

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL



EDENDERRY FESTIVAL makes a return to the newly refurbished Square following a 27 year absence.

JOINT ADDRESS BY THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Cllr. Danny Owens, Cathaoirleach



Anna Marie Delaney, Príomh Fheidhmeannach

We are very pleased to present *Offaly County Council 2018 Annual Report*. This report provides Offaly County Council and the Municipal Districts of Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore the opportunity to record the activities undertaken during 2018.

The Council continued to deliver a broad range of services, projects, initiatives and events throughout 2018 to ensure that the county remains an attractive place in which to live, work, do business and visit. Among the many highlights were:

- Construction commenced on 33 units at Blundell Wood, 18 units at Chancery Lane. Also 4 units in Mountbolus in partnership with Mid Offaly Housing Association.

- The Arts Development Strategy 2018-2022 “*Inspire-Imagine-Involve*” was successfully adopted and published following a comprehensive consultation process.
- Film Offaly, Music Generation, Hullabaloo Children’s Arts Festival, Anam Beo – Arts and Health, Arts Acts Grants and Culture night are some of the initiatives supported by our Arts Section.
- The development of the Grand Canal Greenway continued in 2018 with an additional 11 km constructed from Tullamore to Lough Boora Discovery Park.

- Urban Regeneration Development Funding in the sum of €3,000,000 was secured to progress the Tullamore Street Enhancement Project.
- The Cathaoirleach and members hosted a Civic Reception for Professor Peter Gallagher in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the County in leading the €2m I LOFAR project in Birr.
- LEO Offaly led an application under the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund for STREAM Creative Suite and was awarded €458,240 for the project.
- Offaly Local Development Committee implemented the Offaly Community Enhancement Programme. Promotion of the Offaly's "Ireland Hidden Gem" Brand. Monitoring and reviewing progress and implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) continued in 2018.
- Offaly Age Friendly Strategy was launched in June 2018.
- The Motor Taxation office generated approximately €5.4m in revenue, handled almost 89,000 transactions (28% over the counter, 5% via post and 67% processed online).
- Construction of Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail commenced in both Counties Laois and Offaly.
- Twelve applications were successful under Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 and funding to the value of €1,300,000 was approved.

Offaly County Council continues to provide a good level of quality service to its customers despite the continuing difficult financial environment.

The current economic climate presents the organisation with significant challenges and it is only through the continued commitment of the Elected Members, Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, Management Team and Staff, together with the many voluntary and community organisations, with whom the Council engages, that the organisation can face these challenges with confidence.

Finally, we would like to thank the Elected Members and the Staff of Offaly County Council for their ongoing co-operation and support and their commitment to serve the people of County Offaly.

CONTENTS

[To go directly to any Chapter Please Highlight and Click]

Housing Policy, Social and Cultural SPC	4		
Housing Department	4	Municipal District of Tullamore	103
Library Service	7	Municipal District of Edenderry	109
Arts Service	15	Municipal District of Birr	114
Environment and Water Services SPC	21		
Water Services	21		
Environment	26		
Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	32		
Planning Department	32	Members of Offaly County Council	78
Economic Development	40	Service Indicators 2018	117
Community and Culture	48		
Heritage	61		
Transportation and Emergency Services SPC	66		
Roads Department	66		
Fire Services & Civil Defence	72		
Internal Services	77		
Corporate Services	77		
Finance	88		
Human Resources	94		
Information Systems	97		

HOUSING POLICY, SOCIAL & CULTURAL SPC

<i>SPC Chair</i>	Declan Harvey MCC	<i>Director Of Services</i>	Tom Shanahan
<i>Members</i>	<i>Sectoral</i>	<i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Ann Dillon / Monica Cleary
Cllr. Noel Cribbin	Mr. Tony O’Riordan	<i>Senior Executive Engineer</i>	John Cunningham
Cllr. Brendan Killeavy	Ms. Mary Hensey	<i>Administrative Officer</i>	Lourda Giles / Mary Flynn Kenny
Cllr. John Leahy	Ms. Annette Meacle	<i>Administrative Officer</i>	Olwen Cummins
Cllr. Peter Ormond	Ms Jacinta Dillon	<i>County Librarian</i>	Martina Needham
		<i>Arts Officer</i>	Mary Brady

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

SERVICES

The Council’s Key Objective is to maximize the availability of accommodation to meet the different categories of need and to promote the full range of housing options.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2018

- Allocation of 63 homes to applicants on the housing waiting list through Local Authority stock, Social Leasing or Rental Accommodation Scheme.
- 30 applicant families were nominated to Approved Housing bodies and were allocated houses.
- Establishment of 354 tenancies under the Housing Assistance Payment.

- 26 Houses were acquired in 2018 with bids accepted on a further 11 units.
- 13 houses were sold to tenants under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.
- 151 grants were paid to adapt homes for disabled and elderly private home owners.
- The total Council housing stock in Offaly at year end was 1,806.
- 3,502 maintenance requests from local authority tenants.
- 162 inspections carried out on OCC stock.
- 4 meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. A workshop for the Elected

- Members and Management and a further workshop for Traveller Representatives was held. Preparations for the *Traveller Accommodation Programme 2029 – 2024* commenced.
- Completion of the 2018 Social Housing Needs Assessment.
- 59 Vacant Properties works completed, i.e., 21 Acquisitions and 38 Pre-let/Voids.
- Works on 51 homes were completed under the planned maintenance programme.
- Completed adaptation works to 41 Local Authority houses for tenants with disabilities.
- 189 new Homeless presentations. The HAP Place Finder Service commenced in December 2018 helping those in homelessness to secure an affordable tenancy.
- Responded to 83 anti-social behaviour complaints.
- Enhancement works were carried out on Local Authority estates across the 3 Municipal Districts.

REPORT ON HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Housing, Social and Cultural SPC met four times in 2018. The following Housing policies and procedures were reviewed:

- Housing Rents Collection
- *Offaly Arts Strategy 2018- 2022*
 - Launch of 2018 Offaly County Council Tenant Handbook
 - Vacant Homes Strategy

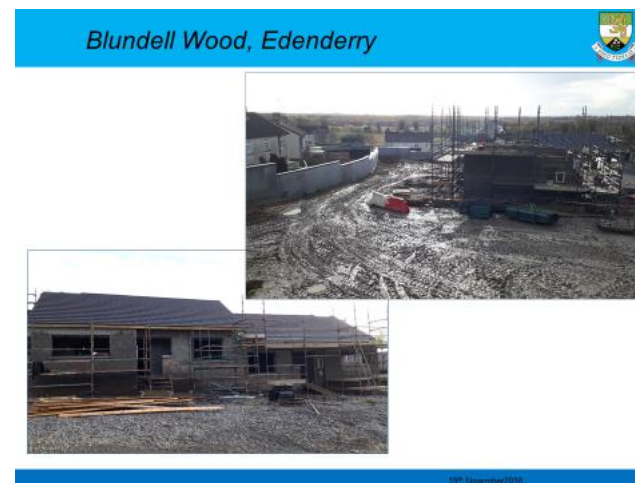
- Affordable Housing Circular
- Draft Sale of Private Site Policy

HOUSE PURCHASE LOAN APPLICATIONS

56 house purchase loan applications were received in 2018 - 14 were approved; 10 were incomplete or ineligible; 20 declined; and, the remainder are being progressed.

DIRECT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

The Council commenced construction during 2018 on 33 units at Blundell Wood, Edenderry, with a delivery date of Q3, 2019 and 18 units at Chancery Lane, Tullamore, delivery date Q4, 2019.



CONSTRUCTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH APPROVED HOUSING BODIES

Offaly County Council works closely with the Approved Housing Bodies. Mid Offaly Housing Association commenced construction of 4 units in Mountbolus with a delivery date for mid-2019.

Public consultation in relation to the 41 units being developed by Oaklee at Kearney's Field, Tullamore was held and Part VIII Planning will be sought in early 2019. Public consultation on 19 units at Clonminch, Tullamore will be progressed by Oaklee in early 2019.

Cluid Housing received Stage 4 Approval for 6 units at Scurragh, Birr and Tuath AHB will be retendering for 27 units at Killane Drive, Edenderry in 2019.

LOCAL AUTHORITY TURNKEY

A number of Turnkey developments progressed during 2018 and 12 units at Frankford, Kilcormac and 6 units at Cluain na Spideoga, Cloghan will be delivered in early 2019. A further 12 units started in Q4, 2018 at MacGregol, Birr. Walsh Island, Coolagarry received Departmental approval for 4 Units in November 2018.



LIBRARY SERVICE

INTRODUCTION:





OUR PUBLIC LIBRARIES 2022- INSPIRING, CONNECTING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



The Government launched its five-year strategy for public libraries in June, which aims to improve access, use and visibility of the library as a community hub, and develop the library as a focal point for community and cultural development.

- The overall aim of the strategy is to increase active library membership from 16% of the population to 30% by the end of 2022.
- It will also focus on eliminating fines and other charges in order to challenge the belief that the library is only for certain sectors of society.
- The My Open Library service will be extended to up to 100 libraries by 2023 and digital and technology capacity across the library service will be enhanced.

ONLINE RESOURCES

All libraries have access to an online portal. This large collection of free online resources includes:

	<p>Learn a language online. 688 sessions, 27% increase on 2017 and 42% increase in registered members</p>
	<p>Universal Class offers access to over 500 Online Continuing Education Courses. 206 new courses started in 2018 and 104 additional registered users</p>
	<p>Online access to over 300 popular magazines 8,822 magazines download. This is a 44% increase on 2017</p>
	<p>Online access to 1,367 current news and historical newspapers from ProQuest.</p>

<p>eBooks and eAudiobooks</p>  <p>Borrow, download and enjoy here Your library in one app.</p>	<p>Online access to eBooks & eAudiobooks.</p> <p>5,160 ebooks and 5,274 eaudiobooks downloaded in 2018. There is a 70% increase in registered users in 2018.</p>
	<p>Online access to comics & graphic novels</p> <p>There was only 29 comics downloaded in 2018. This service is not available in 2019 due to lack of demand. There are more hardcopies of comics and graphic novels available in the 8 library branches.</p>

PERFORMANCE

The library promoted the new universal card throughout the year which led to a slight increase in membership. More promotion and marketing is required to inform the general public of the resources available in their local library. The number of loans increased by 19% due to an increase in the book fund in 2018. Books are now available on different platforms which allows the members more choice. It is expected this will increase again as funding towards book and media is restored. 7,598 items were requested using the new national distribution system.

This allows a library member to request one of over 12 million items on the national catalogue. The use of online services by our users has increased by 30% in 2018.

Performance	2018	2017	%
Members	12,201	11,388	7
Visits*	211,765	215,320	-2
Events	2,053	2,294	-10
Loans	220,696	186,002	19
Website visits	144,621	126,612	14
My Open Library visits	31,461	30,277	4
Social Media Facebook/ Twitter	3,706	2,821	31

*Two Library Branches- Ferbane and Kilcormac were on reduced hours due to staff members on long term illness. Both Branches are now re-opened. Kilcormac is now on increased hours with a Saturday opening since December 2018 and Ferbane is now providing a My Open Library service.

MY OPEN LIBRARY

There are now three library branches providing MY OPEN LIBRARY services – Banagher, Ferbane and Tullamore. Edenderry will open in 2019. MY OPEN LIBRARY has been functioning in Banagher and Tullamore since November 2014. During this time, 3,010 people have registered to use MY OPEN LIBRARY service. There have been 102,615 visits from 1st January 2015 – 31st December 2018. People use the library for different reasons; study,



ICT, printing, reading, meeting rooms, research and to meet people.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT THE LIBRARY

➤ SPRING PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

There were 22 events focusing on health and wellbeing in 8 libraries. The programme was launched by Cllr Liam Quinn on the 27th January with Niall McNamee as the guest speaker.

➤ BOOK STOCK

There is a list of recommended reading as part of the Healthy Ireland at the library from the Department of Health. All libraries in the county have a copy of the entire recommended reading list which includes children, young adult and adult titles. There is a dedicated reading space and display area in each library for the Healthy Ireland at your library.

➤ PROMOTION AT THE PLOUGHING

The Offaly Library staff attended two days of the National ploughing championships to promote Libraries Ireland and the Healthy Ireland at the library initiative including a photoshoot with the Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Health Promotion and the National Drugs Strategy - Catherine Byrne TD.

➤ WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

There will be two health related events in all 8 libraries from September 2018 to March 2019.

➤ HEALTHY OFFALY COMMITTEE

The library is part of the Healthy Offaly committee

which developed the Healthy Offaly Plan to improve health and wellbeing, placing a focus on prevention, individual awareness and keeping people healthy for longer.

RIGHT TO READ

The Right to Read Campaign looks to complement the existing national strategy for literacy development and support. Right to Read is closely aligned with the Department of Education and Skills' National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, ***Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020*** and will also build on the strategy for public libraries 2013-2017, ***Opportunities for All and Our public libraries 2022- inspiring, connecting and empowering communities.***

➤ EDUCATIONAL TRAINING BOARDS (ETB)

The library is working together with the Laois Offaly ETB to promote literacy and numeracy in the county. They are part of the Right to Read Literacy Network.

➤ READ ANYTIME

41 schools registered 4,572 students for the Read anytime programme. This was a 4-week programme to encourage reading for fun during the school day. They read for 2,032,440 minutes or 3.87 years. Two schools won a day visit from Learnit and Reptile Zoo. The most popular time slot selected by teachers was 15 minutes reading per

day.

➤ **SUMMERSTARS**

The national Summerstars reading initiative was launched in Birr library on Saturday 23rd June. Buckley bikes sponsored the programme and one lucky reader; Anna Sheila Gath won a bike which was presented on the 29th September. The programme encouraged 1,018 children to continue reading over the Summer months. Each library had a Summerstars party with local councillors in attendance. These were family oriented events and each participating child received a medal as part of the initiative.



➤ **ONCE UPON A STORY-TIME**

This is a family reading initiative to encourage families to read together. There is evidence based research that children reach a high level of literacy if they are read to from a young age. A child needs to be read stories in order to want to read themselves. This programme involves visits to the schools and the library.

➤ **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME**

The Santa letter writing programme was held in all 8 libraries in the county.

The Polar Express interactive storytime was hosted in all 8 libraries with 9 performances. In the smaller libraries like Daingean and Kilcormac, the event was held in the community hall in association with the community hall committee. Over 450 children took part in this initiative. Family members also attended. All venues were fully booked within one hour of the release of the tickets. The Tullamore event was also recorded by Midlands 103. The reaction from the general public was very positive.



Tullamore Library also hosted "A night before Christmas" event with the local creative group reading Christmas poetry and two local choirs singing Christmas Carols- the Offaly County Council Choir and Le Cheile. These events are a fun way to promote literacy around the county.

WORK MATTERS

The Work Matters service at your library is a perfect place to explore, research and learn new skills.

➤ **ICT INVESTMENT**

The library service received grant funding to provide public PCs in the Work Matters section for each library. The library has created a dedicated space for Work Matters including, desks, PCs, recommended reading materials and online databases for research.

➤ **DIGITAL SKILLS FOR ALL**

The library is working with numerous organisations to provide digital skills for beginners for all age groups in all 8 branches.

- ❖ Digitise the nation
- ❖ 3rd age
- ❖ Rural links
- ❖ Age Action



OFFALY AGE FRIENDLY COUNTY STRATEGY

The population of Offaly is ageing. Ireland's population has been getting steadily older since the 1980's. In Census 2016, the 65 years and over saw the largest increase in the population (up by 19.1%) since 2011. This is the expected trend for this category. The policy makers and service providers in Offaly worked together to deliver a strategy to provide and deliver a suitable service to this age group including the library.

➤ **OPENING A RESIDENTIAL LIBRARY IN TWO NURSING HOMES**

The library has set up two residential libraries in two nursing homes in Offaly - Riada House in Tullamore and Ferbane Nursing Home. The nursing homes are given a core stock of library books and receive a monthly visit from library staff. The residents are also encouraged to attend some events in the library.

➤ **OFFALY OLDER PERSONS' NETWORK**

There is a representative from the library on the Offaly older persons' network to promote library service and provide feedback and information updates as requested by the committee.

SCIENCE WEEK

Offaly Libraries presented a proposal to collaborate with Midland Science to develop the STEAM programming and increase the number of science events for all four midland counties. Midland Science is a not for profit development

company which works to create greater interest in STEM education and skills among students, teachers and members of the public in the Midlands (Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath).

There were 39 events or workshops for all ages programmed for the Offaly libraries during 11th – 18th November. This partnership with Midland Science ensured good promotion for both organisations and will make Science more accessible to more children in Offaly. There were 5,518 visitors to Offaly Libraries during Science week 2018. This is a 25% increase in visitors on the same period in 2017. There were a number of first time visitors to Offaly Libraries during Science week. This working partnership will include events for Engineers Week, Space Week, Tech Week and Maths Week.

CREATIVE IRELAND

The library has run a Creative Ireland programme throughout the year. The library has established a panel of local artists and creative people to provide workshops, lectures, events for the young and old.

CRUINNIU NA NÓG

Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland programme of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is presented in partnership with RTE and the local authorities. Each local authority was tasked to create a programme of local events to showcase and share

opportunities for children and young people.

The Creative Ireland committee selected the library to organise this programme. 23 events took place in all 8 libraries for Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday 23rd June. The programme is aimed at children aged 0 – 18 years. The theme was "*creativity through science*" due to the strong history of famous scientists in Offaly. The Irish Independent did a feature on the Offaly Cruinniú na nÓg in a supplement called Creative Youth in June 2018.

BIRR VINTAGE WEEK AND ART'S FESTIVAL 2018

Birr Library played a big role in the 50th year of the Birr Vintage week and Art's festival. A time capsule was buried on the grounds of the Birr Civic Offices and Library building. The library will be custodian for the specially created DVD celebrating the first 50 years of the Birr Vintage Week and Art's Festival and a letter from the current festival committee.



This film and the letter will be handed over to the committee of the Birr Vintage Week and Art's Festival in 2068 by the library service.

The library was also one of the sites for the Vintage Luminaries projections. This was a wonderful project

which developed from the Mary Ward project funded by CI in 2017.

BLIAIN NA GAEILGE

Bliain na Gaeilge is a celebration of the Irish language. The focus for the year was on the revival of the language over the last 125 years; the creativity of the language; the vibrancy of the language; the participation of the community; and the value of our Gaeltachtaí.

The library organised a primary school Seachtain na Gaeilge art competition in February targeting 4th – 6th class students. The theme was “Translate a seanfhocail through art”. There were two options. “Is fearr an slainte ná na tainte” – Your health is your wealth “Intinn fholláin i gcorp folláin” – A healthy body is a healthy mind Seachtain na Gaeilge and Healthy Ireland were interlinked to further promote these two initiatives. There were 100 entries received. The independent judges selected three winners in each class. The students received their prizes from Cllr Declan Harvey in April. The winning entries are proudly displayed in Tullamore Library.

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY

To celebrate the centenary, the library organised a series of lectures in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore, a letter writing competition for secondary school students, storytime for the younger students and movies schedule with a First World War theme. On Armistice Day, there was a military exhibition of paraphernalia. Chief Executive Anna Marie Delaney launched the Offaly Historical

Society’s World War One Journal- Offaly and the Great War. Both events were held in Tullamore library.

HERITAGE WEEK

The library organised a packed week of activities for Heritage Week. The events included the “Sharing Stories” DVD launch, Zoo to You and Children sharing stories with Dolores Keaveney. These events were well attended and family focused.

DIGITAL RESOURCES

There is a big promotion on the use of the digital library. In 2018, there were 10,434 ebooks and eaudiobooks, 8,822 emagazines and 688 language sessions downloaded by Offaly borrowers. There were 144,621 website hits, 1,804 Facebook and 1,818 twitter followers. The website and social media is updated on a regular basis with current content.

TECHNOLOGY IN 2018

There is free internet and Wifi in all the library branches. There is RFID technology in all branches. Surfbox is our new supplier for printing, photocopying and scanning. These machines are located in 6 branches around the county.

ICT GRANT APPLICATION 2018

Offaly Library received €87,698 grant aid contribution from the Department of Rural and Community Development. There was also a 25% contribution from

Offaly County Council. The grant enabled the updating of the technology currently in the 8 libraries, the upgrading of equipment and the development of eLearning rooms in 4 libraries. This technology will be rolled out in 2019.

PRIORITIES FOR 2019

- Increase the promotion of the library- develop a communication and marketing plan to promote the library service to non-users.
- Increase the active library membership around the county
- New Library Development plan for Offaly Library Service
- Progress plans for the development of the new library in Edenderry included in the national library capital funding programme
- Progress with plans on the county archive service in association with the Offaly Historical Society
- Update the facilities of the library in Kilcormac
- Continuous review of library service activities to include opening hours, staffing levels and evaluation of services.
- Implement the Work Force Plan
- Develop and Implement the new shared service delivery plan with Laois libraries
- Implement the opening of Edenderry's My Open Library service
- Replace the current library van and design new signage to reflect the various services offered by the library service and Offaly County Council
- Develop initiatives with other departments to promote a collaborative approach to promote Offaly County Council

ARTS SERVICE

Offaly County Council arts service is charged with investing and developing high quality, imaginative arts activity, with and for the people of Offaly and visitors to the county. In doing so, the arts office advocates for and clearly communicates the significant role that the arts play in enriching the wellbeing of society, of our citizens, and in enhancing the public realm. This is achieved through our strategic planning processes, with an annual programme that is delivered in cooperation with artists, cultural producers, community groups and local stakeholders and, involving regional and national partners. Offaly arts service assists with the development of a range of key county-wide arts programmes such as: **FilmOffaly, Music Generation, Hullabaloo Children's Arts Festival, Anam Beo - Arts and Health, Culture Night**, along with providing ongoing support and advice to the many artists, creative practitioners, festivals, and community groups undertaking arts and culture projects across the county.

2018 - KEY ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE: -

ARTS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY: 2018-2022

2018 saw the successful adoption and publication of Offaly's fourth consecutive arts development strategy, *INSPIRE-IMAGINE-INVOLVE* [2018-2022], following a comprehensive consultation process.



LOUGH BOORA SCULPTURE PARK

The continuing partnership between Offaly County Council (OCC) and Bord na Móna (BNM) was endorsed through the development of a Memorandum of Agreement, setting out the basis of a collaborative partnership approach, between BNM and OCC, with the purpose of further evolving an exceptional artistic vision for sustaining and developing the *Sculpture Park* at Lough Boora Discovery Park, and putting in place the governance and management structures that will be required to support this objective.

YOUTH ARTS RESEARCH

Research was carried out by consultant Angela Ryan Whyte to examine both current and potential arts provision for young people in Offaly, with the purpose to recommend a framework for developing and implementing a new strategic approach for young people's arts provision in the county over the coming five years. The report is due to be published in 2019.

FILMOFFALY

FilmOffaly continued to attract interest from film-makers throughout Ireland, UK and beyond. Offaly County Council arts service, through the Creative Ireland programme, continued to support a new Animation Film Residency, that enables two film animators to undertake a residency, in Birr. The FilmOffaly 2018 bursary programme continued and was awarded to Aretha, Dave Thomas, while production for Brian Folan's script *RedRag*, awarded through FilmOffaly bursary 2017, began early 2018. 2018 also saw the appointment of marketing consultant

Jennifer Stewart to begin a marketing research project, for FilmOffaly, funded by LEO Offaly.



MINI MOVIES

The screening debut of new, short live-action films, performed and created by pupils from Sacred Heart Secondary School, Tullamore and Coláiste Naomh Cormac, Kilcormac and facilitated by filmmaker Lauren Hatchard was screened during OFFline Film Festival and was entered into the Fresh Film Festival. *Mini Movies* continues to extend the reach of film making into schools and is an important link in developing a culture of filmmaking for people of all ages in Offaly.



ARTS ACT GRANTS

31 groups from the arts, community and voluntary sectors received grants towards arts activities in their community totalling €20,000.00. The projects were selected on the basis of their ability to provide an innovative and high quality engagement with arts activity within particular community settings and sectors.

FESTIVAL ARTS GRANT

The county arts service disburses grants on an annual basis to a wide selection of arts and cultural festival taking place in Offaly. In 2018, Offaly county council provided financial assistance, advice and promotional assistance to, Birr Vintage Week and Arts Festival, OFFline Film Festival, Tullamore International Summer Organ Series, Tullamore Club Sessions, Shakefest, Scripts, Feile Eadon Daoiré, Birr Festival of Music and Voice, Castlepalooza, as well as leading out with other festivals such as Hullabaloo Children's Arts Festival in partnership with Birr Theatre and Arts Centre.

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS SUPPORTS GRANT

In 2018 the county arts service introduced a new pilot scheme to provide assistance to professional artists from and living in Offaly. The awards were designed to support the development of artists professional practice. Eight grants were awarded to artists.

ANAM BEO – ARTS AND HEALTH

Anam Beo, Offaly's Arts and Health organisation continued to promote arts inclusion through the delivery of comprehensive arts projects in care settings. The



programme which has run since 2005 has facilitated over 13,472 workshop attendees in the growing demographic of the over 55's. In 2018, Anam Beo worked in 6 different locations in Offaly with 103 art sessions for 142

participants, encouraging creativity and empowerment through a meaningful engagement in the arts with a diverse programme of visual arts, music and reminiscence, photography, traditional arts, creative dance, exhibitions, short videos. Community participation included working with Birr Active Retirement Group, the Irish Wheelchair Association, Active Age Groups from Ballinagar, Ballycumber, Birr and Crinkle, Riada House Residential & Day Care, Clara Day Care and Birr Mental Health Group.

BIRR THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre continued to provide an extensive arts programme through its annual performance season, its learning and outreach community projects and as an incubation and administrative hub for a considerable number of prestigious arts festivals in Offaly: Birr Vintage and Arts Week, OFFline film festival, Scripts- Offaly film and playwriting festival; Birr Festival of Music and Voice and, as co-producer with Offaly County Council of the Hullabaloo! Children's Arts Festival. Offaly County Council provided funding of €23,000.00 to Birr Theatre and Arts Centre in 2018.

CULTURE NIGHT OFFALY 18

Culture Night Offaly saw the very best in arts and culture with 21 venues participating including; Birr Theatre & Arts

Centre, Leap Castle, Charleville Castle, Lough Boora Sculpture Part, JJ Houghs, Banagher, Edenderry Youth Café. Approximately 1,000 people attended one of the 24 programmed events that were held in 22 venues within the county. Culture Night is funded by the Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaelteacht.



HULLABALOO! OFFALY'S CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Hullabaloo! celebrated its 12th annual festival, delivering a 4-day high intensity and wide-ranging programme of creative workshops in puppet making, dance, printmaking, to name a few, as well as presenting performances for children of all ages. Offaly County Council arts office, in partnership with Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, rolled out a total of 70 workshops performances in 11 venues; from Birr, to Clara, to Edenderry and in selected Offaly libraries. Highlights this year included stop motion animation workshops in Clara and Edenderry, and 'You've Got Dragons', Taking Flight Theatre, a story told in a beautifully inclusive way with Irish Sign Language, Birr

MUSIC GENERATION OFFALY WESTMEATH (MGOW)

Over 6,500 children and young people across Offaly and Westmeath continued to access performance music education on a weekly basis as a result of the Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath project. A core team of 15 musicians regularly delivered performance music tuition on behalf of Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath each week, with an additional 15 professional musicians collaborating on a range of individual projects.

The Singfest festival of singing, created through the Arts Council/ Music Generation Partnership continued to grow and 2018 marked the 3rd year of the event. Involving over 1,000 primary and secondary students, 2018 also marked the inclusion of our first ever Community Come & Sing Day bringing together 200 adult singers. Delivered in partnership with the Association of Irish Choirs (Ireland's national resource agency for the development of choral singing), it is hoped that Singfest will become established



as an annual feature of the choral calendar.

SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTARY GROUPS/INDIVIDUALS

The Arts Office is a resource for artists and organisations that require advice, direction and information on developing and promoting a project or their 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.

TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

The Tullamore Community Arts Centre project continued through 2018.

The Part VIII Planning has been completed and tender drawings are being prepared. Further funding sources are being explored.

MIDLANDS ARTS AND CULTURE MAGAZINE

The Midlands Arts and Culture Magazine, published biannually in spring and autumn, provides comment, opinion and listings information on current arts and cultural activity and forthcoming events. The magazine is a cooperation project between the four midland local authority arts offices (Laois, Longford, Offaly, Westmeath) and illustrates the rich diversity of practice and quality of arts making taking place across the four county midland region. Offaly commissions a range of writing, in English and Irish, most especially inviting artists and creative practitioners to present their working processes and ideas to a wider public. This free publication is available from selected retail outlets across the county, or to download, in pdf format,



from the Offaly County Council arts webpage.

ÁRAS EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

The atrium space of Aras an Chontae continued to provide opportunities for Offaly based visual artists, sculptures, and community groups to avail of exhibition space presenting their work, on public display, for Offaly citizens to enjoy. In 2018, a total of eight exhibitions were hosted by the arts office, ranging from solos works, from visual and mixed media artists, photographers, exhibitions were selected through an open call application, the following artists and community groups exhibited:

- ☞ **AWAKENING:** Aimee Gillen – painting exhibition
- ☞ **SOLOS & NOTION:** David Boland, Maureen Dunne, and John Beesley - curated by Anam Beo, mixed media
- ☞ **FROM A DISTANCE:** Annaharvey Group – group exhibition, painting
- ☞ **STRIPES & STROKES:** Deirdre Dunne & Regina Bracken – painting / mixed media
- ☞ **PRAGUE:** Tullamore Camera Club – photographic exhibition
- ☞ **GRATITUDE:** Offaly Crafty – mixed craft exhibition
- ☞ **GOT IT?:** Anam Beo – Older People Advocacy Project
- ☞ **HEART AND SOUL** – Claire Guinan – painting exhibition

ENVIRONMENT, WATER & DRAINAGE SERVICES SPC

SPC Chair	John Clendennen MCC	Director Of Services	Seán Murray
<i>Members</i> Cllr. John Foley Cllr. John Leahy Cllr. Seán Maher Cllr. Tommy McKeigue	<i>Sectoral</i> Mr. Joseph Deverall Ms. Lynne Gallagher Mr. Tony Flanagan	<i>Senior Engineer</i> <i>Administrative Officer</i> <i>Senior Executive Engineer</i> <i>Senior Executive Engineer</i> <i>A/Senior Executive Engineer</i>	Mary Hussey Brian Pey / Mary Gaughran Joe Coleman Martin Quinn Vivian O'Brien

WATER SERVICES

Offaly County Council delivered Water Services in accordance with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water (IW) and the Annual Service Plan for 2018. Water Services are 100% funded by Irish Water who are now the Statutory Authority for water services and all major decisions around funding of services will be approved by Irish Water.

Work is currently underway to design a Water Industry Operating Framework for Local Authorities and Irish Water working in collaboration. The Water Industry Operating Framework (WIOF) will put in place an industry structure

to operate efficiently, effectively, responsively and cohesively under the SLA agreement.

The delivery of Water Services under the SLA, although challenging, is an opportunity to retain a level of water services activity within Local Government and to influence water services investment and policy in the future.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLY

The EPA Drinking Water Report 2017 shows that Offaly had 21 public supplies. Offaly had a 98.6% microbiological compliance rate and a 99.9% Chemical Parameter Compliance rate in 2017. Working with IW the

Council continues to improve and upgrade the Water Supply Schemes throughout the County.

The completion of the Edenderry and Kilcormac watermain rehabilitation projects in 2017, together with the completion of the Screggan and Mucklagh projects in 2018 and the Crinkle, Brosna South and Mountbolus projects currently ongoing, has further assisted in reducing unaccounted for water in the County. The average UFW figure in Offaly in 2018 was 10,573m³/d.

WASTEWATER

Full secondary treatment is now provided in all public sewerage schemes in Offaly with a significant improvement in quality standards compliance being achieved as a result. There are 14 Wastewater Treatment Plants in Offaly with Discharge Licenses serving agglomerations with populations greater than 500. Meeting the stringent limit values on these licenses is challenging but considerable progress was made regarding same in 2017.

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL SCHEMES

The *Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2014 – 2016* identified new Capital project priorities in Offaly. A number of low cost small scale projects through the Minor Programmes and Capital Maintenance funding mechanisms progressed facilitating the upkeep and improvement of existing schemes.

The following Projects were ongoing or completed in Offaly in 2018:

Scheme Name	Contract Name	Current Status
Offaly Water Conservation Stage 3 Watermain Rehabilitation Project Phase 1	Tullamore North & South	Complete
	Birr Town	Complete
	Edenderry & Kilcormac	Completed May 2017
	Rhode, Screggan & Geashill	Complete 2018
	Mucklagh, Crinkill, Brosna South, Mountbolus	Ongoing
Tullamore Water Supply Scheme	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade in Clonaslee & New Water Treatment Plant and Supplementary Reservoir in Arden Development of Sources	The testing and development of potential new sources and landowner negotiations for Tullamore water supply scheme is ongoing.
Birr Water Supply Scheme	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	Design and Build Contractor appointed, Project ongoing.

Source Development	Jones Well and Mountbolus	Drilling to be carried out in 2019.
Tullamore Sewerage Scheme (Network)	Drainage Area Plan	The Tullamore Drainage Area Plan study is near completion. This report is on the existing condition and future plans for Tullamore Sewerage Scheme Network.
Tullamore Sewer Network	Rehabilitation Project	This project involves the re-lining of 7km of sewers which are in poor state. Works will be completed in 2019.
Cloghan WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade	Consultants have been appointed to prepare a design for Storm Water Storage. Project will be tendered in 2019 and work completed in 2020.
Banagher WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant	Consultants have been appointed to examine the existing plant and to come up with proposals to upgrade it.
Shinrone WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant	Consultants have been appointed to prepare a design for Storm Water Storage. Project will be tendered in 2019 and

		works will be completed in 2020.
Shannon Harbour WWTP		Aeration system has been upgraded.

HEALTH & SAFETY

There is a rigorous health and safety inspection and management regime in place across all water services infra-structure and this is driving an ongoing programme of Significant Health and Safety Improvement Works. There is also a significant investment in plant replacement and process optimisation through a minor works programme.

MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2016 - 2018

The Council remains the Water Services Authority in connection with Group Schemes, Small Private Supplies (SPS) and domestic wastewater treatment systems (septic tanks). The Council will continue to support the Group Water Scheme Sector in conjunction with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes financially, administratively and technically. The Council will support the Rural Water Programme and ensure submissions are made to the Department and funding secured for Offaly.

The total RWP Allocation for 2018 amounted to €780,900. The full allocation was spent by the schemes apart from Clareen / Aghancon GWS and Killeigh / Meelaghans GWS amalgamation projects and Cadamstown GWS, where works are ongoing and are due for completion in 2019.

Name of GWS	Total Allocation €	Total Drawdown to Date €
Killeigh/Meelaghans GWS	225,000	184,688
Cadamstown GWS	87,354	20,000
Mountlucas GWS	20,000	20,000
Clareen/Aghancon GWS amalgamation	365,900	365,900
Ballyboy GWS	7,926	7,926
Clonfanlough	10,000	6,599
Bracknagh GWS	25,000	25,000
Boher/Leamonaghan GWS	25,000	25,000
Tubber GWS	10,000	10,000
	780,900	665,113

GROUP WATER SCHEMES SUBSIDIES

A total of €581,012 was paid in 2017 to 16 Group Water Schemes for GWS Subsidies. The level of maximum subsidy payable to GWS was reduced from January 2015

to reflect the new domestic water charging regime introduced for customers of Irish Water. Restoration of the pre-2015 rate of subsidy has gradually been made and final backdated payments will be made to schemes in 2018.

The Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, in consultation with the NFGWS, completed a review of the existing subsidy levels for group water schemes in December 2017. It has been confirmed that maximum subsidy levels will be increased from 1/1/2018, with the maximum subsidy per domestic connection increasing from €140 to €231 for Private schemes, and from €70 to €115 for Public schemes (IW sources).

Subsidy Payments	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	€	€	€	€	€
Total	553,071	522,001	410,593	581,012	654,509

WELL GRANTS

Under this scheme, if a residential property is more than 7 years old and not connected to either a public or group scheme, it may be eligible for a grant, subject to conditions. The grant is subject to 75% of cost of the work, to a maximum of €2,031.58 and must be used for the provision of a new water supply or the upgrading of an existing one.

The number of well grants paid by Municipal District in 2017 is as follows:

No. of Well Grants Paid by Municipal District	2018
Birr Municipal District	15
Tullamore Municipal District	6
Edenderry Municipal District	2
Total Grants Paid	€45,435.93

REVIEW OF THE RURAL WATER SECTOR

The National Rural Water Review Group was established in 2016 with representatives from six Local Authorities, WSTO, National Federation of Group Water Schemes and the DHPCLG. The purpose of this group is to identify an improved service delivery model for the Rural Water Sector. Options in relation to the future structure of the Rural Water sector is due to be reported on in Q1 2018.

ENVIRONMENT

BURIAL GROUNDS

A capacity survey of all Council owned burial grounds in Offaly was completed in 2016 which identified 4 burial grounds with capacity issues which will require development works of varying degrees in the coming years. The burial grounds involved are Clara, Clonmacnoise, Cloncrane and Kilreaghan. These extensions will require Part 8 planning approval in due course. Resources will also need to be allocated in the coming years to fund the necessary works.

ANIMAL CONTROL AND WELFARE

CONTROL OF DOGS

Our Veterinary Section manages the Dog Service in accordance with the *Control of Dogs Act, 1986*. In line with procurement requirements the Control of Dogs and Dog Warden service was tendered in October 2014 and a contract awarded for the years 2015 - 2018.

Control of Dogs	2017	2018
No. of Dog Licenses sold	2,699	2,826
On the Spot Fines issued	15	15
No. Stray Dogs in Dog Pound	247	225
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments Registered		4

CONTROL OF HORSES

Under the *Control of Horses Act 1996*, all local authorities are responsible for the control of horses in their area including the collection of stray horses on public land. A total of 164 horses were seized by the Local Authority in 2014, 101 in 2015, 60 in 2017 and 16 in 2018, indicating that the downward trend in horse seizures is continuing.

Control of Horses	
Year	No. Seized
2011	59
2012	50
2013	60

2014	164
2015	101
2017	60
2018	16

few years, along with the requirement to introduce Pay By Weight at CA sites, there was a very substantial increase in the cost of the contract. Following negotiations, the facilities are being operated on a short term basis by the current service provider. We are advised the market may settle when the effects of Covanta’s incinerator opened in 2017 is realized. We work very closely with the DCCAIE in this regard.

FOOD SAFETY

Our Veterinary Department is responsible for carrying out functions in relation to Food Protection and Disease Control. It implements the terms and conditions of a 3-year service contract which has been agreed between the Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and which runs from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019. The contract covers the official controls on food safety carried out by the Council.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Council continues to operate three Civic Amenity Facilities (CAF) in Birr, Derryclure and Edenderry. These accept a wide range of materials for recycling and complement our existing Bring Bank facilities. Charges apply for all waste brought to these facilities, with the exception of electrical items, glass packaging and batteries.

The contract to operate the three Civic Amenity (CA) Sites and the waste transfer station at Derryclure was retendered in 2016. Due to the very substantial reduction in the value of waste and recycled material over the last

DERRYCLURE LANDFILL

The Council continues to operate a waste acceptance facility at the site, where waste from domestic customers and local businesses is accepted and transported off site for reprocessing. The aftercare costs of the landfill continue to be a financial burden on the Council. We are currently discussing opportunities for the landfill with relevant bodies.

RECYCLING FACILITIES

There are currently 41 bring banks in the County for glass, aluminum & steel cans recycling on both private and public sites. The Council is continuing to expand our textile bank infrastructure in order to provide additional services to the people of our county.

The Council continues to promote home composting through the sale of composting units as well as supporting local Tidy Towns and community initiatives through local grant aid.

EASTERN MIDLANDS REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 - 2021

The Waste Management Planning regional structure was changed to three regions in line with the 2012 Government Policy document "A Resource Opportunity-Waste Management Policy in Ireland". Offaly is in the Eastern/Midlands Region, as defined under "Putting People First". The new *Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021* was launched on the 14th May 2015. The Council staff work with our Regional colleagues to implement the policies of the plan.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

The Council continues to investigate all illegal waste activities and instigate legal proceedings as appropriate with a significant number of successful prosecutions. The Council inspected and audited the operations of Waste Collector Permit holders and Waste Facility Permit Holders in the functional area including vehicles and premises.

2016 - Environmental Pollution Complaints

	Total instigated by public	Total instigated by LA	No. closed	% Closed	No. of cases not finalized at 31/12/17	No investigation warranted	Investigation finalised in 2018
Litter cases	884	0	834	94%	49	-	834
Air	33	0	25	76%	3	-	16
Noise	30	0	18	60%	0	-	19
Water	32	53	10	87%	41	-	20
Waste pollution	152	0	106	70%	29	-	
Total	1074		930	77%	79	-	

Timescale	Fines	Prosecutions	Convictions
To date in 2018	239	17	15

GREEN SCHOOLS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

The Council continues to support the Green Schools Programme by frequent visits to the schools, facilitating free workshops to the schools, arranging the annual teacher training seminar as well as making a financial contribution to the schools for their environmental projects.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 was published in April 2018 which sets out the current status of our waters and Ireland's implementation strategy to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. In practical terms the work will be progressed by the Water Quality team in Offaly Co. Co. in parallel with the LAWPro Catchment Assessment Team who will focus on the Priority Areas for Action (PAA's) identified in the plan.

The Water Quality Team within the Environment & Water Services Section are charged with undertaking assessments in areas of the county where water quality is at risk of not achieving Good Status under the Water Framework Directive. In 2018 work was commenced on the Kilcomin and Shinrone streams, both of which are defined as poor status, and this work will be advanced further in the 2019 work program.

The Priority Areas for Action (PAA) to be assessed by the Catchment Assessment Team for the period 2018-2021 in Co. Offaly are the rivers Gageborough, Boora, Silver (Kilcormac), Barrow, Little Brosna, Claren and Ballyfinboy Upper. A community meeting to launch the assessment of the Silver River in Kilcormac, the first PAA in Co. Offaly, was held on 19th November 2018 with the assessment to follow.

Water Quality staff participated in the Water Framework Directive Operational Committees in both the Eastern & Midlands Region, and also the South East Region. The Council achieved the operational monitoring programme of the rivers within the County and also investigated activities and facilities impacting on groundwater's and surface waters.

DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

A total of 17 Domestic Wastewater Treatment systems were inspected in 2018 in accordance with EPA National Inspection Plan requirements. Grants, subject to certain criteria, are available to households to carry out remedial works recommended following inspections.

AIR QUALITY & ENVIRONMENT

The Council continues to comply with EU Directives and National Legislation on Air Quality and Pollution and implement direction from the Department in this area and work with customers and communities to resolve issues in relation to air, noise and odour.

CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES (CFRAM)

Offaly is affiliated to three CFRAMs the Shannon, Eastern and South Eastern. There are 8 Areas of Further Assessment within Offaly with varying proposals from flood forecasting and public awareness to individual property resilience and construction of new flood defense walls.

The Plans have been finalised and approved by the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. They were adopted by Offaly County Council in July 2018.

The Government has agreed an increased allocation of funding for flood relief activities totalling €430m in its Capital Investment Plan for the period 2016-2021 with the annual budget allocation rising from €45m to €100m by 2021. The capital allocation included in the Plan for flood risk management in 2018 is €70m and in 2019 is €80m. The enhanced investment programme will enable the OPW in collaboration with the relevant Local Authorities, to begin the process of preparation and planning for the structural works and schemes that are recommended under the CFRAM Plans.

The Council will continue to work in collaboration with the OPW to planning for the structural works and schemes recommended under the Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAM) in Offaly, (Shannon, Eastern and South Eastern) plans enabled by enhanced investment programme.

In collaboration with the OPW, with funding from the minor works programme the flood defense scheme in Portavolla, Banagher was completed in October 2017. The Council have made a number of further applications to the OPW for other areas requiring flood relief in the county. These are located in Kinnitty, Geashill and Portarlington.

The Barrow Drainage Board was abolished in 2015. Offaly County Council and Kildare County Council continue to carry out joint channel maintenance works by agreement in order to maintain the Barrow system in both Counties. Works in County Offaly will be completed by the Edenderry Municipal District office.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY AWARENESS

Climate Change & Energy awareness continues to be key area where the Council is required to show leadership in both promoting public awareness and in changing mind sets towards climate change and energy management.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 provides for the approval of plans, a national mitigation plan and a national adaptation framework, by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.

Offaly County Council established a cross section team in 2017 to meet the objectives of the plans. Through a series of workshops with the core team and larger groups across the Council the team are working through the six steps of the Adaptation Strategy Guidelines to developing the strategy for Offaly.

NATIONAL WASTE COLLECTION PERMIT OFFICE (NWCPO)

The NWCPO continues to process waste collection permit applications and currently holds a register of 2,012 waste collectors for the state. The NWCPO also maintains a national register of waste facility permits and certificates of registration on behalf of all local authorities. The NWCPO manages the online portal for gathering waste collection permit and waste facility annual return data which is used for local, regional and national waste reporting requirements.

The NWCPO continues to develop its role as a key stakeholder in the regulation of the waste sector. The operation of the office through the ISO9001 standard and enhanced IT systems, ensures a high quality and robust service for stakeholders. A review of national waste policy by the DCCAE commenced in 2018 which the NWCPO expects will provide both opportunities and challenges for the office.



Science Week in Tullamore Central Library

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING SPC

SPC Chair	John Carroll MCC	Director Of Services	Tom Shanahan
Members	Sectoral	Planning:	
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Mr. Michael Guinan	Senior Planner	Andrew Murray
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Mr. Dominic Doheny	Senior Executive Planner	Lorraine Mitchell, Carroll Melia
Cllr. Frank Moran	Ms. Gillian Barrett	Administrative Officer	Caroline Dempsey / Gabriel Conlon
Cllr. Tony McCormack	Ms. Lynne Gallagher	Senior Executive Architect	Rachel McKenna
Cllr. Martin O'Reilly		Heritage Officer	Amanda Pedlow
Cllr. Danny Owens		Community Development:	
		Senior Executive Officer	Martin Daly
		Administrative Officer	Catriona Hilliard / Paula Donovan
		Sports Partnership Co-ordinator	Eamon Henry
		Local Enterprise Office:	
		Head of Local Enterprise Office	Orla Martin
		Administrative Officer	James Hogan

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Land use policy is implemented by means of the County Development Plan (incl. Town Development Plans), Local Area Plans, Village and Sráid Plans. Planning Control involves the processing of planning applications and the taking of appropriate enforcement action where necessary.

OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

The *Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020* was adopted by Members on 15th September 2014 and came into effect on 13th October 2014. The Plan runs to October 2020. Work has commenced on the revision of Offaly County Development Plan 2021 -2027

LIAISON WITH LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The Planning Section assists the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) which was set up within the County Council in 2014. Such assistance includes pre-planning advice and meetings for new clients or expanding businesses.

OFFALY GREENWAYS STRATEGY

The development of the Grand Canal Greenway continued in 2018, with an additional 11km being constructed to the Tullamore to Lough Boora Discovery Park phase. A total of 15km of greenway has now been constructed, which has been funded by Offaly County Council own funds and Dept. of Community and Regional Development.

Under Measure 2 of the Outdoor Recreation Investment Scheme 2018, 2 x €200,000 has been allocated to 2 separate extensions to the Greenway.

The Pollagh Village to Lough Boora Discovery Park Section
Ballycommon bridge to Wood of O Bridge Section

It is expected that these 2 new extensions totalling 9km will be completed in 2019.

Other funding streams continue to be actively pursued to progress the development of the Greenway across the county, and to link up with other greenways in the region. Waterways Ireland have applied under the National and Regional Greenway Fund Application 2018, in conjunction

with Offaly County Council, Kildare County Council, South Dublin County Council and Dublin City Council have applied for funding to complete a greenway from Grand Canal Docks in Dublin City to Shannon Harbour, on the River Shannon.

3 separate Part 8 Applications relating to the Grand Canal Greenway are due to be finalised in 2019;

- Ballycommon to Kilbeggan Part 8, (13km) in conjunction with Westmeath County Council.
- The Tullamore Urban Stretch of the Grand Canal Greenway. (Revisions to previous Part 8, 2015). This section of the Greenway has been allocated funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund 2018.
- Turraun (Lough Boora Discovery Park) to Shannon Harbour extension. (16km)

The Offaly Grand Canal Greenway is now being promoted on the www.visitoffaly.ie.

URDF TULLAMORE STREET ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Offaly County Council is pursuing a project to rejuvenate and redevelop the public realm of the retail core of Tullamore town.

It was confirmed in February 2016 that the project would receive 50% joint funding through the Northern and Western Regional Assembly from the ERDF. The proposal

included undergrounding cables, new paving, lighting, street furniture, planting, new layout of public areas including wider footpaths and increasing pedestrian priority within O'Connor Square and on High Street. The project also includes provision for a new pedestrian bridge and walkway to link the modern Millennium Square with the historic and retail core of the town. The development was granted a part 8 consent in December 2017 by Offaly County Council and the development is due to commence in the next few months. In accordance with the ERDF procedures the project is due to be completed by the end of 2018.

Offaly County Council is currently pursuing Phase 2 of the Tullamore Street Enhancement Project. This project consists of a street enhancement of Harbour St. and Store St. Tullamore and the construction of the Grand Canal Greenway, Urban Section from Convent View to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, Tullamore for which Part VIII planning permission is currently in progress.

Street enhancement works include improvement to existing pedestrian footpaths, remodelling of existing junction to facilitate improved pedestrian safety, provision of new paving and kerbs, street furniture, enhanced public lighting and landscaping.

The Greenway construction works include improvements to existing towpath and footpaths along Grand Canal Greenway through provision of suitable surfaces, traffic

safety measures and signage to facilitate safe pedestrian and cycling crossings at Kilbeggan Bridge and Cox's Bridge. Also the provision of new pedestrian bridge at Lock 28, Srah, Tullamore. Other improvements include lighting upgrades and the provision of signage. Funding for this project has been secured through the Urban Regeneration Development Fund from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in the sum of €3m with 25% match funding from Offaly County Council required. It is envisaged that the project will commence in Q3 2019.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME 2018

In June 2018, a further twelve applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 were lodged by the Planning Department with the Department of Rural and Community Development. The central aim of the scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and also to increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. Offaly County Council was successful in all twelve applications and funding in the sum of €1,300,000 was approved for schemes to be undertaken during 2019.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

During 2018, construction of the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bikes Trail commenced in both counties Laois and Offaly. The sod was turned on Phase 1 on 27th April 2018 by Mr. Charlie Flanagan, Minister for Justice.

Work on the first 35km of trails in the Slieve Bloom MBT is near completion and is set to open to the public in June 2019. A funding application coordinated by Coillte, was lodged under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund programme 2018, (and funds to complete the trails have been allocated in February 2019, as part of a €10 million allocation across 7 counties) The development will give a major tourism boost to the area and will see the village of Kinnitty as a hub for services such as bike hire, showers, bike wash, food and accommodation in addition to its existing prominence as a meeting / starting point for the many walks and road cycling routes in the Mountains.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

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

Planning Applications

Year	No of Applications	No. Granted	No. Refused	Total Decided
2013	261*	191	15	206
2014	310*	272	12	284
2015	375*	263	12	275
2016	441*	313	16	329
2017	519*	378	29	407
2018	607*	411	46	446

(*This figure includes applications which were invalid)

Extensions of Appropriate Period:

Year	No of Applications	No. Granted	No. Refused	Total Decided
2015	37	35	3	38
2016	20	23	0	23
2017	13	13	0	13
2018	10	10	1	11

Planning permission is required for any development of land or property unless the development is exempted development. Development management ensures that these developments comply with the statutory provisions in the County Development Plan, the Planning Acts and the Regulations. All applications must be screened under Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, along with compliance with the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines.

The continued recovery in the country's economic activity, has been reflected in a continued increase in the number of planning applications received in 2018. 607 planning applications were received in 2018 which compares with 375 for 2015.

DERELICT SITES

There are 22 sites on the Derelict Sites Register at the end

of 2018, 15 within the Tullamore Municipal District Area and a further 7 at various sites around the county. In line with Council policy and objectives in relation to dereliction, Planning will continue to focus on site inspections of these sites with a view to engaging with the owners in order to have the necessary works carried out. It is also a focus of the Planning section to identify any sites which may be suitable for the provision of social housing.

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2018 (BHIS)

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2018 consisted of 10 properties around the county – Mount Briscoe Cavemount, Rahan Church, Aghnaneanagh Thatch, Belair House, St Brendan Street Birr, St Anne’s House Kilcormac, Gloster Arch, Carrigeen Thatch, Demesne Wall Birr Castle and The Forge Walsh Island. Works varied from slate roof repairs, to thatch, to repair of timber joinery, sash window repair, structural consolidations to the reinstatement of architectural features. The total grant allocation was €50,000.

STRUCTURES AT RISK FUND 2018

The Structures at Risk Scheme 2018 applied to structures that were in immediate danger of significant deterioration and were Protected Structures. Four applications were received and these were submitted by Offaly County Council for possible approval by the Department. The Department approved one application – Drumcullen

Monastic Site – for urgent repairs and consolidation works with grant spend of €19,880.60. Works (Phase 1) involved removal of vegetation, strengthening of existing stonework, consolidation of wall tops, repointing vault with retention of soft capping



*South Wall at Drumcullen Monastic Site
before and after Vegetation removed*



Gloster before and after (BHIS)

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

There are currently 5 estates in County Offaly named on the most Unfinished Housing Development list. This figure represents the significant amount of work which has been done in this area and which as a result has seen a year on year annual reduction in the number of estates on the list, down from 34, in the first survey in 2012. Progress is continually being made on a number of listed un finished developments with the expectation of a number of estates being finished out in 2019

Taking in Charge of housing estates is a continued scope of works. A total of two estates were taken in charge in 2018 with four more estates ready for council members

approval in early 2019. Six application forms were completed and issued to Offaly County Council in 2018 looking for the estates to be taken in charge by the council.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Planning Section published an up to date GIS viewer created in conjunction with Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). This GIS Viewer is available for the public to view on our website at <http://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Planning/> This is the final step in enabling the public to carry out planning searches online. This new GIS software enables the public to carry out a number of different types of planning searches on-line such as Planning Applications, Enforcements, Part 8, Section 97 and Section 47 as well as giving the public access to some Development Plan GIS Data such as zoning and protected structures.

COMPLIANCE / ENFORCEMENT

- Warning Letters 61
- Enforcement Notices 17

During 2018, 61 enforcement files were opened. Warning letters and enforcement notices were issued.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND PLANNING STRATEGY POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The SPC worked through its adopted work programme for 2018, including topics such as:

- National Planning Framework update
- Draft of the Regional Strategy to include infrastructure requirements, sectoral strengths and land use
- IDA Ireland
- Offaly Tourism update
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- County Development Plan update

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Details of amounts received and disbursed as circulated to members, with the Budget as follows:

Development Contributions - Receipts and Application of Development Funds for the period from Oct 2016 – Sep 2017.	
<i>Description</i>	<i>'000</i>
Balance Available - 2017	5,646
Contributions Received- 2018	687
Disbursements 2018	891
Balance Available - 2018	5,442

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
DEVELOPMENT LEVY ALLOCATIONS 2018**

JOB DESCRIPTION	<i>Funds Available €000's</i>
Development contribution income - to be assigned	1,113
Currently assigned	
Edenderry Library	2,000
O'Connor Square Public Realm	1,500
Offaly Blue Way	218
Midland Cycle Trails	250
Special dev schemes	61
Edenderry Swimming Pool	300
TOTAL	5,442

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provides a one stop shop for anyone looking to set up or grow a business. The services can be broken down into the following areas:

- Business Information & Advisory Services
- Enterprise Support Services
- Entrepreneurship Support Services
- Local Enterprise Development Services

The team comprises Orla Martin, Head of Enterprise, James Hogan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer; Geraldine Beirne, Business Advisor; Edel Boyd, Assistant Business Advisor; Martin Feury, Business Executive and Sinead Shaw, Administrator.

VISION

To drive an entrepreneurial culture across the county, at all levels and to support the start-up and growth of innovative, competitive and profitable small business enterprises that create sustainable jobs and contribute to developing a robust and diversified local economy.

LEO Offaly's remit is wide and includes both the Local Enterprise functions and the Economic Development function of Offaly County Council.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provides a wide range of services to the enterprise sector in Offaly. These include direct grant assistance to eligible micro-enterprises, subsidised business training, mentoring, free events and seminars, and a range of online supports. The LEO assists clusters of business, e.g. food, craft, manufacturing and works with groups to promote enterprise and industrial parks. The Local Enterprise Office also has a strong remit to promote an Enterprise Culture, and it does this with a number of programmes delivered in primary and secondary schools in Offaly.

Existing businesses can also benefit from the Local Enterprise Office. We can assist with site visits, business health checks, mentoring, and in some cases, selective financial intervention (i.e. grants).

The Local Enterprise Office has a calendar of events taking place throughout the year, all designed to assist business owner sustain and grow.

MEASURE 1 FINANCIAL SUPPORTS – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

LEO Offaly operates schemes, through priming, business expansion and feasibility grants, aimed at assisting the establishment of small-scale economic projects with the

central objective of facilitating the creation and maintenance of sustainable jobs and the development of economic infrastructure at local level.

Eligible sectors consist of manufacturing and internationally traded services, which in time can develop into strong export entities and graduate to the Enterprise Ireland portfolio and tourism projects aimed predominantly at overseas visitors. An eligible enterprise employs between 1 and 10 full-time staff.

The following is a brief outline of the supports available to eligible businesses.

PRIMING GRANTS AND BUSINESS EXPANSION GRANTS

A Priming Grant is a business start-up grant, available to micro enterprises *within the first 18 months of start-up*. The Business Expansion Grant is designed to assist the business in its growth phase *after the initial 18-month start-up period*. Micro enterprises that have availed of a Priming Grant are ineligible to apply for a Business Expansion Grant until 18 months after the final drawdown date of the Priming Grant, except in exceptional circumstances. These grants may be available for sole traders, partnerships, community groups or limited companies that fulfil Measure 1 criteria.

FEASIBILITY / INNOVATION GRANTS

Feasibility/Innovation Grants are designed to assist the promoter with researching market demand for a product

or service and examining its sustainability. This includes assistance with innovation including specific consultancy requirements, private specialists, design, and prototype development. The maximum Feasibility/Innovation Grant payable for the BMW Region must not exceed 60% of the investment or €15,000 whichever is the lesser.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MICRO EXPORTERS

The Technical Assistance Grant enables clients to explore and develop new market opportunities. This grants part funds the costs that can be incurred in investigating and researching export markets, e.g. exhibiting at Trade Fairs, preparing marketing material and developing websites specifically targeting overseas markets. The grant covers 50% of eligible costs (net of vat) to a max of €2,500.

NEW AGILE INNOVATION FUND

Companies can now access up to 50% in support for development projects with a total cost of up to €300,000. LEO Offaly is working with Enterprise Ireland to promote this new Innovation Fund to Offaly enterprises.

HIGHLIGHTS 2018

STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

Offaly wins again at Student Enterprise Programme National Final with "Abbey Bread" from Cistercian College, Roscrea. A bread mix inspired by a 100-year-old recipe from the Cistercian Monks in Roscrea has earned keen baker, 17 year-old Manus Heenan the top award in the senior category at the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals organised by the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) for secondary schools.



Offaly also achieved success in the Junior category with Joanne Cushen's "Gnó-Jó" receiving the Runner Up trophy. Joanne was a first year student in Colaiste Naomh Cormac, Kilcormac and was supported by her teacher Tommy Spollen throughout the process.

Co-ordinated by the Local Enterprise Offices in every Local Authority area, the competition is the most



successful student enterprise programme of its kind in the country. The students competed at the Offaly Final on 8th March. Over 450 students from nine schools took part in the annual programme locally.

2018 COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNER

Intellicom Ireland Ltd was announced Overall Winner in the 2018 Offaly Enterprise Awards. Intellicom develops, sells and supports modern cloud based telephone, contact centre and connectivity solutions to the Irish and European market. They improve staff and customer communications, efficiency, productivity and satisfaction. They deliver cost savings and a better way of communicating for all sizes of business in all industry sectors. This company employs 9 full-time and 3 part-time staff with plans to employ two more people in 2018.



The Birr based company was presented with a prize of €1,500 and then went on to represent Offaly at the National Enterprise Awards.

GET YOUR BUSINESS BREXIT READY

Offaly Local Enterprise Office has a range of business supports to help address issues and maximise potential opportunities;

- Brexit Loan Scheme Information Pack - Eligible businesses can apply for the €300 million Brexit Loan Scheme. The Scheme delivered by the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) through commercial lenders is available to eligible businesses with up to 499 employees at an interest rate of 4% or less.
- Brexit Seminars & Events
- Brexit Mentor Programme
- Lean for Micro
- Enterprise Europe Network
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters
- Trading Online Voucher Scheme
- MFI – Micro Finance Ireland loan
- Training and Management Development

LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Local Enterprise Week held during March 2018 encompassed a series of events aimed at stimulating business growth and new business creation to drive economic prosperity. The programme of events included: outreach clinics; starting your own business workshop,

stress and time management workshops, GDPR workshop, and both the Student Enterprise and County Enterprise Awards.

STREAM CREATIVE SUITE IN BIRR TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

LEO Offaly led an application under the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund for STREAM Creative Suite in 2018. STREAM Creative Suite will build on the presence of I-LOFAR to create jobs in Offaly. STREAM Creative Suite to provide a central location and space, where research and education meets business. In December, Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD announced that Offaly Innovation & Design Centre was awarded €458,240 in funding for the project.

I-LOFAR provides a unique opportunity to access big data in real time. This data can be utilised for training purposes and for proving algorithms for many sectors. Professors and researchers of universities affiliated with the international LOFAR network together with Software Developers and Data Analysts from companies operating within or in cooperation with companies based in the Midland Region will have the opportunity to use the STREAM Creative Suite – either through regular hot desk usage or through the establishment of a base there.

Services will include: hot desk facilities and office space, IT training facilities and training, industry focused events, and industry-led research projects.

THE JUNCTION BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTRE

In 2018, LEO Offaly continued its work in developing The Junction Business Innovation Centre. LEO Offaly supports the Manager of *The Junction* in promoting and managing the Centre. A feature advert and advertorial in The Sunday Business Post provided further national profile for The Junction, while the Manager continues to actively promote through Social Media Channels, Founders Friday events and the LEO run Offaly Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE Network). LEO Offaly is working with Edenderry MD and Birr MD to develop co-working spaces in each Municipal District.

BUSINESS PARKS

LEO Offaly actively promotes business and industrial parks in the County. In 2018, the LEO office advertised and sold industrial sites in Ferbane Business Park, and promoted sites in Portarlinton Industrial Park. Offaly County Council, through LEO Offaly, provides secretariat support to the North Offaly Development Fund Ltd and contributes to the marketing of Rhode Business Park.

NWED

The Local Enterprise Offices teamed up with successful female entrepreneurs to organise a series of events all over the country to mark National Women's Enterprise Day was held on Thursday 18th October 2018 (#NWED). The Local Enterprise Office Offaly invited Offaly

businesswomen and entrepreneurs mark the day in the Backstage Theatre, Longford. The national theme for this year's event was 'from local to global'.



TRADING ONLINE VOUCHERS

Local Enterprise Offices are helping small businesses throughout Ireland through the Trading Online Voucher Scheme which support businesses trading online. The objective of the scheme is to help small businesses grow their sales, exports and ultimately jobs. Businesses are permitted to apply for one voucher, up to a value of €2,500 (matched funding). In 2018 LEO Offaly granted payments of 21 Trading Online Vouchers amounting to €43,075 for businesses to improve their online trading

presence.

MICROFINANCE IRELAND

Under a partnership between Microfinance Ireland (MFI) and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), Business Loans of up to €25,000 are available through the LEOs. The loans are provided and underwritten by our partner organisation Microfinance Ireland and application can be made through the LEO office and were the applications will be in the first instance assessed locally by LEO Staff and the final decision for all loan applications is made by Microfinance Ireland. Loans can be used to fund start-ups, existing and growth microenterprises and can be used for working capital or the hiring of new employees, the purchase of stock, equipment, machinery and business vehicles.

MENTORING

The LEO continued to develop its panel of experienced business advisors, matching skills to client requirements. The mentor contributes independent observations and advice to aid decision-making. Assignments typically include general management, finance, production, marketing and strategic planning. During 2018, 171 mentoring sessions were delivered to our clients.

CLIENT MEETINGS & OUTREACH OFFICES

The staff in the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) provide practical assistance to anyone looking to set up or grow a

business. Anyone with a business idea can book a meeting with one of the LEO Team, and talk through the business idea. These meetings are free of charge, and can cover discussions around the commercial viability, business planning, guidance on any required permits/regulations or costs associated with a particular business.

The LEO continued with its policy of providing outreach services in Birr, Edenderry, Portarlinton in addition to a new outreach office in Ferbane. A member of the LEO's Executive can meet clients at designated times during the week in each location.

OFFALY NETWORK OF ENTREPRENEURS (O.N.E.)

The ONE network is co-ordinated by the LEO and designed to help business people promote their company, meet other businesspeople in the same situation and learn from shared experiences through the power of networking. The Network is free to join and attend and members also benefit from the wide range of speakers who give a one-hour presentation at each meeting. Typically 20-30 people attended each of the 9 meetings held during the year.

DIGITAL MARKETING

In 2018, Local Enterprise Office Offaly continued to keep clients up to date with relevant information and events via their website - www.localenterprise.ie/offaly, monthly email newsletter and through social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. There was a continued rise in

followers throughout 2018 with 1,653 Facebook page followers and 1,791 Twitter followers at year end.

TULLAMORE SHOW AND NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEO Offaly worked with colleagues in Offaly Tourism to provide and manage pavilions at the Tullamore Show and National Ploughing Championships. Over 30 food producers, craft makers and tourism providers exhibited at the shows, highlighting the diverse range of businesses in the County.

NPA LOCAL ENTERPRISE VILLAGE

Each Local Enterprise Office throughout the country supported small businesses at the Ploughing through the National Local Enterprise Village. For small, local businesses looking to expand, The Local Enterprise Village is the ideal gateway to customers across farming communities and rural Ireland. Many of the small businesses being supported by the Local Enterprise Offices took the opportunity to launch new products and services. One small businesses from each LEO office had the opportunity to have a stand within the National Local Enterprise Village. LEO Offaly was represented by Intellicom, Birr.

LEO OFFALY PERFORMANCE METRICS

Measure 1	Output 2018	Target 2019
Number of Applications Received:		
Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME	39	42
Grant Applications Approved: Number	33	37
Feasibility: Number	6	6
Priming: Number	10	11
Business Expansion: Number	14	15
TAME: Number	3	5
No. of projected potential new jobs associated with Approvals (Priming & Business Expansion)	34	38
Costs per job calculation associated with approvals (Average Cost calculated on new jobs over three years)	€10,681	€10,000

Measure 2	Output 2018	Target 2019
Training/Development Programmes (All Training and Networking events)		
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	41	40
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	531	520
No. of Females	274	265
No. of Males	257	255
No. of SYOB Programmes	10	10
No. of SYOB Participants	108	110
No. of Brexit Seminars / Brexit Information Events	1	2
No. of Participants attending Brexit Seminars/Events	23	30
No. of Completed Brexit Scorecards	6	10
No. of LEO clients receiving Brexit related Mentoring	0	2
Mentoring:		
Total Number of individual mentoring – (participants availing of one to one mentoring – one to one engagement by a Mentor with one client)	171	180
Total Number of group mentoring participants – (are all group mentoring engagements or clinics where a mentor engages with a group of clients.)	0	0
Total Number of Mentoring Participants (both one to one and group)	171	180

Schools Entrepreneurship:	Output 2018	Target 2019
Number of Schools Participating (Secondary schools only engaged in school enterprise programmes)	9	7
Number of Students Participating	495	450

Trading On Line Vouchers:	Output 2018	Target 2019
No. of Trading Online Vouchers approved	21	22
Value (€) of Trading Online Vouchers Paid	22,053	23,500

MFI:	Output 2018	Target 2019
Number of Applications submitted	7	7

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur:	Output 2018	Target 2019
Number of Applications	N/A	35

Lean for Micro Project:	Output 2018	Target 2019
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	7	8

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

OFFALY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Offaly LCDC has been established for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development. Offaly County Council was one of ten “front runner” LCDC’s commenced operating in February 2014, with formal establishment of the LCDC in November 2014.

THE FUNCTIONS OF OFFALY LCDC

Functions of the Local Community Development Committee are set out under Section 128A of Local Government Reform Act 2014. They are as follows;

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.

- Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- Optimize resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.

LCDC MEETINGS

The Offaly LCDC held 12 meetings during 2018 as follows – 11th January; 8th February, 8th March, 12th April, 10th May, 14th June, 12th July, 16th August, 13th September, 11th October, 8th November and 13th December.

MEMBERSHIP OF OFFALY LCDC IN 2018

The 19 member LCDC has broad representation from public and private interests including business, local development, education, enterprise, agriculture, voluntary and local authority members. Membership of Offaly LCDC during 2018 is as follows:

STATUTORY INTERESTS (9)		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr John Clendennen	Offaly County Council (Chair)
	Cllr Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council
	Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick *	Offaly County Council

<i>Local Authority Officials</i>	<i>Ms. Anna Marie Delaney</i>	Offaly County Council
	<i>Ms. Orla Martin</i>	Offaly County Council
<i>State Agencies</i>	Mr. Declan Tuomey	Dept of Social Protection
	Mr. Tony Dalton	Laois and Offaly Education & Training Board
	Mr. Con Feighery	Teagasc
	Mr. Nick Devery	Health Service Executive
NON STATUTORY INTERESTS (10)		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
<i>Public Participation Network</i>	Mr. Jimmy Todd	Community & Voluntary Sector
	Ms. Sinead McDonagh	Community & Voluntary Sector
	Ms. Elizabeth Fleming	Social Inclusion Sector
	Ms. Margaret Murphy	Social Inclusion Sector
	Ms Rebekah Keaveny **	Environment Sector
<i>Local & Community Development</i>	Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin	Offaly Integrated Local Development Company
<i>Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests</i>	Mr. Dominic Doheny	Construction Industry Federation
	Mr. Richard Scally	Irish Farmers Association
	Mr Fechin Daly ***	Construction Industry
	Ms. Christina Byrne	Slieve Bloom Rural Development Co-operative

2018 MEMBERSHIP OF OFFALY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

* Replaced Cllr Martin O'Reilly from June 2018.

** Replaced Mr. Eimhin Shortt from May 2018.

*** Replaced Mr. Paul Kennedy from December 2018.

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF LCDC IN 2018

There were nine key priorities progresses and developed in 2018 by the LCDC as follows:

- Implementation of the Offaly Local Development Strategy and commencing allocation of the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 funding;
- Monitoring and reviewing progress and implementation of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) in 2018;
- Implementation of the Offaly Community Enhancement Programme;
- Implementation of the Offaly Healthy Ireland fund 2017 and 2018;
- Adoption of the Healthy Offaly Plan 2018 – 2020;
- Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG) promotion of the Offaly's 'IRELAND'S HIDDEN GEM' brand;
- Offaly Sports Partnership progress to improve the health and physical activity status of the people of Offaly.
- Offaly PPN role in supporting the Community sector and providing a voice through the Network.
- Implementation of the Offaly Local Economic & Community Plan 2016-2021.



Community Enhancement Programme Information Evening

LEADER/RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has responsibility for the delivery of LEADER 2014-2020 in the county. The implementation partner is Offaly Local Development Company. During the period 2016-2020, in excess of €6m of LEADER funding will be invested in innovative community and private enterprise projects throughout County Offaly.

The aim of the LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 is to promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas. The programme provides funding and other supports such as

advice, training and mentoring. In 2018 there were 112 '**Expressions of Interest**' for LEADER grant supports from local community and enterprise groups and 1 '**Targeted Call**' for LEADER funding for Festivals. Offaly LCDC approved 42 LEADER projects in 2018 and a detailed breakdown is outlined below in Table 2.

Theme	Sub-Theme	No of projects approved in 2018	€ Project Approval 2018	€ Actual Project Expenditure 2018
Economic Development	Rural Tourism	17	116,863.64	111,281.21
	Enterprise Development	4	44,504.00	120,488.87
	Rural Towns	8	614,932.89	32,697.72
	Broadband	0	0.00	0.00
Social Inclusion	Basic Services	6	221,763.41	499,772.79
	Rural Youth	4	259,073.25	36,693.97
Rural Environment	Water Resources	0	0.00	0.00
	Biodiversity	2	34,885.16	0.00
	Renewable Energy	1	22,201.50	22,201.50
Totals		42	1,314,223.85	823,136.06

**MONITORING AND REVIEWING
PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
SICAP:**



The LCDC is responsible for the monitoring and review of the nationally-funded Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which is delivered by Offaly Local Development Company (SICAP Programme Implementer) across the County with an overall budget of €760,463 for 2018. The SICAP programme has two main goals which are: (i) supporting communities; (ii) supporting individuals. In 2018, the SICAP Programme Implementer worked with 76 local community groups and 604 individuals across the county, strengthening community development, providing education and training and preparing people for employment.

Some key SICAP indicators / targets achieved	2018
<i>Disadvantaged individuals worked with on a one to one basis.</i>	604
<i>Community Groups assisted under SICAP</i>	76
<i>Children that received an educational or developmental support</i>	818
<i>Recipients of employment support</i>	170
<i>Progression into self-employment</i>	71

During the course of the year, the LCDC carried out an end-of-year review of the 2017 programme, a mid-year review of the 2018 programme and an appraisal of the proposed annual plan for 2019.



LCDC Site Visit to Gallen View September 2018

OFFALY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Under the Offaly Community Enhancement Programme, Offaly LCDC allocated €311,997 in grants for Community and Voluntary Groups. The Scheme was focused on providing small, medium and large-scale capital grants to help grass roots community projects get underway. Offaly LCDC approved 106 grants for a range of projects including Trailhead development, building refurbishments, cemetery improvements, ICT equipment and garden/landscape power tools. Grants ranged in value from €200 to €40,000. A new aspect of the 2018 scheme was the use of the CEP grants as matched funding for LEADER and Municipal District projects. The added value of the Community Enhancement Programme when combined with the LEADER and Municipal District projects is in the sum of €886,530.



*Community Enhancement Programme and Healthy Offaly Plan event
October 2018*

HEALTHY OFFALY

Following the allocation of €99,000 in funding from Healthy Ireland in 2017, the following projects were delivered by the Healthy Offaly team in the first half of 2018: -



1. **Healthy Offaly Strategic Plan** - adopted by Offaly Local Development Committee and Offaly County Council in May; and officially launched in June.

The Healthy Offaly Plan is an evidence based plan which supports the implementation of the national Healthy Ireland strategy at a local level. The goal of the Healthy Offaly Plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of all in County Offaly by: -

- Raising awareness & supporting the Healthy Ireland programme through funding of community-based activities
- Facilitating cross-sectoral & partnership networks that promote health and wellbeing
- Adding value to existing health promotion initiatives through Healthy Ireland resources
- Supporting health & wellbeing of the most

disadvantaged groups and areas, and those experiencing significant health inequalities

Key priorities of the Healthy Offaly Plan include providing supports to promote physical activity and mental health, in addition to a number of actions to tackle alcohol, tobacco and substance misuse, sexual health issues and healthy weight.

2. **Edenderry Healthy Food & Gardening** – “grow your own” project delivered in Edenderry with the support of the Acorn Project. Community “grow your own” space developed while six workshops in healthy eating delivered
3. **Sexual Health & LGBTI Supports** - Sexual Health training delivered for 24 youth workers. LGBTI+ support group established
4. **Fundamental movement skills for children** - SPORTSHALL Athletics Decathlon Challenge delivered in eight schools for 1,200 pupils
5. **Couch to 5k** (recreational jogging for adults) - local partners, Offaly Athletics and its network of clubs supported the delivery of a 10 week / 20 session couch to 5k programme across eight locations (Ballyskenach, Banagher, Birr, Clara, Edenderry, Ferbane, Naomh Mhuire in Daingean and

Tullamore). 513 adults took part in the programme

6. **Building Healthier Communities** - Offaly Local Development Company and local partners delivered this project on behalf of Offaly LCDC. A range of actions were delivered as part of this project including i. support for eco health infrastructure, blue and green spaces; ii. eight health and wellbeing programmes delivered across five communities including outdoor recreation activities, healthy eating, etc.; iii. the HSE "little things" campaign was delivered across four communities; and iv. five students received support from the youth bank in Coláiste Naomh Cormac
7. **Parenting supports** - 13 Triple P Practitioners trained to deliver the Triple P Teen workshops. 23 workshops for 175 parents delivered across the four midlands counties (Laois, Longford, Offaly and Westmeath)
8. **PAX** - three PAX course coordinators trained to oversee the delivery of PAX in the Midlands. 16 "in-school" mentors trained to support teachers delivering PAX. 40 teachers delivering PAX in the classroom

Following a call for funding in 2018, Offaly LCDC has been allocated €75,000 to deliver the following actions in the

latter half of 2018 and first quarter of 2019: -

1. Physical activity programmes for children and young people - €20,000
2. Physical activity and recreational sports for older adults - €5,000
3. Parenting supports - €10,000
4. Grow your own & Healthy eating - €9,150
5. Eco health and physical activity - €6,000
6. Building healthier communities - €9,750
7. Mental health supports - €6,400
8. Social prescribing - €8,945

OFFALY TOURISM MARKETING.

Offaly Tourism Marketing was established in December 2014 under the auspices of Offaly LCDC and its main duties include:

- To develop proposals on 'branding' the County.
- To prepare a Strategic Marketing Plan for the marketing and promoting tourism.

In 2018, Offaly County Council appointed a dedicated Tourism Officer for the first time ever. The Tourism Officer

now has a team of two assisting her and they are working in partnership with Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG), in continuing to promote

and develop Offaly's unique brand '**IRELAND'S HIDDEN GEM**', to both domestic and international tourism markets.



The **National Ploughing Championships** returned to Tullamore in September 2018 and Offaly County Council successfully hosted the '*Offaly – Ireland's Hidden Gem*' pavilion for the third consecutive year. Both Offaly Tourism and the Local Enterprise Office organised the

pavilion where a diverse range of tourist attractions, artisan food and craft businesses promoted their offerings.



National Ploughing Championships 2019

Once again, Offaly Tourism in partnership with the Local Enterprise Office hosted the '**OFFALY - IRELAND'S HIDDEN GEM**' pavilion at the **Tullamore Show** in August 2018.

Offaly Local Link launched the **Offaly Explorer Experience** bus in the summer of 2018 in collaboration with OCC, OLDC & Offaly Tourism. The bus ran for the summer season, finishing at the end of September. It was a great opportunity for visitors and locals alike to experience the wonderful tourist sites at an affordable price.

OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Established in 2003, designated in 2005, and achieving full designation in 2006; Offaly Sports Partnership is a multi sectoral sub committee of Offaly LCDC, hosted by the council and core funded by Sport Ireland.



Supporting inclusive measures to increase and sustain participation in sport in Offaly, Offaly Sports Partnership seeks to improve the health and physical activity status of the people of Offaly at all life stages (children and teens, adults and older adults); and has a specific focus on reaching out to low participation groups.

2018 saw Offaly Sports Partnership continue to implement its strategic plan, **"ACTIVE OFFALY 2016 - 2020"** across its five strategic pillars: -

1. Instil fundamentals & Improve youth fitness
2. Increase adult & older adult participation
3. Include the least active
4. Integrate & Celebrate
5. Improve capacity & Inform the sector

General activities in 2018 included a comprehensive schools fitness programme; primary and post primary schools sport and physical activity programmes; inter-generational sport and physical activity programmes such as Operation Transformation, Bike Week and Play Day (national events locally organised); sport and physical activity programmes for low income communities, older adults and women / girls; integration projects; education and training programmes for clubs and organisations; and our Sports Inclusion Development Programme which focuses on sport and physical activity for people with disabilities.

Funding secured through the Dormant Accounts Disbursement Fund was used to continue to support the work of the south Offaly Sports Hub established in 2017; and deliver community coaching and sports leadership training for young people in a number of locations in the county; while funding secured through Healthy Ireland saw Offaly Sports Partnership deliver physical activity programmes via schools and clubs.

In addition, the FAI Development Officer (50 / 50 funded by the FAI and Offaly County Council) and the Leinster Rugby Community Club Development Officers (supported with a contribution of €5,000) continued to work with Offaly Sports Partnership in the delivery of their recreational sport programmes for low income

communities, older adults, people with disabilities and mental health difficulties, women / girls and youth at risk.



Community Coaching 2018

OFFALY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK.

Offaly PPN focuses on supporting the Community sector, providing a voice through the Network for the Community, Social Inclusion and Environment pillars. Offaly PPN provides Monthly updates on Funding Opportunities, upcoming Consultations and other relevant Workshops or training opportunities to Offaly LCDC. The PPN presents annually on its work to the LCDC. Offaly PPN welcomes and acknowledges contributions and engagement of the LCDC with the work of the PPN. Current membership 440 groups. The PPN is actively engaged in Community Planning with Offaly County Council and Offaly Local Development Company. The PPN contributes at Strategic Policy Committee's and Joint Policing Committees and links with key stakeholders in Arts, Sports Partnership, LEO, Town & Village planning, Age Friendly Initiatives and a range of Community & Voluntary Support services across the county.

Key pieces of work to be undertaken during 2019 include A Community Vision Statement for Offaly and The Development of an Environmental Trust.

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY 2018 – 2021

Offaly Age Friendly Strategy was launched on June 29th 2018. The Age Friendly Alliance is chaired by Offaly Co. Co. Chief Executive, Anna Marie Delaney, and is made up of key members of Agencies and support services across the county along with Older people's representatives. The Alliance serves as the drivers of the actions in the Age Friendly Strategy.

- During 2018, Four Information events took place across the County hosted by the Library services in conjunction with OLDC and the PPN. Strategic actions came to fruition in conjunction with Offaly Sports Partnership, The Arts, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore and Healthy Offaly.
- An Older Persons Sports Day,
- An Art exhibition centred on Communication and Older people
- A Hospital Walkability Study with a follow up Focus group.
- Public Realm & Housing Training
- Age Friendly Business opportunities training
- HApAi data Training (Dept of Health)
- Housing Models for an Ageing population

It is planned that this approach will be further developed in 2019 with bimonthly meetings to oversee and review

this work.



Offaly PPN Plenary topical discussions November 2018

THE OFFALY LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-2021

The Offaly Local Community Development Committee had a busy year in 2017 actively driving the development of the Offaly Local Economic & Community Development Plan (LECP). The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the County.

The Offaly Local Community Development Committee reviewed the development of the Offaly LECP in 2018 and it was agreed to establish 4 Working Groups in order to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Community elements of the LECP. The 4 Groups are as follows:

- Education, Training & Skills
- Local & Community Development
- Empowering Communities
- Healthy Offaly Team

The LCDC will commence the mid-term review of the Offaly Local Economic & Community Development Plan (LECP) in 2019.



OFFALY COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

After a slow start to the year due to the change in Coordinator and subsequent Garda Vetting Process for the new appointee, Comhairle activities resumed with renewed vigour in May 2018. The Executive commenced the year with 25 members and 8 meetings held. A Team Building trip to Bay Sports Adventure Centre, Athlone and visits to the National Ploughing Championships and Showcase Event in Croke Park in July, September and November respectively were particular highlights for the



group. Offaly Comhairle na nÓg had the best ever attended AGM, with 132 young people from all 12 secondary schools in the County present.

The project for the year was to design and print an information booklet on Comhairle na nÓg detailing what Comhairle is about and some useful contact numbers for Youth Services in the County. The Booklet was launched by Presidential Candidate Gavin Duffy at the Ploughing Championships and notable visitors to Comhairle stand were the Rose of Tralee, Kristen Mae Maher, and Uachtarán na hEireann, Michael D. Higgins accompanied by his wife Sabina.

The AGM was a great success and was centered around the theme 'Healthy Body/Healthy Mind'. Guest Speakers were Angela Ryan-Whyte from Jigsaw and Denise Coghill from Offaly Sports Partnership. As a result of the feedback from two workshops held, a report detailing what actions young people would like to see implemented will be brought to attention of the Healthy Offaly Team.

Our final event of the year was a trip to Croke Park in November for the Comhairle na nÓg Showcase event. This was an opportunity for Comhairli all around Ireland to come together, network and show off their projects to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Dr. Katherine Zappone TD.

HERITAGE

The Heritage Office works with the Offaly Heritage Forum to deliver the *Offaly Heritage Plan 2017-22*. The forum meets four times a year and is made up of 16 representatives from state agencies, council staff and NGOs. The human resources of the forum are very valuable, providing advice, contributing to projects and leading awareness events. The Heritage Council provides funding towards the running of the Heritage office and also gives an allocation towards the delivery of the Offaly Heritage Plan.

HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDED PROJECTS

Funding from the Heritage Council of €23,000 was received in 2018 towards two projects: delivering the archives strategy in conjunction with Offaly Library Service and Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society and Vernacular Architecture which included a survey of thatched houses in Offaly in 2018 and a conservation report for Carrigeen Farmhouse.

ARCHIVES-Work is ongoing with cataloguing and digitising key collections in the County Archive Service and Offaly History. In conjunction with this Offaly History are fitting out a county archive store in Axis Business Park which will provide archive standard storage and reading rooms for

the Offaly History and Offaly County Council collections. The work is due to commence in early 2019.

THATCH SURVEY 2018

In 2002 there was a comprehensive survey of thatch carried out in county Offaly by Barry O'Reilly. In 2018 this survey was undertaken again this time by the Built Heritage Collective. A 40% loss of thatch has taken place in the intervening years.



The purchase of the field at the top of Croghan Hill by Offaly County Council in 2018 is a significant development for access

CARRIGEEN FARMHOUSE, FIVE ALLEY

In 2017 we became aware of the unusual surviving farmhouse and interior cared for by the Egan family. In 2018 we supported the family through the provision of a Conservation Plan by Lotts Architecture.

PUBLIC REALM AND TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

The Heritage Officer is part of the Council's in-house working group for Town and Village Renewal projects and is working with particular focus on the Geashill, Croghan and Ferbane projects. The purchase of the field at the top of Croghan Hill by Offaly County Council is a significant step in making this site accessible.

TIDY TOWNS

Working with the Council's Community and Local Development Section, information evenings for Tidy Town groups were held along with one to one group mentoring.

MEDIEVAL CHURCHES AND MONASTIC SITES

Work commenced in 2018 to conserve the medieval church of Drumcullen near Kinnitty. This was part funded under the Structures at Risk fund. Maintenance of previously conserved churches took place at Lemanaghan, Kilbride and Lynamally. Work continues to try and provide access to Durrow Monastic site.



Heritage Week 2018 visit to see the conserved glass furnace and the reconstruction drawing for Shinrone town

SHINRONE GLASS FURNACE CONSERVATION

As part of European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) the unique 17th century glass furnace near Shinrone was conserved under supervision of conservation engineer Chris Southgate. This was funded through Creative Ireland EYCH programme and was in partnership with the landowner and Shinrone Heritage Group.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland is the Government's Legacy Programme for Ireland 2016 – a five-year initiative, from 2017 to

2022, which places creativity at the centre of public policy. The Heritage Officer is involved in the Council's Creative Ireland working group with the Arts Office, Library Service, Corporate Services, Community and Local Development and the Architect's office. For 2018, the Heritage Officer was the county co-ordinator. The 5-year plan was launched in September. €147,325 was allocated from Creative Ireland for 2018 to assist with the Decade of Commemorations, Cruinniú na nÓg, and the delivery of the five-year plan including a range of community projects.



Vintage Luminaries, St Brendan's church Birr during Vintage Week was supported by Creative Ireland. Image Tina Claffey

HERITAGE AWARENESS

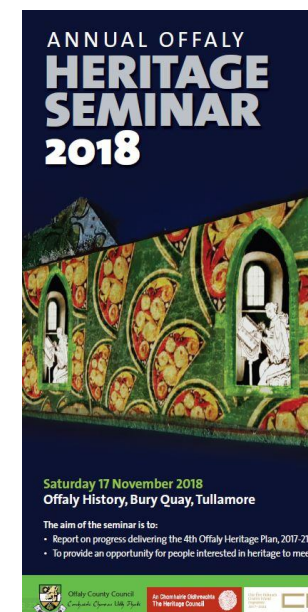
The **Offaly Naturalists' Field Club** programme is co-ordinated through the Heritage Office with events held throughout the year. The annual summer school led by John Feehan was based in Lough Boora with 25 participants.

Heritage Week was themed *Sharing Stories* in 2018. It is 9 days of events which is co-ordinated by the Heritage Office with the majority of the events planned and delivered by community groups. Offaly County Library service embrace this week and host a number of events across their branch network.

The **Annual Offaly Heritage Seminar** was held on Saturday 17 November in Tullamore with field trips to Drumcullen, Rath and Kinnitty or Geashill.

This seminar reports back to the general public on progress with heritage projects during 2018. It is open to all and free.

Topics included the Book of Durrow; conservation of Gloster Arch; the poet Edward Egan from the Meelaghans and the thatch survey.



ALL IRELAND POLLINATOR PLAN

Work continued to promote the *All Ireland Pollinator* plan and through National Biodiversity Plan funding, training and support was provided to the area offices in order to assist pollinator friendly management. Geashill Tidy Towns succeeded in winning the regional All Ireland Pollinator Award in 2018 National Tidy Towns competition. Geashill subsequently featured on Eco Eye demonstrating how to incorporate pollinator friendly management.

JAPANESE KNOTWEED AND HIMALAYAN BALSAM

Work continues to control **Japanese Knotweed** and to try and contain it. A comprehensive mapping programme has been developed and all sites on public land have been treated. Where sites have been identified on private lands the owners have been notified and advised to commence treatment.

2018 saw the first year of comprehensive work being done to contain and control the spread of **Himalayan Balsam** on the Camcor catchment with over 90,000 plants removed from Roscomroe to Derrinsallow. This will need even more work in 2019 to stop the seedbank re-establishing. This work was funded through the National Biodiversity Invasive Species Fund.



Excerpt from *Slí na Manach* by Dom Laurence Walsh ocsa

Publications

A number of publications were supported in 2018;

- ✎ ***Slí na Manach*** by Dom Laurence Walsh ocsa which documents the monastic life in Mount Saint Joseph
- ✎ ***Offaly and the Great War*** was edited by Michael Byrne with 17 contributors and published by Offaly History

☞ ***Four Offaly Saints*** by P O'Riain was published by Collins Press

☞ ***Sketches from a Microscope*** by Mary Ward (1857) is being reprinted with a foreword by John Feehan,

☞ ***Documenting Derrinlough Briquette Factory*** is nearing publication and work is progressing to reprint Poet Edward Egan's poems.

We supported the Waterways Ireland / Pullough Development Group video about brickmaking in Pullough.

TRANSPORTATION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC

SPC Chair	Noel Bourke, MCC	Director Of Services	Sean Murray
Members	Sectoral	Acting Senior Engineer	Jean Ryan
Cllr. Dervill Dolan Cllr. Sean Maher Cllr. John Clendennen Cllr. Liam Quinn	Mr. Richard Scally Mr. Peter Lyons Mr. John O'Connor Mr. Jason Leigh	Administrative Officer Acting Senior Executive Engineer	Phyllis Hughes Willie Ryan
		Chief Fire Officer Health & Safety Officer	Eoin O'Ceilleachair Dennis Gibbons

ROADS; HEALTH AND SAFETY

ROADS

The 2018 Initial Roads Budget was as follows:

Roads Allocations 2018	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€2,583,837
Department of Transport Tourism & Sport	€7,696,625
Offaly County Council (Own Resources)	€ 1,642,130
<i>Total</i>	€11,922,592

The 2017 Initial Roads Budget was €9,394,718

The Offaly County Council allocation above does not

include an allocation of €899,500 for Public Lighting and a Central Management Charge (support services) of €2,789,822.

Additional funding was received as follows during the year: -

Transport Infrastructure Ireland: €1.4m for national roads pavement schemes

Department of Transport Tourism & Sport: €0.5m for regional and local roads maintenance

Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD): €644,486 for Local Improvement Schemes in the three Municipal Districts9.

Department of Transport Tourism and Sport: €1,010,000 for Community Involvement Schemes in the three Municipal Districts over a two-year programme.

Department of Rural and Community Development: €259,638 for 11 Clár schemes in the three Municipal Districts and local schools.

Roads Budget 2018 Additional Funding	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	
<i>National Route Lighting Upgrades</i>	€94,222
<i>HD28, Pavement Schemes & Capital Maintenance Works</i>	€1,417,443
<i>Ordinary and Winter Maintenance</i>	€273,607
<i>Site Investigations</i>	€23,932
Department of Rural and Community Development	
<i>Local Improvement Scheme</i>	€644,486
<i>CLÁR</i>	€259,638
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport	
<i>Community Involvement Scheme</i>	€353,459
<i>Special Maintenance Grant</i>	€504,823
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	
<i>Storm Emma</i>	€282,913

Projects undertaken and completed during 2018 are detailed below.

NATIONAL ROAD GRANTS

2018 National Roads (N52, N62 & N80 = 101km)

2018 National Roads Projects	
Ordinary Maintenance	
Pavement Schemes	
N62 South of Doon	€145,735
N62 Ballyegan Pavement Strengthening	€192,666
N52 Riverstown Pavement Scheme	€971,889
N62 Cloghan Pavement Scheme	€296,137
N62 Ferbane Pavement Scheme	€77,225
Capital Maintenance Works	
N52, Ballynaguilsha, North of Kennedys Cross, Birr	€184,859
N62 Ballygaddy / Rath Beg, Sharavogue, Birr	€188,767
N62, Ballyegan, Sharavogue, Birr	€186,787
Capital Maintenance Works <€50,000	€28,000
HD28 NS Pavement Renewals	
N80 Killeigh East & West, N52 Idle corner Birr, N62 Kennedys Cross Birr	€1,160,589
National Route Energy Reducing Public Lighting Schemes (LED)	€93,000
N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link (Stage 0)	€25,000

NON NATIONAL ROAD GRANTS

2018 Non National Roads (Regional 392km & Local 1656km)

2018 Regional & County Roads Projects	
Restoration Improvement Grant	€4,330,500
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€1,083,500
Discretionary Improvement Grant	€1,575,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	€200,262
Safety Improvement Works	€200,000
Speed Limits	€25,224
Roads Training Grant	€36,000
Drainage Works	€226,000
R444 Ballinahown to Clonmacnoise to Shannonbridge Feasibility Study	€20,000
Special Maintenance Grant Bog Road Improvements	€504,823
Public Lighting LED Upgrades in Housing Estates	€250,000
Community Involvement Schemes	€353,459
Local Improvement Schemes	€644,486
CLAR Schemes	€259,638
Edenderry Transportation Study Specific Road Improvement Grant Application	2019
Offaly Greenway	€634,000

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The *Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2017* were prepared in consultation with Councillors, Gardaí, and Transport Infra-Structure Ireland. The Draft Bye-Laws were considered and adopted by the members at the meeting held on 24th April, 2017. The Bye-Laws came into effect on 19th January 2018.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety objectives were agreed at the beginning of the year with the Management Team after reviewing 2017/18 both from a local and national level.

The key objectives agreed were: -

1. To continue to enhance the safe working environment for all employees of Offaly County Council and members of the public.
2. To ensure that communication between all levels of staff within the organisation relating to health and safety are improved.
3. To continue to work closely with external groups such as the Health and Safety Authority and consider any improvements which are suggested.

Every day staff in Offaly County Council are reminded of the risks they face and how to eliminate or reduce this risk.

Nationally, during 2018, 37 fatalities occurred; this represents a reduction of 10 on the same period for 2017.

<i>Industry</i>	<i>No. of Fatalities in 2016</i>	<i>No. of Fatalities in 2017</i>	<i>No. of Fatalities in 2018</i>
<i>Agriculture</i>	21	24	15
<i>Fishing and aquaculture</i>	3	2	4
<i>Mining and quarrying</i>	1	0	0
<i>Manufacturing</i>	2	0	2
<i>Water supply</i>	1	1	2
<i>Construction</i>	9	6	5
<i>Repair of motor vehicles</i>	2	2	3
<i>Transportation & storage</i>	1	6	3
<i>Public Administration (Arts, Entertainment & Recreation) Support service activities</i>	4	0	2

Information as of the 2nd of January 2019 - from the H.S.A. website

SOME KEY INITIATIVES HELD IN 2018: -

- One of the main targets for 2018 was to enhance communication with staff on accidents/incidents and good practices from other local authorities and private companies. This was achieved through monthly safety discussions and through re-fresher health and safety training. This will continue in 2019.
- All work needs to be treated safely and a suitable Safe System of Work agreed and communicated to all staff prior to commencing the works.

- There was an overall reduction in Offaly County Council's accident ratio in 2018 when compared to the same period in 2017.
- Senior Management continued to provide leadership in order to raise the profile of safety within Offaly County Council. A key focus in 2018 involved safety discussion with all staff. Guest speakers who have had serious injury in the workplace were invited into give their experience on how workplace injuries have changed their lives and their families.
- The Management Team and Senior Management Group carried out a number of inspections during the year and this will remain a target for 2019, with key Quarterly Health and Safety Meetings held in each department .
- A health and safety review will be completed in full in early 2019 and this will be used to set out additional targets and areas for improvements in 2019.

ROAD SAFETY 2018 INITIATIVES

- Updated the Council's website in relation to weather alerts and road safety initiatives. These were also emailed to Councillors and staff, and placed on the Council's Facebook and Twitter pages.
- Road Safety Video/Message is now operational in Ferbane, Edenderry, Birr and Banagher Credit Unions.
- Organised RSA Street Smart Programme to visit a number of national schools in the county. This programme aims to bring issues of road safety to life for young schoolchildren.
- Collaborated with the Road Safety Authority in "Check it Fits Service" – free expert checking of child car seats in various locations throughout the county
- Organised day long live flexible presentation "Drive for Life Programme" for four Secondary Schools in the County. This programme is tailored for students and young adults in a school setting and issues such as consequences of speed, alcohol, drugs and driving, mobiles phones, seat belts forms part of the content of the programme.
- Presentation of Junior School Warden Certificates to 2 schools – Portarlington NS and Ferbane NS.
- Liaised with Municipal Districts concerning road safety at various schools.
- Road Safety presentations delivered to over 25 national schools in the County.
- Organised Safe Cycle Art Competition for national schools in Tullamore schools.
- Organised Staff Tyre Check as part of Irish Road Safety Week, 2nd to 8th October.
- Circulated Hi-Vis Vests to: Birr and Tullamore Cattle Marts; Municipal District offices in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore; Motor Tax Office in the Áras an Chontae, Joint Policing Committee public meeting; and, also made available road safety leaflets and information to the public.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Climate Change & Energy awareness continue to be key areas where we are required to show leadership in both promoting public awareness and in changing mind sets towards energy management. Offaly County Council continues to work in conjunction with the Midland Energy Agency in an effort to achieve the objectives as set out in the 2020 targets.

Following the commencement of the Climate Action & Low Carbon Development Act 2015, a team has been formed to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Offaly County. The Act provides for the approval of the national mitigation plan published in July 2017 and the national adaptation framework, published in January 2018.

The Local Authority Adaption Strategy Development Guidelines were published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in December 2018 and provide a stepped approach to producing the Adaption Strategy. A cross section team in Offaly County Council has been established and we are working through the six steps of the Adaptation Strategy Guidelines to developing the strategy for Offaly. By reviewing the past 30 years of climatic events and impacts

such as extreme rain, wind and heat and predicting the next 30 years, the agreed strategy should include Grey (barriers, irrigation systems), Green (parks) and Soft (regulation & planning) proposals.

The Climate Action Regional Office in Kildare was launched in May 2018 for the Eastern and Midlands region which will provide direction and guidance to the Local Authorities to develop and adopt their individual Strategies. The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will be presented to the Elected Members of Offaly County Council for adoption before September 2019.

Offaly County Council aims to improve energy efficiency by 33% by 2020. In April 2017 Energy Consultants conducted an audit of Áras an Chontae to explore opportunities for reducing energy consumption and energy costs. The report identified energy efficiency measures in the main County building. Offaly County Council aim to implement the recommended measure and with the ongoing programme of replacing Public Lighting to LEDS will meet our target by 2020.

FIRE SERVICES & CIVIL DEFENCE

FIRE SERVICE REPORT 2018

The aim of the Offaly County Council Fire Authority is to protect the public from fire and to preserve life and property. The Fire Service is an organisation established and maintained in accordance with Sections 9 and 10 of the Fire Services Act, 1981. Offaly County Fire and Rescue Service provides a total fire service to the community 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

The Fire Authority provides a number of services ranging from the emergency response to incidents such as fires, road traffic accidents, chemical incidents, etc. To ensuring the fire safety of the community and built environment through certification, inspection, enforcement and education. The Authority also provides information and training on fire safety management and fire fighting



OPERATIONS

In 2018 Offaly County Fire and Rescue Service were alerted to 574 incidents. The response to these calls came from 5 stations located throughout the

county. Offaly Fire Service also responded to large prolonged fire in the Slieve Bloom mountains during 2018, and co-ordinated the response in conjunction with the Defence Forces, Coillte and Laois Fire Service.

SECTION 26 PLAN

The Section 26 Fire and Emergency plan formed the basis for the Fire Service work program 2018. The 2018 budget of €2.9 million maintained the Fire Service.



TRAINING & EQUIPMENT

There is a very strict training regime in the Fire Brigade as is necessitated by the sometimes difficult and dangerous environment in which Firefighters work. Significant resources have been made available for training within the Fire Service with a spend of €130,000 for training alone in 2018.

In addition, the Councils commitment to training for fire fighters, and research into the latest equipment and technology ensures that our fire crews are best equipped to respond quickly, safely and effectively to the full range of emergency incidents that we attend. Funding was obtained in 2018 from the National Directorate for the provision of a water tanker and a support vehicle.

FERBANE FIRE STATION

Offaly County Council completed the construction of Ferbane Fire Station in 2018 at a cost of €1.1 million. The Station was officially opened by Minister Eoghan Murphy in May 2018.



TULLAMORE BA TRAINING CENTRE

The Breathing Apparatus Training Centre in Tullamore is utilised for the training of Offaly Firefighters and is leased by other Fire Authorities and non-Local Authority organisations. Tullamore Breathing Apparatus(BA)

Training Centre has been available for hire since 2009 and currently averages 86 days occupancy to external Fire Authorities and approximately 14 Day for Offaly in relation to Breathing Apparatus only.

This level of occupancy has indicated a need for further development of the facilities. A detailed preliminary appraisal for the proposed expansion of facilities at Tullamore Breathing Apparatus Training Centre was submitted to the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management. This €1.1 million project will extend the existing drill training yard into the adjoining lands and provide a training support block incorporating a lecture room, syndicate rooms, computer training room, instructor's office, canteen, briefing/de-briefing room, male and female showers and changing facilities, and unisex drying room.



FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CONTROL

Offaly County Council Fire Service assessed 56 Fire Safety Certificate applications. The Fire Service also dealt with 45 license applications. In total 166 fire safety inspections of premises took place.

The Fire Service also delivered the Fire Safety Schools program to all primary schools in the county.

In 2018 Offaly Fire service began a pilot project in the Ferbane area and carried out over 150 Home fire safety checks.

The Building Control function of Offaly County Council is integrated into the fire service. This function also includes the inspection and monitoring of new works to monitor for compliance with all the requirements of the Building Regulations, 1997. In 2018 there were 171 commencement notices with 30 buildings inspected, which represents 18% of new buildings notified to the local authority.

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Both the Local and the Regional Major Emergency Plan were maintained, reviewed and revised by the Major Emergency Development Committee. Offaly County Council participated in the Regional Steering Group and Regional Working Group for Major Emergency Management in 2018. Training was provided to Council staff in the following areas: Information Management, On-Site Co-ordination, and Media Liaison.



OFFALY CIVIL DEFENCE REPORT 2018

Offaly Civil Defence had a very busy operational year in 2018. The Unit covered many various Duties and Events within the County, running various local courses and working alongside neighbouring Civil Defence County Units. Training classes normally commence in February and finish at the end of May, in this way we can concentrate our time to Duties and other Community requests for assistance during the summer months. We re-start our classes in September and run until mid-December. All our training courses are accredited by the

Civil Defence College or other external bodies. Approved course providers or P.H.E.C.C. who are the Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council who are compliant with the various rules and regulations pertaining to training.

ACTIVITIES IN OUR UNIT IN 2018:

- ☛ Civil Defence provided community support within the County, to organisations who submitted requests on the approved Duty request form.
- ☛ Our Unit covered approximately 38 duties during the year ranging from the annual Sean Kelly 80k & 120k cycles. A number of charity 10k walks / runs, 5k runs, Birr Vintage week Tullamore Show, National Ploughing championship, St. Patricks day parades x 3 along with other various events and projects.
- ☛ Ambulance cover to Darkness into Light event in aid of Pieta House, (Tullamore & Banagher) and other worthwhile community events spread throughout the County.
- ☛ Our Unit has an on-going agreement to supply C.F.R. (Cardiac First Response) Instructors to deliver a number of CFR courses to the Local Authority staff, assisting the training section and H.R. in this certification course.
- ☛ Our Unit holds in storage and erects the Temporary Mortuary Unit to assist the HSE in line with MEM requirements as laid out in the Regional document. This Unit was erected in St.

Mary's Hospital Dublin during the Papal Visit by request from the H.S.E.

- ☛ Manual Handling courses were delivered to members of our Unit and this course delivery is ongoing and a work in progress project.
- ☛ Offaly Civil Defence participated in the European Re-start a Heart project in conjunction with the Ambulance service in the Regional Hospital Tullamore.
- ☛ Two additional bikes were purchased for our Mountain Bike unit during 2018 and additional members were trained up by one of our own Volunteers who holds certification from Cycling Ireland, our Bike Unit now cover many duties during our operational year.
- ☛ Nine Members attended as students on a 1 Day Severe Weather off Road Driving (SWORD) Course which was run locally in the County by an approved provider.
- ☛ Three members attended as students on a 1 day LANTRA driving course.
- ☛ Civil Defence provided Ambulance cover to Teen Aware concerts on two occasions.
- ☛ Eight members attended a two-day Marine VHF Radio course.
- ☛ Civil Defence provided and crewed four 4 x 4 vehicles to transport Doctors & Nurses and other

Medical staff during the Snow and Severe weather during a 5-day period.

- ☛ A 4 x 4 Jeep was provided to deliver Meals on Wheels for two days in the locality during snow and severe weather.
- ☛ Civil Defence erected the Flexmort (Flexible Mortuary Tent) in Portlaoise Hospital for an exercise conducted by the H.S.E.
- ☛ Civil Defence assisted An Garda Siochana during two planned missing person searches.
- ☛ Two Swiftwater flood response teams were re-qualified during 2018 by our in-house Civil Defence Instructor.
- ☛ A FAR (First Aid Responder) course was run locally, several members qualified.
- ☛ A member of the Unit qualified as a Patient Moving Instructor through the Civil Defence College system.

INTERNAL SERVICES (INCL. CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE & INFORMATION SYSTEMS)

CORPORATE SERVICES		FINANCE	
<i>Director of Services:</i>	Frank Heslin	<i>Head of Finance</i>	Declan Conlon
<i>Senior Executive Officer:</i>	Monica Cleary / Mary Flynn Kenny	<i>Financial Management Accountant:</i>	Thomas Mawe
<i>Administrative Officer:</i>	Gerry Bruton	<i>Administrative Officer:</i>	Mary Gaughran /Catriona Hilliard
HUMAN RESOURCES		INFORMATION SYSTEMS	
<i>Director of Services:</i>	Frank Heslin	<i>Director of Services</i>	Declan Conlon
<i>Senior Executive Officer:</i>	Ruth McNally / Brian Pey	<i>Head of I.S.:</i>	Ray Bell
<i>Administrative Officer:</i>	Paula Donovan / Caroline Dempsey	<i>I.S. Project Leader</i>	Eileen Jackson
		<i>I.S. Project Leader</i>	Leona Conroy

CORPORATE SERVICES

The main functions of the Corporate Services section include:

- To provide an efficient and professional secretariat to the Council and their committees.
- To make information available to the members in a timely, convenient and flexible manner to allow for informed decision making.
- To maintain and update the register of electors.
- To develop initiatives to increase cross-departmental awareness and input to the development of corporate policies.
- To improve communications internally and externally on Local Authorities activities.

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS,

ELECTED FOLLOWING LOCAL ELECTIONS HELD ON 23RD MAY 2014

BIRR ELECTORAL AREA:

Carroll, John	The Ring, Birr	(057) 91 20976; (087) 228 3772	cllrjohncarroll@eircom.net	Non-Party
Clendennen, John	Kinnitty, Birr	----- (087) 611 8883	john@johnclendennen.com	Fine Gael
Dooley, Eamon	Na Tullaig, Aughaboy, Ferbane	(090) 64 54510; (086) 223 7058	eamondooley@hotmail.com	Fianna Fáil
Leahy, John	Glendine, Kilcormac	----- (087) 207 3226	info@johnleahy.net	Renua
Maher, Sean **	Rock Lane, Crinkle, Birr	----- (087) 769 7367	seanfmaher@yahoo.co.uk	Sinn Féin
Ormond, Peter	Kyleogue, Shinrone, Birr	(0505) 47079; (086) 212 1449	peter.ormond@gmail.com	Fianna Fáil

EDENDERRY ELECTORAL AREA:

Bourke, Noel	Killane, Edenderry	(046) 97 31295; (087) 220 0906	noelbourke@hotmail.com	Fianna Fáil
Cribbin, Noel	Francis Street, Edenderry	----- ; (087) 907 3804	noelcribb56@gmail.com	Non-Party
Fitzpatrick, Eddie	Benfield, Cloneyhurke, Portarlington	(057) 86 23261; (087) 258 0428	eddiefitzp@eircom.net	Fianna Fáil
Foley, John	Killane, Edenderry	(046) 97 32332; (087) 252 2882	cllr.johnfoley@gmail.com	Non-Party
O'Reilly Martin ++	St. Martins, Clonadd, Daingean	----- ; (087) 148 4307	oreillysf@gmail.com	Sinn Féin
Quinn, Liam	Edenderry Road, Rhode	----- ; (087) 916 3066	liamjq@gmail.com	Fine Gael

TULLAMORE ELECTORAL AREA:

Dolan, Dervill	10 Cormac Street, Tullamore	(057) 93 23530; (086) 825 7259	dervilldolan@eircom.net	Non-Party
Harvey, Declan	11 Park Avenue, Tullamore	----- ; (087) 410 6571	dmharvey@eircom.net	Fianna Fáil
Killeavy, Brendan	Colehill, Cappincur, Tullamore	----- ; (085) 720 2507	brendankilleavy@live.ie	Sinn Féin
McCormack, Tony***	Daingean Road, Tullamore	----- ; (086) 822 9399	tony.mccormack@yahoo.ie	Fianna Fáil
McKeigue, Thomas	Spollanstown, Tullamore	(057) 93 41519; (086) 165 8359	tommymckeigue@eircom.net	Fine Gael
Moran, Frank	2 Oak View, Kilcoursey, Clara	----- ; (086) 887 9524	moranfrank1@hotmail.com	Fianna Fáil
Owens, Danny	Lugamarla, Mountbolus, Tullamore	(057) 93 54814; (087) 127 1526	dannyowens@eircom.net	Fianna Fáil

** Co-opted to Offaly County Council at the meeting held on 21st March 2016, following the election of Carol Nolan T.D. to Dáil Éireann

*** Co-opted to Offaly County Council at the meeting held on 18th September 2017, following the resignation of Sinead Dooley

++ Retired on 17th December 2018

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Corporate Services section provides a secretariat service for meetings of the 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 must be held. In all, 18 council meetings were held in 2018.

At the Annual Meeting, held on 18th June 2018, Councillor Danny Owens was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Peter Ormond was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.



June Annual Meeting held in Áras an Chontae on 18th June 2018

Members continued to receive the agenda and supporting documentation electronically on MinutePad (introduced in June 2015) for all meetings of the Council.

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (C.P.G.)

The Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committees are elected members of the County Council. They, along with the Cathaoirleach of the Council, form a committee called the Corporate Policy Group (C.P.G.), advised by the Chief Executive. Where a Municipal District is not represented on the C.P.G. that Municipal District may elect a member to the C.P.G. The C.P.G. is essentially the Council's 'Cabinet'. Its main roles are consultation in preparation of budgets, dealing with corporate issues, modernisation and customer service.

The Corporate Policy Group met on 12 occasions during 2018.

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES (S.P.C.s)

S.P.C.s have a key role in advising and informing the Council. Their purpose is to provide a forum for debate on policy issues and for the development of policy recommendations for the Council.

They have a broad membership including sectoral and community interests working with elected members and council staff. There are four S.P.C.'s in Offaly dealing policy areas.

Chairpersons of Offaly S.P.C.'s are: -

- *Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services*
Cllr. D. Harvey
- *Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning*
Cllr. J. Carroll
- *Transportation and Emergency Services*
Cllr. N. Bourke
- *Environment, Water and Drainage Services*
Cllr. J. Clendennen

MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE OIREACHTAS

The Cathaoirleach and the members of the Management Team briefed the Oireachtas Members on progress to date and challenges to the Local Authority on 27th November 2017.

CORPORATE PLAN REVIEW

The objectives and priorities of the *Offaly Corporate Plan 2015-2019* continued to be reviewed by the relevant Strategic Policy Committees. Progress was reported, via the Budget Supplementary Directorate Reports, during the 2018 Budget process and via the monthly Management Reports considered at the monthly Council meetings.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors was produced on the 1st February and came into force on 15th February 2018. The total

electorate for County Offaly for the 2017/2018 Register of Electors was 58,178 broken down over the local electoral areas as follows:

Birr	20,545
Edenderry	16,323
Tullamore	21,310
Total on the Register	58,178

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT (DÁIL CONSTITUENCIES) ACT 2017 – REVISION OF DÁIL CONSTITUENCIES

The Electoral Amendment (*Dáil Constituencies*) Act 2017 was signed into law by the President on 23rd December 2017. The new constituency of Laois-Offaly will become the constituencies for Dáil and Presidential elections and referendums on and after the dissolution of the current Dáil. In the meantime, the constituencies established by the *Electoral (Amendment) (Dáil Constituencies) Act 2013* will continue in force. The Act can be viewed in www.oireachtas.ie.

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

The Joint Policing Committee met on three occasions in 2018. The Committee held its annual Public Meeting on 1st October 2018 in Kilcormac Community Centre. During the year the Committee reviewed the Department of Justice and Equality Community CCTV Scheme in an effort to assist communities with their applications.

SWIMMING POOLS

Corporate Services administer the Council's support grant schemes for community swimming pools.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

During 2018 Offaly County Council processed 8 applications under the Access to Information on the Environment.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Council responded to the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to Offaly County Council issues.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURES ACT, 2014

No protected disclosures were made to the Council in 2018.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Offaly County Council processed 96 Freedom of Information requests during 2018, an increase on the 78 applications received in 2017.

Applications received / processed in 2018	
Applications on hand at 31/12/2017	3
Applications received during 2018	96
Decisions taken during 2017	83
Applications withdrawn and dealt with outside FoI	2
Applications on hand 31/12/2018	6

Nature of the information requested	
Personal (to applicant)	9
Non-personal	87

Requests were received from the following	
Journalists	30
Business / Interest	4
Oireachtas	3
Staff	1
Clients	7
Others	51

Payments Made to Members in 2018

Name	Representational Payment / Municipal District Allowance €	Monthly Allowance €	Expenses Conferences/ Training incl. Fees, Telephone €	SPC Chairperson's Allowance €	Municipal District Chairpersons Allowance €	Chairperson's/ Vice Chairperson's Allowance €	Foreign Travel €
Noel Bourke	17,933.25	5,421.55	2,444.08	6,000.00	3,500.00		
John Carroll	17,933.25	5,722.26		6,000.00	2,500.00		
John Clendennen	17,933.25	4,987.20	3,427.40	6,000.00		2,000.00	
Noel Cribbin	17,933.25	5,521.79	2,528.72				
Dervill Dolan	17,933.25	4,203.71					
Eamon Dooley	17,933.25	4,987.20	1,268.33				
Eddie Fitzpatrick	17,933.25	4,653.08	3,320.36				2,482.00
John Foley	17,933.25	5,421.55			2,500.00		
Declan Harvey	17,933.25	4,203.71	3,074.12	6,000.00	6,000.00		
Brendan Killeavy	17,933.25	4,203.71	2,836.17				
John Leahy	17,933.25	4,552.84	600.00				
Tony McCormack	17,933.25	4,203.71	236.58				
Tommy McKeigue	17,933.25	4,203.71	567.97				
Sean Maher	17,933.25	5,655.44					
Frank Moran	17,933.25	4,203.71	2,694.92				
Peter Ormond	17,933.25	4,203.71	3,511.00		3,500.00	2,000.00	
Danny Owens	17,933.25	6,824.86	3,511.00			10,000.00	
Martin O'Reilly	17,933.25	4,203.71	2,185.05				
Liam Quinn	17,933.25	5,187.67	1,299.57			10,000.00	
TOTAL	340,731.75	92,565.12	33,505.27	24,000.00	18,000.00	24,000.00	2,482.00

Councillors supported and attended the following conferences in 2018	Venue	Date of Conferences	No. Delegates
"The Finance Act 2017"	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.	5-7 th January	2
Entitlement to Health Services	O'Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty Co. Cork	19-21 st January	3
Energy Action CLG Fuel Poverty Conference	Croke Park Stadium	29 th March	1
MacGill Summer School 2018	Glenties, Co. Donegal	26-28 th July	2
Entitlement to Health Services	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	23-25 th November	1
River Management	The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	7-9 th December	1

Councillors attended the following training in 2018	Venue	Date of Conferences	No. Delegates
AILG Training	Seven Oaks Hotel Carlow	17 th February	3
AILG Spring Conference 2018	Park Hotel Waterford	6 th - 8 th April	13
LAMA Spring Training Seminar	Central Hotel Donegal Town	12-13 th April	8
Irish Planning Institute	Tralee, Co. Kerry	19 th April	1
AILG Training: Module 2	Mullingar Park Hotel	22 nd April	1
	Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo	13 th May	1
AILG Training:	Spa Hotel Lucan	15 th May	5
AILG Training: Module 3	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth.	13 th June	3
	Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran	27-28 July	1
AILG Training: Module 4	Silver Springs, Cork	14-15 th September	3
LAMA Autumn Training Seminar	Castleisland, Kerry	28-29 th September	9
AILG Autumn Training Seminar	Longford	11 th October	1
AILG Training:	Monaghan	25-26 th October	7
AILG Training:	Sligo	13 th October	2
AILG GDPR	Leixlip	17 th November	3

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Each section, as appropriate, prepared their National Performance Indicators statistics. The statistics were collated by Corporate Services and submitted to the Local Management Services Board and the National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC). At the year end, NOAC had not published the National Service Indicator Report for all Local Authorities for 2018.



*Taiwanese First Representative to Ireland,
Mr Simon Tu visit 9th Apr 2018*

COUNTY CORONERS

The total expenditure was €107,434.68 (including salaries) in respect of coroners' inquests in 2018.



CIVIC WELCOME

The Cathaoirleach and members hosted a Civic Reception to acknowledge Professor Peter Gallagher's outstanding contribution to the County – in leading the I-LOFAR project in Birr, developing the I-LOFAR Education Centre in conjunction with Offaly County Council, and for his on-going work to develop Science education and discovery in Offaly

The Civic Reception was held in Áras an Chontae on 15th October 2018.

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES:

Association of Irish Local Government:	Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. P. Ormond
Board of Directors Oxmantown Hall Management Committee:	Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. S. Maher
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd:	Cllr. J. Clendennen
Joint Policing Committee:	Cllr. N. Bourke Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. J. Foley Cllr. D. Harvey Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. J. Leahy Cllr. F. Moran Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. P. Ormond
Local Authority Members Association:	Cllr. N. Bourke
Local Community Development Committee:	Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. D. Harvey Cllr. B. Killeavy

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:	Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. J. Leahy Cllr. P. Ormond
Laois and Offaly Education Training Board:	Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. L. Quinn
Midland Energy Agency Steering Committee:	Cllr. T. McKeigue
Midland Regional Drugs Task Force:	Cllr. F. Moran
North Offaly Development Fund Ltd:	Cllr. N. Bourke Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. J. Foley Cllr. M. O'Reilly Cllr. L. Quinn
Offaly Film Commission:	Cllr. D. Harvey Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. P. Ormond
Offaly Innovation & Design Centre:	Cllr. T. McCormack
Offaly Sports Partnership:	Cllr. F. Moran Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. J. Carroll

Offaly Heritage Forum:	Cllr. E. Dooley
Regional Health Forum, Dublin-Mid-Leinster:	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. T. McKeigue
Rural Water Monitoring Committee:	Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. D. Owens
Swimming Pool Committees:	<i>Birr</i> – Cllr. S. Maher <i>Clara</i> – Cllr. F. Moran <i>Edenderry</i> - Cllr. J. Foley
Tullamore Leisure Ltd.	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Harvey Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. T. McKeigue

Tullamore Community Arts Centre:	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Harvey Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr T. McKeigue
Tullamore Sports Link Ltd.:	Cllr. T. McKeigue
Tullamore Chandler Sister Cities:	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Owens
Sub-Project Committee, Municipal District of Birr:	Cllr. P. Ormond
West Offaly Enterprise Fund Ltd:	Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. J. Leahy

FINANCE

OUR GOALS

To plan the strategic financial management of Offaly County Council and deliver the services of the finance function in an efficient, effective and professional manner.

OUR STRATEGIES

- ➔ Develop and operate 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 Statutory Financial budget that reflects our corporate objectives.
- ➔ Enhance the Financial Management System and in particular, the provision of more meaningful financial management information, to support effective business decision making.
- ➔ Ensure prompt payment to suppliers.

OUR SERVICES

The Finance Department deals with both 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 financing requirements.
- ➔ Treasury and Investment Management
- ➔ Compliance with all Statutory and DHPCLG financial accounting principles, and regulations.

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

- ➔ Commercial Rates;
- ➔ Local Property Tax;
- ➔ Government Grants;
- ➔ Agency Water Services
- ➔ Housing Rents, Planning Fees, Charges, NPPR, and other Fees

MAIN SECTIONS WITHIN FINANCE

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

Financial reporting involves the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements (AFS), other statutory returns, reporting to the Department of the Housing, Planning Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and external agencies and dealing with the Local Government Audit process.

Management Accounting is the preparation of quarterly management reports to assist with budgetary control and the decision-making process within each directorate. The Annual Budget process is a statutory requirement and is managed in this section, in consultation with all the service divisions. This section also provides variance analysis, costing information and other financial information required by internal and external customers.

CENTRAL REVENUE COLLECTION

This section mainly deals with the collection and receipt of almost all monies due to the Council. This extends to Commercial Rates, Housing Rents, Housing Loans, Agency Water billing and other local charges.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The processing and payment of suppliers invoices, ensuring compliance with all procurement regulations and appropriate statutory deductions. This section ensures compliance with all statutory taxation returns and application of enforcement procedures on behalf of the Revenue Commissioners.

PAYROLL

The management of the wages, salaries, pensions payments and completion of statutory returns to Revenue Commissioners and other agencies.

MOTOR TAXATION OFFICE / CASH OFFICE

The Council collects vehicle licence duties within its functional area on behalf of the Department of the Housing, Planning Community and Local Government (DHPCLG). This unit also manages general Cash collection and Housing rent arrears.

GENERAL LEDGER / AGRESSO SUPPORT

This unit manages the Financial Management System (FMS) and ensures proper control over all the organisations assets and liabilities. Compliance with the national accounting code of practice and enforcement of DHPCLG circulars also falls within its remit.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Coordination of the Risk Management function within Offaly County Council.

MAIN REPORTS PRODUCED BY FINANCE

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The Finance Department prepares the overall Revenue Budget in consultation with the Council Members, Chief Executive and the Management Team. The Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 specifies an extensive statutory budget process, timetable and disclosures, including determination of LPT, to be completed in advance of the adoption at the Annual Budget Meeting.

THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT (AFS)

The AFS is produced annually and details the income and expenditure for the financial year for both revenue and capital expenditure. The Balance Sheet shows the assets and liabilities of the County Council at the end of the year. THE AFS is presented to members at Council Meeting and audited by the Local Government Auditor.

QUARTERLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

The quarterly management report provides details of the income and expenditure for the various services provided by the council. The actual results are compared to Budget and all variances are investigated.

DHPCLG / IMF QUARTERLY REPORTING

All Offaly County Council reports financial performance Quarterly to the DHPCLG. These reports consist of a quarterly Income and Expenditure Report, Capital Account report and Debtors report, and are presented to the council in the CE reports. In addition, various reports are produced for budget holders in Offaly County Council relating to all aspects of the council's activities.

MOTOR TAXATION OFFICE

This office issues vehicle licences and processes other transactions such as change of ownership for pre-1993 vehicles, certificates of roadworthiness, vehicle registration certificates vehicle licensing arrears The

Section also produces information for Gardai and other Local Authorities, e.g. penalty points, traffic fines, parking fines, etc. Payments are made at the counter, electronically and through postal application.

In 2018, the Motor Taxation Office generated approximately €5.4m in revenue, handled almost 89,000 transactions (28% over the counter, 5% via post and 67% was processed online)

REVENUE COLLECTION SERVICE INDICATORS

Amount collected as a percentage of the amount due at 2018 year end: (Draft percentages)

Rents	86%
Commercial Rates	89%
Housing Loans	56%

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (INCOME &
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2018**

Expenditure by Division					
		Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	Notes	2018 €	2018 €	2018 €	2017 €
Housing & Building		13,206,030	13,148,929	57,101	(240,494)
Roads Transportation & Safety		20,537,453	15,466,469	5,070,984	5,280,435
Water Services		5,518,960	5,073,178	445,783	403,301
Development Management		8,057,368	4,505,249	3,552,119	3,131,785
Environmental Services		7,424,776	2,072,693	5,352,083	5,699,171
Recreation & Amenity		3,595,547	496,006	3,099,541	2,893,505
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		591,038	212,607	378,432	536,383
Miscellaneous Services		6,158,424	3,580,862	2,577,561	4,590,134
Total Expenditure/Income	15	65,089,596	44,555,993		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax				20,533,603	22,294,220
Rates				16,996,876	16,631,937
Local Property Tax				7,656,288	7,656,288
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	16			4,119,562	1,994,005
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	14			(3,558,148)	(1,449,486)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year				561,413	544,519
General Reserve @ 1st January 2018				(3,067,266)	(3,611,785)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2018				(2,505,853)	(3,067,266)

Capital Account Summary		
<i>Extract from The Draft Annual Financial Statement for the Year ended December 31, 2018</i>		
	2018	2017
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 1 January	8,775,849	9,701,572
Total Expenditure (Incl Transfers)	(12,896,813)	(11,679,806)
Total Income (Incl Transfers)	16,176,400	10,754,083
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 31 December	12,055,436	8,775,849

INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

INTERNAL AUDITS UNDERTAKEN

During 2018, the Internal Audit Unit completed 4 Audits as per the agreed Internal Audit Plan 2018. Audit Reports were circulated to the Management Team and the Audit Committee. Follow-up audits on the implementation of recommendations of previous Audits were also undertaken.

2019 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The 2019 Internal Audit Plan was prepared and agreed by Management Team and the Audit Committee in December 2018.

PUBLIC SPENDING CODE QA PROCESS

Internal Audit was responsible for compilation of the Council's Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report 2017.

This report was certified by the Chief Executive and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission in May 2018 and is published on Offaly County Council's website. Two in-depth reviews were completed by Internal Audit as part of the process.

COLLABORATION

The Internal Auditor attended National and Regional collaboration meetings during 2018.

SUPPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Internal Audit Unit provided support to the Audit Committee in the fulfilling of its duties in 2018.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

During the course of 2018, the Audit Committee met on the following dates:

- ➔ 15th March 2018
- ➔ 11th June 2018
- ➔ 8th October 2018
- ➔ 3rd December 2018

The Committee met with the Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Directors of Services, Local Government Auditor, Internal Auditor, Procurement Officer and the Head of IS / Data Protection Officer during the year.

The Audit Committee considered the following in 2018:

- ➔ Final Internal Audit Reports
- ➔ Follow-Up Internal Audit Reports
- ➔ Quarterly updates on Internal Audit progress
- ➔ Procurement update
- ➔ Quarterly updates on Finances and the Local

Government Auditor's Report

- ➔ Annual Financial Statement 2017
- ➔ Offaly County Council Budget 2019
- ➔ Local Authorities Performance Indicators Report 2016/2018
- ➔ Audit Committee Charter 2018
- ➔ Offaly County Council Annual Report 2017
- ➔ Internal Audit Plan for 2019
- ➔ Audit Committee Work Plan 2019

The Committee were briefed in relation to a number of issues including:

- ➔ Offaly County Council's Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report 2017
- ➔ Monthly Management Report to Council
- ➔ Offaly County Council's Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Policy 2018
- ➔ DHPLG Value for Money Reports.
- ➔ NOAC Reports

The Audit Committee members are Mr. Peter Scully (Chair); Mr. Brian Gunning; Ms. Constance Hanniffy; Mr. Michael Loughnane and Mr. Eugene Mulligan.

The Chair of the Audit Committee presented the following to the Council at its meeting of 26th March

2018:

- ➔ Audit Committee Annual Report 2017
- ➔ Audit Committee Report to Council on 2016 Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditor's Report
- ➔ Audit Committee Charter 2018
- ➔ Audit Committee Work Plan 2018
- ➔ Internal Audit Plan 2018.

HUMAN RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The role of the HR Department is to recruit, retain and support a competent workforce, to deliver organisational priorities and act as the key driver for organisational change and development.

The work of the Department is broadly divided into seven key areas:

- ✓ Performance Management
- ✓ Recruitment
- ✓ Staff Training and Development
- ✓ Employee Welfare
- ✓ Industrial Relations
- ✓ Workforce Planning
- ✓ Workplace Policies

STAFFING

The total staff complement has reduced by approximately 20% since 2008 when the public service moratorium on employment was introduced. Details of numbers employed at 31st December 2008 and 2018 respectively are set out below for comparison purposes: -

Year	Total Staff Headcount	Non-DHPLG Posts	Retained Fire Fighters
2008	516	12	63
2018	416	21	50

RECRUITMENT

Significant recruitment took place during 2018 including a number of major competitions in entry grades across administrative, technical, professional and specialist posts. 34 different competitions were held involving the processing of over 740 applications and resulted in 57 new staff joining the organisation.

TRAINING & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff training was delivered based on the following priorities: -

1. Mandatory Health & Safety Training
2. Identified corporate needs and priorities
3. Training needs identified by staff in their Personal Development Plan

Additional funding was provided by the Members in the training budget for 2018 specifically for the purposes of re-introducing a scheme of financial assistance for staff undertaking further studies as part of their career/personal development. This funding was used to

support staff wishing to undertake the Local Government Certificate and Diploma course in the Institute of Public Administration as well as Masters Degree and Post Graduate Courses. This positive move was welcomed by staff and is particularly important for new staff working in the local authority sector for the first time.

The following is a summary of the range of training delivered across the organisation throughout the year: -

❖ <i>Leadership in Local Government</i>	❖ <i>Manual Handling</i>
❖ <i>IPA Cert in Local Government</i>	❖ <i>Data Protection GDPR</i>
❖ <i>IPA Diploma in Local Government</i>	❖ <i>CSCS Signing, Lighting & Guarding</i>
❖ <i>Certified Internal Auditor</i>	❖ <i>Capital Framework Procurement</i>
❖ <i>Certificate in Road Programme Management</i>	❖ <i>Telescopic Handlers</i>
❖ <i>Post Graduate Road & Infrastructure MSc</i>	❖ <i>Road Opening</i>
❖ <i>Graduate Recruitment training for Line Managers</i>	❖ <i>CSCS Location of Underground Services</i>
❖ <i>Management Development</i>	❖ <i>Information Technology Management</i>
❖ <i>GSS Supervisory Skills</i>	❖ <i>Census Results Training</i>
❖ <i>Specialised Water/Waste Water Training</i>	❖ <i>Temporary Traffic Management</i>
❖ <i>First Aid Refresher</i>	❖ <i>Decision Making</i>
❖ <i>IAT Roads Engineering Course</i>	❖ <i>Age Friendly Programme</i>
❖ <i>Managing a Serious Incident</i>	❖ <i>Building Defects Analysis</i>
❖ <i>Safe Pass</i>	❖ <i>Confined Spaces</i>
❖ <i>CPC Module 4</i>	❖ <i>Information & Library Studies</i>

	<i>BA</i>
❖ <i>VDU Assessor</i>	❖ <i>Child Safeguarding</i>
❖ <i>Abrasive Wheels</i>	❖ <i>Gritter Operator</i>
❖ <i>Chainsaw Refresher</i>	❖ <i>Environmental Inspections Skills</i>

- ❖ Mary McLoughlin
- ❖ Sean Hutchinson
- ❖ Maura Molloy

INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Human Resource department manages the Council's relationship with trade unions and staff representatives dealing with both local and national issues as they arise. The on-going implementation of the requirements of the Public Service Agreements in particular the Haddington Road agreement continued during 2018.

RETIREMENTS

The following staff retired during 2018:

- ❖ John Connolly
- ❖ Jo Elliffe
- ❖ Christy Kilroe
- ❖ John Dench (R.I.P.)
- ❖ Seamus Carroll
- ❖ Eddie Burk
- ❖ Leonard Geoghegan
- ❖ Catherine Keaveney

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Information Systems department manages all of the Council's ICT hardware and software infrastructure. This infrastructure is spread across approximately fifty locations in the County and is utilized by close to 400 users. In 2018 the Information Systems department completed the following in a variety of areas across the entire organisation.

These included: -

- ➔ Maintained a modern, reliable, secure ICT infrastructure including complete migration of all core applications, devices and users to our new ICT infrastructure for Offaly in preparation for the decommissioning of the LGMA infrastructure.
- ➔ Libraries – Expansion and Upgrade of free Wi-Fi solution in each of our 8 libraries and ongoing ICT work in relation to Open Libraries.
- ➔ Continue to support the NWCPO office.
- ➔ Network upgrade of all water and waste water sites.

➔ Cyber Security

- ➔ Continued to enhance cyber security features and security awareness / training in the organisation.
- ➔ Central Integration of phone systems to mitigate against PABX Hacking and Telephony Fraud and to achieve cost efficiencies.
- ➔ Desktop Operating System upgrade to Windows 10 which will mitigate organisational risk against cyber-attacks.

➔ Communications: Increased our online Social Media presence which proved most beneficial during both Storms Emma and Ophelia in ensuring the public were aware of the work Offaly County Council were undertaking and also heeding public safety communication.

➔ Management Software: Upgrade of System Center Configuration Manager which enables ICT to manage PC/Server Infrastructure. SCCM features include remote control, patch management, operating system deployment, network protection and other various services.

➔ Value for Money – Continued to work towards the best possible return from investment in ICT and utilise multiple ICT frameworks.

➤ Completed Framework for the Supply of Managed Print Services - Implemented a fully secure managed print solution which will result in cost and energy efficiencies throughout the organisation.

➤ Completed Framework Agreement for the provision of Mobile Voice and Data Communications and Associated Products and Services which will deliver cost savings for the organisation.

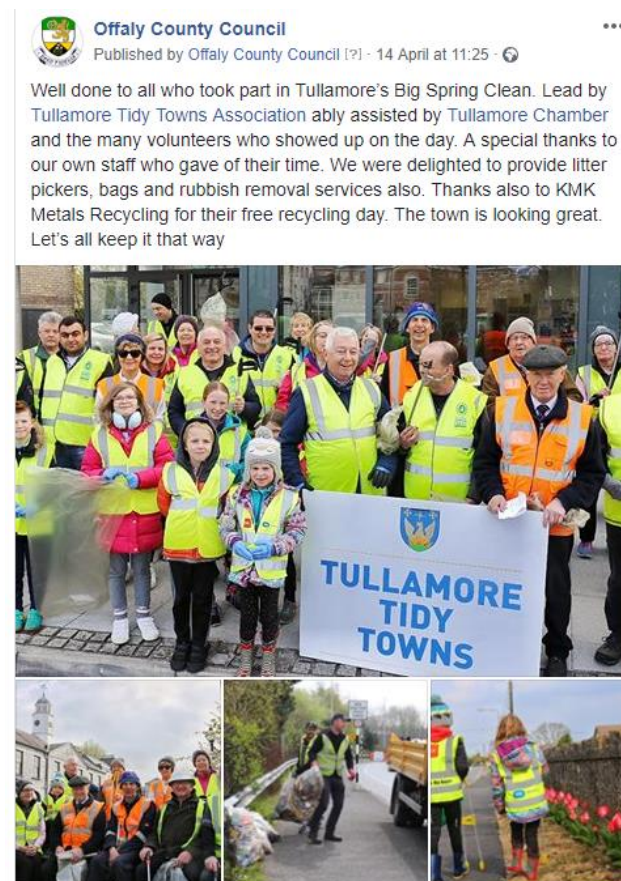
➔ Continue to audit Council digital data in line with best practice around GDPR and will look to build on this in 2019.

➔ Investigated options for a mobile Housing Inspections Application with colleagues in Housing to enhance efficiencies in this department.

➔ GIS – Enhanced the platform for departments and the public to interact with Offaly County Council using latest mapping technologies.

➔ Continued to work with Government in relation to the National Broadband Plan to ensure that all

citizens and businesses have access to high speed broadband no matter where they live or work.

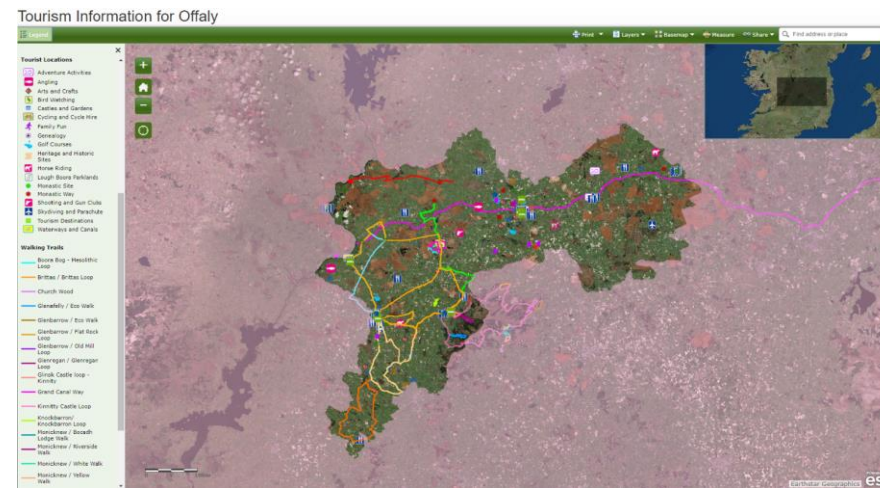


Offaly County Council Social Media on #yourcouncilday which talked about some of the services that Offaly County Council provide



Daingean Library after IT upgrade

Tourism information for Offaly mapped on our GIS (Geographic Information System)



BROADBAND / DIGITAL

Offaly County Council has a Broadband Officer; he acts as a dedicated point of contact and plays a vital role in the development of telecommunications and broadband services throughout Offaly. This is achieved by working closely with industry and participation with Regional and National Action Groups.

Offaly County Council has started work in developing a local digital strategy in order to ensure that the benefits of infrastructure development with broadband are fully realised from an economic and social perspective. This strategy will be completed in Q3 2019 with the aim of enabling Offaly to leverage broadband and digital technologies for rural regeneration.

Free Public Wi-Fi access can have a huge impact on tourism and the local economy. Tourists are more incentivised to travel to and stay in a location if they can use the internet for free. This year funding was secured through Shannon Broadband to provide Free Public Wi-Fi along the Shannon Blueway in Shannonbridge, Banagher and Shannon Harbour. Funding was also secured in Q4 through the Digital Innovation Programme 2018 (DIP) which is an initiative of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

This funding will enable Offaly County Council to provide additional Free Public Wi-Fi along the Grand Canal Greenway and Cycling Destinations throughout Ireland's Hidden Heartland and Ireland's Ancient East. The DIP funding will provide Free Public Wi-Fi in the additional locations:

- ➔ Offaly New Tourism Officer in Tullamore
- ➔ Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trails and Mountain Walks at Kinnitty Village
- ➔ Shannon Monastic Greenway at Clonmacnoise
- ➔ Lough Boora Discovery Park at Boora
- ➔ Landscapes of Power at Mountlucas Wind Farm
- ➔ Grand Canal / Blueway / Greenway at
 - ➔ Edenderry
 - ➔ Daingean
 - ➔ Tullamore
 - ➔ Pollagh
 - ➔ Shannon Harbour

In additional, all libraries in the county also provide Free Public Wi-Fi to visitors, tourists and people living and working in Offaly. WiFi4EU is an initiative that aims to provide free public Wi-Fi connectivity for citizens and visitors across the EU. Offaly County Council secured €60,000 through WiFi4EU and will begin rollout of Free Public Wi-Fi to other locations in the county in 2019.



Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Funded by Department of Rural and Community Development



Offaly County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development are providing funding for 16 primary schools in Offaly to expose students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths (STEM) fundamentals within the context of building and programming a robot using Vex IQ. Primary school is the most formative time in a young student's life. The best way to instil a lifelong interest in the areas of STEM is to provide a fun, engaging, and hands-on opportunity to explore and experience it for themselves. County Offaly has strong economic capability in engineering and technology and encouraging these skills in school children will enhance the County's capability in this area. We started to roll out this program in 2018 in partnership with Cork Institute of Technology (CIT) and the "Offaly VEX IQ Championship" is taking place in May 2019 in Áras an Chontae (OCC HQ) where students, teachers, parents, industry and elected representatives will be in attendance.



Ray Bell – Broadband / Digital Officer with Cloghan National School

In 2018, we have worked closely with telecommunications providers with improving broadband and mobile services throughout the county. Mobile operators are upgrading masts to improve 4G coverage and signal coverage. The ongoing work with broadband providers is delivering more high speed broadband throughout the county.

The Broadband / Digital Officer for Offaly is Ray Bell, Broadband / Digital Officer, Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. R35 F893. Phone: 057 93 46800 Email: broadbandofficer@offalycoco.ie



DATA PROTECTION

The Data Protection Unit objective is to ensure that Offaly County Council has in place the measures necessary to comply with Section 65 of the Local Government Act, 1994 & Data Protection Act 2018. This ensures that that the council has made arrangements for the proper management, custody, care and conservation of local records and local archives and for inspection by the public of local archives.

In 2018 the following was completed:

- ➔ Training for Staff in relation to GDPR.
- ➔ Data Protection Liaison Officers (DPLO – Points of Contact in each Business Unit) Group within Offaly County Council set up and meets regularly.
- ➔ Development of Data Protection Policies and Procedures.
- ➔ Data Discovery Audits and Risk Assessments.
- ➔ Review of Retention Policy, Forms & Data Processing Agreements.
- ➔ Review of Storage Facilities.
- ➔ Offaly County Councils participation with Regional and National Data Protection Officers networks.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE

Director of Services / Area Manager: Sean Murray (*Jan 2018*) / Tom Shanahan (*Feb to Dec 2018*)
Senior Executive Engineer: John Connelly
Meetings Administrator: Miriam Brady

The Municipal District of Tullamore comprises of an area of 417km² - 21% of Offaly; with a population of 28,720 - 37.45% of the total population of Offaly.

ELECTED MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE

Cathaoirleach Declan Harvey
 Leas Cathaoirleach Frank Moran (*Jan. to June 2018*)
 Leas Cathaoirleach Tony McCormack (*June to Dec. 2018*)
 Cllr Dervill Dolan
 Cllr Brendan Killeavy
 Cllr Tommy McKeigue
 Cllr Danny Owens

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Meetings of the Municipal District are held on the second Thursday of the month at 4.00pm, generally in the Municipal District Chamber, Town Hall, Tullamore.

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES

Tullamore Leisure Ltd:	Cllr. Declan Harvey Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Tommy McKeigue Cllr. Tony McCormack
Tullamore Community Arts Centre Ltd:	Cllr. Declan Harvey Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Tommy McKeigue Cllr. Tony McCormack
Tullamore Sports Link Ltd:	Cllr. Tommy McKeigue
Tullamore Chandler Sister Cities:	Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Tony McCormack
Clara Swimming Pool Committee:	Cllr. Frank Moran

2018 KEY ACTIVITIES

- ☛ **Team Tullamore** - The Municipal District continued its work in partnership with Tullamore Tidy Towns Committee and Tullamore Chamber of Commerce as Team Tullamore. One of the highlights of 2018 for Team Tullamore was its selection for hosting the Entente Florale Awards Ceremony in 2018, following on from its success in the 2016 Competition. The Awards Ceremony was held in September 2018, and brought 200 delegates from towns and villages in Europe to Tullamore. A European Market was held in the grounds of the Town Hall as part of the events schedule.
- ☛ Worked with, and supported, **Tidy Towns/Villages** Committees and other organisations throughout the Municipal District.
- ☛ Maintained **street cleaning services** throughout the Municipal District area.
- ☛ Continued the Design and Consultation Process for **Tullamore Street Enhancement Project**, culminating in the appointment of contractors David Walsh Engineering Ltd. in Dec. 2018. The Project includes Street Enhancement from the Town Hall to Kilbeggan Bridge, and the provision of a bridge linking Main Street to the Bridge Centre.
- ☛ Completed the **Clara Rural Town and Village Renewal Scheme**, as approved in 2016.
- ☛ **Lloyd Town Park**, Tullamore retained its' Green Flag in 2018, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces. An Outdoor Fitness Zone was added to the Park in July, facilitated by Tullamore Lions Club.
- ☛ Worked in partnership with other agencies in facilitating the hosting of the **National Ploughing Championships** in Mucklagh for the third year in a row.
- ☛ **Visits/Delegations** received from the following:
 - Delegation from the Kunming Municipal People's Government, China, in June;
 - Delegation from the Luzhou Municipal People's Government, China, in July;
 - Students from Chandler as part of Chandler/Tullamore Sister City Programme, in August;
 - Senate Delegation from the Czech Republic in September.

- ☛ **Civic Receptions** were held for the following:
 - **Tullamore Golf Club** members' success in the National Mixed Foursome Competition 2017, and **Stuart Grehan's** golfing achievements;
 - **Senior Hurling Team of Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore**, to honour it's success in winning the Post Primary Senior B All Ireland Hurling Championships 2018.

- ☛ **Schedule of Works 2018** – Consideration and adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District.

- ☛ **Budget 2019** - Consideration of General Municipal Allocation.

- ☛ **Supporting community and voluntary groups** in the Municipal District by way of payment of community grants, and estate enhancement grants.

- ☛ Facilitating the hosting of **Christmas Markets** in Tullamore.

REPORTS FROM OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL

Reports were given to members at Municipal District Meetings as follows:

***Environment & Water Services;
Roads & Infrastructure;
Housing.***



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Declan Harvey handing over the Entente Florale flag to the Mayor of Haus, the 2019 host.



Happy recipients from Austria of an Entente Florale Award at the Awards Ceremony.



A scene from the European Market held in the grounds of the Town Hall



Civic Reception for Colaiste Choilm Senior B Hurling All Ireland Championships



Civic Reception for Tullamore Golf Club members' success in the National Mixed Foursome Competition 2017, and Stuart Grehan's success.



Paving works completed as part of Clara Town Renewal Scheme 2018



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY

Director of Services / Area Manager:

Declan Conlon

Meetings Administrator:

Josephine Lee / Carmel Delaney

Senior Executive Engineer:

Mark Mahon

Assistant Engineer:

Leonard Geoghegan (*retired October 2018*)

ELECTED MEMBERS OF EDENDERRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr John Foley, Non Party
 Cllr Liam Quinn, Fine Gael
 Cllr Noel Bourke, Fianna Fáil,
 Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick, Fianna Fáil, Cathaoirleach
 Cllr Noel Cribbin, Non Party
 Cllr Martin O'Reilly, Sinn Féin

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES/BOARDS

North Offaly Development Fund	All members of Edenderry Municipal District
Edenderry Swimming Pool	Cllr John Foley

MEMBER REQUIRED FOR CORPORATE POLICY GROUP (CPG)

Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick was chosen by the members to represent Edenderry Municipal District on the CPG as there is no representative on this board at present from Edenderry.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly Meeting are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Town Hall, Edenderry at 3.30pm.

The members agreed that the following be included as standing items on their monthly agendas – Ambulance Service, Digital Hub, Inner Relief Road

The members received regular updates from various sections in the Council, namely, Housing, Water and

Environment, and Roads Departments.

SCHEDULE OF REPORTS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS

On a rolling monthly basis the members met with staff from the Council Housing, Water and Environment and Roads Departments in order to be kept up to date on activities within these sections.

2018 ACTIVITIES

In March 2018 a Civic Reception was held with delegates from Jaux, France in relation to their town twinning project with Ballinagar, Geashill and Ballycommon.



Before the works – photo 1

Public Realm Work was completed in O'Connell Square under Funding from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.



Before the works – photo 2



After the works – photo 1



After the works – photo 2



ST MARY'S CEMETERY

Work were carried out in St. Mary's Cemetery This project was funded From the EMD Grant Allocation. Gullies, manholes, new drainage pipes, and new kerbing were installed. Pathways were surface dressed with DBM.

EDENDERRY FESTIVAL

Edenderry Festival makes a return after 27 years in the newly refurbished Square.



BRIDGE IN MOUNT LUCAS

Newly refurbished bridge in Mount Lucas



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIRR

Director of Services / Area Manager:
Senior Executive Engineer:
Meetings Administrator:

Frank Heslin
John Mitchell
Deirdre Molloy

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in the Birr Civic Offices at 4.30pm.

ELECTED MEMBERS OF BIRR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr Peter Ormond, Fianna Fáil, Cathaoirleach (to May 2018)
Cllr John Carroll, Non Party, Cathaoirleach (from June 2018)
Cllr Sean Maher, Sinn Fein
Cllr Eamonn Dooley, Fianna Fáil,
Cllr John Leahy, Renua
Cllr John Clendennen, Fine Gael

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES/BOARDS

<i>Birr Swimming Pool</i>	Cllr Sean Maher
<i>SUB Project Committee</i>	Cllr Peter Ormond
<i>West Offaly Enterprise Fund</i>	Cllr Eamonn Dooley Cllr John Leahy
<i>Birr Theatre and Arts Centre</i>	Cllr John Clendennen Cllr John Leahy Cllr Sean Maher Cllr Peter Ormond

SCHEDULE OF REPORTS

Reports were presented to the members from various Council departments on a rolling monthly basis. During this period reports were received from the following:

- January** - **Housing Services**
- February** - **Water and Environment, Roads**
- March** - **Roads Programme 2018**
- April** - **Housing Services**
- May** - **Water and Environment Services**
- June** - **Library Services**
- July** - **Housing and Roads**
- September** - **Environment & Water**
- October** - **Roads Progress Report**
- November** - **Roads Progress Report**
- December** - **Water and Environment Services**

MEETINGS WITH OTHER BODIES

HSE

The Members met with reps of the HSE to discuss the services being provided by the HSE in the Birr MD area in particular the Community Nursing Unit..

OFFALY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

The Members and OLDC met Tidy Towns groups to provide information on Rural Environment Pillar 3 Theme Projects under LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

Briefing in relation to proposals for Ballyvora Bog, Ferbane

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION - COMMUNITY GRANTS

In 2018 the Members received an allocation of €70,000 which was used to help fund projects and activities of 83 groups within the Birr MD area.

A €4.4 MILLION ROADS PROGRAMME WAS DELIVERED IN BIRR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT IN 2018 IMPROVING APPROXIMATELY 54KM OF THE ROAD NETWORK IN THE DISTRICT



R440 Kyle Kinnitty



R491 Shinrone



R438 Timolin Banagher



L40241 Emmel Cloughjordan

BIRR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WERE SUCCESSFUL IN DELIVERING A LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME PROGRAMME ON PRIVATELY OWNED ROADS



LIS scheme at Killaun Birr

LIS scheme at Busherstown, Moneygall



SERVICE INDICATORS 2018

A function of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) established in July 2014 under Section 61 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is to scrutinise the performance of any local government body against or in comparison with relevant indicators that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to, and which includes relevant indicators relating to customer service.

NOAC's role in relation to the scrutiny of local government performance against relevant performance indicators replaces, in respect of performance in 2014 and subsequent years, the service indicators in local authorities that were introduced by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2004. The LGMA role in the collection of the data and the compilation of the report will continue in respect of the replacement report to NOAC.

Further to the June 2018 visits to selected local authorities to validate the 2017 data and to queries/issues that were raised in relation to the indicators, NOAC has again reviewed a number of the indicators and made some changes to the set of indicators that you are being asked to report on in respect of 2018 activity.

For 2018, there are 37 local authority performance indicators, as follows:

- HOUSING (H1 TO H6)
- ROADS (R1 TO R3)
- WATER (W1)
- WASTE/ENVIRONMENT (E1 TO E4)
- PLANNING (P1 TO P5)
- FIRE SERVICE (F1 TO F3)
- LIBRARY/RECREATION (L1 AND L2)
- YOUTH/COMMUNITY (Y1 AND Y2)
- CORPORATE (C1 TO C5)
- FINANCE (M1 AND M2)
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (J1 TO J4)

A number of Indicators have been amended and additional Indicators are reported on in 2018. The cumulative surplus / deficit balance recorded under indicator **M1** should be reported before transfers to or from reserves at 31/12/2018. Under indicator **E2**, local authorities are now required to report on the opening number of cases i.e. those carried forward from 2017. A new Waste / Environment indicator to establish the % of schools that have been awarded green flag status (**E4**). Indicators **H3** and **H4** are now calculated using direct costs. Under indicator **C4**, the % attributed to the total LGMA general charge has increased to 56%. A new Corporate indicator to establish the overall cost of ICT expenditure as a proportion of revenue expenditure (**C5**).

H: HOUSING (H1 TO H6)	2018	2017
H1: SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK		
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the Local Authority at 1/1/2018	1799	<i>1800</i>
B. The number of dwellings added to the Local Authority owned stock during in 2018 (whether constructed or acquired)	27	<i>25</i>
C. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings sold in 2018	19	<i>19</i>
D. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings demolished in 2018	0	<i>0</i>
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the Local Authority at 31/12/2018	1807	<i>1806</i>
F. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme	0	<i>0</i>
H2: HOUSING VACANCIES		
A. The percentage of the total number of Local Authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2018	1.49%	<i>1.38%</i>
H3: AVERAGE RE-LETTING TIME AND COST		
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2018 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2018	0.97 wks	<i>1.06 wks</i>
B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted units in 2018 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2018	€ 21,417.82	<i>€ 16,163.75</i>
H4: HOUSING MAINTENANCE COST		
A. Expenditure during 2018 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/2018	€ 605.31	<i>€ 458.03</i>

H5: PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR INSPECTIONS		
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2018	3,396	<i>3,476</i>
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2018	169	<i>94</i>
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2018 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations	5.33%	<i>6.38%</i>
D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2018	9	<i>6</i>
H6: LONG-TERM HOMELESS ADULTS		
A. Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a % of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of 2018.	44.44%	<i>59.38%</i>

R: ROADS (R1 AND R2)		2018	2017
R1: RATINGS IN PAVEMENT SURFACE CONDITION INDEX (PSCI)			
A. The % of (a) Regional , (b) Local Primary and (c) Local Secondary , road kilometres that have received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31/12/2018 The % of (d) Local Tertiary road kilometres that have received a PSCI condition rating in the 60-month period prior to 31/12/2018	<i>Regional</i>		96%
	<i>Local Primary</i>		79%
	<i>Local Secondary</i>		27%
	<i>Local Tertiary</i>		80%
B. The % of total regional roads that received a PSCI condition rating during 2016			Not reported in 2017
C. The % of total (a) Regional road kilometres at 31/12/2018 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		2%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		19%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		51%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		28%
C. The % of total (b) Local Primary , road kilometres at 31/12/2018 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		12%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		35%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		36%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		15%
C. The % of total (c) Local Secondary , road kilometres at 31/12/2018 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		31%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		21%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		23%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		19%

C. The % of total (d) Local Tertiary , road kilometres at 31/12/2018 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.	Category 1 - 4		32%
	Category 5 - 6		13%
	Category 7 - 8		16%
	Category 9 - 10		18%
R2: REGIONAL ROAD GRANTS WORKS			
A. Kilometres of Regional Road strengthened during 2018.	Km of Road		10.5 km
	Amount Spent		€ 1,106,201
B. Kilometres of Regional Road resealed during 2018.	Km of Road		6.9 km
	Amount Spent		€ 195,551
C. Kilometres of Local Road strengthened during 2018.	Km of Road		24.3 km
	Amount Spent		€ 1,828,659
D. Kilometres of Local Road resealed during 2018.	Km of Road		39.6 km
	Grant Amount		€ 675,950
R3: % OF MOTOR TAX TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED ONLINE			
The percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2018		67.45%	63.79%

R1: In order to compile this information, the RMO will extract the following data from Map Road and submit to the LGMA and was not available at time of publication.:

R2: These figures will be provided to the eReturns system directly by the RMO and was not available at time of publication.

R3: In order to compile this information, data will be obtained directly from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Vehicle Registration Unit for upload to eReturns of the total number of all motor tax type transactions (however conducted) involving a payment in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 and the number of such transactions conducted online.

W: WATER (W1)	2018	2017	
W2: % DRINKING WATER (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHEMES) IN COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS			
The indicator that will be presented in the performance indicators report is the data supplied to the EPA in respect of the monitoring of the quality of private drinking water supplies during 2018.	<i>Provided by EPA</i>	98.93%	
Note: This data will be obtained directly from the EPA and was not available at time of publication.			
E: WASTE / ENVIRONMENT (E1 TO E3)	2018	2017	
E1: No. / % OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ACCESS TO A 3 BIN SERVICE			
A. The number of households, based on the 2016 Census, who are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2018	4,223	3,726	
B. The % of households within the LA area (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at (A) represents.	15.53%	13.71%	
E2: % OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION COMPLAINTS CLOSED			
A. The total no. of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2017, the number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 and the total no. of cases on hands at 31/12/2018.	<i>Complaints Made</i>	1,009	933
	<i>No. Closed</i>	1,005	848
	<i>No. on Hand</i>	127	85
E3: % OF LA AREA WITHIN THE 5 LEVELS OF LITTER POLLUTION			
A. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2018 was 1) unpolluted or litter free , 2) slightly polluted , 3) moderately polluted , 4) significantly polluted , or 5) grossly polluted .	<i>Provided by Tobin Consulting Engineers</i>		13%
			60%
			27%
			0%
			0%
E4: % OF SCHOOLS THAT HAVE BEEN AWARDED GREEN FLAG STATUS			
A. The % of schools that have been awarded Green Flag Status	65.38%	<i>New in 2018</i>	

The data will be submitted by Tobin Consulting Engineers directly to the LGMA from the data for the 2018 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report and was not available at time of publication.

P: PLANNING (P1 TO P5)	2018	2017
P1: NEW BUILDINGS INSPECTED		
A. Buildings Inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	11.32%	21.18%
P2: No. / % OF PLANNING DECISIONS CONFIRMED BY <i>AN BORD PLEANÁLA</i>		
A. Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2018	18	17
B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA	88.89%	82.35%
P3: % OF PLANNING ENFORCEMENT CASES CLOSED AS RESOLVED		
A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018 that were investigated	61	60
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2018	21	39
C. % of the cases at B that were dismissed, as trivial, minor, or without foundation, under Section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development.	19.05%	25.64%
D. % of the cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	0.00%	5.13%
E. % of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings (i.e. in remedied in response to a warning letter issued under Section 152 of the Act or to an enforcement notice issued under Section 154 of the Act or where a prosecution was brought under Section 157 or an injunction was sought under Section 160 of the Act)	80.95%	69.23%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2018.	114	79
P4: COST PER CAPITA OF THE PLANNING SERVICE		
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census.	€28.13	€ 29.13

P5: APPLICATIONS FOR FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES		
A. The % of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt.	94.74%	95.16%
B. The % of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2018 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant.	5.26%	4.84%

F: FIRE SERVICE (F1 TO F3)	2018	2017
F1: COST PER CAPITA OF THE FIRE SERVICE		
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports.	€45.78	€ 43.04
F2: SERVICE MOBILISATION		
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	N/A	N/A
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.57	5.39
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	N/A	N/A
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	5.65	5.16
F3: PERCENTAGE OF ATTENDANCE TIMES AT SCENES		
A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	40.87%	47.21%
B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	44.98%	40.22%

C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	14.16%	<i>12.57%</i>
D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	35.29%	<i>35.92%</i>
E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	47.79%	<i>50.49%</i>
F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	16.91%	<i>13.59%</i>

L: LIBRARY / RECREATION SERVICES (L1 AND L2)	2018	<i>2017</i>
L1: LIBRARY VISITS AND ISSUES		
A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the LA area per the 2016 Census.	3.15	<i>3.15</i>
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year.	153,384	<i>222,186</i>
L2: COST OF OPERATING A LIBRARY SERVICE		
A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census.	€ 30.26	<i>€ 29.95</i>

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY (Y1 AND Y2)	2018	2017
Y1: PARTICIPATION IN COMHAIRLE NA NÓG SCHEME		
A. Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council / <i>Comhairle na nÓg</i> scheme.	100.00%	<i>100.00%</i>
Y2: GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)		
The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2018 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College (SIC) within the PPN	8.60	<i>3.92</i>
C: CORPORATE SERVICES (C1 TO C5)	2018	2017
C1: TOTAL NUMBER OF WTEs		
A. The whole-time equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2018	392.70	<i>369.70</i>
C2: WORKING DAYS LOST TO SICKNESS		
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave	2.82%	<i>2.61%</i>
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave	0.26%	<i>0.26%</i>
C3: No. OF PAGE VISITS TO LA WEBSITE		
A. Total page views of the local authority's website in 2018.	1,319,285	<i>869,358</i>
B. Total number of followers at end 2018 of the LA's social media accounts (if any).	53,777	<i>41,084</i>
C4: OVERALL COST OF ICT PROVISION PER WTE		
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018, divided by the WTE number	€ 3,162.35	<i>€ 3,446.12</i>
C5: OVERALL COST OF ICT PROVISION PER AS A PROPORTION OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE		
A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure.	1.79%	<i>New in 2018</i>

M: FINANCE (M1 AND M2)		2018	
M1:5 YEAR SUMMARY OF REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE			
A. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2014			-€ 4,734,969
B. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015			-€ 4,154,223
C. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016			- € 3,611,785
D. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017			-€ 3,058,002
E. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018			- € 2,505,853
F. The cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2018 as a percentage of Total Income in 2017 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS**			- 5.62%
G. Revenue Expenditure per capita for the year			€ 834.90
M2:5 YEAR SUMMARY OF % COLLECTION LEVELS FOR MAJOR REVENUE SOURCES			
The individual % figures for each of (a) Rates, (b) Rent & Annuities and (c) Housing Loans in the final column of Appendix 7 of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for	% Rates	% Rents and Annuities	% Housing Loans
A. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2014</i>	82.12	85.34	61.63
B. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2015</i>	84.80	86.00	61.13
C. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2016</i>	88.00	86.00	59.00
D. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2017</i>	85.80	83.30	55.30
E. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2018</i>	89.00	86.00	56.00

* The figures in the unaudited AFS are to be used where the audit by the Local Government Audit Service has not taken place by the 17th April.

J: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (J1 TO J4)	2018	<i>2017</i>
J1: No. of JOBS CREATED		
The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	68.00	<i>62.00</i>
J2: TRADING ONLINE VOUCHERS		
The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2018.	21	<i>15</i>
The no. of those trading online vouchers applications that were drawn down in 2018.	11	<i>10</i>
J3: No. of MENTORING RECIPIENTS		
The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2018 to 31/12/2018	171	<i>124</i>
J4: TOURISM		
Does the Local Authority have a current Tourism Strategy?	Yes	<i>Yes</i>
Does the Local Authority have a designated Tourism Officer?	Yes	<i>Yes</i>

This figure will be obtained directly from Enterprise Ireland based on the information provided to them by the Local Enterprise Offices.

