

# ***OFFALY LOCAL AUTHORITIES***

## ***ANNUAL REPORT 2006***



*Our mission is to work with the people of Offaly to provide a quality Service*

# *Offaly Local Authorities Annual Report 2006*

## **JOINT ADDRESS BY THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND COUNTY MANAGER**



**Councillor Gerard Killally**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Niall Sweeney**  
**Bainisteor Chontae**

**Pat Gallagher**  
**Bainisteor Chontae**

We are very pleased to present the Annual Report of Offaly Local Authorities for the year 2006. This report contains information about the services provided by the Council, its elected members, staff and departments.

We look forward to working with the elected members and staff of the Councils and the wider community in furthering the development of County Offaly at this time of both opportunity and challenge.

This was an eventful year for the Council as it seeks to deliver quality and cost effective services. The scale and diversity of the activities for the year reflect the ongoing development of Offaly as a vibrant and attractive county.

The Tullamore By-Pass project continued to progress to the Tender Preparation stage with 60% of the land acquisition in place.

Following a very extensive public consultation procedure, the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) (County of Offaly) Bye Laws, 2006 were adopted by the members in July 2006. These Bye-Laws came into force on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006 and amended speed limits at 36 existing locations and provided for new speed limits at 17 new locations within the County.

The first phase relocation of the Machinery Yard / Stores from the town-centre site at Cormac Street to edge-of-town location at Ballydrohid on the Western Relief Road commenced with Stores relocating to the new site in November 2006 and Machinery Yard due to relocate there in January 2007.

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006 Minister for Finance, Mr Brian Cowen opened the new Library & Civic Offices at Wilmer Road, Birr. The former St. John's Convent of Mercy was acquired by the Council in 1996 and sensitively refurbished to accommodate the Local Authority Library Service, the District Engineers Area Office and the offices and Council Chamber for Birr Town Council.

The Strategic Development Framework for Midland Gateway (ATM) prepared by Indecon was launched in December 2006. This report was formally submitted to Government and sets out the strengths and weaknesses of ATM Gateway towns and the various strategic actions required to realise the vision for the Midland Gateway, as envisaged in the National Spatial Strategy.

We would like to pay particular tribute to Niall Sweeney for his leadership of the Council as County Manager for the past decade during a time of great change for local government and to his commitment and dedication to the work of the Council in developing and promoting the County.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to former Cathaoirleach Peter Ormond and to the elected members, management and staff – both indoor and outdoor, for their commitment, co-operation and support, in the delivery of services of the Council during 2006.

**Gerard Killally**  
**Cathaoirleach**

**Niall Sweeney**  
**Bainisteoir Chontae**

**Pat Gallagher**  
**Bainisteoir Chontae**

*TABLE OF CONTENTS*

**INTRODUCTION**

**CHAPTER 1**      **TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES**  
                         **ROADS & TRANSPORTATION SERVICE**  
                         **WATER SERVICES**

**CHAPTER 2**      **HOUSING, SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES**  
                         **HOUSING**  
                         **ARTS**  
                         **COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE**  
                         **COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE**

**CHAPTER 3**      **PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
                         **HERITAGE**

**CHAPTER 4**      **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**  
                         **ENVIRONMENT**  
                         **VETERINARY SERVICES**  
                         **FIRE SERVICES**  
                         **CIVIL DEFENCE**

**CHAPTER 5**      **CORPORATE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES**  
                         **CORPORATE SERVICES**  
                         **HUMAN RESOURCES**  
                         **PARTNERSHIP**

**CHAPTER 6**      **INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**CHAPTER 7**      **FINANCE**  
                         **MOTOR TAXATION**

**CHAPTER 8**      **TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL**  
                         **BIRR TOWN COUNCIL**  
                         **EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL**



## Strategic Policy Committee Meetings

Five meetings of the Roads and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee took place in 2006. This committee comprises of five members of Offaly County Council and four members from the community including Tullamore Town Council, Business/Commercial, Development / Construction and Community/Voluntary/Disadvantage.

The Committee discussed the following issues in 2006: -

- Assessment of Needs-Water Services
- Water Conservation
- Community Involvement at Roadworks (CIR) schemes
- Speed Limit Review
- Public Lighting.
- Road Signage at Schools
- Local Improvement schemes
- Sight distances for planning purposes

It was agreed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July meeting in 2006 that the policy on Public lighting should be presented to a full County Council Meeting

## Goal

To provide for the safe and efficient movement of persons and goods by road.

## Strategies

Implementing a programme for the improvement and maintenance of the county's road network, including public lighting and signage.

Incorporating sustainable development considerations into our road policies.

Administering an efficient taxi and hackney licensing system.

Implementing a fair and efficient Local Improvement Scheme System.

Promoting Community Participation of Road Works Schemes.

Offaly County Council is responsible for the maintenance & upkeep of **2,064km of roadway** in the County. The road network is broken down as follow:

National Primary	19.76km
National Secondary	120.91km
Regional	346.13km
County	1,577.14km

In 2006, Offaly County Council received a **total allocation of €40,735,973.00** in respect of National & Non-National Roads in the County. Of this, **€1,463,347.00** was financed from **Offaly County Council's own funds** with the remainder coming from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government & the National Roads Authority.

**Non-National Roads Specific Improvement and Special Grants of €5,900,000 were provided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for the following works:-**

- **Banagher Link Road** – Completion of Phase 1 (1.8 Km) from the Birr Road to the Lusmagh Road
- **R402 Tullamore/Geashill** – Completion of the re-alignment of 1 Km of the R402 on the Tullamore approach to Geashill village including the installation of traffic calming features on all the approach roads to the village
- **Clara Streets** – Re-surfacing of the streets and some housing estates in Clara including the installation of pedestrian crossings on the Ballycumber Road and the Kilbeggan Road.
- **Edenderry Inner Relief Road** – Progressed planning and design
- **Spollanstown Bridge Tullamore** – Progress planning and design and preparation of contract documents

**Funding to the value of €25,575,000 was provided by the National Roads Authority (NRA) for National Secondary Major Schemes and Pavement and Minor Improvement Works for the following projects: -**

- Tullamore Bypass and Kilbeggan Link
- Pavement and Route Evaluation Report on the N52, N62 and N80
- Pavement Improvement on the N52 from Blueball to Idle Corner
- Pavement Improvement on Tullamore Streets
- Pavement Improvement on the N62 from Galross Cross to Cloghan
- Pavement Improvement on the N62 between Birr and Roscrea

**National Primary and Secondary Safety Measures funded by the National Roads Authority (NRA) to the value of €323,000 were planned and installed at the following locations: -**

- N6 at Dochall
- N6 at the Well Moate
- NP/NS Safety Barriers at various Bridges
- N52 Fingerboard Tullamore
- N52 Kilcormac Traffic Calming
- N62 Balleighan Birr
- N62 Cloghan Traffic Calming
- N62 Route Treatment
- N80 Kilcoursey Clara
- N80 Pidgeon House Killeigh

**Low Cost Accident Improvement Schemes funded by the Department of Environment, heritage and Local Government to the value of €71,000 were designed and installed at the following locations: -:**

- Ballycommon Bridge Tullamore
- Derryvilla Portarlington
- Bracknagh to Nahana Portarlington
- Cloghan
- Curraghlan Cross Roads Banagher
- Cushina Bridge/Junction
- Milltown Bridge Birr
- Ballycowan Bridge Tullamore
- Clonad Bridge Tullamore
- Clonad bridge Tullamore
- Coolville Rhode
- Wood of O Bridge Tullamore
- Poneys Bridge Shinrone



**Earthworks - Banagher Relief Road April 2006**



**Completed - Banagher Relief Road December 2006**

### **Local Improvement Schemes**

This scheme allows for the improvement of roads not in the charge of Offaly County Council which provide access to at least 2 parcels of land owned or occupied by different persons engaged in agricultural activities or for harvesting purposes. The allocation from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 2006 was €306,000. This allowed, with the assistance of the CLAR allocation, for 19 schemes off the 2006 priority list of 60 to be commenced in 2006.

### **Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme**

The Council is allowed to spend up to 7½% of the total allocation for restoration maintenance/reconstruction on roads on which there would be an input of resources from local communities. Local communities are required to contribute a minimum of 25% either in money or in kind towards the project. The allocation of €286,000 (€71,500 per area) allowed Offaly County Council carry out a number of schemes in each area.

### **Speed Limit Review**

Following a very extensive public consultation procedure the Road Traffic (Speed Limits) (County of Offaly) Bye Laws, 2006 were adapted by the members of Offaly County Council at their monthly meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006. These Bye - Laws amended the speed limits at 36 existing locations and also provide for new speed limits at 17 new locations within the County. The Bye - Laws came into force on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006.



## **Health and Safety**

Compliance with Health and Safety legislation in relation to roadworks placed very onerous obligations and responsibilities on the technical staff of Offaly County Council in 2006. In order for Offaly County Council to comply fully with current Health and Safety Legislation, significant additional costs in the region of 10% to 15% onto the original cost of the roadwork schemes may be encountered. These costs will have to include for additional technical staff to implement the Health and Safety requirements in each Area.

## **Flashing Lights in CLAR Areas**

An allocation of €35,000 was received for the installation of flashing lights at 5 schools in the CLAR areas of the County in 2006. These lights were installed in early 2007.

## **Public Lighting**

The Transport and Infrastructure SPC developed a Public Lighting Policy in 2006. It is considered that significant capital and maintenance costs will be involved in the implementation of this policy. A report on capital and maintenance expenditure will be prepared in 2007.

## **Casual Trading**

The Council adopted Casual Trading Bye-Laws in 1996, pursuant to the Casual Trading Act, 1995. The Bye-Laws empowers the Council to grant licences for casual trading & also to control, regulate & manage casual trading. Thirty-four casual trading licences are in force for the designated casual trading area in Edenderry. The Market takes place on the first Tuesday of each month.

	<i>Offaly Local Authorities</i>	
<b>R: Roads</b>	<b><i>SERVICE INDICATORS</i></b>	
<b>R.1</b>		<b>2006</b>
	Local and regional roads surface dressed / annum (square meters)	561100
	% of local and regional roads surface dressed / annum )	5.536

## Goal

To provide water and wastewater services necessary for social, economic and local development purposes in conformity with quality standards.

## Strategies

- Continue to improve water services infrastructure to the highest water quality standards.
- Provision of water and sewerage infrastructure to cater for future development
- Operate and maintain existing public Water Supply and Sewerage schemes to a high standard, using modern and efficient work practices
- Implementation of Rural Water Programme through the administration of Group Scheme Grants and Subsidies and through the assistance of the Group Scheme Sector; provision of Small Schemes; administration of the Individual Water Supply (Well Grant) Scheme.
- Provision of serviced land to support residential development.
- Implement programmes in relation to water conservation and wastewater collection and treatment.
- Implement best practice in design, planning and management of water and wastewater services.

## Water Quality

The quality of schemes and group water schemes was carried out in order to ensure that the high quality of the water in drinking water remains of paramount importance. Continuous monitoring of public water the county is maintained. Monitoring was carried out in accordance with the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulation, 2000 (S.I. 439 of 2000)).

Constant monitoring of public sewerage schemes was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Urban Wastewater Regulations and EPA requirements.

## Service Indicators

<b>E.2 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to</b>	
Public Schemes	(not available)
Private Schemes (where appropriate)	(not available)

**(Overall rate of compliance: 98.5%)**

*2006 saw progress on the following major projects*

### **Tullamore Sewerage Scheme**

Contract Documents were prepared for the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant to 30,000 PE.

An EIS was commenced for an additional upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment Plant of 15,000 P.E.

## **Tullamore Water Supply Improvements – Stage 5**

Silloogue Well was commissioned.

## **Rhode Sewerage Scheme**

Contract Documents were commenced.

## **Rhode Interim Sewerage Scheme**

Construction of scheme substantially complete.

## **Sludge Management Plan**

The construction of the Tullamore hub centre will be undertaken as part of Tullamore Sewerage Scheme. Construction of the Ferbane and Edenderry satellite centres completed.

## **Water Conservation Project**

Phase 1 complete. Application for funding for Stage 2 submitted to D.E.H.L.G.

## **Non-Domestic Water Metering Project**

Contract for meter installation ongoing.

## **Birr Water Supply Scheme**

Preliminary Report submitted to D.E.H.L.G. for approval.

## **Birr Water Supply Emergency Works**

Emergency works substantially complete.

## **Birr Sewerage Improvements Scheme**

Preliminary Report received for submission to D.E.H.L.G.

## **Birr Sewerage Scheme (Pipelines)**

Scheme under construction.

## **Edenderry Sewerage Scheme**

Preliminary Report submitted to D.E.H.L.G. for approval. Approval to proceed with Edenderry Advance Sewer received and Contract Documents submitted to D.E.H.L.G. for approval.

## **Edenderry Sewerage Scheme - Sludge Acceptance Facility**

Scheme commissioned.

## **Edenderry Sewerage Scheme - Design Build Operate**

Scheme under construction.

## **Edenderry Serviced Land Initiative**

Scheme under construction.

## **Edenderry/Rhode Regional Water Supply Scheme**

EIS approval for upgrading of scheme received in December, 2006.

## **Offaly Group Towns & Villages Sewerage Scheme No. 1- Feasibility Study**

(Ballycumber, Banagher, Belmont, Daingean, Kinnitty, Moneygall, Shannonbridge, Shinrone and Kilcormac )

Consulting Engineers appointed for Preliminary Report.

## **Offaly Group Towns & Villages Water Supply Scheme - Feasibility Study**

(Rahan, Dunkerrin/Moneygall, Mountbolus, Geashill, Kinnitty, Coolderry, Clonbullogue, and Walsh Island)

Consulting Engineers appointed for Preliminary Report.

## **Clonbullogue Sewerage Scheme**

Scheme completed.

### ***2006 saw progress in the Group Scheme Sector as follows:***

A Block Grant allocation of €1,982,000 was received in 2006 under the Rural Water Programme.

The following new group water schemes were under construction in 2006:

Rath Eglishe – Stage 3

Whiteforge G.W.S.

Kilcrow G.W.S.

Ballyclare G.W.S.

The following group water schemes were upgraded in 2006:

Bracknagh G.W.S.

Killeigh/Cloneygowan G.W.S.

Ballinagar G.W.S.

Ballykilleen G.W.S.

## **Well Grants/Domestic Water Supply**

The Council assists households to provide a piped domestic water supply or to remedy deficiencies in an existing supply of water used for domestic purposes in houses, which are seven years old or over, up to a maximum of €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the works, whichever is the lesser. In 2006, 14 grants were paid out at a cost of €25,939.73.

# ***HOUSING DEPARTMENT***

## **Role of Department**

The housing department plays a number of very important roles in terms of accommodation provision and enhancement for those unable to do so from their own resources. The department works to the specific objectives contained in our 5 year plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004 – 2008.

The main activities within the department are the direct provision of social and affordable housing, facilitation of the voluntary housing sector, promotion of home ownership through housing loans and grants to individuals including those with special needs, implementing the Rental Accommodation Scheme, providing a range of Traveller accommodation options, tackling homelessness issues and the promotion of estate management in local authority housing estates and traveller accommodation.

## **Social Housing**

98 units of accommodation were made available for persons in need of housing in 2006 through a combination of our direct building programme, acquisition of Part V social units, the purchase of second hand units and the allocation of casual vacancies.



## **Affordable Housing**

13 Part V affordable units were acquired during 2006 in Tullamore environs, Portarlington and Edenderry. 16 affordable units built by Offaly County in Clara and Kilcormac were also completed during the year and officially launched in March. A show house was provided in both developments and opened to the public over a number of weekends with housing personnel on site to advise on mortgage funding etc.

## **Official Opening of Cluain Fia Affordable Housing Scheme in Clara**



## **Tenant Purchase Scheme**

The Council's tenant purchase scheme offers local authority tenants an option to purchase their houses subject to certain criteria. Tenants of the local authority with certain exceptions can apply to purchase their house after one year's tenancy. Houses are purchased outright from the council at their market value with discount given for each year of tenancy subject to a maximum of 10 years. 37 houses were sold under this scheme during the year

## **Disabled Persons Grants**

The disabled persons grant is available to eligible applicants to carry out improvements to their house to facilitate the needs of a family member with a disability. The council spent approximately €1.2m on this scheme in 2006 and assisted 86 applicants.

## **Homelessness**

The Council along with our neighbouring midland counties work closely with the Midland Simon Communities and provide funding towards the cost of employing Outreach Workers/Settlement Officers who specifically work with clients experiencing homelessness issues and who are finding it difficult to source accommodation themselves.

## **Estate Management in Local Authority Estates**

A total sum of €8,300 was allocated in 9 Residents Associations under our grants scheme in 2006. Pre-tenancy training programmes were organised for all new tenants during the year.



Three estates in the county – Mooney Terrace, Kilcormac, St. Oliver's Estate, Geashill and Churchview Heights / Greenwood Park, in Edenderry, were earmarked in 2006 for a regeneration programme in line with 5 year plan objectives. Interviews to establish architectural panels took place during the year and three firms of architects are in the process of being appointed to prepare a preliminary report and feasibility study for submission to the DoEHLG in 2007 to achieve 'designation status' for funding for these three projects.

## **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

Offaly is one of 8 local authorities that piloted this new government initiative which is aimed at ensuring security of tenure and better quality accommodation for long term rent recipients (i.e. generally those in receipt for 18 months or more)

## **Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee**

This committee met six times during 2006 and recommendations were made on a number of policies during the year including :-

- Tullamore Arts/Cultural Facility
- Play Strategy and Policy for County Offaly
- Play ground funding
- Scheme of Letting Priorities
- County Offaly Arts Plan
- Promoting best practice in Voluntary Housing
- Disabled Persons Grants Scheme
- Affordable Housing Points Scheme
- Policy on sale of serviced sites

### **Summary of Key Activities in 2006 under Corporate Plan Strategic Objectives**

**Providing civic leadership for Offaly and all its people, whatever their circumstances or backgrounds**

<b>No. Housing, Social &amp; Cultural SPC meetings held</b>	6
<b>No. of policy recommendations made</b>	9

**Maximising productive investment thereby facilitating the creation of good, sustainable jobs in the County**

<b>No. of Local Authority units completed in 2005</b>	53
<b>No. of Part V social units acquired</b>	12
<b>No. of casual vacancies and second hand acquisitions</b>	33
<b>Units under construction at 31/12/06</b>	61
<b>No. of affordable houses acquired/completed</b>	29
<b>No. of housing/reconstruction loans paid out</b>	20
<b>No. of tenant purchase transactions completed</b>	37
<b>No. of mortgage allowance scheme approvals</b>	13
<b>No. of private sites sold</b>	9

**Making Offaly a pleasant, safe and enjoyable place to live and work**

<b>No. of estate visits by CLO for estate management purposes</b>	41
<b>No. of grants approved for local authority residents associations</b>	9
<b>Housing Maintenance Expenditure</b>	€627,0243

## Building social cohesion and inclusion within and across the County

<b>No. of homeless persons directly assisted by the local authority</b>	134
<b>No. of Traveller families accommodated</b>	18
<b>No. of pre-tenancy courses held</b>	26
<b>No. of local authority houses adapted to facilitate ‘ special needs’ residents</b>	4
<b>No. of DPG’s paid</b>	86
<b>No. of ERG’s paid</b>	34

### Developing and delivering quality services

<b>New customer initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full time customer care representative provided at public counter</b></li> </ul>
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### Develop and promote effective internal and external communications strategies

<b>New initiatives to enhance communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participated in Heads of Department Network</b></li> <li>• <b>Established cross departmental Part V Operational Team</b></li> <li>• <b>Participated in Housing Inter-Agency Group (under auspices of CDB)</b></li> <li>• <b>Participated in ICT strategy preparation</b></li> </ul>
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### Managing the Council to be a good and effective place in which to work

<b>Staff Training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Manual Handling</b></li> <li>• <b>Safety Training</b></li> <li>• <b>HOME training</b></li> <li>• <b>Dignity at Work</b></li> <li>• <b>Literacy Awareness</b></li> <li>• <b>Probationary Training</b></li> <li>• <b>PMDS</b></li> <li>• <b>Managing Stress</b></li> <li>• <b>Architectural Desktop (Design software)</b></li> </ul>
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**Expenditure associated with receptions and presentations to distinguished persons and in connection with the holding of special events relevant to the functions of the section**

None

**Details of Gifts accepted by Housing Department during the year**

None



## ***ARTS SERVICE***

The Arts Service of Offaly County Council aims to be a facilitator and catalyst for the development of a vibrant arts environment in the county.

The Arts Service operates in conjunction with Offaly County Council's 'Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development 2002-2012', to

*'facilitate the creativity, imagination, talent and traditions of all people in Offaly and the modes through which they are expressed'*

Our main achievements in 2006 can be summarised as:

### **Development of an arts and cultural facility in Tullamore**

An application was made to the Department of Arts Sports and Tourism under the ACCESS II scheme for capital funding towards an integrated arts and library centre for O'Connor Square. Arts Consultant Vincent O'Shea was engaged to develop a feasible business plan, Fergal McCabe Town Planning Consultant was engaged to establish if the needs of the arts and library could be accommodated on the site and to lay out schematics and Quantity Surveyors MJ Turley and Associates costed the capital element of the project. An application was made for €6.2m.

### **Lough Boora Sculpture in the Parklands**

Artists David Kinnane and Caroline Madden were commissioned to create two permanent sculptures on the site, both of which drew inspiration from the old Bord na Mona cooling towers and were created side by side. During the three weeks of the residency over 20 Bord na Mona employees worked closely with the artists to fabricate the sculptures. Sculpture in the Parklands was shortlisted for the inaugural LAMA awards for Best Artwork/Sculpture; it also launched a new website [www.sculptureintheparklands.com](http://www.sculptureintheparklands.com) and was featured in the Thames Hudson Book, Destination Art as one of the top 100 art destinations in the world.

### **Dancer in Residence and Offaly Youth Dance Company**

Anita Cahill completed her residency in April with a joint performance with the Offaly Youth Dance Company in Birr Theatre and Arts Centre titled Variations on Contact. The youth dance company went on to do a two week summer project and choreographed a new performance called About Face.

### **Support and Development of Birr Theatre and Arts Centre**

Birr Theatre received its first independent funding from the Arts Council and a 50% increase from Offaly County Council. The increase budget afforded the theatre to create a more developmental programme, which included youth dance, a summer school of rock and community outreach projects. Their programme also drew some exciting and diverse performances from Puppet Opera to Paul Brady

### **Arts in Health**

There was a major focus in this programme. Four artists underwent continuing mentoring as facilitators in health settings. Participants in Birr Community Nursing Unit, Riada House, the IWA and Offalia House came together for a major joint exhibition in Aras an Chontae in May entitled *Lifescapes*. The IWA also worked on a project with the Irish Museum of Modern Art and curated an exhibition of work by major Irish Artists called *IMMA Outside by us* which was held in Aras an Chontae in April. They also created work in response to this experience which IMMA hosted in

Dublin and which was opened by Mary Cloake, the Director of the Arts Council. The Midlands Area HSE also came on board as major funders of the project to ensure its sustainability.

### **Support to Artists Schemes**

16 artists received financial support under this scheme to assist them with materials purchase, exhibition costs or research time. Writer Eileen Casey received the Tyrone Guthrie Bursary to spend two weeks at Annamacarrig and artists Caroline Conway and Eileen Maher received first solo exhibitions in Aras an Chontae. International artist Jorn Ronnau exhibited the Scriptorium Project in January, his first solo show in Ireland which was entirely made in Offaly.

### **Drama Awards**

8 drama groups and musical societies received funding for productions or equipment. Fiona Breen of Birr Players and Christopher Murphy of Clara Drama Group received bursaries to attend the Drama League of Ireland Summer School.

### **Festival Support**

The Arts Office facilitated the start of a new festival in the county, the Shannonbridge Midsummer Music Festival was held in June. Together with administrative support from West Offaly Partnership the local committee held a three day festival, the highlight of which was a concert in Clonmacnoise by Anuna. Birr Vintage Week and Arts Festival, the Phoenix Festival, Slievebloom Storytelling Festival and Offaly Fleadh Cheoil also received support and funding.

### **Artists in Primary Schools**

A pilot artists in primary school scheme took place in 4 schools around the county, Durrow, Killina, Bracknagh and Birr Convent Girls School. 4 artists devised and delivered projects amounting in 30 hours contact time with each school. The pilot was evaluated and will be developed further in 2007. The Floating Theatre Company visited three schools, Scoil Eoin Pol Tullamore, Banagher and Daingean for a week long residency in each school. The project involved 60 students in each school working together on script, costume and music towards a final performance in their community.

### **Bealtaine, Festival of Arts for Older People**

A county wide programme of events in May was developed by the Arts Office including concerts by the Tullamore Gospel Choir, exhibitions, creative writing workshops, story telling and music.

### **Belmont Mills Bursaries**

The Arts Council came on board in 2006 to fund an international bursary in Belmont Mill and a Irish/Finnish artist was the successful applicant. Two other national artists Ken Lambert and Sue Williams also received bursaries for 3 months studio and accommodation. Belmont Mill Studios held an exhibition of artists work in June to celebrate the growing and diverse arts community now working in the Mills.

### **Arts Act Grants**

57 community groups received funding under this scheme to organise and participate in arts events. Funding amounts ranged from €800-€300

## **Per Cent for Art Schemes**

Artist Jorn Ronnau was commissioned by Offaly County Council to create a sculpture at Cluain Fia Housing Development in Clara. The sculptures were carved from a beech tree that had been felled on the site creating a series of pavillions in the wooded area of the development. Entitled the Clara Pavilions they were unveiled in September. The Arts Office also worked in an outreach capacity with Midland Regional Hospital at Tullamore, Birr Community Nursing Unit and Tubber National School on their schemes.

## **Arts Plan**

A draft of a new 5-year county Arts Plan 2007-2011 was completed and submitted to the council in November for approval for public consultation. The draft plan had been developed using research material, target meetings with local arts organisations, focus group meetings, meetings with the Arts Council and with consultants Susan Coughlan and Marian Flanagan. 3 public information meetings were held in December.

## **Midlands Collaborative Projects (the Arts Offices of Offaly Westmeath Laois and Longford)**

The first edition of the Midlands Arts and Culture Magazine was launched in July. The 32 page magazine highlights the diversity and quality of arts projects across the four counties and aims to create a greater cultural identity in the Midlands. It will be published as a free copy 3 times a year. A musician and residence scheme also began with 4 musicians working in the 9 residential care settings in the Midlands, developed in conjunction with the HSE and Music Network. Kindermusic continues to develop in 9 centres as a music education programme for totters and parents, in conjunction with the VEC.

## **Music development**

We supported initiatives in 2006 that were actively pursuing the development of music in the county. **Winter Chamber Music Series, Tullamore International Summer Organ Series, Tullamore Gramophone Society and Tullamore School of Rock.**

## **Creative writing**

Novelist Caroline Barry worked with a youth creative writing group in Tullamore for a full year teaching them the skills of composition, character and plot development. Their resulting work was published in an anthology called stories from a twisted tree launched in December.

## **Film Commission**

A working group was established in September to discuss how to attract further film production into the county and how to encourage a greater interest in film development within the county. The group is chaired by Cllr. Marcella Corcoran Kennedy and is made up of the Arts Officer, local film professionals and others who have an interest in film development.

## **Support and information service to professional, amateur, voluntary and community groups and individuals**

The arts office is a resource for artists and arts organisations that require advice, direction and information on developing and promoting their arts practice. This element of the service is based on best practice principles in all forms of arts development and is intended to give rise to increased confidence in quality methods and professional approaches.

## Service Indicators for the Arts Office 2006

**Total Population 70604**

### Arts Act Grants (AC1)

#### Arts Act Grants

Number of Grants Paid	40
Total Budget	€5,142
Total value of grants per 1000 population	€214.46

### Other Grants (Theatre, Festivals, Awards Schemes etc)

Number of Grants Paid	50
Total Budget	€101098
Total value of grants per 1000 population	€431.90

### Programme Funding (Projects run by the Arts Service)

Total Budget	€4904
Total value per 1000 population	€344.17

### Other Arts Service Expenditure by OCC

(Salaries, office admin, publications, equipment etc)

Total Budget	€34793
Total value per 1000 population	€909.14

### Total Expenditure for the Arts in 2006 per 1000 population

Total Budget	€45937
Total value per 1000 population	€900

## ***COUNTY LIBRARY & ARCHIVES***

Mr Brian Cowen, Minister for Finance, officially opened the new Library & Civic Offices on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The former St. John's Convent of Mercy, Birr was built between 1846 and 1856. Designed by AWN Pugin and completed by his son Edward Pugin and George Ashlin, its architecture is of national and international interest. The property was acquired by Offaly County Council in 1996 to accommodate the town library and civic offices. The library is located on two floors, the first floor space which was the original Pugin Chapel, accommodates the adult library and the children's area is located on the ground floor. The new library is open for an additional 11 hours per week, bringing the total to 35 hours at Birr, and 189 per week countywide.



### **Offaly County Council's new flagship library at Birr**

A story room, dedicated to the memory of Birr's first Librarian, Violet Doolin (1942 -1991) is provided with a starry sky to provide the atmosphere for the newly introduced programming of story time at the new library. A small area for puppet-theatre is also provided for children. Shared facilities include the council chamber/ conference room, atrium and quadrangle, which will accommodate lectures, seminars and meetings. The facsimile of the Gospels of Macregol is the centrepiece of the library, the original of which is held in the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.



*Official opening of new Birr Civic Offices and Library, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Left to right: Mr Michael Campbell, Cathaoirleach, Birr Town Council, Mr Niall Sweeney, County Manager, Offaly County Council, Ms Olwyn Enright, T.D., Councillor Percy Clendennen, Offaly County Council, Councillor John Carroll, Offaly County Council, Mr Brian Cowen, T.D., Minister for Finance, Mr Tom Parlon, T.D., Mr Gerard Killalilly, Cathaoirleach, Offaly County Council, Ms Anne Coughlan, County Librarian, Offaly County Council*

### **Historic Maps Project**

Historic maps are of interest to everyone. Mr Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, launched the 'Ordnance Survey Ireland - Historic Map Viewer Service in Public Libraries' last year which was successfully rolled-out in branch libraries in Offaly during 2006.

This initiative is a collaboration between An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, the Public library Service, the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This facility enables the public to access a wonderful collection of historic maps covering the first Ordnance Survey series for the 26 counties. These are available online at branch libraries at Tullamore, Birr, Edenderry, Clara, Banagher, Fermbane, Kilcormac and Daingean. It covers the 6 inch map series, 1834-42, in colour and in black and white. These are indexed by parish, with an excellent search facility which allows searching under townland.

### **Libraries On-Line**

Public internet access via broadband is provided at Tullamore, Birr, Edenderry, Clara, Banagher, Fermbane, Daingean and Shinrone.

There is a substantial increase in the usage of internet and computer applications, increasing by 28% on the 2005 figure. These facilities are widely used by the immigrant population, including people from Poland, Brazil, Latvia, Czech Republic, Russia and Lithuania. With a network of 55 public internet points countywide, the County Library Service is well positioned to support delivery of e-government.

## **Schools Library Service**

The Department of Education and Science contributed over €40,000 for the purchase of stock for primary schools. The County Library Service's Schools Department provides library services to the 68 primary schools in the county. Books are carefully selected by staff of the Schools Department to meet the needs of the individual school. Many teachers also visited the Schools Library Department where they are facilitated in making their own selection and are given advice on the range of resources.

## **Culture and Outreach Programmes.**

Staff of the County Library service initiated, managed, and participated in numerous cultural programmes. These events reached across all sectors of the community, with emphasis on outreach to young and old.

Offaly County Library also participated in the annual event Children's Book Festival. The promotion of the library service and of the Book Festival was also aided by the purchase and distribution of specially designed promotional material. A countywide "Design a Bookmark" competition was held as part of the nationwide Children's Book Festival celebrations. Over 900 entries were received. The winners in the 10 years and under section was Fiona Carroll of Banagher, and the winner in the 11 years and over section was Rhiagh Cleary of Tullamore. Each winner received €50 book tokens, and was presented with their prize at Tullamore Library on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2006.



*County Library staff with the winners of the "Design a Bookmark" competition: Noirin Owens, library staff, Tullamore, Rhiagh Cleary and Fiona Carroll, winners, and Mary Hynes, library staff, Banagher*

## **Exhibitions held throughout our Branch Library Network**

- ‘Samuel Beckett Centenary’ an exhibition on loan from the National Gallery of Ireland and ‘The Mapping of Birr’ an exhibition of maps from the publication ‘An atlas of Birr’ (Dublin, 2005), by John Feehan and Alison Rosse, were exhibited at all Branch Libraries.
- Exhibitions such as ‘Samuel Beckett Centenary’, ‘John McGahern tribute’, ‘Bog of Allen’ Exhibition, ‘The Mapping of Birr’ Exhibition and the “Chasing Rainbows in the Slieve Blooms” by Tullamore photographer Michael McGrath, which is a rich collection of images from this important midlands natural amenity, were all held at Tullamore Library
- Community Art exhibitions which took place in Banagher library included ‘20 Banagher Portraits’ an Art Exhibition by Niamh Bennett , ‘7 steps to a green school’ by Sean Duggan, Lough Boora Photographic Exhibition, ‘Birds of the Shannon Callows’, Art Exhibition by Michael Egan and Over 55s club Photographic Exhibition. ‘Faces & Places – Irish Travellers: a photographic exhibition’. This exhibition was of very high standard and the Banagher Credit Union Art Competition winners was also exhibited..
- ‘Pride of Place’ Exhibition in association with the residents of Churchview, Edenderry. A display of photographs highlighting the activities carried out in conjunction with the National ‘Pride of Place’ competition.

## **Publications launched in 2006 in association with Offaly County Library**

- ‘*From the Quiet Annals of Daingean*’, published by John Kearney was launched in Daingean Library in December 2006.
- The ‘*Birr Review*’ and ‘*The tunnel & Journeys through Elvish Realms*’ published by Derek Fanning, both launched in December 2006.

## **RTE Sound recording**

- RTE, Mode and Sound recording in Daingean Library. Organised by RTE, Offaly County Library, Daingean Library, Pat Butler and the Leargas team. A recording was made of ‘the Dunne murder’ sang by local Rose Fox.

## **Culture & Outreach events**

- A series of Storytelling sessions for children took place in all libraries as part of the Offaly Childminding Initiative.
- The Anthony Trollope Society group get-together in Banagher Library which was referred to in the Irish Times.



- Staff of Offaly County Library provided library module for County Offaly VEC adult literacy tutors. Libraries are used as venues for one-to-one literacy tuition and special collections are provided in selected libraries.
- Children's Pottery Workshop in Clara Library in October with pupils from St. Manchan's N.S which was a great success.
- Training for Active Retirement Group on Basic IT skills took place in Clara. Other activities were organised for this Active Retirement Group as part of the Bealtaine National Arts Festival, including live music and flower arranging.
- Clara & District Development Association Press Conference took place in Clara Library in connection with FBD Cycle Rás.
- As part of Daingean Festival, an archive film, which is currently held at Offaly County Library Local Studies Department, screened a Father Malachy Moran film. Many people expressed great interest in this.
- Arts and Crafts Sessions in Edenderry Library. A pilot project to assess interest. A wall hanging called "Stories to tell" was made using fabric.
- Ferbane Library hosted a library information evening where information packs were presented to attract new members.
- Transition Year Quiz was organised in Tullamore Branch Library.
- Offaly County Library liased with the Cloneyhurke residents group, and continues to support the reading group by providing advice and appropriate books.
- The County Library Service continues to support the annual Slieve Bloom Storytelling Festival which is always a great success.

## **Annual Statistics 2006**

Membership - 8,761

Loans (books and media) - 171,032

Reference, information and request enquiries – 8,780

PC and Internet hours – 19,800 hours

Number of school visits to branch libraries- 218

Exhibitions – 13

Activities – 47

## SERVICE INDICATORS:

Library Services	
L.1	
Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	35
Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries	18
L.2	
Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population	12.4%
L.3	
Number of items issued per head of population (countywide) for:	
(a) Books	2.4
(b) Other items	
L.4 Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public	100
L.5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	252

**Based on the Strategic Objectives of the Corporate Plan**

**1. Providing civic leadership for Offaly and all its people, whatever their circumstances or backgrounds**

**1.1 Supporting Offaly County Development Board**

In 2006 the County Development Board completed and launched its priority Action Plan 2006-2008 following extensive consultation throughout 2005 and the early part of 2006. The Board had two full Board meetings in March and October and also held special meetings on Endorsement in June and Tourism November.

C&E continued to support and facilitate the Interagency Sub Groups of the County Development Board to deliver Priority Actions from its 3 year plan. The achievements of the Interagency Groups in 2006 are outlined under relevant headings below.

Community & Enterprise staff also provided induction sessions for new Board members.

**1.2 Presidents Young Citizens Awards**

Uachtarán na hÉireann, President Mary McAleese visited Offaly on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2006 to present the President's Young Citizens Awards to 124 young people from County Offaly. These young people had demonstrated their voluntary contribution to their community either as individuals or groups and were nominated by community members. Nominations were checked by an interagency sub-group on the invitation of the County Development Board and made recommendations regarding the awards. Parents, guardians, teachers and youth leaders joined elected members, County Development Board members and local authority management and staff, and the young people themselves, in this memorable celebration.



### **1.3 Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairle na nÓg met in Áras An Chontae in both January and December in 2006. Facilitated workshops were held on issues such as Facilities for Young People, Road Safety and Equality. Delegates also had the opportunity to meet their Local Elected representatives and pose questions to them on issues discussed in their workshops in a debate in the Council Chamber chaired by the Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council. On each occasion young delegates were selected to represent Offaly at the annual national Youth Parliament - Dáil na nÓg.

### **1.4 Supporting the Community Forum to participate in policy development**

Offaly Community Forum completed a comprehensive review of its structures and processes in 2006 and began the implementation of its recommendations. The review was supported by staff from the Community & Enterprise Department working closely with a subcommittee from the Forum. The Community Forum Steering Group met on a monthly basis and representatives continued their roles on such bodies as the County Development Board, County Enterprise Board, Offaly LEADER+, the Heritage Forum, the Regional Drugs Task force and the Strategic Policy Committees of the County Council. The Forum also met regularly at electoral area level with the support of the Local Development Companies in the county and the Community & Enterprise Department.

## **2. Maximising productive investment thereby facilitating the creation of good, sustainable jobs in the County**

McIvor Consulting were engaged to conduct a report on Tourism in the County on behalf of the Tourism Inter-agency subgroup on Offaly County Development Board.

C&E continued to facilitate the Enterprise Inter-agency subgroup of the County Development Board and the West Offaly Enterprise Fund during 2006. Under the Fund there were 4 allocations for industrial projects totalling €205,000, 8 allocations for community projects totalling €61,000 and 1 allocation to an education project totalling €60,000.

The Life long Learning sub-group of Offaly County Development Board secured Higher Education Authority funding for the Offaly Outreach Education Project, guaranteed for 3 years (€300K). This was the only rural pilot project to be funded nationally.

## **3. Making Offaly a pleasant, safe and enjoyable place to live and work**

### **Sport**

In 2006 Offaly Sports Partnership was officially designated by the Irish Sports Council & funding was received for the appointment of Local Sports Partnership Co-ordinator within Community & Enterprise Department and the roll-out of Irish Sports Council programmes to clubs, schools and communities. The Sports Partnership also successfully competed for funding to promote the integration of minority communities into sporting organisations (€69K)



## **Play**

C&E facilitated and supported the development of a County Council Play Policy by the Housing Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee which was adopted by the County Council in 2006. This involved broad consultation with staff and elected members and reference to the objectives of the National Play Policy.

Community & Enterprise staff also supported the Inter-agency subgroup of the CDB working on the development of a County Play Strategy. Community consultations were carried out by members of the group and individual consultations were held with member agencies regarding their role and possibilities around providing opportunities for play in the county.

## **Pride of Place**

Communities who participated in the 2005 Pride of Place Awards – Kilcormac, St. Mary’s Youth Centre and Mountbolus - were recognised by President Mary McAleese through the presentation of Certificates during her visit to the county in May 2006. Five community projects were entered by Offaly County Council in the National Pride of Place Competition in Summer 2006 – Churchview Heights Residents Association, Killane View Residents Association and Fairgreen Community Childcare Centre, Edenderry, as well as the Ferbane Development Association & Community and BHM Community Development Group. Community & Enterprise once again supported the projects in the preparation of their presentations to the visiting judging panel and throughout the judging process and in preparations for the National Awards event held in Tullow, Co. Carlow in October 2006.

## **Smoke Alarm Project**

Offaly County Council as part of a Pilot Project through the Department of Environment and Local Government were asked to distribute and fit two smoke alarms to each of 250 homes in the county. Community & Enterprise led this project whereby priority was given to older people/couples living alone in the county. Through consultation and partnership with local and community organisations possible recipients were identified and informed and the alarms were distributed and fitted.

## **Crime Prevention**

Community & Enterprise hosted a Crime Prevention Workshop for communities, Neighbourhood Watch groups and Community Alert groups in partnership with An Garda Síochána.

#### **4. Building social cohesion and inclusion within and across the County**

C&E continued to participate in the Local Government Anti-Poverty Learning Network to share learning and best practice.

Some of the key achievements of the Social Inclusion Measures (SIM) group and its subcommittees in 2006 were:

- The consultation phase began towards the development of Offaly's Local Anti-Poverty Strategy (LAPS).
- Hosted an Audit meeting among agencies and organisations providing Services to Young People in the county.
- €5000 allocated from Westmeath Employment Pact for the actions of the Supporting Minority Communities Group
- The Dept of Justice grant aid of €5000 to support 2 projects, changing negative attitudes towards Travellers and engagement of an Education Support Worker.
- Prepared submission in anticipation for a call for Local Authority Social Inclusion Units 2006/2007

#### **5. Developing and delivering quality services**

Community & Enterprise facilitated and supported the Local and Rural Development Cohesion Process – Phase 1 throughout 2006 including liaison with staff from the Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and staff and Boards of Management from the four companies involved in the Cohesion process in Offaly. This process aims to create a single over-arching structure for the delivery of local and rural development funding and services post-2007. €207,500 was allocated to Offaly County Council for the process.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006 representatives of the Local & Rural Development Organisations presented summaries of their annual plans and activities to the County Development Board as part of the annual Endorsement process. Submissions were compiled into a report forwarded to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

The Community and Enterprise team also participated in the Internal Customer Care plan exercise – 'Delivering Better Services' and supported the administration of this project.

#### **6. Develop and promote effective internal and external communications strategies.**

In June 2006 Offaly CDB launched and distributed its 3 year Priority Action Plan 2006-2008. Website content was also updated and enhanced and a DVD was produced to promote the work of the County Development Board and its planned activities.

Community & Enterprise participated in the Excellence in Local Government Workshop – featuring the 'Growing Offaly Together' Conference and DVD.

The section continues to collaborate with other sections within the Directorate on a regular basis through quarterly Directorate meetings. The Community and Enterprise team also participated in the Internal Customer Care plan exercise – ‘Delivering Better Services’ and supported the administration of this project.

## **7. Managing the Council to be a good and effective place in which to work**

C&E organised a number training workshops for the staff in Offaly County Council. 35 members of staff from all sections participated in literacy awareness workshops in 2006. C&E in partnership with Tullamore Travellers Movement also provided Intercultural Awareness Training to 39 staff. The aim of these training workshops is to increase awareness among staff of Offaly County Council of the barriers and issues people with literacy difficulties and from different cultural backgrounds face when accessing services.

C & E participated fully in the Performance Management Development System (PMDS). The Team Development Plan was completed mid-year and Personal Development Plans completed for all staff in the Team by year end.

Staff also participated in development and training opportunities including, Health & Safety, Manual Handling, Supervisory Management Training, Grievance & Disciplinary, Certificate in Local Government Studies, Leadership in Local Government Programme and relevant information seminars.

## *Planning and Economic Development*

The Planning Department is responsible for land use policy, control of development including Building Control and protection of the natural built heritage and amenity of the County.

Land use policy is implemented by means of the County and Town Development Plans Local Area Plans, Village and Sraid Plans. Planning Control involves the process of planning applications up to 1,900 per annum, the processing of Fire Safety Certificates and the taking of appropriate enforcement action where necessary.

The following table sets out the trend in the number of planning applications received and decided by the Council over the past five years.

Year	No of Applications	No. Granted	No. Refused	Total Decided
2001	1331	889	287	1176
2002	1390*	818	241	1059
2003	1486*	748	238	986
2004	1828*	891	273	1165
2005	1462*	859	217	1055
2006	1894*	1120	212	1332

(\*This figure includes applications which were invalid)

### **Strategic Policy Committee Meetings/Area Meetings**

A total of 4 meetings of the Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee took place in 2006. This committee comprises of 6 members of Offaly County Council and 5 members from the community including, Trade Union, Business/Commercial, Tourism and Agricultural/Farming sectors.

### **Variations of Offaly County Development Plan 2003-2009**

The following Variations to the County Development Plan 2003 – 2009 were made in 2006.

**Variation No. 2** – ‘Sraid’ Plans for High Street Belmont, Lusmagh, Tober and General Policy Document on Villages and ‘Sraids’. **Adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

**Variation No. 3** – Village Plans for Ballycumber, Bracknagh and Clonbullogue  
**Adopted on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Variation No. 4** – Rhode Village Plan and Daingean Town Plan  
**Adopted on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Variation No. 5** – Village Plans for Shannonbridge and Shannonharbour and ‘Sraid’ Plan for Ballyboy

**Adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2006**



## **Town Renewal Scheme 2000**

The following towns are included in the Town Renewal Scheme, 2000:

Banagher  
Ferbane  
Edenderry  
Clara

The central aim of the scheme is to bring about the restoration, consolidation and improvement of the built fabric of Irish towns, to promote sensitive infill and, in the course of this, to revitalise the centres of small towns. Both residential and commercial properties are included under the scheme, which has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2008.

## **Urban and Village Renewal Programme 2000-2006**

Under this programme, environmental improvement works were carried out in the following towns in 2006:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Project</b>
Moneygall (ONGOING)	Creation of a focal point at centre of the village, creation of a set-down area in front of the church and an amenity space with trees, landscaping and seating
Pullough (ONGOING)	Environmental improvements to enhance the village, to include the creation of a sculpture near the canal, erection of interpretative boards, creation of kerb and provision of footpath, formalise junction and provide lighting and streetscape furniture
Belmont (ONGOING)	Creation of an amenity space for the community to include seating, landscaping and paving in keeping with the rustic environment throughout the area.

Undergrounding of overhead ESB Cables at Clara, Kilcormac, Edenderry and Birr

## **Building Control**

153 Fire Certificate applications were received during 2006. 153 certificates were issued. Commencement notices should be submitted between 14 and 28 days before the commencement of the works or the making of the material change of use. There were 762 commencement notices received by Offaly County Council between January 2006 and December 2006. During this time, the Council carried out 988 inspections on buildings, for compliance with the Building Regulations 1997 and latest amendments.

## Conservation Grants

In 2006, Offaly County Council recouped of €42,850 grant assistance from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Grants varying from €1,000 to €25,000 were allocated to 10 applicants subject to matching funding of 50% of the cost of the works.

## Enforcement

In accordance with Part VIII of the Planning & Development Act 2000, the following details relate to enforcement proceedings in 2006:

Warning Letters:	135
Enforcement Notices:	38
Circuit Court Cases	2
Prosecutions:	1

## Development Contribution Scheme

The Development Contribution Scheme was updated in January 2006 in accordance with the wholesale Price Index for Building and Construction published by the Central Statistics Office. It provides for contributions in respect of the following:

**Table 1 – Level of Contribution – Residential & Industrial/Commercial Development**

	<b>Class of Infrastructure</b>	<b>€per residential Unit</b>	<b>€per m<sup>2</sup> of floor area industrial/commercial development</b>
A	Open Spaces, Cultural recreational and community facilities, amenities and landscaping works, town and village improvement – including land acquisition	€50	€8.00
B	Roads, car parking, infrastructure to facilitate public transport, cycle and pedestrian facilities and traffic calming measures – including land acquisition.	€50	€12.00
C	Wastewater treatment facilities, sewers and drains – including land acquisition.	€190	€6.50
D	Water Treatment Facilities & Water Mains – including land acquisition	€1640	€6.50
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€4930</b>	<b>€33</b>

**Note A: Floor Area**

The floor area of the proposed development shall be calculated as the gross floor area. This means the gross floor area determined from the external dimension of the proposed buildings, including the gross floor area of each floor including mezzanine floors.

**Note B: Use of Service**

Contributions in respect of C & D above apply only to developments availing of the infrastructural services provided or to be provided

**Note C: Water Services Pricing Policy**

The Government water services pricing policy provides for the recovery of the marginal capital costs of water services: from the general non-domestic customer on the basis of either a consolidated metered charge using the water in/water out principle or through individual contracts with significant, generally larger, customers; and for residential development through development contributions. Pending the full introduction of the water services pricing policy, commercial/industrial development will be levied for water and wastewater at the above rates

**Table 2 – Levels of Contributions – Other Categories of Development**

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount of Contribution</b>
A	Shortfall in provision of car-parking space : (i) Urban (ii) Rural	€4,370 per space €2,190 per space
B	Shortfall in provision of open space (i) Urban (ii) Rural	Special Contribution Special Contribution
C	Agricultural Development	<500m <sup>2</sup> = nil 500 m <sup>2</sup> - 1000 m <sup>2</sup> = €2.50 per M <sup>2</sup> > 1000 m <sup>2</sup> = €5.50 per M <sup>2</sup>
D	Initial afforestation/replacement of broad-leaf high forest by conifer species/peat extraction	€50 per hectare of site area, only where planning permission is required.
E	Land use for: (a) the winning and working of minerals (b) deposit of refuse or waste	€1,100 per 0.1 hectare of site area subject to a minimum charge of €10,930
F	Storage and Warehousing(not for retailing)	€16.50 per M <sup>2</sup>
<b>G</b>	<b>Golf/Pitch &amp; Putt</b>	Special Contribution
<b>H</b>	<b>Windfarms</b>	Special Contribution
<b>I</b>	<b>Swimming Pools</b>	Special Contribution

**Note A: Shortfall in Provision of Car Parking Spaces / Open Space**

The term urban in this case refers to Tullamore Environs, Birr Environs and Edenderry and environs Boundary

During 2006, Development contributions totalling €6.2 million were received.

	<b><i>Offaly Local Authorities</i></b>	
	<b><i>SERVICE INDICATORS</i></b>	
<b>P: Planning and Building Control</b>		
<b>P.1</b>	<b><i>Planning Applications - Decision Making</i></b>	
	No. of applications determined for individual houses	660
	(% of complete) applications determined within 8 weeks for individual houses	299
	number requiring further info	357
	number where extension of time agreed	2
	Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought for individual houses	75.69
	% of grants for individual houses	78.79%
	% of refusals for individual houses	21.21%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanala for individual houses	87%
	(% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala for individual houses)	n/a
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala for individual houses	13%
	No. of applications determined for housing development	90
	(% of complete) applications determined within 8 weeks for housing development	33 no.
	number requiring further info	57
	number where extension of time agreed	0
	Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought for housing development	82.26
	% of grants for housing development	63.33%
	% of refusals for housing development	36.67%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanala for housing development	80%
	(% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala for housing development)	n/a
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala for housing development	20%
	No. of applications determined for other categories: not requiring EIA	569
	(% of complete) applications determined within 8 weeks for other categories: not requiring EIA	383
	number requiring further info	183
	number where extension of time agreed	1
	Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought for other categories: not requiring EIA	76.44
	% of grants for other categories: not requiring EIA	93.50%
	% of refusals for other categories: not requiring EIA	6.50%

	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bord Pleanala for other categories: not requiring EIA	82%
	(% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanala for other categories: not requiring EIA)	n/a
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala for other categories: not requiring EIA	18%
	No. of applications determined for other categories: requiring EIA	11
	(% of complete) applications determined within 8 weeks for other categories: requiring EIA	4 no.
	number requiring further info	7
	number where extension of time agreed	0
	Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought for other categories: requiring EIA	80.29
	% of grants for other categories: requiring EIA	90.91%
	% of refusals for other categories: requiring EIA	9.09%
	% of cases where the decision was confirmed with or without variation by An Bored Paella for other categories: requiring EIA	66.67%
	(% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bored Paella for other categories: requiring EIA)	N/A
	% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bored Paella for other categories: requiring EIA )	33.00%
<b>P.2</b>	<b><i>Planning Enforcement</i></b>	
	Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	114
	Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	12
	resolved through negotiations	43
	Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	135
	Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	38
	Number of prosecutions	1
<b>P.3</b>	Average number of public opening hours per week	23.25
	number of pre-planning consultation meetings	960
<b>P.4</b>	Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	33.5
<b>P.5</b>	Buildings inspected as a % of new buildings notified to the local authority	22.81%

**In the context of the Heritage Act, 1995, the term heritage is considered to encompass monuments, archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, heritage gardens and parks and inland waterways.**

2006 was the final year of the first Offaly Heritage Plan 2002 – 2006 and saw the preparation of the next five year plan. The delivery of the Plan is the primary driving force for the work programme of the heritage office. Meetings of the Offaly Heritage Forum were more numerous than usual due to the preparation of the new plan. I would like to thank all members of the heritage forum members, for their contributions. The support of the Heritage Council towards the heritage officer post and the delivery of the Heritage Plan is very much appreciated.

The following is a summary of the main projects delivered in 2006. In addition, a considerable amount of time was spent on in house projects and liaising with communities and helping them plan, fund and deliver appropriate projects. For more information call the office on – 057 9346839 or see [www.offaly.ie/offalyheritage](http://www.offaly.ie/offalyheritage).

### **Data Collection**

- **Esker Survey** A habitat inventory of the esker system west of Tullamore was undertaken by Mary Tubridy. This was to establish the nature, extent, and location of eskers and their associated habitats in the county to enable informed policy to be developed.
- **Geophysical survey** Dr Paul Gibson of Maynooth University carried out a geophysical survey of part of the area inside the monastic enclosure at Rahan.
- **Castle Survey** The upstanding castles in the county have been surveyed and ground plans drawn up. All of the castles with physical remains in Offaly have been photographed.
- **Oral history recording project.** This joint Laois and Offaly project resulted in a full set of 50 hour-long CDs of interviews with people skilled in the crafts of thatching, stone-masonry, carpentry, blacksmithing, bee-keeping, boat-building and more.

### **Education / Awareness Raising**

- **Market Research Study** – A heritage awareness study was carried out by Ipsos Mori determining attitudes towards aspects of heritage in the county.
- **Radio Programme on Heritage sites and Awareness slots** This project aimed to raise awareness of a range of heritage topics and sites throughout each of the counties served by Midlands 103 FM (Laois, Offaly and Westmeath). Fifteen one hour broadcasts went out for the three counties.
- **Architecture Poster** - An A1 poster on the architecture of Count Offaly was produced.
- **Co-ordinated Heritage Week** For the first year, heritage week was co-ordinated by the Heritage Office in Offaly County Council. There was an event every day – with two weekend conferences being held. In many cases the events were organised by communities but the scheduling and advertising was co-ordinated by the Heritage Office.
- **Cherished Places Competition** This was the fourth year of this Tidy Towns competition held in conjunction with Offaly LEADER +. Nineteen groups took part.
- **Summer School – Exploring the Wild.** In 2006, a five day long summer school was held during the first week of July in Kinitty, with John Feehan as co-ordinator and a number of guest speakers. This event was open to primary school teachers and interested members of the public and was extremely well received.

- **Flower in your Area** – primary schools project for biodiversity awareness
- **Biodiversity Day – May 22** Biodiversity Day was celebrated for the first time in Offaly by having a focus day on the Grey Partridge Day in Boora. It was organised by the Heritage Office in partnership with the NPW and Bord na Mona.
- **Workshop on Archaeology and Hedges.** A workshop on archaeology and the 2005 hedgerow report was held for Replanners and Council staff.

## **Publications**

- *Stories from a Sacred Landscape* by Caimin O'Brien, was published by Offaly County Council and launched on 26 May by Dr Pat Wallace of the National Museum of Ireland.
- *Mapping Offaly in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century* by Arnold Horner was printed in partnership with the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society.

## **Policy and Best Practice**

**Framework Plan for Killeigh Village** - a Framework plan was drawn up by DIT for Killeigh village taking into account the archaeological and architectural

## **Conservation of Masonry Ruins**

- Kilmachonna Church, Lusmagh – the medieval fabric was recorded using laser technology and recommendations for conservation made.
- The conservation of Roscomroe Medieval Church, begun in 2003, was completed.
- Working with the Church of Ireland, conservation continued at the early church at Rahan.
- A conservation Report for Blundell Castle in Edenderry was prepared.
- Conservation work continued at Lemanaghan Church and St Mella's Cell, Ballycumber
- Conservation work was completed at St Brendan's Pre Reformation Church, Birr.

## *Environment Section*

**This Directorate is responsible for a diverse range of functions and services. The principal divisions within the Section are as follows:**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

1. Waste Management.
2. Litter Management.
3. Pollution Control and Water Quality Management.
4. Derelict Sites and Dangerous buildings.
5. Health and Safety.
6. Veterinary Services.
7. Percolation Testing.
8. Burial grounds.
9. Water Safety.

### **FIRE SERVICES**

- |   |   |              |
|---|---|--------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Fire and Emergency Services.</li><li>11. Building Control.</li><li>12. Civil Defence.</li><li>13. Major emergency Planning</li><li>14. Building control</li></ol> | } | Fire Service |
|---|---|--------------|

### **GENERAL**

In order to manage the diverse range of statutory environmental functions, which the Local Authority is responsible for, we have introduced a digitised management system called LAMS (Local Authority Management System), which has been developed by the EPA as a tool to allow Local Authorities to input data in relation to their performance of their functions.

LAMS will enable the EPA to audit Offaly County Council in its implementation of its various environmental functions.

### **1. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

As lead authority for the implementation of the Midlands<sup>1</sup> Regional Waste Management Plan, Offaly County Council co-ordinates all waste management practices in the Region.

In February 2006 a new Waste Management Plan was made. The plan sets out clear and ambitious targets including a new integrated approach to waste management over a 15 to 20 year period. Our future strategy prioritises waste prevention, reuse, recycling and energy recovery ahead of our over-reliance on landfill disposal. Our long-term targets for 2013 are to achieve rates for the combined household, commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste streams of:

Recycling 46%

Energy recovery 37%

Landfill disposal 17%

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Other highlights of the Plan include:

- The provision of brown bins for households & business organic waste
- Minimisation of construction & demolition waste
- Examining the commercial viability and siting of a waste to energy plant for the Region
- Awareness information campaigns to reduce waste at home and at work.
- Increased investment on recycling initiatives e.g. Civic amenity facilities, bring bank density and household dry recycling expansion

The Department processes Waste Collection Permit applications for the region. To date, a total of 488 have been received, 397 of which have been granted. It has responsibility for reviewing Annual Environmental Reports submitted in respect of “waste movements”. The Department also co-ordinates waste enforcement in the region in conjunction with the EPA’s Enforcement Network and played a key role in implementing the various regulations.

Significant progress has been made in the following areas in 2005: -

- **Derryclure Landfill:** - Construction of the new extension was completed; costing in excess of €4m and the facility is now operational.
- **Derryclure unlined landfill.** – We have now commenced the full environmental restoration and remediation of the old landfill cell at Derryclure at a cost estimate of €5.5million.
- **Civic Amenity Sites:** - We continue to ensure the operation of the facilities at Tullamore and Edenderry to best standards.
- **Recycling Bring Banks** –  
A total of 48 bring banks are now in operation throughout the county.
- **Historical landfills-** The council have now compiled a list of historical landfills throughout the county. We now propose to carry out a risk assessment of each individual site to determine the most appropriate action required to deal with these sites.
- **Waste Enforcement-** The Council has a team of nine people involved in waste enforcement, including four full time Litter Wardens. They provide an effective and visible presence to tackle illegal waste and litter activities, which involve the staff in operation on the ground and on patrol out-of-hours. In conjunction with the EPA Office of Environmental Enforcement and An Garda Síochána, a series of road checkpoints were arranged during 2006, to check on illegal waste movements.
- **End of Life Vehicles (ELV’s)-** New waste management regulations to deal with end of life vehicles (ELV’s) came into force in 2006. These regulations require the local authority to set up a register of companies ‘creating or placing or intending to create ELV’s for recycling’. In addition, the Council are required to issue waste permits for the provision of Authorised Treatment facilities (ATF’s) for the processing of ELV’s.
- **WEEE Regulations-**
- **Packaging Regulations-** The Council continues to inspect major producers of packaging waste in order to assess compliance with the Packaging Regulations. One company has opted for self-registration with the Council. The remaining major producers are members of REPAK.

## **2 LITTER MANAGEMENT**

Offaly County Council continued to implement its multi-faceted approach to tackling the problem of indiscriminate littering throughout the County. A combination of awareness, enforcement and other measures were adopted to promote behavioral changes among all sectors of the population towards littering and illegal dumping. The four Litter wardens were actively engaged in enforcing the provisions of the Litter Pollution e.g., investigating litter complaints, abandoned vehicles, backyard burning, etc. In 2006, the Litter Wardens were assigned 114 complaints and 100% of these were resolved or closed off within this period. The Council's Environmental Department have worked in tandem with the Areas to eliminate a number of black spot areas throughout the County.

Council staff issued a total of 247 on-the-spot fines under the Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2003.

## **3 POLLUTION CONTROL AND WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

The Pollution Control Team is responsible for the implementation of Local Government Environmental Legislation in the following areas: air, water, noise and nuisance. It also has a general water quality monitoring and management role. Specific activities undertaken by the section include the investigation of water pollution incidents, licensing of discharges to waters and sewers, licensing of significant emissions to air, monitoring of urban wastewater plants, rivers and lakes.

- **Water Pollution and the Phosphorous Regulations, 1998-** Water pollution is a major concern in County Offaly. Therefore much of the work of the pollution control team is devoted to this matter. Only 37% of rivers in County Offaly are classed as unpolluted, compared to a national figure of 70%. In addition, the Tullamore, Philipstown and Figile Rivers are the most polluted rivers in the County in terms of Phosphorous loading. Under the Phosphorous Regulations, 1998 the Council is obliged to achieve a significant improvement in river water quality by 2007. To this end, the Council has established a team to undertake a comprehensive programme of farm inspections, discharge licensing and general pollution investigations.
- **Water Framework Directive-** The purpose of the directive is threefold:
  1. To maintain high status of water where it exists.
  2. To prevent any deterioration in the existing status of waters.
  3. To achieve at least good status of all waters by 2015.

Ireland has been divided into eight river basin districts (RBDs) covering the whole of the island of Ireland, in accordance with new EU and Irish environmental legislation. Offaly County Council are involved in three RBD's, The Eastern, The South Eastern and The Shannon RBD. The initial phase of the project will culminate with the production of a draft River Basin Management Plan for the districts in 2008.

A Characterisation Report under Article 5 of the Directive was completed in 2005 for the various RBDs. This report provides an initial assessment of the pressures and activities that present a threat to some water bodies not achieving the requirement of "good status" by 2015. In 2006, the RBD's published a timetable and work programme, which will lead us to the making of the River Basin Management Plans. In December 2006, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government made a detailed monitoring programme for all waters.

- **Dangerous Substances Monitoring-** Seven key locations throughout the county were sampled and tested for dangerous substances. Three locations were found to have cyanide levels above the legal limit and further investigations will follow to determine and eliminate the source.

#### **4 DERELICT SITES AND DANGEROUS BUILDINGS**

The Council continued to identify additional sites for entry on the Register, and owners have been directed to carry out the necessary works on derelict blackspots.

#### **5 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AT WORK ACT**

To meet our responsibilities in the area of health, safety and welfare at work, the Council recruited its own Health and Safety Officer in 2006, having previously operated on a sharing basis with Laois County Council. The role of the Health and Safety Officer is to advise management and staff on all matters relating to safety, health and welfare at work and to foster a health and safety culture throughout the organization.

In 2006, this included the undertaking of the following activities:

- A review of the management of safety, health and welfare issues within Offaly Local Authorities, both at corporate level and within each operating section
- A review and update to the Parent Safety Statement and Ancillary Safety Statement for the Landfill and Civic Amenity Centre in Derryclure, Tullamore in consultation with local staff
- Agreement of an Action Plan to manage health, safety and welfare issues during roadworks, set against the backdrop of the introduction of new construction legislation in November
- 90 safety audits/inspections across Roads, Housing and Sanitary services
- The introduction of a near-miss reporting system, with 11 incidents reported and investigated
- Participation in the NISO Safety and General Knowledge Quiz in the Midland Region. Participation in European Safety Week held in November

The general level of safety awareness continues to rise. A total of 6 accidents were reported, 3 of which required reporting to the Health and Safety Authority. This was an increase on the previous year (3 accidents/2 reportable).

#### **Health and Safety Training**

Health and safety training continues to form a large part of the Annual Training Programme. During 2006, 30 different courses were provided resulting in 537 training days provided. A total of 598 staff members attended safety related training sessions, with an average attendance of 86.5%.

#### **6 VETERINARY SERVICE**

One of the main responsibilities of the Veterinary Department is the delivery of services in connection with the Council's role as an agency of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. In this regard, domestic abattoirs, domestic meat manufacturing/processing premises and associated food vehicles in the county are supervised by the Council's team of Veterinary Inspectors to ensure compliance with food safety legislation and hygiene standards. Procedures and conditions governing the slaughtering of animals/ animal welfare in licensed premises were monitored. During the year a total of 2269 cattle, 9373 sheep and 163 pigs were processed for human consumption in domestic abattoirs in Co. Offaly.

- **Control of Dogs**

The Council's Dog Warden Service is operated by the ISPCA, which also provides the Dog Warden. The Council provides the Dog Pound, the vehicle and the Veterinary Officer.

In 2006 the Council continued to concentrate on re-homing stray or unwanted dogs where possible.

Dog Control Kennels admitted 465 stray/unwanted dogs during the year. Of these, 49 dogs were re-claimed by their owners, up to 110 were rehomed and remainder were put to sleep.

Dog owners purchased a total of 2,127 individual dog licenses during the past year.

- **Control of Horses**

The Council has no facility for impounding horses and avails of a service provided by Local Authority Services in Kilkenny. Under the Control of Horses Act, 1996, the Council seized / impounded 13 horses. Horses are only released in accordance with the Council's Control of Horses Bye Laws and on payment of the fees due.

## **7 PERCOLATION TESTING**

Percolation Testing of Sites for houses in unsewered rural areas is carried out as a link to the Planning process and also in conjunction with pollution control mentioned above.

The Environment Section carried out 811 Percolation Tests in 2006. Following approval by the Members in mid 2006, a dedicated team has now been appointed to deal with all percolation tests. As a result we are currently 'turning around' all applications within four weeks.

## **8 BURIAL GROUNDS**

As part of its 5-year plan for the provision of new and the extension of existing cemeteries in the County, adopted by the members of Offaly County Council in 2003, the Council negotiated the purchase of land to extend the cemeteries at The Island, Rahan and at Edenderry during 2005. Work on Edenderry and Clara cemetery commenced in 2006.

Land was purchased for a proposed new cemetery in Clonmacnoise

## **9 WATER SAFETY**

- **Swimming Pools**

2006 saw the commencement of the upgrading of the swimming pool in Birr at a total cost of €2.27 million, of which Offaly County Council are providing funding of €280,000-00. The Council made a submission to the Dept of Tourism, Sport and Recreation in support of an application by Birr Swimming Pool Committee for funding of €1.3 million to refurbish the pool at Birr and the Department approved same in 2005. The Council also approved funding assistance in the sum of €500,000 for Tullamore Pool, which fell due in 2006.

## **Environment Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meetings - 2006**

The Environment Section held three SPC meetings in 2006.

**Offaly County Council supported initiatives in the following areas in 2006: -**

<u>Initiative</u>	<u>Council Grant</u>
1. Environment Grants	€28,044-00
2. Tullamore Tidy Estates Competition	€2,000-00
3. Anti-Litter Grants	€15,000-00
4. Green Schools, workshops & competitions.	€3,000-00
5. Local Agenda 21 Environment Fund Grants	€14,244-00
6. Household Hazardous Waste Collections	€25,000-00
7. Environmental Media Campaign – Midland Radio 3	€10,000-00
8. National campaigns (e.g. Green Christmas campaign)	€5,500-00
9. Business Waste Seminars	€4,000-00
10. Farm plastic container collection scheme	€14,000-00
11. Environmental literature & newsletter	€15,000-00

<i>SERVICE INDICATORS</i>		2004	2005	2006*
<b>E: Environmental Services</b>				
<b>Water</b>				
<b>E.1</b>	% of river channel which is unpolluted			
	% of river channel which is slightly polluted			
	% of river channel which is moderately polluted			
	% of river channel which is seriously polluted			
<b>E.2</b>	% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes			
	% of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)			
<b>Fire Service</b>				
<b>E.3</b>	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part time stations )	5.5	5.64	5.26
<b>E.4</b>	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	56.68	58.6	53.9
	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene within 20 minutes	34.48	36.97	35.93
	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	8.84	4.43	10.17
<b>E.5</b>	<b>Fire prevention</b>			
	Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	125	128	153
	Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed )	107	126	156
<b>Waste Management</b>				
<b>E.6</b>	% of households provided with segregated waste collection	n/a	n/a	n/a

<b>E.7</b>	% of household waste recycled	14.3	18.14	20.02
	tonnage		2756	2685
<b>E.8</b>	% of household waste going to landfill	85.7	81.86	79.77
	Tonnage		12,438	10,591
<b>E.9</b>	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for glass	39	48	46
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for glass	2	3	3
	Total number of recycling facilities for glass	41	51	49
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for glass	3	4	3.5
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling glass per 5000 of population	43	80	58.56
	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for cans	38	48	46
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for cans	2	3	3
	Total number of recycling facilities for cans	40	51	49
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for cans	3	4	3.5
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling cans per 5000 of population	1	4	2.34
	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for textiles	6	6	6
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for textiles	0	2	2
	Total number of recycling facilities for textiles	6	8	8
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for textiles	0	2	.56
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling textiles per 5000 of population	1	7	6.91
	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for batteries	None	None	none
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for batteries	1	2	2
	Total number of recycling facilities for batteries	1	2	2
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for batteries	0	2	.14
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling batteries per 5000 of population	1	4	.945
	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for oils	None	None	none
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for oils	1	2	2
	Total number of recycling facilities for oils	1	2	2
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for oils	None	None	.16
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling oils per	1	0	.458

	5000 of population			
	Number of bring sites with recycling facilities for other categories	3	0	0
	Number of Civic amenity sites with recycling facilities for other categories	2	3	3
	Total number of recycling facilities for other categories	5	3	3
	Number of locations per 5000 of population with recycling facilities for other categories	0	3	.212
	Tonnage of waste collected for recycling other categories per 5000 of population	55	61	79.28
<b>Litter Pevention and Environmental Enforcement</b>				
<b>E.10</b>	<b>Litter</b>			
	Total number of full time litter wardens	2	4	4
	Total number of part time litter wardens	2	1	1
	Number of litter wardens (both full and part time) per 5000 of population	0	.63	.63
	Number of on the spot fines	155	131	247
	Number of prosecution cases taken because of non payment of on the spot fines	9	6	27
	Number of prosecutions secured	2	14	7
	% of areas within the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter free)	9	3%	1.3%
	% of areas within the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	32	61%	35.8%
	% of areas within the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	41	27%	53.0%
	% of areas within the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	14	5%	9.3%
	% of areas within the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter )	4	4%	0.7%
<b>E.11</b>	<b>Environmental Complaints and Enforcement</b>			
	Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	285	460	469
	Number of complaints investigated	285	460	469
	Number of complaints dismissed	20	0	0
	Number of enforcement procedureds taken )	255	68	128
<b>E.12</b>	% of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	44%	53%	64%
	% of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns )	41%	72%	78%

\* Figures for 2006 are provisional

## *Fire Service*

### **Calls**

<b>No. of Turnouts</b>	<b>No. of Incidents</b>	<b>No. of Fires</b>	<b>No. of Chimney</b>	<b>No. of R.T.A.s</b>
938	811	600 (incl 58 outside county Offaly)	311 52% of fires 38% of calls	143 18% of calls

The above shows the incidents attended by Offaly's fire brigades in 2006. There was an increase in incidents compared to the previous year; there was an 11% increase in calls, but, at last there is a sign of improvement in one area - in 2006 there was a negligible increase in chimney fires. Chimney fires form 38% of calls, and road traffic accidents, which were a small part of fire brigade operations, are now 18% (almost 1 in 5) of all incidents. While sadly, there were a number of fatalities and serious injuries as a result of road traffic accidents, there were no fatalities due to fire in 2006.

The Fire Service continues to work closely with the Ambulance (HSE) Service, and the Gardai in training and preparing for emergencies, and will engage in joint exercises in the coming year.

### **Capital Projects**

Edenderry new fire station was substantially completed in 2006, and will be officially opened in early 2007. Two new appliances were also built in 2006 – one Fire Appliance, and one Emergency Tender, mainly to cater for the increase in road traffic accidents. An Emergency Tender (ET) will now be based in Edenderry, which brigade attends close to 50 accidents/special calls per annum.



*Class of 2006: New recruits passing out at Tullamore Station*

### **Fire Prevention**

The Fire Service carries out inspections mainly under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003, and the Building Control Act 1990. They are also carried out under Planning Acts, Dance Halls Act 1935, Gaming and Lotteries Acts, Explosives Act (Fireworks Displays and Gun Licences), Dangerous Substances Act (Filling Stations), and Health Acts (Assemblies for plays and concerts).



Planning: In 2004, 293 premises (a 10% increase on last year) were inspected under planning legislation (including 23 for Birr Town Council and 29 for Tullamore Town Council). 156 Fire Safety Certificates were processed, an increase of 26% on last year.

Fire Safety advice was given to schools, assembly managers and their staff. Industrial and commercial premises managers and staff were also assisted in setting up safety procedures. The Service also took advantage of the “seminars” held at the hand-over stage of local authority housing to deliver a fire safety message to new home owners. Community Activity Groups were met and safety advice given.



2006 saw the retirement of Tony Colville from the Fire Service after over thirty three

**Finance totals 2006**

Expenditure for the year amounted to..... €3,325,000  
 Income amounted to..... €...292,610  
 Income from Fire Safety Certificates .....€.. 375,6091

**SERVICE INDICATORS: For 2006**

<i>Offaly Local Authorities</i>		
<b>E.3</b>	Fire Service	
	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in full time stations	n/a
	Average time, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in part time stations )	5.5
<b>E.4</b>		
	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene within 10 minutes	48%
	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene within 20 minutes	41%
	% of attendances at scenes where first attendance is at scene after 20 minutes	11%
<b>E.5</b>	<b>Fire prevention</b>	
	Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	254
	Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed )	256

## *Civil Defence*

Civil Defence in Offaly continued with training in 2006. More volunteers studied for and successfully took their Advanced First Aid exams during the year. The introduction of technical Rescue during the year also received a boost with another Instructor being qualified in this discipline. We also had two new First Aid Instructors qualified and one Communications Instructor.

Training in the use of Defibrillators continued and Offaly currently have 7 volunteers qualified in the use of this equipment.

Teams from Offaly had great success in the Annual National Exercises and Competitions. The Auxiliary Fire Service team participated in the Firefighting competitions and won the Regional competition and finished a very credible third in the National Competition, which was held in Maynooth.

Civil Defence Volunteers responded to a call from the HSE at the recent fire in the Gallen Priory Nursing home in Ferbane and assisted with the transportation of patients to alternative accommodation.

Following a growing trend in the county personnel from Offaly participated in the Annual Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Carmel McDonald Mike Hogan Paul McDonald Noel Smyth and Sean Nolan returned again to Lourdes to take part in the Annual Military Pilgrimage. This is a huge commitment on their part and is highly commendable and greatly appreciated. This Year marked a special occasion for Mike Hogan, Noel Smyth, Paul McDonald and Sean Nolan as they all received a medal for three years overseas service with Civil Defence in Lourdes.

Civil Defence provided ambulance cover and logistical support to the various community and sports events throughout the year including Kilcormac Ramblers New Year's Day walk, St Patrick's Day festivities in Tullamore and Kilcormac and Clara, Birr Vintage Week, Tullamore Phoenix Festival and Tullamore Agricultural Show, Edenderry parish day and Rugby Games, Banagher Horse Fair and many more smaller events throughout the county. All in all Civil Defence attended at 43 community based events during the year.

We are looking forward to 2007 and continuing our training programme, which has just been finalised. New members are always welcome and can contact Civil Defence through any member locally or the Civil Defence Officer at the Central Fire Station, Tullamore.



Offaly Volunteers pictured at the Civil Defence School closing ceremony: Mike Hogan, Corla Bradley, Noel Smyth, Damien Glennon, Carmel McDonald, Sean Nolan, Carmel Gilligan, Paul McDonald.

AFS Team, Regional Winners 2006

Paul McDonald, Oliver Nolan, Ger Sammon, Carmel McDonald, Anthony Berry, Mike Hogan, Chris Shortall.



## *Corporate Services*

### **Our Goals**

- To support the democratic mandate of the elected members.
- To maintain a satisfactory franchise and electoral system at local level.
- To ensure best practice is applied in securing value for money in the management and maintenance of corporate property.
- To implement our Higher Education Grants in a fair and efficient manner.
- Develop initiatives to increase cross departmental awareness and input to the development of corporate policies.
- Improve communications internally and externally on Local Authorities activities.

### **Support Services**

An important function of the Corporate Services Department is the provision of a secretariat service for meetings of the County Council. The Annual Meeting of the Council took place in the Community Hall, Shinrone on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2006. Councillor Gerard Killally was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Eamon Dooley was elected Leas Cathaoirleach. There are 21 Councillors on Offaly County Council. The Council normally meets on the third Monday of each month, excluding August. In addition an Annual Budget Meeting and An Annual Meeting are held.

#### ***Corporate Policy Group (CPG)***

- \_ Cllr. Gerard Killally, Cathaoirleach (Chair).
- \_ Cllr. T Feighery, Chairperson - Economic Planning & Development SPC.
- \_ Cllr. N Bourke, Chairperson - Roads & Infrastructure SPC.
- \_ Cllr. P Clendennen, Chairperson - Environment SPC.
- \_ Cllr. J Carroll, Chairperson - Housing, Social & Cultural SPC.

The Corporate Policy Group met on 12 occasions during 2006.

#### **Strategic Policy Committees:**

There are four S.P.C.'s in Offaly comprising of the following members:

**Environment (9 members):** Cllrs. Percy Clendennen (Chairperson), Gerard Killally, Eddie Fitzpatrick, John Foran, Eamon Dooley, Michael Loughnane, Mr Joe Parlon, Ms Anne Fahey, and Ms Teresa Ryan-Feehan.

**Transportation & Infrastructure (9 members):** Cllrs. Noel Bourke (Chairperson), Michael Fox, Constance Hanniffy, Tony McLoughlin, Peter Ormond, Paddy Rowland, Mr Frank Feery, Mr Noel Healion, Mr Hugh Farrell.

**Housing, Social & Cultural (9 members):** Cllrs. John Carroll, (Chairperson), Sinead Moylan-Ryan, Molly Buckley, Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy, Fergus McDonnell, Joe Coughlan, Ms Susan Ryan, Ms Barbara Daly, Ms Anne Starling.

**Economic Development & Planning (11 members):** Cllrs. Thomas Feighery, (Chairperson), Dervill Dolan, Barry Cowen, Thomas McKeigue, Johnny Butterfield, Danny Owens, Noel Cribben, Mr Joe Enright, Mr Sean Loughnane, Mr Dominic Doheny, Mr Dominic Carroll.

## Conferences Attended By Members in 2006

Conference	Venue	Date	No of Delegates
Media Skills for Councillors	Clarinbridge	Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	1
Planning Seminar for Councillors	Dungarvan	Feb 3/4 <sup>th</sup>	2
AMAI Spring Seminar	Letterkenny	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	3
The Councillor & Civic Leadership Conf.	Clonmel	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1
ACCC Annual Conference	Dundalk	March 9/11 <sup>th</sup>	8
Carlow Tourism Conference	Dolmen Hotel	Mar 23/24 <sup>th</sup>	1
SPC Training	Tullamore	March 28 <sup>th</sup>	1
Natura 2000 Conference	Tralee	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	2
Charles O'Connor Conference	Roscommon	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	1
LAMA Conference	Kilkenny	April 20/21 <sup>st</sup>	6
Tipperary Peace Convention	Tipperary	April 21/23 <sup>rd</sup>	1
Rethinking Energy Use Conference	Dublin	April 21 <sup>st</sup>	1
Ratoo Heritage Conference	Ballybunnion	April 26/29 <sup>th</sup>	3
What Lies Ahead Environment Conference	Longford	April 28 <sup>th</sup>	1
SPC Training	Wicklow	May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1
6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Composting Conference	Enfield	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	1
Cost of Waste Disposal Conference	Carrigaline	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	1
SPC Training	Galway	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	1
Confederation of European Councillors Conf	Letterkenny	May 12 <sup>th</sup>	1
Westport Experience Conference	Westport	May 18 <sup>th</sup>	1
Kerry Mental Health Conference	Kerry	May 26 <sup>th</sup>	1
BMW Regional Assembly	Roscommon	June 8 <sup>th</sup>	2
Confederation of European Councillors Conf	Wexford	June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3
Planning Seminar for Councillors	Cork	July 6 <sup>th</sup>	2
William Carleton Summer School	Clogher	August 7 <sup>th</sup>	1
Parnell Summer School	Wicklow	August 13 <sup>th</sup>	2
Merriman Summer School	Lisdoonvarna	August 19/26 <sup>th</sup>	2
Local Government & the Arts Seminar	Letterkenny	August 25/26 <sup>th</sup>	4
Galway's Mining Heritage	Galway	August 26 <sup>th</sup>	1
Sports & Leisure Development	Kilkee	August 31 <sup>st</sup>	2
AMAI Annual Conference	Cavan	September 14/15 <sup>th</sup>	5
Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend	Omagh	September 16/17 <sup>th</sup>	1
See the Light Conference	Cavan	September 28/29 <sup>th</sup>	1
A New UK Nuclear Programme	Drogheda	September 30 <sup>th</sup>	1
Twosds Sustainability in the Dev Plan	Dublin	October 4/6 <sup>th</sup>	1
Sustainable Energy Conference	Sligo	October 5 <sup>th</sup>	1
Getting A Grip Conference	Kerry	October 5 <sup>th</sup>	1
Confederation of European Councillors Conf	Derry	October 12/13 <sup>th</sup>	1
Neil Blaney Autumn School	Letterkenny	October 13/14 <sup>th</sup>	2
Teagasc Rural Enterprise Conference	Mullingar	October 19 <sup>th</sup>	1
Business Improvements Districts	Tullow	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	2
A New Heart for Dublin	Dublin	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	1
Douglas Hyde Conference	Roscommom	October 20/22 <sup>nd</sup>	3
Offaly Heritage Seminar	Birr	October 28 <sup>th</sup>	1
LAMA Winter Seminar	Wicklow	November 10/11 <sup>th</sup>	6
Clare Tourism Conference	Clare	November 24/25 <sup>th</sup>	3
Agrivision Conference	Mallow	November 30 <sup>th</sup>	2
Confederation of European Councillors Seminar	Fermanagh	December 7/8 <sup>th</sup>	2
Local Government Budget Seminar	Wexford	December 9 <sup>th</sup>	2
The Respect Agenda	Belfast	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	1

## PAYMENTS MADE TO MEMBERS IN 2006

NAME	MONTHLY ALLOW	CONF. SPC CHAIREXP	CONF. REP.PAYMENT	CHAIRMANS ALLOW	FOREIGN TRAV
NOEL BOURKE	5,051.68	7,054.44	4,400.83	15,691.06	
MOLLY BUCKLEY	4,197.36		4,448.60	15,691.06	
JOHNNY BUTTERFIELD	4,254.36		3,970.73	15,691.06	
JOHN CARROLL	5,828.32	7,054.44	4,540.68	15,691.06	
PERCY CLENDENNEN	4,744.24	7,054.44	3,765.39	15,691.06	
M. CORCORAN KENNEDY	5,282.32		5,495.41	15,691.06	
BARRY COWEN	4,129.36		920.00	15,691.06	
DERVILL DOLAN	4,129.32		1,712.55	15,691.06	
EAMON DOOLEY	4,744.36		4,907.98	15,691.06	
THOMAS FEIGHERY	4,358.92	7,054.44	3,804.51	15,691.06	
EDDIE FITZPATRICK	4,436.91		4,158.80	15,691.06	
JOHN FORAN	4,836.07		0.00	15,691.06	
MICHAEL FOX	4,118.13		3,793.17	15,691.06	
CONNIE HANNIFFY	4,812.36		5,383.18	15,691.06	
GERARD KILLALLY	4,974.88		1,343.20	15,691.06	14,269.50
FERGUS McDONNELL	5,205.40		7,866.67	15,691.06	
TOMMY McKEIGUE	4,129.36		2,998.63	15,691.06	
TONY McLOUGHLIN	5,253.60		591.05	15,691.06	
SINEAD MOYLAN RYAN	5,820.28		4,063.88	15,691.06	
PETER ORMOND	6,050.92		386.16	15,691.06	12,618.25
DANNY OWENS	4,129.36		4,984.18	15,691.06	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,487.51</b>	<b>28,217.76</b>	<b>73,535.60</b>	<b>329,512.26</b>	<b>26,887.75</b>

### Freedom of Information

#### Statistics:

In 2006 under the Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 & 2003, the total number of applications were as follows:

- ◆ 16 applications were received by Offaly County Council.
- ◆ There were no applications received by Birr Town Council.
- ◆ There were no applications received by Tullamore Town Council.
- ◆ There were no applications received by Edenderry Town Council.

### The Ombudsman

Eight complaints were received by the Ombudsman in 2006 in relation to Offaly County Council.

## **Register of Electors**

The Register of Electors was produced on the 1<sup>st</sup> February and came into force on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

The total electorate for County Offaly for the 2006/2007 Register of Electors was 54,346 broken down over the local electoral areas as follows:

Birr	11,974
Edenderry	13,754
Ferbane	9,344
Tullamore	19,274
<i>Total on the Register</i>	<i>54,346</i>

## **Higher Education Grants**

In the 2005/2006 academic year the number of Higher Education Grant new awards totalled 115 and a further 273 students qualified for grant renewal.

Expenditure on Higher Education Grants totalled €1,587,506.30 in that period. This money is recoupable from the Department of Education & Science, except for a fixed contribution made by Offaly County Council. The administration of the scheme is a service provided by this Council to students and parents in County Offaly.

## **County Coroners**

The total expenditure in 2006 was €49,574.94 (including salary) in respect of coroners inquests.

## **Publications**

Annual Yearbook and Diary 2006

## **Chairman's Charity Ball**

The Chairman's Charity Ball was held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 12 May 2006. Fundraising from the event totalled €28,000 - €14,000 was presented to Dóchas – Offaly Cancer

Support Group and €14,000 was presented to St Anne's Service Offaly Association.



Offaly County Council Cathaoirleach, Councillor Peter Ormond presenting cheque for €14,000 to Gerry Murray, Chairman of Offaly Dochas with L to R Ger Killally, David Kerin, Carmel Kinsella Leavy, Gerry Murray, Mary Cowen, Niall Sweeney ( Co. Manager), Brian Kenny, Peter Ormond Cathaoirleach, Anne McCabe, Mary Griffin and Ray Carroll.



## *Human Resources Department*

Offaly County Council recognise that our success in providing a high quality service to the community has been built on a loyal, dedicated and committed workforce. The Human Resources Department functions include staff recruitment and retention, workforce planning, staff welfare, staff leave, employee relations, industrial relations, training and development, performance management and workplace partnership.

The aim of the Department is to assist all Offaly Local Authorities in the delivery of organisational objectives, while at the same time developing the potential of every staff member.

### **Recruitment**

The Department oversees the recruitment of employees for Offaly County Council and for the Town Councils of Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore. In 2006, thirty competitions were held to interview candidates to fill permanent and temporary vacancies in the authorities. Independent interview boards were selected to recommend the most suitable candidates for employment or promotion in accordance with national regulations.

Recruitment Statistics	
Number of recruitment competitions held in 2006	30
Number of applications received	1104
Number of staff appointed	77

### **Training**

Customer care and service delivery is one of the four principles of Better Local Government and so all training is developed and delivered with this at its core. Training for staff concentrates on :

- Customer Care and Service Delivery
- Job Specific Skills
- Organisational Requirements
- Personal Development

Offaly County Council's training programme during 2006 included courses held in-house and courses co-ordinated with organisations such as the Institute of Public Administration, Roscrea Regional Training Centre and FÁS. Priority was given to Health & Safety Training during 2006 and details of health and safety training courses are outlined below :

Statistics on Health & Safety Training	
Number of training courses held in 2006	30
Total Number of training days provided	537
Total Number of staff members who attended	598

The Human Resources Section encouraged and assisted a number of employees to pursue further relevant third level education courses.

During 2006 Offaly County Council continued its operation of a Work Placement Scheme for students in schools and colleges with students being given the opportunity to work in various areas of the Offaly local authorities. This scheme benefits students by assisting them in achieving their course needs by gaining relevant work experience.

## **Performance Management Development Systems**

The principle of PMDS is to develop greater inclusion in the process of business planning and develop personal development plans in respect of all staff. It is the means of relating the Corporate Plan to Business Plans and assisting in the delivery of the Councils' services.

In accordance with the National Agreement, *Sustaining Progress*, a Performance Management Development System (PMDS) was introduced to the Local Authority Sector in 2005. The current national agreement, *Towards 2016*, further endorses the system and requires that it be fully implemented by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

PMDS is a Personal Development system and **not** Performance Measurement.

The two main core components involved in the PMDS process are:

- Team Development Plans (TDP)
- Personal Development Plans (PDP)

## **Staff Welfare**

Offaly County Council recognises staff as its most important resource and continues to promote work/life balance initiatives through the provision of Career Break Scheme; Work Sharing Scheme; Parental Leave Scheme; Term Time Leave Scheme; Flexitime.

A number of staff policies, e.g. Dignity at Work, Grievance and Disciplinary Policy, have been developed. An Equal Opportunities Policy is also in place which outlines the Council's commitment to treat and develop all its staff equally irrespective of sex, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, colour, race, nationality or membership of the travelling community.

## **Local Workplace Partnership Committee**

Workplace Partnership continued apace in 2006 with the appointment of a new Partnership Facilitator in February. As noted in the 2005 Annual Report, the Partnership Committee continued to deal with more significant issues throughout the year. Three Partnership Working Groups continued their deliberations during the year and the Group working on the Non Domestic Water Metering Project delivered their report in November. The Group dealing with relocation to the new Birr Civic Offices and Library Buildings concluded its deliberations with a successful move to the new offices in October. The Local Authority National Partnership Advisory Group (LANPAG) national strategy document "*Handling Significant Change through Partnership*" suggests the establishment of a High Level Group in each local authority. This group comprises representatives of senior management, senior trade union representatives and members of the Partnership Committee (Joint Chairs) and the purpose of the group is to further embed the Partnership process and identify priority issues that both parties wish to progress. Offaly Local Authorities have established such a group and the inaugural meeting of the group was held in December.

## **Retirement**

The following staff retired during 2006 after many years of dedicated service to the people of Offaly:

Mr. John Flanagan, Storekeeper, Ms Maureen Kinnarney, Staff Officer, Mr. Kieran Claffey, Lorry Driver, Mr. Seamus Brennan, Revenue Collector, Mr. Pat McLoughlin, Litter Warden, Mr. Jackie Cahill, Town Foreman, Birr Town Council, Mr. Gerard Brennan, General Operative, Edenderry, Ms. Mary Foley, Branch Librarian, Edenderry, Mr. Patrick Farrell, Retained Firefighter, Edenderry, Mr. Thomas Cummins, Retained Firefighter, Edenderry.

<b><i>Offaly Local Authorities</i></b>		
<b><i>SERVICE INDICATORS</i></b>		
<b>C.1</b>	% of working days lost to sickness absence	5.73%
<b>C.2</b>	Expenditure on training and development as a percentage of amount due	7.34%

## ***Information Systems***

In 2006 Offaly Local Authorities Information Systems department progressed a number of significant strategic projects. Among these were the following:-

## **Broadband Technologies**

In 2006 tender specifications were drawn up for connectivity to the Tullamore MAN. The tender was advertised in Quarter 4 and a contract will be awarded and completed in 2007.

Offaly Co Co also became the Lead Authority for the development of MAN projects in Edenderry, Clara, Portarlinton, Mountmellick and Moate under Phase 2 of the Regional Broadband Scheme. Construction of these projects will begin in 2007.

Internet broadband connectivity is also now available throughout our Branch Library network.

## **Telecommunications**

New telephone systems were introduced in Birr Civic Offices, Tullamore Town Council and in the Council's new Stores facility in Tullamore. This is a further step in the move towards standardisation of telecommunications across the organisation. A similar implementation will take place in Edenderry in 2007.

## **Geographic Information Systems**

A strategic decision was taken in 2006 to implement the PlanIGIS application for digital mapping in the Planning Department. When fully implemented this will facilitate the introduction of e-mapping on [www.offaly.ie](http://www.offaly.ie) in 2007.

## **Mobile Computing**

Facilities using Citrix technology were expanded in 2006 to allow remote network connectivity for staff and as backup/contingency for the larger sub offices in the county. Approximately 40 staff now use mobile ICT facilities.

## **Internet Services**

The re-development of [www.Offaly.ie](http://www.Offaly.ie) continued throughout 2006. Content management software was introduced to improve management and updating of the site which will go live in early 2007.

## **Network Development**

The IS team played a major role in the development of new office facilities in Birr and at the new Stores location in Ballydrohid in 2006. Both facilities are fully integrated into the Council's main network and both operate with state of the art telecommunications and data networking infrastructures.

A strategic decision was taken to implement a Disaster Recovery Plan and independent backup site. Investigations and analysis done in 2006 will lead to a major project for completion in 2007.

*Finance*

## **Our Goals**

## **To plan the strategic financial management of Offaly Local Authorities and deliver the services of the finance function in an efficient, effective and professional manner.**

### **Our Strategies**

- Develop accounting and management information systems that deliver the best possible basis for future planning, budgeting and decision making in order to maximise financial resources available.
- Promote and direct Value for Money concepts and foster a culture of effective use of resources.
- Prepare an annual financial budget that reflects our corporate objectives.
- Enhance the Financial Management System and in particular, the provision of more meaningful financial management information.
- Ensure prompt payment to suppliers.
- Promote a value for money culture in the organisation.

### **Our Services**

The expenditure for 2007 for Offaly County Council will be approximately €120million between Revenue and Capital jobs.

The Finance Department deals with the short and long term financing of all the Council's operations, both of a Revenue and Capital nature. This involves:

- Monitoring and controlling income and expenditure.
- Arranging borrowing/leasing requirements.
- Treasury Management.

The Department also ensures that statutory and financial accounting principles, which apply to all money paid by or to the Council, are complied with.

The Council's revenue and day-to-day expenditure is defrayed from sources such as:

- Commercial Rates;
- Local Government Fund;
- Government Grants;
- Housing Rents, Planning Fees, Commercial Water Charges and other Fees.

### **The Main Sections within Finance are:**

#### **Revenue**

Recovery of Commercial Rates, administration of Housing Loan accounts, debt collection and receipting of all monies.

**Accounts Payable**

Registration of all suppliers invoices received and central processing of invoices. Completion of Purchase to Pay cycle with weekly cheque payment run.

**Payroll**

Payment of weekly wages and Fortnightly payment of salaries and pensions. Other periodic payments, to Firemen, etc. Statutory returns to Revenue Commissioners.

**Fixed Asset Register**

Recording and maintaining all fixed assets acquired (created or purchased) and disposed of throughout the year.

**The Main Reports Produced by Finance are:****The Annual Budget**

The Finance Department:

- prepares the overall Revenue Budget in consultation with the County Manager and the Management Team;
- presents it to the Corporate Policy Group;
- presents it to the Elected Members for adoption at the Annual Budget Meeting.

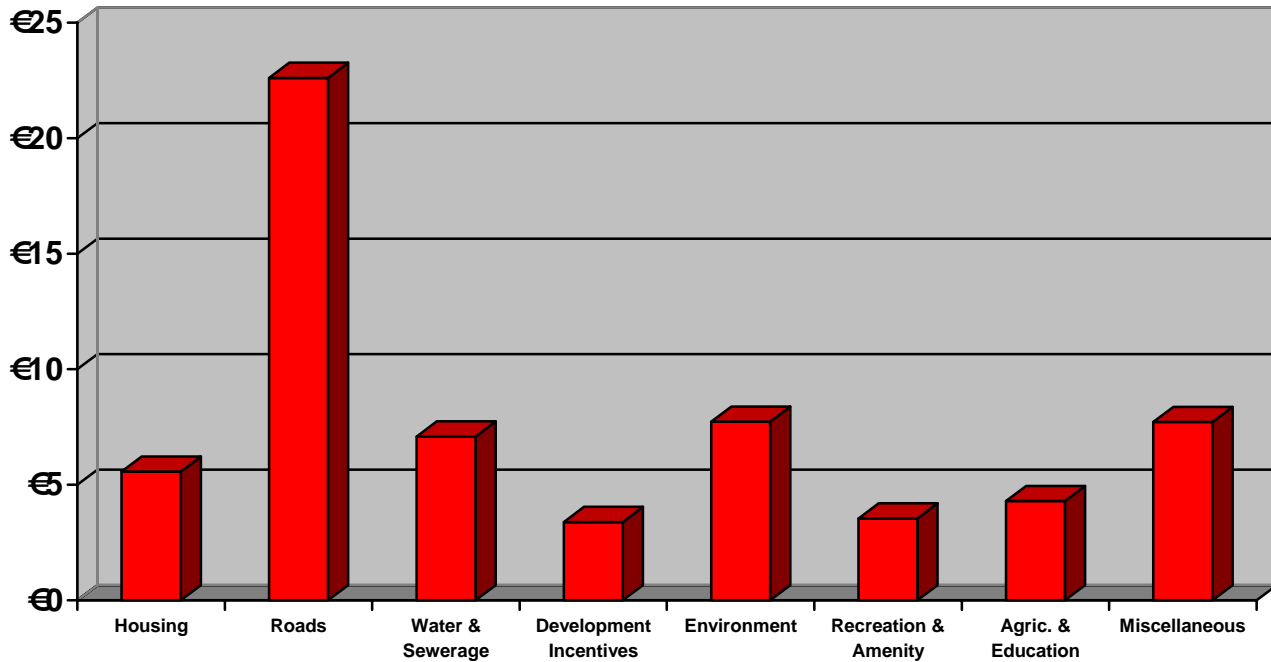
**The Annual Financial Statement (AFS)**

The AFS is produced annually and brings together all the revenue-related income and expenditure for the year, resulting in a surplus or deficit for the year. The Balance Sheet shows the assets and liabilities of the County Council at the end of 2006. A report on Income and Expenditure on Capital jobs is also prepared. Accounts are presented to members at Council Meeting and audited by the Local Government Auditor.

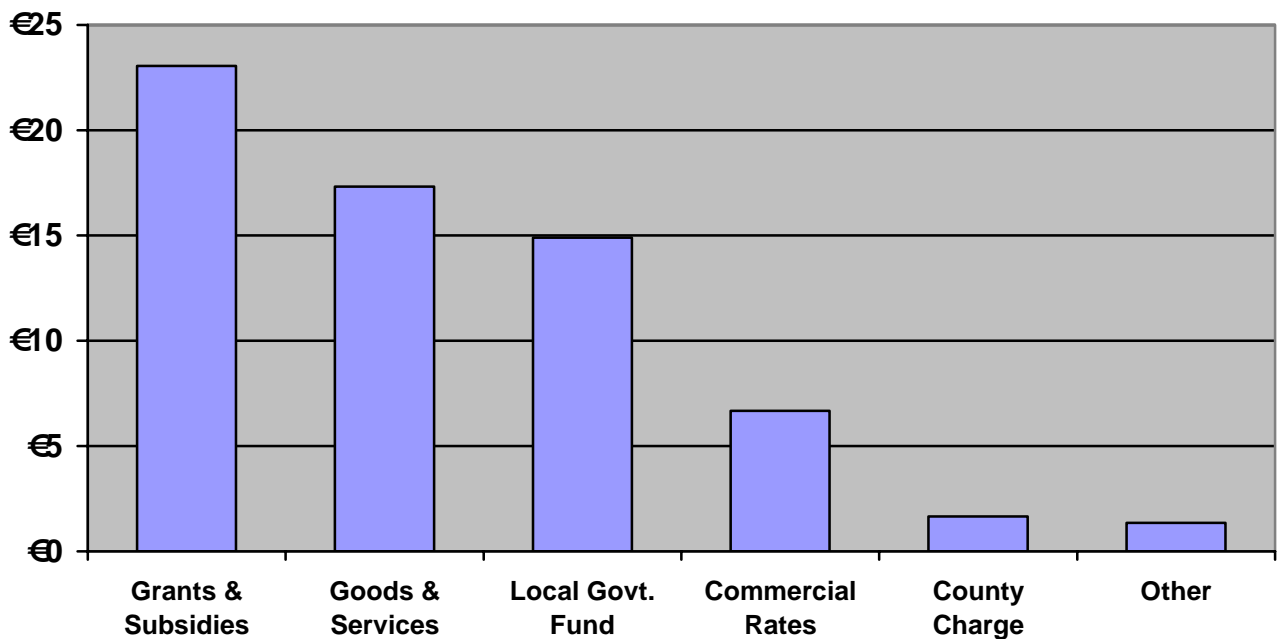
***Income and Expenditure Account Statement 2006 – Unaudited***

	Gross Expenditure € 2006	Income € 2006	Net Expenditure € 2006	Net Expenditure € 2005
<b>Expenditure by Programme Group</b>				
Housing & Building	5,569,886	4,493,785	1,076,102	904,553
Roads Transportation & Safety	22,609,433	16,971,570	5,637,862	4,387,386
Water & Sewerage	7,082,374	1,628,036	5,454,337	4,960,448
Development Incentives & Controls	3,386,712	1,718,389	1,668,322	1,504,054
Environmental Protection	7,729,792	6,990,125	739,667	1,285,689
Recreation & Amenity	3,544,176	1,793,893	1,750,283	1,740,458
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	4,296,141	3,752,981	543,161	583,896
Miscellaneous	7,715,508	4,384,848	3,330,660	2,356,475
<b>Total Expenditure\Income</b>	<b>61,934,021</b>	<b>41,733,628</b>		
<b>Net Cost of Programmes to be funded From County Rates &amp; Local Government Fund</b>			<b>20,200,394</b>	<b>17,722,959</b>
Rates			6,666,450	4,600,257
Local Government Fund			14,891,887	14,180,044
Charges to Town Councils			1,659,737	1,463,505
<b>Surplus\ (Deficit) for Year before Transfers</b>			<b>3,017,681</b>	<b>2,520,847</b>
<b>Transfers to/from Reserves</b>			<b>(3,048,011)</b>	<b>(2,531,184)</b>
<b>Overall Surplus\ (Deficit) for Year</b>			<b>(30,331)</b>	<b>(10,337)</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 1st January 2006</b>			<b>(17,816)</b>	<b>(7,479)</b>
<b>General Reserve @ 31st December 2006</b>			<b>(48,146)</b>	<b>(17,816)</b>

## 2006 Revenue Expenditure by Programme (€Million)

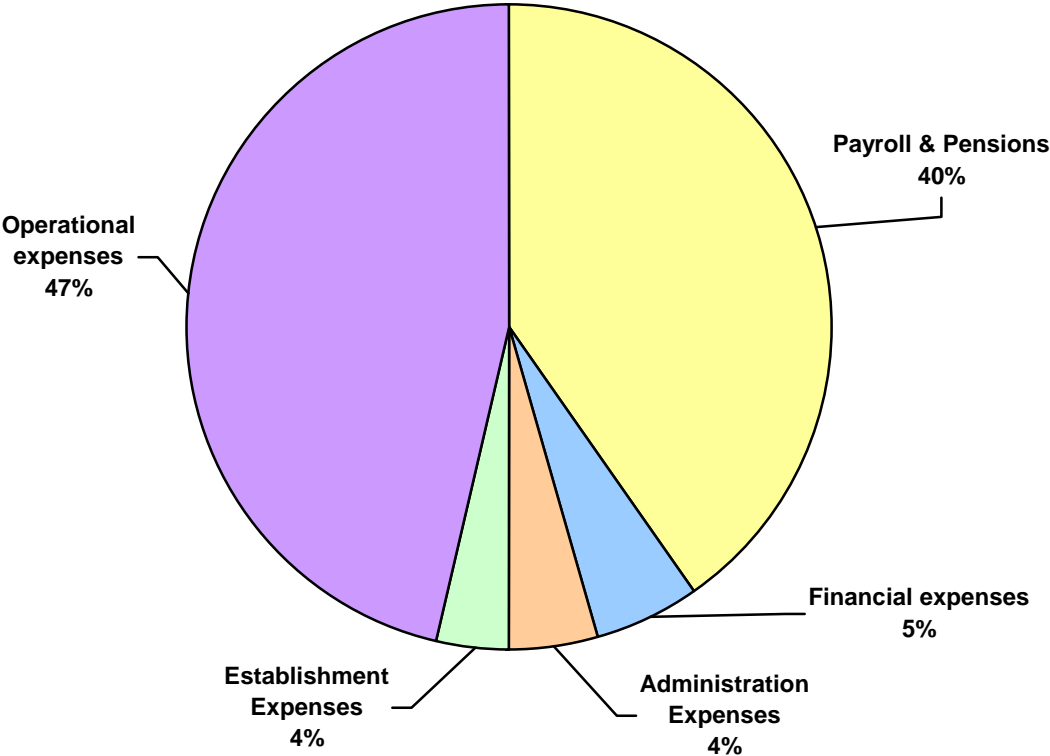


## 2006 Revenue Income Analysis (€Million)

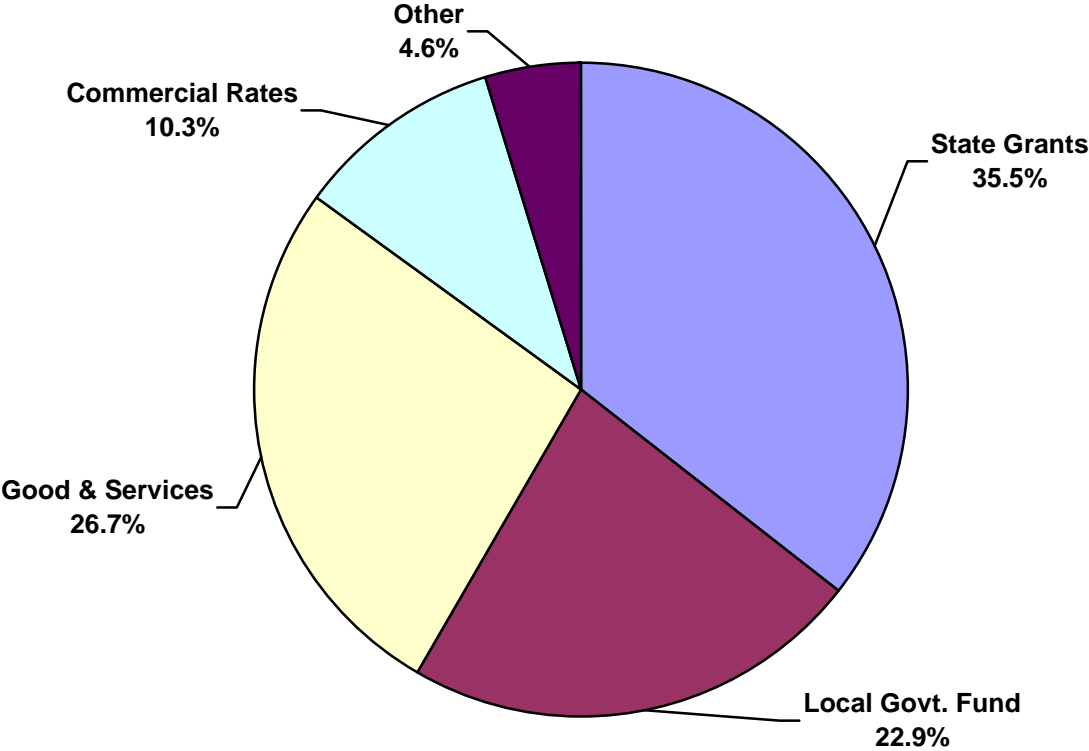




# Analysis of 2006 Expenditure



# Sources of Income 2006



## Balance Sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 - Unaudited

	2006	2005
	€	€
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<b>Operational</b>	180,874,050	176,836,017
Infrastructural	1,227,192,078	1,234,268,371
Community	51,000	51,000
Non Operational	-	-
	<b>1,408,117,128</b>	<b>1,411,155,388</b>
<b>Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses</b>	<b>66,897,991</b>	<b>58,114,821</b>
	<b>27,931,243</b>	<b>25,566,911</b>
<b>Long Term Debtors</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stocks	300,605	258,218
Trade Debtors and Prepayments	17,367,133	8,025,253
Bank Investments	16,445,676	19,244,405
Cash at Bank	4,709,884	4,863,080
Cash on Hand	720,905	29,470
Urban Account	-	-
	<b>39,544,203</b>	<b>32,420,426</b>
<b>Current Liabilities ( Amounts Falling due within one year)</b>		
Creditors & Accruals	9,862,835	7,415,547
Urban Account	125,657	51,055
Finance Leases	6,899	7,612
	<b>9,995,391</b>	<b>7,474,214</b>
	<b>29,548,812</b>	<b>24,946,212</b>
<b>Net Current Assets / Liabilities</b>		
<b>Creditors ( Amounts falling due after More than one year)</b>		
Loans Payable	70,674,344	70,067,198
Finance Leases	13,559	(3,932)
Refundable deposits	833,178	740,778
	<b>71,521,082</b>	<b>70,804,044</b>
<b>Net Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<b>1,460,974,092</b>	<b>1,448,979,288</b>

<b>Financed By:</b>		
Capitalisation Account	1,408,117,128	1,411,155,388
Income WIP	65,743,750	62,336,773
Specific Revenue Reserve	1,026	840
General Revenue Reserve	(48,146)	(17,816)
Other Reserves	(12,839,665)	(24,495,898)
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>1,460,974,092</b>	<b>1,448,979,288</b>

Summary of Capital Expenditure and Income – Unaudited		
	2006	2005
	€	€
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Housing & Building	18,426,122	15,503,466
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,613,837	4,272,421
Water & Sewerage	9,909,747	16,178,604
Development Incentives & Controls	1,484,642	445,625
Environmental Protection	5,407,517	4,849,077
Recreation & Amenity	550,331	40,590
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,992,495	5,565,920
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>65,384,691</b>	<b>46,855,702</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Housing & Building	19,410,786	13,290,131
Roads Transportation & Safety	26,674,881	3,810,408
Water & Sewerage	5,925,505	15,934,607
Development Incentives & Controls	11,502,140	4,847,622
Environmental Protection	2,872,760	10,225,048
Recreation & Amenity	76,019	171,578
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,010,035	3,533,578

<b>TOTAL CAPITAL INCOME</b>	<b>67,472,126</b>	<b>51,812,973</b>
<b>Surplus\ (Deficit) for year</b>	2,087,435	4,957,270
<b>Balance (Debit)\ Credit @ 1 January</b>	22,612,177	17,654,906
<b>Balance (Debit)\ Credit @ 31 December</b>	<b>24,699,612</b>	<b>22,612,177</b>
<b>Includes internal transfers and transfers to and from Revenue account</b>		

### **Motor Taxation Office**

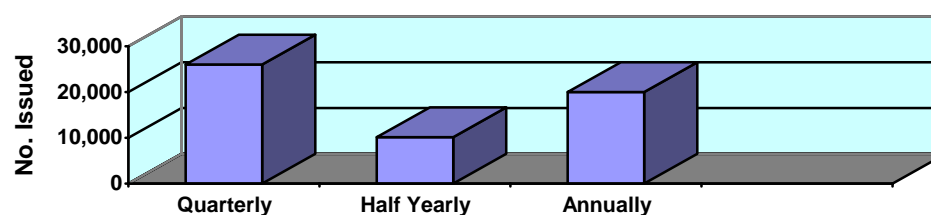
The Council collects vehicle licence duties and issues driving licences (provisional, full and duplicate) within its functional area on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

Motor taxation receipts for 2006 were €1.77 million, an increase of 3.5% on 2005.

During 2006 a total of 56,337 vehicle licences and 9,531 driving licences were issued. Other transactions, including change of ownership for pre-1993 vehicles, certificates of roadworthiness, vehicle registration certificates and processing vehicle licensing arrears totalled 12,728. The Section also produces information to Gardai and other Local Authorities, e.g. penalty points, traffic fines, parking fines, etc.

<b>Vehicle Licences</b>	<b>Number Issued</b>	<b>Value</b>
Quarterly	25,993	€2,739,218
Half Year	10,160	€2,154,677
Annual	20,001	€6,281,492
Duplicates	183	€1,098

**Vehicle Licences Issued in 2006**



<b>Driving Licences</b>	<b>Number Issued</b>	<b>Value</b>
Three Year Licence	978	€3,494
Ten Year Licence	2,871	€1,775
Provisional Licence 1 Year	1,029	€15,270
Provisional Licence 2 Year	3,752	€6,100
One Year Licence	93	-
Duplicates	808	€1,040

The Motor Taxation Office is open to the public from 9.30 a.m. to 3.15 p.m., including lunchtime, Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays.

Electronic payment is now available at the counter and through the postal applications.

An online vehicle taxation service is now available – 14.4% of motor tax transactions in Offaly were dealt with online in 2006.

Transaction costs per transaction = €6.75.

The transactions included in the calculation of this indicator are tax discs issued, VLCs processed, changes of ownership, CT 53s, Driving Licences issued and other miscellaneous fiscal transactions.

## Finance/Motor Taxation Department Service Indicators 2006:

<b>M: MOTOR TAXATION</b>	
<b>M.1 Number of motor tax transactions which:</b> Are dealt with over the counter Are dealt with by post Are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	62,300 17,942 13,504
<b>Percentage of motor tax transactions which:</b> Are dealt with over the counter Are dealt with by post Are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	66.46 % 19.14 % 14.40 %
<b>M.2 Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:</b> (a) On the same day (b) On the third day or less (c) On the fifth day or less (d) Over 5 days	5,016 6,168 3,407 3,351
<b>% of overall postal applications which are dealt with(i.e. disc/driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:</b> (a) On the same day (b) On the third day or less (c) On the fifth day or less (d) Over 5 days	27.96 % 34.38 % 18.99 % 18.67 %
<b>M.3 Public Opening Hours</b>	29
<b>Revenue Collection</b> <b>Rev.1 House Rent</b> (a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due (b) Percentage of arrears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 – 6 weeks old</li> <li>• 6 – 12 weeks old</li> <li>• more than 12 weeks old</li> </ul>	87.49 % 4.90 % 6.33 % 81.51 %
<b>Rev. 2 Housing Loans</b> (a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due (b) Percentage of arrears <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 month old</li> <li>• 2 – 3 months old</li> <li>• more than 3 months old</li> </ul>	82.87 % 6.54 % 4.83 % 83.48 %
<b>Rev.3 Commercial Rates</b> Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due	93.03 %
<b>Rev.4 Refuse Charges</b> Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	N/A - do not provide service
<b>Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges</b> Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	50.38 %

## ***TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL***

Tullamore is the capital town of Offaly with a population of almost 10,000. The town has experienced tremendous growth in the past ten years. Tullamore Town Council is involved in a broad range of services and in particular, Housing, Roads, Sanitary Services, Planning and Infrastructural Development.

### **Main features during 2006**

#### **Civic receptions were held for the following:**

The Irish Country Women's Association  
The Camogie Association  
The Lloyd Family (Re-naming of Lloyd Town Park)  
The Skateboard Action Group  
The Presbyterian Church 150 Years in Tullamore

#### **Section 85 Local Government Act, 2001 Resolution with Offaly County Council re. Performance of water functions in the town of Tullamore.**

Section 85 Local Government Act, 2001 resolution unanimously agreed.

#### **Swimming Pool**

Tullamore Town Council secured funding from the Department of Arts Sport and Tourism and established Tullamore Leisure Ltd. to oversee the project. P.J. Elliott and Co. were appointed contractors.

#### **Social Housing**

47 Social Housing units at Puttaghaun commenced.

36 Social Housing units and 4 Group Houses at Chancery Lane commenced.  
Temporary Halting Site, Kilcruttin completed and opened.

#### **Disabled Persons Grant:**

6 No. Disabled Persons Grants were commenced.

#### **Temporary Halting Site:**

Major refurbishment work on Temporary Halting Site, Kilcruttin completed and opened.

#### **Lloyd Town Park**

In consultation with Local Community and sectoral interest groups Tullamore Town Council in partnership with Murray and Associates drafted a unique design for Lloyd Town Park. Funding was scoured from the Dept. of Arts Sport and Tourism and Internal Reserves. Part 8 Planning was granted by the members of the Town Council.

#### **Skateboard Park**

In consultation with the Skateboard Action Group Tullamore Town Council successfully constructed a skateboard Park in Lloyd Town Park.

### **Lawn Bowling Green**

The Tullamore Lawn Bowling Green was identified as a key project from the consultations over the past two years. Tullamore Town Council has worked with a number of local groups in designing a facility for both competition and family use.

### **Football Mini Pitch**

Tullamore Town Council has worked in partnership with the FAI to provide an all weather mini pitch within Lloyd Town Park. The need for this was identified through consultation with local schools. Tullamore Town Council sourced €36,000 in external funding for this project.

### **Youth Council**

Tullamore Youth Council conducted extensive research into youth needs and published “youth expectations” this was followed by the establishment of a working group for a youth café. They have now sourced €3,000 to conduct a feasibility study.

### **Heritage Centre**

The Council continued its support for the Heritage Centre by providing extra funding in the amount of €37,000 towards the capital costs of development.

### **New Pay and Display System**

Following the introduction of By Laws a new Pay and Display System was introduced in 2006.

### **Planning**

Decisions to Grant in 2006 were 115

Decisions to Refuse in 2006 were 15

There were 7 Appeals to An Bord Pleanála

### **Elected Members**

The following is a list of the Elected Members in Tullamore Town Council

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>
Councillor Laurence Byrne	15 O'Brien Street, Tullamore	Labour
Councillor Tommy McKeigue	Spollanstown, Tullamore.	Fine Gael
Councillor Sinead Dooley	Rahan Road, Sragh, Tullamore.	Fianna Fáil
Councillor Molly Buckley	Moylena, Tullamore.	Non-Party
Councillor Joe Coughlan	252 Ardan View, Tullamore.	Non-Party
Councillor John Flanagan	New Road, Tullamore.	Fianna Fáil
Councillor Sean O'Brien	83 Whitehall Estate, Tullamore.	Labour
Councillor Richard Egan	Spollanstown, Tullamore	Fine Gael
Councillor Paddy Rowland	Knockowen Road, Tullamore.	Fianna Fáil



**REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES:**

**VOCATIONAL**

**EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE:** Councillor Sean O'Brien  
Cllr Laurence Byrne  
Cllr Sinead Dooley

**A.M.A.I.:** Councillor Tommy McKeigue  
Councillor Sean O'Brien

**IRISH PUBLIC BODIES**

**MUTUAL INSURANCES LTD.:** Councillor Molly Buckley

**BOARD OF**

**TULLAMORE DEW HERITAGE CENTRE:**

Councillor Sinead Dooley  
Councillor Tommy McKeigue

**HOUSING COMMITTEE:**

Councillor Tommy McKeigue  
Councillor Molly Buckley  
Councillor Laurence Byrne  
Councillor Joseph Coughlan

**CONFERENCES COMMITTEE:**

Councillor Paddy Rowland  
Councillor Laurence Byrne  
Councillor Richard Egan  
Councillor Joseph Coughlan

**OFFALY STRATEGIC POLICY  
COMMITTEE**

Cllr Paddy Rowland  
Cllr Joseph Coughlan

***LIST OF MEETINGS OF TULLAMORE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN 2006***

Committee Meeting	10 <sup>th</sup>	January	2006
Statutory Budget	12 <sup>th</sup>	January	2006
January Monthly Meeting	12 <sup>th</sup>	January	2006
February Monthly Meeting	9 <sup>th</sup>	February	2006
Special Committee Meeting	1 <sup>st</sup>	March	2006
Special Committee Meeting	8 <sup>th</sup>	March	2006
March Monthly Meeting	9 <sup>th</sup>	March	2006
April Monthly Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup>	April	2006
May Monthly Meeting	11 <sup>th</sup>	May	2006
Committee Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup>	May	2006
June Monthly Meeting	8 <sup>th</sup>	June	2006
Meeting - Speed Limit Review	26 <sup>th</sup>	June	2006
Committee Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup>	July	2006
Committee Meeting	7 <sup>th</sup>	July	2006
July Monthly Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup>	July	2006
Special Committee Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup>	September	2006
September Monthly Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup>	September	2006



## ***BIRR TOWN COUNCIL***

### ***COMHAIRLE BHAILE BHIORRA***

The Urban District of Birr comprises approximately 1,500 acres and has a population of approximately 3,355.

#### **Members of the Council are:**

Councillor Michael Campbell, Woodlands Park, Birr. (Chairman 2006)

Councillor John Carroll, The Ring, Birr.

Councillor Tony McLoughlin, Main Street, Birr.

Councillor Sean Doorley, 3 Meadowville, Birr.

Councillor Seamus Fanneran, Whiteford, Birr

Councillor Ann Hynes-Spain, 12 Meadowcourt, Burkes Hill, Birr.

Councillor Michael Loughnane, 13 Meadowville, Birr.

Councillor Denis Sheils, Ely Place, Birr.

Councillor Noel Russell, 30 Pound Street, Birr.

#### **Monthly Meetings:**

Monthly meeting of the Council are held at 8.00pm on the second Monday of each month.

#### **Representatives to Various Bodies:**

##### **Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland:**

Councillors N. Russell and S. Fanneran.

**Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd:**Councillor M Campbell.

##### **Offaly Vocational Education Committee:**

Sr. Anne, McAuley Drive, Birr and

Councillor J. Carroll

##### **Oxmantown Hall Committee:**

Councillors A. Spain and S. Doorley

##### **Birr Town Council/Chamber of Commerce:**

Clr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach; Clr. S. Doorley and Clr. M. Loughnane

##### **Birr Gardai/Birr Town Council Sub Committee**

Clr. M. Campbell and Clr. T. McLoughlin.

##### **Environmental Policy SPC:**

Clr. Michael Loughnane

##### **Offaly County Council Conference Committee:**

Clr. John Carroll

##### **Offaly County Enterprise Board:**

Clr. John Carroll

## **Offaly County Development Board:**

Clr. Tony McLoughlin

### **Senior Staff:**

Director of Services:

Michael Roche

Town Engineer:

Uinsinn Finn

Town Clerk:

Mary Gaughran

## **SERVICES PROVIDED**

### **Housing and Building:**

As at 31 December 2006 there are 179 rented houses in Birr together with a six bay residential caravan park at Croghan Road, Birr. Forty-six of these are Special Category (for Elderly or Disabled Persons).

Birr Town Council commenced the construction of 23 housing units at Scurragh.

### **Road Transportation and Safety:**

Birr Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of approximately 10 km of Urban roads and streets, including footpaths. Offaly County Council is responsible for the provision and maintenance of the National Secondary and Regional Routes through the town.

### **Development Incentives and Controls:**

The Council's Development Plan sets out a framework for the physical development of the town to ensure that growth may take place in a coordinated and orderly manner, while at the same time conserving the intrinsic character and amenities of the town. The Council adopted the Development Plan for Birr and Environs 2004 on 31 May 2004.

The Council received 38 valid planning applications during 2006.

### **Environmental Protection:**

Waste Disposal Facilities for County Offaly are located at Derryclure, Tullamore only. The domestic refuse collection service is operated by private contractors.

A Traffic/Litter Warden has been employed to deal with the enforcement of the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act.

### **Recreation and Amenity:**

The Council maintains a considerable area of open space in Birr.

The Council in conjunction with the local community/businesses, provided a new playground at Wilmer Road, Birr. This was officially opened in June 2006.

### **Welfare:**

The Council funds the provision of school meals in conjunction with the Department of Social Welfare.

### **Details of Expenditure on promotion of interests of local community**

Birr Town Council sponsored the following special events/initiatives in 2006:

Christmas Lights	€1,500
Ely O'Carroll	€1,000
Birr Swimming Pool	€4,00
Heritage Towns of Ireland	€1,500
Vintage Week	€4,460
Birr Theatre and Arts Centre	€3,000

### **Civic Receptions/Special Events**

In September 2006, Birr Town Council in conjunction with the Birr Historical Society held a reception to celebrate the acquisition of the facsimile of the Macregol Gospels.

### **New Offices**

The new offices of Birr Town Council, Offaly County Council and Birr Library opened to the public in October 2006. The official opening of the building was on 8 December 2006.

### **Retirements:**

Mr. Jackie Cahill, Town Foreman retired from Birr Town Council after over forty years of loyal service.

## ***EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL***

### **Town Councillors:**

Councillor Patricia Brady, Fine Gael  
Councillor Brian Carroll, Fianna Fáil  
Councillor Noel Cribbin, Fianna Fáil  
Councillor John Foley, Fianna Fáil  
Councillor Liam Hogan, Fine Gael  
Councillor Fergus McDonnell (Leas Cathaoirleach), Progressive Democrats  
Councillor Jim Murrin (Cathaoirleach), Non-Party  
Councillor Finian O'Neill, Fianna Fáil  
Councillor John Quinlan, Fianna Fáil

Monthly meetings of the Councillors are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall, Edenderry.

Edenderry Area Manager/Director of Services - Sean Murray

Town Clerk/Meetings Administrator:

Senior Executive Engineer/Town Engineer – Pat Harrington

### **Representatives of Various Bodies:**

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland - Councillor Brian Carroll and Councillor Liam Hogan

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances - Councillor Jim Murrin

Edenderry Town Commissioners became known as Edenderry Town Council with effect from 1st January, 2002. Edenderry is the second largest town in Offaly and has experienced huge growth in the last five years. Edenderry Town Council is involved in a broad range of services.

The Urban District of Edenderry encloses an area of 1,959 acres. The town's proximity to the greater Dublin area and recent improvement in road connections has encouraged people to settle here, resulting in a significant growth in the population.

As part of the restructuring under the Better Local Government Programme the Town Hall, Edenderry has become a focal point for the delivery of all County Council services to the people of Edenderry and it's hinterland.

During the year the Councillors were actively involved in the promotion of all aspects of life in Edenderry. To this end, meetings were convened with different bodies, such as IDA, Midland Health Board (Health Service Executive) , Midlands Region Enterprise Ireland and Offaly County Enterprise Board.

During the course of 2006, the members, with the assistance of Offaly County Council, worked tirelessly for the betterment of the town and encouraged the enhancement of the façade of Edenderry in general.

Disclosure of Donation Statements and Declarations of Interest Returns were made by all members of Edenderry Town Council.

### **Edenderry Capital Works 2006-2007**

1. Underground of power lines (J.K.L Street Area)  
*(civil complete-lines programme) €380,000*
2. Francis Street re-construction  
*Remaining 400m/footpaths at right hand side/ped crossing \*2*  
*(Value €140,000)*
3. Universal Metering of non-domestic water consumers  
*We are all aware. Will mean the fitting of meters on all non-domestic connections (on-going)*
4. Water Conservation-*On-going campaign*
5. Broad Band Network
  - Blundell wood
  - Fairgreen
  - Carrick Road
  - Tesco Road
  - Clonmullen
  - Murphy Street to Kishawanny Bridge.

Combining with other works(value €900,000) including an extension to  
Kishawanny Bridge.

6. J.K.L Street (Street Scape Improvements phase I) €520,000 on-going
7. Mary Street reconstruction (footpaths/surfacing/lighting up-grade/pedestrian crossings) value €180,000, ongoing
8. Carrick Road (reconstruction of road to bridge/traffic calming/lighting up-grade) €100,000
9. Watermains (JKL St) on-going
  - Blundell Wood (300DI)
  - Fairgreen (300DI)
  - Carrick Road (200DI)
  - Tesco Road (200DI)
  - Clonmullen (200DI)
  - Tesco Road (200DI)
  - Clonmullen (200DI)
  - Murphy Street to Kishawanny Bridge (300DI) value €700,000
10. Sewerage Treatment works up-grade/on-going/ value €1,800,00
11. Water Works up-grade value €750,000
12. One-way system Gilroy Avenue/Sr. Senans Avenue, School Lane on-going  
Value €155,000