

# Longford County Council

## Chief Executive Report

### July-August 2021



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# July & August Highlights

## National Heritage Week

National Heritage Week 2021 took place from the 14-22 August, with a blended programme of digital and in-person events.



## Longford's sporting heroes

Ardagh student Cian McPhillips won Gold in the U20 1500m European Championships in Estonia in July, while Olympians Derek Burnett and Darragh Greene represented Longford and Ireland wonderfully in Tokyo.



## Longford Live & Local

Longford Civil Defence provided support at Longford Live & Local Performances.



## Historic discovery in Longford

An 800-year-old vest of chain mail was discovered in Longford. The incredible find was uncovered during Heritage Week and will be restored and put on display.



# Community & Enterprise

## Community Development

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on 29 July 2021.

#### LEADER

Six LEADER projects were approved for funding of over €345,016 combined at the LCDC meeting in July.

### Community Enhancement Programme 2021

The LCDC approved 76 applications to a value of €132,385 under the Community Enhancement Programme. Details of these grant awards are available on [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie).

### Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

SICAP Monitoring Subcommittee of the LCDC held a meeting on 16 July to carry out a midterm review of the implementation of SICAP. Longford Community Resources CLG is contracted to deliver the programme with a yearly allocation of €526,906. The midyear review was approved by the LCDC at its meeting on 29 July.

### Longford Comhairle Na NÓg

Comhairle members facilitated the WOW (Week of Wellness) summer camp held in the Attic House Longford. The camp started on 12 July for boys and girls aged 12 and over. The week was packed with educational workshops and fun activities.

## Tourism

Longford County Council continues to promote County Longford as a tourism destination through social media, radio, online and print advertising.

Recent campaigns include:

- iRadio summer staycation ad series
- Google advert promoting [Longford.ie](http://Longford.ie)
- Social media adverts

Monthly event guides continue in the Longford Leader to promote events and activities happening throughout the county.

In July, Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council Cllr Peggy Nolan launched a new multilingual souvenir audio player to complement the Longford Town Walking Trail. Run with Scoil Eimear, students took part in a competition completing projects on Longford. Students received a souvenir audio player for the Longford Town Walking Trail and the winner Colette Erhagbe received a family pass to the Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre in Granard.

In August, a competition was run in conjunction with The Royal Canal Greenway. The prize included an overnight stay in Longford with dinner, activities, lunch and luxury hamper.

Journalist and travel blogger John Quinn of [CarpeDiemEire.com](http://CarpeDiemEire.com) spent time in Longford in partnership with Longford Tourism. Activities, accommodation and an itinerary were organised by the Tourism Office, with the trip to be documented on his website and travel blog.

Knights & Conquests Heritage Centre had a successful Norman Re-Enactment Day at their centre in Granard in August, with sponsorship from Longford Tourism.



# Community & Enterprise

## Library, Heritage & Archives

### Edgeworthstown Library

Edgeworthstown Community Library is progressing well towards its October 2021 completion target.

### Longford County Library Service

Library branches are open, with a steady flow of customers, with demands on printing and copying facilities. The Summer Stars reading programme encourages children to join the library and read for pleasure during the holidays. This has been very successful with lots of families getting involved.



### Age Friendly Longford

The county's new Healthy Homes Coordinator has been working with relevant service providers to raise awareness of supports available for ensuring older people can stay living in their own homes for as long as they wish. This includes visiting older people in their homes, evaluating their needs and connecting them with services available to assist them.

### Longford Live & Local and Faoin Spéir initiatives

Over 38 free concerts employing local musicians and bands have taken place across Longford with over 2,400 people attending these live music events.

### Decade of Commemorations

On 12 July, a ceremony was held in the Remembrance Garden to commemorate the Truce. Planning is now underway for autumn events, including the Commemoration of the Clonfin Ambush on 25-26 September, with two outdoor events at the site.



### County Heritage Plan

Work is continuing on the County Heritage Plan projects. Work has started on the Community Monuments Fund project on Rossduff Castle and tender documents are being prepared for the Abbeyshrule project.

### National Heritage Week 2021

National Heritage Week 2021 took place from the 14-22 August, with a blended programme of digital and in-person events.

Online features included video presentations on climate change from Longford County Council's Climate Action Officer, and on the Brí Leith Trail from Harp Media. Shorter versions of the talk were produced, which will be shared by Longford Tourism. There were also live online talks on biodiversity and social history, and Creative Ardagh hosted an innovative online series.

In-person events were held outdoors, including a walking tour of Ballinalee, a talk in Richmond Harbour, and in-person events in Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre, the Maria Edgeworth Centre and Creative Ardagh. Feedback was positive and many appreciated the hybrid nature of the programme.

# Community & Enterprise

## Local Sports Partnership

### Summer Water Sports Programmes

The Longford Local Sports Partnership summer of adult water sports programmes started in June and continued until the end of July.

Six Women on the Water programmes and two Men on the Moving Water programmes took place with 120 participants. Sessions were based in Clondra and Leebeen Park in Aughnaclyffe, but groups also travelled around, including to Lanesborough, the Inny River in Ballymahon and Lough Gowna at Dernaferst.

Longford Local Sports Partnership also supported Abbeyshrule Canoe Club by providing adult kayak and river safety training over four weekends, finishing in July.

A partnership with Swim Ireland continued with the Beach to Buoy: Introduction to Open Water Swimming concluding in Annagh Lake.

A very successful children's Learn to Swim programme took place at Fitzpatrick's Shore, Mullinalaghta. Five groups of children participated in this week long programme.

Finally, an inclusive kayak tester sessions for St Christopher's and Rehab care service users was provided as part of this summer water sports programmes.

### Summer Walking Series

The six-week Summer Walking Series in partnership with Longford Tourism and the Summer Trail Challenge took place in July. Eight walks took place right across Longford trails on each Monday and Wednesday evening. All participants who completed the Walking Trail Challenge received a free Walking Trail Challenge t-shirt. Around 400 people participated in person or virtually.

### Responsible Horse Ownership and Riding Project

July saw the start of the Responsible Horse Ownership and Riding Project in Mosstown Stables where young people learned basic riding skills and the importance of caring for a horse. The programme was run in conjunction with County Longford Youth Services and Longford Veterinary Services, and supported by the Animal Welfare Division of the Department of Agriculture.

### Walking with Poles

Nordic and Activator Pole Walking initiatives in the Mall in Longford and Leebeen Park in Aughnaclyffe ended in July. Over 50 participants from the



Arthritis Association Longford Branch and Rath Mhuire and Dolman Centre active age groups enjoyed this six-week programme. Inclusive Activator Pole Walking taster sessions also took place with the Irish Wheelchair Association in Kenagh, Ballymahon Day Care Centre and the Community Sports Hub In Drumlish.



# Community & Enterprise



*Pictured from top left:*

- Longford Comhairle na nÓg pictured at the WOW Week of Wellness Summer Camp at Attic House, Longford
- Inclusive Activator Pole Walking Taster session with the Irish Wheelchair Association in Kenagh
- Responsible Horse Ownership & Riding Project, Mosstown Stables, Kenagh
- A Summer of Watersports with Longford Sports Partnership
- The Longford Sports Partnership Summer Walking Series



# Community & Enterprise

## Corporate Services

### Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- Our Customer Services Desk responded to a total of 710 calls in July and August
- The Community Call helpline continues to operate, reaching out to help the most vulnerable in society

### Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

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

Date	Meeting
5 July	Oireachtas Meeting
13 July	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
14 July	July Meeting of Longford County Council
19 July	Placemaking Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
21 July	Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
22 July	Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting
26 July	Governance Strategic Policy Committee Meeting
27 July	Granard Municipal District Meeting Granard Municipal District Committee Meeting
28 July	Longford Municipal District Meeting Longford Municipal District Committee Meeting
29 July	Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

## Communications

- Media Queries responded to: 11
- Publicity Campaigns commenced: 17
- Advertisements/Features prepared: 7

### Highlights included:

- Promoting the Longford Live & Local series of gigs under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme funded by the Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Working with local partners to promote the Faoin Spéir arts initiative in partnership with Backstage Theatre and co-funded by Longford County Council and The Arts Council
- Raising awareness of local community funding schemes including the Community Involvement Scheme and the Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021
- Promoting support of our Longford Olympians and Paralympian
- Preparation of internal and external video communication campaigns

### Social media

Longford County Council's social media channels continued to be used as effective communication tools to easily and cost-effectively reach Longford people. Messaging has focused on COVID-19 updates, including the ongoing vaccination programme.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
<b>Posts</b>	148	123	76
<b>Stories</b>	75	-	75
<b>Reach*</b>	172K	-	2K
<b>Impressions**</b>	183K	77K	33K

\*Reach: number of people who had a post enter their screen

\*\*Impressions: number of times a post entered a person's screen



# Community & Enterprise

## Local Enterprise Office

### Streetscape Enhancement Measure

Longford has been allocated €220,000 by the Department for Rural and Community Development to support the enhancement of streetscapes and shopfronts in four designated towns in the county: Longford, Granard, Drumlish and Lanesborough.



Streetscape Enhancement Measure 2021

Projects supported by the scheme include:

- Collaboration between property owners to paint buildings in vibrant colours
- Commissioning murals
- Upgrading or restoration of historic and traditional shopfronts
- Street planting, shrubbery, trees and flowers boxes
- Illumination and lighting of architectural features
- Installation of canopies and street furniture
- Removal of unnecessary signs or wires

Levels of support range from 70 per cent for individual premises, 80 per cent for joint applications of three or more adjacent premises, to 100 per cent where painting is undertaken by direct labour of the applicant. Maximum level of support to any individual business is €8,000. To apply for the scheme visit [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie).

## Longford Live and Local

Longford Live and Local supports local musicians with 38 concerts held at locations across Longford so far this summer. Supported by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, these free events have attracted an audience of over 2,500 people. Seven more concerts are planned.

### Support

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

### Training & Development

Total Programmes	26
Total Participants	599

### Mentoring

Total Participants	93
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### Brexit

Total Group Workshops	1
Total Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	12

### Trading Online Vouchers

Total Applications	23
Total Approvals	32
Total Refusals	3
Value of Approvals	€69,749.50

### Outdoor Seating Scheme

Applications Received	55
Total Approvals	53
Grants Paid Out to Date	15
Total Paid Out to Date	€53,003

# Community & Enterprise



**LONGFORD FAOIN SPÉIR IN THE OPEN CONNOLLY BARRACKS**

arts council & chomhairle ealaíon    faoin Spéir in the Open

BOOKING: [backstage.ie](http://backstage.ie)

AN LONGFORD    backstage

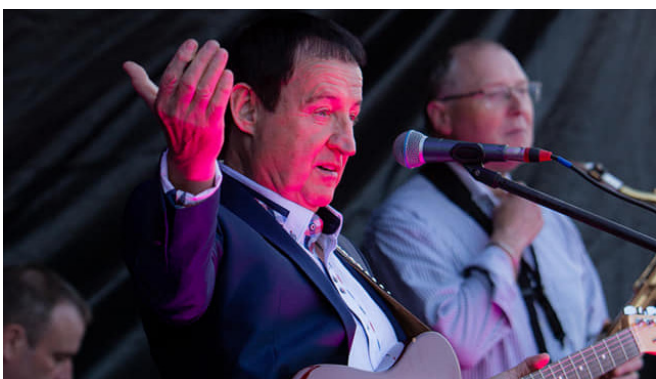
**LONGFORD'S MUSICAL HERITAGE**

"It was the reward  
For all who laboured  
In fields and shops  
To escape in car loads,  
Trucks, on the backs of tractors  
And arrive at the Ballroom  
On Sunday night."

by Noel Monahan  
From the poem *Graffiti's Ballroom*

For centuries rural communities have yielded and hosted extraordinary musical talent and events. In this, County Longford has excelled in abundance. We celebrate this cultural heritage.

*Longford Live & Local and Faoin Spéir programmes coordinated by Shane Crossan, Republic of Culture and Longford Arts Office, and supported by the Government of Ireland. Faoin Spéir is produced in partnership with Backstage Theatre and funded by Longford County Council and the Arts Council.*





# Community & Enterprise

## Human Resources

### Recruitment

- Competitions advertised: 10
- Candidates interviewed: 20
- Competitions completed: 7
- New starters: 1
- Employees commenced new roles: 8
- Employee ceased employment: 2

### Learning and Development

- Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) continued in the pilot directorate of Community and Enterprise
- PMDS phase two rollout is due to commence in Finance and Infrastructure directorates
- Personal Safety at Work, Safepass, Confined Spaces, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and training on HR Policies took place over July and August

### Health and Wellbeing

- Metabolic health screenings held for employees
- Physical activity was promoted by encouraging employees to take part in Longford Sports Partnership's summer programmes, including kayaking, biking and walking
- Promotion of Heart Health which takes place in September

## Health and Safety

### Safety Inspections

There were 11 safety inspections completed by Health and Safety and the Management Team.

### Scheduled Internal Audit

Internal audits were scheduled for the Safety Management System in August.

## COVID-19 Reopening Procedures

Prior to reopening public counters, COVID-19 risk assessments were reviewed and revised. These assessments identify risks and put control measures in place. Assessments are communicated to employees. Public Health Guidance must always be adhered to, including physical distancing, wearing face coverings, screens at public counters, operating one-way systems and appropriate sanitising facilities. For employees meeting with the public outside of public opening hours and where meetings are anticipated to last more than 15 minutes, a contact list must be maintained and a COVID-19 health questionnaire completed.

## Data Protection

### Ongoing Data Protection

- Current awareness campaign: the Role of the Data Protection Officer
- Data Protection queries: 17
- Complaint received and resolved: 2
- Data subject access request: 1
- Personal data breach: 2
- Data Protection Unit has been working with the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) on the Service Catalogue Project rollout

## Freedom of Information

	July-August	YTD
FOI requests received	13	46
AIE requests received	1	3

Of these 13 FOI requests, two were granted, four were part granted, three were refused, three are outstanding and one was withdrawn. See FOI Disclosure Log on [Longfordcoco.ie](http://Longfordcoco.ie)

# Finance & Regeneration

## Finance

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

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

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

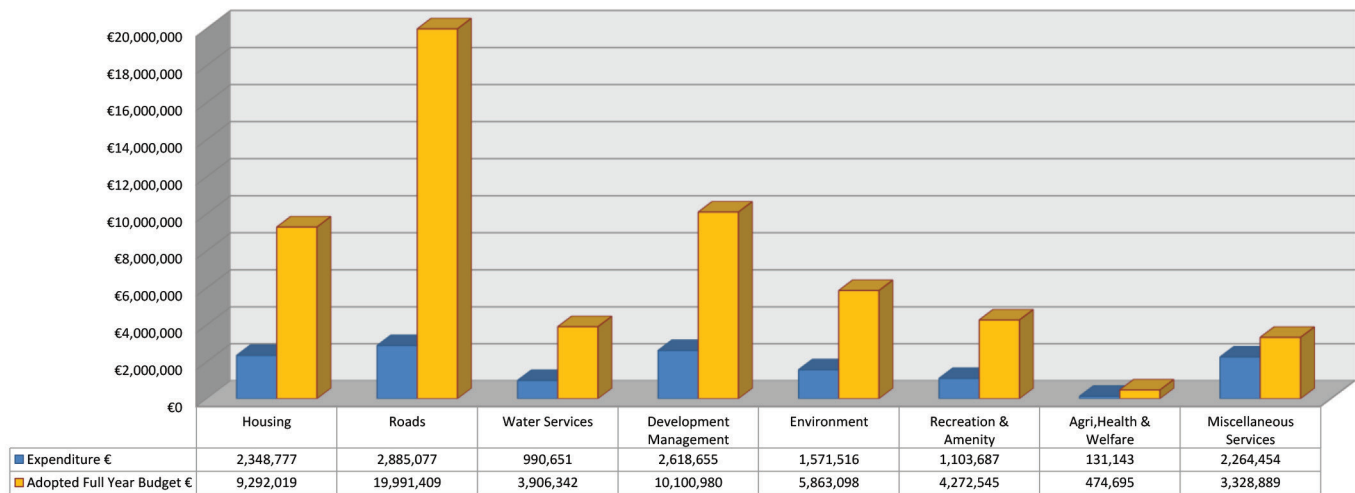
Where Covid-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

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

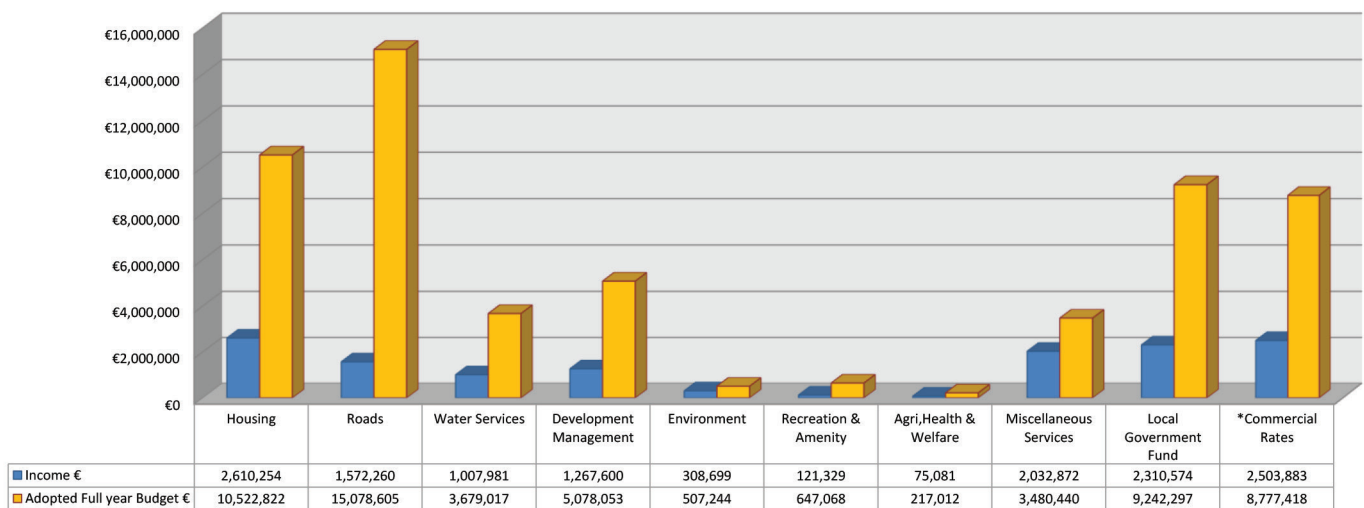


# Finance & Regeneration

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 1, 2021



Income V Budget - Quarter 1, 2021



# Finance & Regeneration

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

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

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

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

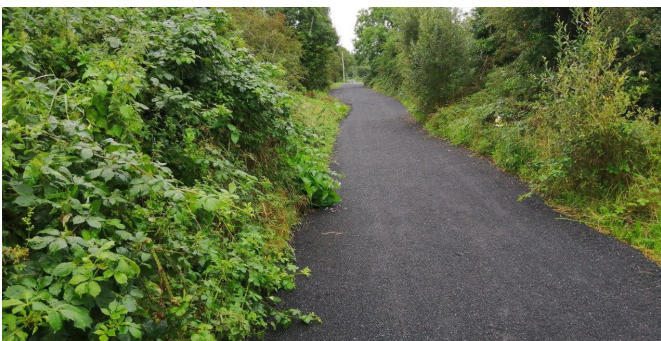
\* Covid-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €850,728 in Q1,2021.  
These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.



# Finance & Regeneration Regeneration

## Culray-Purth Walkway

The walking trail through the 'Old Bog Line' at Culray has been completed, bringing an old route back into use. This important infrastructure links to a network of trails and amenities, including Dring, Leebeen Park, Derrycassin Woods, Aughnacliffe Waterfall walk and Dolmens. It also brings the bogs and natural environment into the heart of the community.



## Lanesborough Walkway

A footpath linking Lanesborough town centre with residential areas is progressing well. Enhanced road signage identifying Lanesborough as a tourist destination will be provided. This 1.4K footpath improves connectivity with the town core and is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.



## Funding Announcements

Funding has been allocated to Longford County Council under Connected Hubs, Outdoor Public Spaces and Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund Schemes.

A total of €235,000 was allocated under the Connected Hubs funding stream for five locations in Longford: Edgeworthstown Co:Worx; Abbeyshrule Airfield; Mullinalaghta Community Centre; The Latin School Community Centre, Moyne; and Moydow Community Centre. This funding will see the fitout of these facilities for use as rural working hubs that offer high speed broadband.

Funding of €225,000 was awarded for procurement, design and installation of a sail structure to be set within the newly developed Harbour Place in Longford under the Outdoor Public Spaces Scheme. €150,000 was allocated to Longford County Council for Edgeworthstown to enhance outdoor urban space and improve walking and cycling facilities. These measures support the gradual and safe reopening of society.

## Funding Applications Submitted

Preparation of funding applications under the following schemes took place over July and August: Town and Village Renewal, Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure, Connected Hubs, Outdoor Public Space, Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Schemes and Rural Renewal and Development Fund.

In the past months, €6 million in grant funding and 26 separate funding applications have been applied for to Government departments. Longford County Council's Regeneration Section is awaiting announcements on these later this year.

# Finance & Regeneration

## Information Technology

### IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- ServiceDesk for July and August: 850 tickets
- Regular patching of client and server systems
- Core v28 upgrade completed
- New managed print service implemented
- Configuration and planning of Edgeworthstown Community Library IT equipment
- IT security improvements
- IT support for statutory and Microsoft Teams hybrid meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades completed
- IT support for new training platform
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) pilot commenced

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

- Small Business Assistance Scheme for COVID (SBASC) Application system fully implemented
- ArcMap training provided
- County playground and trail app developed
- Public lighting mapping completed
- Expanded open data provided

### Digital Services works completed:

- Digital project on the Corporate Section's Annual Service Delivery Plan process and the Human Resource PMDS jointly-progressed to pilot stage
- Document management project progressed
- First Responder Pilot Project progressed with Environment Section

Performance Management and Development System		
Create Performance Based Objectives	Start of Year Review	
Performance Based Objectives	Performance Indicator	Acknowledge
Health and Safety - I will carry out my work to protect the safety, health and welfare of myself and my colleagues. I will attend all health & safety training and comply with the requirements of the Safety Management System	Safe behaviour at all times and 100% attendance at mandatory Health & Safety Training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dignity at Work/Customer Services/Public Sector Duty - I will undertake my work with respect and courtesy to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of my colleagues, customers and citizens in accordance with the core values of our Corporate Plan, our Customer Service Charter and our obligations under Public Sector Duty	Respect and courtesy to colleagues, customers, and citizens at all times	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Line Management - I will manage, support, acknowledge and appreciate the performance of employees reporting to me and they in turn will manage, support, acknowledge and appreciate the performance of employees reporting to them. I will ensure full participation in the PMDS process.	Full implementation of the Performance and Development System	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Management of Change - I will be adaptable to change and respond flexibly to the changing needs of Longford County Council	Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability to change as the needs of the organisation determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Save		Individual Performance Development Plan

- Connected Hubs joint-project with Regeneration: €234,677.84 funding received to upgrade the facilities at four Broadband Connection Points (BCP) and Co:Worx, Edgeworthstown
- Engagement commenced with National Broadband Ireland
- Planning Referral System including Section 254 applications; system pilot testing ongoing
- Two applications submitted for the Innovation in Politics European Awards 2021: Elected Members Go Digital, and Centred and Connected Digital Longford
- Two applications submitted for Our Rural Future: Digital Innovation Programme 2021: One application successful: Longford Text Alert project for €14,000
- BCP Analytics: 37 new guests and 112 returning guests
- WIFI4EU: free Wi-Fi in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish includes 1,344 new users and 1,526 returning users
- Meet and Code 2021 application submitted
- Microsoft Teams adoption programme commenced



# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Housing

**Estate Management Tenant Meetings**  
Housing continues to promote estate management practices and community empowerment by encouraging the development of resident's groups to manage their own estates.

The Estate Management Unit are arranging meetings with tenants in new housing estates to set up new resident's associations.

The Estate Management Unit acts as an effective liaison between tenants and the Housing Department through the continued enhancement of estates, with grant assistance available to encourage residents and resident groups to take an active role in improving the physical appearance of their estate.

Longford Community Policing Unit and the Estate Manager are performing joint patrols of Local Authority Estates out of office hours.

This multiagency approach is most favourable when dealing with a multitude of social issues in estates and has led to positive feedback from the community.



*One of the units at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee*

## Housing Capital Programme

### Completed projects:

- 1 unit Fairgreen View
- 1 unit Cloonahard completed
- 4 units complete Sli Corglass, Legga
- 9 units complete Campbells Lane

### Ongoing projects:

- 1 remaining unit at Sli Corglass, Legga
- 6 units at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 12 remaining units at Campbells Lane
- 14 units at the O'Haras site on Richmond Street

### Refurbished voids and other projects:

- Works to voids ongoing with 16 completed to date and tenders in progress for further properties.
- In addition, work to complete the Community Centre, following previous fire damage in McEoin Park is due for completion in early September.



*Before and after a void refurbishment project*

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Roads

### Roadworks Scheme

The summer months are a particularly busy period for the Roads Department with roadworks taking place throughout the county.



In the Municipal Districts, the Restoration Maintenance programme, specifically surface dressing, is largely complete and the Restoration Improvement programme is underway.



Work on the Newtownforbes pavement resurfacing scheme is progressing. Roadstone Ltd is carrying out footpath replacement works, undergrounding of overhead services and drainage improvement works with road resurfacing works to follow. The

overall scheme is expected to be completed in October 2021.

### National Road Schemes

Tenders have been received for the following National Road Schemes:

- N63 Majors Well Road
- N63 Barnacor
- N63 Lanesborough

Subject to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) approval to proceed to construction, contractors will be appointed in the coming weeks, with construction commencing in September-October.



*Pictured above and below: works recently completed on Flancare Roundabout (N63), Longford Town*





# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Water Services

### Irish Water KPI

Water Services continue to operate a high-level performance, demonstrated in our Key Performance Indicator (KPI) score of 96.3 per cent issued from Irish Water in July. This KPI score covers all aspects of water and waste water delivery from onsite delivery, treatment plant operations, budget management, compliance and all associated office tasks.

### Capital Projects

Capital upgrade works are at varying stages across Smear, Lough Kinale and Lough Forbes Water Treatment Plant.

The works in Smear and Lough Kinale are now approaching the snag list phase and represent a significant improvement in ability of both plants to treat the source water year-round, regardless of seasonal variations.

The works at Lough Forbes are progressing well and represent significant challenges to both Longford County Council as the operators and Veolia as the contactors due to the significant scope of the works and the need to maintain the supply at all times. Fortunately, the Longford County Council and Veolia have fostered a proactive and collaborative working partnership, helping offset and mitigate risks as they arise.

Once works are completed, Lough Forbes will have additional operational capacity of 3000m<sup>3</sup>/day, with process upgrades, as with Smear and Lough Kinale, representing a significant improvement in the ability to treat source water year-round.

### Find & Fix Programme

The Find & Fix team completed a campaign in the Moydow area, achieving savings of approximately 86,000 litres of drinking water per day and are currently operating in Foygh and Corn Hill-Drumlsh District Meter Areas (DMAs).

### Capital Network Schemes

Irish Water and Longford County Council have completed the final connections to the newly-installed watermain at Templemichael and Bannon Terrace, Longford.

Water Services Capital section are liaising with Irish Water to replace approximately 2.5K of problematic watermain in Lanesborough (Rathcline Road) and 500 metres of watermain at Creevy, Granard.

Both schemes aim to reduce leakage and increase security of supply. Work are funded by Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.

Water Services are undertaking a network reconfiguration trial to determine the viability of supplying the Lanesborough area with drinking water from the Longford Central Water Supply Area (Lough Forbes Water Treatment Plant). This involves the deployment of 27 pressure and flow loggers along the network to test and model water flow behaviour through the existing pipe network.





# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Planning

### Development Plan

Statutory requirements maintained:

- County Development Plan review is ongoing, setting out the template for the county's development from 2021 to 2027
- Chief Executive's Report on second phase public consultation on the Draft Plan was approved by members in July for the next phase of public consultation in July and August
- The submissions received on the proposed material amendments are being analysed and will be reported on
- It is intended to present a Revised Plan with amendments to members for their approval in September
- The Draft Plan aims to be complete by October-November for members' adoption

### Applications and Enforcement

Statutory requirements maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Section 284 license applications for outdoor seating and broadband, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs, and enforcement
- Planning administrative office, public counter and technical advice and reports kept fully functioning
- Assisting in the implementation of the housing, regeneration and climate change programme

## Environment

### Domestic Hazardous Waste



Longford County Council organised a very successful domestic hazardous waste collection from Mulleady's on 9 July. A total of 8,568kg of hazardous waste was collected.

### Household Waste

Longford County Council waste enforcement officers are conducting 150 household waste surveys in and around Longford town. The aim is to divert food waste from landfills where it has a negative effect on greenhouse gas emissions.

## Veterinary Services

### Responsible Horse Ownership & Animal Care Programme

Organised in conjunction with Longford Sports Partnership and Longford Community Resources Ltd, this six-week programme finished at the end of August. Well done to all involved and a massive thank you to County Longford Youth Service and the Animal Welfare Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for helping to make it possible. Thank you also to Mosstown Stables for being such a wonderful host. (Picture on page 7).

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Fire Services

### Operations

- Callouts in July-August: 36 (17 July; 19 August)
- All stations remained fully operational

### Health and Safety

No injuries or near misses to report.

### Training

- Some training courses had been rescheduled or postponed due to COVID-19
- All fortnightly drills are back up and running on their normal summer schedule
- Three training courses have been completed on fire brigade specialist vehicle use. Two were on the use of the hydraulic platform and the third was on the use of the Hiab on the Emergency Tender vehicle.

## Major Emergency Management

Regional Working Group meetings were held in July.

### Fire Prevention

- 7 Fire Safety Certificates have been processed in July-August
- Fire Service inspections and community fire safety activities continue on an appointment only basis

### Recruitment

We have five vacancies in three fire stations:

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

## Civil Defence

### Duties & Taskings

- Volunteers provided medical cover at four Longford Town Football Club soccer matches and at one Longford Live and Local event, making up 75 volunteer hours in July
- Volunteers provided medical cover at seven Longford Live and Local events, making up 85 volunteering hours in August
- Assistance was also provided at one LTFC match and to the Old School New School Car Show, making up 34 volunteer hours in August
- Assistance was provided to Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway Civil Defence units at the Carrick Camino walk, making up 60 volunteer hours in August
- Volunteering demonstrated First Aid methods at the Ardagh Brownies and Girl Guides International Camp in August

### Operations

- In July, Civil Defence took delivery of a Mercedes Atego to become the communications unit. This purchase was grant aided by the Department of Defence. It will undergo respraying and will be kitted out over the coming weeks.
- Mandatory training is ongoing for probationary volunteers
- Preparation ongoing for an internal audit in September
- In August, the new driving policy has been implemented with volunteers starting their driver assessments under the guidance of our volunteer driving instructor

# Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

## Climate Action Initiatives

### Human Resources

- Climate Action Raising Awareness Training was completed for employees at Grade 5 and analogous.
- Climate Action Raising Awareness Training for Grade 4 and analogous due to roll out in September.
- Climate Action included in all recruitment competitions and contracts of employment issued.

### Regeneration

Promotion of sustainable mobility through development of strategic walking and cycling connections between tourism areas, towns and villages, including Culray-Purth Walkway and Lanesborough Walkway.

### Roads

Longford County Council Roads Department have been allocated funding of approximately €250K from the Department of Transport for three road schemes in the county. This funding is for road adaption and resilience works which have become necessary due to the effects of climate change. Works include:

- Road edge protection on the Ballagh-Drumlish Road (L1077)
- Embankment stabilisation and verge construction on the R198 at Tawnagh
- Drainage on the R396 at Abbeylara to alleviate road flooding

### Planning

- The Development Plan review includes a specific chapter on climate change and each individual chapter ends with a climate change checklist
- Work is being prepared on active travel measures for Longford Town
- A new Climate Action officer has been recruited to develop climate actions for the county - a preliminary list of actions for all is being prepared.

### Water Services

Longford County Council Find & Fix team recently completed a campaign in the Moydow area of Longford achieving savings of approximately 86,000 litres of drinking water per day. This Find & Fix effort helps water conservation and playing a major role in Local Authorities' adaption to climate change.

### Civil Defence

The unit is continuing its progress to go paperless where possible.

### Fire Services

Longford Fire Service upgraded its Hydraulic Platform earlier this year to a smaller more compact and more fuel-efficient truck. Recent training courses released less carbon and other pollutants than previously. All fire service vehicles are being monitored by Longford County Council for their fuel efficiency.



# CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed:

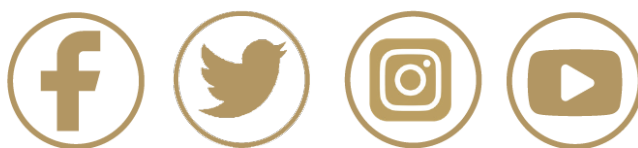


Paddy Mahon  
Chief Executive





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