



Chief Executive Report February 2026

Longford County Council

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Highlights

Longford County Council launches Affordable Homes Purchase Scheme

25 A-rated homes at Cúirt an Easpaig, Ballinalee Road, Longford

Longford County Council announced the launch of its Affordable Homes Purchase Scheme, which will deliver 25 high-quality, energy-efficient family homes at Cúirt an Easpaig, Ballinalee Road, County Longford.

The development comprises 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.

The Affordable Homes Purchase Scheme is designed to bridge the gap between household incomes and open-market house prices by offering homes at below market value, with Longford County Council retaining an equity share in each property.

The scheme will officially open for applications on Longford County Council's online portal on Monday, 30 March 2026 at 10.00am.

The scheme is primarily aimed at first-time buyers who do not currently own a property, although limited exceptions may apply. All applications will be assessed in line with Longford County Council's Scheme of Priority.



Highlights

Future engineers take the stage at Longford's VEX Robotics Competition

STEM has become an important part of the educational curriculum at all levels across Ireland. The Junior Cycle VEX IQ Robotics Competition took place in St Mel's College, enabling student teams from seven post-primary schools and one primary school to compete in battles of engineering wits, coding and teamwork collaboration. Schools travelled from all corners of County Longford, and were joined by schools from Athlone, Mullingar and as far as Ballyshannon in County Donegal.

VEX IQ is a STEM program organised by Longford's County Council's IT Department designed to enhance students' digital skills, foster engagement in STEM education and encourage greater participation in subjects such as design, science, coding and ICT skills.

Participating schools create teams of students from 1st to 3rd year to take part and build a robot from a VEX IQ kit. The robot must be designed and built to carry out the tasks of this year's game 'Mix and Match'. Students and their teachers learn about robot building, engineering, coding and improving their robot design throughout the process.

The awards went to:

- Excellence Award: St Mel's College
- Teamwork Champions: Scoil Mhuire Longford & St Finian's Mullingar
- Design Award: Scoil Mhuire Longford
- Robot Skills Champion Award: Marist College Athlone
- Judges Award: Holy Family NS Ballyshannon, Donegal



Highlights

Thousands descend on Longford for another spectacular Longford Lights Festival

Thousands of visitors descended on Longford Town over the last weekend of February, to enjoy the hugely successful and visually spectacular Longford Lights festival for 2026.

Longford County Council confirmed that yet again, over 6,500 visitors from near and far attended the event from 19-22 February. The event is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when the local authority and committed cohorts of the community join forces to support the arts community in doing what they do best.

Yet again, those thousands of people braved cold and wet February weather to venture out and enjoy the well-established arts scene in Longford. Indeed, the scale of this visual arts event is yet to be matched nationwide, with the sheer magnitude of the numbers of artists, community groups and schools - a feat of organisation in itself.

This year the festival increased in size and developed more of a presence in Longford Town Centre with amazing art installations in Breaden's Lane, Main Street, Garvey's Lane and St. John's Church.

Longford Lights was delivered by County Longford Arts Service in partnership with Mide Arts Group, with funding support from Longford County Council, The Arts Council, Creative Ireland and Longford Tourism.

This project was unprecedented in the amount of employment it provided for local and national artists. This investment will help the artists and the Longford arts community develop

increasingly more ambitious art events in the future.

As a result of the large crowds attending Longford Lights, the town was exceptionally busy, with restaurants and pubs catering to large crowds of hungry festival goers.



Active Travel

New raised crossings bundle

A number of new raised zebra crossings are under construction throughout the county in recent weeks and months. These crossings, which are mainly located near schools, give increased priority for pedestrians crossing the road but also serve as an effective measure in reducing vehicular speeds in urban areas and outside school gates. Crossings have already been completed/partially complete at Legan, Keenagh, Drumlish, Melview and Aughnacliffe. It is hoped to deliver more similar schemes throughout 2026.



Lower Battery Road and Church Street

On 18 February the Active Travel section held a very successful public information evening in Áras an Chontae on proposals for the Lower Battery Road and Church Street. Five different options for the Church Street area were on display and the

many attendees were invited to give feedback on the proposals. The information gathered through the survey questionnaire will be used to inform the next phase of the design process. This project is co-funded through the National Transport Authority and URDF as part of the Active Travel programme and Camlin Quarter public realm enhancement.

The proposals seek to further expand the cycle network for Longford Town continuing southward along the Battery Road from where the recently completed upper Battery Road scheme currently terminates.



Aghafad

Construction continues on the new pedestrian and cycle scheme at Aghafad. Current works involve the replacement of the existing watermain and services installation which are necessary ahead of the new shared footpath construction. Temporary traffic management with lane closures are expected to continue over the coming weeks as the current phase of works is completed.

Active Travel

Aghaduignan to Clonbalt Shared Path

Works are now complete on a new shared path linking from Clonbalt Woods to Aghaduignan along the R198 in Longford Town. These works are funded through Active Travel and delivered in conjunction with Longford County Council's Mid Area District.

The new path, which is over half a kilometre in length, provides a shared facility for both cyclists and pedestrians. The new widened three metre path also has a traffic calming effect with the carriageway width being reduced.



Town Centre First

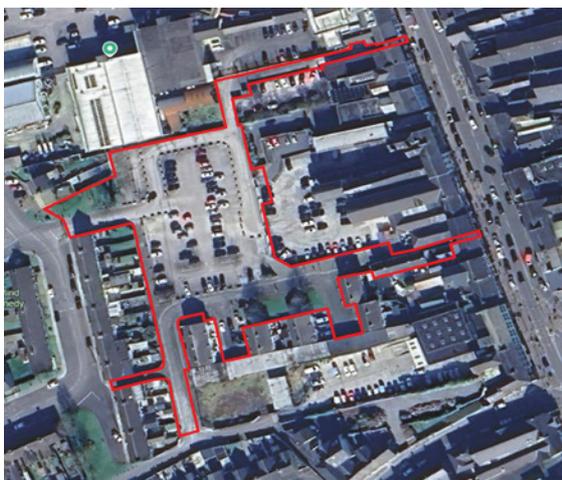
THRIVE

Under Part 2 Thrive, funding of €7 million was confirmed for the construction works at Connolly Barracks. This followed Part 1 funding of €200,000 for design already secured. Connolly Barracks Reimagined is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027.

Strand 1 funding submission finalised in relation to planning and design, is expected to be paid within the next few weeks. Strand 2 construction at Connolly Barracks is due to commence in May, 2026.

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

A re-design of Garvey's Yard/Weaver's Hall/Annaly Carpark area was proposed to enhance safety, access and usability 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

As part of the Ballymahon Town Centre First Plan process, engagement with the Town Team has been ongoing. To support discussions, a graphic illustrator/visual note taker was procured to attend a Town Team meeting who listened to the meeting and presented a visual representation of the discussion of the team. A public consultation evening was held in February 2026 to

Town Centre First

gather feedback from the local community, and it was well attended. The final plan is currently being finalised and will be launched in March, 2026.



Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and Derelict Sites

The Town Centre First Department is actively executing the CPO Activation Program, launched in early January 2023, to swiftly identify and activate vacant and derelict properties across the county. Additionally, proactive measures are being taken to update the Derelict Sites Register (DSR). Notably, the imposition of the Derelict Sites Levy on properties listed as derelict in the register commenced in January, 2025 and a further 11 properties have been levied in 2026. The overall aim to incentivise property owners to address dereliction and take necessary actions. An inspection was completed on Ballymahon Town and a number of properties identified. Progress will continue over the next few months to address these properties.

Community

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of Longford LCDC was held on 10 February 2026.

Media Campaign on The Local Community Development Committees (LCDCS)

The Chief Officer and LCDC Support staff attended a number of training days in 2025 in relation to the roll out of the National and Local Communications Media Campaign of Awareness for the Local Community Development Committees, as part of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht's (DRCDG) ongoing efforts to enhance the awareness and understanding of Local Community Development Committees.

The intention of the campaign is also to build capacity in LCDC staff and stakeholders to maintain a sustained focus on communications into the future. The National Communications Campaign will be rolled out in Q1 of 2026.

LEADER 2023–2027 Programme

Two LEADER projects were approved at the February LCDC meeting to a value of just over €141,630.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024-2028

At the LCDC meeting on 10 February the SICAP Annual Plan 2026 was approved. In 2026 Longford

Community Resources CLG which is the Programme Implementer will receive a total budget of €767,489 to deliver SICAP which includes the core SICAP budget of €683,623 and a budget for 'New Arrivals' of €83,866. The programme has two main goals:

- Goal One: to contribute to the development of more sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities, and
- Goal Two: to support disadvantaged individuals to improve their quality of life. Longford Community Resources CLG will use this funding primarily for staffing and activities to work with community groups and individuals throughout County Longford.

Pathways to Funding Information Sessions

In collaboration with the LCDC and PPN, Longford County Council organised Pathways to Funding Community Grant Information Sessions early in 2026. These information sessions were hosted in Áras an Chontae and in the libraries in Ballymahon and Granard Municipal Districts and were well attended. Presentations on a wide range of available funding streams also provided information and advice. Staff members from LCRL also attended and gave a presentation in relation to funding opportunities under the LEADER Programme 2023–2027. Community groups were able to meet those who administer the schemes and explore opportunities to support projects in their area.

Community

Local Enhancement Programme 2026

The LEP 2026 was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD. The programme opened for applications in Longford on 27 January 2026 and will close on 27 February 2026.

This funding will provide capital supports that are essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas.

There is €152,826.93 in capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.

Applications will be considered by Longford LCDC at their April 2026 meeting.

Roma & New Communities Community Development Programme

This programme is overseen by the LCDC and implemented by Longford Community Resources CLG. (LCRL). Three staff members employed by LCRL work directly with the Roma community. The programme budget for 2026 is €150,000 an increase of €25,000 from last year.

Empowering Communities Programme

The LCDC oversees this programme which is implemented by LCRL. This is an area-based programme targeted at Ardnacassa Ave. LCRL employ two staff members to engage the residents in the area. The budget for 2026 is €120,000.

Healthy Ireland funding 2026 through Healthy Longford

An Expression of Interest form was made public to community partners who may be seeking Healthy Ireland funding in 2026 through Healthy Longford. A Healthy Longford Assessment Committee will review all Expression of Interest forms and a shortlist will be invited to submit a full application for Healthy Ireland funding.



Longford Family Resource Centre

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley, announced on 3 February 2026 that Longford was

Community

among ten new locations approved for inclusion in the national Family Resource Centre Programme. This expansion increases the number of centres nationwide from 126 to 136. A voluntary steering committee - made up of local residents with lived experience, community representatives, and individuals with governance expertise - submitted a detailed application to Tusla following the reopening of FRC funding in May 2025, the first such opportunity since 2018. Minister Foley visited Attic House in January 2026 which is where the new Family Resource Centre will be based.



Longford Comhairle na nÓg

Longford County Council secured a budget of €25,000 for 2026 to work with Longford Comhairle na nÓg. Foróige is contracted to provide support to the Comhairle on behalf of Longford County Council. The funding is used to employ a Youth Worker two days a week with a programme budget. The work of the Comhairle is overseen by a multi-agency steering committee which is chaired by Cllr Niall Gannon.

Longford Sports Partnership

LSP Ability Coaching Programme

A significant milestone was achieved by Longford Sports Partnership in collaboration with Leinster Rugby and Longford Rugby Club with the completion of the first-ever Leinster Tag Rugby Coaching Course delivered to adults with additional needs. The three-week course, hosted at Longford Rugby Club under the LSP Ability Coaching Programme, marks a crucial step in expanding inclusive coach education pathways within the county. Participants developed practical coaching skills and confidence in delivering inclusive Tag Rugby sessions. Certificates were presented by Patsy Gorman (Leinster Rugby) and Glenn Baskett (Longford Rugby Club), whose mentorship and support have equipped participants to begin their coaching journeys with confidence. This initiative reflects a continued commitment to inclusive participation, progression, and community impact through sport.



Debut Cricket Camp in Longford

The first ever cricket camp in Longford took place on Thursday, 19 and Friday, 20 February and was held indoors at Coral Leisure Longford.

Community

The camp ran from 10:00am to 12:00 noon on both days and welcomed 18 enthusiastic participants aged between five and twelve years of age.

The camp was led by Coach Bheki from Longford Cricket Club with support from Waqar Khan, assisted by Sarah, a tutor with Longford Sports Partnership. Their combined experience and energy ensured that all children were engaged, active, and learning in a fun and supportive environment.

Across two brilliant mornings, participants were introduced to the fundamental skills of cricket, including batting, bowling, and fielding, while also developing teamwork, coordination, and confidence. The indoor venue provided an excellent setting for skill development and allowed all activities to run smoothly.

LSP was delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the children and the positive feedback received from parents. It is hoped that this successful first camp will be the beginning of many more cricket camps and programmes in Longford in the future.



ESF Officer

Following on from a series of design thinking workshops, the multicultural men's group co-designed and took part in a five-week swimming programme, facilitated by Coral Leisure Centre in collaboration with LCRL Longford. The participants themselves shaped the structure and focus of the programme, fostering ownership and engagement. Men from diverse backgrounds and varying abilities enhanced their water confidence, developed practical swimming skills, and built supportive peer networks. This programme highlights how co-design can lead to meaningful empowerment, strengthening confidence, capability, and a powerful sense of achievement.



Community

Outdoor Recreation

The Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan has now been completed and has been adopted by elected members of Longford County Council. The final version of the plan and the relevant document is now available on the Longford County Council website. At its core, the document sets out six strategic objectives, including protecting the environment, improving access, strengthening collaboration, raising awareness, enhancing expertise, and increasing participation across all ages and abilities. Each objective is supported by a clear action plan for 2026 to 2030 with a focus on sustainability, inclusivity, responsible recreation, and long-term management. Whether you are a resident, landowner, community group, club, or visitor, the plan provides a roadmap for how Longford will unlock the full potential of its great outdoors in the years ahead.

Environment and Climate Action

Community Climate Action Programme Phase 2 Strand 1

Longford County Council received 19 applications from Community Groups and Sports Clubs seeking genuine climate action within and for their communities under the current phase of the Community Climate Action Programme. Up to 100% funding is available for approved projects from the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment.

Themes covered under this funding programme include:

- Community Energy
- Travel
- Food and Waste
- Shopping and Recycling
- Local climate and environmental action

Photos show examples of successfully approved and completed projects from Phase 1



Sheep Worrying

The National Sheep Worrying Campaign was launched recently in County Longford. The campaign was supported with an advertising programme across the Longford Leader, Shannonside Radio, and Longford County Council's social media channels. In partnership with the Irish Farmers Association and An Garda Síochána, the Council's Dog Control Team supported the national "No Dogs Allowed" initiative while also running an annual sheep worrying campaign.



Environment and Climate Action

Sheep worrying remains a serious issue, particularly during lambing season. Dogs chasing sheep can cause severe stress, injury, or death, and may lead to ewes aborting their lambs. Each year, this results in significant financial and emotional impacts for farmers.

The campaign reinforces that dog owners are legally responsible for keeping their dogs under control and may be prosecuted or held financially liable for any livestock damage. The key message urges the public: Do not allow your dog to roam freely in the countryside. Protect our sheep. Support our farmers.

New Dog Wardens

Two new Dog Wardens have joined the Dog Control Team this month and have settled into their roles quickly. They have already been active out in the community supporting the work of An Garda Síochána and carrying out dog licence checks across the county. The wardens play a key role in seizing stray dogs, rehoming dogs and reuniting lost dogs with their owners. Their early contribution has been a positive addition to the service and has strengthened day-to-day dog control operations in County Longford.



Green Waste

A Green Waste Awareness Campaign was developed and implemented, including a flyer distributed to individuals caught dumping green waste on CCTV and a supporting

A flyer with a green and white design. The title is 'MANAGE YOUR GREEN WASTE RESPONSIBLY'. It lists types of green waste: Grass clippings, Hedge cuttings, Leaves & moss, Bushes, prunings, weeds, flowers, and Other woody material. It includes a circular inset image of a person dumping green waste into a bin. Below the list, it says 'DON'T DUMP GREEN WASTE!' and 'It's illegal and can lead to a €150 fine. Dumped waste looks unsightly and attracts more dumping.' At the bottom is the logo for 'AN LONGFORT CONNECTED' with the tagline 'Creating a Better Future for Longford' and 'Longford County Council'.

Environment and Climate Action

social media campaign. The campaign, entitled “How to Manage Your Green Waste,” aims to encourage proper disposal of garden and yard waste, including grass clippings, hedge trimmings, leaves, weeds, and other woody material.

The initiative highlights that illegal dumping is unsightly and can encourage further dumping. Dumping of green waste is subject to a €150 fine. It provides simple alternatives for managing green waste at home, such as composting, mulching grass, and regular lawn maintenance. The campaign reinforces that the correct facility for green waste disposal in Longford is Mulleady’s Waste Facility, Drumlish, and directs the public to Longford County Council’s website for further information on waste and recycling services.



An Taisce Green Schools Programme in Longford

Primary and secondary schools across Longford are currently preparing for their An Taisce Green Schools flag renewal visits, which are scheduled to take place over the coming weeks. As part of this process, Longford County Council’s Environmental Awareness Office is visiting schools throughout

the county to review the ongoing work being carried out under themes such as Biodiversity, Water, Energy, and Litter and Waste.

A recent visit to Mercy Secondary School, Ballymahon, included a meeting with the school’s Green Schools Committee and Deputy Principal Julie O’Donoghue. During the visit, the committee presented their work on the Green Schools Biodiversity theme, highlighting a range of initiatives aimed at protecting and enhancing biodiversity on the school grounds. Students demonstrated strong enthusiasm for environmental stewardship and shared numerous ideas to further develop their biodiversity projects. The school’s dedication to the Green Schools Programme was clearly evident, reflecting the broader commitment demonstrated by staff and pupils across Longford. Their continued efforts contribute significantly to the success of the programme throughout the county.

Well done to all Longford schools for their ongoing hard work and commitment to environmental education and sustainability.



Environment and Climate Action

Cemetery Byelaws

Longford County Council formally adopted the updated Cemetery Byelaws 2025, which came into effect on 10 January 2026. The updated byelaws reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining respectful, safe, and well managed cemeteries across County Longford.

Key updates include:

- Clearer guidelines on burials, cremated remains, memorials, and headstones
- Enhanced standards for cemetery conduct, safety, and upkeep
- Full public access to the updated byelaws for planning and information

As part of the implementation, correspondence has been issued to funeral directors, undertakers, caretakers, and monumental sculptures. Anyone conducting work in Council owned graveyards is requested to complete a Cemetery Contractor application to be included on the Council's Annual Register of Contractors. Only registered contractors are authorised to operate in Council owned and managed cemeteries.

Additionally, new signage has been developed to be erected in all Council cemeteries, providing clear information on the updated byelaws and key updates for the public.

Ballymacormack Memorial Wall

The Ballymacormack Memorial Wall provides a dedicated space for the commemoration of loved ones through memorial plaques. Plaques are displayed in a uniform gold leaf font, maintaining a respectful and consistent appearance in line with the Council's standards.

The wall offers a meaningful way for the community to remember and honour family members, friends, and local figures in a permanent and dignified setting.

| Rialacha Reilge 2025 | Cemetery Byelaws 2025 |
|---|--|
| <p>Tabhair faoi deara na hathuithé tábhairtacha seo a leanas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is é 1.2 méadar an t-áirde uasta ceapáidhe do leac chuimhneacháin agus 1.2 méadar an t-áirde uasta • Fíricheoir: Féadfaidh crúca Crúcaíochas reamshláidíoch a bheith suas le 7.5 méadar ar airde • Cacthídh cabhreacha a bheith laistigh den phlota, agus is é 150 mm an t-áirde uasta ón gcosán. Ní cheadaítear aon leachtáin bhraite, sulócháin ná síneanna • Cacthídh gach comraitheoir a bheith cláráite le Comhairle Contae an Longfort. • Féadfaidh Comhairle Contae an Longfort aon obair neamhúdaraithe a bhaint agus díreáil an Chomhairle le tarracht na costais sin a ghlúin do mhéidíon leachtáin nó do dhála a bheith ar struchtóir • Cacthídh gach obair a bheith i gcomhréir le Plean Córasa Cibire Sabháilte (SSW) an Údaráis Sábháilte agus Sabháilteachta (DCA) <p>Gabhadh buíochas leat as do chomhoibriú i ndéant an t-áirde uasta seo a dhéanamh.</p> <p>Le haghaidh tuilleadh sonraí, déan tacaíocht le burials@longfordcoco.ie nó glaoigh ar 043 33 43462</p> | <p>Please note the following key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum permitted headstone height is 1.2 metres and width 1.2 metres • English: Staidéine Cabhreacha reamshláidíoch a bheith suas le 7.5 méadar ar airde • Kérbs must be within the plot, maximum 150 mm high from footpath. No extra monuments, seats, or benches are permitted • All contractors must be registered with Longford County Council • Any unauthorised works may be removed by Longford County Council and the Council will seek to recover these costs from the monumental mason or person who erected the structure • All works must comply with the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Safe Systems of Work Plan (SSWP) <p>We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining the dignity of this resting place.</p> <p>For further information, please contact burials@longfordcoco.ie or call 043 33 43462</p> |



Eolas faoi Bhalla Cuimhneacháin Memorial Wall Information

Más mian leat lamhna a dhéanamh ar phláca ar an mBall Cuimhneacháin seo, tigh / déan tacaíocht le Comhairle Contae an Longfort ón uair sin le sonraí agus tacaíocht.

If you wish to apply for a plaque on this Memorial Wall, please contact Longford County Council for application details and guidance.

043 33 43462
burials@longfordcoco.ie

Environment and Climate Action

As part of ongoing improvements, new signage has been developed to be erected beside the memorial wall, providing clear information about its purpose and available options for memorial plaques.



Casual Trading Byelaws

Longford County Council is currently in the process of introducing Casual Trading Byelaws, which will come into effect during 2026. An extensive public consultation process has recently ended. The new byelaw will bring a more consistent approach to Casual Trading in towns and villages across the county and provide a framework to control, regulate, supervise, and administer Casual Trading on lands owned, controlled, or in the charge of the Council.



McEoin Park Pilot 3 Bin Waste Service

The Environment Section progressed the rollout of a subsidised Pilot 3 Bin Domestic Waste Collection Scheme for Local Authority households, with McEoin Park residents offered the first opportunity to participate. The scheme provides access to a reduced cost waste collection service, supported by funding secured through the Community Safety Partnership Fund. The scheme encourages improved waste segregation and responsible disposal practices.

To support engagement and provide information on the programme, drop-in information sessions were held at the McEoin Park Community House on 28 January and 4 February. These sessions which were well attended, provided residents with an opportunity to ask questions in a relaxed and supportive environment. To date 11 households signed up to participate in the pilot scheme.

A flyer for the 'Want Cheaper Bins?' scheme. The flyer has a green background with a white torn-paper effect at the bottom. It features a photograph of three bins (blue, brown, and black) on a grassy area. The text on the flyer includes: 'Want Cheaper Bins?', 'Scheme open to McEoin Park Social Housing tenancies only.', 'Attend our public meeting to learn more!', 'For more details call Environment on 045 33 43462 or scan the QR code', a QR code, and the Longford County Council logo at the bottom right. The bottom section of the flyer is white and contains the following text: 'DATE:', 'TIME:', and 'VENUE:'.

Environment and Climate Action

Ballymahon Large Goods Waste Collection

A Large Goods Waste Collection was successfully held on Saturday, 13 December 2025 at Ballymahon Farmers Mart and proved to be a very positive and well-supported community event. A steady turnout of residents availed of the opportunity to responsibly dispose of bulky household items such as mattresses, furniture, carpets, children's toys, bicycles and household scrap metal. The collection operated efficiently throughout the day, with both cash and card payments accepted. All activities were carried out in line with the advertised guidelines and restrictions. The event contributed significantly to reducing illegal dumping and promoting proper waste

management across the area, and overall, it was considered a great success for both the community and the Council.



Aghafin Edgeworthstown Graveyard

Protective bollards have recently been installed within the lawned cemetery in Aghafin, Edgeworthstown, following several incidents where vehicles inadvertently drive over family graves. This improvement will help safeguard grave sites, preserve the



Environment and Climate Action

dignity of the grounds, and enhance the overall safety and respectfulness of the environment for visitors.

The installation reflects a continued commitment to maintaining the cemetery as a well-cared-for and respectful space for families and the wider community.

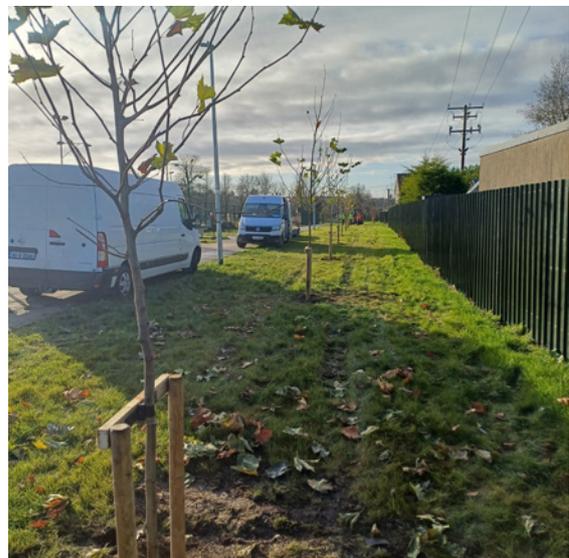
Multi Agency Check Point

The Waste Enforcement Team took part in a coordinated road safety and compliance operation in Longford recently. The checkpoint brought together multiple national agencies with one shared goal: safer roads and stronger community protection.



Ambient Air Monitoring Project

The Environment Department was awarded funding of €45,000 from the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment (DECCE) to carry out an ambient air monitoring project. The works included monitoring and mitigation against ambient air pollution. Longford Town is at risk



Environment and Climate Action

of exceeding ambient air standards for particulate matter (P.M) 2.5 (2.5 micrometres in size, which can get into one's lungs). The source of this pollution is mainly from home heating and the burning of solid fuel such as turf, timber and/or smoky coal.

The project consisted of three parts:

1. The strategic sowing of 40 London Planes trees. Studies have shown that the bark of the trees is an effective way to absorb P.M 2.5.
2. The setting up of diffusion tubes for SO₂ and NO₂ placed around Longford Town over two monthly periods and a set of tubes in the smaller towns of Lanesborough, Granard, Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown.
3. P.M monitors were set up at six locations around Longford Town for a 13 week period which commenced in January 2026.

Results from the project will be shared when available.

Illegal Dumping of Waste Tromra Road, Granard

Significant amounts of waste had accumulated at derelict properties at Tromra Road, Granard, County Longford. The site is near the centre of Granard Town, making it easily accessible. It is located on a quiet road with no through traffic, and there is ample space for vehicles to turn, which made it particularly convenient for illegal dumping. The discarded waste consisted of general



Environment and Climate Action

household waste which included Construction & Demolition Waste (C&D), waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), furniture, textiles and nappies. 24,960 kg of waste was removed from the site, resulting in an overall cost of €17,656.47. Once all the waste was removed, Kelly blocks were installed to prevent vehicular access to the area. CCTV cameras are being considered as a further deterrent to illegal dumping of waste.

Many of the items dumped can be recycled free of charge. The Environment Section asks that all waste is disposed of in a responsible manner to protect the environment and ensure a clean, healthy community for all.

Good Citizenship and Proactive Climate Action

Council staff, Cnoc Mhuire Granard Transition Year Students and Longford TidyTowns demonstrating strong community and climate action, by getting involved in local litter picks.



Mall Heritage Orchard

The Biodiversity Officer and the Climate Action Section used funding obtained by Sports Partnership under the Participation Nation Funding Scheme to develop a Heritage Orchard in the Mall. The Orchard was planted in late November 2025 and has been well received by the public. A total of 81 fruit trees were planted, with additional strips of fruit bushes also planted along either side of the tree area. On a biodiversity level these trees will be a boon for insect and bird life in the area. The orchard will also provide opportunities for social public events and for picking of fruit by the public.



Environment and Climate Action

Over 55s Climate Course

The over 55s Climate Course was organised by the Climate Action Team and the Library Services in conjunction with Jacinta Barrins, the Course Coordinator. The six-week course started on 13 January and will run until 14 April. The Climate Action Course explains the science in accessible terms, and offers practical, actionable advice on reducing carbon emissions—right down to everyday choices.

The course explains the science behind climate change in a way that is easy to understand and showcases behavioural change models to illustrate the barriers people face. The participants on the course calculate their carbon emissions and sign up to one action that they will undertake to reduce their carbon footprint over the six weeks of the course. Jacinta explains to the group the power of collective conversations about climate change. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many participants reporting a clearer understanding of climate issues and a stronger motivation to act.



Longford Town Allotments project

With grant funding from the Housing Finance Agency, the Climate Action Team has commenced development of an allotments site in Aghadegnan, Longford Town. To date an entrance to the site has been constructed, the site has been cleared and 600 tonnes of topsoil imported. On 7 February a public meeting was held in Longford Library to commence the process of establishing a community group to advance the project.



Environment and Climate Action

Cleanup at Athlone Road, Longford

The Environment Section completed a large-scale cleanup in January 2026. The location on the Athlone Road, Longford, had long been identified as an illegal dumping blackspot. As part of the operation, a total of 6.14 tonnes of waste was removed from the site at a cost of €5,637.10.

During the cleanup, several pieces of identifiable evidence were recovered from the waste material. This evidence enabled the Council to issue fines to the individuals concerned, in accordance with the relevant waste enforcement legislation.

The works represented a significant step towards restoring the area to an acceptable environmental standard and demonstrated the Environment Sections ongoing commitment to addressing illegal dumping and protecting the local environment.



Fire Services

Training

Eight new recruits completed their QQI Firefighting Skills Course from 16 January – 6 February at Lanesboro Fire Station.



Cardiac First Response – Advanced (CFR-A) training for fire service personnel was completed in February.

Operations

Total callouts of 70 in the two-month January - February 2026 period.

Fire Prevention & Dangerous Substance Licensing

- Three Fire Safety Certs were processed in Jan - Feb 2026.
- Seven submissions to planning applications were also submitted.
- Three Dangerous Substance Licensing applications processed.

Recruitment

Recruitment is ongoing to fill the seven outstanding vacancies across four Fire Stations (Longford, Granard, Ballymahon and Lanesborough).

Equipment

Twenty new firefighter training kits and Class 3 HiVis RTC jackets were purchased.

Major Emergency Management

Three Longford County Council staff attended a one day Information Management Training Course in Tullamore on 19 February 2026.

Longford Civil Defence

Duties

- Longford Lights (four days)
- Longford Town FC soccer match
- Blood bank clinic Longford (three days)
- Longford GAA
- Longford Triathlon club, Duathlon event

Training and Operations

Food Safety instructor attended recertification training.

Vehicle and equipment familiarisation training was well attended by volunteers.

Multi-disciplinary trainings held for volunteers included training on – Information management and GDPR.

Three volunteers received manual handling training.

Four Emergency Medical Technicians attended CPC training arranged by Sligo Civil Defence.

Volunteers assisted An Garda Síochána with a first aid demonstration as part of their Transition Year programme.

The Civil Defence unit was awarded a group award for services to the community under the emergency and safety services category, at the Longford Volunteer centre annual awards night. Ten volunteers attended the ceremony.

Statutory inspections of vehicles and equipment were carried out.

An application for a health products regulatory authority (HPRA) licence for controlled drugs was submitted through the Department of Defence, Civil Defence branch.



