



SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

REVIEW OF CDB 2006 AND TARGETS 2007

Foreword from the Chairperson, Cllr Joe Donovan

There were many highlights in 2006 for the South Tipperary County Development Board and in early 2007, each of the four Programme Management Groups identified priority action for 2007/2008. The following are some key highlights and actions identified by the sub-groups of the County Development Board.



Cllr. Joe Donovan

- 2006 brought significant new jobs to the county with expansion of the existing world class companies in the county.
- Significant progress has been made on the development of Ballingarrane as a regional science, technology and research park.
- South Tipperary was designated as a local sports partnership site. A Sports Co-Ordinator Valerie Connolly has been recruited.
- David Lenane was appointed Community Football Development Officer for South Tipperary in November 2006. This post is a joint venture between South Tipperary County Council and the FAI and David has begun working within the three Rapid towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary Town.
- A sub-group of the Local Agenda 21 group has developed a 'Sustainable Energy Action Plan for South Tipperary' and is working actively to identify funding to implement the action plan.
- The South Tipperary Community Forum had a very active 2006 and co-ordinated seminars and events for the community sector including a County Heritage Day and a Disability Information, Aids & Appliances Exhibition.
- The South Tipperary Heritage Forum launched the South Tipperary Heritage plan and has established an innovative 'Schools Heritage Project' and two new websites promoting the vibrant heritage of South Tipperary.
- An Arts Officer is currently being recruited by South Tipperary County Council with a view to implementing priority actions of the South Tipperary Arts Strategy.
- Over €3,000,000 has been invested in the 3 RAPID towns of Clonmel, Carrick on Suir and Tipperary .
- The County Social Inclusion Measures Group have continued to work on the topics of Safety and Security, the Elderly, Inter-agency Traveller actions and Early School Leaving.
- The VEC continues to head up actions relating to teaching English as a foreign language to the migrant community.
- Two new Youth Diversion projects have been approved for the county as has a Springboard project for Clonmel.

There are a number of key priorities for 2007 identified, not least of which includes the Cohesion Process. The 'Cohesion process' for the Local Development companies in the county has been a very significant issue over the last year. I am hopeful now that we can move forward and focus on developing a county-wide rural development and social inclusion programme for the county. This will have a very significant impact on the social and cultural landscape of South Tipperary. I also look forward to seeing the sporting role being further developed in 2007 and the Disability Interagency Plan adopted and implemented.

On a personal note, I would like to take opportunity to thank our former Director of Community & Enterprise, John Quinn for his work in supporting the County Development Board to develop the Strategy for Economic, Social & Cultural Development, our new Director, Sinead Carr and the Community & Enterprise Team for their ongoing work and the members and former members of the board for their huge contribution to the development of South Tipperary.



Edmond O'Connor

Economic Highlights 2006

Edmond O'Connor, Chair of the Economic Programme Management Group

2006 brought two more world-class pharmaceutical companies, Abbott and Boston Scientific into the county. Johnson & Johnson are expanding their operations in Cashel. Merck Sharpe and Dohme have extended their plant near Carrick-on-Suir and announced new R&D jobs. Considering these developments along with Clonmel Healthcare and Pinewood in Clonmel. It is clear that South Tipperary's pharmaceutical cluster has gained critical mass. It is attracting the attention of world leaders in the pharmacy sector and will be a key player in the economic development of the county into the future.

The provision of a prestigious regional science, research and technology park at Ballingarrane, on the outskirts of Clonmel, has made significant progress over the past year. The concept will now move forward in partnership with Tipperary Institute and the IDA. The IDA has purchased 50 acres with a view to attracting international companies. Tipperary Institute will move from its existing campus to Ballingarrane. Planning permission has been granted for a hotel. Works to the infrastructural development will begin on the site in early 2007. Work has also started on designing the marketing concepts that will attract national and international companies to the park.

Overall, 2006 was a very positive year. 2007 will need to build on the successes to date, concentrate on providing more of the necessary infrastructure for economic development and ensure that there is sufficient skilled labour to meet the growing requirements of the economy.

Members of the Economic Programme Management Group

Chair: Ned O'Connor
 Moya Breen
 Isabel Cambie
 Sinéad Carr
 Clare Cashman
 Margaret Lovatt
 John Condon
 Tommy Cooke
 Michael Dee
 John Doyle
 Toss Hayes
 Walter Heneghan
 Eileen Horgan
 Bernard Lennon
 Pat McCormack
 Céline McHugh
 Donal Mullane
 Phil Shanahan

Celebrating Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurial Awards 2006

The second South Tipperary Entrepreneurial Awards were held in November 2006 at Brú Ború in Cashel. Jim Power, economist with Friends First was the keynote speaker on the evening. He gave a strong indication that future economic progress lay in the development of strong entrepreneurial activity at local level. He felt that the celebration and promotion of entrepreneurship at county level was vital in encouraging those with entrepreneurial interest to take the plunge.

The aim of the awards is to promote and celebrate entrepreneurship at all levels in the county. The range of award categories ensure that there is a place for all types of entrepreneurial activity from retail to manufacturing, from school entrepreneurship to the provision of services by community groups. This project has had great interagency support from the business community including Abbott, Ulster Bank, MSD, Clonmel Chamber, Carrick, Cahir, Tipperary Town and Cashel business groups and Iverk. Agency support came from FÁS, the County Council, Tipperary Institute and WIT.

A prize fund consisting of cash and entrepreneurial advice/mentoring. Training input from the County Enterprise Board, Tipperary Institute and SEBIC was also put in place.

The overall awards went to "Kool School", Clonmel.

The category winners were:

- ✓ Best Business Growth - *Schifano & Cifuentes Bijoux – fashion jewelery*
- ✓ Best New Business - *Kool School, Clonmel*
- ✓ Innovation - *Comeragh Controls*
- ✓ Entrepreneurial School - *Grange Primary School*
- ✓ Creativity in Retail - *Planet Playground, Clonmel*
- ✓ Community Enterprise - *Duneske Leisure Ltd. Cahir*



Finalists: Best New business



Finalists: Best Community Enterprise

Interagency Support instrumental in Slieveardagh's Success in 2006

Slieveardagh Rural Development Ltd (SRD Ltd) is a company limited by guarantee, formed for the purpose of the advancement of the region and has been in existence since 1994. SRD Ltd is based in the Heritage Centre, River Street, Killenaule. Following an extensive community consultation the Slieveardagh Business Plan was compiled in 2004 to establish a set of criteria to increase employment opportunities and sustain enterprises in the Slieveardagh region for the next five years. In 2005 South Tipperary County Council & BNS Rural Development Ltd sanctioned funding to employ a Business Plan Executive Manager, Maura Barrett, to implement the plan.

The achievements and the challenges

The Enterprise Centre building was integral to the whole process of re-developing the region. The building received a complete refurbishment. The office has been sectioned off as an Internet Café and Killenaule Library have relocated to the centre. Killenaule Library is now the only computerised rural library in the county.

A section of the building has been designated exclusively as an ICT training facility and to accommodate multimedia presentations. The County Enterprise Board has supplied twenty state of the art ICT workstations to the centre. Various training programmes are in place, including 'Small Business Management for Women' and computers have been provided for the Internet café facility. The provision of broadband Internet access facilities is a potential source of revenue and has increased usage of other services in the centre. An exhibition re: Derrynaflan Hoard has been secured from the County Museum and is displayed in the centre.



Minister Ó'Cuív at the launch of the newly refurbished Heritage Centre

The enhancement of these services has increased the level of usage and revenues for the centre. The Heritage Centre a listed building, is a credit to the community.

As is the nature of the Community & Voluntary Sector many of the greatest initiatives are founded at ground level and come to fruition thanks to local effort. However, they often fall foul to the error of structurelessness. Slieveardagh Rural Development was no exception but with the support of the interagency forum which includes Barrow Nore Suir, South Tipperary Co Council, FÁS, Tipperary Institute, County Enterprise Board, Vocational Education Committee, TEAGASC and the Health Service Executive, management structures have been put in place, staff work plans have been developed in tandem with the Business Plan and the voluntary members work is nurtured and appreciated.

Slieveardagh Rural Development Ltd looks forward to future interagency involvement in 2007.

Economic Group - Priorities for 2007

The economic focus for 2007 is to target three key areas

- ✓ **Investment in infrastructure**
The economic group will work with and support the agencies and companies who are delivering essential infrastructure in the county.
- ✓ **Providing a skilled labour supply for 2000 potential jobs**
An economic subgroup led up by FÁS have prioritised actions that will identify the relevant skills training required to fill the new jobs being created in the local economy.
- ✓ **Growing and celebrating entrepreneurship**
Actions to support entrepreneurial developments in the food, tourism, equine and alternative energy sectors



Fionuala McGeever

Social Inclusion Highlights 2006

Fionuala Mc Geever, Chair of Social Inclusion Measures Working Group

The Social Inclusion Measures Group (which is a sub-group of the County Development Board) held 5 no. of meetings over 2006. It concentrated in particular on rural isolation, migrants, disability and the elderly. The key achievements included agreeing an action plan in relation to service for the elderly (which is now being implemented), the restructuring of SIM so that meetings were more effective and efficient. Adopting an approach devised through the Safety & Security Committee towards addressing anti-social issues at Halloween time and work was commenced on the interagency Traveller Action Plan. A flavour of some of the additional activity undertaken in the Social Inclusion Programme is highlighted below.

Members of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group

Fionuala McGeever
 Alan Price
 Betty Coughlan
 Bridget O'Keeffe
 Carmel McKenna
 Sinead Carr
 Deidre Hennessy
 Denis Leamy
 Mick Cummins
 William Doyle
 Eileen Condon
 Eoin O'Neill
 Tracy Costelloe
 Geraldine Mullane
 Pat Holland
 John Quinn
 John Devane
 Liam Kilbride
 Oliver Clancy
 Phil Shanahan
 Declan Rice
 Ronan Mulhall
 Ruth Smith
 Mark Ryan
 Kathleen Prendergast
 Margo Hayes
 Sean McSweeney
 Sheila Collins
 Jimmy Taffe
 Supt. Mary Fitzgerald
 Donal Danaher
 Catherine Leamy
 Tina Kennedy
 Dan Fox
 Eddie Harris
 Phyllis Naughton

Community Projects

South Tipperary County Council's investment in community and recreational facilities continued in 2006 with the announcement of sixty-three grants to community projects throughout the county (to a value of over €2.3 million). The 2006 Scheme of Capital Grants for Recreational and Community Facilities and Amenities will assist a wide range of projects such as playgrounds, cultural facilities, day care, childcare, sport and youth facilities, significant environmental works and social inclusion projects generally. To date over €5 million has been allocated in grants under this scheme since 2004. This €5 million has been effectively matched by a total of €10 million over the last 5 years from other community and national funding sources bringing a total investment in this area of approximately €15 million.

A spokesman from one of the clubs assisted, Richard Friend of Carrick United said 'it is an excellent scheme without any doubt, you get as much funding as from the Lottery, it is easy to drawdown, a great benefit to every club'.

Another 'win' for community facilities came with the announcement of approval for Cahir Youth Facility for funding of €174,000 under the Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's similar scheme for community facilities.

Social Inclusion

The Social Inclusion Measures Group of the County Development Board, and its sub-groups, continued their work of seeking to create more effective and efficient social inclusion actions. A grant for actions involving migrant workers was secured from the Department of Social and Family Affairs for an art project and another grant to the Single Parents group will allow for the collection of data on the numbers of, and issues facing, single parents in the county. This data will feed into the Cohesion Board plans for social inclusion in the county. The Early School Leaving group have continued to collect data in preparation for an application for a county-wide mentoring project for disconnected youth. The Safety and Security Partnership has met on several occasions to discuss issues of concern including bonfires and a number of initiatives have been undertaken to address key areas of concern such as anti-social behaviour and estate design. In addition the Social Inclusion Measures group has reviewed its working method and procedures.



Presentation of Scheme of Capital Grants cheque to Grangemockler Community Sports field

RAPID Programme Update

The three South Tipperary RAPID Area Implementation Teams – Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary Town – continued to consolidate their respective development work in the three towns.

Actions continued to be animated on each of the three RAPID Strategic Plans and new investment opportunities were facilitated and processed.

Among the direct RAPID Programme funding to South Tipperary were new rounds of capital funding under the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs RAPID Leverage Fund (in excess of €500,000)

- Estates Enhancement Leverage Scheme
- Traffic Measurement Leverage Scheme
- Play-Areas Leverage Scheme

The Dormant Accounts Fund allocated an additional €600,000 to the three RAPID Area Implementation Teams for local project development, and a number of Government Department funding lines allocated resources to RAPID-endorsed projects in the three towns.

Local Service Delivery

Apart from significant new investment, local service delivery continued to play a central role in each of the RAPID areas. Inter-agency working-groups and task-groups worked on collaborative actions locally and this will continue to be a key plank of the RAPID Programme at national and local level over the next phase of the Programme. Critical issues that were the focus of local working-groups across the three RAPID towns included Physical Enhancements, Safety & Security, Youth & Family Support Services and Education.

Community Representatives

In October 2006, Minister O’Cuiv met with the RAPID Community Representatives at a two-day national RAPID event that allowed the Community Representatives to enter into dialogue with POBAL and Minister O’Cuiv on the future roll-out of the Programme. The three RAPID towns were well represented at this event by the RAPID Community Representatives: Jean Nelson, Peadar O’Donnell, Marie O’Connell (Tipperary), Nancy Dorney and Eileen Anderson (Clonmel), Marie Walsh and Jim Power (Carrick-on-Suir).

National Developments

Following the national evaluation of the Programme, Minister O’Cuiv informed each of the Area Implementation Teams that the RAPID Programme would be widened and deepened into the future. The Programme will be installed as a key measure in the National Development Plan 2007-2013 and POBAL announced that the Programme should prepare for the following target areas/groups:

Focus on Seven Themes:

- 1) Family Supports
- 2) Youth Supports
- 3) Crime & Safety
- 4) Physical & Environment
- 5) Education
- 6) Training & Employment
- 7) Health

Focus on Key Target Groups:

- 1) Unemployed
- 2) Lone Parents
- 3) Travellers
- 4) Non-Irish Nationals
- 5) People with Disabilities
- 6) Elderly
- 7) Ex-Prisoners

Hopes and Ambitions for 2007

In 2007 the RAPID programme Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary town will build on and consolidate the progress made over the number of years. The Area Implementation Teams and their subgroups will work towards achieving the maximise results from the opportunities that arise in order to increase investment, improve public service delivery and enhance community participation for the strategic improvement of the RAPID areas.

Clonmel AIT Members

Cllr Darren Ryan, Eileen Anderson, Phil Shanahan, Billy Doyle, Fran Herman, Eileen Condon, David O’Donnell, Ann Bradshaw, Nancy Dorney, Garda Donal Ryan, Ann Ryan,

Tipperary AIT Members

Isabel Cambie, Breda Corr, Margaret Egan, Aidan Finn, David Coleman, Pat Holland, Cora Horgan, Supt. Paul Moran, Mark Ryan, Catriona Crowe, Marie O’Connell, Edmond Connolly, Veronica Crowe, Jean Nelson, Liam O’Brien, Peadar O’Donnell, Cllr. Mary Swords

Carrick-On-Suir AIT Members

Eileen Horgan, Cllr. Jim Drohan, Fionuala McGeever, Liam Murphy, Dave Kenneally, Edmond Connolly, Sgt. Stephen O’ Sullivan, Marie O Gorman, Vincent Daly, Annie Dalton, Jim Power, Marie Walsh, Elizabeth Butler, Margo Hayes

South Tipperary County Childcare Committee (STCCC) 2006

Although a very challenging year for STCCC with a number of staffing changes, the targets set for the 2006 action plan were, in most cases, achieved and in some cases were exceeded. STCCC are confident that they have achieved an effective and positive outcome during 2006. Due to the early launch of the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP), STCCC developed an additional seven actions in the 2006 plan. This involved the development and implementation of new structures to compliment these actions. Included in these new structures were fundamental changes in the assessment of funding applications. Funding is now assessed under the following criteria (a) Local Need (b) Capacity of the Group & (c) Value for Money. A new sub-committee was formed, called the Programme Evaluation Sub-Committee (PESC), which assists at local level in the selection of projects to be funded under NCIP and thus proactively addresses childcare needs identified at local level.

Eight meetings of the STCCC were held in 2006 as well as twenty four sub-committee meetings. The findings of the Strategic Childcare Mapping project, recently completed, have identified the priority areas that need to be worked on as regards the provision of childcare facilities and places. This will result in a strategic spatial approach and allow the committee to focus on the areas of greatest need.

The following are the key areas of performance in 2006 and the outcomes achieved:

1. Increase the number of childcare facilities and childcare places

There was a 12.5% increase in 2006 in the number of childcare places available in South Tipperary from 1089 to 1229. This growth reflects the number of new services supported by STCCC in 2006 and augurs well for 2007. 15 Community Services applications and 9 Private Provider's services were assisted with Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme applications. A total value of €1,025,037 was granted in 2006 resulting in 38 applicants receiving 108 grants to the end of 2006 under the EOCP for the sum €12,194,765. A further 16 Services were provided with application support for the National Childcare Investment Programme of which 8 applications were submitted to POBAL and currently await decisions.

The numbers of notified Childminders to the HSE in South Tipperary increased from 5 to 7 and 34 new people indicated an interest in childminding as a career.

2. To introduce a coordinated approach to the delivery of childcare services

South Tipperary County Childcare Committee is now well established and is developing a strong profile in co-ordinating the sector.

Over one thousand queries were dealt with by the office in 2006, reflecting the proactive promotional campaign undertaken including newspaper, radio, newsletters, leaflets, and publications along with attendance at promotional events during the year. 38% of queries were related to Education and Training and 39% were related to pre/post application support.

The distribution of 1,000 training calendars; the inclusion of 750 supplements in the local newspaper; 750 Newsletters published, coupled with advertisements for events such as Network Meetings, Seminars and Conferences, resulted in a strong positive public relations image for STCCC. There was successful engagement with 69 individual Childcare Providers/Centres up to 31st December 2006. Over 372 personnel were in attendance at organised events such as seminars and conferences or participants in the 8 certified training events that were organised.

60 Parents linked with STCCC throughout the year - 6 Network meetings were held with an average attendance of 30 at each meeting and 30 participants attended childminding events.

Conclusion:

Delivery of a strengthened service in 2007 will commence with the recruitment of three new staff, and the development of a 'Strategic Plan - 2007 to 2010' based on the Spatial Strategic Mapping of the current provision of all known childcare facilities/services. This along with a focused Work Plan targeting the further development of the three key areas of performance as in 2006 will enable the County Childcare Committee continue to provide relevant continued support to the sector.

The following stakeholders are currently represented on STCCC

Kathleen Prendergast,
Mary Hennessy,
Elaine McGowran,
Yvonne Murphy,
Timmy O'Donovan,
Phil Shanahan,

Catherine Corbett,
Sally Ivers,
Phil Mackey,
Liz O'Connor,
Fiona George,
Helen McCarthy.

Mark Doyle,
Mary Hayes,
Anne Murphy,
Cllr Mattie McGrath,
Teresa Ring,



Valerie Connolly

South Tipperary Sports Partnership

The Shadow Local Sports Partnership body (led by the VEC) which was initiated through the County Development Board in 2002 continued to lobby and work towards achieving recognition by the Irish Sports Council as a formal Local Sports Partnership and the appointment of a Local Sports Partnership Co-ordinator and Administrator. The key aims of the Local Sports Partnership are to increase participation in sport and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect.

Formal recognition of the work of the Shadow Local Sports Partnership was provided in September 2006 and it is now anticipated that the group will seek to achieve the following outcomes in 2007

- Partnership established on a formal basis and functioning effectively
- South Tipperary Sports Partnership Strategy implemented, monitored and evaluated in the county
- South Tipperary Sports Partnership Strategy recognised as the key point of information on sport and recreation in South Tipperary
- Programmes aimed at increasing physical activity among lower participation groups supported and implemented.
- Every primary school in the county delivering the Buntús and other school play programmes
- Buntús Start programme delivered to all playgroups in the county
- Go for Life leaders trained and supported
- Sport clubs implementing the code of ethics and good practice
- Relationships established with National Governing Bodies, Sports Clubs,
- Older Adults Groups, Youth Groups, relevant agencies and organisations in the county and implementing, supporting and facilitating relevant training
- Increased usage and funding for facilities in South Tipperary

The Local Sports Partnership is funded by the Irish Sports Council and is established as a sub-structure of South Tipperary County Development Board, reporting to the Cultural Programme Management Group. In March 2007, Sports Co-ordinator Valerie Connolly was recruited and an administrator will be recruited later in 2007. It is anticipated that a Strategy will be drawn up and launched by September, 2007.

Community Football Development Officer

David Lenane was appointed Community Football Development Officer for South Tipperary in November 2006. The post is a joint venture between South Tipperary County Council and the FAI, David has begun working within the three RAPID towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary.



David Lenane

The aims of the project include delivering active soccer development to key target communities in these towns. Through various initiatives David is engaging people particularly those in marginalised communities in structured sports activities. A prime example of this type of work is the coaching initiative carried out with Clonmel's Garda Youth Diversion Project. A coaching programme has been set up for boys who before-hand participated very little in structured sports activity. This is now proving to be a great success. Regular football activity is also being provided for the youth of Tipperary Town and Carrick-on-Suir through the Tipperary Regional Youth Service and the Carrick-on-Suir Neighbourhood Youth Project.

The involvement and links with local residents groups is another vital cog in the wheel. The project also endeavours to actively develop volunteerism among local adults by involving them in the structured coaching and organising of games and tournaments. This is a major factor as the involvement of local adults in organising events makes the project more sustainable. A high number of adults have already volunteered and assisted in a number of events carried out in the three towns which is another positive but will need continuing work throughout 2007. A coaching course is also planned for students at the Clonmel Youth Training Centre and it is hoped that this will be a stepping stone in recruiting active volunteers in the future.

The project will also maximise the availability of local playing fields which have developed in key estates through the RAPID programme. Regular activity will be taking place in these areas especially over the summer months with leagues and tournaments planned. This is important as it is essential that structured programmes are provided within the immediate community. Work has also begun with the development of programmes to increase participation by females and people with disabilities and these will be worked on for the coming year. Another key action for the coming year will be David's work with the non Irish national community. Plans are already under way in Carrick-on-Suir to host an inter-cultural football competition called 'Faiite Football' at the end of May, beginning of June using football as the tool of social integration. A similar tournament will then be held in Clonmel and Tipperary Town.



Launch of Community Football Development Officer Post

Another action which David aims to deliver is the 'Midnite Soccer' concept. David hopes to run a pilot league in Tipperary Town in the coming months. The concept is based around having a structured football league for youths at times where anti-social behaviour is high (i.e. 9pm-11pm). David will continually look at developing programmes similar to those above in order to provide regular and structured activity for the youth of South Tipperary.

The recent appointment of the South Tipperary Sports Partnership co-ordinator will see another vital link which will assist the project. David will also carry out duties from the FAI's technical department under the guidance of FAI Technical director Packie Bonner. David is currently working under the areas of education, player development, grassroots development and promotion of the game locally in South Tipperary.

Social Inclusion Measures Group – Some key priorities for 2007

- Draw up Sports Strategy and commence implementation
- Draw up Interagency Disability Action Plan and proceed to implementation
- Implement the actions in the Elderly Service Plan
- Implement Early School Leaving project which addresses vulnerable childrens needs
- Set up Migrant Networking Groups to identify key issues of concern
- Complete Interagency Traveller Plan
- Complete Cohesion Process and support the setting up of the new unitary structure.

Cultural Programme- Highlights in 2006

Annual County Heritage Day 4th November - Cahir Castle

The South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum co-ordinated the Heritage Day which is an action of the South Tipperary Heritage Plan 2004 – 2008. Cllr. Joe Donovan, Co. Council Chairperson launched the 2004-2008 South Tipperary Heritage Plan 30 people attended the County Heritage Day.



Cllr. Joe Donovan



Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald

Speakers included:

- Barry O'Reilly – Dept. of Environment on the South Tipperary Architectural Survey
- David Butler – on the old Jail in Cahir now his residence Carrigeen Castle.
- Hugh O'Brien - Thatched Buildings Survey – Forward Planning section, Sth Tipperary Co. Council
- Mary Guinan Darmody – Update on Local Studies Unit in Thurles
- Maureen Purcell – Update on Co. Museum and Collection Policy
- Ann Ryan Heritage Facilitator, South Tipperary County Council & Dan Hogan (Vice-Chair of Heritage Forum) on the Heritage Plan
- A Heritage Walk around Cahir Town was led by Joe Walsh

As part of the Day the Forum developed a collection of 13 posters which are a visual snapshot of South Tipperary's Heritage with photos of the counties' archaeology, architecture, flora and fauna on display. Tipperary LEADER Group funded the event and the poster collection through the training grant they have allocated to Tipperary Heritage LEADER group.

WEB SITES: Two new Web sites developed by Community & Enterprise in conjunction with the South Tipperary Heritage Forum with support of South Tipperary County Council Information Technology section, went live in March 07

1. www.southtipperheritage.ie - a portal- type heritage web site for South Tipperary with links to other agencies etc involved in heritage in the county
2. www.riversuir.ie - a website to promote awareness and appreciation of the River Suir

This is an action of the South Tipperary Heritage Plan.

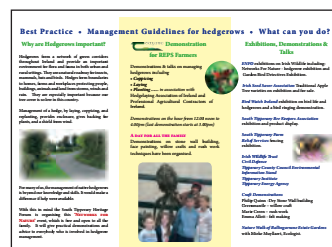


Launch of South Tipperary Heritage Plan

South Tipperary Heritage Forum organised a Hedgerow – Network for Nature day in Ballingarrane Estate targeting framers and others who have an influence on the management and protection of hedgerows.

The day was organised for the family and included demonstrations organised by TEAGASC on coppicing, laying and planting hedgerows. Over 8 main exhibitions were organised on the day.

Craft Demonstrations on traditional skills such as stone wall building, rush work and basket making were also organised. This was an action of the South Tipperary Heritage Plan.



- Members of the Cultural Programme Management Group**
- Brendan Maher
 - Carmel McKenna
 - Cllr Michael Fitzgerald
 - Clare Curley
 - Dan Hogan
 - Fionnuala McGeever
 - Helen Shanahan
 - Pat Holland
 - Isabel Cambie
 - Jim Myers
 - Liam Murphy
 - Liam O' Brien
 - Martin Maher
 - Mary Alice O' Connor
 - Mary O' Halloran

South Tipperary Schools Heritage Project developed by South Tipperary Heritage Forum with the support of Community & Enterprise and South Tipperary County Museum who have agreed to Co-ordinate the project on an annual basis. Project launched with schools in Feb 07. Targeting primary and secondary schools in South Tipperary – with focus on River Suir for 07/08 projects. This is an action of the South Tipperary Heritage Plan.

South Tipperary Community Forum in conjunction with South Tipperary Heritage Forum has developed a collection of Heritage Posters specific to South Tipperary – posters are available on loan to communities, schools and other organisations. They can be viewed in the gallery section of www.southtipperheritage.ie



South Tipperary Improving Access to the Arts

The South Tipperary Cultural Providers group co-ordinated three issues of the What's On guide which was circulated to over 45,000 households in South Tipperary and surrounding counties in 2006.

The Cultural Providers group continued in 2006 to co-ordinate joint marketing and training activities for the arts community in South Tipperary. Cultural providers including the Craft Granary, South Tipperary County Museum, The South Tipperary Arts Centre, Brú Ború, The Excel Arts & Cultural Centre, Galloglass Theatre Company, the Libraries, Junction Festival and Cashel Arts Fest hosted and co-ordinated a huge programme of events and activities in the county in 2006.

Ann Ryan, a member of the Community & Enterprise section acted as Arts Facilitator during 2006.



Cultural Providers

Cultural Programme Management Group - Priorities for 2007

Key Result Area 1: Increase participation in cultural activity.

- **Implementation of the short to medium term actions in the County Arts Strategy**
 - Recruitment of Arts Officer
 - Implement Per-cent for Art Engagement Project
 - Develop arts programmes with schools, health care settings etc.
- **Implementation of the short to medium term actions in the Heritage Plan including**
 - County Heritage Day
 - Ongoing development of South Tipperary Heritage Web site www.southtipperheritage.ie
 - Schools heritage awareness project
 - A River Suir Heritage Awareness project www.riversuir.ie
 - A Craft Heritage Awareness Project
 - Public Realm Plan & Conservation Plan for Fethard
 - Promotion and co-ordination of events for Heritage week, Dawn Chorus & World Wetlands day
 - Continued delivery of Regional Craft Centre services
 - Design and deliver a plan to promote the culture and inclusion of minority groups in conjunction with SIM
 - Continue to invest in playground development



Ciaran Lynch

Members of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group

Aidan Walsh
 Brendan Maher
 Antje Hogan
 Bridget O' Keefe
 Ciaran Lynch
 Carol Creighton
 Declan Rice
 Denis Fahey
 William Doyle
 Eoin O' Niell
 Fionnuala McGeever
 Jacky Mealy
 John Devane
 Mary Barry
 Mary Plunkett
 Mattie McGrath
 Susan Meagher
 Michael Hanly
 Michael Moroney
 Tom O' Dwyer
 Patsy Fitzgerald
 Paula Mulrooney
 Phil Shanahan
 Philip Ryan
 Sarah Bourke
 Seamus Hoyne
 Veronica Crowe
 Walter Heneghan
 Dan Fox

Local Agenda 21 Programme Highlights

Highlights in the work of South Tipperary Community Forum in 2006

- Promoted the work of the Forum to community groups via newsletters, columns in the local papers relating to events held, radio interviews, and promotion of events such as conferences, public agency consultations, training programmes, etc
- A "Community Needs" report was completed with findings from an extensive mail survey of community groups and six public meetings which were held around South Tipperary with the following themes; Sport, Economic, Culture, Physical Planning & Environment, Community Facilities and Services and Social Inclusion. The report was widely circulated to agencies and findings were included as part of the 2006 South Tipperary County Development Board's submission for the next National Development Plan 2007-2013.
- Continue the work of building the capacity of community groups to plan and implement projects. Information nights organised on insurance, active citizenship and legal issues.
- The Forum as part of national network of Forums has negotiated an attractive insurance package for community groups with BHP insurance.
- Continued the representation role on behalf of the community and voluntary sector
- The Community Forum has taken a lead in bringing innovative IT training to people with disabilities and South Tipperary Disability groups through its' e-Inclusion Fund project titled "To set and run a program of training disability groups in South Tipperary to create and maintain MOBHAILE websites for each group." Thirteen of the thirty people who completed this web site training have disabilities.

Disability Information, Aids & Appliances Exhibition - October 25th 2006 in Clonmel

The South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum hosted a very successful well-attended exhibition aimed at people with disabilities and their carers in the South Tipperary area. Thirty three different stands were either exhibiting or delivering information on the day.

The event itself was both an information day and an opportunity for both disability agencies (such as Irish Wheelchair Assoc., National Council for the Blind and National Assoc. for Deaf People) and commercial companies to exhibit aids and appliances which can help assist those with disabilities.

Sustainable Energy Strategy for South Tipperary

Community & Enterprise has facilitated an interagency working group to develop a Sustainable Energy Strategy for South Tipperary. The draft strategy is now developed and will be going to the Local Agenda 21 group of County Development Board in March 07 and the County Development Board in April 07. It will also be presented to relevant Council Strategic Policy Committees over the coming months.

The Key Action Areas of the strategy are

1. Strategic Planning in relation to the development of Sustainable Energy in South Tipperary
2. Data Collection, Policy & Research to support development of Sustainable Energy
3. Development of pilot demonstration Sustainable Energy projects
4. Development of Good practice and pilot initiatives amongst government-funded agencies in South Tipperary
5. Development of Good practice and pilot initiatives amongst Community Organisations
6. Development of Good practice and pilot initiatives amongst Businesses
7. Training & Awareness re sustainable energy

As part of this strategy Community & Enterprise section supported an action, which enabled Tipperary Energy Agency to develop a range of brochures to promote sustainable energy and alternative heating systems such as wood pellets, solar panels and geo-thermal for households.

Local Agenda 21 Group - Priorities for 2007/2008

Key Result Area 1: Participation in decision making

Action plan to be developed on Participation, which will feed into the next Rural Development Fund and Social Inclusion Fund

Participation subgroup developing participation plan around the following areas:

- Examine existing survey of community and voluntary organizations needs and issues especially in relation to participation.
- Identify issue areas to focus support to community on participation.
- Volunteer Support Action Plan developed and short-term actions implemented including establishment of Volunteer Centre and recruitment of volunteer support officer.
- Training for all community representatives that sit on policy and other decision-making bodies on behalf of the Community Forum.
- Development of protocols of meeting management circulated to all organizations and agreement sought to their implementation.
- Establishment of a panel of mentors available to community and voluntary representatives to provide advice on specific matters.
- A series of county-wide workshops to address themes identified as being important to the community and voluntary sector in the county including community participation in review of County Development Plan

Key Result area 2: Delivery of sustainable facilities and services focusing on the following areas

- Sustainable Energy Action Plan developed by April 2007, which will feed into the next Rural Development Programme. Short-term actions implemented as per agreed timeframe identified in Action Plan.
- Integrated Transport Policy for the county - to investigate the feasibility of an integrated transport and land use strategy for South Tipperary.
- Litter Management Plan – identifying interagency action of a litter management plan that can be resourced through the next rural development programme.