

Longford County Council Chief Executive Report September 2022

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September Highlights

Longford Community Safety Plan launched

Longford Community Safety Plan 2022-2024 was launched in September by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD. It outlines the vision for community safety planning and management in the county.



New community house

Upgrade works are complete on a new community house in Ardnacassa. This will be a space for delivering activities and providing access to services. It has been developed by Sláintecare Healthy Communities and other stakeholders.



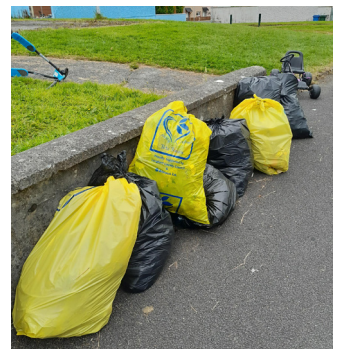
Culture Night in Longford

Longford Culture Night returned in September. Many events took place across the evening, including an African Irish Carnival, with Daddy Showkey and 4Degrees West performing. The night also included a Youth Provides Music Recital in the Providers building, a Longford Writers Group meeting and the launch of the new Sunflower Lion book, which took place in Longford Library.



Community clean up

The community warden has been working very closely with the probation services across various estates and litter hotspots in Longford Town. This work has included the cleaning up McEoin Park and the Ardnacassa area.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Longford Community Safety Plan 2022-2024

Longford Community Safety Plan 2022-2024 has been launched by Minister for Justice Helen McEntee TD. It outlines the vision for a sustainable prevention approach to community safety planning and management for County Longford.

It has been developed by Longford Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP), with input from the local community, and public and voluntary services. The Plan focuses on six priority areas with linked and actionable objectives. These include crime prevention and response, Garda visibility, the perception of safety in Longford and improved collaboration across all services. The Plan is available on Longfordcoco.ie.

Festival of Culture

Bridgeways Family Resource Centre hosted a Festival of Culture, bringing many cultures together. It included a Latin dancing workshop, string quartet concert and an artisan food market with foods from many countries.



New community house

Upgrade works are complete on a new community house in Ardnacassa, which will serve the needs of the community.

This space has potential to deliver meaningful programmes and activities to people in their own community. It also provides a safe space for people to reach out and access services. Programmes being considered include parent and toddler groups, youth groups, and homework clubs.

The Council's Housing section worked with Longford LCSP and Sláintecare Healthy Communities to get this house ready for public use.

Find out more, including how to host an activity in this space by contacting Patricia Forde on 086 012 3402 or Janine Bartley on 086 103 7184.

Intercultural Grants Scheme

Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) received €3,000 as part of the Intercultural Grants Scheme to enhance and develop the capacity of the Intercultural Forum in County Longford. Longford PPN have engaged a facilitator to work with this group over the coming months. The first meeting of the group was held in September.

Community & Enterprise

Community Development (Contd)

Community Grant Support Scheme

The second round of the Community Grant Support Scheme closed for applications in September. Longford County Council Elected Members have considered applications at their September meetings. Applicants will be advised of any grant awards shortly.

CLÁR 2022 funding announced

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD announced 15 successful County Longford projects to be funded under the second tranche of CLÁR 2022 Measure One funding.

A total allocation of €530,140.47 was approved for these projects. Applicants will receive formal correspondence from Longford County Council in the coming weeks. All projects are outlined below.

Organisation	Project	Funding
Lenamore National	Community sensory garden with musical play equipment	€24,689
Lus na Gréine Family Resource Centre	Multi-use (cinema, theatre, lecture hall) community space	€43,837
Ballymahon Vocational School	Community multi-use games areas (MUGA)	€36,792

Moyne Community School	Community MUGA	€50,000
Lanesborough Primary School	Community agility trail	€17,329
Sacred Heart Primary School	Community outdoor covered area with benches and raised beds	€33,300
Cullyfad Village Enhancement Scheme	Cullyfad walking and running track	€50,000
Drumlish Community Association CLG	Handball wall, exterior painting, outdoor removable awning	€37,361
St. Mary's National School, Newtowncashel	MUGA and fencing	€49,966.73
Bridgeways Family Resource Centre	Outdoor recreation area, including pool table, seating, gym	€45,000
Latin School Community Centre, Moyne	Civic amenity area, landscaping, parish map	€37,278.36
St. Brigid's GAA Killashee	Car park works, safety railings, fence, gas tank, bee garden and boxes.	€45,436.50
St. Mary's Community Campus	Replace fire and side doors, repair emergency exit doors, convert storage room into multi-purpose room.	€15,413.40
Mullinalaghta Community Development	Replace fence and gates	€9,699.30
Mostrim GAA	Upgrade pitch flood lights	€34,038.18

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

European Week of Sport

European Week of Sport took place in September. Longford Local Sports Partnership organised 16 events across Longford with 350 participants in activities such as kayaking, yoga, running, walking and archery.

The week's activities are designed for everyone regardless of skill or fitness level or background to encourage us all to #BeActive. It also aims to provide more opportunities for people to exercise in their daily lives.



Record holding runner Ray Flynn pays a visit to former school

St Michael's Boys National School in Longford Town was a hive of activity when holder of the Irish record over 1500 meters, Ray Flynn returned to his old school. Joined by The Daily Mile ambassador Frank Greally, the pair encouraged pupils to pursue running and exercise. Ray also talked about his life as a runner. Students asked some great questions and were all captivated by both Ray and Frank.

Safeguarding course

Ten volunteers, coaches, children's officers and designated liaison persons involved with children in sport completed a three-hour safeguarding course on child welfare and protection. This course educates participants on the implementation of best practice in protecting the welfare of children involved in sport.

Making a splash!

Kayaking for Kids in Leebeen Park had 42 children taking part in sessions over three Saturday mornings. Participants will complete the Level One Canoeing Ireland Kayaking Proficiency Certification. They also got some time to try paddle boarding.

Community & Enterprise Tourism

New Longford postcards

New postcards promoting County Longford have been designed and are now available in the Longford Tourism Office. These new cards add to the current selection of greeting cards and postcards showcasing Longford and some of the things there are to do in the county.

Keep EZexploring Longford

The EZexploring maps are even more accessible with QR code stickers now placed on information boards, in public buildings and in Longford libraries. When scanned, the QR codes bring people to their free walking trail maps on their phone at any time of day.

The EZexploring maps cover seven self-guided walking trails in County Longford. They include seek and find activities, with unique stories at each location.



Human Resources

Employee numbers

The Council had 396 employees, including:

Managerial	6	Outdoor	99
Administrative, Clerical	174	Retained Fire	42
Professional, Technical	75	Fighter	

Recruitment

Competitions complete	7	Employees in new roles	10
Candidates interviews	84	Leavers	5
New starters	10		

Learning and development

Training held in May included:

Business skills training:

- Cybersecurity Awareness
- Customer Service
- Climate Action Green Procurement Awareness
- Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm
- Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

Health and safety training:

- Personal Safety at Work
- Chemical Spill
- Water Treatment Plant Operator Refresher
- Scaffold Inspection
- Medium Risk Confined Spaces

Health and wellbeing

Programmes available to employees included:

- Health Service Executive (HSE) Living Well programme
- Quit Smoking programme from the Longford EDI Centre and supported by HSE Sláintecare

Finance & IT

Information Technology

Town WIFI

The free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish had 1,778 new and 2,041 returning users.

Broadband Connection Points

County Longford Broadband Connection Points had 76 new users and 396 returning users.

Digital services

As part of the Longford Digital Strategy review, two workshops were held in September on the following:

- identifying essential digital skills
- a computer science briefing with local secondary schools teachers, Department of Education, the Professional Development Service for Teachers, Ericsson and Microsoft Dream Space.

Longford Text Alert has been shortlisted in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The app, which sends people crime prevention and community alerts, is now live in ten areas across County Longford. The latest area to go live, Drumlish and Ballinamuck, had a local launch at the end of September. Further roll-outs continue.

There has been continued progress and support of several digital services projects, including:

- eDocument management project
- Customer Relationship Management app
- A housing inspection app
- ePerformance Management Development Scheme (ePMDS) software
- eService Plan project

Technology infrastructure

ServiceDesk dealt with 1,170 enquiries in August and September.

New security policies are being implemented and there has been an upgrading of antivirus software.

The upgrade to the financial management system and the electoral register system has been facilitated. Procurement competitions are also complete for support renewals. Retired storage media has been securely destroyed.

A critical infrastructure review has started and a regional infrastructure meeting was hosted.

There has been continued progress and support of several infrastructural projects, including:

- Patching of client and server systems
- Hybrid meetings
- Mobile phone administration and support

Geographic information systems

Data was collated and app development undertaken to support a Residential Zoned Land Tax map. A parking meter survey and app development was undertaken to support a tender process.

A vacant property viewer and a mobile water leak detection app are also being developed. Additionally, an internal planning viewer application was updated to reflect latest data.

There has been continued progress and support of several projects, including Longford Text alert. User training and support continues to be provided also.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Roads

Low Cost Safety Scheme

The Low Cost Safety Scheme has an allocation of €245,000 for 2022. These works are at seven locations including Purth Cross and Belton's Cross at Colehill. All works are expected to be complete in 2022, with some starting soon and some nearing completion.

Community Involvement Schemes

Under the Community Involvement Schemes, €273,900 was allocated to Longford. This includes funding for five projects which are all currently progressing. Projects include L5045 Cloonelly, Moyne and L1043-0 Aughnacliffe village footpaths.

Road safety

The Local Road Safety Working Together Committee continue to develop a new Local Road Safety Plan. This plan will be aligned to the Government's Our Journey Towards Vision Zero road safety strategy.

This committee is formed by relevant stakeholders, with each asked to contribute to the Plan's actions and identify the actions they can deliver on.

Municipal district works

Road maintenance, including drainage, footpath repairs and pothole repairs, continued in each municipal district (MD).

Restoration improvement and maintenance works on regional and local roads are nearing completion in each MD.

Traffic offences

Traffic offences data for the first three quarters of 2022 are as below.

Offence	Fines issued		
	Q1	Q2	Q3
Parking fine	202	185	189
Non-display of tax	142	148	113
Breach of Parking Regulations 1997	147	156	169
Total	491	489	471

National road schemes

N63 Majors Well Road works continued. Work is now in progress on the reconstruction of the N63 Road Pavement Scheme. It is envisaged that construction work will be completed by the end of October.

N4 Garryandrew Pavement Scheme was constructed in September.

Phase one of the N4 Longford bypass scheme (from the N4 and N5 Charlotte Brooke roundabout to the N4 and N63 Leo Casey roundabout) was tendered. The successful tenderer is Roadstone Ltd, with negotiations ongoing regarding their appointment.

Local Improvement Schemes

Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) are nearing completion. LIS allocation one was €351,880, with 13 schemes approved for works. These works have to be completed in October.

LIS allocation two was €114,060, with five schemes approved for works which are to be completed in November.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Environment

Agri-environmental training

Longford County Council have been participating in the rollout of new agri-environmental training. For this, farmers attend a one-day course which includes presentations on agri-environmental measures and practices, agri-environmental schemes and farm safety. Presentations are followed by a farm walk.

Longford County Council employees have been invited as guest speakers and talk on topics including:

- River Basin Management Plan
- Water quality
- Safe use of pesticides
- Invasive species

Feedback has been very positive from both farmers and consultants organising the course.

Hazardous waste collection

Longford County Council held its large goods collection on Saturday 3 September at Pearse Park in Longford. Overall, 8.150 tonnes of hazardous waste was collected, with the bulk of this being made up of waste paints. This service greatly helps alleviate the dumping of these materials across the county.



Community clean ups

The community warden has been working very closely with the probation services across various estates and litter hotspots in Longford Town. This work has included the cleaning up of McEoin Park and the Ardnacassa area.

Environment continues to work closely with the Community and Housing sections of the Council, as well as agencies such as Longford Community Resources CLG to engage residents via workshops and community clean-up days.

Dog fouling campaign

Environment's dog fouling campaign continues. This will now include new dog fouling bilingual signage to be erected at amenity areas and walkways around the county over the next month. In addition, dog fouling stencils have been painted onto the canal walkway to encourage dog walkers to 'Bag it' and 'Bin it'.



GLAN SUAS I nDIAIDH DO MHADRA
PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Bíodh madraí ar iall
Please keep your dog on a leash

FÍNEÁIL AR AN LÁTHAIR
ON THE SPOT FINE
€150



Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Civil Defence

Duties and taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover at 12 events throughout August and September, including:

- The Longford Marathon
- Three Longford Town Football Club matches
- Three Longford Local Sports Partnership 5K runs
- One Knights and Conquest Heritage Centre event
- The Terry McCormack Cycle
- Three blood transfusion clinics



- Six volunteers completed their cardiac first responder course.
- Garda vetting was updated for five volunteers.
- The communications unit was delivered to the supplier for internal fitout.
- Three risk assessments were updated and communicated to volunteers.
- An operational risk register was prepared with the compliance section.
- Six new Tetra radios were received from the Department of Defence.

Training and operations

- Three emergency first responder students successfully completed their written exam.
- One emergency medical technician passed their practical exam and will now register as a practitioner with the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council.
- Two instructors attended the Cardiac First Responder Ireland conference in Mullingar.
- One cardiac first responder passed their practical monitoring course and is now added as an instructor.

Planning & Project Delivery

Housing Capital

Housing Capital Programme

Project	Units	Status
O'Hara's Site, Richmond Street	14	On site, due for completion October 2022.
St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck	8	On site, due for completion December 2022.
Alderfield, Farnagh	1	On site (23 complete) due for completion October 2022.
Campbell's Drive	2	On site (21 complete) due for completion October 2022.
Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Tender drawings being prepared.
St Rita's Park Road	12	Stage 2 approved. Due to be completed in April 2024.
24 Congress Terrace	2	Stage 3 approved. Tender documents in progress.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	Stage 3 approved. Tender documents in progress.
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
Cnoc na Gréine, Granard	6	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	Single stage application to be submitted shortly.
2 Legion Terrace	4	Submitted for single stage approval.
Lettergeeragh, Drumlish	1	Single stage application to be submitted shortly.
Caislean Breac, Newtownforbes	2	Complete, turnkey.
Richmond Street	23	Turnkey approval, to start on site before end 2022.

Farrell's Ballinalee	4	Turnkey approval, to start on site before end 2022.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	5	Turnkey submitted for approval.
Forthill, Aughnacliffe	13	Turnkey approval – to start on site before end 2022.
Colmcille Terrace, Granard	19	Combined Stage 1 to 3 approval for Capital Assistance Scheme project. Capital Advance Leasing Facility application approved. Section 183 notices for transfer of 19 units to Tuath Housing on agenda for October Council meeting.
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	22	Stage 1 approved. Stage 2 to be submitted shortly.

Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund

Under the Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund: Ready to Build Scheme, local authorities will make serviced sites available to individual purchasers for the building of a property to be the principal private residence of the purchaser. The sites will be sold at a discounted rate from the market value.

The local authority will aim to develop their existing sites or purchase sites and provide services and access to these sites. Local authorities will prioritise consideration of applications to purchase these serviced sites based on criteria set out. Data will be collated for ongoing review of the scheme.

The new Vacant Homes Officers in the Housing Capital section will oversee the scheme and will lead the uptake within the local authority. The maximum grant to local authorities will be €50,000. Details are available on Longfordcoco.ie.

Planning & Project Delivery

Climate Action Initiatives

Human Resources

Human Resources have been working with the Information Technology section for the development of digital application forms to reduce paper-based forms and paper waste.

Information Technology

Several paperless projects are having a positive impact on the Council's environmental footprint. This includes a pilot Digital Divide project which will see a reduction in paper used by outdoor Longford County Council employees. Each app sees lower energy usage on a per-employee basis.

Digital application forms and flows have been developed for the Human Resource section. This will be used for Employee Shorter Working Year Scheme applications and will replace the existing paper-based application process.

Housing

Under the Midlands Retrofit Programme, work is ongoing on the retrofitting of Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View. Works are due to start on 29 units in Glebe View at the end of October 2022.

Tender is in progress for St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon and assessment of works required are being considered on 46 local authority houses in the estate.

Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme, work is complete on 19 houses in Slí na Móna.

Roads

Under the Climate Adaption Scheme, €295,000 was allocated to Longford County Council in 2022. Three schemes secured funding: Saints Island Causeway Stability, Gaigue R198 and Townagh R198. Works are either underway or due to start shortly. It is anticipated that the full allocation will be spent for 2022.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for September 2022 prepared in accordance with Sec 136 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by Sec 51 the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in September 2022 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed:

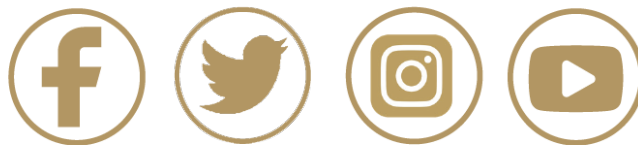


Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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