



Chief Executive Report April 2025

Longford County Council

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Regeneration

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS), work is underway on the Leebeen Park Trail Enhancement.

Expressions of interest have been advertised and received for the 2024/2025 ORIS scheme. Applications have now been submitted to the Department.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS), work is ongoing on the development of a special needs playground and parkland connection to the Royal Canal Greenway Spur, Longford Town.

Expressions of Interest have been advertised for the 2025 TVRS.

North Longford Rebel Trail - Drumlish to Monaduff Walkway

Phase 2 of the North Longford Rebel Trail, with work on the Drumlish to Monaduff walkway is complete. Monaduff sports facility now connects the villages of Ballinamuck and Drumlish via a walking and cycling trail for locals to enjoy safely.

Tourism

EU Just Transition Fund

There are 12 successful applicants to the Just Transition Fund. A further eight applications are awaiting their evaluations and decisions, with the end of May now being signalled for finality on the funding front. The team are supporting those promoters with their procurement, tendering and advance business and marketing plans. This will help these businesses so that when they do open, they can maximise the Just Transition and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' sales that are anticipated.

Those projects that did not get past the expression of interest stage are being assisted with their business development and they are being signposted to other avenues of assistance that they might be able to apply to, such as LEADER funding.

In the first week of March, four mentoring and advice clinics to community groups and individual private investors and operators were hosted in County Longford Libraries. Some 12 positive leads that could be activated were also followed up on.

The team continue to support and work with a number of private operators who are scoping out business models and operations that are visitor-facing in their native county.

Just Transition Tourism Activators of Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath and East Galway have agreed to join forces and work innovatively and collaboratively in forming sustainable and regenerative network tourism clusters in defined sectors such

as accommodation, activities and recreational amenities and culture and heritage.

It is envisaged that after an introductory training event in late May in the Hudson Bay Hotel, a further three more specialist curated peer learning sessions will take place culminating in a visit to Upper Lough Ree in late May 2026.

Following a briefing and tabling of a new dedicated sustainable and Regenerative Tourism Network Strategy to the Tourism Committee, detailed work has started on a 5-year operational plan.

The Just Transition Tourism Activator attended and participated in the Midlands Food Producers Conference in Tullamore and the Regenerative Placemaking Conference in March. Visits were also paid to several private and community run operations in the county to advise, instruct, support and mentor any visitor activity that will add to the Longford emerging brand.

The Just Transition Tourism Activator continues to support the Tourism Officer and Night Time Economy Officer. This includes collaborative projects that will continually use the opportunities offered by national and regional programmes to change the narrative of Longford towards an engaging tourism profile.

Royal Canal Greenway Signature Points

Longford County Council recently consulted with Waterways Ireland and Tandem Design on the preparation of a visitor interpretive scheme for

Tourism

the Royal Canal Greenway. It is hoped that this scheme will enhance the existing Royal Canal Greenway experience for visitors. It will help to activate the greenway as a tourism attraction and increase dwell time in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. The scheme will have to complement and work alongside any proposed interpretive and branding schemes developed for the National Famine Way.

Visitor Information Signage

Contractors are due to reinstate an upgraded visitor information sign outside St Mel's Cathedral in Longford Town on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. It is an Ireland's Hidden Heartlands bilingual sign that points towards different visitor attractions in the region.

Work is continuing on the upgrading of the Longford Tourism provided visitor information boards in towns and villages throughout the county.

Longford Tourism is also working with the Regeneration section on the preparation of signage for the 'blade' shaped glass cases on Main Street and at the Market Square, with the maps at the final design stages.

Festivals and Events

Round Two of the Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Participative Events Fund is open for applications from volunteers or community groups organising events or festivals between 1 July 2025 and 31 December 2025.

Applications may be submitted online via [Longford.ie](https://www.longford.ie). Anyone with queries is welcome to contact Longford

Tourism on 043 334 35 09 or email tourism@longfordcoco.ie.

Closes for application at 6pm on Friday, 23 May 2025.

Events

Longford Tourism is providing support to the communities in Ballyleague and Lanesborough in advance of the Gaelforce Great River Swim event that is coming up on 16 and 17 May.

Longford Tourism provided support to the Night Time Economy Officer and Longford Municipal District in the hosting of the very successful St Patrick's Eve celebrations in Longford Town.



Longford Tourism is working with Longford Community Safety Partnership, Night Time Economy Officer and the Arts Officer in partnership with Westmeath County Council to advance an application for the Ireland Home of Halloween Destination Development (Pilot) Scheme, with Longford County Council as the lead applicant.

Tourism

Longford County Tourism Committee

The first meeting of 2025 Longford County Tourism Committee was held on Monday, 31 March. Thanks is extended to all who attended in person and online. The meeting was well attended, with positive discussion around resourcing, network development, representation of Longford Tourism operator interests at national level, including continued engagement with the OPW and events planning.

Night Time Economy

Safe and Sound Campaign

The Safe and Sound campaign is an ongoing initiative which promotes responsible nightlife and reducing anti-social behaviour. The campaign was promoted on the two clear channels in Longford Town and at the Omniplex Cinema. It is ongoing on social media. This initiative aims to create safer environments for employees and patrons, contributing to a more secure night-time economy.



Cruinniú na nÓg Preparations

Preparations are underway for Cruinniú na nÓg, scheduled for 7 June. This national day of free creativity for children and young people will feature workshops, performances, and other creative activities.

As part of the Night-Time Economy initiative, Longford will host Rave Revolution, an exciting event aimed at older youth. This event will include a dance music event held in a local club and engage the younger generation in Longford's night-time economy.

St Patrick's Eve Event

Longford celebrated St Patrick's Eve with an evening parade, with plenty of entertainment both before and after the parade. Local musicians, schools, and dancers took part in the activities. The event drew large crowds and was a great success, highlighting the town's diverse groups and boosting community spirit.

Café Lates Initiative

The Café Lates funding initiative was launched, encouraging local cafés to extend their opening hours and host cultural programming after 6pm. Applications have been submitted and received a positive response from the community. Several cafés are preparing to offer live performances, poetry readings, and art exhibitions, encouraging a lively night-time café culture.



Community

Longford Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) was held on Thursday, 20 March.

LEADER Programme

Six LEADER projects funded to the value of €376,209.44 were approved at the March meeting of Longford LCDC. This included four projects that were approved under a Festival and Events Targeted Call.

Ardnacassa Place Standard Tool Survey

Different areas in Ardnacassa were surveyed with the Place Standard Tool which details 14 themes covering physical and social elements of the place.

Physical elements include buildings, spaces, and transport links. Social aspects include whether people feel they have a say in decision making). The areas surveyed were Oakvale, Springlawn, Ardnacassa Avenue, Palace Crescent, Grian Ard, Palace Drive, Ardeevan, Cluain Ard and Ardnacassa Avenue.

The results of the survey are currently being finalised. This work was done by Sláintecare Healthy Communities, Healthy Longford and Longford Community Safety Partnership.



Healthy Longford

Period Dignity

In 2025, €8,000 was received by Longford County Council under the Department of Health to obtain sanitary products under the Period Poverty initiative. Products have been obtained including updated dispensers. These were distributed to all community partners that signed up to this initiative in 2025. The remaining funding has been allocated to providing education about this initiative.

Free Period Products

Take what you need

Free period products are available at the following County Longford locations:

- All Longford County Council offices
- All six County Longford Libraries
- Longford Women's Link
- Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Ballymahon
- Longford EDI Centre
- Ardnacassa Community Houses
- MacEoin Park Community House
- Attic House Longford
- Foróige Longford (Leap Project)
- Longford Community Resources CLG
- St Vincent de Paul Longford
- The Redeemed Christian Church of God



Healthy Longford



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Healthy Ireland funding

Healthy Longford through Healthy Ireland funding is working with 17 implementing partners in 2025. The outcomes set by Healthy Longford through Healthy Ireland funding for round four of this funding are:

1. Increase in % of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines.
2. Increase in positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality index.

Community

Each implementing partner who has received Healthy Ireland funding in 2025 has based their project around meeting these outcomes.

Healthy Longford Newsletter

Healthy Longford issues a quarterly newsletter which will be a resource which signposts to various health and wellbeing events, programmes and information happening across Longford. The content of the newsletter incorporates Healthy Ireland themes including mental and physical health, nutrition, older people, adolescents, children, workplace wellbeing, family wellbeing, tobacco and alcohol and more.

All information can be found under Healthy Longford webpage on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie).

International Roma Day Celebration

Longford Roma and New Communities Community Development Programme is a pilot programme under Longford LCDC. It is delivered on the ground by Longford Community Resources clg. The programme celebrated their fourth consecutive International Roma Day on 11 April at the Temperance Hall Longford.

This vibrant event showcased Roma culture through music, food, and traditional dance performances by children and young people known as the 'Romani Stars'. Local Roma bands, including the SICAP Roma Men's Music Group, entertained over 300 attendees. The Roma Women's Group also played a key role by preparing

traditional dishes for the occasion. The day was a powerful celebration of identity, community pride, and cultural heritage.



Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Longford LCDC invited applications from community groups for the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025. This is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and is administered by Longford LCDC. Longford has an allocation of €145,186, divided into the following two categories of funding:

- Capital Funding, with a funding allocation of €123,354. This supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities. It can also be used to purchase equipment, such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, training equipment.
- Current Funding, with a funding allocation of €21,832. This will support groups and organisations with their non-pay running costs such as energy costs.

Community

Also funded are other non-pay operating costs including rental lease costs and insurance bills. Only energy, operating and running cost which have incurred in the period from 1 June 2024 to 30 May 2025 are eligible.

Any not-for-profit community or voluntary group could apply for this funding. It is targeted towards supporting communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the County Longford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029.

The closing date for online applications and supporting documentation was 6 February 2025. Applications were considered by an evaluation committee of the LCDC in early March, with recommendations being forwarded to the March meeting of Longford LCDC for approval. The Department of Rural and Community Development will announce grant awards prior to applicants being advised.

Community Grant Support Scheme 2025

In March, Longford County Council invited online applications from community and voluntary groups for funding under the Community Grant Support Scheme (CGSS) 2025. 232 applications were received by the deadline of 31 March. The councillors will consider these funding requests at their meetings in April and May, and all applicants will then be advised.

Longford County Council is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop, support and sustain a wide range of activities and projects that:

- Make a positive contribution to County Longford
- Promote the development of strong local communities
- Improve the quality of life of our citizens

This grant scheme supports activities or projects focused on any of the following areas: active elderly, the arts, community development, environment, events, heritage, inter-cultural and recreation. Typically, grant awards are between €750 and €1,000.

CLÁR 2025

In early April, Minister Dara Calleary TD launched the 2025 CLÁR programme. This programme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, and Measure 1 is administered by Longford County Council.

This measure is for the development of community facilities and amenities including sports facilities, youth clubs, teenage spaces, playgrounds, sensory gardens, and walking tracks. The level of funding for community facilities and amenities is 90% up to a maximum grant of €65,000, with a new option this year for Longford County Council to apply for funding of up to €100,000 for two larger scale projects.

Community

Evidence of landownership or a 15-year lease and landowner permission, private match funding and planning permission must be uploaded with the application. Schools, community and voluntary groups, and Local Development Companies are eligible to apply once their facility is available to the public without a requirement to be a member of a club, enrolled in a school, and so on. Facilities on school grounds must be open to the public outside school hours.

The deadline for online applications for Measure 1 is **4pm on Wednesday 14 May**. Please see our Community Development webpage on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie) for details.

The Department of Rural and Community Development deals directly with Measure 2 Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport and Meals on Wheels services and Measure 3 Our Islands.

Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase Event

Taoiseach Micheal Martin and Minister Norma Foley presented Longford Comhairle na nÓg with a Certificate of Achievement Award at the **Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase 2025**, on **Tuesday, 15 April** in **Dublin Castle**. This is a key event in Ireland's youth participation calendar, bringing together young people from all 31 Comhairle na nÓg groups across the country to highlight their work.

Longford Comhairle members presented their project which addressed student exam stress and

student mental health. One aspect of their project involved assembling and delivering study packs for all Leaving Cert students across our nine post primary schools in County Longford. Each study pack contained a variety of useful items for exam students such as pens, highlighters, notebooks, fidget toys, mental health resources and exam stress tips. Congratulations to all members for a wonderful project.



Local Sports Partnership

Ability Coaching Awards Ceremony

The Ability Coaching Awards Ceremony was held in Ardagh Moydow GAA Clubhouse on Thursday 24 April. Here, newly qualified coaches were awarded a Certificate of Achievement and a Coaches Starter Kit from Longford County Council's Ciaran Murphy. We proudly celebrated the 13 exceptional adults who through the Ability Coaching Course completed a GAA Coaching Course, GAA Safeguarding Course, and Active Disability Ireland's Disability Inclusion Training.

Our participants consisted of adults with additional needs and or adults from a disadvantaged area in Longford. The participants demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm, commitment, and growth throughout the programme. Under the expert guidance of Longford GAA Coaching Tutor Paddy O'Connor, GAA Safeguarding Tutor Gerry Carberry, and Active Disability Ireland Tutor for Disability Inclusion Dwyne Hill, the participants excelled while gaining practical tools and confidence to become inclusive community coaches.

Thanks to Longford Sports and Leisure Centre and Ardagh Moydow GAA Clubhouse, both excellent venues where participants learned in a welcoming, supportive environment. These new coaches are now connecting with clubs such as Ardagh Moydow All Stars, Mostrim, Slashers, Clonguish, and Drumlish GAA. Others are launching inclusive training sessions in their own communities. Everyone involved is

incredibly proud of this inspiring group and confident they'll continue to champion inclusion and participation in sport across the county.



ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport programme

As part of our ESF+ Social Innovation in Sport programme, Longford Sports Partnership is currently holding a workshop series with a group of men from multicultural backgrounds. The sessions focus on understanding participants' experiences, exploring challenges, identifying solutions, and co-designing a programme that reflects their needs. The workshops use inclusive, participatory methods to build trust, confidence, and engagement. The end goal is to develop a pilot initiative shaped directly by the group, with the potential to support long-term participation and wellbeing.



Local Sports Partnership

Longford Town Men's Shed Exercise Programme

Longford Town Men's Shed Exercise Programme is a free, eight-week community-based physical activity programme run through the Physical Activity for Health initiative aimed at inactive adult men in Longford.

The programme focuses on improving fitness, health, and overall well-being through beginner-friendly group exercise sessions. It promotes a supportive, beginner, non-judgemental environment where men can build confidence, increase physical activity levels, and connect socially and focus on improving their fitness, health and well-being in a supportive and sociable environment.

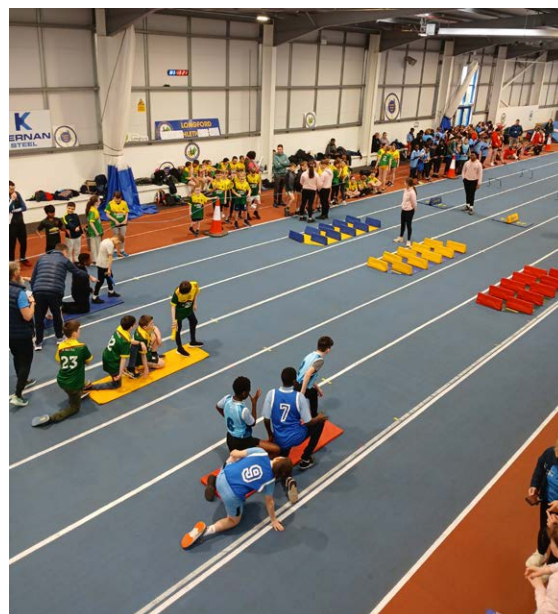
Designed to be inclusive and motivational, Men's Shed Exercise Programme encourages sustainable lifestyle changes through regular, guided exercise and peer support. While also promoting social interaction and community engagement. This programme offers a great opportunity for older men to kickstart a healthier lifestyle in a supportive community setting.



Sportshall Athletics Programme

Longford Sports Partnership organised our extremely popular Sportshall Athletics programme throughout February and March. This programme creates a fun, enjoyable environment where primary school children can experience and learn, run, jump and throw activities, the fundamentals skills of sports and physical activity.

Our coaches visited schools to introduce the children to each of the activities. Over the first two weeks of March, we held eight Sportshall Athletics event days in Longford Sports Hub. Over the course of the programme approximately 2000 children participated.



Housing

Project (Number of Houses)	Status
Cranleymore, Abbeylara (3)	Stage 4 approved. Contractor appointed. To start on site shortly.
St Rita's Park Road Phase 1 (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning approved for Phase 1 (6 houses). Stage 3 to be submitted shortly. Tender for contractor to follow.
St Rita's Park Road Phase 2 (7)	Phase 2 draft plans under review.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough (22)	Stage 2 approved. Awaiting Part 8 planning approval
Dryn timer, Ballymahon (13)	On Hold. Awaiting update of waste water treatment plant by Uisce Éireann.
Cnoc na Greine, Granard (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 planning approved. Progressing stage 3.
Clough Dillons, Keenagh (4)	Unfinished estate. On Hold.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes (6)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 planning approved. Progressing stage 3.
2 Legion Terrace (4)	Complete. Handover early May 2025.
Richmond Street (23)	Complete.
Corneddan, Oghill, Drumlish (1)	Complete. Handover early May 2025.
Houricans Hotel, Granard (8, and parking)	Stage 1 approved. Awaiting flood risk assessment. To tender for consultant to progress to Stage 2.
Butchers, Market Street, Granard (3)	Stage 1 approved. Progressing Stage 2.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Ennybegs (5)	Stage 2 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Casey Court, Keenagh (1)	Infill site. Stage 1 approved. Progressing Stage 2.
Shanmullagh, Ballinamuck	Combined Stage 2 & 3 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Canal Court, "Fondermans" (2)	Stage 1 to be submitted shortly.
Willow Park Halting site (2)	Proposals submitted to CENA. CENA to submit Stage 1 shortly.
Vacant/derelict houses, Great Water Street (15)	Survey and structural assessment of vacant buildings on going. Masterplan to be developed for entire Great Water Street Area by Regeneration and Town Centre First.
Farrells, Ballinalee (4)	On Hold.
Forthill, Aughnaclyffe Phase 2 (4)	Complete. Handover early May 2025.
Longford Road, Ballinalee (14)	On Hold – New submission to be made.
Market Square (2)	Complete.

Housing

Energy Retrofit Programme

The Energy Efficiency Retrofit scheme is ongoing and Longford County Council will continue to target houses with the lowest BER rating. Longford County Council received a preliminary allocation of 50 units from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February.

Energy retrofitting works were completed on six units in Abbeycartron Lane, Longford and works are nearing completion on 22 units in Casey Court, Keenagh. Energy Efficiency Retrofit works are due to start in May on eight units in McEoin Park, Longford.

County Longford Social Housing Applications 2025

In the first quarter of 2025, the Housing section received 105 social housing applications. In this period, 63 applications were approved and 92 were closed or not qualified. Currently, there are 604 on County Longford Housing List.

New Tenancies

In the first quarter of 2025, 29 new local authority, Approved Housing Body and Rental Accommodation Scheme tenancies were commenced in County Longford.

County Longford Housing Stock

At the end of first Quarter of 2025, there were 2,267 properties in the local authority housing stock.

Environment

Biodiversity Talks on Ireland's Insects

A series of talks on Ireland's insects were given by Longford County Council Biodiversity Officer Adam Mulvihill in Longford, Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon libraries. Local school groups attended, with great interaction and question from the students.

It is an important time of year for our insect populations and encouraging to see a strong level of interest in the talks. In Longford and Ballymahon libraries talks also took place for the general public. These talks illustrated steps that the public can take to help our insect populations, as well as to help record their populations through a variety of citizen science schemes.

An Taisce Green Schools Visits

Longford County Council Environmental Awareness Officer Carla McGoey visited schools in Longford to see the impressive efforts being made in relation to the An Taisce Green Schools programme.

This student-led programme involves following seven steps to successfully complete each theme over a two-year period. Longford school themes for this year include Global Citizenship Marine Environment, which focuses on protecting watercourses and biodiversity against threats such as marine litter. Another theme on Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity explores sustainable food practices and their impact on biodiversity.

Schools that have demonstrated their dedication and hard work for

each theme will be honoured with their latest flags at a ceremony on the 21 May in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, County Westmeath.

Curlews Reported in Longford

A member of the Environment Team recently heard a curlew in County Longford. This was reported to Bird Watch Ireland and the breeding waders Environmental Improvement Plan, who verified the record.

The Curlew is an iconic bird in Ireland. Unfortunately, in recent decades, the population of breeding curlew dropped drastically with different estimates putting this decline at 90-98%. A National Parks and Wildlife Service survey found only 138 breeding pairs nationwide in 2017.

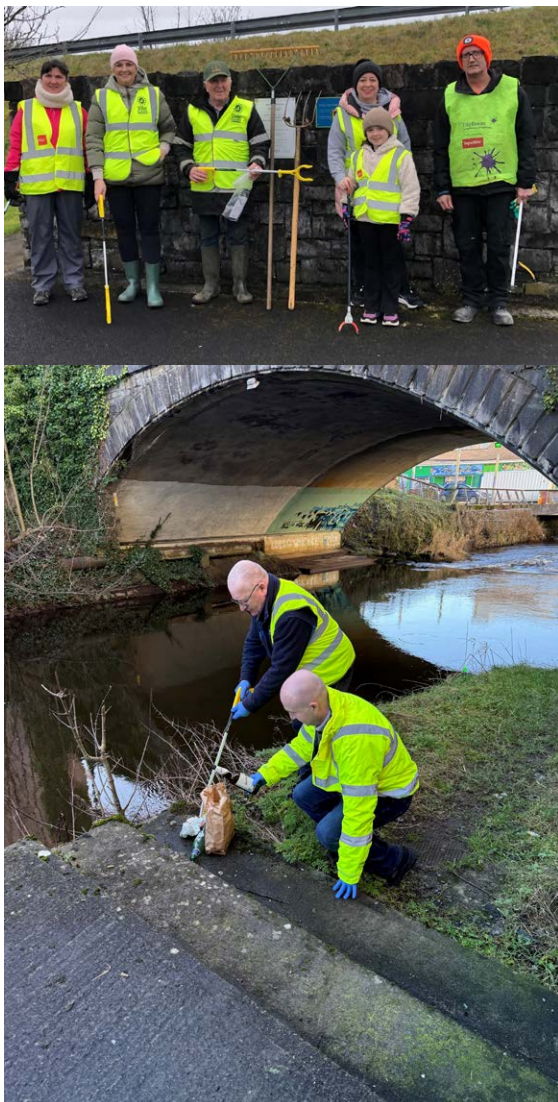


National Spring Clean

The An Taisce National Spring Clean is Ireland's leading anti-litter campaign and is held every April. It encourages communities nationwide to participate in clean-up activities, promoting environmental responsibility and waste reduction.

Environment

In 2024, over 5,430 groups collected approximately 2,725 tonnes of litter. This year's event aims to continue this impactful tradition. Over 40 Longford groups are organising events to enhance the county's appearance and raise littering awareness. The Environment Section is supporting and raising awareness of the initiative by promoting it on social media, inviting participation from individuals and groups and providing supporting materials and waste collections post-event.



TidyTowns

The Environment Section is supporting TidyTown groups to enhance our local communities. This includes the following work:

Master TidyTowns Insurance Policy

A new agreement between Longford County Council and Irish Public Bodies (IPB) Insurance has resulted in eighteen local TidyTowns groups being included in the IPB Master TidyTowns Insurance Policy. The Environment Section is actively working with a number of other TidyTowns groups with the aim of supporting their inclusion in the insurance policy over time.

The insurance cover is available to TidyTowns groups who are registered with the Longford Public Participation Network and whose primary activity is to improve and enhance the appearance and sustainability of the public realm of a community.



Environment

TidyTowns Engagement Event

Longford County Council's second TidyTowns engagement event was held in the EDI Centre Longford on Saturday, 1 March. Organised by the Council's Environment team, 16 local TidyTowns groups were in attendance.

Guest speaker Dr Christy Boylan engaged the audience, with an informative and thought-provoking presentation as he shared his experience as a TidyTowns adjudicator for the past number of years. Dereliction in our town centres and the Community Climate Action Fund were other items for discussion on the day.

The Environment Team would like to extend our sincere thanks to all TidyTowns groups and especially to those groups who attended on the day and made the event such a success.

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection

The Environment Section recently submitted Longford County Council's 2024 Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspection (RMCEI) data returns and National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) Progress Reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The proposed RMCEI Plan for 2025 was also submitted.

The EPA measure and report on local authority environmental enforcement performance using the EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF). It assesses local authorities' performance against the NEP, which is focused on achieving good environmental outcomes.

The NEP Progress Reports are designed to allow local authorities demonstrate how their enforcement

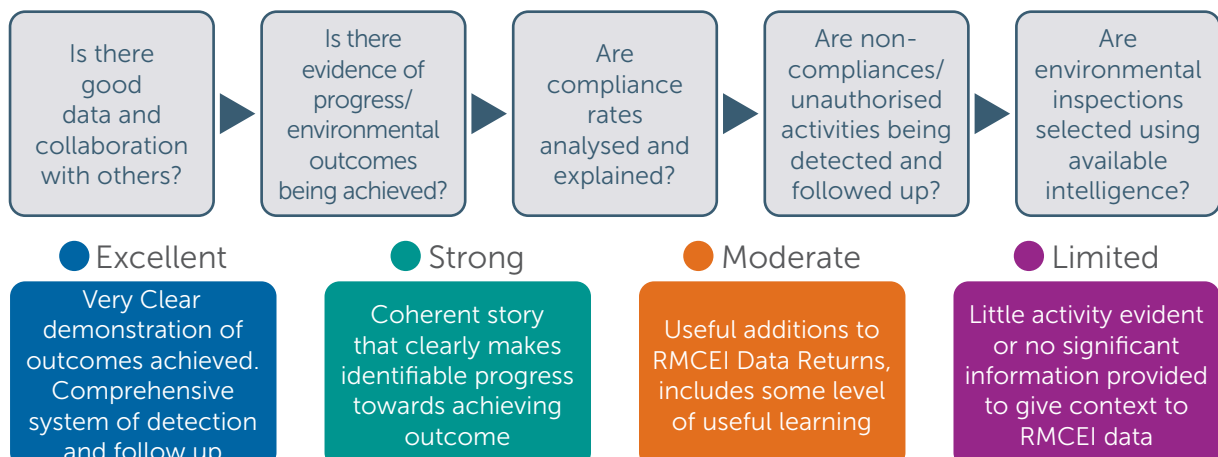
Overview of Local Authority Performance Framework

1. Consultation and development of National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) and annual activities

2. Local Authorities submit RMCEI Plans, RMCEI Data Returns and NEP Progress Reports

3. There are 20 NEPs in total, collated into four themes: waste, water, air and noise, and governance

Assessment of NEPs based on:



Environment

activities deliver environmental outcomes for waste management, water, noise and air quality. Each NEP is assessed by the EPA against a set of criteria including compliance rates, appropriate site selection, identification and follow through of non-compliance and unauthorised activities and the demonstration of a positive environmental outcome.

The EPA will publish a national report on local authority performance in 2024 towards the end of 2025.

Ferefad Clean Up

Ongoing complaints are received in relation to significant dumping of domestic and construction and demolition waste in the Ferefad area. The area, which is rural in location, is very popular with walkers. Dumping is causing significant environmental harm along the roadside, in fields and in the stream which runs along the road. It was being contaminated with waste which is very difficult to remove. The Council has expended extensive human and financial resources collecting litter and waste in the area over a long period of time, however, despite our best efforts, the area became extensively littered.

The Environment team's Community Wardens and Litter Warden recently spent four days litter picking along a 3km stretch of road in the area, collecting in excess of 100 bags of litter. An external contractor has been procured to carry out further work in the area. This work is extremely costly and labour expensive and is using resources which would be better used elsewhere.

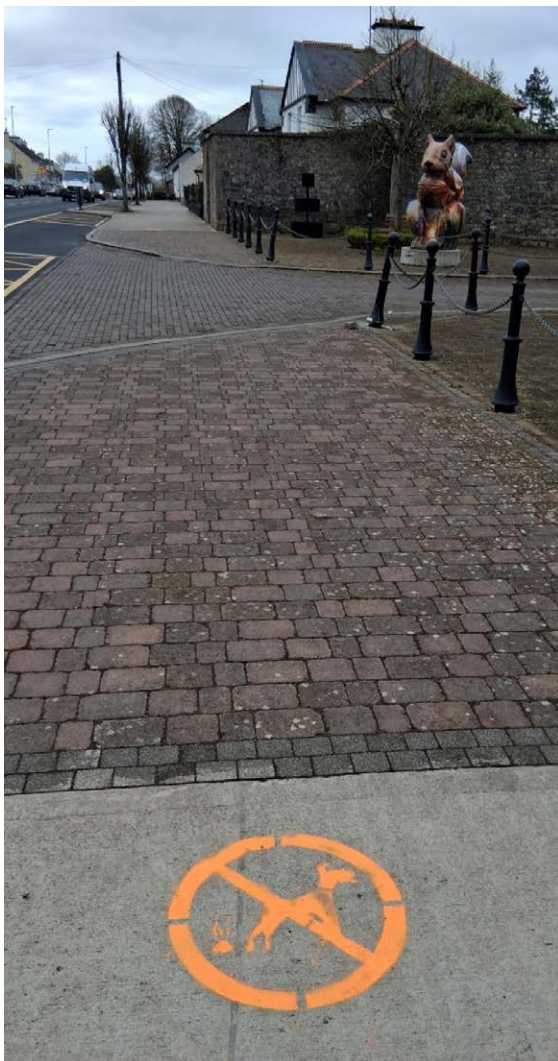
To deter people from dumping, we ask the general public to be vigilant and to report all instances of dumping to litter@longfordcoco.ie



Environment

Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership

The Community Warden worked collaboratively with a number of TidyTowns committees promoting anti-litter and responsible dog ownership. One of the actions he undertook was to stencil 'Bag It Bin It' and 'Scoop the Poop' signs on footpaths in a number of towns and villages across the county in consultation with the relevant TidyTowns Groups.



CCTV Information Sharing

Longford County Council Executive Scientist Geraldine Glennon recently gave a presentation on the Council's successful implementation of CCTV to all local authorities at the three regional WERLA meetings.

The presentations were well received with lots of questions and follow up meetings. This is another example of the Environment Section taking the initiative to lead the way in protecting the environment by deterring littering and waste dumping and assisting other local authorities in achieving the same.

Longford County Council were the first local authority to successfully implement CCTV to prevent, deter and detect dumping, using the provision of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2022, and in compliance with GDPR.

Environment

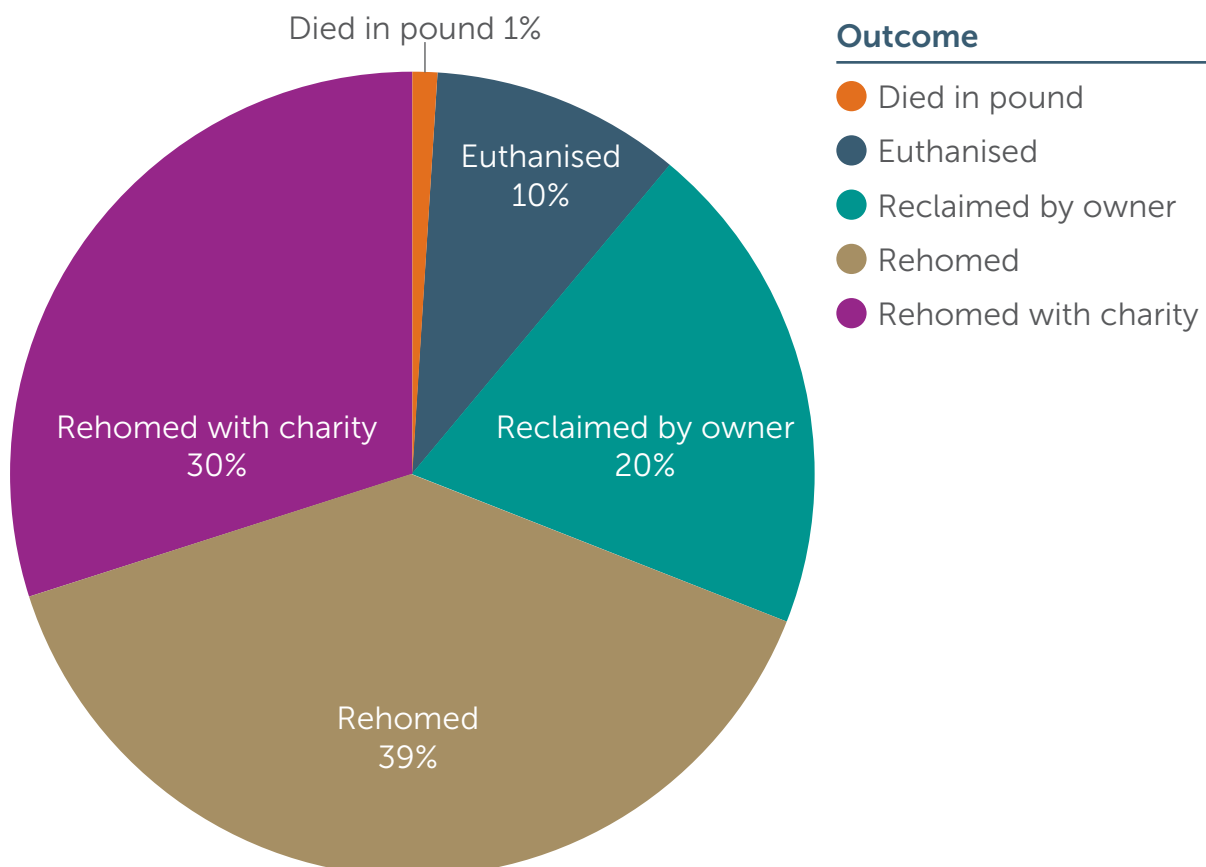
The Act established a legal framework for the use of recording technology, including CCTV, to enforce litter pollution and waste management laws in accordance with statutory codes of practice. Former Minister Ossian Smyth complimented Longford County Council for being exemplar in the area.

Dog Control

The Dog Control service continues to operate effectively in County Longford. The 2024 Statistical Returns to the Department of Rural and Community Development highlighted the following:

- Approximately €200K spent on the operation of the service, including the purchase of an electric vehicle
- 107 dogs taken into the care and responsibility of the Council, a significant reduction on prior years (184 in 2023 and 317 in 2022)
- 1,596 dog licences purchased
- Six reported instances of livestock worrying
- 23 reports of dog attacks comprising 15 instances of aggressive behaviour and eight instances of physical injury

Outcome of dogs taken into LCC care



Fire Services

Health and Safety

There are no injuries to report. An internal health and safety audit was carried out by Quadra on the Fire Service in March.

Training

Firefighter skills training for Longford Fire Station was completed, having been previously postponed in January due to Storm Éowyn.

Firefighters in Ballymahon and Longford did hydraulic platform training.

Hazardous materials training was carried out in all stations.

Seven new firefighters passed their initial breathing apparatus training in Sligo in February.

Operations

Total callouts 93 since the last update, with 33 in February, 29 in March, and 31 in April.

Fire Prevention

12 Fire Safety Certificates were processed, two District Court Licence applications were processed and one DSA Licence was processed.

Recruitment

The Recruitment process is still open as we still have vacancies in Longford, Edgeworthstown, Lanesborough, Granard and Ballymahon.

A new substation officer has been appointed for Longford Fire Station. New driver-mechanics have been appointed for Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown Fire Stations.

Equipment

The National Mobilisation and Communications System (NMACS) and Dublin Fire Brigade have run a tender for the supply of additional fire ground hand portable radios with funding from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) within the Department of Housing. The tender has been awarded and Longford will shortly receive the new radios. PPE and chainsaw equipment have also been purchased recently.

Major Emergency Management

A debrief of Storm Éowyn was conducted to identify learning points to improve planning for future storms.

A regional Evacuation and Rest Centre Sub-group has been set up within the Midlands region with representatives from each county council to prepare plans for the setting up of emergency rest centres (in case people had to be evacuated due to a major emergency).

Civil Defence

Duties

Longford Civil Defence attended the following events:

- Civic reception for the Longford Minor Football Team in Council offices
- Six Longford Town Football Club soccer matches
- Longford Lights over four days
- Midlands Rally
- Killoe community 5k run
- St Patrick's Day parades in Longford Town, Ballinamuck and Ballymahon
- Rugby blitz
- Two Longford GAA matches
- Longford Ploughing Association event
- Three days of the Blood Bank Clinic Longford
- Royal Canal Run
- Community Games



Training and Operations

Two volunteers attended a training day for radiation monitoring in the Environmental Protection Agency laboratory in Dublin. Volunteers then took part in the annual radiation

exercise. Soil grass and air samples were taken, and the results will be analysed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Civil Defence Officer (CDO) and Assistant Civil Defence Officer (ACDO) attended a CDO/ACDO training day in Tullamore.

Five volunteers received training in food safety.

An internal Health and Safety audit was carried out.

Multi-disciplinary trainings held for volunteers included training on critical incident stress management, communications, and vehicle familiarisation.

Four probationary volunteers received manual handling training.

Eight volunteers completed bicycle safety training.

Volunteers attended a volunteer seminar arranged by the Civil Defence college.

Food safety training was provided to Roscommon Civil Defence.

Funding was allocated by the Department of Defence through the Dormant Account Fund, for the purchase of a new van to upgrade the fleet and for the transportation of vital equipment.



