



Chief Executive Report September 2023

Longford County Council

Contents

September Highlights	3
Community Development	4
Tourism	7
Longford Local Sports Partnership	8
Human Resources	10
Information Technology	11
Finance	13
Housing	16
Roads	21
Environment	23
Civil Defence	25
Climate Action	26

September Highlights

Longford County Council shares Check the Register message

Longford County Council employees were on hand to help people check their details on the Register of Electors at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska.



The 225th Commemoration of the Battle of Ballinamuck

Thousands descended on the north Longford village from 7-10 September for a four day commemoration of the infamous Battle of Ballinamuck, the last major battle of the 1798 rebellion.



The most attractive estates in County Longford recognised

River Crescent, Ballinalee was announced overall winner of the Better Estates Awards, which took place on 13 September in Áras an Chontae.



Longford County Council hosts fifth annual Garda Youth Awards

Young people from Longford and Roscommon were recognised for their commitment to their communities at the Garda Youth Awards Ceremony.



Community Development

Longford Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on 12 September 2023.

Project Overview Healthy Ireland Round 4

All eleven applications submitted under Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) were successful.



The applicants received 50% initial payment upon signing the Service Level Agreement (SLA) and the final 50% will be issued upon completion of the action when all receipts and reports are submitted, before end of 2023.

Details of some of the activities being supported are included below.

Longford Movement Matters

A fun and friendly exercise group for Longford mental health service users facilitated by Siel Bleu, and supported by HSE Mental Health Occupational Therapy staff.

Longford Libraries

A range of health related talks and workshops on topics including art and skincare.

Longford Traveller Project

This project offers a range of activities for all. These including a table tennis programme for young people, a walking trip for 40 women in Mayo; participation in FAI Junior Cup men's



League and the Combined County Football League; six-week long indoor cycling classes (for travellers and other ethnic minority group members); self-defence and physical health activity for women, and the men's outdoor handball league.

Longford Sports Partnership

Provision for Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, providing therapeutic equine sessions to children with varying



Community Development



disabilities, in addition to a range of activities under the banner of Physical Activity for Health, including walking for chronic conditions in August.

Lus na Gréine, Granard

Facilitation of a two week Zenfit programme designed to encourage regular physical exercise and address some stress management and mindfulness techniques.

Cuidiu

A celebration of breastfeeding including the highlighting of National Breastfeeding Week, talks and parent support meetings.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Applications for seed funding under Sláintecare Healthy Communities Seed Funding were also successful under six actions.

Community Connections

A project to provide health and wellbeing programmes in Adrnacassa and McEoin Park.

McEoin Park Outdoor Recreation Space

The purpose of this project is to bring back into use the recreational space around McEoin Park.

Grow It Yourself

This project provides educational resources and growing kits to schoolchildren and families. It will work with up to seven primary schools in Longford town and in the community with 250 families through targeted home Grow It Yourself kits. The project aims to help address the issues of food poverty and sustainable food production.

Community Development

Community Connections

To support community education programmes, homework clubs, wellness programmes, and social programmes. Three homework clubs based in Ardnacassa, McEoin Park and the Temperance Hall have commenced this term, with approximately 50 children attending twice weekly over the three locations. Students are supported by a schoolteacher and homework club leaders.

Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029

The Advisory Steering Group which is guiding the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) met on 31 July 2023.

The LECP process has six stages, including preparation, public consultation, development of high level goals, objectives and outcomes, and finalisation of the plan. This process is now at stage three which involves establishing objectives and outcomes which will form the basis for the implementation plan.

Meetings of the Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Longford LCDC to review draft objectives for the plan were held on 10 and 11 July 2023.

An action planning workshop involving agencies and other stakeholders was held on 11 July.

A Draft Longford Local Economic and

Community Plan was approved at meetings of the SPC on 11 September and the LCDC on 12 September 2023.

The three Municipal Districts considered the draft Framework Plan at their September meetings and each approved a Statement of Consistency of Draft Plan with the following:

1. The core strategy and the objectives of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.
2. The Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031.
3. The economic and community elements of the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan are consistent with each other.

The draft Plan has now been referred to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) for consideration.

Work will continue to finalise the Plan and an initial two year implementation plan for further consideration by the Placemaking SPC and the LCDC prior to consideration by Longford County Council.

Tourism

French visitors tour Granard

Longford Tourism worked with Granard Town Twinning Committee to provide details and material for their French visitors to Granard.

Among the activities during their sojourn in Granard was a visit to the Knights and Conquests Heritage Centre, a walk along the EZxploring trail of Granard, and enjoyment of the Longford Rebel Trail which is available in the French language also.

New Longford Tourism postcards

Longford Tourism have designed and printed some new postcards to add to the current collection. They showcase different places of interest in County Longford and are available in the Tourist Office.



New School Tours brochure

Funded by Fáilte Ireland, a new School Tours brochure has been designed and distributed out to all primary schools in Counties Longford, Leitrim, Cavan, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly.



If there are additional schools who wish to have a sample of the new brochure, please contact Longford Tourism.

New School Tours brochure

Promotional material was also provided for the Longford County Council stand at the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska, Co Laois.

Longford Local Sports Partnership

Sports Introduction Initiative

From 12 June to 2 August 2023, Longford Sports Partnership, in collaboration with the Attic House and Longford Community Resources CLG (LCRL), successfully organized an eight-week Sports Introduction Initiative.



This transformative programme, funded by Longford Local Community Safety Partnership and the Department of Justice and Equality, brought together over 30 children from various backgrounds, including Ukrainian, Roma, African, and Travelling communities.

These enthusiastic young participants engaged in thrilling activities such as horse riding, kayaking, and archery, gaining valuable skills, forming new friendships, and fostering a sense of unity within the community. This initiative showcases the power of sports to bridge divides and promote inclusivity among Longford's diverse communities.

Physical Activity Leaders (PAL) Training

Over 20 members of Active Age groups and Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) Guilds around county Longford completed their Physical Activity Leaders training on Monday 25 September in the Sports Hub, Edgeworthstown in partnership with Longford Sports Partnership and Age & Opportunity.

An initial four weeks of Physical Activity Leaders (PALs) training was completed by the group in April 2023 with the following four weeks happening throughout September.

Members of groups from Longford, Abbeylara, Drumlish, Newtownforbes, Edgeworthstown, Clondra, Granard and Gowna became certified Physical Activity Leaders for their groups and were trained to lead activities such as short exercise routines, fun games, simple dances, and sports like pitch and toss and bowling in active retirement or community groups like Irish Countrywomen's Associations and Men's Sheds.



Longford Local Sports Partnership



Physical Activity for Health Programme

Longford Men's Shed health and exercise programme delivers a variety of exercise sessions, designed to maintain and improve posture, strength, flexibility, balance & general physical capabilities over an eight-week period.

Classes includes Tai Chi, boxercise, line dancing and circuits with a mindfulness exercise to complete all classes. To date there is an average of 20-30 clients per class.



Drumlish Karate for juniors

It has been fantastic to see Drumlish Karate club grow at the Sports Hub and continue to run over the summer months with Sensei Mark Geoghegan. The club has progressed a lot and it's a very popular class with the kids around Drumlish.

Mark takes the members from beginners through a grading system if they wish to do so. The kids also get the opportunity to compete in small competitions.

In late September some members will grade and be awarded with their first belt or progress to another belt or belt tip. This is always a great evening for the kids, and their parents can come to watch. There will also be another opportunity for members to grade again in December.

Longford Sports Partnership is looking forward to continuing to have Drumlish Karate Club in the Sports Hub and supporting the club in any way possible.

Human Resources

Learning and Development

Longford County Council held a number of personal development and health and safety training courses during the months of August and September:

- Personal Safety at Work
- Safe Pass
- Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures
- AI Made Easy
- People Management - Leading with Impact

Health and Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

In collaboration with Longford Sports Partnership, employees were invited to participate in number of sporting activities during the month of August

- Ten employees took part in the Summer Walking series
- Eight employees took part in the Trail Run series.

The events took place in several scenic locations throughout the county.

On Thursday 3 August, employees were offered the opportunity to take part in a Tai Chi class delivered by a local teacher. This has resulted in 'Tai Chi Thursdays' commencing from 7 September at the Longford Athletics Indoor Centre Longford Sports Hub.

Mental Wellbeing

Maintaining the 2023 focus on Mental Health Awareness, a second Mental Health Champion training day took place on 27 September with 10 employees attending.

The course is designed to give participants the skills needed to be effective workplace champions for mental health. The course is highly practical with scenario-based exercises and group discussions aimed at reducing workplace stigma and normalising mental health at work.

Community Involvement

Management and employees supported the Longford based national charity Cian's Kennel's fundraising Mizen to Malin Head Cycle.

The charity was established in 2020 with the resolve to bring pets to visit sick children in Crumlin hospital, Dublin.

Over 20 employees participated in the Longford stage of the cycle with €420 raised for Cian's Kennels.



Information Technology



Digital industry giants support pilot filmmaking workshops in Longford primary schools

'Mini Motion Pictures', backed by world digital industry leaders, educational experts, and community supporters, will empower young filmmakers in Scoil Mhuire, Newtownforbes, Co Longford, to become digital creatives.

This program is unique in its approach, combining upcycled Samsung technology from the Department of Education with existing teaching resources to make this a very eco-friendly project. This will also create a holistic climate-positive filmmaking environment for young students, aiming to nurture creativity, boost confidence, and enhance responsible digital literacy skills among participants.

Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase 2024

Following the inaugural event in May

2023, planning work has commenced for 2024 with initial meetings with Microsoft and project partners taking place in July.

The 2024 project will be supported through Micro:bits and laptops purchased through the Public Service Innovation Fund from the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform (PENDR). Work is underway at present to procure the equipment in accordance with the rules of the fund

Technology Infrastructure

The ServiceDesk dealt with 1,501 queries in August and September.

Regular patching of client and server systems. Additional hybrid meeting room setup complete.

IT support for statutory and Teams hybrid meetings.

Migration to new primary firewalls completed. Windows Server 2012 upgrade project progressed.

Information Technology

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

Digital Services

An electronic Performance Management and Development System (ePMDS) software update is completed.

The countywide rollout of Longford Text Alert is ongoing. This is an app and accompanying website which sends local people crime prevention text alerts and community notices.

New Blended Working application is continually being used by employees. This process reduces the need for multi-page paper applications and related processing.

Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software rollout ongoing for management of email queries.

Town WIFI

The free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 2,784 new guests and 4,279 returning guests during the months of August and September.

Broadband Connection Points

County Longford Broadband Connection Points had 66 new guests and 518 returning guests.

Geographic Information Systems

- ArcGIS platform migration has been completed.
- Works on the enhancement of the Roads, Planning and Housing map viewers has completed successfully. Also completed updates to ESB and public lighting map viewers.
- Completed development of an Active Travel map viewer.
- Processing of housing data continues in preparation for publishing as open data.
- SQL database audit completed in preparation for migration to a newer version.

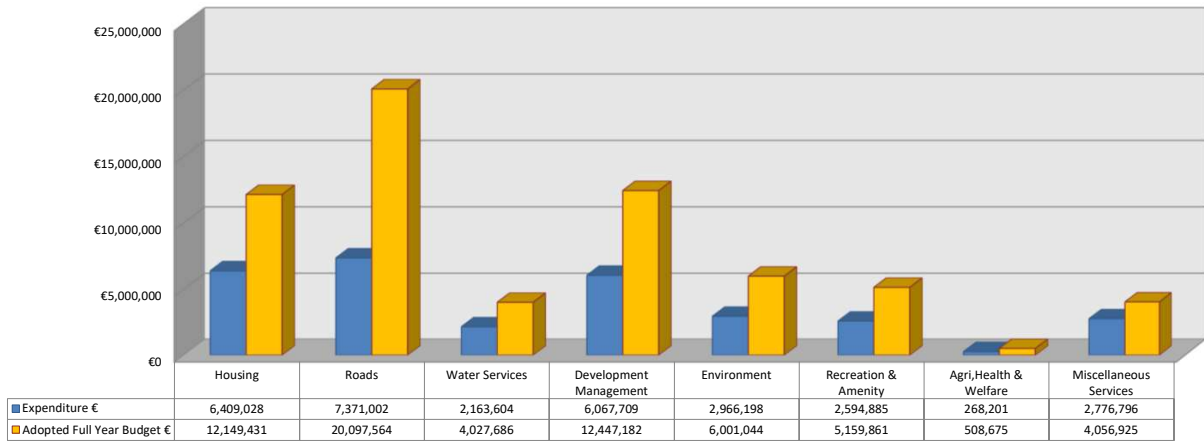
Finance

Revenue and Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division Year to date to quarter end 30 June 2023

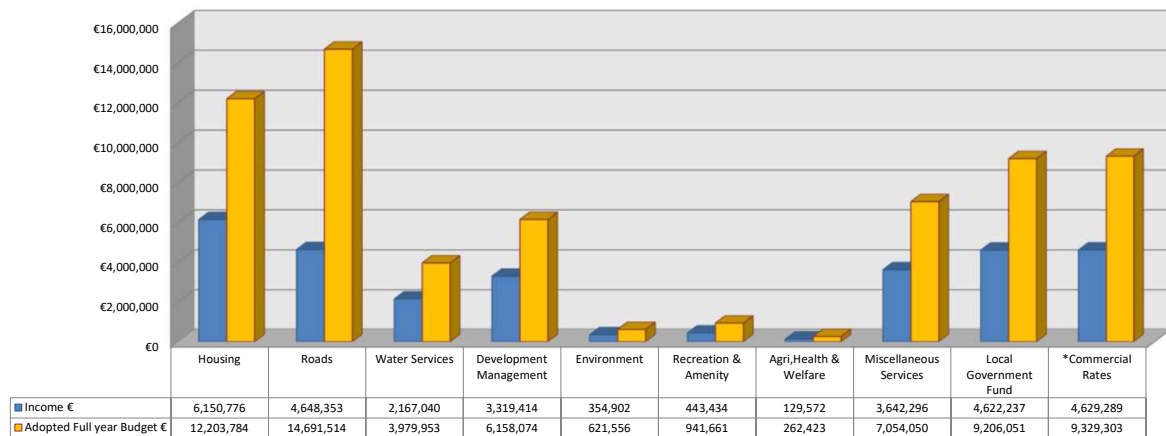
	EXPENDITURE				INCOME				NET
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	6,409,028	12,149,431	53%	5,740,403	6,150,776	12,203,784	50%	6,053,008	(258,252)
Roads	7,371,002	20,097,564	37%	12,726,562	4,648,353	14,691,514	32%	10,043,161	(2,722,649)
Water Services	2,163,604	4,027,686	54%	1,864,082	2,167,040	3,979,953	54%	1,812,913	3,436
Development Management	6,067,709	12,447,182	49%	6,379,473	3,319,414	6,158,074	54%	2,838,660	(2,748,295)
Environment	2,966,198	6,001,044	49%	3,034,846	354,902	621,556	57%	266,654	(2,611,296)
Recreation & Amenity	2,594,885	5,159,861	50%	2,564,976	443,434	941,661	47%	498,227	(2,151,451)
Agri,Health & Welfare	268,201	508,675	53%	240,474	129,572	262,423	49%	132,851	(138,629)
Miscellaneous Services	2,776,796	4,056,925	68%	1,280,129	3,642,296	7,054,050	52%	3,411,754	865,500
Local Government Fund					4,622,237	9,206,051	50%	4,583,814	4,622,237
*Commercial Rates					4,629,289	9,329,303	50%	4,700,014	4,629,289
	€30,617,423	€64,448,368	48%	€33,830,945	€30,107,313	€64,448,369	47%	€34,341,056	(€510,110)

Finance

Expenditure versus Budget - Quarter 2, 2023



Income versus Budget - Quarter 2, 2023



Finance

Summary of Major Revenue Collections - Quarter 2, 2023

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2023	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€859,492	€9,258,578	€10,107,936	€5,303,714	€4,804,222	52%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€882,623	€3,725,933	€4,584,938	€3,746,755	€838,183	82%
Housing Loans	€346,022	€544,620	€890,642	€586,147	€304,495	66%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2022	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€966,941	€8,851,510	€9,267,072	€4,536,850	€4,730,222	49%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€800,153	€3,693,715	€4,483,135	€3,615,388	€867,747	81%
Housing Loans	€457,955	€488,534	€946,488	€535,328	€411,160	57%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	(€107,449)	€407,068	€840,864	€766,864	€74,000	4%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€82,470	€32,218	€101,803	€131,367	(€29,564)	1%
Housing Loans	(€111,933)	€56,086	(€55,846)	€50,819	(€106,665)	9%

Housing

Capital Housing Update

Project	No of Houses	Status
Cranleymore Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Contract to remove Japanese knotweed to be agreed shortly. 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 to be agreed shortly. 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 & Planning. Awaiting additional information from consultants.
Woodlawn Path, Keenagh	5	Turnkey complete July 2023. ESB issue.
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly. In discussions with Roads & 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 & Planning. Awaiting additional information from consultants.
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	On site. Due for completion Q4 2023.

Housing

Project	No of Houses	Status
Lamagh, Newtownforbes	6	Stage 2 approved. Road Safety Audit to be carried out soon. Will then submit for Part 8 planning Q3 2023.
2 Legion Terrace	4	On site. Due for completion Q1 2024.
Richmond Street	23	On site. Seven substantially complete. Six for completion by Q4 2023. Remaining 10 due for completion June 2024.
Farrell's Ballinalee	4	Turnkey approved. Not started, awaiting contracts.
Forthill, Aughtnaclyffe	13	Turnkey approved. On site. To be completed by Q4 2023
Longford Road, Ballinalee	14	Turnkey approved. Contracts signed and 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. 6 completed to date, all to be complete by Q4 2023.
Creevaghbuí, Creevaghbeg, Ballymahon	4	Turnkey approved. On site. Due for completion Q3 2023. Snagging shortly.
6A Park Road, Longford	1	Turnkey approved. Unfinished house. Complete June 2023.
Silver Birches, Stonepark, Longford	12	Turnkey approved 21/06/2023. On site. Due for completion Q4 2023.
Corneddan, Ballinalee, Longford	1	Combined stage 1 and Stage 2 approval received 27 June 2023. Part 8 planning was advertised 25 August 2023.
Houricans Hotel, Granard	4+ and parking	Demolition complete. Housing Agency preparing feasibility study for apartments / town houses and parking. Survey complete, Road safety audit to be carried out soon. Management plan for Japanese knotweed to be prepared.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Longford	4	Site purchased with planning permission for four houses. Currently being surveyed.

Housing

Project	No of Houses	Status
Casey Court, Keenagh	2	Potential for two houses in large corner plot. Currently being surveyed.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard Phase 1	19	Stage 4 approved 27 April 2023. Works due to commence in June 2023.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard Phase 2	7	Under negotiations to purchase.

Midland Energy Retrofit Programme

Under the Midland Energy Retrofit Programme, 28 houses have been fully complete in Glebe View, Longford. Work is nearly complete on nine houses at Fairgreen View, Longford and a further four houses on the Athlone Road, Longford.

Plans to retrofit 12 houses in St Matthew’s Park, Ballymahon are on hold due to excessive costs. Extra funding has been sought from the Department, but no approval has been given to date.

Vacant Homes Unit

The Vacant Homes Unit remains committed to its multifaceted efforts within the framework of the national Vacant Homes Action Plan, initiated in July 2022.

This ongoing project is driven by the overarching objectives of rejuvenating local communities, enhancing housing supply, and bringing recoverable vacant properties back into productive use.

CPO and Derelict Sites

Earlier this year, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage introduced the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Activation Program, a crucial component of the Housing for All plan. Its primary objective is swiftly identifying and activating vacant and derelict properties.

This approach, adopted by the local authorities encompasses several key phases including the identification of such properties, engagement with their owners, and communication regarding available support schemes n of legislative powers for compulsory purchase or acquisition via the Housing Act, 1966, or the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

Subsequently, these acquired properties may be allocated for social housing, put up for sale on the open market, or repurposed for community use.

Currently, efforts are in progress to rehabilitate six properties for social housing through the CPO process. Moreover, Longford County Council has successfully completed the initial phase of the CPO Activation

Housing

Program, involving the identification and inspection of over 600 vacant properties situated within settlements within a 1km radius of towns and villages across the county, facilitated by the GeoDirectory App.

Presently, the Vacant Homes team is diligently inputting the data collected in Q1 and Q2 of this year into the CPO Activation Programme App for properties designated for residential use under Longford County Council's jurisdiction.

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant (Croí Conaithe)

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant scheme in Longford continues to facilitate the revitalization of vacant and derelict properties, contributing to the enhancement of the local housing stock.

As of the proposed changes on 1 May 2023, the grant offers €50,000 for vacant properties and €70,000 for derelict properties, encompassing houses constructed up to 2007, with the flexibility for use as rental properties or the primary residence of the applicant.

Notably, starting from 1 July 2023, additional support is extended to refurbish vacant and derelict properties on qualifying islands, aiming to reintegrate them into functional housing. A list of eligible islands can be found on the Gov.ie website.

On these islands, the maximum grant rates see a 20% increase, reaching

up to €60,000 for vacant property refurbishment and up to €84,000 for confirmed derelict properties. Furthermore, the maximum cost limits for various work categories are also elevated by 20%.

To date, the scheme has received 77 applications, with two withdrawals, one grant approval, three applications under final review, 16 applications approved in principle, 14 applications under revision for approval in principle, two appeals received, and 39 applications pending further information.

Applications and Assessments

Applications

381 new social housing support applications have been accepted up to the end of August 2023.

Currently there are 686 approved housing applicants on our waiting list.

A further 152 are within the assessment process.

Allocations

To date in 2023, a total of 129 offers of local authority, approved housing body (AHB) or leased housing have been made. A further 22 offers have been made through the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Housing

New Tenancies

As of 30 September 2023:

- 102 new local authority tenancies have commenced
- Eight applications have commenced tenancies with Approved Housing Bodies
- Nine 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 been underway across the year.

It is essential that applicants requested to update their application respond to this request, or they risk their housing support application being closed.

Better Estates Awards 2023

The Longford Council Council Better Estate Awards have been running for approximately 20 years.

The Longford County Council estates that have active residents groups are the most requested by prospective tenants, and are among the most attractive estates in County Longford.

There are currently 24 active groups. The winners were announced on 13 September with the overall prize going to River Crescent, Ballinalee.

Large Category:

1. Devine Crescent, Edgeworthstown
2. Annaly Park, Longford
3. Mac Eoin Park, Longford

Medium Category:

1. Campbells Drive
2. Church View, Lanesborough
3. St Patrick's, Ballinamuck

Small Category:

1. River Crescent, Ballinalee
2. Parkside, Ballymahon
3. Slí na Móna, Ballymahon

There were three additional prizes, which were notable mentions:

- Catron Road Residents, Kenagh
- Smithfield Crescent, Legan
- Knock Manor, Lanesboro



Roads

National Road Schemes

Resurfacing work on the N4 Longford By-Pass Phase 2 (Leo Casey Roundabout to Padraic Colum Roundabout) continued through August and September. It is envisaged that these works will be substantially complete by the end of October.

Resurfacing works on the N63 Aughnaskea Scheme were completed in August. This scheme involved the resurfacing of 700m of the N63 near Killashee Village.



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

Municipal District Works

Road maintenance works continued in each municipal district in August and September. These works include footpath repairs, drainage, pothole repairs etc.

Restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works on regional and local roads are well

underway in each of the municipal districts and almost nearing completion.

Works are also continuing on Community Involvement Schemes, Local Improvement Schemes as well as bridge rehabilitation, safety improvement works, etc.

Community Involvement Schemes 2024/2025

Longford County Council advertised for applications for Community Involvement Schemes with a closing date of 21 August 2023.

A total of 14 applications were received which will have to be examined and assessed.

Local Improvement Schemes

Longford County Council have received an additional €288,614 for Local Improvement Scheme funding under Round 2 offers from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

This brings the total received in 2023 allocations to €640,494, having received €351,880 under Round 1.

Seven schemes have been made offers under Round 2 and Longford County Council are currently in the process of confirming acceptance and finalising contributions.

Drawdown for works completed under Round 2 is Friday, 10 November 2023.

Roads

Training

A number of Longford County Council employees attended the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) National Roads and Greenways Conference taking place in Cork at the end of September. This two-day conference covered the following topics:

- Enhancing Regional and Rural Connectivity
- Mobility of People and goods in Urban Areas
- Greenways
- Protection and Renewal
- Decarbonisation

TII's purpose is to provide sustainable transport infrastructure and services, delivering a better quality of life, supporting economic growth and respecting the environment.

Road Safety

The Road Safety Team were represented at the Longford County Council stand at the National Ploughing Championships on Thursday, 21 September 2023. Employees helped promote Road Safety with a range of information material and high-vis equipment available on the day.

Virtual reality headsets demonstrating a 3D road traffic collision were also in operation and these proved very popular among the mid-to-late teens target audience. Users found the experience very intriguing and effective

at highlighting the dangers on our roads.

Overall, the event was very successful and carried out in conjunction with other employees promoting the overall services Longford County Council has to offer.



Climate Action

Longford County Council have received an allocation of €307,500 for works under the 2023 Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works allocation.

This facilitates embankment stabilisation works on Regional and Local roads at various locations throughout the county, as well as rock armour works on the causeway road at Saints Island (L-1140-2) and improvement works to the Newtownforbes storm drainage outfall.

Environment

Large-scale clean-up at Clonfin under Anti-Dumping Initiative

The Environment section facilitated a significant clean-up operation at Clonfin, Longford supported by the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) funding. The stretch of road is located close to the Clonfin Ambush Memorial Monument on the R194 road from Ballinalee to Granard.



Over six tonnes of domestic waste was removed from the verge of the roadway over a stretch of approximately 200m. Some of this waste was located close to the drain impacting the water quality as well as the negative visual impact on the local residents.

Town enhancement in Garvey's Yard

The Environment team expend considerable resources in the Garvey's Yard area, with the Litter Warden and the Community Warden carrying out regular patrols in an effort to reduce anti-social behaviour and littering in the area.

The Probation Services assist with the

minimisation of litter by carrying out regular clean up.

The Environment section would like to complement the Tidy Towns Committee on the work carried out recently to enhance the visual amenity of Garvey's Yard.

With the agreement of the property owner, they arranged a lathed exterior screen to block off an unused doorway, and painting the entire lane. It is hoped that the new screen and improved appearance will have a positive impact on the area.



Implementation of Household Waste Bye-Laws

The Environment section's Waste Enforcement Team are committed to reducing the incidence of litter and waste to the greatest extent possible.

Waste Enforcement had its first successful outcome under the Waste Management (Segregation, Storage

Environment

and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2018.

At a recent court sitting, the judge fined the defendant €200 plus €250 towards costs for failing to provide proof of their disposal of waste. This process took 20 months, with five court appearances, from the initial inspection to the final court date. The total cost of the professional services was €871.70.

The Household Waste Bye-Laws are available to view on Longfordcoco.ie.

Temporary flood relief measures

Following consultation with the International Flood Initiative (IFI), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Coillte, the Environment section in conjunction with support from Granard Municipal District (MD) cleared 900m of trees and debris from the Kilshruley River to provide short term temporary flood relief to the adjacent homeowners.

Over the last five years, there have been repeated annual flood events at this location, which the Granard MD have



assisted with through the supply and installation of sandbags. The frequency of these flooding events are only increasing with a total of four call outs this year to date.

In 2024, Longford County Council will progress an application for funding from the Office of Public Works (OPW) under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Scheme. The plans are initially for a consultant to undertake a hydrometric and hydrological study of the river and assess a potential overflow flood relief structure, with a view to submitting a detailed construction works funding application thereafter subject to the outcome of the consultant's assessment.

Longford Veterinary Service

Blas na hÉireann Food Awards

Longford County Council would like to congratulate 'Herterich Butchery & Delicatessen' for picking up two prestigious awards at the Blas na hÉireann Food Awards in Dingle on 29 September.



Civil Defence



We were delighted to meet H.E Mr Vincent Guérend, French Ambassador and Marianne Barkan-Cowdy, Deputy Head of Mission, on their recent visit to the re-enactment of the 1798 Battle of Ballinamuck.

Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover at 16 events during August and September.

These included:

- Longford Town Football Club - four matches
- Longford Sports Partnership Summer Trail 5k Runs - four events
- Charity cycle from Longford to Sligo
- Longford Marathon
- Ballinamuck 225th Commemoration - two days
- Lough Ree King of the Lakes angling competition
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service blood bank clinic - three days
- Roscommon Races - assisted by Roscommon Civil Defence

Training and Operations

Training was provided to the Civil Defence Officer and Assistant Civil Defence Officer in relation to the new volunteer and equipment management software.

One volunteer began Missing Person Search Instructor training.

Three probationary volunteers received Manual Handling training.

Community First Responder training was delivered to members of Longford Men's Shed and Longford Rovers Football Club.

Eight volunteers completed their Missing Person Responder training.

Volunteers attended the National Services Day commemoration in Roscommon.

Climate Action



Resident Olga Sheridan welcomed Minister Darragh O'Brien into her home on the Athlone Road which has recently been the subject of an energy retrofit.

Environment

The Climate Action Team is in place since July 2023. The Biodiversity Officer competition has been held and an appointment is due shortly.

The Draft Climate Action Plan has been prepared and will be reviewed by Management Team on 12 October 2023. The document will then undergo the public consultation process.

Longford County Council has, through the Midland Energy Agency, signed up for the SEAI Pathfinder programme to retrofit Áras An Chontae and other corporate buildings.

At the behest of Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland (ZEV) Longford County Council has joined the other midland counties to develop an electric vehicle (EV) charging strategy. A funding application is being prepared for EV chargers through Pobal's Community EV grant. If successful the chargers will be located at libraries and parks across the county.

Roads

Longford County Council have received an allocation of €307,500 for works under the 2023 Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Works allocation. This facilitates embankment stabilisation works on Regional and Local roads at various locations throughout the county as well as rock armour works on the causeway road at Saints Island (L-1140-2) and improvement works to the Newtownforbes storm drainage outfall.

Housing

Under the Midland Energy Retrofit Programme, 28 houses have been fully complete in Glebe View, Longford. Work is nearly complete on nine houses at Fairgreen View, Longford and a further four houses on the Athlone Road, Longford. Plans to retrofit 12 houses in St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon are on hold due to excessive costs. Extra funding has been sought from the Department, but no approval has been given to date.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for September 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 September 2023 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: 
Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive

