



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

ROADS PROGRAMME

Year ending 31st of December 2023



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01 Document Control & Approval List

Document Control

Revision	Status	Compiled by S.E	Approved by D.O.S	Date
1	Draft			06/3/2023
2	Final			21/3/2023

27th March 2023

To: Each Member of Offaly County Council

Re: **PROPOSED ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 2023**

Dear Councillor,

Please find attached herewith the **Road Works Programme** for the year 2023. The programme is funded through three National Funding bodies, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) the Department of Transport (DoT) and the National Transport Authority (NTA), along with funding allocated by Offaly County Council in the 2023 adopted budget.

The initial grant allocations for 2023 from TII, DoT and the NTA are set out below with the figures for 2022 shown alongside for comparison purposes.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland & Department of Transport, Road Grants

Initial Grant Allocations	2022 (€)	2023 (€)
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)		
National Primary		
Motorway MMaRC Lighting	9,117	9,117
National Secondary Improvement		
Major Scheme N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link	0	0
Minor Works N62 Crancreagh (Cloghan to Derrinlough)	150,000	200,000
Pavement Scheme on the N62	460,000	4,000,000
Pavement Scheme HD28 Pavement Renewals	TBC (Q2/Q3)	TBC (Q2/Q3)
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works N52, N62 & N80	125,000	TBC (Q2/Q3)
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works Fencing Retrofit (N52/N62/N80)	100,000	TBC (Q2/Q3)
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	160,000	275,000

National Secondary Maintenance		
Ordinary Maintenance	129,194	129,194
Route Lighting	75,900	75,901
Winter Maintenance	190,000	170,000
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	30,700	11,800
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	10,000	10,000
Greenways	€1,323,000	3,880,000
TII Total	€2,762,911	8,761,012
Department of Transport		
Regional & Local Roads Grants		
Restoration Improvement	6,190,500	6,542,000
Restoration Maintenance	955,000	955,000
Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	750,500	750,500
Discretionary Grant	1,776,500	1,783,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	366,975	376,500
Safety Improvement Works	297,700	300,000
Specific Improvement Grants	2,275,000	2,100,000
Speed Limits	16500	54,000
Cycle Signs	-	7,150
Former National Roads	250000	420,000
Strategic Regional and Local Roads	-	50,000
Climate Adaptation	320763	388,650
Training Grant	47500	47,500
Community Involvement Scheme	368500	301,500
Pilot Scheme testing on roads over peat	800000	1,000,000
PSCI Survey Support	16000	16,000
Drainage Works	446993	447,000
DOT Total	€14,878,431	€15,539,300
National Transport Authority		
Active Travel		
Transport / Mobility Plans: Tullamore	146,000	134,448
Tullamore Cycle Network Phase 1	116,000	358,231
Footpath Improvements Package A: Birr & Crinkill	377,894	100,563

Footpath Improvements Package B: Clara	192,525	298,882
Edenderry - Hare's Lane	75,000	Works complete
Footpath Improvements Design Package: Banagher & Cloghan	38,000	38,000
Tullamore - Spollenstown Road	116,000	191,104
Countywide Pedestrian Crossings	246,000	26,212
Portarlington Active Travel Scheme	173,455	Works complete
Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure: Frederick Street, Clara	-	9,382
Low Cost Urban Junction (tightening) Schemes: Edenderry & Birr	115,000	110,449
Light Segregation Cycling Scheme: Edenderry	69,034	Works complete
Tullamore Urban Greenway Project	371,000	50,000
EDENDERRY - R402-1 Junction Upgrade	240,000	183,055
TULLAMORE - Collins Lane Junction - Advance Scheme	200,000	99,473
BIRR - Riverside Walk Upgrade/Link	285,000	147,500
RHODE - Pedestrian Crossings & Footpath	185,000	185,000
MUCKLAGH - Brocca Rd - Junction/Path	200,000	191,083
SHINRONE - Cloughjordan Road	140,000	140,000
BALLYCUMBER - Upgrade Footpath Links	125,000	125,000
Offaly County Council Active Travel Office - Staff Costs	271,000	271,000
Edenderry - SRTS (R1) Design & Cycle Links	-	75,000
Edenderry Active Travel elements	-	50,000
Arden View Tullamore Active Travel elements	-	75,000
Banagher SRTS (R1) Design Links	-	75,000
Kilcormac Village, Kinnity Road Active Travel elements	-	75,000
NTA Active Travel Total	€3,681,908	€3,009,382
Bus Stops in Tullamore & Edenderry	€63,374	
NTA Total	€3,745,282	€3,009,382

Funding Partner	2022 Initial Allocation	2023 Initial Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland - National Roads allocation together with Greenways allocation	€2,762,911	€8,761,012
Department of Transport	€14,878,431	€15,539,300
National Transport Authority(incl Bus Stops)	€3,745,282	€3,009,382
Offaly County Council (Own Resources Local Roads)	€2,077,130	€2,246,269
Total	€23,463,754	€29,555,963

Recommendation:

The Roads Work Programme, summarised below, has an initial budget of **€29,555,963** and it is recommended that the 2023 Roads Programme is adopted and that works commence forthwith.

Yours faithfully,



Ms. Anna Marie Delaney,
Chief Executive.

02 Roads Programme Funding Source

As in previous years, transfers from the Restoration Improvement Grant to the Discretionary Grant is not allowable as notified in Circular RW1/2018.

Own Resources Funding: Direct Funding from Offaly County Council plays a vital role in delivering the Annual Roads Programme and 2023 will be no exception. The Department of Transport, (DoT) has again advised Local Authorities under Department of Transport Circular RW 02/2023, Section 38 accompanying the 2023 Non National Roads grant allocations as follows;

Own Resources

38. The commitment of local authorities to contribute significantly from their own resources towards the cost of improving and maintaining the regional and local roads network is essential. In particular it is vital that local authorities at least maintain and increase, where possible, monies available for the maintenance and strengthening of road pavements.

It may be necessary for local authorities to postpone major widening and realignment schemes to achieve this objective, but the first priority must be the satisfactory protection of the existing road network.

In 2023, Offaly County Council has allocated **€2,246,269** (€2,156,269 Local Roads + €90,000 Footpaths) from our Own Resources, which is an increase of 8.15% from the 2022 allocation of **€2,077,130**. The Winter Service allocation from our Own Resources will increase by €25,000 to €100,000 for 2023. The allocation of €150,000 for Severe Weather Events will remain at €150,000 for 2023.

Additional to the Local Road supports from our Own Resources, Offaly County Council have also allocated **€949,500** for Public Lighting and a further **€100,000** for the PLEEP project from our Own Resources.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII): Offaly County Council has received a significant increase in funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) which equates to **€8,761,012** which is an increase on our initial roads allocation of **€2,763,000** in 2022.

The initial allocation is for maintenance and improvement of the National Road Network and the completion of the final stages of the Grand Canal Greenway and Greenway Links. Funding for HD28 Pavement Renewals, HD15 & HD17 Minor Works for road safety schemes will be agreed with TII throughout the year and will be additional to the initial **€8,761,012** received.

The TII have made a significant funding commitment with regards to completing the remaining approximately 16km of the Grand Canal Greenway via the allocation of **€3,880,000** in funding for 2023.

The TII allocation includes **€4,000,000** for pavement improvement works on the N62 on two separate schemes namely N62 Cloghan to Stonestown and N62 Boolinarig Little to Derrinlough. There is also an allocation of **€200,000** to continue the feasibility and planning stages for the N62 Cloghan to Derrinlough minor works project. Offaly County Council will work with TII to secure further funding as required throughout 2023 as schemes are progressed and completed.

The responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the Motorway network nationally is the responsibility of the TII who in turn has contracted out this work to private contractors. Approximately 15km of the M6 and M7 pass through County Offaly. There is an allocation of **€9,117** from TII for Motorway lighting maintenance.

Unfortunately, TII have not allocated any funding for the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link in 2023 to date. The Option Selection Report is now being finalised and should be published in the coming weeks.

Department of Transport: Under the Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation from the Department of Transport, Offaly County Council received a total Grant allocation of **€15,539,300** which is an increase of €660,869 when compared to the 2022 allocation of **€14,878,431**.

This year's allocation includes funding for the completion of Stage 2 of the Edenderry Inner Relief Road and the completion of tender documentation for the Birr North Distributor Road. There is an allocation to commence the Strategic Assessment Phase for the Birr South Eastern Distributor Road. There is also an allocation of €1,000,000 for our Peat Roads Pilot Project.

The National Transport Authority (NTA): Offaly County Council received a Grant allocation of **€3,009,382** for 2023 from the NTA which is a reduction of approximately €672,526 when compared to the **€3,681,908**(excl Bus Stops) allocation for 2022. Approximately €1,973,720 of the 2023 allocation has been carried over from 2022 to continue funding schemes commenced in 2021/ 2022. Due to the multi annual nature of the Active Travel Programme the expenditure profile per year is not intended to account for the full yearly allocation.

It is important to recognise that schemes approved for Offaly County Council are all on a predominantly 18-24 month delivery programme. There are some schemes with a potentially broader delivery timeline such as the new Tullamore Area Based Transport Assessment and the Spollenstown Bridge Crossing of the Railway Line. All of these delivery timelines are subject to a myriad of dependencies that can potentially extend the scheme delivery timeline.

There are 22 No. schemes included under the Active Travel Investment Programme for the 2023 programme for Offaly. 17No. Schemes are underway since 2021/2022 with 5 No. new schemes due to commence in 2023.

Community Involvement Scheme: Offaly County Council received an allocation of **€301,500** for 2023, which represents a reduction of €67,000 when compared with the allocation of **€368,500** received in 2022.

Local Improvement Scheme: Offaly County Council received an allocation of **€348,777** for 2023 which represents a reduction of €31,983 when compared with the allocation of **€380,760** received in 2022 for Local Improvement Schemes.

CLÁR 2023: Offaly County Council have yet to receive an allocation under CLÁR for 2023 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP): Kilkenny County Council acting as Lead Authority on behalf of the (9) Counties in this Region have now brought the PLEEP project to the onsite Construction Stage. Works are programmed to commence in Offaly in early Q3 of 2023 with a programmed delivery timetable of approximately 2 months. The installation works associated with the PLEEP project are scheduled for completion by the early part of Q4 2023.

Categories of Road Maintenance

Restoration Improvement (RI): This allocation is targeted towards the strengthening programme and is hugely important in terms of maintaining the existing Road network. It caters for pavement overlay works and for complete road rehabilitation works as well as for drainage works where required.

Restoration Maintenance (RM): The purpose of the Restoration Maintenance grant is to protect the structural integrity of the road by way of surface dressing (and necessary basic preparatory works) through the sealing of the road surface to protect the road pavement layers from the adverse effects of the ingress of water and to maintain Skid Resistance on our Road Network. A basic Surface Dressing is defined as the uniform application of a bituminous binder sprayed onto a road surface followed by a layer of single sized chippings. Periodic maintenance aims to protect the structural integrity of the Regional and Local road network and is generally addressed using Surface Dressing.

Discretionary Grant (DG): Local Authorities can assign the Discretionary Grant to a variety of maintenance and repair works on roads and footways and it can also be used for winter maintenance purposes. Routine maintenance would typically

include activities such as roadside verge clearing, grass cutting, cleaning of silted ditches and culverts, patching, pothole repair and repair of edge defects. Urgent Maintenance is undertaken for repairs that cannot be foreseen but require immediate attention, such as collapsed culverts or landslides that block a road. Routine and Urgent Maintenance can be charged to the Discretionary Grant programme.

The amounts that each Local Authority receives from the Department of Transport under these three grant programmes Restoration Maintenance (RM), Restoration Improvement (RI) and Discretionary Grant (DG) are based principally on road lengths.

The detailed programmes to be completed under the previously mentioned funding categories in each Municipal District are included in Appendix C.

03 *Key Actions for 2023*

The following is a list of Key actions and projects that the Roads and Transport Department plan to progress in 2023:

- Complete the National, Regional and Local Roads Improvement Programme in accordance with the 2023 Grant Allocations and apply for and deliver capital maintenance schemes on National Roads;
- Complete the 2023 identified Road Safety Improvement Schemes on Regional and Local Roads and work with TII to progress Roads Safety Schemes on National Roads;
- Promote Road Safety awareness in association with the Road Safety Authority, the Gardaí and TII(Offaly County Council Road Safety Working Group); progress Road Safety Initiatives in Offaly;
- Deliver Offaly County Councils Winter Maintenance Service Plan and Severe Weather Response in accordance with the 2023 – 2024 Winter Maintenance & Severe Weather Response Plans;
- Continue to develop and complete the Grand Canal Greenway and commence the design of and procurement documentation for associated links from our Towns and Villages as identified under our Pathfinder proposal issued to the NTA in 2022;
- Operate and maintain the machinery yard fleet in a safe and efficient manner. Continue with App based vehicle inspections sheets. Commence the migration of the corporate Fleet towards Zero Emission Vehicles. Upgrade the access systems for the Machinery Yard to restrict vehicular movements to only Offaly County Council staff, remove all non-construction based services from the machinery yard footprint into the storage buildings onsite with access via the car park into the main office(no access to the yard permitted). Migrate the corporate fleet to Fuel Cards and reduce the reliance

- on the bulk storage of fuel. Operate and expand the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure onsite (EV DC Fast Charging point).
- Continue our programme of maintenance, repair and upgrading of our Public Lighting stock in collaboration with our appointed Public Lighting maintenance contractor. Tender a new Public Lighting Maintenance contract to commence in Q3 2023.
 - Manage the PLEEP installation works which are due to commence in Q3 2023 which will result in the replacement and upgrade of 4842 lighting units to LED units;
 - Review and identify efficiencies that may be achieved with the existing Bus Network configuration in County Offaly in order to underpin our modal shift ethos under both Active Travel Schemes and our Organisational Climate Action Plan.
 - Continue our programme of upgrading Pedestrian Crossings;
 - Continue our Bridge rehabilitation programme, develop plans and seek funding for further schemes;
 - Progress the Community Involvement Scheme, Local Improvement Scheme and CLAR Schemes funded by DTTAS and DRCD;
 - Undertake Health & Safety Inspections;
 - Continue to engage with stakeholders and report on planning applications & Strategic Infrastructure proposals;
 - Continue to issue Roads & Services in charge letters and Abnormal Load Permits;
 - Deliver our Peat Roads Pilot scheme on the R400 in the Edenderry Municipal District in 2023.
 - Publish the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Option Selection Report in collaboration with the TII and the Westmeath National Design office.
 - Progress the N62 Cloghan to Kennedys Cross peat replacement Minor Works Scheme;

- Deliver Stage 2 of the Edenderry Town Inner Relief Road Specific Improvement Scheme;
- Progress the Birr North Distributor Road R439 Banagher Road to N52 Tullamore Road Specific Improvement Scheme to Detailed Design/Procurement stage;
- Deliver a Strategic Assessment Report (SAR) for the Birr South Eastern Distributor Road linking the N52 and the R440;
- Deliver on the agreed NTA funded Active Travel Programme for 2023;
- Assess the potential for and expand on the number of Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Infrastructure locations across our entire County in collaboration with Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEVI).
- Identify and incorporate new methodologies and approaches to service delivery, which will provide a reduction on the roads Carbon output for 2023.
- Ensure that Health and Safety remains the primary consideration in all works delivered in 2023.
- Co-ordinate and review expenditure on an ongoing basis throughout 2023 due to potential future rising inflation, increased fuel costs, material costs, contractor costs and compliance costs.
- Assist and support the activities of the Municipal Districts throughout 2023.
- The Roads Team will promote a greater emphasis on communicating to our local communities the benefits and strategically important roles that local communities can play in assisting and in some cases delivering Climate Action changes through proactive engagement with Roads and our Municipal District Colleagues.

04 Road Safety/Health and Safety

2023

Road Safety 2023

The Roads Department have completed the final Draft of Offaly County Councils Road Safety Plan 2023-2030. The report is to issue to all working group stakeholder members and is due to be ratified in early Q2 2023 by the group.

Health and Safety 2023

When undertaking the Roads Programme for 2023 the key objectives are to ensure that the work is carried out in a safe manner for all stakeholders including the staff involved and the public within the vicinity of the works.

In order to achieve this objective all works must be;

- Safely planned in advance.
- Works undertaken by trained, competent staff and contractors.
- Roles such as Project Supervisor Design Stage(PSDP) and Project Supervisor at Construction Stage(PSCS) must be assigned and appointed.
- All works must be carried out in compliance with current Health and Safety Regulations and underpinned by a Site Specific Safety Management Plan and associated documents, including Health and Safety Plans, Safe Systems of Work, Risk Assessments and Traffic Management Plans.
- The communications of these documents are critical to ensuring that work practices are carried out safely on each site.

These above core tasks ensure Offaly County Council continues to manage the Roads Programme in a safe manner and these key principles will be required to maintain and ensure a successful outcome in 2023.

A Health and Safety review was completed in February 2023 and this will be used to set out the targets and areas for improvements in 2023.

The Department of Transport has allocated €47,500 under the Training Grant in order to strengthen and promote Health and Safety approach towards the Roads Programme in 2023.

05 Report on 2022

In 2022 the Roads and Transport Department of Offaly County Council continued to build on delivering new sustainable infrastructure to promote modal shift across our entire County to Walking, Cycling and Zero Emission Vehicle. There has been and will continue to be targeted investment towards our existing infrastructure in order to maintain, upgrade and expand our existing road networks in order to facilitate growth across our entire County.

Our 2022 Roads programme included for the following works;

- Annual 2022 Roads Programme
- Active Travel Schemes
- NTA Pathfinder proposal
- Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure
- Grand Canal Greenway Construction
- Edenderry Inner Relief Road Stage 1
- Edenderry Inner Relief Road Stage 2
- Birr Distributor Roads (North)
- Peat Road Pilot Studies/Emergency Peat Road interventions
- PLEEP-Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

The 2022 grant allocations received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the Department of Transport (DOT), National Transport Authority (NTA) and The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) are set out below, the figures for 2021 are shown alongside for comparison purposes.

ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2022

Initial Grant Allocations	2021 (€)	2022 (€)
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)		
National Primary		
Motorway MMarC Lighting	9,117	9,117
National Secondary Improvement		
Major Scheme N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link	1,000,000	0
Minor Works N62 Crancreagh (Cloghan to Derrinlough)	250,000	150,000
Pavement Scheme N62 Corr Hill	n/a	460,000
Pavement Scheme N52 Ballynacard East & West	450,000	n/a
Pavement Scheme HD28 Pavement Renewals	0	TBC (Q2/Q3)*
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works N52, N62 & N80	0	125,000 **
HD15 & HD17 Minor Works Fencing Retrofit (N52/N62/N80)	0	100,000
Local Authority Support (Improvement)	164,000	160,000
National Secondary Maintenance		
Ordinary Maintenance	129,194	129,194
Route Lighting	86,744	75,900
Winter Maintenance	190,000	190,000
Local Authority Support (Maintenance)	30,700	30,700
Local Authority Support (Winter Maintenance)	10,000	10,000
Greenways	0*** (DOT 2021)	€1,323,000***
TII Total	€2,319,755	€2,762,911
Department of Transport		
Regional & Local Roads Grants		
Restoration Improvement	5,707,500	6,190,500
Restoration Maintenance	955,000	955,000

Supplementary Restoration Maintenance	682,000	750,500
Discretionary Grant	1,813,500	1,776,500
Bridge Rehabilitation	344,950	366,975
Safety Improvement Works	300,000	297,700
Specific Improvement Grants	900,000	2,275,000.00
Speed Limits	12,000	16500
Former National Roads	300,000	250000
Active Travel	50,893	-
Climate Adaptation	95,404	320763
Training Grant	47,500	47500
Community Involvement Scheme	735,500	368500
Pilot Scheme testing on roads over peat	40,000	800000
PSCI Survey Support	16,000	16000
Drainage Works	446,993	446993
DOT Total	€12,447,240	€14,878,431
National Transport Authority		
Active Travel		
Transport / Mobility Plans: Tullamore	250,000	146,000
Tullamore Cycle Network Phase 1	500,000	116,000
Footpath Improvements Package A: Birr & Crinkill	289,000	377,894
Footpath Improvements Package B: Clara	470,000	192,525
Edenderry - Hare's Lane	175,000	75,000
Footpath Improvements Design Package: Banagher & Cloghan	40,000	38,000
Tullamore - Spollenstown Road	420,000	116,000
Countywide Pedestrian Crossings	250,000	246,000
Portarlington Active Travel Scheme	180,000	173,455
Safe to Schools Programme - Support Infrastructure: Frederick Street, Clara	70,000	-
Low Cost Urban Junction (tightening) Schemes: Edenderry & Birr	145,000	115,000

Light Segregation Cycling Scheme: Edenderry	75,000	69,034
Tullamore Urban Greenway Project	575,000	371,000
EDENDERRY - R402-1 Junction Upgrade	n/a	240,000
TULLAMORE - Collins Lane Junction - Advance Scheme	n/a	200,000
BIRR - Riverside Walk Upgrade/Link	n/a	285,000
RHODE - Pedestrian Crossings & Footpath	n/a	185,000
MUCKLAGH - Brocca Rd - Junction/Path	n/a	200,000
SHINRONE - Cloughjordan Road	n/a	140,000
BALLYCUMBER - Upgrade Footpath Links	n/a	125,000
Offaly County Council Active Travel Office - Staff Costs	n/a	271,000
NTA Active Travel Total	€3,439,000	€3,681,908
Bus Stops in Tullamore & <u>Edenderry</u>	€140,655	€63,374
NTA Total	€3,579,655	€3,745,282

Offaly County Council (OCC) has allocated €2,077,130 from own resources. In summary therefore, the 2022 initial Roads Budget is as follows:

2022 Initial Roads Budget	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland - National Roads allocation together with Greenways allocation	€2,762,911
Department of Transport	€14,878,431
National Transport Authority	€3,745,282
Offaly County Council (Own Resources)	€2,077,130
Total	€23,463,754

Offaly County Council also allocated €949,500 for Public Lighting and a central management charge (support services) of €3,161,858.

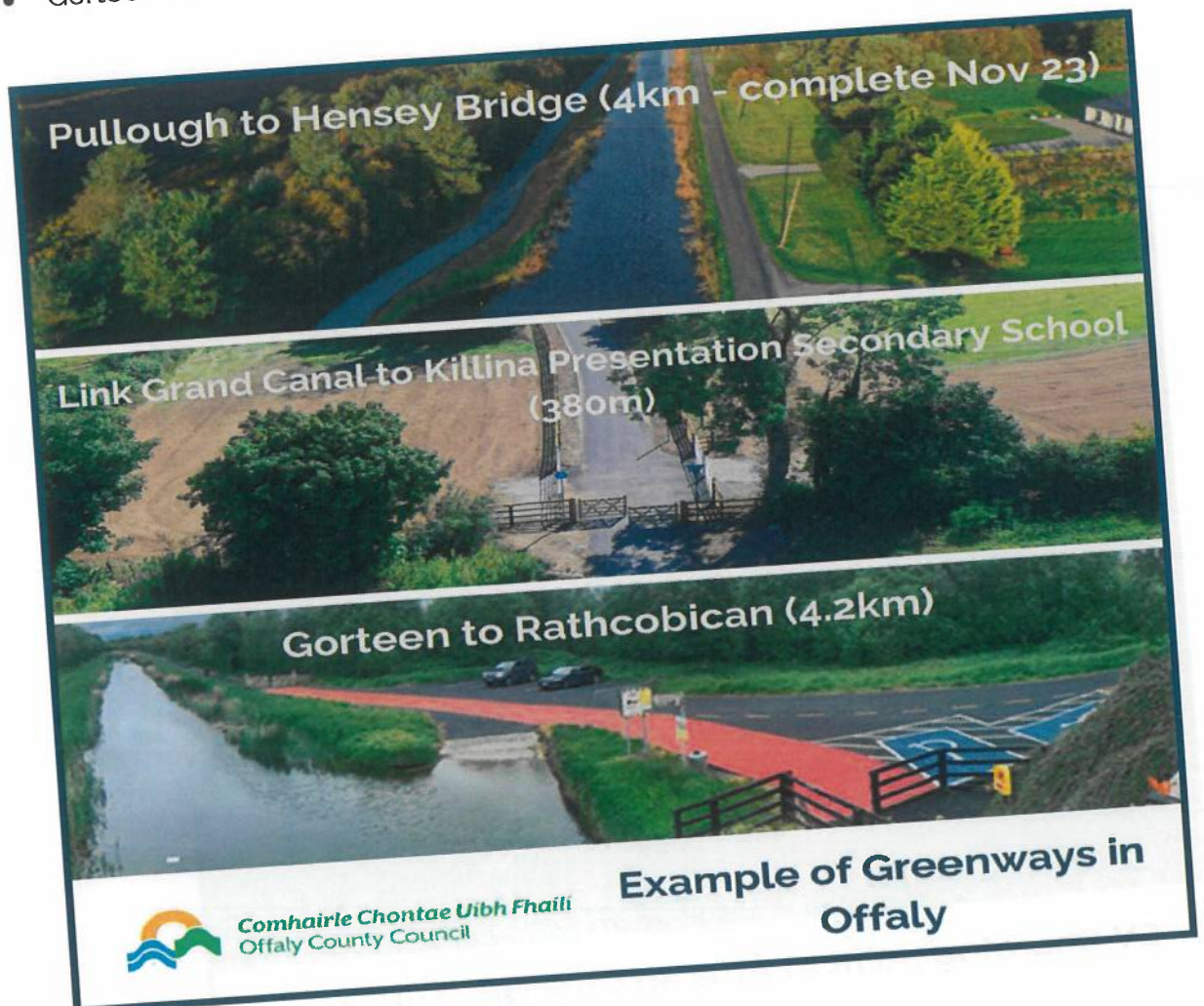
In 2022 Offaly County Council received additional funding as follows.

Roads Additional Funding	2022
TII HD 28 Pavement Renewals	€162,677
TII Capital Maintenance Works €50,000+	€157,993
TII Capital Maintenance Works (Corr Hill)	€780,240
DCRD Local Improvement Scheme	€674,785
DCRD CLÁR	€11,025
DCRD Greenway ORIS	€1,280,330
DOT Emergency Peat Road Interventions	€976,583
ZEVI Grant for EV Pilot Projects at Áras an Chontae and the Machinery Yard at Ballydrohid	€104,000
Additional Department Transport Allocation	€122,372
Total	€4,270,005

Grand Canal Greenway:

In collaboration with the TII and Waterways Ireland work on delivering the remaining sections of the Grand Canal Greenway continued throughout 2022. It is envisaged that this critical infrastructural corridor will be completed in its entirety in 2023. The following schemes were commenced or delivered in 2022;

- Pullough to Henseys Bridge section of the Greenway and is due for completion in November (4Km).
- Linking Grand Canal Greenway to Killina Presentation Secondary School (380m).
- Gorteen to Rathcobican section of Greenway completed in 2022 (4.2Km)

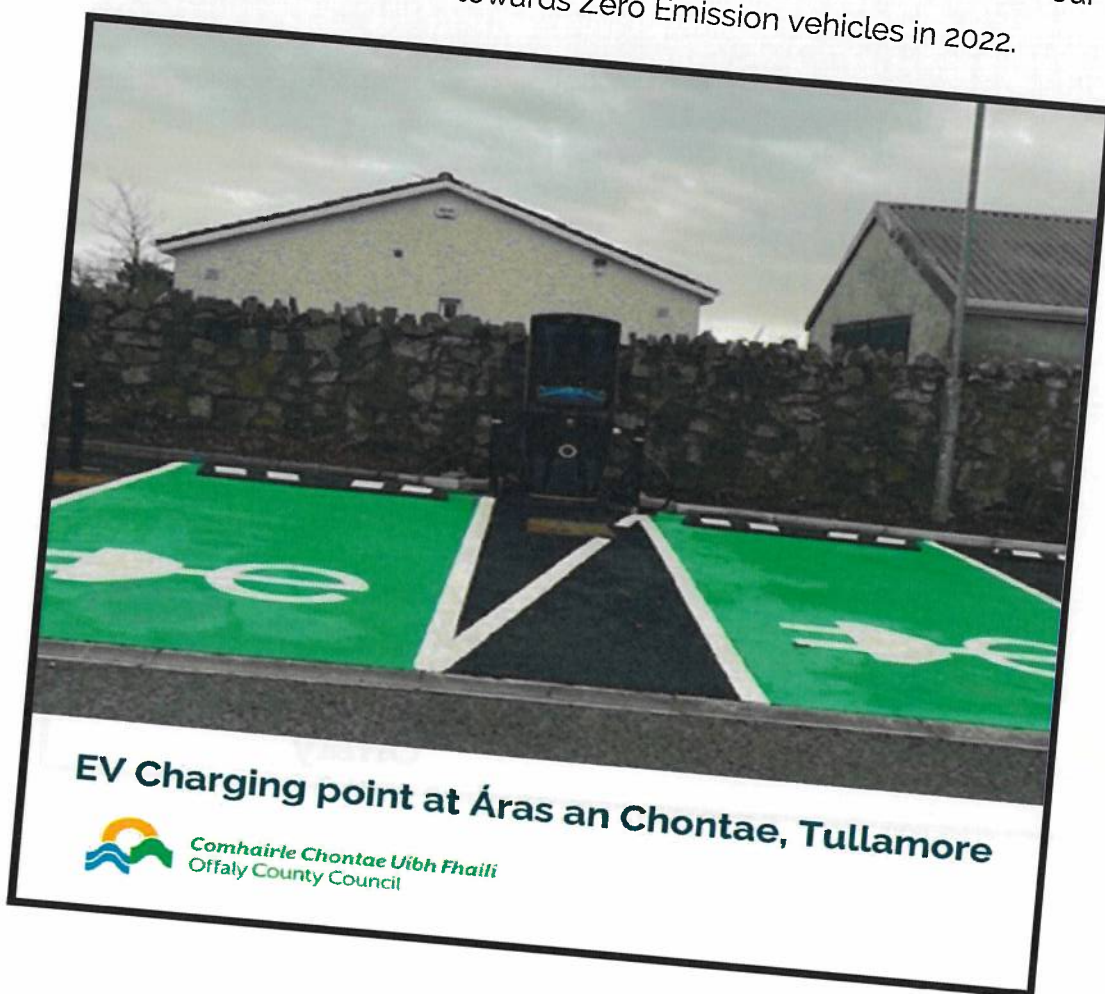


Electric Vehicle Charging Points (DC/Fast Charging):

The Roads Department of Offaly County Council have been working in partnership with Eir/Easy Go in order to delivery 11 new DC charging points across our County. The proposed scheme is classified as a public private collaboration designed to provide DC charging points across critical nodes on our Roads Infrastructure while also serving our rural communities in order to promote our migration as a County towards Zero Emission transport options.

Offaly County Council secured funding from the Department of Transports Zero Emission Vehicle Ireland (ZEVl) for the installation of two fast charging points at Áras an Chontae and the Machinery Yard in Tullamore as part of a pilot scheme in 2022.

An overall investment facilitated by and in some cases delivered by Offaly County Council of approximately €650,000 has provided a foundation for our County to commence the migration towards Zero Emission vehicles in 2022.



Birr North Distributor Road:

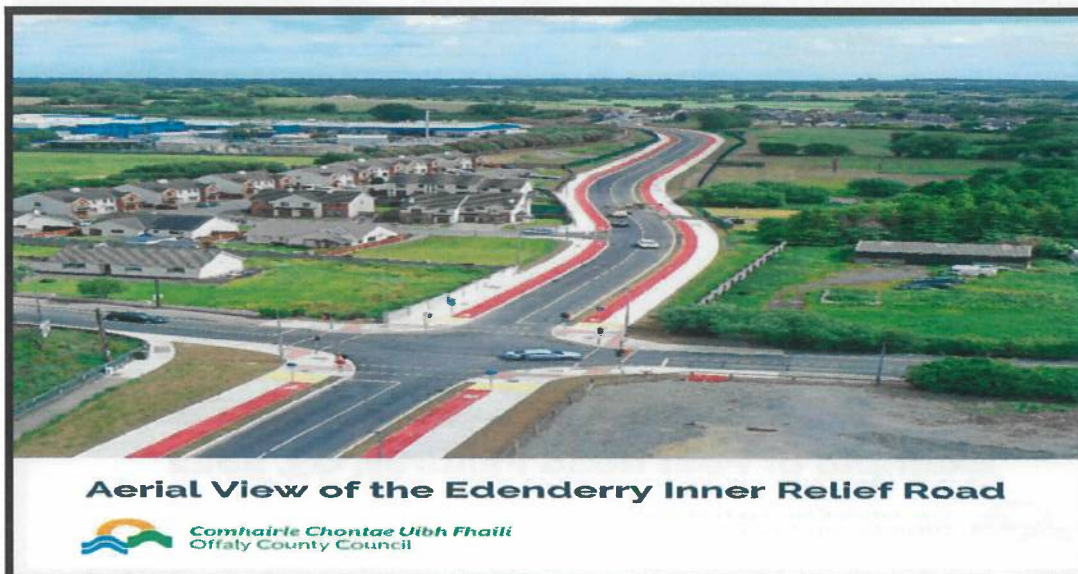
Design works commenced in 2022 on the Birr North Distributor Road with a view to construction commencing in Q1/Q2 of 2024 subject to approvals and funding.

The objective of the proposed Road Scheme is to create a road link between the Tullamore Road (N52) at Woodlands and the Birr to Banagher Road at Cappaneale (R439). This critical link will:

- relieve congestion in Birr Town by providing an alternative to the existing routes through the town.
- provide better access to the national road network for major local industry,
- open up zoned development lands,
- provide improved access to St Brendan's Secondary School,
- allow the tourism potential offered by Birr Castle and the town's historic and unique Georgian town centre to be realized.

Edenderry Inner Relief Road:

Stage 1 of the Edenderry Inner Relief Road was delivered by the Edenderry Municipal District Office in 2022. Stage 2 is currently scheduled to commence construction in early 2023.



Birr South Eastern Distributor Road:

An application for funding to commence Design works on the Birr South Eastern Distributor Road in 2023 was submitted to the Department of Transport for their consideration in Q4 of 2022.

Peat Road Pilot Scheme:

Tender documentation were submitted and approved by the Department of Transport for a full reconstruction of 600m of the R400 in Edenderry in 2022 with a construction start date of Q2 2023.

Due to significant Road Failures on our Roads constructed over Peat subgrades due to the extended dry spell over the summer of 2022 we sought and received approval from the Department of Transport for the reassignment of the €800k allocation for Peat Roads to address immediate Health and Safety risks across the County. Due to the scope and severity of the failures the Department also allocated additional funding to be targeted to the worst areas to a maximum additional spend of €1.2million.

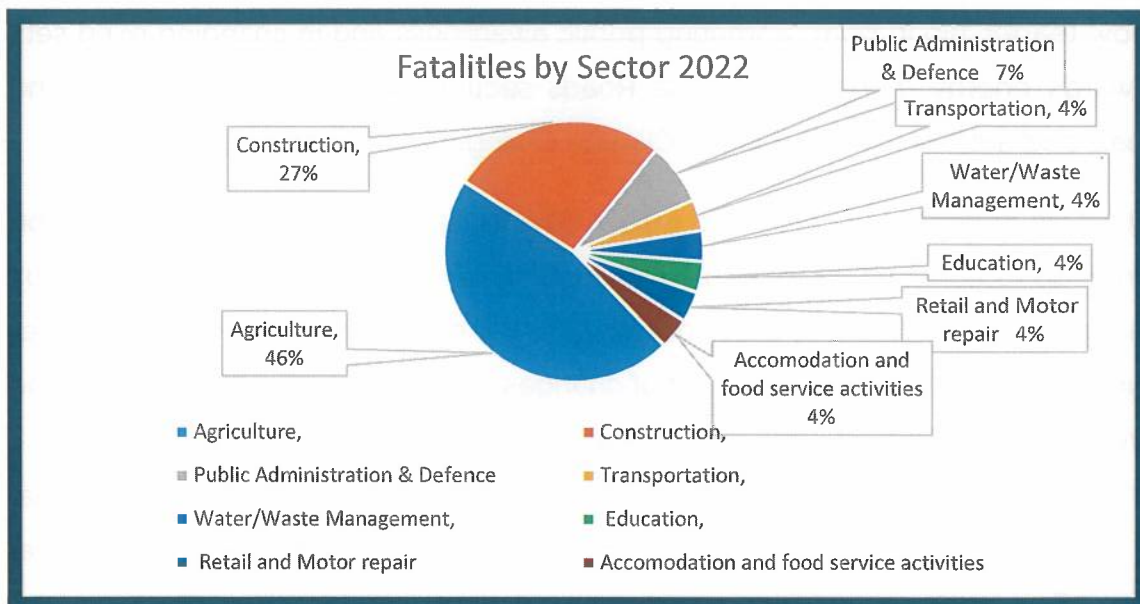


Road Safety 2022 Review

The Roads Department have completed the final Draft of Offaly County Councils Road Safety Plan 2023-2030. The report is to issue to all working group stakeholder members and due to be ratified in early Q2 2023 by the group.

Health and Safety 2022 Review

Notwithstanding the excellent safety record within Offaly County Council for 2022. All Stakeholders must be conscious of the facts that 26 fatalities occurred in the wider national workplace in 2022, 7 of these fatalities occurred in the construction industry. The Management Team and Senior Management group carried out a number of inspections during 2022; this will remain a key focus for 2023 along with tracking the number of inspections carried out by each department and Directors attending key quarterly health and safety meetings in their respective Departments.



Industry	Number of Fatalities in 2022	Number of Fatalities in 2021
Agriculture	12	9
Fishing and aquaculture	0	0
Forestry & logging	0	2
Mining and quarrying	0	0
Manufacturing	0	5

Water supply	1	2
Construction	7	10
Repair of motor vehicles	1	2
Transportation and storage	1	6
Public Administration (Others Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Education)	4	2
Total	26	38

Fatalities in the workplace from 2013-2022. *Data from the HSA.ie*

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
26	38	54	47	39	48	48	55	55	47

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency 2022 Review

Climate Change & Energy Efficiency continue to be key areas where we aim to show leadership in both promoting public awareness and in changing mind sets towards energy management. The Roads section continues to implement the goals and actions identified in our Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in 2022.

All works in 2022 were delivered with a view to assisting in reducing our Carbon Emission footprint where possible. This reduction can sometimes be achieved by changing the way in which we do our works or the materials which we use to deliver our schemes. The following is a list of changes implemented in 2022 which will be strengthened and built upon in 2023 and onwards;

- Construction of Sustainable, Safe, Green Infrastructure to promote Modal Shift towards Walking and Cycling via our Greenway funding/Active Travel Funding.
- Roll out of Zero Emission Vehicle Fast Charging points across the County.
- Decarbonisation policy for the Corporate Fleet
- Trial use of Zero Emission Road Marking Materials
- Utilisation of new Technologies such as the 2 new Velocity Patching Units to decrease our Carbon Footprint when repairing Road Failures.
- PLEEP-Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

Key Achievements from 2022

The following is a list of achievements from 2022;

- Delivery of the National, Regional and Local Roads Improvement Programme in accordance with the 2022 Grant Allocations in a safe, efficient manner;
- Delivery of two new EV Chargers with Funding from ZEVI at Áras an Chontae and the Machinery Yard, Ballydrohid.
- Completion of Stage 1 of the Edenderry Inner Relief Road.
- Commencement of the Design of the Birr North Distributor Road.
- Continued Development and construction of the Grand Canal Greenway.
- Delivery of targeted schemes under the Multi Annual Active Travel Programme.
- Emergency Interventions on our Peat Roads in Q3/4 OF 2022 to offset significant Health and Safety risks.
- Draft issued of Offaly County Council Roads Safety Plan.
- Delivery of the 2022 identified Road Safety Improvement Schemes on National,Regional and Local Roads;
- Delivery of Offaly County Councils winter maintenance service plan and Severe Weather Response in accordance with the 2022 – 2023 Winter Maintenance & Severe Weather Response Plans;
- Operation of the machinery yard fleet in a safe and efficient manner. Continued with App based vehicle inspections sheets. Completed a number of safety upgrades in the yard including fixed gas monitor systems, upgrades to the motorised doors onsite, improvements to site safety and issuing of updated safety management documentation to all services delivery providers based in the yard.
- Continued our programme of maintenance, repair and upgrading of our Public Lighting stock in collaboration with our appointed Public Lighting maintenance contractor.

- Continued our programme of upgrading Pedestrian Crossings;
- Continued our bridge rehabilitation programme, develop plans and seek funding for further schemes;
- Ongoing Health & Safety (work practices) management and improvements;
- Continued to engage with stakeholder and report on planning applications & Strategic Infrastructure proposal;
- Delivery of Roads & Services in charge letters and Abnormal Load Permits;

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