



South Tipperary Development CLG



2025

Progress Report

A word from our Chairperson



P. J. MAHER

CHAIRPERSON

I was honoured to take on the role of Chairperson of South Tipperary Development CLG (STDC) in 2025.

2025 was a busy year for STDC, with a strong focus on enabling community-led local development and contributing to wider social, economic and environmental outcomes. Demand for supports from individuals, communities and local businesses remained high. In response, STDC continued to work with individuals, communities and local businesses to identify opportunities, build capacity and progress initiatives, working in partnership to ensure that responses are coordinated and aligned with wider policy and funding frameworks.

Alongside this, the Board maintained a clear focus on its responsibilities under STDC's governance framework. This included oversight of financial and risk management, compliance, and accountability for the public funding entrusted to us. Board members also undertook training during the year to strengthen their understanding of roles and responsibilities in line with governance requirements.

The Board is conscious of the level of demand for supports and the increasing complexity of the environment in which STDC operates. This places significant pressure on resources and underlines the need for the local development sector to be properly funded across both rural development and social inclusion priorities. Uncertainty regarding future funding for key programmes such as LEADER under the next CAP, alongside pressures on core social inclusion programmes such as SICAP, New Arrivals, etc is a matter of concern and reinforces the need for continued engagement and advocacy to ensure the sector is adequately resourced into the future.

The organisation's ability to deliver its work depends on its staff. I would like to acknowledge the CEO and the STDC team, whose work, often in complex circumstances, is central to the delivery of programmes.

I would also like to acknowledge our funders, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Social Protection, Department of Justice, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Fáilte Ireland and the HSE. Their continued support is vital to our work.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their time and contribution over the past year. I would also like to acknowledge those members who stepped down during the year in line with the Board's rotation policy and thank them for their contribution to the organisation.

CEO Report



ISABEL CAMBIE

CEO

A handwritten signature of Isabel Cambie in black ink.

STDC's work during 2025 was guided by its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, which shapes how the organisation supports people, strengthens communities, works in partnership, responds to environmental priorities and continues to develop its capacity. Programme delivery was also framed by programme guidelines and wider policy priorities, including the Tipperary Local Economic and Community Plan and national frameworks on social inclusion and rural development.

The breadth of activity delivered during the year reflects both the diversity of need within our communities and the flexibility of the local development model. We supported people to progress towards employment and self-employment, worked with entrepreneurs, businesses and social enterprises to develop and grow, assisted new arrivals to integrate into their local communities, and helped community groups and individuals to advance projects that strengthen community life and support local development

The environment in which local development companies operate continues to evolve. Communities are presenting with increasingly diverse needs, while expectations of programme delivery, administration and reporting continue to grow. At the same time, uncertainty across a number of funding streams make longer-term planning more challenging.

Partnership continued to play an important role in STDC's work during 2025. Engagement with Tipperary County Council, Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), statutory agencies, community organisations and other stakeholders helped to support coordinated responses to local issues and ensured that local development experience continued to inform planning and decision-making

I acknowledge the support from our funders - the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Social Protection, the Department of Justice, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Fáilte Ireland and HSE. This funding and support is critical to our work. I acknowledge the professionalism and commitment of our staff in STDC. Their work underpins the successful delivery of our programmes and the outcomes achieved. Finally, I wish to thank the Board for giving their time in a voluntary capacity, for their continued support and oversight of the work of the company. I would like to particularly thank P.J. Maher, Kevin Ryan and Simon Ryan who retired from the Board in 2025. Your contribution to STDC is much appreciated.

Ní neart go cur le chéile

About Us

South Tipperary Development CLG (STDC) was established in 2009. We are a community-led local development company and registered charity, governed by a voluntary Board of Directors representing community, farming, business and statutory interests. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the company and for ensuring strong governance, accountability and oversight of the resources entrusted to STDC.

We employ 44 staff who deliver eight programmes funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.

Over the past fifteen years, STDC has contributed to the social, economic and environmental development of South Tipperary through community development, social inclusion, employment, enterprise, rural development and environmental initiatives.

Our Vision, Mission and Values, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2024–2028, provides the framework for our work and our commitment to community-led local development.



Vision

A thriving, inclusive and sustainable South Tipperary where communities prosper, the environment is protected, and everyone can thrive.



Mission

Supporting people, communities and enterprises through publicly funded programmes that promote opportunity, resilience and sustainable development.



Values

Integrity, accountability, inclusion and respect guide our work, fostering collaboration, innovation and lasting positive impact.

STDC

Invested in You and Your Community

Our Structure



Board of
Directors



CEO



Staff

Our Board and Evaluation Committee



560

Voluntary Hours Given by
the Board & LEADER
Evaluation Committee



13

Board Members

12

LEADER Evaluation
Committee Members

Our Programmes

South Tipperary Development CLG managed the following Programmes in 2025:

LEADER

Development led by local communities

LEADER Programme - Provides advice, guidance and grant aid to community groups, businesses and social enterprises, helping them develop ideas and deliver projects that improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of rural communities.

Intreo

Partner

Local Area Employment Services (LAES) - Supports people in receipt of qualifying social welfare payments who are long-term unemployed, providing one-to-one guidance, job search assistance and pathways to employment.



New Arrivals Support Programme

New Arrivals Support Programme - Supports International Protection Applicants and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection by helping them access housing, healthcare, education, employment and integrate into their local communities.



Rural Recreation Officer

Rural Recreation and Walks Scheme - Supports the maintenance of approved walking trails through payments to participating landowners, trail monitoring and maintenance, and assistance to communities developing and enhancing local walking routes.



RSS

Rural Social Scheme

Rural Social Scheme (RSS) - Provides an income supplement for farmers on qualifying social welfare payments and other eligible rural dwellers. In return, participants undertake part-time work (19.5 hours / week) supporting community facilities, local services and voluntary organisations.



Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) - Supports people and communities impacted by disadvantage through one-to-one guidance, training, employment and education supports, while helping communities identify needs and develop local solutions.



Traveller Health Care Project (THCP) - Promotes health and wellbeing within the Traveller community through a peer-led approach, providing health information, advocacy and support in a culturally appropriate way.



Tús (Community Work Placement Initiative) - Provides a 12-month community work placement for people on qualifying social welfare payments for at least one year. Participants work 19.5 hours per week and receive a top-up to their existing payment while supporting community and voluntary organisations.

Sustainable Development Goals



Throughout our work we are informed by and seek to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals

Our Board



P.J. Maher
Chairperson



Marion O'Neill
Secretary



Erica O'Keeffe



Simon Ryan



Lavinia English



Sean Cooney



Kevin Ryan



Daniel Long



Dave Devery



Maureen Fahey



Emer Leahy



Denis Landy



Joan Lonergan



**Isabel Cambie,
CEO**



**Martina Ryan, Social
Inclusion Programme
Manager**



**Noirin O'Dwyer,
Financial Controller**

Our Staff



**Bridget Walsh
Ryan, RSS**



**Joe Lonergan,
RSS**



**Sara Bourke,
LEADER**



**Mary Barry,
LEADER**



**John Egan,
RRO**



**Deirdre O'Dwyer,
SICAP**



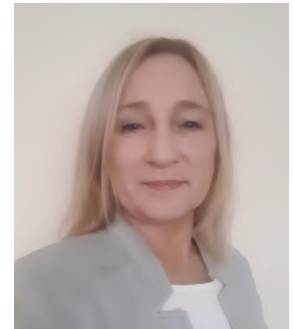
**Tracey Roche,
SICAP**



**Hilary Dilworth,
SICAP**



**Collette Moore,
SICAP**



**Anita Holloway,
SICAP**



**Paddy Fitzpatrick,
SICAP**



**Mohammad
Ghozlan, SICAP**



**Pauline Kenny,
SICAP**



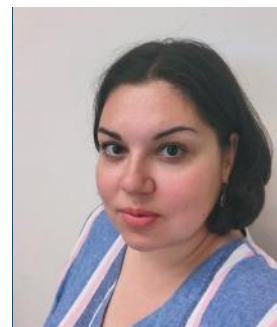
**Donal O'Ceilleachair,
SICAP**



**Galyna Iarmoliuk,
New Arrivals**



**Irina Belova,
New Arrivals**



**Viktoriia Sorochan,
New Arrivals**



**Richard Wood,
Tús**



**Pat Quinn,
Tús**



**Mark Rylands,
Tús**



**Brian McGrath,
Tús**



**Richard Brannigan,
Tús**



**Valerie Carty,
Tús**



**Sandra O'Donnell,
Tús**



**Gillian Walsh,
THCP**



**Ellen O'Reilly,
THCP**



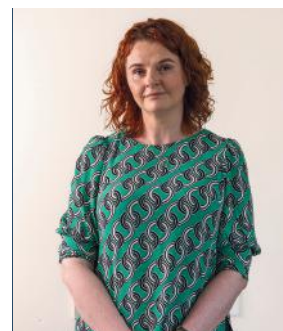
**Mary O'Reilly,
THCP**



**Clara Coffey,
THCP**



**Tony Scully,
LAES**



**Katriona Burke,
LAES**



**Andrew O'Malley,
LAES**



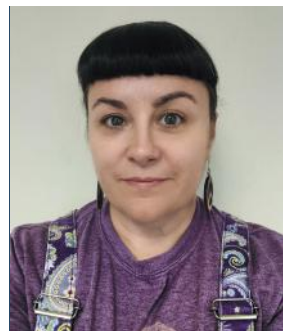
**John Bonfield,
LAES**



**Mary Martin,
LAES**



**Andrea Killian,
LAES**



**Michelle Tyler,
LAES**



**Emma Heslin,
LAES**



**Aliona Balanuta,
LAES**



**Maria Devane,
Account Executive**



**John English,
Receptionist**



**Paula O'Brien,
Receptionist**



**Lisa Pigott,
Administrator/
Account Assistant**

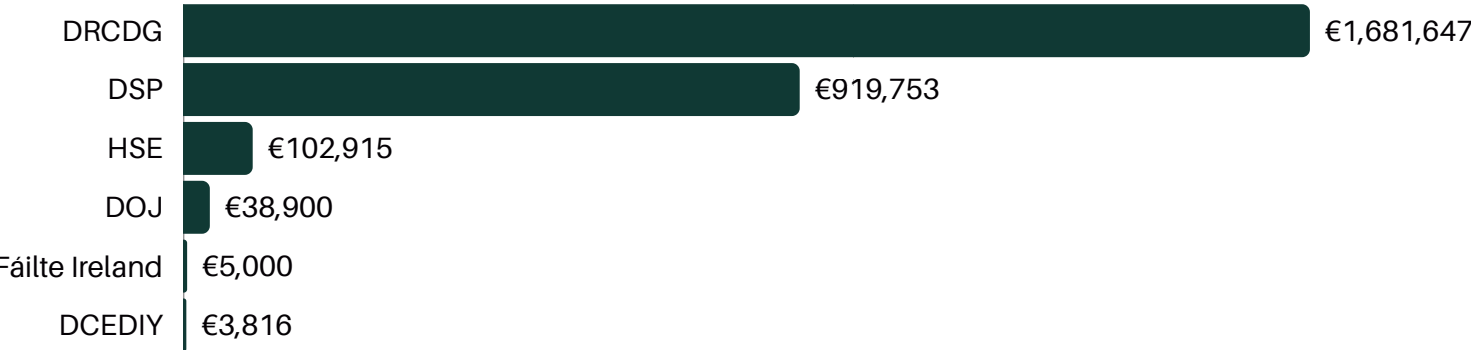


**Timothy O'Connor,
Caretaker**

Funding and Governance



Funding by Government Department



Governance



Board oversight

- Strategic direction
- Organisational performance
- Risk management



Compliance

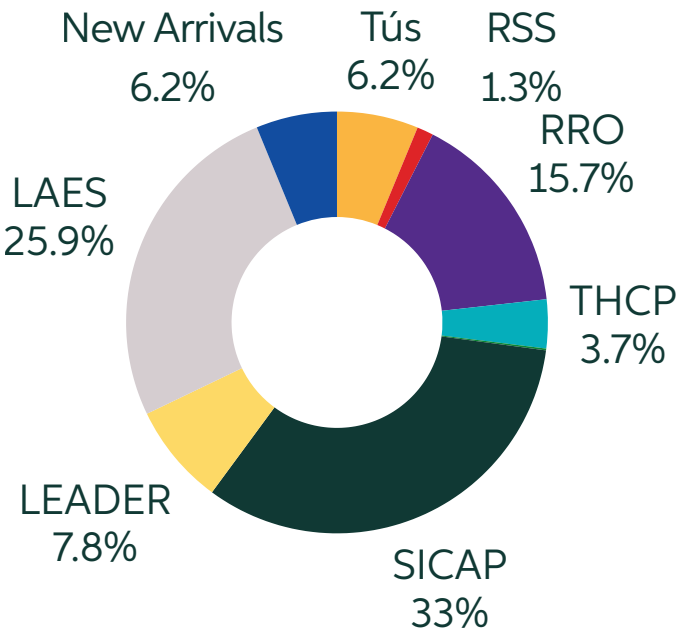
- Charities Governance Code
- Legal and regulatory obligations
- Policy review



Financial Controls

- Budget oversight
- Annual audited accounts
- Internal controls

Income 2025 by Programme



Strong governance underpins every aspect of STDC's work, providing assurance that resources are managed responsibly, risks are effectively monitored and strategic objectives are achieved.

Our Outcomes

2025

Our 2025 outcomes are presented under the five strategic priorities set out in our Strategic Plan 2024-2028.



€2.05M

Public Funding Directly Invested in South Tipperary



€970,000

Additional Funding Leveraged

Strengthen Our Communities	225	90	13
Community & Voluntary Groups Supported	Communities Received Financial Assistance	Businesses & Social Enterprises Supported	
Empower Individuals	1,926	959	168
Individuals Supported Through Advice & Guidance	Individuals Accessed Training, Education & Lifelong Learning	Individuals Progressed into Employment or Self-Employment	
Protect the Environment	177	278	25
Landowners Participated in the Walks Scheme	Individuals Engaged in Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environmental Training	Climate Action & Biodiversity Initiatives Supported	
Work With Others	45	20	8
Committees, Forums & Interagency Groups	Stakeholders Supported to Address Complex Community Needs	Strategic Partnerships Developed	
Develop Our Company	27	13	421,600
Staff Training & Professional Development Courses Completed	Board Members Participated in Governance & Development Training	Audience Engagements through STDC Communications & Digital Channels	

LEADER Programme

LEADER
Development led by local communities

Funded by the EU and the Department of Rural and
Community Development and the Gaeltacht



16 Projects
approved

€560,000



Enterprise &
Job Creation

€294,000



Community,
Climate &
Sustainability

€266,000



7 Project
Grant
Payments

€154,000

FASTER RESPONSE, SAFER MOUNTAINS

Supported by LEADER funding, The South Eastern Mountain Rescue Association (SEMRA), a voluntary search and rescue organisation based in Clonmel, provides 24/7 emergency response to incidents in mountainous, upland, and remote rural areas. It enhanced its emergency response capability through investment in drone technology and specialist training. This enables faster location of casualties in low visibility and challenging terrain, improving safety outcomes and operational efficiency. It also supports safer access to Tipperary's uplands, a key asset for walking and outdoor tourism.



“

“Drone technology has transformed SEMRA operations, enabling faster, safer casualty location in difficult conditions while boosting volunteer confidence and overall effectiveness during rescue missions.” – **Colm Walsh, SEMRA**



SCALING INNOVATION IN RURAL ENTERPRISE

Through investment in new bakery equipment, Ryan's of Tipperary increased its production capacity and addressed key operational constraints. Building on previous LEADER support that helped transform the company from a distributor into a successful local manufacturer, this project addressed production bottlenecks, increased capacity, and unlocked new product lines and markets, supporting contracts with major retailers and export partners. The upgrade has enabled new product development, supported access to new markets and strengthened the company's ability to sustain existing jobs while creating opportunities for future employment growth. This investment demonstrates how LEADER funding can support innovation, competitiveness and long-term growth in rural businesses.



“LEADER funding has been vital in allowing us to take the next step as a business. It has supported us to grow in a way that is rooted locally, while building a stronger and more sustainable future for the company.” – Kieran Ryan, Ryan's of Tipperary (Coniaka Ltd)

KILLENAULE COMMUNITY PARK – A SHARED VISION FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

Killenaule Community Enhancement CLG progressed plans to develop the “Parish Field” into an inclusive, multi-purpose community hub, supported by a feasibility study funded by LEADER. The study informed the planning application and set out a phased approach for facilities including a community building, walking track, sports pitches, and biodiversity areas. The project will promote health, wellbeing, and social engagement through accessible community facilities. The study also guided phased development to be carried out over the next 5–10 years, with significant groundwork completed, including surveys, stakeholder engagement, and community events.



“This LEADER-funded Feasibility study has helped turn our vision into a clear, achievable plan. It has strengthened community support and set a strong foundation for future development.” – Jerry Kelly, Killenaule Community Enhancement CLG



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO PLAN THEIR FUTURE

The SMART Villages programme supported Glengoole, Emly and Fethard communities to develop Sustainable Village Plans through structured training, consultation, and facilitated workshops. These communities identified local priorities and translated them into clear, actionable plans, including defined goals and implementation pathways. The process has strengthened local capacity to plan strategically and progress future projects with greater clarity and confidence.

Supported by LEADER funding, this initiative provides tailored training in sustainability, climate action, community consultation and strategic planning. Through participatory workshops, communities assess needs, set goals and develop practical action plans, including consultation findings, SWOT analysis, vision, and an implementation roadmap.



“This programme brought people together around a shared vision for our community. It gave us the skills and confidence to move from ideas to real plans, and to work collaboratively to make them happen.” – Gillian Moore, Chairperson, Emly Community Council

Local Area Employment Services (LAES)



Funded by the Department of Social Protection



Clients Engaged with LAES

572



Clients Sustained Employment (17+ Weeks)

38



Discretionary Fund Supports Provided

92



Client Satisfaction Rating

4.5 / 5

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

At 49, Siobhan was considering a return to education but was unsure where to start. Working closely with her LAES caseworker, she explored her options and identified a Culinary Skills course that matched both her interests and long-term goals. Support throughout the application process helped turn uncertainty into a clear plan. Now in her second year, Siobhan is successfully balancing education and work while developing new skills and creating opportunities for the future. The personalised guidance she received helped her take a significant step towards achieving her ambitions.



“Andrea gave me great direction, and her people skills made me feel comfortable and confident that I too can learn and educate myself at 49.” – Siobhán, LAES client



PARTNERSHIP IN PRACTICE

Through a joint initiative with Waterford City & County Council and Turas Nua, Waterford and South Tipperary Local Area Employment Services supported IPAS clients to prepare for employment in Ireland. The workshop brought together partner expertise, with Turas Nua providing guidance on interview techniques and networking, while Katriona Burke from STDC’s LAES team delivered practical support on CVs, cover letters and job preparation. The session highlighted the strength of the regional LAES partnership and demonstrated how joined-up working can provide clear, practical and engaging support to people building new futures in Ireland.



— “ —

*“Katriona Burke is a credit to the service. Her delivery was practical and engaging, and the positive energy in the room showed the real value of services working together to support people towards employment.” – **Partner feedback***

Building skills through work experience

During her engagement with LAES, Saoirse and her caseworker explored opportunities that would help her gain experience and move closer to employment. Working collaboratively with the Tús programme, a placement was identified with the Irish Wheelchair Association that matched her interests and needs. In her role, Saoirse assists with transport services, meal preparation and social activities, gaining valuable workplace experience in a supportive environment. Her progression onto Tús has provided an opportunity to develop practical skills, establish a routine and build confidence while contributing positively through a role she genuinely enjoys.



— “ —

*“I absolutely love working here. The experience has helped me build confidence, develop practical skills and become more comfortable in a workplace setting. I've really enjoyed meeting people, learning new things and being part of a supportive team.” – **Saoirse, LAES client***



TARGETED TRAINING, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Following the relocation of Ukrainian families to Clonmel, LAES caseworkers identified that limited English language skills were creating barriers to employment and everyday life. In response, a 10-week English language programme was delivered with a Ukrainian tutor, providing participants with a supportive environment to develop their communication skills and confidence. The programme helped participants engage more fully with local services, build workplace language skills and better prepare for employment opportunities. The programme demonstrated how a targeted intervention can provide the right support at the right time, helping participants take the next steps in their integration story.

— “ —

*“I'm happy to report that I'm very pleased with the LAES programme. My caseworker was a great help. She organised Basic English classes with a Ukrainian Tutor, which I found excellent.” – **Yevhenii Herasymenko, LAES client***

New Arrivals Support Programme



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the Department of Justice



Individuals
Received
Support

1,364



Individuals
Accessed
Training

423



Integration
Events
Delivered

16



Fáilte Isteach
Learners
Supported

83

INTEGRATION IN PRACTICE

In the lead up to Christmas 2025, wreath-making workshops were held in Emly, Clonmel and Killenaule, bringing together members of the Traveller and Ukrainian communities alongside local senior citizens.

While participants learned the skills involved in creating seasonal wreaths, the workshops provided a practical opportunity for people from different backgrounds and cultures to meet and get to know one another. Working side by side, participants exchanged ideas, shared traditions and developed new connections. The workshops demonstrated how a simple shared activity can support integration, helping people from diverse communities build relationships and engage with one another in a natural and informal way.



“

“It was great to meet people we wouldn’t normally meet and spend time together doing something different. We had good conversations, shared a few laughs and got to know each other a little better.”

– **Participants Feedback**



FINDING OUR VOICE IN SOUTH TIPPERARY

The Ukrainian Community Choir has become a regular feature at community events across South Tipperary, performing at festivals, concerts and cultural celebrations throughout 2025. Led by Maryna Moskalyk, the choir brings together members of the Ukrainian community who share a love of music and a desire to remain connected to their culture and traditions. Through their performances at events such as the Clonmel Junction Festival, Clonmel Together Festival and the St Patrick’s Day Parade, choir members have had the opportunity to share an important part of their cultural identity while engaging with communities across the county. Their growing presence at local events highlights the positive contribution new communities are making to cultural life in South Tipperary.



“

“The choir began as a way for Ukrainians to come together through music, but it has become much more than that. It has given people an opportunity to stay connected to their culture, form friendships and share something positive with the wider community.” – Maryna Moskalyk, Choir Director

MAKING CONNECTIONS THROUGH HORSE THERAPY

In August 2025, thirteen young people from Bridgewater House and the Carrick-on-Suir area took part in a horse therapy session as part of a wider programme of integration activities. Participants spent time grooming, feeding, leading and riding horses and ponies while learning how to interact safely and confidently with the animals. For some, the day involved overcoming an initial fear of horses, but confidence quickly grew as the session progressed. The four-hour session kept participants fully engaged throughout, encouraging teamwork, communication and positive social interaction while providing a welcome break from phones, screens and other digital distractions.



“

“That was the best thing ever! I really enjoyed spending time with the horses and everyone else. It was something completely different, — can we do more?” – Participant feedback



BRIDGING THE GAP TO EMPLOYMENT

As a qualified psychologist, Inna hoped to continue her professional career after arriving in Ireland. To strengthen her employment prospects, she joined the Bridging English for Employment programme, a 12-week English language course designed for unemployed professionals. The programme focused on developing the language skills needed for employment and professional communication in an Irish workplace. Alongside improving her English, Inna gained a better understanding of opportunities available to her and felt more confident using English in a professional setting. The programme helped her build on her existing qualifications and take an important step towards returning to professional employment in Ireland.

“

“The course helped me improve my professional English and better understand the language used in work settings. It was an important step towards returning to my career in Ireland.” – Inna, Bridging English for Employment Participant

Our Impact Across

1591

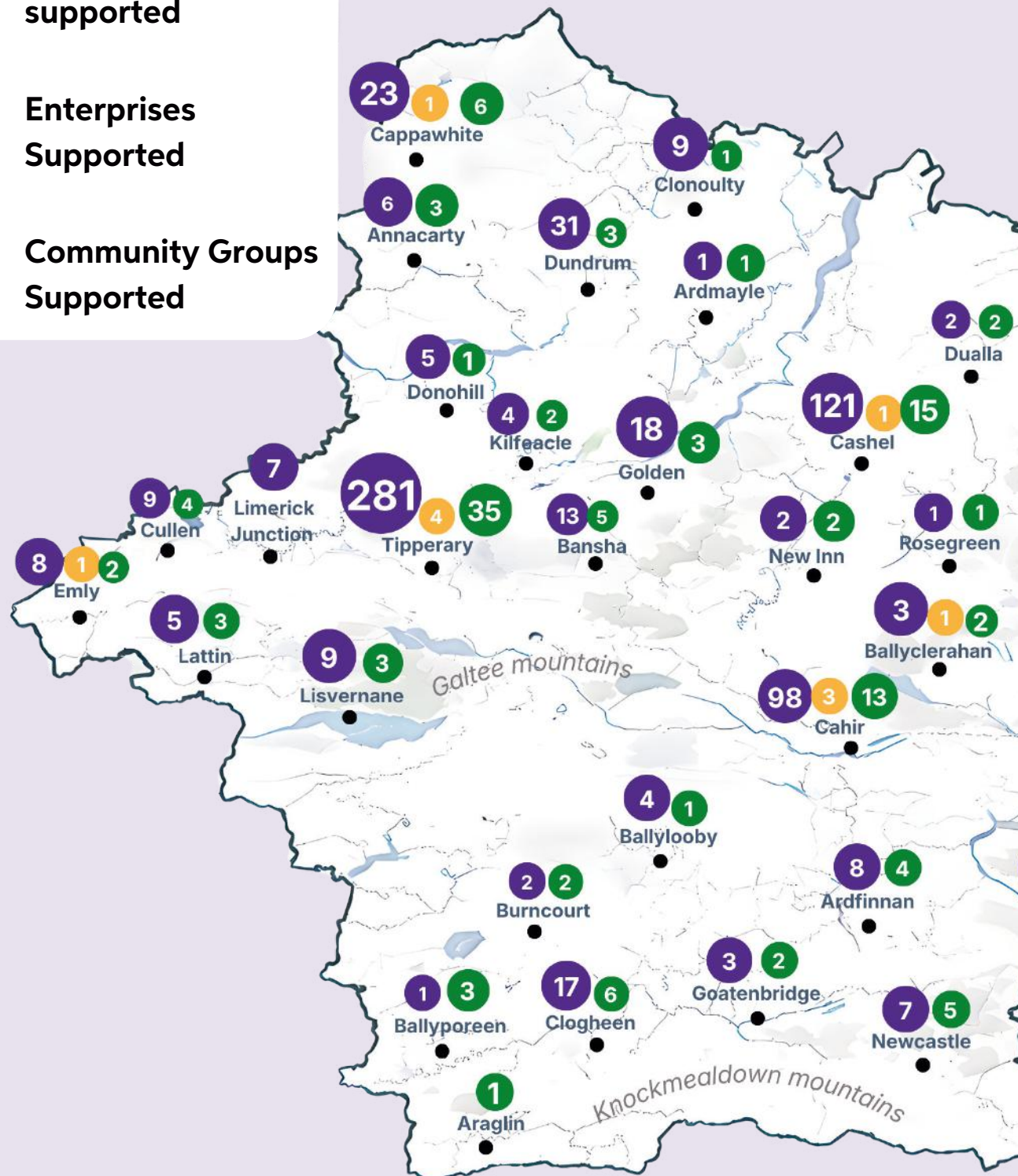
Individuals
supported

21

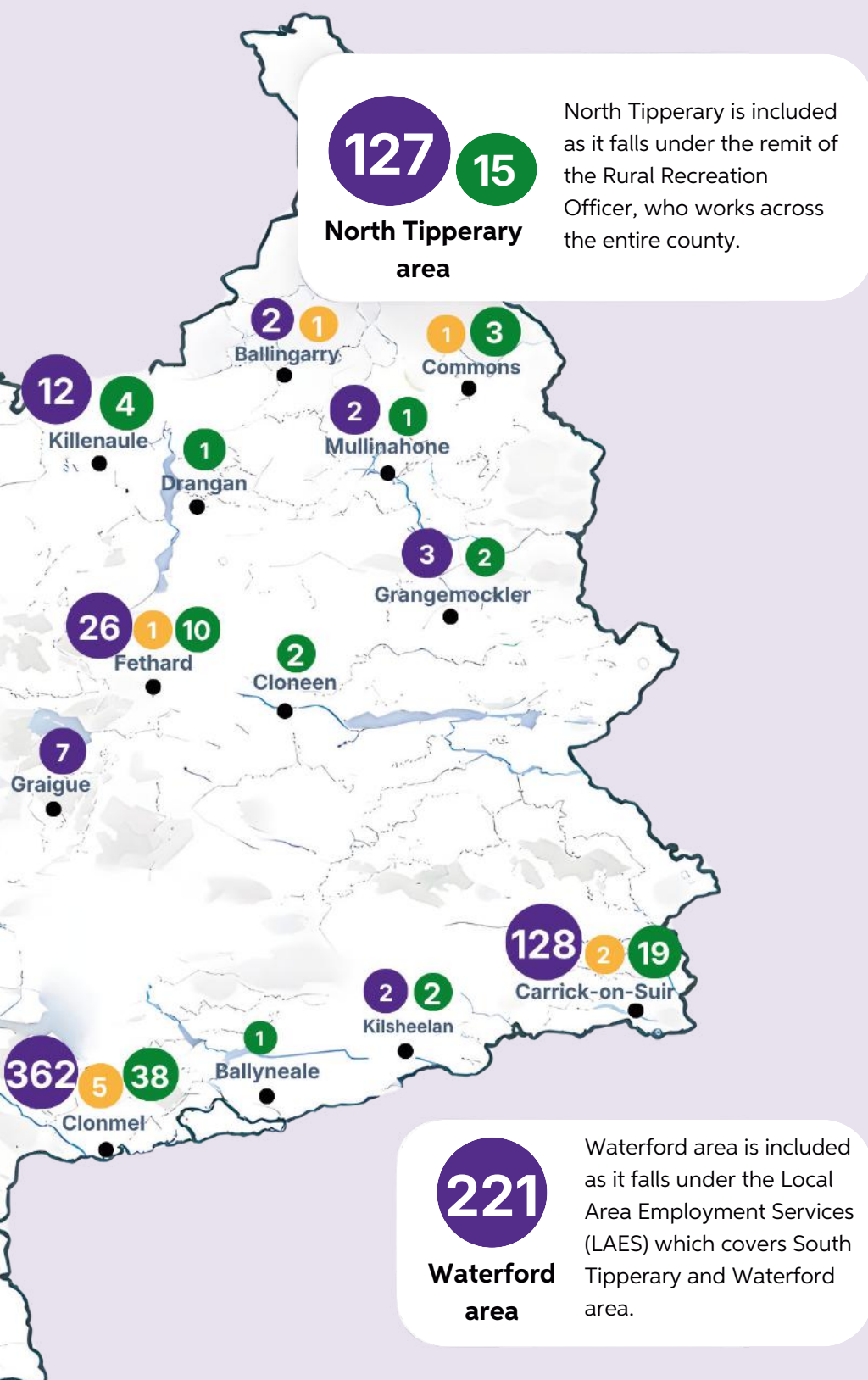
Enterprises
Supported

229

Community Groups
Supported



South Tipperary 2025



Please note that in the interest of clarity, locations are approximate and could have been combined

Rural Recreation and Walks Scheme



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and Fáilte Ireland



**Landowners
on the Walks
Scheme**

177



**Maintenance
Payments to Walks
Scheme Landowners**

€250,000



**Trail
Enhancement
Projects Funded**

9



**Investment
Secured through
ORIS & WSDF**

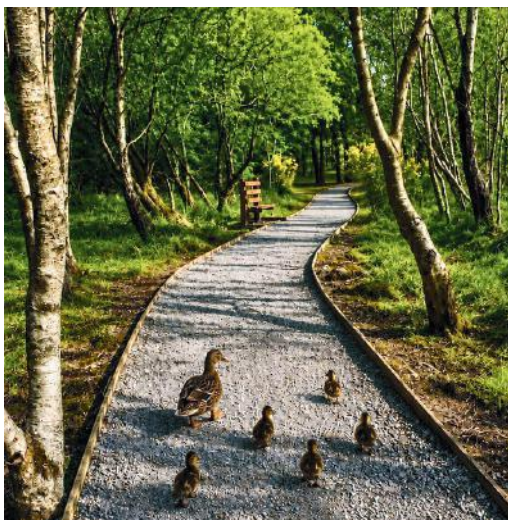
€285,000

RESTORING A POPULAR WOODLAND WALK

Severe winter storms in early 2025 caused extensive damage along a popular section of the Lough Derg Way at Ballydrinan, bringing down large numbers of trees and making the trail unsafe for use. Funding secured through the Walks Scheme Development Fund enabled the removal of fallen trees, repairs to damaged sections of the trail surface and the replacement of broken stiles. These works allowed the route to reopen safely and restored access to a well-used woodland walk enjoyed by both local people and visitors. The project demonstrates the importance of investing in trail maintenance to ensure that walks in Tipperary remain accessible, safe and enjoyable throughout the year.



“The storm damage was devastating, not just for the trail but for local forestry owners too. I was delighted to see the route reopened so quickly, ensuring walkers could once again enjoy this beautiful section of the Lough Derg Way.” – Marie Seymour, Landowner



ENHANCING THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT KILDANOQUE

Kildanogue Wildfowl Sanctuary & Nature Reserve is a unique local amenity that offers visitors an opportunity to experience wildlife and nature in a peaceful setting. In 2025, South Tipperary Development CLG supported the site custodians, AGBN Gun Club, to secure Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funding for a series of improvements throughout the reserve. Upgrades to trails, site furniture and signage have improved access around the sanctuary and enhanced the visitor experience. The improvements have enhanced access throughout the reserve and will help more people experience and appreciate the unique wildlife and habitats found at Kildanogue.



— “ —

“The project has brought real benefits to the sanctuary. The improved infrastructure has made it easier to welcome visitors and showcase the site's biodiversity, whether for local walks, wildlife enthusiasts or organised educational events.” – **Mark, Ardfinnan Ballybacon Gun Club**

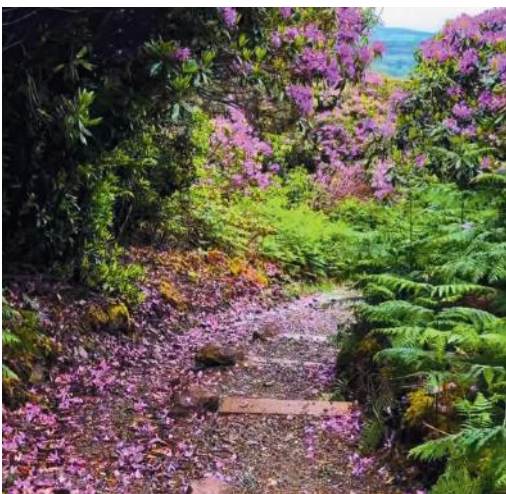
A SAFER ROUTE FOR WALKERS

The Cosán Felim Loops near Inch are a popular local walking route and recently became part of the Walks Scheme. In 2025, funding through the Walks Scheme Development Fund supported the development of a new trail section at Clehile, removing a stretch of road walking and creating a safer route for trail users. The project was delivered with the generous cooperation of the Butler family, whose lands now form part of the route. As a result, walkers can enjoy a safer and more pleasant experience, while the new section will benefit from ongoing maintenance through the Walks Scheme.



— “ —

“It's great to see walkers enjoying this new section of trail. The route now feels more suited to families and groups, and the feedback from regular users has been extremely positive.” – **Joe, Inch Tidy Villages & Landowner**



PROTECTING A TIPPERARY TREASURE

The Goats Path between Loughlin's Bridge and Bay Lough is one of the most distinctive sections of the Tipperary Heritage Way, offering dramatic mountain scenery and some of the most recognisable views in the Knockmealdowns. Following severe winter storms and prolonged heavy rainfall, significant erosion damage threatened this popular route. With support from South Tipperary Development CLG, Knockmealdown Active secured Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme funding to undertake essential repairs, including the installation of steps and water-control measures. The works have protected this vulnerable section of trail and ensured walkers can continue to enjoy one of South Tipperary's signature outdoor experiences.

— “ —

“The recent works have made a massive difference. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. It was especially satisfying to see hundreds of participants experience the improvements during the Knockmealdown Mountain Adventure Race.” – **Anthony, Organising Committee Member of the Race**

Rural Social Scheme



Funded by the Department of Social Protection



**Community
Groups
Supported**

33



**RSS
Participants**

31



**Hours Invested in
Communities**

29,500



GROWING KNOWLEDGE ACROSS GENERATIONS

David brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in organic growing, soil health and biodiversity to the Newcastle Community Garden. Through his work at the garden, people of all ages have opportunities to learn about food production, nature and the environment in a practical way. From young children attending the local Naíonra to members of the local Men's Shed, visitors regularly engage with the garden and its activities. He also supports volunteers and community groups to develop practical gardening skills while encouraging sustainable growing practices that can be applied at home and in the wider community. By sharing his skills and encouraging participation, David has helped develop the garden as a place of learning, inclusion and community engagement.

“

“The Rural Social Scheme gives me the flexibility to contribute while doing something I genuinely love. Sharing what I know with others and seeing children and community groups take an interest is very rewarding.” – **David Hewitt, RSS participant**



TAKING PRIDE IN PLACE

Tom has been involved with Clogheen Tidy Towns for many years and is a familiar face throughout the village. His knowledge of the local area and pride in the community are reflected in his work, supporting a range of projects that help enhance the village environment. Through his role, Tom contributes to the ongoing efforts that make Clogheen an attractive and welcoming place to live and visit. He particularly enjoys being out and about, meeting people and seeing first-hand the positive impact that community initiatives can have on the local area. His commitment helps ensure shared spaces are well maintained, encouraging community pride and creating a positive experience for everyone.



— “ —

*“Tom takes great pride in Clogheen and is always willing to lend a hand wherever needed. His local knowledge and commitment are a real asset to our group and to the wider community.”– **Member of the Clogheen Tidy Towns Committee***

CULLEN'S DYNAMIC DUO

In the village of Cullen, the Rural Social Scheme provides practical support to three local organisations – Cullen-Lattin Football Club, Cullen Graveyard Committee and Cullen Tidy Towns. RSS participants James and Ailbe carry out grass cutting, maintenance and general upkeep throughout the year. Their work spans a variety of community projects, from supporting local sporting facilities to helping maintain the village graveyard and tidy towns initiatives. The range of work undertaken highlights the important contribution RSS participants make to community organisations throughout south Tipperary.



— “ —

*“Having the support of James and Ailbe is a huge benefit to our community. We were delighted to hear that eligibility to join the RSS has been expanded, as schemes like this are increasingly important for rural communities.” – **Gerard Riordan, Member of Football Club and Graveyard Committee***

PART OF THE TEAM

For over a year, Mary has worked as receptionist with Tipperary Mid West Community Radio. Her role involves dealing with callers, visitors and volunteers and supporting the day-to-day running of the station. Mary enjoys the variety that comes with meeting different people and being part of a service that connects with communities across the region. The experience has provided an opportunity to develop new skills while contributing to an organisation that gives local groups, events and issues a voice on the airwaves.



— “ —

*“The support provided through RSS helps Tipp Mid West Community make the most of limited resources. Mary's contribution to the Team allows staff and volunteers to dedicate more time to other aspects of the station.” – **Eoin, Station Manager***

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme



Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht



**Individuals
Received
Support**

519



**Individuals
Progressed to
Employment,
Education or Training**

241



**Communities
Supported**

44



**Participants in
Climate Action
Activities**

275

ELM PARK: BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

In 2025, SICAP supported residents in Elm Park, Clonmel, to establish a Residents Association in an estate of more than 300 households. Through governance training, practical support and the development of a constitution and committee structures, the group gained the tools needed to organise effectively and begin addressing local priorities. Residents, volunteers and the Tús Programme came together to deliver a successful community clean-up initiative. The groundwork completed by residents, with support from SICAP, has opened up new opportunities for the group, including participation in the SMART Community training programme supported through the LEADER Programme.



“We had plenty of ideas but weren't sure how to move them forward. SICAP helped us put the right structures in place and gave us the confidence to get organised. We now have a stronger foundation to build on for our community.” – **Joe Hawkins, Chairperson, Elm Park Residents Association**



SWEET SUCCESS IN KILLENAULE

When Yuliya Kovalevska first engaged with SICAP, she was keen to build on her experience of creating custom cakes and working in the food sector. Working closely with the SICAP team, she explored self-employment options and completed a Self-Employment Options Programme to help shape her plans. SICAP staff provided ongoing guidance, supporting Yuliya to develop her business idea, prepare a business plan and progress towards self-employment by qualifying for the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance. Following her move to Killenaule and the securing of suitable premises, Greenwich Cakery opened in April 2025 and has quickly become a popular addition to village life.



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“Thank you very much for all the support and guidance throughout the process. I sincerely appreciate the assistance I received and the encouragement to move forward with my business plans.” – Yuliya, Greenwich Cakery owner

A COORDINATED RESPONSE TO LOCAL ISSUES

Coordinated through SICAP, the Waller’s Lot Traveller Interagency Group brings together organisations from across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors to improve coordination, share information and develop responses to issues affecting Traveller communities. Membership includes the Tipperary Rural Traveller Project, ETB, Department of Social Protection, An Garda Síochána, schools, Youth Work Ireland, the HSE, Tusla, CYPSC and Tipperary County Council.

During 2025, a dedicated subgroup in Clonmel examined issues relating to education, training and family support, identifying gaps in local provision and supporting a more coordinated approach between services. By providing a space for agencies to work together, the Group helps strengthen communication, reduce duplication and improve how services respond to local needs.



— “
“The Network provides an opportunity to raise issues, share information and consider practical responses to challenges affecting Traveller communities.” – Network Member



PRACTICAL STEPS FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

In 2025, the STDC Climate Action Worker developed a Sustainable Living Toolkit in response to issues regularly encountered through SICAP’s work with individuals and communities. Rising energy costs, pressure on household budgets and the challenge of making limited resources stretch further highlighted the need for practical, accessible information. Drawing together resources, guidance and learning opportunities from a range of reliable sources, the toolkit was designed to help people identify ways to reduce everyday costs and make informed choices about energy, food, transport, wellbeing and sustainable living.

— “
“The Toolkit brings together useful information, supports and ideas in one place. It helps individuals and community groups find practical ways to reduce costs, reduce waste and make informed choices in their everyday lives.” – Ruth Smith, PPN Coordinator

Traveller Health Care Project (THCP)



Funded by the HSE



Traveller Engagements

150



Period Dignity Packs Distributed

320



Health Promotion Events Delivered

15



Women Engaged in Women's Health Initiatives

40

SUPPORTING TRAVELLER WOMEN TO TAKE CHARGE OF THEIR HEALTH

Supporting Traveller women to improve their health and wellbeing remained a key focus of the Traveller Health Care Project throughout 2025. Through ongoing group work, one-to-one support and health promotion activities, women engaged on a range of topics including breast screening, menopause, nutrition, period dignity, smoking cessation and mental wellbeing. Alongside health education, women were encouraged to take part in activities that support positive physical and mental health, including swimming and walking, helping to build confidence, reduce isolation and promote healthier lifestyles. Health literacy and practical wellbeing were central to this work.

A highlight of the year was a dedicated Women's Health Event held in Cahir in April 2025. Over 20 women attended the session, which was delivered by a menopause specialist pharmacist in partnership with HSE Health Promotion staff. The event provided a welcoming and culturally appropriate space where women could ask questions, share experiences and access trusted information on breast health, breast screening and menopause.

For many women, these activities provided a practical and supportive way to focus on their own health and wellbeing. Whether attending health information sessions, participating in wellbeing activities or building relationships with healthcare professionals, women were encouraged to take positive steps towards improving their physical and mental health and to access support when needed.



"Taking part in the group gave us a chance to meet other women, try new activities and learn more about our health in a relaxed and supportive environment. We enjoyed getting out together, sharing experiences and building confidence, while picking up practical information that we can use in our everyday lives." – **Feedback from Programme Participants**

SUPPORTING PLAY, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT HOME

In October 2025, the Clonmel Traveller Health Project partnered with a Tusla Family Support Co-ordinator to deliver a My Place to Play session. Ten mothers attended with their babies and toddlers. The fun and interactive session focused on supporting early childhood development through play, particularly for families living in limited space or temporary accommodation. Mothers received play mats, toddler play packs and practical guidance on tummy time, sensory play and child development. Children actively engaged with the toys and activities, promoting parent-child bonding, early learning and positive development. Feedback from participants was very positive.



“I really enjoyed it, I got to spend time with her on my own which was nice as it is busy at home with the other children, the information on development was helpful.” – **S.O’R**



HELLO, HOW ARE YOU? STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing is a key focus of the Traveller Health Project. As part of the Hello How Are You? mental health awareness campaign, Gillian Walsh, Traveller Health Co-ordinator, and the South East Traveller Mental Health Co-ordinator facilitated a wellbeing session for Traveller women. Participants engaged in open discussions on mental health, resilience and wellbeing in a safe and supportive environment. The event provided a valuable opportunity for women to come together, share experiences and explore practical ways of supporting their own wellbeing and that of their families. The session encouraged meaningful conversations and highlighted the importance of checking in with one another, helping to build connections, reduce isolation and support positive wellbeing within the group.

“Initiatives such as Hello How Are You? provide a valuable opportunity to bring national mental health awareness campaigns into our local Traveller community. It provides a great opportunity to engage Traveller women in positive discussions around mental health, while raising awareness of the supports available within their community.”
– **Gillian Walsh, Traveller Health Co-ordinator**



Tús (Community Work Placement Initiative)



Funded by the Department of Social Protection



**Tús
Participants**

146



**Community
Organisations
Supported**

92



**Hours Invested
in Communities**

136,600



**Under-25s
Joined Tús Pilot**

18

A COMMUNITY CAFÉ AT THE HEART OF FETHARD

Established as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Fethard Community Council, the Community Café has quickly become a popular addition to the town. Based in the Fr Tirry Centre, it provides a welcoming space run by volunteers and supported through community effort. Jack Hayes, a Tús participant, is part of the café team and helps with the day-to-day running of the service. The placement has provided him with an opportunity to develop new skills, build confidence and gain practical work experience. Jack particularly enjoys the variety of the role and being part of a team that makes the café such a welcoming place.



"I've really enjoyed my Tús placement. The support and encouragement I've received from my manager has helped me grow in confidence. I would happily recommend the Tús Programme to others." – **Jack Hayes, Tús Participant**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN GORTNAHOE

Gortnahoe is a busy rural community with a strong tradition of local activity, fundraising and volunteer-led projects. Sharon Ryan was offered a Tús placement with the community group in February 2025 and has quickly become part of the team. Working both independently and alongside volunteers, Sharon supports a mix of seasonal tasks, administrative work and local projects. The variety of the role allows her to use her initiative and get involved in a wide range of activities. With new projects emerging throughout the year, no two weeks are quite the same.



— “ —

“My experience as a Tús participant has been very positive. I enjoy the variety of the work, the opportunity to use my own initiative and being involved in the many projects taking place in the community.” – Sharon Ryan, Tús Participant

WHERE CONFIDENCE TOOK ROOT

Karris self-referred to the Tús Programme following the completion of a KITE course at Knockanrawley Resource Centre. Having already become involved in activities in the Organic Garden during the course, she was keen to continue that involvement through a Tús placement. Since then, Karris has taken part in a wide range of activities and projects, building on her interest in nature while developing new skills and experiences. Her creativity has been showcased through an exhibition of her insect photography, while other opportunities have included training in herbal medicine and involvement in community initiatives. Along the way, Karris has grown in confidence, formed new friendships and become an active and valued member of the garden community.



— “ —

“Being part of the garden has helped me grow in confidence and become more comfortable meeting and talking to people. I've discovered new interests, learned new skills and found a place where I feel welcome. It has encouraged me to try new things and given me opportunities I never imagined.” – Karris, Tús Participant



SUPPORTING CREATIVITY THROUGH TÚS PLACEMENTS

Clonmel Junction Festival provided Tús participants with an opportunity to put their creative talents into practice through artistic, design and promotional projects. Working across areas including visual art, graphic design, web design and administration, participants contributed to the preparation and delivery of the Festival. Some created public artwork and visual displays that enhanced festival spaces and added colour to the town. The experience provided valuable practical skills and contributed to one of Clonmel's most recognisable cultural events. One Tús participant subsequently secured employment with Clonmel Junction Festival, demonstrating the programme's positive employment outcomes.

— “ —

“The creativity, enthusiasm and skills brought by the Tús participants added enormously to this year's Festival. Their work enhanced a number of projects and helped create the atmosphere and visual impact that audiences experienced throughout the event.” – Clonmel Junction Festival Organisers

Supported Community & Voluntary Organisations

LEADER (RD), Local Area Employment Services (LAES), New Arrivals Support Programme (NA), Rural Recreation and Walks Scheme (RR), Rural Social Scheme (RSS), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Traveller Health Care Project (THCP)

Aherlow Failte	RR
Aherlow GAA	RSS
Aherlow Road Resident's Group	RSS
Aherlow-Kilross Community Council	RSS
Annacarty Tea Rooms	RSS, Tús
Annacarty Tidy Towns	Tús
Ardfinnan Community Council	RR,RD
Ardfinnan Tidy Towns	Tús, RSS
Ardfinnan, Ballybacon, Grange, Newcastle Gunclub (ABGN)	RR
Ardmayle Graveyard	Tús
Ballagh Men's Shed	SICAP
Ballagh Social Centre Group	SICAP
Ballylooby Community Council	RD
Ballylynch Community Coming Together Group	SICAP, NA
Ballylynch Woman's Group	SICAP
Ballyporeen Community Council CLG	RD
Ballyporeen GAA	RD
Bansha GAA	Tús
Bansha Tidy Towns	Tús
Burncourt Celtic	RSS
Burncourt Community Centre	RSS
Cahir Daycare Centre	Tús
Cahir Development Association CLG	Tús,RD
Cahir GAA Club	Tús
Cahir Men's Shed	SICAP
Cahir Tidy Towns	Tús
Camphill Communities Carrick on Suir	RD
Camphill Communities Grangemockler	RD
Cappawhite GAA Club	RSS
Carde Le Cheile	SICAP
Carrick on Suir Meals Assist	SICAP
Carrick on Suir Men's Shed	SICAP
Carrick on Suir River Rescue	Tús
Carrick Swans GAA	Tús
Carrowclough Residents Association	SICAP
Cashel & District Social Services	Tús
Cashel Daycare Centre	Tús
Cashel Handball Alley	Tús
Cashel Tidy Towns	Tús
Circle of Friends Cancer Support Group, Tipperary Town	Tús
Clanwilliam Rugby Football Club	Tús
Clerihan Community Group	RSS, Tús
Clerihan Men's Shed	SICAP
Clogheen Men's Shed	SICAP
Clogheen Tidy Towns	RSS, Tús
Clonmel Celtic Football Club	Tús

Supported Community & Voluntary Organisations

Clonmel Daycare Centre for Elderly	Tús
Clonmel Rugby Club	RSS, Tús
Clonmel Social Activity Network	SICAP
Clonmel Together	SICAP, NA
Clonmel Tourism	RSS
Clonmel Town FC	RD
Clonmel Union of Parishes	Tús
Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise	Tús
Clonoulty Tidy Towns	Tús, RSS
Commons Residents Group	SICAP
Cooleens & Heywood Close Residents Group	Tús
Cullen Graveyard	RSS
Cullen Tidy Towns	RSS
Cullen-Lattin AFC	RSS
Cullen-Lattin GAA	RSS
East Munster Way, Graige Group	SICAP
Elm Park Community & Residents, Clonmel	RR, NA
Elm Tree Community Centre	SICAP
Emly Historical Research	NA
Enable Ireland	Tús
Fethard and District Day Care CLG	Tús
Fethard Commerce & Tourism	SICAP
Fethard Community Group	Tús
Fethard Regional Community Sport and Recreational Campus CLG	SICAP
Fethard Youth Centre (Community Council)	RD, Tús
Friends of Josephs, Clonmel	Tús
Galbally Tidy Towns	Tús
Glengoole Hall Committee	RR
Goatenbridge-Ballybacon Development	RD
Golden Tidy Towns	Tús
Golden-Kilfeacle GAA	Tús
Grange Development Association	RD
Grangemockler Community Sportsfield	RSS
Hearns Hotel IP Centre, Clonmel	SICAP
Hillview Sports Club	Tús
Hollycross AFC	Tús
Irish Wheelchair Association Community Centre, Tipperary Town	Tús
IWA Shop, Tipperary Town	Tús
Jack and Jill, Carrick on Suir	Tús
Kilcommon Cemetary, Cahir	Tús
Kilfeacle & District RFC	RSS
Killenaule Senior Citizens Club	SICAP
Killenaule Tidy Towns	Tús



Supported Community & Voluntary Organisations

Killenaule Women's Group	NA
Kilross Tidy Towns	RSS
Knockanrawley Resource Centre	Tús, RSS, RD
Knockavilla-Donaskeigh Kickhams GAA	RSS, Tús
Knockmealdown Active	Tús,RSS,RR,RD
Larkspur Park	Tús,RD
Lattin / Cullen GAA	RSS
Lattin Tennis Club	Tús
Lattin Tidy Towns	RSS
Littleton Community Development	RR
Marl Bog / Multeen Way Committee	RR
Marlfield GAA, Clonmel	Tús
Memory Cafes Network	SICAP
Millenium Family Resource Centre	SICAP
Mochara Charity Shop	Tús
Monard Hall	RD
Moyle Rovers GAA	Tús
Mullinahone Community Council	RD
Mullinahone Men's Shed	SICAP
Multeen Way/ Marl Bog Committee	RR
Munster Vales	RD
Nano Nagle Centre, Carrick on Suir	Tús
Nano Nagle Womens Group	SICAP
NCBI, Carrick on Suir	Tús
NCBI, Cashel	Tús
NCBI, Tipperary Town	Tús
New Inn Tidy Towns	RD
Newcastle Community Alert	RSS
Newcastle Community Council	RD
Newcastle NS	RSS
Old Bridge Community Association	Tús, SICAP
Old Bridge FC	Tús
One Town, One Voice Tipperary	SICAP
Pearse Park Residents Group	SICAP
Premier Sensory Solutions CLG	SICAP
Realta Special Needs Sports Club	SICAP
Rehab Care, Knocklofty	RSS
South Tipperary Arts Centre	Tús
South Tipperary Autism Parents Support Group	SICAP
Spafield FRC, Cashel	Tús
St Michaels AFC, Tipperary Town	Tús
St. Declans Way Committee	RR
St. Johns Cathedral Parish Council	Tús
St. Marys Choral Society	Tús
St. Mary's Church of Ireland	RSS
St. Michael's Junior Boys School	RSS



Supported Community & Voluntary Organisations

St. Pauls Church, Cahir	Tús
St. Vincent de Paul, Cahir	Tús
St. Vincent de Paul, Carrick on Suir	Tús
St. Vincent de Paul, Clonmel	Tús
STDC office, Carrick on Suir	Tús
STDC Place 4 You, Clonmel	Tús
Strand Theatre, Carrick on Suir	Tús
Sue Ryder Foundation	Tús
Suircan Environmental, Clonmel	Tús
Suirside FC, Clonmel	Tús
The Circular Square/ Suircan Environmental	SICAP
The Commons-Ballingarry Community Field	Tús
Tipperary Clonmel Community LGBTQ+ Pride	SICAP
Tipperary Community Council / Community Centre	Tús, RSS
Tipperary Excel Arts and Heritage	SICAP
Tipperary Hills Pitch and Putt Club	Tús
Tipperary Men's Shed Network	SICAP
Tipperary Midwest Community Radio	RSS, RD
Tipperary Residents Network	SICAP
Tipperary River Walk, Tipperary Town	Tús
Tipperary Tidy Towns	Tús
Tipperary Tourism	RD
Tipperary Town Chamber of Commerce	Tús
Tipperary Town Revitalisation CLG	RD, RR, SICAP
Tipperary Town Syrian Community Group	SICAP
Ukrainians in Tipp Town	SICAP, NA
West End Residents Association	SICAP
Wilderness Grove/ Carrigeen Residents Group	SICAP
Wilderness Rovers Football Club	Tús, SICAP
Young at Heart Group	SICAP

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Tipperary County Council



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