand.

5G services with outdoor signal strength levels ranging from “Good” to “Fringe” are now available in the following locations in the County –

- a. Eircom Limited (“eir”) in parts of Borrisokane, Cloughjordan, Templemore, Toomevara, Nenagh, Portroe, Birdhill, Borrisoleigh, Thurles, Roscrea, Dundrum, Tipperary, Cahir, Clogheen, Clonmel, Kilsheelan, Carrick-on-Suir..
- b. Three Ireland (Hutchison) Limited (“Three”) in parts of Clonmel, Fethard, Killenaule, Cashel, Thurles, Borrisoleigh,

- Nenagh, Borrisokane, Nine-Mile House, Cloughjordan, Springfort Retail Park, PoppyField Retail Park, the Commons, Keeper Hill and Portroe..
- c. Vodafone PLC in parts of Clonmel, Thurles, Nenagh and Cahir Md only.

The **“Tipperary Free Wifi4EU Network”** was completed in 2021 with the support of funding from the European Commission and DRCD and is being Maintained by Tipperary County Council in the following towns;



- a. Tipperary (14 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)
- b. Nenagh (11 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)
- c. Roscrea (6 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)
- d. Thurles (5 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)
- e. Carrick-on-Suir (5 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)
- f. Clonmel (5 Free Wifi4EU Access Points)

The demand for the free Wi-Fi connectivity service, first introduced in September, 2020 in the county has grown exponentially over the past three years. The past year saw an increase 30% in the number of service users across the county.



Tipperary LEO has a client base of 283 companies, employing 1,528 people and these client companies created 238 new jobs during 2022. Tipperary Local Enterprise Office was the second (to Dublin city) highest performer on gross and net jobs created during 2022, demonstrating resilience and overall strength of the local economy, particularly in the areas of engineering support service companies supplying a very strong indigenous food sector and in life sciences in the Southern part of the country.

The main metrics for 2023 has now being set with strategic focus on the following areas:

- Ongoing strategic alignment with Enterprise Ireland
- Focus on Businesses employing 10+
- First Time Exporters
- Addressing the Productivity Challenge
- Digital Transformation
- Micro Enterprise Green Strategy

We will continue to work with our client base of 283 Companies focussing on First Time exporters and supporting them on their journey. Ongoing promotion of programmes such as Green Start and Digital for Micro.

Measure 1 – Direct Grant Support

The Evaluation & Approvals Committee have evaluated and approved a total of €51,441 funding on the following 10 projects - 9 x TAME Grant for €22,003 1 x Business Expansion Grant for €29,438

Green for Micro

3 applications approved to date.

The aim of the Green for Micro programme is to assist businesses in lowering their carbon footprint, reducing costs and improving the environmental profile of the business in the marketplace.

Digital Start

2 Digital applications approved to date

Small businesses need to maximise every advantage - and implementing a digital strategy can give businesses a real edge. Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give Local Enterprise Office funded clients* that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

Trading on Line Vouchers

A total of 15 grants approved valued at €32,000

1 – 1 Mentoring support/ Business Clinics

27 x 1-1 mentor assignments completed

Training & Development Workshops

68 participants on 7 different programmes

(TOV seminar, Sales & Marketing, Food Seminar, Instagram Reels, Website Health Check, Photography & Videography)



Business Clinics

87 individual business clinics have been completed to date

Upcoming events organised:

Student Enterprise Awards 2022/2023

EXCITEMENT BUILDS FOR THE FIRST IN PERSON TIPPERARY STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME COUNTY FINAL SINCE 2019

Secondary school students selected to represent their individual school are busy preparing to wow the judges on county final day to be held at **TUS Thurles Campus** on **Monday 6th March 2023**. Three businesses and budding teenage entrepreneurs will be selected to go on to represent Tipperary at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals showpiece in Croke Park on Friday 5th May.

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

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



Tipperary is delighted to welcome Student Enterprise Programme Ambassador Limerick All Ireland winner Sean Finn to Tipperary on the day.



County finalists St. Mary's Newport

Local Enterprise Week

Organised every year by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices across the country and all events are taking place this year from **Monday 6 to Friday 10 March**.

As well as the **18 Tipperary events** organised, this year's schedule includes five **'Spotlight' events** which are organised by individual Local Enterprise Offices and open to every business regardless of location!

Events summary:

- First Steps to Export Success
- Get Online, Grow Online, Go Global with Google
- 10 ways to address sustainability & drive competitiveness
- Drive cost savings with LEAN
- Innovate for Business Success
- Student Enterprise Awards County Final

- Introduction to Self-Employment & Idea Generation and Brainstorming
- Business Systemisation - the definitive “How To”
- Finance One to One Clinics & Taxation for Small Business
- A Celebration of International Women's Day
- Owner / Manager Business Breakfast
- Social Media Masterclass & Facebook & Instagram Advertising
- Unlocking Greater Efficiency & Growth with Digital Tools
- Announcement of Winner of County Enterprise Awards
- Chance to meet with LEO staff in confidence to discuss your business

International Women’s Day 8th March



LEO & Teagasc Farm Business Options



LEO Tipperary and Teagasc have organised a two-part training course aimed at existing and potential entrepreneurs coming from an Agri business background. Taking place from 6:30pm – 9:30pm on 21st & 28th March 2023 in Teagasc Thurles

Tipperary Food Producers Network

Tipp LEO & Tipp Co Co continue to support the TFPN with funding received to assist with operations, events and co-ordinator costs for 2023.

Monday 20th Feb provided a hamper for TCC to present to Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage on the opening of the Kickham Barracks Plaza.



Picture: TFPN Hamper for Minister Darragh O’Brien

Tuesday 21st Feb- Tipperary LEO hosted an Owner Manager/Time Management workshop with esteemed business consultant Mr Blaise Brosnan of Management Resource Institute Ireland. 21 members of the Tipp Food Producers participated in a very

informative and enjoyable workshop held at the Horse & Jockey Hotel.



Owner Manager/Time Management workshop at The Horse & Jockey 21st February 2023

The planned launch of the 5 Year Strategic Plan for the TFPN is planned to be launched in Summer 2023 with a venue & date to be announced.

General Food Updates

Tipperary Leo took the lead in organising with our colleagues in Clare & Limerick and hosted a Start Your Own Food Business Workshop on Thursday 9th of February. 12 budding food start-ups participated in this workshop.

Mid-West Food Starter Programme- Tipperary LEO again took the lead for this programme and once again in conjunction with LEO's in Clare & Limerick are hosting a 4-x half day programme designed to help those with a food idea, or those at an early stage of starting up a food business.



The graphic is a promotional poster for the 'FOOD STARTER' programme. It features the Local Enterprise Office logo, the text 'FOOD STARTER', and a list of topics: 'Your product and USP', 'Food production', 'Costing and pricing', and 'Routes to market'. A 'BOOK NOW' button is present, along with a URL: <http://bit.ly/3k5r5Fe>. A circular image shows various food items with a '€50' tag. Logos for the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and the Mid-West Regional Development Authority are at the bottom, along with the hashtag #MAKINGITHAPPEN and social media icons.

Mid-West Regional Food Starter Programme - Local Enterprise Office - Tipperary

Mid-West Food Strategy

Feasibility study for the food sector and its requirements is due to be completed with report and recommendations for the future strategy of the food sector within mid-west counties by April 2023

Destination Lough Derg

Dromineer Watersports Activity Centre: Tipperary Co. Co. received planning permission from An Bord Pleanála for the water sports amenity centre in Dromineer.



Brand Refresh



Destination Lough Derg refreshed the destination brand in alignment with current post-pandemic trends. The refreshed brand is

more fluid and incorporates more outdoor elements, with the three half circles simultaneously representing the three counties, the land, water, and big skies.

DLD rolled out the brand refresh in February through an animated video, branded social media posts, and competition. A folder of branded images was made available to the tourism businesses and strategic partners for their online presence to help create awareness—the total reach was approximately 900,000.



Image of Tountinna with the new Lough Derg logo

Blueway Activation and Promotion: the 21 Blueway trails on Lough Derg received accreditation in April 2022. To create awareness and animate the product, DLD created 21-3D tracking videos, one for each route. The videos were then promoted via social media platforms. The videos have made over 1.5 million impressions to a national audience—link to Blueway's page on the website [here](#).

Slow Travel Network NTA announced on 17th February the following new routes from Nenagh to Portumna, Portumna to Ballinasloe and Ennis to Whitegate. All will improve the slow travel network around

Lough Derg. The network will be included on the new website.

Visual Content Created: Winter scene photography shoots were completed for 8 locations around Lough Derg in December. This additional imagery brings the total images on Discover Lough Derg's Flickr account to 4,200.



Events

Quest Lough Derg 2023: will take place on 9th September. Plans are progressing to include a tent village to service the accommodation needs of the participants.



The Great Lake Swim – Lough Derg - A Gale Force open water swimming event is planned for Mountshannon on the 22th of July.

Marketing:

- The episode of Tracks and Trails, which originally aired on 30th June 2022, was repeated on 17th January. The show will air three more times on RTE + overseas in Canada, and as

part of inflight entertainment on transatlantic flights.



- An audit of www.discoverloughderg.ie was completed in 2022 the critical recommendation was to re-develop the site. Several action items highlighted in the report have been implemented to make the website secure and functional while creating a new website.
- An always-on **social media marketing** campaign resulted in an

increased audience of 2.15% for the first six weeks in 2023 was 2.15%, putting us on track to reach the KPI of 15% in the year. Social media also created 500k organic impressions in the first six weeks of the year.

- **Adventure Lough Derg App** has been updated and improved.
- **Garrykennedy** was selected as one of Ireland's top 10 most charming villages by the Guardian.



CORPORATE AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

| Policy/Strategic Issues | Status |
|--|---------------------|
| Audit Committee Work Prog | Completed |
| SPC Scheme | Completed |
| Corporate Plan 2020-2024 | Completed |
| Social Media Policy & Protocol | Completed |
| Communication Strategy Implementation | Completed |
| Service Delivery Plan 2023 | Ongoing/In Progress |
| Annual Report 2022 | At Draft Stage |
| Associated Companies Governance Policy & Guidance document | At Draft Stage |

Directorate Priorities

Audit Committee

A meeting of the Audit Committee took place on 31st January 2023. The following items were discussed:

1.Audit Committee Reports:

Audit Committee Charter Review
Audit Committee Annual Report 2022
Audit Committee Self Evaluation on Effectiveness
S60 Report on AFS
Audit Committee Work Programme 2023

3.Internal Audit Report:

Inventory of Cash Handling Activities

4.Reports for Noting:

Tipperary County Council Management Reports December 2022 & January 2023

Local Government Audit Service VFM Reports: An Overview Report of the Rates Waiver Scheme in Local Authorities; An Overview of the Provision of Social Housing by Approved Housing Bodies.

2.Internal Audit Reports:

Internal Audit Charter Review
Internal Audit Annual Report 2022
Internal Audit Plan 2023 & Internal Audit Update

Annual Report 2022

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

Work has commenced on the collation and drafting of the Annual Report for 2022 and a draft of the report will be submitted to the Council at its April meeting.

Service Delivery Plan 2023:

The service delivery plan for 2023 is currently being drafted and will be submitted for the consideration of the Council at the April meeting. This plan will be consistent with the budgetary provisions estimated to be necessary for the Council to carry out its functions during 2022. The adoption of the plan is a reserved function of the Council

Electoral Register Reform

Electoral Reform Act - Legislation was signed in to law 25th July 2022. This act provides the legislation for a range of significant electoral reforms e.g.

- Establish Independent electoral commission –established with effect from **9th February 2023**.



- Modernisation of Electoral registration process- Rolling Register commenced **13th October 2022**
- Regulation of on-line political advertising
- Amendments to electoral law to provide voting on islands take place as the rest of the country and amendments to facilitate voting when COVID type restrictions apply

| | |
|---|-------|
| Total Applications | 1,481 |
| Total Applications processed to date | 1,187 |
| Total Applications outstanding for processing | 294 |

Rolling Register

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Cahir LEA | 11,598 |
| Carrick on Suir LEA | 15,975 |
| Cashel-Tipp LEA | 22,193 |
| Clonmel LEA | 18,344 |
| Nenagh LEA | 17,337 |
| Newport LEA | 13,128 |
| Roscrea-Templemore LEA | 14,094 |
| Thurles LEA | 15,809 |
| Total: | 128,478 |

Insurance Management

Public Liability/Pothole Claims

Period 01/01/2023 to 24/02/2022

Pothole - 56

Public Liability - 4

Total Claims – 60

Coroner Service

Statistics for period 1st Jan to 28th Feb, 2023

No. of deaths reported: 105

No. of Post mortems/Inquests: 11

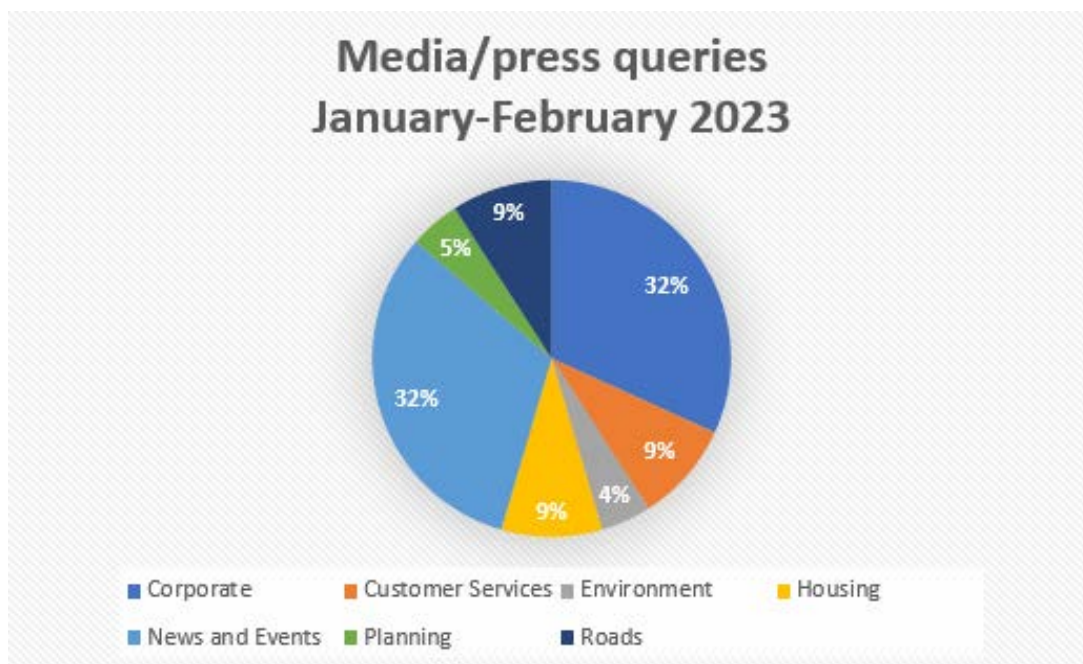
No. of Undertaker Removals: 15

Communications and Customer Service

The Communications team communicates and promotes Council activities and services and raises public awareness of matters of local and national interest

Press releases issued during **January - February** include: -

- 06/01/2023 Damage to ring buoys River Ara Tipperary
- 24/01/2023 Press Release- N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction update
- 17/02/2023 Official opening of Glenconnor Close, Clonmel
- 20/02/2023 Official opening of housing schemes around Tipperary
- 20/02/2023 Official opening of Kickham Barracks Clonmel



Digital and Social Media

The communications team monitors and updates social medial channels with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the work of the Council.



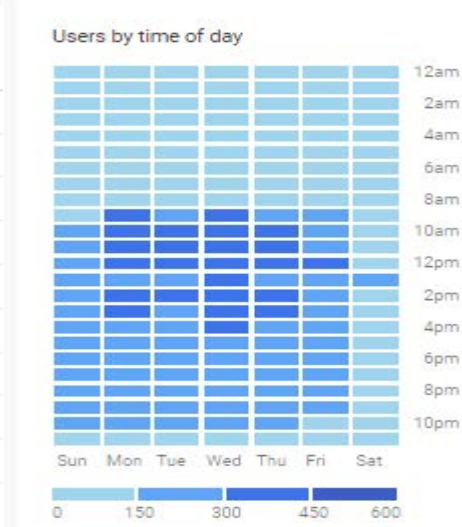
Website users

1/1/2023 - 28/2/2023

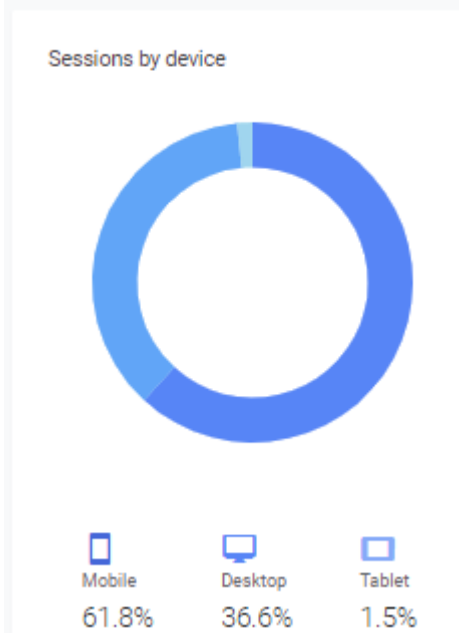
What pages do your users visit?

| Page |
|---|
| / |
| /record-based-planning-enquiry-system-eplan |
| /planning/category-search-planning-records |
| /planning |
| /clonmel-pool |
| /your-council/all-current-vacancies |
| /pay-for-it |
| /tipperary-swimming-pool-e34e304 |
| /nenagh-leisure-centre |
| /housing |

When do your users visit?



What are your top devices?



FACEBOOK



Top Reach

- Firefighter vacancies
- Supervisor – Community Employment Scheme
- Veterinry Inspector
- IT Analyst Cyber Security
- Minister Darragh O'Brien's visit to County





TWITTER



January

Jan 2023 • 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 1,741 impressions

Our new look website to help you find the service you are looking for, that is provided by #TipperaryCountyCouncil
pic.twitter.com/n0X5vX0iHc



13 10

[View Tweet activity](#) [View all Tweet activity](#)

Top Follower followed by 11.5K people



Emma D'Arzy
@E-mmaDMarketing
"Mom" • Owner Marketing Agency Emma D Marketing • Entrepreneur • Founder Marketing Success Summit • "Consultant" • Speaker • Writer • Educator in marketing
[View profile](#)

Top mention earned 144 engagements

Noel Buckley
@noelbuckley Jan 31

A road three miles outside Clonmel littered with material blown from car windows. How do we stop this? How do we change this behaviour? @TippFM @TipperaryCoCo @TipperaryLive @tippmidwest @PatKennyNT @NewstalkFM
pic.twitter.com/P37P9TPZcc



12 5 40

[View Tweet](#)

Top media Tweet earned 344 impressions

Design Update No. 1 for the N24 Cahirt to Limerick Junction Project is available on the project website n24cahirtoimerick.ie. For further information visit n24cahirtoimerick.ie or contact the project team by email at cahirtimerick@midwestroads.ie or by calling 061 951000. pic.twitter.com/VxdEFwojK9



JAN 2023 SUMMARY

Tweet impressions
13K

New followers
25

February

Feb 2023 • 20 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 2,933 impressions

A busy day for Minister Darragh O'Brien around the county of #Tipperary, opening of Kickham Barracks, visiting the Regional Sports Hub followed by opening of housing developments at Glenconnor Clonmel. Next stop Ned Hayes Park Two Mile Borris and Long Orchard Park Templetochy.
pic.twitter.com/lpe6ZjymkI



4 1 5 20

[View Tweet activity](#) [View all Tweet activity](#)

Top Follower followed by 127K people



We Don't Have Time
@WeDontHaveTime 2023/02/03
Welcome to the social media for climate solutions! 🌱
Join us and we'll plant a tree! 🌳 #WeCanDoIt

[View profile](#)

Top mention earned 325 engagements

Oiviva O'Sullivan
@oiviva09 Feb 23

I struggle to understand how a public representative of @TipperaryCoCo thought it ok to bring Moyross into his issue without a thought for the community this affects. It undermines all the good work going on in Moyross. This councillor should apologise and withdraw the comment.
twitter.com/tipperarylive/...

4 2 5 1 40

[View Tweet](#)

Top media Tweet earned 603 impressions

Lovely to confer a civic welcome from Cathaoirleach Roger Kennedy to Polish Ambassador HE Anna Sochanska @sochanska in #Nenagh today @PLinireland @StMarysNenagh #Bohateronaward
pic.twitter.com/SsBLR78422



5 3 10

[View Tweet activity](#) [View all Tweet activity](#)

Achievements January – February 2023

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Packing boxes for the Hygiene Security Fund and Period Poverty Scheme</p>  | <p>1000 titles accepted from Franciscan Friary's library</p>  | <p>Age Friendly event in Thurles</p>  |
| <p>LEO</p>  | <p>Launch of new website</p>  | <p>Fire Service visit Silvermines NS</p>  |
| <p>Sports Partnership</p>  | <p>Tipperary Tourism Keep Discovering Tipp series</p>  | <p>Minister's visit to open Kickham Barracks and various housing schemes</p>  |
| <p>Healthy Tipperary</p> | <p>Homeshare scheme</p> | <p>Local Enterprise week</p> |



| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <p>Current Homeshare Opportunities Available Nationwide</p> <p>€195 p/m in all locations</p> <p>Offer 10 hours of company and a helping hand around the home each week to the Householder</p> <p>Visit www.thehomeshare.ie for more information or phone 01 5252311 084 412 4367</p> | <p>BEACHTAIN NA FOCITHAISICHTA AITMHA (2023)</p> <p>Óifig Fiontar Árao Local Enterprise Office Tipperary - Trillick Farm</p> <p>AG CUR DLÚS LE CÚRSAÍ GNO</p> <p>SPONSOR SOLAR AN PAIL JAG www.localenterprise.ie/Tipperary</p> <p>For more info: 0818 08 8000</p> |
|--|--|---|



| Communications focus | | Summary of some items PLANNED for promotion - April- May 2023 |
|----------------------|---|---|
| April | Student Enterprise Awards Programme - LEO | |
| April | National Spring Clean | Celebrate volunteers and Tidy Towns groups and showcase progress on areas classed litter free in the area as well as staff involved in keeping areas clean and pretty |
| April | World Autism Day | Highlight caterings in LAs and LA owned facilities (sensory pods etc) |
| April | World Health Day | Promote healthy communities programme and sports and leisure facilities |
| April | National Workplace Wellbeing Day | Promote staff wellbeing and any health/mindful seminars/workshops in local authorities |
| April | Tipperary Supporting Tourism & Growing Resilience | developing tourism in the county |
| April | Spring into storytime | |
| May | Bealtaine Festival | Highlight local events and positive ageing initiatives |
| May | Student Enterprise Awards Programme finals | Showcase finalists in your area, in collaboration with LEO messaging |
| May | Darkness into Light | Highlight event and promote any LA involvement if any staff members are taking part |
| May | National Bike Week | Showcase cycling infrastructure and greenways in the area and any planned initiatives |
| May | National Volunteers Week | Celebrate events being run during the week and opportunity to highlight how local authorities engage with voluntary organisations through PPNs and other means. Profile of staff who do significant voluntary work. |
| May | Active School Week | Showcase sports facilities and amenities/opportunities for ongoing activity by youth |
| May | Gorse Fire awareness | |

Customer Service Activity

January to February

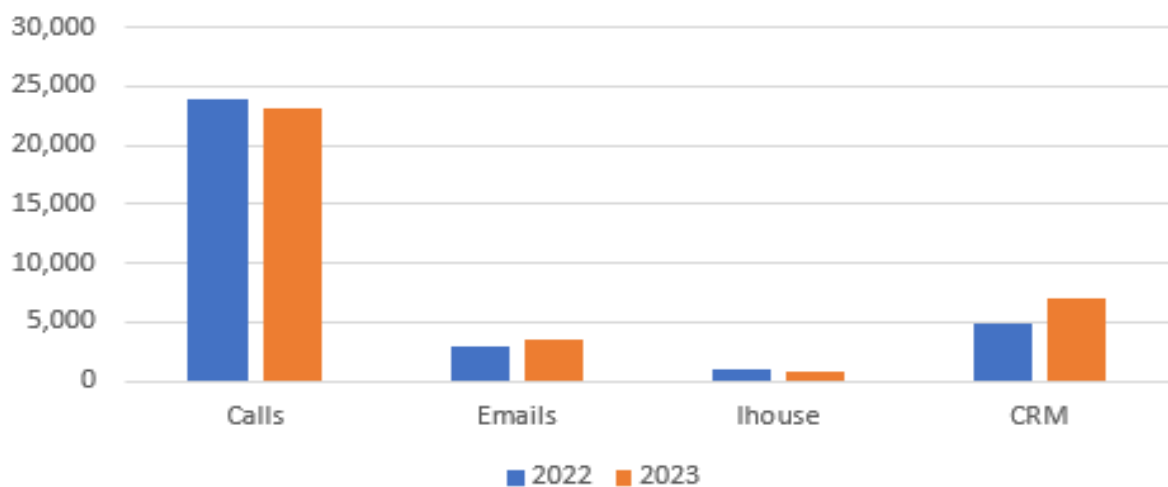
CSD staff also utilise the following systems for logging and looking up customer queries: -

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

Customer Service activity – CSD staff

| | Calls | Emails | Ihouse | CRM |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| 2022 | 23,968 | 2,949 | 929 | 4962 |
| 2023 | 23,053 | 3,497 | 731 | 6942 |

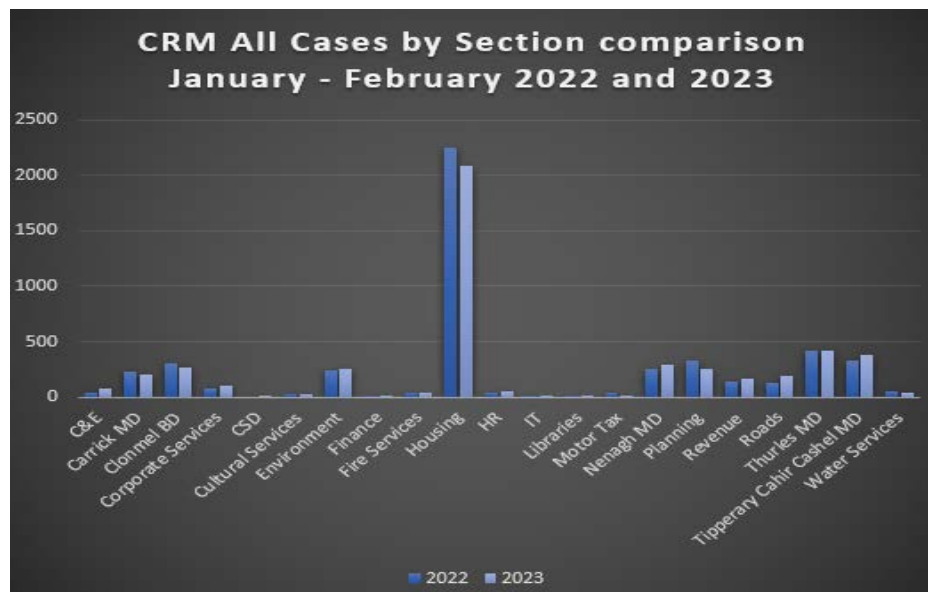
Customer Service Activity comparison January - February 2022 and 2023



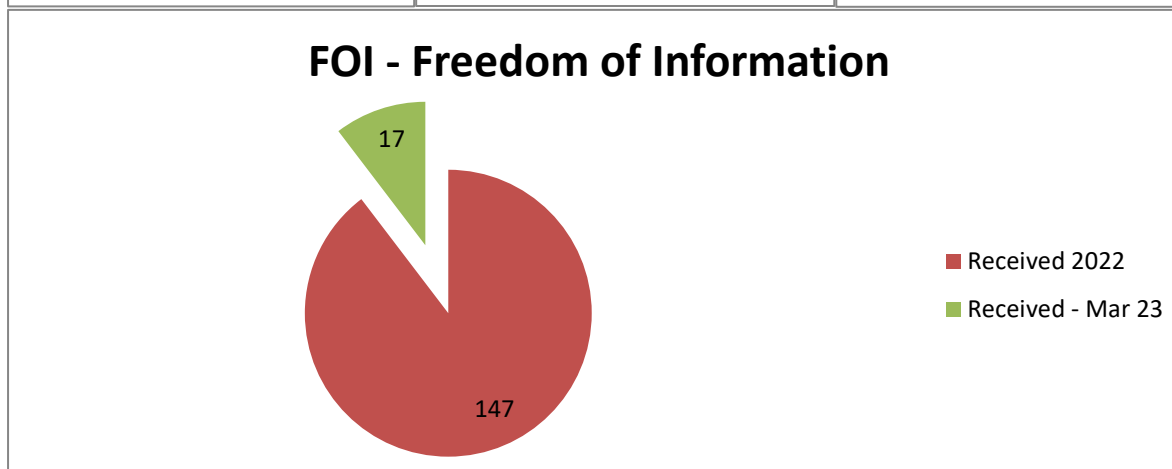
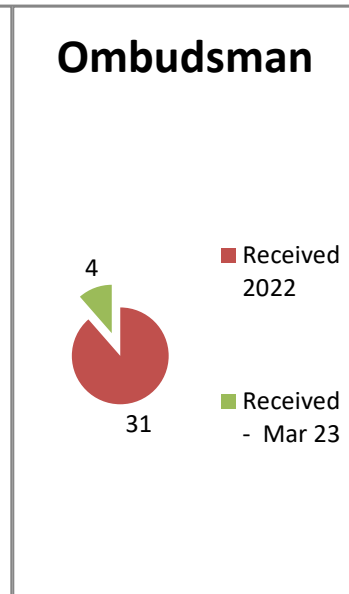
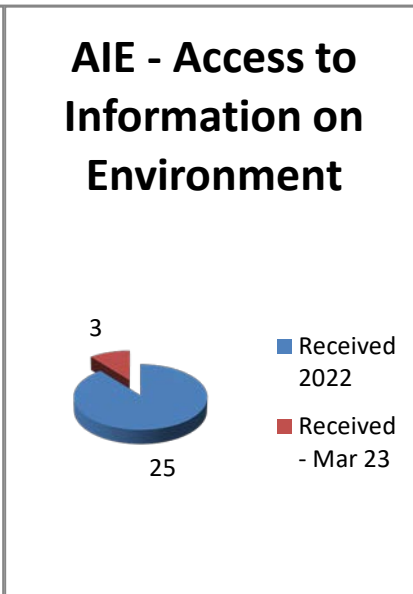
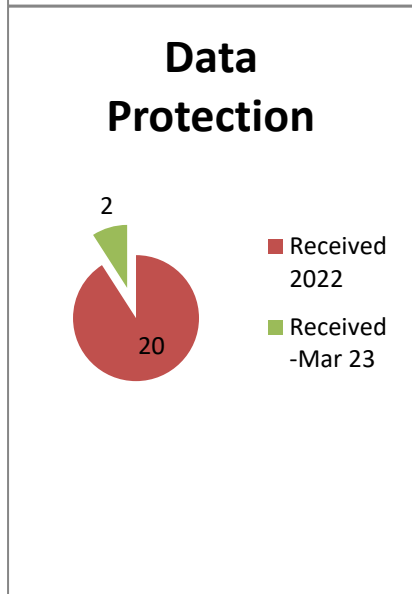
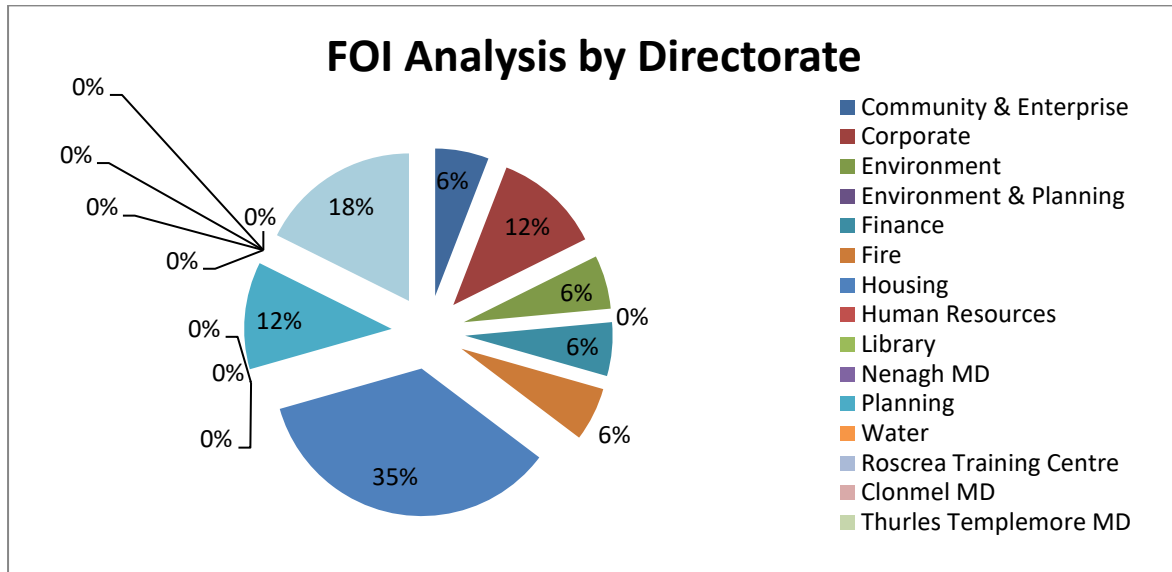
CRM – Customer Relations Management System

January to February – All cases

| Section | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| C&E | 44 | 81 |
| Carrick MD | 229 | 207 |
| Clonmel BD | 307 | 265 |
| Corporate Services | 75 | 107 |
| CSD | 0 | 7 |
| Cultural Services | 25 | 26 |
| Environment | 238 | 258 |
| Finance | 16 | 14 |
| Fire Services | 42 | 34 |
| Housing | 2256 | 2091 |
| HR | 37 | 47 |
| IT | 6 | 12 |
| Libraries | 2 | 6 |
| Motor Tax | 34 | 17 |
| Nenagh MD | 251 | 288 |
| Planning | 335 | 256 |
| Revenue | 141 | 162 |
| Roads | 125 | 194 |
| Thurles MD | 413 | 418 |
| Tipperary Cahir Cashel MD | 329 | 386 |
| Water Services | 57 | 43 |
| TOTAL | 4962 | 6942 |



Information Management



Property Management

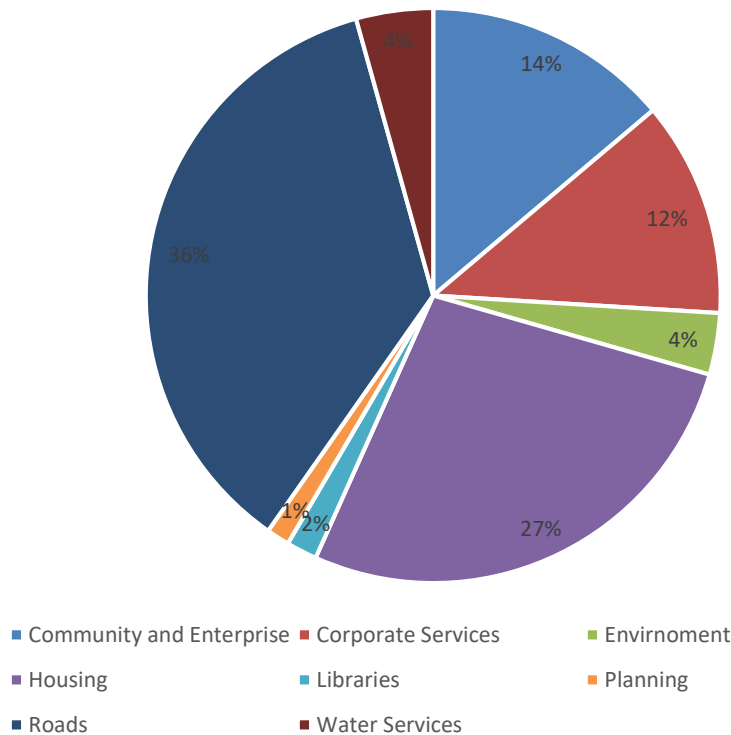
Property Unit, Corporate Services are responsible for managing Tipperary County Council Property Portfolio in consisting of 238 buildings and 603 land banks throughout the entire county.

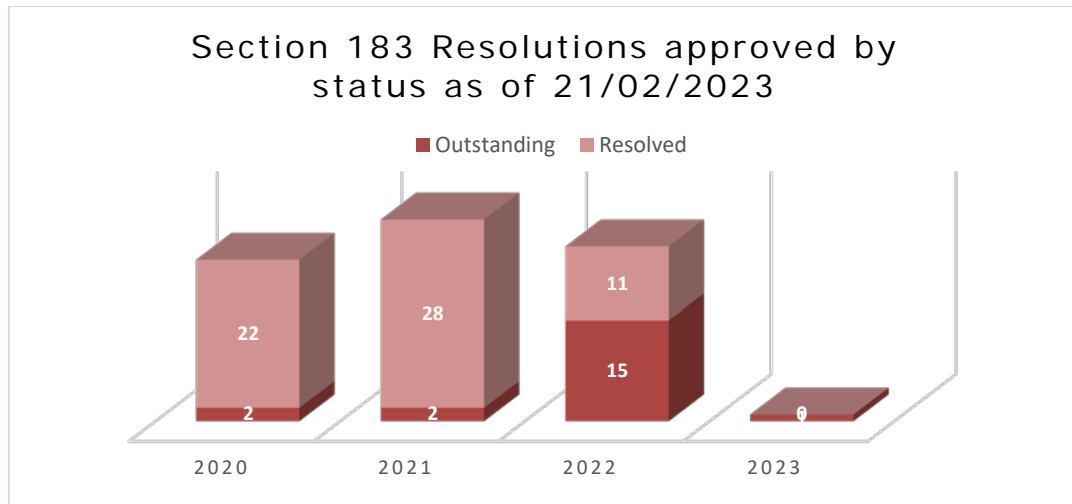
Transactions:

Property related Enquiries submitted to the Property Unit by year. There are currently 221 outstanding Transactions as of 21/02/2023, i.e. request to acquire land or disposal of land by way of transfer or long-term lease (i.e. for a term longer than one year) and granting of right of ways/wayleaves.

| Year | Transactions opened | Transactions Resolved |
|------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021 | 164 | 221 |
| 2022 | 186 | 183 |
| 2023 | 28 | 21 |

Outstanding Transaction by Sections





Schedule of Property Transactions o/s

- Redmond Square, Tipperary Town
- The Mall Templemore
- Burgagery Lands East, Clonmel
- Old Motor Tax Offices, Nenagh
- Melview, Clonmel
- Templemore Demesne, Templemore
- Glencarrick, Roscrea
- Birdhill, Nenagh
- Upper Green Street, Fethard
- Yewston, Nenagh
- Heywood Terrace, Clonmel
- Hughes Lot East, Cashel
- Lisbunny, Nenagh
- Main Street, Templemore
- Two Mile Borris
- Barrack Street, Fethard
- Carrick Street, Mullinahone
- Lisbryan, Ballingarry
- Liberty Square, Thurles
- Courthouse, Roscrea

Letting Agreements:

Property Unit is responsible for the management of 101 lease agreements, i.e. issuing of invoices and responding to condition compliance enquiries and reviewing expiry dates and ensuring that the leases are correctly surrendered.

In addition, Property Units has issued 64 annual licence agreements in 2023, i.e. Community, Grazing and Silage Cutting.

Environment & Climate Action Directorate

Policy

A meeting of the Environment & Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee takes place on Wednesday 8th March at Cabragh Wetlands Visitor and Interpretive Centre, Thurles.

The following are some of the items listed on the agenda:

- Policy Work Programme for 2023
- Climate Action Update
- Public Awareness & Education Initiatives for 2023.

Public Awareness Initiatives

Public Awareness Campaigns

Green Schools

The awareness team is carrying out Green School Flag assessments in 19 schools, who are renewing their Green Flags this year. Schools have been putting in an enormous effort on working towards their flags and finalising their applications, to meet the deadline of 24th March.



Clogheen NS Green School Committee

Wildflower Seeds & Trees Initiative 2023

Application forms have issued to Tidy Towns, Resident Associations and Schools for the Wildflower Seeds and Trees Initiative 2023. The closing date for receipt of applications is 16th March. The Tree Council of Ireland will be supplying Native Irish Tree saplings for distribution to support National Tree week, which runs from 19th to 26th March.

The awareness team will be attending the following Marts to distribute Wildflower Seeds and Bulbs over the coming weeks;

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <i>Tipperary Town</i> | 3 rd March | <i>Thurles</i> | 13 th March |
| <i>Nenagh</i> | 7 th March | <i>Cahir</i> | 22 nd March |

Spring Clean 2023



Registrations for An Taisce Spring Clean 2023 have opened with 186 groups registered so far to take part in spring cleans throughout the County. The Environment and Climate Action Section will be facilitating groups by arranging collection of waste and providing additional supplies of litter pickers, gloves and bags to registered groups.

National Stop Food Waste Day - 1st March

National Stop Food Waste Day was launched on the 1st March and runs to 8th March. The challenge this year is to get everyone to record food waste for one week, to identify what types of food that are wasted most, in order to reduce food waste and yield savings on food bills. A handy stop food waste recording sheet, providing helpful hints and tips is available on www.stopfoodwaste.ie.



Anti Dog Fouling Campaign

The section will be rolling out an anti-dog fouling and responsible dog ownership social media campaign. New information leaflets have been printed, together with High Viz jackets promoting responsible dog ownership with arrangements to have our awareness trailer on location in dog fouling hotspots to raise awareness.

Anti-Litter Roadside Campaign



The Section will be running an Anti-Litter roadside campaign, targeting drivers and pedestrians to tackle roadside litter, particularly on the approach roads to towns and villages. We will be running a targeted social media campaign and revising and updating signage in litter hotspots.

Community Services

Burial Ground Maintenance Grants 2023

Advertisements were published in the Nenagh Guardian, the Nationalist and the Tipperary Star inviting applications from Burial Ground Committees in Tipperary for the 2023 Maintenance Grants Scheme. The Section also posted burial ground maintenance grant forms to 275 applicants who received grants in 2022. The closing date for completed applications is 10th March and grants will be awarded based on the number of applications received and funding available.

Tidy Towns Grants 2023

Tidy Towns/ Community Groups are being invited to apply for funding under the Tidy Towns Grant Scheme for projects or works which will enhance the appearance of their local areas, villages and towns. Along with advertising the scheme, the Section posted 131 grant forms to Groups who previously received grants. Completed applications should be sent to the Municipal Districts by the closing date for application of 10th March.

Veterinary Services

Horses

8 horse queries were reported, which resulted in 17 horse pickups to date.

Dogs

A total of 46 dogs were surrendered or seized by the dog wardens to date. Of this number, 4 dogs were re-homed, 27 dogs sent to Rescues and 4 dogs were reclaimed, 7 were put to sleep. The number of dog licenses purchased to date is 1,448. The section continues to work with the animal welfare organisations in the re-homing of dogs.

Abattoirs

| Bovine | Ovine | Caprine | Porcine | Rabbit | Deer | Turkey | Chicken | Abattoir Visits |
|--------|-------|---------|---------|--------|------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| 172 | 568 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 471 | 2149 | 0 | 116 |

Infrastructure



Civic Amenity Sites

Customers visits to the CAS

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Waller's-Lot | 4,194 |
| Carrigeen Clonmel | 3,378 |
| Nenagh | 4,330 |
| Roscrea | 4,081 |
| Donohill | 2,300 |

A total of 18,283 customers used the services in 2023 (to date of report preparation). The preferred tenderer for the servicing of the Civic Amenity Sites will be commencing their contract in March 2023. At the Sites, a small number of the services provided to the public have seen a modest price increases in February 2023. Newsprint is now being charged for under the €3, €5 or €7 car recycling charge platform. The price for a roll of 5 recycling bags has been increased from €1.50 to €2.00 and the disposal cost of a bag of household recyclables is gone up 50cent from €1.00 to €1.50. The charge for certified vehicle weighing on the weighbridge for registration/motor tax purpose is now €20.

Derelict Sites

The derelict site register lists 41 properties. 1 property was added to the register during 2023, with a further 3 properties removed. The section engaged with 92 owners in relation to remediating their properties.

Derelict Site levies totalling €26,000 approx was issued during the period.

14 Section 8(2) notices were issued during the period.

| Municipal/Borough District | Number of properties engaged with during 2023 <i>(pre-Section Notice being issued)</i> |
|----------------------------|---|
| Tipp /Cahir/Cashel | 46 |
| Nenagh | 15 |
| Clonmel | 13 |
| Carrick-on-Suir | 3 |
| Thurles | 15 |
| Totals | 92 |

Burial Ground Development/Upgrade Works



| Burial Ground | Progress update |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Ballina (Boher) | Land Acquisition completed December 2022. Boundary Works to commence onsite in Q1 on completion of Boher School Astro Pitch development. |
| Fethard | Land Acquisition negotiations completed. Part 8 application will be lodged in Q1 2023. |
| Cahir | Cahir Parish & Tipperary County Council have agreed upon a preliminary land acquisition purchase cost. Part 8 drawings have commenced. Part 8 Application lodged in Q3, 2023 |
| Cloughprior | The National Monuments Section was consulted on the development of the burial ground extension as part of Part 8 process. A geo-physical survey, as requested by National Monuments, deemed the site and adjacent site unsuitable. A constraints study was completed to assist in identifying alternative suitable sites within the parish. The Environment & Climate Action Section is actively exploring alternative suitable sites within the parish. |
| Carrick on Suir | Land acquisition negotiations are agreed with landowners. The Council will commence with land acquisition in Q1 2023. |
| Shanrahan | Ministerial consent granted to commence with boundary works to adjoining landowner's property. Works completed. |
| Kilmore | The boundary modification works have commenced. Works to be completed Q2 2023 |
| Tipperary Town | The Section has provided funding to Tipperary MD towards civil works to upgrade the entrance and provide for additional parking. |
| Thurles (St Patricks) | Surfacing of the access road and widening the existing road and corners in the lower section of the burial ground were completed. |
| Holycross | New access road and plinths completed. Additional works to be completed in Q2/3 2023. |
| Kilnarath BG Newport | €80,000 of emergency structural works completed, funded by CMF (Community Monument Fund) Grant. |
| General | Headstone Plinths constructed in Borrisokane, Ardcroney, Holycross, Clooneen, Holycross and Carrick on Suir. |

Waste Management and Enforcement

| Notice | Update | Details |
|---|---|--|
| Section 14 Directions issued (to remediate a site) | To date, 6 have been issued consisting of: -2 Resolved -4 In progress | 2- Dumping of waste - resolved. 1- Waste Recovery – in progress 1 – ELV (scrap metal) site and waste metal - in progress. 1 – deposits of mixed household waste – in progress 1 – deposits of C&D materials – in progress. |

Litter Fines

| | Clonmel | Thurles | Nenagh | Carrick-on-Suir | Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel | Total Fines |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Total Issued | 6 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 20 |
| Total Paid | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Total Cancelled | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Outstanding | 4 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 15 |

Legal Proceedings:

5 Court Cases took place in January 2023

- All 5 resulted in successful convictions under the Litter Pollution Act, for non-payment of Litter Fines.

Glass, Cans & Textile Recycling

582.54 tonnes of glass and 17.06 tonnes of cans were collected up to the end of February 2023, These figures represent a 3% decrease in glass and an 11% decrease in cans collected for the same time period in 2022. 66.7 tonnes of textiles was collected up to the end of February. For the same period in 2022, there was 74 tonnes collected, which represents a reduction of 7%.

Household Waste Inspections

103 Household Waste Inspections were undertaken to date in 2023.



Climate & Energy

Community Climate Action Fund

€700,000 has been allocated to Tipperary County Council for the first tranche of funding, which will run over an 18 month period. This funding is being provided to fund community climate action projects and initiatives for capacity building within local communities.

Projects will address the following five themes:

1. Home/energy
2. Travel
3. Food and waste
4. Shopping and recycling
5. Local climate and environmental action.

The rollout of the Community Climate Action fund will commence in early 2023 and communities will be invited to submit project applications for this funding. Marie O'Donnell has been appointed as the Community Climate Action Officer and will administer this fund.

Climate Action Plan

Tipperary County Council's Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), which will help understand current and future risks posed by climate change and its impacts, is advancing and near completion.

In parallel a Baseline Emissions Inventory (BEI) of energy statistics for Tipperary is being finalised, which will provide a quantitative understanding of the county's carbon emissions performance.

The formal request to make a Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAP) was issued to Local Authorities by Minister Eamon Ryan on the 24th February 2023. The process will now move from Advanced Planning phase to Statutory Plan-Making Phase. Local Authorities must now have their LA CAP formally made by a deadline of 23rd February 2024.

New Climate Action Co-ordinator and Climate Action Officer positions will be in place shortly to work on development of the Climate Action Plan.

Landfills & Waste Removal from Rathcabbin



Ballaghveny Landfill - Wedge Cell being filled with waste, 22nd February 2023

Ballaghveny landfill

The monitoring of the landfill in compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing. The Wedge cell is currently being filled with contaminated soil & stone and wood ash which is being mixed with stabilized waste from the former Shannon Vermi-composting facility in Rathcabbin. In 2023, the landfill has accepted in total 7,646t of waste up to 28th February 2023, this is 15.6% of our licensed intake limit of 49,000t/a.

The amount of leachate produced this year at Ballaghveny landfill to the end of February has increased (+27%) on the same period in the previous year (2022).

The value of the Community Gain Fund arising from the waste accepted during 2022 is expected to amount to €62,000 and will be made available for distribution in 2023.

Donohill landfill

The monitoring of the landfill in compliance with its waste licence conditions is ongoing. The leachate volumes produced at Donohill landfill are ca. 4% higher than the same period last year, i.e. during the first 2 months of 2022.

Rathcabbin Waste Removal

The removal of waste from the former Shannon Vermi-Composting (SVC) facility in Rathcabbin commenced on 02nd December 2021. From the beginning of January and up to 28th February 2023, Ballaghveny landfill accepted 3,017.72t of waste from SVC Rathcabbin.

The total amount of waste removed, up to 28th February 2023, from SVC Rathcabbin is 20,488.13t. The SVC waste removal is estimated to be 58% complete, based upon a total of 35,000t of waste on site.



Monthly distribution of waste removed from SVC Rathcabbin from 2021 to 2023

The mixing of the SVC Rathcabbin waste within the landfill cell was difficult during prolonged periods of wet weather. This was most noticeable again during January of 2023, where the waste deposited within the cell became too soft for machinery to track over the waste.



SVC Rathcabbin –waste to be removed during 2023



| Historic Landfills | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Tipperary – Cashel – Cahir | Tipperary Town - Landfill remediation documentation is completed in preparation for an application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent. |
| Tipperary – Cashel – Cahir | Applications for a Certificates of Authorisation (CoA) have been submitted to the EPA for the Dundrum and Knocklofty historic landfills. Environmental monitoring of the historic landfills is ongoing. Contracts were completed on 22 nd November 2022 appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessments of closed landfills at: Killeigh, Cahir; Caherabbey, Cahir, and Deansgrove, Cashel. |
| Thurles – Templemore | Applications for a Certificates of Authorisation (CoA) were submitted to the EPA for the Brittas road and Monanearla historic landfills. Environmental monitoring of these historic landfills is ongoing. Contracts were completed on 22 nd November 2022 appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessment of the closed landfill at: Kiltillane, Templemore. |
| Carrick-On-Suir | Connawarries, Carrickbeg – A consultant was appointed to carry out the landfill remediation design and ecological surveys are complete in preparation of NIS for submission to the EPA and ABP. |
| Nenagh | Contracts were completed on 22 nd November 2022 appointing consultants to conduct environmental risk assessments of closed landfill at: Shesherahscanlon, Borrisokane. |

Environment Protection



Water Pollution /Agriculture

- 130 samples were taken as part of the WFD sampling programme.
- 5 Section 4 monitoring samples have been taken.
- 6 Farm inspections performed.
- 14 Nutrient Management Plans have been submitted for assessment
- 70 Drinking Water samples taken as part of the Rural Water Programme, 3 of which were investigative follow up samples.
- 7 on site Drinking Water Audits performed (Small Private Supplies).

Planning Referrals

7 Planning applications have been assessed and reported to the Planning Section to ensure potential environment impacts of proposed developments are identified and mitigated at planning stage.

AIR

Air Inspections

Solid Fuel Inspections

8 onsite inspections under the new Solid Fuel Regulations have been completed this year to date.

Air Monitors

- The current status of Air quality in all towns monitored is rated as good and is compliant with the CAFE directive.
- Live Information on Air Quality in Clonmel & Tipperary Town can be retrieved at airquality.ie

Rural Water Programme

Annual Maintenance Subsidy

- 72 Schemes received an invitation to apply for AMS 03/01/2023, closing date 30/06/2023.
- 2 applications have been received.
- No payments to date.

Current Capital Projects:



There are 7 Group Water Schemes (GWSs) currently engaged in Capital projects assisted by The Rural Water team. Invested at 27/02/2023 is €41,572.90, (2 GWSs).

Private Well Grants:

15 New applications were received at 27/02/2023; Grants awarded 8, Refusals 1, (Public Water Supply in proximity), and none withdrawn to date. A total of €52,715.21, has been invested and recouped at 27/02/2023, Applicants paid 15.

Septic Tank Grants:

One new application received and paid at 27/02/2023, value €5,000.00.

Lead Piping Grants (LPG): no new applications or payments were processed.

Education & Awareness

Agriculture

- TCC presented to 80 farmers at a Teagasc Walsh Fellowship farm walk event in January entitled “Future Proofing Farmyards”. The event was organised by Róisín McManus and was intended as a knowledge transfer event as part of her Masters entitled “Tackling water quality issues through targeted manure storage advice”. The event was a great success and received considerable press coverage (see blow links to coverage).
 - ['Future proofing farmyards' event to take place this week - Agriland.ie](#)
 - [Environment - Meet Róisín McManus - a Teagasc Walsh Scholar tackling water quality issues through targeted manure storage advice - Teagasc | Agriculture and Food Development Authority](#)
 - [Teagasc scholar tackling water quality through improving farmer knowledge 25 January 2023 Free \(farmersjournal.ie\)](#)
- TCC presented at an on-line training event for Derogation Farmers in January. This presentation covered topics including current water quality trends, common problems found during farm inspections, source protection, pesticides in drinking water supplies & septic tank de-sludging. This event was organised by ACA advisors and 65 farmers attended.
- TCC met with Tipperary Teagasc advisors to improve awareness among the agricultural community of water quality issues
- 1 Teagasc conference attended by 2 staff members.



Environmental Complaints

| Complaint Category | Carrick-On-Suir | | Clonmel | | Nenagh | | Thurles | | Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed |
| Air | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Animal | 2 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 24 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 25 |
| Infrastructure | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Litter | 1 | 11 | 7 | 20 | 12 | 28 | 9 | 39 | 2 | 26 |
| Noise | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Waste | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 21 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 14 |
| Water | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Total | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed | Open | Closed |
| | 8 | 29 | 20 | 39 | 31 | 81 | 18 | 65 | 15 | 65 |
| Total | 37 | | 59 | | 112 | | 83 | | 80 | |

Housing
Directorate



All figures relate to the period 01 January 2023 – 31 January 2023

The initial meeting of the SPC took place on 08 February 2023 and the following issues were discussed:

- Housing priorities for 2023
- Housing Circulars for 2022 were outlined
- Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Domestic Violence support services in Tipperary
- Choice Based Letting

Housing Delivery

The current status of the projects is as follows:

2022 – 2026 Construction Programme

| <i>Address</i> | <i>No of Units</i> | <i>Current Status</i> | <i>Next Stage</i> |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| Puckaun | 21 | Stage 1 Approved | Stage 2 Design |
| Coolnamuck Road, Carrick on Suir | 30 | Decision required on third river crossing - | Stage 1 submission |
| William Street, Nenagh | 7 | Integrated Design Team appointed | Part 8 Planning |



| | | | |
|--|----|----------------------------|---|
| Clogheen | 12 | Stage 1 Approved | Stage 2 Design |
| Gantley Road, Roscea | 16 | RIAI Design Competition | Appointment of Design team |
| Rialto Site, Nenagh | 10 | Design Team Appointed | Stage 2 Submission |
| CuChulainn Road, Thurles | 6 | Stage 1 Approved | Stage 2 Submission |
| Mountain Road, Cahir | 43 | Part 8 being finalised | Public consultation and Part 8 advertisement |
| Templemore AHB, Main Street, Templemore | 23 | Planning Application | Planning Decision |
| Ashbury, Roscrea | 10 | Appointment of Design Team | Part 8 |
| Fr Matthew Street, Tipperary Town | 4 | Stage 2 Submitted | Stage 2 Approved |
| Glencarrick, Roscrea | 46 | Stage 2 Approved | Part 8 preparation |
| Church Street, Templemore | 2 | Stage 3 Approved | Advertise on E-Tenders |
| Grove Street, Roscrea | 6 | Part 8 advertised | Part 8 Report to members for consideration |
| William Street, Clonmel | 4 | Stage 2 approved | Being reviewed due to complex site issues |
| Borrisoleigh | 12 | Stage 2 approved | Design Team Appointment Preparation of Part 8 in 2023 |
| Boherclough Street, Cashel | 9 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Woodview Close, Nenagh | 10 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |



| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----|------------------------|---|
| Moyne | 9 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Bansha | 12 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Ardfinnan | 14 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Portroe | 14 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Ballyclerihan | 14 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Donohill | 8 | Contractor on Site | Completion 2023 |
| Carrickbeg, Carrick on Suir | 22 | Turnkey | Contractor Commencement |
| Cullen | 8 | Turnkey | Awaiting Contracts |
| Ard Na Sidhe, Clonmel | 9 | Turnkey | Phased Delivery, 4 Substantially Complete |
| Tyone Road, Nenagh | 67 | Respond AHB | Contracts being agreed and finalised -2024 CALF |
| Coopers Lot, Cashel | 44 | Respond AHB | Contracts being agreed and finalised CALF |
| Farranahassery, Cahir | 48 | Respond AHB | Contracts being agreed and finalised -2024 CALF |
| Waller's Lot, Cashel | 40 | Tuath AHB | Contracts being agreed and finalised -2024 CALF |
| Springford Meadows, Nenagh | 19 | Turnkey | Contracts being finalised |
| Wheatfields, Clonmel | 34 | Turnkey | Contracts being finalised |
| Stradavoher, Thurles | 32 | Turnkey | Contracts being finalised |
| Glencree, Newport | 8 | Turnkey | Contracts being finalised |
| Thomas Street, Clonmel | 61 | Turnkey | Contracts being finalised |
| Abbey Street, Cahir | 10 | Substantial Completion | |



| | | | |
|--|----|-----------------------------|---|
| Two Mile Borris | 22 | Completed | |
| Ardcroney | 4 | Substantial Completion | |
| Prior Park Grove, Clonmel | 41 | Turnkey | Phased Delivery, 6 Complete |
| Mullinahone | 10 | Completed | |
| Ma Chaoin, Templemore | 13 | Turnkey, Contractor on Site | Phased Delivery, 3 Substantially Complete |
| Thurles Lions Trust, Stanwix Homes, Thurles | 19 | Substantially Complete | |
| Glenconnor Road, Clonmel | 31 | Substantially Complete | |
| Cormack Drive, Nenagh | 12 | Completed | |
| Mill Road, Thurles | 28 | Completed | |
| Glenconnor Road, Clonmel | 9 | Completed | |
| Kickham Street, Carrick On Suir | 13 | Completed | |
| Ard Na Greine, Clonmel | 2 | Completed | |
| Ballycraig Road, Nenagh | 5 | Completed | |
| Ardfinnan Part V | 3 | Completed | |
| Abbey Court, Nenagh | 16 | Completed | |
| Ivowen, Kilsheelan | 3 | Completed | |
| Twomile Borris, Part V | 2 | Completed | |



| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|
| Dun Uisce, Cahir | 8 | Completed |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|
| An Grianan, Killenaule | 4 | Completed |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------|

RAS Voluntary

| | |
|----------------|---|
| New properties | 4 |
|----------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Total tenancies | 287 |
|-----------------|-----|

RAS Private

| | |
|----------------|---|
| New properties | 1 |
|----------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Total tenancies | 677 |
|-----------------|-----|

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Rent Reviews carried out | 15 |
|--------------------------|----|

Long term lease

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Total tenancies | 301 |
|-----------------|-----|

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Rent Reviews carried out | 3 |
|--------------------------|---|

Mortgage to rent

| | |
|----------------|---|
| New properties | 9 |
|----------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Total tenancies | 66 |
|-----------------|----|

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Rent Reviews carried out | 14 |
|--------------------------|----|

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| HAP tenancies set up | 16 |
|----------------------|----|

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Total tenancies | 1696 |
|-----------------|------|

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Average weekly HAP set up | 4 |
|---------------------------|---|

Inspections

| | 1 st inspection | 2 nd inspection |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| RAS | 1 | 2 |
| Private rented | 18 | 0 |
| Long term lease | 2 | 0 |
| HAP | 30 | 20 |
| Mortgage to rent | 4 | 0 |
| Total | 55 | 22 |

Energy Efficiency

Midlands Retrofit Programme

Works have now been completed on all 60 units of the Midlands Retrofit Programme. All houses achieved a B2 BER (Building Energy Rating) or better. Post BER surveys are in process of being completed for 2 no houses and a final claim is to be submitted the Department for recoupment purposes to close out the scheme.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

59 Houses are now fully complete under the 2021 Scheme. Post works BER Surveys are complete and a final claim is being prepared to be submitted to the Department for recoupment purposes.

100 Housing units were approved under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2022 across the 5 districts. The survey works have now been completed with construction tenders to be issued Q1 2023, and it is envisaged works will be carried out in Q2 and Q3.

A list of properties to be submitted for 2023 had been requested from each Municipal District and will be submitted to the department for approval. Upon receiving department approval, surveys of the houses will be progressed.

Works typically involve insulation, upgrades of windows and doors and installation of heat pumps (renewable energy heating systems), as committed to under the Programme for Government. Main aim of the retrofits is to reach a BER of B2.

Housing Grants

The Council has received confirmation that we can proceed with allocating 65% of last year's funds for works to be carried out in 2023. This is in expectation that this year's allocation, yet to be confirmed, will at least match that received in 2022. This was €3,331,250 for private housing adaptation grants and €1,379,999 for local authority grants.

The scheme has now opened up to P1, P2 & P3 applications for 2023 for both private and local authority grants.

| | Budget | Allocated | No. of Paid Applications |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Housing Adaptation for People with A Disability (HGD) | €1,365,312 | €208,650 | 25 |
| Mobility Aids Grant (MAG) | €200,000 | €14,670 | 2 |
| Housing Aid for Older People (HOP) | €600,000 | €138,323 | 35 |
| TOTAL | €2,165,312 | €361,643 | 62 |
| Local Authority DPG Grants | €855,599 | €N/A | 0 |

Voids

The number completed is **5**.

- Tipp/Cashel/Cahir - 3
- Nenagh - 1
- Templemore/Thurles/Roscrea – 1
- Carrick - 0
- Clonmel - 0

Vacant Houses¹

| District | Approved Applicants | Vacant Houses | % Vacant Houses ² |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Carrick | 355 | 16 | 0.3% |
| Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel | 817 | 18 | 0.4% |
| Clonmel | 638 | 14 | 0.3% |
| Nenagh | 699 | 22 | 0.4% |
| Templemore/Thurles | 853 | 27 | 0.5% |
| Total | 3,362 | 97 | 1.8% |

Offers of Tenancy

| | Offers | Accepted | Pending | Refused | Nomination to AHBs |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|--------------------|
| Carrick | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clonmel | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nenagh | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Templemore Thurles | 10 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 12 |
| TOTALS | 31 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 12 |

¹ Includes available for letting and houses where works are being carried out

² Calculated as a percentage of overall housing stock



Rent figures and overview for 2022

The total number of Rent Accounts for year end 2022 is 6107.

This includes Local Authority houses, RAS & Long Term Lease houses

The amount of rent arrears as at 31st December 2022 is €2,711,392.

Credits in 2022 on rent accounts were €632,183. This creates an overall net balance of €2,079,209.

A review in late 2021 and into 2022 was carried out to ensure that all tenants were paying the correct rents in accordance with the income of the household. As a result, there has been some upward adjustment of a number of household rents as a result of this review due to non-declaration of a rise in household income. Whilst this has increased the amount of rent income to the council at the end of 2022 (which in turn is expended on housing services), it has also resulted in a higher level of rent arrears and affected out rent collection rate which has seen a drop from 95% to 90% at year end. However, the Rents section is working actively with those accounts who are in arrears and has arranged for payment plans to be put in place so it is expected that the rent collection rate will improve throughout 2023 & 2024.

Rents are calculated in accordance with a tenant's income and as per Tipperary County Council's Differential Rent Scheme. There is a requirement in the tenancy agreement which places an obligation on the tenant to inform the Council where a change has occurred in their income. The average rent in 2022 was €59.65.

Number of Housing Applications received

There were **116** housing applications received of which:

- 32 were found to be invalid
- 84 were found to be valid

Number of Housing Assessments carried out

| Month | Number of Assessments |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| January | 47 |
| Total | 47 |

Choice Based Lettings

- 7 offers of accommodation have been made to applicants who expressed an interest,
- 5 offers have been accepted.
- 0 awaiting decision (0 are with a Voluntary body)
- There have been 2 refusals

Homelessness

The focus of homeless services in 2023 continues to be the prevention of clients entering emergency accommodation and thus the homeless cycle.

Homeless Presentations

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Single | 23 |
| Couples | 1 |
| Couples with children | 4 |
| Singles with Children | 11 |
| Total | 39 |

Homeless Prevention

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

Prevention work was carried out by the HAP place finder on 4 of these presentations. They facilitated 3 singles in securing private rental HAP accommodation and thereby avoiding being placed in emergency accommodation.

There are still 30 singles and 6 families in emergency B&B accommodation. In January, the HAP Placefinder service assisted 1 single person in exiting emergency accommodation. In addition to the B&B emergency accommodation, our OFD emergency accommodation is also fully occupied with 3 families and 4 singles and these are being fully supported by our own Homeless staff and also PMVT.

We are focusing on the larger towns of Clonmel and Nenagh in 2023 in order to expand this service and have identified a number of additional properties. But we will also look at opportunities in other towns.

We were given some additional flexibility to purchase a number of properties in respect of Notice to Quit tenants This initiative has been extended by the department to June 2023 and we are actively pursuing this.

Buy and Renew

The Buy and Renew scheme is designed to support local authorities (and approved housing bodies) to purchase and renew vacant housing units in need of remediation and make them available for social housing. There is continued engagement with landlords to bring more properties back into use through the purchase of both disused and older vacant homes. Buy and Renew will also assist in the improvement of derelict and disused areas within our villages and towns. 6 houses have been purchased under this scheme in 2022. We have a target in 2023 to exceed this number with delivery anticipated across the 5 districts.

The level of financial support under the Repair and Lease Scheme, a companion strategy of the Buy and Renew scheme, has increased to €60,000. This was extended to allow developers to participate in the scheme in order to further enhance the delivery of long term social housing supports. The Department has set a target of 19 units to be delivered under this scheme in 2023 and we currently have a number of interested parties seeking to deliver across the County. These units tend to be apartments as opposed to dwellings and are located in the towns generally.

Local Authority Home Loans

The Local Authority Home Loan Scheme has replaced the Rebuilding Ireland Home Scheme from 4th January, 2022.

The Local Authority Home Loan is a Government backed mortgage for first time buyers or other eligible applicants through local authorities. The scheme is for the purchase of new or second-hand residential properties and for self-builds. From 01 March 2023 an applicant can apply to borrow 90% of the market value of the property to a maximum of €275,000 in Tipperary. This is an increase from the previous limit of €250,000. In addition, the income limit for an individual applicant has increased from €50,000 and €65,000 to €70,000. The limit for a couple has increased from €75,000 to €85,000.

The LAHL can also be used in conjunction with the making of an affordable purchase. For the purposes of this application the maximum borrowing amount is the purchase price of the home as determined by the local authority. For the purposes of determining eligibility for the LAHL under an affordable agreement the market price can exceed the limits mentioned above however the purchase price as determined by the local authority cannot.

Local Authority Home Loans³

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Number of Applications Received | 8 |
| Number of Valid Applications Received | 2 |
| Number of Loan Applications Approved | 2 |
| Number of Loans Issued | 2 |
| Total Value of Loans Issued | €279,300 |

Tenant Purchase Scheme

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Formal applications to purchase received | 6 |
| Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued) | 5 |
| Sales completed | 0 |
| Total proceeds of sales received | €0 |

³ Please note any application received which is deemed to be invalid i.e. missing information will be returned to the applicant for updating. Therefore, not all applications received will be moved on to "Valid"

Traveller Equality Accommodation Action Plan

A request has been made by the Irish Human Rights & Equality Commission to draw up an Equality Action Plan in relation to Traveller Accommodation. The areas identified by the IHREC broadly cover the key areas of a Traveller Accommodation plan but with a particular focus on the cultural accommodation needs of the families in question and ensuring there is appropriate access to the accommodation supports to maximise engagement and meet the stated needs of the family.

Notwithstanding the progress made to date in Tipperary County Council, the Council recognises that more needs to be done and can be done. There is also a greater need for more in-depth engagement with the Traveller community in the context of planning for future appropriate needs and ensuring there is clarity for families around constraints that the Council must operate under.

It is considered that an Equality Action Plan as proposed by the IHREC can set out the key high-level principles & the context around which the next TAP Plan will be prepared (to commence late 2023) and implemented. Input in relation to these principles and key areas for focus will be considered by both the LTACC and the SPC.

Rather than producing a plan as detailed in the IHREC correspondence, we considered that it would be more beneficial and productive to set out the high-level methodology and principles of operation and engagement under the EAP and that this would be the lens through which the next TAP would be prepared.

Ukrainian Refugees

The war in Ukraine broke out on the 24th February 2022 resulting in the displacement of millions of Ukrainians. In response to this displacement, the E.U by means of Directive undertook to provide temporary protection to those fleeing the crisis in the Ukraine. To date, some 72,00 Ukrainians have arrived in the country. Tipperary County Council through the Housing, Civil Defence and C&E sections in addition to support from key community groups have provided the following services in assisting with this humanitarian crisis:

Temporary rest facilities

Two rest centres, one in Littleton & one in Clonmel were established as temporary emergency accommodation. This service has met the emergency needs of 1077 Ukrainians to date before they were moved onto to more permanent type of accommodation. The two centres continue to operate providing this emergency service to those fleeing the conflict.

Pledged Properties:

One of the responses by the Government to meet the accommodation needs of the Ukrainians was through a pledging process for members of the public to pledge either vacant or shared accommodation to meet this need. Whilst the Red Cross were initially to undertake this task, this proved quite challenging for them and County Councils were then requested to support this

process which involved inspecting properties, engaging with owners and matching persons/families to the accommodation offered.

As part of the initial Red Cross pledging process, 377 properties were made available by property owners in Tipperary. 266 of the properties offered were shared properties and 111 were vacant properties. Following inspections, withdrawals, inability to contact landlords etc, some 95 properties were actually available and 66 (69.5%) of those properties were tenanted providing accommodation for 214 Ukrainians. The majority of the remaining properties not tenanted were located in areas that are not on a viable transport route and this matter is currently under consideration with a view to making such properties accessible.

A second Pledging Process, administered & wholly managed by the Local Authorities named “Offer a Home” commenced on the 24th November 2022. This call was in respect of vacant properties only. A national and local advertising campaign accompanied this call for properties and to the end of 2022, the Council has received the offer of 42 vacant properties which were assessed, inspected and all units available for occupation have been tenanted. Other offers are still coming through and are being assessed and tenanted as they come in. It is expected that a 3rd Pledge call will be made later in March.

Housing staff also actively engage with commercial operators in the county who are currently housing Ukrainians in terms of ensuring that the residents are afforded opportunities to integrate into the community in which they currently reside. To date there are 19 such commercial operators in the county.

The Council is also supporting the Department of Housing to identify appropriate properties which can be refurbished to accommodate additional BOTP on an interim basis.

Community Integration

The Council works closely with other agencies such as the H.S.E. Department of Social Protection, AGS, Education, Local Development Companies etc in assisting the families housed and Ukrainians generally to integrate with the local communities and to access the necessary health, educational and other supports. To this end, the C.E.O. convenes a Community Forum Group which meets monthly and includes all the relevant agencies, to track and ensure the provision of support and integration services for the Ukrainians.

Modular type Accommodation;

Thurles was identified as one of five initial sites across the country for the provision of modular type homes on public owned land. The OPW intends to provide 62 such homes on their own site at Gortataggart, Thurles. The Department of Housing and the OPW engaged with the local elected members and community in respect of the proposal. Work was commenced on the site in 2022 and it is hoped that tenants will be on site by June 2023. As part of the process, engagement also took place with service providers such as REALT, H.S.E., Community Support Groups etc to ensure an integrated approach to the provision of services to clients once they take up occupancy of the homes.

Affordable Housing

Croí Cónaithe fund

This scheme has been expanded to include houses in rural areas and the same general criteria as outlined below will apply. It is aimed at bringing unused buildings back into use.

- Building must be empty for at least 2 years.
- Up to €30,000 available as a grant. An additional €20,000 is available where an engineer certifies the building as derelict or dangerous.
- The applicant does not have to own the building when applying for the grant but the grant will not be paid until the sale of the building and works are complete.
- The applicant must live in the building as the primary residence for a period of not less than 10 years.

| Scheme | Croí Cónaithe | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------|----------------|
| | Scheme Total | 2022 | 2023 (to date) |
| Applications | 70 | 49 | 21 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rejected | 8 | 11 | 0 |
| Under Review (LA) | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| FI Requested | 27 | 11 | 16 |
| On Hold (Applicant) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Approved in Principal | 25 | 24 | 1 |
| Paid Out | 0 | 0 | 0 |

New build affordable schemes – a proposal for a shared equity scheme

Tipperary County Council intend to offer affordable properties for sale to those applicants who qualify for this scheme. Please note that this is contingent on the Tipperary gaining access to the Affordable Housing Fund. A call will be made in the next month to seek expressions of interest from those developers who have an interest in providing affordable homes in the key towns and who already have planning permission. It is hoped that this initiative will assist in leveraging additional private homes to come onto the market. Parallel to this it is intended to build on the work undertaken by the initial survey⁴ and to try and try down the real level of interest by members of the public in accessing such a scheme. Depending on this outcome, an application will then be made to the Department to access the AHF fund

⁴ The survey is available for completion at the link below and will support any application to this fund:

<https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/news/affordable-housing-survey>



The Council has also identified a pilot site for self build affordable units in Boherlahan and we will progress activity over the coming months in this area to ascertain the level of demand. Significant legal and other paper work has to be drawn up to allow such schemes to progress smoothly

First Home Scheme

Following on from the SPC meeting on Housing, the Council actively engaged with the Department and provided them with supporting documentation around the average all in cost of building a new build in Tipperary. As a result of this engagement the ceiling in Tipperary for new build was lifted from €250,000 to €325,000.

As a consequence of this, the Council is engaging with private developers to encourage the activation of their planning permissions as this is viewed as probably the best opportunity to deliver affordable homes throughout the county.

The Council is also currently working on marketing documents to simplify the criteria surrounding the variety of schemes available under housing For All and how they work both for the developer and the potential house purchaser.