



# Longford County Council Chief Executive Report May 2021

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# May Highlights

## Ballymahon win at Student Enterprise Awards

Ballymahon Vocational School students Chloe Hopkins and Amy Kelly were awarded Best Commercial Potential at the National Student Enterprise Awards. Their Handy Hooks company also featured on the Late Late Show segment on the awards.



## Bealtaine brings music to the open air

Bealtaine Festival saw the Mobile Music Machine performing 10 concerts over five days. A quartet of professional musicians including Longford Soprano Emer Barry featured.



## Longford gets ready for Pride

Longford LGBTI Youth Group presented Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Ross with the Pride Flag to be flown on the Council building during Pride Month, showing support for the LGBTI community in Longford.



## Aughnacliffe Walkway complete

Linking Aughnacliffe residents with the Waterfall Trail, Lebeen Park and other local amenities, this new walkway provides a new tourism attraction just in time for the summer season.



# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

### Community Enhancement Programme 2021

In May, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD announced €4.5m to support community groups impacted by COVID-19 under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. A total of €132,385 has been allocated to Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to administer.

The CEP will provide grants for:

- projects or equipment enhancing facilities
- costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of a facility

Priority will be given to projects which are complementary to the County Longford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022 and which will improve the quality of life for residents or provide tangible supports which address disadvantage.

Email application to [lcdd@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:lcdd@longfordcoco.ie). Closing date for this scheme is 4pm, 2 July. For further information (including application forms) visit [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie)

### Intercultural Working Group

At Longford County Council May meeting, Intercultural Funding of €8,600 was allocated to the following groups: Longford African Network, €1,600; Longford Women's Link for work with a migrants women's group, €1,000; Bridgeways Family Resource Centre and Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre, allocated €3,000 respectively for translation services to assist work with migrant communities.

### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The SICAP monitoring sub-committee of the LCDC held a meeting on 5 May to review the programme's implementation by the programme implementers Longford Community Resource clg (LCRL) for Q1. LCRL received €131,726 for January-April 2021 to work with marginalised individuals and groups in Longford.

### Africa Day

Longford County Council applied to Irish Aid at the Department of Foreign Affairs to support Longford African Network in organising a virtual event to celebrate Africa Day 2021 on the 25 May. An evening of entertainment was held which included achievements award in recognition of members of the African community and others who have made a significant contribution to the community in Longford.

### Pride Month

On 28 May, an LGBTI Youth Group presented Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Ross with the Pride Flag to fly on the Council building during the month of June in recognition of Pride Month and to show support for the LGBTI community in Longford.

# Community & Enterprise

## Library Heritage & Archives

### Edgeworthstown Library

Edgeworthstown Community Library is progressing well with external and internal plastering underway and works on the carpark nearing completion. It is planned that Cathaoirleach Paul Ross will lay a time capsule under the plaza in mid-June, with contributions from community and business groups in the town included.

### Longford County Library Service

All library branches reopened for customers on 10 May. There has been a steady flow of customers with a big demand for printing and copying facilities and block loans from local schools. As part of Longford Literary Month, the Padraic Colum Annual Gathering and the Maria Edgeworth Literary Festival and the Goldsmith Literary Festival all took place. All were well-attended.

### Longford Age Friendly

A new Healthy Homes Coordinator Mary Carey has been appointed on a two-year contract to work in partnership with all service providers to ensure older people in Longford can stay living in their own homes for as long as they wish. Chief Officer Age Friendly Ireland Catherine McGuigan updated the Joint Placemaking and Housing Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) on the programme.

### Creative Ireland

The Bealtaine Festival celebrated the creativity and resilience of our older people throughout May with a programme of diverse events. The highlight was the first live music event with Mobile Music Machine performing 10 concerts over five days. A quartet of professional musicians including Longford Soprano Emer Barry brought a lot of joy to residents and staff at each venue.

The Council has secured €139,000 funding to run a series of small outdoor music events throughout the summer. Cruinniu na Nog will take place on 12 June with many free events for children planned.

### Decade of Commemorations

Work is progressing well on a schools information pack on Ireland and Longford in Times of War and Revolution, 1914-23 which will be distributed to every school in the county.

### Heritage Programme

County Heritage Plan projects for 2021 are progressing. The Wetlands Field Survey and Conservation Plan for the Goldsmith statue at Pallas have gone to tender. A subgroup of the Moyne Latin School Research Group, comprising of former teachers, are working on family and school-friendly information and activity sheets for the Latin School Visitor Centre. The information and activities have been compiled and the design will be tendered shortly. The scoping for the first phase of Popular Music Research Project has been completed and suitable project leads will be sought. With regard to the conservation repair projects, all of the successful Built Heritage Investment Scheme and Structures at Risk Fund applicants have been notified and have, to date, accepted their allocations. A number of National Biodiversity Action Plan applications were successful, including research into the efficacy of our Japanese Knotweed Eradication programme and biodiversity planting a section of the N4 bypass (both to be led by our Environmental Awareness Officer). The Heritage Office is awaiting a decision on the Lough Naback Arctic Char DNA Testing project. The Heritage Office worked with a number of local individuals and groups to produce online content for Biodiversity Week 2021, available on the Longford Heritage and Archives' Facebook and Longford Library's YouTube channel.

# Community & Enterprise

## Local Sports Partnership

### Transition Year Paddle Boarding and Kayaking

Throughout May, Longford LSP promoted sports and activity in Longford's secondary schools by providing kayak and paddle board taster sessions to transition year students. Students that have had a difficult year with COVID-19 restriction were given an opportunity to experience enjoyable and exciting outdoor water sports physical activities taking advantage of some of Longford's scenic water based locations. A total of 250 students participated in the programme.



**Online Workshops and Programmes**  
Online programmes continued throughout May, including safeguarding courses, as well as online fitness classes. Child Welfare and Protection Basic Awareness Course educates participants on the implementation of best practice in protecting the welfare of children involved in sport. All volunteers, coaches, children's officers and designated liaison persons (DLP) involved in any capacity with children in sport must first complete this three hour course. Fitness classes also continued online through the Eventbrite booking system, in cooperation with local community groups.

**Primary Schools Sportshall Athletics**  
Sportshall Athletics, an indoor adapted athletics activities programme for third to sixth class children, focuses on fitness and multi-skill development to provide a grounding for all sports. Inclusive in nature, the programme encourages children to get fit while creating friendships and having fun. Unfortunately, this year the county competitions could not be run. However in May, Longford LSP provided schools with the opportunity to transform their sports hall or gymnasium into an arena of fun-filled athletics activities.

**Balanceability Bike Programme and Playground Markings**  
Our Balanceability Bike programme and Playground Markings continued to travel around schools and creches in Longford.

# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office

### Ballymahon students win at National Student Enterprise Awards

Two Ballymahon Vocational School students were awarded Best Commercial Potential (Intermediate) at the National Student Enterprise Awards. Third-year students Chloe Hopkins and Amy Kelly worked under the guidance of their teacher, Ann Hall to create Handy Hooks, a hook capable of adapting to hold a range of items from gear bags, hoodies, drink bottles, coats and much more. Handy Hooks also took part in the Late Late Show's feature on the Student Enterprise Programme.

### Support

Grant Aid Applications	12
Approvals	11
Value of Approvals	€163,000

### Training & Development

Total Programmes	22
Total Participants	460

### Mentoring

Total Participants	71
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### Brexit

Total Group Workshops	1
Total Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	11

### Trading Online Vouchers

Total Applications	14
Total Approvals	26
Value of Approvals	€57,955

## Tourism

### Supporting Hospitality Businesses

Longford Tourism continued to support local restaurants through social media by sharing and distributing their new ways of working in this current environment.

### North Longford Cycling Route

Information boards for towns and villages for the North Longford Cycling Route continued. These boards are nearing completion and should be finished by the end of May.

### Longford.ie, Trailhead Boards and Royal Canal Greenway Brochure

Work continued on Longford.ie and with Waterways Ireland and other counties on the trailhead boards and brochure for the Royal Canal Greenway.



*Longford Tourism promoted the recently opened Midlands Cycle Hub in Clondra (Clondara) on social media*

# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

### Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society

### Draft Register 2022-23

Work is ongoing on determining best course of action for updating Eircodes on the Register of Electors. Letters were sent to four townlands (approximately 130 voters) as a test to see what the response would be like. A pilot is being tested with all staff at present using a Microsoft Office Form which can be completed and submitted online. There has been a good response to this and we are now looking at ways to get this out into the public domain. We plan on doing a social media campaign and newspaper advert initially.

### Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Longford County Council Meetings in May continued to be held remotely due to COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Date	Meeting
7 May	Committee Meeting of Longford MD
11 May	Coporate Policy Group Meeting
12 May	Committee Meeting of Longford County Council Members
12 May	May County Council Meeting
25 May	Granard MD Meeting
26 May	Longford MD Meeting
27 May	Ballymahon MD Meeting

### Data Protection

A data protection awareness campaign was carried out during May emphasising the importance of reporting data breaches. This campaign had a positive impact:

- Four staff members reported possible data breaches compared to just one breach reported before this in the year-to-date
- Three of these possible breaches were deemed to be data breaches
- Reporting on time meant that action was taken to limit damage
- No possible breach reported by staff members was deemed to be serious enough to report to the Data Protection Commission (DPC)
- One data breach was reported from outside the organisation and this was deemed to be reportable to the DPC. This is now closed.

A total of 19 data protection queries were received in May and one complaint was received by the DPC in relation to a Data Subject Access Request.

**PRIVACY MATTERS TO US**  
Respect Privacy. Safeguard Data and Enable Trust.

### Freedom of Information

	May	YTD
FOI requests received	5	26
AIE requests received	1	2

See FOI Disclosure Log on [longfordcoco.ie](http://longfordcoco.ie)

# Community & Enterprise

## Communications

Work continues on the preparation of communication guidelines which will feed into the overall Strategic Communications Plan for Longford County Council. In addition, there are a number of corporate publications being prepared and we are supporting sections with advertising and publicity campaigns.

During May, Communications supported media campaigns including:

- Launch of Community Broadband Connection Points in Moyne, Abbeyshrule, Mullinalaghta, Colmcille GAA Club and Ballymore Shamrocks GAA Club
- Free off-street parking for Longford Town
- €180,000 investment at the Red Bridge, Ballymahon
- Africa Day 2021
- The Council appeals to people to refrain from dumping in waterways
- Call to apply for LEADER Transitional Fund 2021-22



## Communications in numbers

- Media queries received and responses issued: 9
- Press releases prepared and issued: 6
- Corporate publication projects underway: 3



*Investment of €180,000 was announced for waterside infrastructure at the Red Bridge, Ballymahon*

## Social Media

The Council social media channels are creatively used as an effective communication tool to keep citizens informed on Council works and services. These channels continue to play a key role in our COVID-19 Communications highlighting important #KeepWell messages and public health guidelines including vaccination programme information. Work is continuing to build Longford County Council's profile online.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	77	62	44
Impressions	55,984	35.4K	10,967



# Community & Enterprise

## Human Resources

### Recruitment

- Three competitions advertised
- 34 candidates interviewed
- Four competitions scheduled for interview
- One employee commenced
- Three employees retired

### Learning and Development

- PMDS rollout continues in the Pilot Directorate
- Twenty-one employees were approved to participate in the Open Learning Scheme to undertake third-level studies to complement their job roles
- Health and safety training completed: driver CPC module two; fire warden training; first aid responder training; mobile elevated platforms training; pavement surface condition; and SLG at roadworks training
- Business skills training completed: attendance at disability awareness webinars; internal training on HR policies; interview board members training; and personal safety at work training
- Climate Action Raising Awareness training is currently being rolled out

### eDoc Project

- Record of HR Data Processing Activities completed
- Report on estimated number of personally identifiable records held within HR prepared
- Review of HR files and documents held in the Eircom Building and Machinery Yard complete. Record of files for destruction prepared, record

of files for scanning/retention in place

- Review of HR files and documents held in the first floor store, Aras an Chontae and HR office in progress

### Health and Wellbeing

- Two health and wellbeing webinars held on living a balanced lifestyle.
- To support the HSE's Minding your Wellbeing programme, Stress Control online programme and Sunsmart Skin Cancer Awareness webinars were made available to all employees
- Longford County Council's online choir competed in the IBEC Workplace Choir of the Year on 2 May

## Health and Safety

### Safety Inspections

There were five safety inspection completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

### Scheduled Internal Audit

Internal audits were completed in: Roads and Housing.

### COVID-19 Risk Assessments

To reflect the Government's COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 - The Path Ahead and to ensure alignment with current public health advice, a number of COVID-19 risk assessments have been updated. Documentation updated are:

- RA-CV-12 Rev 02 Basic Hygiene (including buildings) Covid-19 Requirements
- RA-CV-14 Rev 02 Guidance Travel for Work
- RA-CV-23 rev 04 Libraries Covid-19 requirements

# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

Longford County Council  
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division  
Year to Date to Quarter End 31/03/2021

	EXPENDITURE			INCOME				NET	
	Expenditure €	Adopted Full Year Budget €	% Budget Spent to date	Budget Remaining €	Income €	Adopted Full year Budget €	% Budget Raised	Budget outstanding €	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) €
Housing	2,348,777	9,292,019	25%	6,943,242	2,610,254	10,522,822	25%	7,912,568	261,477
Roads	2,885,077	19,991,409	14%	17,106,332	1,572,260	15,078,605	10%	13,506,345	(1,312,817)
Water Services	990,651	3,906,342	25%	2,915,691	1,007,981	3,679,017	27%	2,671,036	17,330
Development Management	2,618,655	10,100,980	26%	7,482,325	1,267,600	5,078,053	25%	3,810,453	(1,351,055)
Environment	1,571,516	5,863,098	27%	4,291,582	308,699	507,244	61%	198,545	(1,262,817)
Recreation & Amenity	1,103,687	4,272,545	26%	3,168,858	121,329	647,068	19%	525,739	(982,358)
Agri, Health & Welfare	131,143	474,695	28%	343,552	75,081	217,012	35%	141,931	(56,062)
Miscellaneous Services	2,264,454	3,328,889	68%	1,064,435	2,032,872	3,480,440	58%	1,447,568	(231,582)
Local Government Fund					2,310,574	9,242,297	25%	6,931,723	2,310,574
*Commercial Rates					2,503,883	8,777,418	29%	6,273,535	2,503,883
	<b>€13,913,960</b>	<b>€57,229,977</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>€43,316,017</b>	<b>€13,810,533</b>	<b>€57,229,976</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>€43,419,443</b>	<b>(€103,427)</b>

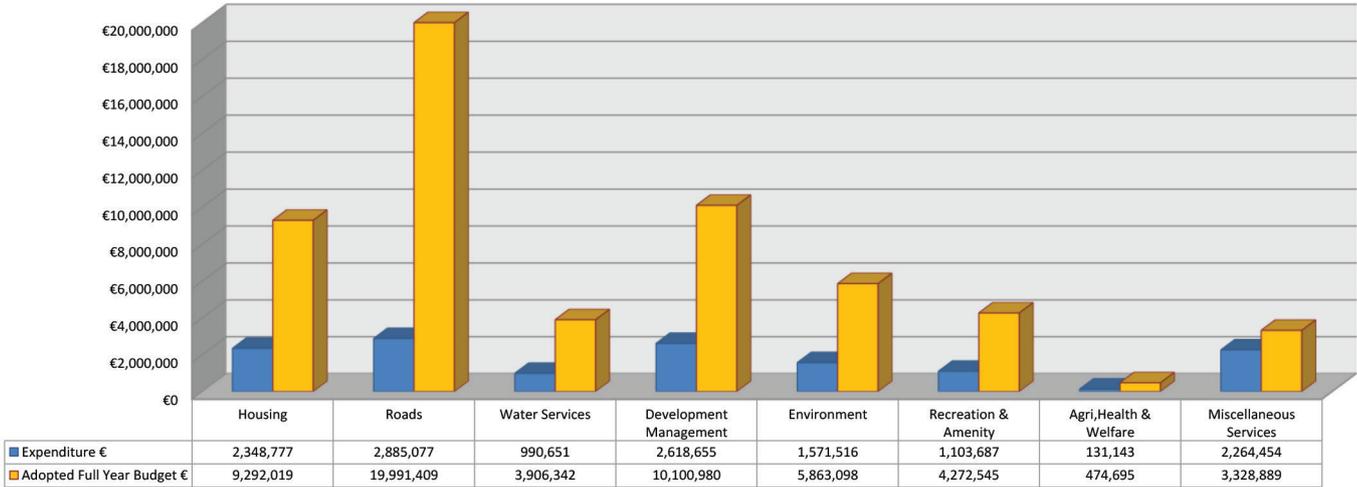
These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 28th May 2021.

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

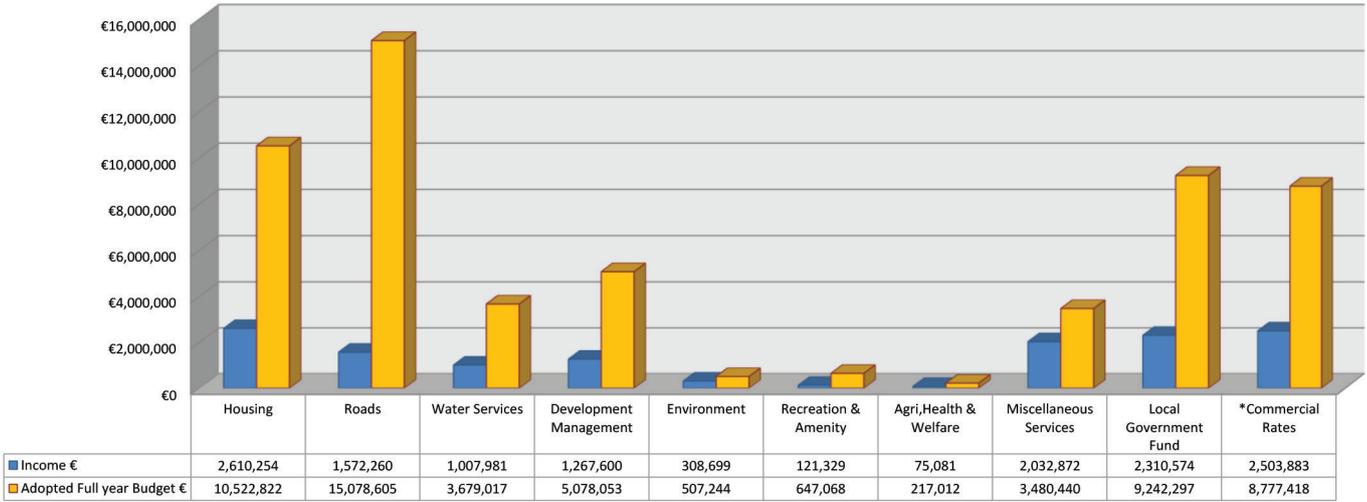
\*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 3-month waiver scheme for Q1, 2021 was €850,728

# Finance & Regeneration

**Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 1, 2021**



**Income V Budget - Quarter 1, 2021**



# Finance & Regeneration

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 1, 2021

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€10,025,317	€10,299,808	€1,345,084	€8,954,724	13%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€1,793,330	€2,633,002	€1,707,168	€925,834	65%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€233,528	€714,872	€233,982	€480,890	33%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 1, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,681,974	€9,715,085	€1,386,944	€8,328,141	14%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€1,772,479	€2,509,478	€1,758,440	€751,038	70%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€239,661	€864,256	€222,567	€641,689	26%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€90,791	€1,343,343	€584,723	(€41,860)	€626,583	-1%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€102,674	€20,851	€123,524	(€51,272)	€174,796	-5%
Housing Loans	(€143,251)	(€6,133)	(€149,384)	€11,415	(€160,799)	7%

\* Covid-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €850,728 in Q1,2021.  
These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.

# Finance & Regeneration

## Regeneration

### Midshannon Wilderness Park

Construction carried out by Bord na Móna continues on the Corlea to Edera section of the Midshannon Wilderness Park Development. Funding of €1.3m applied for by Regeneration to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has been granted. This funding will help with the continued development of the greenway through Bord na Móna bogs, which will be linked to the Royal Canal Greenway and the wider trails, currently in development in the Midshannon Wilderness Park. The works consist of the construction and maintenance of a walkway and cycleway and associated infrastructure, along the route of the existing way through Bord na Móna lands in Deryarogue, Longford.

### Town & Village 2021 Launched

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 was launched in May, with Longford County Council seeking expressions of interest from town and village groups with a suitable project for consideration under the scheme. Town and Village funds projects that support towns and villages' attractiveness and sustainability. This year, the scheme will place emphasis on projects supporting remote working and enhancing town centre living, as outlined in Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025. The scheme supports strategic proposals which encourages people to return to town and village centres to work, shop and socialise. Grants available start at a minimum of €20,000, with the maximum grant available raised to €500,000 this year to

permit projects of additional scale to be funded. This increased funding aims to align the scheme with the type of projects and level of ambition identified in Our Rural Future - Rural Development Policy 2021-2025. Projects supporting economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19 will continue to be supported.

### Third Call for Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)

On 12 May, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced the third call for RRDF Category Two applications. Communities are urged to submit projects that will: drive economic growth and footfall; combat dereliction; regenerate town centre and heritage buildings; develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces; and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family. There will also be a focus on developing remote working facilities, such as digital and enterprise communities, as well as e-learning, cultural and community spaces. Projects funded under Category Two will require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel-ready. Projects should also revitalise towns and villages and attract people back to live and work in rural areas - key objectives of Our Rural Future. The deadline for applications is 12pm, 16 July 2021.

### Aughnacliffe Walkway

Work is completed on the construction of a footpath to link residential and services areas in Aughnacliffe. The walkway connects to the Waterfall Trail, Lebeen Park and the local playground. The footpath will help to improve economic activity within the village, as well as providing an important tourism offering.

# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Technology

### IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Remote working equipment configured and deployed for new starters
- IT support for statutory meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades progressed
- Windows 10 feature update rollout
- IT prerequisites progressed for Core v28 upgrade
- Changeover to new managed print service commenced
- PCI assessment in progress
- Community CCTV reports for Granard and Edgeworthstown presented
- ServiceDesk stats for May 2021: 483 tickets



### Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Small Business Assistance Scheme (SBAS) system live environment support
- iReg electoral register – pilot for digital review complete
- Dashboard built to show housing demand per area of choice
- Road accident data collated and added to Roads GIS viewer
- Mapping of walking trails (on going)
- Update of Eircodes, Public Lighting and ESB network on GIS Viewers

### Digital Services works completed:

- Digital PMDS project progressed
- Document management project progressed
- Broadband Connection Points/Community WiFi: 24 New Users and 226 returning users in May
- Official launch of Broadband Connection Points took place as follows:
  - Latin School Community Centre - 21 May 2021
  - Abbeysrule Airport - 26 May 2021
  - Colmcille GAA - 31 May 2021
  - Ballymore Shamrocks - 31 May 2021
- Remote working Broadband Connection Point application submitted for CO:WORX



*Grow Remote Longford Creative Film Project*

- Roscommon County Council are now using our Broadband Connection Point booking system
- Connected Hubs Fund application preparation in collaboration with Lorraine in Regeneration
- WIFI4EU: Free Wi-Fi in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish saw 813 new users connect in May
- Presentations were made on National Broadband Plan and BCP Network at PPN meetings for Granard MD, Ballymahon MD and Longford MD
- Elected Member training ongoing
- Grow Remote Longford Creative Film Project for Transition year students has been completed. For further information see: [www.denishawking.design/local-projects/longford-creative-film-project](http://www.denishawking.design/local-projects/longford-creative-film-project)

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Housing

**Housing & Disability Steering Group**  
Longford's Housing and Disability Steering Group, coordinated by Longford County Council, approved the new Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 at May's Steering Group meeting. This plan, developed to facilitate access for people with a disability to housing supports and services in a manner that promotes dignity, equality of opportunity, individual choice and independent living, will be presented for approval at the Council meeting.

### Revised Tenancy Agreement

A review of the Tenancy Agreement was undertaken this year. This involved consultation with key staff, the GDPR Officer and legal advisors. This consultation resulted in 32 additions and alterations to the existing agreement, in line with current policy and housing legislation. The revised Housing Tenancy Agreement was approved by both the Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and Council members in May.

### Midlands Retrofit Programme

Work commenced on the retrofitting of four Council-owned properties in Ballinalee, as part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme. Work being carried out includes: installation of insulation, heat pumps, new windows and doors; improvement of the Building Energy Ratings to B2 Standard. These works will make the properties more energy efficient and more comfortable to live in.

### National Energy Efficiency Programme

Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme, survey works were completed on 19 houses at Sli na Mona, Ballymahon. This newly-revised 2021 Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme is the first year of a ten-year programme which involves significant upscaling on works completed by local authorities to date. The preliminary allocation for Longford County Council for 2021 is €523,091 with a requirement to retrofit a minimum of 19 properties to a B2/Cost Optimal standard. All works under the 2021 programme must be completed by end-October 2021.



*Unit at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee*

### Housing Projects

Work is ongoing on all other projects. These include:

- 1 unit Fairgreen View
- 5 remaining units Sli Corglass, Legga
- 6 units Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 21 units Campbells Lane
- 14 units O'Haras site, Richmond Street

### Refurbished Voids

Five void properties were recently refurbished with the Building Energy Ratings (BER) of all improving from a G to C1 or C2. Another six void properties are due for completion shortly, which should also have their Building Energy ratings improved.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Roads

### Roadworks Schemes

Construction works on the Roadworks programme commenced in each MD following an easing of COVID-19 restrictions. The main focus for our roads crews over the coming months will be on restoration improvement and restoration maintenance works. Work on the Newtownforbes pavement resurfacing scheme commenced in early May and will continue for the coming months. Roadstone Ltd. are carrying out footpath replacement works initially, with road resurfacing works to follow.



### Local Improvement Scheme Funding

Longford County Council have been provided with an allocation of €270,000 by the Department of Rural and Community Development for 2021. The Council are currently assessing applications and are required to submit a list of priority projects by 11 June.

### Road Safety

A Road Safety Working Together Committee meeting and a Collision Prevention Programme meeting took place this month.

### Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund 2021

The Department of Transport has advised that additional funding of €15m is available to support Local Authorities in implementing traffic management and roads and streets public realm improvements in urban areas. Longford County Council were notified of an allocation of €150,000 for Edgeworthstown by the National Transport Authority.



*Pavement works in Newtownforbes*

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

### Water Services Operations and Maintenance

Longford County Council Water Services provide water and waste water services to the county under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water. The latest key performance indicator (KPI) score for Q1 2021 has Longford County Council achieving a score of 97.6 per cent. These KPIs measure all aspects of the water services delivery and each member of the water services team feeds into the underlying data which underpins this excellent result.

### Find & Fix Programme

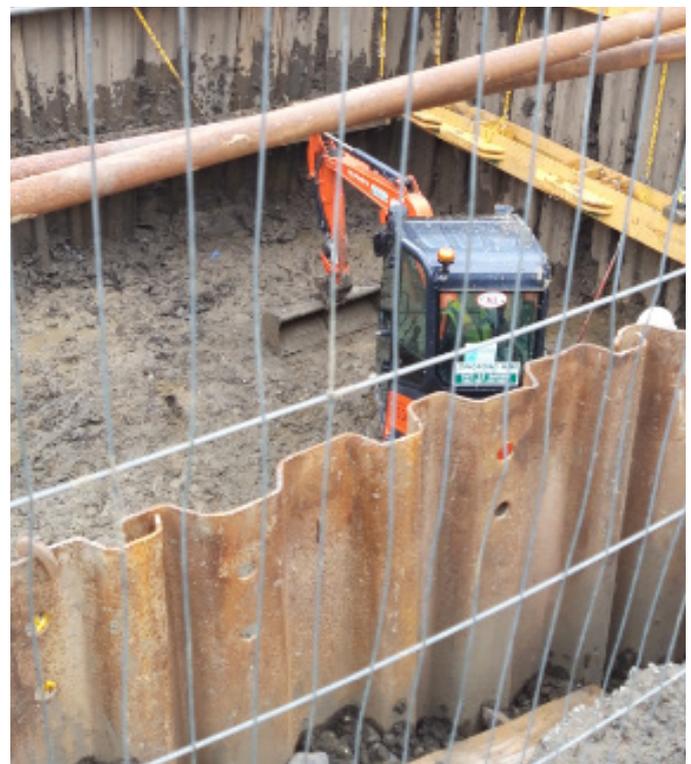
The 'Find & Fix' Programme is a national capital project aimed at reducing water leakage in the network. Drinking water is a valuable resource and its production requires high energy use, therefore water conservation plays a major role in the way that Irish Water and the local authorities mitigate and adapt to climate change. Longford County Council Find & Fix team are currently operating in the Whitehill and Ballymakeegan areas and achieved significant savings of approximately 62,800 litres of drinking water per day in May through its Find & Fix activities.



*The 'Find & Fix' Team at work*

### Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Water Programme

Irish Water in consultation with Longford County Council have undertaken the ECI Programme in Longford. This national programme aims at carry out improvement works at water treatment plants throughout Ireland to ensure continued delivery of safe drinking water. The programme has now commenced at Lough Forbes where deep excavation works for an enlarged clear water tank are in progress. This is a very significant project in terms of scale and cost, which when completed will in eighteen months deliver increased water supply capacity as well as enhanced water quality to a large part of the county.



*Deep excavation works for a clear water tank at Lough Forbes*

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Planning

### Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs
- Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice and reports kept fully functioning
- Assisting in the implementation of the housing, regeneration and climate change programme

### Development Plan

Statutory Requirements maintained:

- County Development Plan review is ongoing, setting out the template for the county's development from 2021 to 2027
- Chief Executive's Report on second phase public consultation on the Draft Plan was issued on 30 March and presented to members in April and May
- The submissions received have been analysed and reported on. Based on the substantive issues raised in these submissions a revised plan with proposed amendments will be presented to members for their approval in June 2021.
- A further period of public consultation will follow July-August 2021
- The Draft Plan should be complete October-November 2021 for members adoption

### Climate Change

- The Development Plan review includes a chapter on climate change. Additionally, every chapter has a climate change checklist.
- Work is also being prepared on Active Travel for Longford Town.

## Civil Defence

### Duties & Taskings

- Volunteers provided medical cover at three Longford Town soccer matches, making up 51 volunteering hours
- Administrative and canteen duties were provided to the Irish Blood Transfusion Service over three days, making up 50 volunteering hours
- Volunteers assisted the HSE with administration at the walkpin COVID-19 Testing Centre, making up 40 volunteer hours

### Training

- One volunteer passed the Approved Driving Instructor exams, and will now be able to carry out assessments for the volunteers, as well as being able to provide driving lessons for other licence classes, should they be required
- Four probationary volunteers are currently undertaking mandatory training

### Operations

- Civil Defence attended the Community Forum online meetings to provide an update and offer support for ongoing community response in Longford
- Technical equipment has been ordered to support the Mapyx Software which assists in missing person searches. This will be funded by the equipment grant.
- Tender is in process for a 4x4 vehicle funded by the Dormant Account Fund
- Command and control unit acquired. This will be funded by a grant from Civil Defence Branch.
- One obsolete asset was sold at auction
- Driving Policy is being prepared for implementation
- One obsolete asset is being sent for auction

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Environment

### Cleanup at Barley Harbour

County Longford Scuba Divers took part in an under water cleanup at Barley Harbour. This work is part of Longford's Green Keep It Clean, encouraging us all to work together to keep Longford and its natural amenities clean. Promotion of this work aims to highlight the dangers posed to water quality, wildlife and water users by dumping in Longford's waterways.



### Fixed Payment Notices

Environment have started issuing Fixed Payments Notice under the Waste Management (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2018 for households who have failed to provide evidence of a regular waste disposal service.

### Litter Pollution Fine

Environment have secured a conviction against a repeat offender under the Litter Pollution Act for illegal dumping. The culprit was fined €500 plus €1,000 costs at Longford District Court on 25 May.

### Upgrade of Bottle Banks

Environment has commenced the upgrading of bottle banks, with the purchase of 40 new recycling bins this year. Sites completed so far include Cullyfad, Clondra, Aughnacliffe and Ballinamuck.



### Easy to be Green

Assisted by the Local Authority Veterinary Service, Longford County Council supervises and supports local food businesses in their production of fresh meat products. These services help in the provision of meat from local butchers and meat manufacturer, which are produced on the basis of low food miles and with a low carbon footprint.

This local production has great environmental advantages over imported products. Longford people are encouraged to shop locally as an 'easy to be green' opportunity where the meat and meat products originate on local farms, make short journeys to local abattoirs and from there move to local meat producers.

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire Services

### Operations

- Total callouts in May: 39
- All stations remained fully operational

### Health and Safety

No injuries to report

### Training

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis because of COVID-19
- Fortnightly drills are back and up and running.
- Every fire fighter in the county has completed a one-day training day in breating apparatus refresher techniques in Lanesborough
- Sub Officer Roy Coughlan completed a one-week pump operators course in Athlone
- Three students completed officer command and control training in the Hydra Centre in Clonmel

### Major Emergency Management

Regional Working Group meetings are now held fortnightly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures

### Fire Prevention

- One Fire Safety Cert has been processed in May
- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities have restarted on an appointment-only basis

### Vehicles

The old Bronto aerial appliance vehicle has been sold off at public auction.

## Recruitment

We have vacancies in three fire stations:

- Granard (2)
- Edgeworthstown (1)
- Lanesborough (2)

Three applications have been received with one candidate going forward to interview.



*Fire Services training took place at Center Parcs Longford Forest*



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Climate Action Initiatives

### Corporate Section

- Investigating options for the introduction of an environmentally-friendly Longford County Council branded personal drinking bottle for employees
- Elected Members no longer receive Council correspondence in hard copy - all meeting agendas, minutes and reports are being shared digitally
- This year the Register of Electors was released electronically to all elected representatives

### Human Resources

- Climate Action Raising Awareness training is currently being rolled out to indoor employees at grade five and analogous
- Planning for Climate Change training for planners complete
- All recruitment competitions continue to be undertaken digitally and contracts of employment are being issued via email as part of our effort to combat climate change

### Information Technology

The IT Section is working with business areas to pilot e-receipting systems where possible to reduce the use of paper.

### Roads

- Roads are considering more environmentally-friendly pavement options for future road construction projects. Technical staff attended

an online presentation on road-construction materials which have lower carbon footprint than traditional materials used in our pavements. The Council will discuss incorporating these environmentally-friendly products into future projects with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the Department of Transport.

- Consideration is also been given to greater re-use of Reclaimed Asphalt Planings (RAP)

### Planning

- The Development Plan Review includes a specific chapter on climate change. Each individual chapter also have a climate change check list the end
- Work is being prepared on Active Travel for Longford Town

### Civil Defence

- Climate Action Raising Awareness Training has been completed
- Adoption of paperless policy where possible

### Fire Services

Fire Service administration have begun the process of moving activities to a paperless-only basis.

### Housing

- Survey works completed on 19 houses in Ballymahon under the National Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme
- Five void properties refurbished improving building energy ratings from G to C1 or C2
- Work commenced on the retrofitting of four council owned properties in Ballinalee under the Midlands Retrofit Programme

**CONNECTED**  
People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for May 2021 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Sec 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in May 2021 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed:   
Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive





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