



Chief Executive Report October 2025

Longford County Council

Contents

October Highlights	3
--------------------------	---

Economic Development

Regeneration and Active Travel	8
--------------------------------------	---

Enterprise and Tourism

Tourism	11
---------------	----

Night-Time Economy	16
--------------------------	----

Social Development

Community	20
-----------------	----

Housing	27
---------------	----

Physical Development

Environment and Climate Change	31
--------------------------------------	----

Fire Services	38
---------------------	----

October Highlights

All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2025

Longford County Council was announced as the winner of the Local Authority/Council Award and the Exceptional High Achiever Award at the Annual All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2025.

Longford County Council received the prestigious awards at the 34th Annual All-Ireland Occupational Safety Awards, held at the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, on Friday, 10 October. These awards celebrate outstanding health and safety workplace standards. Longford County Council has consistently been recognised as a top performer at these awards, with award wins every year since first entering in 2014. The awards are run by the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG).



Longford County Council champions Road Safety Awareness Week with GAA partnership

Longford County Council launched Road Safety Awareness Week in October with a pioneering campaign partnering with local GAA clubs to tackle Ireland's escalating road fatality crisis. Irish Road Safety Week took place from Monday, 6 October to Sunday, 12 October 2025.

Longford County Council's road safety campaign centres on a groundbreaking collaboration with Longford GAA/LGFA, and An Garda Síochána, specifically targeting 18-35 year olds – the demographic most affected by road traffic incidents.

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 signs emphasise four critical behaviours: phone down, slow down, belt up, and never drink or drug drive. Plans are underway to extend this signage across all GAA grounds throughout County Longford.



October Highlights

Midland Region STEM project shortlisted for Innovation in Politics Awards 2025 in Vienna

Longford County Council was proud to be part of the Midland Region STEM project which was the sole Irish initiative to be shortlisted for the Innovation in Politics Awards in Vienna.

As the 2025 [European Capital of Democracy](#), Vienna hosted this year's [Innovation in Politics Awards](#), celebrating bold political leadership and outstanding democratic innovation from across Europe.

At a festive gala in Vienna City Hall, eight winning projects were announced, selected by over 1,000 European citizens from more than 300 submissions spanning 34 countries.

'Driving STEM in the Midlands' was recognised in the Education category. Remarkably, this is the third shortlisting for Longford County Council amongst Council of Europe member states at the Innovation in Politics Awards in recent years and an accolade which sets Longford County Council apart from other local authorities in Ireland.



Age Friendly Information Day celebrates community connection and active ageing

Longford County Council through the Age Friendly programme team, 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, bringing

October Highlights

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



October Highlights

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.



Longford recognised nationally for excellence in digital transformation

The Longford Microsoft Dream Space Showcase won the 'Judges' Choice Award' at the Business Post Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards held in the Mansion House, Dublin.

This national recognition celebrates Longford County Council's commitment to building future-ready digital skills in communities.

What began as an idea to highlight the incredible work of Microsoft Ireland Dream Space in Longford schools has grown into a flagship event for digital inclusion in rural Ireland.

This award is a testament to what is possible when vision meets action - when local government, schools, teachers, and industry come together to build Longford's digital future.

Longford County Council's Microsoft Dream Space Showcase is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and European Union's Just Transition Fund Programme 2021-2027.



October Highlights

Home of Halloween – Longford & Westmeath

This year marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands in Longford and Westmeath as Fáilte Ireland launched 'Ireland, Home of Halloween.' For the first time, the two counties united to create a seasonal programme celebrating Samhain at its source – here in the ancient landscapes of bogs and waterways in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands where tracks and trails lead to the most sacred of locations. The launch of Longford and Westmeath as one of seven Home of Halloween Hubs nationwide took place in October at Pig Market Lane in Longford Town where the full programme of events was revealed.

Three flagship festivals form the heart of the 2025 programme: the Dead of Night Festival throughout County Longford, Féile na Samhna at Corlea Trackway, and Samhain on Uisneach. Each is unique in style, but together they weave a story of fire, folklore, and community that is deeply rooted in place.

The festivals are the flagship features in a rich and diverse programme of over 30 events in total across counties Longford and Westmeath. From storytelling to craft workshops and haunted town tours to pumpkin patches, there was something on offer for every age and ability.

This is the first year of a three-year initiative to establish this new shoulder season through the Ireland: Home of Halloween campaign, attracting overseas visitors to better understand the origins of Samhain.



Regeneration and Active Travel

Regeneration

THRIVE: Connolly Barracks Reimagined

THRIVE: Connolly Barracks Reimagined is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027, representing a total investment of €7 million. The project is being delivered under the Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme (THRIVE), launched by Minister Kieran O'Donnell in February 2024.

This strategic initiative will see the redevelopment of the historic officers' building into a multi-functional civic and cultural facility, comprising a county museum, community café, creative makerspace, podcast and recording studio, meeting rooms, music facilities, and a flexible performance and training space. The scheme also includes accessibility enhancements, sustainability measures such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting, and significant improvements to the surrounding public realm.

Aligned with the principles of the New European Bauhaus, sustainability, aesthetics, and inclusion, the project supports architectural conservation while responding to demographic growth and evolving community needs. It will foster intergenerational engagement, enhance tourism and local enterprise, and contribute to employment creation within the region.

Trail maintenance

Longford County Council has completed maintenance works on four key recreational trails: Corn Hill, Ardagh, Edenmore Bog, and Corlea Bog. These projects were funded under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) 2023, administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The works included drainage improvements, cutting back vegetation, and replenishing trail surfaces with quarry stone, ensuring safe and accessible routes for all users. The upgrades support the objectives of Embracing Ireland's Outdoors by encouraging walking and cycling, enhancing access for people with disabilities, and supporting local tourism and



Regeneration and Active Travel

community wellbeing. Ongoing maintenance regimes will ensure these valued amenities continue to serve both local residents and visitors, promoting active lifestyles and sustainable tourism in County Longford.



Active Travel

Aghafad Pedestrian and Cycle Scheme

Construction work is soon to commence on the Aghafad pedestrian and cycle Active Travel scheme. A contractor has been appointed and is expected to mobilise to site by early November. This project will see the creation of a new shared path facility that will link from the industrial units at Aghafad along the road to the Slasher's complex and continue to the GAA grounds to connect to the Royal Canal Greenway. This project will

also include the replacement of the watermain and surface water drainage along the route and will feature new public lighting and boundary improvement works.

Footpath connection at Farnagh Hill

Works are now substantially complete on a new footpath connection at Farnagh Hill. This key missing footpath link has been facilitated through private boundary set back and now allows a continuous footpath connection towards town in this residential area. Works were funded through Active Travel and carried out by Mid Longford Area staff.



New raised pedestrian crossings

A number of new raised pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures are set to commence at locations around the county from the end of October. Sites include Keenagh National School, Drumlish National School, Aughnacliffe village, Legan village, Park Road, Longford Town and Melview. These works are aimed at improving safety for pedestrians and controlling speeds at key locations and will significantly improve road safety at these sites.

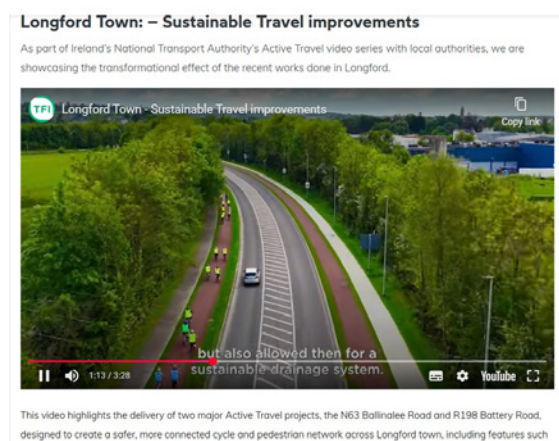
Regeneration and Active Travel

National Transport Authority case study video- Longford

Earlier this year the NTA selected Longford's completed Active Travel schemes on the Ballinalee Road and Battery Road to feature in a promotion video to showcase examples of sustainable transport improvements. Filming took place in June and the fully edited video is being pushed out over the NTA's media platforms from mid-October. The video features commentary and footage of local participants, sharing their first-hand experience of these new Active Travel schemes.

The video was posted on Longford County Council's social media channels and is also available on the NTA's official website under the Active Travel Investment section.

presents a great opportunity for enhancing safety and accessibility at the school gate and approaches with the creation of a school zone.



Round 4 of Safe Routes to Schools

The SRTS Round 4 school selection was announced in early October. The three schools which have been provisionally selected in County Longford are Scoil Naomh Íde Cloontagh, Killashee; St. Columba's NS, Mullinalaghta and St. Guasacht's NS, Bunlahy. This programme

Tourism

Reopening of Knights and Conquests Centre

Having been closed for much of the year to date, the Knights and Conquests Heritage Centre reopened to the public in early September with new manager Boni Plant at the helm. The centre also held a spectacular “Scare” at Halloween event.

1920 Coffee, Ballinalee

Offering specialty coffee and modern food in an historic Irish cottage, 1920 Coffee has opened at the Rose Cottage War of Independence Centre in Ballinalee. Brothers Jack and Enda Macken are locally based and have a passion for local history which enhances the visitor experience for those arriving at Rose Cottage, the headquarters of General Seán Mac Eoin.



Firecracker Sauna, Aughnacliffe

Firecracker Sauna invites locals and visitors to reconnect, recharge and relax in an authentic wood-fired lakeside sauna experience at Leebeen, Aughnacliffe. This new business was launched co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the EU Just Transition Fund. For further information see firecracker-sauna.ie

The Lost Exit, Ballymahon

A brand-new visitor activity has opened recently in Parkside Business Park in Ballymahon. The Lost Exit is an escape room centre where only your logic, creativity, and fellow team members can help you escape. Suitable for all ages, more information is available on thelostexit.ie



Tourism

Home of Halloween: Programming & Event Management

An extensive programme of over 40 events was compiled, marketed, and managed for the Ireland, Home of Halloween Campaign as part of a partnership between Longford and Westmeath County Councils.

Work on this has been ongoing since February of last year, culminating in a four week-long period of operator, community and local authority led events running from 12 October through to 9 November across both counties.

With Longford taking the lead role on behalf of hub programming and marketing for this year, the events team comprises Longford Tourism, Longford Community Safety Partnership, Longford Night-Time Economy, Longford Civil Defence, Longford Arts Service with key infrastructural support from the Health and Safety team of Longford County Council, Longford Municipal District Area Team, An Garda Síochána and Longford Fire Service as well as many other local and national colleagues and industry partners.

The artist community in particular have had a huge role to play alongside the Night-Time Economy offerings with tourism and hospitality operators stepping up to deliver quality events, venues and products throughout.

The event programming is funded by Fáilte Ireland, Longford County Council and the Night-Time Economy Task Force in the Department of Arts, Sport, Culture and Media.

Research and evaluation is being carried out by Tourism operators among visitors and organisers alike, with a view to building the case for even more support for the development of the new Home of Halloween shoulder season here in Longford and Westmeath.



Tourism



Tourism

Tracks & Trails in Longford and Roscommon

Longford Tourism partnered with Visit Roscommon to bring the Tracks & Trails production team back down to Ireland's Hidden Heartlands to feature both counties specifically.

The team filmed on 23 and 24 September, featuring a selection of locations across both counties including the biggest connection, The National Famine Way and Royal Canal Greenway. Longford highlighted Cairn Hill, Richmond Harbour in Clondra, Lime Tree Avenue in Keenagh and Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre.

Watch out for the promotion of the episode which will go to air in 2026.



Just Transition

There are now 16 successful applicants to the Just Transition Fund with all final evaluations completed. This equates to some €2.54 million of tourism investment to the county.

Four projects are practically completed, and work is under way with six with the remaining finalising their procurement processes. The Tourism section is encouraging and mentoring those who are still finalising this with less than 12 months to go to the official completion deadline.

The EU Just Transition Tourism Officer is pleased to report that LEADER is now supporting some exciting new tourism projects for the county with a few more in the pipeline.

Community-led visitor attractions gathered in recent weeks to work towards the development of a new dedicated tourism business network in the county that will drive the Longford visitor experience onwards together.

The Just Transition Tourism Activator attended a number of very useful conferences and events including Irish Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions conference as well as Smart Towns and Villages – Reimagining Rural Ireland hosted by Leitrim County Council. Learnings will be directly shared back with community owned visitor attractions.

The Just Transition Tourism Activator continues to support the Tourism Officer and Night-Time Economy Officer in the collaborative project work that engages visitor elements of the portfolios in events, marketing, signage, grant aid writing and strategic operations.



Tourism

Social Media insights

Longford Tourism social media channels have been hugely engaging with the promotion of so many projects being channelled through the platforms, including Night-Time Economy initiatives, Culture Night, Home of Halloween and so much more.

Local company LC Digital, since appointment, has increased Facebook views by 74.7% over the month of October, with Instagram views increasing by 130%.



Website and brand redevelopment

Website and brand redevelopment is well underway. A web agency has been formally appointed, and initial work has commenced. The focus is on creating a more user-friendly, visually engaging platform that better reflects Longford's tourism offering and supports event promotion, stakeholder engagement, and visitor information. The redevelopment process will include consultation with key partners to ensure the site meets both local needs and national standards.

Minister Peter Burke briefing

Longford Tourism was delighted to be afforded the chance to brief Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and

Employment Peter Burke TD on the important developments and challenges that face Longford as an emerging Tourist destination of choice within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.



Event attendance

Longford Tourism Officer also attended the following events during September and October:

1. Attended multi county launch of Ireland's East to West Camino at Rathcroghan Visitor Centre, Tulsk
2. North Longford/ South Westmeath familiarisation visit in conjunction with Ireland's Hidden Heartlands
3. ITIC Conference in Kilkenny



Night-Time Economy

September and October have marked a busy and exciting period for Longford's Night-Time Economy, with strong community engagement, creative programming, and continued collaboration at local and national levels.

Culture Night Late 2025

Culture Night was a fantastic celebration of creativity, community, and local talent in Longford. The town was buzzing with activity, with events taking place in clubs, cafés, libraries, and public spaces. Families, artists, musicians, and community groups all came together to showcase the best of Longford's cultural life, from live music and dance to storytelling, exhibitions, and workshops. The evening concluded with the Culture Night Late Finale at Connolly Barracks, where the historic site was transformed

into a vibrant hub of performance and light. The event featured a stunning projection of The Blind Fiddler Kiernan, live music from local bands, and a headline performance by Kila, bringing energy and excitement to the heart of the town. The Night-Time Economy programme played a key role in supporting and coordinating the evening, helping to create a safe, inclusive, and memorable experience for all.

The Evening Edit

The Evening Edit, a seasonal guide to night-time events and activities in Longford town was recently launched, supported by the NTE grant scheme round 2. The Autumn/Winter edition features a wide range of offerings, from live performances and food experiences to family friendly gatherings, helping locals and visitors discover what's happening in Longford after 6pm.



THE EVENING EDIT
Let's go out and experience the Best of Longford Town After Dark

What's happening this week

Sun 28 th Sept	Live Music with Paschal and Davy	9pm	The Gaelic Corner
Mon 29 th Sept	Line Dancing	7.30pm	Temperance Hall
Tues 30 th Sept	Cúpla Focal	7.30pm	The Tally Ho
Wed 1 st Oct	Brendan Doyle Running Club All levels catered for	7pm	The Mall
Thurs 2 nd Oct	Accessible Cinema : Cool Runnings	8pm	Backstage Theatre
	Thursday Music Session	9pm	The Tally Ho
Fri 3 rd Oct	Ham Sandwiches and Discipline Witness the passionate drive of the GAA fused with dance, disco and comedy. Age 6+	8pm	Backstage Theatre
Sat 4 th Oct	Forbidden Fruit & It's F An exciting double bill of two bold, brilliant shows chosen for their raw takes on emigration and gender bias.	8pm	Backstage Theatre

Culture • Music • Community • Fun

Night-Time Economy

The Night Shift: training series

October saw the delivery of The Night Shift: Event Masterclass, a free training programme for businesses, community groups, and creatives. Led by Colm Croffy of AOIFE, the sessions focused on marketing, PR, and audience engagement. Over 30 participants gained practical tools to help grow and promote their events, contributing to a stronger and more confident night-time sector.



Café Lates returns

The Café Lates initiative made a welcome return this autumn, supported once again by the Night-Time Economy programme following its huge success earlier in the year. Local cafés and cultural spaces opened later to host poetry readings, acoustic music, wellness evenings, and storytelling sessions. These relaxed, events created welcoming spaces for people of all ages to enjoy Longford after dark and continue to offer a valuable alternative to traditional nightlife.

Home of Halloween

Longford hosted Home of Halloween in October, a county-wide celebration filled with creativity, storytelling, and community spirit. The Night-Time Economy programme supported a range of exciting events that brought the town to life after dark. Plans included the dramatic Fire & Shadows Procession, a street performance with fire dancers, drummers, stilt walkers, and giant puppets, telling the story of the Morrígan from Irish mythology. Families enjoyed Candlelit Tales, a free storytelling event that brought ancient myths to life in a cosy setting, while The Latchikos offered a lively night of music and folklore. Young people had their own space at GlowRuch, a safe and fun event with music and lights, and adults enjoying the festive spirit at the After Dark Ball, a themed night of dancing and celebration. These events were organised with support from Longford Tourism and Community Safety partnership and aim to position

Night-Time Economy

Longford as a key destination in Ireland's Halloween celebrations, showcasing the strength of local creativity and teamwork.



NTE Grant Scheme – Round 2 success

Round 2 of the Night-Time Economy Grant Scheme was a major success, with a diverse range of applicants from across the county. Youth organisations, arts groups, small businesses, and cultural venues all took part. Each successful applicant committed to hosting at least two events between September and November, helping to animate Longford and offer new experiences to the public.

The Longford Sessions

A standout success this season was The Longford Sessions, a series of live music events celebrating local talent and community spirit. Hosted in various venues across the county, the sessions brought together musicians, audiences, and businesses in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. The initiative was praised for its inclusivity, its support of emerging artists, and its contribution to Longford's cultural identity.

Visit from the Department

The Night-Time Economy section was delighted to welcome representatives from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to Longford in October. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the progress of the Night-Time Economy initiatives and discuss future plans. Feedback was very positive, with strong recognition of Longford's leadership and innovation in this space.

Night-Time Economy

Collaboration with NTE advisors

Collaboration continues with the eight Night-Time Economy Advisors across Ireland. Regular meetings and shared learning sessions have helped strengthen the national pilot programme, with Longford contributing actively to discussions around safety, programming, and community engagement.

Tourism/NTE WhatsApp channel launch

The Tourism & Night-Time Economy WhatsApp Channel was launched. This is a new communication tool designed to keep stakeholders informed and connected. The channel shares updates on funding, events, training, and opportunities, helping build a more engaged and responsive network across the town and county.



Community

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of Longford LCDC was held on 9 September 2025.

LEADER 2327 Programme

Five LEADER projects were approved at the September LCDC meeting to a value of just over €112,495.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Place Standard Tool Exercise Report - Ardnacassa Area

In April 2025, Longford County Council and partner agencies piloted the Place Standard Tool (PST) in the Ardnacassa area to better understand local experiences of place and identify priority areas for community improvement. The PST enables residents to assess where they live across 14 key themes, covering both the physical environment and social factors that shape quality of life.

Engagement activities included an online survey, two drop-in clinics, a focus group with children, and an in-person workshop and walkabout involving 21 residents and service providers. The workshop brought together stakeholders including Longford Women's Link, Longford Community Resources, An Garda Síochána, and Longford County Council. A total of 44 individuals participated across all engagement methods.

Feedback highlighted strengths such as existing childcare services, helpful

neighbours, and a positive community spirit in parts of the estate. However, consistent concerns were raised in relation to litter, lack of organised play facilities, limited awareness of services, poor signage, and underused green spaces. 'Play and Recreation' emerged as the lowest-scoring theme across all feedback.

A series of priority actions have been identified to respond to community needs, including the establishment of street-level resident groups, development of a community garden, improved signage, expanded use of the Community House, and a focus on promoting safety and social connection. These actions will be progressed in collaboration with residents and service providers, supported where possible by local and national funding schemes.

The PST process has demonstrated a strong appetite among residents to be heard and to play an active role in shaping their neighbourhood. The next phase will focus on building trust, delivering visible improvements, and empowering the community to take a more active role in local decision-making.

Read the full report: [Place Standard Tool Exercise Report - Ardnacassa Area](#)

Community Houses

The community houses in both Ardnacassa and McEoin Park have a wide variety of activities to engage community members. To find out more information in relation to the Community Houses visit [Community Houses - LongfordCoCo](#).

Community

Community Houses are open to community groups and local agencies seeking to engage with the communities in those areas. The Community Houses are co-funded by Longford County Council, the Longford Community Safety Partnership and Longford Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, with support from the Department of Justice and Department of Health.

Targeted homework club

Sláintecare Healthy Communities funds a targeted homework club initiative through the Longford School Completion Project and in partnership with the Home School & Community Liaison Network. This initiative is to support children in primary school from second class to sixth class who would not have access to homework support otherwise. The targeted homework club is rolled out in four venues throughout Longford Town with 50 children engaging in the programme and a waiting list is in place.



Longford Local Community Safety Partnership

Longford LCSP update

Members of the Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) were officially appointed by the Minister for Justice on 2 October 2025. The meeting of the newly formed LCSP will take place in November 2025, where members will elect a chairperson. The National Office for Community Safety will host a public consultation event in Athlone in early December 2025.

Road Safety Week

As part of Road Safety Week, Longford LCSP supported an educational event for Transition Year students at Longford Fire Station. The session focused on promoting road safety awareness among young people and included interactive demonstrations.



Community

Domestic Violence Homicide Risk Training

On 25 and 26 September 2025, Longford LCSP co-funded a two-day training conference entitled *'Responding to the Risk of Domestic Violence Homicide in Rural Ireland'*, hosted in the Longford Arms Hotel. The event was organised by Longford Women's Link and supported by the Department of Justice. Over 160 participants from 35 agencies attended- including Tusla, HSE, An Garda Síochána, Longford County Council, community organisations, barristers, doctors, and probation services. The training, led by Professor Jane Monckton Smith, focused on recognising signs of coercive control, understanding escalation patterns, and strengthening interagency support for victims.



Healthy Longford

Longford Breastfeeding Project

Longford Breastfeeding Project through Healthy Ireland funding is an inter-agency group whose key focus is to promote the normalisation and visualisation of breastfeeding in Longford. A number of actions were set by Longford Breastfeeding Project for 2025 with the following having taken place recently.

Launch of breastfeeding initiatives in Longford Libraries

On Monday, 8 September a breastfeeding support initiative across all six library branches in County Longford was launched with an official launch event taking place in Ballymahon Library. The initiative was spearheaded by the Longford Breastfeeding group collaborating with Longford Libraries. Each library now features dedicated breastfeeding areas with baskets containing practical essentials including muslin squares, baby wipes, breast pads and nappy bags. Purpose-designed support chairs provide comfort for nursing mothers, whilst carefully curated reading materials cater specifically to mothers and young children. New changing facilities have been installed across all six library branches.



Community

Community Education event in Longford Women's Link

During National Breastfeeding Week 2025 Longford Breastfeeding Project in collaboration with Longford Women's Link & Catkins on the Move delivered a community focused education event. This morning was full of insight and sparked conversation with guest speakers including Ciara Reilly from Cuidiú Longford Roscommon and Sinéad Costello Food & Nutrition Work with Sláintecare Healthy Communities. Special thanks to Caroline Burke who facilitated the morning and Eilish Foley who lead a calming mindfulness session providing attendees a moment to reflect and recharge. Esther Blodau a Graphic Recorder skilfully captured the themes of the morning with a particular focus on the ongoing impact and future direction of Longford Breastfeeding Project.



Period Dignity 2025

Funding of €8,000 was received by Longford County Council from the Department of Health for Period Dignity in 2025. As well as updating dispensers, products and ensuring the needs of all community partners

were met for 2025; two separate programmes were also facilitated.

Menowell

Healthy Longford & Longford Sports Partnership working with Edufit Limited team delivered a FREE six-week online exercise, nutrition, and health education programme. MenoWell is a programme which has a special focus on perimenopause and post-menopause. The timing of this programme was to coincide with World Menopause Day which took place on 18 October 2025.

Training & the Female Menstrual Cycle

Edufit Limited again in partnership with Longford County Council and Healthy Longford, delivered a one off 60-minute online evidence-based health education masterclass on 'Training & The Female Menstrual Cycle'. This one-off event was to celebrate European Week of Sport.

Class on the Grass

Healthy Longford working in collaboration with Longford Sports Partnership and Longford Local Area Integration Team were successful in receiving funding under SOLAS Adult Literacy for Life funding. Through this funding a six-week programme has been delivered to males and females from other communities that have moved to Longford. The programme was divided into two sections, with the first focusing on Health Literacy & the second Physical Health, which also included the delivery of a soccer programme.

Community

Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference

Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Niall Gannon opened Longford Comhairle na nÓg Annual Youth Conference on Thursday, 23 October in the Longford Arms Hotel. The conference was a huge success with young people in attendance from all nine post primary schools and youth services from across the county. Discussions were held on a variety of topics of interest to young people and Music Generation provided some very entertaining workshops.

Cllr Gannon acknowledged the ongoing work of the present Comhairle na nÓg members who are ensuring the voice of young people from County Longford is heard at both a national and local level. He thanked members for their invaluable contributions to the work of Longford County Council by participating in various consultations and by volunteering at events. Cllr Gannon encouraged the young people to discuss, form opinions and make recommendations on the topics that are important to them, and he noted that he looked forward to reading the outcomes of those discussions in their conference report.



Ciaran Murphy LCC, Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Niall Gannon, Kin Hang Tung Foróige, Comhairle members, Grainne Reid CYPSC, Gary Nugent Foróige and Laura McPhillips LCC.

Sports Partnership

Woodlands for Health

The Woodlands for Health programme, delivered through the LSP's Physical Activity for Health Officer in partnership with HSE Mental Health Services Longford, offers a nature-based approach to promoting mental well-being through guided walks in some of Longford's most beautiful woodland settings. Participants engage in gentle physical activity while connecting with nature and one another in tranquil environments such as Derrycassin Woods, Newcastle Woods, and other local trails. The programme supports both physical and psychological health, helping individuals reduce stress, enhance mood, and build social connections in a safe, inclusive, and supportive setting. Led by trained LSP tutors, Woodlands for Health provides an accessible pathway to recovery and resilience, encouraging participants to rediscover the restorative benefits of nature within their local community.



Community

Ability Coaching Programme

The Ability Coaching Programme participants recently completed a Volleyball Coaching Course with Volleyball Ireland at St. Mary's Community Campus & Sports Hub, Edgeworthstown. The programme supports individuals with additional needs or anyone from a disadvantaged background to become qualified community coaches, helping create more inclusive opportunities and ensuring activities for all within every community in Longford.

Participants are given the opportunity to complete the following:

- A Coaching Course with the relevant National Governing Body
- Disability Awareness Training with Active Disability Ireland
- Safeguarding 1 Workshop with Sport Ireland
- Basic First Aid Course

On completion, each participant receives a Certificate of Achievement and a Coaches Starter Kit. The SIDO will continue to support participants as they begin their coaching journeys.



Multicultural community engagement

Longford Sports Partnership, in collaboration with LCRL Longford, recently delivered a creative team-building workshop with the Multicultural Men's Group through the Sport4Empowerment European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) Programme. The workshop brought together men from a range of cultural backgrounds living in Longford to build trust, improve communication, and strengthen relationships as they work towards co-designing a new community-led sports and wellbeing programme. Through activities such as bridge building with Jenga blocks, a 'Web of Values' exercise, and a beanbag toss icebreaker, participants explored teamwork, shared experiences, and built understanding in a fun and inclusive way.



Learn to swim

In September 2025 the Outdoor Sports and Diversity Inclusion Officer collaborated with a group from LCRL to undertake a set of swimming lessons. The lessons took place in Coral Leisure Longford for a total of five weeks with nine participants from Ardnacassa Women's Group. The programme consisted of basic swim instruction.

Community

Along with water confidence tips and exercises the participants also learned about water safety.

Feedback from the group was positive with the participants hopeful of doing another set in 2026. In the meantime, they reported feeling more confident about attending the pool as recreational users to practice and have fun with members of their families.



Men on the Move

As part of the ongoing wellness and physical activity programme delivered by Local Sports Partnerships in conjunction with the HSE, Men on the Move has continued to provide a safe, welcoming space for men in Longford to (re)connect with themselves and others. Taking place at Ballymahon Vocational School, the programme supports participants to improve their physical and mental wellbeing through structured group exercise, opportunities to socialise, and access to useful resources. It creates a non-judgemental environment that encourages connection, not only with health and fitness but also with fellow participants who share similar life journeys. There are currently ten men

registered in the programme, and sessions are ongoing with strong engagement and positive feedback.



Outdoor Recreation

The County Outdoor Recreation Committee had its first official meeting as since it became the CORC. The meeting was a very positive one, with great attendance and enthusiasm to develop the opportunities that Longford has to offer. Samantha Healy was elected as chair of the committee and the next meeting has been scheduled for the end of January 2026. Screening of the County Outdoor Recreation Plan has commenced the screening will ensure that the proposal is appropriate, sustainable, and aligned with broader goals. The development of a Cross-Directorate Outdoor Recreation Working Group has begun. This group will comprise of Longford County Council officers who have responsibilities related to outdoor recreation.

Housing

Project (Number of Houses)	Status
Cranleymore, Abbeylara (3)	On Site. Substantial completion Dec 2025.
Lamagh, Newtownforbes (6)	Stage 4 submitted. Awaiting approval. To start on site Nov 2025.
Shanmullagh, Ballinamuck (10)	Stage 3 approved. Progressing stage 4 submission.
Granada View (Cnoc na Greine), Granard (7)	Part 8 planning approved. Stage 3 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Canal Court, "Fondermans" (2)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 approved. Progressing stage 3 submission.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough (22)	Stage 2 & Part 8 planning approved. Consultant progressing Stage 3
St Rita's Park Road (13)	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning approved for Phase 1 (6 houses). Consultant preparing presentation to councillors prior to Part 8 for phase 2.
Aghaboy, Killoe, Ennybegs (5)	Stage 1 approved. Revised plans and costs being prepared for Stage 2 submission shortly.
Casey Court, Keenagh (2)	Infill site. Stage 1 approved. Progressing Stage 2.
Hourican's Hotel, Granard (8, and parking)	Stage 1 approved. Consultant preparing presentation to councillors prior to stage 2 and Part 8 submissions.
Butchers, Market Street, Granard (3)	Stage 2 approved. Reviewing options for additional land to improve access.
Bothairin na Carraige, Ballinalee (6)	Stage 1 submitted. Awaiting approval.
Drynan, Ballymahon (13)	On Hold. Awaiting update of WWTP by Uisce Éireann. Tender for Consultant to progress 2026.
Willow Park Halting site (2)	Proposals submitted to CENA. CENA to submit Stage 1 shortly.

Housing

Affordable Housing

Longford County Council recognises the need to provide affordable housing in the county and is actively pursuing options for delivery from 2026 onwards.

Housing pre-let and voids programme

To date, refurbishment works have been completed on 42 units under the pre-let and voids programme. In addition, works are currently underway on a further 16 units to facilitate their re-letting during the year.



Turnkey housing developments/scheme

Longford County Council received a positive response to the advertisements seeking Expressions of

Interest from developers, contractors, land and property owners with regard to the provision of schemes of houses and/or land within the county.

Of the responses received, 12 proposals were deemed viable, with six identified for progression. Submissions have been made to the Department for two of these sites, resulting in approval for a total of 17 housing units. A further submission is currently being prepared for an additional site comprising four units.

Energy retrofit programme

Longford County Council has met the 2025 target allocation of 50 units set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Energy retrofitting works are now complete on seven units at McEoin Park, Longford. The works involved the installation of external insulation, new windows and doors and a renewable Air to Water heating system.

Longford County Council signed contracts with Breffini Insulation to carry out Energy Efficiency Works on 19 units at St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon. This work has commenced and is expected to be complete by January 2026.



Housing

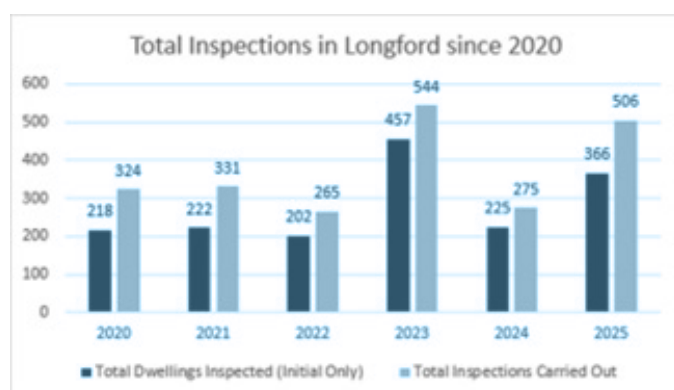
Private rent inspections (PRI) - 2025

Longford County Council's private rent inspections (PRI) target for 2025 is 533 properties.

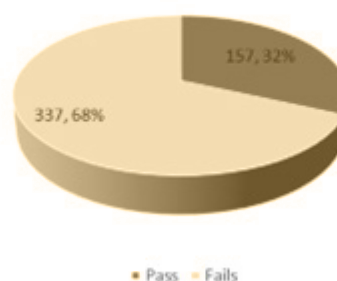
By end of Quarter 3 2025, 68% of this target was completed. In total 506 PRI were completed, however this

included some re-inspections (i.e. follow-up inspections – which are not counted as part of the target).

Longford County Council is on target to complete 167 first PRI in Q4 2025.



Compliance Rate of 2025 Inspections



Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with Disability – Private Households

2025 Data / Scheme	Number of Approved Grants	Number of applications awaiting approval
Housing Adaptation Grant for Disabled People	25	13
Mobility Aids Grant	34	15
Housing Aid for Older People Grant	69	30
Total:	128	58
2025(end of Q3) Total Payment	€756,460	

County Longford Housing Stock

Housing Stock	2025 (Q3)
No dwelling in ownership of LCC (2025 Opening Stock)	2267
No dwellings in ownership of LCC (end of Q3)	2257
Tenant in Situ Acquisition 2025 (end of Q3)	2
The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant	2.08%

Housing

Social housing applicants

Longford County Council has an overall social housing need of 640. A total of 101 housing allocations were made in 2025 at the end of Q3.

A total of 154 applications are currently being assessed.

Summary of Social Housing Assessment

The annual summary of Social Housing Assessment is being prepared. The summary of Social Housing Assessments brings together information provided by local authorities on households in their functional area that are qualified for social housing support but whose social housing need is not currently being met.

Environment and Climate Change

Supervalu National Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony

The Environment Section along with colleagues from the Municipal Districts continue to support TidyTowns committees across County Longford, to enhance the appearance and sustainability of towns and villages. The hard work of some of the TidyTowns committees was rewarded at the National TidyTowns Awards Ceremony in Croke Park on Friday, 24 October as follows:

- County Winner and Gold Medal Winner - Abbeyshrule
- Gold Medal Winner, Regional Waters Award Winner, Highly Commended Award- Longford
- Bronze Medal Winners- Drumlish and Newtowncashel
- Commended – Newtowncashel
- Endeavour – Ballymahon

Well done to those who received awards and to all County Longford TidyTowns committees and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. The Environment Section looks forward to working with committees during 2026.



Casual Trading Bye-Laws

The Casual Trading Act, 1995 empowers Local Authorities to make bye-laws to control, regulate, supervise, and administer casual trading on lands that are owned by, controlled by or in the charge of the local authority. Due to the growing number of casual traders in the county and enquiries about casual trading, the Environment Section undertook to draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws for County Longford. The bye-laws were approved by the Physical Development Strategic Policy Committee at the October 2025 meeting. At their request the draft bye-laws will go before the next plenary council meeting and thereafter on to Public Consultation.



Community Climate Action Fund

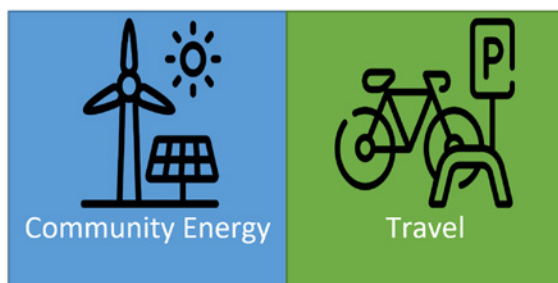
The Community Climate Officer announced the launch of Strand 1, Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Fund on 28 October 2025. Longford County Council secured funding of €328,000 for eligible projects within the county.

- The main objectives of the programme are:
- To help contribute to national climate and energy targets

Environment and Climate Change

- Support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in Longford
- Support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action
- Direct engagement with communities to promote and assist in the scale up of community climate action regardless of the starting point of the community

Grants are available under the following funding themes:



Cemetery Support Scheme 2025

The Cemetery Support Scheme opened on 4 August 2025 and closed in mid-October 2025. The scheme provides financial assistance to community and voluntary groups who are involved in maintaining Longford County Council owned and managed cemeteries. Eligible works include maintenance, grass cutting, boundary repairs, and general upkeep. Grants of up to €400 per cemetery are available, based on valid receipts.

The scheme recognises and supports the vital role of community volunteers in preserving local burial grounds. Twenty-four applications were received in 2025, reflecting strong and consistent community engagement, continued local pride, and the ongoing value of the scheme in maintaining cemetery appearance and dignity.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2025

Swing Barrier Pilot Project

As part of a pilot project to tackle persistent illegal dumping, a manual swing barrier was installed to restrict vehicle access to a remote bog road in Keenagh. This initiative was introduced to deter unauthorised vehicular entry, which had been a key factor in ongoing illegal waste disposal at the site.

The barrier installation forms part of the Environment Departments broader strategy to protect rural and environmentally sensitive areas from illegal dumping, with this initiatives

Environment and Climate Change

impact to be monitored as a potential model for similar locations.

The project was delivered at a cost of €3,121.25.



CCTV surveillance at dumping black spots

The Environment Section installed CCTV cameras at a number of illegal dumping black spots throughout the county. This strategic deployment aims to deter environmental offences and support enforcement efforts under the Litter Pollution Act and the Waste Management Act.

The targeted locations were selected based on historical data and community feedback. The footage captured will be used to identify offenders, with litter fines and legal enforcement actions to follow. This initiative reflects the council's ongoing commitment to environmental protection and zero tolerance for illegal dumping. The project was delivered at a cost of €39,526.05

Collection of illegally dumped waste

The Environment Section successfully removed over 10.6 tonnes of illegally dumped waste from identified black spots. This effort not only restored affected areas but also reinforced the council's commitment to environmental enforcement and community well-being. The clean-up operation incurred a total cost of €10,401.14.

All three projects for 2025 were funded through the Anti-Dumping Initiative, through the Eastern Midlands Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA).



National Agricultural Inspections Programme

The Environment Section's Scientists Monica Cadden and Liam Rabbitte represented Longford County Council at the National Agricultural Inspections Programme (NAIP) Case Study Workshop, held on Wednesday, 24 September 2025, at the Midlands Park Hotel in Portlaoise.

The team delivered a presentation entitled *"NAIP Inspections and Enforcement Actions in County Longford,"* outlining the county's

Environment and Climate Change

approach to agricultural inspections and associated enforcement measures.

Longford remains on track to meet the ambitious annual inspection targets set by the EPA, reflecting the council's continued commitment to environmental compliance and regulatory oversight.



Moyne Community School engagement event

On 22 October, Longford County Council and Uisce Éireann jointly hosted a visit for Leaving Certificate chemistry students from Moyne Community School. The visit began with a guided tour of the Longford Wastewater Treatment Plant, led by Mark Glancy from Uisce Éireann. Mark provided an informative overview of the wastewater treatment process, including the methods used for

sludge treatment and stabilisation at the facility.

Following this, the students toured Longford County Council's Water Sampling and Analysis Laboratory. They were welcomed by Barbara Heslin, Director of Services, and received a talk from Liam Rabbitte, Executive Scientist, highlighting the laboratory's vital role in chemical testing, water quality monitoring, and environmental protection.

This visit provided the students with valuable insight into real-world applications of chemistry in environmental management and public health.



Environment and Climate Change

Regional Environmental and Wildlife Crime Day

On 16 September, Geraldine Glennon and David O' Rourke of the Waste Enforcement team took part in a coordinated multi-agency operation as part of the Northwestern Regional Environmental and Wildlife Crime Day of Action. The initiative, organised by the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA), involved rolling checkpoints at three separate locations in County Mayo.

This collaborative operation included participation from Longford, Roscommon and Mayo County Councils, An Garda Síochána, the Road Safety Authority (RSA), Revenue Customs, and the National Parks and

Wildlife Service. The primary focus was the detection and prevention of unauthorised waste transportation and wildlife-related offences.

Longford County Council was invited by WERLA to participate in the enforcement activities, reflecting an ongoing commitment to environmental protection and effective inter-agency cooperation.

Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030

The Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 was approved at the plenary meeting of Longford Council Council on 10 September 2025. The plan was subsequently launched as part of a very successful day, at Edgeworthstown Library on 25 September.

Biodiversity relevant organisations hosted numerous stalls on the day, many of whom are collaborative partners of Longford County Council. There was huge engagement between the exhibitors, school children and the public.

Speakers on the day included, Minister Christopher O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Paddy Mahon, Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council, Cllr Garry Murtagh, CEO of The Heritage Council, Virginia Teehan and Dr. Andrew Kelly, Chief Executive Birdwatch Ireland.

The event also included the launch of the Birdwatching Backpack scheme on loan through Longford Libraries. Following the launch of Longford County Council's project, Minister Christopher O' Sullivan called for the



Environment and Climate Change

birdwatch backpack scheme to be rolled out nationally.

Longford County Council's collaborative work with the Irish Prison Service, will see each national school in County Longford receiving a bird box.



Environment and Climate Change

Green Hub Initiative set to help Longford Businesses Go Greener

The Environment Section of Longford County Council recently launched its Green Hub recycling initiative, designed to revolutionise waste management practices amongst local hospitality businesses. The Green Hub programme represents Longford County Council's commitment to practical environmental action, by supporting local enterprise to segregate their waste correctly and deliver measurable climate benefits for the community. The programme specifically encourages cafés, restaurants, and food businesses in Longford Town to support the programme and avail of comprehensive free support to adopt sustainable waste practices.

Sixteen food related businesses and three secondary schools in Longford town; St. Mel's College, Templemichael College and Mean Scoil Mhuire have already enrolled as founding participants, accessing expert waste advisory services and free resources from MyWaste.ie. The programme provides practical support including bin signage, training materials, staff education and individual business assessments. Participants also receive official recognition as Green Hub enterprises, joining a network of environmentally conscious operators. The project will continue until May 2026, by offering ongoing support to all Green Hub participants.

Safe and sustainable Halloween celebrations

As part of its annual environmental awareness efforts, the Environment Section of Longford County Council has activated its Halloween campaign, encouraging residents to celebrate safely and sustainably. The campaign urges the public to stay safe this Halloween by avoiding harmful practices such as illegal bonfires and the burning of household or hazardous waste. These activities pose serious risks to public health and the environment, releasing toxic fumes from materials like plastics, paints, and chemicals.

To support community vigilance, the council is asking residents to report any stockpiling of bonfire materials to the environment team. In addition to safety messaging, the campaign promotes eco-friendly Halloween habits under the theme '*Go Green This Halloween*'. Residents are encouraged to create their own decorations from items normally placed in the recycling bin, reuse decorations year after year, and avoid single-use plastic Halloween decorations and accessories. The council also reminds the public to protect pets during festivities, as loud noises and bonfires can cause distress to animals. By choosing organised events like the Longford Dead of Night Festival, Longford residents can enjoy Halloween in a way that's fun, responsible, and kind to the environment.

Fire Services

Health & Safety

Granard Fire Station was audited as part of the recent NSAI Audit.

Training

The 2024 new recruits completed their Compartment Fire Behaviour Training in September.

All other fire-fighters completed their Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Training in October.

Two fire-fighters completed the Module 1 – Managing Fire Service Incidents Course in Tullamore in October.

Operations

The total number of callouts was 60 in the two-month September–October 2025 period.

Fire Prevention

Seven Fire Safety Certs were processed in September–October 2025. Five submissions to planning applications were also submitted.

Recruitment

Interviews were held for new fire-fighters in September. HR is processing the successful candidates and an initial Fire-fighter skills course is being organised for the new recruits in January 2026.

Equipment

The payroll system is being transferred to a cloud-based system in preparation for the move to fortnightly fire-fighter pay in 2026.

New PPE has been purchased.

Major Emergency Management

Major Emergency Media Liaison training in conjunction with the Garda Press Office was completed in Mullingar in October.

