

JOINT ADDRESS BY THE CATHAOIRLEACH AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Cllr. Peter Ormond, Cathaoirleach



Anna Marie Delaney, Príomh Fheidhmeannach

We are very pleased to present Offaly County Council 2019 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 2019.

The Council continued to deliver a broad range of services, projects, initiatives and events throughout 2019 to ensure that the county remains an attractive place in which to live, work, do business and visit.

Local Elections were held in May and a number of long-serving Councillors took the decision to retire in advance the Elections, including

- Tommy McKeigue (Tullamore), following 34 years' service
- Noel Bourke (Edenderry), following 28 years' service
- Dervill Dolan (Tullamore), following 19 years' service

The members agreeing to the proposed increase in the Local Property Tax, and the appointment of the Just Transition Commissioner, Mr. Kieran Mulvey were some of the most seminal events in 2019. The members agreed that the money raised from the increased LPT would be ring-fenced for projects to support local communities and to leverage further funding from other national and EU funding streams. The work of the Midlands Regional Transition Team to support the Bord na Mona employees impacted by the cessation of peat harvesting continues.

And on a lighter note was Shane Lowry's win in the Irish Open and the memorable Homecoming Event in Clara brought pride and joy to the citizens of the county.

Looming over most of 2019 was the spectre of Brexit and the Local Enterprise Office organised a number of workshops and mentoring events to help local business prepare for it.

Among the other highlights in 2019 were:

- 35 housing units were added to the Housing Stock in 2019 and construction has commenced on a further 27 units,
- €1.3 Million in approved funding for 12 no. applications submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development was received under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- In September the Members adopted the *Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024*,
- The Tourism Section opened a Tourist Office in Tullamore in May and welcomed over 1,500 visitors in 2019
- Edenderry's first digital hub, E-Hive opened in the Town Hall in August
- Work continued on the Grand Canal Greenway project, with 4km of the Kilbeggan branch being completed along with additional stretches of the mainline,
- 2019 saw 202,515 website hits representing an increase of 40%, with 1 in 5 people visiting www.offaly.ie for library reasons,
- Over 1,200 people took part in the Culture Night Offaly organised by the Arts Department and Offaly / Westmeath Music Generation,
- The Arts Department facilitated the commissioning of public artworks in Geashill and Banagher,
- 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,
- The Tullamore Living River Project was launched in collaboration with LAWPro and several other Irish and UK based environmental stakeholders,
- The National Waste Collection Permit Office moved offices. Furniture purchased for the new office, embraced the concepts of the Circular Economy and engaged the Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI),
- Preparation of the County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 commenced in July 2019
- The Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024 was adopted,
- The 'Big Hello', The National Community Weekend was held across the county over the May Bank Holiday weekend,
- The Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 was adopted
- The My Open Library initiative which was extended to the Ferbane Branch in October 2018 saw an increase of 27% in stock issues in 2019,
- The County Archive Building developed by Offaly History and supported by Offaly County Council in the Axis Business Park is nearing completion,
- Almost €600,000.00 was paid in 2019 to 16 Group Water Schemes for Group Water Schemes Subsidies,
- The Council supported 245 clean-ups carried out by various individuals and community groups

Following a review, the Council's SPC structure was revised in 2019, the layout of this Report reflects the structure in place until September 2019.

Offaly County Council continues to provide a good 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

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HOUSING POLICY, SOCIAL & CULTURAL SPC

<i>SPC Chair</i>	Declan Harvey MCC / Danny Owens MCC	<i>Director Of Services</i>	Tom Shanahan
<i>Members</i>	<i>Sectoral</i>	<i>Senior Executive Officer</i>	Monica Cleary
Cllr. Noel Cribbin	Mr. Tony O’Riordan	<i>Senior Executive Engineer</i>	John Cunningham
Cllr. John Leahy	Mr. John Carroll	<i>Administrative Officer</i>	Lourda Giles
Cllr. Robert McDermott	Ms. Annette Meacle	<i>Administrative Officer</i>	Ann Marie Conneely
Cllr. Ken Smollen	Ms. Jacinta Dillon	<i>County Librarian</i>	Eimear McGinn
Cllr. Declan Harvey		<i>Arts Officer</i>	Mary Brady / Sally O’Leary
Cllr. Brendan Killeavy			

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 2019

- Allocation of 132 homes to applicants on the housing waiting list through Local Authority stock, Social Leasing or Rental Accommodation Scheme
- 13 Mortgage to Rent applications were progressed.
- 18 applicant families were nominated to Approved Housing bodies and were allocated houses.
- Establishment of 211 tenancies under the Housing Assistance Payment.
- 35 Houses were acquired in 2019.
- 5 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 1,891.
- 3,642 maintenance requests from local authority tenants were received.
- 93 inspections were carried out on Council housing stock.
- The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee continued to meet during the year and the members adopted

the *Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024* at the September Council meeting.

- Completion of the 2019 Social Housing Needs Assessment.
- 51 Vacant Properties works were completed, i.e., 20 Acquisitions and 31 Pre-let/Voids.
- Works on 70 homes were completed under the planned maintenance programme.
- Completed 1 extension and adaptation works to 18 Local Authority houses for tenants with disabilities.
- 135 new Homeless presentations. The HAP Place Finder Service, commenced in December 2018, continued to help those in homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless to secure affordable tenancies.
- Responded to 137 anti-social behaviour complaints.
- Enhancement works were carried out on Local Authority estates across the three Municipal Districts.

REPORT ON HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Housing, Social and Cultural SPC met on two occasions before the Local Election, held in May 2019. The Strategic Policy Committee Policy, adopted by the Elected Members, established an SPC for Housing. The Housing SPC met in December 2019.

Policies and procedures reviewed by the SPC included:

- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
- Affordable Purchase Scheme
- Mortgage to Rent Scheme

HOUSE PURCHASE LOAN APPLICATIONS

30 house purchase loan applications were received in 2019 - 15 were approved; 7 were incomplete or ineligible; and, 15 declined. Of the loans approved and declined, some of these applications were carried forward from 2018.

DIRECT CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

The Council finished construction in 2019 on 33 units at Park View, Edenderry. Tenants were allocated to their new homes in December 2019. All tenants attended a pre-tenancy training programme in advance.



Park View Edenderry

Construction on 14 social houses and 4 Traveller specific units was continued at Chancery Lane, Tullamore.

CONSTRUCTION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH APPROVED HOUSING BODIES

Offaly County Council works closely with a number of Approved Housing Bodies.

Mid Offaly Housing Association ongoing construction of 4 units in Mountbolus with a delivery date for mid-2020.

The Elected Members approved Part 8 Planning for 41 units by Oaklee Housing at Kearney's Field, Tullamore and 19 Units at Clonminch, Tullamore in 2019. These units will be progressed by Oaklee Housing in 2020.

Cluid Housing finished construction of 6 units at Scurragh, Birr and Tuath AHB commenced construction of 27 units at Killane Drive, Edenderry.

LOCAL AUTHORITY TURNKEY

A number of Turnkey developments progressed with 6 units at Cluain na Spideoga, Cloghan and 4 Units in MacGregol, Scurragh, Birr delivered in 2019.

Mountbolus, Mid Offaly Association (4 Units)



Mid Offaly Housing Association - Mountbolus Houses

LIBRARY SERVICE

INTRODUCTION:

Offaly County Library Service continues to deliver on the objectives of the national five-year strategy for public libraries: *Our Public Libraries 2022- Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities*, to the benefit of citizens socially, economically and culturally.

The library service delivers on the national priority areas through increased user engagement and concerted recruitment of new members. This is being achieved via innovative technological solutions for improved accessibility through My Open Library services and implementation of diverse and engaging national and local programmes of community and cultural events across County Offaly.

Membership at the end of 2019 was 12,202 which is an increase of 8.7% on the previous year. This year’s membership represents 15.65 % of the population. Library events have increased by 36% to 2,796 bringing our diverse and quality programmes to new and existing audiences. Online and traditional promotional materials in tandem with outreach engagements by library staff into schools and community venues, have all contributed to achieving these successes.

MY OPEN LIBRARY

There are now three library branches providing My Open Library services – Banagher, Ferbane and Tullamore. To

date, **3,805** people have registered to use our My Open Library services. There have been **142,523** MOL visits in total from 1st January 2015 – 31st December 2019.

FERBANE LIBRARY MOL SERVICE– THE SUCCESS STORY!

Ferbane MOL service began on the 6th October 2018. The MOL service has been a huge success in Ferbane with a **27% increase** in stock issues with 10,560 issues recorded in its first 12 months of operation. There was a **23% increase** in library visits during staff times, as well as **5,448 MOL visits** in the same 12-month period. Visitor numbers exceeded 10,000, averaging 27 visits per day. Associated positive outcomes demonstrate great community engagement with Ferbane Library achieving a 37% increase in adult membership registrations and a 14% increase in children’s memberships.

MEMBERSHIP AND PERFORMANCE

Performance	2019	2018	%
Members	12,202	11,223	+ 9%
Visits	228,131	211,465	+ 8 %
Events	2,796	2,053	+ 36 %
Loans	230,849	214,688	+ 8 %
Website Visits	202,515	144,654	+ 40 %
My Open Library Visits	39,508	31,461	+ 26 %
Social Media Followers (Facebook/Twitter/Instagram)	5,489	3,101	+ 77 %
BorrowBox Loans	12,139	10,465	+ 16 %

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Strong promotion of eServices and digital technology have led to great increases in usage during 2019. There were 12,139 eBook and eAudiobook downloads, this is a 16% increase on 2018. 4,858 eMagazine downloads and 670 language sessions utilised by Offaly borrowers. 2019 saw 202,515 website hits representing an increase of 40%, with **1 in 5 people** visiting www.offaly.ie for library reasons. There was an increase of 77% in those following Offaly Libraries on social media with 3,195 Facebook and 1,927 twitter followers during 2019. The library increased its presence on social media platforms by opening an Instagram account in 2019. With WiFi available in all 8 branches, the number of members who have accessed library WiFi has reached an amazing **22,689**.

The library service also continued in its work of bridging the 'digital divide' through targeted programming and upskilling members of the community with key partners such as: Age Action, Digitise the Nation and Rural Link.

HEALTHY IRELAND AT YOUR LIBRARY

The selection of Healthy Ireland reading stock was upgraded in 2019 to include a sexual health reading list in collaboration with the HSE / Donegal Libraries working group to support parents in discussing sexual health with their children. Healthy Ireland promotional signage and seating areas were also rolled out in a number of libraries and the Library Service continues to roll out this successful national programme and hosted 35 health related events



for the period 2019/2020 with a total of 404 attendees. Events included CPR and First Aid Workshops and Mindfulness through Origami. A brochure was printed professionally and distributed to all branches and community partners.

RIGHT TO READ PROGRAMME

Offaly's successful delivery of the four key



programmes of Right to Read in 2018 resulted in recognition via receipt of the Right to Read Award in late 2019. The library service anticipates receipt of this award again for its 2019 Right to Read Programmes which included the following successes.

- Right to Read Network meetings were embedded and resulted in some shared programming during 2019. Network partners include LOETB, TUSLA, OCCC, OCC Arts Service, OCC IT Section and OCC LEO.
- Spring into Storytime - the library hosted 35 story-time events during the month of April celebrating family reading in a library environment.

- The Summer Stars programme encouraged more than 1,200 children to continue reading over the Summer months, supported by librarians throughout the County and incentivised with token achievement gifts throughout June, July and August 2019. One lucky reader won a bike which was presented in September by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Ormond.



- Offaly Libraries delivered a wonderful programme of 92 events in October for the **Children's Book Festival** bringing authors, illustrators and librarians together to engage children with quality literary experiences. This festival attracted an audience of 1,853 children. With library visits hitting 22,374 overall for the month, it was well supported by the community.



- For **Christmas Family Time at the Library** the ever popular Polar Express and Santa letter writing programme were fully booked out in 8 libraries with 450 children attending.

WORK MATTERS AT THE LIBRARY

This initiative continues to be developed throughout the branch network. It has been designed to support people in work and business-related tasks and offers a key role for libraries in supporting users in their transition into jobs and careers, seeking work, and/or becoming entrepreneurs. A number of tours and 'how to' classes on accessing and using the library's digital resources and equipment were delivered by staff during 2019

AGE FRIENDLY LIBRARIES

The County Librarian represents library services on the Offaly Age Friendly Alliance which has been of huge benefit to the library service in the planning and delivery of hugely successful Bealtaine and Positive Ageing Week programmes in 2019. Events included sewing workshops, intergenerational events and coffee mornings across all 8 libraries. Key library staff led out by our new Age Friendly Co-ordinator engaged on the ground with older persons' networks and advocates to promote library services and provide feedback and information updates to relevant committees and partners.

OFFALY'S FIRST MAGIC TABLE

Offaly Library Service's first *Tovertafel* (Magic Table) was purchased as part of the ICT Grant issued by the Department of Rural and Community Development and received matched funded from Offaly County Council. Designed to help people with cognitive challenge: from children with autism to older people with dementia it was launched by Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland, Cllr Peter Ormond, Cathaoirleach and Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive of OCC in September and bookings for the table have been exceptionally busy since.



In October Minister Michael Ring, Department of Rural and Community Development officially launched the **National Age Friendly Libraries Recognition Programme** and **Clara Library** received the first Age Friendly Charter for Offaly Library Service in recognition of branch improvements in support of age friendly principles.

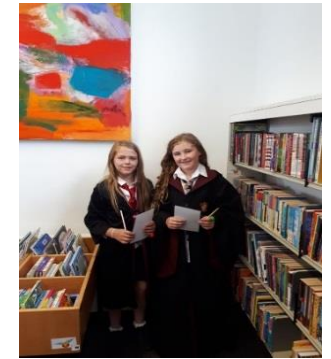
SCIENCE WEEK

Offaly Library Service teamed up with the Midland Science Festival to promote STEM subjects. This collaboration resulted in 31 events for all ages in Offaly libraries during

Science Week in November with 4,914 visitors in 2019. The third year of our Lego competition was a wonderful success. Jessica Farrell from Channel 4 Lego masters was the judge again this year and commented that 'the standard of work continues to go from strength to strength'.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Offaly Libraries hosted a series of wonderful events and programmes funded under the Creative Ireland banner. These include popular family events such as the Harry Potter events, the Recycled Rockets competition and the ever popular puppet and clown performances.



There were events for the all ages including the intergenerational sewing classes, exhibitions and even Bingo. The CI programme in Offaly Libraries supports local talent in all its creative forms and continues to connect with new creative people in the Offaly area.

COMIC CON AT TULLAMORE LIBRARY - SUCCESS STORY!

Offaly Libraries hosted the inaugural **Comic Con** in Tullamore Library on Saturday 18th May. The library was transformed to include a number of vendor stalls, a Viking Re-enactment group from Rhode, make-up and drawing workshops, animation demonstrations, game stations and much more. In a 6-hour period (10am – 4pm) 1,525 people visited the library, and many for the first time. This event was a Creative Ireland funded project, and such was the unique success of the project that it was put forward for the Library Association of Ireland Innovation Award



On Wednesday 13th November, the 2019

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND (LAI) NATIONAL PUBLIC Libraries Section Project Prize was awarded to Offaly's Library Comic Con. This prize is determined by the public library staff of Ireland and Offaly beat stiff competition to

win prize money of €1,000 which will go towards developing our Comic Con even further.

CRUINNIÚ NA NÓG

Cruinniú na nÓg is an initiative of the Creative Ireland programme and Offaly's Creative Ireland committee selected the library to organise this programme once again



Sewing Stories at Birr Library



Lego Time at Tullamore library!



Music in Clara Library



Mosaics at Banagher Library!

in 2019.

56 events took place in all 8 libraries for Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday 15th June 2019 with an attendance of over 900 children and young adults.



Gymboree in Daingean library!



Quilling at the library!

OFFALY VEX ROBOTICS

Vex Robotics is an interactive programme to encourage Children to develop their interest STEM students such as engineering, programming, teamwork, research, critical thinking, communication and hand-eye coordination. This is a fun way for kids to research designs, build, programme, drive their own



robot. The aim of the programme is to encourage students to work together to create a collaborative and creative workforce for the future. Offaly Libraries are a support partner for the Vex Robotics project lead by the Offaly County Council IT department in association with the Cork Institute of Technology (CIT). The libraries support the project with resources and programming facilities for the schools. On the 14th May 2019, 16 participating primary schools took part in the inaugural Offaly Vex Robotics County Final in Aras an Chontae. The event was officially opened by Minister of State for Natural Resources, Community Affairs and Digital Development, Seán Canney TD and Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council Danny Owens. The events included a Teamwork Challenge, Automated programming challenge and a driver's challenge. The library service volunteered resources to ensure the successful running of the event. With an audience of over 400 students, teachers, parents, staff and invited industry guests, the atmosphere was energetic and positive. This project will develop in the coming years to include additional primary schools and will include a secondary school element.

DORMANT ACCOUNT PROJECTS FUNDING

Offaly Library Service received 75% funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund to the value of €10,575, and added 25% cofunding of €3,525 to deliver two projects for *Library Supports for Marginalised, Socially Excluded and Disadvantaged Communities* in line with actions under *Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and*

Empowering Communities. Offaly Library Service projects were called **Articulate to Animate** and **Autism Awareness at Offaly Libraries**.

ARTICULATE TO ANIMATE is a literacy development and capacity building project devised by Offaly Library Service staff and aimed at supporting teens in Clara. 20 participants were selected by our partners Laois Offaly Education Training Board (LOETB) from two educational organisations. Two facilitators, one creative writer and a local animator were selected to deliver the programme. The students were transformed during the 8 week programme. Their confidence, writing and drawing skills were developed and showcased on their presentation days in Clara Library. Cathaoirleach Peter Ormond and County Librarian Eimear McGinn presented the students with their certificates of participation.

AUTISM AWARENESS AT OFFALY LIBRARIES encompassed many different aspects of targeted Autism awareness for both public and staff. The programme included Sensory Storytimes for ASD units in all primary schools in Offaly, public lectures on Autism awareness and Autism accreditation for all 8 libraries with AsIAM, the National Autism Charity & Advocacy Organisation.

The feedback from participants in both projects was exceptionally positive and will determine a change in service delivery to the betterment of the Offaly Community. The library service will take learning and

expertise developed through both programmes into 2020, to inform the curation of more literacy and autism supports and interventions.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020 INCLUDE:

- Deliver a new Library Development Plan (2020 – 2025) for Offaly Library Service
- Develop a new library communications strategy
- Progress plans for the development of a new library and arts base in Edenderry
- Update all library building facilities across the county
- Continue implementation of the Library Workforce Plan
- Develop breadth and accessibility of library collections across all material formats and digital platforms
- Develop further depth and reach in the national programme areas of *Right to Read*, *Healthy Ireland at Your Library*, *Work Matters at Your Library*, *Creative Ireland* and *Age Friendly Libraries*
- Devise creative and innovative methods of engagement with 'hard to reach' audiences utilising online tools, staff expertise and physical library buildings

- ➔ Develop continued community partnership programming for the benefit of citizens throughout Offaly
- ➔ Develop dedicated Sensory Facilities and supports throughout the library network
- ➔ Increase promotion of library services to attract non-users and increase membership

- ➔ Develop and implement the new shared service delivery plan with Laois libraries
- ➔ Promote and further develop Offaly Archives Service
- ➔ Review and evaluate library service activities on an ongoing basis for the benefit of the community

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.

2019 - KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

YOUTH ARTS RESEARCH

The research report '*The Makings: Fostering Youth Creativity*', carried out by consultant Angela Ryan Whyte to examine both current and potential arts provision for young people in Offaly, was developed and edited through 2019, for publication 2020. The purpose of the report was

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.



St Brendan's Community College at the premiere of their film at OFFline Film Festival

LOUGH BOORA SCULPTURE PARK

In 2019, the continuing partnership between Offaly County Council (OCC) and Bord na Móna (BNM), endorsed through a Memorandum of Agreement, which set out the basis of a collaborative partnership approach; saw the establishment of the Lough Boora Sculpture Park Management Committee. The committee included representatives from the management of OCC and BNM, plus the invitation to artist Deirdre O'Mahony, as artistic advisor to the committee. The purpose of the Management Committee is to establish a framework that will enable the evolving an exceptional artistic vision for sustaining and

developing the *Sculpture Park* at Lough Boora Discovery Park. This will be to establish the future curatorial direction of the Sculpture Park, at the same time as developing a model of governance and management structures that will be required to support this objective. An outcome from the committee, was the commissioning of artist Tim Collins and Reiko Goto, to develop a deep mapping project as a means of opening up a discussion for the future development of the Sculpture Park.



A presentation during the Lough Boora Deep Mapping Commission

FILMOFFALY

FilmOffaly continued to attract investment from filmmakers throughout Ireland, UK and beyond, films shot on location in Offaly in 2019 included *The Green Knight* (USA,

Director David Lowery), *Knight Before Christmas* (Netflix Production), *There you'll find me* (USA Director Brian Baugh), *Wormhole in the Washer* (Short by local filmmaker Paireac Keane).



The FilmOffaly 2019 bursary programme continued and was awarded to *Whale*, Ben Conway (Writer), Lorna Fitzsimons (Director), Martha O'Neill (Producer). While 2018's film *Aretha*, written by Dave Thomas, was completed and shown at the OFFline Film Festival. *Aretha* was the recipient of many national and international awards throughout 2019.

2019 also saw the completion of a FilmOffaly marketing research report by marketing consultant Jennifer Stewart, funded by LEO Offaly.

MINI MOVIES

The screening debut of new, short live-action films, performed and created by pupils from three schools in Edenderry; St Patricks Primary School, Gaelscoil Éadan Doire, St Marys Secondary School (TY Students), facilitated by filmmaker Lauren Hatchard was screened during OFFline 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.



Gaelscoil Éadan Doire making of Mini Movie Mohawk

CREATIVE EDENDERRY



Creative Edenderry is a new ground-up arts initiative working with the community of Edenderry to develop a community network with a focus on bringing the Arts to Edenderry. In 2019 The

Arts Office, working with Voluntary Arts Ireland began to develop a series of collaborative meetings, 'Creative Edenderry Open Conversation', initially to act as a stimulus to draw-in the different community groups, get the conversation going, with a view to work with the community to explore the potentials of an arts network.

CULTURE NIGHT OFFALY

Culture Night Offaly saw the very best in arts and culture with venues throughout Offaly participating including; Áras an Chontae, Birr Theatre & Arts Centre, Leap Castle, Charleville Castle, Lough Boora Sculpture Park, JJ Houghs, Banagher, Byrnes Bar Edenderry to name a few. Approximately 1,200 people enjoyed the night attending one of the 20 programmed event, choosing from Cultural Choir Carousel, Trad Sessions, Exhibitions, Band Music, Poetry, Theatre, Contemporary Dance and more. Culture Night Offaly is funded by the Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaelteacht.



Uncle Arthur' at Byrnes Pub Edenderry



Culture at Charleville Castle

HULLABALOO! OFFALY'S CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Hullabaloo! celebrated its 13th annual festival, delivering a 4-day high intensity and wide-ranging programme of creative workshops in screen printing, film making, musical dance & drama, creative family music, painting

and more, as well as presenting performances for children of all ages including a new production Marty Moncreiff the Teddy Bear Thief a production by Clara native Oísín Robbins. Offaly County Council arts office, in partnership with Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, rolled out a total of 77 workshops/performances in 8 venues; from Birr, to Clara, to Edenderry and in selected Offaly libraries. 2019 also saw the introduction of a Creative Camp to Edenderry during the festival.



Pupils of Oxmantown School having a Hullabaloo! Photo Credit Paul Moore

ARTACT GRANTS

18 groups from the arts, community and voluntary sectors received grants towards arts activities in their community. 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 2019, 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, Tullamore Trad Fest, Shakefest, Scripts, Feile Eadon Daoiré, and Birr Festival of Music and Voice, as well as leading out with other festivals such as Hullabaloo Children’s Arts Festival in partnership with Birr Theatre and Arts Centre.

ANAM BEO – ARTS IN 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 2019, Anam Beo held 92 art sessions, with 209 participants and 579 attending events working in different locations in Offaly, encouraging creativity and

Illustration by Dave Shirlgley

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.

ARTS AND HEALTH RESIDENCY

Offaly County Council Arts Service in partnership with Anam Beo, HSE and Music Generation commissioned an Arts & Health intergenerational music project.

Engagement with older people and young people (between 16 – 24 years) was the prerequisite, with a focus on the mental health and well-being of each demographic. Musician Andy Spearpoint was commissioned and began working with older and younger groups in the community.

CREATIVE IRELAND PROJECTS

ANIMATION RESIDENCY

Offaly County Council arts service, through the Creative Ireland programme, continued to support the Animation Residency that enables two film animators to undertake a residency, in Birr. The animation residency for 2019 was awarded to animators Carolina Larsson and Keith Kavanagh. This six-month International residency offers ongoing mentorship and post-production services and an

opportunity to create and show-case new work to audiences of filmmakers and the general public at the OFFline Film Festival. Public engagement took place at a number of events including; the launch of the residency, at a show and tell event during the OFFline Film Festival, and through a number of school visits.

GEASHILL PUBLIC ART

In 2019 the Arts Office facilitated the commissioning of a public artwork in Geashill. The commissioned artist Holger Lönze, took inspiration from the mythological Battle of Geashill, between the two brothers Éremón and Éber. The artwork was commissioned by Offaly County Council and funded by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Offaly County Council, through Creative Ireland funding.



PUBLIC ART

BANAGHER PUBLIC ART

A public art project for Banagher, funded from the Kylebed Banagher Capital Scheme, from funds made available

from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government under the Percent for Art Scheme, was facilitated by the Arts Office. Following an open tender process the Banagher Public Art project was awarded to writer Jessica Traynor. Jessica began working on a writing project with the community to create a poetic history of Banagher, through a series of workshops with Banagher's writing community plus workshops with local schools. Jessica will also be working with renown composer Elaine Agnew to set the work created by local school children to music. As part of her poetic history of Banagher she will also be developing an oral history project and collection.

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 €33,000.00 to Birr Theatre and Arts Centre in 2019.

MUSIC GENERATION OFFALY | WESTMEATH

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 delivered performance music tuition on behalf of Music Generation Offaly/ Westmeath predominantly in school and youth work settings. Additionally, 15 professional musicians, some of whom are known on the national stage, brought their knowledge and experience into the midlands for the benefit of our local musicians, children and young people as they collaborated with us on individual projects. One of the highlights of 2019 was bringing our new intergenerational ukulele group in Aras an Chontae for their first performance. The group involved the parents and grandparents of pupils attending our Tullamore School cluster of St. Joseph's, Scoil Eoin Phól and St.Philomenas.



The Singfest festival of singing, created through the Arts Council/ Music Generation Partnership continued to grow and 2019 marked the 4th year of the event. This year over 1,500 primary and secondary students, and 200 adult singers had the opportunity to sing accompanied by a professional band and conducted by Greg Beardesell.



Delivered in partnership with the Sing Ireland (Ireland's national resource agency for the development of singing), it is hoped that Singfest will become established as an annual feature of the choral calendar. Growing out of Singfest we established an Erasmus+ partnership with Ung I Kor (Norway's national organization for the promotion of youth singing). During 2019, eight young people accompanied by two members of MGOW staff travelled to Bergen to join 30 young Norwegians and their teachers for a week of cultural exchange, learning about life in Norway and singing.

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.

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS SUPPORT GRANT

In 2019 the county arts service continued to provide assistance to professional artists from and living in Offaly. The awards are designed to support the development of artist's professional practice. Thirteen grants were awarded to artists.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR ARTISTS

The Arts Office in conjunction with Visual Artists Ireland organised 2 days of professional development open for Offaly artists. These took place in Tullamore library during November; the first 'Landscape of Opportunities' with Maeve Mulrennan, offered practical advice on assessing different opportunities for artists on a local, regional, national and international arena and 'How to Apply for Funding' with Neva Elliott, was aimed at enabling participants to look at the many different kinds of funding available, and identifying how to make the best case for your projects.

BIRR WRITERS RESIDENCY

The continuation of the successful annual partnership with the St Brendan's House (Tin Jug Studio) in Birr saw four literary awardees provided with a week long writers residency. Successful awardees in 2019 included Michelle Walshe, Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, Cath Drake and Ronan Ryan.

TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

The Tullamore Community Arts Centre project continued to be developed through 2019, with the finalisation of the design completed. The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht confirmed the support of the project through Access Funds of €2 million. In addition to this funding €2.5 million was pledged by Offaly County Council. The Board of Tullamore Community Art Centre pledged to raise a further €500,000 by way of fundraising.



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.

2019 saw the publication of one issue of the magazine, with a commitment by partner organizations to carry out a full review of the publication in 2020.

ARAS EXHIBITION PROGRAMME



Exhibition A Conscious Place for Living by Julie Spollen

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 2019 through an open call application, the following artists and community groups exhibited:

Veronica Nicholson - *36 Views of Croghan Hill*, a series of photographs depicting the landscape and people of the townlands surrounding Croghan Hill in various seasons and weather conditions.

Willie Redmond - *Fifty rounds odd*, a series of round paintings based on the inland waterways from canals, bog pools and ditches.

Rachel McKenna - *Flights of Fancy*, is based on the publication *Flights of Fancy; Follies. Families and Demesnes in Offaly* by Rachel Mc Kenna (Architect, Offaly County Council).

Julie Spollen - *A Conscious Place for Living' Places, Engagements, Personal & Community Narratives*, the outcomes displayed were informed by workshops to promote access to artistic expression that enables societal inclusion.

James Fraher - *Derrinlough Briquette Factory*, an exhibition of large scale black and white photographs of the Derrinlough Briquette Factory

ENVIRONMENT, WATER & DRAINAGE SERVICES SPC

SPC Chair	John Clendennen MCC	Director Of Services	Seán Murray / Mary Hussey / Eoin O’Ceilleachair
<i>Members</i>	<i>Sectoral</i>	<i>Senior Engineer</i>	Mary Hussey / Joe Coleman
Cllr. John Foley	Mr. Joseph Deverall	<i>Administrative Officer</i>	Brian Pey / Mary Gaughran
Cllr. John Leahy	Ms. Lynne Gallagher	<i>Senior Executive Engineer</i>	Joe Coleman / ????
Cllr. Seán Maher	Mr. Tony Flanagan	<i>Senior Executive Engineer</i>	Martin Quinn
Cllr. Tommy McKeigue		<i>A/Senior Executive Engineer</i>	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 2019. 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 2018 shows that Offaly had 21 public supplies. Offaly had a 98.5% microbiological compliance rate and a 99.9% Chemical Parameter Compliance rate in 2018. 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 completed in 2019, has further assisted in reducing unaccounted for water (UFW) in the County. The average UFW figure in Offaly in 2019 was 8153.8m³/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 has been made.

WATER SERVICES CAPITAL SCHEMES

The *Irish Water Capital Investment Plan* identified new Capital project priorities in Offaly. A number of low cost small scale projects have progressed through the Capital Programmes and Capital Maintenance funding mechanisms.

The following Projects were ongoing or completed in Offaly in 2019:

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	Complete May 2017
	Rhode, Screggan & Geashill	Complete 2018
Tullamore Water Supply Scheme	Mucklagh, Crinkill, Brosna South, Mountbolus	Complete in 2019
	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade in Clonaslee & New Water Treatment Plant and Supplementary Reservoir in Arden Development of Sources	A new source has been developed at Arden. Land purchase has completed and the contract to build a new WTP and a supplementary reservoir is underway. A new source has been developed at Clonaslee. The contract to build a new WTP is ongoing. . IW have decided to upgrade existing boreholes at Clonaslee

Birr Water Supply Scheme	Water Treatment Plant Upgrade	Design and Build Contractor appointed, Project ongoing.
Source Development	Jones Well and Mountbolus	Drilling at Jones well is high on IW priority list. Test wells show good yields. A test well was also drilled in Mountbolus 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 were 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 when finance is secured.
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 when finance is secured.
Shannon Harbour WWTP		Aeration system has been upgraded and new Frame & Stairway had been installed under HSQE.
Bracknagh	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Commenced the manufacturing of tanks for new plant upgrade
Rahan	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Proposal is to get the Plant back in operation. Currently used as a collection tank and tankered to Tullamore for treatment.

HEALTH & SAFETY

There is a rigorous health and safety inspection and management regime in place across all water services infrastructure and this is driving an ongoing programme of called the HSQE programme. There is also a significant investment in plant replacement and process optimisation through a minor works programme.

MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2019-2021

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 2019 amounted to €868,950.

Name of GWS	Total Allocation €
Eglis/Rath/Drumcullen GWS	12,000
Ballykilleen	19,440
Boher/Leamonaghan	86,080
Cadamstown	117,850
Mountlucas	32,000
Ballinagar	54,520
Killeigh	277,500
Tubber	104,900
Clareen/Aghancon	51,000
Bracknagh	17,000
Ballyboy	17,000
Mountlucas	28,660
Derries, Rahan	51,000

GROUP WATER SCHEMES SUBSIDIES

A total of €585,643.00 was paid in 2019 to 16 Group Water Schemes for GWS Subsidies.

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. The maximum subsidy levels 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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
	€	€	€	€	€
Total	522,001	410,593	581,012	654,509	585,643

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 2019 is as follows:

No. of Well Grants Paid by Municipal District	2019
Birr Municipal District	13
Tullamore Municipal District	9
Edenderry Municipal District	5
Total Grants Paid	€53,895.41

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 the near future.

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. The burial grounds involved are Clara, Clonmacnoise, Cloncrane and Kilreaghan. These extensions require Part 8 planning approval, Kilreaghan cemetery extension went before the elected members in late 2019 and the proposed plans were approved, while Clara will go for Part 8 in 2020. 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. The tender was extended for a period of one year. On review it was decided that savings to the budget could be made by providing the service directly and this took effect Jan 2019.

Control of Dogs	2017	2018	2019
No. of Dog Licenses sold	2,699	2,826	2,733
On the Spot Fines issued	15	15	40
No. Stray Dogs in Dog Pound	247	225	137
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments Registered		4	3

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, 16 in 2018, and 13 in 2019 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
2019	13

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 Sites (CAS) 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.

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 45 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 investigates 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.

2019 - Environmental Pollution Complaints							
	Total instigated by public	Total instig. by LA	No. closed	% Closed	No. of cases not finalised at Dec 18	No investigation warranted	Investig. finalised in 2019
Litter	880	880	839	95%	49	-	839
Air	19	27	13	48%	46	-	13
Noise	13	35	20	57%	12	-	20
Water/ waste water	28	60	48	80%	41	-	48
Waste pollution	150	150	115	76%	46	-	115
Total	1090		1035	94%	194	-	

Timescale	Fines	Prosecutions	Convictions
Jan 2019-Dec 2019	31	9	4

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The Council continued its extensive programme of Environmental Awareness in 2019. Campaigns around recycling, food waste, dog fouling, schools calendar competitions saw huge engagement with the public and gained a strong foothold in the area of environmental awareness. The Council continues to support community groups through funding streams such as Community Environmental Action

Fund (previously Local Agenda 21 Fund), Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Awareness Community Grants.

In 2019 the Council also supported 245 clean-ups carried out by various individuals and community groups, by providing bags, pickers, gloves and removing filled bags to an authorised site.

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 (RBMP) was published in April 2018 which sets out the current status of our waters and Irelands implementation strategy to comply with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. In practical terms the work will be progressed by the Water Quality staff in Offaly Co. Co. in parallel with the LAWPro Catchment Assessments Teams who are charged with assessing the *Priority Areas for Action* (PAA's) identified in the RBMP.

The Water Quality function within the Environment & Water Services Section undertakes a number of roles to support River Basin Management Plan, specifically:

- The co-ordination of sampling for the EPA's national monitoring program of waterbodies in Co. Offaly.
- Liaison with and support to LAWPro in their work in PAA's in Co. Offaly.
- Participation in the Water Framework Directive Operational Committees in both the Eastern & Midlands Region, and also the South East Region.
- The enforcement of Section 4 licences for discharges to surface and ground waters.
- The investigation of complaints relating to a range of water linked issues.
- The inspection of various enterprises, including domestic, commercial and agricultural sites to assess impacts to waters.
- The assessment of agricultural planning files.
- The inspection of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems under the EPA's National Inspection Plan.
- The identification of significant pressures impacting on water quality at risk of not achieving Good Status under the Water Framework Directive.

In 2019, each of these roles were advanced by Water Quality staff. 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. 18 Domestic Wastewater Treatment systems were inspected in 2019 in accordance with EPA National Inspection Plan requirements.

The EPA Water Quality Report 2013-2018 was published in late 2019, and the following is a summary of Water Quality in Co. Offaly:

- Of the 76 river bodies monitored in Co. Offaly – 3 are High Status, 32 are Good Status, 27 are Moderate Status and 14 are Poor Status (i.e. 54% below the WFD target of Good Status)
- Comparing the current monitoring in Co. Offaly with the previous EPA report (2010-2015 data), 55 river bodies showed no change, 13 declined and 6 improved.
- There are 2 high status sites in Co. Offaly – which will be included in the "Blue Dot Catchments Programme."

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.

NOISE ACTION PLAN

The European Communities (Environmental Noise) regulations implements EC Directive 2002/49/EC (END) on assessment and management of environmental noise in Ireland. The END requires Member States to prepare and publish, every 5 years, strategic noise maps and noise management action plans for transport noise sources

Under the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 140 of 2006) Offaly County Council prepared a Draft Noise Action Plan 2018 – 2023 relating to environmental noise to which humans are exposed in the county. The environmental noise relevant to Offaly is transportation noise (road traffic noise) but does not apply to nuisance noise (domestic and neighbourhood noise). This Noise Action Plan was adopted in late 2019.

As required, the next phase will see Offaly commence Round 4 of this noise mapping and action planning cycle in early 2020. Under the regulations, all Local Authorities are responsible for strategic noise mapping of non-National major roads, i.e. all roads with more than 3 million vehicle passages per year.

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 Kinnitty was completed in 2019. The Council have made a number of further applications to the OPW for other areas requiring flood relief in the county. These locations include Portarlinton where funding has been successfully approved and Geashill where the application process is progressing.

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.

TULLAMORE LIVING RIVER PROJECT

In 2019, the Tullamore Living River Project was launched in collaboration with LAWPro and several other Irish and UK based environmental stakeholders. Funding for the first phase of the Project, the construction of the Wetlands at Kilcruttin, will be sought from LEADER in 2020 and other public funding opportunities will need to be secured to complete all proposed elements.

The Tullamore Living River project sets out measures to improve the Tullamore river ecosystem function as it flows through Tullamore town as identified in Tullamore Living River– Feasibility Assessment Report finalised in July 2019. This Feasibility Assessment was a collaboration with Inland Fisheries, OPW, NPWS, Tullamore Tidy Towns and Offaly County Council established after a one day clean-up of the River at The Town Park in July 2017.

This group identified nine project areas along, on and in the river to develop increased amenity and recreational opportunities through restoring the river's ecological integrity, improving biodiversity and water quality. The Tullamore Living River Project will initially focus on four of the nine projects identified in the Feasibility

Assessment, designed to maximise the habitat value for riparian wildlife, to enhance the area for biodiversity and improving water quality.

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 worked through the six steps of the Adaptation Strategy Guidelines to developing the strategy for Offaly. In September 2019 Offaly County Council adopted the Offaly Climate Change Adaption Strategy.

NATIONAL WASTE COLLECTION PERMIT OFFICE (NWCPO)

NWCPO continues to process waste collection permit applications and had a with a significant increase in applications from 301 in 2018 to 463 in 2019. The NWCPO

currently holds a register of 2,014 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, with work ongoing to enhance the quality and functionality of the register. 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 operation of the office through the ISO9001 standard and enhanced IT systems, ensures a high quality and robust service for stakeholders.

The NWCPO moved offices in 2019 from Aras an Chontae to No. 5 Cormac Street, Tullamore. When purchasing furniture for the new office, the NWCPO embraced the concepts of the Circular Economy and engaged the Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) to supply the furniture. As a flagship project the office is now fitted out with upcycled and reused office furniture.

The NWCPO continues to develop its role as a key stakeholder in the regulation of the waste sector. A review of national waste policy by the DCCAE commenced in 2018 and is ongoing. The NWCPO is represented on the Advisory Group for a Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy and expects a new policy will provide both opportunities and challenges for the NWCPO.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE & PLANNING SPC

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

PREPARATION OF OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027
On 31st July 2019 notice was published of the commencement of the review of the existing Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the preparation of the new Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2020. The first stage of public consultation took place which included

publishing an Issues Paper, holding public consultation meetings and inviting submissions. A Chief Executive report was compiled on the 46 submissions received. The Chief Executive report was considered by the elected members in advance of preparing their directions for early 2020.

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

The development of the Grand Canal Greenway continued with significant steps made in 2019.

PLANNING APPROVAL

Part 8 Planning Permission approved for 2 sections 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).

The final Part 8 Application relating to the Grand Canal Greenway, Turraun (Lough Boora Discovery Park) to Shannon Harbour extension, (16km) is due to be finalised in 2020.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

National Greenway Strategy Fund approval of €2.35 million was received in 2019, to complete a combined 20km of stretch From Daingean to Lough Boora Discovery Park.

A significant tranche of this allocation is expected to be expended in 2020. i.e. Digby Bridge to Ballycommon section and Pollagh to Turraun.

Offaly County Council will continue to seek funding as appropriate, for the continued expansion of the Greenway in Offaly, through various funding streams in 2020.



CONSTRUCTION

'Kilbeggan Branch' Grand Canal Greenway

The first 4km of the 'Kilbeggan Branch' Grand Canal Greenway was constructed from Ballycommon to Wood of O Bridge, in Q4 2019, on foot of the Part Planning approval and successful Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) funding application from from 2018. It is expected that Westmeath County Council and Offaly County Council will continue works on this section and complete the 13km to Kilbeggan in 2020. Additional funding of €313,000 was sought (and successfully allocated) for this section under ORIS 2019 by Offaly County Council.

Grand Canal Greenway 'Mainline'

An additional 2km of Greenway was constructed on Bord n Móna lands connecting the Grand Canal Greenway with Lough Boora Discovery Park. This was also funded by ORIS 2018.

First section of the Kilbeggan link of the Grand Canal Greenway constructed in late 2020



As stated it is expected to complete a minimum of 10km of greenway construction in 2020; along the Grand Canal Greenway (Main line)

- Tullamore to Ballycommon and
- Pollagh to Turraun

both funded under the National Greenway Fund.

It is expected that The Tullamore Urban Stretch of the Grand Canal Greenway, 2km of which has been allocated funding under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund 2018, will be constructed in 2020/21.

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

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME 2019

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure. In May 2019, 4 applications were submitted by the planning Department and the following 3 were successful projects for securing funding. Offaly County Council match funding requirement of 20% required.

ORIS Project	DRCD	OCC	Total project amount
Clara Bog Trail Connection footpath	€72,000	€18,000	€90,000
Derrycastle Lakes and Trails development	€152,360	€38,090	€190,450
Ballycommon to Kilbeggan Extension to Greenway	€313,280	€78,320	€391,600

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019 (URDF)

Offaly County Council is continuing to deliver the rejuvenation of the retail core of Tullamore town under past funding received from Urban Regeneration Development fund. There was no call for Urban Regeneration funding for 2019.

RURAL REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND 2019

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund seeks to support ambitious and strategic projects which have the potential to transform rural economies and communities. Edenderry Regeneration Phase I was approved for funding in 2019 for €522,207 with match funding from Offaly County Council at 25% bringing the total of the project to €696,276. This project will deliver phase I of the Edenderry Regeneration Strategy, which will help unlock a large development site (Old Tesco Site, JKL Street) in the centre of the town and provide improved access. The project will form the basis for further regeneration

initiatives that will facilitate the future growth and development of the town. The Blundell Master Plan for the area which was funded in 2018 is near completion and will form the framework for future development of this area.

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME 2019

In June 2019, 11 applications under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme were submitted by the Regeneration Team 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 five applications and funding of €700,000 was approved for schemes to be undertaken during 2020/21. 25% match funding for these projects from Offaly County Council will bring the sum total to €875,000.

The breakdown of 2019 projects are as follows

Town/Village	DRCD	OCC	Total project amount
Blundell Park, Edenderry	€200,000	€50,000	€250,000
The Green Edenderry	€200,000	€50,000	€250,000
Mount Bolus	€100,000	€25,000	€125,000
Crinkle	€100,000	€25,000	€125,000
Shinrone	€100,000	€25,000	€125,000



E-hive, Townhall Edenderry, 2018 completed TVR project

Birr

Tourism Destination Town

The Regeneration team applied for funding from Fáilte Ireland to develop the tourism potential of Birr as a destination town to boost the town's attractiveness and tourism appeal. Maximum funding allocation per town €500,000.

The funding application included development of tourist information and signage in Birr Town, public realm improvements for Castle Street and development of Birr as a destination town.



SLIEVE BLOOM MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL

During Christmas 2019, parts of Phase 1 of the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail opened in both counties Offaly and Laois. Phase one is near completion and was set to open to the public with a formal launch during March 2020. Covid 19 restrictions have pushed this date out at time of writing.

Phases 2 & 3 are funded under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund programme 2018, part of a €10 million allocation for 4 National Trail Centres 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
2019	616*	436	35	471

(*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
2019	13	12	1	13

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 2019. 616 planning applications were received in 2018 which compares with 375 for 2015.

DERELICT SITES

There are 19 sites on the Derelict Sites Register at the end of 2019, 12 within the Tullamore Municipal District Area and a further 7 at various sites around the county. Works

continued throughout 2019 to get owners to clean up sites and further works ongoing into 2020. It is also a focus of the Planning section to identify any sites which may be suitable for the provision of social housing.

UNFINISHED HOUSING ESTATES

There are currently 4 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 2020

Taking in Charge of housing estates is a continued scope of works. A total of eight estates were taken in charge in 2019 with four more estates ready for council members approval in summer 2020. Eight application forms were completed and issued to Offaly County Council in 2019 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 14
- Enforcement Notices 6

During 2019, 14 new enforcement files were opened. Many older enforcement files were addressed and subsequently closed. Warning letters and enforcement notices were issued in new cases.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

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

**OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
DEVELOPMENT LEVY ALLOCATIONS 2019**

JOB DESCRIPTION	<i>Funds Available €000's</i>
Development contribution income - to be assigned	1,807
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	6,136

**Development Contributions - Receipts and Application of
7Development Funds for the period from Oct 2016 – Sep
2018.**

<i>Description</i>	<i>'000</i>
Balance Available - 2017	5,826
Contributions Received- 2018	618
Disbursements 2018	308
Balance Available - 2018	6,136

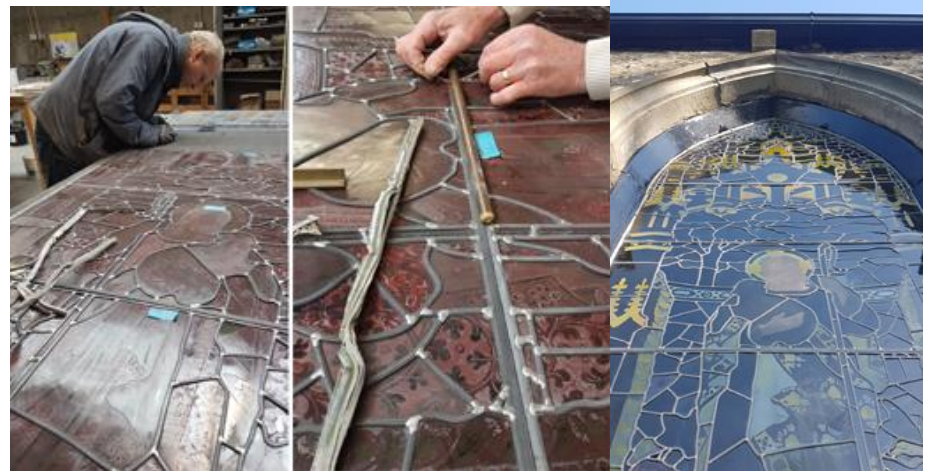
ARCHITECTS DEPARTMENT 2019

Architects Department provides a cross departmental service throughout the County Council and Municipal Districts, particularly in areas of Housing, Planning and Conservation. The Architects Department continues to make a significant contribution to the County Development Plans in the running of the Record of Protected Structures and the upkeep of the multifaceted database. This also includes the considerable number of ongoing owner or prospective queries and Section 57 Declarations. Advice and assistance is also given to many community groups regarding proposals for the upkeep or re use of existing protected structures.

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME

The Architects Department seeks to promote the Built Heritage of Offaly outside of the county and highlight the importance of funding with the Department. In December 2019 Offaly County Council advertised the BHIS 2020 for conservation projects in the county. We received approval by the Department for 28 applicants with a total allocation of €79,000. 10 applicants withdrew from the scheme and 1 applicant was moved from the reserve list to the approved. Works were carried out throughout the year and 19 projects successfully completed. Projects varied from roof repairs, window repairs including stained glass and general stabilisation works. Towards the close of the scheme, we were in a position to take on an extra €10,900 from the Department, giving overall funding of €89,900.

Payments have all been issued to the applicants with administration assistance from Planning.



Dunkerrin Church – Molloy Stained Glass repair

HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND

Offaly County Council submitted four applications to the Department in March 2019 for possible approval. Cangort Park House, Shinrone received a grant of €40,000 for repairs to the roof and the Keep Gate in Birr received €45,00 for repairs.

The Keep Gate, Birr – internal repairs



BIRR KEEP GATE – (INSIDE VIEW) BEFORE +AFTER



Cangort Park – roof repairs underway



CLONCON & BALLYBRUNCULLIN THATCHED HOUSES – BHS 2019



HOUSING

The Architects Department provides advice and assistance to the Housing Department as required, in particular in the area of sketch designs and master planning for new housing schemes.

PLANNING

The Architects Department continues to deal with all planning applications to Protected Structures, providing a report with historical research, mapping and site photographs for planning. Pre planning meetings and advice are provided as required and Enforcement assistance. GDPR – Provide Conservation section for Planning Office

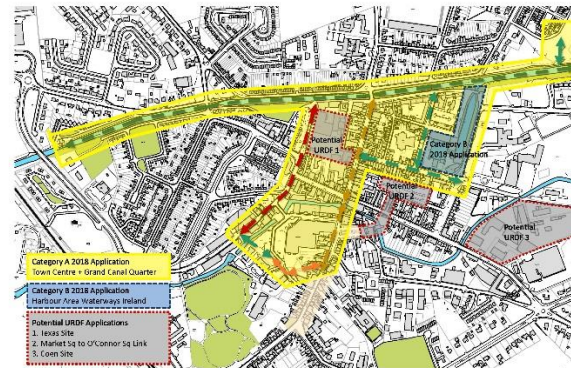
Advice is also provided where required on large pre-plan and planning applications in the county, housing, public or commercial properties.

CDP REVIEW – assisting planning with CDP 2020 Review. Working on the Record of Protected Structures and preparing reports for proposed additions and deletions, 30 to date; (Site visits, research etc).

URBAN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL – Sketch designs for proposed applications and assistance with cross-departmental team. Working with the area office when projects are approved to proceed.

URDF AND RRDF – Working with a cross departmental team on applications for Edenderry, Birr and Tullamore. Providing mapping, sketch proposals augmenting final applications.

Tullamore Project Area - Site plan



1b Pedestrian Bridge - linking Arts Centre, Bridge Centre Shopping Centre and Millennium Sq



Photomontage of possible pedestrian bridge onto Millennium Square

- Provides for a new Pedestrian Bridge linking the Tullamore Community Arts Centre to the Bridge Centre and across the Tullamore River to Millennium Square



OCC Tullamore URDF 2018



MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

The Architects Department works closely with the Municipal Districts on specific projects as they arise.

BIRR – Sketch Masterplans for recently purchased sites and proposals for relocated facilities.

TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE –The Architects Department form part of the Build Group dealing with the consultants and the Board in relation to proposals for the new arts centre.

EDENDERRY - Possible new library project in Edenderry assist County Librarian and Arts Officer on brief. Liaise with consultants regarding masterplan for Edenderry.

HERITAGE OFFICE

Working with the Heritage Office on a number of projects including being part of the Heritage Forum. Carrigeen Thatch – assist Heritage office with project and documentation.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Part of the Creative Ireland Team in Offaly, assist with the creation of the 2019 Plan and implementation, attend meetings and project launch. Liaise with team on consultation days and in the draft five-year plan. Work with owner of Ballycumber Folly and consultant on

conservation repairs with funding of €15,000 from Creative Ireland; continuing on with CI funding based on the follies book Flights of Fancy.



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, Enterprise 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.

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 Innovation Fund to Offaly enterprises.

HIGHLIGHTS 2019

LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK

Local Enterprise Week held during March 2019 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; Remote Working Conference, Edenderry Brexit Event, Ferbane Food Event, Digital Marketing and Start Your Own Business Courses and both the Student Enterprise and County Enterprise Awards.

STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME

Primary school students from around Offaly have been rewarded for their business endeavours by the Local Enterprise Office Offaly as part of its "Most Enterprising Student" initiative.

The Local Enterprise Office in Offaly County Council runs the annual Most Enterprising Student Programme which offers primary schools throughout the county the opportunity to nominate their Most Enterprising Student.



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 in April 2019. Over 450 students from nine schools took part in the annual programme locally.

2019 COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNER

Dotser Ltd was announced Overall Winner for Offaly in the 2019 Offaly Enterprise Awards. The Tullamore based company was presented with a prize of €1,500. They then went on to represent Offaly at the National Enterprise

Awards won the Regional Enterprise Award for the Mid-East Region.

Dotser Ltd. provide web development and marketing services to the SME business sector. They employ a team of nine professionals, delivering a suite of online software and related web services to over 300 clients throughout Ireland.

Dotser have seen double digit growth each year, over the last three years and boast flagship clients recognised as leaders in their industry sector including waste management, hardware, machinery and agricultural shows.



2019 IRELANDS BEST YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR COMPETITION

40 entrepreneurs from Offaly applied for Irelands Best Young Entrepreneurs competition in 2019. IBYE, now in its fifth year, is a nationwide youth enterprise initiative to help 18-to-35 year olds with an innovative business idea, new start-up or established business. The awards ceremony was hosted by Local Enterprise Office Offaly in May 2019.

The six winners and runners-up were chosen from a shortlist of fifteen local finalists and shared a €50,000 investment fund.

The 'Best New Idea' category was won by Brian Darby. The winner of the 'Best Start-Up Business' was Christina McLoughlin, Vove Media. The title of 'Best Established Business' went to Emma-Rose Conroy, Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd. Emma-Rose Conroy was also awarded the title of 'Best Young Entrepreneur' for Offaly.



The Offaly winners went to the Regional Final in Mullingar in June. Emma-Rose Conroy won Best Established Business in the Midland Region and represented Offaly and the Midland Region at the National Final in Google in September.



REGIONAL JUST TRANSITION TEAM

LEO Offaly is represented on the Regional Just Transition Team. The Just Transition Team comprises a number of national, regional and local stakeholders working on an agreed number of actions. The actions seek to support

workers and communities impacted by Bord na Mona's accelerated decarbonisation, and to help create alternative forms of employment.

CREATING ECONOMIC & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

The "Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change" conference took place in the Tullamore in October. The conference room was full with over 150 people attending the event, the first of its' kind to be hosted in the Midlands. The conference, was initiative of the Regional Transition Team under the auspices of the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020. It explored how businesses can realise unique economic and business opportunities in responding to climate change by examining international trends, and exploring how responses to climate change, by both business and communities, can effectively drive innovation, adoption of disruptive technologies, and more flexible work practices.

The Keynote Speaker for the event was Dr. Tara Shine, Environmental Scientist and Director, Change by Degrees. Other speakers included Ron Immink, Sustainable Nation, Dr Shane Ward, Professor of Biosystems Engineering in UCD, Deirdre DeBhailis, Dingle Hub, Dr. Joanne Rourke, Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management, Paddy Matthews, Fáilte Ireland and MC Jonathon Healy, Newstalk.

REMOTE WORKING

LEO Offaly and Offaly County Council were invited to appear as witnesses at a Oireachtas Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development meeting in February 2019.

It was an excellent opportunity to highlight the work undertaken by LEOs and Local Authorities to promote remote working as a mechanism to support and drive economic development.

LEO Offaly organised the first national LEO funded conference on remote working in March. The conference entitled "Remote Working – Practical Insights and Approaches" was organised in collaboration with The Junction Business Innovation Centre in Tullamore.

THE JUNCTION BUSINESS INNOVATION CENTRE

In 2019, 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). Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG expanded with the development of 4 office suites in 25J Axis Business Park. Four businesses leased the new offices as soon as they were made available. LEO Offaly is working with Edenderry MD and Birr MD to develop co-

working spaces in each Municipal District.

OPENING OF E-HIVE – EDENDERRY'S FIRST DIGITAL HUB

E-Hive situated in Edenderry MD Town Hall opened in August. It is Edenderry's first digital hub. E-Hive has over 20 desks in a co-working environment, meeting rooms, and event space for workshops. E-Hive is ideal for remote workers (working one or more days away from the main office), and for those setting up or growing their own business. The project was funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Offaly County Council. The hub features affordable hot desk facilities, meeting rooms and high speed internet access and is supported by LEO Offaly and Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG.

STREAM CREATIVE SUITE IN BIRR TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

STREAM Creative Suite is a new initiative – utilising big data from the I-LOFAR radio telescope to deliver regional STREAM potential.

The I-LOFAR radio telescope 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 STREAM Creative Suite – either through

regular hot desk usage or through the establishment of a base there. In 2019, Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG recruited a Business Development Manager for STREAM Birr and leased office space in Birr Technology Centre.

BUSINESS PARKS

LEO Offaly actively promotes business and industrial parks in the County. In 2019, the LEO office advertised and sold industrial sites in Ferbane Business Park and 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.

MIDLANDS REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN TO 2020

The Regional Enterprise Plan for the Midlands was launched in February 2019 and identifies seven Strategic Objectives that build on the region's strengths and address vulnerabilities that range from leveraging big data opportunities through the I-LOFAR telescope at Birr, to ensuring that the Midlands is well positioned to address the challenges and new business opportunities presented by decarbonisation of the economy. LEO Offaly is represented on the Steering Committee and Implementation Committee of Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020: Midlands.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE DAY

The Local Enterprise Offices in Offaly, Laois, Longford and Westmeath 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 October 2019 (#NWED).

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly invited Offaly businesswomen and entrepreneurs to mark the day in the Gloster House in Birr. The national theme for this year's event was "Making It Happen" with the aim of inspiring more women in Ireland to start and grow their own business.

Over 125 local entrepreneurs and businesswomen participated and speakers included Colette Twomey, Clonakilty Food Company Ltd; Louise Lennox (of the Restaurant); Emma Rose Conroy of Euro Stallions (NWED



Ambassador); Ellen Gunning, Academy of Public Relations and Anna Marie Delaney, CE, Offaly County Council, MC for the event was Susan Keogh, Newstalk.

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 2019 LEO Offaly granted payments of 22 Trading Online Vouchers amounting to €44,973 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 2019, 159 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, Portarlington 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 5/6 meetings held during the year.

DIGITAL MARKETING

In 2019, 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 2019 with 2,286 Facebook page followers and 2,012 Twitter followers at year end.

TULLAMORE SHOW

Ireland's largest one-day agricultural show attracted 60,000 visitors who flocked to the Tullamore Show in August 2019. The 250-acre Butterfield Estate showground was filled with the sound of music, children, chat and some 2,000 animals. LEO Offaly in association with Offaly Tourism and Offaly Local Development Company hosted the Offaly – Ireland’s Hidden Gem Pavilion. There were 30 stands comprising a diverse range of tourism products, artisan food and craft businesses.

LEO OFFALY PERFORMANCE METRICS

Measure 1	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Applications Received:		
Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME	39	42
Grant Applications Approved: Number	31	34
Feasibility: Number:	2	3
Priming: Number:	7	8
Business Expansion: Number:	15	16
TAME: Number	7	7
No. of projected potential new jobs associated with Approvals (Priming & Business Expansion)	48	50
Costs per job calculation associated with approvals (Average Cost calculated on new jobs over three years)	€10,587	€10,100

Measure 2	Output 2019	Target 2020
Training/Development Programmes (All Training and Networking events)		
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	35	37
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	549	575
No. of Females	312	327
No. of Males	237	248
No. of SYOB Programmes	11	11
No. of SYOB Participants	100	105
No. of Brexit Seminars / Brexit Information Events	3	3
No. of Participants attending Brexit Seminars/Events	32	35
No. of Completed Brexit Scorecards	66	70
No. of LEO clients receiving Brexit related Mentoring	32	40
Mentoring:		
Total Number of individual mentoring – (participants availing of one to one mentoring – one to one engagement by a Mentor with one client)	159	167
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)	159	167

Schools Entrepreneurship	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Schools Participating (Secondary schools only engaged in school enterprise programmes)	9	9
Number of Students Participating	457	460

Trading On Line Vouchers	Output 2019	Target 2020
No. of Trading Online Vouchers approved	24	25
Value (€) of Trading Online Vouchers Paid	17,785	20,000

MFI	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Applications submitted	6	7

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Applications	40	42

Lean for Micro Project	Output 2019	Target 2020
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	9	10

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 which 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.

- Optimise 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 11 meetings during 2019 as follows – 17th January; 14th February, 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June, 11th July, 12th September, 10th October, 14th November and 12th December.

MEMBERSHIP OF OFFALY LCDC IN 2019

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 2019 is as follows:

STATUTORY INTERESTS (9)		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local Authority Elected Members	Cllr Declan Harvey	Offaly County Council (Chair)
	Cllr. John Leahy ¹	Offaly County Council
	Cllr. Noel Cribbin ²	Offaly County Council
Local Authority Officials	Ms. Anna Marie Delaney	Offaly County Council
	Ms. Orla Martin	Offaly County Council

<i>State Agencies</i>	Mr. James Carney ³	Dept of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
	Mr. Tony Dalton	Laois and Offaly Education & Training Board
	Mr. Con Feighery	Teagasc
	Ms. Ann Sheerin ⁴	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

2019 MEMBERSHIP OF OFFALY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

¹ Replaced Cllr. John Clendennen from June 2019

² Replaced Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick from June 2019

³ Replaced Mr. Declan Tuomey from May 2019

⁴ Replaced Mr. Nick Devery from May 2019

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS OF LCDC IN 2019

The following key priorities were progressed and developed in 2019 by the LCDC:

- Implementation of the Offaly Local Development Strategy and approval of the LEADER/Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 funding;
- Implementation of the Offaly Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021;
- Implementation, monitoring and review of Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022;
- Implementation of the Offaly Community Enhancement Programme;
- Implementation of the Offaly Healthy Ireland fund;
- Adoption of the Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2024;
- Progression and improvement of the health and physical activity status of the people of Offaly by Offaly Sports Partnership;
- Provision of support to the Community sector and affording a voice through the Offaly PPN Network;
- Offaly LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) named in the top ten performance LAGs under the LEADER Programme and received an additional €500,000 bonus allocation on top of the approved budget;
- The 'Big Hello', The National Community Weekend was held across the county over the May Bank

Holiday period culminating with a large well attended event in Lough Boora Discovery Park on Sunday 5th May, 2019.



Big Hello National Community Weekend Launch

LEADER/RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is the designated Local Action Group (LAG) and has responsibility for the delivery of LEADER 2014-2020 in the County and for approval of LEADER Funding. The Implementing 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 October, 2019 Offaly LEADER Local Action Group were named in the top ten performing LAGs under the LEADER Programme and received an additional €500,000 bonus allocation on top of the approved budget. The selection of the LAGs was based on an assessment of the level of funding they had approved for projects and the level of funding actually drawn down in respect of those projects on 20th September, 2019. This funding will greatly benefit a variety of projects in many areas of Offaly who are looking to improve their communities through grant aid funding under the LEADER Programme. In 2019 there were 67 Expressions of Interest for LEADER grant supports from local community and enterprise groups and 32 Expressions of Interest under a 'Targeted Call' for LEADER funding for festivals. Offaly LCDC approved 56 LEADER projects in 2019. A detailed breakdown of Project Approvals and Expenditure in respect of Claims for the period 2019 is outlined below:

Theme	Sub-Theme	No of projects approved in 2019	Project Approval 2019 €	Actual Project Expenditure 2019 €
Economic Development	Rural Tourism	26	334,004.08	70,466.52
	Enterprise Development	7	176,892.23	139,679.24
	Rural Towns	3	51,408.27	516,315.08
	Broadband	0	0	17,652.80
Social Inclusion	Basic Services	4	144,932.34	325,262.45
	Rural Youth	4	135,927.83	259,925.72
Rural Environment	Water Resources	2	93,794.03	0
	Biodiversity	8	228,988.42	161,185.16
	Renewable Energy	2	182,579.94	0
Totals		56	1,348,527.14	1,499,269.96

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY ACTIVATION PROGRAMME 2018-2022 (SICAP)

The LCDC is responsible for the monitoring, review and annual planning of the nationally-funded SICAP Programme which is delivered by Offaly Local Development Company (SICAP Programme Implementer) across the County with an overall budget of €760,463 for 2019. In 2019, the SICAP Programme Implementer worked with 83 local community groups and 558 individuals across the country, strengthening community development, providing education and training and preparing people for employment.

	
Some key SICAP indicators / targets achieved	2019
<i>Disadvantaged individuals worked with on a one to one basis</i>	558
<i>Community Groups assisted under SICAP</i>	83
<i>Children that received an educational or developmental support</i>	1,120
<i>Recipients of employment support</i>	137
<i>Progression into self-employment</i>	52

During the course of the year, the LCDC carried out an End-of-Year Performance Review of the 2018 programme, a Mid-Year Performance Review of the 2019 programme

and an appraisal of the proposed Annual Plan for 2020. A Poblal Engagement Meeting was held on 18th September, 2019.



LCDC Site Visit to Bracknaah – September 2019

OFFALY COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Under the Community Enhancement Programme, Offaly LCDC allocated €138,550 in grants for Community and Voluntary Groups. There was additional funding allocated from the Municipal Districts of €60,000 to give a total of €198,550 to the fund. The scheme was focused on providing small and medium capital grants to help grass roots community projects get underway. As there was an increase of 72% in applications for grants on the previous year, there was no large capital grant awarded. Offaly LCDC approved 132 grants for a range of projects

including building refurbishments, cemetery improvements, garden/landscape power tools, ICT equipment, sports equipment purchases. Grants ranged in value from €250 to €15,000 from various Municipal District and Community Enhancement Programme grants as matching funding for LEADER projects. The added value of the Community Enhancement Programme when combined with the LEADER and Municipal District funding is the sum of €895,800.



In July 2019 an additional allocation of €11,780 was awarded from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Enhancement Programme to fund capital equipment or minor capital works to ten eligible Men's/Women's Sheds, with each shed receiving €1,178.

OFFALY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK.

Offaly PPN focuses on supporting the Community sector and 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 has increased to 488 groups (Community- 431; Environment -8 and Social Inclusion - 49). 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 and Voluntary Support services across the county.



Offaly PPN Representatives & Guest Speakers

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Community Vision Wellbeing Statement Workshops held throughout the county
- Annual Plenary well attended by PPN member groups from all over Offaly
- Community & Voluntary: Supported groups in funding applications; promoted new opportunities and kept all in the sector updated on new and innovative opportunities
- Social Inclusion: Supported "Make Way Day", Intercultural engagement and participated on the Offaly Disability, Equality Network
- Environmental: During 2019 the environment was very much to the fore, Offaly PPN sought to address the emerging issues under *Green Offaly* which was launched in May by Duncan Stewart. The focus is information sharing, education and Training/Employment opportunities. This is a work in progress and to date has engaged in the promotion of Green Business, Tidy Towns Workshops, a Farmers Forum and participated in the Midland Regional Environmental showcase event.

AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY 2018 – 2021

During 2019, Offaly Age Friendly continues to work through the Actions in the Age Friendly Strategy 2018 – 2021. Engaging and supporting older people across the county to grow old in a safe environment where they are considered valuable members of society and enjoy opportunities supports and services.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Housing Showcase took place bringing together a range of Housing Groups, agencies and interested parties. This included an opportunity to view “Right Sizing” opportunities in both an urban and Rural setting.
- Bealtaine events took place throughout the counties libraries
- An Age Friendly Showcase also took place with a range of Workshops including the Frailty team from

Tullamore Regional Hospital, Dementia Ireland and The Dental Hospital. This was followed with Offaly Sports Partnership engaging the audience in Mobility activities, an entertainment slot with Crinkle Active Age group and an Intergenerational musical piece.

- Training took place on forming an Older Persons Council

THE OFFALY LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN 2016-2021

The Offaly Local Community Development Committee has progressed the development of the Offaly Local Economic and Community Development Plan (LECP) in 2019. 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.



Four Working Groups have been established in order to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Community elements of the LECP. The 4 Groups are as follows:

1. Education, Training and Skills

2. Local and Community Development
3. Empowering Communities
4. Healthy Offaly Team

The Department advised that a review of the LECP is to be carried out following publication of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) to ensure that LECP is in line with it. Offaly LCDC will commence the review of the Offaly Local Economic & Community Development Plan (LECP) in 2020.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY WEEKEND

On the 5th of May Offaly County Council held 'The Big Hello' a National Community Event that attracted over 3000 people to Lough Boora Discovery Park. This event brought people from all ages, backgrounds and communities together for a fun family day and included music from local artists. Plenty of fun was had by all with a wide range of activities taking place on the day. The food was provided by local food suppliers and producers. Children's entertainment included face painting, arts and crafts, water zorbing, and all enjoyed the fine display of basket weaving. Many local groups assisted with operations at that event to ensure things ran smoothly.

OFFALY COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Offaly Comhairle na nÓg held 11 executive meetings in 2019.

Consultations:

- February 2019: Members worked with CYPSC as part of a youth participation subgroup. This collaboration helps to get the opinions of youth from all over the county.
- March 2019: Members were consulted on Consultation a review of the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme in schools
- September 2019: Members were consulted on teaching supply in schools – how teachers being absent affects students

SHORT FILM

Throughout the year Comhairle Na nÓg researched and prepared for the creation of a short film produced by Offaly Comhairle Na nÓg in relation to their topic on exam stress and anxiety.

THE BIG HELLO

Comhairle Na nÓg Executive members attended the 'Big Hello' event in Lough Boora Discovery Park in May. In



addition to assisting Community Staff in supervising some of the Children's activities, the group conducted a survey to assist them in researching their 2019 Project 'Exam Stress and Anxiety'. The feedback was extremely valuable with 72% of respondents claiming to have suffered from Exam Stress with 55% stating that not enough was being done in schools to alleviate this type of stress. The results will be collated and input in the final project for discussion at the 2019 Comhairle Na nÓg AGM.

CORPORATE PLAN

In July 2019 Comhairle Na nÓg were consulted and had input into the preparation of the draft Corporate Plan. The submission made, centred around what services Offaly County Council are providing very well and what services could be improved upon.

AGM 2019

The 2019 Comhairle Na nÓg AGM took place on Tuesday 15th October. The day was a great success with over 200 young people attending on the day. The theme of the day was 'Less Stress More Success' and centred around the 2019 project topic 'Exam Stress & Anxiety'. The Comhairle Executive unveiled an information booklet listing a series of tips for coping with exam stress. These tips came from our Comhairle group themselves and they organised the printing of the leaflet into a booklet format which was launched on the day by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Peter Ormond.



Workshops took place on the day, run by Leinster Rugby representatives led by Patsy Gorman and a motivational Speaker Dave Russell. Aisling Lambe, Community Section assumed the role of **COMHAIRLE** Na NÓg Coordinator immediately after the AGM.

DÁIL NA NÓG 2019

On the 23rd November 2019, young people from the 31 Comhairlí nationwide entered the Dáil Chamber in Leinster House for **Dáil na nÓg 2019** to have their voices heard on Climate Change. On the historic centenary of the first sitting of the Dáil, Offaly Comhairle na nÓg was proudly represented in the chamber by 6 Offaly Comhairle na nÓg executive members. Comhairlí members from all over the country voted on the 2020 work topic for the national executive - Climate Change - Awareness and Transport.



HEALTHY OFFALY

In the first half of 2019, €71,000 of Healthy Ireland funding was used to deliver the following actions by Offaly Sports Partnership, Offaly Local Development Company and the Midlands Parenting Partnership.



- Offaly Sports Partnership delivered a 20 minute daily physical activity programme in five primary schools for 490 pupils; a couch to 3k recreational running programme in five locations for 480 teenagers; and recreational sport and physical activity programmes for 450 older adults. The Sports Partnership also supported Offaly local Development Company in the delivery of a

community transformation programme (modelled on the operation transformation concept) in Ferbane for 100 people aged 16+ years.

- Offaly Local Development Company delivered a community transformation programme with the support of Offaly Sports Partnership in Ferbane for 100 people aged 16+ years; grow your own programmes; healthy eating programmes; mental health support programmes in the community for 100 people; and 20 physical activities, health and wellbeing, and social prescribing programmes for 400 people across the lifespan. The local development company also supported the Midlands Parenting Partnership to deliver the “Fearless” programme for families experiencing anxiety among children and young people



In the second half of 2019, a programme of work to the

value of €184,000 was submitted to Healthy Ireland via Pobal for approval. Delivery of the approved programme of work will commence in 2020.

Furthermore, Offaly County Council facilitated the employment of the Healthy Ireland Offaly/ Westmeath Coordinator. This position is a shared post across Offaly and Westmeath; funded by Healthy Ireland; and hosted by Offaly and Westmeath Sports Partnerships on behalf of their respective local authorities. Dermot Egan commenced in the role of the Health Ireland Offaly/Westmeath Coordinator in October and will be responsible for managing the delivery of the Healthy Ireland programme of work for the period 2019 – 2021 for Offaly and Westmeath.

OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP.



Offaly Sports Partnership is a multi-sectoral sub-committee of Offaly LCDC, hosted by Offaly County 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.

2019 saw Offaly Sports Partnership continue to implement its strategic plan, "**Active Offaly 2016 - 2020**" across its five strategic pillars with the support of various funding agencies including Dormant Accounts, Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government, Department of Children & Youth Affairs, Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport, Healthy Ireland, the Health Services Executive and Sport Ireland.

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 2019 of the Sports Partnership included a comprehensive schools' fitness programme with 32 schools and over 2,500 pupils; education and training programmes for over 170 volunteers / coaches; delivery of sports leader and youth mentoring training for over 120 transition year students; integration projects including Diversity Games and the Integrated Academy for Athletics Performance; a significant number of primary and post primary schools sport and physical activity programmes directly and indirectly supported by the Sports Partnership; inter-generational sport and physical activity programmes such as Operation Transformation, Bike Week, Play Day and Recreation Week; and sport and

physical activity programmes reaching various target groups of the Sports Partnership.

In addition, the FAI Development Officer and the Leinster Rugby Community Club Development Officers 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. 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; deliver community coaching and sports leadership training for young people in a number of locations in the county; support the participation of people with disabilities in sport and physical activity; and deliver an urban outdoor adventure programme in Edenderry which focused on the re-establishment of the Edenderry Canoe / Kayak Club

Funding secured through Healthy Ireland saw Offaly Sports Partnership deliver physical activity programmes for children and young people, and older adults.



OFFALY TOURISM

2109 was a very busy and productive year for Offaly Tourism. There were a number of highlights but arguably the most anticipated being the opening of the new Tourist Office in O'Connor Square in Tullamore.



The new office opened in May 2019 and welcomed over 1,500 visitors in 2019. Offaly Tourism continues to work in partnership with Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG), to promote and develop Offaly's unique brand 'Ireland's Hidden

Gem', to both domestic and international tourism markets.

EVENTS OF 2019:

Offaly Tourism hosted its inaugural **Tourism Seminar** in April which was extremely well attended. Representatives from the tourism and hospitality sector joined for a morning of networking and learning. Due to the success

of the event, it is hoped to make this an annual gathering.



The **Shane Lowry Homecoming** event in July was a magnificent evening for locals and visitors alike. It was a great opportunity to honour our hero Shane but also showcased Offaly to a large captive audience. National and international media descended on Clara and Offaly Tourism gained great exposure from the event.

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 2019. The event is an important opportunity to showcase the very best of Offaly. Being Ireland's largest one-day agricultural show, with over 60,000 attendees, it is an excellent platform to promote and market Offaly to a large audience. 2019 saw a new look pavilion with the Offaly branding featuring on a more colourful and attractive

marquee. The new polished branded pavilion increased footfall and definitely stood out from the crowd!



RTÉ RADIO ONE'S

The Ray Darcy Show visited Banagher in July to



broadcast his show live from the Marina. Ray spoke to local tourism businesses and personalities about West Offaly and its appeal. An extremely popular national radio show with 220,000 listeners, it gave Offaly a platform on

national airwaves which was much welcomed.

IRISH HOT AIR BALLOONING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The **Irish Hot Air Ballooning Championships** returned to Birr in September 2019. Sponsored by Offaly Tourism and OCC, the championships once again created a stir with visitors travelling from far afield to look at this air borne spectacle. The 50th anniversary of the championships has been secured for Birr once again in 2020 and we look forward to making it an even bigger and better event!

TRADE SHOWS:

Offaly Tourism attended five trade shows in 2019. They continued to build awareness of the Offaly brand whilst capturing emails for their marketing database. The main trade show in the travel industry is the Holiday Word Show, held in the RDS every January. It was the first time in a number of years that Offaly had a presence at the HWS and it proved very fruitful as there was a large interest in what the county has to offer the domestic visitor. Other shows attended were: 50+ shows in Galway & Dublin, National Ploughing Championship & Tullamore Show.

MARKETING ACTIVITIES:

Offaly Tourism ran its very first **National Radio Campaign** in July 2019. The campaign which ran for two weeks throughout RTÉ's national radio stations coincided with Shane Lowry's Open win. For two weeks in July Offaly was ever present on the national airwaves which was unprecedented and excellent exposure for the

domestic market.

In conjunction with the national radio campaign, Offaly Tourism also ran a week long competition on **Virgin Media's morning Show 'Ireland AM'**. The competition offered a super prize of a helicopter trip of Offaly plus an overnight and dinner in the wonderful Kinnitty Castle Hotel and it was very well received by the viewers to Ireland's only morning TV show.

Festivals and Events continue to play an important role in attracting visitors to the county. Offaly Tourism were proud to assist in the promotion of numerous festivals and events in 2019. As a county we are growing our festivals and it is great to see such success in newer festivals e.g. TradFest, Festival Edenderry and the continued success of the more established festivals.

Offaly Tourism continued marketing activities throughout the year with **on-going brochure distribution, print advertisements and sponsorships**.

DIGITAL MARKETING

Offaly Tourism continued to grow its social media presence in 2019, with Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts using the #visitoffaly.

Our followers over the three platforms increased to over 10,500 at the end of 2019; that's a year on year increase of 49%

The Visit Offaly website continues to offer visitors the most comprehensive guide to County Offaly including an events page with monthly updates and 'what's on' in the region.

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 people 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 (25%) and also gives an allocation



Caption – Offaly Heritage Forum members at their quarterly meeting, Gloster House Folly.

towards the delivery of the Offaly Heritage Plan. The heritage office has one full time officer.

Offaly Library Service and Offaly History and the removal of Himalayan balsam invasive species from the Camcor and Little Brosna catchment.

ARCHIVES

The County Archive Building developed by Offaly History and supported by Offaly County Council in the Axis Business Park is full fitted out and the archives from both repositories are being transferred providing an invaluable and unique repository and research facility. Work continues to develop the county archive service website www.offalyarchives.com which hosts catalogues and certain digitised material.

HERITAGE COUNCIL FUNDED PROJECTS

Funding from the Heritage Council of €23,000 was received in 2019 towards two projects in the Offaly Heritage Plan: the archives programme in conjunction with

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLAN

Funding of €16,000 was received from the Dept CHG and was allocated towards the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan; supporting Tidy Towns in natural heritage projects; nest boxes for the swift population and the removal of invasive Himalayan balsam along the Camcor and Little Brosna.



Geashill Tidy Towns 24 hour Bioblitz recording the number of species in the village and raising awareness of biodiversity

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Work continues to combat this destructive plant and to try and contain it, involving annual treatment and a mapping programme along with contacting private landowners where the species is noted.

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

Funding of €10,000 was received in 2019 and was allocated to the preparation of archives from the period; lecture on the military archives for the period 1916-23;

essays on the period for the Offaly History Society Journal and the conservation of Lancelot Studholme's unique 6.6m memorial cross.

MEDIEVAL CHURCHES AND BURIAL GROUNDS

A maintenance programme has been put in place for medieval churches that have been conserved including Lynally, Lemanaghan, Drumcullen, Kilbride Clara, Croghan and Roscomroe to monitor and keep them in good repair. This is greatly assisted where volunteer groups are active such as at Lemanaghan where there is a weekly work group.

OFFALY TIDY TOWNS NETWORK

Three information evenings for the Offaly Tidy Town Network were held and a visit to Glaslough, Monaghan arranged; along with one to one mentoring and assistance with entry forms. There was great success with Tullamore and Geashill winning gold medals, Birr silver and Clonbullogue retaining their bronze. Geashill won the county title and is now only 3 points from the national winner. For the first time 3 special awards were won in Offaly; Geashill won the national Pollinator Award, Birr won the RIAI Fenestration Award and Ferbane won the Tree Council Award. This work is in partnership with the Community Section.



Offaly Tidy Towns Network visit to Glaslough, Monaghan, the National Tidy Town's Winners in 2019

and Local Development and the Architect's office. In 2019 €111,750 was received under this programme. Key projects were progressing the working group to manage Lough Boora Sculpture Park; support for OFFline Birr Animation project; development of a library workshop panel for the branch libraries; conservation of the folly at Ballycumber House; allocation towards the development of the Offaly Archives Service; support for Vintage Luminaries as part of the Vintage Week; development of the Battle of Geashill sculpture and a creative community grant scheme.



Vintage Luminaries projection at John's Hall, Vintage Week, August 2019

PUBLIC REALM AND TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

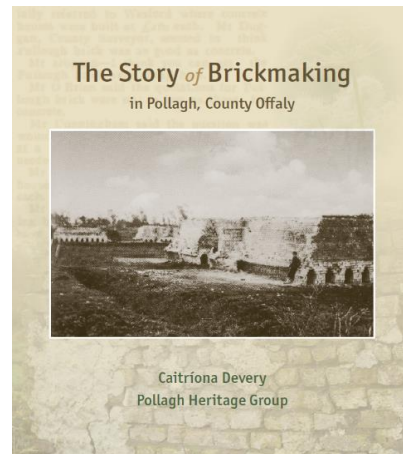
The Heritage Officer is part of the OCC in-house working group for Town and Village Renewal projects and was particularly involved in the delivery of the Croghan Hill project and the public art for Geashill in 2019.

CREATIVE IRELAND

Creative Ireland 2017-22, places creativity at the centre of public policy focusing on projects that are collaborative involving the arts, heritage and libraries with strong community reach. The Heritage Officer is involved in the Creative Ireland OCC working group along with the Arts Office, Library Service, Corporate Services, Community

OFFALY PUBLICATIONS

The Mary Ward (1857) reprint was launched in Birr in August with its Ferbane launch as part of the Annual Offaly Heritage Seminar on 15 November. The Pollogh Heritage Group launched their really well researched book on Pollagh Brick on 8 December. Two memorial recording books were published, one with Killoughey memorials by Breda Condrón and the second on Kilmanaghan by Michael Carton. The Buildings of Ireland architecture series Laois/Offaly/Kildare volume by Andrew Tierney was published by Yale.



community groups over the 9-day week in August.

ANNUAL OFFALY HERITAGE SEMINAR -

The annual heritage seminar was held on 15 /16 November in Tullamore with field trips to vernacular architecture sites, the new County Archive and to the Battle of Geashill sculpture. This seminar reports back to the general public on progress with heritage projects during 2019. It is open to all and free.



HERITAGE AWARENESS

The **OFFALY NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB** programme is co-ordinated through the Heritage Office and sixteen events were held throughout the year. This helps build the team interested in learning about and recording biodiversity in the county.

HERITAGE WEEK

Heritage Week is co-ordinated by the Heritage Office with the majority of the 40+ events planned and delivered by

TRANSPORTATION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES SPC

SPC Chair	Liam Quinn MCC	Director Of Services	Sean Murray / Mary Hussey / Eoin O’Ceilleachair
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 / Clive Duke Dennis Gibbons

ROADS; HEALTH AND SAFETY

ROADS

The 2019 Initial Roads Budget was as follows:

Roads Allocations 2019	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€2,957,235
Department of Transport Tourism & Sport	€9,878,991
Offaly County Council (Own Resources)	€1,792,130
Total	€14,628,356

Offaly County Council allocated an additional €899,500 for Public Lighting and a Central Management Charge

(support services) of €2,789,822. The 2018 Initial Roads Budget was €11,922,592

Offaly County Council received an initial roads allocation of €2.96m from Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII for maintenance and improvement of the National Road Network in 2019. The allocation included a €1.62m



pavement scheme for the N62 South of Sharavogue to Baveen completed in 2019.

Offaly County Council received a capital allocation of €300,000 from TII for the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link in 2019. Westmeath National Roads Office perform the role of Project Manager on behalf of Offaly County Council as the Lead Authority. Consulting Engineers were appointed in 2019 and the Planning and Design Stages commenced.

Offaly County Council received the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation of €9,878,991 from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport. The allocation included a specific improvement Grant of €285,000 for Edenderry Inner Relief Road and Consulting Engineers were appointed for the detailed design, archaeology and site investigation to progress the design stage.

The Department Transport, Tourism & Sport approved funding of €165,000 in 2019 for a Pilot Scheme Testing on Roads over Peat. The survey results inform Road Design of the extent and depth of peat under the Regional Roads in Offaly and will provide information for proposals and cost estimates for solutions. This information will allow us to submit informed applications for Specific Improvement Grant Schemes.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) announced further funding for Local Improvement

Schemes in 2019. Offaly County Council received an allocation of €278,871. The Roads section and three Municipal Districts progressed the list of schemes as advertised in February 2018.

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) approved €400,000 in 2019 under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme for the extension to the Offaly Greenway – Ballycommon Bridge to Campbells Bridge and the Turraun to Lough Boora section. Works were completed in 2019.



Offaly County Council was successful in obtaining €1.3 Million in approved funding for 12 no. applications submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The three municipal districts, road design and planning progressed the Schemes in 2019.

Projects undertaken and completed during 2019 are detailed below.

NATIONAL ROAD GRANTS

2019 National Roads (N52, N62 & N80 = 101km)

2019 National Roads Projects	
Ordinary Maintenance	€123,574
Winter Maintenance	€170,000
National Route Energy Reducing Public Lighting Schemes	€94,776
Pavement Schemes N62 South of Sharavogue to Baveen 2.7km	€1,253,479
HD28 NS Pavement Renewals Tullamore Bypass, Kilcormac, Birr, Ballinhowan, Derrinlough	€592,967
Road Safety Schemes	€195,012
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works Fencing Retrofit	€31,848
Capital Maintenance Works N62 Cush East & Galross Crossroads	€388,249
Capital Maintenance Works <€50,000	€396,637
N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link (Stage 0)	€300,000

NON NATIONAL ROAD GRANTS

2019 Non National Roads (Regional 392km & Local 1656km)

2019 Regional & County Roads Projects	
Restoration Improvement Grant	€4,750,500
Restoration Maintenance Grant	€1,215,000
Discretionary Improvement Grant	€1,775,000
Bridge Rehabilitation	€250,000
Safety Improvement Works	€316,942
Speed Limits	€16,950
Roads Training Grant	€36,000
Drainage Works	€452,000
Community Involvement Scheme	€656,541
Pilot Scheme Testing on Roads over Peat	€165,000
Specific Improvement Grant Edenderry Inner Relief Road	€285,000
Local Improvement Schemes	€278,871
CLAR Schemes	€135,851
Offaly Greenway Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme	€400,000

ROAD SAFETY 2019 INITIATIVES

The Roads section carried out a number of Road Safety Initiatives in 2019 working with the Municipal Districts, TII, RSA and an Garda Síochána to improve road safety in the County.

Information and awareness of Road Safety is key including weather alerts, informing staff, Councillors and the general public through emails, the Council's website, Facebook and Twitter including a week long Awareness Campaign on Radio 3 in relation to safety at roadworks sites.

The Drive for Life day long Programme continued in 2019 in a number of Secondary Schools in the County and in collaboration with Aviva we supplied virtual reality headsets so that students can experience the awful effects of a car crash themselves. Collaboration with the Road Safety Authority continued in relation to their Check it Fits Service with experts advising on how to correctly fit child car seats and Road Safety presentations delivered to a number of national schools in the County.

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.

The Climate Action Regional Office in Kildare for the Eastern and Midlands region which will provide direction and guidance to the Local Authorities to develop and implement their individual Strategies. The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was adopted by the Elected Members of Offaly County Council in September 2019.

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 2030 and 2050 targets.

FIRE SERVICES & CIVIL DEFENCE

FIRE SERVICE REPORT 2019

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 2019 Offaly County Fire and Rescue Service were alerted to 517 incidents, this consisted of 364 fire incidents and 153 other emergency incidents. The response to these calls came from 5 stations located throughout the county. The Section 26 Fire and Emergency plan formed the basis for the Fire Service work program 2019.

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 2019.

New entrants into the Fire Service are now undertaking QQI certified training which is coordinated and administrated by the Local Authority Service National Training Group. Offaly participates in this national training approach through the release of highly qualified instructors to deliver training and by the hire of Tullamore BA Training Centre to facilitate Breathing Apparatus Training.

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 2019 from the National Directorate for the provision of a Scania Class B Fire Appliance at a cost of €463,093. The appliance was supplied with the latest Compressed Air Foam System (CAFs), portable pump and ladders and has a plastic body for increased durability and reduced maintenance.



looking to complete this work by the end of April, at which stage a further submission will be made to the National Directorate of Fire and Emergency Management to again seek funding and progress the project.



The

The NDFEM also provided €31,722.19 capital funding for the provision of battery operated hydraulic rescue tools across the county. These tools provide for immediate intervention at road traffic collisions and are designed for ease of use in both remote and confined locations.

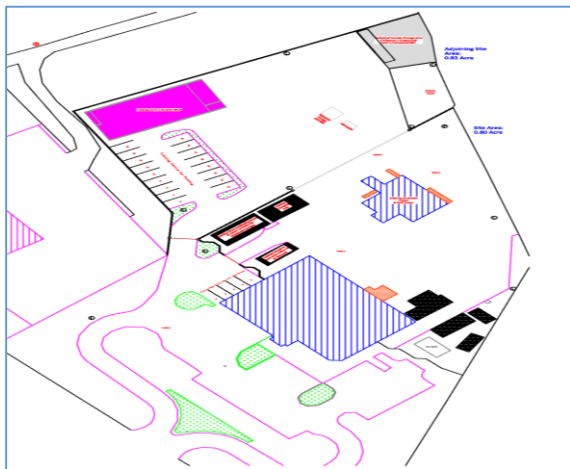
In addition, Offaly County Council Fire & Rescue procured a 4x4 Jeep to replace and end of life Jeep.

The site which has been identified for a new Fire Station in Clara is located in Raheen, and the Fire Services are currently engaging with our Housing section who are developing the lands adjoining the proposed fire station.

Offaly Fire Service are currently finalising the preliminary design and cost plan for a new station at this site. We are

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 85 days occupancy to external Fire Authorities. 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.



The medals are awarded to fire fighters who served in 2016, to honour the legacy of continued service by the fire service to the state since its foundation. The medals acknowledge the work of the fire services across the country over the past 100 years, as well as the role that the fire brigades played in the 1916 Easter Rising.



The above picture is of the medals presentation in Edenderry by Cathaoirleach of Edenderry Municipal District Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick.

1916-2016 COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS

In 2019 the issuing of the 1916 – 2016 Commemorative medals in took place. All Fire Services staff serving in 2016 received the medal. The medals were presented at ceremonies in each of the stations.



FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CONTROL

Offaly County Council Fire Service assessed 64 Fire Safety Certificate applications. The Fire Service also dealt with 72 license applications. In total 174 fire safety inspections of premises took place.

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

Offaly Fire service has have developed a Community Fire Safety Strategy which focuses on Home fire safety. This Strategy aims to complement the existing services

provided by the Fire Service and aims to develop programmes which shift the current focus of responding to fires towards involving the community in preventing the outbreak of Fire's.

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 2019 there were 197 commencement notices with 52 buildings inspected, which represents 19.2% 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 2019. Training was provided to Council staff in the following areas: Information Management, OnSite Co-ordination, and Media Liaison.

In addition, a regional Major Emergency Exercise involving all the Principal Response Agencies was carried out in Tullamore during 2019.

OFFALY CIVIL DEFENCE REPORT 2019

Offaly Civil Defence had a busy operational year in 2019. The Unit covered many various Duties and Events within the County, running various local courses and working alongside neighbouring Civil Defence Units. Training classes normally commence in February and finish at the end of May, in this regard we can concentrate our time to Duties and other Community requests for assistance during the summer months. All our training courses are accredited by the Civil Defence College & other external bodies e.g. PHECC (Pre Hospital Emergency Care Council)

ACTIVITIES IN OUR UNIT IN 2019:

Civil Defence provided community support within the County, to organisations who submitted requests on the approved Duty request form. Our Unit covered approximately 36 duties during the year ranging from 80k & 120k cycles;

- A number of charity 10k walks, 5k runs
- Birr Vintage week
- Tullamore Show
- Local Authority Family day in Lough Boora
- St. Patricks day Parades
- Shane Lowry homecoming event, along with other various events and projects
- Ambulance cover was provided to many 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.
- Civil Defence holds in storage and erects the Flexmort - Temporary Mortuary Unit, to assist the PRA's in line with MEM requirements as laid out in the Regional document. This Unit was erected during the MEM exercise in October, and we also provided a number of Volunteers and vehicles to this multi - agency exercise on the day assisting the other PRA's (Primary Response Agencies)
- Manual Handling courses were delivered to members of our Unit and this course delivery is ongoing and a work in progress project.
- Additional bikes were purchased for our Mountain Bike unit during 2019, and members were trained up by one of our Volunteers who holds certification from Cycling Ireland, the Bike Unit cover many duties during our operational year.
- A number of CFR (Cardiac First Responder) courses were run locally, several members qualified. We continue to try and assist our community wherever possible.

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>	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>	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 24TH MAY 2019

BIRR ELECTORAL AREA:

Carroll, John	The Ring, Birr	(057) 91 20976; (087) 228 3772	cllrjohncarroll@eircom.net	Non-Party
Claffey, Clare	10 Cluain, Rynagh, Banagher	----- ; (087) 678 7403	clare.claffey@socialdemocrats.ie	Social Democrats
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
Ormond, Peter	Kyleogue, Shinrone, Birr	(0505) 47 079; (086) 212 1449	peter.ormond@gmail.com	Fianna Fáil

EDENDERRY ELECTORAL AREA:

Cribbin, Noel	Francis Street, Edenderry	----- ; (087) 907 3804	noelcribb56@gmail.com	Non-Party
Fitzpatrick, Eddie	Benfield, Cloneyhurke, Portarlinton	(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
Hackett, Pippa	Geashill	----- ; (086) 885 2368	pippa.hackett@greenparty.ie	Green Party
Hackett, Mark *	Geashill	----- ; (087) 2422746	markhackettgreen@gmail.com	Green Party
McDermott, Robert	Canal View, Killane, Edenderry	----- ; (087) 255 5251	robert@edenprint.ie	Fianna Fáil
Quinn, Liam	Edenderry Road, Rhode	----- ; (087) 916 3066	liamjq@gmail.com	Fine Gael

TULLAMORE ELECTORAL AREA:

Feighery, Neil	Holmshill, Blueball, Tullamore	----- ; (087) 793 3118	neilfeighery@gmail.com	Fine Gael
Harvey, Declan	11 Park Avenue, Tullamore	----- ; (087) 410 6571	dmharvey@eircom.net	Fianna Fáil
McCormack, Tony	Daingean Road, Tullamore	----- ; (086) 822 9399	tony.mccormack@yahoo.ie	Fianna Fáil
Moran, Frank	2 Oak View, Kilcoursey, Clara	----- ; (086) 887 9524	moranfrank1@hotmail.com	Fianna Fáil
O'Brien, Sean	83 Whitehall, Tullamore	----- ; (086) 389 2854	seanobrientullamore@gmail.com	Non-Party
Owens, Danny	Lugamarla, Mountbolus, Tullamore	(057) 93 54814; (087) 127 1526	dannyowens@eircom.net	Fianna Fáil
Smollen, Ken	New Road, Clara	----- ; (085) 143 2898	kennethsmollen@gmail.com	Irish Democratic Party

*Co-opted on 18th November 2019

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 2019.

At the Annual Meeting, held on 7th June 2019, Councillor Peter Ormond was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor John Leahy was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.



June Annual Meeting held in Áras an Chontae on 7th June 2019

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 13 occasions during 2019.

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*
Cllr. D. Owens (Chairperson June 2019 – to date)

Chairpersons of Offaly S.P.C.'s (to September 2019) are:

Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services - Cllr. D. Harvey

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning - Cllr. J. Carroll

Transportation and Emergency Services - Cllr. L. Quinn

Environment, Water and Drainage Services - Cllr. J. Clendennen

Chairpersons of Offaly S.P.C.'s (from September 2019) are: -

Housing Strategic Policy Committee - Cllr. D. Owens

Land Use, Planning and Economic Development, Strategic Policy Committee - Cllr. E. Dooley

Community, Cultural and Emergency Service Strategic Policy Committee - Cllr. L. Quinn

Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation Services - Cllr. J. Leahy

LOCAL ELECTION - 24TH MAY 2019

Local Elections and European Elections were held on Friday, 24TH May 2019. **36 candidates** stood for election to Offaly County Offaly. The total valid poll was **31,095**. The total

number of Local Government Electors (eligible to vote in a Local Election) on the **Register of Electors** on 24th May 2019 was **59,953**.

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 14TH October 2019.

CORPORATE PLAN 2019 - 2024

Following consultation on the 16th December 2019 the members adopted the Corporate Plan 2019 -2024.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors was produced on the 1st February and came into force on 15th February 2019. The total electorate for County Offaly for the 2019/2020 Register of Electors was 59,393 broken down over the local electoral areas as follows:

Birr	20,904
Edenderry	16,681
Tullamore	21,808
Total on the Register	59,393

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 four occasions in 2019. The Committee held its annual Public Meeting on 7th October 2019 in St. Brigid’s Social Club, Garryhinch, Portarlinton

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 17 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 2019.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Offaly County Council processed 98 Freedom of Information requests during 2019, an increase on the 96 applications received in 2018.

Applications received / processed in 2019	
Applications on hand at 31/12/2018	3
Applications received during 2019	98
Decisions taken during 2019	87
Applications withdrawn and dealt with outside FoI	1
Applications on hand 31/12/2019	7
Nature of the information requested	
Personal (to applicant)	16
Non-personal	82
Requests were received from the following	
Journalists	40
Business / Interest	0
Oireachtas	3
Staff	0
Clients	14
Others	41

Name	Payments made to Members in 2019								Total
	Represent Pay & MD allowance	Monthly Expenditure allowance	Conferences/ Training incl. Fees and phones	SPC chairpersons allowance	MD Chairperson allowance	Chairpersons allowance	Gratuity	Travel Abroad	
Noel Bourke	7,545.41	2,314.89	885.70	2,746.11			71,381.94		84,874.05
John Carroll	18,170.55	5,777.15		2,746.05	2,653.86				29,347.61
Clare Claffey	10,623.72	3,197.47	55.00						13,876.19
John Clendennen	18,170.55	4,994.83	2,047.16	2,746.05					27,958.59
Noel Cribbin	18,170.55	5,574.60	2,732.44						26,477.59
Alan Davy	6,577.51	1,815.93							8,393.44
Dervill Dolan	7,546.82	1,794.88					63,949.41		73,291.11
Eamon Dooley	18,170.55	5,034.90	515.99	3,380.71	3,357.71				30,459.86
Neil Feighery	10,623.72	2,449.02	2,221.37						15,294.11
Eddie Fitzpatrick	18,170.55	4,697.74	3,267.58		6,012.28				32,148.15
John Foley	18,170.55	5,473.45							23,644.00
Mark Hackett	2,252.25	537.92							2,790.17
Pippa Hackett	7,667.63	1,849.10	205.00						9,721.73
Declan Harvey	18,167.16	4,243.90	3,268.20	2,746.05	2,723.09				31,148.40
Brendan Killeavy	6,508.27	1,553.20							8,061.47
John Leahy	18,170.55	4,596.59	272.87	3,380.71		2,253.80			28,674.52
Tony McCormack	18,170.55	4,243.90	692.33						23,106.78
Robert McDermott	10,623.72	3,139.10	974.71						14,737.53
Tommy McKeigue	7,546.82	1,794.88	935.33				73,530.47		83,807.50
Sean Maher	7,546.82	2,414.82					10,731.16		20,692.80
Frank Moran	18,170.55	4,210.07	2,541.38		3,288.72				28,210.72
Sean O'Brien	10,623.72	2,449.02	1,534.60						14,607.34
Peter Ormond	18,167.16	6,890.28	3,135.57			13,099.73			41,292.74
Danny Owens	18,170.55	4,243.90	4,886.75	3,380.71		9,153.72		3,064.47	42,900.10
Liam Quinn	18,170.55	5,237.45	1,326.19	3,380.71					28,114.90
Ken Smollen	10,623.72	2,449.02	55.00						13,127.74
Totals	342,520.50	92,978.01	31,553.17	24,507.10	18,035.66	24,507.25	219,592.98	3,064.47	756,759.14

Councillors attended the following training in 2019	Venue	Date of Conferences	No. Delegates
AILG Module 1	The Park Hotel, Mullingar	19 th January	3
AILG Annual Training 2019	The Longford Arms Hotel, Main Street, Longford	21 st – 22 nd February	8
LAMA Spring Training	The Bush Hotel, Carrick on Shannon, Leitrim	7 th – 8 th March	6
AILG Module 2	Radisson Hotel, Sligo	28 th March	3
AILG Module 3	The Park Hotel, Mullingar, Westmeath	11 th July	5
AILG Module 3	The Horse & Jockey, Tipperary	13 th July	2
CARO	The Court Hotel, Tullamore	9 th October	6
AILG Module 4	Radisson, Limerick	10 th October	1
AILG Module 4	Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk	11 th 12 th October	6
AILG Autumn Training	The Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan	11 th – 12 th September	12
LAMA Autumn Training	The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Clare	17 th – 19 th October	9
Irish Planning Institute	The Clayton Hotel, Sligo	30 th – 31 st October	1
AILG Module 5	Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone	21 st November	4
AILG Module 5	Radisson Hotel, Little Island, Cork	23 rd November	4
Irish Planning Institute	UCC, Cork	12 th – 13 th December	1
Councillors supported and attended the following conferences in 2019	Venue	Date of Conferences	No. Delegates
MacGill Summer School	The Highland Hotel, Glenties, Donegal	24 th -26 th July	5
Celtic Conferences, Ireland Plastic Waste	O'Donovans Hotel, Clonakilty, Cork	25 th -27 th October	1
Celtic Conferences, First Time Buyers	The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlinford, Louth	13 th -15 th December	2

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 2019.

COUNTY CORONERS

The total expenditure was €87,281.57 (including salaries) in respect of coroners' inquests in 2019.

CIVIC WELCOME

The Cathaoirleach and members hosted a Civic Reception for the Special Olympic Athletes to acknowledge their achievements the Special Olympics World Games, in Abu Dhabi 2019, on Monday 15th April



The Special Olympic Athletes at the Civic Reception held at Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore

2019.

The Cathaoirleach and members hosted a Civic Reception for Midland United Powerchair Football Club members to acknowledge their achievements with Team Ireland at European Powerchair Football Association Nations Cup 2019 in Finland, on Monday, 18th November 2019



The Midland United Powerchair Football Club members at the Civic Reception held at Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore

To mark the 120th Anniversary the first local elections following the enactment of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 which provided the legislative basis for much of our present local government system. Offaly County Council have refreshed its collection of photographs of the former Cathaoirligh of the Council.

The collection has been rehung in a location adjacent to the Council Chamber in Aras an Chontae, Tullamore. The collection holds photographs of all the Cathaoirleach of the Council from 1899 to the present day. The first Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council was Mr Henry Egan J.P. who served from 1899 to 1910 and our longest serving Cathaoirleach was Mr Patrick Boland T.D., who served from 1934 to 1955.



The Cathaoirleach and Members of Offaly County Council, with the Chief Executive at the unveiling of the photographic collection of former Cathaoirleigh of the Council.



Visit of Georgia Ambassador George Zurabashvili on Tuesday 6th August at Aras an Chontae,



The visit of Hungarian Ambassador, Mr. Istvan S. Palfy on Monday 11th March 2019

The visit of Chinese Ambassador, Mr. He Xiangdong, on Thursday 14th November 2019



REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES

Association of Irish Local Government:	Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. P. Ormond Cllr. E. Dooley
Board of Directors Oxmantown Hall Management Committee:	Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. C. Claffey
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Owens
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd:	Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. D. Owens
Joint Policing Committee:	Cllr. N. Bourke, Cllr. J. Carroll Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. N. Cribbin, Cllr. N. Feighery Cllr. 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, Cllr. P. Hackett Cllr. M. Hackett Cllr. R. McDermott Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. K. Smollen
Local Authority Members Association:	Cllr. N. Bourke Cllr. Ormond
Local Community Development Committee:	Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. N. Cribbin, Cllr. J. Leahy

Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee:	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. B. Killeavy, Cllr. J. Leahy Cllr. P. Ormond, Cllr. N. Feighery Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. K. Smollen Cllr. T. McCormack
Laois and Offaly Education Training Board:	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cllr. E. Dooley Cllr. T. McCormack, Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. L. Quinn Cllr. C. Claffey, Cllr. N. Feighery Cllr. P. Hackett, Cllr. R. McDermott, Cllr. F. Moran
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. A. Davy, Cllr. L. Quinn Cllr. P. Hackett, Cllr. M. Hackett Cllr. R. McDermott,
Offaly Film Commission:	Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. S. Maher Cllr. P. Ormond, Cllr. S. O'Brien Cllr. D. Owens
Offaly Innovation & Design Centre:	Cllr. T. McCormack
Offaly Sports Partnership:	Cllr. F. Moran Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. J. Carroll

Regional Health Forum, Dublin-Mid-Leinster:	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. T. McKeigue Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. S. O'Brien
Rural Water Monitoring Committee:	Cllr. N. Cribbin Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. J. Clendennen Cllr. P. Hackett, Cllr. M. Hackett
Swimming Pool Committees:	<i>Birr</i> – Cllrs. S. Maher, P. Ormond <i>Clara</i> –Cllrs. F. Moran, K. Smollen <i>Edenderry</i> - Cllrs. J. Foley, N. Cribbin

Tullamore Leisure Ltd.	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. T. McKeigue Cllr. D. Owens Cllr. K. Smollen
Tullamore Community Arts Centre:	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Harvey, Cllr. B. Killeavy Cllr. T. McKeigue, Cllr. S. O'Brien, Cllr. D. Owens
Tullamore Sports Link Ltd.:	Cllr. T. McKeigue Cllr. T. McCormack
Tullamore Chandler Sister Cities:	Cllr. T. McCormack Cllr. D. Owens
Sub-Project Committee, Municipal District of Birr:	Cllr. P. Ormond Cllr. C. Claffey

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 and Local Government (DHPLG) 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.

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

GENERAL LEDGER / AGRASSO 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.

NPPR

The section issues Non Principal Private Residence certificates.

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

Offaly County Council reports financial performance

Quarterly to the DHPLG. 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.

2019 FINANCE STATISTICS

MOTOR TAX

In 2019, the Motor Taxation Office generated approximately €4.9m in revenue, handled almost 90,000 transactions (31% over the counter, 4% via post and 65% was processed online)

REVENUE COLLECTION SERVICE INDICATORS

Amount collected as a percentage of the amount due at 2019 year end: (Draft percentages)

Rents	89%
Commercial Rates	88%
Housing Loans	62%

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT)
FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2019**

Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	2019 €	2019 €	2019 €	2018 €
Housing & Building	13,254,090	13,527,685	(273,595)	207,811
Roads Transportation & Safety	21,556,631	15,474,046	6,082,585	5,070,984
Water Services	5,456,729	5,093,260	363,469	445,783
Development Management	8,387,688	4,821,355	3,566,333	3,560,785
Environmental Services	7,584,224	2,398,309	5,185,916	5,352,043
Recreation & Amenity	3,843,381	599,262	3,244,119	3,099,541
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	521,395	341,529	179,866	378,432
Miscellaneous Services	6,017,654	3,423,671	2,593,984	2,577,561
Total Expenditure/Income	66,621,792	45,679,116		
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax			20,942,676	20,692,939
Rates			16,928,121	16,996,876
Local Property Tax			7,656,288	7,656,288
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers			3,641,734	3,960,225
Transfers from/(to) Reserves			(3,009,638)	(3,398,812)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year			632,096	561,413
General Reserve @ 1st January 2019			(2,505,853)	(3,067,266)
General Reserve @ 31st December 2019			(1,873,757)	(2,505,853)

Capital Account Summary

**Extract from The Draft Annual Financial Statement
for the Year ended December 31, 2019**

	2019	2018
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 1 January	12,189,766	8,775,849
Total Expenditure (Incl Transfers)	-32,303,855	-13,181,871
Total Income (Incl Transfers)	30,985,124	16,595,788
Balance (Debit)\Credit @ 31 December	10,871,035	12,189,766

INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT

INTERNAL AUDITS UNDERTAKEN

During 2019, the Internal Audit Unit completed 3 Audits from the agreed Internal Audit Plan 2019. 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.

2020 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The 2020 Internal Audit Plan was prepared for approval by the Management Team and Audit Committee in December 2019.

PUBLIC SPENDING CODE QA PROCESS

Internal Audit was responsible for compilation of the Council's Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report 2018.

This report was certified by the Chief Executive and submitted to the National Oversight and Audit Commission in May 2019 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 2019.

SUPPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Internal Audit Unit provided support to the Audit Committee in the fulfilling of its duties in 2019.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

During the course of 2019 the audit committees term concluded in accordance with the Council term. The outgoing Audit Committee met for the final time on the 4th of March.

The new Audit Committee's appointment was ratified by resolution of the council, at the meeting of Offaly County Council held on July 15th 2019.

At the first audit committee meeting of the new Council term 2019 – 2024, on the 28th of November, Mr Peter Scully was nominated by the committee, to fill the chairperson position. The committee held their final meeting of 2019 on the 19th of December.

During 2019 the Audit Committee met with the Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Directors of Services, Local Government Auditor and Internal Auditor.

The Audit Committee considered the following in 2019:

- Final Internal Audit Reports
- Follow-Up Internal Audit Reports
- Quarterly updates on Internal Audit progress
- Quarterly updates on Finances and the Local Government Auditor's Report
- Annual Financial Statement 2018
- Offaly County Council Budget 2020
- LGMA Local Authorities Performance Indicators Report 2018
- Audit Committee Charter 2019
- Offaly County Council Annual Report 2018
- Internal Audit Plan for 2020
- Audit Committee Work Plan 2020

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

- Offaly County Council's Public Spending Code Quality Assurance Report 2018
- Monthly Management Report to Council

➤ 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 on the 25th March 2019:

➤ Audit Committee Annual Report 2018

➤ Audit Committee Report to Council on 2017 Annual Financial Statement and Local Government Auditor's Report

➤ Audit Committee Charter 2019

➤ Audit Committee Work Plan 2019

➤ Internal Audit Plan 2019.

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

Towards the end of 2019, the Human Resources Department embarked on an internal restructuring. The result of this will see an expanded training section and the transfer of the Payroll / Superannuation function from the Finance Section to Human Resources. This transition will be finalised during the course of 2020.

STAFFING

The total staff complement has reduced by approximately 16.5% since 2008 when the public service moratorium on

employment was introduced. Details of numbers employed at 31st December 2008 and 2019 respectively are set out below for comparison purposes: -

Year	Total Staff Headcount	Non-DHPLG Posts	Retained Fire Fighters
2008	516	12	63
2019	432	22	51

RECRUITMENT

Significant recruitment took place during 2019 including a number of major competitions in entry grades across administrative, technical, professional and specialist posts. 25 different competitions were held involving the processing of over 700 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 again provided by the Members in the training budget for 2019 specifically for the purposes

of funding 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 Master's Degree and Post Graduate Courses. This positive move continues to be 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>Child Safeguarding Training</i>	❖ <i>Road Opening & Reinstatement Basic</i>
❖ <i>MEWP Scissors & Boom</i>	❖ <i>Dog Warden Training</i>
❖ <i>Certificate in Road Programme Management mod 1-5</i>	❖ <i>GDPR Training</i>
❖ <i>Handling of Litter & Safe Disposal of Drug related waste TMD</i>	❖ <i>SafeTALK Suicide Prevention</i>
❖ <i>Waste Legislation training</i>	❖ <i>First Aid Refresher</i>
❖ <i>Safe Pass</i>	❖ <i>Road Opening & Reinstatement Advanced</i>
❖ <i>Licence Upgrade</i>	❖ <i>Certificate in Roads Programme</i>
❖ <i>Manual handling</i>	❖ <i>CPC Module 4</i>
❖ <i>GDPR Training for Elected Representatives</i>	❖ <i>Public Speaking Training</i>

❖ <i>Chlorine Handling</i>	❖ <i>Forklift Operator refresher Training</i>
❖ <i>Managing a serious Incident</i>	❖ <i>GDPR Certificate in GDPR & Data Protection</i>
❖ <i>Local Election Training</i>	❖ <i>Senior Management Group Training</i>
❖ <i>Dealing with Anti-Social Behaviour</i>	❖ <i>Grade 7 Management Training</i>
❖ <i>Refresher Course Child Safe Guarding training</i>	❖ <i>Grade 6 Management Training</i>
❖ <i>Roads Services Supervisors Course</i>	❖ <i>Retirement Planning Training Course</i>
❖ <i>Nutrient Removal in Wastewater Treatment plant</i>	❖ <i>Grade 5 Management Training</i>
❖ <i>Leadership in Local Government programme</i>	❖ <i>IPA Managing Meetings & Time Management</i>
❖ <i>CSCS Slinger/Signaller Course</i>	❖ <i>CPC Module 5</i>
❖ <i>First Aid Training</i>	❖ <i>Abrasive Wheels Training</i>
❖ <i>Disability Federation of Ireland Training</i>	❖ <i>Electrical Test & Verification</i>
❖ <i>Small Stream Risk Score</i>	❖ <i>Standards for Inspection of Rented Dwellings</i>
❖ <i>Surface Dressing Roller Operator Training</i>	❖ <i>IPA Report writing & Communication Skills</i>
❖ <i>Certificate in Local Government Studies</i>	❖ <i>Certificate Programme Management</i>
❖ <i>Inspection of Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems</i>	❖ <i>Autism Awareness</i>
❖ <i>Mini Digger Assessment</i>	❖ <i>Site Suitability Assessment for on-site WWTS</i>

❖ <i>Chainsaw Refresher Training</i>	❖ <i>Resilience Training</i>
❖ <i>Anti-Social Behaviour Training</i>	❖ <i>Location of Underground Services</i>
❖ <i>Prevention & Management of Aggression & Violence at Work</i>	❖ <i>Telescopic Handler Assessment</i>
❖ <i>Water Treatment Plant Operators Training</i>	❖ <i>DTTAS Safety at Roadworks Temporary Traffic management</i>
❖ <i>Management Development Training</i>	❖ <i>Capital Works Framework Procurement Training</i>
❖ <i>Courtroom Skills Training</i>	❖ <i>Cardiac First Responder Training</i>
❖ <i>Building Control Management</i>	❖ <i>Signing Lighting & Guarding 3 day & 2 day info update</i>

INDUSTRIAL AND EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Human Resources 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 2019.

RETIREMENTS

The following staff retired during 2019:

- ❖ Tommy Martin
- ❖ Sean Murray
- ❖ Mary Treacy
- ❖ Martina Mooney
- ❖ Eamon Doyle
- ❖ Tom Cullen
- ❖ Seamus Hynds
- ❖ Declan Conlon
- ❖ Stephen Lonican

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 utilised by close to 400 users. In 2019 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.
- Digital Transformation / Cloud
 - O365 – Email and Sharepoint - have invested in cloud-based technology to commence the transformation of digital services.
 - Council Corporate Intranet - Building on our investment in Sharepoint Online, development of a new Intranet portal which will allow staff to engage, inform and collaborate seamlessly with colleagues
 - Rollout of mobile Housing Inspections Application with colleagues in Housing to enhance efficiencies in this department.
 - Implementation of Online Payments for Rates Customers.
- Cyber Security: Continued to enhance cyber security features and security awareness / training in the organisation. Ongoing support of Unified Endpoint Management for all organisational devices including the rollout of MDM (Mobile Device Management) and MFA (Multifactor Authentication) and external penetration testing.
- Implementation of Meeting Management Software for all County Meetings including rollout to the LCDCs.
- Ongoing Promotion of Social Media as another information channel for engagement with staff, elected members, and the public to maximise content delivery. Developing consistent, clear branding for all Council Services provided online and offline to include a new brand identity for the Council.
- Library Upgrade and Support – rollout of new equipment and Windows 10 PCs to all libraries, new SMART digital initiatives including deployment of standard configuration for staff access. Continued support of Open Libraries.
- Development of an Online Submissions Platform for the County Development Plan.
- ICT requirements and support for Offaly County Council Records Management Facility & Digital Hub eHive in Edenderry.
- Continued support for NWCPO which this year involved the relocation of their office and 15 staff

and the ongoing development of a new Online Application Process.

- Desktop Operating System: Upgrading of all PC / Laptop's to Windows 10 which is the latest, most secure version of Windows and will mitigate organisational risk against cyber-attacks.
- Upgrade of Audio-Visual equipment in our meeting rooms.
- Rollout of Office of Government Procurement (OGP) Framework Agreements which will deliver cost savings for the organisation for the provision of:
 - Mobile Voice and Data Communications and Associated Products and Services.
 - PC and Notebook Framework - Completed frameworks for ICT services.
- Completed migration of all core applications, devices and users to our new ICT infrastructure for Offaly. Ongoing upgrading of servers to latest most secure versions
- Ongoing development of GIS and Open Data Council wide: publication of our first open datasets to opendata.gov.ie
- Ongoing Health and Safety Audits on site promoting the importance of safety in all our workspaces
- Continued audit of Council digital data in line with best practice around GDPR and will look to build on this in 2020.
- Completed Integration of phone systems to mitigate against PABX Hacking and Telephony Fraud.

- 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.

BROADBAND / DIGITAL

Offaly County Council Broadband Officer acts as a dedicated point of contact within County Offaly for engagement with telecommunications providers and will assist with the preparation of the roll out of the National Broadband Plan. The Broadband Officer 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 under the National Broadband Plan is fully realised from an economic and social perspective. This strategy will be completed in early 2020 with the aim of enabling Offaly to leverage broadband and digital technologies for rural regeneration. In 2019, Offaly County Council in partnership with the Department of Rural and Community Development and Cork Institute of Technology delivered an exciting new digital STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programme to 16 primary schools in the county. VEX Robotics is an exciting programme where primary school children from 5-12 years learn about STEM in an engaging way. They design, build, code and compete

with their robot and it gives children as young as five years of age their first opportunity to learn about engineering, automation and robotics while having fun. Offaly County Council believes that this programme is needed to ensure today's students are qualified for the jobs of tomorrow. This programme is an ideal introduction to students who we hope will drive Offaly's economic ambitions, support innovation and provide the foundations for future prosperity in the county. Offaly County Council plans to extend this STEM programme to additional primary schools and post primary schools in Offaly over the coming months.

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. Offaly County Council provide Free Public Wi-Fi call "Visit Offaly Free WiFi" along the Shannon Blueway, the Grand Canal Greenway and Tourist Locations throughout Offaly. In addition, all libraries in the county also provide Free Public Wi-Fi to visitors, tourists and people living and working in Offaly. We plan to extend the rollout of WiFi throughout the county in 2020 under the WiFi4EU initiative which aims to provide high-quality Internet access across the EU to citizens and visitors.

We continue to work with telecommunications providers improving broadband and mobile phone services throughout the county. Mobile operators are upgrading masts to improve 4G coverage and mobile phone signal coverage. The ongoing work with broadband providers is delivering more high-speed broadband throughout the county.

In 2019, we also worked with the Department of Education and the PDST to deliver high speed broadband to all primary schools in the county. This project will be fully completed in 2020. We continue to work with broadband providers and businesses to improve connectivity throughout the county.

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

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLAMORE

Director of Services / Area Manager: Sean Murray (Jan 2019) / Tom Shanahan (Feb to Dec 2019)
Senior Executive Engineer: John Connelly
Meetings Administrator: Brenda Corbet

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.

Elected Members of Municipal District of Tullamore

(from June 2019)

Cathaoirleach Frank Moran

Leas Cathaoirleach Declan Harvey

Cllr. Tony McCormack

Cllr. Danny Owens

Cllr. Neil Feighery

Cllr. Ken Smollen

Cllr. Sean O'Brien

Representatives to Various Bodies:

Tullamore Leisure Ltd:	Cllr. Declan Harvey Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Tony McCormack Cllr. Ken Smollen
Tullamore Community Arts Centre Ltd:	Cllr. Declan Harvey Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Sean O'Brien Cllr. Tony McCormack
Tullamore Sports Link Ltd:	Cllr. Tony McCormack
Tullamore Chandler Sister Cities:	Cllr. Danny Owens Cllr. Tony McCormack
Clara Swimming Pool Committee:	Cllr. Ken Smollen

2019 Key Activities

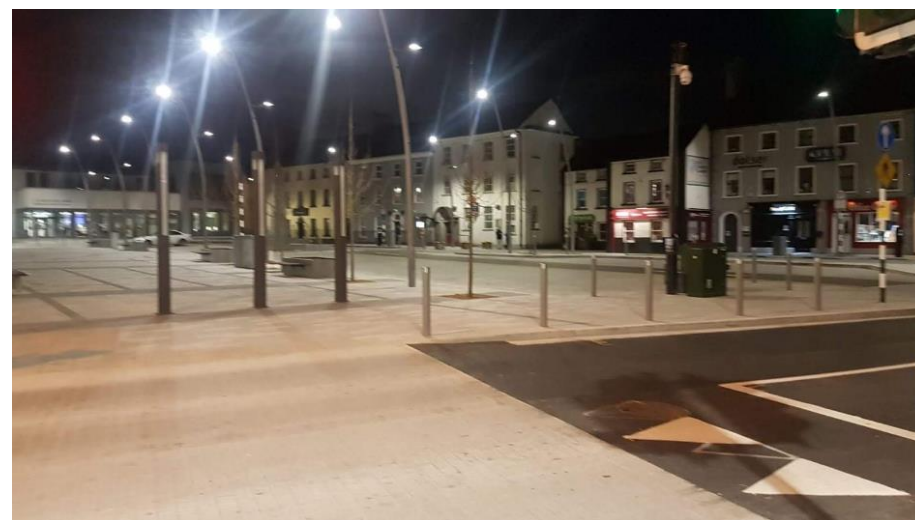
- **Team Tullamore** - The Municipal District continued it's work in partnership with Tullamore Tidy Towns Committee and Tullamore Chamber of Commerce as Team Tullamore.



- Worked with, and supported, **Tidy Towns/Villages** Committees and other organisations throughout the Municipal District.
- Maintained **street cleaning services** throughout the Municipal District area.
- Supported the continued Design and Consultation Process for **Tullamore Community Arts Centre**. Tender Documents were prepared in late 2019 following which the project went to public open tender.

- **Tullamore Street Enhancement Project** - Offaly County Council is pursuing a project to enhance the public realm of the retail core of Tullamore town.

The Tullamore Enhancement Project phase 1 which included undergrounding cables, paving, public lighting, street furniture, planting, new layout of public areas, wider footpaths and increased pedestrian priority within O'Connor Square and on High Street was substantially completed. The remaining works on William Street have been suspended due to Covid 19 restrictions.



Remodelled O'Connor Square

A new pedestrian bridge was constructed and is now open giving pedestrian access between Millennium Square and the historic and retail core of the town.

Design procurement for Phase 2 of the Tullamore Street Enhancement Project was advanced.

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 which has been permitted under Part 8 planning process.

Street enhancement works will include improvement to existing pedestrian footpaths, remodelling of existing junction to facilitate improved pedestrian safety, paving works, 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. 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 2020 subject to Covid 19 restrictions.

- ➔ Estate enhancement works were carried out in conjunction with the Housing section on Local Authority housing estates within the district.
- ➔ The Clara 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme Phase 2 project commenced in November 2019 and was completed in January 2020.
- ➔ The Ballycumber 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme project commenced in November 2019 and was completed in February 2020.

- ➡ The swimming pool at Tullamore Leisure Centre was re-tiled and the gym area revamped during 2019, a re-launch took place in January 2020.



- ➡ Lloyd Town Park, Tullamore retained its' Green Flag in 2019, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces. Lloyd Town Park also was the venue for 2019 Operation Transformation, Darkness in Light 2019, Fitzone Challenge with Offaly Sports Partnership, Sports Inclusion Programme amongst many more.

Lloyd Town Park, Operation Transformation 2019



Lloyd Town Park, Fitzone 2019

- Visits/Delegations received from Mayor of Luzhou China, in December 2019 to mark the signing of an Agreement of establishing the relationship of friendly cooperation between Luzhou City, the People's Republic of China and Tullamore Municipal District.
- Schedule of Works 2019 – Consideration and adoption of the Schedule of Works for the Municipal District.
- Budget 2020 - 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 were given to members at Municipal District Meetings as follows: Environment & Water Services; Roads & Infrastructure; Housing.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EDENDERRY

Director of Services / Area Manager:

Declan Conlon (retired September 2019)/ **Eoin O’Cheilleachair**

Meetings Administrator:

Carmel Delaney (Jan – Oct) / **Josephine Lee**

Senior Executive Engineer:

Mark Mahon

Assistant Engineer:

John McNally (Jan – June) / **Rory Moore**

ELECTED MEMBERS OF EDENDERRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Cllr John Foley, Non Party

Cllr Liam Quinn, Fine Gael

Cllr Robert McDermott, Fianna Fáil

Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick, Fianna Fáil

Cllr Noel Cribbin, Non Party

Cllr Mark Hackett, Green Party

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES/BOARDS

North Offaly Development
Fund

Cllr. Noel Cribbin
Cllr. John Foley
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick
Cllr. Liam Quinn
Cllr. Robert McDermott
Cllr. Pippa Hackett
Cllr. Mark Hackett

Edenderry Swimming Pool

Cllr. Noel Cribbin

Member required for Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick was chosen by the members to represent Edenderry Municipal District on the CPG.

Monthly Meetings

Monthly Meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Chamber of the Town Hall, Edenderry at 3.00pm.

Agenda Items

The members of Edenderry Municipal District agreed that the following be included on their agenda for their monthly meeting as set items;

- Swimming Pool Development
- Library Development
- Inward Investment and Local Enterprise Development
- Public Utility Capacity Issues
- Area Issues/Updates

- Roads Update
- Town and Village Renewal Update
- Other Areas / Issues

Schedule of Reports from other Departments

On a rolling monthly basis the Elected 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.

2019 Activities

E-Hive and Public Realm

On the 28th of November 2019, Minister Michael Ring officially opened the E-hive Co-Working Hub and refurbished Public Realm on O’Connell Square in Edenderry. These public realm enhancements and the re-purposing of community buildings have been made possible by Town and Village Renewal Scheme funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Edenderry Municipal District and the Chief Executive were delighted to host Minister Michael Ring for the E-Hive and Public Realm Launch



Cannonball Festival

Edenderry hosted the finish of the super car spectacle, Cannonball on the 6th September 2019. Cannonball is the largest road trip in Europe. The Trail Blaze started in Malahide in Dublin the trail went through Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Sligo, Meath and with the finish line in Edenderry.



Rhode – Low Cost Safety Scheme

Low Cost Safety Schemes are engineering projects that aim to introduce some physical measures to improve safety, e.g. reconfiguration of pedestrian crossing in Rhode Village



Croghan Hill - Town and Village Renewal

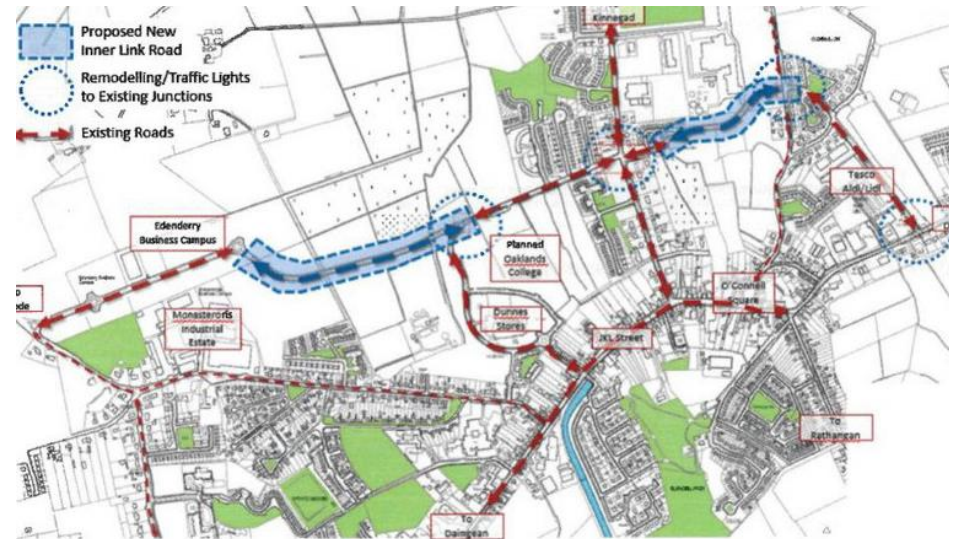
The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is a key part of the Action Plan for Rural Development and the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Programme for Rural Regeneration. Projects approved through the Scheme are aimed at making small rural towns and villages more attractive and sustainable places in which to live and work. Under the 2018 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, funding of €200,000 was approved for Edenderry, Co Offaly to



support a number of activities. One of these activities was the regeneration of Croghan Hill as a Tourist Destination.

Planning – Granary Court to Fairgreen Link and the Inner Relief Road

The proposed development to create a road link between Granary Court and Fairgreen (L-10016-8) was adopted by the Councillors at the January 2019 Council Meeting. The below pictures depicts where the link road will be situated.



Map depicts where the proposed sections will be situation

The Edenderry Inner Relief Project Part 8 Planning was adopted in the March 2019 Council meeting.

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 Eamonn Dooley, Fianna Fáil (Cathaoirleach) June-Dec
 Cllr John Carroll, Non Party (Cathaoirleach Jan-May)
 Cllr Sean Maher, Sinn Fein (Leas Cathaoirleach Jan-May*)
 Cllr John Leahy, Independent (Leas Cathaoirleach June-Dec)
 Cllr John Clendennen, Fine Gael
 Cllr Peter Ormond, Fianna Fáil
 Cllr Clare Claffey, Social Democrats

REPRESENTATIVES TO VARIOUS BODIES/BOARDS

Birr Swimming Pool	Cllr Peter Ormond
SUB Project Committee	Cllr Clare Claffey
Birr Theatre and Arts Centre	Cllr John Clendennen Cllr Clare Claffey

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

The Members met with members of the Birr 20:20 group to hear a briefing on the activities of the group and their aims for the future of Birr.

GENERAL MUNICIPAL ALLOCATION - COMMUNITY GRANTS

In 2019 the Members received an allocation of €70,000 which was used to help fund projects and activities of 84 groups within the Birr MD area.

ROADS PROGRAMME

A €7 million roads programme was delivered in Birr Municipal District in 2019 improving approximately 45km of the road network in the district



R421 Cadamstown to County Bounds



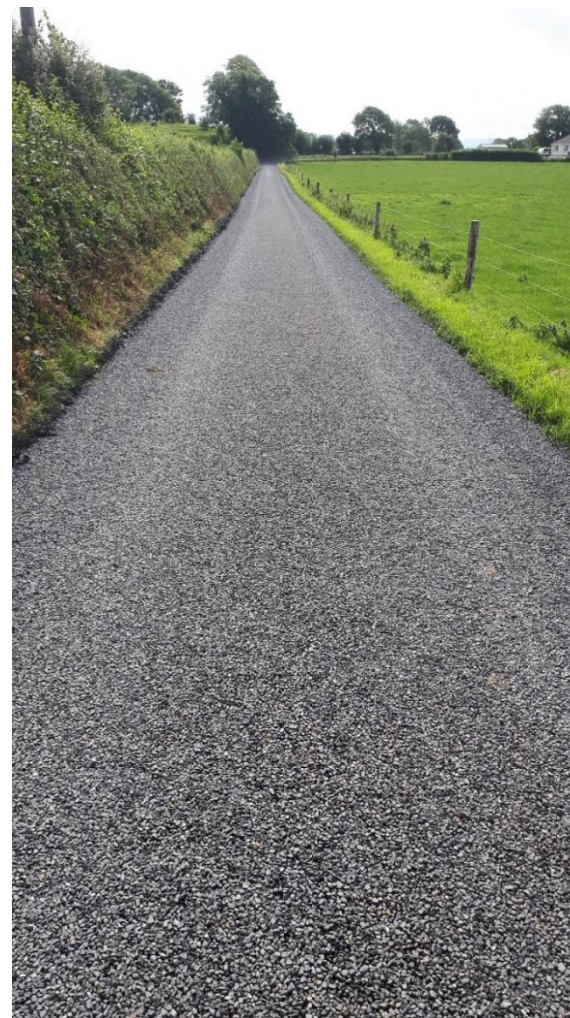
R357 Shannonbridge Road, Cloghan



R421 Ballincurr, Kinnitty



HRA pavemant scheme at Miletree junction



*LIS
scheme
at
Ballycollin
Fivealley*

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Birr Municipal District were succesful in delivering a Local Improvement Scheme programme on privately owned roads



*LIS
scheme
at
Cullenwaine
Moneygall*

TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

Town & Village Renewal schemes were completed in Cloghan and Shinrone in Birr Municipal District in 2019



Cloghan Town & Village Renewal scheme and RIG scheme



Shinrone Town & Village Renewal scheme and RIG scheme

SURFACE DRESSING

Birr Municipal District were successful in delivering a 29km Surface Dressing programme

1.4km Surface Dressing scheme at Black Bull to Shinrone





1km Surface Dressing scheme at Leap, Ballybritt

2019 BRIDGE WORKS



Bridge at Killavilla



Weir Bridge, Kilcomin



Culvert at Clonlisk

SERVICE INDICATORS 2019

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 2019 visits to selected local authorities to validate the 2018 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 are being reported on in respect of 2019 activity.

For 2019, there are **39** local authority performance indicators, as follows:

- HOUSING (H1 TO H6)
- ROADS (R1 TO R3)
- WATER (W1 AND W2)
- WASTE/ENVIRONMENT (E1 TO E5)
- 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 2019. The guidance provided for **H1** has been amended to clarify what properties should be included / excluded. The guidance under **H5** has been amended to tie in with the DHPLG new annual return "*Inspections of Private Rented Accommodation Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019 Full Year Return – Inclusive Period 1 Jan 2019 to 31 December 2019*". The guidance under indicator **R2** has been amended to include the unit cost of works in Euro per square metre. A new Waste / Environment indicator, **E5**, to establish the % of energy savings since the baseline year in 2009. A new Water Indicator, **W2**, to establish the percentage of registered schemes audited in the year. Two

new Library Indicators. **L1C**, will record the library registered membership per head of population. **L2B** will record the annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 01/01/2019 to 31/12/2019. Indicator **M1** now includes **M1:H** which records the revenue expenditure per capita in 2019 when out of county / shared service expenditure has been excluded for specified shared services.

H: HOUSING (H1 TO H6)	2019	2018
H1: SOCIAL HOUSING STOCK		
A. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the Local Authority at 1/1/2019		1799
B. The number of dwellings added to the Local Authority owned stock during in 2019 (whether constructed or acquired)		27
C. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings sold in 2019		19
D. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings demolished in 2019		0
E. The number of dwellings in the ownership of the Local Authority at 31/12/2019		1807
F. The number of Local Authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHPLG approved scheme		0
H2: HOUSING VACANCIES		
A. The percentage of the total number of Local Authority owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2019		1.49%
H3: AVERAGE RE-LETTING TIME AND COST		
A. The time taken from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date in 2019 when a new tenancy had commenced in the dwelling, averaged across all units re-let in 2019		0.97 wks
B. The cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted units in 2019 ready for re-letting, averaged across all units re-let in 2018		€ 21,417.82
H4: HOUSING MAINTENANCE COST		
A. Expenditure during 2019 on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA compiled on a continuous basis from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, divided by the no. of directly provided units in the LA stock at 31/12/2019		€ 605.31

H5: PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR INSPECTIONS		
A. Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at the end of June 2019		3,396
B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2019		169
C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2019 that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations		5.33%
D. Number of non-compliant dwellings that became compliant during 2019		9
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 2019.		44.44%

R: ROADS (R1 AND R2)		2019	2018
R1: RATINGS IN PAVEMENT SURFACE CONDITION INDEX (PSCI)			
<p>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 31/12/2019</p> <p>The % of (d) Local Tertiary road kilometres that have received a PSCI condition rating in the 60-month period prior to 31/12/2019</p>	<i>Regional</i>		96%
	<i>Local Primary</i>		79%
	<i>Local Secondary</i>		27%
	<i>Local Tertiary</i>		80%
<p>B. The % of total (a) Regional road kilometres at 31/12/2019 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10</p>	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		2%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		19%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		51%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		28%
<p>B. The % of total (b) Local Primary, road kilometres at 31/12/2019 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.</p>	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		12%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		35%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		36%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		15%
<p>B. The % of total (c) Local Secondary, road kilometres at 31/12/2019 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.</p>	<i>Category 1 - 4</i>		31%
	<i>Category 5 - 6</i>		21%
	<i>Category 7 - 8</i>		23%
	<i>Category 9 - 10</i>		19%

B. The % of total (d) Local Tertiary , road kilometres at 31/12/2019 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 2019.	Km of Road	10.5 km
	Amount Spent	€ 1,106,201
B. Kilometres of Regional Road resealed during 2019.	Km of Road	6.9 km
	Amount Spent	€ 195,551
C. Kilometres of Local Road strengthened during 2019.	Km of Road	24.3 km
	Amount Spent	€ 1,828,659
D. Kilometres of Local Road resealed during 2019.	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 2019		67.45%

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 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 and the number of such transactions conducted online.

W: WATER (W1)	2019	2018
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 2019.	<i>Provided by EPA</i>	99.34%
		<i>New in 2019</i>

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 31/12/2019		4,223
B. The % of households within the LA area (also as per the 2016 Census) that the number at (A) represents.		15.53%
E2: % OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION COMPLAINTS CLOSED		
A. The total no. of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2018, the number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 and the total no. of cases on hands at 31/12/2019.	<i>Complaints Made</i>	1,009
	<i>No. Closed</i>	1,005
	<i>No. on Hand</i>	127

E3: % OF LA AREA WITHIN THE 5 LEVELS OF LITTER POLLUTION		
A. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2019 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		68.38%

The data will be submitted by Tobin Consulting Engineers directly to the LGMA from the data for the 2019 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report and was not available at time of publication.

P: PLANNING (P1 TO P5)	2019	2018
P1: NEW BUILDINGS INSPECTED		
A. Buildings Inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority		11.32%
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 2019		18
B. % of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation) the decision made by the LA		88.89%
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 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019 that were investigated		61
B. Total number of cases that were closed during 2019		21
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%
D. % of the cases at B that were resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations		0.00%
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%
F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2019.		114
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

P5: APPLICATIONS FOR FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES		
A. The % of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt.		94.74%
B. The % of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2019 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant.		5.26%

F: FIRE SERVICE (F1 TO F3)	2019	2018
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
F2: SERVICE MOBILISATION		
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire		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
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
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
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%
B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes		44.98%

C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		14.16%
D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes		35.29%
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%
F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes		16.91%

L: LIBRARY / RECREATION SERVICES (L1 AND L2)	2019	2018
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
B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year.		153,384
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

Y: YOUTH / COMMUNITY (Y1 AND Y2)	2019	2018
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%
Y2: GROUPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (PPN)		
The number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2019 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College (SIC) within the PPN		8.60
C: CORPORATE SERVICES (C1 TO C5)	2019	2018
C1: TOTAL NUMBER OF WTEs		
A. The whole-time equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2019		392.70
C2: WORKING DAYS LOST TO SICKNESS		
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave		2.82%
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave		0.26%
C3: No. OF PAGE VISITS TO LA WEBSITE		
A. Total page views of the local authority's website in 2019.		1,319,285
B. Total number of followers at end 2019 of the LA's social media accounts (if any).		53,777
C4: OVERALL COST OF ICT PROVISION PER WTE		
A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019, divided by the WTE number		€ 3,162.35
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%

M: FINANCE (M1 AND M2)	2019
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M1:5 YEAR SUMMARY OF REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE

A. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2015	-€ 4,154,223
B. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2016	- € 3,611,785
C. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2017	-€ 3,058,002
D. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2018	- € 2,505,853
E. The cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019	- € -----
F. The cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2019 as a percentage of Total Income in 2018 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS**	- %
G. Revenue Expenditure per capita for the year	€ --.--

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 2015</i>	84.80	86.00	61.13
B. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS for 2016</i>	88.00	86.00	59.00
C. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2017</i>	85.80	83.30	55.30
D. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2018</i>	89.00	86.00	56.00
E. <i>Appendix 7 of the AFS* for 2019</i>			

* 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)	2019	2018
J1: No. of JOBS CREATED		
The no. of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		68.00
J2: TRADING ONLINE VOUCHERS		
The no. of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2019.		21
The no. of those trading online vouchers applications that were drawn down in 2019.		11
J3: No. of MENTORING RECIPIENTS		
The no. of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2019 to 31/12/2019		171
J4: TOURISM		
Does the Local Authority have a current Tourism Strategy?		Yes
Does the Local Authority have a designated Tourism Officer?		Yes

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

