



Chief Executive Report April 2026

Longford County Council

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April Highlights

Minister Patrick O'Donovan announces 'The One @ One' - a Night-Time Economy Late-Night Pilot Bus Service in Sligo, Buncrana and Longford

The Minister for the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan T.D announced the launch of 'The One @ One', a new late-night transport pilot serving three rural Night-Time Economy locations Sligo, Buncrana and Longford. As rural Night-Time Economy pilot towns, all three locations have consistently identified access to safe, reliable late-night transport as one of the most significant barriers to night-time

participation. This pilot initiative aims to test tailored solutions designed specifically for smaller towns and dispersed rural communities.

Developed as a targeted response to research and extensive local consultation, 'The One @ One' will support safer, more accessible travel for residents and visitors while strengthening the vibrancy of the rural night-time economy. The pilot directly aligns with national policy commitments to improve inclusivity, safety and connectivity across Ireland's rural towns during evening and night-time hours.



April Highlights

The service will operate on several busy weekends and key dates throughout the year, giving people more ways to travel safely after a night out. These trial periods will help partners understand demand, monitor usage, and shape future late-night transport options for rural communities across the country.

Longford – Route 865: Longford Centre to Granard

Pilot Dates

- May Bank Holiday: Friday 1 – Sunday, 3 May
- June Bank Holiday: Friday, 29 – Sunday, 31 May
- August Bank Holiday: Friday, 31 July – Sunday, 2 August
- October Bank Holiday: Friday, 23– Sunday, 25 October
- Culture Night: Friday, 18 September

place that suits them and supports greater access to digital council services across the county. This is an additional method for Local Authority housing tenants to make rental payments. Tenants continue to have the facility to make payments through the household budget, by standing order, by telephone, to the Rent Collector or in person at the Cash Desk.

The online service has been carefully developed and tested in collaboration with Council staff across Housing, Finance and Information Systems, with strong governance and data protection measures in place.



Longford County Council launches MyCoCo online payments platform for housing rents

Longford County Council launched MyCoCo during the month of April, a new secure online payments platform that allows Local Authority housing tenants to pay rent online, providing a faster and more convenient way to access payment services.

The MyCoCo platform enables Local Authority housing tenants to make payments at a time and

Turkish Ambassador visits Longford to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations

Longford County Council welcomed the Turkish Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Esra Cankorur, and Commercial Counsellor, Mr. Haluk Koç, to Áras an Chontae on Wednesday, 8 April 2026, as part of an exchange of views on bilateral cooperation. The visit took place in the year marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Ireland.

April Highlights

The Chief Executive of Longford County Council, Paddy Mahon, extended a warm welcome to the delegation and outlined the county's ongoing investment in infrastructure, including plans for the THRIVE Connolly Barracks Reimagined project. He spoke about the challenges facing the county following the closure of ESB and Bord na Móna operations and the cessation of peat burning, and highlighted Longford's focus on Just Transition initiatives.

Mr Mahon also pointed to emerging opportunities in tourism and regional collaboration, alongside Longford's strong agricultural base in dairy and beef, and the county's growing pharmaceutical sector.

Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council, Cllr Garry Murtagh, also welcomed the delegation and spoke about Longford's strong community spirit and the importance of rural connections. He outlined key developments for the county, including the N4 project and Center Parcs, and reaffirmed that Longford remains open for business.



Active Travel

Junction Tightening and Zebra crossing in Aughnacliffe

A new raised zebra crossing has been constructed on the L1044 road outside Colmcille National School. This crossing has had an immediate impact in controlling speeds in the vicinity of both the school and St. Colmcille’s Church. It serves as a crossing point for both the school and Mass goes on a daily basis providing a much safer link for pedestrians on route to and from both buildings.

New junction tightening and alignment works have been completed at the junction of the Aghakine Road. The previous junction arrangement, which was excessively wide, facilitated fast moving traffic and made it difficult for pedestrians to cross the junction safely. The new layout now includes a raised and much shorter crossing point for pedestrians. The works complement existing walking loops of the village including Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail completed in 2023.



Ballymahon Pedestrian and Cycle scheme

Detailed designs have been completed, and tender documents are being prepared for the new pedestrian and cycle scheme in Ballymahon. This project will see the creation of new walking and cycling facilities on the R392 between St Matthew’s National School and the Moygh Road junction. The project will involve boundary wall setback, footpath construction both sides of road and a new two-way cycle track. Other project features will include new surface water drainage, road narrowing, provision of new public lighting, removal of overhead ESB lines, road realignment and raised pedestrian crossings. Construction works are expected to commence later this summer.

StonePark to Silver Birches Pedestrian and cycle scheme

This project is expected to go to tender by end of April 2026 with construction to commence in the summer. This project will see the creation of a new shared pedestrian and cycle facility linking the housing estate at Silver Birches to Stone Park school and GAA grounds over a distance of 700 metres. Enabling works have already taken place with the removal of hedgerows and temporary fencing being installed. Overhead telecom cables and poles will be removed along the route as part of this project. Other features will include upgrading of the existing crossing at the school to a raised Zebra crossing, new surface water drainage and boundary treatments.

Town Centre First

Garvey's Yard/Weaver's Hall/Annaly Carpark

A Town Centre First Strategy was launched for Longford Town in 2024, which is an ambitious plan that sets out a pathway for the revival and revitalisation of Longford Town. The vision of the Town Centre First Strategy is to rejuvenate the town as a unique cultural, tourism and heritage destination through the further development of its physical, economic and social infrastructure. In order to achieve this, the strategy sets out a number of transformational proposals. Transformational proposal 1 is for an improved and connected public realm.

A re-design of Garvey's Yard/ Weaver's Hall/Annaly Carpark area was proposed to enhance safety, access and useability of the area. A preliminary design was brought to public consultation in Longford Library and feedback will inform the final design. Part 8 will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Town Centre First Plan – Ballymahon

Following surveys and public consultation, the Ballymahon Town Centre First Plan has been completed and was launched on 19 March in Ballymahon Library. The plan identifies a vision for Ballymahon that Ballymahon's town centre will grow as a welcoming economic, educational and cultural heart – championing local enterprise, creative spirit, and strong community identity through high-quality spaces where everyone feels they belong.

The plan is underpinned by a number of themes to deliver on the vision. The themes are:

- Tourism, Culture and Identity
- Enterprise, Economy and Education
- Town Centre Living and Regeneration
- Public Realm, Movement and Sustainability

Climate Action and Social Inclusion underpin the entire plan.



Town Centre First

Expansion of the Vacant Homes Grant

Under the new Housing Plan, Delivering Homes, Building Communities a commitment was given by Government to provide additional support for the refurbishment and conversion of above the shop vacant space for use as homes.

The recently expanded Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant offers significant financial support for refurbishing vacant or derelict properties. New expanded grants include:

- VPRG – Above the Shop Grant
- VPRG – Commercial to Public Use Building
- Expert Advice Grant Scheme

New Grant Schemes

VPRG Expansion – Conversion Commercial Building to Residential Use

Commercial building entirely converted into residential units



Property Eligibility

- Vacant for 2 years or more
- Built before Dec 2007
- **NO** Commercial element (*full conversion to residential*)
- Individual applicants only (*sole traders allowed*)



Application Requirements

- Limit: 1 PPR grant per individual and **No Limit** Rental Application (RTB registered)
- **Financial:** Valid Tax Clearance, up-to-date LPT and Commercial Rates
- **Clawback:** Clawback applies if conditions are not met within 10 years
- **Documentation:** Proof of ownership and Vacancy, Quotation, Application Form (*Drawings, Planning Approval, Electrical and Building Control Certificate may be required*)
- **Timeline:** Works must be completed within **18 months** of approval



Additional Supports

- Local Authority Purchase and Renovation only Loan (LAPR) available for eligible buyers
- SEAI Grant - Energy Efficiency Upgrades



Grant Amounts

- VACANCY**
- **1st Unit:** up to €50,000
 - **2nd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €70,000
 - **3rd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €90,000
- DERELICTION – Engineers' Report required**
- **1st Unit:** up to €70,000
 - **2nd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €90,000
 - **3rd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €110,000
- €5,000 Expert Advice Grant (*optional*)
Grant paid *per building*

ABOVE THE SHOP GRANT

Commercial unit above a shop, intended for conversion into residential units while retaining the commercial use



Property Eligibility

- Vacant for 2 years or more
- Built before Dec 2007
- Commercial element **MUST** remain (*in use or vacant*)
- Individual applicants only (*sole traders allowed*)



Key Application Requirements

- Limit: 1 PPR grant per individual and **No Limit** Rental Application (RTB registered)
- **Financial:** Valid Tax Clearance, up-to-date LPT and Commercial Rates
- **Clawback:** Clawback applies if conditions are not met within 10 years
- **Documentation:** Proof of ownership and Vacancy, Quotation, Application Form (*Drawings, Planning Approval, Electrical and Building Control Certificate may be required*)
- **Timeline:** Works must be completed within **18 months** of approval



Additional Supports

- SEAI Grant - Energy Efficiency Upgrade



Grant Amounts

- **1st Unit:** up to €95,000
 - **2nd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €115,000
 - **3rd Unit:** up to €20,000 (extra) - €135,000
- €5,000 Expert Advice Grant (*optional*)
Grant paid *per building*
No distinction between vacant and derelict

Town Centre First

Expert Advice Grant Scheme

Supports property owners in making informed decisions about their project



Eligibility

- Applicants Above the Shop
- Applicants VPRG Expansion - Commercial to Residential
- **ONLY** for buildings converted to two or more residential unit
- Individual applicants only (sole traders allowed)



Ineligibility

- Buildings intended for commercial use only.
- Buildings intended as a single residence only.
- Buildings works commenced / drawings drawn up / planning granted.



Key Application Requirements

- **Documentation:** Proof of ownership and Vacancy, Quotation, Application Form
(Location Map, Proof Building Age, Building Photos, Surveyor Details may be required)



Grant Amounts

- up to **€5,000**
- cover up to 6.7% of project cost (inc. VAT)
- Site visit | Survey | Plan | Report
- Grant paid per building

Current Grant Scheme

Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant



Property Eligibility

- Vacant for 2 years or more
- Built before Dec 2007
- Must be used as a PPR or rental (RTB registered)



Application Requirements

- **Limit:** Maximum of 2 grants per individual (*1 principal place residence, 1 rental*)
- **Financial:** Applicants must be tax compliant and have an up-to-date Local Property Tax
- **Clawback:** Clawback applies if conditions are not met within 10 years
- **Documentation:** Proof of ownership and Vacancy, Quotation, Application Form



Additional Supports

- Local Authority Purchase and Renovation only Loan (LAPR) available for eligible buyers
- SEAI grants can be combined to support energy efficiency upgrades



Grant Amounts

- **Vacant properties:** up to €50,000
- **Derelict properties:** up to €70,000
(Engineers' Report required)

Housing

Project (Number of Houses)	Status
Cranleymore, Abbeylara (3)	On Site. Substantially complete.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes (6)	Commenced on site Dec 2025. Due for completion ahead of schedule in Q3 2026.
Granada View (Cnoc na Greine), Granard (7)	Stage 4 approved. Commencing on site May 2026.
Canal Walk, "Fondermans" (2)	Stage 3 approved. Preparing Tender.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough (22)	Stage 3 in progress for submission in Q2 2026
St Rita's Park Road (15)	Revised stage 2 approved. Preparing for Part 8 submission Q2 2026.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Ennybegs (7)	Awaiting Stage 2 approval.
Casey Court, Keenagh (2)	Infill site. Stage 2 approved. Preparing for Part 8 submission Q2 2026.
Houricans Hotel, Granard (10, and parking)	Stage 2 approved. Preparing for Part 8 submission Q2 2026.
Butchers, Market Street, Granard (3)	Stage 2 approved. Preparing for Part 8 submission Q2 2026.
Bothairin na Carraige, Ballinalee (9)	Stage 2 approved. Preparing for Part 8 submission Q2 2026.
Drynan, Ballymahon (13)	On Hold. Awaiting update on WWTP upgrade by Uisce Éireann.
Willow Park Halting site (2)	In discussions with CENA regarding proposal for 2 units. Stage 1 to be submitted Q2 2026.

Longford County Council officially signed the contract with MCA Construction to commence a brand-new housing development in Granada View, Granard, County Longford. This project will see the regeneration of an existing site, and the construction of seven high-quality, modern homes.



Housing

Turnkey Housing Developments/Scheme and, or Land for the Provision of Social and Affordable Housing

Following on from the 2025 Expressions of Interest where Longford County Council received a positive response to the advertisements seeking Expressions of Interest from developers, contractors, land and property owners with regard to the provision of schemes of houses and/or land within the county, six submissions are at various stages.

Of the six identified for progression, two of the sites have received department approval resulting in approval for a total of 17 housing units. A further submission has been made for an additional site comprising four units and negotiations are ongoing on three further sites.

Affordable Housing

Longford County Council launched its Affordable Homes Purchase Scheme with 25 A-rated homes at Cúirt an Easpaig, Ballinalee Road, Longford on the 23 February 2026.

The scheme which is primarily aimed at firsttime buyers who do not currently own a property, officially opened for applications via Longford County Council's online portal at 10am on Monday, 30 March 2026, and the Council is accepting applications.

There has been a very positive response to the scheme and all completed applications are assessed

in line with Longford County Council's Scheme of Priority.



Housing

The development comprises of 5, two-bed terrace homes, 8, three-bed terrace homes and 12, three-bed semi-detached homes. All properties are built to an A-rated energy standard, ensuring lower energy consumption, improved comfort, and reduced household running costs for purchasers.

Full details, including eligibility criteria, application requirements and the Scheme of Priority, are available on the Council's website www.longfordcoco.ie/affordable-housing

Enquiries in relation to the Affordable Homes Purchase Scheme can be directed to affordablehomes@longfordcoco.ie

Housing Pre-Let and Voids Programme

Refurbishment works have been completed on 16 units under the pre-let and voids programme to date in 2026. In addition, works are currently underway on a further ten units to facilitate their re-letting during the year.



Climate Action – Energy Retrofit Programme

Longford County Council received an allocation of 65 units from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in February which is an increase on the 2025 allocation of 50 units. Energy retrofitting works are now complete on all 19 units in St. Matthew's Park, Ballymahon. All these upgraded units in St. Matthew's Park achieved a post-works BER rating of A3 or B1. A tender has been advertised and a contractor is to be appointed in shortly for retrofit works to 35 units in The Hollows, Longford. These works involve the installation of new windows and doors and a renewable Air to Water heating system and bring the post works Energy rating of the properties to an A3 standard.

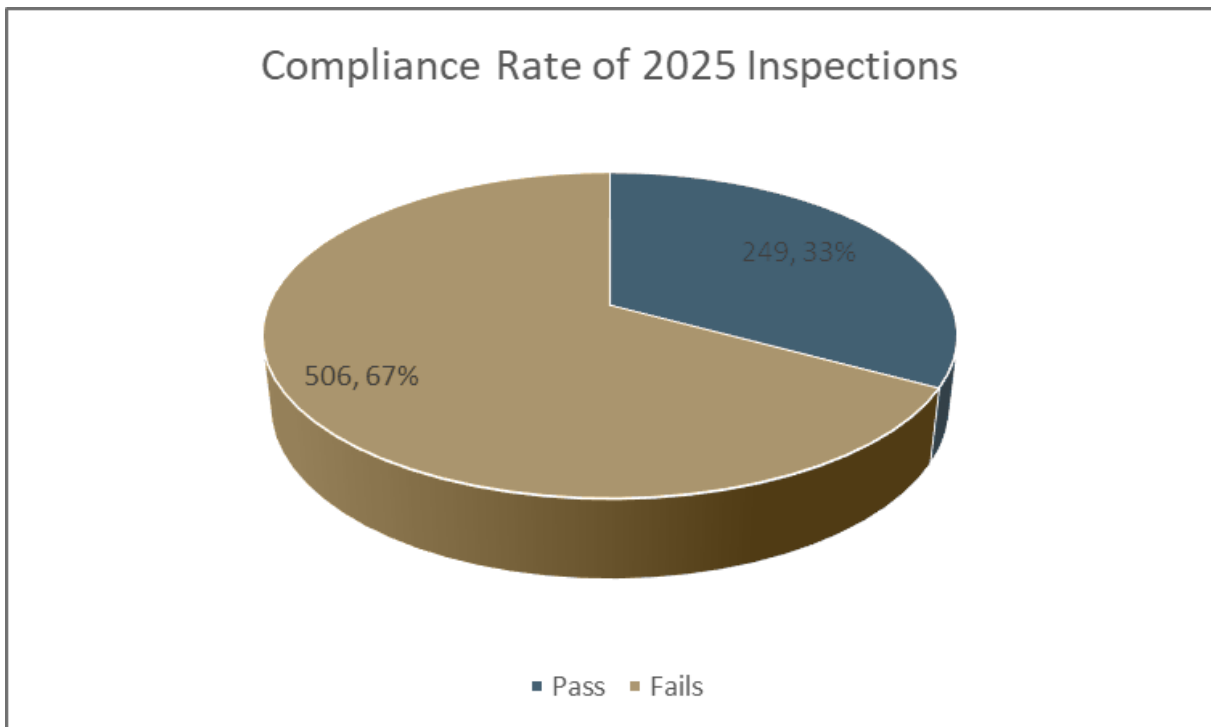
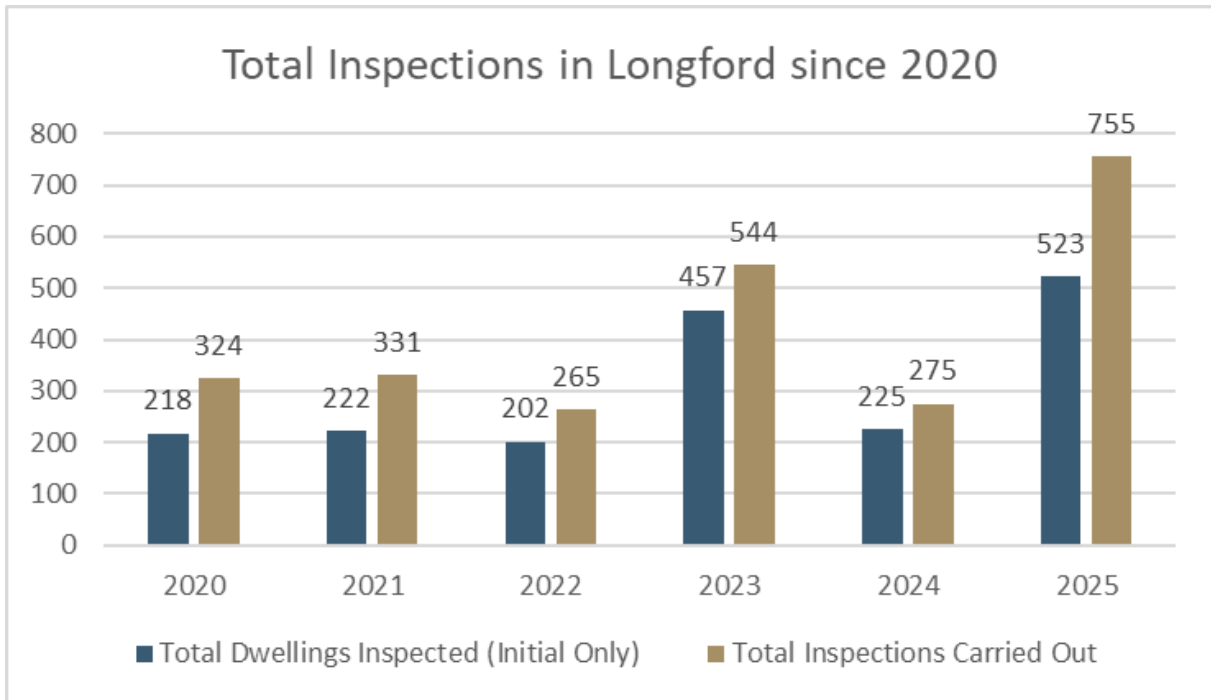
Private Rent Inspections (PRI)

Longford County Council's Private Rent Inspections (PRI) target for 2025 was 533 properties.

Housing

The completed initial inspections were 523, which represented 98% of the target.

The actual number of inspections carried out was 755. This included follow up inspections of properties to achieve compliance.



Housing

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disability – Private Households

2026 Data / Scheme	Number of Approved Grants	Number of applications awaiting approval
Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People	9	6
Mobility Aids Grant	9	8
Housing Aid for Older People Grant	26	8
Total:	44	22
Value of 2026 Grants awarded to date	€230,827	

County Longford Housing Stock

Housing Stock	2025 (Q4)
No dwelling in ownership of LCC (2026 Opening Stock)	2,249
The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant	2.13%

Social Housing Applicants

Longford County Council has an overall social housing need of 696. A total of 349 applicants are not in receipt of any form of social housing support. The remaining of that number are already in receipt of support and were seeking a transfer from existing local authority, approved housing body or Housing Assistance Payment tenancies. An additional 147 applications, inclusive of 27 transfer requests, are currently being assessed by Housing.

Community

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of Longford LCDC was held on 14 April 2026.

LEADER 2327 Programme

Two LEADER projects were approved at the April LCDC meeting to a value of €176,862, both under the theme of Economic development and job creation, sub-theme Rural Tourism and Recreation.

Healthy Ireland Funding

A total of 14 implementing partners will receive funding through Healthy Longford in 2026. These Community Implementing Partners will deliver projects based either around one or both of the outcomes set by Healthy Longford. These outcomes are:

- Increase in Positive Mental Health as per Energy & Vitality Index
- Increase in % of adults and children meeting physical health guidelines.

Healthy Longford Implementing Partners in 2026 are: Bridgeway's Family Resource Centre, Lus Na Greiné FRC, Longford Town FC, Springlawn Childcare, Longford Primary Traveller Healthcare Project, Rath Mhuire & Dolmon Community Services, Edgeworthstown District Development Association, Longford Pride, Longford Libraries, Drumlish

Inclusive Sports Club. There are also four programs taking place with Longford Sports Partnership: Feirmeoirí Sláintiúla, Move for Better Health, Physical Activity Inclusion Program and Improving Physical Activity & Health of Ethnic Minorities and Disadvantaged Communities.

Longford Family Resource Centre

Currently Longford Family Resource Centre is in development stage working with TUSLA and National Forum for Family Resource Centres being advised by the current Advisory Committee that is in place for Longford.

Implementing Dementia Strategy for Longford

Healthy Longford is working with HSE Project Manager for the implementation of the dementia strategy for Longford currently meeting with the six Men Sheds in Longford. The aim is to have all Longford Men Sheds Dementia Inclusive.

Community Grant Support Scheme (CGSS) 2026

Longford County Council, through the Municipal Districts, is committed to working in partnership with the community to encourage, develop, support and sustain a wide range of activities and projects (for example recreational, artistic, cultural, social and community support) that:

- Make a positive contribution to County Longford

Community

- Promote the development of strong local communities
- Improve the quality of life of our citizens.

The Community Grant Support Scheme (CGSS) provides a means for decision-makers, that is the elected members of Longford County Council and each Municipal District, to consider and prioritise applications for grant assistance.

Online applications opened on Thursday, 12 March and closed on Thursday, 16 April. Staff are currently reviewing the 252 applications received. They will be considered at the May meetings of Longford County Council and the Municipal Districts, and community groups will be advised of any funding award in early June.

CLAR 2026 Measure 1

Longford County Council will open online applications for CLAR 2026 Measure 1 Developing Community Facilities & Amenities in early May 2026.

The IT Section has introduced a new online application system, My Council Services, and community groups are advised to register an account in advance. It is recommended that the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer of the community group registers for an account.

The link to register on My Council Services and instructions to do this are available on the CLAR webpage on www.longfordcoco.ie

If anyone needs to register more than one community group, please email details to IT staff at mcsqueries@longfordcoco.ie. They can also help with any technical issues.

To check eligibility regarding Measure 1, please email clar@longfordcoco.ie or call Community Development staff on 043 334 33 07 or 043 334 34 56

Longford Community Safety Partnership



On Saturday, 14 March, Longford Community Safety Partnership, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, hosted a Safety Clinic and Property Marking event at Killashee GAA Club.



On Tuesday, 24 March, Longford Community Safety Partnership held a Consultation Workshop attended by members of the LCSP Committee.

Community



On Tuesday, 24 March, Longford Community Safety Partnership attended the Home of Halloween Stakeholder Event.



On Friday, 27 March, Longford Community Safety Partnership, alongside An Garda Síochána, delivered a road safety talk to Transition Year students

On Monday, 13 April, Longford Community Safety Partnership attended Longford Social Circus, a fun and welcoming space where young people can learn new skills,



held in Ardnacassa Community House and Mac Eoin Park Community House.



An initiative funded by Longford Community Safety Partnership.

On Saturday, 18 April, Longford Community Safety Partnership, in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, hosted a Safety Clinic and Property Marking event at Carrickedmond GAA Club.

Meeting Updates

On Friday, 10 April, a Longford Community Safety Partnership Steering Group meeting was held online.

On Monday, 20 April, a Longford Community Safety Partnership meeting was held in Lús na Gréine.

Community

Longford Community Safety Partnership is currently preparing its consultation plan for the new Community Safety Plan, with consultations expected to commence in May 2026.

Longford Sports Partnership

Physical Activity for Health 2025 Overview

The Longford Physical Activity for Health Programmes 2025 provide a comprehensive and inclusive range of community-based exercise opportunities designed to support physical, mental, and social wellbeing, particularly for older adults and individuals with chronic conditions.

A total of nine structured programmes are delivered, including

Adult Disability, Pole Walking, Pulmonary Rehabilitation, Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Seated Exercise, Men's Health Exercise, and Moving for Better Balance. Each programme (excluding Moving for Better Balance) runs in five blocks of eight weeks, with 12 participants per block, supporting approximately 60 participants per programme annually.

The Moving for Better Balance programme is delivered across five venues in Longford, reaching over 100 participants per block and 500 participants per year, significantly extending community reach.

Overall, the programmes engage approximately 980 participants annually and deliver over 500 hours of structured physical activity, contributing to improved fitness, independence, social connection, and long-term health outcomes across the county.

Physical Activity for Health Research

This study evaluates the impact of a community-based group exercise programme for adults with physical disabilities in Longford, Ireland, delivered through a partnership between health services and community physical activity providers. The programme was designed to address limitations in traditional one-to-one rehabilitation models, which often struggle to meet long-term physical activity needs and contribute to prolonged waiting lists.

Over an eight-week intervention, participants engaged in supervised group exercise, with outcomes



Community

measured across key functional domains including strength, balance, mobility, gait speed, and overall functional capacity, alongside self-reported health. The evaluation also examined service-level impacts, particularly waiting list pressures within physiotherapy services.

The results demonstrated clinically meaningful improvements in physical function, including enhanced lower limb strength, balance, walking speed, and endurance. Importantly, the programme also achieved significant system-level benefits, with a 93.9% reduction in physiotherapy waiting list volume and an 86.7% reduction in waiting times, indicating improved service efficiency and flow.

Overall, the findings highlight that integrating structured, community-

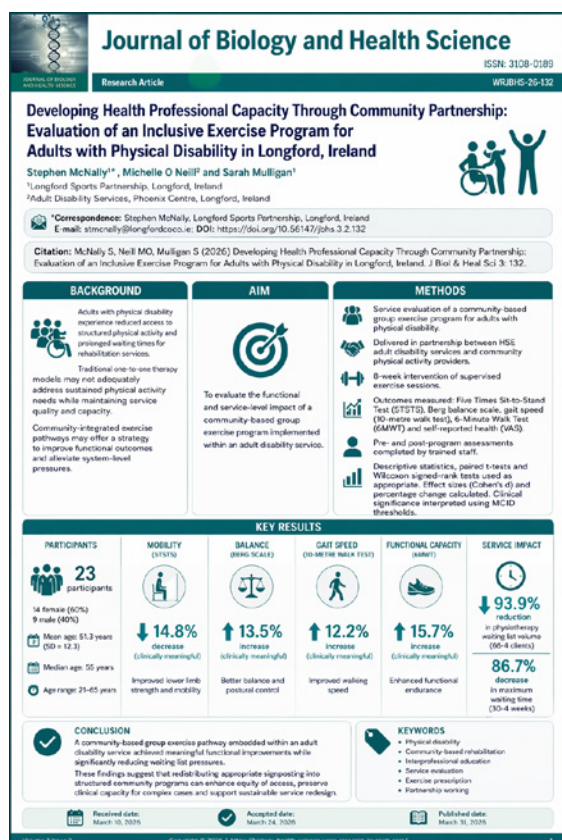
based exercise programmes into disability services can improve patient outcomes while simultaneously reducing healthcare system pressures. The study supports a shift toward more sustainable, scalable, and inclusive models of care, emphasising the value of partnership working and exercise as a core component of long-term rehabilitation and health promotion.

Spring GAA Participation Programme Report – Longford & Ballymahon

A successful Spring sports programme was delivered across two locations, Longford and Ballymahon, with the primary aim of increasing participation in Gaelic games and engaging children from a wide range of backgrounds.

The programme was delivered in collaboration with Longford GAA, local club coaches from Ballymahon Forgney Gaels, Longford Slashers GAA with invaluable support from Longford GAA Development Officers, and LSP tutors. A total of eight sessions were held, with four in each location.

The initiative focused on children of primary school age, introducing them to Gaelic games in a fun, inclusive, and supportive environment. Sessions were designed around enjoyable activities that incorporated fundamental movement skills, basic techniques, and small-sided games. This approach ensured that participants developed confidence, coordination, and a positive first experience of the sport.



Community

In Longford Town, participants also benefited from the expertise of a dedicated hurling coach, who introduced the children to the key skills and enjoyment of hurling, further broadening their experience of Gaelic games.

The programme's success was underpinned by strong collaboration between all partners involved. The combined efforts of coaches, tutors, and development officers ensured high-quality delivery and strong engagement from participants throughout.

Sincere thanks is extended to St Mel's College, Ballymahon Vocational School, and Longford GAA for their support and use of facilities, which played a key role in the programme's success.

Overall, the Spring programme achieved its objective of promoting Gaelic games, fostering inclusion, and providing young participants with a fun and active introduction to sport. The positive response from children and partners highlights the value of continued collaborative initiatives like this in the future.



Laps for Inclusion at Kenagh St Dominic's GAA Pitch

In March, Longford Sports Partnership joined St Dominics GAA Club, St Dominic's National School and the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) School Leavers Group for the Laps for Inclusion Special Olympics Initiative at Kenagh St Dominic's GAA Pitch walkway.

Participants completed laps of the pitch while carrying torches created by the IWA, followed by treats for the school children afterwards. The group has also registered for a chance to win a visit from the official Special Olympics Ireland Torch ahead of the Ireland Summer Games. It was a successful day of inclusion, community spirit and partnership between local organisations.



Environment and Climate Change

Rubbish Film Festival

The Environment Section was proud to support County Longford secondary schools' participation in the award-winning Rubbish Film Festival. This national initiative invited Transition Year students to create impactful one-minute films addressing environmental issues such as waste reduction, biodiversity, sustainable consumption, and climate action. Over an inspiring twoday workshop, students developed ideas, wrote scripts, filmed, produced, and edited their entries before competing for county awards in Best Film, Runner-Up, and Best Poster categories. Huge congratulations to the 2026 Longford winners and participating schools.

Best Film Winner - Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon

The school created an outstanding film 'MonopolECO' which reimagined environmental choices through the lens of a board game, showing how everyday decisions shape our planet's future. Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon also represented Longford County Council in the Rubbish Film Festival Grand Final in the Lighthouse Cinema, Dublin on the 22 April 2026. It was a major achievement to be shortlisted for these prestigious finals.



Best Film Runner-Up Winner - Moyne Community School

Moyne Community School created a compelling film 'Bottled Up' which highlighted the importance of recycling plastic bottles using the ReTurn scheme to support Ireland's circular economy.

Best Poster Winner - Ballymahon Vocational School

Ballymahon Vocational School created an innovative film called 'Drop Zone', and this was accompanied by a poster to showcase the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling to protect the earth's valuable resources. Ballymahon Vocational School also represented Longford County Council in the 'Best Poster' category of the Rubbish Film Festival Final which was held online on the 15 April 2026.

Other inspiring entries included:

- Lanesborough Community College – 'It Doesn't Matter' which highlighted the impact of littering.
- - Ardscoil Phadraig – 'Last Drop' which focused on conserving vital water resources.
- - St. Mel's College – 'The Good Cold Days' promoted climate change awareness.
- - Templemichael College – 'Polluted Fields Forever' featured the damage caused by consumerism and pollution.

All Longford entries can be viewed by clicking the link on the Longford

Environment and Climate Change

County Council Instagram page. A massive well done to all students, teachers, and school communities for producing such original and thoughtprovoking films.

Dangerous Structure Resolution

Concerns were raised by a member of the public, regarding the structural integrity of property, following storm damage to a neighbouring building in early 2025. Following an investigation and site inspection, the Environment team engaged with the property owner to achieve voluntary compliance and mitigate the potential risk. Despite protracted consultation, the matter remained unresolved, and the structure continued to present a potential danger to public safety.

Considering the ongoing risk, a Dangerous Structure Notice was issued under the relevant provisions of the Sanitary Services Act. The owner's failure to comply with the notice led to court proceedings being scheduled in April 2026 to secure compliance. However, prior to the court hearing, the necessary remedial works were completed, negating the requirement for a court case.

The matter required substantial input from the Environment staff over a prolonged period, in addition to the engagement of legal representatives. Efforts are currently ongoing to recover the legal costs incurred by the Council in bringing the issue to a successful resolution.

Historic Landfill Remediation Projects

Marking a key milestone in progressing the remediation of historic landfill sites, contracts were signed in March 2026, between Longford County Council and Fehily Timoney Consulting Engineers, for the remediation of three historic landfill sites in County Longford.

A project kick-off meeting was held during which the S177AE process was outlined and reviewed, alongside the overall programme, key project constraints, planning requirements, contractual risks, procurement approach, and the commencement of ecology walkovers. Detailed design has commenced for the Ballymaurice site, while the S177AE and planning application process has been initiated for the Ballymulvey and Cartron Big sites.

Under the current programme, contractor commencement for the Ballymaurice site is scheduled for Spring 2027, with Ballymulvey and Cartron Big sites scheduled to commence in Spring 2028.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and POPs Regulation Awareness Course

Five environmental enforcement staff completed a new training course on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to improve understanding of their sources, impacts, and regulation. POPs are long-lasting chemicals that build up in the environment and food chain and can cause serious health effects, including cancer, reproductive

Environment and Climate Change

disorders, endocrine disruption, and birth defects.

Examples include legacy pesticides (e.g. DDT, lindane), PFAS chemicals used in non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, fire-fighting foams, and brominated flame retardants in electronics and furniture, as well as dioxins and furans released through the burning of fossil fuels and waste, including illegal backyard burning.

POPs can enter the food chain through soil and water, with food being the main route of human exposure, highlighting the importance of preventing environmental releases. The course also covered how POPs move through the environment, waste management requirements, and local authority responsibilities under EU and Irish POPs regulations.

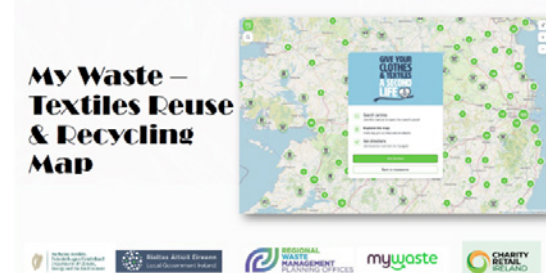
Post-Consumer Textile Campaign

Textiles have been identified as a priority material stream in achieving the Government's circular economy objectives, reflecting the need to address the environmental impacts of textile consumption and waste.

The Post-Consumer Textile Campaign encourages us to give clothing, paired footwear and household textiles a 'second life' through the nationwide network of clothing banks and charity shops, supporting the transition to a circular economy. Longford County Council supported this initiative by providing a register of locations within County Longford for inclusion on the national map.

Items suitable for donation include clean, dry, neatly folded and bagged clothing such as coats, jackets, sweaters, trousers, tops, dresses, sportswear, baby clothes, accessories and paired footwear, as well as household textiles including bedlinen, blankets, towels, table linen and curtains.

Locations for clothing banks and charity shops are available on the MyWaste.ie textile reuse and recycling map, which currently lists over 1,500 sites nationwide.



Relove Fashion School Success

The Environment Section of Longford County Council was delighted to sponsor and congratulate students Martha Offe, Judith Kabosch, and Evje Sommer, along with Art Teacher Ms. Mary Cooney, from Ardscoil Phádraig, Granard, who were selected to represent Longford in the grand final of the National Relove Fashion Competition. This prestigious sustainable fashion competition encourages students to explore

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creative reuse through upcycling, repairs and alterations, promoting responsible fashion choices and supporting a circular economy.

As part of their design process, the students researched Teflon, commonly used to waterproof umbrellas, and discovered that its production and disposal can release harmful “forever chemicals,” highlighting environmental impacts and the importance of more sustainable material choices.

This wonderful achievement is a credit to the students, their teacher and school, and reflects Longford’s strong commitment to creativity, sustainable living, and the circular economy.



Environmental Inspection (RMCEI)

With continued support from the public, the Environment Team maintained its core functions throughout 2025. It was another demanding year, with a high volume of environmental pollution incidents to address. In total, 1,635

environmental complaints were received and responded to as follows:

Litter & Waste	1546	95%
Air	6	0.27%
Water	67	4%
Noise	9	0.40%
Other	7	0.31%

The EPA evaluates and reports on local authority environmental enforcement performance through its Local Authority Performance Framework (LAPF), which measures performance against the National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs), with a focus on achieving positive environmental outcomes.

RMCEI Overview of Litter and Waste during 2025

In 2025, the Litter and Waste Team made substantial progress in tackling illegal dumping across County Longford. A total of 1,546 complaints were investigated, reflecting a strong commitment to maintaining a clean and healthy environment.

These efforts led to the issuing of 123 litter fines, generating €13,714.60 in revenue. However, several individuals failed to pay these fines, resulting in 15 prosecutions under the Litter Pollution Act with a further 11 prosecutions under the Waste Management Act initiated in 2025.

In addition, 111 enforcement actions were initiated, including 85 warning letters and 26 statutory notices issued under relevant legislation. These measures not only act as a deterrent but also emphasise the importance

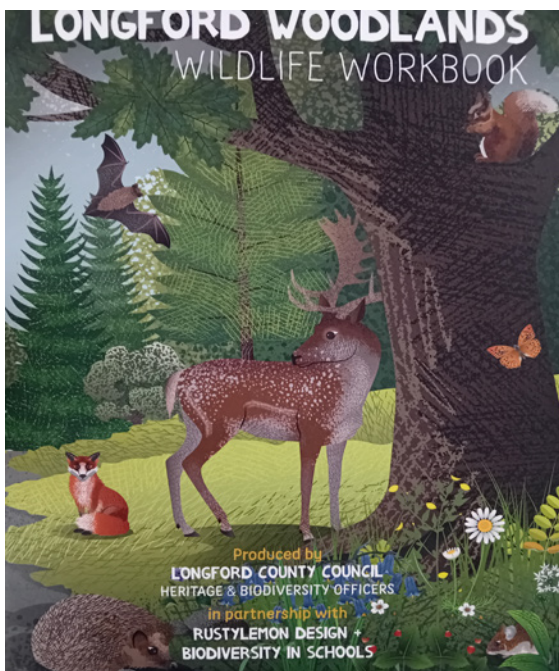
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of responsible waste disposal and the polluter pays principle.

Overall, these figures highlight the continued dedication and effectiveness of the Litter and Waste Team in addressing littering throughout County Longford.

Biodiversity

Longford Biodiversity Officer was invited by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) to give talks on boglands to the children of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes of Lanesboro National School as they prepared to visit Corlea bog with NPWS. These talks took place on 14 April and centred largely around the Longford Boglands Workbooks. April has also seen the completion of the Longford Woodlands Wildlife Workbook, the second workbook in the series, with a launch event anticipated in the coming weeks, prior to the workbook being delivered to all the primary schools in the county.



Over 55's Climate Course

A free six-week Climate Course for the over 55s, started on Tuesday, 13 January 2026 in Edgeworthstown Library. The course was provided by Jacinta Barrins, retired UN Diplomat and facilitated by Gary Brady Climate Officer and Paula Mulry Senior Executive Librarian. The course ran for two hours (10.30am -12.30pm) each Tuesday for six weeks. The course was about helping the 55+ to demystify climate change and focused on explaining in common language what is climate change and why we are asked to take action.

Jacinta explained practical everyday actions that can be taken at home to help reduce energy usage, explaining how to read an energy bill and engage with energy providers. She challenged the group to identify one action at home they could measure and implement to help save energy over the six weeks of the course. At the end of the six weeks each person had to name the measure they had identified and explain how it helped save them energy and money. Other speakers who attended over the six weeks included Hugh Baxter SEAI, Adam Mulvihill Biodiversity Officer, David Quinn LAWPRO Officer and Breda Murphy Revamp Longford.



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Community Climate Action Programme

A total of 17 community climate action projects with a total value of €328,000 have been recommended to POBAL for approval. Approval is due in Q2 2026.

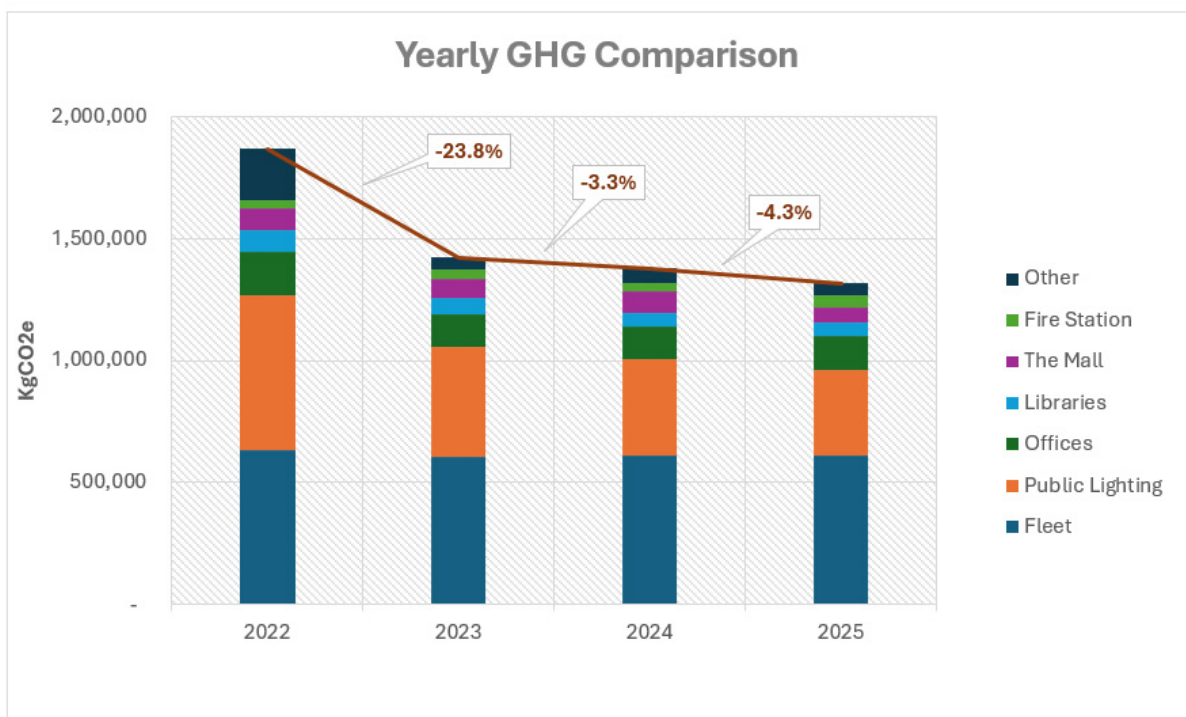
Climate Action Review 2025

The County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024–2029 Progress Review 2025 demonstrates a year of significant momentum and practical achievement. By successfully integrating climate considerations into core municipal services—from infrastructure and housing to community engagement and biodiversity—Longford County Council has moved beyond planning into active implementation.

Energy

In 2025, Longford County Council consumed 7,207,486 kWh of energy across the organisation, representing a 2.6% increase on 2024, with a total energy expenditure of €1.29 million. Fleet operations (33%) and public lighting (24%) remained the largest contributors to energy use and emissions.

Despite increased operational demand, overall GHG emissions fell to 1,318,345 kg CO₂e, continuing a downward trend driven largely by LED public lighting upgrades and renewable wood chip in the Mall Leisure Centre. Public lighting emissions reduced by 12% year-on-year, with LED coverage reaching 85.6% by the end of 2025. Fleet decarbonisation progressed through the introduction of HVO fuel in the North Municipal District and operational changes to reduce



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commuter-related emissions. While the introduction of a second road sweeper offers litter remediation benefits, the increase in fuel consumption is a noticeable environmental trade off in the section.

Targeted building energy management actions, including staff engagement (Reduce your Use) and improved controls, delivered measurable reductions in consumption. The Council continues to leverage the Energy Elephant platform to support data-driven decision-making. Further reductions in emissions will be accelerated by the SEAI-supported Pathfinder retrofit of the Áras an Chontae in 2026.



Dog Control

The Dog Control service continues to operate effectively in County Longford. The 2025 Statistical Returns to the Department of Rural and Community Development highlighted the following:

- Approximately €150K spent on the operation of the service
- 110 Dogs taken into the care and responsibility of LCC, a similar amount to the previous year, 2024

- 2,114 Dog Licences purchased in 2025. An increase of over 30% from 2024
- Two reported instances of livestock worrying which was a decrease from six the previous year.
- Eighteen reports of aggressive behaviour by dogs and eight instances of physical injury



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Ballymacormack – Memorial Wall

Longford County council recently completed the building of a memorial wall in Ballymacormack Cemetery. The newly completed memorial wall represents a thoughtful addition to the cemetery, providing a peaceful and dignified space for remembrance of loved ones whose remains are not necessarily buried there. Designed with both sensitivity and longevity in mind, the wall offers families a meaningful way to commemorate loved ones in a setting that supports reflection and connection. Early feedback from visitors has been positive, highlighting the importance of such spaces within the wider community. This development reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the cemetery environment while meeting the evolving needs of those we serve.



Fire Services

Training

- A total of eight new recruits are currently attending their QQI Accredited Using Breathing Apparatus (Initial Wearer) course at Sligo Fire Station from 13-24 April 2026.



- Lanesborough Fire Service completed a Manual Handling and Abrasive Wheels course in April – the remaining four stations will be covered in the coming months
- HIAB Training for operators in Longford Fire Station.
- Completion of Cardiac First Responder Training in Longford and Ballymahon stations.
- CISM training nights completed in Longford, Granard, Ballymahon and Lanesborough.

Operations

Total callouts of 78 in the two-month March - April 2026 period.

Fire Prevention & Dangerous Substance Licensing

A total of 14 Fire Safety Certs were processed in March – April 2026.

Recruitment

Recruitment is ongoing to fill the six outstanding vacancies across three Fire Stations (Longford, Granard & Lanesborough).

Equipment

Firefighting kit, firefighting gloves, and RTC punches were purchased.

Major Emergency Management

A one-day on-site Controller of Operations Training Course was held in Clonmel Fire Station on 15 April 2026.

