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# South Tipperary

## COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Annual Report 2002



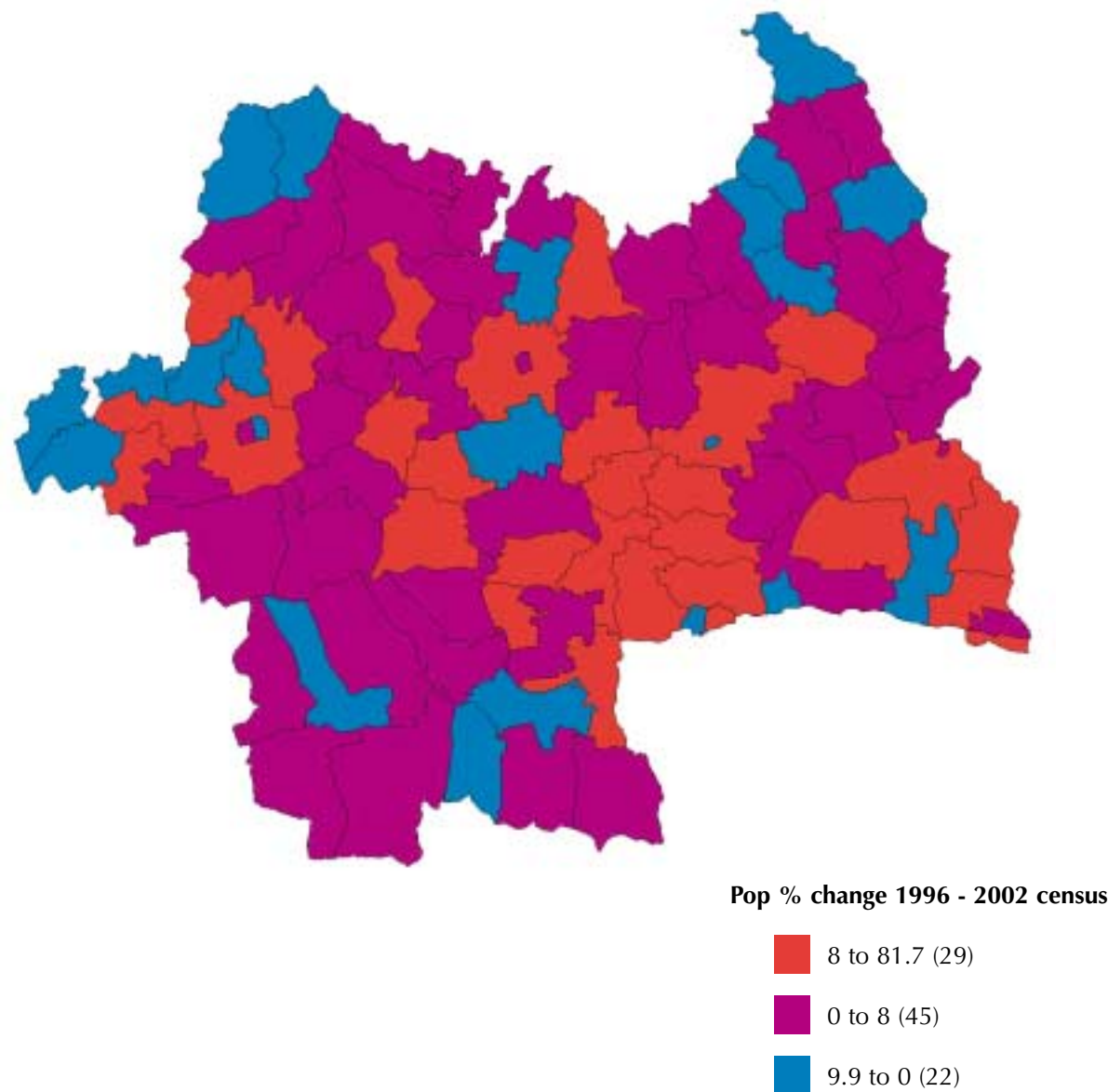
South Tipperary County Development Board,  
County Hall, Clonmel, Co Tipperary  
Tel: 052 34597 Fax: 052 80422  
Email: [dce@southtippcoco.ie](mailto:dce@southtippcoco.ie)  
[www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie)

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## Foreword: Chairman's Statement on highlights for 2002

An important milestone was reached by South Tipperary County Development Board when, after two years of hard work by its members, the South Tipperary County Strategy was formally launched by Minister Noel Davern TD on April 8, 2002.

The Strategy contained 62 actions across four programmes: economic, social inclusion, cultural and local agenda 21. At subsequent Board meetings during 2002, a further five additional actions were agreed and are appended to the County Strategy. I am pleased to report that 4 actions are completed and that a further 40 actions commenced in 2002.

The County Strategy is intended to deliver real, tangible and lasting benefits for the people of South Tipperary. So what difference has its implementation made thus far? It is obviously in the very early stages but there are already some visible achievements:

- Three new rural transport services (West Tipperary, South West Tipperary and the Slieve Ardagh area).
- Enhancement of infrastructure in the designated CLÁR area around Hollyford with improvements to the village, some cul-de-sac roads and water supply.
- Growth of the South Tipperary Forum as the community social partner in the county and the focus on building community capacity and engagement in the designated RAPID areas (Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary Town).
- Three additional centres with full-time childcare facilities in the county (Cashel, New Inn and Newcastle).

Despite the early achievements and the huge and continued commitment of Board members to the implementation of the County Strategy, there are great challenges ahead for South Tipperary.

We must remain competitive both in terms of retaining and attracting population and jobs and also providing the requisite level of services and facilities across the county and to specific groups who find it difficult to access opportunities.

Two indicators are of particular concern:

- The 2002 Census reveals a population growth of just under 5% in the county as against a national average of 8%.
- The National Spatial Strategy, while acknowledging and using the South County Tipperary County Development Board's Local Agenda 21 Wheel, failed to designate Clonmel as a national hub.

The County itself is primarily responsible for ensuring that it remains competitive and an attractive place in which to live, work, invest and visit. But the self-help must be focused. The joint actions such as those in the County Strategy and the inclusion of additional actions to address new challenges and new opportunities will be critical to South Tipperary's future. The County Development Board and its member bodies are committed to South Tipperary's well being.

On a personal note I wish to thank the members and former members of the Board, including former Chair Cllr Denis Bourke who I succeeded in July 2002, for their huge contribution to South Tipperary.

*Michael Fitzgerald*



Chair: Cllr Michael Fitzgerald

## County Economic Programme Update



Chair: Edmond O'Connor

### Notification of amendments/additions to the County Economic Strategy (Lead Stakeholders)

- New Action 1.1.4 – Develop and implement an imaging strategy for South Tipperary and co-ordinate the marketing campaigns of individual sectors and address gaps in the economic promotion of the county (Economic Programme Management Group)
- New Action 1.2.4 – Promotion campaign to regional emigrants with a particular focus on graduates and on the US and Britain (Enterprise Ireland).
- New Action 1.4.7 – Research project on best practice in economic development of areas distant from good employment centres and how this might be applied to the Slieve Felim CLÁR Area (Tipperary Institute).
- New Action 1.5.5 – Creation of a regional network of IT enterprise centres to promote an increase in technology-based jobs in these centres (Enterprise Ireland).

### Members of the Economic Programme Management Group

Chair: Edmond O'Connor  
Executive: Eileen Horgan

#### Local Authority Sector:

Clonmel Borough Council: John Doyle  
South Tipperary County Council: Edmond O'Connor

#### Local Development Sector:

Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development Ltd: Tommy Cooke  
CDP Support Network: Clare Cashman  
Clonmel Community Partnership: Alan Robinson  
Tipperary LEADER Group: Isabel Cambie  
Tipperary SR County Enterprise Board: Toss Hayes

#### Social Partner Sector:

Business Pillar: John Condon, Michael Devane  
Community Pillar (South Tipperary Forum): Bernard Lennon  
Farming Pillar: Michael Carew

#### State Agency Nominees:

Coillte Teo: Seamus Kennedy  
Enterprise Ireland: Michael Dee  
FÁS: Joe Maher  
IDA Ireland: Brian Conroy  
TEAGASC: Donal Mullane  
Tipperary Institute: Caroline O'Reilly

### New Economic Strategies and Plans in 2002

Finestra Project – Services to SME's (South East Regional Authority). [www.sera.ie](http://www.sera.ie)

## New Opportunities Programme

(Economic Action 1.2.2 – Direct the under-employed rural population (including farmers) to opportunities of off-farm employment and alternative sources of income).

Teagasc estimates that up to 1000 farm families in South Tipperary will need access to both on-farm and off-farm options in order to attain viable incomes over the coming years. One of the most active programmes identified in the Economic actions of the County Strategy is the 'Opportunities for Farm Families' Programme being implemented by Teagasc, supported by the Farming Pillar.

This new advisory programme is aimed at farming families, full-time or part-time, who want to get an overall view of the best mix of farm enterprises, other enterprises and off-farm work that will achieve the best possible family income and also achieve a good quality of life for all concerned.

There are two stages in the Programme. Firstly there are three group sessions (2 1/2 hours each) where approximately 10 farming families come together with a number of Teagasc personnel for a focused overview of the current economic, quality of life and farming situation. Secondly there is 'one-to-one' contact between the farm family and Teagasc personnel, via a farm visit, so as to come up with the best 'way forward action plan' for each family.

To date 62 farm families have entered into the programme with 27 individual farm family Action Plans prepared so far. Stage 1 of the programme has been completed in Clonmel, Knockavilla, Killenaule, Burncourt, Tipperary/Solohead, Mullinahone, Kilfeacle and Ardfinnan. Ongoing at present are Emly, Ballyporeen, Fethard and Bansha. Coming up soon are Clonoulty and Gortnahoe, and planned for later in the Spring and in the Autumn are Clonmel/Powerstown, Boherlahan, Ballylooby and Holyford.

All involved family members (ie. farmer, spouse, successor) are encouraged to come to the group sessions as the programme is very much about the farm family and how it can continue farming positively into the future.

Teagasc provides this service free and the Co-ordinator for the Opportunities Programme in South Tipperary is *Terry Cunningham (052-21300)*. Teagasc set up a steering committee representing relevant agencies and organisations to enhance the participation process.



Terry Cunningham: TEAGASC

### The members of the Committee are:

Donal Mullane (Chair),	Michael Carew,	John Cassidy,
Tommy Cooke,	Terry Cunningham,	John Devane,
Dan Fox,	Billy Gleeson,	Toss Hayes,
Mary Hennessy,	Eileen Horgan,	Marie Hurley,
Sean Kelly,	Richard Moloney,	Pat Keogh,
Peggy O'Brien,	John O'Dwyer,	John Quinn
Nicholas Ryan.		

## Broadband Infrastructure



Cllr Michael Maguire

**(Economic Action 1.4.6 – Co-operate in the provision of broadband ducting infrastructure in the main towns and between the main towns in the South East).**

There are a number of regional actions in the South Tipperary County Strategy, one of which concerns broadband infrastructure provision.

As part of the National Development Plan, the Government included an E-Commerce Measure with higher (90%) levels of grants for the local authorities to become involved in providing telecommunications infrastructure with harmonized specifications that will facilitate the deployment of advanced telecommunications services.

The South East Regional Authority (SERA), in association with its six constituent local authorities, prepared and submitted a successful bid (the SERPANT Project) for the roll out of broadband in Waterford City, Clonmel, Dungarvan, Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford at a cost of €14 million. A specific broadband infrastructure plan for Clonmel (as it was for the other five centres) was devised with officials from Clonmel Borough Council and South Tipperary County Council. The broadband network included in the plan is 15.3km long.

Tenders were sought from contractors by SERA to carry out the work prior to a November 2002 closing date. Before these tenders could be evaluated, budgetary constraints at national level dictated that all the funding would not be available in 2003 for the SERPANT Project. In negotiations with the Department, agreement has been reached that preliminary works could be carried out by the local authorities in each of the six centres in 2003 but that the main implementation of the project as envisaged originally would be held over to 2004. The preliminary works relate to constructing digital hubs in each of the towns and to any street or road works (linked to where the ducting will be laid) that the local authorities had planned to do in any event during 2003.

The delivery of the SERA-led SERPANT project remains a key regional performance indicator for the next two years. The project will help present the region more favourably in terms of attracting investment from outside the region and will help in the achievement of some of the regional objectives set in the National Spatial Strategy. In that context, Clonmel is the key location to drive development in South Tipperary and contribute to the overall county and regional well being.

## County Social Programme Update

### Notification of amendments/additions to the County Social Strategy (Lead Stakeholders)

- Amendment to Action 2.2.1 – Develop school completion plans and implement the school completion plans in Clonmel and Tipperary Town (Clonmel Technical Institute and St. Ailbe's School).

### Members of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (also Programme Management Group)

Chair: Seamus Moore

Executive: Pat Holland

#### Local Authority Sector:

Carrick-on-Suir Town Council: Cllr Jim Drohan  
Clonmel Borough Council: Cllr Martin O'Brien  
South Tipperary County Council: Cllr Denis Landy, Sinead Carr, Tess Collins  
Tipperary Town Council: Cllr Denis Leahy

#### Local Development Sector:

CDP Support Network: Clare Hartley, Kirstin Simring  
Clonmel Community Partnership: Suzanne McLoughlin  
Tipperary LEADER Group: John Devane  
Tipperary Regional Youth Service: Paula Mulrooney  
Waterford LEADER Partnership: Jimmy Taffe  
Waterford Regional Youth Service: Eoin O'Neill

#### Social Partner Sector:

Business Pillar: John Condon  
Community Pillar (South Tipperary Forum): Brigid O'Keefe, Sean McSweeney, Betty Coughlan  
Cuan Saor: Geraldine Mullane  
Traveller Action Groups: Ellen O'Reilly, Margaret Griffin, Catherine Leamy  
Women's Network: Ruth Smith

#### State Agency Nominees:

Department of Social and Family Affairs: Mick Cummins  
Garda Síochána: Supt Mary Fitzgerald  
FÁS: Oliver Clancy, Joe Whelan  
South Eastern Health Board: Seamus Moore, Andrew McMahon  
TEAGASC: Donal Mullane  
Tipperary Institute: Caroline Bargary  
Tipperary SR Vocational Education Committee: Fionnuala McGeever



Chair: Seamus Moore

### New Social Strategies and Plans in 2002

Carrick-on-Suir RAPID Interim Plan (Rapid Area Implementation Team)

Clonmel RAPID Interim Plan (Rapid Area Implementation Team)

County Childcare Strategy, (County Childcare Committee)

Homeless Action Plan for South Tipperary (South Tipperary County Council)  
www.southtippcoco.ie

The Health of the South East – Re-learning the Lessons (Public Health Department,  
South Eastern Health Boards www.sehb.ie)

Tipperary Town RAPID Interim Plan (Rapid Area Implementation Team)

### CDB Social Inclusion Watch

The Board carried out a Social Inclusion Review of the county at its September 2002 meeting (full report on www.southtippcdb.ie). The following baseline data in relation to key groups was presented by Seamus Moore, Chair, Social Programme Management Group and the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group.

Groupings	Numbers	Significant features
<b>Unemployed</b>	3839	Increasing at 200 per month
<b>Lone Parents</b>	1165	Only two towns in county with full-day childcare
<b>Travellers</b>	101 (families)	Average life expectancy 20 years below national average
<b>Asylum Seekers and Refugees</b>	83	Numbers in south east relatively low
<b>Elderly at Risk</b>	1504	2% higher than national average
<b>Disabled</b>	1421	Meaningful partnerships with voluntary sector
<b>Children at Risk</b>	146	111 in foster care
<b>Other Welfare Allowances</b>	2667	916 qualified under assessment of housing need
<b>Smallholders</b>	949	Likely to increase
<b>Rural Transport</b>	9500	Unmet needs in terms of transport provision

The main priorities emerging from the Social Inclusion Review include the need to focus on life-long learning (benefiting from education and upskilling); on wealth creation and distribution; on measuring the performance of social inclusion programmes; and on agency interlinking, especially in addressing concentrated target groups. A major obstacle to social inclusion was perceived to be the lack of flexibility in public funding allocations.

The County Development Board also recommended that the Social Programme Management Group would review the Board's current operating principles. Potential principles emerging from the Board review included: reviewing the progress of programmes and communicating outcomes; agency interlinkage; and service integration (operationalising this principle is to be tested in the RAPID pilots).

## RAPID Programme

**Social Programme Action 2.2.8** – Support Area Implementation Teams in developing their RAPID Programmes in Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel and Tipperary Town.

In early 2002, three South Tipperary towns were allocated a RAPID (Revitalising Areas through Planning, Investment and Development) Programme. Carrick-on-Suir and Tipperary were allocated a 'whole-town' programme, while four housing estates in the Clonmel area were designated RAPID status. Local Area Implementation Teams have been established. The members of these teams are:

**Carrick-on-Suir:** Maura Barrett, Edmond Connolly, Cllr Jim Drohan, Tom Drohan, Eileen Horgan, Pat Kelly, Dave Kenneally, Tom Landers, Fionnuala McGeever, Jim Power, Sgt Stephen O'Sullivan, Ger Walsh, Maire Walsh and Denis Shanahan (Co-ordinator).

**Clonmel:** Alan Curtis, Billy Doyle, Bob Keating, Pat Kelly, Denis Leamy, Cllr. Niall Dennehy, Ruairi O'Caislean, Sgt. Donal Ryan, Ann Ryan, Frank O'Riordan, Eileen Anderson, Ann Roles, Paula Sheehan, Geraldine O'Dwyer, Kathleen Prendergast (Co-ordinator).

**Tipperary Town:** Isabel Cambie, David Coleman, Sgt Michael Collins, Edmond Connolly, Veronica Crowe, Jim Gibson, Catherine Gleeson, Pat Holland, Pat Kelly, Jean Nelson, Liam O'Brien, Peadar O'Donnell, George O'Neill, Cllr Patsy Tynan, Mark Ryan (Co-ordinator).

The Local Area Implementation Teams in each area have submitted interim plans and are currently working on five core themes for strong attention during the RAPID process:

- Physical and environmental improvements in the target areas;
- Crime prevention, safety, and security measures;
- Youth & childcare measures;
- Education, training and equality interventions;
- Community development.

Each of the three RAPID areas used different strategies to support community participation depending on the degree of community capacity already in existence and access to local supports and resources. In Carrick-on-Suir a community steering-group was formed to promote community participation, in Clonmel residents from local housing estates were supported to select their AIT Community Reps, and in Tipperary local residents were invited to input into Thematic Workshops on key concerns.

By the end of 2002, each of the three AITs had initiated a considered and open process of community participation to select the Community Reps that would sit on the AIT for the duration of RAPID in their town. These Community Reps will be supported to play a key role in working with State Agencies, Local Development Groups and the Local Authorities through their local RAPID process.

### The selected Community Reps are:

**Carrick-on-Suir:** Tom Drohan, Jim Power, Marie Walsh.

Carrick-on-Suir Community Rep, Marie Walsh feels that RAPID...

“is a good opportunity for networking locally and will be of benefit to disadvantaged people.”

**Clonmel:** Eileen Anderson, Geraldine O'Dwyer, Ann Roles, Paula Sheehan (Temp.). Geraldine O'Dwyer, Bianconi Drive, Clonmel Communiy Rep said...

“I became involved because I am concerned about my estate and I want to explore if change can be brought about so people could have a better quality of life. I believe strong community involvement will ensure the success of RAPID.”

**Tipperary:** Catherine Gleeson, Jean Nelson, Peadar O'Donnell, George O'Neill.

The capacity for development offered by RAPID is welcomed by Jean Nelson, one of the Tipperary Community Reps, who said...

“this is a great opportunity if everybody works together for the benefit of the town especially regarding community development, employment and a better quality of life for young and old living in the town.”



Eileen Anderson: Clonmel RAPID



Chair: Cllr Barry O'Brien

## County Cultural Programme Update

### Notification of amendments/additions to the County Cultural Strategy (Lead Stakeholders)

- Amendment to Action 3.4.1 – Support the development and implementation of outreach services such as those provided by Brú Ború, County Museum, Excel, Gallowglass Theatre Company, Joint Tipperary Library Committee, Regional Crafts Centre and South Tipperary Arts Centre (Cultural Programme Management Group)

### Members of the Cultural Programme Management Group

Chair: Cllr Barry O'Brien  
Executive: Pat Holland

#### Local Authority Sector:

Tipperary Joint Libraries Committee: Martin Maher  
South Tipperary County Council: Cllr Barry O'Brien, John O'Mahoney, Brendan McSherry, Sarah Gillespie

#### Local Development Sector:

CDP Support Network: Carmel McKenna  
Clonmel Community Partnership: Ronnie Fitzgerald  
Tipperary LEADER Group: Isabel Cambie

#### Social Partner Sector:

Arts Sector: Brendan Maher, Mary Alice O'Connor, Mary Sarsfield, Úna Ní Murchú, Ann Kennedy, Dermot O'Reilly, Margaret Griffin  
Business Pillar: Gerald O'Reilly  
Community Pillar (South Tipperary Forum): John Bradshaw  
Crafts Sector: Marie Casey  
Farming Pillar: Brendan Morrissey

#### State Agency Nominees:

Department of Social and Family Affairs: Liam Murphy  
FÁS: Liam O'Brien  
South Eastern Health Board: Ruairi O'Caislean  
Tipperary Institute: Triona Croke  
Tipperary SR Vocational Education Committee: Fionnuala McGeever

### New Cultural Strategies and Plans in 2002

South Tipperary Arts Strategy 2002-2005 (South Tipperary County Council)  
(www.southtippcoco.ie)

## County Heritage Plan

(Cultural Programme Action 3.2.4 – Support the County Heritage Officer in preparing and overseeing the implementation of a County Heritage Plan).

This action commenced in 2002 when South Tipperary County Council appointed a Heritage Officer, Brendan McSherry and agreed to establish a Heritage Forum. The Heritage Forum subsequently met and established three working groups on Natural Heritage, Built Heritage and a generic group on Local Community, Education and History.

As an important first step, the Heritage Forum has agreed to undertake a widespread consultation throughout the county early in 2003 on the identification of issues to be addressed in the Heritage Plan.

### Members of the Heritage Forum

#### Local Government Sector:

Cllr Brendan Griffin (Chair)

#### Local Development Sector:

Tipperary Leader: Isabel Cambie

#### Statutory Sector:

Dúchas, Archaeology: Barry O'Reilly  
Dúchas, National Parks and Wildlife Service: Tom Ryan  
South Tipperary VEC: Fionnuala McGeever  
South-East Regional Tourism Organisation: Mary O'Halloran  
TEAGASC: Adrian O'Callaghan  
Coillte: Pat Harrington

#### Social Partners:

Business Pillar: Mr Hubert Burke, Clonmel Chamber of Commerce  
Trades Unions' Pillar: Ms Josephine Chamney, Clonmel Chamber of Trades  
Farming Pillar: Mr Dan Fox, IFA

#### Community and Voluntary Pillar:

Community Development: Francis Carrigan  
Local Historical Societies: Noreen Higgins  
Wildlife Societies: Dan Hogan

## CDB Cultural Watch

The Board carried out a cultural review of the county at its November 2002 meeting following a presentation by Cllr Barry O'Brien, Chair, Cultural Programme Management Group. A detailed report is available on [www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie)

Objective in County Cultural Strategy Status	Status
Professional Support Officers	Crafts and Heritage Officer in place. Arts Officer currently dependent on 2003 estimates. Sports Officer unlikely in short term
Enhance Cultural Provision	Sustainability of existing facilities a major concern. Cultural providers group becoming an important network of the key players in the cultural sector
Inclusion of Minority Groups	Consultation with the Traveller Support Groups indicating that it is too early to commence formalised actions as the Social Programme actions are in a pre-development phase. Consultations with interests associated with non-national minority groups suggest that English language classes are a priority
Optimise the Tipperary name	There is consensus among the Cultural providers that the way to achieve this objective is that the quality of the cultural product – enhanced cultural provision in South Tipperary - will add to the good name of Tipperary

### Outputs of the discussion arising from the presentation included

- Re-clarifying who culture is for, with the main focus on enriching the South Tipperary population.
- Giving practical advice in relation to addressing inclusion issues. Emphasis will be placed on an action to include minorities around a County Cultural Week piggybacking on Fleadh 2003.
- Tipperary SR VEC reaffirming its commitment to press the Irish Sports Council for resources to support a Local Sports Partnership and the development of a County Sports and Recreation Plan.
- The CDB Chair engaging with Minister Parlon (responsible for heritage) to provide guidance on how a balance can be achieved between making heritage accessible without creating sizeable sterile zones for landowners.

## County Local Agenda 21 Programme Update

### Notification of amendments/additions to the County Local Agenda 21 Strategy (Lead Stakeholders)

- New Action 4.2.6– Establish think-tank on actions/policies to promote volunteering (Tipperary Institute).

### Members of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group

Chair: Cllr Brendan Griffin  
Executive Officer: Ann Ryan

#### Local Authority Sector:

Carrick-on-Suir Town Council: Cllr Jim Drohan  
Clonmel Borough Council: Billy Doyle  
South Tipperary County Council: Cllr Brendan Griffin, Cllr Matt McGrath, Cllr Susan Meagher, Laura Lenehan

#### Local Development Sector:

Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development Ltd: Darragh Murphy  
CDP Support Network: (to be nominated)  
Clonmel Community Partnership: Alan Curtis  
Tipperary LEADER Group: John Devane

#### Social Partner Sector:

Business Pillar: Walter Heneghan  
Citizens' Information Centres: Mary Plunkett  
Community Pillar (South Tipperary Platform): Sara Burke, Brendan Maher  
County Tourism Committee: Denis Fahy  
Cultural Providers Group: Brendan Maher  
Farming Pillar: Michael Hanly

#### State Agency Nominees:

Department of Social and Family Affairs: Mick Cummins  
Garda Síochána: Supt Mary Fitzgerald  
Tipperary Institute: Paul Keating

### New Local Agenda 21 Strategies and Plans in 2002

National Spatial Strategy (Department of the Environment and Local Government) [www.irishspatialstrategy.ie](http://www.irishspatialstrategy.ie)  
Draft County Development Plan (South Tipperary County Council) [www.southtippcoco.ie](http://www.southtippcoco.ie)  
South Tipperary Rural Transport Audit (South Tipperary County Development Board) [www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie)

South East Regional Passenger Strategy (South East Regional Authority) [www.sera.ie](http://www.sera.ie)

South Tipperary Arts Strategy 2002-2005 (South Tipperary County Council)  
Tipping the Balance (National Committee on Volunteering) [www.ncvireland.ie](http://www.ncvireland.ie)  
Commenced in 2002



Chair: Cllr Brendan Griffin

## Rural Transport

**(Local Agenda 21 Action 4.3.1 – Support the implementation of the Rural Transport Strategy to provide viable choices for the Rural Population (Carlow Kilkenny and South Tipperary Rural Transport Company/ South Tipperary Rural Transport Network).**

2001/2002 saw major changes in the provision of rural transport in South Tipperary with the completion of the Rural Transport Audit and the development of the Ring a Link Service. The Rural Transport Audit is now published and is available from Breda O'Connor – South Tipperary County Council. Tel: (052) 34597 or visit [www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie)



Left to right – Cllr Jack Crowe; Mr Michael Nolan; Cllr Mattie McGrath, Chairperson of South Tipperary Rural Transport Working Group; Minister Michael Smith, who officially launched Ring a Link in Cappawhite on 20th July and Mr Tom Hayes, T.D. pictured with a Ring a Link bus.

### Ring a Link in South Tipperary

Carlow, Kilkenny and Tipperary Rural Transport Limited was formed in August 2001 to address the transport needs of the rural populations of the three counties. The company aimed to develop flexible transport services in Carlow, Kilkenny and South Tipperary that integrate with the existing transport provision. The new transport company has been funded by the Rural Transport Initiative (RTI) of the National Development Plan, the FÁS Social Economy Programme, BNS Rural Development Ltd, the Department of Social and Family Affairs and South Tipperary County Council.

Four members of the Board are nominated by the South Tipperary Rural Transport Group who come together on a voluntary basis approximately every six weeks. The members of the South Tipperary Rural Transport Group are: Cllr. Mattie McGrath (Chair), Fr Gerard O' Connor (Vice Chair), Fr Patrick Condon (Secretary), Joe Brennan, Michael Carew, Eddie Daly, John Devane, Cllr Denis Dunne, Michael Hanly, Anne Ryan, Cllr Susan Meagher, Declan Rice, Cllr Tom Wood, Mary Merrick (Manager).

The Ring a Link services are co-ordinated through a Call Centre run by the company in Kilkenny. Following local advertising, bus operators were chosen based on the most competitive tender. Ring a Link does not own vehicles, but contracts from private operators in the local areas. The vehicles used on the services at present are 14 seater minibuses. Ring a Link drivers have undertaken driver training and assessment.

Bookings are taken in office hours for project services, and information on other transport providers' services is available through the Call Centre. Intending passengers must book in advance to be picked up. The booking office can be reached by a lo-call number – 1890 42 41 41. Bookings can be taken in office hours – Monday – Saturday. Call Centre operators at the office will take the call and arrange for customers to be picked up outside their house. Users must register as travel club members. This is done on their first call to the centre and takes just a few minutes. Membership is free.

Ring a Link services in Tipperary began in June this year around the Tipperary Town area and numbers using the bus have been increasing at a very significant rate since then. Minister Michael Smith officially launched the service in Cappawhite on Saturday 20th July. The Clonmel route was launched in late October last year and started in service on 1st November. The areas around Slieveardagh benefitted from the newest Ring a Link service when the bus started running there on Fridays and Saturdays from 5th December.

### Timetable of current services in the Tipperary area:

Service	Areas covered - summary	Hours of service	Days of service	Wheelchair accessible?	Adult fare
Tipperary Town	Tipperary, Dundrum, Donohill, Donaskeigh, Hollyford, Cappawhite, Toem, Knockavilla, Limerick Junction	09.00 - 18.00	Friday	no	3 return 2 single
Tipperary Town	Tipperary, Dundrum, Donohill, Donaskeigh, Hollyford, Cappawhite, Toem, Knockavilla, Monard, Limerick Junction, Sologhead, Lattin, Cullen, Emly, Lisvernane, Aherlow, Bansha, Kilfeacle	09.00 - 18.00	Tuesday	no	3 return 2 single
Clonmel	Clonmel, Ardfinnan, Kilmanahan, Clogheen, Ballyporeen, Ballylooby, Castlegrace, Ballymacarbry, Grange, Burncourt	09.00 - 18.00	Friday Saturday	yes	4 return 2 single
Slieveardagh	Ballingarry, Killenaule, Drangan, Mullinahone, Cloneen, Fethard	08.00 - 19.00	Friday Saturday	yes	3 return 2 single

Further information is available from the website [www.ringalink.ie](http://www.ringalink.ie)

## CDB Community Watch



Chair: Patsy Fitzgerald



Secretary: Bernard Lennon

Marion O'Dwyer and Bridget O'Keefe presented reports on behalf of the South Tipperary Forum in relation to progress over the past twelve months and on the key issues arising from the community consultative processes in the preparation of the County Strategy. The key points which emerged for the CDB from a community review at its June 2002 Board meeting (full report on [www.southtippcdb.ie](http://www.southtippcdb.ie)) were:

- A cultural change is needed to ensure agencies actively consult with each other and agree an overall process before significant community engagement commences. This should be a performance indicator for the County Development Board.
- There can be gaps between the intent of policies and the programmes that are delivered. A key question is how the County Development Board can assist in bringing inconsistencies to the attention of the relevant Minister, Department or Agency.
- There was consensus that there is a need for a strong community group in each community and that the Forum be resourced directly or indirectly to achieve that target. The community sector needs to be structured so as to make best use of public sector engagement. How can the County Development Board support the Forum to carry out this task and to benefit from other community development personnel employed in local development companies and public bodies? A framework is needed to guide the Forum.
- The South Tipperary County Development Board agreed to establish a Community Framework Working Group to review the input and output of the review of the Community Sector with a specific emphasis on how the partners in the CDB will support South Tipperary Forum to ensure a good community structure in each community in South Tipperary.

### Executive of the South Tipperary Forum:

South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Group Platform changed its name at its 2002 AGM to the South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Group Forum.

Chair: Patsy Fitzgerald  
 Secretary: Bernard Lennon  
 Treasurer: Marian O'Dwyer  
 Vice Chair: Fr Pat Condon  
 Community Development Co-ordinator: Philip Ryan  
 Committee: Sara Bourke, John Bradshaw, Joe Brennan, Jim Casey, Willie J Dwyer, Breda Hennessy, Carmel McKenna, Jean Nelson, Kathleen Noonan, Bridget O'Keefe, Andy Ryan

## South Tipperary County Development Board Members

Chair: Cllr Michael Fitzgerald

### Local Government Sector:

South Tipperary County Council: Cllr Michael Anglim, Cllr Jack Crowe, Cllr Brendan Griffin, Cllr Mattie McGrath, Edmond O'Connor, Cllr Phil Prendergast Urban Council Nominee: Cllr Patsy Murphy

### Local Development Sector

Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development Ltd: Tommy Cooke  
 Clonmel Community Partnership: Alan Curtis  
 Tipperary LEADER Group Ltd: John Devane  
 Tipperary (South Riding) County Enterprise Board: Toss Hayes, Maureen McNamara  
 Waterford LEADER Partnership: Pierce O'Loughlin

### State Agency Sector:

Department of Social and Family Affairs: Mick Cummins  
 Enterprise Ireland: Michael Dee  
 FÁS: Oliver Clancy  
 Garda Síochána: Supt Mary Fitzgerald  
 IDA Ireland: Brian Conroy  
 South Eastern Health Board: Seamus Moore  
 South East Regional Tourism Association: Mary O'Halloran  
 TEAGASC: Donal Mullane  
 Tipperary Institute: Ciaran Lynch  
 Tipperary (South Riding) Vocational Education Committee: Fionnuala McGeever

### Social Partners Sector:

Business Pillar: Ricky Fitzgerald  
 Farming Pillar: Michael Hanly  
 South Tipperary Forum: Marian O'Dwyer, Bridget O'Keefe  
 Trade Union Pillar: Pat Neill

