



# South Tipperary Development Company

## Rural Development (LEADER) Programme

### Annual Report 2014

**110.5 NEW jobs Created**



**92 Jobs Sustained**



**Project Grant payments to end of 2014**

**€9,570,426**

**103 community amenities enhanced**



**61 jobs sustained in the building sector**



**The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas.**



**4,113 people received training**



Comhshool, Pobal agus Rialtas Aitiúil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



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## BACKGROUND

South Tipperary Development Company (STDC) implements a number of programmes across South Tipperary. These include: Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 (RDP) (commonly known as the LEADER programme); Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP); Rural Social Scheme (RSS); TUS and National Countryside Recreation Strategy (NCRS); the Public Health Capital Programme for the Travelling Community (PHCP); Home Repair Service; Health and Safety Training and Ballylynch Playschool in Carrick-on-Suir.

Please visit our website on [www.stdc.ie](http://www.stdc.ie) to get additional information on the aforementioned programmes / initiatives or to keep in touch with the latest news and upcoming events.

The company is a limited company and has 24 director positions, which are filled from prescribed sectors / pillars e.g. state agencies, local government, community and voluntary and the national social partners.

The overall mission of the company is to contribute towards the improvement of the social, socio economic and economic circumstances of targeted individuals, groups and communities in South Tipperary by implementing rural development and social inclusion programmes.

The focus of this report is the RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2007 – 2013, its **Impacts, Key Outcomes and Performance Indicators during 2014**.

In February 2009, STDC signed a contract with the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, now the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to deliver the RDP in South Tipperary. It originally received a budget of €11.1m to run the programme. In May 2013, STDC received an additional €1.3 million bringing its total budget to €12.405m

The aim of the Rural Development / LEADER Programme is to strengthen rural areas and to improve quality of life in these areas. LEADER not only addresses economic needs but also responds to ideas which will enhance the environmental, social and cultural richness of our rural areas. This is achieved by:

- Increasing economic activity in the rural economy
- Supporting the creation and development of micro enterprises in the rural economy
- Encouraging rural tourism based on the sustainable development of natural resources, the cultural and natural heritage
- Improving access to basic services for rural dwellers
- Regenerating rural villages by improving economic prospects, community relations and quality of life
- Maintaining, restoring and upgrading the natural and built heritage

The programme responds to the needs of a wide cross-section of our community e.g.

- Individuals
- Rural Businesses
- Farm Families
- Community Groups
- Voluntary Organisations
- Local Authorities

**BOARD OF SOUTH TIPPERARY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**



*Martin Quinn*  
**Chairperson**  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Peadar O'Donnell*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Maria Walsh*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Helen Quirke*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Richard Long*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Sr. Mary Walsh*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Fiona Crotty*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*John Hinchy*  
*Community and Voluntary Sector*



*Seamus Troy*  
*Social Partners*



*Teresa Collins-Hinchy*  
*Social Partners*



*Derek Nolan*  
*Social Partners*



*Simon Ryan*  
*Social Partners*



*Cllr Andy Moloney*  
*Local Government*



*Cllr. John Crosse*  
*Local Government*



*Cllr Catherine Carey*  
*Local Government*



*Veronica Crowe*  
*State Agency*



*Michael Long*  
*Environmental Pillar*



*John Crosse*  
*State Agency*

*The following retired from the board of directors during 2014*



*Donal Mullane  
State Agency*



*Eileen Condon  
State Agency*



*Kathleen Prendergast  
Local Government  
(Executive)*



*Dermot Ryan  
Social Pillar*



*P.J. Quinlan  
Local Government*



*Joe Brennan  
Local Government*



*Mary Hanna-Hourigan  
Local Government*



*Tom Acheson  
Local Government*

*Missing from the above is Mr. Pat Walsh, representing the State Agency Sector. Mr Walsh also retired from the board in 2014.*

***Evaluation Committee***

The purpose of the evaluation committee is to review projects presented to it by the staff and make recommendations on the project to the board. The Evaluation Committee bring a wide cross-section of expertise and knowledge to the company. The members of the committee are:

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Area of Expertise</i></b>
Murt Duggan (chairperson)	Community
Siobhan Walsh	Entrepreneur
Gerry Broder	Entrepreneur and community
Anthony Fitzgerald	Local Authority and enterprise
Jenny Kiley	Community and farming
Michael Lavin	Community and enterprise
Noel Horgan	Community and enterprise
Gerry Collins	Enterprise

The Evaluation committee did not meet to evaluate and make recommendations on projects during 2014 as all monies (as per departmental requirements) had to be allocated to projects by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

## **CEO Introduction to the South Tipperary Development Company Rural Development Programme 2007-2013**



It is with great pleasure and a sense of pride that I invite you to examine our progress in the delivery of the Rural Development Programme, (LEADER), during 2014. As we reach the culmination of the current Programme the Company's focus has been on ensuring that the total funding allocated to the County is utilised to the maximum benefit possible to our local communities and local economies.

At all stages of this Programme the Board of South Tipperary Development Company has been adamant that all Rural Development Programme projects both large and small should have an impact in regard to job creation and maximisation of income generating opportunities for the people that reside in South Tipperary. Central to all our Board decisions is the objective of tackling Social Exclusion by seeking to assist disadvantaged individuals and communities to provide the opportunities and infrastructure that will allow people that reside in rural areas to experience the same opportunities that urban dwellers have available to them.

In 2009 South Tipperary Development Company applied for and successfully achieved Local Action Group, (LAG), status. This legal term allowed the Board to make final decisions in regard to all LEADER projects, thereby protecting the principles of the "Bottom-Up approach" and "Community Led Local Development".

During the intervening period the Board have openly invited individuals and communities to approach their local development company with the challenges that they face on a daily basis and attempt to design solutions in a partnership approach that ultimately lead to greater opportunities for the current generation and generations to come.

The economic difficulties that Ireland has experienced during the last 7 years have instilled in people an acknowledgment that we cannot await someone else to come and save us, we need to do it for ourselves, rebuilding local economies bit by bit. The people of South Tipperary have answered that call and you will see in this Annual Report that in partnership with South Tipperary Development Company have utilised LEADER funding to the maximum advantage possible to secure a more stable future for themselves and their families.

Initially, in 2009, South Tipperary Development Company was awarded €11.1 million to be used to achieve the objectives set out in our Business Plan for rural development in South Tipperary. The Company's high level of performance and efficiency was acknowledged by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2013 when we secured an extra €1.3 million.

The total fund of €12.4 million was strategically and efficiently awarded to projects that the Board had confidence in being completed before the end of the current Programme. It is worth noting that out of the €12.4 million allocated, the Company were approved to use a maximum of 20% on operating the Company. Our Board recognised that through prudent financial management since the commencement of the current Programme in 2009, they would not require the total amount allocated for Administration and decided to transfer €273,682 from Administration to fund projects instead.

I encourage you to read this report which provides you with a sample of the real life stories behind the statistics. You will see that during 2014 South Tipperary Development Company enabled the creation of 6.5 jobs and ensured that a further 10 jobs were sustained as a result of the Rural Development Programme funding allocated to their project.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Martin Quinn Chairperson and all our Board members for their tremendous dedication in a voluntary capacity. Their astute examination and analysis of each application for funding has resulted in a robust, fair and transparent distribution of resources throughout the County.

I would like to thank all the Board members who left our Board during 2014.

May I also sincerely express my appreciation to the Rural Development Programme Team consisting of Maria Devane, Michael Begley, Mary Barry, Ellen Cunningham and Isabel Cambie, Rural Development Programme Manager. In addition to Donal Walsh Financial Controller, their dedication and loyalty to the Company knows no bounds, a fact echoed time and time again by the communities that they serve.

I also would like to acknowledge the cooperation and support provided by the Rural Development Team in the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

Enjoy this report and I look forward to an equally productive 2015.

Niall Morrissey  
Chief Executive Officer

## A word from Isabel Cambie, Rural Development Programme Manager



In compiling our Rural Development (LEADER) Programme annual report for 2014, I had an opportunity to reflect on the impact that South Tipperary Development Company has had on individuals and communities across the County. This impact is not just about the:-

- 110 NEW jobs created
- 92 jobs sustained
- 61 additional jobs sustained in the building sector
- 62 NEW enterprises supported
- 4,135 people who received training
- 103 community facilities enhanced
- 276 community / voluntary groups and communities supported.

These represent the “hard” or tangible outputs of the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme in South Tipperary. They underlie a much greater impact – the “Soft” or intangible outcomes and impacts.

The staff has worked with communities across South Tipperary to explore new ways to make the most of their assets and to overcome the challenges they may face, such as an ageing population, poor levels of service provision, or a lack of employment opportunities. In this way, STDC, utilising a bottom-up approach to Rural Development has contributed towards improving the quality of life in rural areas.

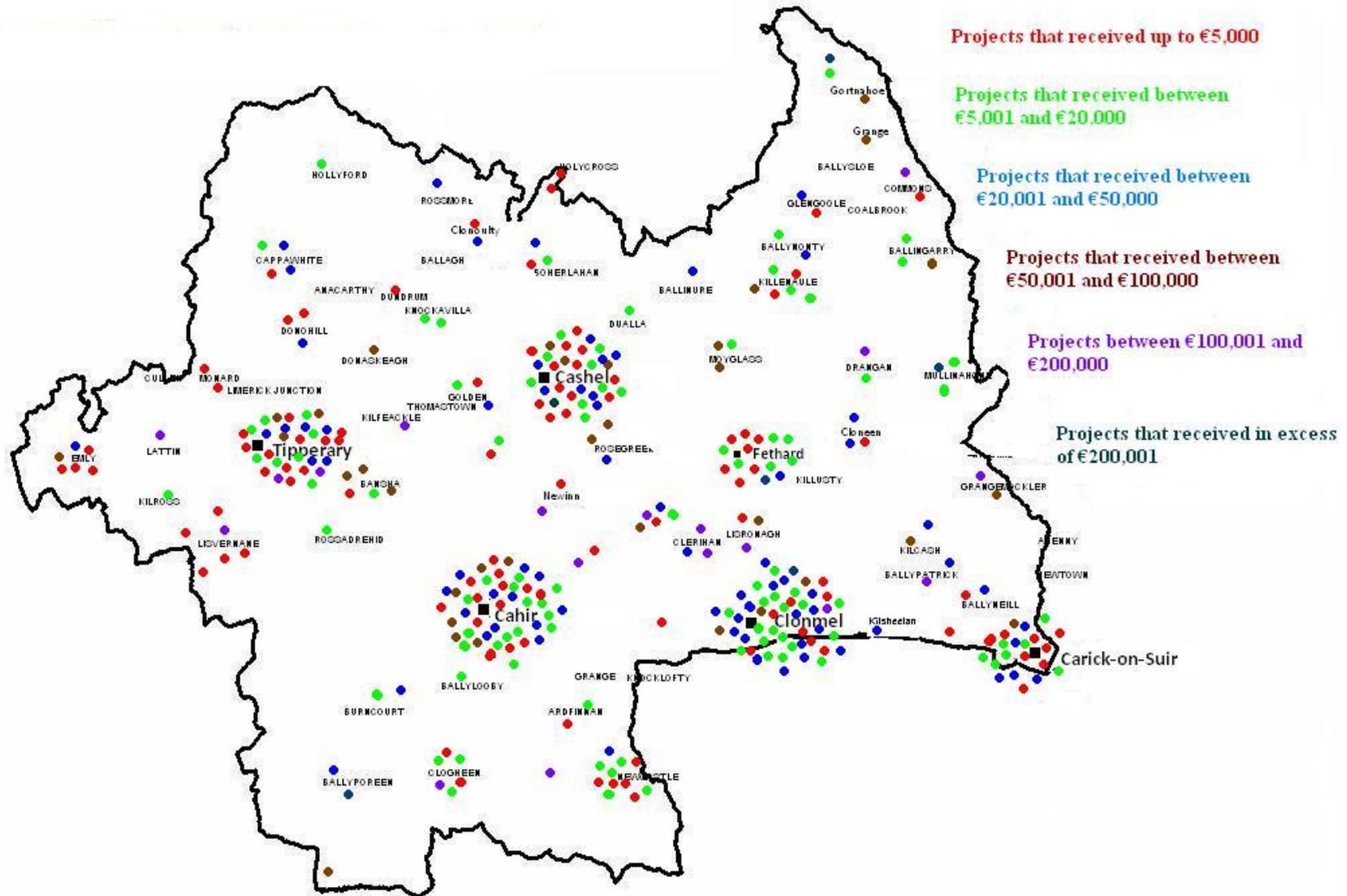
Recently the government launched the CEDRA (Commission for Economic Development in Rural Areas) report. The fundamental message in this report is that rural Ireland is a valuable national resource with significant potential that can play an important role in assisting the national economic recovery. A substantial proportion of the report focuses on how to capitalise on the, physical, human, cultural and social resources of rural area whilst recognising the diversity of rural areas, with different roles and capacities to contribute to this recovery.

The Skills acquired by the Rural Development staff, the relationships that they have built with communities ideally place them to fulfil the objectives of CEDRA. These skills need to be nurtured, fostered and utilised in the delivery of the new Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020. They are the cornerstone for building thriving communities into the future within South Tipperary.

## Location of Projects by Map

Location of projects funded under the South Tipperary Rural Development Programme / LEADER Programme (2007 - 2013)

Projects are colour coded according to the size of grant received



## PROGRAMME PROGRESS AND HIGHLIGHTS

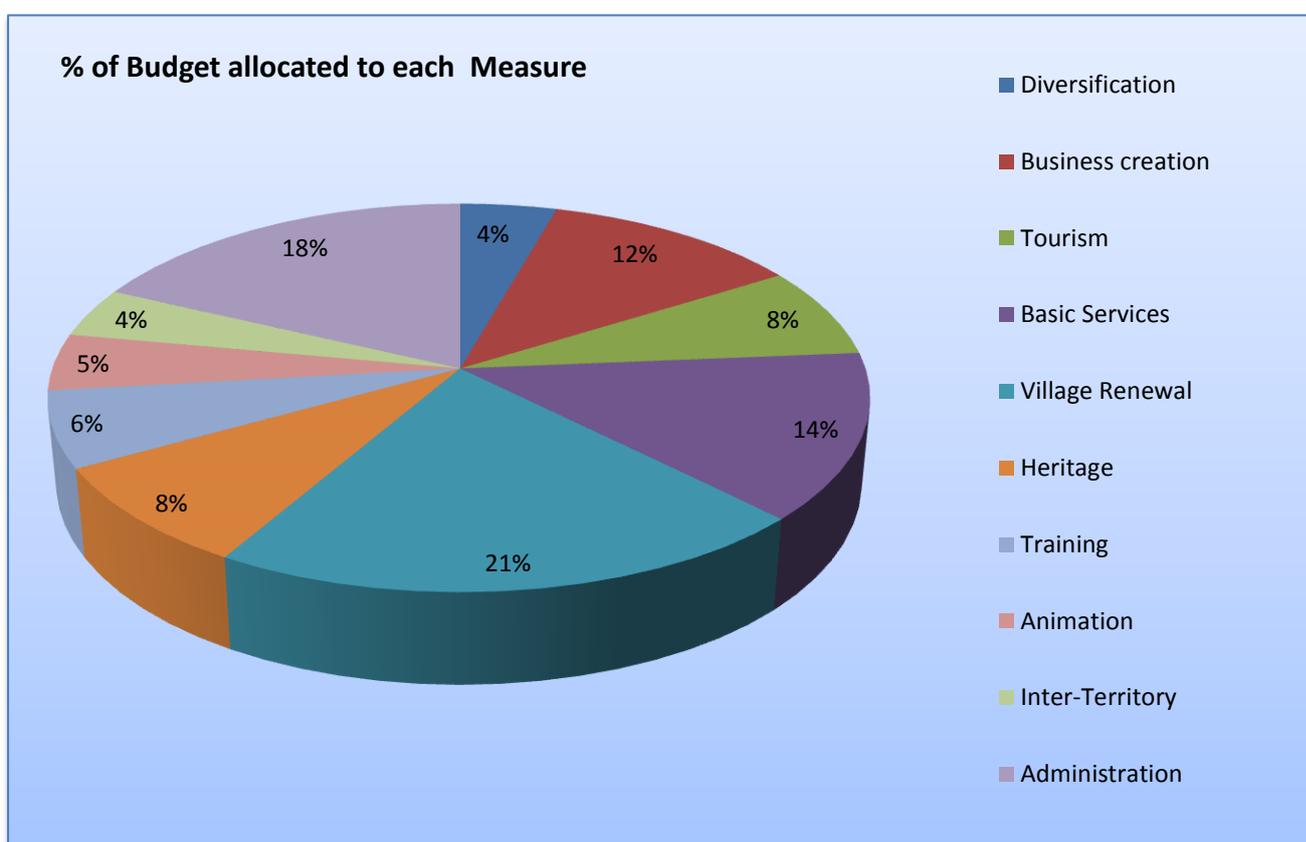
PROJECT OUTCOMES	2014 Outcomes	From May 2009 to Dec 2014
Number of jobs created (Full-time equivalents)	6.5	110.5
Number of jobs sustained (Full-time equivalents)	10	92
Number of additional jobs sustained in the building sector as a result of a contractor winning a job funded by the RDP under e.g. Basic Services, Village Renewal	21	61
Number of New Enterprises supported	7	62
Number of Existing Enterprises supported	8	69
Number of people who received training:	220	4,135
Budget committed to beneficiaries	€276,422	€10,193,907
Payments made to beneficiaries	€1,841,882	€9,570,426
Total investment in Projects (public and private)	€4,003,463	€13,738,640 (2011 - 2014)
Estimated returns to the Exchequer from VAT	€541,000	€1,850,000 (2011 - 2014)
Number of bednights created as a result of spend on festivals	800	6938
Number of community facilities upgraded / enhanced	17	103
Number of community / voluntary groups supported	32	276
Number of applications received	0	555
Expenditure on Administration	€333,429	€1,972,823

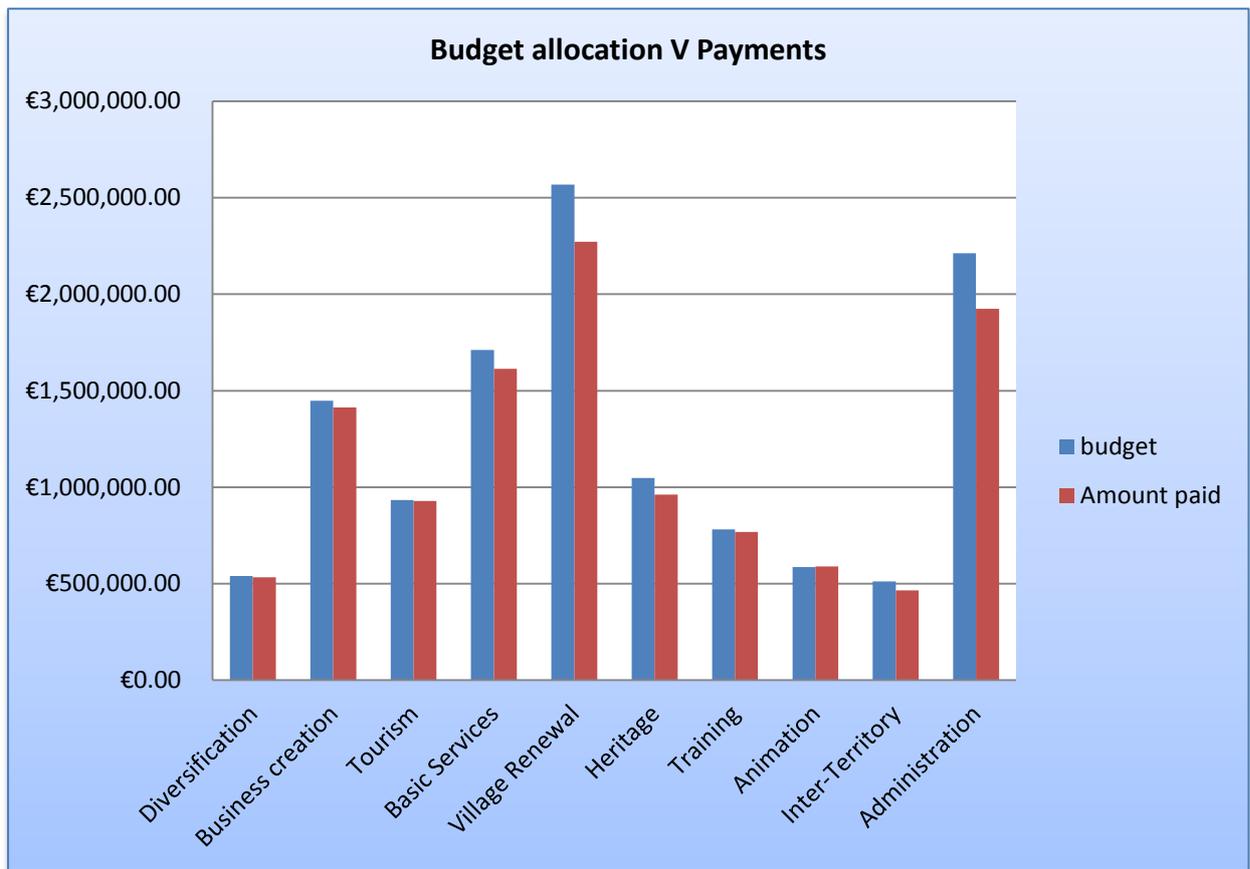
### *What the promoters say .....*

- STDC were excellent to deal with and I want to build on this relationship*
- STDC staff were very pleasant and helpful throughout the whole process*
- Assistance from STDC was much appreciated, especially the help in getting us “over the line” with the dreaded paperwork*
- We are very appreciative of the funding received*
- The grant from STDC was crucial in getting our business up and running*
- Found the process very slow and bureaucratic but the staff were kind and helpful*
- Paperwork required is substantial but was well explained*
- Disappointed with the grant we received*

## PROGRAMME BUDGET

Measure	Budget available to each measure	Budget taken up by projects at end of programme	Payments to projects as of December 2014
Diversification into non-Agricultural Activities	€554,215	€539,793	€533,981
Business Creation and Development	€1,452,025	€1,447,699	€1,413,539
Encouragement of Tourism Activities	€943,916	€933,814	€928,294
Basic Services for the Economy and Local Population	€1,713,886	€1,711,668	€1,613,020
Village Renewal and Development	€2,582,935	€2,567,625	€2,271,593
Conservation and Upgrade of Rural Heritage	€1,048,657	€1,047,110	€961,736
Training and Information	€787,841	€781,404	€768,349
Skills Acquisitions	€592,487	€586,092	€589,092
Implementing co-operation projects	€517,945	€511,919	€465,932
Administration	€2,211,374	€2,211,374	€1,924,713
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€12,405,281</b>	<b>€12,338,498</b>	<b>€10,936,268</b>





Measure	Number of Beneficiaries	Budget allocated to Measure	Average grant per beneficiary
Village Renewal	44	€2,567,625.00	€58,355.00
Basis Services	42	€1,711,667.00	€40,753.00
Diversification	14	€539,793.00	€38,556.00
Animation	16	€586,091.00	€36,630.00
Business Creation	44	€1,447,699.00	€32,902.00
Inter-Territory	20	€511,919.00	€29,595.00
Heritage	57	€1,047,110.00	€18,370.00
Tourism	59	€933,814.00	€15,827.00
Training	52	€781,404.00	€15,027.00
	<b>348</b>	<b>€10,127,122</b>	

## ENCOURAGEMENT OF TOURISM ACTIVITIES

Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-

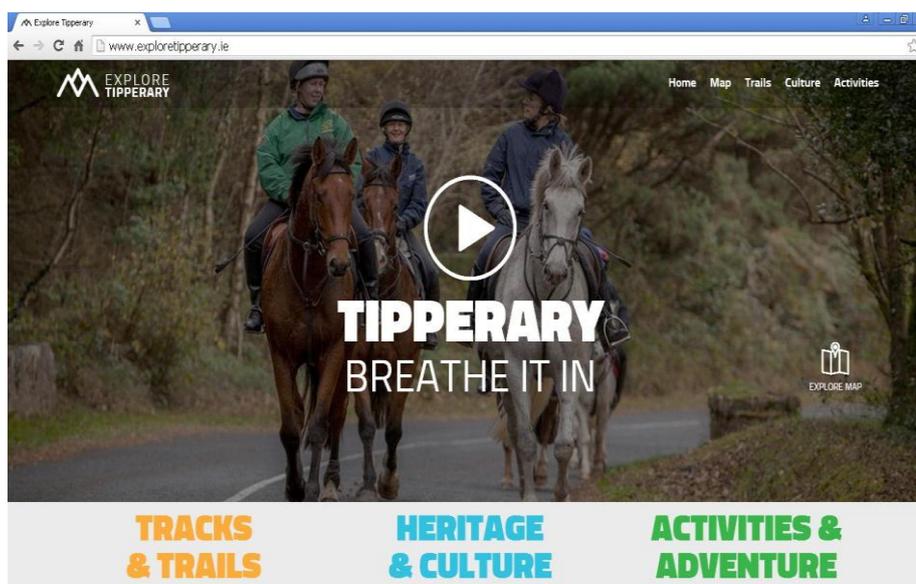
- ✓ Capital costs associated with putting of tourism infrastructures into place e.g. recreational, amenity and limited types of accommodation
- ✓ Development of and implementation of Integrated marketing plans
- ✓ Training relevant to the sector

Key performance indicators

- ✓ €124,808 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 2 new businesses supported
- ✓ 3 existing businesses supported
- ✓ 2 jobs sustained in the building sector as a result of builders winning contracts for various projects funded
- ✓ 800 bednights generated from Festivals funded
- ✓ Substantial marketing initiatives funded
- ✓ Increase in visitor numbers to the area

Throughout 2014, STDC was very busy working with some of the key community tourism groups in the area:-

- ✓ South Tipperary Tourism Company
- ✓ Galtee Steering Group
- ✓ Munster Peaks
- ✓ Knockmealdown Active Group



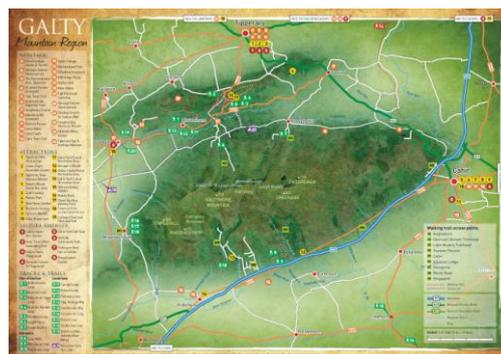
[www.exploretipperary.ie](http://www.exploretipperary.ie)

is a joint initiative between STDC, the Galtee Steering Group (GSG) and Knockmealdown Active.

Explore Tipperary is a major marketing initiative to promote the Galtees and the Knockmealdowns as a single destination. It features key product activities in the mountain ranges and uses video, photographs and google maps to enable the visitor to experience this part of Tipperary. This is the first time that that the communities in the

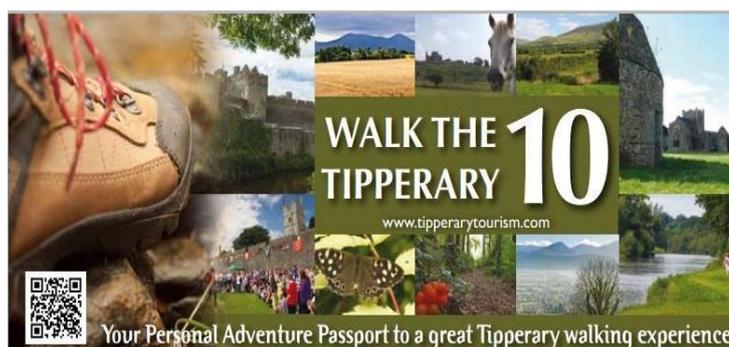
mountain regions have come together to market their areas as a single destination. The project was facilitated and supported by staff from STDC.

A second initiative to promote the mountain areas was the production maps of the Galtees, Knockmealdowns and the Ballyhours. Each map features the assortment of things to do and see within each mountain range. The flip side of the map shows the surrounding area, giving the visitor an insight into where they can go within a short driving distance of Tipperary. The objective is to encourage visitors to use Tipperary as a touring base, stay a few nights, thereby increasing visitor spend.



[www.tipperarytourism.com](http://www.tipperarytourism.com)

was launched recently. This web site was developed by South Tipperary Tourism Company in association with STDC. The site has a very modern look and feel to it. It is the most up to date holistic tourism web site for South Tipperary. It provides a potential visitor with a comprehensive guide on what there is to do and see in Tipperary.



The very popular “Tipperary 10” Walking brochure was updated and enhanced to incorporate a Passport Stamp.

Once a walker has completed one of the walks, he/she can go to a local shop / restaurant / pub / tourist information point and get a stamp as proof of completion of the walk. A walker can challenge him/herself to complete all ten walks and gather all ten stamps

The above four initiatives will be key to promoting Tipperary as a Cultural destination, in keeping with its’ Unique Selling Proposition, which was previously identified (in an independent study conducted by Tourism Development International in 2009, and funded by a Technical Assistance grant received from STDC) as being Castles and Heritage.

As an outcome of the above propositions, South Tipperary is well placed to fit smoothly into the new Failte Ireland “East South Initiative”, due to be branded and launched early in 2015. This new FI initiative will be similar in scale and impact as the Wild Atlantic Way along the Western Seaboard.

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
344	M Crowe & K Prendergast, Cashel	Conversion of building of character to self-catering unit	€38,582.00
387	Galtee Valley Xtreme, Burncourt, Cahir	Adventure centre	€22,483.72
487	STDC in Association with Galtee Steering Group and Knockmealdown Active, Cahir	Tourist maps for the Galtee and Knockmealdown Mountain ranges. Electronic story map to promote the culture and heritage of the two mountains	€19,130.12
456	Clonmel Cycling Club, Clonmel	Marketing and Capital Support for Suir Valley cycling festival	€17,284.00
54	Knockmealdown Active, Newcastle	Development of four looped and one linear walk	€10,335.09
537	Slieveardagh Rural Development, Killenaule	Production of a brochure and booklet of Historic Trails in South Tipperary	€6,940.80

### Tourism continued.....

412	Tom & Brid O Brien, Cashel	Upgrade and enhancement of existing hostel, caravan and camping facility	€4,628.52
555	Tipperary Excel Heritage, Tipperary town	Upgrade and enhancement of Internet Café Facilities	€3,024.75
489	South Tipp Tourism Company, Cahir	Development of a new web site - www.tipperarytourism.com	€2,400.00

### CONSERVATION AND UPGRADE OF RURAL HERITAGE

*Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-*

- ✓ Preservation and development of vernacular architecture
- ✓ Restoration of natural areas of local significance
- ✓ Environmental initiatives
- ✓ Community Renewable Energy projects

*Key performance indicators*

- ✓ €176,459 paid to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 5 community groups supported
- ✓ 2 buildings of heritage significance preserved and enhanced
- ✓ 1 heritage tourism enterprise supported
- ✓ 2 environmental initiatives supported

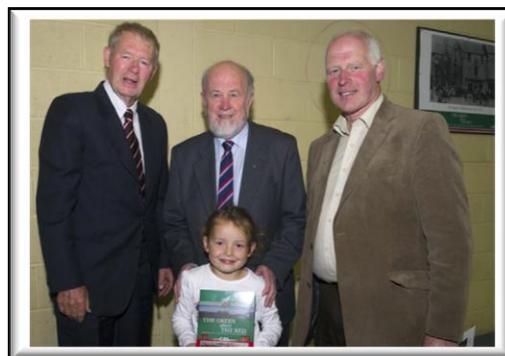


The pictures above show the “**before restoration**” and “**after restoration**” works carried out to the Fr Sheehy tomb at Shanrahan Graveyard, Clogheen. At a recent “unveiling” of the tomb, local man, Ed. O’Riordan stated “Over the years, the tomb has become disheveled and overgrown, but recently conservation work was carried out on it to preserve it for generations to come in Clogheen and surrounding areas. Clogheen is proud of the fact that the tomb will now be passed onto future generations in good condition and the memory of Fr. Sheehy will continue to be honoured at Shanrahan,” Given the age of the tomb, great care was taken to ensure that no other surrounding graves were disturbed, no machinery was brought in and the aim was to restore the tomb to its former state and not to make it look modern or new, as this was a community conservation project. Another local person recalled that when people from Shanrahan were going to America, they would open a little gate at the bottom of the tomb and take a bit of clay, so that they would have a bit of Shanrahan with them - for years this was

stuck shut, but now it can be opened again and people can see where their ancestors would have gone before travelling or emigrating abroad in years gone by.”

A book on local GAA history Mullinahone received grant assistance from STDC. Speaking at the launch of ‘The Green above the Red, legendary sports broadcaster, Michéal O Muircheartaigh said “the history committee had worked as a team for the credit of the village, producing a wonderful publication that was a fitting tribute to the men and women who had moulded the club over the past 130 years.”

The objective of the book was to record the story of five to six generations of Mullinahone GAA people who played their part in the club since 1885. “It was not an effort to record the deeds of the famous but to recognise the parts played by many, now dead and gone but we hope not forgotten”,



*Seamus Troy, Board member of STDC (far right) at launch of “The Green above the Red”*

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
390	Ballyneale Development Association	Final payment on interpretation plaques erect to explain the history and heritage of the area	€724.06
356	Slieveardagh Rural Development, Killenaule	final payment towards Historical Trails Brochure	€1,200.00
<b>Conservation and Upgrade of Rural Heritage continued.....</b>			
376	C J Kickham GAA, Mullinahone	Publication of the "Green above the Red" - commemorating 130 years of GAA in Mullinahone	€8,737.50
138	Clogheen Development Working Group, Clogheen	Restoration of Fr. Sheehy Tomb in Shanrahan Cemetery	€16,858.12
522	Carrick On Suir Community Business Centre	Restoration of roof to preserve and enhance a building of character	€37,189.00
462	Garry Gleeson, Clogheen	Restoration of building of heritage significance to tourism accommodation and interpretative centre	€111,750.00

## Community Enterprise Training Programme – A Case Study

Forfás (2013) defined social enterprise as “an enterprise that trades for a social/societal purpose, where at least part of its income is earned from its trading activity, is separate from government and where the surplus is primarily reinvested in the social objective”.

Social enterprise is a small but growing part of the enterprise base and ecosystem that has potential to bring further job gains and deliver economic potential. There is both a demonstrated need, and a market for, social enterprise in Ireland. In 2009, there were 1,420 social enterprises, employing over 25,000 people, with a total income of around €1.4 billion. Social enterprises are labour intensive with payroll

reflecting 64 per cent of total expenditure. The wider non-profit sector Ireland, of which social enterprises are a subset, employs more than 100,000 people, and has income of more than €6 billion.

With the above in mind, South Tipperary Development Company contracted MCA Consulting to complete a number of tasks in the development and delivery of a pilot training and mentoring initiative with community groups wishing to establish *social or community enterprises* across the geographic area of South Tipperary.

The aim was to develop social enterprise project proposals in line with the RDP LEADER funding plan through working with a select number of community groups. The consultant was expected to assist the groups to develop viable project proposals. This work was aimed at stimulating interest in social enterprise and in providing a foundation through which more businesses could be developed.

The programme was launched on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at the Social Enterprise conference in Cashel. Application forms were widely distributed. Seven groups submitted applications and following an interview selection process, held in January 2014, the following groups were chosen to participate on the programme:-

- Burncourt Community Council
- Fethard Business and Tourism Group
- Muintir na Tire
- Sliabh Ardagh Rural Development Group
- Tipperary Mid-West Radio

The training programme was divided into three distinct sections:-

- Classroom training sessions, attended by up to four representatives from each community
- Individual mentoring sessions with each community group
- Study visits to community enterprises in Northern Ireland

The classroom sessions took place over an eight week period from January to April and covered the following topics:-

- Ideas generation
- Market research and community needs analysis
- Business planning and strategy development
- Marketing and selling
- Financial planning and management. Researching and securing finance
- Legal structures, responsibilities, community impact
- Human resources. Harnessing and retaining support



*Fethard Group receiving their certificate of completion of training (also included in the photo is Isabel Cambie, Rural Development Programme Manager with STDC)*



*Entire group outside STDC office in Cahir on final night of classroom training*

The trainers worked with each group to investigate and develop potential business ideas.

The **Fethard Business and Tourism Group** identified the restoration of Fethard Tholsel as a tourism and enterprise hub for the town. Fethard is an historic walled town with untapped tourism potential. An operational plan was developed with the group to provide them with a clear roadmap for the management of the facility once the construction phase is completed. The group intend to apply to TUS and/or RSS to secure staff to manage the facility on a day to day basis. In the longer term an application under the CSP should be prepared. Discussions have started with a view to taking in a tenant to lease the first floor area for a museum facility.



*Fethard Tholsel building presently being restored with the help of a grant of €266,000 from STDC*

**Slieveardagh**

The Jewel of Tipperary  
 "The Slieveardagh Experience"  
 Historical Guided Mini - Bus Tour

Tread back in time on this Unique Tour with insight into the historical experiences that is "Slieveardagh" by a Guide with intimate local knowledge

Tour including lunch in a Traditional Irish Pub  
 Only €25.00 per person  
 (€10.00 deposit required with booking)

Tour takes place every Thursday (July - Sept)

To Book a Place on this Fabulous Tour  
 Contact: Slieveardagh Rural Development  
 (077) 9158165 / info@slieveardagh.com

**Slieveardagh Rural Development** researched a number of ideas. A trial history tour has been held with some success. The intention is to start earlier next year and offer more tours. As part of the mentoring process, the group requested assistance with straightforward fund raising. They have been given the rights to reproduce a calendar of the mining industry locally, incorporating advertising and sponsorship and plan to sell it. They have changed their attitude to fund raising and income generation and have recently organised several church gate collections, a cookery demonstration night and the sale of calendars.

Training courses are being organised and are sold out. The group now have a high level of confidence in their ability to come up with and deliver successful fund raising projects. Funds raised can be invested in community enterprises once the group have honed in on an idea that will work well for the area.

**Tipp Mid-West Radio** is a long established group which has been very successful but is experiencing financial pressures as a result of the recession. Many businesses can no longer afford to advertise and this is impacting on revenue for the station.

A mentoring session focused on possible training that could be offered by the station. As an outcome of the session, a long list of potential training areas and a number of segments to which training might be offered were identified. The group has delivered its first training course which they aimed at young people with disabilities. This went very well and the plan now is to have a FETAC Level 3 course delivered initially to station staff and then offered to a wider audience.



**Burncourt Community Council** has identified an old disused hostel in the nearby Glengarra Wood forest which they wish to renovate for a community run hostel and tourism facility. The forest is owned by Coillte and the hostel is currently sub-let to An Oige.

A business plan has been developed incorporating the findings of questionnaires that have been completed and returned from the community needs analysis. The group is now in a position to prepare a grant application once the new Rural Development programme is launched in 2015.

Overall the programme was very successful. It may not have fully delivered in terms of expectations regarding new business start-ups at the end of the programme. However this expectation may have been a little over ambitious. Positive outcomes from the programme include:-

- All communities involved have benefited from the mentoring and classroom sessions. They have gained confidence in their ability to plan a new business venture.
- Each community has an operational / business plan to work to, once it is in a position to launch its' business
- Participants had the opportunity to visit Social Enterprises in Northern Ireland and gain first-hand knowledge as to how to run a community based business.
- As a result of the classroom sessions, the groups fostered contacts and have established informal networks amongst themselves.

#### **Lessons Leaned:**

- There is a need to consider how best to build capacity in the social enterprise sector to ensure that social enterprises are 'investment-ready' and also have longer-term strategic plans to help improve access to finance.

- Within most communities, development of social / community enterprise will be a slow burner because of the nature of the structure within which it operates – i.e. a voluntary organisation with most members having their own “day-time job”. Community work is a part-time activity for these people. Therefore there is a vast difference between setting up of a private enterprise and community enterprise in terms of the priority it takes in the lives of the people involved. This needs to be factored into any programmes developed to support community / social enterprises.
- Consideration needs to be given to how best to support capability building in social enterprises by Government departments more generally in working with social enterprises and making best use of the range of measures available through LEADER.
- Human resource support is vital to social enterprises as many of them are run by voluntary management committees. Additional funding should be made available to the new round of LEADER (2014 -2020) to enable project animators to work closely with community groups to support them to develop and run social enterprises.

**For further information, contact: - [www.stdc.ie](http://www.stdc.ie)**

## TRAINING AND INFORMATION

*Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-*

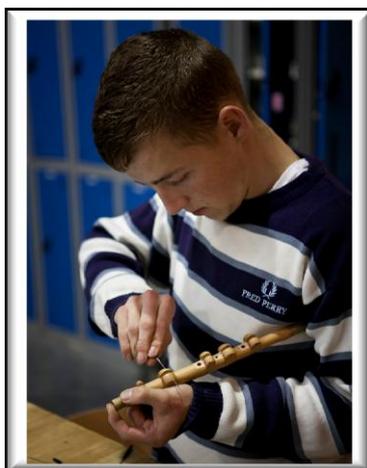
- ✓ Provision of general and specialist training that are related to the other “Programme Measures”
- ✓ Development of Training facilities
- ✓ Building the capacity of rural dwellers to utilise ICT

*Key performance indicators*

- ✓ €132,983 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 220 people received training
- ✓ Cost per person trained - €672
- ✓ Substantial work generated for trainers

Breakdown of persons trained by age and gender		
	Males	Females
<b>Under 25</b>	9	42
<b>Over 25</b>	67	102

Below are some examples of work done by 18 year old Peter Murphy. Peter is supported by STDC to participate on a three year Uilleann Pipe Instrument Making course. The aim of the three year full-time course is to provide the participants with the skills necessary to develop a career in the manufacture of the Uilleann Pipes.



For further information on Uilleann Pipe making courses, Contact: [www.pipers.ie](http://www.pipers.ie)

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
535	Seamus O Brien, Donohill	Course in Ice-cream making	€900.00
258	Spafield Family Resource Centre, Cashel	Multi-disciplinary training programmes, e.g. Grow your Own, Photography, Crafts, IT skills	€1,110.99
401	Maria O Donovan, Glen of Aherlow	Rural Development Training programme	€1,500.00
545	Conor English, Cahir	Course in Rural Development	€3,245.00
365	Tipperary Regional Youth Services, Cashel	Purchase of equipment to support music appreciation training	€4,301.83
505	Journeyman Camphill Community, Carrick-on-Suir	Range of "Grow your own" gardening and cooking skills training	€4,739.00
532	J P Betts, Cahir	Specialist software Training programme to support sustainment and expansion of existing business	€8,775.00
440	Peter Murphy, Ballypatrick	Uilleann Pipe making course	€15,000.00
328	South Tipp Community and Voluntary Forum, Cahir	Training marginalised groups in traditional stonework and other traditional skills	€16,400.00
549	South Tipperary Development Company, Cahir	Training programme in community enterprise development	€23,406.90
326	Tipperary Regional Youth Services Tipperary Music Education Programme, Cashel	Providing young people with skills to play a range of instruments	€36,050.00

## BUSINESS CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-*

- ✓ Assistance towards purchase of capital items for new and existing enterprises
- ✓ Research and development funding
- ✓ Marketing Assistance to Small businesses
- ✓ Training that leads directly to job creation

*Key performance indicators*

- ✓ €247,305 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 4 new jobs created
- ✓ 5 jobs sustained
- ✓ 6 new enterprises supported
- ✓ 8 existing enterprises supported
- ✓ New products development
- ✓ Business report increase in turnover, profitability and sustainability as a result of investment under the Rural Development Programme
- ✓ Micro and SME sector in the county strengthened

STDC expects additional new jobs to be created during 2015 as an outcome of grant payments to promoters. As part of the feedback from promoters, they indicated that at least four new jobs would be created once the business got established.

**Promoter:** Pencraft Design, Ballypatrick  
[www.pencraft.ie](http://www.pencraft.ie)

**Business:** Handcrafted artwork based on the tradition of calligraphy and design

**Grant:** €17,930

**Jobs:** 2 part-time

**Promoter comment:**  
*"We have seen substantial growth in our business during 2014. We expect this to continue in 2015. The grant from STDC was crucial in getting the business established"*



**Promoter:** Quality Water Services, Gortnahoe  
[www.qualitywaterservices.ie](http://www.qualitywaterservices.ie)

**Business:** Supply of potable drinking water to the public and private sector.

**Grant:** €39,932

**Jobs:** 1 new full-time job created to date

**Promoter comment:**  
*As a result of the grant received, the company has secured a number of key contracts with Irish Rail and Local Authorities. The company is well positioned going into 2015*

File no	Promoter	Project description	Grant amount
374	Cookie Jar, Poulmucka	Marketing assistance to develop on-line sales	€1,307
551	Michael Barry, Donohill	Capital assistance towards the further development of a craft enterprise	€2,974
530	Kate Keating Kelleher, Tipperary town	Marketing and capital assistance toward establishment of a tourism business	€5,044
379	Pencraft, Ballypatrick	Development of traditional craft business	€6,170
147	Cantwell Quality Water, Gortnahoe	Provision of potable water to public and private sector	€12,563
553	Martin McCullagh, Ardmayle	Capital assistance towards the establishment of a wood recycling business	€17,606
499	Delehanty Shavings, Lisronagh	Provision of animal bedding to the equine, poultry and canine industry	€94,075
145	Opus Vivas, Cullen	Provision of bespoke monitoring software to the food and drinks sector	€102,039

## BASIC SERVICES FOR THE ECONOMY AND RURAL POPULATION

Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-

- ✓ General Community and recreational infrastructures
- ✓ Amenity and leisure facilities within communities
- ✓ Community Cultural Activities

Key performance indicators

- ✓ €321,666 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 5 community facilities upgraded and enhanced
- ✓ 10 jobs sustained in the building sector as a result of builders winning contracts for various community projects funded under RDP
- ✓ Broader cross-section of the community utilising community facilities
- ✓ New clubs and organisations being formed
- ✓ Overall wellbeing in communities enhanced
- ✓ Reduction in crime rates in the community
- ✓ Quality of life throughout communities significantly enhanced

**Promoter:** Muintir na Tire (all of South Tipperary)  
www.muintirnaire.ie

**Project:** Mapping of 20 Community text Alert areas in South Tipperary and erecting Community Alert Text Alert signage in these areas.

**Grant:** €21,563

**Promoter comment:**  
*There has been a 22% reduction in crime rates in the selected communities. 8,500 homes have been mapped. The co-ordinates of the properties can be shared with emergency services in order to facilitate a quicker response to an emergency. This gives great peace of mind to rural dwellers, particularly the elderly*



**Promoter:** Cashel Community Hall Committee

**Project:** Upgrade and enhancement of Halla na Feile, Cashel

**Grant:** €83,881

**Jobs:** 4 jobs sustained for six months  
6 jobs sub-contracted for 4 months

**Promoter comments:**  
*Bookings have increased substantially. Groups are now using the hall that would have never considered it before. Feedback from the community has been very positive. The building looks very well as people enter Cashel. The enhanced building stands proud in the town*

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
245	Aherlow Kilross Community Council, Lisvernane	Additional payment towards enhancement of community facility	€13,585.00
451	Muintir na Tire, Tipperary town	Community mapping and signage to support Community Alert	€21,563.00
366	Ballyneale Hall Development Fund	Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility	€27,985.00
513	South East Mountain Rescue Association, Clonmel	Provision of central storage point for all emergency mountain rescue equipment	€29,750.00
468	Cashel Community Hall Committee	Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility	€83,881.00
429	Kilcooley Community Group, Grange	Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility	€144,629.00

## DIVERSIFICATION INTO NON-MAINSTREAM AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

*Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-*

- ✓ Capital costs associated with the development of niche tourism activities on farm e.g. open farm, farm shop, equestrian facilities
- ✓ Training directly related to the above
- ✓ Marketing

*Key performance indicators*

- ✓ €66,295 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 2 new jobs created
- ✓ 1 existing enterprise upgraded and new services added to increase sustainability
- ✓ 2 new enterprises established (Additional jobs expected to be created in 20154)
- ✓ Family farm income increased and farm family livelihood sustained

**Promoter:** Tom Pollard (Caravantasia), Killenaule  
[www.caravantasia.com](http://www.caravantasia.com)

**Project:** Development of a glamping park and training centre.

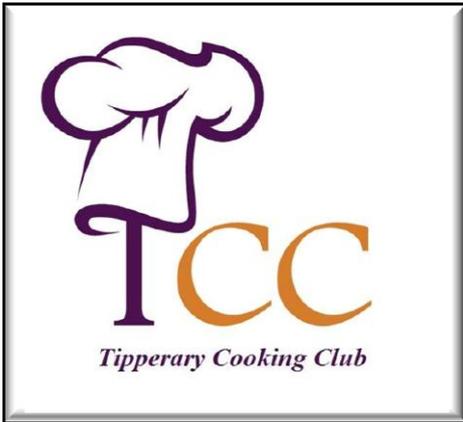
**Grant:** €52,031

**Jobs:** 1 full-time (Additional part-time and sub-contracted jobs expected as the business evolves)

***Promoter Comments:***

*The site is totally off-grid. Caravantasia has been developed to cater for training courses, business team building days, family reunions and hen nights. We hope that the income generated from this business will substantially increase the income generated from our 23 acre farm and will help to sustain our family livelihood*





**Promoter:** Siobhan Kinane, t/a Tipperary Cooking Club, near Tipperary Town  
[www.facebook.com/tipperarycookingclub](http://www.facebook.com/tipperarycookingclub)

**Business:** Cookery school and kids fun club

**Grant:** €52,743

**Jobs:** 1 full-time (additional part-time work expected to be generated as the business evolves)

**Promoter comments:**

*The business is going very well overall. Birthday parties and kiddie classes are very busy. I got some part-time work providing training in Limerick as an outcome of this project*

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
529	Siobhan Kinane, Tipperary town	Final payment towards capital and marketing costs for establishment of cookery club	€4,369.05
445	Tom Pollard, Killenaule	Glamping and training centre	€26,876.00
514	Joseph Broderick, Clonmel	Construction of an arena for ponies	€34,050.00

**VILLAGE RENEWAL AND DEVELOPMENT**

*Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-*

- ✓ General village and countryside enhancements
- ✓ Enhancement and provision of public utilities e.g green areas

*Key performance indicators*

- ✓ €635,982 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 5 jobs sustained in the building sector as a result of builders winning contracts for various community projects funded under RDP
- ✓ 6 Villages and /or public utilities enhanced
- ✓ Eye sore on side of street restored and building converted into a community space, providing essential services to a wide cross-section of the community
- ✓ Increased scoring in Tidy Towns Competition
- ✓ Increased Pride of Place

**Promoter:** Place 4 U, Clonmel  
[www.facebook.com/pages/place4U](http://www.facebook.com/pages/place4U)

**Project:** Conversion of old convent on Gladstone Street into a thriving multi-purpose community building.

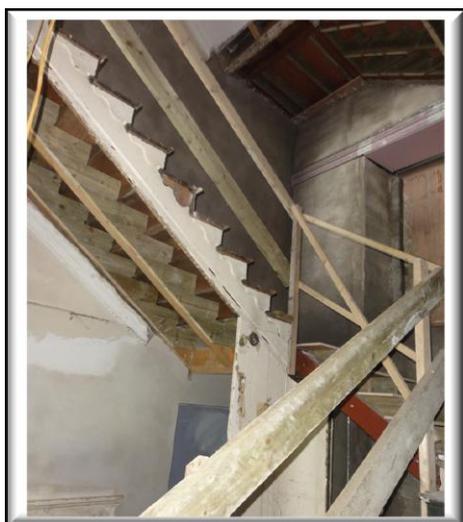
**Jobs:** 5 jobs sustained with the contractor over a 12 month period.

**Grant:** €499,883

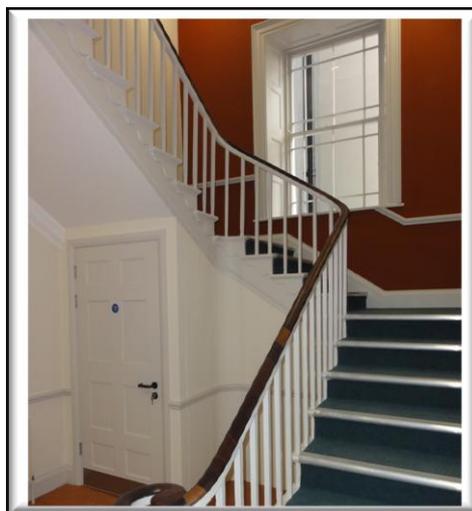
**Promoter comment:**

*The restoration work has had a huge visual impact.*

*Being located in the centre of town, the building has become an important meeting place for youth and the elderly from an educational and social perspective*



*Interior of a section of Place 4 U  
before works commenced*



*Interior of section of Place 4 U on  
completion of works*



*Exterior of refurbished Place 4 U,  
Gladstone Street, Clonmel*

File No.	Promoter	Project Description	Grant payment
369	Moyglass Sports & Leisure Centre	Final payment towards enhancement of external works	€690.00
274	Mullinahone Community Council	Final payment towards playground development	€31,380.75
388	Grangemockler Community Sports Field	Final payment re enhancement of leisure facility	€32,036.42
359	Cashel Town Council	Stage payment towards heritage type lighting to improve vista to Rock of Cashel	€33,112.07
297	Donohill Dev Council	Development of community sporting facility	€35,060.00
533	Cloneen Sports & Social Club	Upgrade of exterior of community facility	€37,496.00
547	Bansha Tidy Towns	enhancement of village Green	€56,152.00
261	Place 4 U, Clonmel	Restoration of derelict building into multi-functional community facility	€410,054.00

## Bansha Tidy Towns Village Enhancement – A Case Study

**Grant aid approved by STDC: € 56,152.29**

**Project Completed: June 2014**

Bansha Tidy Towns were formed in 2008 with the aim of improving the overall appearance and vista of the village of Bansha, which lies eight kilometres south-east of Tipperary Town on the route to Cahir / Waterford. The group is made up a committee of eight and complemented by up to thirty five volunteers who help out on a regular basis. They initially focused on tidying up the village through regular litter picks, painting, planting and grass cutting, while also holding numerous community events. A major project at the local primary school was also completed, whereby the whole building and grounds were painted and landscaped for the first time in over thirty years.

Bansha Tidy Towns have consistently improved their scores in the National Tidy Towns competition, from 230 points when they first entered in 2010 to 235 in 2011 and 243 in 2012. This progress was driven by a remarkable spirit of volunteerism among the community, spearheaded by Chairperson Andrew O'Halloran, who was a regular feature in the village, picking litter, painting, planting and doing all of the hard work necessary along with his colleagues.

In 2012 the group felt that a larger project was needed to maintain the momentum that had been built up in the formative years. The village green and riverside were identified as areas that were primed for improvement, and plans were laid for a full redevelopment of both areas, including a village square complete with outdoor furniture to provide a focal point for the village, new pathways and heritage lighting, as well as new trees and plants to add biodiversity and definition to the green, and a cantilever bridge over the river.



*The Village Green BEFORE works took place*

The group approached South Tipperary Development Company with a view towards applying for grant aid to help with the cost of the development. Following lengthy discussions with STDC it was decided that the project should be split into two phases, as the scale of the project would have made it difficult to deliver at once, especially for a new committee with limited resources. The village green was immediately identified as the priority, and the group began a formal tendering process to establish the full cost of the first phase of the project shortly after. The project was costed at € 68,093.73, supplemented by hundreds of hours and € 10,776 in voluntary labour and donations provided by the local community, and on the 17 / 10/ 2013 the board of STDC approved € 56,152.29 in grant aid towards the project.



*The "Village Green" in Bansha after works had been completed*

The project began during the spring of 2014, with the contractor completing all of the civil works by the end of May. Volunteers were working throughout on tasks such as planting and painting, and the committee even secured the voluntary services of a qualified stone mason to help complete the project. The results were spectacular, with the project drawing much praise and attention from locals and passers-by.

The new village green was officially opened on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014 in a ceremony that linked the past with the present. 66 years after Canon John Hayes switched on the lights in Bansha for the first time as part of the Rural Electrification Project, his niece and nephew were on hand to switch on the new heritage lighting on the green, before Bansha native and former Governor of Mountjoy John Lonergan cut the ribbon to officially open the new look green.



*Official “opening” of the Green in August 2014 by Mr John Lonergan, native of Bansha, and former Governor of Mountjoy. (it is not too often a prison Governor opens things!!!)*

The project is a fine example of village development, and what can be achieved when the local community come together to work in partnership with their local development company.

Bansha Tidy Towns has now turned its’ attention to fundraising and planning for the next phase of their village development plan, and will hope to secure assistance and funding from South Tipperary Development Company when the new programme is launched in 2015



*Above: The committee pictured at the “Official opening of the Green”. STDC was represented by Martin Quinn, chairperson (Far left) and Isabel Cambie Rural Development Manager (Middle Front row)  
Photos kindly provided by Caitriona Kenny*

## IMPLEMENTING CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

Projects that can be considered for funding under this measure include:-

- ✓ Transnational projects
- ✓ Inter-territorial projects
- ✓

(All inter-territorial projects have to become a “sub measure of one of the other main measures i.e. the project under consideration must be eligible under a main measure. Projects are delivered by a number of partners either within the country or with European partners, or a combination of both)

Key performance indicators

- ✓ €42,055 grant payments made to project beneficiaries
- ✓ 1 new job created
- ✓ 3 comprehensive studies produced
- ✓ Nine people trained in traditional skills – all over 25 years
- ✓ 2 community facilities enhanced / upgraded

**Promoter:** STDC in association with Waterford LEADER Partnership

**Project:** Technical Assistance to determine if there is merit in marketing the Galtees, Knockmealdowns, Comeraghs and Ballyhouras as a single visitor destination.

**Grant:** €15,682 from STDC

### Promoter Comment

*Project was very worthwhile. The outcome of the study showed that there is merit in the proposition. As a result of the study, a new company, Munster Peaks (Working title) has been formed. It has community representatives from the four mountain areas, and also representatives from STDC, WLP, Ballyhoura Development, Failte Ireland and the Local authority in Tipperary and Cork. The “Munster Peaks” will form a core element of the Failte Ireland East South initiative (brand name to be announced early 2015)*



## Munster Peaks Concept Development and Feasibility Study

Progress Meeting with Steering Group



<b>File No.</b>	<b>Promoter</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Grant payment</b>
<b>393</b>	STDC - Cultural Mapping	Part-payment in relation to technical assistance into the craft sector in association with five LEADER Partnership groups in Ireland	€1,684.00
<b>431</b>	Holycross Community Network	Training in traditional craft skills in association with north Tipperary LEADER Partnership	€2,400.00
<b>392</b>	STDC - Creative Clusters	Part-payment in relation to technical assistance into the craft sector in association with five LEADER Partnership groups in Ireland	€2,665.00
<b>229</b>	South Tipp Community and Voluntary Forum, Cahir	Part-payment if Festivals initiative in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership	€2,891.08
<b>215</b>	Kilbehenny Community Centre	Part-payment associated with the upgrading of multi-purpose community Centre in association with Ballyhoura Development	€9,756.00
<b>435</b>	STDC - Food tourism	Assistance to the food Tourism Sector in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership	€12,778.00
<b>539</b>	STDC -Tourism Destination initiative	Part-payment towards a study into developing a branded destination initiative around four mountain ranges in association with Waterford LEADER Partnership	€14,114.00