



Chief Executive Report July–August 2025

Longford County Council

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July and August Highlights

Minister Calleary opens Sunflower Playground in Longford Town and revitalised Granard sports courts

The Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary officially opened the pioneering special needs Sunflower playground in Longford Town and the newly refurbished tennis and basketball courts at Higginstown Sports Complex in Granard in July.

The special needs accessible playground represents a transformative €379,170 investment from the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, with an additional €42,130 from Longford County Council.

The Granard tennis and basketball courts received €45,449.20 through the CLÁR programme, matched by €27,519.95 from Longford County Council. The comprehensive refurbishment includes new fencing, pedestrian gates, tarmac surfacing, tennis nets, basketball nets, and court relining, breathing new life into the complex that houses Granard GAA, Archery Club, playgrounds, and serves as the starting point for the 2.1km Granard Greenway.



July and August Highlights

Urgent call for Family Resource Centre in Longford Town

Longford County Council highlighted the urgent need for the establishment of a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town, following the launch of a comprehensive Needs Assessment Report by Deputy Micheál Carrigy, TD at The Attic House, Ballinalee Road.

The report reveals the stark reality facing Longford Town, which now ranks among the most deprived areas nationally. With 34.65% of residents born overseas, 6% identifying as Traveller community members, and over 24% living with disabilities, Longford Town faces unprecedented challenges. Child protection referrals remain among the highest in the country, whilst poverty, housing instability, and school avoidance continue their upward trajectory.

Commissioned by Longford County Council in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities and the Longford Community Safety Partnership, the assessment identified critical gaps in services for children, young people, families, older people, people with disabilities, Travellers, refugees, and asylum seekers.



July and August Highlights

Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity visits key archaeological sites in County Longford

Minister of State for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O’Sullivan TD was in County Longford in July to visit Abbeyshrule Abbey and St Brendan’s Church, Clondra, two flagship archaeological sites in County Longford which have benefitted greatly from the Community Monuments Fund.

The Community Monuments Fund was first established in 2020 to provide investment in Ireland’s archaeological heritage. Over the past number of years, Abbeyshrule Abbey has received in excess of €200,000 funding while St Brendan’s Church in Clondra has received €173,000 from the Community Monuments Fund.

In County Longford, this grant has supported the urgent repair and conservation of the towerhouse at Abbeyshrule Abbey and the medieval chapel at St. Brendan’s Church, Clondra, in addition to conservation management plans for other archaeological sites and monuments. These were community-driven projects which have secured the monuments for future generations.



July and August Highlights

Celebrations of historic Twinning connection between Ballinamuck and Essert

Longford County Council marked the unique historic Twinning connection between Ballinamuck and the French town of Essert, Franche Comte with an official welcoming ceremony which took place in The 98 Hall in July following a week-long programme of events.

This year's visit marks the 28th anniversary of this historic twinning which first took place in France in 1997. The twinning was initiated by Ballinamuck Community Enterprise Group as part of the bi-centenary of the 1798 Rebellion.

The Ballinamuck Enterprise Group, a local voluntary committee have maintained the link with Essert, France over the past 28 years. The twinning exchange has always included a focus on young people and this year the group enjoyed a sports day using local amenities, a beach day in Bundoran, camping and activities at the Shannon River Adventure centre as well as a day of digital skills and

safety in the Foróige Attic House. The adult visitors enjoyed a visit to the Cavan Museum and Crafts in Ireland, a cycle along the Royal Canal Greenway to Cloughan Farm



July and August Highlights

where they took part in a cookery demonstration, chocolate making in Torc in Longford Town, a day trip to the Titanic exhibition in Belfast and the official welcome evening from Longford County Council.

As part of the official celebrations and to mark the historic occasion, the Granard Municipal District meeting of Longford County Council in July also took place in The 98 Hall prior to the twinning event.

National Play Day in Granard



Strategic site sale to global healthcare manufacturer

Longford County Council has facilitated a major expansion for US-based healthcare manufacturer Technimark, paving the way for the creation of up to 120 new jobs in Longford Town. The expansion follows the council's strategic sale of the former Eircom site to support Technimark's continued growth in the region.

A Section 183 notice to approve the site disposal was brought before the July council meeting on the proposal of Cllr Gerry Hagan and seconded by Cllr Kevin Hussey.

Technimark currently operates a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility on the Ballinalee Road in Longford Town. Since acquiring the former Tool & Plastic premises in 2020, the Longford site has become one of the company's three European hubs, alongside operations in the UK and Germany.

Now, with a €26 million investment underway to expand its manufacturing capacity and develop a European Innovation Centre, Technimark's purchase of the former Eircom site is critical to its next phase of growth. The site was purchased by Longford County Council from Eircom in May 2025, and the Technimark's move into this new facility could result in the creation of between 120 and 150 high-quality jobs.

Memorial bench at Corn Hill dedicated to late Longford legend Mike Prunty

Longford County Council dedicated a memorial bench to the late Mike Prunty at Corn Hill, in a moving ceremony attended by family, friends, and community representatives from both sides of the Atlantic.

The gathering honoured a man whose 65-year commitment to County Longford causes made him one of the county's most distinguished ambassadors. Mike, Prunty who passed away on 9 December 2024, served as President of the County Longford Association of Greater New York for the longest tenure in its 133-year history.

July and August Highlights

Officials from Longford County Council, family members and members of the local community joined dignitaries from the County Longford Association of Greater New York at the county's highest point Corn Hill for the ceremony. The ancient landscape, marked by two passage tomb cairns, provided a fitting backdrop for remembering the late Mike Prunty's extraordinary legacy.

Born in Ballincurry, Drumlish in 1940, Mike Prunty emigrated to New York in 1959 where he became a pillar of the Irish community. Mike had a very successful career in the building management industry. He helped countless emigrants secure employment whilst encouraging participation in Longford sporting and cultural organisations. Mike also served as an officer in the Ancient Order of Hibernians and President of the United Irish Counties.



July and August Highlights

Co-ordinated works on N55 to future-proof Ballymahon's water and road networks

Longford County Council commenced critical road upgrades on the N55 working in collaboration with Uisce Éireann who are also set to replace over 5.4km of aged water mains with new pipes along the N55.

The water main construction works are aimed at securing the town's water supply, reducing high levels of leakage, and supporting much-needed growth, bringing significant benefits to the thriving midlands town.

The project will take place along the N55 between the Carrickedmond Church and Ballymahon Mart.

Traffic management and a road closure is necessary to deliver this vital project efficiently and safely. Safety is a key priority at both Longford County Council and Uisce Éireann.

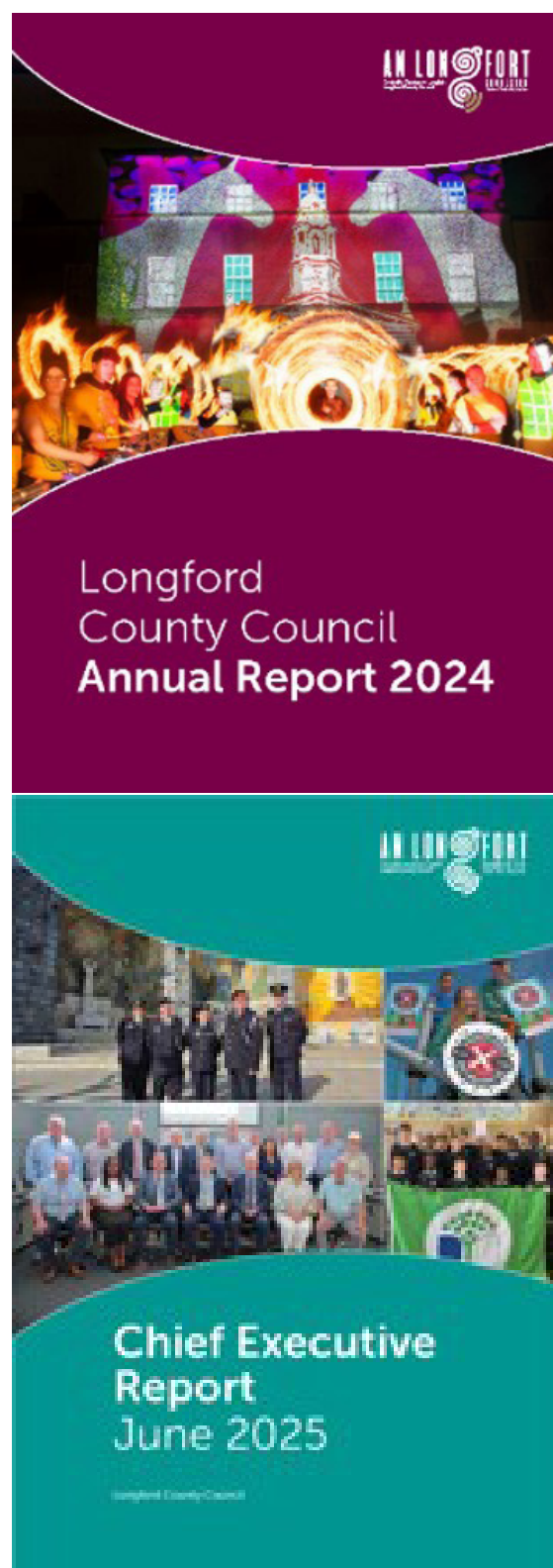
Corporate Services

Corporate Plan 2024-2029

The Corporate Plan 2024-2029 is published and available in English and Irish.

A mid- year review of the Service Delivery Plans for 2025 is currently underway through the Senior Officers Group. The Annual Report 2024 has now been published and is currently being translated to Irish and will be made available on Longford County Council's website and a limited number of printed copies will also be made

available. The Chief Executive Report has been published up to June 2025.



Corporate Services

Meetings Administration and Elected Members Support

Longford County Council continues to provide dedicated professional support for elected members.

Below are a selection of photos from the recent election of the Council and Municipal District Cathaoirigh.



Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in June and July detailed below:

3 June 2025	Ballymahon Municipal District Committee
3 June	Ballymahon Municipal District
11 June	Corporate Policy Group
11 June	Longford County Council
20 June	Annual Meeting of Longford County Council

Corporate Services

23 June	Annual Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District
23 June	Annual Meeting of Granard Municipal District
24 June	Annual Meeting of Longford Municipal District
24 June	Longford Municipal District Committee
24 June	Longford Municipal District
4 July	Meeting with Oireachtas Members
4 July	Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
9 July	Place Naming Committee
9 July	Corporate Policy Group
9 July	Longford County Council
21 July	Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee
22 July	Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee
23 July	Special Meeting Longford County Council
23 July	Longford Municipal District Committee
23 July	Longford Municipal District
24 July	Ballymahon Municipal District Committee
24 July	Ballymahon Municipal District
28 July	Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting
28 July	Granard Municipal District

Cllr Garry Murtagh elected as new Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council

Fine Gael man Garry Murtagh was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach at the council AGM which took place on Friday, 20 June. He replaced Cllr Mark Casey who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year.

Cllr Niall Gannon was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council for the year ahead.

Cllr Murtagh was joined in the council chamber by a large gathering of friends, family and supporters from North Longford and he noted that it was "a great day of celebration" which he would always remember.



Corporate Services

Cllr Martin Skelly appointed Cathaoirleach of Ballymahon MD

The Annual General Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District took place on Monday, 23 June in Áras an Chontae.

Cllr Martin Skelly was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach. He replaced Cllr Pat O'Toole who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year.

Cllr Sean Mimmagh was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Ballymahon Municipal District for the year ahead.



Cllr Turlough McGovern appointed Cathaoirleach of Granard Municipal District

The Annual General Meeting of Granard Municipal District took place on Monday, 23 June in Áras an Chontae.

Cllr Turlough McGovern was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach. He replaced Cllr Garry Murtagh who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year.

Cllr Padraig McNamara was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Granard Municipal District for the year ahead.



Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi appointed Cathaoirleach of Longford MD

The Annual General Meeting of Longford Municipal District took place on Tuesday, 24 June in Áras an Chontae.

Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi was elected to the role of Cathaoirleach. She replaced Cllr Seamus Butler who held the role of Cathaoirleach for the past year.

Cllr Kevin Hussey was elected Leas Cathaoirleach of Longford Municipal District for the year ahead.



Corporate Services

Customer Services

The Customer Services desk receives an average of over 3,500 calls each month.

In-person customers are dealt with at the Customer Service Desk. A rota system is managed by the Corporate Team to cover periods of leave, nominated students have been trained up on the Customer Service Desk to help with cover over the summer period.

Email correspondence	Average Monthly Figures May and June 2025
chiefexecutive@longfordcoco.ie	29
corporate@longfordcoco.ie	197
	510
customerservices@longfordcoco.ie	(Including 212 spam emails)

Cases on CRM for the organisation	No. of Cases	No. of Cases open in excess of 14 days
May 2025	1500	6*
June 2025	1540	2*
* awaiting response from customer to request for further information		

Official Languages Act

In 2024, Longford County Council complied in full with obligations under the Official Languages Act, exceeding the 20% compliance rate for advertisement placements and the 5% compliance rate for spend on Irish language media.

Longford County Council is currently at 12.3% of 20% compliance rate in 2025. A second reminder email was sent to all sections who have advertising spend recorded on

Agresso year to date. Each section was sent a breakdown of their own spend with the corresponding report showing what had/had not been recorded on Fograi and were asked to ensure all outstanding advertising was recorded on the portal. Once all sections have updated their advertising our compliance rate should increase substantially.

Longford County Council	
Compliance Report	
Advertising in the Public Sector	
Report Period : 01/01/2025 - 09/07/2025	
Part 1. Placement Figures	
Overall Figures	
Total Amount of Placed Advertisements:	1335
Total Amount of Bilingual (with Irish Language) Advertisements:	165
Total Amount of Irish Language Advertisements:	14
Compliance with Official Languages Act Placement Requirement:	12.3%
Part 2. Budget Figures	
Overall Figures	
Total Budget Spent on Advertising:	€10,327.15
Total Budget Spent on Irish Language Media:	€0.00
Compliance with Official Languages Act Placement Requirement:	0.0%
Breakdown of Figures:	

Freedom of Information Access to Information on the Environment Office of the Ombudsman

	January to July
No. of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received	42
No. of Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests received	6
No. of Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	4

The Electoral Register

In May 2025, the Electoral Commission issued the 'Oversight Report on the Electoral Registers'. It is the first of its kind and covers the period 2023-2024. These reports will issue annually.

Corporate Services

The report was prepared to support and make recommendations for improving the completeness, accuracy and maintenance of the electoral registers. It is important to note that while An Coimisiún does not believe that the integrity of electoral events has been impacted by inaccuracies on the Registers, it is acknowledged it undermines confidence in the electoral system and makes it impossible to definitively estimate local or national turnout at our electoral events.

The Franchise team is currently working on the coordination of a Data Validation project to address some of the key areas of concern in the Electoral Commission's Oversight report.

Plans are underway to engage fieldworkers to capture missing data including DOB, PPSNs, Eircode, and remove obsolete registrations. The first phase of fieldwork will target 11 Polling Districts and approximately 11,000 residences.

An additional 900 electors in other Polling Districts, will also receive a letter asking them to confirm their details. In tandem with this, second and third attempts are being made to contact over 600 electors whose polling cards were returned undelivered during 2024. If no response is received, they will be removed from the Register. The Franchise Team are running a number of awareness campaigns through Longford County Council Social Media platforms, and are attending local events with high footfall to target potential audiences.

The Franchise Team recently attended the Longford Agricultural Show and the Old School New School events, as part of their campaign.

Data Validation Project

Work continues on data cleansing in preparation for the migration to Voter.ie in 2026. Migration of Longford data is expected to take place in March 2026. During phase one of this work, over 3,500 data points are being validated, including the translation of over 1,400 townlands/polling place names. Phase two of the data cleansing is focusing on nationally identified duplicate electors i.e. an elector that has been identified as being on the Longford Register of Electors and the register or one or more other Local Authorities.

There are 1,026 of these potential duplicates, and the Franchise Team will attempt to contact and verify the details of each of these electors. Phase two also identified possible deceased electors in the last 10 years from the National Death Events database.

Data Protection

Data Protection Policies

The following Data Protection Policies were renewed for a further 2 years:

- Data Protection Policy
- Data Subject Rights Policy
- Personal Data Breach Policy
- Clean & Clear Desk Policy
- Representations Policy

Corporate Services

Data Protection Induction Training

The Data Protection Team continue to provide induction training for new employees of Longford County Council. To date this year, Data Protection has provided induction training to 22 new employees. The team has also provided induction training to 32 students, who are taking part in the Longford County Council summer student employment scheme for 2025.

Audio Visual Video Campaign

A 2.5-minute audio visual video, explaining Longford County Council's Privacy Policy, is currently being advertised on a paid social media campaign across Longford County Council Meta social media platforms.

To date, one month into this campaign, a total of 56,853 accounts have been reached resulting in 84,658 views from people in County Longford.

You can view the video here [Longford County Council's Privacy Policy in Audio](#)

Data Protection Update

Data Breaches	4
Data Subject Assess Requests	1
Data Protection Impact Assessment	6
Data Agreements	3
Data Protection Queries	213

Communications

The work of the Communications Office continues to support all sections of the county council through online, website, social media and traditional print and broadcast media. Work includes press releases, radio interviews, national and local coverage, media relations, communications strategy, crisis communications, media queries from local and national press, radio advertising, digital communications strategy, ongoing communications assistance to all council sections, Ministerial visits, official openings, event planning, management of all social media platforms, video content creation, paid social media advertising campaigns, content management of Longford County Council website and dealing with website content requests from all sections of the county council.

Press releases issued (July- August): 20- range of issues, representative of all council sections

Media enquiries received (July-August) 11- common themes include planning, presidential campaign nominations, housing related queries, social housing, local property tax and paid parking.

Social media (1 July-27 August): Posts seen by people **361.49K** (increase of **5%** compared to the last month, 1 June – 27 July) May and July saw an increase of 36.3%

Website: Improvements on Longford.ie with Longford Tourism and Fáilte Ireland.

- Longfordcoco.ie webpages were viewed 47,723 times this period,

Corporate Services

with Planning (8K page views), Housing (5K page views), and Careers (8.5K) the most popular sections.

- Other Council websites (such as Longford.ie, LongfordSports.ie, LocalEnterprise.ie/Longford) were viewed 12.1K times this period.

Communications Strategy

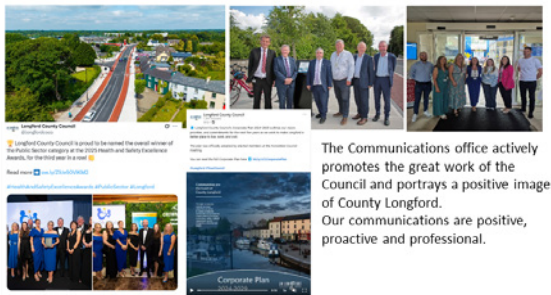
The current strategy ends this year, with a new strategy needed from 2025. The Communications team has engaged the services of RPS Consulting Engineers from the LGMA framework to conduct a Communications Audit to inform the future Communications Strategy. RPS began desktop work on this audit in August and plan to begin

a series of interviews and surveys with internal and external audiences from September 2025 with a view to having this work completed by end of October 2025 at which stage work on the strategy document can then commence.

Digital Content Creation

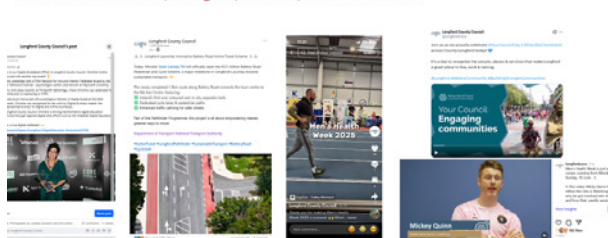
The Communications Team plan to develop more short-form video content to assist in telling the stories and the faces behind the county council as this will help with greater levels of reach and engagement. It is planned to focus on areas of the county council which the public do not typically associate with a local authority such as Fire Service, LEO or Tourism sections (LGMA Customer Service Research & Findings). The creation of short form video/digital content is a key aspect of the

Proactive Communications



Social posts promoting work from across the council

Promoted on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and Twitter



*See notes for statistics

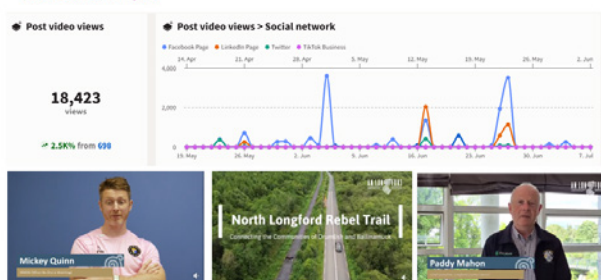
Council work in the News

Some of our recent work as reported on by national and local media



Social posts promoting work from across the council

Video Content Impact



Corporate Services

communications plan going forward and the video content creation work has already seen a significant increase in traffic to LCC social media platforms with a positive impact on metrics over the past number of months as well as sponsored/paid online advertising.

Crisis Communications Training

Both the Communications Officer and Digital Communications Officer have enrolled on a Media Liaison Training training programme as part of the Education, Training and Exercise Subgroup of the Midlands Region Working Group. This course which takes place in October is targeted at personnel who will undertake the key role of Media Liaison Officer during the multi-agency response to a Major Emergency within the Midlands Region.

Work on new Tourism related website

The Communications Team have held numerous meetings with the Tourism Officer in recent months to assist in the development of a new Tourism related website and the selection of a website developer to proceed with this project.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Age Friendly Ireland Staying Safe and Active

Staying Safe and Active Programme is a pilot in partnership with Sport Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Community Garda Unit, Fire Services, Civil Defence, Libraries and Age Friendly programme.

This is an eight week programme with some exercise focusing on safety, personal safety talks with professionals such as the Gardaí, Fire Officers and Civil Defence staff. There is time to socialise with the other members of the group over a cup of tea and a walk around the local area.

This programme is running in Longford since July. There has been positive response from the participants, who are all connected to the older person council.

This group has filled in pre and post questionnaires about their participation in the safety programme.

The next programme will be starting in Granard Library on Tuesday, 9 September.

Age Friendly Awards

Longford County Council applied for the Age Friendly Awards under five different categories. Unfortunately, these projects were not shortlisted for the Age Friendly Awards in Galway.

Age Friendly Information Day

Save the date of Monday, 29 September for the next Age Friendly Information Day. This event will be hosted in the Longford Arms from 10am – 3pm.

Archives

Colum for our Time competition

Longford County Library, Archives, Arts and Heritage Services launched a competition called 'Colum for Our Time', in the lead up to the Padraic Colum Gathering on 4 October. The competition is aimed at writers and artists or illustrators in both junior and senior categories. Writers are asked to produce a contemporary 'take' on Padraic Colum's story 'The First Harp' from his collection '*The Big Tree of Bunlahy*'. Artists are asked to create new illustrations for the story. The project is funded by contributions from both Longford and Granard Municipal Districts.

'*The Big Tree of Bunlahy*' is a children's short story collection consisting of thirteen stories. The title comes from a famous landmark in the village of Bunlahy, where Colum's Aunt Anne lived. The story selected for re-telling is 'The First Harp'. The story is about a husband and a wife finding music through nature, and the invention of the first harp.

The winning authors and illustrators in both age categories (Junior 12-18 and Senior) will have their works published in a book which will be launched at the 2026 Granard Booktown Festival. For an entry, please email Libraryhq@longfordcoco.ie

The closing date for the competition was the end of August. There are two judging panels – one for the writing and one for the illustrations.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Arts Office

Culture Night Late

The Arts Office successfully applied for an Arts Council grant of €16,000 to deliver a special late-night concert on Culture Night 19, September. *'The Blind Fiddler Kernan Concert'* – is a homage to Longford's premier trad musician – Thomas Kernan from Drumlish. The concert is designed to bring the Blind Fiddler's music to a contemporary audience and includes a classical music quintet, Banna Céilí Béal Átha na Muc and headliners Kila. The concert will take place in the parade grounds of Connolly Barrack and will include an art installation by Anna Wiercioch and building projection by Mary Fleming and Sergii Khadzava. The event is also being supported by funding from Creative Ireland and Longford Night Time Economy.

Culture Night Grants

Currently 20 organisations and individuals have successfully applied for funding for Culture Night 2025. This includes events in Longford, Kenagh, Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown and Granard. Grants totalling €7,230 have been issued for these events. This grant is funded jointly from Longford Arts Office and Night Time Economy.

R.A.C.E

Longford and Mayo County Councils have launched an innovative joint research project designed to research and assess how artists and creatives can reduce waste through repair,

reuse, and upcycling of art materials. The project is currently tendering for a researcher to deliver key research and training phases this Autumn.

The Repaired Arts Circular Economy (R.A.C.E) is designed to research and assess how artists and creatives can reduce waste through repair, reuse, and upcycling of art materials in Counties Longford and Mayo. Longford Arts Office successfully applied for a €38,000 grant in 2024 to deliver this work. The innovative project is being led by Longford and Mayo Arts Officers and is supported by both Council's Climate Change Officers. The project is funded through the Environmental Protection Agency's Circular Economy Programme.

Creative Ireland Cruinniú na nÓg

Cruinniú na nÓg is a day of free creativity for children and young people throughout County Longford, which took place on 7 June, 2025.

This year, Creative Ireland Longford supported 8 Cruinniú na nÓg specific grant applications from groups and creatives to host a wealth of events and workshops, many of which were hosted by Longford Libraries. Three other events were programmed



Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

directly by the Cultural and Creativity Team on the day.

One of the new initiatives in 2025, was the Creative Cruinniú for budding artists, and Lego play for those budding engineering and builders. Over 220 children responded positively to these new programmes. More of these initiatives will be seen throughout the year.

Over 1,000 children took part in the Cruinniú programme around the county. This year, there was also a collaboration with the Comhairle na nÓg and Night Time Economy to deliver a Glow Rush event in Eden nightclub.



Healthy Ireland

Breastfeeding Friendly Supports

Longford Libraires are working closely with the HI Longford co-ordinator to put Breastfeeding Friendly Supports in place. All the libraires now have a comfortable chair to support a feeding parent, child changing units, breastfeeding support baskets with essential supplies for parents to use. All library staff will take part in a briefing on the project and will create this cosy corner to encourage more parents to use the library. This is one of the initiatives of the Longford Breastfeeding Friendly programme.



Heritage

Nature Summer Schools

A free Nature Summer School took place in Abbeyshrule from Tuesday, 5 August to Friday, 8 August for children aged 8-12 years. Young explorers discovered the remarkable ecosystem and biodiversity thriving in County Longford, learning about diverse habitats including peatlands, woodlands, farms, hedgerows, and waterbodies alongside the plants and animals that inhabit them. The



Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Yard Hub in Abbeyshrule hosted this educational adventure. Expert-led sessions featured field trips to Corlea Trackway and Newcastle Wood, with specialists from Biodiversity in Schools, Coillte, NPWS, OPW and Longford County Council sharing their knowledge. This summer school is a joint initiative between Longford Library Services and the Environment section of Longford County Council.

The Longford Biodiversity Summer School receives funding from the NPWS and Longford County Council through the Local Biodiversity Action Fund 2025.

Visit by the Minister for State

Minister for Nature, Heritage and Biodiversity, Christopher O' Sullivan TD made a visit to Longford on 3 July to see some of the sites, structures and houses that benefited from the Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Historic Structures Fund and Community Monuments Funds. Longford County Council via the Heritage Office has supported several community lead projects to ensure urgent repairs and conservation



on the Abbeyshrule Abbey and St, Brendan's Church in Clondra to

name a few. Minister O'Sullivan was impressed with the level of local knowledge and commitment to the shared history of the area.

Heritage Week

Preparations for Heritage Week were underway. Various community groups from around the county applied for funding from the Heritage Office. The theme for 2025 is exploring our foundations, which invites people to delve into the building blocks of our heritage, not just the structures, but the landscapes and cultural activities that have shaped us. Watch out for the programme on <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/heritage/>

Libraries

Summerstars

Summerstars is the free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. It runs from the 3 June to 30 August 2025. There is a target for each library authority which is 30% of the 5-9 years olds in the county. So, the target for 2025 is 1586 children taking part in the programme. The Library Services has currently reached over 70% of their target.

There are monthly draws for family tickets for different attractions around Longford. The libraries are also hosting various summer camps throughout July and August.

Regeneration and Active Travel

Regeneration

Newcastle Woods Car Park

Longford County Council has completed works to enhance access to the Newcastle Woods trail network, the most used trail in the county. These works follow ongoing engagement with the local community and kayaking clubs, which identified the need for improved infrastructure to support growing usage, particularly since the development of Center Parcs.

A new car park has been constructed to address concerns around insufficient parking. This facility now provides safer and more convenient access to the trails and nearby water amenities. In addition, the surface of the car park has been upgraded to ensure durability and accessibility, particularly for people with disabilities.

The completed works represent an improvement in recreational infrastructure in South Longford and ensuring that the Newcastle Woods trail remains a high-quality, accessible amenity for locals and visitors alike.



Sunflower Playground & Parkland Connection

On Thursday, 17 July 2025, Minister Dara Calleary officially opened the Sunflower Playground in Longford Town, a purpose-built facility designed for children with special and complex needs. This milestone project was delivered by Longford County Council in partnership with the Longford Special Needs Parents Group and funded under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Completed Works

Sunflower Playground

- Fully secure, inclusive playground with synthetic surfacing
- Features include accessible swings, embankment slide, inground trampoline, sensory tunnel, music section, zip line, cycle track, and shaded seating areas
- Artistic fencing and signage promote diversity and inclusion

Parkland Connection to Royal Canal Greenway Spur

- Shared pathway constructed to improve pedestrian and cycling access between Longford Town and the Greenway
- Landscaping and native tree planting enhance the natural environment
- Public lighting and fencing installed for safety and accessibility

Regeneration and Active Travel

Site Redevelopment

- Project delivered on the grounds of the former greyhound track
- Complements the adjacent Longford Skatepark, officially opened in February 2024 by Minister Heather Humphreys

to Longford's reputation as an Autism Friendly Community

This project exemplifies Longford County Council's commitment to inclusive, community-led development and aligns with national policy objectives under 'Our Rural Future and Project Ireland 2040.'

Funding Overview

- **€379,170** – Sunflower Playground & Parkland Connection (2023 TVRS)
- **€405,000** – Longford Skatepark (2022 TVRS)
- Total investment: **€784,170** under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Impact Summary

- **Social Inclusion:** Provides a safe, welcoming space for children with special needs, promoting community integration and diversity awareness
- **Health & Wellbeing:** Encourages outdoor play and physical activity, supporting Healthy Ireland goals
- **Community Cohesion:** Strong collaboration with local stakeholders, including LSNPG, Teach Solas, and Airc Midland
- **Economic & Environmental Benefits:** Enhances local infrastructure, supports biodiversity, and contributes



Leebeen Park Trail Enhancement

Longford County Council, in partnership with Leebeen Park CLG, has completed the construction of a 208m accessible walkway and the

Regeneration and Active Travel

replacement of a 210m lakeshore boardwalk with a stone-based trail in Leebeen Park, Aughnacliffe. Funded under ORIS Measure 2 (2021), these enhancements improve access for older people and those with disabilities, support biodiversity and climate action, and strengthen connections to the Aughnacliffe Heritage Trail. The project aligns with national strategies like Embracing Ireland's Outdoors and Healthy Ireland, promoting active lifestyles, inclusive recreation, and sustainable tourism in North Longford.



Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

Minister for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, has announced a list of successful projects under Measure 1 and the Project Development Measure of the 2024/2025 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

A total of €8.7 million has been announced to deliver 221 recreational projects nationwide under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS). The funding will support initiatives in every county,

including enhancement works on walking and cycling trails, improvements to signage, provision of parking and trail furniture, and support for the marketing and promotion of Ireland's outdoor recreational amenities. County Longford will receive an allocation of €290,528, enabling further investment in its growing network of outdoor infrastructure.

Active Travel

Safe Routes to Schools

Construction works commenced on this project in early July at Scoil Mhuire, Clondra and have been nearing completion ahead of school reopening in September. This project has seen the creation of a school zone at the front of the school with features such as coloured surfacing, line marking, signage and the trademark coloured pencil bollards. Pedestrians and cyclists have been given increased priority on the approach routes towards the school gate with the inclusion of widened footpaths and dedicated raised priority crossing points. This project aims to reduce vehicular



Regeneration and Active Travel

congestion at the school gate at drop off and collection times with parents being encouraged to utilise the many nearby parking spaces in Clondra village and walk their children the short distance to the school gate along these enhanced routes.

School Zones

Over the summer break school zone features have been installed at both Melview National School and St Teresa's National School, Clontumpher. These works have



been delivered through Active Travel in conjunction with the North and Mid Area staff of Longford County Council. The works which include coloured pencil bollards, line marking, signage and surface colourings aim to increase awareness of the schools ahead, and control speeds through the perceived narrowing of the carriageway.

Active Travel Schemes

Works are nearing completion along the new link road between Barrack Lane and Market Street, Granard. Public lighting, road markings, footpaths and surfacing works have



Regeneration and Active Travel

already been completed in this area. With the inclusion of raised pedestrian crossing points and wide new footpaths this new infrastructure will cater for local traffic but also serve as a key Active Travel permeability link particularly for the students attending Ardscoil Phadraig, Cnoc Mhuire secondary school and Sacred Heart National School. Works are well underway on the other elements of this project along the R194 Longford Road which sees the construction of a new widened footpath linking from Colmcille Terrace junction to Ardscoil Phadraig and the inclusion of junction tightening and a new raised Zebra crossing along the route.

Longford Local Enterprise Office

Financial Assistance

The Evaluation Committee approved three applications for grant aid with a total of €45,000 awarded in funding to start up and expanding businesses across the county. €60,000 in Energy Efficiency Grants was awarded to 10 business while two businesses availed of Digital Vouchers to the value of €10,000.

Training & Mentoring

A total of 136 businesses availed of training and mentoring over the two months ranging from Starting Your Own Food Business, Digital Marketing, Health and Safety, Digital Mentoring and one-to-one sessions addressing topics specific to their business.

Women in Business

Over 100 businesswomen registered from across counties Longford, Leitrim and Westmeath to come together on 29 May in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon to attend a Tri County Women in Business event.

The theme on the day was, 'We are Stronger Together'. The event was hosted by Ruth Larkin from Larkin Bridal. Ruth was accompanied by three guest speakers from each county, Longford, Fiona McCormack founder of The Farmhouse Bees and Trees Ltd, Leitrim, Annie Dolan founder of Annie Design and Annie Ideas and Westmeath's Denise Buckley founder of Sugar Plum Sweetery.

All speakers participated in a lively and insightful panel discussion, sharing

their professional journey, offering tips and advice to encourage and support attendees present. This was followed by a networking session where attendees could strengthen connections and collaborate with each other across three counties.



Community

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of Longford LCDC was held on 15 July 2025.

LEADER 2327 Programme

Two LEADER projects were approved at the July LCDC meeting to a value of just over €231,837.

Community Development

The [Needs Assessment Report for the Development of a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town](#)

was commissioned by Longford County Council, in partnership with Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the Longford Community Safety Partnership, and Healthy Longford, to explore the need for a Family Resource Centre in Longford Town and its surrounding areas. This report was launched by the Longford steering committee for a Family Resource Centre on Wednesday, 23 July in the Attic House. Speaking at the launch Deputy Micheál Carrigy, TD said, "The report found practically unanimous agreement for establishing a Family Resource Centre, which would provide wraparound support services, facilitate integration, deliver educational resources, and create essential support networks for vulnerable communities."

Veronica Brennan, Chairperson of the Local Steering Committee, said: "This isn't about imposing solutions from outside – it's about our community identifying its own needs and building responses that work. Every member of our steering committee lives and

breathes Longford Town. We understand the struggles because we've faced them ourselves. A Family Resource Centre would create the open-door policy this town needs – somewhere families can access support without stigma, where communities can build capacity, and where local knowledge drives real change."



Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Recent Engagement

The Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) has continued its active involvement in community-focused initiatives, strengthening collaboration and promoting safety and wellbeing across the county. The key events include:

- **Longford Agricultural Show**
Longford LCSP attended the annual Longford Agricultural Show on Sunday, 6 July 2025. Longford LCSP used this opportunity to showcase its ongoing work, share information on community safety initiatives, and engage directly with members of the public.
- **National Play Day 2025**
In support of National Play Day,

Community

Longford LCSP assisted with the delivery of this important event on Thursday, 10 July 2025, which promotes the value of play and recreation for children and young people across the country. The 2025 theme, 'The Power of Play', highlighted the positive impact of play on wellbeing, social connection, and development.

- **Old School, New School Event**
Longford LCSP attended the 'Old School, New School' show in St. Mel's College in Longford Town on Sunday, 13 July 2025. Longford LCSP took the opportunity to highlight its ongoing work, provide information on local safety initiatives, and connect directly with members of the community.



Establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships

On 30 June 2025, Minister O'Callaghan signed the regulations for the establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships under the 'Policing, Security and Community Safety Act'. Following the signing of the regulations, the National Office for Community Safety issued a guidance document, setting out the framework for the establishment and operation of LCSPs nationwide. Longford is currently in the process of reestablishing the LCSP committee membership, with the Partnership's first meeting anticipated in September/October 2025.

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

At a meeting of the LCDC held on 15 July, the committee approved the midyear review of SICAP and New Arrivals. The programme is delivered by Longford Community Resources clg. with an annual SICAP budget of €663,300, with midyear costs charged at €207,570.54. In relation to New Arrivals the review shows an annual budget of €83,866 with midyear costs charged €29,524.53

Community

In July SICAP organised Safe Pass and Manual Handling training for 20 beneficiaries of Temporary Protection in the Ukrainian language. On, 22 August, SICAP staff members supported the Ukrainian community in Longford Town in organising the Ukrainian Celebration Day, with approximately 200 people attending from local communities.

Under SICAP family fun days were run in three estates and a family day trip to Funtasia theme park was organised for the Syrian Community living in Granard and Ballymahon. Other summer activities for community groups included a summer party for the Parent & Toddler Group, sewing classes for the Craft Group, beauty workshops facilitated by an LWETB tutor for the Health and Wellbeing Group.



Empowering Communities Programme

This programme is based in the Ardnacassa area where a variety of activities took place over the summer months, including a bike safety workshop, arts and crafts, dance and music generation workshops. Staff of the programme also ran a Personal

Development Course for community members and supported members with 'English Reading Skills and Driving Theory Test Practice Sessions.



Roma & New Communities Development Programme

In July, Longford Roma and New Communities CDP, in collaboration with SICAP, ran the '*Stories of Us Project*', which is funded by the SOLAS ALL Strategy Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2025. The project focused on literacy and cultural exchange through storytelling workshops for the Roma and Ukrainian communities in County Longford. Over four weeks, 16 storytelling and art workshops took place, fostering literacy, cultural exchange, and shared narratives of migration.

In August, the programme held an information session regarding the Traveller and Roma Placement Programme. The Civil Service is starting a 12-month placement programme aimed uniquely at Traveller and Roma Communities.

Community

This session was held in collaboration with Pavee Point, who are supporting this initiative nationally.



Longford Sports Partnership

Urban Horse Project

The 2025 Urban Horse Project aimed to build on the success of previous years by delivering a unique, culturally meaningful programme to young people from Longford. The initiative focused on horse-riding skills, equine care, and welfare education, recognising the deep cultural significance of horses within some communities.

Over the month of July, participants developed not only their horse-riding skills, but also their confidence, teamwork, and knowledge of horse care and welfare. From stable



management to crossing water features on horseback, they've embraced every challenge with energy and enthusiasm. Fifteen children (aged 8-13) from Ardnacassa estate in Longford Town participated in the programme. This programme is supported by the Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Division.

Activator Pole Walking Class

Activator Pole Walking Exercise Programme is a free, 8-week community-based physical activity programme run through the Physical Activity for Health initiative aimed at adults with chronic disease and older adults in Longford. This takes place in the Longford Sports Hub (Athletics Centre). The programme focuses on improving fitness, health, and overall well-being through walking. The poles provide extra support, making it easier and safer to move around and enjoy being active again while improving posture and flexibility. Activator poles are particularly suitable for use by older adults with low fitness levels, with balance concerns or mobility issues, with conditions such as arthritis, Parkinson's Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and those recovering



Community

from hip or knee surgery. Activator Pole Walking is an inclusive walking programme suitable for all fitness levels. The Physical Activity for Health programme is supported by Sport Ireland with funding provided by the Department of Health and HSE.

Summer Walking Series 2025

Longford Sports Partnership and Longford Tourism Summer Walking Series 2025 takes place twice weekly over the month of August. Walks take place over eight walking trails across the county. As part of the series participants are set the Summer Walking Series Trail Challenge of completing all eight walks. A group walk takes place each Monday and Wednesday evening at 6.30pm. Walks vary in length of between 4k and 6k.

Well over one hundred participants registered for this year's walking series with great numbers turning up for each of the organised group walks and other participants completing some walks virtually. The Summer Walking Series is supported by Sport Ireland and Longford Tourism.



HER Outdoors Week

HER Outdoors was back and bigger than ever in County Longford. Taking place from Monday, August 11th to Sunday, August 17th, this national initiative celebrated and encouraged more women and girls to get active in nature and experience the wide range of outdoor activities available on their doorstep.



Throughout the week, Longford Sports Partnership delivered a variety of fun, accessible, and inclusive outdoor events designed to inspire women of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to enjoy the great outdoors. Over the course of the week thirteen events took place ranging from cycling, river tubing, orienteering, walking, archery, kayaking and more, with over 200 women and girls participating. HER Outdoors Week is supported by Sport Ireland.

Human Resources

Learning and Development

The following training courses were arranged during the months of June 25/July 25

Business Skills Training

- AI Intelligence Masterclass
- Transport Ireland Conference 2025
- Leading for Transformation- Women's Leadership Programme
- Legal Requirements & Guidelines for Preparing Land Registry Compliant Map
- Enforcement Planning Fundamentals
- Competency Interview Preparation Training
- Clerical Officer Programme
- Project Management
- Information Manager Refresher
- Agresso

Health & Safety Training

- Safe Pass
- DSE/VDU Assessor Training
- CPC Module 1
- Manual Handling Instructor Refresher

Climate Action

- Climate Action Leadership Training
- Raising Awareness

Young Ireland Programme

Five staff members from Longford County Council attended the Young Ireland Programme in 2025, which took place in Ayr, Scotland. Aimed at young professionals the programme supports professional development by enhancing communication skills, building confidence, and exposing delegates to a wide range of ideas and experiences. Feedback from participants has been very positive, with the programme described as a valuable and worthwhile experience for all involved.



Human Resources

Certificate in Coaching (QQI Level 6)

Five staff members have successfully completed the LGMA QQI Level 6 Certificate in Coaching programme, delivered by the LGMA and Kingstown College. This nationally recognised course supports the development of coaching skills as part of an initiative to build internal coaching panels accessible to all staff in all Local Authorities. An online graduation ceremony was held on 23 July to mark the achievement.

The next step is the rollout of the Longford County Council Coaching Programme, which will provide all staff with the opportunity to access coaching support free of charge. It is hoped to officially launch this initiative in September 2025.

Health & Wellbeing

Physical Wellbeing

Fitness Programme

Staff participated in the following classes: After work spinning and lunchtime circuits.

Financial Wellbeing

Employee Financial Wellness Programme: An EFW has been engaged to deliver a programme of webinars, guidance clinics and masterclasses that are specifically designed for employees of Longford County Council. The programme will continue during 2025/2026 with ongoing online access for staff and masterclasses scheduled for Autumn 2025.

Social Wellbeing

Summer Student Programme: A programme was compiled to ensure that all summer students feel welcomed and supported from day one. This includes:

- Welcome and orientation session to introduce students to staff, the workplace culture, and available wellbeing resources.
- Meet and greet session for students in canteen.
- Invite to attend monthly council meeting.
- Sports Programme Discovery Workshop. This is an opportunity to help design a sports and physical activity programme during the students' time with Longford County Council.



The goal is to make sure every summer student feels part of the team.

Roads

National Road Schemes

Longford County Council carried out road repair work on the N4 at Tomisky and Garryandrew/Lisnagrish and on the N55 at Carrickboy, Cullyvore and Ballywalter using TII funding provided under national roads defects.

Repair works on the N55 at Ballybranigan are currently on hold pending discussions with Uisce Eireann.

Emergency Works N55

Tenders for Emergency Pavement and Embankment Works on the N55 have been received. The tender assessment is underway, and it is planned to appoint the successful contractor once TII approval is in place.

The Work at Fowlard's Bridge embankment is also dependant on progress/agreement with Uisce Eireann on the N55 Carrickedmond to Ballymahon water main upgrade scheme.

N63 Farneyhoogan

The N63 Farneyhoogan Scheme is a Safety and Pavement Scheme funded by TII.

The tender competition for consultancy services to progress the detailed design is ongoing. The closing date for receipt of tenders is Thursday, 31 July 2025.

The appointment of the successful consultant will be subject to TII approval.

Municipal District Works

Road maintenance works continued in each Municipal District in June/ July. These works include footpath repairs, drainage, pothole repairs etc. Restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works on regional and local roads continued in the Municipal Districts. This programme of works will continue throughout the summer.

Bridge inspections continue throughout the county.

Bridge rehabilitation works are continuing with works at Castlebaun Bridge having recently been completed. Works on the bridge at Cloonshannagh near Lisryan are ongoing.



Roads

Public lighting maintenance works are ongoing. Upgrading of lighting and elimination of direct feed in Rathcronan Estate in Granard is in progress. Upgrades in Mill Race Park, Drumlish are almost complete.



Road Safety

Longford County Council Road Safety team attended the 'Safer Roads' Road Safety Conference at the INEC, Gleneagle, Killarney on 28 & 29 May.

Over 230 delegates and officials attended from various Local Authorities and Garda Divisions across Ireland, the RSA, NTA, TII, RMO, National Ambulance Service, Fire Service, Cycling Ireland and Road Safety Advocates. The conference showcased two days filled with informative, insightful, engaging, and thought-provoking discussions and topics related to road safety. Participants had the opportunity to share ideas, learn from the experts, and explore solutions to enhance road safety for all users.

On Sunday, 13 July the Road Safety Team participated in the 'Old School New School' motor show event in St. Mel's College which was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

The team supplied a variety of merchandise to the public including hi vis vests and bag, pens and road safety games. They highlighted the importance of wearing seatbelts and helmets, safe driving practises and raised awareness concerning pedestrian safety.

National Bike Week

National Bike week took place in May with cycling events all over County Longford organised by Longford Sports Partnership.

As part of Bike Week and the Road Safety Programme, Longford County Council ran a 'Road & Bike Safety

Roads

Colour Poster Competition' for primary schools in the region. Fabulous colourful pictures from the students were submitted and the Road Safety Team visited schools in June with prizes and spoke of the importance of road safety and safe cycling practices.



Paid Parking

As part of Longford County Council Strategic Business Plan 2025-2029 an increase in paid parking charges were proposed at the Longford Municipal District meeting on the 24 June 2025. These charges were adopted at the July council meeting with the increase implemented from

1 September 2025. This increase of parking fees will go towards repayment of a €2 million loan to fund the Footpath Rehabilitation Programme in the Longford Municipal area.

The installation of 10 new dual pay and display machines in Longford Town in 2025 provide the public with the option of paying with cash or card.

Climate Action

Longford County Council have commenced using HVO in one 26 Tonne dump truck and one 7.5 tonne pickup truck. The HVO is being purchased from a local service station. Longford County Council propose to use more HVO to fuel the fleet as it becomes more available in service stations throughout the county.

As part of their fleet decarbonisation policy Longford County Council has purchased one 75kw eExpert Peugeot van for the Dog Warden and will be leasing two ePartner Peugeot vans for the Community Wardens.

Traffic Department Data 2025

Offence	Fines Issued Q1 2025	Fines Issued Q2 2025	2025 Total
Parking Fines	122	87	209
Non-Display of Tax	76	55	131
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	36	22	58
TOTAL	234	164	398

Environment and Climate Change

Eco Art Explorers

This August Longford County Council's Environment Section proudly launched 'Eco Art Explorers', a vibrant new environmental awareness programme developed using funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and Environment's Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grant Scheme. Through the creative medium of art, over 30 young participants aged between five and twelve, from the Longford Youth Creative Wellbeing Group in McEoin Park and young residents of the Ardnacassa area in Longford Town explored key themes such as reducing waste, reusing materials and recycling creatively, and caring for their surroundings. Participants transformed recycled materials into expressive anti-litter and anti-graffiti artworks, blending creativity with environmental action. To

support these environmental efforts, each group received litter-picking equipment to help keep their



Environment and Climate Change



neighbourhoods clean, green and welcoming. A heartfelt thank you to Sláintecare Healthy Communities, the Longford Youth Creative Wellbeing Group, and the community houses in McEoin Pak and Ardnacassa for their invaluable support and hospitality.

County Longford's First Accessible Bring Banks

Longford County Council acknowledges the importance of having our services accessible to all. The Environment Section were successful in securing funding from the Department of the Climate, Energy and the Environment (through the Eastern Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities) for Anti-Dumping Initiative funding of €13,293.60 for the *Recycling for All* Bring Banks project. This important step forward in inclusive recycling resulted in the provision of four Glass

and Can accessible recycling banks with low level posting ports at three existing recycling bank locations across the county.

Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development, and the Gaeltacht, Dara Calleary TD, visited Granard in July to officially



Environment and Climate Change

launch the first accessible Bring Banks in County Longford, located at Barrack Lane, alongside Longford County Council's Chief Executive Paddy Mahon. He also launched the accessible Electrical Vehicle Charger at the same location.

Collaboration with An Garda Síochána

The Environment Section work collaboratively with An Garda Síochána (AGS) on an ongoing basis particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour and dog control. This collaboration was demonstrated recently when AGS brought a case to a sitting of Longford District Court, which resulted in a man being sentenced to two months imprisonment, suspended for two years, for exhibiting aggressive behaviour towards members of Environment staff. The situation arose after a member of staff advised the man that his dog had defecated on a footpath in Longford Town.

Educational Awareness Programme

Youth Reach

Members of the Environment Sections Scientific Team met with a group of youths from the County Longford Youth Service (CLYS) at the River Inny near Newcastle Woods. A river sample was examined and the difference between chemical and biological sampling was explained. Staff were able to illustrate the speediness of results in a biological kick sample through the identification

and extent of invertebrates present in the river sample.



Longford Agricultural Show

Members of the Environment Sections Scientific Team attended the Longford Agricultural Show in Ennybegs. A fun exhibition stand was set up with an environmental quiz and the team



Environment and Climate Change

also brought along some invertebrate samples for viewing to heighten awareness of local environmental and water quality concerns. The team engaged with several farmers and the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) promoting the Farming European Innovation Partnership (EIP) fund and raising awareness of the issue of pesticides in Lough Forbes.

Community Warden and Litter Warden Activities

Longford County Council's Community Wardens and Litter Wardens continue to carry out their duties on behalf of the citizens of County Longford. The photos



below demonstrate the impact of their ongoing work. Citizens are encouraged to report all incidences of litter and dumping to the Environment Section on 043 3343362 or Litter@longfordcoco.ie

Hazardous Waste Collection

Following a competitive application process, County Longford was successfully selected as the host location for the regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Organised by the Regional Waste Management Planning Office, in collaboration with Longford County Council's Environment Section and Municipal District staff, the free collection event took place on 23 August at Pearse Park, Longford, from 10am to 2pm.

The event was widely promoted with the support of the RWMP. Radio adverts aired on Shannonside FM from 18-22 August, with five spots broadcast each day, totalling 25 adverts. Additional publicity was provided through the *Longford*

ONE DAY ONLY to drop off your HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ...for FREE!

**SATURDAY 23RD AUGUST 2025
10AM - 2PM***

**LOWER CAR PARK, PEARSE PARK, LONGFORD
(ENTER VIA THE RUGBY CLUB ROAD ENTRANCE)**

*Opening hours subject to capacity limits

Householders, this is a great chance to safely dispose of that household hazardous waste that's been building up...and all for FREE!

T&Cs apply:

- Limit of 10 paint cans per customer
- Limit of 25 litres of motor oil per customer
- Only products in original containers with original labels will be accepted
- Strictly limited to householders
- No commercial/farm waste
- Materials may not be left at the venue outside of the opening hours

Check out www.mywaste.ie for full list of accepted items.

AN LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL
REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING OFFICES
Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

Environment and Climate Change

Leader and across social media platforms operated by MyWaste.ie and Longford County Council. The event proved to be a tremendous success, with over 400 householders dropping off hazardous waste on the day, ensuring the safe disposal of a significant quantity of hazardous household waste.



Dogs Looking for Their Forever Home

Anyone who is considering getting a new dog, is encouraged to make sure they are ready for the responsibility and financial burden which goes along with owning a dog. You can visit the following website for more information: <https://www.dogstrust.ie/dog-advice/getting-dog/dog-ready/are-you-dog-ready>. If you decide to get a dog, please consider rehoming a rescue dog. The following dogs in Longford Dog Pound are suitable for rehoming and are looking for their forever home:

AN LONGFORD
Countryside Charities are delighted to partner with Longford County Council



Meet Charlie!
Ready to adopt?
Reach out today!

Give a dog the second chance they deserve

AN LONGFORD
Countryside Charities are delighted to partner with Longford County Council



Meet Cleo!
Ready to adopt?
Reach out today!

Give a dog the second chance they deserve

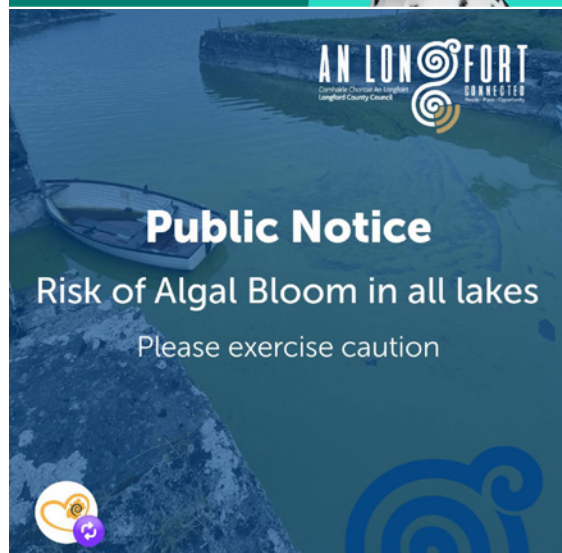
Environment and Climate Change

Social Media

The Environment Section continued public engagement via social media throughout July and August, sharing key environmental messages, including:

- Public consultation on the Co Longford Biodiversity Plan 2025–2030
- Dog rehoming (six posts) and found dogs (four posts)
- ‘Bag It. Bin It.’ campaign on dog fouling

- Launch of County Longford’s first accessible bring banks by Minister Dara Calleary
- EV charger installation in Granard launched by Minister Dara Calleary
- Algal bloom alerts for Lough Gowna, Barley Harbour, and caution warning for all lakes in county
- Cemetery Support Scheme 2025
- MyWaste.ie campaigns: ‘Bin It! Butts Belong in the Bin’ and ‘Dumping Waste is a Crime’
- Free events: Nature Summer School, Pollinator Workshop, and Household Hazardous Waste Collection



Environment and Climate Change

Biodiversity Officer update

Public Consultation

The public consultation for the Biodiversity Action Plan was open with submissions during the summer. The public were invited to make submissions in person at libraries in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, and Longford as well as via the submissions portal which was open on the Longford County Council website. Any submission received will be considered as part of the final draft of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

Longford Biodiversity Summer School

August saw the holding of the hugely successful, first ever, Longford Biodiversity Summer School, which was held from the 5 -8 August in the Yard Hub in Abbeyshrule. The festivities included field trips to Corlea bog, Newcastle Woods, and a walk

along the canal in Abbeyshrule. Visits from a local beekeeper and environmental staff of Longford County Council also added to a fun and informative week. Thirty students



Environment and Climate Change



attended the Summer School and they each received a Longford branded backpack containing a Longford Bogland workbook, biodiversity swatches and a mini microscope. Many of the participants asked before the end of the week if it would be run again next year.

Heritage week

As part of Heritage Week, a free Planting for Pollinators workshop was run in Áras an Chontae on Friday, 22 August. Aoife Munn delivered an interesting workshop that had participants hugely engaged. Participants learned practical small pond creation, tool techniques, and propagating as well as each going home with plants and seeds.

Planning

Longford County Development Plan 2021–2027

The implementation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is ongoing. No variations have been carried out to date on the plan.

Longford County Council will commence the statutory preparation of the next County Development Plan no later than the end of November 2025. The new plan will be a 10-year plan to be prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2024. Background research is currently underway.

Tender documents are being prepared in relation to the appointment of consultants to carry out the Core Strategy, Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA) and Housing Strategy of the County Longford Development Plan 2027-2037.

Ministerial Visit

A visit by Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, John Cummins took place on 24 July. As part of this visit the Minister received a presentation on the County Development Plan preparation process in the context of the National Planning Framework (preliminary work undertaken).

Submissions and input to other plans and strategies

The Forward Planning section are continuing to provide input into the preparation of the Midland Enterprise Portfolio Project.

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement Section involves investigating complaints from the public regarding unauthorised developments and non-compliance with planning conditions attached to planning permissions. In July 2025, four new cases were opened, three warning letters were issued and one enforcement notice was issued. There were no referrals for prosecution and no files closed.

An update was provided to the EPA in terms of enforcement action being taken in relation to five bogs in the county relating to alleged commercial peat extraction.

Taking in Charge

Sixty-nine estates have been taken in charge but are yet to be registered in Longford County Council's name and E. C. Gearty's are currently carrying out this final part of the process.

Longford Civil Defence

Duties

Longford Civil Defence provided medical cover at 21 events during July and August

- Longford Town soccer match (four events)
- Irish Blood Transfusion Service, Blood bank clinic (three events)
- Longford Agricultural Show
- Granard Agricultural Show
- National Play Day
- Community Games Leinster finals
- Old school new school car show
- Ballinamuck Fair Day
- Longford Athletic club 5k series (three events)
- Abbott staff event
- Shane Lawlor charity walk Drumlish
- Trek for Theresa charity walk Ardagh
- Longford Marathon
- Carrick Camino – Assist to Roscommon and Leitrim Civil Defence units



Training and operations

Volunteers completed courses in the following disciplines.

- First Aid Responder
- Emergency first responder recertification
- People handling
- Life jacket competency
- Civil Defence Officer attended information management refresher training for emergency management.
- Statutory equipment checks were carried out.

A presentation on basic first aid and CPR was given to members of the age action group.



