

STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS (November 2001 – January 2002)

on the

DRAFT SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY STRATEGY

for

ECONOMIC SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Except for the local government sector, the comments are largely ordered by stakeholder. For convenience, where a stakeholder organised further consultation (example the South Eastern Health Board brought the Section 65 community groups together), that consultation is reported under the lead stakeholder.

Please note that many board member stakeholders largely adopted the draft strategy as their considerable input went into earlier drafts. The bulk of the comments are from wider consultative meetings and from public/NGO stakeholders not represented on the County Development Board.

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1. Local Government Sector

The strategy was reviewed during the consultation period at meetings of South Tipperary Co Council, Clonmel Borough Council, Carrick on Suir Town Council, Tipperary Town Council, Cashel Town Council, Clonmel Electoral Area Committee, Fethard Electoral Area Committee, Tipperary Electoral Area Committee, Hosing and Social Development SPC, Economic Planning and Development SPC, and the Cultural and Corporate Affairs SPC.

There was a broad welcome for the County Strategy from the Local Government Sector and a high degree of support with resources/support in principle for many of the proposed actions. Nominations have also been made to the Programme Management Groups.

Additional issues raised included:

Overall Presentation

Difficult to read but well worth the effort.

Economic Development Programme

Action 1.5.2 – Broadband ducting infrastructure in the County –Two key partners in this are the local authority and the NRA. Recommend that the Physical Planning and Environment Committee work with the National Roads Authority to ensure that ducting which can carry broadband ducting is included in all major schemes, especially road improvements following bypasses in the main towns of the county.

Action 1.6.4 – Supporting the County Tourism strategy – the Co Tourism strategy needs to be reviewed in the light of 600,000 air line seat losses to the Country since September 11. Given the success in the introduction of the EURO a strategy which encourages inter-European travel might be appropriate.

Action 1.3.1 – focusing on growing businesses that have 20+ employees. The Economic Planning and Development SPC questions whether this is an appropriate strategy. What is needed is to grow more smaller businesses. A number of entrepreneurs are likely to emerge from those people on farms who need to source off farm income. Some of these may start their own businesses and are much likely to employ 1-5 people. Employing 5 people involves a wage bill of more than £1,000 per week. What is needed in place or alongside Action 1.3.1 is an action that focuses on providing the soft infrastructure to enable new businesses to flourish. This would include available enterprise space; available specialist services such as administration, computer, marketing, and accounting via perhaps FÁS Social Economy Schemes; available mentors re setting up production lines, product development, etc; available training on starting your own business and annual follow up's to give entrepreneurs an assessment of how far they have got. Many of these services are in place but need

to be fully co-ordinated by ideally the County Enterprise Board. Tipperary Institute also has a role to play. The main thrust of the action is a focus on local initiative and to ensure with pro-active and co-ordinated endeavour that the potential of local endeavour is optimised.

The focus on much of the County Strategy is on making it easier for those suffering frustration or disadvantage and ensuring that there are no further handicaps to their situation when trying to resolve it with the help of public bodies. A specific action is needed to resolve the frustrations of entrepreneurs both large scale and small scale. Where there are significant large scale investments required (for example a major hotel) is there any easier alternative to the present system? This issue needs to be fully explored in the context of preparing the next County development Plan.

The County Economic Strategy needs to look more closely at retaining the enterprise/skills base giving a slow down in the economy. The construction industry may come under pressure to shed jobs. The agricultural engineering and construction sectors are also likely to decline further. Yet these sectors have significant jobs in South Tipperary. What strategy can be put in place to re-orientate these sectors so that they develop new markets and new products?

Is there an opportunity to get more local investment into the Public Private Partnerships that are going to impact on the county? What obstacles exist to encouraging farmers who will be compensated for roads going through their lands to re-invest in PPPs?

The changes in agriculture and the effect of proposed new measures to be implemented by the Dept of Agriculture need to be examined.

The need for extra funding to the Co Enterprise Board to support small businesses.

To initiate the holding of Seminars/Conferences to promote tourism in South Tipperary.

The implementation of the economic strategy is dependent on a climate of confidence. We need to be careful about talking ourselves into a recession. Much of what is proposed in the County Economic Strategy aims to sustain that confidence.

Social Development Programme

An additional target group that needs to be looked at is single men over the age of 55 who have difficulty in accessing accommodation in the private rented sector.

Given the strong relationship that already exists between the disabled sector and Cashel, Cashel UDC will participate fully in meeting the requirements of action 2.2.2. The implementation of the action will have positive effects for all the people.

The focus on addressing key sectors holistically at sub-county level is welcomed.

Cultural Development Programme

Partners on the County Development Board (including the Local Authorities) need to create a respectful ethos with regard to minorities. If we consider that St Patrick's Day celebrates our Irishness, dedicated events that create an awareness of other cultures could be an appropriate action. The policy requirement is that differences are celebrated and facilitated. The ethos of celebrating our differences needs to begin in relation to the Traveller Community. The Traveller Accommodation Act recognises the cultural identity of the Traveller Community. Given a policy of seeing cultural difference as a positive factor, structures need to be put in place to accommodate the differences where possible. A generation ago, the Traveller Community (for instance) was welcome everywhere. But that sense of welcome has changed and there is a major challenge in re-developing the ethos that welcomes minorities, celebrates the differences and facilitates the difference.

The culture of young people needs to be facilitated and facilities put in place for activities that interest them such as roller-blading, etc.

The County Heritage Officer should examine the feasibility of getting more live reconstructions of our heritage – such as famous court cases presented by dramatic groups.

Local Agenda 21 Programme

Within the Local Agenda 21 aspects, consideration needs to be given to the levels of service provision required by smaller settlements in the Clonmel rural environs such as Killusty and Killurney.

The term Sub County Level in the Local Agenda 21 Wheel is confusing. Where do the Urban District Councils fit in to the Wheel? There needs to be an acknowledgement of political structures perhaps via a political spoke to the Local Agenda 21 wheel -

Local areas need to have more community based public officials such as gardai. This needs to be reflected in the Local Agenda 21 Wheel.

Submission of National Disability Authority to County Development Board should be included and adopted in the County Strategy. People with disabilities should be included in decision making process - sitting on committees etc.

With regard to the Local Agenda 21 programme, the Local Agenda 21 wheel identifies the complexity of what the County strategy needs to deliver and the complexity of the environment in which citizens of the county are living and in which public services are delivered. There needs to be an education policy within the Local Agenda 21 programme – ideally at primary and second level education level, 30 minutes a week should be set aside to deal with local civics – the implications of the Local Agenda 21 wheel for the community serviced by the school and how public services are being delivered to the community.

Private enterprise has a major part to play in addressing transport issues such as inter-urban mobility.

The rural transport scheme is a wonderful initiative.

Implementation of the Strategy

The need for the support of National Agencies and Government Departments in the implementation of the strategy;

2. Local Development Sector

Meetings were held with representatives of all five local development companies represented on the County Development Board. A joint meeting of local development companies was also held in January 2002 to review the proposed action 2.5.2. The main comments arising from the latter meeting included:

- Local Development Companies - Stronger Liaison with Local Authorities... Contract out services
- Cooperation through CDB should not decrease inter agency contact... eg CEB and Leader cooperation should continue; Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development and Waterford Leader Partnership propose to share offices in Carrick on Suir.
- Role of LEADER companies in promoting, developing and supporting community development needs to be incorporated into the strategy.
- Local Development companies have much to learn from each other and further meetings of the Local Development Pillar would be useful
- Need for element of choice for clients in Local Development Services...need for some overlap to minimise the numbers being excluded

The local development companies have specified in the responses to the matrix where they can apply resources. Funding for other actions must fit within the guidelines of the programmes, each local development company is administering.

Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development

BNS will allocate a person to each of the Economic (Tommy Cooke) and Local Agenda 21 (Darragh Murphy) Programme Management Groups. They are supportive in principle of the other two management groups, but staffing resources are not sufficient at this stage.

Clonmel Community Partnership

Will commit a person to each of the four management groups. Would be interested in a meeting to see what the new Leader programmes are going to be involved with. The CCP has a limited area mandate, but recognises that it could look at other models and others may be interested in the CCP approach to projects.

Tipperary Leader Group

TLG will allocate a person to each of the Economic, Cultural and Agenda 21 Programme Management Groups.

Tipperary (South Riding) County Enterprise Board

Will be primarily involved in the Economic Programme but will support some of the relevant initiatives in the cultural and Local Agenda 21 programmes.

Waterford Leader Partnership

Unable to commit personnel to working groups.

3. State Agencies

The stakeholders draft was widely circulated to public bodies, including government departments. Again there was a broad welcome for the strategy. The state agencies represented on the County Development and a number of others represented regionally completed the matrix to indicate levels of commitment to actions.

The matrices report lists the specific commitments of public bodies to the implementation of the County Strategy. As in the case of local development companies, the public bodies have specified in the responses to the matrix where they can apply resources. Funding for other actions must fit within the guidelines of the programmes, each public body is administering.

Board members

Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs

The Department representatives have participated fully in the process to date. The Department is committed to the implementation of the South Tipperary County Strategy. As part of the stakeholder review, the Department facilitated a consultative meeting on the draft strategy with representatives of its community development projects and family resource centres.

Consultation with Community Development Programmes (CDP) resourced by the Department of social Community and Family Affairs – Responses to the stakeholder draft

- ❑ 7 CDPs in South Tipperary – Support for Tipperary Network of CDP
- ❑ Support of Women’s Strategy to be named in the strategy as an action
- ❑ Pg 8 – Anti poverty indicators – new indicators should be used
- ❑ Traveller(s) consultation meeting held in Cashel last year – where does that fit in
- ❑ Other areas need to be targeted re development of Traveller action groups not just Clonmel.
- ❑ 2.2.3 – which Traveller mens group – the Knockanrawley group are at pre development phase – not ready for this yet
- ❑ Waiting too long for approval of grant funding from agencies – passed from Billy to Jack – Customer charter required
- ❑ Does Community Development Concept need to be written into the strategy or made clearer in the Strategy?
- ❑ Clarity around action item 2.4.1 – worrying concept – database that will act as early warning system!
- ❑ CDP trying to respond to current issues – waiting so long to get resources to alleviate problem – everybody gets tired
- ❑ Expansion of CDP to cover other areas in the county
- ❑ Decisions about changes made at national level – CDP or Dept not considered at local or regional level – disheartening e.g. FAS – Family Resource Centres going from under Dept wing to new body
- ❑ Pg 21 – ‘High dependence on the development of the voluntary sector’ - Voluntary fundraising – is this an aspiration – what is in place – levies on builders – how will it work
- ❑ Pg 21 ‘ additional representation on the County Development Board’ – why are the named groups not involved to date – when will they be involved.
- ❑ Re Representation – Social inclusion representatives will be on working programmes – all programmes effect every area - CDP to decide on nominations and to forward.

Enterprise Ireland:

The contribution of time and finance will always be dependant on the availability of personnel or finance at that particular time, but Enterprise Ireland has a particular interest in being involved on the Economic Programme Management Group and with action 1.3.1 (growing key indigenous entrepreneurs).

FÁS

Supportive of all programmes with resource commitments to upskilling, retraining, early school leaving, physically disabled, Traveller and other social inclusion measures.

Gardai Siochana

Supportive of the thrust of the County Strategy and will be represented on the Social Programme Management Group and some of the key actions – early school leaving, Play facilities, county childcare committee, the elderly pilot project in Tipperary town, disaffected youth in Cashel, etc. Will also participate in the proposed road safety action as there is a new structure of a designated Sergeant responsible for road safety in the Tipperary, Cahir, Clonmel and Thurles districts.

In relation to social exclusion, the Gardai have additional nationally and regionally based personnel resources to advise on security and crime prevention aspects, especially when housing estates are being planned.

IDA Ireland

IDA will be as supportive as possible within their remit within the South East. The IDA is not in a position to allocate funds on a county-by-county basis but will participate in the Economic Programme Working Group so that it can effectively link in with the proposed actions.

South Eastern Health Board

Follow on to the Formal submission

The South Eastern Health Board had made a formal submission early in 2001 to the County Development Boards in the South East. Two strands (and priority areas) were identified where there is an acknowledged benefit to intersectoral working:

Promotion of Health and Well Being

Supporting all children, their families and their communities
Exercise and leisure
Injury prevention
Other environmental issues

Social Inclusion / Health inequalities

Children, young people and their families and communities who have to deal with multiple disadvantage
Alcohol/drugs and young people
People with disabilities
Traveller(s)
Asylum seekers
Older people
People with mental health problems
Homelessness
Transport facilities

Arising from the submission and also as a response to the priority target groups identified by the South Tipperary County Development Board in September 2000, the South Eastern Health Board has targeted additional resources to the co-ordination of two actions – targeting the physically disabled sector in the Cashel catchment and the elderly sector in Tipperary Town.

Community Care Team

It is important for all stakeholders to have easy access to reports on the actions. The website is perhaps the best way to facilitate communication between the County Development Board and interested parties on the implementation of the county strategy.

Section 65 Groups

The South Eastern Health Board also facilitated a workshop on the theme of ‘how public services can be improved’ with their Section 65 groups.

The following is a summary of points made in the three discussion groups

Group 1

- Community Welfare Office / Retirement Home – e.g Carrick on Suir
- More Garda activity required – more Gardai on the beat in the St Oliver Complex – a lot of people left the complex because of vandalism
- More Lighting for public areas
- Better service at treatment centers in South Tipperary
- Blood transfusion service should target rural areas

- Rural areas such as Fethard /Ballingarry should have gardai resident in station rather than green man
- A need for respite workers for night time
- A need for housing accommodation for the elderly
- Rural Transport very poor
- Childcare must be included - lack of support facilities – nothing in New Inn, Cahir, Bansha – Clogheen closed down – Parent and Toddler only receive section 65
- No one in particular to contact in relation to childcare – no communications between various agencies – lack of understanding from the services
- Drop in Creche facilities - more badly needed
- More support groups for parent / child especially in rural areas
- Transport to be linked between various groups such as day care centers and parent /toddler groups
- Race track to be provided for Travelling Community as it is dangerous to trot on roads
- Affordable / subsidized childcare facilities required – suitable premises difficult to find
- Transport in General is poor
- Cosmetic gestures such as bicycle lanes one mile long are of no use
- Year of the volunteer – not enough recognition
- General lack of recreation facilities – for young and old alike
- An Arts officer for South Tipperary is required
- Better guidelines for judges /juries re claims

Group 2

- Review care doc service (rural)
- Chiropody service - no rural service
- Speech therapy – no rural service
- Social worker – none in Carrick on Suir and environs
- Dental service for all children of all school going age (while still dependant on parent) should be available free
- Medical cards for all school children
- Garda presence on the street – more community based gardai
- Improved services for the elderly
- More day care centers
- Increased access to day care centers for elderly - some elderly not availing of services
- More seating in public places especially where people have to queue especially post offices where elderly queue for their pensions
- Elderly should be consulted about design of houses for the elderly
- Grant for housing improvements for the elderly takes to long
- More information on what is available need to get to target groups – information dissemination is a problem

- Agencies – need to make proper assessments of budget requirements – based on census – rather than the budget being gone early in the year – e.g. housing improvement grants for the elderly
- The Health Board & Local Authority grant schemes should be integrated to speed up the process
- Rural transport – should be based on the needs of people
- Sport – more information to access funds for smaller groups – the well developed larger groups get the majority of the funding – the spread of the funding among sports and groups needs to be looked at. The spread of funding in relation to activities for girls needs to be looked at.
- Drugs – Carrick on Suir needs a full time counselor and funding for a drop in center and help line
- Hospital – more client friendly appointments based services with access to transport is required
- Lack of childcare places – need more affordable childcare places

Group 3

- Childcare – Naionra Chaisleanin Nua have applied to ADM (E.O.C.P.) – unavailability of allocated architect for appraisal to forward application for capital funding
- Meals on Wheels – important to meet other similar groups to compare notes
- Ardfinnan Community Council – presently reflooring center with money from sport capital grant – also members of the Platform
- Irish Wheelchair Association – Physical access to buildings- accessible transport – purpose built resource centers and respite center – accessible social housing – personal assistants
- Tipperary Special Olympics Swimming – sports club – access to more transport for out athletes
- Canon Hayes Recreation Centre – Regional & Local Athletes groups should decide which centers get funding – sports capital – equality etc - Health board are great support
- Marion Court – need funding to improve the main building to accommodate residents – Health Board have been very supportive
- Meals on Wheels – cater for 60 – 65 people 5 days a week – laundry services
- County Development Board offers an opportunity to ensure agencies strategies are relevant at local regional levels
- Easier Access to Bureaucracy
- Need to network within Community – Community partnerships should be established
- Assistance required with submissions
- Local ownership of funding decision – Final decision made in Dublin e.g. sports grant
- Interagency co-operation – local /regional level
- Alternative means of resourcing voluntary groups is required

South East Tourism

South East Tourism will lead action 1.6.4 (now 1.5.4) on tourism in association with the County Tourism Committee. South East Tourism will also participate in three programme management groups – economic, cultural and local agenda 21.

Action 1.2.2, could look at training and upskilling people in rural areas for seasonal work in the tourism industry.

In the Wheel on page 15, include Tourist Information Point, Seasonal Tourist Office, Year Round Office and Regional Tourism Authority Headquarters at Local Area, Sub County, County and Regional Levels respectively - in the Other Public Services section.

Teagasc

Will lead the action 1.2.2 relating to finding viable off-farm income generating options for farmers.

Will also lead if required the ‘equine action’ - 1.6.3 (now 1.5.3)

Tipperary Institute

Committed to full engagement and will submit details prior to the CDB meeting.

Tipperary (South Riding) Vocational Education Committee

The VEC is committed to a range of actions that are currently being implemented in Clonmel, Carrick on Suir and Cashel as well as being the lead stakeholder on the local sports partnership.

Education and training cut across all four programmes. The County Strategy offers the education sector an opportunity to deal with complex problems. One current issue is the lack of educational psychologists leading to assessment waiting periods of six months or more. The VEC is considering a recommendation that guidance counselors and other suitably trained personnel be upskilled if necessary to carry out some of the work education psychologists do –the easier cases and the more routine case work. But the ‘upskilling of the South Tipperary workforce’ action presents a longer term opportunity. Are there residents of South Tipperary in teaching professions or people with specific skills that could be encouraged to gain masters of educational psychology degrees via part time courses. If this can be done, a strategy to fill the professional jobs being vacated is needed. And so on. Will there be a clear template of progression for a variety of jobs, so that those who opt to progress can do so and create vacancies for new blood?

Non Board member public bodies

CERT

CERT will put resources into relevant actions, particularly in the Economic Programme. Later in 2002 part of Bord Fáilte and CERT will merge to form the National Tourism Development Agency. This agency will be responsible for managing product development resources in the National Development Plan, resources which are increasingly targeted at micro-enterprises and away from mass tourism products.

Map of South Tipperary needed in the strategy document for stakeholders not from the county.

The actions are difficult to understand unless one is involved directly in them. Most people are interested in the destination rather than the journey. The current task format highlights the journey rather than the destination. If the actions were rewritten as outputs or results, they would also help focus the stakeholders involved on performance and outcomes.

An action is needed around micro-enterprises and building a culture of enterprise in the county. In tourism, there are opportunities for more businesses such as guesthouses, theme bars, cultural events and restaurants. Part of the action needs to focus on building up clusters of micro-enterprises so that synergy is created. CERT is willing to commit to providing training programmes – ideally in Cahir and also in Carrick on Suir. CERT wishes to work with local partners in this regard.

The county tourism action needs to be refocused on achieving congruence between national, regional and county strategies. CERT (and in future the NTMA) sees itself as being represented in these actions by South East Tourism. South Tipperary with its heritage assets and clean environment has much to offer. CERT could play a role with regard to training in cultural competences such as guiding, interpreting heritage, etc.

Re social inclusion – many actions facilitate personal development and in that sense the socially excluded make progress. But is there progression? Is it training for the sake of training? If there is progression or a structured pathway, it is possible to increase motivation. CERT wishes to offer a progression option to any of the social inclusion actions – to technical training for the catering industry and to employment.

Local Agenda 21 wheel – suggest a re-ordering of the wheel to link professional and other public services as one – support services. There also needs to be a spoke for training and employment.

Coillte

Coillte is looking at the provision of recreation and amenities in forests, and the possibly a person to participate in the Local Agenda 21 Management Group. There has been a change in the management structure of Coillte and so there will have to be discussion with the new people involved in the area.

Comhar – The National Sustainable Partnership

Comhar is not in a position to comment on individual county strategies.

Please note that new Local Agenda 21 guidelines have been launched by the Minister of the Environment and Local Government in October 2001.

Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development

The LEADER programme will contribute to the proposed Economic and Cultural Development Innovation Programme through relevant projects undertaken in the county.

As regards the proposed Social Development Innovation Programme, the policies and schemes of the Department, which are a mix of income supports, compensatory payments, measures to improve farm structures and their viability as well as support for alternative enterprises, should contribute to the reduction of poverty and social inclusion in rural areas. The CLÁR programme should also be beneficial, though it operates in a limited area of the county.

There is no reference to the services of the Department to the farming community in South Tipperary through its two local offices in Clonmel and Tipperary town. These might be included in the next version of Figure 14 that appears on page 15 of the document.

Our Customer Service Action Plan 2001 – 2004, recently launched, contains general service standards that anyone contacting the Department may expect and specific service delivery targets for Direct Payments to farmers. The Plan is available in all our public offices and on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie. A Committee representative of the Department and the farm organisations, under an independent chairman, monitors the Plan.

There is provision in the Plan for Regional Customer Panels of customers selected at random to discuss delivery service issues with the Department such as design of application forms. It is likely that one will be established in the South East in the medium term, probably including some farmers from South Tipperary.

There will be joint Department/Teagasc information meetings around the country commencing on 18 February. Two meetings will be held in South Tipperary – in the Cahir House Hotel on 28 February and the Clonmel Arms Hotel on 4 March. These meetings will give the Department a valuable opportunity to get feedback from farmers on the services it provides. Issues raised will be addressed so far as possible.

General feedback suggests that there is a group of farmers with particular difficulties because of, for example, literacy problems in the requirements to complete relatively complex forms, herd registers, etc. to qualify for payments. Such difficulties can contribute to social exclusion. The Department could perhaps address this problem through outreach programmes or one-stop shops on the lines suggested for some services in your document.

Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht

Outlined below are this Department's architectural recommendations:-

In the context of the built heritage of south Tipperary, the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands considers itself to be a significant stakeholder. For instance,

- it owns and maintains a variety of cultural heritage on behalf of the nation and its citizens;
- it is a prescribed body under current planning legislation in relation to the protection of the architectural heritage;
- it administers the provisions of the National Monuments Acts in relation to the preservation and protection of this archaeological heritage.

The Consultative Draft identifies the importance of presenting the built cultural heritage of an area to the local population and the Department greatly endorses this. It is also important that this element of the cultural heritage is fully appreciated for its inherent value to the history of the locality.

Apart from local understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, this cultural heritage is a genuine and important tourism resource which can bring economic benefits to an area. In this respect the Department has a variety of sites such as the Rock of Cashel, the Swiss Cottage, and the Ormonde Castle, which attracts significant numbers of visitors. The Department continues to spend significant sums of money on the protection of the built heritage in the south Tipperary area such as the Main Guard in Clonmel.

The Department supports the County Development Board initiative at Section 3.2.4 of the Consultative Document which states

Heritage: Support the County Heritage Officer in preparing and implementing a County Heritage Plan.

In making a connection between the national local levels, it is considered that this is the single most effective action which can be taken within the next twelve months. This applies not just within Tipperary South but across all other county areas as well.

In that regard, the Department has set up a forum to meet with all of the Heritage Officers in the various local authorities. It is intended that these meetings will take place at least three times a year, meetings which the Heritage Council will also attend. It is intended to support each Heritage Officer in putting in place a Heritage Plan for their own area. The implementation of the local Heritage Plan should focus local interest in appreciating the built cultural heritage and achieve a commitment to its protection and promotion.

In addition, this draft is being assessed from an archaeological and nature conservation perspective and comments will be forwarded in due course.

Department of Customs and Excise

All agencies are involved with the Reach programme, which involved the strategic management of Public Service Delivery. Some reference to this in the appendices might be useful. Customs and Excise would probably not expect to have any direct input with the programme management groups at this stage except through cooperating with the Reach initiative – but would be interested in developments that may involve them.

Department of Education and Science

The Social Programme is compatible with initiatives undertaken by this Department. These initiatives (home school liaison scheme, stay in school retention initiative, Breaking the Cycle, giving children an even break by tackling disadvantage) together with the establishment of a new Centre for Early Childhood Development and Education should have a significant impact on your objectives.

With regard to the education sector not fully represented on the County Development Board (page 21), closer ties with Department initiatives, particularly the Home/School/Community/Liaison Scheme and the CDB might advance matters here.

Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment

This department through its enterprise development agencies is committed to encouraging the establishment of industry in the regions and resources are being deployed to achieve this objective. Responses have already been made by the agencies under the remit of this Department, many of whom are on the South Tipperary County Development Board (Enterprise Ireland, FAS, IDA Ireland, Tipperary SR County Enterprise Board). The overall focus of the South Tipperary County Strategy is in line

with the policies being pursued in the National Development Plan, which are aimed at promoting and facilitating economic development from within the regions.

Department of Environment and Local Government

Task Force Secretariat

Excellent draft strategy. Only amendment requested is that the stakeholder buy-in to the strategy is clearly delineated in the final draft.

Housing Supply Unit

Recommend the inclusion of an additional objective – to implement the South Tipperary County Council housing strategy as part of the Social Programme. The housing strategy has objectives to satisfy housing needs and to encourage the voluntary and co-operative housing sector to play a part in the provision of housing.

Voluntary Housing Section

Need to formally incorporate the value of schemes such as voluntary housing, social and affordable housing, within the County Strategy.

Environment Policy section

Welcome the reference to revised local agenda 21 guidelines in the draft strategy. Please note that the new guidelines ‘Towards sustainable local communities’ have been issued. These guidelines highlight the strong relationship between the LA21 process and the work of the County Development Boards in integrating sustainable development in the County Strategy.

Public Private Partnership Unit

Supports the recommendation on page 16 that Public-Private-Partnerships be identified as an option to address key blockages in the provision of sustainable services and facilities. Please note that the local authorities Public Private Partnership Fund has €1.27 allocated in 2002 to finance the start up costs of PPP projects promoted by local authorities in areas not funded under the major infrastructure programmes.

Department of Health and Children

The appropriate body to deal on our behalf with your request for comment is the South Eastern Health Board, which has made a detailed submission,

Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform

It might be useful for those not familiar with Local agenda 21 to cross reference with the explanation on page 14.

Please note that the statutory term as defined in the Equal Status Act 2000 is Traveller(s) or 'Traveller Community'.

Offenders could also be considered by the County Development Board as a target group – this would entail initial target and initial measures for this group.

The term 'asylum seekers does not include migrant workers, refugees, ethnic/religious minorities. – amendments could be considered to specific aspects of the text identified.

Under the cultural programme, a more explicit mention of the National Anti-Racism Awareness Programme (www.knowracism.ie) could be included. The key messages are:

- Ireland is increasingly a multi-cultural society. This is a strength.
- Racism is a denial of human rights
- Minority ethnic groups are a positive and integrated part of Irish Society
- Racism is a specific form of discrimination
- Racism is against the law
- Inward migration to Ireland is not a cause of racism
- We all have a responsibility to tackle racism
- Irish people have been victims of racism themselves
- Celebrating difference – we should be open to the benefits of cultural diversity.

This Department has assigned County Childcare Committees (CCC) as the key local component in the development of a co-ordinated approach to quality childcare. The CCC plan (2001-2006) will form the basis of the childcare element of the CDB Strategy (Action 2.3.1).

Department of the Marine and Natural Resources

The Department is anxious that the County Development Board accepts that prospecting for minerals is beneficial activity. A map of state mining and prospecting areas in the county has been made available for display on the CDB website. While there are clear economic and social benefits to mining, an important requirement for mineral development is that an environmental impact statement must be prepared by the developer. Issues relating to air and water pollution, noise and waste are adjudicated upon by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the Integrated Pollution Control Licensing process. Should the prospect of a commercially viable mine occur in South Tipperary, the County Development Board is requested to be positively disposed to it given that environment protections operate to best available techniques.

Department of Public Enterprise

Gas Issues:

Bord Gais Eireann is committed to the development of the South Tipperary area and has demonstrated this in the past by the following investments:

Clonmel:

When BGE acquired the town gas business in Clonmel, it invested heavily in the existing distribution system:

- All metallic mains were replaced by polyethylene mains
- The grid was reinforced
- The grid was extended to cover all areas of the town
- New developments (both new housing and industrial / commercial) are catered for as they arise.

Carrick on Suir:

The natural gas grid was extended to all areas of Carrick on Suir in 1998. New developments in the town are catered for as they arise.

Future Developments:

BGE has investigated the possibility of extending the natural gas grid to other towns in South Tipperary, but the appraisals indicate that the remaining towns are not commercially viable - the size of the natural gas markets in the towns cannot justify the considerable capital investment involved at present. However, if the potential natural gas market were to expand, BGE will re-assess the situation.

If the South Tipperary Development Board wish to discuss any issues, Bord Gais will be pleased to meet them.

Electricity Issues:

The Government has approved an investment plan involving a capital spend of €2.67 billion on the electricity transmission and distribution systems over the next five years. Transmission investment, which is being accelerated, will include expenditure of €634.87 million on the transmission grid which will be carried out by ESB in accordance with a development plan being prepared by EirGrid. This accelerated level of capital investment, which should be complete by 2004/5, is needed to ensure the on-going provision of a modern state-of-the-art infrastructure throughout a number of areas in the

country, including South Tipperary, which will lead to an overall enhancement of the country's networks.

EirGrid's development plan, which will take account of national and regional Government development objectives, will be subject to public consultation and to the approval of the Commission for Electricity Regulation.

Dúchas

- Agree with the need for professional support for culture – need for heritage officer, conservation officer and county archaeologist. These issues need a county input; it is not enough to depend on the state agency to address them. Dúchas needs to be looking at policy issues, not at issues that should be addressed locally.
- The heritage side does not really appear in the plan; heritage, conservation, wildlife etc must have a local county input. Culture is not all about entertainment.
- Sustainability must be stronger in the strategy. There should be an element of sacrifice and duty involved. Far more attention needs to be given to re use and refurbishment of existing buildings. New building is not environmentally sustainable nor does it sustain heritage. We need to cut down on demolition. New buildings may produce jobs, but it is not sustainable.
- In relation to sustainability, the ordinary person is not just a receiver of services, they have duties as well.
- In relation to rural development, when looking at alternative enterprises and tourism, it should not be at the expense of heritage – not every farmhouse or outhouse should be targeted as being suitable for self-catering accommodation.
- There is no comprehensive list of protected structures in the county – for example there is no list of thatched houses. Traditional farm buildings are coming under threat and there is no base line data to assist in conserving it or to give a picture of what heritage is disappearing from the county.
- In the Social programme Impact statements, would like to see Environmental and Heritage proofing at an early stage – in pre planning discussions.
- The Wheel is interesting, but it lists only services to be provided, again it omits the duties of the citizen.
 - Perhaps it could have the concept in the middle and then move out.
 - In the first ring – local historical societies
 - next ring – County heritage, conservation, architect officers service (offering a service and acting as a watchdog reminding people of their duties in conservation and sustainability)

- Dúchas archaeologist
- Dept arts /museums etc
- Partnership approach between Local authorities and historical groups would be worth fostering.
- Possibly a culture/heritage spoke – planning issues – for example there is a duty to the heritage of the county not to build on ring forts etc.
- Clonmel is the only town with an archeological survey in the county, and this was done by the state. Other towns need this too. There is too much demolition of buildings in Tipperary town.
- Would like to see more outreach from the Museum – planning, legal aspects, education – meeting people half way in service delivery and in reminding them of the need for sustainability.
- Would like practical actions such as designing a poster depicting everyday heritage.

National Disability Authority

The National Disability Authority has made a 28 page submission which is being copied to CDB members. It covers a wide range of issues that will be useful in guiding the work of the CDB, over-arching principles, disability/equality proofing, accessible public services, access to the information and the environment, equal participation and representation, equal opportunities policy and practice as key criteria for funding, comprehensive disability training, education, health, housing, participating in the cultural life of the region, and transport.

It is hoped that the submission can be made available generally through the CDB website after February 4., 2002.

Office of the Director of Consumer Affairs

This office holds special advising clinics on consumer issues in a number of Citizens Information Centres including Clonmel CIC.

Office of the Director of Equality Investigations

The office is an independent statutory office and is effectively an ‘equality court’ empowered to investigate complaints of discrimination.. It would be inappropriate for

this office to comment on the draft stakeholder review. However, you may wish to contact the Equality Authority whose function is to provide information regarding equality issues.

Office of the Revenue Commissioners

With regard to the Local Agenda 21 Wheel, you may wish to consider a note to the fact that a tax office is available in every county.

Probation and Welfare Service

With regard to the Local agenda 21 wheel, we would suggest that in the security segment the Probation and Welfare Service be included at district court/garda station level.

South East Regional Authority

The benefits of a regional approach are being proven with actions in regard to transport, ICT communications, waste management, water basin management and crafts. There is scope for a regional action on energy.

A pressing regional issue is the lack of a university in the South East. This has a knock on effect in terms of the proportion of research and development spending in the region.

There is a major opportunity for the region to develop links with other European regions. Consideration could be given in the County Strategy to outward aspects.

Southern Regional Fisheries Board

The Southern Regional Fisheries Board will participate and support actions as much as possible within their remit. This will include membership of the Economic Programme Management Group. Personnel will also be provided where the Fisheries Board can contribute to the progression of actions such as those on off-farm income, Carrick on Suir Jobs Strategy, inter-urban transportation, tourism, early school leaving and sports/recreation.

4. Social Partners

Agriculture and Farming Pillar

The Agriculture Pillar will be able to support the strategy with people resources and commits to membership of each of the four Programme Management Groups.

The Agriculture Pillar is also supportive of all the actions with the exception of 1.6.5. - support of the implementation of the County Waste Management Plan. The pillar would have to look at what by-laws are to be introduced in relation to waste/pollution from farms before it could commit support to the plan.

Would like to see a specific support action for farmers to facilitate/fund the set up of micro businesses by farmers. One of the most likely scenarios for farmers setting up new businesses is for it to employ the farmer on a full/part time basis with the part time input from a number of family members. This scenario needs to be accommodated in the provision for set up of new businesses. In addition to this, the action needs to ensure that obstacles are removed for farmers wishing to use their skill and resources to set up new businesses. This would include restrictive planning regulations.

Other comments:

- The National Spatial Strategy should perhaps be given more emphasis. It will have major implications for the county.
- Further discussion on the National Road development. Feeling that present road system should be upgraded rather than the major highways that are planned.
- Villages should have infrastructure such as sewage treatment works put in before any new houses are built. The current system of building housing with no services of any kind cannot continue.

Business and Commercial Pillar

The Business and Commercial Pillar will be able to support the strategy through nominating representatives to the Economic Programme Management Group and the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group. The pillar will further consult with their members with a view to identify members who could take a useful role on the other two programme management groups.

The Farm Relief Services will support action 1.2.2 as they have already carried out background work in the area of farm families accessing off farm/alternate employment. They will also support the Childcare measure 2.3.1.

The Business and Commercial Pillar are also willing to support other actions as they arise and lie within the resources of the Pillar.

Other comments:

- Given the landlocked nature of Clonmel town and South Tipperary, access must be prioritised. Road, rail and air access are necessary for further economic development in the county. A road link from Clonmel to Dublin is needed. The development of county roads feeding the hub of Clonmel as identified in the National Spatial Strategy needs immediate attention.
- The Pillar welcomes the start of the transparent approach being developed through consultation and debate that is being taken on by the local authorities and other agencies. They look forward to full debate on a whole range of issues and anticipate the development of good partnership working towards the development of Clonmel and the County.

Community and Voluntary Pillar

The South Tipperary Platform facilitated eight consultative meetings in response to the draft strategy. Six public meetings were held before Christmas 2001. Everybody who participated at the initial six meetings was invited to one of the latter two meetings which were held in January 2002. A summary of the output of these meetings is given below but detailed reports on each of the eight meetings are available on request to Breda O'Connor (Tel:052-34597).

Interagency Support should be given re development of strong Community Groups / Residents Associations

- Support to communities to help them to integrate all local groups into an overall development group in their area where they would work together and plan together - at present there are a lot of active groups at local level but they are working in isolation. The development of resident association & community groups should be supported. Issue of falling level of volunteers – how can new people be encourage to get involved – are they asked and encouraged – most people working in the community are so busy that they don't have the energy to go around asking new people to get involved.
- Information about the platform should be circulated more widely
- Dissemination of information - Information about community meeting should be published better. Radio excellent medium for all service providers to communicate with clients. In additions articles should be published in newspaper, as many people do not read adverts. Out reach citizens information services into smaller communities – word of mouth best form of communication – bring information to meeting where communities are going e.g. parent association meetings etc. It was recommended that agencies target meetings/places that people are already attending – e.g day care centers, schools, parent meetings when trying to disseminate information
- Community groups in each area should be more integrated themselves - all working towards the same overall plan.

- More development workers are required to support communities and to assist them in projects and area plans.
- Support for groups networking together to create links is important - Community Information day – all groups in an area display what they do – so that they know knowledge of each others activities
- Agenda 21 circle - How can people working at local level get out of inner circle – what links are there for community groups – How can voluntary groups influence policy – through the platform issues can be brought forward onto boards to make actions to change policy
- One person needed to support and deal with voluntary bodies especially in relation to grant applications. In relation to applications for funding – the response time re approval / rejection of application to agencies is too slow for the voluntary sector. Community Groups need advice and support re submitting application forms and project planning.
- Volunteering is an issue – community groups need training and support re role of officers – how to encourage and welcome new people. - need for agencies to support training for communities to help them carry out meetings in a more enjoyable and inclusive way with a view to increasing community participation and the development of community leaders. The ideas of supporting communities to form teams rather than traditional committees as a possible alternative to encourage people to become involved.
- Communities ‘going in on themselves’ with the traditional focal points in communities disappearing e.g. village shop or post office and with parents working and having less time for community and voluntary activities. How can the ‘focal point’ be replaced – how can community spirit be developed.
- Insurance is a major issue that need to be tackled – it is crushing voluntary activity and putting huge pressure on groups.

Interagency commitment required re provision of community facilities/ infrastructure– Agenda 21 wheel (pg 15)

- Inter agency approach with local communities is required re provision of Community Facilities of all types for all age groups e.g. Need facilities for older children – drop in centers etc - Youth – entitlement to services - Youth at risk – should be able to link into a local service where they might know somebody rather than been sent off to Clonmel- early intervention required
- Importance to promote the Clonmel environs nationally re attracting inward investment but the resulting impact on communities and villages around Clonmel with the ‘sucking’ in of everything into Clonmel. Villages and communities around Clonmel that are to be developed for housing for people commuting to Clonmel need the required community infrastructure so that people are not traveling into Clonmel in the evening after work etc for recreation. Many villages around the Clonmel area that have huge housing development with out facilities or infrastructure being developed - creates huge problems – inadequate school

facilities, no playing field, inadequate community facilities, inadequate sewerage facilities – facilities need to be developed before housing

- Communities need to be involved and get access to community infrastructure fund. Fund for community facilities - how are communities going to be involved in decisions about the fund – how will it work – when will it be set up - In places like Germany – developers automatically have had to give 20% of land to local authority for community facilities – this is happening for years – it is the norm
- Should be tax breaks for individuals contributing to local communities and voluntary groups – more publicity required re existing tax breaks.
- Re Rural Transport – Community Assessable Transport services needed. - Existing resources should be used in a different way to make the delivery of service more effective, efficient and suitable for the user. Transport and access to Education – Available Accommodation and cost is a factor for people attending third level – daily bus service to main colleges required so that people can commute from home. Train service required to suit people – e.g. Sunday morning service to Dublin. Bus link to serve train times in Thurles is required. Public Transport – Rail - link to Limerick to Rosslare very important – to relieve road chaos. Rural Transport Dilemma – will it bring people into larger towns and how will this effect small business in the local area. Railway lines – closing of railway routes was a mistake – can they be examined re possibility of reopening to relieve traffic and improve access to services. Areas with large housing development e.g. villages like Clerihan– each house has 2 cars – all leave every morning – no transport facility running at required times to Clonmel
- Crèches / Childcare facilities required – interagency approach required for delivery of these services. Service providers such as Dept of Education, Schools, Health Board, Local Authority, local groups etc need to work together to develop childcare facilities. - Childcare is an issue for everybody not just the disadvantaged – e.g. working parents – Service providers need to take this into account.
- Community Facilities are essential and need to be developed with all housing projects – interagency approach is required. Developers should be made to work with communities re facilities. Dilemma - Will Community Infrastructure e.g. sport facilities be built in the bigger towns and what about the smaller villages
- Access to services in local areas is a key issue – often limited access at inconvenient times - Access for differently abled required for all services
- Care doc – difficult in rural areas – Fears - how will they know where to go – how long will it take - Doctor services in small towns – should have one late evening at least
- Psychiatric services need to be developed especially for people suffering with depression or isolation – giving people tablets with no social outlets will not solve the problems
- Re pg 15 Agenda 21 circle – Garda should be moved into inner circle - Cycle lanes should be included with bicycle - Post Office essential in middle circle - new ways of delivering the service? – post office important from a social point of view
- Need University in region - Spread industrial Development around the county

- Rural Housing & Planning permission is a major issue re trying to encourage people to stay in an area.
- More community based health services needed instead of having old people travel to Clonmel - Provision of services must focus on needs of the customer rather than the needs of the staff or system. Co. ordinate the services require so that a number of services can be provided on a single visit to a center rather than requiring (elderly) people to make multiple visits to health center. - Continuity of service required – should have same contact or contact team for follow up contact – Services should be appointment based rather than everybody coming at the same time. - Services providers need to keep personal touch not answering machines
- Agencies to work together re access to underutilized facilities or shared use of facilities e.g. schools – school that can't expand because of lack of land adjacent to school. Schools that have access to unused rooms could be used for community facilities but Dept of Education need to be more supportive.

Agencies should work in partnership with communities in the development & promotion of services and should consultation communities more about changes in Services. Agencies should provide clearer and more accessible information and have a clear customer charter

- All service providers including Local Authorities should consult residents Associations more when developing plans or making changes that affect residents. Partnership approach to planning is required – e.g. Communities / residents associations should work in partnership with local authorities with regards to children's play areas. Children should also be consulted. Residents already doing a lot of work e.g. art workshops for children – they need more support. Affordable social housing is needed in every area. Planning departments should take more into account the views of communities – cannot put houses into areas that do not have infrastructure – water, sewage, community facilities. Traffic Consultants working on traffic plan – local submissions should be given more acceptance and should be listened to with recommendations implemented. Locals have a clear knowledge of streets, when town is busy, times when busy, areas of congestion. Kiltimagh experience of self help should be examined - Should look at Scandinavian models re planning – no housing development without adequate services including childcare
- Villages need a 5 year overall plan that is developed in conjunction with the Local Authority and other agencies so that they are not just always reacting – they need support to develop these plans.
- Communities should be fundraising jointly as opposed to 3 or 4 individual groups in a community running separate fundraising events. If communities had a development plan – it would be easier to fundraise for that plan on a joint basis – where people has a clear vision of what the funding was going to be used for and how it was going to impact on them or their family.
- Areas in the county loosing people and services – need support – development needs to be spread around the county

- One Stop Shop in larger towns is a very welcome initiative and needs to be provided in smaller towns - Services of agencies / Local Authorities should be pushed out into smaller towns. One Stop Shops must provide a confidential service – many locals do not want to go into a very local office with local personnel to get information that might be sensitive. Agencies need more outreach services into communities - Clonmel Citizens information center has large amount of information which is updated – information services needs to be available in villages – perhaps using technology
- Real Consultation & Communication with Community Groups is essential re all service providers. Community groups are the people on the ground, they know the issues, problems and most viable solutions.
- Customer Charter of rights should be developed by all service providers and promoted and communicated actively by service providers to service users and their own staff. Free circulation of clear and comprehensive information re all activities / funding / resources relevant to community & Voluntary groups is required in a form that is accessible by groups and it should be available all together.
- Real Consultation required with communities re planning – e.g. infrastructure work – locals should be consulted on best options re footpaths – bins etc and they should be consulted in advance of any work taking place.
- Community Representatives should be more actively involved in decision making re planning for their area.
- Training should be provided to staff of service providers on working with communities and groups
- Should be direct lines to decision makers – communities have to go through too many people to get a query answered.
- There should be co-ordination and central file so that communities are not passed from on to the other having to re-explain the query each time.

Culture

- Local Heritage projects need to receive on going support from agencies – Heritage officer needs a budget to support heritage project around the county – Heritage Officer of little use without resources. Volunteers are struggling to keep heritage sites open – harder and harder to get volunteers especially without core funding.

Life Long Learning

- Re Adult Education – Service providers should consult with local groups and work with them re provision of adult education. Outreach services should be provided to local towns and villages.
- Educational / training offered should be based on the needs of local people. Needs to be innovative and not the same thing every year.
- Agencies should be working in partnership with community groups. Community Groups can often be the best placed to encourage people at local level to participate in adult education especially people returning to education after a long time.

- Comprehensive guide to adult education /life long learning that is available locally required – e.g. childcare courses all advertised separately
- Agencies that withdraw services from an area should consult with community groups to discuss alternative provision of services – closure of school leaving no facility for adult education.
- Comprehensive information needs to be put together on all adult education available in the county and in each local center.
- Re life Long learning – need to offer courses at the level people are ready for rather than courses at an advanced level.
- Local development agencies and local groups to work with VEC and Tipperary Institute to develop a more proactive programme to encourage Life Long Learning

Waste Disposal

- Agencies should work with local groups in delivery of service
- Re Waste Disposal – incentives should be used to encourage recycling e.g. pay by weight
- Waste – pay by weight recommended – alternative view that it will only encourage illegal dumping
- More recycling center required like Legaun.
- Local Authority should compost (grass) themselves and take a lead to encourage groups/ individuals
- Early Education on Waste/litter – joint action with parents, schools & local authorities. More litter warden service required.

County Development Strategy

- The CDB strategy – where will continuity come in and flexibility – the programme management groups and the review process re actions and flexibility was explained.
- The CDB should be linked nationally to influence national policy in addition to state agencies sitting on the CDB.
- Support what is already on the ground rather than dreaming up new projects and actions
- Community /Volunteer input to county boards and agencies must be increased - Community Reps on boards have to be listened to – they also need training to be able to participate fully
- Lack of consistent information e.g. statistics – central information source required that everybody uses to get and feed in information statistics
- Every Community has different need re infrastructure – How will the strategy cope with this.
- What is the status of the Strategy and how will agencies be obliged to come on Board.
- Need for the County Development Board to co-ordinate and develop actions around the issues that were brought up at the community meetings - lots of meeting to discuss issues but what is done about them – action is required

Trade Union Pillar

Economic Programme

Acknowledge low level of white collar employment in the county and take initiatives to tackle this - i.e supporting decentralization of government departments to the county. The need to support existing and indigenous manufacturing industry, eg the cider industry and promote preferential taxation and excise policies for the indigenous manufacturing sector.

Include upgrading the electricity supply infrastructure to accepted national standards. These standards are not met in any part of the county but the Tipperary and Carrick-on-Suir areas are particularly deficient. The FORFAS Enterprise 2010 Report states effective access to 220 kv power supply is now a basic requirement for sustained enterprise development.

Social and Local Agenda 21 programmes

Include gardai in the parish section of the local agenda 21 wheel. Acknowledge that to create a secure and stable environment necessitates the appointment of specifically designated community gardai in local areas.

Cultural Programme

In the sports/recreation area include the development of hill walking – the county is well suited to this. Again this has relevance to the tourist section of the Economic Programme.

5. Other Non-Governmental Organisations/Groups

Clonmel Traveller(s) Action Group - County Strategy Consultation meeting

The Clonmel Traveller Action Group has considered the contents of the Consultative Draft of the South Tipperary County Strategy in discussion among its members, drawn from the Traveller community in Clonmel and relevant agencies, and with Traveller women participating on the Primary Health Care Project in Clonmel. It has noted with approval the commitment to Social Inclusion and to a pro-active resourced integrated approach in relation to issues of poverty and inequality which informs the document, and which seeks to promote the favourable conditions which would facilitate such desiderata as the development of viable employment initiatives for Traveller men and the harmonious resolution of the vexed issue of appropriate accommodation provision. While actions in relation to the latter areas were discussed, it was acknowledged that the measures which Clonmel Traveller Action Group as a lead stakeholder could feasibly

commit to for the purposes of the County Strategy would have to be more modest., in view of the early stage of development of the project.

It is proposed that:

1. The Clonmel Traveller Action Group will continue to run the Primary Health Care Project in Clonmel, and to prepare the participants to take up appropriate employment on completion of the course.
2. The Clonmel Traveller Action Group will work with Traveller men in the Clonmel area, supporting them to address such as issues as access to recreational facilities; training needs; employment opportunities; and other issues as identified by themselves.
3. The Clonmel Traveller Action Group will undertake actions to combat discrimination against Travellers and to address the barriers to Social Inclusion and Equality.
4. The Clonmel Traveller Action Group will facilitate and support Travellers to advocate on their own behalf with the Local Authorities and other relevant agencies to ensure access to resourced facilities and services.

The Clonmel Traveller Action Group also recommends that Travellers should be represented on the four Programme Management Groups (Economic, Cultural, Social, & Local Agenda 21). It would be necessary that Traveller representatives should be supported in their role; for instance, they might, for an initial period, share joint representation with, and ‘shadow’ more experienced colleagues to gain experience as well as receiving appropriate training.

The Clonmel Traveller Action Group also notes the omission of any reference to accommodation, either for the settled community or the Traveller Community, on the Local Agenda 21 Wheel at the parish level. The need for accommodation, appropriately equipped with the necessary facilities, is an important issue for the Traveller community, and its insertion on the Wheel would be an important statement of commitment to meeting this need.

The Clonmel Traveller Action Group considers that development work with Travellers needs the sustained commitment, focused approach and continuity which only a full-time Development Worker working solely in this field could fulfil. While it acknowledges that valuable work has been done, C.T.A.G notes that the agency personnel involved have often other necessary work commitments which affect the extent to which they can maintain their involvement. And certainly, the personnel from the different agencies represented on C.T.A.G. can confirm that their work with the related projects form a significant part of their respective workloads. In short, there is a stop-start pattern to development work in this field because of a lack of continuity in relation to funding and in relation to personnel, with consequent recurrent set-backs to the process, as Travellers express feelings of discouragement about re-engaging. Both Clonmel Community Partnership and the TACCTIC Community Development Project in Clonmel recognize the need for a Development Worker specifically in relation to Travellers. It is intended that the Clonmel Traveller Action Group will be making a proposal for the funding of a

Traveller Development Worker post, or will be supporting such a proposal from another group over the short to medium-term..

Community Play Workshop

Recommended actions:

- ❑ An interagency county Play Policy & Strategy be developed for South Tipperary
- ❑ An interagency working group be established to develop and implement the South Tipperary Play Strategy.
- ❑ Play facilities be included in agenda 21 wheel at all levels

County Childcare Committee

Childcare should be considered as a spoke of the Local Agenda 21 Wheel.

County Tourism Committee

The debate on the need for an arts officer needs to be resolved. There is not consensus around the county that the status quo is satisfactory.

Cultural representatives meeting

The main aspects arising from the discussion were:

- A critical outstanding issue is to get an agreed understanding between the local authority and the arts constituency of the best way forward and the strategic option that delivers the best value for money allocated by the local authority and other interested parties to arts.
- Investment in cultural education is vital to creating markets for future cultural services and facilities.
- Critical mass is an important concept which the cultural sector needs to master in order to achieve sustainable and quality cultural provision.
- Membership of the Cultural Development Programme Management Group needs to meet spatial as well as a sectoral and main player (those with significant resources invested/to invest) criteria.

Arts

Arising from the discussion:

- ❑ Looking at the Local Agenda 21 wheel, obvious gaps in relation to the arts sector include the lack of theatre in Carrick on Suir, the need for a municipal theatre in Clonmel.
- ❑ The South Tipperary Arts Centre is a major asset to arts in the county.

- ❑ There is a challenge in getting the best professional-amateur mix in the development of arts (and all sectors). Both have huge contributions to make.
- ❑ Exposing young people to good art is a crucial task. STAC and Galloglass (similar to the heritage and sports sectors) have outreach programmes. Things you come in contact with as a young person are the building blocks of life. If the only exposure is to the mass culture represented in mainstream cinema and television, the cultural sector in south Tipperary is failing young people in the county. The task of the all parts of the cultural sector is to provide alternatives and facilities, especially where these cannot be left just to commercial outcomes of the market. A County Cultural strategy needs also to have outreach to young people as a major objective.

Crafts

Arising from the discussion:

- ❑ Importance of finding niches especially with good design because a human cannot compete with machines on mundane products
- ❑ Very difficult for a crafts person to earn a decent return so any initiatives relating to promotion and selling of product especially in building up direct clients welcome
- ❑ Investment in education vital to create future markets both of craft workers and for crafts
- ❑ Best buyers of crafts are locals and independent tourists
- ❑ There is scope for critical mass in Cahir – Granary, Castle, River, centre of the county, good density of visual artists, Duneske project. There is a need to provide infrastructure such as studio houses which will attract crafts people.

Sport and recreation

Arising from the discussion:

- ❑ River Suir is a fabulous recreation resource for South Tipperary. It should also be noted that Carrick on Suir is tidal. Locks might help more opportunities for boats in the Suir. A concern is that the river is not dredged often enough. On the continent, rivers such as the Suir are cleaned every five years. The most important thing is that we maintain the quality of our river water, a factor that attracts international anglers to this island.
- ❑ Irish people are getting less fit, a factor which may have serious long term health implications.
- ❑ Tipperary Institute is an important resource given the requirements for training especially in leadership skills.
- ❑ There is a need to strengthen the links between our sports heritage and cultural promotions. Equine festivals surely present an opportunity for this county.
- ❑ How many jobs will there be in sports management? (Potential employers are the FAS schemes, the Local sports Partnership, Health Boards, Sports organizations, etc)

- The Local Authority is maintaining the approved long distance ways in the county.
- The Duneske model which seeks to integrate the needs of a community school, the community and one of its main sports bodies (GAA) creates a critical mass that should enable Cahir to have a development that can be sustained into the medium term.

Implementation of the County Strategy

The proposed strategy centred on twice-annual meetings of a Cultural Development Programme Management Group was outlined. There was consensus that the membership of the group needed to include:

- Community and Voluntary Pillar nominees
- VEC
- Local Authorities
- Health Board
- Garda Siochana
- Arts sector nominees (STAC being one)
- Crafts Sector nominees (Regional Crafts Centre being one)
- Sports and Recreation Sector nominees
- Heritage Sector Nominees (County Museum being one).

It was also agreed that there was a need for a spatial spread of representatives in the county and that the Chair should invite additional members onto the Programme Management Group if there are any obvious spatial or sectoral gaps.

European Anti-Poverty Network meeting (Waterford)

There was a discussion on the use of the word 'citizen' at the anti poverty network meeting on the European forum . The argument was that providing facilities etc for citizens was exclusive as it discriminated against other residents in the country such as asylum seekers, refugees, illegal immigrants.

St Anne's Secondary School , Tipperary Town– LCVP Class

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (Year 1) class agreed to review the County Strategy from the perspective of young people and their needs. (A fuller report detailing their individual views is available from Breda O'Connor at 052-345970.

In a facilitated discussion by the teacher (Patrick Kivlehan), the following issues were raised:

Environment

- Need to paint the welcome to Tipperary signs outside Tipperary as tourist buses often stop at these to take photographs.
- Rivers have great potential but are often eyesores because of litter – big task to get residents involved in getting litter problems sorted
- Derelict buildings are not alone eyesores but have the potential to be more productively used – why is this not happening?
- Important to take down Christmas lights when the Christmas season is over.
- Lots of congestion in Tipperary Town – looking forward to a bypass; roads need improvement in rural areas.
- No playgrounds for children, few benches in parks,
- Housing waiting lists –yet some houses in the Town council’s ownership not let

Industry

- Tipperary Town has high levels of unemployment. Why does all the big industry go to Clonmel? Young people in the town would like to have the option of working in it.

Services

- The rural villages of Lattin and Kilfeacle have no shop.
- Hackneys are the only form of non-family transport available to young people at night in Tipperary town – not enough for the peak period after disco’s leading to fights as people mill around.

South Tipperary Platform

- ◆ That the Co. Development Board (CDB) would act as a facilitator in "Joint Projects" run between the Tipp S.R. Co. Council and the South Tipperary Voluntary Community Group Platform.

e.g. Waste Management issues

- Community involvement in securing and choosing sites for recycling "bring sites"
 - Promotion and distribution of Compost BINS .
 - Awareness meetings/workshops for waste management plan and other schemes and incentives .
- ◆ That a good working relationship should continue to strengthen between the CDB and the Platform and that we can help to promote each others work and refer other people/groups where possible .

- ◆ That continued financial support be available to the South Tipperary PLATFORM through the CO. Development Board but our independence be respected as a group representing and open to all groups working in the Community and Voluntary Sector in South Tipperary .
- ◆ That training needs for those working voluntarily in communities be supported by the Co. Development Board .
- ◆ That the Platform will help the CDB in running Pilot Projects in sample areas in the county in the hope that best practice can be established in this pilot area and in the future extended to other areas of the county .
- ◆ That the C.D.B. may act as a facilitator for Community and Voluntary Groups experiencing difficulties and delays in their dealings with the various Depts. Of Tipperary S.R. Co. Council .
- ◆ That the South Tipperary Voluntary Community Group Platform can jointly host relevant Seminars, Information Nights, Public Meetings with the C.D.B.

Tipperary Womens Network – County Strategy Consultation meeting

Recommended Actions:

- It was agreed that the actions outlined in the ‘Womens Sector Priorities – Recommended Actions’ drawn up by the Women’s Regional Policy Forum were very comprehensive in relation to women’s issues. The Tipperary Women’s network recommend that the County Development Board adopt these recommend actions and include them in the County Development Strategy. The following are some actions the group discussed
 - Inter agency support re establishment of a countywide network of women’s groups based on strong local networks
 - Inter agency support re training for women participating in all organizations so that they can actively participate.
 - Need for training of all boards/agencies on gender equality

Women’s Regional Policy Forum

The forum has made a submission in which the key actions proposed are listed below. This document has been drawn up as an aid to County Development Boards to assist

them in the development of, and ongoing process of gender proofing, their Ten Year Strategies. It outlines strategic actions to address a number of key barriers women face which CDBs could consider including in their Strategies.

In 2000 research into the sustainability of Women's Community Groups in six southern border counties was carried out. As well as describing the sector and activities undertaken by it the research listed a number of recommendations designed to remedy some of the problems faced by women in these counties. Local Women's Networks and Groups in Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan, Sligo and Roscommon have established a Women's Regional Policy Forum (WRPF) which has taken these recommendations and translated them into specific practical actions which can be undertaken by a range of development, training and other agencies.

Actions recommended in the area of Human Resources

- i) Establish Women's Networks in counties where none exist and support the ongoing development of the Women's Community Sector
- ii) Resource & support Networks to employ staff to support local women/women's groups and undertake policy development work
- iii) Employ a Childcare Development Worker in each County to work with local groups to develop childcare provision
- iv) Provide *Political Leadership* training, delivered through local women's Networks
- v) Deliver training programmes in *Policy - Development and How to Influence It*
- vi) County Councils, CDBs and Partnership Companies and other relevant agencies to employ and/or sustain a Women's Development Worker as part of its core staff

Actions recommended in the area of Capacity Building & Resources

- i) Undertake capacity building to enable women's groups to promote their work in the County.

- ii) Develop and sustain dedicated women-centred services for women experiencing violence
- iii) Agencies to undertake training in models of good practice in responding to violence against women, in line with *Government Task Force on Violence Against Women* guidelines
- iv) Set up public childcare facilities which are accessible and affordable.
- v) Establish a County Transport Association/Forum with representation from women's sector among others – to identify and meet the needs of various groups including women.
- vi) DSCFA, Health Boards, VECs, County Councils, FAS and others as appropriate publish clarification of current criteria and timescales for grant aid programmes they operate

Actions recommended in the Productive and Economic Sectors

- i) Undertake local research on the impact of the Live Register (which precludes some women from accessing certain training courses and community employment schemes) on both women and the local economy.
- ii) Request that FAS (at County/Regional level) develop policies and practices which challenge the inequality of the Live Register criteria.
- iii) Request that FAS put forward arguments which challenge the inequality of the Live Register criteria at national level.
- iv) Promote awareness campaigns, in conjunction with the Equality Authority, to inform employers and employees about family friendly policies
- v) Statutory bodies to identify and implement, within their own organisations, family friendly work practices and policies in accordance with recommendations of the Equality Authority
- vi) Resource and support other member agencies to identify and implement family friendly work practices and policies in accordance with recommendations of the Equality Authority and others

Actions recommended in the area of Social Inclusion

- i) Resource local women's networks and issue-based groups to run programmes and projects targeted specifically at women experiencing multiple forms of discrimination¹
- ii) Provide resources for groups supporting women who are experiencing multiple forms of discrimination
- iii) That DSCFA, Health Boards, VECs, County Councils, FAS and other relevant agencies set up a comprehensive funding programme for community based women's groups to sustain their activities taking account of all levels of need

Actions recommended in the area of Promoting Gender Equality

- i) Establish and support the development of a *gender focus group* within the CDB to consider gender related policy issues. Ensure there is representation of the Women's Community Sector and CDB member agencies in this group.
- ii) Ensure the Women's Community Sector has a minimum of two seats within the local Community Forum.
- iii) Include mandatory representation of the Women's Community Sector on County development Boards
- iv) Ensure effective evaluation of current gender mainstreaming training practice takes place and informs development of future training
- v) Identify and ring fence resources required for gender mainstreaming
- vi) Set targets for gender balance in line with National guidelines across all member agencies and CDB Board and take any action required to ensure these are reached
- vii) Increase representation from the Community Sector on CDB from 2 representatives to 4, with gender balance of this representation.
- viii) CDBs, in replacing members on the Board, to request organisations to put forward a male and female nominee so that Director can select in order to achieve gender balance on the Board.
- ix) Promote awareness raising/promotional campaigns on Gender Equality, targeting CDB member agencies and associated structures.

¹ The nine grounds upon which discrimination is illegal are identified in the Equal Status Act (2000) as Gender, Marital Status, Family Status, Age, Disability, Race, Sexual Orientation, Religious Belief, Membership of the Traveller Community

Actions recommended in the area of Policy Development

- i) Ensure all meeting organised by the CDB and member agencies are accessible – physically, in terms of language used, and through use of methods designed to encourage greater participation by participants.
- ii) Provide support for childcare, eldercare and transport needs - and ensure all are informed about availability of these - at all meeting organised by the CDB and member agencies.
- iii) All member organisations of the CDB to communicate policy development impacting on women through newsletters, seminars and ongoing consultation with the Women’s Community Sector.
- iv) Women’s Community Sector (local Networks) to be involved in formal consultation processes at all stages of the planning, implementation and monitoring of the CDB strategies.

6. Individual responses

Cultural Programme

Action 3.3.2 (celebration of asylum seekers culture) will be difficult to achieve in South Tipperary. The experience in Clogheen is that the asylum seekers go as quickly as they can because many have relations in the cities.

The working groups do not seem to be democratic. In particular the cultural group which seems to be Corporist - co-opting of interest groups

Page 11 Rationale. Third paragraph. The wording here indicates value judgements – who is to say that watching TV or time in pubs is the darker side of culture – what is wrong with either of these two activities. If people wish to participate in these activities, it is their choice it is not acceptable that a working group decides that they would be better doing something more ‘cultural’ as decided by the working group.

Local Agenda 21 Programme

There is a need for a simplified system of getting public service information to citizens. The system needs to work from both ends of the spectrum. Ideally public service information should be provided in a simplified format that is common across all public bodies so that citizens get used to reading it. From the other side, citizens need to be able to access information locally. There are enough public servants, employment scheme personnel, community groups and local facilities to reach the following result. Each community having a designated information contact point/contact person who would be available to provide basic information (based on common public service information templates) on all aspects. This contact person/point could be an outreach aspect of the Citizens Information Centres. The contact point/person also needs to have the capacity to refer citizens to named persons if they need more detailed information or an interpretation of how a scheme might apply to their particular case.

The Local Agenda 21 proposal is well structured and encompassing, but I feel it could benefit from a more specific reference to supporting local environmental initiatives with local communities eg in waste management and recycling, and environmental improvements facilitated through the Environmental Partnership Programme. The establishment of an Environmental Forum along the lines of the successful example in Cork may also be useful to address any conflicts arising from the Strategy, such as the requirement for wind energy generation versus landscape impacts. Perhaps the fundamentals of sustainability may also be emphasised more, such as energy conservation and production, local quality food production, transport and settlement planning.

Move 'Garda' into the Security slice of the Local Area ring, should not be in the health slice