



Chief Executive Report November 2025

Longford County Council

Contents

November Highlights.....	3
--------------------------	---

Economic Development

Corporate Services.....	5
-------------------------	---

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage.....	15
---	----

Physical Development

Roads	25
-------------	----

Planning.....	28
---------------	----

November Highlights

Opening of 'The Albert Reynolds Collection' in Longford

Jack Chambers, Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation officially opened the 'Albert Reynolds Collection' in Longford County Library in November. The Collection is made

up of items, personal effects and memorabilia donated by the Reynolds family to Longford County Library and Archives. It offers a rare opportunity of a glimpse into the life, work and memories of a major political figure through the items he personally treasured. In time many items will be housed at the new Longford Museum and cultural hub which will form part of the €7m transformation of the former Connolly Barracks.



Longford County Council adopts Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027

Longford County Council adopted a comprehensive Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027, following approval by Councillors at the November monthly meeting of the Council.

The plan represents Longford's contribution to Ireland's national mission of achieving Vision Zero—zero road deaths or serious injuries by 2050—and sets out concrete measures to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030.

The strategy addresses all aspects of road safety through the internationally recognised Safe System approach, focusing on seven key areas: safe and healthy modes of travel, safe roads and roadsides, safe vehicles, safe speeds, safe road use, safe work-related road use, and post-crash response.



November Highlights

Local businesses embrace digital future at Longford technology event with Matt Cooper

Longford County Council hosted a successful business event, as local enterprises gathered to explore how technology and artificial intelligence can drive growth and profitability.

'The Technology for Growth: Building Smarter Local Businesses' event, organised by Longford Local Enterprise Office in partnership with Longford County Council, attracted significant attendance from the local business community eager to understand practical applications of digital tools and AI. The event took place in the Longford Arms Hotel.



Age Friendly Ireland National Recognition Awards 2025

Longford County Council was represented at recent Age Friendly Recognition Awards organised by Age Friendly Ireland by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh, Deputy Chief Executive John Brannigan, Longford Age Friendly Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Kitty Burkhill and Kitty Hughes, the Age Friendly Ambassador Eamonn Brennan and Paula Mulry Longford Age Friendly Co-ordinator. The awards were organised by Age Friendly Ireland, the national organisation implementing the Government's vision of an Age Friendly Ireland.

Hosted by Galway City and County Councils, the awards celebrated excellence across eight categories of transport, communication, healthy ageing, housing, environment, safety and security, business and community innovation each aligned with World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly themes. The awards also highlight the commitment of communities across the country to improving the quality of life for older people.



Corporate Services

Corporate Management Supports and Customer Services

The Customer Services desk received 3,000 calls during the months of October and November, as well as 661 emails via the CRM and in-person customers.

Register of Electors

Phase one of the cleansing of electoral data for migration to Voter.ie was completed and returned to DCC and Ernst and Young for validation in October. This involved the checking and rectification of 2,625 potential data points and the translation of over 1,500 townlands, polling places, Electoral Divisions and Polling Districts.

The National Duplicates list identified 1,026 potential duplications between Longford County Council and other Local Authorities where Longford was flagged as the most recent address for the elector. At least two contact attempts have been made to each of these electors, with a third and final contact attempt being issued to any electors whose previous contact attempts have been returned undelivered, or who have not responded. Those outstanding electors will be removed from the Longford Register of Electors. This phase is now complete for the purposes of the Voter.ie project and the data will be returned to DCC before the end of the month.

Work continues to improve the accuracy of the Register. If individuals have changed address recently, they must change their details on www.checktheregister.ie to ensure

that any correspondence issues to the correct address and that they are at the correct address on the Register for electoral event purposes.

The Franchise Team piloted a program of fieldwork during the months of August and September. Properties across various Polling Districts were identified for targeted fieldwork by a team of 11 field workers. These field workers, who are current Longford County Council employees, were assigned to undertake fieldwork outside of normal working hours and over 1,300 properties were visited. In almost 50% of properties visited, doors were unanswered to field workers, but calling cards explaining the visit and forms were left at each property visited. Even with the large percentage of unanswered doors over 1,300 elector's details were checked. All new electors and address updates were processed in advance of the Presidential Election, and the Franchise Team is currently processing the outstanding data to update existing electors.

Even if individuals are already registered to vote, they need to add their date of birth, PPSN and Eircode. This enables the Franchise team to ensure the accuracy of the Electoral Register. In addition, everyone aged 16 and 17 years can now pre-register online and will be automatically added to the Register when they turn 18 years. The easiest way to add or update your details is to go to www.checktheregister.ie

The Franchise Team supported the Presidential Election on 24 October 2025. All applications received in advance of the close off date for

Corporate Services

the Register on 7 October were processed in advance of the election. All Registers, balancing books and postal voter labels were prepared and provided to the Longford Westmeath Returning Officer. On polling day Franchise staff supported the Presiding Officers and electors by answering phone queries regarding registrations from 7am to 10pm in line with Polling Station operating hours.

Official Languages Act

Work continues to meet the Council's obligations under the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. Among the obligations under the Act, the Local Authority are obliged to ensure that:

at least 20% of annual advertising is conducted in Irish.

5% of the advertising budget is to be spent on advertising in Irish on Irish-language media.

Documents setting out public policy proposals, audited accounts or financial statements, annual reports and strategy statements are published simultaneously in Irish and English.

All signage placed by a public body or on its behalf must be in Irish or bilingual, in accordance with the regulations.

In relation to advertising, Longford County Council is currently sitting at 33.06% for the 20% compliance target. To date sections have reported 1,930 ads placed year to date (including Social Media ads), with 331 of those in Irish or bilingual.

Corporate Services has purchased an advertising package for 2026 with Tuairisc.ie which will meet the 2025 obligation to spend 5% of the annual advertising budget on Irish language advertising in Irish language media.

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

	October	November	Year to Date
No. of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received	5	4	58
No. of Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests received	0	0	6
No. of Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	0	0	4

Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

Meetings and events which took place in October and November detailed below:

2 October	Ballymahon Municipal District In-Committee
	Ballymahon Municipal District
8 October	Corporate Policy Group
	Longford County Council
20 October	Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
21 October	Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee
	Governance Strategic Policy Committee
22 October	Economic, Enterprise & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee
	Longford Municipal District In-Committee
	Longford Municipal District General Municipal Allocation Meeting
24 October	Ballymahon Municipal District In-Committee
	Ballymahon Municipal District General Municipal Allocation Meeting
	Special In-Committee Meeting of Longford County Council
28 October	Granard Municipal District In-Committee
	Granard Municipal District General Municipal Allocation Meeting
12 November	Corporate Policy Group
	Longford County Council
17 November	Longford County Council In-Committee Budget Meeting
24 November	Granard Municipal District In-Committee
	Granard Municipal District
	Statutory Local Authority Budget Meeting
26 November	Longford Municipal District In-Committee
	Longford Municipal District

Communications

A number of high-profile events took place during October and November and the Communications Office provided ongoing support in terms of online, website, social media and traditional print and broadcast media coverage. A wide variety of events took place including the launch of

the Albert Reynolds Collection with Longford Library Services, Home of Halloween Festival, Age Friendly Information Day, Longford Sports Star Awards, LEO events, launch of the Road Safety Action Plan, Young Photographer's Competition, Innovation in Politics award, the

Corporate Services

Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards and the Civil Defence Presentations 2025.

All of these events require the assistance and support of the Communications section including pre and post publicity, event management, invitations, digital content creation and press releases. Work includes press releases, radio interviews, national and local coverage, media relations, communications strategy and advise, 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 (**October/ November**): 37- range of issues, representative of all council sections from the launch of the Albert Reynolds Collection to LEO events and Home of Halloween Festival for example.

Media enquiries received (**October/ November**): 12- range of issues with the largest number of queries related to Housing, Planning and Environment.

Social media: (1 October – 25 November): Posts seen by people **728.32K** (increase of **60%** compared to 5 August – 30 September)

Website: Longfordcoco.ie webpages were viewed **55,605** times this period (1 October – 25 November, with an increase of **14.2%** compared to 5 August – 30 September) with Planning (**8.8K** page views), Housing (**5.3K** page views), and News (**8.2K**) the most popular sections.

Other Council websites (such as Longford.ie, LongfordSports.ie, Library) were viewed **10.3K** times this period (decrease by **4.8%** compared to 5 August – 30 September).

Communications Audit

The Communications Audit which was conducted by RPS Consulting Engineers is now complete and the findings and recommendations will be circulated to management for consideration. The Audit was undertaken using both qualitative and quantitative research to inform the recommendations of the audit report. The research methods undertaken included:

- Research interviews with 15 respondents held across September and October 2025 on MS Teams, including with the Chief Executive, Directors of Service, staff from across the Council, Elected Members and representatives of local media outlets
- Desktop analysis of media coverage and social media activity relating to the Council over a three-month period
- Analysis of survey results with four key groups: LCC staff (108 respondents), LCC Elected

Corporate Services

Members (7 respondents), members of LCC's Public Participation Network (31 respondents) and members of LCC's Comhairle na nÓg (7 respondents).

It is considered that a broad range of stakeholder feedback on Longford County Council's communications has been gathered and reflected in the analysis and recommendations within the report.

It is anticipated that RPS will present the findings and recommendations from this audit to LCC Management Team in January 2026.

THRIVE

The €7m Connolly Barracks Reimagined project is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027. There are very specific ERDF Communications and Visibility Requirements under EU regulations as part of the grant award particularly in relation to online, print, social media, billboards, video, publication and stakeholder engagement. The LCC Communications team attended training with the Southern Regional Assembly for a briefing in relation to THRIVE communications requirements. As part of the stakeholder engagement process a public engagement evening will take place in early December and the Communications team has assisted in the preparation and communications elements of this event with an

explainer video forming a key part of this event. A detailed THRIVE Communications Plan outlining objectives, goals, target audience, content plan, key messages and timelines must be submitted by 31 January 2026.

Housing Focus Campaign LGMA

The LGMA will roll out a Housing Focus public information campaign in January 2026.

The LCC Communications team attended a webinar in relation to the week-long campaign which aims to inform the public about the work of Longford County Council in housing delivery and support. The campaign will feature a different housing-related theme each day, and the Communications office is liaising with the Housing Section to prepare content to showcase Longford County Council's work in this area. This nationwide campaign rolls out on 19 January 2026.

Training

The Communications Team will be taking part in intensive online training related to an LCDC communications campaign and media briefing in a bid to sustain greater awareness of the LCDC role and initiatives and ensuring consistent stakeholder engagement. The training will run on various dates from 3- 15 December.

The Communications Team will also attend a major social media conference in Croke Park, Dublin in January 2026.

Corporate Services

Social Media Dublin 2026 is a major event for the Irish social media and communications industry. Bringing together over 350 attendees, the conference will look at trends and case studies in 2026 and onwards. A highlight of #SMDublin is showcasing successful social media campaigns from Ireland and beyond.

LCC Website

Work is ongoing between the Communications and IT section in relation to the development of a new or updated LCC website and work is underway to select a website provider as the current contract with P Tools expires in December 2026. As part of ongoing development, work is also underway in relation to revisions for the existing Intranet and internal communication channels.

New Digital Communications Officer

A new Digital Communications Officer was appointed to the Communications Team at the end of November which brings the Communications Team to three. It is envisaged the new Digital Communications Officer will focus on website related work and liaise with designated nominees in each council section as part of a website content audit in preparation for migration to a new or updated website as well as working with the website provider on the new LCC website and assisting with the new Tourism website and digital content for the main LCC social media platforms.

Digital Content Creation













During October and November, the Digital Communications Officer produced video content to support key initiatives, including the launch of the Albert Reynolds Collection at Longford Library and a promotional video for the Longford Sports Partnership's Ability Coaching Programme.

In addition to these projects, the primary focus during this period was on enhancing the Council's digital presence. This involved restructuring and updating webpages across the main council website and the Longford Library website, with significant attention dedicated to refreshing and improving content within the Arts section of the Library site.

The creation of short form video/digital content is a key aspect of the 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.

Corporate Services

Social Media Best Performing Posts:

Facebook Top posts		
 <p>Longford County Council Nov 03, 12:30</p> <p>Today marks the official opening of 'The Albert Reynolds Collection' at Longford County Library! 🎉📖 The collection, generously donated by the Reynolds...</p> <p>126 likes</p>	 <p>Longford County Council Oct 29, 18:01</p> <p>Longford Recognised Nationally for Excellence in Digital Transformation! 🏆 Longford County Council is proud to announce that the Longford Microsoft Team...</p> <p>107 likes</p>	 <p>Longford County Council Nov 10, 18:01</p> <p>Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub CLG wins at the All-Island IPB Pride of Place Awards! 🏆 Huge congratulations to Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub CLG...</p> <p>83 likes</p>
Instagram Top posts		
 <p>longfordcoco Oct 16, 15:00</p> <p>"Morrigan's Revenge: the Fire & Shadows Procession Longford's spectacular Dead of Night Halloween finale. From the fantastic Golden Gatehouse this Halloween and...</p> <p>42 likes</p>	 <p>longfordcoco Nov 13, 01:00</p> <p>Giving Old Guitars New Life! 🎸 Liam Doherty of Longford Comhairle na nÓg joined Longford County Council's Music Action Office Fund Raising to create...</p> <p>38 likes</p>	 <p>longfordcoco Nov 03, 11:01</p> <p>Dead of Night Festival 2025 🎃 A fantastic crowd gathered for the Fire & Shadows Halloween Parade on Friday night. Official Longford Town with police presence and...</p> <p>37 likes</p>
LinkedIn Top posts		
 <p>Longford County Council Oct 24, 14:37</p> <p>New Deputy Chief Executive Appointed 🎉 Longford County Council is delighted to announce the appointment of John Downes as Deputy Chief...</p> <p>83 reactions</p>	 <p>Longford County Council Oct 29, 18:01</p> <p>Longford Recognised Nationally for Excellence in Digital Transformation! 🏆 Longford County Council is proud to announce that the Longford Microsoft Team...</p> <p>48 reactions</p>	 <p>Longford County Council Oct 31, 15:01</p> <p>Longford County Council joined in the recent THRIVE Strand 2 Kick-Off Meetings in Dublin where they met the...</p> <p>45 reactions</p>
Twitter Top tweets		
 <p>@longfordcoco Nov 03, 12:30</p> <p>Opening today! 🎉📖 'The Albert Reynolds Collection' is now on display at Longford County Library. Donated by the Reynolds family, it offers a rare glimpse...</p> <p>5 likes</p>	 <p>@longfordcoco Nov 22, 11:00</p> <p>Tune in to Ireland AM on Monday 24 Nov to hear Siobhán Greally on STEM in the Midlands with students Down and Clontarf. Meet with the team at the Midlands...</p> <p>2 likes</p>	 <p>@longfordcoco Nov 06, 17:02</p> <p>Minister Jack Chambers officially opened the Albert Reynolds Collection at Longford Library on what would've been his 92nd birthday. A tribute to Reynolds' legacy...</p> <p>2 likes</p>

Corporate Services

Online/Print Coverage – October/November

You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > MOTORING

Road safety in Longford ‘demands sustained action’ to achieve Vision Zero

The strategy addresses all aspects of road safety through the internationally recognised Safe System approach



The strategy addresses all aspects of road safety through the internationally recognised Safe System approach

You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > LOCAL NEWS

Longford public invited to discover exciting vision for reimagined Connolly Barracks

The event will offer people an opportunity to view artist impressions of the landmark



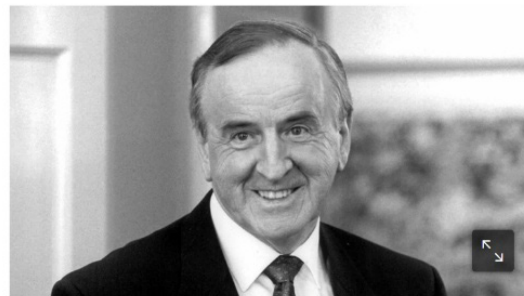
RTÉ

News Sport Entertainment Business Lifestyle Culture Gaeilge | Player TV Radio

News > Leinster > Politics Regional Ireland Middle East Climate Nuacht World Programmes

Collection of gifts owned by former taoiseach Albert Reynolds goes on display

Updated / Monday, 3 Nov 2025 13:40



Albert Reynolds served as taoiseach from 1992 to 1994



By Sinéad Hussey
Midlands Correspondent

You are in: > LONGFORDLEADER > LOCAL NEWS

Longford's Dream Space wins esteemed award at Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards

The prestigious win places Longford amongst the leading digital driving local authorities



The awards recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in the delivery of public sector digital transformation

Corporate Services

Data Protection

Data Protection Training

The Data Protection Team continue to provide induction training to new employees of Longford County Council. To date this year, Data Protection has provided induction training to 34 new employees.

Data Protection mandatory training was delivered to all staff of Longford County Council in November 2025.

Audio Visual Video of Longford County Council's Privacy Policy

Over a three-month boosted social media campaign across all Longford County Council social media platforms, a 2.5-minute audio visual video, explaining the Privacy Policy of Longford County Council has reached 209,283 accounts and has gained 423,918 video views from people in County Longford.

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

Data Protection queries

The Data Protection & Information Compliance Team have received 292 Data Protection queries since the beginning of January 2025.

Common themes of queries received were in relation to:

Sharing personal data, releasing personal data, sharing personal data with third parties, CCTV, representations from Elected Representatives, consent, photographs, videos, signage at events, and ROPA's.

All Data Subject Access Requests and Data Breaches continue to be completed and reported (where applicable) within the statutory timeframes.

Number of Data Breaches	7
Number of Data Subject Access Requests received	2
Number of Data Protection Impact Assessment reviewed	7
Number of Data Agreements signed	5

Health & Safety

National Standard Authority of Ireland ISO 45001:2018 surveillance audit

Following a two-day surveillance audit completed on the 7 & 8 October by the NSAI the organisation has successfully retained the ISO 45001:2018 certification.

Construction projects within Housing and Roads section were audited. Along with review of process and procedures within Building Facilities, Fire Services, Learning and Development, Libraries and the Health and Safety Section.

This successful accreditation demonstrates the organisation's commitment to the safety management system.

Longford County Council wins at All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards

Longford County Council has yet again been recognised for its outstanding workplace standards at

Corporate Services

the annual All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards. Longford County Council was awarded the Local Authority Award and also took home an Exceptional High Achiever Award at the annual National Irish Safety Organisation / Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISO/NISG) All Ireland Safety Awards. The annual safety awards took place on Friday, 10 October at a special ceremony in Killarney.



employees and included in the monthly health and safety report to all employees.

Internal Audit

Health and Safety Internal Audits were completed in the following sections –Finance, HR, C&E, Housing Social. Audit schedule is currently being reviewed for 2026.

Event Management

Health and Safety assisted with the Dead of Night Festival 2025 and also assisted with the Christmas on Square Event.

Health & Safety Inspections

A total of nine Safety Inspections were completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

Health and Safety Training

Ongoing risk assessment briefing sessions are held with each section of the council.

Six new employee health & safety inductions were completed.

Risk Assessment review program

A revision of several risk assessments has commenced as part of a five-year planned cycle. Revised and updated risk assessments are issued and communicated to the relevant

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Age Friendly Events

Longford County Council through the Age Friendly programme, together with the Longford Age Friendly Alliance and Longford Older Person's Network, hosted a successful Age Friendly Information Day at the Longford Arms Hotel on 29 September bringing together older residents and key service providers in an atmosphere of community spirit and shared learning.

The day-long event featured an impressive range of activities designed to inform, engage, and connect older people with services that matter most to their daily lives. The theme of this year's event was 'Stay Active, Stay Strong, Stay Young' as part of celebrations for Positive Ageing Week, which also commenced on the same day.

From digital skills workshops delivered by Longford Library Services to chair yoga sessions and salsa dancing, the programme struck the perfect balance between practical information and joyful participation.



Age Friendly Ireland National Recognition Awards 2025

Longford County Council was represented at the recent Age Friendly Recognition Awards organised by Age Friendly Ireland by An Cathaoirleach Cllr Garry Murtagh, Deputy Chief Executive John Brannigan, Longford Age Friendly Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, Kitty Burkhill and Kitty Hughes, the Age Friendly Ambassador Eamonn Brennan and Paula Mulry Longford Age Friendly Co-ordinator. The awards were organised by Age Friendly Ireland, the national organisation implementing the Government's vision of an Age Friendly Ireland.

Hosted by Galway City and County Councils, the awards celebrated excellence across eight categories of



Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

transport, communication, healthy ageing, housing, environment, safety and security, business and community innovation each aligned with World Health Organisation (WHO) Age Friendly themes. The awards also highlight the commitment of communities across the country to improving the quality of life for older people.

Unlocking Your Digital Skills

This programme funded by Adult Literacy for Life Strategy will be delivered in Westmeath and Longford libraries over a six-week period by a qualified facilitator, who will provide participants with one-to-one advice for their device on a range of topics, regardless of their technical, educational and/or language skills. Participants are encouraged to bring their own personal devices so that they are guided on devices that they are familiar with and can navigate confidently.

Community Safety Place Standard Tool/Walkability Audit

A Community Safety Place Standard Tool /Walkability Audit took place in Edgeworthstown on Tuesday, 5 November. This was a community-led initiative using the Place Standard Tool to assess safety, accessibility, and wellbeing in public spaces. It provides an opportunity for the community to share insights and help shape a safer, more inclusive environment for everyone. While infrastructure formed the main focus of the audit. This event was also about Community Safety and how to make Edgeworthstown safe and feel safe. The audit was

a pilot project with Public Health Scotland, the Scottish Community Safety Network, Longford Library Service, Age Friendly Programme and the Town Centre First Programme

Stay Safe and Active

This eight-week self-defence and exercise programme designed especially for older adults combining gentle exercise for strength and mobility with simple self-defence techniques for confidence and safety as well as community safety talks concluded recently in Granard Library. Ballymahon Library is set to host an eight-week session in January 2026. This initiative is delivered in partnership with Age Friendly, Sport Partnership, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Civil Defence, Fire Service and An Garda Síochána,

Moving for Better Balance exercise classes

These weekly classes delivered in partnership with Age Friendly and Longford Sports partnership as part of a commitment to supporting balance, mobility, and confidence among older adults continue to run in five branch libraries with more classes planned for 2026.

Climate Course for Over 55's

Planning is continuing for this free six step climate course with Jacinta Barrins, retired UN Diplomat and Climate Mentor and organised by Longford County Council Age Friendly and Climate Action Teams. It will run for two hours (10.30am -12.30pm) each Tuesday for six

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

weeks commencing on 13 January 2026. The course is about helping the 55+ to demystify climate change. For example, Jacinta will explain the science behind the link between the cup of tea and climate change. Expect to be engaged and motivated.

Monaduff Social Club

There was a full house at Drumlish Library on 18 October, when the Monaduff Social Club held their annual Age-Friendly event. There was music by Seamus Farrell and dancing by a brave few amongst the bookshelves. The event takes place every year in October as part of Longford Libraries' Age Friendly Initiative.

Photography competition

Longford County Council has celebrated the success of the Explore Longford Young Photographer's Competition with a recent prizegiving ceremony at Longford County Library, where the winning entries were revealed alongside an exhibition of the county's finest young talent.

The competition, a joint initiative between Longford Library Service and Longford Tourism, attracted entries from children aged 6-13 years who captured the county's landscapes, heritage and hidden corners through their unique perspectives.

First prize was awarded to Finn Mulfaul, aged 12, for 'A Break in the Trees' (Derrycassin Woods). Finn received a framed copy of his photograph, which has been printed as a greeting card, and won a guided electric bike tour for a family of up

to five people with Ethical Tours, Ballymahon, valued at €225.

Second prize went to Emilia Holkovic, aged 13, for 'The Royal Canal in Clondra'. Emilia received a framed copy of her photograph, a greeting card print, and a family pass for four to Alan's Yippee Kayaking for supervised kayaking on the Royal Canal, worth €100.

Third prize was awarded to Michael Ledwith, aged 10, for 'Stewart's Farm Sunflower Trail'. Michael received a framed copy of his photograph, a greeting card print, and a €50 National Book Token.

Two Creative Awards recognised exceptional artistic vision: Faolán Feely, aged 10, for 'Town of Granard' and Marc Lane, aged 8, for 'Jurassic in County Longford'. Both received framed copies of their photographs.

The first, second and third prize photographs have been printed as greeting cards and are available through Longford Tourism Office.

The exhibition remains on display at Longford County Library for public viewing.

Children's Book Festival

During the month of October, which was Children's Book Festival month, Longford Libraries held over 45 events catering for over 1,500 children across six branch libraries. These included readings and workshops from Irish authors including Óisín McGann, Eve McDonnell, Eiríca McGann and Shane Hegarty, puppet shows with Little Gem Puppets, arts and crafts sessions, and talks on Biodiversity with Adam Mulvihill. There was also an interactive

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

rhyme and storytime workshop, conducted in various branches by Clever Little Handies.

There were over 900 entries for the 'Design a Bookmark' Competition. This competition encourages primary school children aged 4 – 13 years old to design a bookmark for Longford Library service. There are two age groups 4-8 years and 9-13 years. There are prizes for the top three entries in each category. The winning bookmark in each age group will be printed professionally, presented with the bookmark and prizes will be presented at an awards ceremony by their local elected member. Their school friends will be first to receive the new bookmarks. The bookmarks will be available in all of the library branches in Longford.

Science Week 2025

Science Week which was held between 17- 24 November celebrates its 30th anniversary with the theme: Then. Today. Tomorrow. This national festival is managed by Research Ireland. This is the perfect time to harness the power of curiosity and collaboration to advance STEAM in Longford. Science and research have shaped lives over the last few hundred years. THE STEAM programme in Longford is always promoting the importance of curiosity, problem solving and critical thinking.

On Monday, 10 November in conjunction with Midlands Science, Longford branch hosted an afternoon of music and science with The Bohemian Quartet giving a spellbinding performance to young and old.

On 11, 14 and 15 November Jay Ryan (aka Professor Egghead) gave a series of workshops in Longford, Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon branches with nine local national schools attending.

On Wednesday, 12 November Dr. Emer O' Neill hosted a series of workshops in Longford branch, showing how science can be used to solve everyday problems.

On 13 November, Granard Library hosted an event in conjunction with Midlands Science, involving an all-day Stop Motion Animation workshop which was attended by Transition Year students.

On 12 and 14 November, Longford County Council's STEAM officer Siobhan Greally hosted two robotic workshops in Lanesboro Library, with local national schools attending. A Repak recycling workshop with local primary schools was also held on 11 November.

The week culminated on 19 November with Anyone4Science hosting three fun workshop events in Longford Branch again showing the relevance of science to everyday lives.



Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Battle of Wits County Final 2025

The Longford County final of the Battle of Wits 2025 quiz took place recently in Ballymahon Library, bringing together some of the brightest Transition Year minds from across the county.

Teams from Moyne Community School, Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon, Meán Scoil Mhuire Longford, Cnoc Mhuire Granard, St. Mel's College Longford, Lanesboro Community College, Ballymahon Vocational School, and Ardscoil Phadráig, Granard competed in a lively and challenging contest.

After an exciting battle, Moyne Community School emerged as winners, represented by Ryan Farrell, Seán Brady, Ruth Cosgrove and Kevin Conefrey. St. Mel's College claimed second place with Nathaniel Flood, Jamie Clarke, Diarmuid Galvin and Jonah Flanagan, while Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon secured third place thanks to Joe Ward, Sean Nash, Liam Mahon and Zach Kelly.

The quiz was expertly hosted by County Archivist Martin Morris, and prizes were presented by Cllr Martin Skelly, Cathaoirleach of Ballymahon Municipal District.

Both Moyne Community School and St. Mel's College will now represent Longford in the Battle of Wits Regional Final which takes place in Athlone on Thursday, 4 December, competing against schools from Westmeath, Laois and Offaly.

Skills for Life

Skills for Life is a new nationwide programme delivered through Ireland's public libraries, offering people across the country access to practical learning opportunities to support everyday life. This programme has six main themes.

Basic Digital Skills, Financial Literacy, Media Literacy, Business and Employment Skills, Health Awareness and Sustain Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness.

Workshops scheduled include Bee Workshops focusing on bee education and candle-making. Additional sessions include Fraud Awareness Workshops with the Bank of Ireland and Digital Skills Sessions with the LWETB.

Irish Girl Guides are running in-house digital skills sessions in Edgeworthstown Library, along with Repak's recycling and waste awareness workshops.

Skills for Life merchandise bags are due to be delivered shortly.

The 2025 programme is now complete, confirmation is awaited from the LGMA regarding potential funding for similar events in 2026.

Healthy Ireland

October

Children's Yoga classes with Therese Lanigan were held in Lanesboro and Granard Library while Ballymahon and Edgeworthstown library both had Mother and Toddler Yoga, building on the relationship with parents

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

using libraries and highlighting the resources for breastfeeding parents.

Ballymahon launched a new Sensory Room on 8 October and it is a very welcome addition to the library. It is a wonderful space that can be booked by individuals looking for a quiet space or school visits. There are people travelling from all over the county to use the facility.



November

A four-week block of lunch time Pilates classes will commence in Ballymahon Library on Friday, 21 November and will continue Wednesdays and Fridays until Wednesday, 17 December.

Healthy Ireland book stock

Additional titles were added to the Healthy Ireland Book Stock Collection in 2025.

After consultation with All Library Staff a new list of extra titles has been purchased in both hardcopy and eBook format on topics such

as Positive Ageing, Wellbeing, Parenting, Neurodiversity, Living with a condition, Healthy Eating and Children's books. These titles will be delivered in the coming weeks.

Healthy Ireland Budget 2025

An additional allowance of €600 was allocated by the LGMA to the Longford Healthy Ireland budget bringing the original budget of €1,800 to €2,400. This money will fund the November Pilates classes in Ballymahon.

Exercise classes

The last Move Well for Health Exercise classes in conjunction with Sports Partnership re-commenced in Ballymahon, Edgeworthstown, Granard, Lanesboro, and Longford libraries. This eight-week course will finish just before Christmas. These classes will continue into 2026. Booking is now open for the 2026 classes.

Prime of Life Class are held in Ballymahon every Monday and Friday afternoon at 2pm.

Exhibitions and launches

A number of launches and exhibitions were held in library branches. These included a launch by local author Patrick Doherty of his book '*An Innocent Boy*', and '*Longford Explored*' by Fergus O' Farrell. Halloween meanwhile saw a talk on Bram Stoker and his Longford connections delivered in the Longford branch by Professor Jarlath Killeen, and a reading from Roald Dahl's '*The Witches*' by William Givan.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Archives Service report

The Albert Reynolds Collection

The Albert Reynolds Collection of archives, objects and books was opened to the public on 3 November, by Minister Jack Chambers, Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation. A selection of archives and objects were exhibited in Longford Library and the Archives research room for the occasion. The exhibition in the library continued until 20 November and attracted visitors from all over Longford and further afield.



New donations

The Archives Service acquired a major collection of papers of the late Jude Flynn, one of Longford's greatest local historians. Given by Jude's family, the collection consists of his personal papers and many important archives he collected over several years.

The service also received donations of a roll book from Tipper National School, Cashel, 1913-14, a register of Cashel Pioneer Total Abstinence Association and a register from Cullyfad National School, Killoe, 1895-1952.

Longford Poor Law Union archives online

Longford County Archives is a partner in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, which aims to recreate online, the Public Record Office of Ireland, destroyed in 1922. Three volumes of minutes of the board of guardians of Longford Poor Law Union are now online at virtualtreasury.ie. They include two from the period of the Great Famine.

Arts Office Halloween Parade

Longford Arts Service was very busy in October putting the final touches to Longford's best Halloween Parade to date. Marking the twentieth anniversary of the Dead of Night parade – the Fire and Shadows Parade on Halloween Night was a stunning presentation of the abundance of creative talent that exists in Longford.

The parade floats and costumes were made by Longford based artists and performed by over 150 local volunteers. The parade was the signature event of the Samhain Home of Halloween Festival programme and gathered a street audience of over 3,000 attendees despite the weather.

The project was funded through LCC, Creative Ireland and Failte Ireland's Fire and Shadows pilot programme. This pilot is now finished but it has positioned the Longford Dead of Night parade in a strong position to pursue similar funding next year.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

R.A.C.E

The repaired art circular economy programme was initiated in October. The programme is an EPA funded pilot and involves a partnership project between Longford and Mayo Arts Offices. The programme is focused on developing research and training among artists who produce art festivals.

A researcher Camilla Fanning and two trainers have been hired. Research sessions and a training day were conducted in October with 16 artists from Mayo and Longford.

Arts Grants

Longford Arts grants are currently advertised. Application deadline is Tuesday, 2 December.

Heritage Report

Built Heritage & Archaeological Conservation Grants

There were nine successful Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025 conservation grant applications.

All the grant-aided works have now been completed and the grant drawdown documentation has been forwarded to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme.

The full allocation of €120,081, plus €5,000 for the Historic Thatched Buildings Stream, was claimed by the applicants. The grants were matched by €131,629.94 from the applicants, resulting in essential repairs undertaken to historic architectural features in County Longford to the value in excess of €256,710.94 and

generating a minimum of 320 days of labour across multiple companies and skills in the construction industry in the county.

Minister for Biodiversity, Nature and Heritage visited a number of these sites in July of this year and was impressed by the scope and nature of the works undertaken and the collaborative approach taken by Longford County Council with building owners and communities.



Community Monuments Fund 2025

Two projects are being funded through the Community Monuments Fund (CMF) in 2025.

1. Phase 1 capital stabilisation works to the medieval abbey chapel.
2. A Conservation Management Plan for the ecclesiastical ruins and graveyard at Saints' Island.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

Phase 1 Capital Stabilisation Works to the Medieval Abbey Chapel

This focuses on the late/ post-medieval interventions, which are in very poor condition in areas and need extensive repair. The Abbeyshrule Cistercian Abbey Preservation Committee, working with their conservation team, led by Blackwood Associates Architects tendered this year's works. An experienced conservation masonry team, Revamp Conservation, secured the tender – they have worked on many other monuments, and are proficient in hot-lime mortar mixes.

Revamp commenced onsite in September. Their works comprised stabilisation of the post-medieval vaulted arched openings to the west of the infilled crossing arch. They developed a hot lime mortar mix, mixed onsite using kibbled lime (aka agricultural lime), an earthy sand aggregate mix, and calcium oxide as a pozzolan, to assist with the curing and carbonation of the mix. The joints were raked out by hand where necessary, and repointed flush, and later brushed when largely cured (only slightly damp to the touch). A similar mix was used to the tops of the vaults, and the vaults reinforced by additional stones. The rusticated cobble finish on the vault tops was reinstated.

The masons also stabilised the gable top of the post-medieval dividing wall in the chancel within the eastern section of the building. This was shown to be leaning very significantly and almost all the historic mortar was leached – it was in danger of imminent collapse. The walls were

taken down to a stable point and rebuilt using a bespoke hot lime mortar mix. This phase of work is due for completion by December 2025, and it is anticipated that this will continue in 2026, should it be successful under the CMF 2026.

Conservation Management Plan to Abbey remains on Saints' Island

A Conservation Management Plan has been written for the ecclesiastical ruins and graveyard at Saints' Island, to inform urgent conservation repairs, and applications for Ministerial Consent and CMF funding in 2026.

The updated plan was completed by an experienced multi-disciplinary heritage team, including archaeologists, ecologists, conservation specialists/architects and engineers.

Locally based firm, Sweeney Architects (RIAI Conservation accredited) secured the tender and compiled an excellent team to undertake the report. A very high-quality drone digital survey was completed after some of the vegetation at the upper levels of the walls were granted permission to be cut (not treated or removed); this will not only inform the condition survey and the conservation approach, but can be utilised in multiple outputs into the future, such as 3D modelling etc.

Conservation Grants for 2026

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026 and the Historic Thatched Buildings Stream were opened for applications in July and closed at the end of September.

Libraries, Arts, Archives and Heritage

There is huge demand for these grants with an increase in applications for 2026.

The applications are being assessed, and the final decisions will be published by the National Built Heritage Service likely in January 2026. Once announced, the grant-aided elements of work may commence immediately and should be completed by October 2026.

The Historic Structures Fund 2026 is now open for applications. Longford County Council may shortlist three private applications and up to three public applications. However, the number of buildings supported by the grant will likely be quite small, based on 2025 figures.

Roads

National Road Schemes

Works on the N55 at between Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon

Ward & Burke on behalf of Uisce Eireann continued critical upgrade works, replacing over 5.4km of aged watermain with new pipes along the N55 in October and November. These works will continue to be progressed in the coming months. Approximately 4.5km of new water main has been laid by the contractor to date. The N55 is closed to facilitate these works.

The closure will also facilitate essential roadworks in the vicinity of Fowlard's Bridge which commenced in October. These roadworks will be completed in December.

Diversions are in place and Longford County Council have requested all motorists to use the diversion routes which are signposted.

Weight restrictions have been placed on some local roads in the area to deter HGVs from using these routes.



Construction of a widened embankment near Fowlard's Bridge on N55

N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Scheme

Longford County Council continue to promote and support the N4 Mullingar to Longford Scheme, which is a scheme to upgrade 52km section of the N4 between Mullingar and Longford (Roosky).

Roads

The scheme is currently at Phase 3 – Design and Environmental Evaluation.

A Ground Investigation (GI) Contract has been awarded and it is anticipated that GI works will commence on site in November.

N55 Granard By-pass

Longford County Council has completed in full all the processes required in the TII Project Management Guidelines for Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) for the N55 Granard by-pass.

Longford County Council received TII approval to proceed to Phase 2 (Option Selection) of the guidelines in October. This scheme is currently at tender stage for the appointment of consultants.

Municipal District Works

Road Maintenance Works continued in each Municipal District in October/ November. These works include footpath repairs, drainage, pothole repairs etc.

Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Works on Regional and Local Roads were completed in each of the Municipal Districts.

Works on the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme including Kilnacarrow Bridge, Esker Old Hall Bridge, Drumlougher Bridge, Kiltycreevagh Bridge and Monascallaghan Bridge were completed in 2025. Rehabilitation works on a culvert at Creeve, Killoe are in progress.

The Safety Improvement Works Programme and Climate Change Adaption & Resilience Works

Programme are also substantially complete.

Works on 22 Local Improvement Schemes throughout the county were completed during 2025.

Works on six Community Involvement Schemes at various locations are substantially complete.

Regional & Local Road Funding applications under the various grant headings were submitted to the Department of Transport for 2026.

Maintenance of tracks and trails is ongoing in each of the Municipal Districts.

Speed Limits

Phase two of the National Speed Limit review involves a review of existing speed limits in urban and built-up areas with a view to identifying areas where a reduced speed limit of 30km/hr may be more appropriate with due regard to the procedures and criteria set out in the guidelines for setting and managing speed limits in Ireland.

The implementation date for all urban speed limit changes is 31 March 2027.

Road Safety

Phase two of the Longford County Council Road Safety Action Plan 2025-2027 was prepared in consultation with the Road Safety Working Together Group. This plan aligns with the objectives of Ireland's National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 and outlines targeted actions for implementation at national and local level. In September, the Physical Development SPC recommended the plan for consideration and adoption

Roads

by the CPG and the full Council. In November the CPG considered and approved the plan for consideration and adoption by the full Council. At the Council meeting which followed the plan was unanimously adopted by the elected members. The adoption of this plan represents Longford County Council's leadership in promoting safer roads, responsible road use and sustainable transport systems within the county.

Road Safety week ran from 6-12 October. During the week, Longford County Council hosted several road safety initiatives, including a motorcycle safety radio campaign over the October bank holiday, social media awareness campaigns, and information stands in Council buildings and local libraries. In collaboration with Local GAA clubs and An Garda Síochána Longford County Council launched a GAA campaign promoting road safety specifically targeting 18-35 year olds - the demographic most affected by road traffic accidents. The campaign launch took place at Glennon Brothers Pearse Park in Longford Town with new signage carrying the hard-hitting message: "Be a team player. Think road safety. A mistake on the field

could cost the game; a mistake on the road could cost you your life."

The Road Safety team attended the Community Safety and Wellbeing Expo on Tuesday, 11 November. The Expo highlighted a diverse range of services and initiatives in Longford that promote community safety and wellbeing. Among the highlights was the road safety stand, offering merchandise and informative brochures designed for post-primary students to encourage safe driving practices.



Traffic Department Data 2025

Offence	Fines Issued Q1 2025	Fines Issued Q2 2025	Fines Issued Q3 2025	2025 Total to date
Parking Fines	122	87	98	307
Non-Display of Tax	76	55	34	165
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	36	22	54	112
TOTAL	234	164	186	584

Planning

Forward Planning and Enforcement

Longford County Development Plan 2021–2027

NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities

In July 2025 guidelines were issued under Section 28 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended). As per these guidelines each Local Authority is required to review the current CDP against the requirements to develop housing in line with the new targets.

The Housing targets for Longford for the period 2025 to 2034 are the same as that required in the current County Development Plan (CDP). Local Authorities are also to consider the provision of headroom of up to 50%. Local Authorities are required to vary the current CDP if additional residential zoned land is required.

A Chief Executive Report on the 'NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities' was prepared and circulated to the elected members ahead of a Corporate Policy Group meeting, where it was discussed. The report will be further considered at the December Council meeting.

Physical SPC Update

In October the Physical SPC was provided with a presentation in relation to a Forward Planning Update. This covered the following topics: the NPF Implementation: Housing Growth Requirements: Guidelines for Planning Authorities; New ten-year Development Plan; extension of existing development plan; hierarchy of plans; revision of existing RSES.

Submissions and input to other plans and strategies

The Forward Planning section in conjunction with LEO are continuing to provide input into the preparation of the Midland Enterprise Property 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 October & November 2025, 10 new cases were opened, 19 warning letters were issued and four enforcement notices were issued. There was one referral for prosecution and six files were closed.

Taking in Charge

A total of 31 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.

