



Chief Executive Report November 2023

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November Highlights

Congratulations Aughnacliffe Pride of Place All Island Winners

Aughnacliffe were announced as winners in Category 2 - Population from 500 to 1500 in the Pride of Place Awards which were held in Armagh on 10 November.



Over 150 attend public meeting on safety and crime prevention

The night also marked the launch of the See Something, Say Something anonymous crime reporting text service, helping people to feel safe.



Christmas #ShopLongford Season underway with Santa

Santa turned on the Christmas lights in Longford in late November in front of large crowds, marking the official beginning of the festive season in the County Town.



Longford Sports Star Awards recognise excellence

Honouring our local elite athletes and those that have helped to develop some of our top sporting ambassadors, the Longford Sports Star Awards night was a resounding success.



Community Development

Longford Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 14 and 30 November 2023.

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Progress continues on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan for the period 2023-2029.

The Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) agreed a Statement of Consistency, subject to recommendations, in respect of the Longford LECP Framework Document at its meeting on Friday, 10 November 2023.

A draft Framework LECP and an initial two-year Implementation Plan have been finalised and this was approved by the LCDC at its meeting on 30 November 2023.

The draft LECP and initial Implementation Plan will be considered by the Placemaking SPC at its meeting on 4 December 2023 and, subject to same, will be forwarded to Longford County Council for approval at its meeting on 13 December 2023.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

At a meeting of the Local Community

Development Committee (LCDC) held on 14 November, Longford Community Resources Clg. (LCRL) were approved as the successful tender designate to be awarded the tender for the new SICAP programme for 2024-2028.

SICAP is a targeted, holistic programme for those who are most disadvantaged and less likely to use mainstream services, which provides supports directly to beneficiaries and links into existing services.

The programme is funded and designed by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), with co-funding from the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) programme 2021-2027.

Longford Community Resources clg. will receive an annual budget allocation of €602,411 for 2024.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities



Grow It Yourself - Longford

Grow It Yourself is a school and community based sustainable growing community garden project.

Slaintecare Healthy Communities and Grow it Yourself (GIY) have begun recruiting Longford schools for the

Community Development

programme and all seven Longford Town based school have been invited to participate.

Some schools have received the growing kits and the remaining few will receive theirs in the next couple of weeks. Each school receives a planning kit which includes raised planting beds and seeds.

Teaching and learning resources are made available to the school and online tutorial webinars are provided to classes each month.

A community growing programme will take place in tandem with the programme, beginning in the new year, where home growing kits and educational support will be made available to families to participate.

Healthy Ireland - Longford

Healthy Longford partnered with nine community partners in 2023 and twelve projects were rolled out with actions based around the following two themes:

- Increase in percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines
- Increase in individuals' positive mental health as per energy and vitality index

The 2024 budget is being finalised for Healthy Longford projects and community partners in 2024. Healthy Longford aims to work with organisations and agencies to ensure

this funding can reach as many people and communities as possible and Expressions of Interest will be sought from new community partners who wish to link with Healthy Longford in 2024.

Longford Comhairle na nÓg

The annual Longford Comhairle na nÓg conference was held on 9 November in the Longford Arms Hotel, where Cathaoirleach Cllr Colm Murray opened proceedings.

He thanked the Comhairle members for being the voice of young people from County Longford on local and national committees.

He referenced discussions on the National Rural Youth Assembly, and on issues affecting young people in rural Ireland.



Community Development



Comhairle have also been represented at the Youth Information Consultation on how youth services are viewed by young people and the Child Summit Youth Advisory Groups who will be looking at the recommendations by the UN on the Rights of the Child, just to name a few.

The conference was a huge success with young people representing all nine post primary schools and youth services from across the county.

Discussions were held on a variety of topics such as mental health, transport, online safety, poverty and the housing crisis.

Young people participated in digital skills workshops and circus skills workshops including many inclusive games and activities throughout the day.

IPB Pride of Place Awards

Congratulations to Aughnacliffe who were announced as winners in Category 2 - Population from 500 to 1500 in the Pride of Place Awards which were held in Armagh on 10 November.

There has been a huge community effort by the people of Aughnacliffe over the last number of years to develop and enhance their village and their new heritage trail is the jewel in the crown when visiting north Longford.

Aughnacliffe is a small rural community in North Longford with a population of approximately 650.

The Community Centre has been the heart of the parish since 1985. While previously a school, it now provides a local social network of services including educational classes, fitness

Community Development

and sporting classes, dancing, and a variety of concerts and other cultural events.

The senior citizens are a key cohort of the community and the centre caters for them with the Dolmen Club, where people can connect with their peers.

Lough Leebeen, is popular for fishing and is home to a safe and scenic walk with circuit exercise machines, a children's playground, and a Fairy Garden.

A recently completed "Heritage Trail" is a fantastic new attraction which takes walkers on a tour of the historical areas including an ancient Neolithic Dolmen.

Colmcille GAA club supports the needs of all ages and there is a playschool with afterschool provision and a local medical centre.

Playgrounds

Murphy's Playground Services Ltd were procured to complete refurbishment works in Lanesborough playground and works are now complete and the playground is open.

Some of the new and upgrade works are listed below:

- New natural play area timber log and boulders have been installed.
- A new magic mixer which will be particularly beneficial for children with disabilities and sensory issues.
- A new four-person seesaw with backrest and aluminium posts.
- The communication board has

been moved to the centre of the playground and is more accessible for children with disabilities and sensory issues.

- New wetpour surface in certain areas.
- A new gate and posts were installed at the entrance to the junior play area.

Annual Public Meeting of Longford Community Safety Partnership

The Annual Public Meeting of the LCSP took place in the Longford Arms Hotel on Tuesday 28 November.

The schedule included a Crime Prevention Masterclass, with information on Community Alert, Age Friendly Healthy Homes, Longford Text Alert App and An Garda Síochána's 'Lock up, Light up' campaign.

Following this was the launch of the new 'See Something, Say Something' free and anonymous text service.

This allows anyone to confidentially report anti-social or suspicious behaviour by text to An Garda Síochána. Longford is the third location in which this has been rolled out.

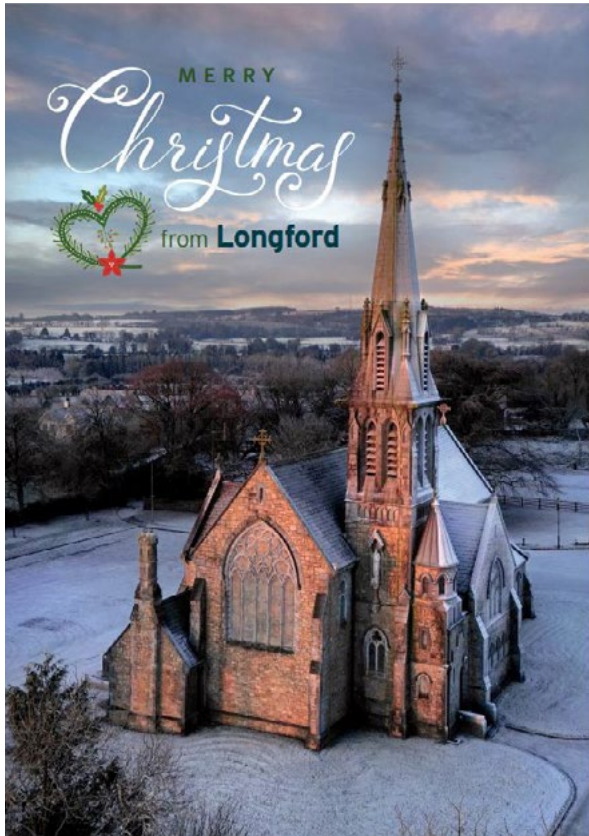
There were over 150 in attendance at the meeting, and following the formalities there was a chance for networking, and for viewing information stands for more community safety advice.

Community Development



Annual Public Meeting of Longford Community Safety Partnership

Tourism



Longford Christmas Card

Longford Tourism has designed a Christmas Greetings Card for County Longford. This card will be available from the Longford Tourism Office for Christmas 2023.

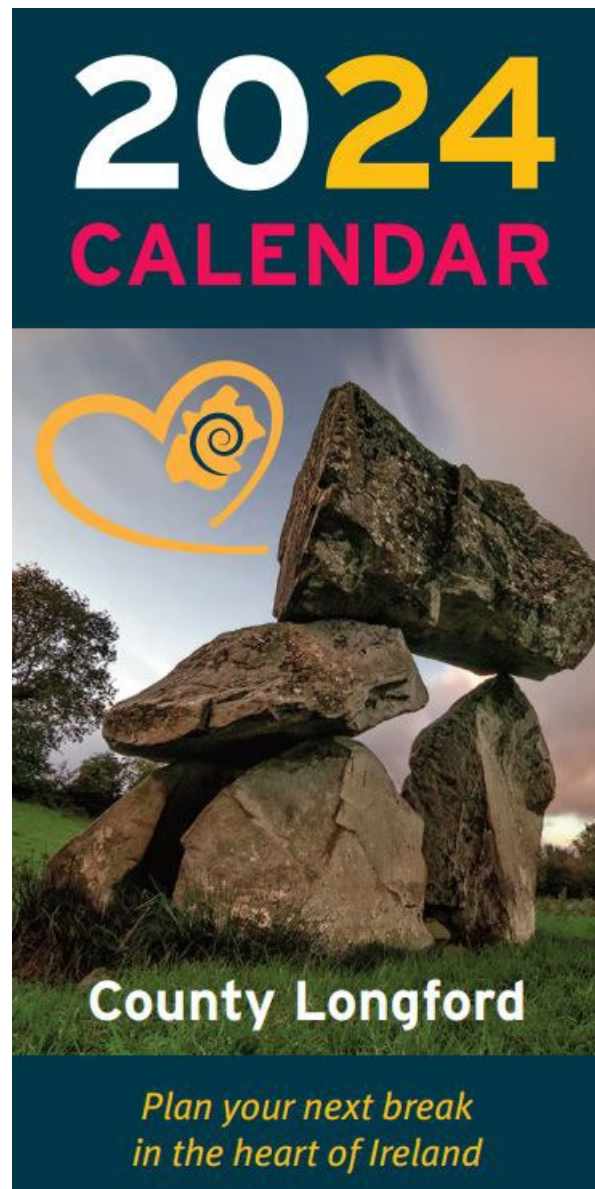
The picture on the front of the card is of St Bridget's Church in Ardagh Village. Details of the church are printed on the back of the card.

The beautiful photo was captured by Colm Mulligan and the card was designed by Rustylemon Design.

In line with the climate action agenda, the cards and envelopes are recycled with biodegradable clear bags.

Longford Calendar 2024

The Longford Tourism 2024 Longford Calendar is now available from Longford Libraries and the Longford Tourist Office. The calendar will also be distributed at the upcoming Holiday World Show in the RDS in January, where Longford Tourism will showcase all County Longford has to offer as a tourist destination.



Longford Local Sports Partnership



Longford Sports Star Awards

The 2023 Sports Star Awards, in association with Longford Leader were held on Friday, November 24 in the Longford Arms Hotel.

This was a brilliant event which recognised the achievements of Longford's high performing athletes.

Renowned Longford Swimming Club coach Ronan McNevin was inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Longford has produced a myriad of top swimmers over the years with Ronan playing an integral role in their development. He is a very worthy recipient of the Hall of Fame accolade.

Ballymore GAA player, club administrator and groundsman Damien Monaghan was chosen as the Club Volunteer of the Year award winner and

the Sports Ability Award was presented to Liam Madden, the long serving Longford Special Olympics Coach.

Promising young athlete Emma Brennan enjoyed an incredible 2023 and the Longford Athletics Club / Drumlish Ballinamuck Community Games representative was presented with the Junior Sports Person of the Year.

The Clonguish Óg U18 (Minor) Team, Gaelic Football were selected as the Team of the Year.

2023 was a year that saw Clonguish dominate the Longford GAA underage ranks, while their senior men and ladies also contested football finals and their senior hurlers were crowned county champions.

Longford Local Sports Partnership

Ten category winners were also selected (in alphabetical order).

- Yaw Appiah, Rugby
- Anne Casey and Ann Gregg, Golf
- John Fitzpatrick, Athletics
- Fiona Gettings, Athletics
- Michaela Hand, Soccer
- Jenny Mahon, Handball
- Cian McLoughlin, Shooting
- Aine Murray, Equestrian
- Joe Shannon, Snooker
- Kate Shannon, Ladies Football

Well done to all the winners and to Fiona Gettings, who won the Longford Sports Star of the Year award on the night.

Midterm Sports and Games Camp



Longford Sports Partnership was delighted to run a two-day midterm Sports and Games Camp at the Drumlish Sports Hub on 2 and 3 November.

Twenty-three kids aged between six and 12 took part in various activities such as basketball, football and lots of energetic, fun games.

The kids really enjoyed the camp and the feedback from the parents was great.

Longford Sports Partnership looks forward to hosting more camps in 2024.



Human Resources

Learning and Development

Longford County Council held a number of training courses during the months of October and November:

- Safety Representative Training
- Safe Pass
- Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) Module 4
- Microsoft Excel Training - eight week programme with the Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board
- Manual Handling for indoor staff
- Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Administrative Officer Training Programme - two day in-person training
- Women in Leadership programme with Co-Operation Ireland
- Best Practice in File Management on the Council Network training

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing initiatives which took place in October and November included:

- Flu vaccination clinic for all employees.
- Breast cancer awareness promotion - Breast Cancer Ireland information shower card made available to all employees.
- Two day self-defence training programme delivered in conjunction with Longford Sports Partnership.
- International Men's Day Webinar 2023 organised by the HSE titled "Men Making A Difference".

Family Friendly Schemes

The Shorter Working Year Scheme for 2024 was offered to all Longford County Council employees during the month of October. A total of 52 employees have applied for the scheme.

Payroll

The Staff Savings scheme was paid out for 2023 on 24 November with a total of 171 employees availing of the scheme.

Information Technology

Technology Infrastructure

The ServiceDesk dealt with 1,397 queries in October and November.

Regular patching of client and server systems continued.

IT support was provided for statutory and Teams hybrid meetings.

Windows Server 2012 upgrade project progressed.

DMARC Project commenced.

New OGP laptop and peripherals framework implemented

Security Operations Centre pilot project and Security Information and Event Management project have progressed in collaboration with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA).

Other ongoing technology infrastructure work includes:

- Procurement for annual renewals and hardware replacements/ upgrades
- Mobile phone administration and support
- Support for community CCTV project
- Irish Water transition work progressed with operational data transfer project

Digital Services

The countywide rollout of the Longford Text Alert app and website is ongoing. It sends local people crime prevention

text alerts and community notices. Longford Text Alert had an information stand at the Longford Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo.

New Blended Working application is continually being used by employees.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software rollout continues for management of email queries including Meetings Administrator, Media Enquiries, Roads and Human Resources mailboxes migrated along with Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Longford library mailboxes.

Online staff form developed for temporary parking permits.

The contract for the provision of a Remote Working Hubs Brand Concept and Marketing Campaign has been awarded and development has commenced.

IT hosted a secondary school workshop in co:worx, Edgeworthstown on 17 November.

Meet and Code events introduce children to the world of technology and coding. The first of these events took place in St Colmcille's National School. These events are designed to show young people how much fun coding can be.

Town WIFI

The free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 1,025 new guests and 2,565 returning guests

Information Technology

during the months of October and November.

Broadband Connection Points

County Longford Broadband Connection Points had 98 new guests and 585 returning guests.

Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2023

Longford County Council and Tipperary County Council were delighted to be shortlisted in The Digital Skills / Talent Initiative of the Year category for their pilot project Microsoft DreamSpace at the Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards 2023.



Geographic Information Systems

- ArcGIS platform migration has been completed.
- Supported the Longford Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo event.
- Supported the iReg Eircode Encoding Project
- Processing and publishing of planning data as open data
- Update of roads winter maintenance plan
- Data processing for low-cost improvement schemes
- SQL database audit for migration to newer version
- Residential Zoned Land Tax final map data preparation and upload
- Update of paid parking mapping and online viewer

Housing

Capital Housing Update

Project	No of Houses	Status
Cranleymore Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Contract to remove Japanese knotweed awarded. Herbicide treatment commenced. Once removed will advertise for main contract.
St Rita's Park Road	12	Stage 2 approval received. Part 8 Planning approved for Phase 1 (6 houses). Contract to remove Japanese knotweed awarded. Herbicide treatment commenced. When costs known will submit stage 3. Once JK removed will advertise for main contract. Phase 2 to follow.
24 Congress Terrace	2	On site. Due for completion Dec 2023.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	On site. Due for completion Q4 2023
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	20	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly. In discussions with Roads and Planning. Awaiting additional information from consultants.
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly. In discussions with Roads and Planning. Awaiting additional information from consultants.
Clough Dillons Keenagh	4	Stage 1 approved. Legal issues to be sorted before can proceed.
Cnoc na Gréine, Granard	6	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly. In discussions with Roads and Planning. Awaiting additional information from consultants.
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	On site, due for completion Q4 2023.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes	6	Stage 2 approved. Road Safety Audit carried out. Awaiting report. Will then submit for Part 8 planning Q4 2023.

Housing

Project	No of Houses	Status
2 Legion Terrace	4	On site, for completion Q1 2024
Richmond Street	23	On site. 15 no. substantially complete. 3 more due for completion Q4 2023, with remaining 5 no due for completion Q2 2024.
Corneddan, Ballinalee	1	Combined stage 1 & Stage 2 approval received 27 June 2023. Part 8 planning advertised 25 Aug 2023. Awaiting approval.
Hourican's Hotel, Granard	4 + incl. parking	Demolition complete. Housing Agency preparing feasibility study for apartments/ town houses and parking. Survey complete, Road safety audit carried out. Awaiting report. Management plan for Japanese knotweed to be prepared.
Aghaboy, Killoe (Ennybegs)	4	Site purchased with planning permission for 4 no. houses. Surveyed. To prepare preliminary drawings and advertise for consultants.
Casey Court, Keenagh	2	Potential for 2 houses in large corner plot. Surveyed. QS preparing cost report.
Woodlawn Path, Keenagh	5	Turnkey Complete July 2023. ESB issue.
Farrell's Ballinalee	4	Turnkey approved. Not started, awaiting contracts.
Forthill, Aughnacliffe	13	Turnkey approved. On site. 8 no to be completed by Q4 2023. Remaining 5 no in Q1 2024.
Longford Road, Ballinalee	14	Turnkey approved. Contracts signed & 10% deposit paid. Not yet started on site.
Abhainn Glas, Edgeworthstown	4	Turnkey approved. On site. Due for completion Q4 2023
Cluain Rí, Ballymahon	16	Turnkey approved. On site. 8 completed to date, all to be complete by Q4 2023.
Creevaghbui, Creevaghbeg, Ballymahon	4	Turnkey approved. Complete Oct 2023.

Housing

Project	No of Houses	Status
6A Park Road, Longford	1	Turnkey approved. Unfinished house. Complete June 2023
Silver Birches, Stonepark	12	Turnkey approved 21 June 2023. On site. 8 due for completion Q4 2023. Remaining 4 no Q1 2024.
Market Square	2	Turkey approved 27 June 2023. On site. Due for completion Q4 2023.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard Phase 1	19	Stage 4 approved 27 April 2023. On site. 6-8 due for completion Q4 2023, remainder Q3 2024.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard Phase 2	7	Under negotiations to purchase.

Vacant Homes Unit

The Vacant Homes Unit remains steadfast in its commitment to Longford's community revitalization through ongoing initiatives, adhering to the national Vacant Homes Action Plan introduced in July 2022.

CPO and Derelict Sites

The team continues its efforts in the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Activation Program, aiming to swiftly identify and activate vacant and derelict properties. Six properties are currently in progress for social housing rehabilitation through this initiative.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Conaithe)

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme continues to support the revitalization of properties, offering

€50,000 for vacant properties and €70,000 for derelict ones. The scheme extends support to qualifying islands, with increased grant rates.

As of the current update, the scheme has garnered 88 applications. There have been five withdrawals, while two grants have been successfully disbursed. Furthermore, 36 applications have been given preliminary approval, including two that are currently under appeal and three undergoing final review. Additionally, there are 18 applications currently in the process of revision, aiming for approval in principle, and 27 applications awaiting further information.

Applications and Assessments

Applications

485 new social housing support

Housing

applications have been accepted up to the end of October 2023.

Currently there are 671 approved housing applicants on our waiting list.

A further 191 are within the assessment process.

New Tenancies

As of 30 November 2023:

- 121 new local authority tenancies have commenced
- Ten applicants have commenced tenancies with Approved Housing Bodies
- Eleven new Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)/leased tenancies have commenced

Summary of Social Housing Assessments (SSHA) 2023

The SSHA must be returned by each Local Authority by 29 November 2023. Review assessments have now been completed.

The summary report has been prepared for submission.

Rent Review

The new Differential Rent Scheme was adopted by Longford County Council at the November Council meeting.

A review of almost 2,400 local authority and leasing tenants is currently underway. It is hoped that the review will be completed and new rents

implemented by early February 2024.

Climate Action

Under the Midland Retrofit Programme, 32 units were completed up to the end of November 2023.

Under the Voids programme works, 34 properties completed this year have met the criteria for the Energy Efficiency programme and have been submitted funding.

Roads

National Road Schemes

Resurfacing work on the N4 Longford By-Pass Phase 2 (Leo Casey Roundabout to Padraic Colum Roundabout) has now been completed. Between Phase 1 and Phase 2 a total length of 4.6km of the By-Pass was resurfaced at a cost of over €5 million.

Advance works on a 5km stretch of the N55 at Meeltanagh are due to commence in November with resurfacing works to be completed at this location in 2024.

Municipal District Works

Road maintenance works continued in each Municipal District in October and November. These works include footpath repairs, drainage, pothole repairs etc.



Restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works on regional and local roads were completed in each of the Municipal Districts to a total value in excess of €6,493,957.

Bridge Rehabilitation Works

Longford County Council received an allocation of €429,500 in 2023 for Bridge Rehabilitation works. This funding was used to carry out works on the following bridge improvements in 2023:

- Ranaghanbaun, Abbeylara - rehabilitation of a single span jack-arch bridge over the former Cavan railway line
- Ballyduffy, Moyne – rehabilitation of a single span masonry arch bridge
- Cartronbig, Carriglass - rehabilitation of a single span masonry arch bridge
- Tadys bridge, Leggan - rehabilitation of a single span masonry arch bridge
- Fostragh, Aughnaclyffe - rehabilitation of a single span masonry arch bridge
- Lisnageeragh, Edgeworthstown - rehabilitation of a single span masonry arch bridge

Community Involvement Schemes

Longford County Council continued work on Community Involvement Schemes in October and November. Projects in Leggan, Moyne and Glenmore Fostragh are fully completed.

A third project along the France Road in Ballinalee is at an advanced stage.

Roads

Local Improvement Schemes

Longford County Council received a total of €584,701 for Local Improvement Schemes and 15 projects were completed.

Road Safety

Irish Road Safety Week this year ran from 2-8 October. The Road Safety Team engaged in a number of Road Safety Activities during this week.

On Thursday, 5 October the team took part in the Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo which was held in the Longford Sports Hub at St Mels College, Longford.

The team had a stand on the day with lots of Road Safety Information available including the new Local Road Safety Plan, in addition to a range of Hi Vis Vests, reflective arm bands, bags and backpack covers, which were made available to all students and adults in attendance.

In addition to this the Road Safety Virtual Reality headsets were in use,



aimed at highlighting the importance of road safety and creating an awareness of the dangers of distracted driving behaviour and the pain and suffering it can lead to in the event of an accident.

In addition to this, Road Safety Activity Packs which includes Road Safety quizzes and crosswords etc, were distributed to all local Primary Schools to promote Road Safety Week, with prizes available for all schools taking part.

Climate Action

The Roads Department in collaboration with the Longford County Council Climate Action Team have commenced a fleet review with a view to achieving reduced energy usage.



Environment

Dog Rehoming Campaign

Longford County Council's Dog Rehoming Campaign was shortlisted in the Communications Category of the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2023, which took place recently.

The Dog Rehoming Campaign encourages the rehoming of dogs from the Longford Dog Pound through the use of social media posts, easier application process and new webpage on the Longford County Council website. This development has resulted in greater number of dogs being successfully rehomed locally.

Photos show a number of Longford Pound Rescue Dogs who found their forever homes recently.



Dog Pound Electric Gate

The Environment Department recently installed a sliding electric gate at the entrance to the Dog Pound to enhance security at the pound by preventing unauthorised access to the site.

Anti Dumping Initiative - Smart Bins

Overflowing bins attract pests and rodents, pollute soil and water bodies, lead to air pollution and are a fire hazard. During October, five new smart bins were installed by the Environment section with the assistance of the Municipal District staff in Longford Town and at Dring and Barley Harbour Amenity Areas under the Anti-Dumping Initiative.

The installation of the solar powered smart bins has led to the elimination of the overflowing of these bins due to the additional capacity of these compactor bins. The bins compress the disposed waste and therefore don't need to be emptied as often, which helps reduce carbon emissions



Environment

Trial Voice Messaging System at Bring Banks

There are currently 23 sets of bring banks throughout Longford for the public's recycling convenience.

They are generally located where the public are likely to visit for other purposes or use when passing, for example shopping or travelling to and from work.

In an effort to reduce the incidents of illegal dumping/littering the Environment Department recently installed Voice Messaging Systems at five bring banks across the county on a three-month trial basis.



To date the installation of the devices has resulted in a 100% reduction in complaints by businesses and households living close to the bring banks and significantly reduced littering.

Waste Collection

Large Goods Collection

The Environment section held a one day large goods collection service in October to assist the public in disposing of large goods correctly. This service enables us all to work together to minimise the impact on the environment, by preventing the accumulation of unsightly items in our communities.



Hazardous Goods Collection

A one day hazardous waste collection service was held in October to support the proper disposal of hazardous waste. This service helps to ensure no chemicals or harmful substances end up in landfill or other areas where it can seep into groundwater, contaminating our water supplies.



Environment



Longford Drainage District

The Environment section undertook its annual programme of drainage district maintenance works along a 730m segment of the River Camlin Channel Townspark Spur.

The maintenance works were carried out, in consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland, using the Office of Public Works Environmental Management Protocols and Standard Operating Procedures.

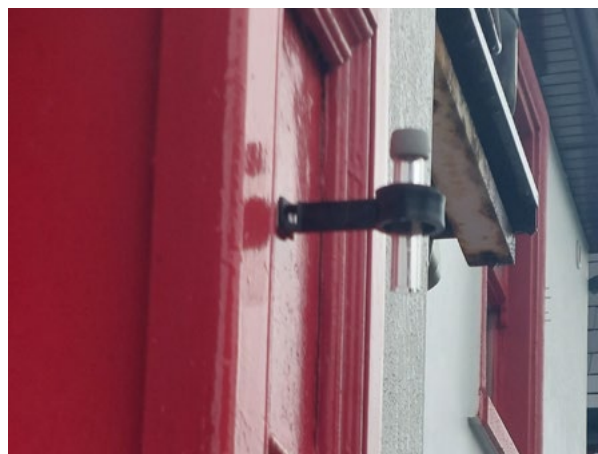
The works comprised of the clearing of impediments to flow, in the river channel to mitigate flooding. An amount of vegetation, several trees and tree branches which were restraining flow was removed from the riverbank, as was an amount of litter which had been dumped in or close to the river.

Nitrogen Dioxide Monitoring Project

In October and November 2023, the Environment section took part in a nitrogen dioxide monitoring project in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Emissions from traffic are the main source of nitrogen oxides in Ireland, along with electricity generating stations and industry.

Nitrogen Dioxide can affect the throat and lung. The main effects are emphysema and cellular damage. It impacts visually as it has a brown colour



Environment

and gives rise to a brown haze. Levels in Ireland are moderate but are increasing due to growth in traffic numbers.

As part of the project work, diffusion tubes were placed at various locations around Longford Town (see image below), where they remained in place for a four week period. Results from the Longford Town project will be available to view on the EPA website, and a link will be provided on Longford County Council's website in due course.

Cemetery Maintenance Works

Longford County Council provide an annual monetary contribution to Longford Community Resources Ltd. (LCRL) who assist the local cemetery committees with the maintenance of common areas and general clean up and mowing around plots. Cemetery support scheme grants of more than €8,000 have recently been paid to 24 local community groups to support their work.



Throughout October and November, the Environment section undertook essential works including emergency tree removal and pruning works to reduce wind load, in addition to target pruning of trees overhanging footpaths and graves at Newtowncashel and Edgeworthstown cemeteries.

The demolition and replacement of circa 100m of the deteriorating boundary wall at Cloonboney Cemetery is ongoing and will be completed in early December.

OPW Minor Works Scheme - Soran, Ballinalee

In October 2023, Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) Consulting Engineers completed a Flood Risk Management Scheme Feasibility Study in relation to the development of flood risk management for one residential, two commercial & three residential and commercial properties at Soranw, Ballinalee.

The objective of the study is to provide a preliminary report identifying the potential for effective flood alleviation measures which would eliminate or significantly reduce the flood risk to the properties located within the study area.

Climate Action

Draft Climate Action Plan Public Consultation

Longford County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan public consultation

Environment

started on the 10 November 2023.

The Draft Climate Action Plan is currently available on Longford County Council's website, and submissions can be made in writing to Climate Action Coordinator, Aras An Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56 or by email to climateplan@longfordcoco.ie.

Closing date for receipt of submissions is 29 December 2023.

Community Climate Action Programme

Up to 100% funding is available to assist in the scale up of community climate action across County Longford. From 08 December 2023, Longford County Council is accepting applications for projects which can help shape and build low carbon communities. Projects should seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the production of renewable energy, and improve energy efficiency. Also welcome are nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support climate resilience.

There are three categories of grant available:

- small projects (up to €20,000)
- medium projects (up to €50,000)
- large-scale projects (up to €100,000)

There are five themes and communities should try to incorporate as many themes as possible:

- Community Energy

- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action

Closing date for receipt of applications is 29 February 2024. Contact Linda Beirne, Community Climate Action Officer, Longford County Council, or email lbeirne@longfordcoco.ie.



Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations

Installation of EV charging stations has commenced with works underway at:

- Ballymahon Street carpark, Longford
- Riverside carpark, Ballymahon
- St Marys Street, Drumlish
- Lanesborough carpark

Work will commence in Tesco carpark, Longford, and Granard carpark early next year.

Civil Defence

Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover at ten events during October and November.

These included:

- Longford Town Football Club - two matches
- GAA - three matches
- Spook Walks as part of Halloween Festival - three events
- Dead of Night Festival
- Remembrance Ceremony
- Opening of Rose Cottage, Ballinalee

Training and Operations

Volunteer and Equipment Management Software (VEMS) went live and ongoing training is being provided by Civil Defence Officer (CDO) and Assistant Civil Defence Officer (ACDO).

Five volunteers attended a Food Safety Course, and ten volunteers attended the Introduction to Communications training course.

Six volunteers attended Manual Handling training.

One volunteer successfully completed Missing Persons Search Instructors training.

Five volunteers currently completing ongoing First Aid Responder training.

CDO attended a management update seminar at the Civil Defence branch in Roscrea, where Minister Peter Burke

was also in attendance.

CDO, ACDO, and three volunteers attended the Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo held at the Longford Sports Hub.



CDO and ACDO assisted Leitrim Fire Service and Civil Defence with their evacuation exercise at Carrick-on-Shannon hospital

CDO, ACDO, and three volunteers attended the Annual Civil Defence Officers Association Conference and Trade Show at the Farnham Estate Hotel in Cavan.



Climate Action

Roads

The Roads Department in collaboration with the Longford County Council Climate Action Team have commenced a fleet review with a view to achieving reduced energy usage.

- St Marys Street, Drumlish
- Lanesborough carpark

Work will commence in Tesco carpark, Longford, and Granard carpark early next year.

Housing

Under the Midland Retrofit Programme, 32 units were completed up to the end of November 2023.

Under the Voids programme works, 34 properties completed this year have met the criteria for the Energy Efficiency programme and have been submitted funding.

Community Climate Action Programme

Longford County Council will soon be accepting applications under the Community Climate Action Programme for projects which can help shape and build low carbon communities. Projects should seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the production of renewable energy, and improve energy efficiency. Also welcome are nature-based projects that enhance biodiversity and support climate resilience.

Environment

Draft Climate Action Plan

The public consultation for Longford County Council's Draft Climate Action Plan started on the 10 November 2023. The Plan is currently available on Longford County Council's website, where details can be found on how to make a submission. Closing date for receipt of submissions is 29 December 2023.

Installation of EV charging stations

The installation of EV charging stations has commenced with works underway at:

- Ballymahon Street carpark, Longford
- Riverside carpark, Ballymahon

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Management Report for November 2023 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Section 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in November 2023 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive

