



Management Report to Council








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January dates for your Diary

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>10</u> CPG Mtg @ 09:30	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Clonmel BD Mtg @ 11:00	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> TCC Mtg @ 11:00 - Clonmel
<u>17</u> Thurles MD Mtg @ 10:30	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Nenagh MD Mtg @ 10:00	<u>21</u>
<u>24</u> Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel MD Mtg @ 11am LCDC Mtg @ 10:00 - Littleton	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Carrick on Suir MD Mtg @ 14:00	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Housing and Community SPC Meeting @ 11am - Thurles MD Offices	<u>31</u>		

Report at a Glance

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Community and Economic Development Directorate (LEO & TOURISM)

LECP

Guidelines for the 2023-2029 Plan have been developed and the plan (Framework and first Implementation Plan) to be in place by 2023. Training is currently being delivered but the Department of Rural and Community Affairs)

County Tipperary Digital Strategy

Consolidation of actions in the strategy for 2021-2023 was necessary arising from the impact COVID has had on the Digital Sector and the resulting disruption and dynamic changes to the sector. The review is near completion and once all partners have signed up on the changes it will be issued. All actions in the original plan have momentum and activity from both Tipperary County Council and from our interagency partners in collaboration on its delivery. New actions with enhanced focus are developed. Strategy Review will be signed off through the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC.

County Tipperary Remote Working Strategy

The potential benefits of Remote Working have not gone unnoticed at national government level. The recent rural development policy document 'Our Rural Future' highlights remote working's central role in enabling rural regeneration, particularly in towns and villages and this publication has been followed by a National Remote Working Strategy 'Making Remote Work'

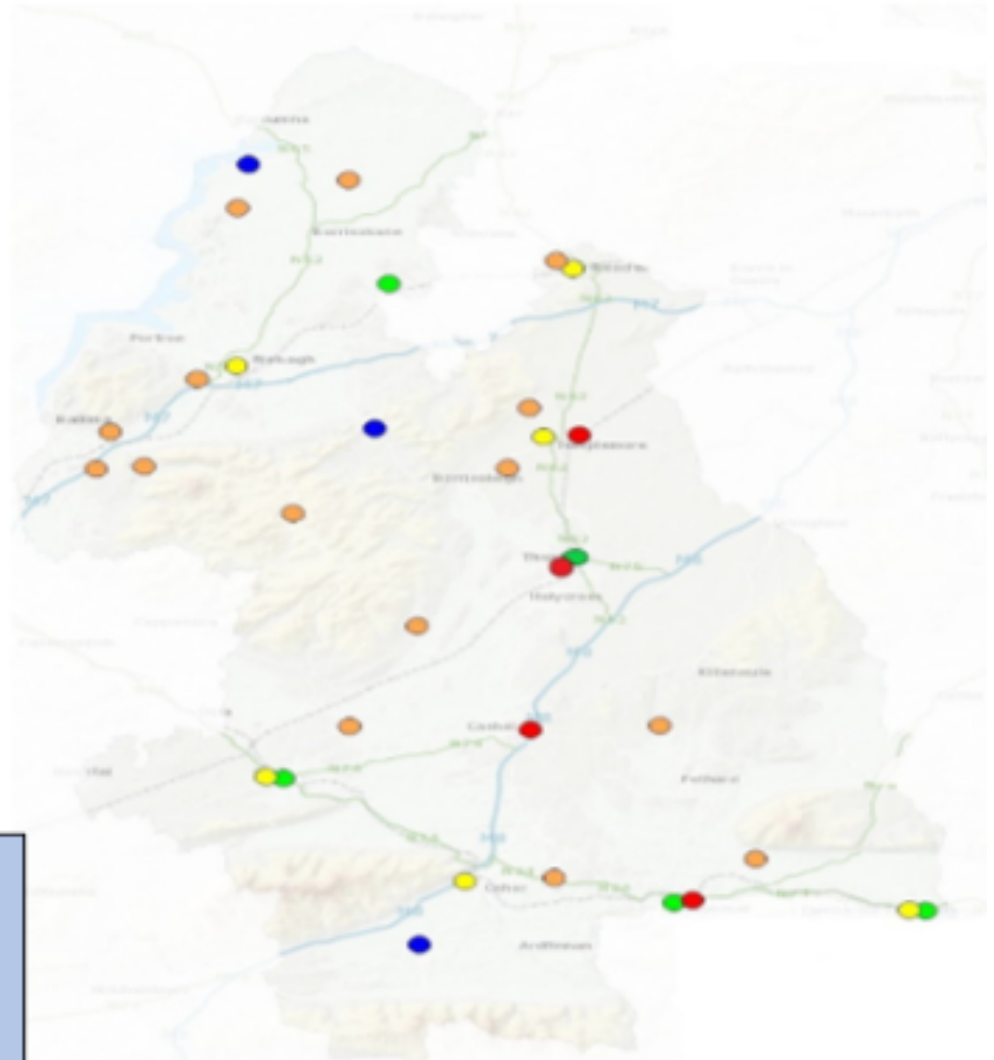
Preparatory work is currently being undertaken to develop a Remote working Strategy for County Tipperary that will highlight the suitability of the County as a location for working remotely. This strategy document will look to ensure the county capitalises on the good progress made already in creating an environment supportive of remote working. The strategy will also help Tipperary to continue on its digital path, to build on the success it has had already as an attractive remote working location and to maximise its potential in future



Centres, Digital Hubs, Shared work spaces

Retail Supports Update

County Tipperary Digital Hubs
Locations and Status



LEGEND

●	In Place
●	In Development
●	GAP (Targeted)
●	BCP Live
●	BCP Not Live

Tipperary Digital Hubs Status			
Location	#	Type	Status
Carrick-on-Suir	1	● Digital Hub	Small digital hub operational
	1	● Enterprise Dev Hub	Enterprise Dev Hub in planning/development
Cahir	1	● Enterprise Dev Hub	Planning work on-going - RRDF Old library
Cashel	0	● No current plan	Stakeholders/Site to be identified
Clonmel	1	● Start-ups	Questum catering for start-up business
	0	● Digital Hub	Stakeholders/Site to be identified.
Cloughjordan	1	● Digital Hub	'WeCreate' Digital Hub
Nenagh	1	● Digital Hub	Sourcing funding for Digital hub
Roscrea	1	● Digital Hub	Funding obtained - In development
	1	● Hot Desk X 2	Library – In development in Town Hall.
Templemore	0	● Digital Hub	Stakeholders/Site to be identified
	1	● Enterprise Centre	Operational
Thurles	0	● Digital Hub	Potential to expand
	1	● Digital Hub	Digital hub operational
Tipperary Town	1	● Enterprise Dev Hub	Funding obtained – In development
	15	● BCP	BCP's Live
Other	3	● BCP	BCP's not Live

Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme



A brand was developed for the Commercial Vacancy Incentive Scheme which will be used to market and promote the scheme.



A Database has been prepared to use to promote the scheme directly targeting Auctioneers, Solicitors and Accountants over the coming 8 weeks as part of a full Marketing campaign across County Tipperary.

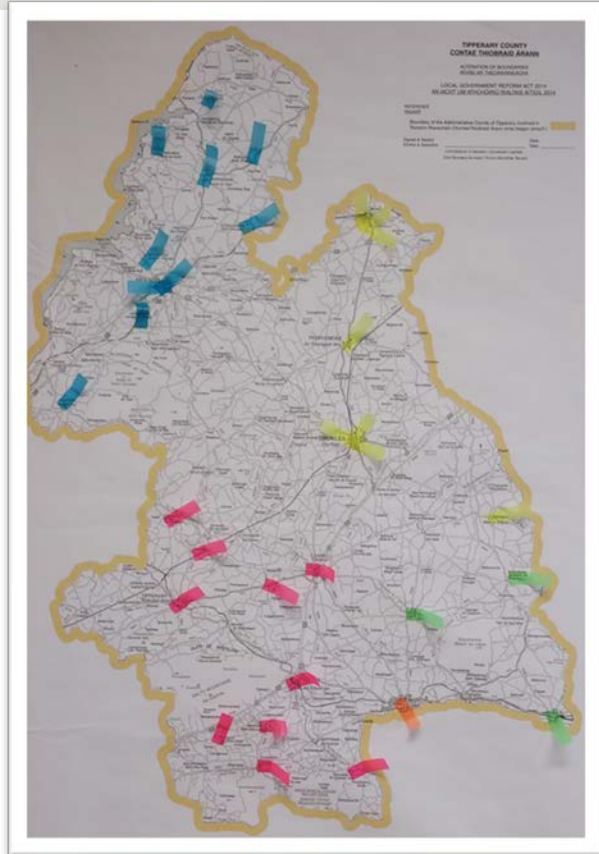
Dedicated posters have also been developed to be placed on vacant premises promoting the scheme.



A training program is under development to inform staff of the detail of the scheme and promotional documentation is prepared for staff to issue to the new rates clients.

Christmas Retail Support Programme 2021

Tipperary County Council provided financial support/Grant Assistance under the Christmas Retail Support Programme at a total cost of €35870 for 34 Projects.



Number of Applications	MD	Total grant	Percentage of Population	% grant
4	Carrick on Suir	3800.00	10	10.59
10	Tipperary Cashel and Cahir	8580.00	22	23.92
2	Clonmel	2860.00	28	7.97
10	Nenagh	6630.00	15	18.48
8	Thurles Templemore and Roscrea	14000.00	25	39.03
34		35870.00	100	100.00

The projects spanned the county of Tipperary. The groups also indicated that they will be investing an additional €69,000 in hosting the actual events so there was an overall investment in these Christmas events of circa 105,000 to support retail and craft across County Tipperary.

Shop Local Tipperary Campaign

There have been 213 posts on Instagram and Facebook promoting Shop Local Tipperary. These are getting good engagement with over 1500 followers and Facebook posts reaching approximately 2500 followers and likers.



A radio campaign was ongoing on both Tipp FM and TMW in the run up to Christmas in order to encourage people to keep shopping local as a priority. TMW promotions remind people to be a LOCAL INVESTOR by Shopping local and Tipp FM has constant reminders by all the presenters to Shop Local This Christmas.

A shop local Tipperary competition was held using 8 prizes of €50 from business in Tipperary. The promotion was very successful with circa 15,000 engagements on Facebook.

Developing new competition currently to drive people to the shop.localdirectory.ie on the Tipperary County Council Portal and this campaign will be run to promote the shop.localdirectory.ie in the next phase of promotions.

All promotions state clearly that Tipperary County Council is the promoter.

TIPPERARY PROPERTY PORTAL

Property portal continues to be updated and maintained. Working with IT on a more automated system of updating.

County Marketing Campaign

Tipperary, The Place The Time - Four video testimonials of successful Tipperary based business were released through social media and press release during the latter half of 2021. These included Oak Park Food Cahir, Blanco Nino Clonmel, Orsted (Lisheen Wind Farm) Moyne, Vision ID: Clonmel. National coverage was received of the campaign in the Irish Examiner.

LinkedIn and Twitter followers increased by 40% as a result of the campaign.

All video testimonials are available on www.tipperary.ie

M1 LEO Grants

2021 we received 46 Grant applications, 41 projects approved for €963,926 broken down as follows:

Priming Grants x 6 €236,750

Business Expansion Grants x 13 €412,076

Feasibility Grant x 11 €152,034

TAME Grants x 7 €13,306

GradStart x 3 €89,000

Agile Innovation Grant x 1 approved for €60,760.

Projects approved created 102 new jobs into the County.

Trading on Line voucher

88 applications approved for €158,893

Micro Finance

16 funding applications received for €227,500 – 7 approved valued at €74,500

M2 – Mentoring / Training Supports

618 1 to 1 Mentoring assignments approved

60 Training Programmes completed with 1,375 participants



Student Enterprise Awards

18 Schools registered and 1,029 students participated on the programme. Tina Mulhearn, Business Advisor, is handling the student enterprise competition this year.

Business Development update

Ballingarrane Business, Science and Technology Campus. The tender process for the design and planning of a 10K sq.m. advance building solution on precinct no. 3 is complete. Additional budget is required which is currently under negotiation with the IDA, the 50:50 partners on the project.

Feasibility on phase 2 in Questum is underway with a number of subject matter experts and stakeholders contributing to the assessment and business case of a cluster development of buildings servicing both the life science and food/biotech sectors. Feasibility completion target date of quarter 3, 2022.

National Bioeconomy Campus Lisheen

Two projects at pre-planning stage with one planning application through since July 2021 and the solar farm application from Soleirtricity expected for decision on January 26th.

FDI

Company involved in computer system validation (CSV) in the life science sector, has signed a one lease on a building in Cashel. Potential for 15 to 20 jobs in IT/Software over the next 5 years.

BROADBAND

Initiative 1 - the delivery and implementation of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan (NBP)
What is it? The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is the largest infrastructural project in rural Ireland since rural electrification, spanning 96% of Ireland's land mass. It will bring high speed broadband to 23% of Ireland's population, (69% of national total of farms) over a seven-year period. It is anticipated that the network will involve a total of 140,000km of fibre cable and over 1.5 million poles from networks throughout

the country with over 15,000 kilometres of underground duct networks for fibre cable.

Where possible, overhead lines and existing poles will be used to lay/hang the fibre cables. This is a sustainable approach which saves time and money as only 12% of the project will be new build.

Fibre is a way of conveying data in the form of voice, video, music, and all forms of data from one place to another. While copper was previously used in building communication networks, optical fibre cables are now the preferred choice.

New networks, like the NBP are based on optical fibres as it future proofs the network. The capability for optical fibre cable to carry vast amounts of data over long distances is what makes it so effective.

Covid-19 has further highlighted the importance of broadband in keeping people connected to each other, their work, education resources, business needs, and entertainment services. The NBP will contribute significantly to removing the existing digital divide between urban and rural communities in Ireland.

In total, there are 29,759 premises in 21 NBI™ deployment Fibre rollout area's in Tipperary which includes homes, farms, commercial businesses and schools. This equates to 35% of all premises in the county. Under the National Broadband Plan, Tipperary will see an investment of €117M in the new high-speed fibre network.

Every individual premises covered by the National Broadband Plan – State Intervention in County Tipperary will be surveyed to ensure that a detailed delivery plan is prepared for each and every home and business. This will involve the granular analysis of the fibre route, design of required infrastructure and also detailed assessment of the delivery method to connect each individual premises. This process takes time and NBI™ are very conscious of the critical need for high-speed broadband to be delivered within the NBP area ASAP.

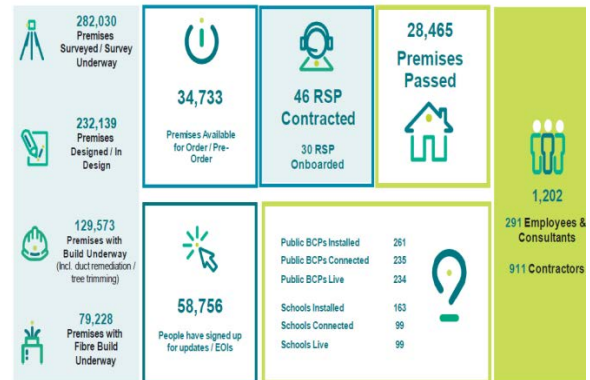
NBI™ NBP County Tipperary Deployment Areas
– Estimate Time for Connection

Deployment Area	Estimated Time for Connection
Ballinamult	February 2023 -April 2023
Ballinderry	January 2025 -December 2026
Banagher	January 2025 -December 2026
Birr	January 2025 -December 2026
Cahir	January 2023 -December 2024
Carrick-on-suir	January 2023 -December 2024
Cashel	April 2023 -June 2023
Clonmel	May 2022 -July 2022
Hollyford	January 2025 -December 2026
Deployment Area	Estimated Time for Connection
Hospital	April 2023 -June 2023
Johnstown	January 2023 -March 2023
Littleton	January 2025 -December 2026
Mitchelstown	January 2025 -December 2026
Mullinahone	January 2023 -December 2024
Nenagh	January 2023 -December 2024
Newport (Ty)	January 2025 -December 2026
Ogonnelloe	January 2025 -December 2026
Roscrea	October 2022 -December 2022
Tallow	April 2023 -June 2023
Templemore	January 2025 -December 2026
Tipperary	December 2021 -February 2022

First 1500 premises are now-available for pre-order in the Tipperary DA

NBI™ has advised that given the scale and complexity of the project, the turnaround of s254 and road opening Licencing approvals are considered to be amongst the most significant risk to the project.

Key Stats 03.12.21



Initiative 2 – the delivery of high-speed Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) in County Tipperary.

What is it? The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) is working with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and the Local Authorities to deliver high speed broadband to specified BCPs across the country. These locations will be connected with high speed broadband in Year One/ Two of the NBP State intervention deployment while waiting for the wider deployment to reach their area.

To support remote working and connected communities, approximately 300 BCPs throughout the country were identified by Local Authorities to be connected to high speed broadband. The BCPs in identified public places will leverage the high speed broadband connection through a range of initiatives, for example, providing free public



Wi-Fi. Some will also have hot-desks, and some will be digital hub business centres where digital training, business information events and other SME supports are organised.

The BCP delivery Programme is well underway in County Tipperary – and the following Broadband Connection Points have been connected to high-speed broadband –

1. Rossmore Community Hall, Rossmore, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, E25D429
2. Drom Community Hall, Drom, Borrisoleigh, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, E41X28
3. Curreney Community Hall, Curreney, Kilcommon, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, E41XC62
4. Aglish Community Hall, Aglish, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary, E53E132
5. Killurney Community Centre, Killurney, Ballypatrick, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, E91H7W
6. Moyglass Community Hall, Moyglass, Fethard, Co. Tipperary, E91WK2
7. Killoscully Community Centre, Killoscully, Newport, Co. Tipperary, V94FK2
8. Killea Community Centre, Killea, Templemore, Co. Tipperary, E41T6Y0
9. The Pavillion, Ballinderry Sportsfield, Ballinderry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, E45 F627
10. Ballinahinch Community Centre, Rossfinch, Ballinahinch, Birdhill, V94 Cvc0 Boher Parish Hall, Boher, Ballina, V94 EY06
11. Fanure Community Hall, Fanure, Roscrea, County Tipperary E53 AE02
12. Kilcoleman Community And Recreational Centre, Burgess Gaa Club, Pairc Na Ngael, Kilcoleman, Newtown, Nenagh, E45 YH76
13. The Apple Camping & Caravan Park , Moorstown, Cahir, E21 YX33
14. Donaskeagh Community Centre, Donaskeagh, E34 AK24*
15. Terryglass Community Hall, Terryglass, Nenagh, E45 FC42
16. Ballylooby Castlegrace Gaa Club, Ballylooby Castlegrace Gaa Clubhouse, Kilroe, Ballylooby, E21 TA47
17. Latteragh Community Centre, Sallypark, Latteragh, Nenagh, E45 EF68
18. Gurtagarry Community Hall, Gortagarry, Toomevara, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary E45 FA43*
19. Lismackin Community Hall, Lismackin, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary E53 Y589
20. North Tipperary Food Works, Main Street, Rearcross, Newport, County Tipperary V94 YW08*

*Not yet connected to HSB (5/1/2022)

Connected hubs Funding in the amount of €250,000 was received from the DRCD in September 2021. This funding aims to support and complement the development of remote working facilities,



which are part of the Broadband Connection Point Initiative in County Tipperary, into more active

“Remote Digital Hubs”

This Funding seeks to support the Broadband Connection Points Network in County Tipperary and help Maximise their Potential for Remote Working with the following measures and Improvements to specific BCP locations;

- a) New/ Expansion of existing remote working infrastructure.
- b) Installation of privacy booths in existing hubs.
- c) Installation of access control and security systems (Liaise with the Western Development Commission to ensure their chosen provider has an Application Programming Interface (API) that would allow integration into the -

National Hub Network booking system currently under development)
- d) Conversion of existing open plan space to modular offices.
- e) Audio Visual upgrade facilities.
- f) Building Control Systems.
- g) Energy Efficiency Upgrades.
- h) Disability Access Upgrading
- i) IT Network upgrades, wiring, access points and a secure control system.
- j) Innovative measures to assist existing hubs to deal with COVID-related challenges.
- k) Boher BCP requires structural works, in order to deliver on its potential for remote working capacity.

Plans are being put in-place to Launch the County Tipperary BCP Network with Minister Heather Humphreys in early 2022.

Initiative 3 – the delivery of HSB under the Schools Broadband Connection Points Project

What is it? 679 primary schools will be connected to broadband by the end of 2022 as the rollout of the National Broadband Plan accelerates. These

connections will be in place significantly earlier than the original completion date in 2026.

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

The 35 BCP Primary Schools in County Tipperary are named as follows;

- Tankerstown National School
- Saint Brigids National School
- Killea National School
- Leugh National School
- Ballinahinch National School
- Lackamore National School
- Boher National School
- Ayle National School
- Rossmore National School
- Newtown Upper National School
- Mount Bruis National School
- Drom National School
- Ballinaclough National School
- Gortagarry National School
- Kyle Park National School
- Kilkeary National School
- Saint Ruadhain’S National School
- Saint Cronan’S National School
- Rathkeevin National School
- Moyglass National School
- Killurney National School



Monard N S
S N Iosef Naofa
St Marys Parochial School
S N Mhuire Na Mbraithre
Gaelscoil Charraig Na Siuire
S N Mhuire Na Trocaire
Cahir B N S
Clogheen Central N S
St Marys N S
S N Colmain Naofa
Two Mile Borris N S
S N Chaoimhghin
Poulacapple National School
Killeen National School

Initiative 4 – to support Commercial Operators in delivering their plans to deliver high speed Fibre broadband services in Urban locations in County Tipperary.

What is it? The requirement for Operators to continue to enhance their services / and upGrade their legacy copper networks in the commercial (Urban) areas of the NBP in County Tipperary – in order to improve Customers access to high speed broadband and NGA services (impacting on 40,000 premises in the County)

SIRO, a joint venture of **VODAFONE IRL** and **the ESB**, continues to deploy high speed broadband (FTTH) in the towns of -

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

In October, 2021 SiRO announced a €620 million upgrade and expansion of its fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) network, which will nearly double its

reach to 770,000 homes and businesses.

FTTH deployment in towns of **Thurles, Cashel** and **Tipperary** to commence in 2022/23.

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

They recently completed their Urban Fibre build programme in **Tipperary town** in record time and delivering a total of 3,000 premises in 10 weeks.

In addition, Eir ltd has now also passed 7, 900 premises in the following towns:

Nenagh, Templemore and Cahir.

In October, 2021 Eir Ltd commenced their IFN FTTH build delivery programme in the town of Thurles, County Tipperary.

Two KN circet crews are currently working in the town.

eNet has over 133 Metropolitan Area Network fibre optic Connection (s) across the Eight (8) Urban eNet Networks in County Tipperary and these 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)
- Other telecoms Infrastructure providers.

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



Initiative 5 – to support the Mobile Network Operators and Mobile Infrastructures Providers to continue to carry-out coverage and capacity wireless Improvements to 2G, 3G, 4G, 4G plus and 5G and future technologies in County Tipperary.

What is it? The requirement for the Mobile Network Operators to continue to enhance their services /and up-Grade their wireless networks / and consider new future technologies – in order to improve Customer access to high speed broadband wireless services and mobile phone services.

Eircom ltd, Vodafone Ireland and Three Ireland continues to upgrade their 2G, 3G, 4G and 5G infrastructure in County Tipperary.

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

Cellnex Telecom and Tipperary County Council has identified the following radio coverage deficit areas (mobile phone blackspots) in County Tipperary -

- 1) Brittas – New tower built covering area between Thurles & Templemore
- 2) Killenaule Quarry – New tower built covering Killenaule and surrounding area
- 3) Commons Lisnagongue – New tower built covering area between Thurles & Hollycross
- 4) Horse & Jockey – New rooftop site delivered to support eir mobile coverage
- 5) Templetuohy – Tower strengthened and headframe added to support eir mobile requirement
- 6) Mantlehill (Golden) - Structure upgrade in progress to accommodate eir requirement.

Sufficient capacity in new structure for 3rd MNO co-location when required

- 7) Knockshee - Tower swap required inc. additional on a headframe to accommodate the Three equipment upgrade and to support eir mobile requirement
- 8) Clonmel Rugby Club – Existing lighting structure to be swapped to accommodate the Three equipment upgrade and to support eir mobile requirement
- 9) Clogheen – Planning granted to swap structure in order to accommodate additional MNO tenants & improve eir radio coverage.
- 10) Rosegreen - Proposed street-works S254 solution for Rosegreen village (application with An Bord Pleanala)

Additional Sites to be progressed -

- 1) Upperchurch – Cellnex has a plan to apply for planning to replace an existing monopole with a lattice tower with extended height at Barna, Hollyford. This will provide additional coverage to this area
- 2) Silvermines/Dolla – Cellnex has a number of options under review
- 3) Knocklofty/ Kilmanahan/ Marlfield road, Irishtown area, Davis Road, Clonmel – Cellnex have an option to use Coillte land to cover this area
- 4) Drangan/ Cloneen – Cellnex had a plan to build a new tower to cover this area however Vodafone made an objection to ABP
- 5) Puckane – Cellnex has a number of options under review
- 6) Cashel-Tipperary LEA (area north-west of Rockwell/ Golden) –
Cellnex have a location identified on Council owned property
- 7) Lattin/ Emly – Solution for this area is under review

- 8) Galbaly/ Lisvarinane – potential to extend existing Cellnex site
- 9) Rossmore/Drumbane/Clonoulty area – Cellnex has a plan to upgrade an existing tower in Clonoulty which will improve services to this area
- 10) Rearcross Village – major MP and MB coverage issue - Cellnex has a number of options under review.
- 11) Ballyclerihan, parts of the R688 Clonmel - Cashel Road and eastwards towards Lisronagh along the R689
- 12) Blackspot coverage to section of the N76, east and northeast of Kilcash Wood - parts of the R696 Road between Glenbower and Carrick on Suir Road and also southwards towards Ballypatrick and Ballyneill –
- 13) Killeen, Riverstown, Birr - Cellnex has a number of options under review
- 14) Ballyporeen

New Planning Applications lodged by Telecoms Industry - 2021

- 1) **Vantage Towers Limited** submitted 3 to PA
- 2) **Ontower Ireland Limited** submitted 20 to PA
- 3) **Shared Access Limited** submitted 2 to PA
- 4) **Signal Infrastructure** submitted 1 to PA
- 5) **Hibernian Cellular Networks Limited** submitted 1 to PA

In response to the Covid pandemic, **Imagine** continues to upgrade and expansion its WITx network in County Tipperary and as of February 2021, 62,793 homes and businesses in County Tipperary are covered by the Imagine Network from 22 Mast locations both within and in surrounding the counties.

Borrisoleigh and Carrick-on-Suir and surrounding townlands went live recently.

This Project has been nominated for a 2021 LAMA National Award which recognise the community and councils working together and provides a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate the work done within our communities.

Initiative 6 – to complete the installation and maintain a fully supported Free Wi-Fi Network across public Access Points, at designated locations (six (6) towns) in County Tipperary, under the European Commission WiFi4EU Programme.

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

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

Tipperary (14 APs)

Nenagh (11 APs)

Roscrea (6 APs)

Thurles (5 APs)

Carrick-on-Suir (5 APs)

Clonmel (5 APs)

(AP is a Free Wifi4EU Access Point)





Initiative 7 – to progress a design solution with the Telecommunications Industry to pilot the concept of Shared underground Telecommunications Infrastructure.

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

The concept of telecommunications “physical infrastructure sharing” is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and will be actioned by a new Government taskforce that was established in December, 2021.

Project 1: Shared Underground Telecoms Infrastructure with Industry (Tipperary)

Tipperary County Council is trialling new technologies with Industry 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 telecommunications Infrastructure - which will seek to ensure that all road and new housing developments are shared broadband

enabled and this has shown the potential for Local Authority-led digital innovation to work for the public benefit. The Department of Rural and Community Development is supporting the Broadband Officer role in this project with additional support of €30,000 per annum.

Cellnex Telecoms has also shown an interest in developing the on-street SMART element of this Project – i.e. on-street Digital boards. It is considered that Town Centres will need to offer on-street digital services to shoppers/ members of the Public.

Initiative 8 – to progress two projects under the ‘Our Rural Future Digital Innovation Programme 2021’ –

The Digital Innovation Programme is an initiative of the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is designed to encourage local authority led projects that support digital development. These projects promote, support, or otherwise advance at least one of the National seven pillars.

Project 2: Shared Telecoms Infrastructure (Tipperary)

Stream: Innovation

Funding awarded: €48,000

In 2019 a Pilot Project was carried out in order to identify and assess areas within the Lough area of County Tipperary - where poor mobile coverage exists and to scope for new solutions which will positively impact mobile coverage for the local community and businesses. Following an extensive test - a set of Coverage maps were produced which indicated extensive area(s) of poor quantitative performance of voice services and data performance for each of the Mobile Network Operators (MNOs).

One particular solution under consideration by the [Local Authority](#) required the identification of locations on the roads network, or in land owned by the local authority adjacent to the roads network, as suitable for the deployment of Radio Sites.



The function of these sites is to provide locations for the installation of the telecommunication networks by MNOs as required to improve mobile coverage and data services to the area surrounding the site and the public road. The safety of road users, and of those carrying out site visits is paramount when considering the suitability of these individual sites. A key determinant in any decision is to ascertain that no adverse impact on road user safety would arise, no restrictions on the driver's visibility, no obstruction of footpaths or cycle-paths would be caused, etc.

In order to progress the next stage of this pilot project and identify solutions to Mobile Phone and Mobile data coverage deficit area(s) - this project will carry out research and develop an suitable economic solution to pilot the build of one telecommunications physical infrastructure in the area at the side of the public road. Thereafter this shared telecommunications physical infrastructure will be offered to the telecommunication industry to install a Radio Network.

Vodafone Ire has identified the Village of Dromineer as an ideal location to progress this pilot.

Project 3: Smart Skills for Farming Communities (Tipperary)

Stream: Innovation

Funding awarded: €24,000

Smart Agriculture IoT based network solutions are increasingly being used across the Agricultural Sector, fuelling the demand for digital skills. Digital technologies hold the key for a smarter, more competitive and resource-efficient agricultural sector. Irish farmers already benefit from an array of digital solutions that can help their farms to become more sustainable and productive. However, the extent to which new technologies are taken up in the field is actually limited.

Barriers preventing a more widespread use of new technologies still exist. Among these, the lack of adequate digital knowledge and skills occupies a central place. A recent Irish Farmers Association (IFA) report noted that 60% of their members

identify access to supports and training in their top three barriers to the uptake in digital technologies.

To fully harness the potential that is offered by digital solutions, farmers – and the advisers who work with them – need to know what digital tools are best suited to their business, and how to use them.

The purpose of this project is to support the implementation of a new Digital Skills Training Programme, with the support of the IFA and the Connected Communities – Broadband Connection Points, the Department of Rural and Community Development in the use of new digital technologies in Irish agriculture in rural County Tipperary and is based upon the Departments BCP Thematic programmes (Remote Working, Digital Skills and Education, Arts and Culture)

The IFA is Ireland's largest farming representative organisation and they will be asked to participate and develop this Digital Skills Training Programme and noting their role in the provision of representation, support and advice to their Members on an individual basis.

This Programme will also support the production of a number of short YouTube Training Videos' on all aspects of Smart Agriculture IoT based Network solutions - which will initially be shown and launched in the BCPs.

TOURISM

Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce

A Tipperary Destination Recovery Taskforce was established to co-ordinate recovery at a destination level. This new stakeholder group is led by Tipperary Tourism in co-operation with Fáilte Ireland and supported by Tipperary County Council. Stakeholders from across the industry

and across the county are represented, working together to specifically address issues arising from Covid-19.,

The taskforce has developed a new Destination Resilience Plan with 5 Momentum Projects prioritised. Work to deliver the momentum projects is ongoing:

1. **Digital Destination Development**
 - Digital Training Schedule for Q3&4 developed and promoted
 - Website updated
 - New Outdoor Activities Map in development

2. **Activate the Outdoors**
 - ongoing support to St. Declans Way Committee and collaboration with Waterford City & County Council and Munster Vales on promotion of St. Declans Way. Official launch took place on September 29th.



- collaboration with Waterford County Council on connection of Suir Blueway Tipperary & Waterford Greenway.
- ORIS Funding has been secured for the following projects; Take A Hike Marketing Campaign €20,000 and Munster Vales Marketing Campaign €20,000 focusing on promoting outdoor activities and experiences in 2022.

3. **Packaging / Cross Selling New Experiences**

-Launch on November 10th of the Thoroughbred Country Visitor Experience Destination Development Plan in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Kildare County Council and the Equine Industry.



4. **Unlocking Tipperary Communities**
 - Support to Tipperary ETB National Tour Guide Training Programme. 20 new graduates based in the county.



5. **Events & Night Time Economy**

Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme

The Scheme provides funding for individual tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and increase their own outdoor seating



capacity. Grants of up to €4000 were made available with an extended closing date of 8th October 2021. The scheme was co-ordinated at county level by the Tourism Development Officer. 264 applications were received countywide. To date 209 grant payments have been processed with an associated value of €637,235.

Tourism Product Development

Cashel Destination Town

Work is ongoing with Tipperary Cashel Cahir MD on developing the Cashel Public Realm & Signage Strategy for which funding was secured under Fáilte Ireland Destination Towns.

South East Food Trail

Work has commenced with colleagues in the South East Development Office and the local authorities in the South East to develop a food trail across the region. Cashel will be a pilot location and details are currently being worked through with the Tipperary Food Producers.

Nenagh Supports:

- Garrykennedy Walking Map Design
- Advice to the Ballina Killaloe town enhance and mobility plan
- Advise to the Nenagh Nenagh Historic & Cultural Quarter project.
- The Tourism Marketing Officer and the Tourism Development Officer supported Nenagh MD to prepare for the opening of Nenagh Tourist Information Office.

Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme Thurles

Ongoing liaison with Fáilte Ireland regarding grant funding secured for Baker Street project.

Littleton Labyrinth

The Tourism Development Officer continues to support the delivery of this project having recently

prepared the brief for the feasibility study / business plan on the development of a Bushcraft Survival and Activity Centre and the brief for the development of the brand and signage strategy for the Littleton Labyrinth in consultation with the project team and Bord na Móna.

Holycross Rural Immersion Centre

The Tourism Development Officer continues to support this project having secured the support of Fáilte Ireland and through collaboration with them overseen the development of the Tourism Impact Statement that supported the RRDF application submitted in July.

Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme Clonmel

Ongoing liaison with Fáilte Ireland regarding grant funding secured for East Lane project.

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media

Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021

Support provided to Clonmel BD to complete the successful funding application.

World Mountain Running Championships 2022

Support provided to the organisers in terms of connecting them with tourism providers, key contacts and Fáilte Ireland to assist in the organisation and promotion of the event over the coming months.

Tipperary Marketing & Promotion

The following marketing projects are complete and have enhanced Tipperary Tourism's brand position.

Tipperary Tourism maintained an ongoing awareness campaign throughout 2021. In limited travel times, the company promoted the idea of considering Tipperary as a destination in the future, leading to an appropriate campaign in line



with government guidelines. There are three distinct sub-campaigns as part of the overarching #TheInsideTipp campaign.

- 1 Consider Tipperary when we can travel
- 2 Intercounty
- 3 National Campaign

Campaign Results

- Digital audience growth – 17%
- Tipperary Tourism ends 2022 with a 33,000 strong engaged digital audience.
- PR reach of 10.25 million through radio, press, influencers.
- 7 video and almost 1,000 images and 5 itineraries were produced.
- Radio impressions – 3.4 million
- Overall 19 million impressions of Tipperary Tourism in 2021.

In addition to the Tipperary Marketing Campaign Condé Nast added the following boost in November.

Condé Nast, a prestigious global media company that produces some of the world's leading print, digital, video and social brands, published their yearly selection of destinations for the year ahead this November. The world-renowned travel guide selected Tipperary as one of only 22 global destinations to visit in 2022.

The editorial was picked up by some of the biggest names in Irish media, resulting in 47 press and radio pieces of coverage in one week. The advertising value was almost €1.2 million. This positive coverage amounted to over 5 million impressions in Ireland alone, with millions more internationally as each of the 22 destinations would have received similar media coverage.

This was bolstered further by the announcement in December of Cashel as one of the *10 Coolest Places to Go in the Next 10 years* by internationally renowned publication *Forbes* magazine. This is a testament to the quality of reputation the brand positions Tipperary has on a global stage.

Long Term Assets

- A video-sharing platform was created for Tipperary Tourism, containing 15 high-quality sharable videos and 100's of video sub-clips in a private section of the platform for tourism businesses and media use.
- A photography sharing platform was created with almost 2,000 images, filed by location for ease of use.
- An interactive map was created to highlight outdoor activities on the website.

A dynamic marketing plan is being developed for 2022 which will include the optimal marketing mix, of PR, Digital, content creation, print and radio. The campaign will be launched in line with government safety guidelines.

Munster Vales

Munster Vales rolled out a **Community Engagement Programme** which was aimed at upskilling communities to welcome and retain tourists, enhancing the relationship between active community groups and Munster Vales. The programme highlighted common objectives and valid suggestions in enhancing community tourism. This programme featured 5 workshops across the Galtee and Knockmealdown areas.

Munster Vales received a wonderful review from the Sunday Times which showcased Kilcoran Lodge, Galtee Bees and Mikey Ryans.

The RTE Guide featured a competition from Munster Vales which highlight St. Declan's Way and Cahir House Hotel.

Munster Vales featured in the Sunday World highlighting Ballykisteen Hotel and cycling in the Glen of Aherlow. The Munster Vales PR value for the year reached over €360,000. Further familiarisation trips are planned for Q1 of 2022 along with releasing key press releases that will entice visitors to Munster Vales.

Munster Vales launched the **Taste the Vales** Food trails highlighting great food experiences within the region sample including Cahir House Hotel, Mikey Ryans and Galtee Bees.

Munster Vales launched a **podcast** showcasing the type of offerings available to visitors in Munster Vales. The Podcast feature walks in the Glen of Aherlow along with highlights like the Rock of Cashel. The Podcast features RTE reporter and Meet Your Maker host Liam Geraghty who discusses with local experts a taste of the vales. Each eatery that signs up to Taste the Vales will receive promotion via social media platforms and the website whilst receiving a window sticker promoting the concept. The animated launch video reached over 7000 hits to date.

Munster Vales launched the **Slow Adventure Campaign** which highlights 20 different itineraries appealing to visitors that enjoy a mix of adventure and culture. The itineraries showcase tourism experiences that fall within the region highlighting attractions and activities including the Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottage and Glen of Aherlow walks and Suir Blueway Tipperary.

Munster Vales is currently developing an **interactive map** which will showcase walking routes and heritage sites within the region. The map will showcase trails within Glen of Aherlow and Cahir walks like Scaragh Wood Trails.

Munster Vales have added to the image bank with the commissioning of beautiful imagery around the St. Declan's Way Trail, funded by Fáilte Ireland, in addition to supporting the creation of video content for St. Declan's Way.

Further imagery is in development that will highlight the unique landscape of the Galtees and Knockmealdowns.

Munster Vales rolled out an engaging training programme for the stakeholders along **the St.**

Declan's Way including the committee. This featured six workshops that will assist with enhancing marketing skillsets.

Lough Derg

Lough Derg, Visitor Experience Development Plan, launched in 2021.

A comprehensive action plan accompanies this VEDP.



A funding application for the development of **Waterside Amenity at Dromineer** was supported and was successful.

Discovery Points

DLD was awarded LEADER funding to create visitor-focused discovery points at locations around the lake.

ORIS funding: Successful bid for pedestrian measurement counters on hikes around the lake €25,000

DLD and Destination Recovery Taskforce

developed a Destination Resilience Plan for 2021. The four-momentum projects are now complete.

1. The Lough Derg Adventure App was developed and launched in July 2021



2. Festivals and Events were promoted to augment the evening economy.
3. PR: A PR calendar of press releases and influencer trips was rolled out.
4. Visitor Information and Packaging resulted in long-term digital and visual asset creation, which will promote Lough Derg into the future.

Destination Development with Tourism Businesses:

DLD rolled out training for tourism businesses:

- How to use and promote the Adventure Lough Derg App
- How to use the online sharing platforms for visual assets

DLD rolled out 5 Stakeholder Communications newsletters

- VEDP launch
- Training invites
- Reconnecting Autumn Campaign
- Networking events with Fáilte Ireland

Blueways Accreditation

Worked with Waterways Ireland to achieve accreditation for the Lough Derg Blueways.

DLD Marketing achievements in 2021.

13.3 Million Total Impressions, plus the positive awareness created by the Condé Nast inclusion on the top destinations to visit in 2022 – *Lough Derg got a special mention as a place to hike.*

T.V. Heartlands, a cross-county initiative led by IHH, created a 4 part mini-series for TV3 of Sharon Shannon to promote the River Shannon.

Digital audiences grew by 45%, 911 pieces were published, achieving 3.5 million impressions.

Two hero videos and nine mini videos of the region were shared across digital platforms.

P.R. Campaign

Value Equivalent of €383,455

Reach 3,914,371

Website

60,000 visitors up 34% since 2020

Brochure Creation

In association with IHH, completed the Flip Book of things to do in the River Shannon region; Tipperary has five local personalities providing eight tips.

Fireball World Sailing Championships

Assisted in sourcing funding and management of a marketing campaign to be rolled out mid December, to help the region and Sailing Club best leverage of the opportunity to host the event.

Environment & Climate Action Directorate

Policy Changes & Updates

The Environment and Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee met on four occasions during the year, with the last meeting held on the 8th of December. Marion O Neill gave a presentation on progress of actions included in the Climate Adaptation Strategy and informed members of the new Climate Action Plan. Colm O hAonghusa (TEA) updated Members on the Energy Action Plan and Ruairi Boland gave a presentation on the benefits of solar powered, compacting litter bins. Mary McMahon (PPN Environment Group) reported on developments from her group. Colette Moloney informed Members that the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 was recently published and is now inviting submissions.



Ballaghveny Landfill – Filling of the Wedge Cell

Public Awareness Initiatives

Twenty-seven Public Awareness initiatives, covering all aspects of work in the section, were completed as part of the Environment Awareness programme, this has been a contributory factor in reducing the number of complaints received by the section in 2021 by 7% against 2020 figures.

Household Waste

The section is working with TCC's Housing Section to highlight to new households their responsibilities regarding household waste management. During the year, staff carried out Pre-Tenancy training sessions with 137 tenants by telephone and provided them with information packs about the services at the civic amenity sites, recycling and ways of reducing food waste.

17 Syrian families from the Nenagh/Templemore area and 6 families from Tipperary town attended Pre-Tenancy Workshops during November.



Photo at Templemore Youth Centre where Pre Tenancy training took place with 17 Syrian families on 15th November, 2021. Helen Butler/Lindsay Carey, CLO, Housing Section and Anne Marie Clifford in attendance.

Energy Week

The EU Sustainable Energy Week took place from the 25th – 29th October, the theme this year was “Towards 2030, Reshaping the European Energy System”. Several activities were organised including the broadcast of a series of podcasts on energy efficiency in the home, which were available to the public through websites and Tipp FM. Staff were afforded the opportunity to test drive electric cars and 53 members participated.



Creating a Forest of Energy Ideas



The creating a forest of energy ideas initiative was launched during energy week aimed at getting primary school children to give their tips on energy savings. Staff sourced specially made wooden trees and leaves from

sustainable sources, which were distributed to the schools and children were invited to put their leaves with the tips on display in the seven libraries. Local SME's also benefitted as the trees were made by MyCreate based in Cloughjordan Eco Village and the leaves were produced by Lion Print in Cashel. Prizes were awarded in each of the libraries.

Tipperary's Sustainable Energy Tree 2021 winners



Roscrea Library

- Hazel Room, c/o Ms. Orla Ryan, St. Anne's School, Sean Ross Abbey, Roscrea.
- Vivianne Illies, Sacred Heart Primary School, Airhill Roscrea

Thurles Library

- Khloe Moore, Scoil Mochaomhog Naofa, Two Mile Borris
- Shona Murray, Scoil Angela, Ursaline Primary School, Thurles

Carrick Library

- Saoirse Shanahan- Roche, Piltown National School, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
- Naoise O' Dornan, Gaelscoil Chluain Meala, Baile Gaelach, Cluain Meala

Nenagh

- Orla McGrath, Kilkeary National School, Norwood, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary
- First Class- Ms. Hartnett, St. Mary's Convent Primary School, Nenagh.

Clonmel

- Joe Purcell & Joseph Gaule. Killusty National School, Killusty, Fethard, Co. Tipperary
- Oisín Guinan, Rathkeevin National School, Rathkeevin, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Cashel

- Senior Infants -St. Joseph's Primary School, Murgasty Road, Tipperary Town
- 5th & 6th Class, Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal, Loughkent East, New Inn, Co. Tipperary

Templemore

- Moira Ormond, Loughmore National School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary
- Ciara Slevin , St. Joseph's National School, Templemore, Co. Tipperary

Food Waste Roadshow in conjunction with My waste

To encourage food waste reduction and segregation, staff with the My Waste Team from the Southern Regional Waste Management Office, distributed 500 brown food caddy bins with liners to members of the public at the Clonmel Showgrounds on the 19th November.



Staff handing out Food caddies in the Showgrounds

Keep Tipp Tidy Awareness Information Day Nenagh



Noreen Fahey, Kathleen Clifford and Maeve Egan manning the stand in Nenagh Civic offices

Christmas Decorations Competition.

Staff were invited to submit decorations made from recycled materials and over 20 entries were received



Sample of the winning entries

Public Participation Network



Staff members met with the Environment pillar of the Public Participation Network on the 20th November in Cabragh Wetlands. Twenty representatives attended, and a presentation was given on climate change. Topics raised at the meeting included biodiversity, recycling, hedgerows and trees. Engagement with the PPN representatives will be a key element in the development of

the new Climate Action Plan in 2022 and a further meeting is scheduled for the 29th January.

Dogs

8,558 licences were purchased to date. At our kennelling facilities, 162 dogs were impounded, 16 were rehomed, 95 were sent to rescue, 44 were reclaimed and 12 were euthanized.

Horses

45 horse queries were reported, which resulted in 44 horse pickups.

Abattoirs

Bovine	Ovine	Porcine	Caprine	Turkeys	Chickens	Deer	Rabbits	Abattoir Visits
1773	5988	72	13	12849	805	980	655	1057

Civic Amenity Sites

The section reported that 130,148 visitors used the services of Civic Amenity Sites

Waller's-Lot	29100
Carrigeen Clonmel	30639
Nenagh	29129
Roscrea	25908
Donohill	15372



Derelict Sites

The section continues to engage with property owners to try to ensure remediation works are carried out to properties in the first instance, to prevent properties being officially rendered derelict and being placed on the Derelict Sites Register. To date seven owners who have not complied have had their properties added to the derelict site register, whilst a further four owners have now complied and their properties were removed from the register.

Landfills & Waste Removal from Rathcabbin

Waste acceptance at Ballaghveny recommenced on 22nd September, following the temporary closure of the landfill site in February 2011. The empty cells are currently being filled with contaminated soil & stone and wood ash, which is being mixed with stabilized waste from the former Shannon vermicomposting facility in Rathcabbin. The landfill has accepted in total ca. 8,043t of waste up to 16th December 2021.

The amount of leachate produced at the landfills has reduced during 2021, due to the dry autumn/winter weather. The conclusion in September 2021 of the intensive groundwater monitoring programme has resulted in a streamlining of the groundwater and surface water monitoring of the landfill, which will deliver operational efficiencies in future years.

It is anticipated that the Community Gain Fund will commence in 2022 and will be based upon the total amount of waste accepted in 2021. The fund will correspond with the amount of waste accepted in each of the previous years (i.e. 2023 fund will be based upon 2022 waste acceptance amount).



Rathcabbin - stabilised waste being loaded for transport to Ballaghveny landfill

The removal of waste from the former Shannon vermicomposting facility in Rathcabbin, commenced on 2nd December and the landfill has accepted ca. 1,200t of this waste up to 16th December. It is anticipated for 2022 that it will take about 27 weeks to transfer 16,000t from Rathcabbin to Ballaghveny landfill.

Historic Closed Landfills

MD	Update
Tipperary Cashel Cahir	Landfill remediation detailed design and ecological surveys were completed in preparation of the application to An Bord Pleanála for development consent. The preparation of applications for Certificate of Authorisation to the EPA is ongoing for the site at Knocklofty. The application for a Certificate of Authorisation for the site at Dundrum was submitted to the EPA.
Thurles	The applications for Certificates of Authorisation for the sites at Brittas road and Monanearla was submitted to the EPA.
Carrick-On-Suir	A Consultant appointed to carry out the landfill remediation design and ecological surveys are to be completed in preparation of NIS for submission to the EPA & ABP.

Burial Grounds

Burial Ground	Progress update
Ballina (Boher)	Currently finalising Land Acquisition details with Landowner
Fethard	The Part 8 Planning documents were completed for submission and the Land Acquisition details are currently being finalised.
Cahir	The Cahir Parish committee has indicated that after subsequent reviews that the parish would now like the Co Co to develop the Burial Ground. A Draft layout has been furnished to the Parish for observations and comments.
Cloughprior	The National Monuments Section was consulted on the development of the Burial Ground Extension, which included the submission of a Geophysical Survey. Alternative Sites are also being explored in tandem with conducting a Hydro-geological Land Suitability Study
Carrick on Suir	Discussions with the landowner are ongoing, prior to commencing the full Hydro-geological twelve-month assessment of the site.
Shanrahan	Ancillary works to be reviewed in consultation with the adjoining landowner as the Burial Ground will be developed on lower site.
Kilmore	The Boundary Wall details are agreed with the landowner and are scheduled for 2022.
Tipperary Town	The section provided funding to Tipperary MD towards the civil works costs to upgrade the entrance and provide for additional parking spaces.
Borrisoleigh	The boundary wall works were completed.
Nenagh Lisbunny	The demolition and rebuilding of the Historic Masonry wall was completed.

Waste Management and Enforcement

Glass, Cans & Textile Recycling

3533 tonnes of glass and 131 tonnes of cans were collected up to end of November 2021, a slight reduction on the same period last year. 412 tonnes of textiles were collected which is a 20% increase on the same period last year.

Waste Facility Permits:

5 Reviews were received – 4 were granted –1 further information request was sent.



2 Technical Amendments were received and 2 were granted.

Annual Returns – Waste Collection Permits & Waste Facility Permits

126 Permit Holders were required to submit an Annual Return, the breakdown is as follows;

- All 126 were reviewed, of which 14 returns are pending information requested by TCC for sign off.

Managing Construction and Demolition Waste Generate by Tipperary County Council.

The section has prepared a plan to regularise and authorise the storage of construction and demolition waste generated at the twenty road depots, which will commence in 2022. This will involve obtaining Certificates of Registration from the EPA to ensure compliance with article 27 of the European (Waste Directive) Regulations

Household Waste Inspections

# of Households Surveyed (Jan – Dec)	190
# of Households with a Refuse Service	109
% Compliance	57%

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021

Twelve applications were submitted in accordance with the application criteria. Nine projects were approved, with funding of €128,000 provided by the Dept of Environment, Climate & Communications.

The projects were:

- Mattress Amnesty Countywide Completed
- Bikes for Africa Countywide Completed
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects cover Tipp/Cashel MD Completed
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects for Nenagh MD Completed
- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects Thurles MD Completed

- 2 Illegal Dumping Projects cover Carrick MD Completed
- 1 Illegal Dumping Project for Clonmel/Cahir MD Completed

Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme 2021



The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications provided funding of €150,000 to Tipperary County Council under the Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme 2021. An open competition was held through e-tenders to establish a framework for the provision of solar powered, compacting litter bins. Evaluations were carried out and the tender was awarded. The installation of the 32 solar powered, compacting litter bins, which will be located in Clonmel Borough District and the Municipal Districts is due to commence in January 2022.

Litter Fines

	Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel	Thurles	Nenagh	Clonmel	Carrick-on Suir	Total
Fines Issued	123	12	29	18	15	197
Cancelled	26	2	6	8	0	42
Paid	68	4	17	7	14	110
Outstanding	30	5	6	3	1	45

Legal Proceedings:

Unauthorised Septic Tank Collection and disposal, this case was prosecuted through a joint investigation with An Garda Siochana and a case taken by DPP. The Offender received 100 hours Community Service in lieu of 3 months in jail.

Another case involved an authorized septic tank collector in breach of his collection permit. This person received a fine of €1,750 plus legal and investigation costs in excess of €5,000.

2 cases involving non-payment of Litter fines were before the court in November, both cases were successful, €1,750 and €1,250 penalties and costs were imposed respectively.

Waste Enforcements

Waste Enforcement Category	# Issued	Status
Section 14 Directions (to remediate a site):	15	5 Withdrawn 8 Complied 1 On-Going and 1 recommended for prosecution for non-compliance.
Section 55 Notice (to engage Env Consultant and carry out works):	4	2 Notices Complied with 1 proceeded for Prosecution for non-compliances 1 On-Going
Prosecution recommendations still active:	4 (offences)	1 Non-Compliance with a Section 55 Notice date to be fixed for 2022. 1 Non-compliance of a Waste Collection Permit. 1 Non-compliance with Section 14 Directions. 1 for illegal waste activity

Climate Action & Energy

The cross-sectional Energy & Climate Action Committee and Tipperary Energy Agency met on four occasions during the year to progress the Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and the



Annual Energy Action Plan. The section collaborated with the Eastern & Midland Climate Area Regional Office on joint initiatives, such as the preparation of the new Climate Action Plan, staff training programmes and research initiatives. A progress report detailing the status of the 53 actions listed in the Climate Adaptation Strategy

was submitted to the CARO office in October. Funding in excess of €7 million was secured from Government Departments towards the Active Travel, Housing Retrofit programmes and biodiversity initiatives.

Based on the energy M&R report prepared by Tipperary Energy Agency for SEAI, the local authority is on target to reach the 50% energy efficiency target for 2030, having attained a 40%

target in 2021. Regarding Greenhouse Gas Emissions, our 2030 target of 51%= 4,539 Million kgC02 and in 2020 the Council emissions reduced by 2,289 Million kgC02 against the baseline year and a further reduction of 2,240 kgC02 is required to reach the 2030 target.

Tipperary Co Co's primary energy consumption ratio at present is as follows: grid electricity 56%, fossil fuel 37% and renewable sources 7%. The upgrade of the public lighting infrastructure will reduce our Greenhouse Gas Emissions significantly due to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector. However, the decarbonisation of the fossil fuel-based heating systems in our public buildings and transport fleet will be a challenge in terms of the investment required.

TEA is providing an Energy Bureau Service to assist sections to identify energy savings measures, an energy management information system was procured in 2021, which will provide data on energy consumption in our 15 largest buildings on a 24/7 basis. A tracking tool developed by SEAI to evaluate energy projects potential for generating energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions will be used to future proof investment going forward.

The Environmental Awareness programme included initiatives to support climate change in communities, through the **distribution of over 1,000 wild flower packs/trees** and organising **biodiversity workshops**. Other initiatives targeted recycling and re-use and well as **citizen awareness**.



In support of the circular economy, a **repair directory** of all businesses in the county was produced and circulated free of charge. The upcycling competition attracted over 40 entries and a campaign to encourage the public to donate items to their local charity shops, are examples of Circular economy initiatives

undertaken to reduce waste. During energy week the section organised a series of events, one being The **Create Tipperary Energy Trees** initiative, to get primary school children to submit their ideas on energy tips.



The council is committed to increasing the use of renewable energy sources through the generation of energy from the Solar PV installations at the 15 council sites. The Community Virtual Power Plant project was completed in 2021 and will contribute an additional 250Kwh of energy from renewable sources. Further installations of PV Solar panels are planned at other sites in 2022.

Following from the enactment of the Climate Action Bill 2021, each local authority will be required to prepare a new Climate Action Plan which will replace the current Climate Adaptation Strategy. This new plan will incorporate both climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

Environment Protection

Water Pollution /Agriculture Activities

- 850 samples taken as part of WFD sampling programme.
- 3 Section 4 Discharge License Reviewed.
- 1 Section 4 Discharge Licence Revoked.
- 2 Section 4 Licence Applications were received in 2021
- 117 Section 4 Discharge License Monitoring samples were completed.
- 62 DWWTS (Septic Tanks) inspections were carried out under National Inspection Plan.
- 9 Section 12 Notices under the WPA 1977 - 2007 were served for non-compliance.
- 31 Planned Farm inspections were completed.
- 38 Farm Inspections were completed as part of Source Protection Activities
- 20 Farm Inspections were completed as follow up to complaints
- 10 Source Protection Investigation were carried out.
- Bathing Waters & Algal Bloom Monitoring on Lough Derg, included 48 water samples taken at 5 locations.
- 2 Successful Legal Actions were taken (1- Section 12 Water Pollution Act & Section 34 Waste Management Act)



- 35 days engagement with LAWPRO recorded, including a presentation to Derogation Farmers as part of the national standardisation target.
- 27 Nutrient Management Plans were submitted and assessed and 14 approved.
- 36 samples were taken for licence compliance at the Cashel Civic Amenity Site.

Planning Referrals

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

Air & Noise Pollution

The section ran a public awareness campaign in November titled “**Breathe the Difference**” on the social media platforms and the placement of adverts in 3 local newspapers to remind the public to use low smoke fuels over the winter period. Air quality data from the monitoring stations in Clonmel, Tipperary Town & Nenagh can be retrieved in real time from the www.airquality.ie website. Findings indicate that the air quality standard in all towns is rated as good and is compliant with The CAFE Directive.

INSPECTIONS

Dry Cleaners & Pharmaceutical Sector (small scale use)	3
Vehicle Refinishers	5
Solid Fuel regulation Fuel Suppliers within Ban Area	10
Petroleum Vapor Regulations	11

Open/Closed Complaints 1st January –31st December 2021

The number of complaints received in 2021 was 2053 which is a reduction of 7% compared with 2020 figures of 2199.



Complaint Description	Carrick – On -Suir		Clonmel		Nenagh		Thurles		Tipperary Cahir Cashel	
	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
Air	6	24	3	39	2	12	5	23	13	36
Animal Related	0	39	1	84	3	132	0	59	0	93
Infrastructure	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1
Litter	1	148	15	128	11	236	5	218	5	287
Noise	10	12	8	7	20	12	3	9	3	14
Waste Enforcement	1	21	1	23	4	55	4	38	2	56
Water	3	13	3	16	8	27	3	12	6	21
Total Complaints Open/Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed	Open	Closed
	22	257	31	297	50	476	22	360	30	508
Total Complaints Received	<u>279</u>		<u>328</u>		<u>526</u>		<u>382</u>		<u>538</u>	



WATER SERVICES MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

IRISH WATER INVESTMENT PLAN 2020-2024:

Irish Water has submitted its Third Interim Revenue Control proposal (known as IRC3) to the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) for the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2024. This incorporates Irish Water's Investment Plan for the period 2020-2024. The CRU's determination on this proposal was made with the publication of its Decision Paper on 05 December 2019, entitled *Irish Water Revenue Control Revenue Control 3 (2020-2024)*.

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

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

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

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

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

Further details on this economic regulatory control process may be gleaned from a perusal of the website of the CRU, www.cru.ie.

Investment is prioritised where it can deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.

The table hereunder provides an update of the current status of capital projects in County Tipperary.



Irish Water Infrastructure Projects for County Tipperary:

B. Schemes at Pre-Construction/Design	Contract Name	Current Scheme Status
Clonmel WRZ WP1 – Remedial Action List (RAL) and Boil Water Notice (BWN) Project	<p>– Upgrading and expansion of existing Monroe Wellfields; and</p> <p>- Construct Pipelines from Monroe to Clonmel and on the Mountain Road, Clonmel. This will increase water supply into Clonmel and allow for the removal of the Boil Water Notice on Mountain Road and the rationalisation of Poulavanogue Water Treatment Plant.</p>	<p>Nicholas O’Dwyer Consultants appointed to the project.</p> <p>Preliminary surveys ongoing at Monroe Wellfields.</p>
Roscrea Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Jacobs Engineering Consultant. Model built and verified for existing network. Irish Water to prepare strategy plan by Q1 2022.
Thurles Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	Jacobs Engineering Consultant. Model built and verified for existing network. Irish Water to prepare strategy plan by Q1 2022.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme (Design Build Operate (DBO) 1 year operate, operate starts once contract signed)	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Irish Water appointed EPS Contractor/Consultant. Planning application documents and EIS estimated to be submitted in Q2 2022. Estimated contract award in Q4 2023.
Nenagh Sewerage Scheme	Drainage Area Plan (Strategy, Optioneering and Future Solutions Design)	ARUP Engineering Consultants completed Draft Drainage Area Plan and model for Irish Water. Irish Water to review.
Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant progressing with full design. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 19 May 2021. Irish Water issued a single tender for the upgrades to Ballina and Newport WWTPs on 17 December 2021 with the return of tenders by 07 February 2022 (which may be subject to



		extension). Estimated contract award in Q3 2022.
Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 09 March 2021. Irish Water issued a single tender for the upgrades of Ballina and Newport WWTPs on 17 December 2021 with the return of tenders by 07 February 2022 (which may be subject to extension). Estimated contract award in Q3 2022.
Tipperary Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade assessment	RPS Engineering Consultant. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 06 September 2021. Estimated to start construction works in 2025.
Fethard Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Preliminary surveys ongoing. Planning Application estimated to be submitted in Q1 2022. Estimated contract award in Q4 2022.
Cahir Wastewater Treatment Plant	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	RPS Engineering Consultant. Design phase ongoing. Grant of permission for upgrade works issued on 20 May 2021. Estimated contract award in Q4 2022.

In 2020, Irish Water restructured the delivery of the Investment Plan into three streams, as follows:

- (1) Water Portfolio includes all projects and programmes relating to water treatment plants, water quality, trunk watermains, reservoirs, energy efficiency and dam safety;
- (2) Wastewater Portfolio includes all projects and programmes relating to wastewater treatment, sludge management, trunk networks and drainage area plans; and
- (3) Networks Portfolio includes leakage reduction programme, water networks regional contracts, growth and development programmes and sewer rehabilitation.

The above table lists those projects in County Tipperary which form part of the water and wastewater portfolios.

In respect of the Capital Delivery element of the Investment Plan, these ongoing programmes are designed to prioritise spending as effectively as possible, by identifying where funding is most needed through a focus on specific asset condition and performance, identifying root causes of problems and addressing these.



The programme addresses issues such as:

- water quality;
- water availability;
- health and safety;
- environmental regulatory compliance (per the Environmental Protection Agency);
- public health and environmental risk;
- energy efficiency; and
- maintaining levels of service through addressing underperforming assets.

All projects put forward by Tipperary County Council are reviewed by Irish Water before approval.

As part of Capital Delivery, projects are underway in County Tipperary under a number of headings. The following update describes the current position on a number of these projects in relation to water and wastewater.

(A) NETWORKS PORTFOLIO DELIVERY (WATER):

Irish Water has established a new contractor framework to replace the existing frameworks and has appointed Shareridge Limited to the Mid-West Region which covers Counties Tipperary, Limerick and Clare.

The scope of services covered by this framework includes the following:

- new watermains and service laying;
- below ground network rehabilitation work;
- backyard lead replacement;
- District Metering Areas (DMA) establishment;
- pressure reducing valves (PRV) works; and
- minor works to include leak repair, public side lead works and metering.
- Non-domestic meter surveys

Watermain Rehabilitation Works:

1) Watermain rehabilitation:

2021 works:

Ardfinnan (1km): complete;
Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan (0.2km): complete;
Davis Road, Clonmel (0.48km): complete;
Templetuohy (0.15km): complete;
Carrick-on-Suir N24 (0.6km of various pipe sizes at junctions): complete;
Kilfeacle to Thomastown (6.6km): ongoing; and
Ballinastick South (1.86km): at design.

2) Back Yard Services replacement ongoing at Tipperary:

Phase 1 works replaced 220 number lead shared services in the following locations:

Marian Terrace, Saint Michael's Avenue, Cashel Road, O'Connell Road, Dillon Street, Saint Patrick's Avenue and Dawson Villas. This phase of works is the first to be approved of the planned 3 phases



which, subject to Irish Water approval, aim to progress the removal of almost 1,000 back yard lead services from the water supply in Tipperary. The process of transferring the water supply from the rear to the front of each dwelling is a slow procedure which will require engagement and agreement with all the properties affected. It is planned that the removal of all the back yard services will add to the quality and sustainability of the water supply to Tipperary and reduce leakage, in a major way, in the old lead and cast-iron pipes.

Phase 2 completed in Lacey Villas and Glenview Square.

Irish Water reviewing other areas.

- 3) Back yard services replacement (32 no.) in Mount Carmel and St. Anne's Terrace, Ardfinnan completed.
- 4) First Fix programme is ongoing. By email, dated 22 April 2021, Irish Water notified the elected members of changes to the programme, including a widening of eligibility criteria.
- 5) Non-domestic meter survey ongoing in Clonmel.

National Disinfection Programme:

Irish Water is undertaking a National Disinfection Programme. This Programme will:

- improve drinking water quality;
- ensure compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended;
- remove supplies from the Remedial Action List (RAL) as maintained by the Environmental Protection Agency;
- reduce the risk of the issue of Boil Water Notices or the formation of trihalomethanes (THM); and
- provide improved control of the disinfection systems.

The Disinfection Programme will be carried out in 2 phases:

Phase 1: Water Treatment Plant Assessment:

This stage involves the assessment of the condition and performance of the existing disinfection systems at water treatment plants across the country. This will determine the works required to ensure that the treatment plant disinfection process meets the specified requirements.

Phase 2: Necessary Upgrade Works:

Some of these works may include upgrade of chemical storage and dosing infrastructure, upgrade of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection systems, upgrade of monitoring systems and generation of Critical Process Alarms.

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

- (i) works ongoing at Coalbrook, Cordangan, Stooke, Rossadrehid, Lorrha, Cloughjordan and Newport WTP; and
- (ii) design ongoing at Hollyford, Dualla, Riverstown, Coolbawn (Nenagh), O'Gorman's Well, Newport and Borrisokane.



(B) NETWORKS PORTFOLIO DELIVERY (WASTEWATER):

Irish Water has appointed AECOM (Project Management) and Terra Solutions contractor to carry out sewer network rehabilitation works as part of regional sewer rehabilitation projects. The scope of works within each regional contract will be defined gradually through inputs from Water Services engineers, closed circuit television (CCTV) surveys, etc., to identify and prioritise asset upgrade requirements. No start date has been indicated by Irish Water.

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

Irish Water has procured EPS to assess a number of wastewater treatment plant sites to assess the provision of new inlet works, storm tank, sludge treatment (or combination of these) to improve plant operation. The sites identified are Newtown, Puckane, Portroe, Dromineer and Borrisokane. Design phase ongoing. The provision of any identified works may require a prior grant of permission from Tipperary County Council as planning authority.

A grant of permission issued to Irish Water for an upgrade to Borrisokane WWTP on 05 September 2021. Construction works commenced in Borrisokane WWTP in December 2021.

(2) Flow Monitoring and Sampling Programme:

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

(3) Provision of Chemical Bulk Storage Tanks:

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

(4) Small Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Programme:

Under the Small Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Programme, the wastewater treatment plant at Carrick Street, Mullinahone was identified for improvement works, to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant, to include construction of inlet works, new process units and below ground storage tanks, landscaping and associated ancillary works including new below ground pump chambers and pipework. The population equivalent of the agglomeration of Mullinahone is 608. Consequently, it is in receipt of a licence from the Environmental Protection Agency. The above works are substantially complete.

(5) National Certificate of Authorisation Programme:

Wastewater treatment plants which serve an agglomeration where the population equivalent is less than 500 are in receipt of a Certificate of Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency as the environmental regulator. Those plants serving a population equivalent in excess of this threshold are in receipt of a licence from the environmental regulator.

Irish Water has a National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP). Pursuant to this programme, feasibility studies and site investigations are underway in relation to a number of wastewater treatment plants throughout the county which are in receipt of the said certificate of authorisation.

(6) Wastewater Pumping Station Programme:

Consultants appointed by IW are currently assessing a number of wastewater pumping stations to improve pumping station operations. The consultants have produced draft concept design reports for



pumping stations at Borrisokane Park; Riverstown, Birr; Murroe Road, Newport; Riverside, Ballina; and Killenure, Knockavilla. These will be reviewed at Irish Water workshops.

(7) Source Rationalisation Programme:

The aim of this Irish Water programme is to rationalise small water schemes into bigger schemes. The schemes currently being assessed for rationalisation under the programme are Two-Mile-Borris, Horse and Jockey, Littleton, Upperchurch and Glengar:

- Two-Mile-Borris, Horse and Jockey and Littleton will be assessed for connection to the Thurles Regional Water Supply Schem;
- Upperchurch will be assessed for connection to the Kilcommon Water Supply Scheme; and
- Glengar will be assessed for connection to the Ironmills Water Supply Scheme, which is part of the Dundrum Regional Water Supply Scheme.

Tipperary County Council will promote other suitable water schemes which meet the criteria.

CONCLUSION:

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

IRISH WATER NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PLAN:

The Irish Water National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) is Ireland's first 25-year strategic plan enabling us to move towards safe, secure, reliable and sustainable water supplies for all of Irish Water's customers and communities, whilst safeguarding public health and the environment.

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

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

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

The NWRP will:

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

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



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

Irish Water held a workshop, via Zoom, with all elected members on 06 December 2021 which provided an opportunity for engagement by senior management from Irish Water with the elected members on the Regional Water Resources Plans as they impact on County Tipperary.

Irish Water also availed of the opportunity afforded by this workshop to present an update to the elected members on its Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region and on its Capital Projects for County Tipperary.

The Draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region, which covers only a portion of the former Tipperary North, has been published with a public consultation on same extending from 14 December 2021 to 14 March 2022. A hard copy of the documents associated with same is available for public inspection at the Planning Section, Civic Offices, Nenagh.

For more information please visit www.water.ie/nwrp.

IRISH WATER SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES PROGRAMME:

Irish Water's Revenue Control 3 (RC3) Investment Plan 2020-2024 includes the Small Towns and Villages Programme (STVGP). This programme is primarily intended to provide capacity in wastewater treatment plants to cater for growth in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan. The STVGP is limited to supporting growth in settlements already served by Irish Water infrastructure.

On 27 July 2020 Irish Water notified Tipperary County Council that 7 settlements in County Tipperary had been identified for inclusion in the STVGP. These are: Cloughjordan, Golden, Holycross, Kilsheelan, Lisvarrinane, Newcastle and Silvermines.

Tipperary County Council has submitted supporting information in relation to these settlements and a workshop for Planning and Water Services staff took place with Irish Water on 11 November 2020 to discuss the above settlements, possible solutions and cost estimates.

On 30 September 2021, Irish Water advised that funding is to be provided to provide additional wastewater treatment capacity at Kilsheelan and Lisvarrinane as part of the STVGP.

NON-DOMESTIC WATER CHARGES:

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

Irish Water noted that "The new framework will standardise charges across the country while recovering the cost of providing water and wastewater services to non-domestic customers. The vast majority of customers will see either a decrease or an increase of less than €250 per annum, in their annual bills. For the minority of customers who will face larger increases in their annual bill, Irish Water will put in place a



number of important support measures. Connections that see an increase of €250 or more will be gradually transitioned to the new tariffs over three years. For connections that will face an increase of €750 or more, we will automatically apply a 10% cap to their annual bill increase in any one year. Throughout this process, both Irish Water and the CRU have examined international best practice and consulted with representative groups and individual businesses across the country. This approach has greatly helped in developing charges that are clear, simple and fair to all.”

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

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

COUNCIL WORKSHOPS WITH IRISH WATER:

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

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

A similar series of workshops, conducted by Zoom on a District basis, took place in the period 15 April 2021 to 29 April 2021. A further series of workshops, via Zoom, occurred, on a District basis, on 06 October 2021.

It is planned to hold the next series of workshops in early April 2022.

As noted above, Irish Water held a workshop, via Zoom, with all elected members on 06 December 2021 to brief them on the Regional Water Resources Plans, as well as provide an update on its Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region and on its Capital Projects for County Tipperary.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME:

The Rural Water Programme principally covers the following:

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

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

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

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



Progress on the above programme of work was reviewed by the Rural Water Committee at its meeting held, via Zoom, on 19 October 2021. The next meeting has been scheduled for 11 January 2022.

Capital Grants for Group Water Schemes:

Tipperary's average annual investment via capital grant is €500,000 with capital grant payments at €528,047.35 as at 31 December 2020. Expenditure at 01 December 2021 was €121,759.48 which reflects the difficulties arising as a result of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union (Brexit).

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

Some of the projects underway are:

- Cunnahurt Knockalton Group Water Scheme: new source;
- Ardcroney-Frolic-Luska Group Water Scheme: new source under investigation;
- Kilriffith Kilmore Group Water Scheme: installation of new chlorine dosing pumps;
- Castlough Group Water Scheme: installation of new chlorine dosing pumps and ultra-violet (UV) system;
- Rahealty-Clobanna Group Water Scheme: finalised; and
- Castleiney Group Water Scheme: universal metering procurement.

Consulting Engineer's Report: following interaction with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the Report will be an Options Report and will be part of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2024. A brief, maps and supporting documents will be prepared for review by the DHLGH prior to publishing on the eTenders website.

It is expected that the DHLGH will invite Tipperary County Council to gather projects for consideration under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2022-2024 in Q1 2022. Requests for watermain improvement funding must be accompanied by supporting documentation (step testing, analysis of unaccounted for water (UFW) and display that one is addressing the point where most water is being lost as distinct from the area with most leakage points). The Rural Water Team has been gathering projects to include in this activity.

Annual Maintenance Subsidy for Group Water Schemes:

Annual Maintenance Subsidy (AMS) payments, in 2021 amount to €561,169 distributed over 61 group water schemes. A final claim for recoupment from the DHLGH has been made and all funds sought have been received.

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



Alia:

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

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

and

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

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

Further details on these schemes follow:

Revised Private Well Grant:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Treatment and Upgrade or Treatment and New Source.

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

Well Grants:

Invested 2021		Applicants
Former Scheme:	€36,592.59	22
Revised Scheme:	€247,488.22	60
Total:	€286,970.46	82

At 01 December 2021, 112 applications had been received with 114 grant approvals issued. 10 applicants are at payment stage with payment scheduled for mid December 2021 (value of €36,747.26).

Septic Tank Grants (Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems):

One application has been received and is being processed. It is anticipated that the applicant will receive an early payment to the value of €5,000, which is the maximum grant.

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

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

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

(a) DWWTS National Inspection Plan:

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

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

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



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

(c) DWWTS High Status Objective Catchment Area:

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

Public interest in these 3 schemes is quite strong.

Lead Piping Grants:

One application has been received at 01 December 2021. Work is complete; payment (€4,000, the maximum allowable) has been made to the applicant and a recoupment claim forwarded to the DHLGH.

NOTE:

Responsibility for the delivery of the Rural Water Programme has migrated from Water Services to Environment and Climate Action, with effect from 01 January 2022.

WATER SECTOR TRANSFORMATION:

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

The Policy Paper:

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

Detailed discussions between the parties are in progress at this time.



Disinfection Upgrade at Monroe Water Treatment Plant, Clonmel



Upgrade Works at Borrisokane Wastewater Treatment Plant

[Housing Directorate](#)



All figures relate to the period 01 January 2021 – 30 November 2021

New Policy/Strategic Issues

Policy Changes/Updates	Current Position/Progress made	Next Stage
Review of allocation scheme	New Allocation Scheme commenced 1 st October 2021.	Implementation of New Scheme to be assessed in Q 2 2022.
Choice Based Letting	Pre-contract negotiation with proposed provider has concluded	Expected introduction to be Q1 2022
Review of Housing Adaptation Grants	Remaining private P2 and P3 grants identified and additional funding secured	Applications to P1, P2 and P3 will open in Q1 2022
Housing For All	Housing Delivery Action Plans considered by SPC & submitted in accordance with the December deadline	Present to Council at the January meeting
Disability Strategy	Draft strategy issued to all stakeholders for consideration & sign off.	Draft Strategy to be presented to the February SPC meeting for consideration.
Own Front Door	Draft Policy Being prepared	To be considered by Feb SPC Committee 2022

Housing Delivery

The Rebuilding Ireland 2018-2021 Housing delivery programme is now complete with the emphasis going forward on Housing For All 2022-2026. It is worth noting that Tipperary County Council met and significantly exceeded its Rebuilding Ireland Target despite the unprecedented impact that Covid 19 had on the construction sector during both 2020 and 2021. The Rebuilding Ireland target was 625 units in the 4 years through acquisition, leasing and the build programme and 840 dwellings have been delivered or 134% of the specified target. There was nevertheless an impact on construction and this has been quantified as 85 units that would otherwise have delivered in addition to the 840 above. These will form part of 2022 delivery and have been incorporated into the 2022 build target of 230 dwellings.

The current status of the projects is as follows:

2021 Construction Programme

<i>Address</i>	<i>No of Units</i>	<i>Current Status</i>	<i>Next Stage</i>
Coolnamuck Road, Carrick on Suir	30	Decision required on third river crossing.	Stage 1 submission
William Street, Nenagh	7	Stage 1 Submitted	Stage 1 Approval
Mountain Road, Cahir	43	Stage 1 Approved	Stage 2 Submission
Templemore AHB, Main Street, Templemore	23	Stage 1 Approved	Stage 2 Submission
Glencarrick, Roscrea	46	Stage 1 Approved,	Stage 2 Submission
Camphill Communities, Carrick on Suir	7	Stage 2 approved	On hold with Camphill
Church Street, Templemore	4	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 report to members for consideration
Grove Street, Roscrea	9	Part 8 Advertised	Part 8 Report to members for consideration
Comeragh Drive, Clonmel	2	Stage 2 Approved	Part 8 advertisement
William Street, Clonmel	4	Stage 2 approved	Part 8 advertisement
Borrisoleigh	12	Stage 2 approved	Preparation of Part 8
Boherclough Street, Cashel	9	Tenders being Assessed	Stage 4 Submission
Woodview Close, Nenagh	10	Stage 4 Submitted	Stage 4 Approval
Ardcrony	4	Stage 4 Submitted	Stage 4 Approval



Moyné	9	Stage 4 Approved	Contractor Appointment
Mulcair View, Newport	11	Contractor on site	10 complete Dec 2021 and 1 Q1 2022
Templetuohey	10	Contractor on site	Delivery Dec 2021
Borrisokane	15	Contractor on site	14 complete Dec 2021 and 1 Q1 2022
Ballycommon, Nenagh	2	Part V	Completed Dec 2021
Mill Road, Thurles	28	Contractor on Site	14 completed Dec 2021 and 14 Q1 2022
Hazel Close, Carrick on Suir	14	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Completed Dec 2021
Cois Na hAbhainn, Mullinahone	3	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Completed Dec 2021
Knockanrawley, Tipperary	28	Completed	2021
Cloughjordan	2	Completed	2021
Glentarra, Roscrea	2	Turnkey, Completed	2021
Mitchel Street, Thurles	1	Completed	2021
Cluid Ballycraig Road, Nenagh	5	Contractor on Site	Delivery Q1 2022
Portroe	14	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
121 Ard Na Greine, Clonmel	2	Contractor on site	Delivery 2022
Ballyclerihan	14	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Bansha	14	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Donohill	8	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Two Mile Borris	23	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Cormack Drive, Nenagh	12	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Abbey Street, Cahir	10	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Ardfinnan	3	Part V	Delivery 2022
Focus AHB, Nenagh	16	CALF Approved	Delivery 2022
Prior Park Grove, Clonmel	41	Turnkey, Works ongoing	Delivery 2022/2023
Mullinahone	10	Contractor on site	Delivery 2022



SPADE Deerpark Road, Cashel	2	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Cluid Housing Association, Glenconnor, Clonmel	9	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Tuatha, Kickham Street, Carrick on Suir	13	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Ma Chaoin, Templemore	13	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022/2023
Thurles Lions Trust, Stanwix Homes, Thurles	19	Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022
Glenconnor Road, Clonmel	29	Turnkey, Contractor on Site	Delivery 2022/2023

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

New RAS properties	3
New LTL properties	9
Rent Reviews carried out 2021	235

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP tenancies set up in 2021	303
Total active HAP tenancies	1847
Average weekly HAP set up	6

Energy Efficiency

Midlands Retrofit Programme

Funding of €1.63 million has been approved in 2021. Works are practically complete on Phase 1 of the Midlands Retrofit Programme at Tara Drive, Gortnahoe. Phase 2 (20 units in Priory Place and Woodville Crescent in Templemore) and Phase 3 (24 units in Thurles, Templetuohy and Rathcabbin) have commenced with completions anticipated during Q1 2022.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) included a further 60 houses to be retrofitted.

Phase 1 consists of 32 houses located in Littleton, Templemore, Moyne & Templetuohy. Phase 2 consists of 28 houses located in Two Mile Borris, Gortnahoe, Roscrea & Borrisoleigh. Contractors have been appointed and works are in progress.



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. This will help Ireland's efforts to combat climate change as approximately 40% of Ireland's energy-related carbon emissions are from buildings. The aim is to achieve a B2 or cost optimal energy rating in each dwelling.

Additional units for the energy efficiency retrofit scheme will be selected across all 5 districts in 2022 once we receive confirmation from the Department on the numbers allocated to the Council

Housing Grants

The Council received a total allocation of €3,417,076 in 2021 for private housing adaptation grants of which €683,415 is to be provided from Tipperary County Council's own revenue resources. The original allocation of €3,271,795 was expended by November and the increased allocation was approved by the Department.

P2 & P3 applications for 2019, 2020 and 2021 have now been processed, in respect of private grants,

An additional €1,000,000 was allocated to LA DPG grants in May 2021 (over and above the standard allocation) and works were progressed to avail of this additional funding. The full allocation has been expended.

	Budget	Allocated	No. of Paid Applications
Housing Adaptation for People with A Disability (HGD)	€2,171,567	€2,171,567	212
Mobility Aids Grant (MAG)	€125,423	€125,423	31
Housing Aid for Older People (HOP)	€1,120,085	€1,120,085	224
TOTAL	€3,417,076	€3,417,076	467
Local Authority DPG Grants	€1,533,332	€1,533,332	69

Voids

The number completed from 01/01/2021 to 30/11/2021 is 142. There are ongoing works to utilise additional departmental funding made available for 2021 and this includes 14 long term voids which are due to be brought back into use by year end.

Vacant Houses¹

District	Approved Applicants	Vacant Houses	% Vacant Houses ²
Carrick	374	22	0.4%
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel	840	38	0.7%
Clonmel	696	14	0.3%
Nenagh	729	15	0.3%
Templemore/Thurles	882	51	1.0%
Total	3,521	140	2.7%

Offers of Tenancy

	Offers	Accepted	Pending	Refused	Nomination to AHBs
Carrick	56	36	3	17	10
Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel	158	114	4	40	19
Clonmel	44	33	3	8	9
Nenagh	66	50	1	15	37
Templemore Thurles	84	65	2	17	16
TOTALS	408	298	13	97	91

Number of Housing Applications received

From January to November there were **2032** housing applications received of which:

- 1251 were found to be invalid
- 781 were found to be valid

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

² Calculated as a percentage of overall housing stock

Number of Housing Assessments carried out

Month	Number of Assessments
January	104
February	84
March	116
April	120
May	95
June	72
July	122
August	108
September	156
October	255
November	356
Total	1,588

Syrian Refugee Resettlement Project

Tipperary County Council completed the resettlement of 45 families in 2020/2021 as part of Ireland's international commitments arising from the humanitarian crisis in Syria. Through the Interagency Group chaired by the Council, Youth Work Ireland (Tipperary) provided resettlement assistance with the aim of establishing a support structure for the families. This project has been extended and funded for a further 6 months due to the impact of Covid-19. Significant support work has also been provided by the HSE; DEASP; ETB; Department of Education; LDCs and AGS in addition to the very significant support & welcome provided by the host communities. The work of the Interagency Group will now shift to focus on mainstreaming supports to this community to those who require same.

Homelessness

The focus of the homeless team has been on the prevention of clients entering emergency accommodation with the use of private rented accommodation with the aid of HAP as the primary option for homeless clients.

- 443 homeless presentations for 2021 to end November.
- 81 singles & 13 families were placed in emergency accommodation up to the end of November.
- There were 349 preventions to the end of November.

There are currently 31 adults and 5 families (6 children in total) in emergency accommodation. The Homeless Team are working with other relevant services such as substance misuse and mental health to put in place exit plans for those in emergency accommodation.

A HAP Place Finder Service has been expanded to the entire county and by the end of November a total of 73 HAP place finder tenancies have been facilitated by this team. These tenancies deal with the most vulnerable of our clients.

The 12 Housing First units continue to accommodate the most complex of homeless cases with wrap around supports and all 12 tenancies continue to remain in place. An additional 18 units have been approved in principle by the Department (6 units in the south and 12 in the north). One bedroom units are being designed/acquired to meet this demand

A Draft policy is being prepared for consideration by the SPC in relation to the introduction of an Own Front Door Service (OFD) whereby B&B emergency accommodation for on-going repeat users will be

replaced by short term managed emergency accommodation. The occupiers of this emergency accommodation will be key worked either by AHB service providers in the area or our own Homeless Team or a combination of both with the aim of providing a successful exit from this emergency accommodation to more secure type accommodation.

The Council continues to support services to those clients with significant mental health challenges in sustaining their tenancies through both the START Programme in the south of the county (6 Clients) and the North Tipperary Intensive Supports programme (23 clients) in the north of the county. These tenants are provided with wrap around mental health services to ensure that they are able to maintain their tenancy. It is proposed to review the effectiveness of both programmes in 2022.

The two TSS staff currently provide support for 43 LA tenants (including some Traveller Families) who need help in sustaining their tenancy.

The Council will continue to work with other mainstream service providers to maximise the supports that can be provided to the most vulnerable of our clients and provide them with every opportunity to have access to a secure home. It is envisaged that through the initiatives above and the provision of additional one-bedroom units under our construction programme that these issues can be addressed.

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.

The level of support with the Repair and Lease Scheme, a companion strategy of the Buy and Renew scheme, has increased to €60,000.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Rebuilding Ireland home loan is a Government backed mortgage which was introduced on 1st February 2018. An applicant can apply to borrow 90% of the market value of the property to a maximum of €250,000 in Tipperary. The interest rate for all loans drawn down after the 10 September has reduced by 0.25%. This loan offers two rate products at this new lower rate of;

- 2.495% fixed for up to 25 years, and
- 2.745% fixed for up to 30 years.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Applications

Number of Applications Received	134
Number of Valid Applications Received	53
Number of Loan Applications Approved	33
Number of Loans Issued	10
Total Value of Loans Issued	€1,269,800

Tenant Purchase Scheme Allocations

Formal applications to purchase received	68
Applications approved (i.e. offer letter issued)	28
Sales completed	7
Total proceeds of sales received	€448,850

Traveller Accommodation Programme

Tipperary County Council's Traveller Accommodation Programme, following consultation with traveller agency groups outlines the accommodation requirements of the Travelling Community from 2019 to 2024. The projected housing units need over the five-year period is 90 of which 79 have been delivered to-date. A target of 25 accommodation units for traveller families was set out for 2021 of which 18 have been delivered.

The council introduced a caretaking service for group housing/halting sites in the south of the county in 2021. Its role is to carry out essential maintenance works on-site & to maintain the grounds in and around the sites reducing opportunities for breaches of tenancy around animals, burning of waste and illegal dumping etc. Having a contractor on-site, enables the Traveller liaison Officer to have a more proactive rather reactive role in engaging with the residents in relation to the complaints that we are receiving and ensuring that the residents of these units are linked in with appropriate services and supports where necessary.

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

The following table sets out current position in relation to each project.

3 Year Capital Plan Traveller Accommodation 2020 -2022			
TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION SCHEMES			
PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE (e.g. Group Housing/ Halting Site)	Description of Project	CURRENT POSITION
Wallers Lot, Cashel	Halting Site	Extension to House 4	Works complete.
Wallers Lot, Cashel	Dwelling	Refurbishment Works – “Lawrence’s House”	Works complete.
Heywood Road, Clonmel	Halting Site	*Refurbishment of existing bays. * Removal of roadside mound. *Road re-surfacing works	Works underway. Planned completion quarter 1 2022.

Ballybeg Littleton	Dwelling	Extension (3 bedroom)	Contractor on Site, completion Q4 2022
Ashbury Roscrea	Halting Site	Add bedrooms to 2 tiggins	Contractor appointed
Parkmore Roscrea	Halting Site	Add bedrooms to 4 tiggins	On E-tenders
Lisnaviddogue Templemore	Dwelling	Demolish existing house and construct 5 bedroom house due to overcrowding	Contractor to be appointed in January 2022
Chapel Lane Roscrea	Extension	Extension (1 bedroom)	Complete
3 Rosemount, Templemore		Extension/ Refurbishment works.	Contractor on site, completion Q2 2022
Freighduff, Cashel	Dwelling	Extension/ Refurbishment works.	Contractor on site. Completion Qtr1 2022

The Traveller Accommodation Capital Team is currently working on options to address the accommodation needs in the following areas for 2022/2023 and proposals around the options/considerations include:

- Waller's Lot Phase 2
- Knocksaintlour
- Condon's Cross
- Ballyknock Halting Site
- Ballyvillane
- A number of extensions to existing traveller accommodation properties to address over-crowding concerns.

A new 3 year capital programme will be worked up in 2022 for the following 3 years.

CORPORATE SERVICES AND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

Strategies/Policies/Plans

Policy/Strategic Issues	Status
Audit Committee Work Prog	Completed
SPC Scheme	Completed
Corporate Plan 2020-2024	Completed
Communication Strategy	Completed
Social Media Policy & Protocol	Completed
Property Asset Management Strategy	Completed
Records Management Polices/Procedures	Completed
GDPR & Data Protection Policies / Procedures	Completed
Annual Service Delivery Plan 2022	At Draft Stage
Annual Report 2021	At Draft Stage
Associated Companies Governance Policy & Guidance document	At Draft Stage

Audit Committee

The last meeting of the Audit Committee took place on Wednesday 1st December 2021. The following items were discussed:

- TCC Audit Report 2020 – Local Government Auditor, Fiona Clancy
- Local Government Auditor Management Letters
- Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2021
- Update on Outstanding Audit Recommendations
- Internal Audit Plan Update

- Southern Audit Committee Chair Forum Update
- Overview of NOAC Good Practice in Local Government Seminar
- NOAC Report on Performance Indicators 2020
- Risk Register Update
- Clonmel Borough District Update
- Value for Money Report – Overview of Vacant/Void Social Housing in Local Authorities
- Management Reports to the Council

Ethical Framework

This framework imposes a statutory duty on all in the service to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

Annual Declaration

- **28th February 2022 deadline for the submission of Annual Declarations by elected members.**

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

Political Donations by Elected Members

- **31 January 2022 deadline for the reporting of political donations by elected members**

Each person who, in the preceding year, was a member of a local authority is required, under section 19E of the *Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act*



1999 (as amended) (referred to hereafter as “the 1999 Act”) to furnish to their local authority, not later than 31 January, a donation statement indicating whether during the preceding calendar year the member received from the same person, a donation exceeding €600 in value. This provision applies to each person who was a member of a local authority in 2021.

Furthermore, a member of a local authority who receives, in any particular year, a monetary donation of more than €100 must open and maintain an account in a financial institution in the State and must lodge that donation and any further monetary donations received, of whatever value, to that account (referred to as a political donations account).

Not later than 31 January in each year, a member of the local authority who was required to open a political donations account must furnish to the local authority, along with their donation statement, a statement provided by the financial institution where the political donations account was opened (under section 19D of the 1999 Act).

Annual Report 2021

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 2021 and a draft of the report will be submitted to the Council at its April meeting.

Service Delivery Plan 2022:

The service delivery plan for 2022 is currently being drafted and will be submitted for the consideration of the Council at the April meeting of the Council following notification of Road grant allocations for the year ahead. 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;

Insurance Management

Public Liability/Pothole Claims to period 31st December 2021

Pothole - 81

Public Liability - 81

Total Claims – 162

Register of Electors

The Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 was published on 1st November 2021. The claims court for corrections to the Draft Register 2022/2023 took place on 13th December 2021. The live Register of Electors 2022/2023 will be published on 1st February 2022 and will come in to force on 15th February 2022.

Coroner Service

Statistics for period to 30th Nov 2021:

No. of deaths certs issued: 556

No. of Post mortems/Inquests: 696

No. of Undertaker Removals: 144

A new panel of Funeral Directors per Municipal District is currently being finalised for the 4 year period to 2026.



Graduate.ie Youth Engagement Programme

Tipperary County Council is partaking in the 2022 Graduate.ie youth engagement programme, which will allow the Council to set 20 questions about the various topics which are relevant to its local authority e.g. democracy & participation, environment & waste management, library service, etc. The questions will be available to all secondary school students in Co Tipperary over a 20 week period i.e. one question each week on the Graduate.ie website. At least one student from Tipperary Co Council electoral area will win a free 4 day educational trip to Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. There will be a total of 24 students from Ireland travelling and they will be taking part in a youth parliament (Euroscola) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This is a unique and very effective way to engage and inform the next generation of potential leaders, customers, voters, politicians, workers, etc.

Ms. Laoiseach Kinsella, Loretto Secondary School, Clonmel won the citizens and democracy programme run by graduate.ie and sponsored by Tipperary County Council.

Local Government Service Catalogue

- **New website offers information on 1,000 local government services**

A new website was launched in November 2021 that provides the public with clear, accessible and user-friendly information about local government services all in one place. Developed by the Local Government Management Agency with support from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the County and City

Management






Association, <https://services.localgov.ie/en-ie/Home/intro> aims to make services more accessible and to improve communications and engagement with the public by presenting all local government service information on one website.

Communications Strategy

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

Some of the activities promoted since the last report included in the achievements table from October -December 2021.

Achievements October-December 2021

October	
<p>Tipperary Tourism Launch of National Trail St Declan's Way</p> 	<p>Healthy Tipperary Social Farming</p> 
<p>Environment and Climate Action Launch of Reuse Month</p> 	<p>Tipperary Arts Office Orchestra Ormond Castle Carrick on Suir</p> 
<p>Fire Safety Week</p> 	<p>Suir Blueway</p> 

Online planning service



Tipperary Tourism experiences



Nenagh Live

Chambers Ireland
An Roinn Tibhacha, Rialtas Áiríal agus Gaibhreacha
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2021
Promoting Economic Development

- Clark City Council – Parklet Partners Project
- Donegal County Council – #BuyDonegal
- Limerick City and County Council – Happen - Mid West Network of Co-Work Spaces
- Mayo County Council – Mayo - A World Class Place to do Business
- Monaghan County Council – Monaghan Town Voucher
- Tipperary County Council – Nenagh Live

Sponsor **EIRGRID**

Arts 'Around the bend'



November

Healthy Tipperary County Council

Creating Wellness Series
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Ways to Wellness Open Day
10am to 4pm
Friday 5th November
Hidden Cafe, Ploce4U

Explore the range of creative activities that will be on offer at the upcoming Ways to Wellness short course (14 - 19005). Booking is essential via bookings@hiddencafe.ie or 087 8143 404

Knit & Natter Sessions
10am to 12pm
Tuesday 9th & 16th November
Moi's Cafe, Market Place

Reconnect and get creative over a cuppa at our friendly knit & natter sessions hosted by Moi's Cafe. All creations will be included in our 'Knit & Natter' installation at Mick Delahunty Square to raise awareness around mental health.

Family Urban Knitting Workshops
10am & 11.30am
Saturday 20th November
Tipperary Museum of Hidden History

Join us to explore a wonderful world of colour, texture and creativity! Try your hand at the circular knitting machine, learn how to create with dolly, pegs or pom-poms and make the art of knitting guided by artist artist Phillipa Kennedy of Pippacraft. Booking is essential via jkenned@gmail.com or 085 7827317

The Mistletoe Café
10am to 4pm
Sunday 28th December
Hidden Cafe, Ploce4U

Take a trip down memory lane in our cosy festive café. Enjoy an exhibition of old photographs and film with the sounds of yesteryear. Share your stories and traditions over tea, coffee and mince pies. Bring or make your own traditional decoration to add to our Community Wishing Tree. Our creative team will be happy to help! All are welcome.

Solstice: From Darkness to Light
Spoken Word with Eileen Achson
8pm, Tuesday 23rd December
Kickham Chapel

Join us for an evening of Spoken Word in the beautiful South Tipperary Arts Centre venue of Kickham Chapel as we celebrate the theme Solstice: From Darkness to Light.

Minister Humphries visits the county



LEO Tipperary

01777 Fiontar Án tSúil Thiobraid Árann
Local Enterprise Office Tipperary

Footpaths at Castleiney NS



Launch of Thoroughbred Plan Tiperary and Kildare



December

Tipperary Sports Partnership



Clonmel BD – Flood Barriers



Thurles MD – Bridge replacement over the Clodagh River at Rusheen Borrissoleigh



Opening of Nenagh Tourist office by Minister Patrick O'Donovan



Suir Island gardens designated as Sláintecare Healthy Community



New Pinus Sylvestris Bonsai tree planted on the Holycross roundabout in Thurles



Great outdoors at Templemore Park



Cashel Public Realm



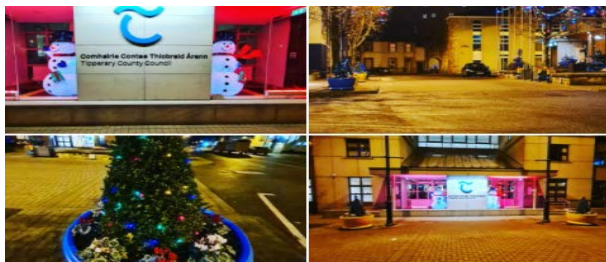
Tipperary Town Consumer Survey



Two Mile Borris Active Travel Works



Christmas Clonmel



Christmas Templemore



Christmas Thurles



Christmas Roscrea



Christmas Cashel



Christmas Nenagh



Christmas Tipperary Town

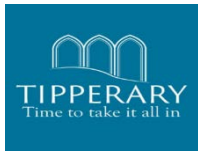


Christmas Carrick on Suir



Communications focus	Summary of some items PLANNED for promotion January – March 2022
<p>Arts/Events/Festivals/Heritage/Museum</p> 	<p>St. Patrick's Day festival</p>
<p>Community and Enterprise</p> 	<p>Community groups – grant applications</p>
<p>Environment and Climate Action</p> 	<p>Christmas tree recycling - January Spring Clean - February Tree month – March</p>
<p>LEO Tipperary</p> 	<p>Job change/start your own business - January</p> <p>Enterprise week – March</p>
<p>Fire and Rescue Services</p> 	<p>Community smoke alarm scheme Smoke alarms and checking on neighbours Primary school programme</p>
<p>Sports Partnership</p> 	<p>Operation transformation walks</p>

Tourism



Membership Scheme for Tipperary Tourism, direct at all tourism related businesses in County.

Promoting Tipperary as a holiday destination for 2022

Libraries

Something for everyone



Library showcase
Aoitas adult learning

Roads



Hedgecutting – January and February

Road allocations – February

Planning

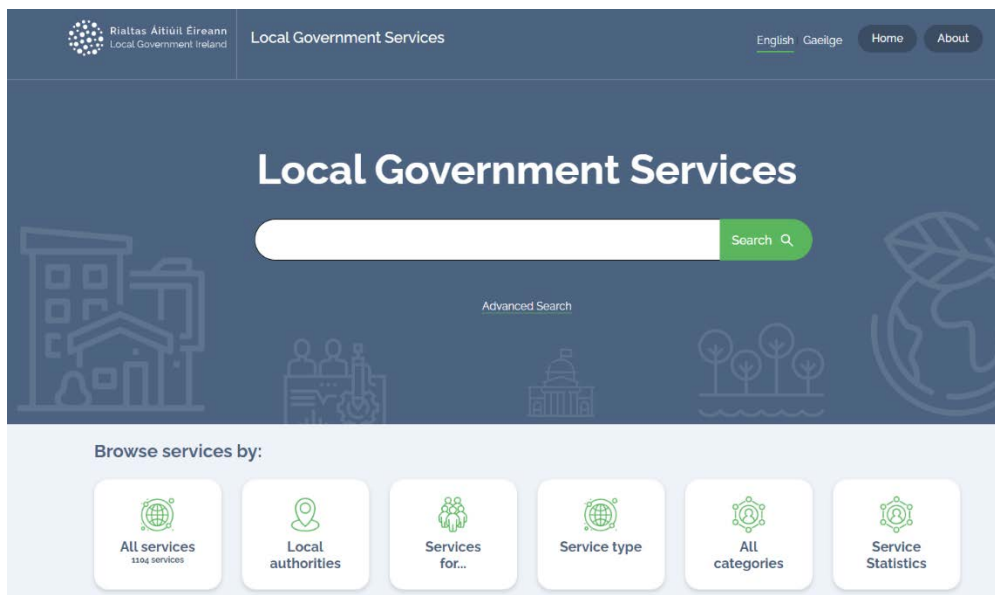


E-planning

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES CATALOGUE



The Local Government Services Catalogue was launched on the 15 November 2021 <https://services.localgov.ie/> where information on local government services, from housing to heritage and from parks to planning and more, there are over 1000 services listed. Simply go to the website, type in what you're looking for and select your local authority to access the service.



Customer Service Activity

Period 1 September 2021 – 31 December 2021

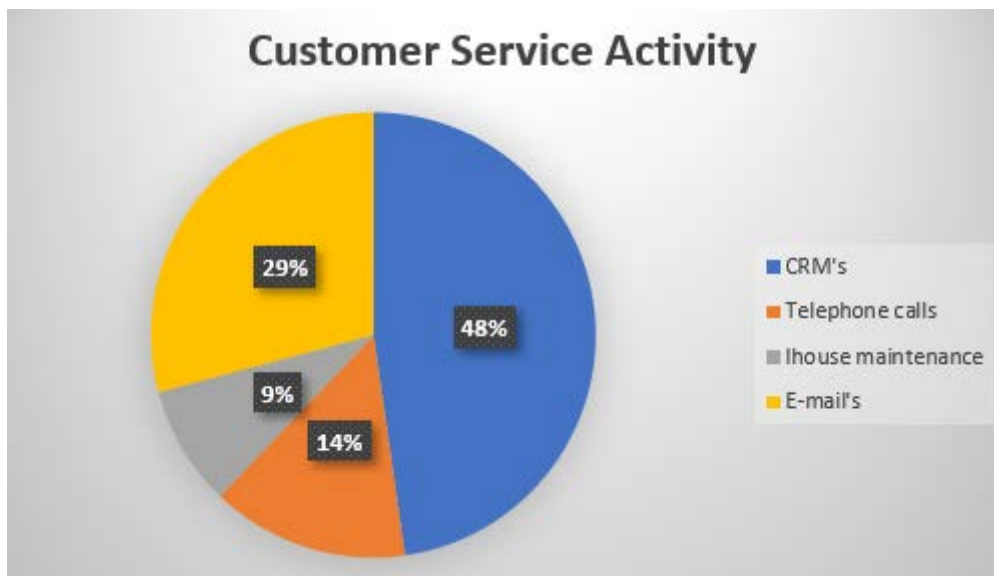
CSD staff also utilise the following systems for logging and looking up customer queries:

-

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

Customer Service activity – CSD staff

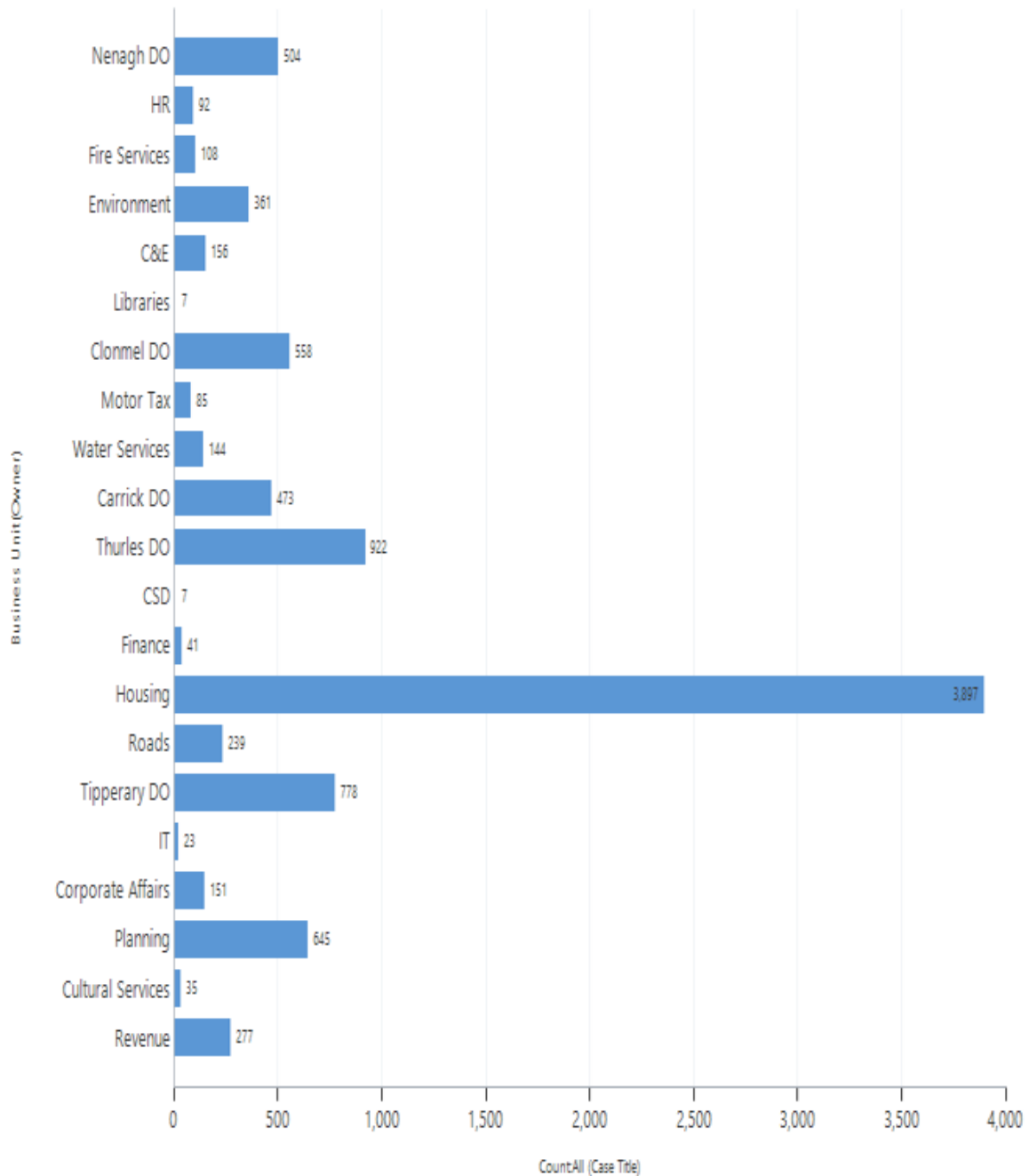
CRM's	9,503
Telephone calls	2,863
Ihouse maintenance	1,744
E-mail's	5,801
Total	19,911





CRM – Customer Relations Management System – breakdown per Section

Period 1 September 2021 – 31 December 2021



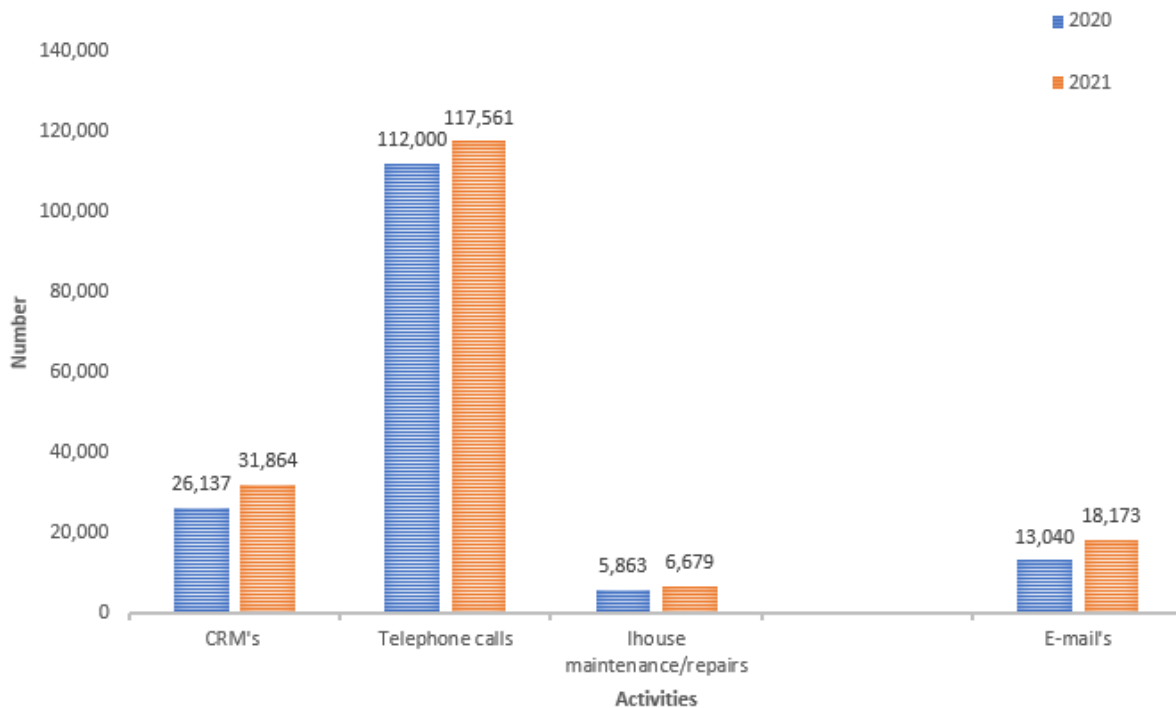
Customer Service Activity

2020 and 2021 year end comparison

Customer Service Activity	2020	2021
CRM's	26,137	31,864
Telephone calls	112,000	117,561
Ihouse maintenance/repairs	5,863	6,679
E-mail's	13,040	18,173
Total	157,040	174,277

Overall 9% increase on the above customer service activities from 2020 to 2021.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ACTIVITY

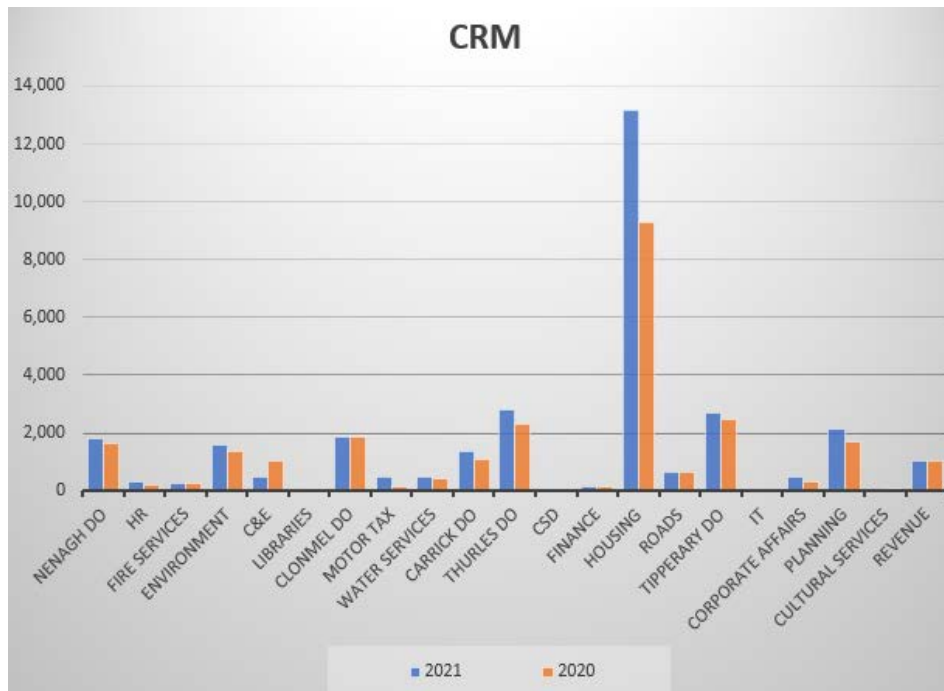




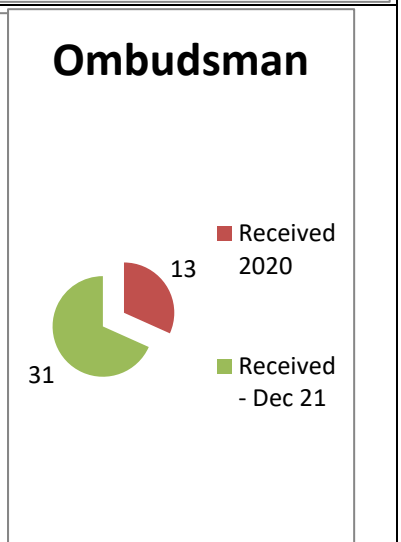
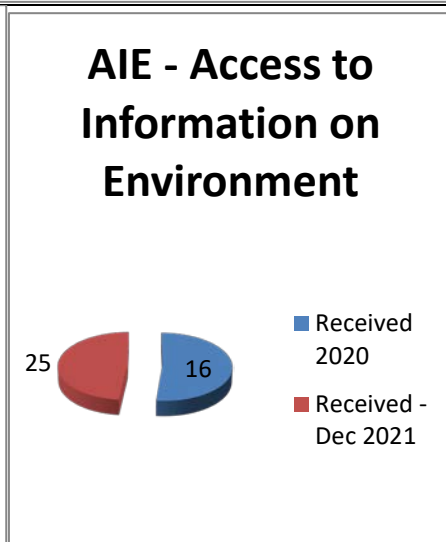
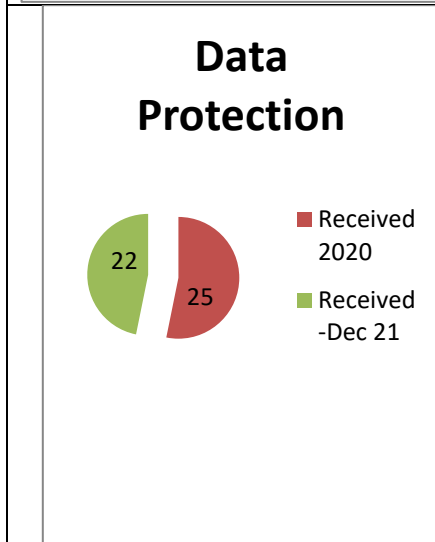
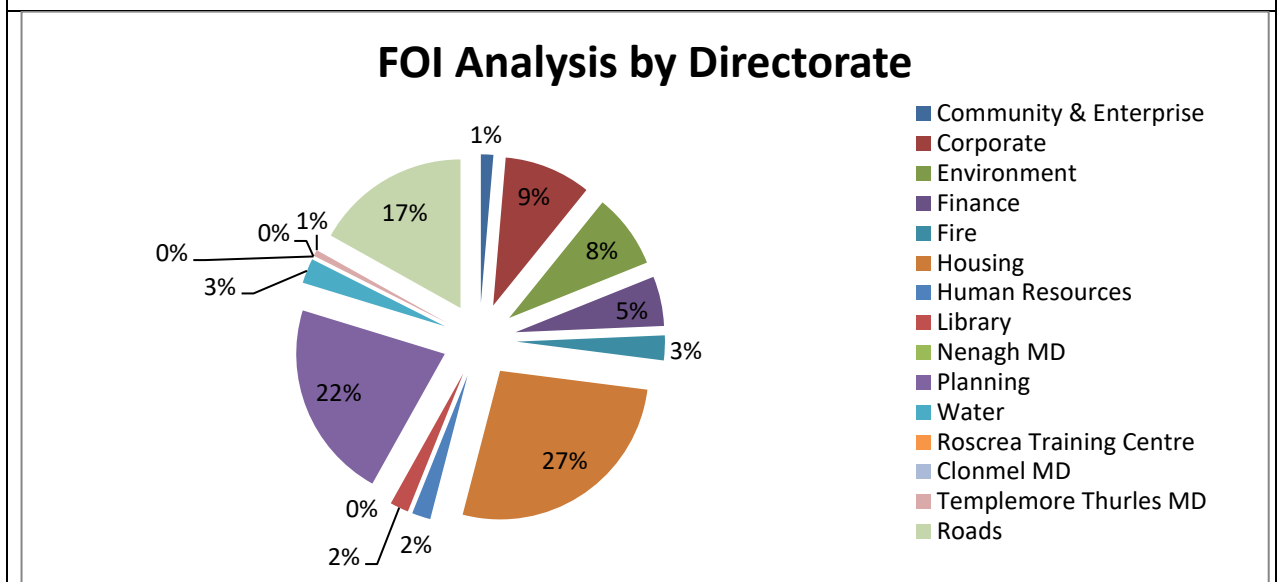
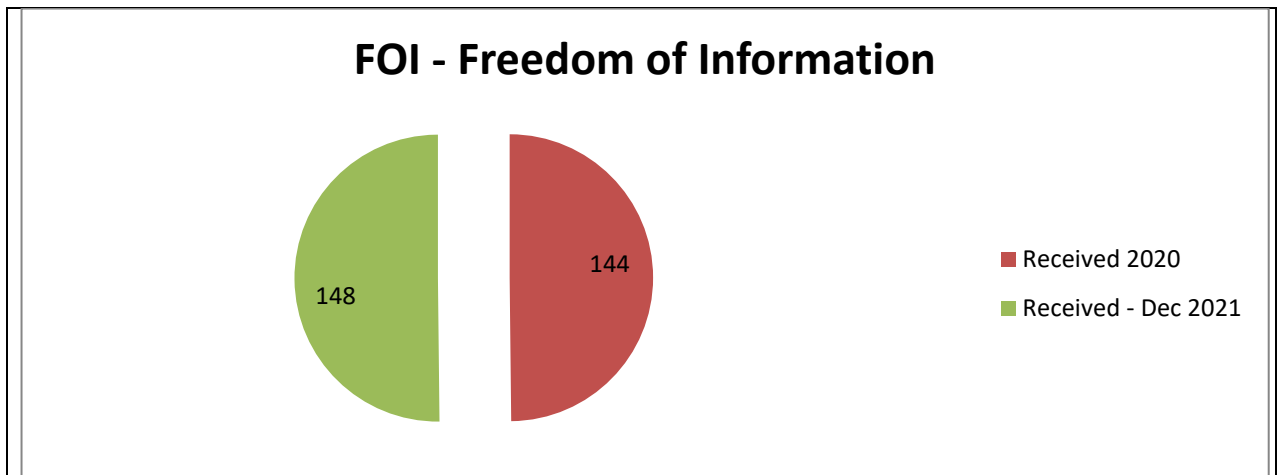
CRM - 2020 and 2021 year end comparison

CRM	2021	2020
Nenagh DO	1,782	1,630
HR	287	179
Fire Services	280	269
Environment	1,587	1,370
C&E	495	1,033
Libraries	25	36
Clonmel DO	1,843	1,865
Motor Tax	473	167
Water Services	471	448
Carrick DO	1,348	1,082
Thurles DO	2,792	2,284
CSD	17	11
Finance	121	169
Housing	13,182	9,301
Roads	664	670
Tipperary DO	2,682	2,453
IT	75	57
Corporate Affairs	473	332
Planning	2,161	1,689
Cultural Services	100	74
Revenue	1,006	1,018
	31,864	26,137

22% increase in CRM activity in 2021.



Information Management





Property Management

Land Disposal - Section 183 Resolutions approved by Council and managed by CPU			
Period to: 31st December 2021			
Year	Sec 183 Approved	Outstanding	Resolved
2018	27	0	27
2019	33	0	33
2020	24	5	19
2021	30	9	21

Schedule of Property Transactions o/s

Glenconnor, Clonmel
No. 2 Redmond Square, Tipperary Town
Knockmorris, Cahir
Callan Street, Mullinahone
The Mall, Templemore
No. 1 Ashbury Park, Roscrea
Dromineer, Nenagh
Dromineer, Nenagh
Stereame, Nenagh
Lisbunney Business Park, Nenagh
Castlewaller, Newport
Fair Green, Main Street, Borriokane
Burgagery Lands East, Clonmel
Old Motor Tax Office, Banba Square, Nenagh