

County Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Annual Report 2025



In accordance with Local Government Act 2001 (128B) (1) (i)

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Membership of LCDC	3
3. Presentations to the LCDC in 2025.....	5
4. LCDC Site visit to National Bioeconomy Campus.....	5
5. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).....	7
6. Local Development Strategy/LEADER Programme	7
6.1 LEADER Projects approved in 2025	8
6.2 LEADER Highlights	9
6.3 Greening your LEADER Project Guidance Document	9
7. Local Enhancement Programme 2025.....	9
8. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).....	10
8.1 SICAP Case studies	10
8.2 SICAP Collaboration Meeting	11
9. Community Response to Emergency Events.....	11
10. Other Funding Schemes/Programmes.....	12
10.1 CLÁR Programme	12
10.2 Town and Village Renewal Scheme	13
10.3 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).....	14
10.4 Community Recognition Fund 2025.....	15
11. Quality of Life: Healthy Ireland Tipperary	16
11.1 Healthy Ireland Fund 2023 – 2026	16
11.2 Period Poverty Fund.....	22
12. Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Clonmel.....	23
12.1 Clonmel Substance Mis Use Project.....	23
12.2 Playful Streets – Glenconnor Hill Estate	24
12.3 Youth Prescriber Pilot Project.....	25
12.4 Clonmel Youth Festival – Applefest.....	25
12.5 Old Bridge Community Group (OBCG).....	26
12.6 VR in RehabCare Clonmel	26
12.7 StorySlam Recovery Project	26

13. Children and Young People’s Services Committee	27
14. Quality of Life: Tipperary Age Friendly	28
14.1 EXPO June 2025	28
14.2 Tidy Towns Engagement	29
14.3 Housing Information Workshops.....	29
14.4 Dementia Awareness.....	30
14.5 Reminiscing Project – Back in My Day.....	31
14.6 Ageing Well in your Community.....	31
15. Other initiatives	32
15.1 Engage in Energy Local Child Poverty Action Plan.....	32
15.2 Power of People and Place.....	32
15.3 Planet Youth.....	32
14.4 Tipperary Irish Sign Language	32

This report outlines the work of the Tipperary Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and provides an overview of broader initiatives and funding programmes supporting community and rural development across the county.

While not all programmes referenced are direct functions of the LCDC, they are included to reflect the wider community and rural development landscape within which the Committee operates.

1. Introduction

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st of March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year.

Tipperary LCDC had a busy and productive 2025 with overseeing Local Economic and Community Plan, the SICAP Programme and the Rural Development Programme 2023-2027 - together with our partners within the Local Development Companies. The LCDC membership was supported by Mr. Brian Back, Chief Officer, until he moved Directorate in October. Mr. Damien Ginty took over the position and together with his staff within the Economic Community and Rural Development Directorate of Tipperary County Council they

Since its inception, the Tipperary LCDC has been an effective committee, providing good opportunities for oversight and targeting resources. The relationships with the PPN and the Local Development Companies are very strong, and networking opportunities provided through the LCDC are valued immensely.

The LCDC continues to draw on the expertise and experience of public and private stakeholders within the local authority area to provide effective and efficient services to citizens and communities, and particularly those most in need of the available services.

Tipperary LCDC held 11 meetings during 2025. LCDC specific purpose subgroups have formed and meet frequently to discuss and decide on programme specific issues that would be too time-consuming for the full monthly LCDC plenary meetings.

2. Membership of LCDC

The Tipperary LCDC is composed of 19 representatives from both public and private sectors. The membership is split to ensure a majority from the non-statutory (private) sector to maintain independence from the Local Authority. Membership for 2025 is set out below.

Tipperary LCDC Membership December 2025 (Not including Chief Officer)

Name	Organisation	Sector
Michael Murray	North Tipperary Development Company	Private
Isabel Cambie	South Tipperary Development Company	Private
Pat Carroll	IFA	Private
John O'Shaughnessy (alternate member Sarah Fogarty)	Business Pillar	Private
Derry O'Donnell	PPN	Private
Michael Geary	PPN	Private
Mike Edwards	PPN	Private
Maedhbh Gordon	PPN	Private
Elaine Baker	PPN	Private
Mourne Gouws	PPN	Private
Colin Cummins	TETB	Public
Derval Howley	HSE	Public
Stephanie O'Callaghan	Tusla/CYPSC	Public
Anthony Fitzgerald (Interim position)	Local Enterprise Office	Public
Katie Frazer	Teagasc	Public
Cllr. John Carroll	Tipperary County Council	Public
Sinéad Carr	Tipperary County Council	Public
Cllr. Marie Murphy	Tipperary County Council	Public
Cllr. Annemarie Ryan	Tipperary County Council	Public

Changes to the LCDC in 2025:

- Mr. Brian Beck was replaced by Mr. Damien Ginty as Chief Officer in October.
- Mr. Mourne Gownes was ratified as a PPN representative in December.

3. Presentations to the LCDC in 2025

Presentations were made to the LCDC at monthly meetings as set out below.

Presentations at LCDC Meetings 2025

Month	Presenter	Organisation	Presentation Title
February	Shane O'Dwyer, Senior Executive Officer, TCC	Tipperary County Council	Local Economic Community Plan – update on actions: Housing Section
March	Colin Cummins, Director of Further Education and Training, TETB	Tipperary Education Training Board	Local Economic Community Plan - update on actions: TETB
April	Fiona Crotty, Administrative Officer, TCC	Tipperary County Council	Local economic Community Plan – update on actions: Community & Rural Development Section
May	Derval Howley, Head of Service, Health and Wellbeing, HSE	Health Service Executive	Restructuring of the HSE
July	Fran Igoe, Regional Coordinator, LAWPRO	Local Authority Waters Programme	"Maximising LEADER funding for the benefit of biodiversity, water quality, climate resilience and local communities."
September	Stephen Napier, Chief Executive, IBF	Irish Bioeconomy Foundation	Site visit to National Bioeconomy Campus
October	Marian Daly, Planet Youth Tipperary Co-Ordinator	Planet Youth	Presentation on Planet Youth
November	Eddie Meegan, Climate Action Officer	Tipperary County Council	Tipperary County Council Climate Action Plan LCDC update 2025
December	Sheevaun Thompson, Administrative Officer	Tipperary County Council	Local Economic Community Plan implementation update

4. LCDC Site visit to National Bioeconomy Campus

As part of its September meeting, the Tipperary Local Community Development Committee and support staff visited the National Bioeconomy Campus in Lisheen, Thurles, to deepen its understanding of how the bioeconomy can benefit communities across the county.

The visit aligns with the **Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029**, which has a goal to develop the bioeconomy sector as a key driver of sustainable growth and job creation in the county.

The campus is a flagship initiative for Tipperary, showcasing how local resources and partnerships can be harnessed to create high-value bio-based products from low-value biomass. It also houses the **Biomethane Development Office**, supporting renewable energy efforts that are vital to rural communities.

The project is a collaboration between **Tipperary County Council**, the **Technological University of the Shannon**, and **industry partners**, aiming to position the county as a leader in Ireland's circular economy.

The LCDC was warmly welcomed by representatives of the **Irish Bioeconomy Foundation**, including:

- **Stephen Napier**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Sean O'Grady**, Chief Operations
- **Naveen Kumar**, Project Manager

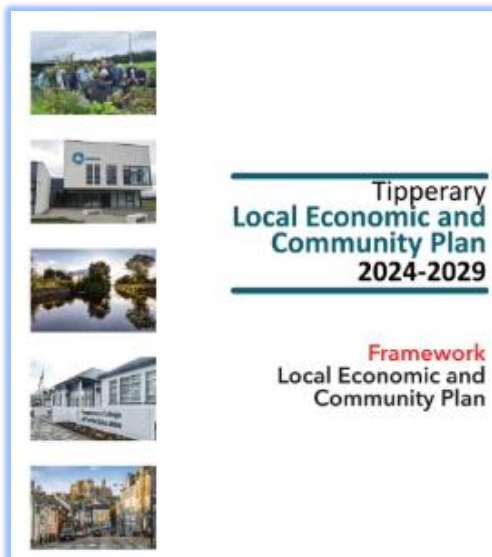
These experts shared their insights and passion for advancing Ireland's bioeconomy. They spoke about how the campus can support local enterprise, attract investment, and create employment in Tipperary.

The visit highlighted the importance of local leadership in advancing national sustainability goals. By supporting initiatives like Lisheen Campus, Tipperary County Council is helping to build a greener, more resilient economy rooted in the strengths of Tipperary's communities.



LCDC Members and staff on a site visit to the National Bioeconomy Campus in September

5. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)



The Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was adopted at the Council meeting in December 2023. The LECP sets out, for six years, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county. The LECP Plan is a tool for delivering actions from national and regional strategies at a local level. It is designed to integrate actions and initiatives related to economic and community development in Tipperary into a single unified strategy.

High-Level Goals that form part of the Tipperary LECP 2024-2029 support the vision set out in the County Development Plan 2022-2028:

"Tipperary will be a vibrant place where people can live, visit and work in a competitive and resilient economy, a sustainable environment, and an inclusive, healthy, and active community"

The plan involves the LCDC helping to facilitate, promote, support, and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans. An LECP Advisory Group oversees the implementation of the Plan.

Under Section 128B(1) of the [Local Government Act 2001](#) (as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014), LCDCs are required to review the community elements of the LECP. This process will be undertaken during 2026.

To track actions a platform was designed and developed locally by the Tipperary County Council's IT section which allows all agencies to provide updates and submissions on their agreed actions through an on-line portal. Mid-year and end-of-year updates were provided in 2025 by action convenors. This information was collated into a report and presented to the LCDC at their December meeting.

The Economic Development and Enterprise SPC members are responsible for the economic elements of the plan and were presented with an update on status at the December SPC meeting.

6. Local Development Strategy/LEADER Programme

LEADER is a European Funded programme to progress Community & Economic projects with a view to improving economic activity and quality of life in rural areas. It is delivered through a partnership approach with North & South Tipperary Development Companies as implementing partners and Tipperary LCDC is the Local Action Group (LAG) with overall responsibility for the Programme. During 2025, the LEADER programme continued to support balanced rural development, strengthen local enterprise capacity and embed sustainability across funded initiatives in communities throughout County Tipperary.

The overall budget for 2023-2027 for Tipperary is €7.8 million; allocated across three key themes; Economic Development & Job Creation, Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development of Rural Environment & Climate Change.

6.1 LEADER Projects approved in 2025

The projects listed below were approved for funding by the LCDC during 2025, representing over €1.5m of the LEADER budget:

Project Name	Project Promoter	Amount
Thurles Heritage Trail	Thurles Lions Club	€29,657.93
Stonepark Lodge Caravan Camping & Accommodation	Stonepark Lodge Caravan Camping & Accommodation	€104,533.88
Completion of Lorrha Community Hub	S.C.E.A.L. Society Limited	€34,417.50
Environmental Training for Men's Sheds	North Tipperary Development Company CLG	€18,186.00
Soul Form Furniture Studio Limited	Soul Form Furniture Studio Limited	€80,292.02
Cross Business Expansion Project	Cross Fabrication Limited	€112,906.58
Irish Fishing Tours	Irish Fishing Tours	€100,415.97
Derg Lake Tours	Derg Lake Tours	€36,385.97
Community Walking Track - Solar PV	Cloughjordan Community FC	€10,987.50
Community Walking Track - Walkway Lighting and Associated Works	Cloughjordan Community FC	€58,557.48
Castleiney Ball Alley Rejuvenation Works	Castleiney Development Association CLG	€44,598.38
Loughtagalla Biodiversity Play Park (Phase 2 Carpark)	Loughtagalla Park & Residents Association	€114,864.74
Extension to Lismackin Community Centre	Bournea Parish Development Association	€108,750.00
Roscrea Biodiversity Park	Lions Club of Roscrea	€24,750.00
The Wool Partnership	North Tipperary Development Company CLG	€4,981.50
Thurles Community Walkway and Orchard	Thurles Sarsfield GAA	€137,635.12
Ballyporeen Environmental Enhancement Works	Ballyporeen Community Council Clg	€35,326.87
IT Upgrade for Community Centre Training Room	Tipperary Community Council CLG	€5,362.50
Aiseiri Accessibility & Aesthetic Enhancement Project	Aiseiri Cahir CLG	€97,893.75
Volunteer Training and Development - Clonmel Repair Cafe	Suircan Environmental Clg	€13,530.00
Search and Rescue Drone Purchase	South Eastern Mountain Rescue CLG	€13,351.89
Knockmealdown Glamping	Anthony Murphy	€130,237.52
Purchase of Capital Equipment to Support Business Expansion	Coniaka Ltd	€145,855.50
Sustainable Energy	Place4U	€13,631.58
Solar panels	Millennium Family Resource Centre Clg	€22,983.75

Lighting Upgrade to Tipperary Excel Heritage Centre	Tipperary Excel Heritage Clg	€14,595.00
Cashel Tidy Towns Biodiversity Plan	Cashel Tidy Towns	€4,538.70
Walpoles Canal River Wall Upgrade	Cahir Development Association Clg	€7,405.87
Tipperary Town Biodiversity Project	Tipperary Town Revitalisation CLG	€5,592.71
Festival Marketing and PR Development	Clonmel Junction Arts Festival Company Limited by Guarantee	€12,114.40
Killenaule Community Park Development Feasibility Study	Killenaule Community Enhancement CLG	€30,000.00
Co-operation Pre-Development Strategic Plan Lingaun Valley	South Tipperary Development Company CLG	€6,000.00
TOTAL		€1,580,340.61

6.2 LEADER Highlights

- A targeted Green Economy call supported enterprises and social enterprises investing in sustainability, employment growth and low-carbon initiatives, with grants ranging from €10,000 to €80,000.
- An environmental targeted call supported biodiversity enhancement, energy efficiency upgrades and climate mitigation measures within community and voluntary organisations.
- Enterprise supports were approved for tourism development, manufacturing expansion and specialist equipment investment to strengthen rural employment and innovation.
- Community projects supported renewable energy installations (solar panels), LED retrofitting, EV charging points, rainwater harvesting systems and biodiversity improvements.
- The LEADER Annual Plan 2026 was adopted by the LCDC in November 2025, reaffirming the objective of full delivery of the Local Development Strategy by December 2027 through continued engagement, collaboration and innovation.

6.3 Greening your LEADER Project Guidance Document

During the year, a ["Greening your LEADER Project" guidance document](#) was developed by the LCDC to embed environmental considerations across each stage of project development and delivery.

7. Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The administration of the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is a function of the LCDC. The LEP provides funding to support community groups across Ireland. The LEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by Tipperary County Council on behalf of the Tipperary LCDC.

Funding is targeted at communities to allow them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area particularly in areas that are most disadvantaged.

In June 2025, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht approved funding of €194,509 for capital projects and €46,475 for running costs to over 250 community groups around the County.

8. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2004-2008 provides funding to tackle poverty and social inclusion locally through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations, and public sector agencies. The programme supports the capacity of Community Groups and can provide grants and support individuals to return to education, training, employment, and self-employment.

The SICAP Programme is funded through the Department of Rural and Community Development with co-financing from the European Social Fund and is managed locally by Tipperary LCDC with support from Tipperary County Council. The current programme commenced on 1st January 2024. The budget for the 2024-2028 programme and specifically 2025 is:

Lot Name and No	Maximum Framework Agreement Budget 2024-2028	SICAP 2025 Annual Plan Budget	New Arrivals* 2025 Allocation
22-1 Tipperary North	€5,415,499	€724,472	€141,927
22-2 Tipperary South	€6,618,250	€894,403	€131,928

*International Protection Applicants and Holders of Temporary Protection

Both Implementing Partners met or exceeded their targets in 2025 of providing support to 490 individuals and 40 community groups/networks or social enterprises in both North and South Tipperary.

The LCDC Social Inclusion continued to meet in 2025. This subgroup meets in advance of the scheduled LCDC meeting, to review SICAP implementation progress and to consider opportunities and challenges. It met six times in 2025. Final decisions in relation to all aspects of the SICAP programme are agreed by the full LCDC.

8.1 SICAP Case studies

SICAP case studies were developed by both Implementing Partners in 2025.

North Tipperary Development Company: Social Inclusion for Men’s Traveller Group with a focus on social inclusion through education, mental health awareness and breaking down barriers.

South Tipperary Development Company: People living in disadvantaged communities with a focus on youth and Community Activation: How one young person is shaping his community.

8.2 SICAP Collaboration Meeting

On September 9th, there was a Collaboration Meeting between LCDC staff, SICAP Managers, SICAP Development Officers, TCC Community Liaison Officers and the Local Authority Integration Team in Cabragh Wetlands, Thures. It was a wonderful day of information sharing, networking and relationship building.



9. Community Response to Emergency Events

The LCDC took a lead role in developing a community response to extreme events by setting up a Community Response to Emergency Events Subgroup in 2025. The subgroup is made up of LCDC members, TCC relevant staff and the PPN Co-Ordinator. The subgroup met online three times during the year and achieved the following:

- Reviewed feedback from a PPN workshop 'Building Community Resilience for Times of Emergency' held in July
- Had feedback from an INTERREG funded Community Resilience Workshop in UL in October
- Published a [Community and Personal Resilience Handbook](#).

In December 2025, the Department issued a Framework for Emergency Management which provides a guide for the establishment of Community Support Centres (CSCs). A CSC is a community-based premises, operated by local volunteers, that can be rapidly activated to provide basic welfare support to people affected by an emergency.

According to [national guidelines](#), a CSC will typically offer:

- A warm, safe indoor space where people can gather
- Light refreshments (tea/coffee/soup)
- Access to toilets and washroom facilities
- A space for sharing information with the public
- A private space for sensitive conversations or medical needs
- Device charging and access to Wi-Fi

CSCs will not provide overnight accommodation.

The LCDC, in consultation with each Municipal District, has identified [32 CSCs](#) from across the county. These CSCs will be installed with a changeover switch during 2026 to accommodate connection of a mobile generator. TCC will have four portable generators stored in TCC depots and deployed to centres in most need during an emergency.

10. Other Funding Schemes/Programmes

10.1 CLÁR Programme

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. On 28th November 2025, funding of €465,369 was awarded to 9 community groups for projects across the county under CLÁR Measure 1 - Developing Community Facilities and Amenities. The details are as follows:

Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Burncourt Community Council	Upgrade works at Burncourt Community Hall	€58,568
Donohill Development Council Ltd	Stairs, handrail and kitchen facilities	€62,363
Araglen Carnival Committee	Accessibility and service upgrades to clubhouse	€52,592
Kilruane MacDonaghs GAA and Camogie Club	Carpark surfacing and footpath replacement at Fr. Niall O'Meara Hall	€65,000
Rearcross FC	Lighting upgrades at Rearcross FC	€50,724
Knockshegowna GAA Community Centre	Toilet upgrades at Knockshegowna community centre	€39,867

Knock Community Centre Committee	Upgrade works at Knock community centre	€63,074
Gortnahoe Community Playschool	Sensory garden at Gortnahoe community playschool	€8,835
Drombane Community Centre	Upgrade works at Drombane community centre	€64,347

10.2 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

On 22nd December, a funding allocation of €921,950 was announced for 3 projects under the 2025 Town and Village Renewal Scheme and €100,000 for 2 projects under the Town and Village Renewal Project Development Measure. The successful projects are as follows:

Main Scheme Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Cashel Town Park	Phase 2 development of the Town Park aims to provide a high-quality park and public amenities in the centre of the town to include further development of the Boardwalk, construction of grass and gravel paths and landscaping to the west of the Bishops Walk.	€300,000
Nenagh Gaol	Renovation of 3-storey vacant Gaol lock to provide a visitor experience stimulating economic and social regeneration of the Historic & Cultural Quarter.	€500,000
Templemore Town Park	Enhance the Town Parks local biodiversity and improve the overall visitor experience, to include the development of the car park, resurfacing of pathways, planting of native hedgerows, and the introduction of a tranquil picnic area.	€112,950
Project Development Measure Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Carrick on Suir Duck Pond	To transform the under-utilised Duck Pond Area into a publicly accessible, environmentally sustainable amenity. Planning and design stages to progress towards capital investment readiness.	€50,000

Golden	Enhance Golden Island and adjoining site and properties to support the development of the village as a sustainable rural community and deliver a focal point where people can meet and relax along the banks of the River Suir.	€50,000
---------------	---	---------

10.3 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)

The Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme supports the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and the necessary repair, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreation infrastructure in the countryside areas across Ireland. On 14th August, funding of €269,825 was allocated to 6 Measure 1 ORIS projects and 1 ORIS Project Development Project as follows:

Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Cahir Loop Walkway	Excavation and surfacing of 950m road verge on a popular walking route	€39,600
High Kings Loop Walkway, Cashel	Construction of a new 400m section of footpath as a safety measure as part of the Kings Loop	€37,800
Littleton Labyrinth Car Park Development	The development of the car park at The Littleton Labyrinth	€30,825
Tipperary Heritage Way Footbridge	Refurbish the existing pedestrian footbridge allowing walkers on the St. Declan's Way trail to traverse the river Tar safely	€39,600
Trail the Vales	To create a series of ten short-form videos for use on digital platforms highlighting the Munster Vales region	€36,000
Water Refill Stations Suir Blueway Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir	The installation of two water refill stations at Careys Slip and Kilsheelan	€36,000

Project Development Measure

Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Suir Island Whitewater Channel (Millrace)	Re-watering of an old millrace channel on Suir Island, in Clonmel for recreational white water kayaking and specialist rescue training	€50,000

On 3rd November, funding of €800,300 was allocated to ORIS Measure 2 and ORIS Measure 3 projects as follows:

Measure 2

Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Bay Lough Access Walkway	Upgrade Bay Lough Access Walkway	€153,000
Widening and Signage Improvements along Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir Blueway	Widening and signage Improvements along Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir Blueway	€200,000

Measure 3

Project Name	Project Description	Grant Allocation
Thurles River Suir Walkway - Phase 2	Extension of Thurles River Suir Walkway from Ladys Well into Thurles Town Park via the Mill Road establishing a looped walk of 5km	€447,300

10.4 Community Recognition Fund 2025

In June, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht approved funding of €404,317 for eight (8) community groups across Co. Tipperary.

Name of Group	Project	Amount Awarded
Roscrea Swimming Pool	Roscrea Swimming Pool & gym equipment upgrade	€50,000
Roscrea Tennis Club	Roscrea Tennis Club facilities upgrade	€50,000
Dundrum Community Hall	Dundrum Community Hall Yard Upgrade	€50,000
Clonmel RFC	Clonmel RFC All-Weather Pitch	€50,000
Carrick on Suir Municipal District	Carrick on Suir Playground Upgrade	€50,000

Clonmel Rowing Club	Clonmel Rowing Club House Refurbishment	€54,317.30
Thurles Municipal District	Thurles Skate Park Renovation	€50,000
Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams GAA Club	Knockavilla Donaskeigh Kickhams GAA Club Renovations	€50,000

11. Quality of Life: Healthy Ireland Tipperary

11.1 Healthy Ireland Fund 2023 – 2026



Target Area 1 (Cahir):

Outdoor exercise equipment was purchased for a new exercise station on the Swiss Walk in Cahir. Equipment purchased is tailored towards older adults and people with disabilities.

Outdoor exercise sessions were provided in Cahir along the Swiss Walk in partnership with TailorMade Coaching Cahir. Adults were supported with a weekly exercise session and instructor detailing how to correctly use the outdoor equipment and incorporating the equipment into a workout programme.



In conjunction with the HSE, Healthy Ireland Tipperary provided health education, information and signposting to farmers and their families at the Mart in Cahier throughout Men’s Health Week.

A Be Well programme (physical activity and health education) was delivered by Health Matters in Cahir targeting older adults. Tipperary Sports Partnership delivered Healthy Ireland Tipperary funded activities in Cahir including:

- Activator Walking Pole Programme delivered – Walking leadership information and resources to continue to walk



and lead walks in the community were also provided.

- Integrated Paddles Up Programme – An integrated paddles up programme with youth (non-Irish nationals) was delivered on the Suir Blueway.
- Inclusive Paddling Programme – An inclusive paddling programme was delivered with Scoil Aonghusa and Brothers of Charity on the Suir Blueway.

Target Area 2 (Clogheen):

Funding was provided to Vee Valley Day Care Centre in Clogheen for activities to increase social engagement in adults (aged 50+) and older adults.

Clogheen Community Association was supported with funding for a Be Well, physical activity and health education programme delivered by Health Matters, and funding towards activities to increase social engagement in adults aged 50+.

Clogheen Men's Shed was provided with funding to support the development of their community grow garden. Funding was used to purchase a polytunnel and improve the irrigation system, raised beds and accessibility.



Target Area 3 (Littleton):

Grant Funding was provided to North Tipperary Development Company (NTDC) for activities to increase social engagement in adults (aged 50+) and older adults in the Littleton area. NTDC delivered a wide range of community-focused programmes targeting disadvantaged men and women, Traveller men & women, and older adults. Activities including sewing, woodcraft, mobility exercise classes, knitting/crochet, literacy supports, physical activity classes were delivered.

Activities supported integrated engagement of community groups, supporting confidence building, skills development, improved physical/mental wellbeing, supporting inclusion.

Activities fostered significant integration between Traveller and settled communities, reduced isolation, and increased participation across all groups.





Target Area 4 (Nenagh):

Tipperary Sports Partnership delivered Healthy Ireland Tipperary funded activities in Nenagh including:

- AquaFit Programmes - A tailored aquafit programme was developed to introduce older adults to a new low impact physical activity opportunity in a social environment, suitable for all abilities.
- Swimming Programme – tailored towards adults and older adults, TSP linked with FRC's and community organisations within Nenagh and surrounds.
- Inclusive Swim Programme – An inclusive swim programme was delivered for people with disabilities, a large group from Down Syndrome Tipperary participated.
- Activator Walking Pole Programme delivered - Walking leadership information and resources to continue to walk and lead walks in the community were also provided.
- Boccia Programme – TSP worked with community and sports organisations in Nenagh to build a Boccia programme. A Masters Boccia Tournament was delivered and hosted in the Abbey Court Hotel, with 14 teams competing (Men's/Women's Sheds, Active Retirement and Community Groups).
- Inclusive Aqua Programme – 3 blocks of 12-week Inclusive aqua were delivered in conjunction with disability services and Nenagh Leisure Centre for young people with disabilities.

Silver Arch Family Resource Centre were provided with Grant Funding to deliver diverse wellbeing programmes including a community choir, positive psychology workshops, digital literacy, easy exercise classes, healthy cooking, soundbaths, and self-care/creative wellbeing sessions.

Activities reached older adults, people with disabilities, disadvantaged adults and general community members, reducing isolation and improving physical, mental, digital and social wellbeing. Several groups built enough capacity to transition to independent community-run programmes, strengthening long-term community engagement. A Be Well programme (physical activity and health education) was delivered by Health Matters in Nenagh targeting older adults.



Target Area 4 (County):

Gurtagarry Community Grow Garden received funding to support further development of the garden. A training course delivered by Jim Cronin (Farming for Nature) was also provided to upskill community members on sustainable gardening practices and advice on garden development.

Social Farming Ireland received Grant Funding to support farming placements on a number of farms in Tipperary for people with disabilities. Individuals and groups participated in social farming placements for 30-60 days, increasing physical activity, increasing confidence and social engagement with the farmer, farm workers and farm family, and benefiting from improved health and wellbeing.



Seven (7) Day Care Centres in Tipperary were supported with play equipment to encourage older adults to move more in a social setting. Equipment provided was suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. A training course was also provided for day care centre staff and disability service staff to upskill teams on exercise activities to support increased movement in older adults and people with disabilities. The training was provided by Frank Fahey (Fit Walk Ireland/Fizzical). Additional equipment was purchased for services post training to support sustained activity delivery.





Cultural Companions – A new cultural companions initiative was successfully launched in Clonmel, connecting older adults through a shared interest in arts and culture. The initiative is designed to support social engagement and reduce social isolation.



Tipperary Mental Health Week took place from 6th October to 10th October 2025. The official launch took place on Monday 29th September in Tus Campus, Thurles, officially launched by the Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council and the LCDC, Cllr. John Carroll.



Over 40 activities (workshops/trainings/talks/connect cafes) were delivered throughout Tipperary Mental Health Week 2025, thanks to the working group of statutory/community/voluntary organisations. The main public flagship event took place on World Mental Health Day 10th October in Tus Campus, Thurles. The event themed "recovery is possible" included talks and presentations from voices of lived experience and professional working in mental health recovery.



4

11.2 Period Poverty Fund

A sum of €15,000 was received in 2025 from the Department of Health to support period poverty mitigation measures across the County. Funding was provided to community centres, Family Resource Centres, youth services and disability services. All public facing toilets within the Tipperary County Council MD offices and County Library Network were provided with dispensers and products. Through the ongoing Power of People and Place community mapping project, all community facilities in Carrick on Suir and Thurles were provided with a Period Poverty pack to support local needs and create awareness of the scheme. An EOI has been sent to the Department of Health for 2026 funding of €15,000.

12. Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Clonmel

12.1 Clonmel Substance Mis Use Project

TUS Research Week Presentation – Clonmel Substance Misuse Project (2025)

The Clonmel Substance Misuse Research Project was selected for TUS Research Week 2025, where Dr. Marie Walsh (TUS) and Catriona Crowe (Sláintecare Healthy Communities) co-presented findings. The presentation outlined ongoing research (2023–present) involving four community focus groups—businesses, schools, clubs, and people with lived experience—to identify key issues relating to substance misuse in Clonmel. The work is informing multi-agency actions and exploring how the town can be mobilised to address substance misuse collectively.

Clonmel Substance Misuse Project: Community Update Meeting (5th March 2025)

On 5th March 2025, a public meeting was held as a follow-up to the Community Conversations on substance misuse. Dr. Marie Walsh presented the Clonmel Substance Misuse Project research, and local agencies outlined their commitments in response to community feedback.



Attendees were invited to join subgroups aligned with the eight priority action areas, ensuring continued community-driven involvement. While agencies provide structure and support, the actions remain community-owned. The event was organised by Tipperary County Council under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities initiative, with strong collaboration from local partners.

Clonmel Substance Use Community Conversations Award

The County Tipperary Chamber received the Local Authority Engagement Award at the 2025 Chambers Ireland Awards for its role in the *Clonmel Community Conversations on Substance Use* initiative. Led by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities programme, this project brought together local businesses, community organisations, and individuals with lived experience to explore collaborative solutions to substance use challenges in Clonmel. The conversations focused on identifying practical, community-driven actions to create a safer and healthier environment for all residents.

Clonmel Substance Use Community Conversations Schools Cohort

The session was convened to introduce a new, fit-for-purpose Drugs Education Programme tailored to the evolving needs of Clonmel schools. The initiative is a direct response to findings from the Clonmel Community Conversations on Substance Misuse and the Tipperary Planet Youth survey, which identified further training and education as the top priority action. The meeting was very well attended, with representation from:

- Four (4) Clonmel Primary School Principals/Deputy Principals
- Four (4) Clonmel Secondary School Principals/Deputy Principals



This strong attendance reflects the high level of engagement and commitment from local schools to address substance misuse through education and early intervention.

Substance Use Trends & Community Response Training



Substance Use Trends & Community response training took place on the 20th and 21st November. These workshops were developed in response to the *Clonmel Community Conversations on Substance Misuse* and form part of the Clonmel Substance Use Action Plan.

12.2 Playful Streets – Glenconnor Hill Estate

Two Playful Streets events were held in June and September 2025 at Glenconnor Hill Estate, transforming the area into a safe, car-free space for outdoor play and community connection.



Delivered in partnership with Tipperary Sports Partnership, the Housing Community Liaison Officer, Sláintecare Healthy Communities, and Healthy Tipperary, the events offered activities such as hopscotch, giant games, obstacle courses and hula hoops.



The initiative achieved strong community engagement, with high participation from children and parents, positive interaction with Clonmel Gardaí, and clear alignment with Sláintecare wellbeing goals. The events strengthened local pride, social connection, and community wellbeing within the estate.

12.3 Youth Prescriber Pilot Project

Slaintecare Healthy Communities secured funding to extend the pilot for another two years through CYPSC and Sláintecare seed funding, which will allow us to gain a deeper understanding of its impact. The long-term vision is to transition from pilot phase to mainstream national funding, acknowledging the vital role youth social prescribing plays in prevention and early intervention. Talks are ongoing with the Department of Health to progress the development of a framework for a national model.

12.4 Clonmel Youth Festival – Applefest



The Tír na nÓg Youth Festival took place in Clonmel from 25–27 September 2025, expanding from a one-day pilot to a successful three-day youth-led event.

The event was organised by students of the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and supported by the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme through

Tipperary County Council, the festival aimed to promote creativity, inclusion, and wellbeing among young people aged 14–24.

12.5 Old Bridge Community Group (OBCG)



Catriona Crowe, Slaintecare Healthy Communities LDO met with 13 members of the OBCG on the 22nd of October. A Service Level Agreement was drawn up for the Slaintecare seed funding of €30,000. They were also updated on the Old Bridge Suir Blueway link, lease update, maintenance and environmental updates and community actions.

12.6 VR in RehabCare Clonmel

- The 2025 Seed Fund supported the *VR in RehabCare Clonmel* project, led by Tipperary County Council.
- The initiative introduced Virtual Reality to enhance rehabilitation, wellbeing, and social inclusion for clients.
- TUS interns delivered needs analysis, app research, hardware commissioning, and staff training.
- The project aligns with Healthy Ireland and LECP goals by promoting inclusion, digital skills, and positive health behaviours.



12.7 StorySlam Recovery Project

- The StorySlam Recovery Project supports young people in addiction recovery through creative storytelling and public performance.
- Delivered in partnership with TUS Clonmel and the Drugs Taskforce, the project provides specialised training, peer mentorship, and participation in the Tír na nÓg Youth Festival 2025.

- The initiative builds confidence, emotional literacy, and resilience while tackling stigma and promoting community understanding of recovery

13. Children and Young People's Services Committee



Tipperary CYPSC is a county-level committee that brings together the main statutory, community and voluntary providers of services for children and young people aged 0-24 years of age. The overall purpose is to work together to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people in County Tipperary. It provides a forum to identify and plan for key issues and ensure that the needs of children, young people and their families are addressed.

Tipperary CYPSC develops and implements a Children and Young People's Plan in a three-year cycle. The most recent plan concluded at the end of 2025. Planning for the next phase of work will be undertaken in 2026.

In 2025 priorities selected as a focus from the Tipperary Children and Young People's Plan were as follows:

Outcome 1: Active and Healthy Physically and Mentally - Mental Health and Wellbeing

The members of this group worked to update a Mental Health Services Directory and disseminate this information with multi-stakeholders.

Outcome 2: Achieving Full Potential in learning and Development- Early School Leavers

The members of this group worked collaboratively with their Outcome Subgroup 4 colleagues to devise a proposal for an Analysis of Impacting Factors on Early School Leavers and supported the completion of this analysis.

Outcome 3: Safe and protected from Harm - Parenting Support

The members of this Outcome Subgroup supported further development of the Tipperary Parent Hub website – www.tipperaryparenthub.ie The hub held monthly webinars for parents and First Aid workshops for parents. The site has a children and young people's services directory and resources section which provides various information sections. There is opportunity for interagency stakeholders to share events information and relevant news on this website regarding not-for-profit information. Parents can email the hub workers and there is a phone number for parents to contact also. This supports provision of tiered supports to parents and provides a universal approach to parenting support, from self-access to an actual contact point where that is what is required. There can be further signposting and support provided to parents using the website as a first stop.



Outcome 4: Economic Security and Opportunity – Young People not in education, training, employment supports (NEET's)

The members of this group worked collaboratively with their Outcome Subgroup 2 colleagues to devise a proposal for an Analysis of Impacting Factors on Early School Leavers and supported the completion of this analysis.

Outcome 5: Connected, Respected and Contributing to their World - Youth Spaces

The members of this group worked on the Mapping of Youth Spaces across the county under the 5 MD areas, mapping formal and informal spaces as identified by young people. This is currently on-going and the intention is to pilot intergenerational spaces. This is an action of the LECP which CYPSC is convenor of.

Other areas of work which progressed were Planet Youth, Engage in Energy which is the Tipperary Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan, one of four sites nationally, Child and Youth Social Prescribing in the Sláintecare Healthy Communities site in Clonmel, development of the Child and Youth Protocol an action of the LECP.

Tipperary CYPSC funded Down Syndrome Ireland Tipperary Branch to develop a service delivery model for supported youth employment initiatives.

Tipperary Rural Traveller Project were funded to deliver a Summer Camp in the Cashel area. They were further funded to develop a Podcast Room in their building in Tipperary Town. To support young people to discuss issues of interest within their community and build their skills set to deliver podcasts.

Tipperary CYPSC hosted the Irish Childhood Bereavement Network (ICBN) to deliver a professional development workshop. Supporting professionals who support young people and their families through bereavement.

Tipperary CYPSC administered the CYPSC Integration Fund collaboratively across IPAS centres and the communities where these centres are located. This fund supports children and young people along with their families to integrate within their community.

14. Quality of Life: Tipperary Age Friendly



Tipperary Age Friendly is part of the National Age Friendly Network. It is supported by the shared service with Meath County Council and the Tipperary Structures mirror those of the national and other county structures. Tipperary Age Friendly at its heart is represented by the voice of the older person and a key phrase is that *"if you design for the young, you exclude the old, but if you design for the old you include everyone"*.

14.1 EXPO June 2025

Tipperary held its annual Age Friendly EXPO at TUS campus, Thurles on 18th June 2025. It showcased a range of supports and services for older people from agencies and voluntary services across the county. It featured 75 information stands ranging from Council Services including; Community, Local Enterprise Office, Tourism, Sports Partnership, Fire Services, Libraries and Museum, Health, Housing, Technology, Family Resource and Community and Voluntary Sector.

The event also featured a wide range of speakers including; Tipperary Age Friendly Ambassador, John Lonergan; Mr Nabeel Al Shammary from UPMC; Fiona Foley, National Lead, HSE Understanding Together; Rosemary Lynch, Lynch Solicitors; Karen Fennessey, National Age Friendly Healthy Homes; Mary D'Arcy from Fraudsmart; Tracey Noone, Meals on Wheels; Task Community care; Vision Ireland; Neil Dennehy, Health Matters and the Tipperary Older Peoples Council member Leo D'Arcy who presented about Loneliness.

The afternoon included beautiful musical interludes from Rockwell Music Academy and Templemore Active Retirement. Many people danced the afternoon away with John McCormack playing live music.

This was yet another successful event with great attendance from across the county.



14.2 Tidy Towns Engagement

Tipperary Age Friendly hosted a workshop in February 2025 for all tidy towns groups in the county to showcase participation in the competition and discuss the tidy towns results. Within this a target was for groups to undertake dementia awareness training to support volunteer members remain active participants in the community, to undertake sensory planting and consider public realm projects with universal design in mind.

Following our workshop, we held dementia awareness training in April Templemore, Cahir, Thurles and we will host a further targeted tidy towns campaign after the 2025 tidy towns results.

We are delighted to partner with the National Understand Together Campaign and the National Tidy Towns to demonstrate the importance of connections, community participation, provision of sensory planting and dementia awareness.



14.3 Housing Information Workshops

As part of the Age Friendly Information series, two (2) information workshops on Housing supports were held in October and November 2025.

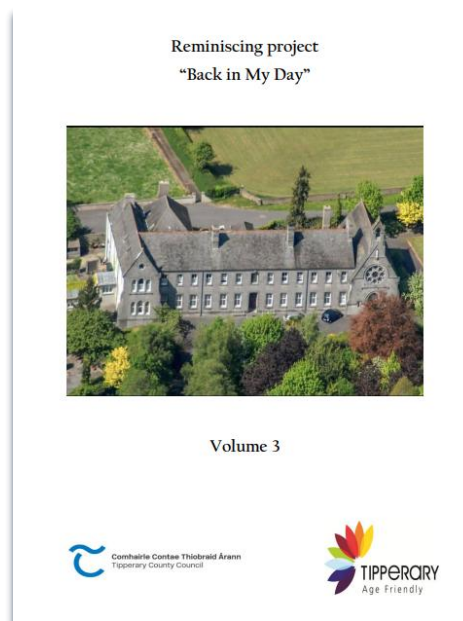
14.4 Dementia Awareness

The Virtual Dementia Tour took place in Tipperary, Clonmel, Thurles and Nenagh 20th to 24th October with up to 32 people attending each day from a range of services across the county. This immersive experience allowed participants to walk in the shoes of a person living with dementia.



14.5 Reminiscing Project – Back in My Day

Our third project was launched on 14th November in Fethard Day Care Service, this was a collaboration with the Day Care Services across the County and Jimmy Duggan was engaged to conduct interviews with the day care centres. Volume 3 is a beautiful narration from across the county of life through the years in County Tipperary and we hope to continue with this project in the years ahead.



14.6 Ageing Well in your Community

On Thursday 2nd October the HSE and Tipperary Age Friendly hosted “Ageing Well in your Community” workshop showcasing HSE services in County Tipperary. The Agenda was in 3 sections:

1. Overview of HSE services and supports that are available across the County of Tipperary and how to access them.
2. Overview of Adult Safeguarding
3. Focus on preventative & support programmes to educate people on keeping themselves well - Nutrition & Exercise

Feedback from the event included areas for future focus workshops.



15. Other initiatives

15.1 Engage in Energy Local Child Poverty Action Plan

Tipperary LCDC & CYPSC Child Poverty Action Plan 2025–2026

Engage in Energy is one of four Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan pilots across the country. Funding is being provided by Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) What Works Initiative under Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) Dormant Accounts Scheme. Funding is provided on a one-off basis to facilitate a Local Area Child Poverty Action Plan. In Tipperary this project will be delivered in Tipperary Town, Roscrea and in a second phase Carrick on Suir. Ecovision will deliver the Engage in Energy project in Tipperary.

15.2 Power of People and Place

The Power of Place & People in Tipperary is a community mapping project in partnership with Tipperary Public Participation Network. The aim of the project is to record details of Tipperary's many great groups, organisations and services. When all information is gathered the aim is to promote everything about the community groups and the great work they are doing.

The project commenced in early June in the Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District and has progressed to Thurles Municipal District. The survey provides valuable data for understanding the needs and priorities of each group and recognises the wonderful work that is being carried out in our communities. In 2025 the partnership project presented the project at the LCDC National Networking event and at the PPN National Conference.

15.3 Planet Youth



PARTNER *Tipperary*

Planet Youth Tipperary is a five-year initiative that will see young people surveyed in schools across the county. The resulting data will inform future community initiatives in promoting and improving the overall health and wellbeing of young people in communities across the county.

For information on the Tipperary County Report visit <https://tipperary.planetyouth.ie/>

14.4 Tipperary Irish Sign Language

On 23rd September Cllr John Carroll formally launched a new website to promote Irish Sign Language (ISL)

<https://www.tippisl.ie/> . This

initiative is a collaboration of Tipperary County Council and HSE Gold Star Tipperary to promote Irish Sign Language. It also showcases signed story time with Tipperary Library Services and provides links for people to progress their knowledge of ISL and Help it Grow.

