



Chief Executive Report October 2024

Longford County Council

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Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage

Right to Read

Children's Book Festival

October's Children's Book Festival included 27 events. These events catered to primary, secondary students and to members of the public.

Events included workshops with author Halyana Budilova on the topic of environment protection which was based on the book 'The Snow Giant and Climate Change'. This included arts and crafts, storytelling and arts and craft sessions with library staff. There was also storytelling with Hannah Carleton, storytelling workshop with author Orla McGovern, Halloween storytelling by Maggi, and spooky movies.

The Libraries' annual 'Design your own Bookmark' competition took place with two age categories: 4-8 and 9-13. The first placed entry in each age category will be printed professionally and will be available in all of libraries in County Longford.

Battle of Wits

This year we are resuming Battle of Wits for the first time since 2019. This is a quiz for transition year students ran in conjunction with Westmeath, Offaly, and Laois Libraries. Eight schools in County Longford are taking part. The questions were sent out and the schools ran the first part of the quiz.

The schools will all send their winning team to Longford Library in November for the County Final and the top two teams from the County Final will go to the Regional Finals in Athlone in December.

Summer Stars

The Summer Stars initiative seen 76 events take place with 1,628 people attending. This included arts and crafts, a Roma Literacy Camp, DEIS literacy and numeracy camps, Zumba classes, bookmark making workshops, a teddy bear's picnic, coding, art workshops, storytelling, children's book launch, Bee and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, biodiversity workshops, FAI booklet launch.

The Summer Stars reading initiative continued through the summer months. Over 1,100 children signed up for this initiative. Nearly 7,000 books were read as part of this initiative.

STEAM

There are ongoing activities in the STEAM programme with events for Space Week with Glenn Heasley on the importance of space exploration.

There were ongoing coding classes with Siobhan Grealley to support children taking part in the Longford Microsoft Dreamspace Showcase initiative. These classes are always well attended.

November will see a lot of activity in all libraries as part of Science Week. Events include interactive sessions with Go Fly your Kite, Midlands Science and Anyone4Science. The local schools were delighted with the programme.

Both group classes and individual sessions promoting information literacy were held in several libraries for September and October.

Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage

Age Friendly

National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards

Longford County Council have been shortlisted in this year's National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards in the Active and Healthy Ageing Category for our Movement for Better Balance classes. These classes are designed to improve balance, reduce the risk of falls, and reduce the impact of a fall.

This series of classes began in January 2024 with two-weekly classes in three libraries: Ballymahon, Granard and Longford. Due to demand, there is now classes in five libraries and in the EDI Centre, Longford.

This is a collaboration between Age Friendly Longford, Longford Libraries, Longford Sports Partnership and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. It is organised by our Physical Activation for Health Officer.

Judging for this initiative took place in Ballymahon Library in mid-September. The winners will be announced at the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards Ceremony in November.

Longford Age Friendly Information Day

The Longford Age Friendly Information Day took place in the Longford Arms Hotel on 30 September. Longford County Council Chief Executive and Longford Age Friendly Alliance Chair Paddy Mahon and Longford Older Person's Council Chairperson Kitty Burkhill welcomed over 150 people to the event.

The event highlighted local services for older people. This included the services of local community organisations such as Alone, Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Citizens Information, Community Gardaí, the HSE, Longford Community Resources Clg (LCRL), Longford Local Link, Longford-Westmeath Education Training Board (LWETB), and Longford Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA).

The day also focussed Longford County Council services to support older citizens and included presentations from:

- Regional and Local Age Friendly Healthy Homes Coordinators Ann Moran and Caroline Doyle
- Libraries employees Nicola Kenneally and Genevieve Montgomery
- County Archivist Martin Morris
- Longford Community Safety Partnership Coordinator Janine Bartley
- Physical Activation for Health Officer Stephen McNally.
- Healthy Longford Coordinators Laura McHugh
- Sláintecare Healthy Communities Coordinator Patricia Forde
- HSE Longford Westmeath Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons by Clinical Nurse Specialist Eunice Eminike

Attendees took part in some chair exercises led by the Longford Sports Partnership tutor Mags Cummins. Mags delivers the Moving for Better

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Balance Exercise classes in five Longford libraries.

Closing remarks were delivered by Longford County Council Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan. The afternoon concluded with a table quiz organised by the Longford County Council Archives team. The quiz proved very popular and went to a tie break with a team from Ballymahon Day Care Centre winning out.

Moving for Better Balance Exercise Booklet

Work has started on a Moving for Better Balance Exercise Booklet. This will contain information on all the services for the older person living in Longford.

Collaboration with Laois Age Friendly

Longford Age Friendly are working with Laois Age Friendly on a project called Mo Bosca Beo. There have been two focus groups, and the design is now gone to an illustrator and graphic design to create the end product.

Digital Literacy Support Programme

Longford Age Friendly partnered with LWETB and Westmeath Libraries in the roll out of a free eight-week digital literacy support programme in library branches in Longford and Westmeath which started in August. The tutor-led thirty-minute one-to-one digital skills classes for anyone who needs help with their computer, smartphone, or tablet. This project was very successful. A report for this initiative is being completed and the team are looking for funding opportunities for this project in 2025.

Walkability Audits

Longford Age Friendly and Town Centre First staff carried out a walkability scoping audit in Granard in advance of a Walkability, Mobility and Access Survey which will take place in November. This is the second walkability audit completed in 2024.

There was a walkability audit in Ballymahon in September with over 40 participants including students from the secondary school, older people, people from the business community, tidy town volunteers, representatives from Vision Ireland.

A walkability audit assesses how easy or difficult it is to get around your town, and how easy or difficult it is to access services. In a walkability audit, members of the community walk a route to identify and prioritise things that could be improved.

Creative Ireland

In 2024, Creative Ireland Longford supported 34 community project and festivals. This was an investment in community art and included project like Granard Booktown, Camlin Keys Piano Festival and Shared Stories: Artistic Visions of Home and Beyond. This also included support for three community choirs.

Creative Ireland was provided funding for Council-led initiatives including Longford Lights, Dead of Night and Longford Microsoft Dreamspace Showcase.

The new Culture and Creativity team will be meeting with a representative of Creative Ireland in November to evaluate the programme here in Longford.

Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage

Healthy Ireland

Due to the variety of topics to cover and promote, our library community recommended some very diverse areas including kinesiology, play therapy sessions, activator pole active walk, eye care with and optician, makeup, and skincare demonstrations, style advise, mindful art classes and a series of talks on dealing with grief and loss. All these events were well attended during August, September, and October.

Our November and December programme will include events on healthy eating for winter, healthy eating for heart health with Sinead Costello and Sharon Murtagh HSE Dieticians, perimenopause and menopause talks, some Christmas cookery classes and sensory play sessions for pre-school community.

Health and Safety

Library employees are completing a number of essential training course including first aid and safety representative training.

In light of recent incidents, the risk assessment for management of protestors in libraries is currently being updated in consultation with the community gardaí, Health and Safety and library staff.

Recent Health and Safety Authority inspections have taken place in Ballymahon, Granard and Longford libraries. Although largely positive, there are a few areas to address including housekeeping and proper storage of materials. These areas are being addressed in all branches. All reports were shared with Health and Safety and Facilities and there is on-going process.

Dormant Account Fund

Longford Libraries received a grant of €14,519.42 from the Dormant Accounts Fund 2024 from the Department of Rural and Community Development. This grant was matched funding by Longford County Council.

This funding was used to purchase wheelchair-friendly shelving for Lanesborough and Longford libraries. This will increase accessibility to the great book selection available in our libraries. It will also allow for a greater flexibility of space in these libraries.

Archives and Records Management

There were two major deposits of archives received in October: roll books, 1950-c.2015, from the LWETB and papers of Seán MacEoin (1893-1973).

The Assistant Archivist is undertaking a records management project in the Roads Department. Archives team have also been giving retention advice to other Council sections.

Two book launches were organised by the Archives team: *Shannonside Tales* by John Casey and Andrew Knowles which took place on 21 September, and *Four Pound Subsidy: The History of Longford Town 1924-2024* by Seamus Leavy which took place on 11 October.

The new archive standard shelving was installed in July. There are a few plans to upgrade the research room over the next month. This room will offer more flexibility for the space and can be used as an event venue in 2025 for audience of up to 50 people.

Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage

Arts Office

The Arts Office has been working with several partners on different community projects over the last few months including Dead of Night Festival 2024 and Moving Art Longford School completion project.



Longford Lights 2025 Funding

Longford Lights 2025 has just been awarded two Arts Council grants totalling €66,000. These are the Festival Investment Scheme (€16,000) and the Project Spectacle Award (€50,000). These are highly competitive application processes. With these grant awards, Longford Lights is firmly establishing itself as a national arts festival.

RACE Funding

Longford Arts Office was successful in securing funding of €38,296 under the Reuse and Repair call entitled RACE (Repaired Arts Circular Economy). The project will be supporting the delivery of repair and reuse initiatives led by the local authority sector and has the potential to create a new circular economy network in the Arts sector.

Heritage

Built Heritage Grants and Community Monuments Fund 2024

Built Heritage Grants and Community Monuments Fund 2024 projects works have either been completed or are in the process of completion. A small number have been delayed due to issues with either the supply chain or contractor availability. This has been communicated with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH).

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2025

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme has been revised by the DHLGH for 2025, making amendments to the maximum grant and co-funding amounts. The application process closed at the end of September 2024.

Nine applications were received for protected structures in County Longford, two of which are new applications. The majority are for domestic buildings, with one application for windows in an

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educational building, and one ecclesiastical building.

The applications will be assessed by an internal committee and recommendations submitted to the DHLGH in December 2024. We anticipate that the Department will approve these applications in January 2025.

Ring-Fenced Thatch Fund

A Ring-Fenced Thatch Fund will be issued at a later date. One building was successful this year, however, there has been serious issues in securing thatchers to undertake this work.

Historic Structures Fund

The Historic Structures Fund 2025 will likely be announced in November 2024, with a closing date for public applications in late January 2025.

County Heritage Plan Projects

The Longford Field Names Pilot Project has had to be revised due to the lack of availability of a suitable coordinator. This is focusing on the parish of Killoe, but with volunteers welcome from elsewhere in the county. Heritage is working with the County Longford Historical Society on this project, and their member Kitty Hughes is the key contact.

The Geographic Information System (GIS) team in the IT Section of Longford County Council has been invaluable for this project. They have produced detailed and useful maps for the recorders. They have also provided a very straightforward ArcGIS smartphone app, which two

members in Killoe are trialling. This will allow the information to update the national meitheal.logainm.ie website, but also the Longford County Council GIS system, available across all sections.

A revision of the County Longford Heritage Plan was tendered, and a very experienced coordinator was procured. They are reviewing the existing plan, and the consultation process will begin.

Corporate Services

Customer Services

Customer services responded to over 2,000 calls and 311 email, as well as dealing with many in-person customers.

Register of Electors

Applications received through the checktheregister.ie are processed daily, with application volume steadily increasing due to the upcoming General Election. Preparations are underway to ensure special and postal voters have registered their details before the Election.

Work continues to improve the accuracy of the Register by promoting the updating of personal details, including postal addresses, dates of birth, Person Public Service Numbers and Eircodes.

This work includes a pop-up registration desk in Longford Post Office on 16 October. Here, the public could register to vote, update their details, or receive information on the Register of Electors in County Longford.

Official Languages Act

Work continues to meet our obligations under Section 10A of the Official Languages Act (Amendment) 2021. In September and October, 78 advertisements were recorded, with 18 in Irish or bilingual.

Data Protection

Data Breaches	7
Data Subject Assess Requests	9
Data Protection Impact Assessment	9
Data Protection Queries	232

Data Protection has been incorporated into the new Longford County Council Customer Service Charter. This section of the Charter states: 'We will commit to the privacy and security of your personal information. We will process your personal information in a safe, secure and compliant manner.'

New digital data protection signage has been introduced, including for Council events.

FOI, AIE and Office of the Ombudsman

The following Freedom of Information (FOI), Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) and Office of the Ombudsman complaints were received:

	September	October	Year to Date
FOI requests received	7	3	57
Internal Reviews of FOI requests	1	0	2
AIE requests received	3	2	11
Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	0	0	4

Corporate Services

Meetings Administration

Meeting which took place in September and October were both online and hybrid, as follows:

Date		
11 September	Corporate Policy Group	Longford County Council
23 September	Granard Municipal District (MD)	
24 September	Longford MD	
26 September	Ballymahon MD	Ballymahon MD In Committee
9 October	Corporate Policy Group	Longford County Council
15 October	Longford MD	
21 October	Granard MD	Granard MD In Committee
22 October	Longford MD	Longford MD In Committee
24 October	Ballymahon MD	Ballymahon MD In Committee
29 October	Longford County Council In Committee	

Elected Member Workshop

A workshop for Longford County Council elected members was organised and took place in Ballina, County Mayo on Friday, 18 October. This included a tour of the recently renovated Military Barrack in the town.

Communications

Press Release Protocol

A new Press Release Protocol has been approved by management. This outlines the process for the issuing of Council press releases and includes guidance for employees. Training for employees for this new protocol will follow on Metacompliance.

Social Media Policy

A new Social Media Policy has been approved. This policy outlines the appropriate use of social media by Council employees and other acting on behalf of the Council on social media. The policy aims to reduce the risks associated with social media use. Training for employees for this new policy will follow on Metacompliance.

Promotion of Council work and initiatives

Communications continues to help all sections across the Council to promote their work. This includes a coordinated campaign to promote the Dead of Night Festival 2024 and to encourage ticket sales ahead of the event. This included press releases, and advertising on social media, radio and in local and regional newspapers.

Corporate Services

Social Media

	*Reach or Impressions	Follower Count
Facebook	142.7K	7,623 (+195)
Instagram	85K	2,136 (+119)
X (Twitter)	**	3,612 (+11)
LinkedIn	2.1K	1,134 (+45)
TikTok	4,628	394 (+121)
Total	234,428	14,899 (+491)

* Reach: Number of people who had post enter their screen. Impressions: Number of times post entered a screen.

** Analytics are no longer available on the non-paid version of X.

Health and Safety

NSAI ISO 45001:2018 surveillance audit

Following a two-day surveillance audit completed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), Longford County Council has successfully retained its 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, Civil Defence, Human Resources and the Health and Safety Section. Successful accreditation to ISO45001 and demonstrates the organisation commitment to the safety management system.

Win at All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards

Longford County Council has yet again been recognised for its outstanding workplace standards at the Annual All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards. Longford County Council were awarded Regional (Midlands) 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 the 11th of October at a special ceremony in Killarney. This is the 10th consecutive year the Council have won awards at this event. These awards are a testament to the dedication of all local authority employees who consistently work so hard to comply with the high level of workplace health and safety standards required.



Local Enterprise Office

National Women's Enterprise Day

Businesswomen from across Longford, Laois, Offaly, and Westmeath came together in the Crypt in St Mel's Cathedral to celebrate National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED). This is an annual Local Enterprise Office (LEO) initiative that is now in its 18th year. Over 150 Midlands-based businesswomen attended the event held on Thursday, 17 October.

All speakers on the day hail from Longford, including keynote speaker Anne Heraty. Anne is the founder and former Chief Executive of CPL Resources PLC. Earlier this year, Anne was honoured with the IMAGE PwC Businesswoman of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award 2024.

Anne was joined by local ambassador Louise Brennan, the driving force behind the hugely successful Fabiani and Mudshot in Longford. RTÉ Midlands Correspondent Sinead Hussey acted as event MC and facilitated a questions and answer session with the panel of businesswomen.

Attendees were entertained with performances by international soprano Emer Barry, who also shared her experiences of the music industry as a business. Longford County Council Director of Services Barbara Heslin opened the event and also took part in the panel discussion. An informative tour of the Cathedral was also delivered by Longford-native Kitty Hughes.



Planning

Longford Local Area Plan and Longford Town Local Transport Plan

Preparation of Longford Town Local Area Plan is currently at draft stage. A draft Local Area Plan was prepared and public consultation was undertaken between 6 September and 18 October 2024. The Chief Executives Report in relation to the submission on the draft document is being prepared and will be presented to the elected members.

Lough Ree Biosphere Reserve

The application to UNESCO for Biosphere Reserve status for Lough Ree is progressing. Consultants have been appointed to carry out public consultation which is due to start in January following a Ministerial launch. This project features in the National Climate Action Plan, Shannon Tourism Masterplan, Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and the Programme for Government.

It is a flagship project in the region in our efforts to combat climate change and reverse biodiversity loss. Extensive discussions have been carried out between the consultants, the steering committee and the secretariat regarding the boundary requirements and public consultation is due to start in Spring 2024.

Planning Applications, Development Management

ePlanning has been fully implemented and is running smoothly significantly reducing our paper waste. Currently we are receiving over 85% of our applications online.

Development is due to commence shortly on the permitted extension to Center Parcs, which when completed will be a 50% increase in the accommodations levels at the holiday village. A large scall extension to the Technimark facility has also been granted.

There have been numerous Part VIII applications processed from Housing, Regeneration, and Active Travel.

The Waiver scheme in relation to development contribution has been extended with a modest uptake in applications.

Residential Zoned Land Tax

The Planning Section has published a draft map which was required for Revenue Commissioners under the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) legislation. Land appearing on the annual draft maps, as amended to take into account the outcome of submissions and rezoning requests made in respect of the land on these maps, will be included on the annual final map of land in scope for the tax in the local authority area to be published on 31 January 2025.

This land will be subject to the tax in 2025 unless it is exempt as a residential property, as outlined above, or qualifies for any other exemption, as provided for in legislation.

The administration of the RZLT is a matter for the Revenue Commissioners

Derelict Site

The Derelict Sites Act and process is being used as a vehicle to minimise dereliction and vacancy in the towns of Longford. The derelict site registration process has begun on seven sites.

Regeneration

Camlin Quarter Regeneration Project

Sub element 1 – The Mall Outdoor Facilities Upgrade

CQS Group have been appointed and have completed a construction cost estimate. Gateway 1 approval from Housing Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) for this project element is been awaited.

Sub element 2 – Church Street

The National Transport Authority and Housing URDF have agreed, in principle, that this project can be combined with Lower Battery Road as a co-funded Active Travel and Regeneration project. The preparation of tender documents for the procurement of consultants is ongoing.

Mall Complex –Changing Room Upgrade

This project is complete.

Mall Complex –Storeroom Extension

Six quotations from local builders were sought, however, no responses were received.

This work was then procured on eTenders – open procedure. Tenders received have been assessed. It is intended to appoint the successful contractor in the next couple of weeks.

RRDF 2020 Ballymahon Phobail Le Cheile

Part 8 planning was issued – date for submissions with respect to the proposed project closed on 13 May 2024. This planning submission is currently on hold. This project will now be phased and works are ongoing to submit a revised Part 8 planning application for the convent building and new community hall.

RRDF 2021 Granard Destination Town

Tenders were sought for the procurement of project management and design consultancy services with specific skills in urban design and public realm improvement projects for the Granard Town Centre public realm and carpark. Five tenders were received and have been assessed. Now awaiting Department of Rural and Community Development approval to appoint successful consultant.

North Longford Rebel Trail

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Measure 3 2022 project, North Longford Rebel Trail Phase 2: Monaduff to Ballinamuck works are ongoing. Expected completion is in November 2024.

ORIS and Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2023

Applications have been submitted under ORIS and Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) for 2023.

Regeneration

Longford County Council have been approved €180,000 for six Measure 1 projects.

ORIS 2023 Measure 2 applications have been approved: Granard Lights and Additional Walkway, Moyne Amphitheatre and Legga Carpark

TVRS 2023: two applications (up to €250,000) have been approved: Ballinalee Playground, Edgeworthstown Mahon Building

Further funding of €379,170 has been received under Town and Village 2023 for a special needs playground and parkland connection to Royal Canal Greenway Spur, Longford Town.

Fáilte Ireland Just Transition Fund

Commons North Amphitheatre, Lanesborough (Category 2): €150,000 approved to progress detailed design and prepare a commercial plan. Preparation of project brief for commercial plan is practically complete and it is intended to seek tenders from consultants in the next few days.

Cloondara Village Enhancement and Cycleway Scheme (Category 3): €370,000 approved to progress planning, business case and construction. Proposed planning for this project is being combined with the Safe Routes to School Scheme. Preparation of the project brief for the business case is practically complete and it is intended to seek tenders from consultants in the next couple of weeks.

Cloondara to Tarmonbarry Cycle Scheme (Category 1): €84,000 approved to prepare a feasibility report. No progress to date.

Active Travel

R198 Battery Road Pedestrian and cycle scheme

Footpath and cycle track construction works were substantially completed on the inbound side of the Battery Road over the past two months between Halls Motor Factors to beyond the Lisbrack Road junction. Surfacing works to the carpark area in front of Halls Motor Factors are ongoing. This consist of a paving block finish.

Towards the end of October works started on the outbound side of the upper Battery Road and now extend from the Lisbrack Road junction to past Pearse View Estate. Drainage and services are currently being installed, with kerbing and surfacing to follow. Temporary traffic management will remain in place for this phase and subsequent final phase of works.

When complete this Pathfinder sub project will deliver over 1.2 km of new footpath and cycle track along this key arterial route to Longford Town. Works will include the signalisation of the Lisbrack Road junction, carriageway and junction tightening along the route and also the undergrounding of overhead services, public lighting upgrades and road reconstruction.

Fisherstown Road Clondra

Footpath works have started on the Fisherstown Road in Clondra which are being funded through Active Travel and being delivered by the Mid Longford Municipal District. These works will see the provision of 640m of new footpath to link the residents of Fisherstown to Tarmonbarry.

Regeneration

Junction Works Drumlish

Works are underway on the realignment of the Mohill and Esker Road junction in Drumlish. These works are part funded through Active Travel and being delivered through the North Longford Municipal District. Improved pedestrian crossing points and junction tightening works are incorporated into this scheme.

Active Travel Schemes in Granard

Following a recent tender a contractor has been appointed to undertake two Active Travel schemes in Granard town: the Market Street to Barrack Lane scheme and the R194 Longford road scheme. Works are expected to commence from Monday, 4 November, starting with the construction of a new road linking from Market Street to Barrack Lane. This will include new footpath link continuing along Barack lane to the N55.

The other project which will run concurrently under the same works contract will include a widened footpath link along the R194 Longford Road Granard to link from Ard Scoil Phádraig as far as the old Ulster Bank building. This scheme will include a new pedestrian crossing on the R194 along the route and involve carriageway narrowing and junction tightening works.

Fire Services

Health and Safety

There are no injuries to report.

Training

- 28 firefighters completed a two-day water awareness refresher course in Ballymahon.
- 20 firefighters completed fire behaviour refresher training in Ballinrobe.
- 40 firefighters attended fog nail training in Ballinrobe.
- Emergency first responder training was completed in Edgeworthstown for eight students.
- A recruit firefighter course started in late October for three weeks. Longford has nine students from a class of 18. This is the first ever QQI course to be ran in Longford.
- Three students completed initial fire behaviour training in Hackettstown.
- Nine students completed breathing apparatus training in Tullamore.



Fire Services

Operations:

- There were 45 callouts in September and 40 callouts in October (up to 30 October).
- All stations remained fully operational.
- There has been a significant increase in rubbish fires in the Longford town area.

Fire Prevention

- Three fire safety certificates have been processed.
- 14 District Court licences have been processed.
- One dangerous substance licence was processed.
- The annual schools fire safety programme has started. The target audience is third class in all primary schools and 75% of all primary schools have completed this programme so far.
- Fire Services were on standby for the Dead of Night Festival in Longford Town.

Recruitment

Nine more people have started their initial firefighter training for the position of firefighter in various stations. The recruitment process is still open as we will still have vacancies in Lanesborough, Granard and Ballymahon.

Equipment

Capital funding has been approved for €30,000 for road traffic collision cutting equipment. Capital funding of €70,000 has been approved for a specialist breathing apparatus equipment washing machine.

Major Emergency Management

The Chief Executive attended Local Coordination Group training in Clonmel.

A Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer attended on site controller of operations training in Clonmel.

Climate Action

The upgrading to energy efficient lighting in all fire stations has started.

