



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report April 2022

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April Highlights

Polish Ambassador visit

Her Excellency Ambassador of Poland Anna Sochanska came to Longford. Ambassador Sochanska was welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan and the Polish Midlands Community represented by Slawomir Kazek and Barbara Stachowska. As part of the time here, she visited St Mel's Cathedral.



Minister English visit

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD visited Longford Local Enterprise Office (LEO). As part of his visit, he met with LEO client businesses.



Longford Spring Clean

Longford Spring Clean took place throughout April. People and groups from across County Longford took part and helped to clean up their local towns and villages. The Environment section provided equipment and collection of waste.



Civil Defence cycles

As part of ongoing climate action work, Civil Defence now have two bicycles. The bikes will be used as a green alternative method of transport when assisting at some community-based events.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) took place on 14 April.

LEADER

One LEADER project was approved for funding of €7,150 at Longford LCDC's meeting on 14 April.

Intercultural Forum meeting

Longford County Council and Longford Public Participation Network facilitated an Intercultural Forum meeting. The meeting provided information to migrant groups, as well as listening to and discussing the concerns of their communities.

Consultation on the County Longford Community Safety Plan formed part of the meeting also.

Comhairle na nÓg's HOPE bench

A wheelchair accessible bench made from recycled plastic bottles and known as the HOPE bench was unveiled by Longford County Council Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Paraic Brady.

Sitting along Longford's Royal Canal, the HOPE bench stands for 'Helping Our Planet's Environment'. The project is a joint effort by Comhairle na nÓg members and the Council's Environment team. Both worked together to engage local secondary schools to collect and recycle plastic water bottles.

Community Development Plan

International Roma Day was marked with the launch of the Community Development Plan. It is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development through the LCDC. It is delivered by Longford Community Resources Limited. Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan addressed the event and welcomed this new programme.



Members of the Roma community perform at the Community Development Plan launch

The Plan aims to develop an autonomous community development project. It will be managed and run by members of the Roma community, as well as other communities. It aims to enable direct engagement with decision-making structures and work in partnership with service providers.

Community Grant Support Scheme

Throughout April online applications came in for the new Community Grant Support Scheme. This scheme supports projects focused on the arts, heritage, environment, recreation and other areas.

The scheme is now closed for applications. The Elected Members of Longford County Council will consider applications at the May Municipal District meetings.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives

Foróige Digital Skills

Two demonstration evenings were held for in Edgeworthstown and Longford libraries for a Foróige Digital Skills partnership. For this, young people tested out innovative animation and virtual reality technology. This technology will be available as part of a training programme taking place later in 2022.

County Longford Fleadh Cheoil

County Longford Fleadh Cheoil was launched in Edgeworthstown Community Library. A wonderful weekend of music, dance and culture was enjoyed by all attendees.



Poetry Day Celebrations

Poetry Day was celebrated with Longford Writers group and Lanesborough Poetry Circle having an afternoon of poetry reading Edgeworthstown Community Library. Special guest and award-winning poet, playwright and essayist Adam Wyeth was in attendance.

Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime children's initiative continued. This month it included very popular nature-themed workshops for children.

Croke Park Age Friendly Stadium

Longford County Council was represented by Chief Executive Paddy Mahon, Acting County Librarian Paula Murly and Senior Staff Officer Claire McNabola at the launch of Croke Park as the first Age Friendly Stadium. Chair of Longford Older Persons Council and the National Network of Older Persons Councils, Kitty Hughes delivered a thoughtful speech on the day.



Paula Murly, Kitty Hughes and Claire McNabola at Croke Park Age Friendly Stadium launch

Bealtaine programme

Plans are underway for their annual Bealtaine programme, with in-person events taking place across County Longford.

Iora Nua unveilings

Preperations are underway for unvielings of further Iora Nua sculptures at Market Square, Longford next month.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives (Contd)

Padraic Colum Gathering

Planning for the Padraic Colum Gathering are underway. Part of the Creative Ireland programme, it will take place in May and promises to be a treat for all interested in Longford's literary heritage.

Premiere of Clonfin

Clonfin, a documentary film about the Clonfin ambush, had its premiere screening in Granard Library. This film was produced by Harp Media and is part of the Decade of Centenaries programme.



Longford Age Friendly programme

Longford Age Friendly and Longford Older Persons Council meetings put plans in place for developing a new Age Friendly Strategy for County Longford.

Part of the National Day of Remembrance and Reflection, an event to remember those who died during the COVID-19 pandemic was held in The Mall. It was led by Longford ONE and Longford Pipe Band.

Archives

Several reports of the Religious Examinations held in the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnois were donated. These historically-important records relate to many years across the twentieth century.

Heritage

Successful applicants for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's conservation grant schemes, awarded in March, are now progressing.

The outcome of the Community Monuments Fund was announced. The Council submitted two applications under Stream One: Capital Works.

Heritage and the Abbeyshrule Abbey Preservation Committee were successful under Phase Two for the Abbeyshrule Abbey Tower House conservation repair. The full requested amount, just under the maximum grant amount of €85,000, was awarded.



Abbeyshrule Abbey in County Longford

Under Stream Two: Conservation Reports, St Brendan's Church Committee in Clondra were successful in applying for funding for the medieval chapel in the church grounds.

The book *Mills, Millers and Milling of County Longford* by Dr Seamus Mimmagh is undergoing its final edits.

Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

Minister English visits Longford

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD visited Longford Local Enterprise Office in April.

Minister English was welcomed to Longford County Council by Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan, Chief Executive Paddy Mahon, Senator Michael Carrigy and Cllr John Browne.

Minister English was briefed on enterprise developments and future plans for County Longford. As part of this meeting, he heard from members of the Evaluation Committee, Elected Members and members of the LEO team.

The Minister then visited some LEO client companies, including Cirtex, Purpeldecks, MapAll, Porteus Pods, and Fabiani.



Tourism

'Ireland County by County' TV Series

County Longford took part in the 'Ireland County by County' series. Filmed in April, the series will be aired in the United States in Spring 2022 and will be shown on Aer Lingus inbound flights.

Royal Canal Greenway sweeps up top accolades at awards

The Royal Canal Greenway was announced as the winner of the award for the Best Tourism Initiative at the 2021 All Ireland Community and Council Awards.



The Royal Canal Greenway has also been awarded European Cycle Route of the Year 2022 by leading Dutch Walking and Cycling Fair Fiets en Wandelbeurs. The awards took place at an event held in the Netherlands.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Climb with Charlie

Climb with Charlie took place at the start of April with morning hikes at Corn Hill and Brí Leith.

Over 70 people attended each hike. Drumlish and Ballinamuck Women's Shed organised refreshments and music for all on the Corn Hill hike also.



Orienteering Ireland in Longford

Orienteering Ireland provided a Ready-to-Go Training Day for teachers and youth leaders.

Albert Reynolds Peace Park has also now been mapped by Orienteering Ireland. Longford Local Sports Partnership plan to run a school orienteering programme in the next school term.

All aboard for paddling

Around 100 transition year students from three schools completed a Canoeing Ireland Level One Kayak Proficiency course.

Paddle boarding and kayaking taster sessions were also held with a further 100 transition students. More sessions are scheduled for May.

The Ethnic Minority Hub and Longford Girl Guides participated in kayak and paddle boarding sessions over the Easter break.

Abbeyshrule Canoe Club were supported with two Canoeing Ireland Level Two Kayak Proficiency training courses - one for children and one for adults



Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Ongoing Corporate Services

- Customer Service desk responded to 890 calls
- Polling scheme for County Longford review is ongoing, aligned to recommendations from the Department of Housing, Local Government and the Environment and the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2021.

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

April meetings were both online and in-person, with the exception of Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings, which were online only.

Date	Meeting
1 April	Longford Municipal District (MD)
4 April	Placemaking SPC
12 April	Corporate Policy Group
13 April	Longford County Council
20 April	Climate Action and Planning SPC
21 April	Strategic Infrastructure SPC
26 April	Governance SPC
27 April	Longford MD

Freedom of Information (FOI)

	April	YTD
FOI requests received	5	17
Access to information on Environment Request	1	2
Office of Ombudsman complaints received	0	2

Data Protection

Data Protection Officer represented the National Data Protection Officer Network on a subgroup with planning experts and the Data Protection Commission. This group assists in the preparation of a guidance document on the publication of personal data on planning applications. This document will be rolled out to all local authorities.

An update on the Council's data protection work plan was presented to the Governance SPC. The new corporate policy and training platform were also introduced.

Health and Safety

Inspections

Five safety inspections were completed.

Safety Management Team meeting

A Safety Management Team meeting took place. At this, the effectiveness of the Council's safety management system and its alignment to the ISO 45001:2018 requirement was reviewed.

Health and Safety Training

Use of design risk assessments and use of audit and inspection forms briefing was completed with Council temporary traffic management designers and Health and Safety.

Risk Assessments

COVID-19 risk assessments have been updated in line with high-level local authority Transitional Protocol: Good Practice for Continuing to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.

Risk assessment briefings were held with the Environment and Building Facilities sections.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (Contd)

Communications

- Media queries received: 8
- Media queries resolved: 8
- Press releases issued: 8
- Advertisements and features prepared: 3

Highlights included:

- Communication campaigns including:
 - ◊ Visit of Her Excellency Ambassador of Poland Anna Sochanska to Longford
 - ◊ Launch of Longford Text Alert, working with the IT section
 - ◊ Longford Spring Clean 2022, working with the Environment section
 - ◊ Premiere screening of the documentary film *Clonfin*
- Assisting in the preparation and coordination of the visit of Ambassador Sochanska.
- Promotion of Royal Canal Greenway's double achievement winning Best Tourism Initiative at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards and being named European Cycle Route of the Year 2022. Communications collaborated with Waterways Ireland on these promotional activities.
- Promotion of Longford Live and Local events, including children's theatre events.
- Continued streamlining and development of communications processes.

Social media

Longford County Council continues to use social media to communicate with Longford people, working in tandem with traditional communications.

In April, Communications shared updates from across the Council. These included posts on the National Community Engagement Day with Longford Local Community Safety Partnership. It also included promotion of Longford Spring Clean, the Community Grant Support Scheme, and various Council job vacancies.



National events were also shared, including Volunteer Ireland's COVID-19 volunteer recognition event.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	83	68	46
Stories	1	-	1
Reach*	73K	-	12.5K
Impressions**	82K	14.9K	9.7K

*Reach: number of people who had a post enter their screen

**Impressions: number of times a post entered a person's screen

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Employee Numbers

Longford County Council had a total of 385 employees as of April 2022. These include:

- Managerial: 6
- Administrative: 170
- Technical: 68
- Outdoor: 98
- Retained Fire Fighter: 43

Recruitment

- Competitions completed: 3
- Candidates interviewed: 67
- New starters: 2
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 6
- Employee ceased employment: 3

Learning and Development

Training held in April included Business Skills training and Health and Safety training.

Business Skills training included:

- Disability Awareness Training
- Certificate in Professional Irish
- Minute-taking
- Climate Action: Championing Leadership
- Human Resource Policies: Management of Annual Leave
- Fraud Detection and Improving Cybersecurity Risk for Public Sector Organisations
- Time Management

Health and Safety training included:

- Chapter 8 Traffic Management Guidance Manual

- Practical element
- Pavement Surface Condition Index Rural and Urban Flexible
- Road Opening and Reinstatement Basic
- Ride on Roller: New Entrant
- Temporary Traffic Management designer briefing on Completing Design Risk Assessment and Audit and Inspection of Temporary Traffic Management
- Surface Dressing for Operatives
- Construction Sector Certification Scheme Health and Safety at Roadworks
- Electrical Awareness

Health and Wellbeing

The following programmes were made available to employees in April:

- Choirworks 2022 continued
- Changing Gears: Planning for Retirement continued
- Living Well with Cardiovascular Disease: Managing Your High Blood Pressure webinar
- The Walk the Length and Breadth of Ireland steps challenge continued

COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 employee updates continue, keeping employees up-to-date on public health advice and any decisions from the Management Team.

Finance & IT

Finance

Longford County Council
Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Year to Date to Quarter End 31 December 2021

	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 or (Deficit) (€)
Housing	10,380,656	9,292,019	112%	(1,088,637)	10,621,116	10,522,822	101%	(98,294)	240,460
Roads	19,160,798	19,991,409	96%	830,611	14,172,537	15,078,605	94%	906,068	(4,988,261)
Water Services	4,154,222	3,906,342	106%	(247,880)	3,800,374	3,679,017	103%	(121,357)	(353,848)
Development Management	11,152,804	10,100,980	110%	(1,051,824)	6,025,003	5,078,053	119%	(946,950)	(5,127,801)
Environment	5,703,054	5,863,098	97%	160,044	952,676	507,244	188%	(445,432)	(4,750,378)
Recreation and Amenity	4,548,527	4,272,545	106%	(275,982)	1,135,294	647,068	175%	(488,226)	(3,413,233)
Agri, Health and Welfare	489,755	474,695	103%	(15,060)	291,477	217,012	134%	(74,465)	(198,278)
Miscellaneous Services	7,810,052	3,328,889	235%	(4,481,163)	7,289,147	3,480,440	209%	(3,808,707)	(520,905)
Local Government Fund					9,242,927	9,242,297	100%	(630)	9,242,927
*Commercial Rates					9,978,084	8,777,418	114%	(1,200,666)	9,978,084
	€63,399,868	€57,229,977	111%	(€6,169,891)	€63,508,635	€57,229,976	111%	(€6,278,659)	€108,767

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 25 February 2022.

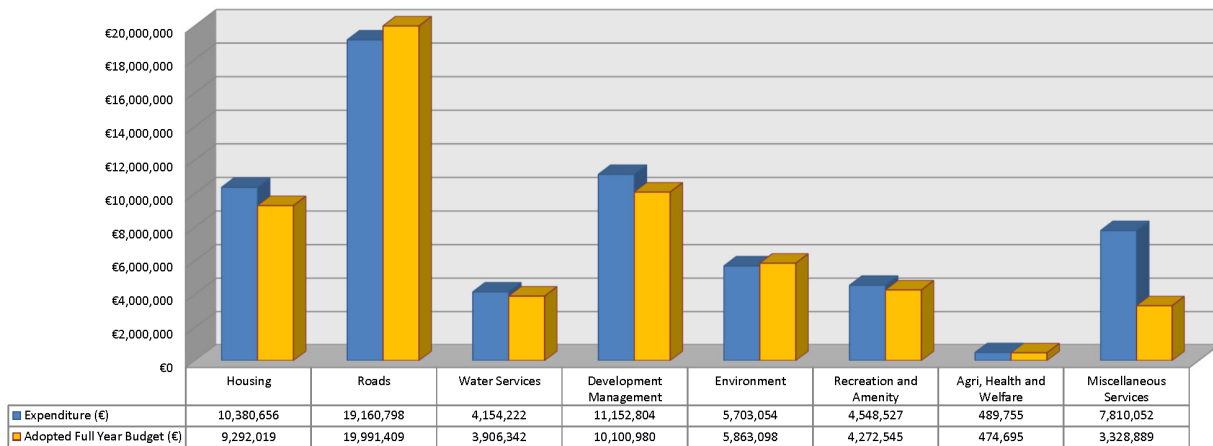
Where COVID-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 12-month waiver scheme for Q4, 2021 was €3,092,069

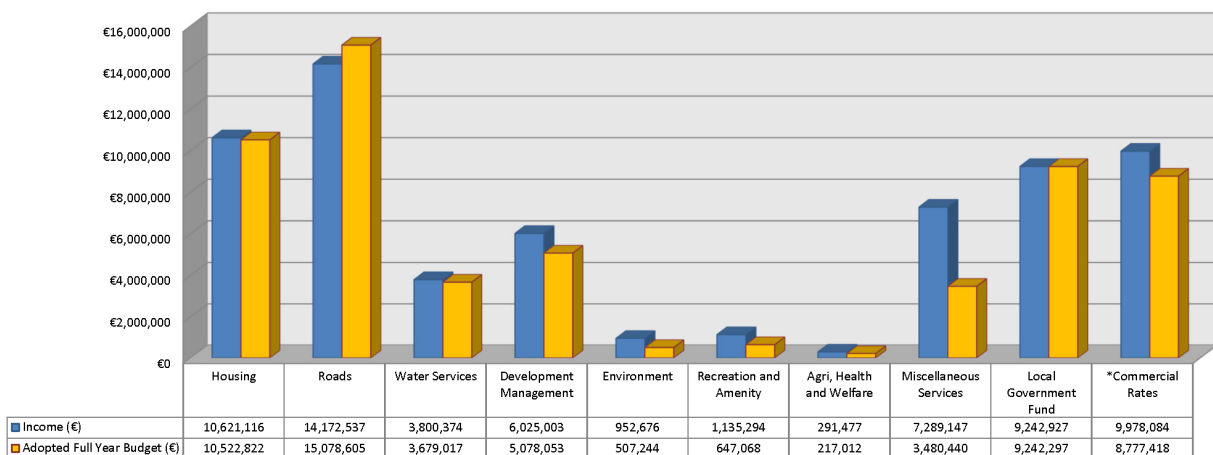
Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 4, 2021



Income V Budget - Quarter 4, 2021



Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 4, 2021

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€9,974,823	€6,015,200	€5,048,260	€966,940	84%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€7,246,939	€8,070,198	€7,270,045	€800,153	90%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€998,116	€1,479,460	€1,021,506	€457,954	69%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,632,835	€5,738,651	€4,614,033	€1,124,618	80%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€7,101,310	€7,799,967	€6,960,295	€839,672	89%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€751,783	€1,373,808	€892,464	€481,344	65%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€90,791	€1,341,988	€276,549	€434,227	(€157,678)	4%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€102,674	€145,629	€270,231	€309,750	(€39,519)	1%
Housing Loans	(€143,251)	€246,333	€105,652	€129,042	(€23,390)	4%

*COVID-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €3,092,069 in Q4, 2021.
These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.

Finance & IT

Information Technology

Town WIFI

This month, 255 new guest and 1,145 returning guests used the free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish. There was an average usage time of seven minutes per user.

Broadband Connection Points

This month, 74 new guests and 344 returning guests used the Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) available in County Longford.

Mullinalaghta BCP have received a free VEX IQ robot and game elements as part of the VEX IQ robotics programme, which they are currently running. This programme is for primary school children.

A Basic Digital Skills course is happening in the BCP in Mullinalaghta, facilitated by the Longford-Westmeath Education Training Board.

Digital Services

Longford Text Alert, which provides community updates on crime and safety, community group initiatives and more, was launched in April.

As part of this, Colmcille community text alert group went live on the system. This project is part of the Our Rural Future Digital Innovation Programme.



There has been continued progress and support of several digital services projects, including:

- eDocument management project
- Customer Relationship Management app
- A housing inspection app
- ePerformance Management Development Scheme (ePMDS) software
- eService Plan project

Technology Infrastructure

ServiceDesk dealt with 403 enquiries in April.

Infrastructure upgrades have started. Security improvements to core infrastructure have also begun. The library management system transfer is now complete, as is the cybersecurity training plan.

There has been continued progress and support of several infrastructural projects, including:

- Patching of client and server systems
- Hybrid meetings
- Review, updating and implementation of security policies
- Mobile phone administration and support

Geographic Information Systems

Electoral register mapping exercise was undertaken to support a review of polling districts and stations.

Implementation and support is complete for a new application to capture planning application site geometry.

Longford Text Alert launch was supported and a review and renewal of the MapAlert application took place.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Housing

Support for Ukrainian refugees

Longford County Council continues to provide assistance to Ukrainian people seeking refuge in Ireland. Housing are leading work on the identification, inspection and suitability of potential accommodation options. Housing have worked with Civil Defence and Community in establishing and managing two rest centres, one in Edgeworthstown and a second which was established, but not yet used by International Protection Accommodation Services, in Keenagh.

Tenancy Handbook review

A Tenancy Handbook review has been undertaken, with submissions sought from technical and other housing employees.

Draft General and Maintenance handbooks were prepared and accepted at the Housing Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meeting. These will be included for approval at the May Council meeting.

Antisocial Behaviour Strategy

Estate Management are currently preparing the Longford County Council Antisocial Behaviour Strategy for 2022.

Strategic Plan for Disabled People 2022-2027

The Housing Disability Steering Group have completed the Strategic Plan for Disabled People 2022-2027. This ambitious plan will be presented to the next Housing SPC meeting for approval.

Housing Capital Programme

Project	Units	Status
O'Hara's Site, Richmond Street	14	On site, due for completion June/July 2022
St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck	8	On site, due for completion December 2022
Alderfield, Farnagh	1	On site (23 complete) due for completion June/July 2022
Campbell's Drive	2	On site (21 complete) due for completion June/July 2022
Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Tender drawings being prepared.
St Rita's Park Road	8-11	Redesign in progress
24 Congress Terrace	2	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning approved.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	Design progressing. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
Clough Dillons, Keenagh	4	Consultant appointed
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	22	Design progressing. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Design progressing. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
Cnoc na Gréine, Granard	6	Design progressing. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	Part 8 advertised.
2 Legion Terrace	4	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval
Lettergeeragh, Drumlish	1	Part 8 advertised.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Roads

Local Improvement Schemes

Longford County Council was allocated €351,880 for Local Improvement Schemes in 2022. Priority lists for this scheme are currently being prepared for submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development, who provide this funding.

Local Improvement Schemes fund construction and improvements of non-public roads. Eligible projects are defined by the scheme. Local contributions are set at 10% or 15%, depending on the number of beneficiaries.

Traffic offences

Along with an Garda Síochána, traffic wardens issue on-the-spot fines for traffic offences, with powers granted under the Road Traffic Acts 1961-1975.

The following fines were issued in Q1 2022:

Fine	Number issued
Parking fines	202
Non-display of tax	142
Breach of parking regulations 1997	147
Total	491

Issuing of parking permits is also the responsibility of the Council's Traffic section. Quarterly parking permits are €85 and are issued for all-day car parks only. These permits can reduce the daily cost of parking in all-day car parks by up to €140 per year. 21 quarterly parking permits were issued in Q1 2022.

National road schemes

N63 Majors Well Road works continued. This work includes construction of footpaths and a cycle track. Realignment of Blind Man's Walk junction is ongoing. Undergrounding of overhead services will start shortly. Works are due to be complete in July.

Work continued on the N4 Pavement Scheme at Newtownforbes. Undergrounding of overhead services and pavement and footpaths are all complete.

N4 Garryandrew Pavement Scheme is at tender stage. Works on the N63 Lanesborough Pavement Scheme continued with works on footpaths progressing.



Lanesborough Pavement Scheme

Municipal district works

Road maintenance, including drainage, footpath repairs and pothole repairs, continued in each municipal district in April.

Preparatory work, including drainage and banking, in advance of dense bituminous macadam work is ongoing.

Culvert replacement in Ballinamuck and realignment of footpaths in Ballinalee also took place in April.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Water Services

Capital Network Schemes

Water continues work with Irish Water to progress three Capital Network Rehabilitation Schemes:

- Carrowroe Reservoir: replacement of approximately 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe Reservoir. The associated pipe reconfiguration at Carrowroe Reservoir is to start shortly.
- Creevy, Granard: replacement of approximately 500 meters of problematic watermain is substantially complete. Work is progressing to replace a further 2.8km of watermain to connect to existing watermain at Cloghchurnel
- Rathcline Road, Lanesborough: replacement of approximately 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe reservoir is substantially complete. The new watermain will soon be commissioned.

Network upgrades

Work continues with Irish Water to deliver network upgrades to enable water supply from Longford Central Supply Zone into Lanesborough Supply Zone.

Find & Fix Programme

Leak detection and repair operations are complete in Ballinalee and Longford Town South district metered areas, with saving of approximately 360,000 litres of drinking water per day.

It is proposed to open a Find and Fix campaign in Abbeyderg, Kenagh alongside existing campaigns at Longford West and Mastertech, Townspark.

Environment

Longford Spring Clean

County Longford Spring Clean was launched in Newtownforbes. Community pride is this year's theme, with individuals and groups encouraged to organise a clean-up of their local area.

People of all ages, including groups of friends, families, classmates, colleagues, and neighbours can take part. Community groups, sporting organisations and local businesses were also encouraged to participate.

Environment have worked with the Communications team to run a social media campaign. Use of photos from participants have helped to increase awareness and encourage further participation.

Longford Dog Pound energy audit

An energy audit was carried out on Longford Dog Pound to help improve the energy efficiency ratings of the facility. This will also help to reduce energy costs. Funding streams will be assessed to determine viability of the project.

Veterinary

Attendance at training and conferences
County Longford Veterinary Officer attended Championing Change in Climate Change training, and the Veterinary Officer Association Conference.

Entry of pets from Ukraine to Ireland
Veterinary continued to liaised with the Department Agriculture, Food and the Marine regarding the information note on entry of pets from Ukraine to Ireland.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in April: 26 (up to 28 April).
- All stations remained fully operational.

Health and Safety

- One injury to report, which has been reported to the Health and Safety Authority.

Training

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher training was completed in Tullamore over four days.
- Refresher Emergency Services Driver Standard training started. All drivers will be re-tested when this training is completed.

Major Emergency Management

- A Regional Working Group meeting was held in Portlaoise.
- Training completed for new on-site coordinators for Major Emergency Management.

Fire Prevention

- Three Fire Safety Certificates were processed.

Recruitment

- There are still vacancies in Granard and Lanesborough Fire Stations.

Equipment

- Irish Engineering Services carried out statutory inspections in all fire stations.
- Upgrade works are complete on a Ford Ranger.

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover at:

- Two Longford Town soccer matches
- The Royal Canal Run
- Three Irish Blood Transfusion Service blood bank clinic
- Schools athletics run

Training and Operations

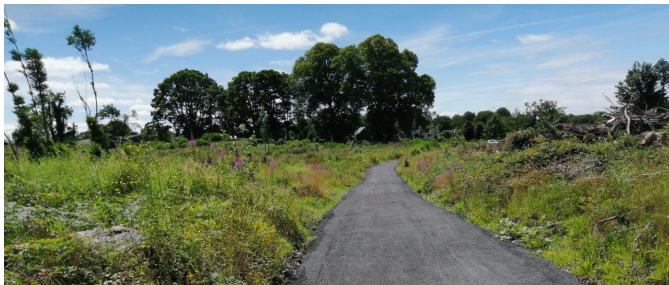
- Four First Aid Responder (FAR) successfully completed their practical exams.
- Two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students passed the theory element of their course. They sit the practical exam in May
- Emergency First Responder (EFR) training continues for three volunteers.
- One volunteer completed Cardiac First Responder (CFR) Instructor training in the Civil Defence College.
- Eighteen pallets of humanitarian aid were collected from Civil Defence headquarters by Protrans and transported to a warehouse in Poland for distribution in Ukraine. This concludes the Ukrainian humanitarian appeal on behalf of Civil Defence and Longford Public Participation Network.
- Civil Defence worked with Longford County Council employees to run a rest centre for displaced persons from Ukraine in the local community. This centre has now been decommissioned and another centre has been set up at a different location.

Planning & Project Delivery

Regeneration

Lime Tree Walk in Kenagh opened

Lime Tree Walk in Kenagh has been opened. This includes a walkway from Mill Race to Lime Kiln at Mosstown. It consists of a three-metre wide walkway finished with a fine dust layer to ensure accessible. Close proximity to parking adds to the facility's accessibility.



This work forms part of a larger enhancement of Lime Tree Avenue and the creation of a walkway linking to Corlea Trackway Centre and Bog Walk, the Royal Canal Greenway and the larger Mid Shannon Wilderness Park. All of this builds on County Longford's tourism infrastructure.

Connected Hubs

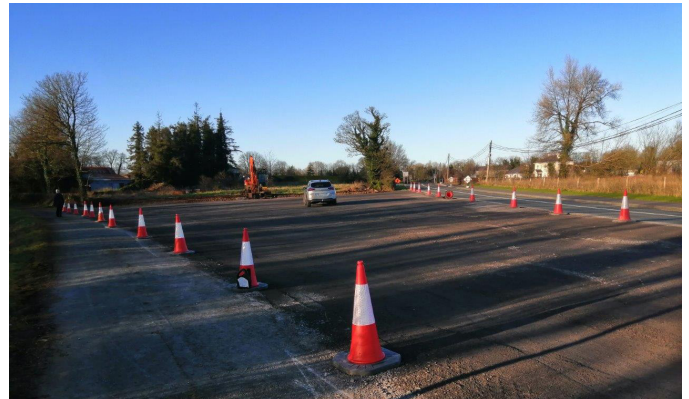
Collaborating with the Council's IT section, work continued on the Connected Hubs project to enhance broadband connection points (BCPs) across County Longford.

This project increased capacity in the BCPs, including by delivering additional hot-desking facilities. It aims to encourage commuters traveling from County Longford to now work locally.

Stonepark car park complete

Work is now complete at a car park at Stonepark, close to the Royal Canal Greenway.

With 25 car parking spaces, it will encourage greater numbers of people to engage in outdoor recreational activities. It is also safe and accessible for people with mobility issues.



It will also allow visitors to more easily explore the local area surrounding the Greenway. This will benefit local business and the local economy.

Commons North walk upgrade in Lanesborough

Upgrade and maintenance works on a 800m section of walkway in Commons North, Lanesborough is complete.

This work involved clearing overgrown areas of the trail. It also involved clearing the walkway's surface dressing.

This upgrade will ensure all users, including those with mobility issues, will be able to enjoy the Commons North walk and engage in outdoor activities.

Planning & Project Delivery

Planning

County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 policies and strategies are currently being implemented. The basic draft has been published.

Work is ongoing in relation to the final Plan with procurement work undertaken and the printing and publishing of the document started.

Longford Town Plan

Consultants for Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment have been identified and their work has started. This work links into the Traffic Management Plan and the new Local Area Plan for Longford Town.

Consultants for the Traffic Management Plan have been appointed and commenced their work on transport studies for Longford Town. This work will inform the new Longford Local Area Plan.

Additional background studies and research have also started. This includes a social infrastructure assessment and a review of the Infrastructure Assessment Report for the town.

Work has begun to draft an issues paper for pre-draft consultation for the Local Area Plan. This will review the Longford Town Plan. It will include sections on climate adaptation, regeneration, employment, transport, housing, active travel, and the coordination and implementation of various development projects.

Applications and Enforcement

A largescale Strategic Housing Development application in Edgeworthstown has been received by An Bord Pleanála and the Planning Authority has been asked for a recommendations and comment.

This application is currently out for public consultation. It is for 100 residential units, made up of 50 apartments and 50 houses, as well as associated site works.

Planning continues to assist the public with planning projects, applications, and by dealing with queries and planning issues for developments in the county.

Planning also assists across various Council services, including the implementation of the housing, regeneration, environment and infrastructural programmes.

The statutory requirements are broad and include managing various applications for housing, retail, amenity, industrial, compulsory purchase orders, and enforcement among others. The planning office, public counter and technical advice including planning enforcement have remained fully functioning and busy at all times.

Planning & Project Delivery

Climate Action Initiatives

Community Development

Online applications were used for the Community Grant Support Scheme 2022. This eliminated the need for hardcopy applications, as well as the need to print off scanned copies of applications and use of hardcopy letters for grant offers.

Libraries, Heritage and Archives

Longford libraries are involved in a Sprinkle the Seeds initiative. Packs of seeds have been sent out to library branches for use by library customers. This is a follow on from last year's Grow your Own initiative.

The Spring into Storytime series included several nature-themed workshops for children.

Information Technology

Several paperless projects are having a positive impact in Longford County Council and its environmental footprint. These include the ePMDS app and the Digital Divide project.

Efforts continue work with other sections to roll new schemes out on a 'digital-first' basis. This reduces paper usage.

Housing

Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme, work has been completed on 16 houses in Sli na Mona in Ballymahon. Works are ongoing on the four other houses in Sli na Mona.

Roads

Plans are underway to erect new LED public lighting as part of the N63 Major Wells Road Scheme.

Fire Services

Green procurement if applicable will be considered for all future tenders

Civil Defence

Two bicycles have been purchased and will be used for smaller duties, such as 5k and 10k runs. This will allow for a lessening of Civil Defence's carbon footprint when assisting at some community events.

Planning

Analysis is completed on energy usage by the Council from 2018 to 2021. This analysis gave a baseline and a better understanding of how much work is needed to meet the Climate Action Plan 2021 targets.

Analysis is also completed on the Council's fleet to examine its carbon production. This identifies large carbon producers with the fleet. Moving to low emission transport will be key for the Council in meeting 2030 emission reduction targets.

National Biodiversity Action Plan funding was sought for educational talks on barn owls to schools and other groups. Should funding be received, these talks will begin in the new school year.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for April 2022 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Sec 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in April 2022 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: _____



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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