



South Tipperary Development Company

Progress Report 2014



South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Introduction to South Tipperary Development Company's Annual Progress Report 2014



**Martin Quinn,
Chairman**

The past year was once again a busy one for South Tipperary Development Company and enormous progress was made across all the Programmes managed by the Company. The year also presented a number of challenges, particularly in regard to the Social Inclusion

Programme and the Rural Development Programme, our two largest Programmes that in essence provide the platform that allows the Company to deliver our numerous other services around the County.

Every year since 2010 the Company was offered the Contract to operate the Social Inclusion Programme which was known as the Local & Community Development Programme (LCDP). During 2014 the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government decided to invite tenders for the Social Inclusion Programme Contract under a new title - the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). In December, 2014 the Company submitted a tender and the outcome of that competition will be announced in early 2015.

Our Local & Community Development Programme Team provided tremendous supports to people experiencing unemployment during 2014. Many different communities have also benefited from the professional advice and assistance offered by our staff working on this Programme. Individuals experiencing unemployment receive one to one support through our Compass Programme. These supports can vary depending on the individual but they include CV preparation, interview skills and 'Dress to Impress' training, in addition to advice on how to track recruitment sites and job advertisements. The Programme also focuses on mental health issues.

Our Incredible Years Programme delivered important and relevant training on the subject of managing behavioural difficulties in children and young people to a large number of parents and

teachers during 2014. This Programme is generously funded by the Tony Ryan Trust which is managed by the Community Foundation for Ireland.

2014 also saw the establishment of the Tipperary Local and Community Development Committee, (LCDC). These Committees were established by statute for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. South Tipperary Development Company is represented on the LCDC by our Chief Executive Officer.

In 2009, South Tipperary Development Company was awarded the status of "Local Action Group" or LAG for the management, operation and delivery of the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, or as more commonly known, the LEADER (*'Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale'*) Programme. During 2014 the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government continually published the view that the LCDCs are their preferred option as the LAG under the forthcoming Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. It is our Board's contention that the process for deciding on which entity will secure LAG status should be the subject of a fair, open and transparent decision-making process. Any organisation or group that comply with the appropriate guidelines should be entitled to apply for LAG status.

This debate has led to huge uncertainty for the organisation. Ultimately it is the LAG that makes all final decisions in regard to applications for LEADER funding and it is our Board's view that transferring this status to a new Committee is not in keeping with the principle of "Community-Led Local Development" or the "Bottom-up approach". It will in fact lead to an extra layer of bureaucracy in the funding process.

As we approach the end of another very successful Rural Development Programme many of the larger projects have been completed. It

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

gave me great pleasure to represent South Tipperary Development Company at a number of official openings and launches that took place in 2014.

It is at this stage of the seven-year Rural Development Programme that one can truly experience the positive impact that LEADER funding and supports have on the lives of people living in our rural communities. We have facilitated the provision of community infrastructure such as community halls and sports facilities. These facilities now provide a base for our communities to develop and grow. The actual development of the project itself provides the catalyst for many groups to come together, but in reality it is the beginning of a process whereby communities can become self-sufficient.

South Tipperary Development Company delivers the National Countryside Recreation Strategy for the entire County of Tipperary. We are now one year into our two-year Operational Plan and we continue to play a strong role in the development of the outdoor recreation product in the County. In particular during 2014 we contributed to the development of the "Walk the Tipperary 10" Passport that promotes a number of the beautiful walks available in the County. A beautifully produced electronic Storymap promoting the activities and amenities in our mountain ranges can be viewed at www.exploretipperary.ie It is another example of a superb tourism marketing tool that South Tipperary Development Company contributed to in 2014.

South Tipperary Development Company now employs 258 people on the Tús Programme and Rural Social Scheme. This team of people work with in excess of 135 groups and organisations

throughout the County carrying out invaluable tasks in the areas of clerical, research and environmental works, to name but a few.

Our Company also works with the Travelling Community through our Traveller Health Programme Team.

As you can see in this Report our Company delivers a multitude of vital services to the people living in this County. A special bond has developed between the people of South Tipperary and South Tipperary Development Company over the last 20 years building on the trust and reputation previously developed by Clonmel Community Partnership, Tipperary LEADER Group and Suir Community Development Programme. More and more communities and individuals are turning to the Company for assistance with the challenges that face them on a daily basis. Many of them painstakingly raised their own funding to match the resources available from the Company which is a strong sign of the trust that exists between South Tipperary Development Company and the people we serve.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members, past and present, for their analysis and input throughout 2014. I would also like to express my appreciation to all the employees of South Tipperary Development Company for their dedication and commitment to the people and communities they serve.



Martin Quinn
Chairperson

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

South Tipperary Development Company Board Members

Community and Voluntary Sector Nominees

Martin Quinn (Chairman)

Martin's involvement in a number of groups reflects a lifetime of dedicated service to others as a volunteer which began as a club member and later club leader in Bansha Youth Club before going on to represent the club at regional and national level. He has also been honoured by the Tipperary Association, Dublin, as the Tipperary Person of the Year for 2012. He is a former National President of Muintir na Tire and is the current chair of South Tipperary Development Company.



Richard Long (Vice Chair)



Richard is involved in a number of community groups including Treasurer of Clonoulty / Rossmore Community Council, Treasurer of South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum, Guide in Holycross Abbey, South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum representative on the Public Participation Network. Richard is a Peace Commissioner and is currently vice-Chairperson of South Tipperary Development Company.

Helen Quirke (Secretary)

Helen is currently company secretary for South Tipperary Development Company. With over 15 years in the adult education sector, she is manager with the community development group, Cahir Development Association. The Group provides supports for local community groups and individuals, through training, recreation, childcare and local projects, with a strong focus on provision of services for disadvantaged in the area. Helen has been actively involved in Waterford and South Tipperary Community Youth Services and is a director on South Tipperary Volunteer Centre.



Marie Walsh



Marie is a community worker at the Nano Nagle Community Resource Centre Carrick-on-Suir. For the past number of years Marie has been involved with various community groups and organisations, namely, South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum, RAPID Community Representative, Strategic Policy Committee for Housing, Joint Policing Committee, Clancy Brothers Music / Arts Festival and also Daffodil Day Committee.

Fiona Crotty

Fiona is a representative from the Community & Voluntary Pillar and was nominated from the Community Forum to the board of STDC in February 2014. Fiona is from Kilsheelan and is involved primarily with KPLAN Community Centre & Kilsheelan Tidy Towns as well as being active with other community events within Kilsheelan and Clonmel. Fiona has completed a degree in Community Development and Adult Education to compliment her voluntary practice. Fiona is employed by South Tipperary County Council.



John Hinchy



John is a Project Supervisor of Multeen Tourism Co-op Soc. Ltd, a Director Of Multeen Tourism Co-op Soc. Ltd since 1989, Co-ordinator of O Sullivan Beara Walks and Cycle Routes, Member and co-ordinator of works of Cappawhite Community Text Alert since its foundation, Member of the Monitoring Alarms in Cappawhite, Chairperson of Cappawhite Tidy Towns, Official County Council Caretaker of Cappawhite Burial Grounds. Treasurer of Tipperary Community Employment Supervisors Committee and SIPTU Representative for the National Community Employment Supervisors Committee.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Sr. Mary Walsh

Sr. Mary is a Sister of Mercy and has held numerous management roles within the Congregation. She has worked as Staff and Catering Supervisor within the Health Service and has also worked with Cashel and District Social Services. Sr. Mary is a founder member of Spafield Family Resource Centre, Cashel. She is also a founder member of Cashel Boxing Club. Sr. Mary has been a volunteer and fundraiser with many organisations for over forty years.



Peader O Donnell



Peader has a long history of volunteering with a number of community groups and organisations, particularly in Tipperary Town. Peader is also a former elected member of Tipperary Town Council.

Social Partners Sector Nominees

Derek Nolan – IBEC

Derek Nolan is a Production Manager with C&C in Bulmers Clonmel. He has over 30 years' experience in the drinks sector. He brings invaluable experience and knowledge of the HR area to the board. Derek is a successful athlete and is also a member of the local athletics club.



Seamus Troy – ICMSA



Seamus is a dairy farmer and is Chairman of Tipperary ICMSA and serves on their National Council. He is a member of the Glanbia Ballingarry Advisory Committee. He is a former member of The Commons Macra na Feirme and former Chairman and President of South Tipperary Macra na Feirme. He has been involved in local community groups including Ballingarry Hall and Ballingarry Parish Field. He is a founder member of Slieveardagh Rural Development and was Chairman for ten years and is currently Treasurer and a Board member.

Michael Long – Environmental

Michael is the manager of the Cabragh Wetlands Trust. This Trust was established by local volunteers in order to save a vast area of wetland habitats from destruction. Michael has a vast knowledge and understanding of the Environmental challenges facing our county and our country and brings this knowledge and experience to the Board.



Teresa Collins Hinchy – ICTU



Teresa is Manager of Tipperary Town's Community Services Centre, Co-Ordinator of Meals and Wheels, Project Supervisor for Tipperary Community Council Ltd, Community Employment Scheme. She is a director and Treasurer of Multeen Tourism Co-op Soc. Ltd, Secretary of Cappawhite Community Text Alert since its foundation. She is also Co-ordinator of the Monitoring Alarms in Tipperary Town and Cappawhite, P.R.O Cappawhite Tidy Towns of Tipperary Community Employment Supervisors Committee, and SIPTU Chairperson of the National Community Employment Supervisors Committee.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Simon Ryan – IFA

Representing the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) on the board of STDC, Simon runs a beef enterprise and is currently developing a dairy enterprise. He is the Current County Chairman of South Tipperary County Executive IFA, having previously served 6 years as Livestock Chairman and 4 years as County Secretary of the IFA. He was treasurer of the local Community Games for 6 years and is still very involved in his local GAA club (Knockane GAA).



State Agencies

Veronica Crowe – ETB



Veronica has worked in the area of Community Development since 1990. In 2002 she took on the role of Community Education Facilitator with Tipperary ETB. This service has approx. 1,800 learners annually. She also organises events during the AONTAS Adult Learners Festival. Veronica is also involved in committees such as: Positive Ageing, STAN (South Tipperary Action Network Mental Health), Clonmel Parent's Support Programme, Integrate Carrick, Rapid and STDC.

John Crosse – Teagasc

With a degree in Agricultural Science and a Masters in Environmental Conservation and Management, John worked in Rockwell Agricultural College from 1979 until it closed in 2001. He was then redeployed by Teagasc, working both in Thurles and Clonmel. For the last 15 years, he has been involved in the Cashel Heritage and Development Trust and is currently its Chairman. He is also involved in farming with his son, Michael.



Local Government

Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose



Siobhán is a member of Tipperary County Council and been a Councillor since 2004. She served as Mayor of Clonmel in 2010 / 2011 and Vice Chairperson of South Tipperary County Council from 2012 to 2014. She is a director of the South Tipperary Arts Centre and Cahir Craft Granary. She is also a member of Tipperary County Council's Community and Economic policy group, South Tipperary Education and Training Board (formally the V.E.C.) and South Tipperary General Hospital's "Save our acute hospital services" committee in addition to several other local voluntary groups.

Cllr. John Crosse

John was first elected to South Tipperary County Council in 2004 and was elected Cathaoirleach of South Tipperary County Council in 2014. John is currently Mayor of the Cashel – Tipperary Municipal District. John was a member of the former Tipperary LEADER Group board. John is a member of the Local Traveller Consultative Committee and the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.



Cllr. Catherine Carey

Catherine was first elected to Tipperary County Council in 2014 and has worked in the health sector in South Tipperary for a number of years. Catherine also had a background as a union representative.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Cllr. Andy Moloney



Andy was elected to Tipperary County Council in 2014 and he has been a previous member of the Leader Board in 2007 and comes back to the STDC with a vast amount of knowledge on the workings of community based projects and initiatives. Andy is a Tidy Towns activist and very involved in sporting and recreational committees in south Tipperary. He also sits on the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee and Joint Policing Committee.

Board Members Active in 2014

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Cllr. Joe Brennan | Local Government |
| Cllr. P.J.Quinlan | Local Government |
| Kathleen Prendergast | Local Government |
| Pat Walsh | State Agency |
| Donal Mullane | State Agency |
| Eileen Condon | State Agency |
| Dermot Ryan | Social Partners |

Executive Committee

Martin Quinn
Richard Long
Peader O'Donnell
Helen Quirke
Michael Long

HR Committee

Peader O'Donnell
Sr. Mary Walsh
Marie Walsh
Derek Nolan
Teresa Collins Hinchy

Audit & Finance Committee

Martin Quinn
Helen Quirke
Derek Nolan
Fiona Crotty
Seamus Troy

Social Inclusion Sub Committee

Marie Walsh
Sr. Mary Walsh
Peader O'Donnell
Michael Long
Fiona Crotty

Evaluation Committee

Murt Duggan (Chairperson)
Siobhan Walsh
Gerry Collins
Anthony Fitzgerald
Gerry Broder
Jenny Kiely
Michael Lavin
Noel Horgan



Minister Ann Phelan

*Minister of State at the
Departments of Agriculture, Food
and Marine and Transport, Tourism
and Sport with Special
Responsibility for Rural Economic
Development*



Minister Alan Kelly

*Minister for the Environment,
Community and Local
Government*

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Chief Executive Officer's Address



Niall Morrissey, CEO

I welcome you to South Tipperary Development Company's Progress Report 2014. It has been another year of phenomenal activity and achievement right across all the 7 Programmes we deliver, in addition to our Little Orchard Playschool in Ballylynch, our Afterschool's Homework Club in Comeragh View, Carrick-On-Suir and our Home Repairs Service.

As you will see in this Progress Report, which represents only a snapshot of the amount of activity that South Tipperary Development Company is involved in, we are playing a very strong role in the economic and social development of the County, particularly in the areas of Enterprise Development, Tourism, Employment, Heritage, Agriculture and Social Inclusion.

The number of people employed in Ireland in 2014 continued to grow and with employment growth predictions of just under 2% in 2015, bringing the overall rate of unemployment to below 10%, it is important that our Company continues to prepare people experiencing unemployment to be "job ready" and to be equipped with the appropriate skills to ensure they can avail of employment opportunities as they arise.

The services we deliver in partnership with our local communities have an impact right across the County. Our organisation is a firm believer in the principle of "Community-Led Local Development". South Tipperary Development Company belongs to the people of South Tipperary. Our Board and staff continually strive to listen to the challenges that our communities face on a daily basis and then attempt to overcome those challenges by innovatively utilising the resources at our disposal.

This Progress Report outlines a sample of the projects we are involved in with a view to demonstrating how communities have come together to provide solutions, thereby highlighting to other groups what can be achieved.

The Cooleens Community Field project in Clonmel is one such example with the residents now leading a number of key projects for their community. The Tús and Local & Community Development Programme Teams continue to support the development of the capacity of this community, including the negotiation and agreement with Tipperary County Council and An Garda Síochána for a CCTV system for their estate. The Men's shed project in Cooleens is also a great example of collaboration between the LCDP and Tús. This project will act as a 'gateway' for services specific to men in this community.

Each year our Information Expos for the unemployed have gone from strength to strength as we ensure that we provide relevant information and contacts for people experiencing unemployment. In excess of 450 people attended the Expos which were held in Carrick-On-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary.

During 2014 South Tipperary Development Company supported 58 people to secure employment. The Company assisted 29 individuals to establish their own businesses.

The Company provided training and education opportunities to 1,296 people during 2014.

South Tipperary Development Company recognises the value of a vibrant social enterprise sector in the County. The sector has struggled to secure the necessary supports to enable it to play its part in the revival of the national economy. The true capacity of social enterprises is unknown. Our Company, in partnership with the Irish Local Development Network, (www.ildn.ie), continues to advocate central government to provide a focal point for Social Enterprise to access the type of supports it needs.

I am convinced that local development companies provide the best and ideal option to

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

assist social enterprises to grow and develop, thereby providing essential services to communities; while at the same time providing the potential for local employment opportunities. If we can provide vital supports at start-up and allow these enterprises to flourish, in time they will become net contributors to the economy.

We played our part during 2014 when the Rural Development Programme funded a hugely successful Community Enterprise Training Initiative. Five community groups completed the 9 month training Programme, which included a fact finding mission to Monaghan and Newry in August. We will continue to support these groups and others through Programmes such as the LCDP, SICAP, Tús, the Rural Social Scheme and the Rural Development Programme. However, I cannot over-emphasise the importance of central government recognising the potential of this sector, a fact referenced in the report launched by the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas, (CEDRA).

During 2014, the Department of Social Protection recognised the progress that South Tipperary Development Company made in the development of the Tús Programme in the County by increasing the number of our teams from 10 to 11, resulting in 11 Team Leaders supporting 220 participants who are working with community groups and organisations in almost every town and village in the County. This is in addition to our Rural Social Scheme (RSS), which also continues to provide vital supports to individuals and community groups. This work is carried out by our Rural Social Scheme Supervisor and 26 participants.

An important element of the work carried out by the RSS and Tús participants is the maintenance and upkeep of a number of the beautiful walks and trails that are interspersed throughout Tipperary. This work is the responsibility of our Rural Recreation Officer who has been involved in numerous developments and improvements to the Outdoor Activities Product throughout Tipperary, including supporting the Local Authority in its endeavours to develop a canoe trail along the River Suir. Six new walks were developed during the year in South Tipperary.

Existing walks are continually being upgraded and maintained to ensure a high quality visitor experience at all times. This work is supported by the National Countryside Recreation Strategy and in particular by South Tipperary Development Company's two-year Operational Plan.

South Tipperary Development Company has played the lead role in supporting the South Tipperary Tourism Company in developing a number of initiatives including the implementation of a marketing strategy for the Galtee and Knockmealdown regions and the development of an Ecclesiastical Trails route, culminating in the launch of a Trail Guide by Minister Jim Denihan.

South Tipperary Development Company has taken a lead role in the development of the Munster Peaks strategy – a key strategy that aims to position the mountain ranges of the Comeraghs, Knockmealdowns, the Galtees and Ballyhouras as a key tourist destination.

During 2014 South Tipperary Development Company played a strong role in trying to secure a future for local development companies. A number of events were held throughout the country at which members of the public, time and time again, stated their outright opposition to any attempts to undermine the current local development company service delivery model. The vast majority of the population of our County have benefited in one way or another from projects or services delivered by South Tipperary Development Company and over many years a bond has been formed between the Company and the communities we serve. The public trust South Tipperary Development Company and this is evidenced by voluntary groups and individuals investing their hard earned resources in projects that are matched by funding from the Company. This is Community-Led Local Development and nothing should be allowed to damage this relationship.

For many years the Board have debated and decided in a democratic fashion how best to distribute funding in a balanced and strategic manner throughout the County. At all times value for money is at the core of each decision taken by

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

the Board of South Tipperary Development Company. What was best for the citizen influenced every funding approval. There had to be strategic gain in terms of employment creation or income generation underpinning every cent spent in the County and central to their thoughts was how the Board's funds could leverage other investment to the maximum extent possible.

During the past year the Company has actively sought new opportunities to expand the level of services we deliver. Some examples would be the submission of tenders for JobPath, the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme, (SICAP), and Benefit 4, (a digital skills training contract).

Towards the end of 2014, in partnership with a number of other local development companies, the Company embarked on a potentially exciting journey with an international supplier of Broadband infrastructure. South Tipperary Development Company have listened carefully to the concerns of local businesses, both established and those with plans to develop in our County, and top of the list of challenges and barriers to progression is the lack of a high speed,

dependable Broadband service. This is one of the biggest factors holding back job creation and has to be tackled without any further delay. While we acknowledge and welcome the objectives of the National Broadband Plan, we are fearful that delivery of tangible results may be many years away. In the meantime opportunities will be lost if something is not attempted in the short term. South Tipperary Development Company will continue to explore the potential of a relationship with the aforementioned international company.

It has been an exciting, eventful and progressive year for South Tipperary Development Company. The energy and enthusiasm of our Board and staff knows no bounds and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person that played their part in ensuring that 2014 was such a successful year for the Company.



Niall Morrissey
Chief Executive Officer



Donal Walsh, Financial Controller; Ms. Phil Shanahan, Social Inclusion Programme Manager; Ms. Isabel Cambie, Rural Development Programme Manager; Niall Morrissey, CEO

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2007 – 2013

South Tipperary Development Company Ltd was successful in obtaining €12.4m to administer the Rural Development Programme (widely known as the LEADER programme) in South Tipperary on behalf of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. The aim of the Programme is to improve the quality of life in rural areas. We are now nearing the end of a very successful programme which was of immense benefit to our communities and business, with an everlasting impact throughout the county.

This was 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:

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

The table below outlines the “hard” or tangible outputs of the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme in South Tipperary. They underline a much greater impact – the “Soft” or intangible outcomes and impacts.

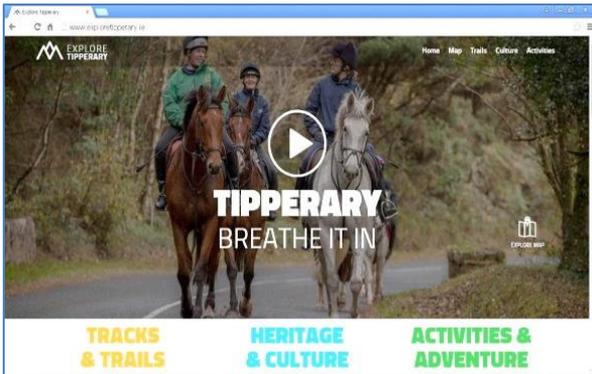
| PROJECT OUTCOMES | 2014 Outcomes | From May 2009 to Dec 2014 |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Number of jobs created (Full-time equivalents) | 6.5 | 110.5 |
| Number of jobs sustained (Full-time equivalents) | 10 | 92 |
| Number of additional jobs sustained in the building sector 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 bed nights 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 |

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

TOURISM

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 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 of maps of the Galtees, Knockmealdowns and the Ballyhouras. 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.

A web site, developed by South Tipperary Tourism Company in association with STDC, www.tipperarytourism.com was launched recently. 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 as being Castles and Heritage. (in an independent study conducted by Tourism Development International in 2009, and funded by a Technical Assistance grant received from STDC).

As an outcome of the above initiatives, South Tipperary is well placed to fit smoothly into the new Failte Ireland (FI) “Irelands Ancient East”. It is envisaged that this new FI initiative will be similar in scale and impact as the Wild Atlantic Way along the Western Seaboard.



Participants who completed a Tourism Tour Guide Training Course funded under the Rural Development Programme

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

CONSERVATION & UPGRADE OF THE 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

Clogheen Development Group received funding to restore the Fr Sheehy tomb in Shanrahan Cemetery. The 250th anniversary of the death of Fr Sheehy will be commemorated in March 2016 – hence the move to restore his tomb. The pictures show the “before and after restoration” works carried out to the Fr Sheehy tomb at Shanrahan Graveyard, Clogheen.



Before Restoration



After Restoration

At a recent “unveiling” of the tomb, local historian, Ed. O’Riordan, stated that “Over the years, the tomb has become dishevelled and overgrown, but recently conservation work was carried out on it to preserve it. The tomb is now in good condition and the memory of Fr. Sheehy will continue to be honoured at Shanrahan.” 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. 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.

The **Carrick-on-Suir Community Business Centre** received funding to restore the roof of this early 19th century building. The building is a twelve bay convent and chapel which has been adopted over

the years for its current use as a community and training centre. The roof sustained extensive weather damage over the years, causing damage to the rafters which has resulted in many leaks throughout the building. The restoration of the roof has ensured its sustainability for years to come, enabling it to continue to serve the needs of the community of Carrick-on-Suir.



Carrick-on-Suir Community Business Centre

TRAINING & 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

During 2014 almost €133,000 was paid in grant aid to individuals, businesses and communities to enable them to upgrade and enhance their skills level in various disciplines. One such individual receiving support was **Peter Murphy**.

Peter was 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. Peter is due to graduate in June 2015.



Peter creating a new set of Uilleann Pipes

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

James is a qualified agriculture mechanic, from Cahir. He currently manufactures bespoke hydraulic hoses for all types of machinery. James spotted a niche in the market to design a bespoke electronic system to suit requirements of various machinery manufacturers. He approached STDC for grant assistance to enable him to travel to the UK to undertake a specialist software training course to enable him to fill the gap he has identified in the market.

BUSINESS CREATION & 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

Pencraft, a traditional craft business, was founded in 1978 by John and Catherine Allision. The business produces handcrafted Celtic inspired verses and blessings. In 2010, Daithi Allison and his wife Anne took over the business and in 2013, they decided to expand into new markets and develop the business by adding new products to their range. They approached STDC for grant assistance to convert a garage into a workspace and to purchase equipment to enable them to activate their business plans. Their new product range has been very well received by the market place.



Martin McCullagh is a qualified carpenter /joiner. He established his own roofing business, employing up to 40 people. Unfortunately, due to the downturn in the economy in 2009 the business was forced into closure. Having a keen interest in Renewable Energies and having completed a Start Your business course, Martin approached STDC with an idea for setting up a new business manufacturing briquettes from

sawdust. He secured a lease on a former industrial site and received grant aid of approximately €36,000 from STDC to purchase the equipment that he required to get the business up and running. Over the past few months, Martin commenced production. The briquettes can be used in log boilers, stoves and open fires.



One of Martin's machines for making briquettes

BASIC SERVICES FOR THE ECONOMY & 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

Halla na Féile, a community hall in Cashel received in excess of €80,000 from STDC to assist it with its ambitious refurbishment plans. With funding secured, the group set about demolishing parts of the building that had become dilapidated and replaced it with a modern functioning two storey extension. Halla na Féile is due to reopen in January 2015, marking a new era for the theatre hall/conference/community radio centre which has served the town for over 50 years. "We have a fantastic building which we can be proud of in Cashel." said the Chair of the fund raising committee.



Halla na Féile, Cashel

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Muintir na Tíre received financial assistance for developing a pilot Community Mapping and Text Alert programme in 20 communities in South Tipperary. All households in the community were GPS mapped (with the consent of the owners) and community text alert signage was erected. The objective of the project is to encourage neighbours to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activities to the members of Community Alert. The GPS mapping assists emergency services in locating premises quickly and efficiently.



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



One of the caravans at Caravantasia

Tom Pollard is a part-time farmer, trained stonemason and craft worker, working with stone and wood. He with his wife Heather opened Caravantasia, a fun new glamping site in July 2014. The campsite has 6 vintage caravans from the 60s and 70s that have been renovated into cosy little places to stay. Each caravan has been restored to its original glory or has been updated in its own individual quirky style. The caravans sleep between two and four people. The entire site is off-grid. The site has mainly been developed to cater for corporate and private

events such as training courses, family reunions, hen nights and business team building.

Tipperary Cooking Club, located outside Tipperary town, was established by Siobhán Kinane, mainly to provide cookery classes for children and teenagers.



Siobhán wanted to set up a business that enabled her to combine her passion for cooking with her love for working with children into a business. With assistance from STDC, Siobhán secured almost €56,000 to convert a building into a fully equipped kitchen to HSE standards. The funding received from STDC was vital in enabling her to realise her dreams.

VILLAGE RENEWAL & 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

Place 4 U project involved the conversion of a derelict building, known as the Old Convent, on Gladstone Street in Clonmel into a thriving facility that is now widely used by a cross section of the Clonmel community. With a project costing in excess of €750,000, the voluntary committee took on a mammoth task. The building suffered much internal damage during its years of disuse and being designated as a listed building, reconstruction work was slow and meticulous to keep to the stringent heritage regulations when working on a project of this nature. Armed with a grant of €500,000 from STDC, the committee fundraised and supervised the project over an 18 month period. The once old derelict building is now a key focal point in community life in Clonmel, addressing the needs of the young and old alike.



Place 4 U before



Place 4 U after

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Bansha Tidy Towns were formed in 2008 with the aim of improving the overall appearance and vista of Bansha. The group is made up of a committee of eight and complemented by up to thirty-five volunteers who help out on a regular basis. The village green, which was a very visible focal point in the village never, did justice to the village.



**Village Green
Before**



**Village Green
After**

With this in mind the committee drew up an impressive development plan for the green. Armed with their plan and determination, they approached STDC for financial assistance. After much dialogue, the group received approximately €55,000 grant aid from STDC. The project began during the spring of 2014, with the contractor completing all of the civil ground works by the end of May. Volunteers were recruited to carry out 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 22nd, 2014 by Bansha native and former Governor of Mountjoy, John Lonergan.



Bansha Tidy Towns Committee at the "Official opening of the Green", with representatives of STDC Martin Quinn, chairman & Ms. Isabel Cambie

COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE TRAINING PROGRAMME



Participants on the Community Enterprise Training Programme with their Certificates

A Case Study

South Tipperary Development Company contracted MCA Consulting to work with it in developing and delivering a pilot Community Enterprise Training Programme. The aim was to encourage communities to consider community/social enterprise as a means of generating economic activity and jobs in their community.

The following groups participated on the programme:

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

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 and Study visits to community enterprises.

The classroom sessions took place over an eight week period from January to April and covered the following topics:- Ideas generation; Market research; Business planning; Marketing; Financial planning; Legal structures and Harnessing and retaining support. The trainers worked with each group to investigate and develop potential business ideas.

The **Fethard Business and Tourism Group** identified the



South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

restoration of Fethard Tholsel as a tourism and enterprise hub for the town. 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.

Tipp Mid-West Radio is a long established group which has been very successful. Mentoring sessions focused on possible training that could be offered by the station. As an outcome, a list of potential training programmes that could be offered by the station were identified. The group has delivered its first training programme 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.



Breda Ryan, Nora Samworth and Ann Power from Tipp Mid-West Radio with Isabel Cambie from STDC

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 fund raising.



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.

Lessons learned from the pilot initiative

- 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. 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 capacity 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.



Community Enterprise Training Programme Participants

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Projects Funded under the Rural Development Programme for the Year 2014

| Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Aherlow Kilross Community Council | Additional payment towards enhancement of community facility | 13,858.56 |
| Ballyneale Hall Development Fund | Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility | 27,985.03 |
| Kilcooley Community Group | Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility | 144,628.92 |
| Muintir na Tire | Community mapping and signage to support Community Alert | 21,562.50 |
| Cashel Community Hall Committee | Upgrade and enhancement of multi-purpose community facility | 83,880.41 |
| South East Mountain Rescue Association | Provision of central storage point for all emergency mountain rescue equipment | 29,750.05 |
| Business Creation and Development | | |
| Opus Vivas | Provision of bespoke monitoring software to the food and drinks sector | 102,039.00 |
| Cantwell Quality Water | Provision of portable water to public and private sector | 12,562.07 |
| The Cookie Jar | Marketing assistance to develop on-line sales | 1,306.16 |
| Pencraft Design Ltd | Development of traditional craft business | 6,170.05 |
| Delehanty Shavings | Provision of animal bedding to the equine, poultry and canine industry | 94,074.75 |
| Kate Keating Kelleher | Marketing and capital assistance towards the establishment of a tourism business | 5,043.60 |
| Michael Barry | Capital assistance towards the further development of a craft enterprise | 2,973.87 |
| Martin MacCullagh | Capital assistance towards the establishment of a wood recycling business | 23,135.48 |
| Conservation and Upgrade of the Rural Heritage | | |
| Clogheen Development Working Group | Restoration of Fr. Sheehy Tomb in Shanrahan Cemetery | 16,858.12 |
| Slieveardagh Rural Development | Final payment towards Historical Trails Brochure | 1,200.00 |
| C J Kickham GAA Mullinahone | Publication of the "Green above the Red" commemoration 130 years of GAA in Mullinahone | 8,737.50 |
| Ballyneale Development Association | Final payment on interpretation plaques erected to explain the history and heritage of the area | 724.06 |
| Garry Gleeson | Restoration of building of heritage significance to tourism accommodation and interpretative centre | 111,750.00 |
| Carrick On Suir Community Business Centre | Restoration of roof to preserve and enhance a building of character | 37,189.46 |
| Diversification into non Agriculture | | |
| Tom & Brid O' Brien | Upgrade and enhancement of existing hostel, caravan and camping facility | 4,628.52 |
| Tom Pollard | Glamping and training centre | 27,876.29 |
| Joseph Broderick | Construction of an arena for ponies | 34,050.00 |
| Siobhan Kinane | Final payment towards capital and marketing costs for establishment of cookery club | 4,369.05 |
| Encouragement of Tourism | | |
| M. Crowe & K. Prendergast | Conversion of building of character to self-catering unit | 38,581.78 |
| Galtee Valley Xtreme | Adventure Centre | 22,483.72 |
| Clonmel Cycling Club | Marketing and Capital Support for Suir Valley cycling festival | 17,284.10 |
| STDC in association with Galtee Steering Group & Knockmealdown Active | Tourist maps for the Galtee and Knockmealdown Mountain ranges. Electronic story map to promoter the culture and heritage of the two mountains | 19,130.12 |
| South Tipperary Tourism Company | Development of a new web site - www.tipperarytourism.com | 2,400.00 |
| Slieveardagh Rural Development | Production of a brochure and booklet of Historic Trails in South Tipperary | 6,940.80 |
| Knockmealdown Active | Development of four looped and one linear walk | 10,335.09 |
| Tipperary Excel Heritage | Upgrade and enhancement of Internet Café Facilities | 3,024.75 |

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

| Implementing Co-Operation Projects | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| Kilbehenny Community Centre | Part-payment associated with the upgrading of multi-purpose community Centre in association with Ballyhoura Development | 9,756.54 |
| South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum | Part-payment of Festivals initiative in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership | 2,891.08 |
| STDC - Creative Clusters | Part-payment in relation to technical assistance into the craft sector in association with five LEADER Partnership groups in Ireland | 2,664.69 |
| STDC - Cultural Mapping | Part-Payment in relation to technical assistance into the craft sector in association with five LEADER Partnership groups in Ireland | 1,684.35 |
| Holycross Community Network | Training in traditional craft skills in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership | 2,400.00 |
| STDC - Food Tourism | Assistance to the Food Tourism Sector in association with North Tipperary LEADER Partnership | 12,778.37 |
| STDC - Tourism Destination Initiative | Part- payment towards study into developing a branded destination initiative around four mountain ranges in association with Waterford LEADER Partnership | 9,879.97 |
| Animation and Skills Acquisition | | |
| STDC – Amenities & Activities | Animator to support Knockmealdown Active & Galtee Steering Groups | 4,304.09 |
| STDC – Festival & Events | Animator to support community groups in developing festivals and events | 4,977.67 |
| STDC – Enterprise & Development | Animator to support enterprise programme in Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir | 20,983.49 |
| STDC – Heritage & Tourism | Animator to support Butler Trail | 8,940.39 |
| STDC – Enterprise Training | Enterprise Training Programme in Clonmel | 8,205.00 |
| STDC – Enterprise Training | Enterprise Training Programme in Carrick-on-Suir | 9,000.00 |
| STDC - Festival & Events Training | Training programme to support groups organising events | 3,400.00 |
| STDC – Wood Energy | Animator to support small forest growers | 15,495.00 |
| STDC – Conservation & Trails | Working with communities to assist them in marketing ecclesiastical trails | 6,523.32 |
| Training and Information | | |
| Spafield Family Resource Centre | Multi-disciplinary training programmes, e.g. Grow your Own, Photography, Crafts, IT skills | 1,110.99 |
| Tipperary Regional Youth Services Tipperary Music Education Programme | Providing young people with skills to play a range of instruments | 36,050.00 |
| South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum | Training marginalised groups in traditional stonework and other traditional skills | 16,400.00 |
| Tipperary Regional Youth Service | Purchase of equipment to support music appreciation training | 4,301.83 |
| Maria O Donovan | Rural Development Training programme | 1,500.00 |
| Peter Murphy | Uilleann Pipe making course | 15,000.00 |
| Journeyman Camphill Community | Range of "Grow you own" gardening and cooking skills training | 4,739.00 |
| J P Betts | Specialist software Training programme to support sustainment and expansion of existing business | 8,775.00 |
| Seamus O' Brien | Course in Ice-cream making | 900.00 |
| Conor English | Course in Rural Development | 3,245.00 |
| STDC - Community Training | Training programme in community enterprise development | 40,962.08 |
| Village Renewal and Development | | |
| Place 4 U | Restoration of derelict building into multi-functional community facility | 410,053.81 |
| Mullinahone Community Council | Final payment towards playground development | 31,380.75 |
| Donohill Development Council | Development of community sporting facility | 35,060.31 |
| Cashel Town Council | Stage payment towards heritage type lighting to improve vista to Rock of Cashel | 33,112.07 |
| Moyglass Sports & Leisure Centre | Final payment towards enhancement of external works | 690.00 |
| Grangemockler Community Sports Field | Final payment re enhancement of leisure facility | 32,036.42 |
| Cloneen Sports & Social Club | Upgrade of exterior of community facility | 37,496.25 |
| Bansha Tidy Towns | Enhancement of village Green | 56,152.29 |
| Adding value to Agricultural and Forestry Products | | |
| Organic Little One | Processing, storage and labelling equipment for new Chilled Baby Meals business | 12,498.48 |
| Total Grant Paid to Projects 2014 | | 1,841,882.05 |

Rural Social Scheme (RSS)

South Tipperary Development Company currently has 26 participants on the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) and one supervisor, Joanne Tobin. Funding for the scheme comes through the Department of Social Protection.



Matt & Leisle maintain and develop a number of walks while also doing general community maintenance work

The aim of the scheme is to provide income support for low income farm families while also providing rural communities with services that will enhance the social, physical, natural and cultural resources of their locality. Participants on the scheme receive a top-up on their current Social Welfare Benefit. In return for the top-up, participants work 19.5 hours in a local community. The scheme is “farmer friendly” and flexible, enabling the participant to manage his/her farm with community duties.

Work carried out by participants include:- (1) Care of the Elderly; (2) Walk Maintenance; (3) Community Administration; (4) Caretaking of Community Facilities; (5) Village & Countryside Enhancement.

Throughout 2014, the 26 participants on the RSS provided services to 31 communities across the county.

Six of our participants specialise in “Social care of the Elderly”. Presently services are provided to a minimum of 52 clients across the county. Work includes calling to an elderly person for a chat to ensure they are ok; doing light household duties; chopping timber for fuel; shopping and in some cases, personal care service will be provided. The main aim is to ensure the elderly person has social contact with the outside world.

The RSS works closely with the district nurse to ensure that those most in need can avail of these services. We also liaise with key people within the

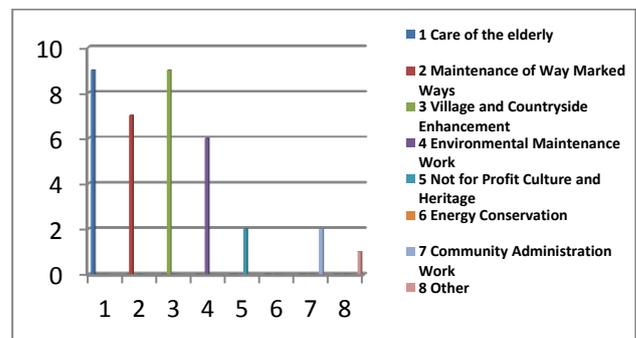
community to help identify people who can benefit best from our services.

The work done by the participant has a huge impact on the life of the person availing of the service. Comments and feedback from service users include:-

- “I don’t know what I would do without the service. It makes such a difference to my life to know that someone is going to call and see me”.
- “It is really great to hear the news and what is happening around me”.
- “The day is so long when you are on your own. You tend to get very down in yourself”

Families of the elderly person are also extremely grateful for the service as it gives them peace of mind knowing that someone is calling on their family member when they are not available. In many cases, the elderly person does not have family members in a position to call to them regularly. The personal contact provided by the scheme makes it invaluable to elderly living alone. In some cases it has facilitated the person continuing to live in their own home rather than having to go into a nursing home and all the costs associated with same.

Communities in South Tipperary are enriched as a result of the many services provided by the 26 excellent RSS participants and equally, the RSS is an invaluable resource for the participants. Many of the participants report great job satisfaction and find the “social element” of the scheme enhances their wellbeing and quality of life. Going to work gets them out and about meeting people. Farming can be a very lonely occupation.



The above graph shows the breakdown of participants within each sector

National Countryside Recreation Strategy

The National Countryside Recreation Strategy is delivered across County Tipperary by South Tipperary Development Company (STDC). Nationally, there are 12 Rural Recreation Officers (RRO's) and Tipperary holds one of the positions.



Trail maintenance and development

The work of the RRO includes:

- The co-ordination of trail management and maintenance issues.
- Supporting the planning and development of new trails and recreational infrastructure.
- Assisting in the marketing and promotion of Tipperary and its recreational amenities.



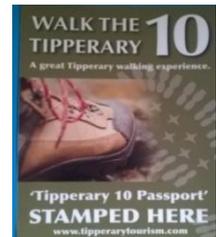
Canoeing on the River Suir

Through working closely with the landowners, community groups, rural social scheme, Coillte and the local authority, STDC and the RRO ensure that our trails are maintained to a high standard and remain on the National trails register. There are nine trails included on the Walks Scheme and these landowners receive payments for carrying out maintenance works on their lands. This work is inspected and signed off by the RRO.

Through working with the many stakeholders the RRO has been heavily involved in the planning and development of new trails. 2014 has seen the establishment of a number of new trails

throughout the County. These trails bring an exciting new variety to Tipperary's recreational offering and will give a welcome boost to local tourism in Goatenbridge, the Knockmealdown Mountains as well as in North Tipperary in the Arra Mountains and in the little villages of Inch and Killoscully.

The RRO has also been deeply involved in the marketing and promotion of trails and recreation in Tipperary through working closely with South Tipperary Tourism Company and the local communities. The Tipperary 10 walking publication has been a major success and in 2014 it has been transformed again into the Tipperary Trails Passport. The visitor is challenged to walk the ten trails and to fill their 'passport' with stamps on completion. Stamps are available at participating shops, pubs, hotels, guesthouses and tourist offices located at or near the trailheads. This new initiative has been welcomed by local businesses who are more than happy to deliver the stamping service to walkers who in turn use local facilities and services thereby increasing economic activity in the locality.



Through working with the Pilgrim Paths Association a very successful inaugural Pilgrim Paths Day was held on Easter Saturday 2014. There were over 1500 people out on the Pilgrim Paths across Ireland with approximately 375 people taking part in Tipperary between Saint Declan's Way (Goatenbridge to Melleray) and Kilcommon Pilgrim Path in North Tipperary. The RRO also supported a range of community events and festivals including a series of walks and canoe trips promoted through the Tipperary's Great Outdoors 2014 publication.



Local and Community Development Programme 2011 – 2014

Policy Background

The Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) was developed by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government in response to the issues and priorities highlighted in the National Strategic Framework for Social Inclusion. This framework is made up of the following policy documents:

- The Partnership Agreement 'Towards 2016'
- The National Report on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion (NSSPI)
- The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion (NAPS Inclusion)
- The National Development Plan 2007–2013 (NDP)

The LCDP is a key Programme within the strategic policy framework which will contribute to the goals for social inclusion. The objectives of the Programme, applied locally, support the Government's commitment to reduce the number of those who experience consistent poverty. The overall aim of the Programme is to tackle poverty and social exclusion through partnership and constructive engagement between Government and its agencies and people in disadvantaged communities. The Programme has 4 distinct goals:

1. Promote awareness, knowledge and uptake of a wide range of statutory, voluntary and community services.
2. Increase access to formal and informal educational, recreational and cultural development, activities and resources.
3. Increase peoples' work readiness and employment prospects.
4. Promote active engagement with policy, practice and decision-making processes on matters affecting local communities.

The resources of the LCDP are invested in communities and individuals in South Tipperary who, due to a variety of issues, are not in a position to participate fully in all aspects of social, economic and cultural life.

The purpose of the LCDP is to respond to social exclusion which it does through a community development approach.

Community Development is an approach that activates, encourages and supports groups of people to join together in activities that promote their common interest to improve their communities. Community development reflects a commitment to building a more just and equal society.

| Key Achievements in 2014 |
|--|
| 744 individuals were supported on a one-to-one basis |
| 1223 young people and children were supported in childcare, after-school and youth activities |
| 32 Community Groups were supported to develop and to represent the needs of their communities at local decision making fora. |
| 778 individuals took part in Accredited and Unaccredited Education |
| 110 people took part in Training related to their employability and the labour market |
| 29 people were supported through LCDP services to take up mainstream employment |
| 23 new businesses were set up through LCDP services |

How is it that we do our work?

The focus of the LCDP is on particular communities, be they geographical areas or communities of interest. With this in mind, staff and resources are outreached into these communities across South Tipperary. Project staff are located in the priority communities of Clonmel (RAPID) Tipperary (RAPID) Killenaule and Carrick on Suir ((RAPID). For part of this work in Tipperary Town, STDC has a unique arrangement and Service Level Agreement with the Knockanrawley Family Resource Centre (KRC). KRC delivers a specific range of actions, services and supports to particular communities in Tipperary Town.

What is Goal 1 about?

Goal 1 is about promoting awareness and increasing knowledge in communities about

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

statutory, community and voluntary service. **Why is this important?** It is important so as to ensure that everyone has knowledge of, and can avail of, these services. This is critical particularly with regard to communities and individuals who may not readily know of, or access, the services that are available to them.

How do we get knowledge out there about services?

In 2014, the LCDP were involved in a number of activities regarding information – Community Newsletters, Information Seminars, Awareness Raising Events, Information Publications etc., A good example of one of these initiatives for 2014 is the Information Expo Event which we ran in Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary Town.

The purpose of the events were to bring together all of the providers of education, training, employment and enterprise supports and to facilitate jobseekers and priority communities to engage with these providers, inform themselves of the service, make that initial contact and take the first step towards engaging with services in addressing their own particular needs.



Expo Event 2014 in Clonmel

These Expos are a feature of the LCDP in Tipperary South and are embedded in the schedule for services and have become a resource for services to engage with their target group. The events also have a strong networking focus between providers. This is beneficial particularly given the changes in key statutory services and the reduced opportunity to network formally. The LCDP organised the entire programme including the provision of direct supports (transport) to job seekers and communities to enable them to attend. This paid

dividends in terms of the target groups who attended in great numbers (approx. 500 across the 3 venues) and who engaged fully with services. The format for the day is well developed at this stage and focusses totally on participant engagement. This comes about through a significant level of outreach, promotion and one-to-one work prior to the event. On the day itself, the emphasis is on creating an atmosphere that is tangibly focused on the person attending. This approach has been recognised and affirmed by the participating services.

Community Retail Conference: This conference was a joint initiative between STDC, NTLP and Carlow and Kilkenny Leader Partnerships. The purpose of the conference was to engage local communities in a series of themed workshops based on the operation of community retail as a viable social economy initiative. The event took place in the Horse and Jockey Hotel, and was the first of its kind in the country and was extremely well attended by community groups. The LCDP promoted this event among its community groups, particularly those who have the potential and capacity to consider social enterprise in their own community.

Information Workshops/Information Projects:

Workshops were delivered in Ballylynch on topics relevant to that community – Drug Awareness, Anti-Social Behaviour and local Adult Education Opportunities. The communities in Elm Park Clonmel and Cooleen's Close Clonmel and the Business Community in Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary Town continue to be supported by the LCDP to maintain and update their own local community information points. The information relates to employment incentives, education and training opportunities and other labour market related information.

International Days of significance for social issues: In Tipperary Town, KRC raised awareness of local and national services including:

- Cuan Saor Refuge during the 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence against Women
- MABS Service during International Day for Eradication of Poverty

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

Suicide Prevention Strategy: Part of this strategy includes the need to increase awareness and uptake of support services available to communities affected by suicide. In 2014, the LCDP supported a number of its priority communities (RAPID) to draw down resources and deliver local initiatives that increased awareness of services and acknowledged the impact of suicide on their community.

What is Goal 2 about?

Goal 2 of the Programme is about increasing access to formal and informal educational and recreational and cultural activities and resources.

Why is this important? This is important because it recognises that there are issues and barriers which prevent some people from taking part in mainstream education services at particular stages in their lives. It also recognises the value and role of life-long learning in addressing the educational needs of people throughout their lives. It promotes community education as a model that is flexible in supporting educational equality whereby individuals and communities can participate, achieve and benefit from education based in their own community.

How did this happen in 2014?

- Relaxation and Wellbeing
- 3 Men's Shed Projects
- KRC Horticulture Programme
- KRC's Hard Landscaping and General Learning
- KRC's Benefit 4.
- KRC's Parent and Family Support Programme including Incredible Years Parenting
- KRC's Nutrition for Everyday Living
- Allotment Projects
- Frugal Wednesdays
- Upcycling
- Basic Cookery
- Community Sewing Project
- Mindfulness
- Men's Health and Wellbeing
- Cookery & Healthy Eating –Look at the Label (Killenaule)
- Winter Wellbeing for Women
- Christmas Cookery Programme (2 locations)

A number of these programme were delivered locally in the estates and formed part of the

programme of activities identified by the residents groups in these estates.

Early Childhood Education

- Little Orchard Playschool in Ballylynch Carrick-on-Suir.
- Daisychain Preschool in Tipperary Town (KRC)
- Afterschool Project in Ballylynch, Carrick-on-Suir.

These services combined provide early childhood education service to 228 children and have the potential to support better educational and social development outcomes for children.



Parent and Toddler Group

Summer Book Bus: The Tipperary Libraries Summer Tree Reading Programme encourages children to read during the summer months. Tipperary Libraries has developed a mobile library service to ensure that children living in rural communities continue to engage with their library service and avail of reading initiatives and supports for their personal, social and educational development. South Tipperary Development Company, through the LCDP, supported Tipperary Libraries to run the Book service in three rural locations- Clogheen, Mullinahone and Newport - during the summer months of 2014. The impact and positive outcomes of this programme include greater participation in the Summer Reading Tree in these areas ; increase access and opportunity to quality and varied reading material and contribute to their reading development-particularly children with reading difficulties. Tipperary Libraries report an increase of book issues for the Summer Reading Tree by 59%, with 66 new children participating in this annual reading event. There was an average of 78 books per week issued over the period, totalling over

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

460 books being read, where children may otherwise not have access to books.

Ballylynch Youth Programme: A series of programmes and actions were delivered to young people including Drug Workshops, Halloween Programme, Sports and Fitness Programme, Arts Project, Theatrical Make up workshop. This was a highly successful initiative in bringing much needed resources into this community and has formed the foundation for further youth work activity for 2015.



B.T.E.I. Horticulture Course

Estate based community recreational/cultural activities: There are particular communities that are supported by the LCDP to deliver estate based recreational and cultural activities. Generally these activities are seasonal and take place in the estate itself. Cooleens Community in Clonmel RAPID continued in 2014 with the further development of their *Field of Dreams Project*. This year the development included the construction of a Men's Shed, Community Arts Project, Horticulture and Allotment Project, Easter Programme of Activities, a Weekend Family Sports Programme, Suicide Prevention Week Service, Halloween and Christmas Programme of Activities. Ballylynch, Johns Terrace and Treacy Park (in Carrick-on-Suir) focused on a Summer Programme across the estates and a Suicide Awareness Event in Ballylynch in October.

Alternative Learning Programme: The Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) is a programme for young people aged 12 – 15 who have encountered difficulties in coping with mainstream education and consequently are not attending school on a regular basis. A Pilot Programme began in September 2014 in Tipperary Town supported by the LCDP, ETB, TCC

and TRYS. The Programme aims to enable participants to acquire new knowledge, skills and attitudes that will equip them to improve their ability to access and sustain involvement in school, further education, training or employment. The Programme has a capacity for 15 students.



"Siege at Clonmel" Community Art as part of Cromwells Folly Project

What is Goal 3 about?

Goal 3 is about increasing people's work readiness and employment prospects.

Why is this important?

Goal 3 provides support to particular communities and individuals who find themselves further away from the labour market now more than ever as a result of the downturn in the economy. The work we do under the LCDP is purely to complement the work of the statutory/mainstream organisations that provide labour market supports to people who are unemployed.

What did we do in Goal 3 for 2014?

- In 2014, 37 people who were unemployed completed the Self-Employment Options Programme.
- 23 new start-up businesses were established.
- 29 individuals were supported into mainstream employment in 2014.
- 62 businesses have been supported to start up since 2011.
- 62 businesses continue to receive support from the LCDP.
- 112 people have been supported into mainstream employment since 2011.
- 757 people took up training related to the labour market.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

The COMPASS Employment Support Service: The COMPASS Employment Support Service is delivered in Clonmel (RAPID estates), Tipperary town (RAPID), Carrick-on-Suir (RAPID) and Killenaule (CLAR). The service is offered on a one-to-one basis with a view to supporting long-term unemployed individuals to engage with local services, identify employment, training and education opportunities, access these opportunities and/or progress to employment or self-employment. The service supports long-term unemployed and the underemployed to become better prepared for the labour market.

Self-Employment

Options Programme: In 2014 Self Employment Options Programmes (SEOP) were delivered in April, July and October in Cahir and Clonmel. The SEOP is a 6 week programme for individuals who are long-term unemployed and are considering progressing towards self-employment. During the course of the programme participants are supported to consider the viability of their business idea with due reference to market research, financial investment, business costs, marketing, financial and legal requirements and business sustainability. At the end of the course, participants are better prepared to develop a robust, comprehensive and detailed business



Clodagh Blake - participant on the Self Employment Options Programme



Stephen Wall - participant on the Self Employment Options Programme

The businesses established in 2014, supported by the LCDP represent a diverse mix of enterprise which includes leisure services, personal services

(hairdressing, beauty), trades and construction services, retail services and agricultural services.

In 2014 the LCDP hosted a large-scale **Pre-Enterprise and Ideas Generation Workshop** with approximately 200 long-term unemployed people. The purpose of the workshop was to stimulate thought and conversation around self-employment as an alternative means of income generation and to chart the steps and the supports available in Tipperary South for an individual to follow in this regard.



Knockanrawley Information Training and Education Programme (KITE)

The KITE Programme is delivered by Knockanrawley Resource Centre as part of the suite of actions delivered through the LCDP under Service Level Agreement with STDC. KITE is a FETAC Level 4 Major Award in Applied Employment Skills. It has been delivered annually for a number of years by KRC. It is funded by SOLAS and is delivered over a period of 40 weeks. It provides for the development of interpersonal and vocational skills among its participants. Mentoring and Guidance are crucial success factors in supporting the retention of students on the programme.

Welding and IT Programme was delivered to a group in Tipperary Town by KRC.

Customer Service Training/ FETAC Level 6 - Certificate in Consultative Selling was delivered by STDC in collaboration with the Department of Social Protection and DSM Limited in Tipperary Town. The purpose of the programme was to respond to the skills deficit identified by DSM and as reflected in the Call Centre industry as a whole. The programme targeted long-term unemployed people, was delivered in situ in DSM premises for 8 weeks and included classroom, course work and work experience. Nine people

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

graduated from the Programme. Immediately following the programme, 2 full-time jobs were created by DSM and were offered to graduates of this programme.

Skills for Work Grant: This grant was initiated by STDC in 2013 and because of its success, was continued into 2014. The purpose of the Skills for Work Grant (maximum €500 per applicant) is to act as a 'fund of last resort' for individuals who are long-term unemployed (over 12 months) and need to retrain or up-skill but cannot do so due to the costs involved. This grant is intended to assist individuals to obtain a Certified or FETAC accredited course from a recognised training provider where their entitlement to statutory funding for training has expired or been exhausted. The course *must* be connected to an **identified employment opportunity** i.e. the participant must demonstrate that their chances of gaining employment will be significantly enhanced on completion of the identified training programme. An example of some of the training courses funded under the scheme in 2014 include: Forklift Training, Security training, Safe Pass, Driver CPC, Electrical testing and Verification.

In 2014 nine individuals secured funding to participate in industry certified/accredited training.

Work with Employers/ Employer Networks

Work with local employers continued in 2014 with a view to increasing their awareness of and uptake of the range of employment incentives that currently exist to support job creation and labour market participation. Throughout 2014, STDC's Information Pack was revised to take account of new supports that became available. The Information Pack was distributed to local employers throughout Tipperary South on an ongoing basis and in particular to those Employers with whom the LCDP engages through its Employers Networks.

- 4 Employers Network Events were held in 2014.
- 127 Employers were supported by the LCDP.

Tipperary Micro Business Network

The LCDP supported the **Tipperary Micro Business Network** to continue to meet

throughout 2014 to provide peer support, information and networking opportunities for small businesses in Tipperary South. Membership of the Network is open to those businesses established through the support of the LCDP.

What is Goal 4 about?

Goal 4 is to support, strengthen and develop structures that will give priority communities a voice in setting social inclusion priorities for their communities.

Why is Goal 4 important?

The programme operates on the basis that by enabling people to engage with policy, practice and the decision-making process, is vital in enhancing their capacity to shape the communities they live in, to act collectively and to bring about equality and lasting change.

Tipperary Resident's Groups

KRC, through the LCDP continues to support the Tipperary Resident's Network (TRN) to coordinate the network and fully participate on the local decision making forums including:

- RAPID AIT
- Joint Policy Committee
- County Safety & Security Committee
- Tidy Towns Committee

TRN is now registered with the new county structure, Public Participation Networks (PPN).

Carrick-on-Suir

The LCDP supported Carrick Community Network to meet bi-monthly to implement its actions for 2014 which included an event to raise awareness of the 12 Days of Actions against Domestic Violence and a Suicide Awareness Event.

The Ballylynch Resident's Group was supported by the LCDP to meet monthly and to strengthen their engagement and relationships with local agencies and services and to consider the change in local government structures and how this would impact on their community and its voice.

Clonmel (RAPID)

The LCDP continued in 2014 to support the development of capacity within the communities in Local Authority estates that are a priority for the programme.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

These include Cooleens Resident's Group, Heywood Close Resident's Group, Wilderness Resident's Group, Cooleens Men's Shed Group, Elm Tree Communities Project and the Cahir Men's Shed Group.

Residents Groups were supported to develop their community plan; to participate on RAPID AIT; to have their issues addressed at AIT; to access funds through RAPID Community Support Budget for their own action plans; to register on the Public Participation Network; to engage with the Local Authority on specific aspects of their estate; to create and support work placement opportunities within their community under the Tús Programme to add value to their own voluntary work.

Heywood Close Resident's Group was reformed with the support of the LCDP in the latter part of the year. They have since developed their short-term community plan and registered on the PPN. In 2015 they will be supported to participate on RAPID AIT and represent their community.

The Cooleens Resident's Group has continued its own development and the progression of its community plan. The focus for 2014 was on developing additional aspects of the 'Field of Dreams' Project; Community Policing, CCTV, representation on local decision making structures and networking with other groups outside of their own locality. Cooleens hosted a networking visit for the Ballylynch Community Group which included a presentation by the South Tipperary Community Forum to both Resident's Groups on the purpose of the new PPN structures and the importance of their engagement in this structure.

The '**Field of Dreams**' project was advanced to another level which included the construction by the community of a Men's Shed which will support a number of activities for the men in the community.

On October 17th the Cooleens Residents Group presented a video: - '*Field of Dreams – 12 months on*' as part of a showcase event and publication by ILDN and DSP in association with the United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

CASE STUDY – UN INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Introduction:

Tremendous strengths can be found in communities. However these strengths are not automatically built upon, particularly in times when economic disadvantage or rapid social change makes this difficult. In the end it is what communities do for themselves that matter. There usually needs to be something in the background to make that happen - a person or organisation to help get things started or to whom people can turn to for advice or support or to build the right skills. This is what the Local and Community Development Programme provides to communities at a local and practical level. The community development approach, whereby the LCDP, acting as the 'guide at the side', enables individual community leaders to become equipped to respond to the issues in their community, affect positive social change and as a consequence mobilise a community to address the incidences of poverty and social exclusion that affect them.

This enabling role of South Tipperary Development Company through the LCDP programme is a core principle of its work across all programme goals. Indeed the ethos and principles of community development influences and informs the approach and way of working with those who are beneficiaries of the LCDP in RAPID and CLAR communities of South Tipperary in order to tackle social exclusion experienced by these individuals and the wider community.

This positive transformation and development as a result of community development in tackling social exclusion and, as a consequence, improving the quality of life for communities is evident in the work with Cooleens Close Resident's Group.

Cooleens Close in Context

Cooleens and Heywood Close are RAPID estates in Clonmel. The estate has 90 houses with a population of approximately 300 people. The estate is characterised by indicators of disadvantage including: high levels of unemployment, low education attainment levels, lack of any community and youth facilities.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

In 2012 the LCDP began working closely with a group from Cooleens Close to provide a response to a problem they had with a disused field that had become a site of anti-social behaviour. A resolution to the issue would require input by statutory agencies, in particular the Local Authority. At that time the residents were despondent and disillusioned with what they felt to be apathy and indifference to them by key agencies. The community had disengaged totally from any of the local decision-making structures including RAPID and the Joint Policing Committee.

In this context, South Tipperary Development Company met with the community to discuss what they wanted, how it might be done, who they needed on board with them and what they were prepared to do themselves. A plan was developed specifying key actions, responsibilities, outcomes and timelines. Agencies were drafted in to work in partnership with the community and support them to implement their plan.

The community received practical support via the LCDP, Tús Programmes, Housing Section of the Borough Council, HSE/Community Based Drugs Initiative, Tipperary ETB and DSP and within 6 months the field was transformed into a space that included an allotment, memorial garden, skittles area and a community cabin which is a centre for community activities in the estate.

Using the model of community development the transformation of the community extends beyond an obvious physical enhancement of the estate. It has:

- Brought people together to identify issues and create a response to them.
- Facilitated the community to appreciate its own asset base in terms of skills, talent, knowledge and experiences.
- Strengthened and fostered community leadership.
- Contributed to an increased sense of pride and confidence in the community.
- Improved relationships within the estate.
- Improved relationships with outside agencies and services
- Increased uptake of services by the community.
- Empowered the community to have meaningful discussion and real participation in decisions that affect them.

The investment of LCDP resources in Cooleens Close community is the cornerstone by which the local community is supported to take charge of and respond to the issues affecting them. There can be no doubting the positive impact that the LCDP and the community development approach taken to this project has in terms of improving the quality of life for the residents in creating what is now a vibrant, energetic community that has at its heart a sustainable, community-led model of progression and advancement.



Cooleens Close – Family Fun Weekend 2014

Traveller Community Health Care Workers Project

Kathleen O Reilly, Ellen O'Reilly and Kate Reilly are employed by the Health Service Executive as Traveller Community Health Workers (TCHW). These women are supported by Support Worker, Julie Fleming, to deliver the Primary Health Care Programme for Travellers in Tipperary South. The aim of the TCHW Project is to work with health service providers in the delivery of health information to the Traveller Community.

One of our Traveller Community Health Workers was on maternity leave from December 2013 until July 2014 and was not replaced during that time. The other 2 staff continued to carry out a large number of visits to Traveller families in 2014 (a total of 470 visits) and provided assistance and support to families in Clonmel, Cahir, Cashel, Tipperary, Fethard, Ballinonty and Ballinure areas. The visits are classified under the following headings:

- Child Health and Development Visits - 139
- Site Visits to Families - 236
- Health Referral Visits - 95

Site Visits to Families cover a wide range, including assistance with form filling, assistance with applications for Medical Cards, social welfare entitlements, Disability entitlements, School Consent forms (liaising with Public Health Nurse) arranging transport for hospital visits (e.g. Crumlin). A lot of work was carried out with regard to informing the community about Prescription Charges and how they can be reduced. The TCHWS had identified this as an issue while carrying out their visits to families. A lot of families had reported that they were not having prescriptions filled due to the prohibitive costs of prescription charges.



Traveller Healthcare Workers

During 2014 the Traveller Community Health Workers participated in and contributed to a number of local network and decision making structures including:

- The Traveller Interagency Committee
- Mental Health Sub-group of the Traveller Health Unit
- Meetings with TCHWs from Tipperary Rural Travellers Project
- Regional Traveller Health Network Cardio Vascular Sub-group
- Meetings with A/A.D.P.H.N. (H.S.E.)
- Social Inclusion Forum
- Meeting with Mental Health Social Worker
- Local Area Pathways
- Traveller MABS Meeting

The TCHW's are continually upskilling and took part in the following training during 2014:

- National Cancer Screening – Training – Cervical, Bowel, Breast Cancer
- National Cancer Screening – Diabetic Retina Screening
- Traveller MABS - 5 week Training Course
- Substance Misuse Training
- Time Out Training
- TUSLA Information Session



Traveller Healthcare Workers

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

- Family Support Network - Workshop
- Information Session Fostering within Traveller Community (HSE)
- Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence Training
- HSE – Health & Safety Training
- Suicide Awareness Training

The workers also attended open days and information sessions with Cuan Saor, Womens' Refuge, and Local Area Pathways and attended the launch of the Substance Misuse Services Strategic Plan.

Traveller Womens' Groups

Three 6-week sessions were organised for Traveller women in the Clonmel Area. Tutor hours for two of the courses were provided by the Education and Training Board. The course topics were selected in response to requests from the Traveller women and were as follows:

- Cooking for a Healthy Heart
- Healthy Eating on a Budget (using MABS cookbook)
- Stress Management and Relaxation

All of the courses were well attended, an average of 12 – 15 women at each session and the feedback was very positive. The cookery courses were very popular with the younger women, some of whom are newly married and starting families. The Stress Management course was popular with the older Traveller women.

Cardio-Vascular Initiatives

A Heart Health Day was organised by the project in November 2014. The Irish Heart Foundation facilitated a Blood Pressure Day in Clonmel and Tipperary, targeted at the Traveller community. The day was very successful and over 20 people had their Blood Pressure measured.

The TCHWs also provided short sessions on Cardio Vascular Health to the participants of the Womens' groups throughout the year.

THU Strategic Plan

In the early part of the year the TCHWs and the Co-ordinator were actively involved in preparing the Five-Year Traveller Strategic Plan (2015 - 2020). The workers were participating in working groups with other members of the Regional Traveller Health Network and attended a large number of meetings and consultations about the plan.



Kathleen O Reilly, Traveller Community Healthcare Worker out and about in the community

Incredible Years Programme

The **South Tipperary Incredible Years Programme** is a multi-agency initiative aimed at reducing children's behavioral problems and increasing social competence at home and at school. We have set ourselves a particular challenge here in South Tipperary in that we want to have the Incredible Years Programme delivered to teachers through Incredible Years Teacher Classroom Management Training and at the same time delivered to parents (Incredible Years Parenting Programme) in community settings through local community groups (Incredible Years Parent Group Leader Training). Each of these programmes is designed as a stand-alone intervention. However, delivered together in a cohesive manner, they provide a uniform strategy to reduce behavioral difficulties and create healthier relationships.



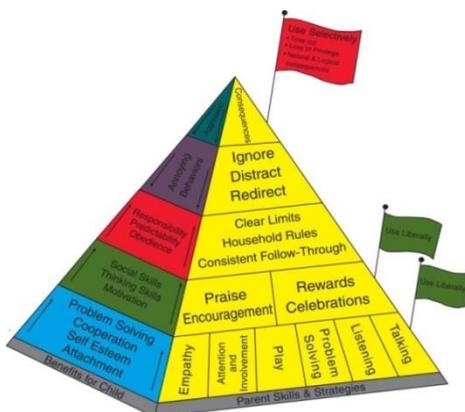
Participants on the Incredible Years Programme

The **Incredible Years Programme** has been brought to South Tipperary as a result of a successful interagency application made to the **Tony Ryan Fund for Tipperary**, on behalf of **South Tipperary Children and Young People Services Committee**.

The Tony Ryan Fund for Tipperary was established by the Tony Ryan family through the Community Foundation of Ireland. This fund aims to improve the life experience of children and young people living in County Tipperary, through providing financial support to evidence based initiatives that support children and young people to reach their full potential. South Tipperary Development Company (STDC) is the lead agency for this funding contract, on behalf of the Children's Services Committee.

Why Incredible Years?

The Incredible Years Programme is *evidence-based* therefore is one that is proven to work and is subject to continual research on its effectiveness. The Incredible Years programme is designed to support emotional, social and behavioral development in children aged 3 to 10 years. Since the programme was developed over 30 years ago by Dr. Carolyn Webster-Stratton, it has been subjected to rigorous evaluation. Based on the positive outcomes produced in these evaluations a number of separate independent reviews have found that the programme meets the highest standard of scientific proof. This evidence-based validation has seen the programme delivered successfully across Europe and the UK, the US, Canada, Australia and has been in Ireland since 2008.



A Key Principle

Dr. Carolyn Webster-Stratton, in her book *The Incredible Years, A Trouble-Shooting Guide for Parents of Children Aged 2-8 Years* explains that: the **attention rule** is the basic principle behind much of what is discussed in her book.

Simply stated, it is that children will work for attention from others, especially parents, whether it is positive (praise) or negative (criticism) in nature. If they do not receive positive attention, then they will strive for negative attention since that is better than none at all.

The Incredible Years programme, whether it is the parent, teacher or child element puts this positive approach into practice. It identifies the Foundations for Successful Parenting as; play, praise, tangible rewards, limit-setting, ignoring, timeout, natural and logical consequences and teaching children to problem-solve. All programmes place strong emphasis on the importance of having this firm foundation laid before introducing any other elements.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

[The Incredible Years for Parents](#) - [The Incredible Years for Schools](#) - [The Incredible Years for Community Organisations](#)

For Parents: The Incredible Years Parent's Programme is a key part of the overall training series. The Parents programme focuses on building on the strengths that parents and carers have developed to date, as well as demonstrating new skills that can be used at home on a regular basis. Parents learn about emotional regulation for children, and how to help their children grow and develop socially. This is a fourteen-week programme that offers a mix of facilitated learning with the Group leaders, who also guide the group-led discussions in relation to everyday challenges and concerns, offering an opportunity to share their experiences.



Teacher Classroom Management Training

For Community groups: Community organisations and Family Resource Centres traditionally offer a range of family supports, which are more likely to be accessed by families than in other settings, and often can result in more effective outcomes for families. Community organisations across South Tipperary have taken part in the Incredible Years **Parent Group Leader** strand of training, which provides development staff, who are already working with families, the skill and knowledge to deliver both IY Parenting Programmes – Pre School Basic (3-6 years) and School Age Basic (6-8years).

The organisations that have participated to date in this training include: Millennium Family Resource Centre in Glengoole, Spafield Family Resource Centre in Cashel, Three Drives Family Resource Centre in Tipperary Town, Knockanrawley Resource Centre in Tipperary Town, South Tipperary Development Company in Ballylynch Carrick-on-Suir, Tusla staff across Tipperary South, Clonmel Community Resource Centre and Respond/Le Cheile in Clonmel.

Teacher Classroom Management: The Teacher Classroom Management programme is delivered over six workshops, to teaching staff, principals and resource workers.

To date, a number of schools have completed the Teacher Classroom Management (TCM) programme and are using the classroom curriculum programme. These schools are Holy Trinity NS, Fethard, Gaelscoil NS Clonmel, Presentation Clonmel, Srs of Charity Ns, Cloneen NS, St Oliver's NS Clonmel, Scoil Mhuire, Newcastle, St. Mary's Centre, Killenaule, Mount Bruis NS, Bansha NS, St Mary's NS Clonmel, Clonoulty NS, Lisvernane NS, Tankardstown NS, Cahir Girls School, and St. John the Baptist NS in Cashel. The IYP TCM Programme involves group-led discussions and practice time within the group in order to problem-solve and try out new techniques. Video clips are also used to illustrate key points in each session and provide the group with time to discuss concepts shown and how best to apply these ideas in the classroom.

Official Launch of the Incredible Years South Tipperary



The South Tipperary Incredible Years Programme was officially launched 26th September 2014 at the Clonmel Park Hotel. The event was attended by schools, community groups, agencies and parents. Dr. Fergus Heffernan, presented a key note speech on the importance of 'family' and how each family functions in its own unique way.

Members of the Childrens Service Committee, Incredible Years Practitioners and Dr. Fergus Heffernan at the launch of the South Tipperary Incredible Years Programme.

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

South Tipperary Development Company's Tús Programme



The Tús Programme is an Active Labour Market Programme (ALMP) that is delivered locally by South Tipperary Development Company (STDC) on behalf of the Government's Department of Social Protection. Tús is designed to provide short term working opportunities to long-term unemployed people, while at the same time supporting the broad range of services delivered by community and voluntary bodies. The objective of the Tús Programme is to try and match a participants' skill-set to a quality work placement provided by a local community or voluntary organisation. Once it has been established that an organisation or group is not-for-profit, they can apply for a participant who can work part-time for twelve months with that organisation.

While the placement opportunities can range from office administration, sports training, community centre caretaking, to mountain trail maintenance or habitat restoration, there is enormous scope for innovative projects such as recording gravestones in an ancient graveyard; illustrating a graphic novel based on local stories; monitoring and recording invasive species along a river system or even compiling a parish history. The company has an allocation of 200 Tús placements which are all successfully operational, benefiting both the individuals and their host organisations throughout South Tipperary. This is an excellent opportunity for organisations to access the broad range of skills, talents and experience which our participants possess. We invite applications on an ongoing basis from community, voluntary and not-for-profit groups to provide quality work placement opportunities. Community group application forms can be downloaded from the company's website www.stdc.ie and all the Team Leaders, listed below, can be contacted to answer any queries that a group may have.

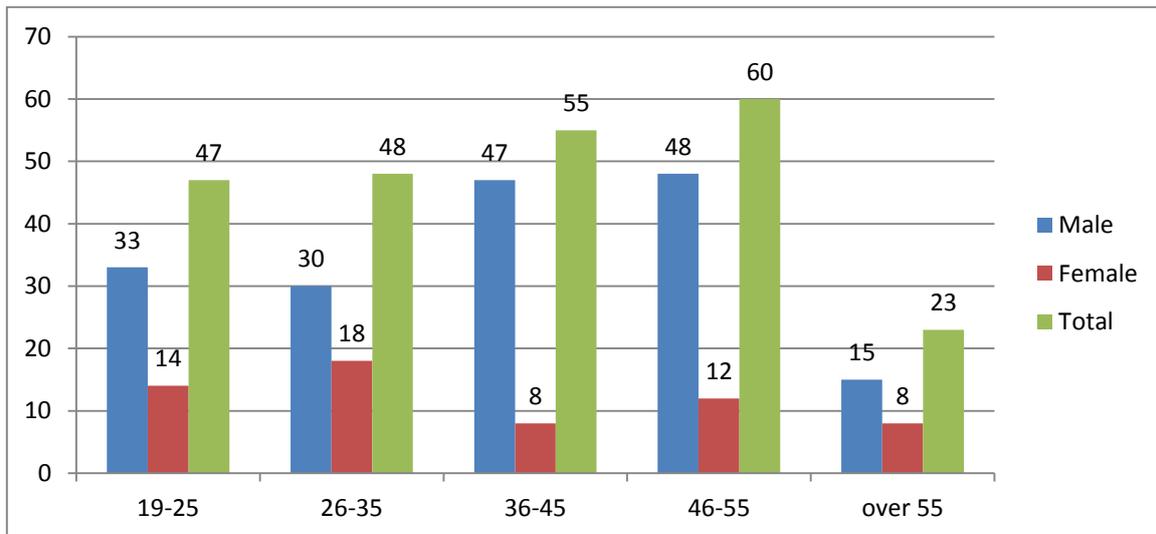
| Team Leader | Geographical areas |
|--|--|
| Mark Rylands Operations Coordinator markrylands@stdc.ie 086 8396267 | Ballyporeen, Burncourt, Ballylooby, Clogheen, Newcastle, Ardfinnan, Cahir |
| Kenny Ryan Home Repair Service kennyryan@stdc.ie 086 0276216 | Cashel, Clonoulty, Rossmore, Gooldscross, Ballagh, Ardmayle & Boherlahan, New Inn |
| Patrick Quinn patrickquinn@stdc.ie 086 0276217 | Emly, Lattin, Cullen, Tipperary Town, Bansha, Tankardstown & Kilmoyler |
| Eddie Tuohy eddietuohy@stdc.ie 086 0276218 | Tipperary Town, Kilfeacle, Bansha, Aherlow, Dundrum, Donaskeigh, Lattin, Solohead, Annacarthy |
| Tony Scully tonyscully@stdc.ie 086 0276219 | Carrick-on-Suir, Grangemockler, Mullinahone, Nine Mile House, Ahenny & Ballyneale |
| Richard Wood richardwood@stdc.ie 086 0276214 | Fethard, Cahir, Rosegreen, Dualla |
| Bridget Walsh-Ryan bwalshryan@stdc.ie 087 6956585 | Hollyford, Cappawhite, Donohill, Golden, Dundrum, Donaskeigh, Lattin, Solohead, Annacarthy, |
| Valerie Carty valeriecarty@stdc.ie 087 7860732 | Clonmel, Kilcash, & Ballypatrick |
| Joe Lonergan josephlonergan@stdc.ie 087 7729956 | Cahir, Clonmel, Clerihan, Marlfield, Grange, Ardfinnan, Ballylooby & Burncourt |
| Brian McGrath brianmcgrath@stdc.ie 087 7730164 | Clonmel, Kilsheelan, Lisonagh, Redmondstown & Carrick-on-Suir |
| James Heffernan Jamesheffernan@stdc.ie 087 2162755 | Ballingarry, The Commons, Killenaule, Grange, Gortnahoe, Glengoole, Ballynonty, Ballysloe & Moyglass |

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

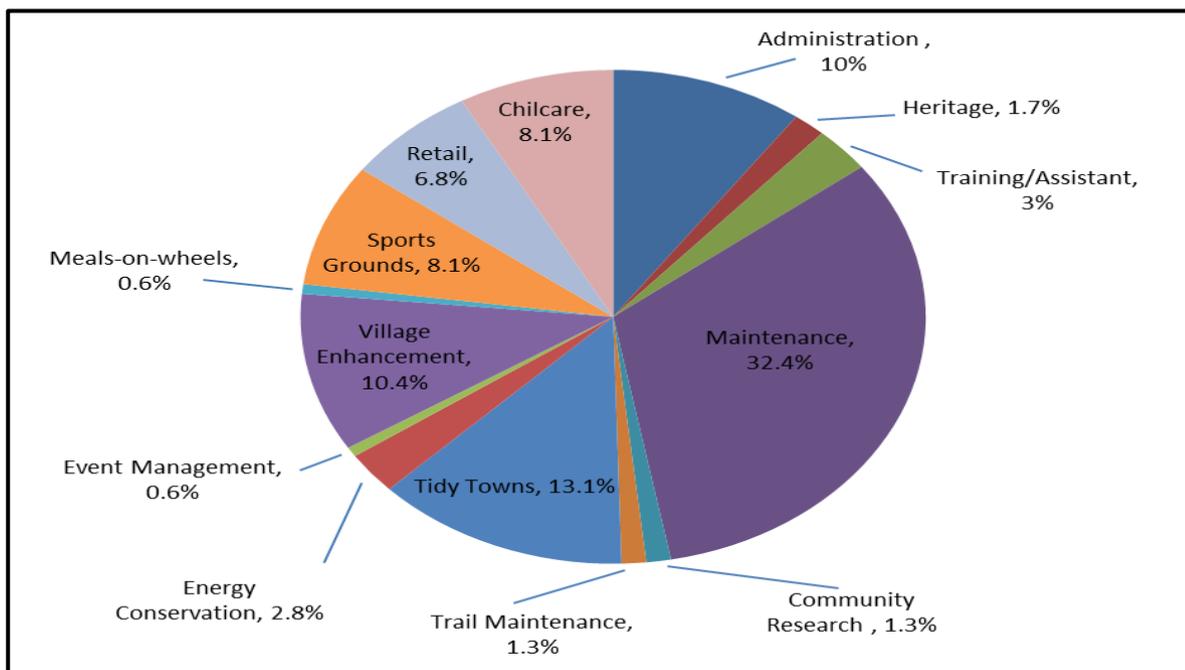
General Statistics –

- Since the Tús Programme began in South Tipperary in August 2011, 679 individuals have been afforded the opportunity of a placement with that programme.
- Over 200 Community and Voluntary Organisations in South Tipperary have been supported by having a Tús Participant placed with them.
- Over 70 towns, villages and communities in South Tipperary have had Tús Participants working there.
- 11 Team Leaders employed.
- 233 Tús participants (see below) were placed with Community organisations in 2014.

Age & Gender Profile of the current Tús Participants



Primary Areas of Activities of the current Tús Participants



Some Tales from Tús -

Tús participant – Fiona Mulvihill



When I first met Fiona I noticed how she was a friendly, happy and open minded individual with a willing approach to work and was looking forward to becoming a Tús participant. We spoke about her interests and hobbies and it soon became apparent that she had a lot to offer.

Fiona moved to Clonoulty with her partner and had not been involved in community activities until she joined Tús. She has a lovely personality for engaging with new people and creates a warm welcome to anyone in her company. She is a conscientious, hard worker and nothing is too much of a challenge for her. Her work is to keep the community hall in pristine condition and is involved in the maintenance of the same. Many groups that use the hall have commented on the fabulous condition the hall is in and this makes it a very sought after facility in the parish for meetings, fitness classes, Irish dancing classes, senior citizens, the St Vincent de Paul group, Scouts, Tidy Towns and much more.



Fiona's involvement in the hall has enabled her to interact with people in the community more and build strong contacts with other groups. She has expressed an interest in further caretaking work or home help when her placement is finished. She has told me that her Tús experience has refocused her in a new direction and she feels a

valuable member of Clonoulty community now. Fiona is an asset to any project or organisation and is hoping to getting involved in upcoming community activities.

Clonoulty Hall -Tús have had placements in the hall for the last three years. They have greatly contributed to the running and upkeep of it. It has been repainted, has windows replaced, the stage resurfaced, the kitchen reorganised, tables and chairs repainted and weekly cleaning and caretaking. This makes it an excellent facility and premises for all the groups that use it. The committee are extremely grateful to Tús for its huge contribution and guidance over the last three years.

Thomas Mervyn Pearson - What Tús has done for me?

I recently spent a year as a Tús participant working in the Heritage Centre in Killenaule, South Tipperary. Up to that point in time I was in a kind of a rut and really could not see where my working future was going. Then I got a letter from the Department of Social Protection telling me I had to go for an interview with South Tipperary Development Company for a possible position on a labour activation programme called 'Tús'. I didn't hold much hope of the interview being of any use and I have to admit I thought it would be a waste of time.



I am delighted to say I couldn't have been more wrong. The man holding the Interview was Richard Wood, a Tús supervisor from South Tipperary Development Company, and he first of all made me feel very relaxed at the interview as he explained what the programme was all about. Shortly after that he offered me a position at a local Heritage Centre working on a project that involved two passions of mine - Computers and Genealogy. This project was a continuation of a Historic Graves recording project which had involved local volunteers in recording the

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

inscriptions of all the headstones in old local graveyards. When the recordings were completed I was responsible for inputting all that information to an electronic database which is now accessible on the internet.

Over the course of the twelve months on the programme, I completed a Safepass and manual-handling course and then I did a 'Train the Trainer' course which I got a Merit in. I was then encouraged to undertake a Business course which was of huge help, and as a direct consequence of that I have started a small computer business, CompuDream, which I am in the process of getting off the ground. Tús gave me the reason I needed to get out of bed in the morning and showed me that there are people out there that are not only willing to help but will even go out of their way to help. Tús has given me back the faith in myself and the belief once again that I can really be anything I want to be if I put my full effort into it. It has given me pride and confidence and a sense of purpose. Tús is not just about getting people off benefits, it is so much more; it is about rebuilding dreams and rebuilding confidence.

Owen O'Shaughnessy – One Tús Participant's Journey



Owen is from Millvale in Carrick-on-Suir. He was unemployed for 5 years prior to starting on Tús with the Journeyman Camphill community. Before becoming unemployed Owen had his own small plant nursery but due to the economic state the country was in Owen's business was no longer viable. On meeting Owen I got a great sense of a man in need of some help and

guidance as I could clearly see that Owen had the drive to want to work but was in need of a pathway to utilise his many qualities. I suggested a placement with the Camphill Community where Owen would be working with young people with disabilities. Owen agreed to the placement and from day one has flourished in his role and has since become a very valued and important member of the Journeyman family. Owen enjoyed his role so much that he enrolled in a two year disability studies course in UCC which he attends every Thursday whilst still maintaining his Tús placement with the Journeyman. Owen's hope is that with a qualification he will secure employment working with people with disabilities and feels that his experience and connections gained on Tús have given him a far greater opportunity of doing this.

Heather Keating & Mo Chara Animal Rescue

24 year old Heather Keating is an Animal Science graduate from the Mallow College in Co. Cork. She is currently an invaluable asset to Mo Chara Animal Rescue with whom she is placed.



Mo Chara Animal Rescue exists to improve the welfare of animals, particularly those that are abused, neglected, abandoned and straying across Co. Tipperary. Following rehabilitation and attempts to reunite animals with their owners, Mo Chara rehome the animals into loving, carefully vetted homes. All cats and dogs rehomed are vaccinated, treated against parasites, microchipped and neutered.



Heather has been a huge addition to the day-to-day running of Mo Chara and will be sorely missed upon completion of her placement in March. Her dedication and commitment to the cause is outlined by her 30km commute from

South Tipperary Development Company Progress Report 2014

her home outside Dundrum to Ballygemmane, outside Thurles. But it is Heather's personal attributes that has endeared her most to her host organisation. Heather's undoubted love for animals is the minimum requirement for someone in her field of interest.

She pays close attention to all the little details encountered in the job of an Animal Rescue worker. Her levelheadedness is required to hold her emotions in check, even in tough situations which are part and parcel of such a difficult job. Unfortunately, instances of neglect and abuse are not uncommon. Her communication skills are hugely important in the organisation's ongoing dealings with families, vets and relevant organisations. Most of all her reliability means she can be counted on to do a good job at all times, so much so that Heather can be entrusted to carry out her work without any need for supervision and guidance. Heather's involvement with Mo Chara has enabled her to interact with people in the animal welfare community more and build strong contacts with other groups. In recognition of her abilities to work with animal, Mo Chara chairperson Nikki Veasey has helped Heather secure part - time work in Maxi Zoo, Clonmel.

Dessie Renehan & Youthreach Cappawhite



Dessie is 22 years old and is a native of Cappawhite. He completed his Junior Certificate at St. Fintan's CBS, Doon and commenced his Tús placement with ETB Youthreach Cappawhite on 3rd November 2014. Dessie

is a past Student at Youthreach, so he has now come full circle, becoming a valuable team member of staff.

Dessie's role within the Youthreach Centre varies between Kitchen assistant to general Caretaking. He has grown in confidence both on a personal level and in implementing the work placement brief. Dessie engages very well with both staff and students throughout. He is enthusiastic and committed to fulfilling the goals and overall work

plan throughout his placement with Youthreach. Having been in the shoes of the Youthreach students himself, Dessie fits in here seamlessly. He shows great empathy towards the current students and he has built up a great rapport with the students and staff alike.

The Additional Benefits of the Tús Programme

With the assistance of South Tipperary Development Company, Mark Rylands, a Tús Team Leader with the company, has recently completed a Masters in Community and Voluntary Sector Management in UCC. The thesis that he chose to complete for that Masters, and for which he was awarded first-class honours, focused on the Tús programme and the less quantifiable impacts that the programme had on the participants of the programme. Some of his key findings showed that –

- 80% of the former participants felt that they were physically fitter while on the Tús Programme.
- 85% of the former participants felt that they were mentally healthier while they were on the Programme.
- 96% of the former participants felt that the work they were doing for their communities was very worthwhile.
- 91% would have liked to have been allowed to stay on in their respective roles as they felt they were able to contribute something to their own communities.

While one of the objectives of the Tús programme is to 'activate' long-term unemployed people and to make them more 'more-ready', it is a difficult objective to achieve in an era of austerity and few job opportunities. If the programme was being judged purely on the criteria of quantifying how many participants found full-time employed as a direct result of that intervention, some commentators could suggest that the programme is not a success. That suggestion would however be incorrect as the outcomes of the programme have to be viewed in their entirety. The mental and physical benefits to the participants, their long-term health, their self-esteem, self-value and their ability to

contribute to the well-being of their community, while difficult to quantify in monetary terms, all have to be taken into account in any evaluation of a programme such as Tús.

One further important finding from that Thesis was that, while using the concept of 'Relevant' versus 'Irrelevant' costings in a Cost-Benefit analysis, it was shown that it is more economical for the State to have these types of labour activation programmes in operation as the benefits accruing to the host organisations, their communities, and to the participants themselves far outweigh the cost of funding them. In terms of a Labour Activation Programme such as the Tús programme, the only 'relevant' costs of running the programme are the additional costs to the State of the relatively small administration, supervisory and material inputs for the programme. The payments to the Tús participants themselves, apart from a small additional weekly 'top-up' payment, are the primary costs of the programme but these can be regarded as an 'irrelevant' cost as the participants would have to be paid regardless of whether a participant was on the programme or simply sitting at home and being in receipt of their social welfare payment.

The benefits of the Tús programme to hundreds of host organisations and communities throughout South Tipperary are incalculable. From the basic, but vital, work such as pitch and field maintenance, to Tidy Towns, to childcare and eldercare roles, to administration and management of community facilities, to the staffing of heritage and cultural projects, the Tús programme has assisted with all of them and anyone who has seen those outcomes would judge the Tús programme in South Tipperary to be an outstanding success.

What Tús participants said about the Tús Programme : The Positive

"just to do something and get out and do something is mighty rewarding. For your head, mentally as well, and physically, I felt better." "I was on the dole for maybe two years before [I was called for the Tús programme]. I was doing nothing, apart from when the fishing season

started. Like in the winter you wouldn't even want to get out of bed. That [Tús] would get you up, and you'd be looking forward to going off doing something". "It was brilliant, really good. I really enjoyed myself... probably one of the best years of my life...".

What Tús participants said about the Tús Programme : The Negative

"I suppose the only thing was, because I enjoyed it so much and I found it hard when I was leaving I'd have loved if it was longer",

"When I had to leave the group [that I had worked with for the year on Tús] they were crying and I was crying, it was all just amazing how everyone accepted me. I felt bad, I felt that I didn't want to go back to the way I was, I didn't want to go back to not looking forward to going out. It was something to look forward to once the children were dropped off at school, you weren't just going to go home and sit on your own."

"I can't see nothing, I honest to god can't see nothing. My only chance now is to get out of this country or go to Dublin and something. I'd love to be working here, and have something at home, but I'm nearly three years out of work and I've had nothing apart from the twelve months on your scheme. One time you'd get an odd day here and there, but now nothing. I'd loved to have stayed on the [Tús] Programme."

What Community Groups have said about the Tús Programme –

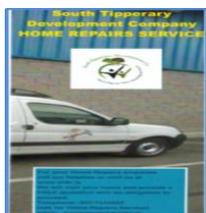
"Look, I think the Tús programme is not just about getting people in to do a job, whether it's in a cemetery or a soccer field, it's to occupy their time, get them back into working mode, and with the help of God they'll get on to finding full time work".

"most of the Tús guys that we had, worked over and above their hours; they worked their 19.5 hours a week or whatever it was, but they've done over the call of duty, but mainly during the day when we're at work. The voluntary aspect for most clubs like ours doesn't kick in until 6 o'clock in the evening. That's the benefit of the Tús lads on the ground."

“Without the Tús participant we would find it extremely difficult to progress or survive as a club... if we had to do that work voluntarily ourselves it would mean that the kids would suffer, the players would suffer, our facilities would not be as good or at the standard they're at, because we would not be able to give the time that the Tús worker can give to keep that pitch and the different ground up to the standard that they're at, which is an extremely high standard”).

“They've left a legacy to the town. We [tidy towns] had a derelict site; the walls were falling down, corroded, [and] decayed. There was little to nothing left of the walls. The Tús guys came on board, we got a bit of sponsorship, put a few pounds to it ourselves, and with the Tús lads backing us up...if you were to quantify it, put a price on it, those men for their few pounds every week on the Tús scheme have done €70,000 work on that wall and area. We had it priced.”

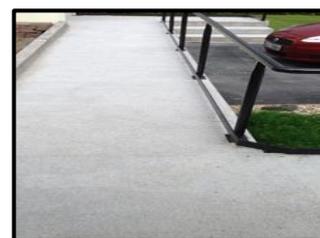
South Tipperary Development Company's Home Repair Service



South Tipperary Development Company rolled out its Home Repairs Service in early 2012. With quality tradespeople supplied through the Tús Programme, the company can offer assistance to home owners with many jobs around their homes. From painting to plumbing, from carpentry to gardening the company can supply the right person for the right job. When a person has a job that needs doing, they contact the company and arrangements can be made for an assessor to call out, at a convenient time, to view the job and let the person know what materials would be needed to do the job. To be eligible for the Home Repairs Service the individual must be in receipt of the Department of Social Protection Fuel Allowance. Applications for the Home Repairs Service can be made directly to South Tipperary Development Company. Referrals can also be made via local and national bodies such as the Department of Social Protection, HSE, St Vincent De Paul, Meals on Wheels, Irish Red Cross Society and others.

The impact of one small Home Repair job

The Home Repair Service received an enquiry from a gentleman who had recently been confined to a wheelchair. His



house had been adapted to a certain degree to allow for him to move about his home in the wheelchair. What he found very limiting was that since he has been wheelchair bound he has been unable to get to his garage where he previously spent countless hours working on his electronics hobby. The man stated that he had no passageway from the house down to the garage at the end of the garden and he wondered could the Home Repair Service facilitate him in any way.

Being on the fuel allowance, and especially being disabled and elderly, meant that he more than met all the criteria necessary to be assisted for this relatively small, but life-changing, piece of work. After the job was surveyed it was agreed that a new pathway, a wheelchair ramp and a security railing could be installed. With the client paying for materials and with the Tús Programme supplying the necessary tradespeople, this work took one week to complete.

For the sake of some sand, cement and a few additional materials, the impact of the work carried out by the Home Repair Service Team for the client was immeasurable. Being able to access the garage again, gave him the opportunity to revisit his hobby affording him a new lease of life at the same time. This has also given him the added confidence to join local groups like the Men's Shed where his knowledge and expertise can be harnessed and shared.

If you think that the Home Repair Service could be of benefit to you or to someone you know, you can check out the eligibility criteria on www.stdc.ie or you can contact the service at 052-7442714.

Community / Spring and Winter Projects

At times of the year when a community has a project in mind and they need some extra assistance with it, the Tús Programme is flexible enough to be able to assign Tús participants to that group or project so that they can complete it within a reasonably short space of time. Some of the projects that the Tús Programme have assisted with are highlighted below –



Landscaping of Newcastle Primary School



**Constructing a bridge on the
Knockmealdown Trail**



Lattin Tidy Towns

Tipperary Tidy Towns



Donohill Community



Wall and Railing of Cahir Abbey



South Tipperary Development Company Ltd.
Comhlacht Forbairt Tiobraid Árann Theas Teo.

