



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report June 2021

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June Highlights

Election of Cathaoirligh and Leas Cathaoirligh

Election of Cathaoirligh and Leas Cathaoirligh for Longford County Council and all three Municipal Districts took place at the 2021 Annual General Meetings.



Cathaoirligh of Longford County Council
Cllr Peggy Nolan



Cathaoirligh of Longford Municipal District
Cllr Uruemu Adejinni



Cathaoirligh of Ballymahon Municipal District
Cllr Mick Cahill



Cathaoirligh of Granard Municipal District
Cllr Parale Brady

Time capsule at Edgeworthstown Library

A time capsule was buried in the plaza of the new Edgeworthstown Community Library.



Civil Defence CPR training

Longford Civil Defence worked with Longford Town Football Club in CPR training, certifying eight members of their coaching staff as Cardiac First Responders



Green-Schools Irish Water competition winner

Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon student Tanna Kruger becomes a National Winner at the Green-Schools Irish Water Poster and Video Competition Awards.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on 8 June 2021.

LEADER

Three LEADER projects were approved for funding of over €122,000 at the LCDC meeting.

Community Enhancement Programme 2021

Community Enhancement Programme provides support to community groups impacted by COVID-19. A total of €132,385 has been allocated to Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to administer.

Priority will be given to projects which are complementary to the County Longford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2022, and to those that will improve the quality of life for residents or provide tangible supports which address disadvantage.

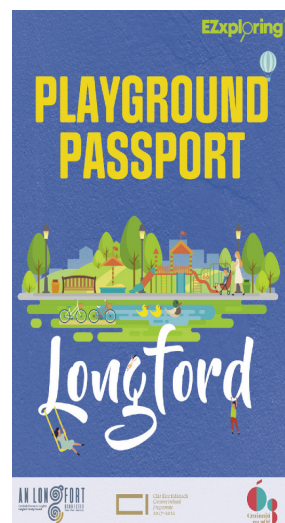
Applications and supporting documentation can be sent via email to lcddc@longfordcoco.ie by 4pm on 2 July.

For further information (including application forms) visit Longfordcoco.ie

Tourism

Summer staycation promotions

For the summer staycation period, County Longford has been promoted through online and print with the Longford Leader, the Westmeath Independent, the Offaly Independent and all of the newspapers under their group umbrella. In addition, Longford Tourism is sponsoring the weather bulletins on Shannonside FM for the months of June, July and August and also has an iRadio ad campaign running for July. There is also an online google advert and some social media adverts running.



Community & Enterprise

Library Heritage & Archives

Edgeworthstown Library

The new Edgeworthstown Community Library took a step closer towards completion with the scaffolding coming down from the front of the building on 18 June. Edgeworthstown's community, sporting, education and business groups were invited to present an item that best represented their organization to go into a time capsule to be buried in the plaza at the front of the building. Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Ross officiated the event, along with Ballymahon Municipal District Cathaoirleach Cllr Colm Murray.

Longford County Library Service

Since reopening on 10 May, a steady flow of customers have come into all brand libraries with a particular demand for printing and copying services and book loans from local schools. The Summer Stars Reading programme aiming to encourage children to join the library and read for pleasure during the summer holidays has been launched. The programme was shared to all Longford primary schools prior to the summer holidays.

Longford Age Friendly

New Healthy Homes Coordinator for Longford is working with relevant service providers raising awareness of the supports available to ensure older people can live in their homes for as long as they wish. The Healthy Homes Coordinator also met with Longford Older Persons Council at a meeting held in Library HQ, the first hybrid (online and in-person) meeting of the group since COVID-19 started. Older people not confident with online meetings attended socially-distanced in person, while others attended online.

Creative Ireland

Cruinniú na nÓg 2021 festival took place on 12 June. Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people. Several live events took place outdoors, in addition to a full programme of online events. The day was launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr Paul Ross in Ballymahon's playground as the new Playground Passport: A Family Guide to Longford's Playgrounds. was launched. Cllr. Peggy Nolan launched a new children's book by Longford photographer Shelley Corcoran in the Mall in Longford.

Decade of Commemorations

The Schools Information Pack on Ireland and Longford in Times of War and Revolution, 1914-23 launched in June. Packs will be sent to every school in Longford in September, with digital versions sent to primary schools.

Heritage Programme

Work continues on the County Heritage Plan 2021 projects. The Wetlands Field Survey was tendered, with Wetland Surveys Ireland successful. Their focus will be on the Camlin River.

The conservation report for the plaster Oliver Goldsmith statue at Pallas went to tender, with three valid submissions currently being assessed.

Family and school-friendly information and activity leaflets for Moyne Latin School Visitor Centre near completion. The design to be tendered soon, with the aim of full completion for Heritage Week in August. Heritage Week preparations have begun.

Work commenced on several built heritage conservation grants projects. Applications to the Community Monuments Fund 2021, for the tower house at Abbeyshrule Abbey and Ballyduffy Castle were successful, with the department issuing the required Ministerial Consent for the Abbeyshrule repair.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Summer Water Sports Programmes

Longford Sports Partnership summer water sports programmes started this month. Our Primary Schools' Kayak and Paddle Board Taster Sessions ran throughout June with 20 schools and 400 students participating.

Adults also got onto the water with our Women on the Water and Men on the Moving Water kayaking programmes. Abbeyshrule Canoe Club also began their leadership development programmes.

Our Beach to Buoy: Introduction to Open Water Swimming began in Annagh Lake with 27 participants getting a taste for the open water swimming for the first time. Overall, 517 people got active in June through water sports with Longford Sports Partnership.



Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics

Our very successful six-week programme of sports hall athletics concluded at the end of June. Schools across Longford got involved with over a 1000 students taking part, learning new skills and having fun. This programme was supported by Healthy Ireland.



Cycling Programme

Our Women on Wheel cycling programme on the Royal Canal Greenway from Clondra started in June. Aiming to encourage more women into cycling, it teaches the skills needed to be a confident, safe cyclist, as well as encouraging greater use of the Royal Canal Greenway for cycling and commuting. The programme will run over 12 weeks with 12 participants.

Walking with Poles

Our two Nordic and Activator Pole Walking Programmes started in June with older adults in the Mall in Longford and Leebeen Park in Aughnaclyffe. 40 participants from the Arthritis Association Longford Branch and Rath Mhuire and Dolman Centre active age group are enjoying this programme which runs for six weeks.

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 900 calls in June
- 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 June continued to be held remotely due to COVID-19 public health restrictions.

Date	Meeting
8 June	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
9 June	Committee Meeting of Longford County Council Members June County Council Meeting
14 June	Joint Policing Committee Meeting
21 June	Special Meeting of Longford County Council
22 June	Granard MD Annual Meeting
23 June	Longford MD Annual Meeting Longford MD Monthly Meeting
24 June	Ballymahon MD Annual Meeting
30 June	Longford County Council Annual Meeting

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach

Election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for Longford County Council and for all the Municipal Districts took place at the 2021 Annual Meetings.

Longford County Council

Cathaoirleach	Cllr Peggy Nolan
Leas Cathaoirleach	Cllr Paraic Brady

Granard Municipal District

Cathaoirleach	Cllr Paraic Brady
Leas Cathaoirleach	Cllr Garry Murtagh

Ballymahon Municipal District

Cathaoirleach	Cllr Mick Cahill
Leas Cathaoirleach	Cllr Paul Ross

Longford Municipal District

Cathaoirleach	Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi
Leas Cathaoirleach	Cllr Gerry Hagan



Elected Members of Longford County Council photographed with members of the Management Team and the Meetings Administrator following the Annual Meeting 2021.

Community & Enterprise

Communications

Communications in numbers

- Media queries received and responses issued: 8
- Press releases prepared and issued: 7
- Corporate publication projects underway: 2

Ongoing Communications

- Work is underway on the promotion of the 'Longford Live & Local' Summer programme of outdoor music events.
- Significant work was undertaken in preparation for the #YourCouncilDay campaign
- From a strategic point of view, work is continuing on the drafting of the protocols under which the Communications unit will operate.



Communications also supported media campaigns including:

- Minister Peter Burke's opening of three new social housing schemes
- Stop BBQ Food Waste
- Launch of Longford Connected Communities Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) network
- Further €1.46m funding for Corlea and Longford Bog Greenways
- Midlands Polish Community presentation of hand sanitiser units (pictured above)

Social Media

The Council's social media effectively keeps citizens informed, particularly in regard to our services and public health advice, such as the #KeepWell campaign and the ongoing vaccination programme. Work is continuing to build Longford County Council's online profile.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	80	67	38
Impressions	79K	36.4K	16K

Local Enterprise Office

Support

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

Training & Development

Total Programmes	26
Total Participants	532

Mentoring

Total Participants	82
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Brexit

Total Group Workshops	1
Total Participants	15
1-to-1 Brexit Advisor Businesses	11

Trading Online Vouchers

Total Applications	19
Total Approvals	28
Value of Approvals	€61,455

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Recruitment

- Five competitions advertised
- Nine candidates interviewed
- Four competitions interviewed
- Four employees commenced
- One employee ceased employment

Learning and Development

- The Roads Section took part in Temporary Traffic Management Planning and Design
- The Water Services section took part in Confined Space Training
- Visual Display Unit (VDU) Assessor, Safe Pass, Personal Safety at Work and Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) Reviewer Workshops took place across the organisation

Health and Wellbeing

- To support the HSE Men's Health Week, a series of webinars entitled 'The How of Men's Health' was made available to all employees
- Metabolic screening was offered to all employees over two days
- The My Life Outdoor Summer Challenge was promoted to all employees

Health and Safety

Safety Inspections

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

Scheduled Internal Audit

Internal audits are scheduled for the Environment Section and Safety Management System for July.

Data Protection

Ongoing Data Protection

- A data protection awareness campaign was carried out during June emphasising what is personal data and tips on video conferencing
- Data Protection update presentation given to the Management Team
- Data Protection queries received in June: 10
- One complaint received by the Data Protection Commissioner in relation to a Data Subject Access Request
- One CCTV complaint
- Data protection guidance documents approved: Data Protection Impact Assessment, and Recording Images at Events

Freedom of Information

	June	YTD
FOI requests received	7	33
AIE requests received	0	2

See FOI Disclosure Log on 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)

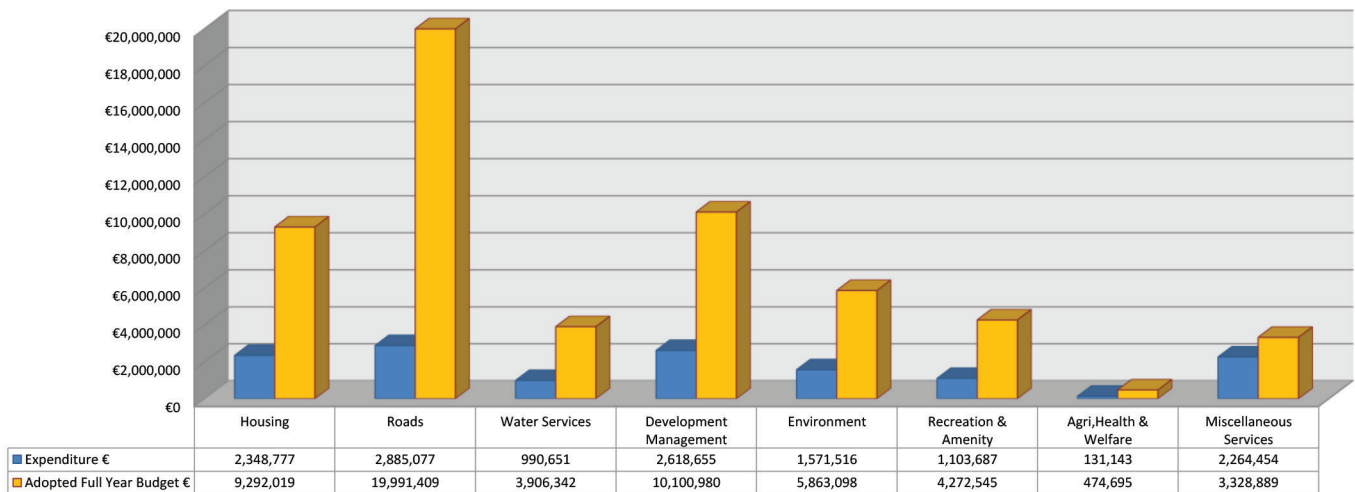
These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 28th May 2021.

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

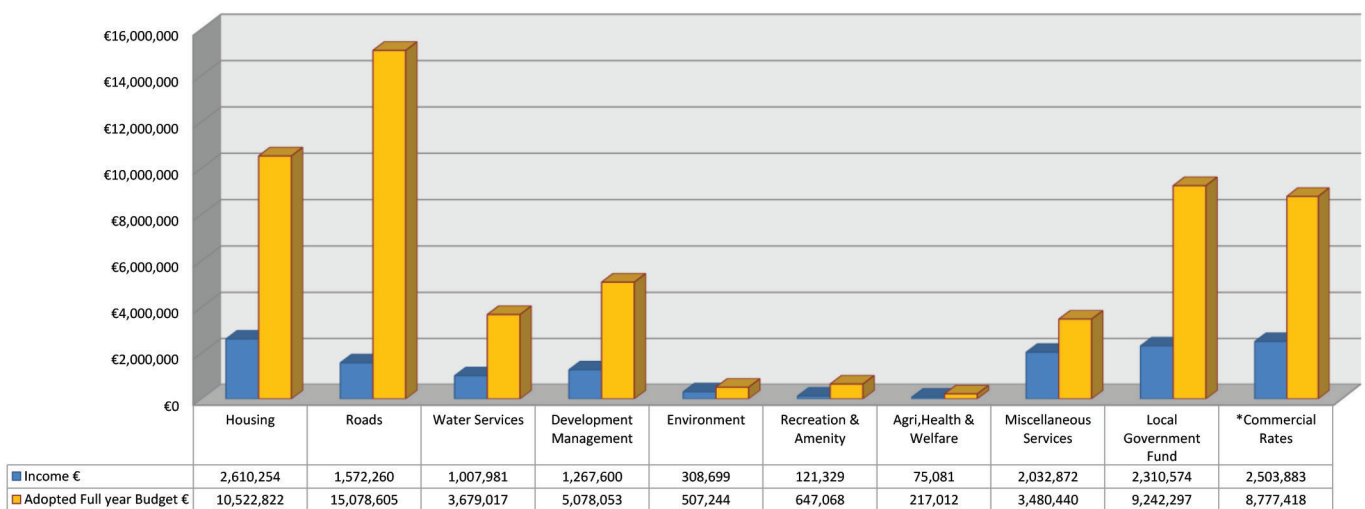
*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 3-month waiver scheme for Q1, 2021 was €850,728

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

Moydow Community Centre and Broadband Connection Point (BCP)
Moydow Community Centre fitout and Broadband Connection Point launch took place on 17 June. Broadband Officer Christine Collins presided over the Launch, which had speakers representing Moydow community groups, Longford County Council and the Elected Members. Longford County Council Cathaoirleach for 2020-2021 Cllr Paul Ross, Cllr Colm Murray, Cllr Mick Cahill and John McKeon and members of the Regeneration team attended.



This new facility has smart screens, multi-functional printer, desks and chairs and all necessary electrical equipment, as well as a dedicated remote working room. Adding value to Moydow, this facility is especially important now and into the future as remote working becomes more mainstream.

Legga Footpath

Construction of a footpath linking St. Mary's Church and Legga Cemetery was completed in recent

weeks. The 300m footpath links key services within the village and provides a safe walking area between the village, St Mary's Church and Legga Cemetery, as well as enhancing the village centre visually.

Funding Applications

Shortlisting of applications of suitable projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021 took place with eight applications to be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Regeneration Team is currently working with these community groups to finalise and submit these applications by the deadline of 16 July. Seven funding applications have also been prepared for submission under Measure One of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructural Scheme. (ORIS)

Ballinalee Forest Walk

Seating and solar LED lanterns along the walkway from the Shantobar residential development in Ballinalee to Sean Connolly GAA Club and the Acres Pitch and Putt Club has now been installed. This walkway was completed earlier this year. The newly-installed public lighting and seating will greatly enhance the facility, ensuring its use year-round. The walkway itself provides an important link between the residential areas and local amenities.



Finance & Regeneration

Information Technology

IT Infrastructure Section works completed:

- Remote working equipment configured and deployed for new starters
- IT support for statutory and Teams hybrid meetings
- Windows Server EOL upgrades progressed
- Windows 10 feature update rollout
- IT prerequisites progressed for Core v28 upgrade
- Changeover to new managed print service progressed
- Edgeworthstown Library IT planning and procurement
- PCI assessment in progress
- IT security improvements
- CCTV Connolly Barracks Mast Move Progressed
- ServiceDesk stats for June: 468 tickets

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) works completed:

- Small Business Assistance Scheme 2 (SBAS2) system test environment implemented
- iReg electoral register: pilot for digital review complete
- Road accident data collated and added to Roads GIS viewer
- Mapping of walking trails is ongoing
- Update of Eircodes, public lighting and ESB network on GIS Viewers

Digital Services works completed:

- Digital Project on Corporate's Annual Service Delivery Plan progressed and the HR PMDS jointly progressed to User Acceptance Test Stage
- Document management project progressed
- First Responder Pilot Project progressed with Environment Section
- Official launch of the Longford Connected Communities on 22 June
- Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre on 10 June
- Carrickedmond GAA on 10 June
- Moydow Community Centre on 17 June
- Broadband Connection Points (BCPs): 38 new guests and 137 returning guests
- WIFI4EU free Wi-Fi in Longford Ballymahon and Drumlish: 824 new users in June
- Elected Members training ongoing
- Customer Services Charter: promotional video and digital assets created



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

Social Housing Scheme Openings

Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke visited Longford to officially open three new social housing developments. All three estates, Cartrons in Kenagh, Charlotte's Row in Edgeworthstown and Rath Reagh in Legan, were delivered in late 2020 under the Social Housing Capital Investment Programme (SHCIP) and are currently accommodating 36 adults and 63 children. Charlotte's Row consists of five two-bedroom bungalows accommodating five families. The turnkey development at Cartrons, Kenagh also accommodates five families and comprises of five four-bedroom two-storey houses. Rath Reagh in Legan consists of a mix of three- and four-bedroom houses.



Members of the Housing Team pictured with Director of Services John Brannigan and Chief Executive Paddy Mahon at the opening of the Rath Reagh development in Legan

Housing Capital Programme

- One unit at Fairgreen View has just been completed
- Four further units complete at Slí Corglass, Legga
- Nine units complete at Campbells Lane, Longford

Housing Projects

Work is ongoing on all other projects. These include:

- 1 remaining unit at Slí 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

Works to voids ongoing with 14 completed to date.



Choice Based Letting

Two properties under the Choice Based Lettings (CBL) Scheme were recently advertised two properties to let. Those wishing to bid on a property advertised under this scheme must have an open and approved Housing Application. Households that wish to be considered in the allocation of a bid dwelling must, within three weeks of the publication of the notice, apply in writing, and supply any supporting information specified in the notice. Eight expressions of interest have been received for the properties at 64 and 65 Ardnacassa Avenue, Longford. CBL can be used for the allocation of social housing and is designed to offer more choice and involvement for applicant households in selecting a new home.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Roadworks Scheme



Summer months are a busy period with roadworks taking place throughout Longford. Construction works on the Roadworks programme are ongoing in each Municipal District, with the focus on Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Works.

Work on the Newtownforbes Pavement Resurfacing Scheme commenced in early May and continues for the next four months. Roadstone Ltd are carrying out this footpath replacement works and drainage works, with road resurfacing works to follow.



Pictured here and above: Restoration Improvement Works R194 at Willsbrook; Ballinalee and Granard

N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)

The N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Scheme is currently at Phase 2: Options Selection. The Route Corridor Options put on display during the recent public consultation will now be assessed in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) guidelines in order to determine the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor (EPRC). This involves detailed assessment of the options under the following criteria: Economy, Safety, Environment, Accessibility and Social Inclusion, Integration and Physical Activity.

Feedback received as part of the second public consultation on the route corridor options are currently being reviewed by the project team and will be taken into account as part of this option selection process. It is envisaged that the EPRC will be identified in Quarter 4 2021.

N55 Athlone to Ballymahon Project

Westmeath County Council in partnership with Longford County Council and in association with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) held a public consultation in relation to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the N55 Athlone to Ballymahon scheme in June 2019.

Submissions received as part of this public consultation were reviewed. As a result of this review, two possible modifications to the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor are now being investigated and assessed by the design team in order to finalise the Preferred Route Corridor in Mid-2021.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Water Services

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council and Irish Water commenced the Find & Fix programme in Longford in 2019 with the aim of reducing water leakage in the network. Drinking water is a valuable resource and its production requires high energy use, therefore, water conservation plays a major role Irish Water and Local Authorities' mitigation and adaption to climate change.

Significant progress has been made with reduction of water leakage through the implementation of this programme. The Longford County Council Find & Fix team recently completed a campaign in the Ballymakeegan area of Longford achieving savings of approximately 78,000 litres of drinking water per day. The team is currently operating in the Legan and Moydow district meter areas (DMAs). The Find & Fix team also recently installed a new DMA bulk meter at Lisduff, Longford which will assist with water usage monitoring in the area.



The 'Find & Fix' Team at work

Capital Network Schemes

Irish Water in partnership with Longford County Council, is currently completing the final connections to the newly-installed watermain at Templemichael and Bannon Terrace, Longford. Both schemes will improve the water quality and increase the security of supply to these areas.

The Water Services Capital section are currently liaising with Irish Water to prioritise watermain infrastructure improvement schemes, to be completed in 2021.

Water Conservation

Irish Water, in partnership with Longford County Council, is urging the public to conserve water to ensure a consistent supply over the summer months. With current public health advice urging people to holiday at home, it is predicted there will be an increase in domestic and commercial demand. Customers are, therefore, asked to take some simple steps to save water in their homes, their businesses and on their farms. Saving water should be done year-round, not only when supplies are under pressure due to drought conditions and seasonal increases in demand.

Irish Water and Longford County Council Water Services are continually working to protect the supply and demand balance. This means there is a need to ensure the supply of more treated drinking water than is required for use. This can be managed by saving water; losing less by repairing leaks; and supplying smarter by ensuring that all of our plants are working optimally. Further water conservation information is available from Irish Water at: [water.ie/conservation](https://www.water.ie/conservation)

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 issued on 30 March and presented to members in April and May and approved for the next phase of public consultation
- The submissions received have been analysed and reported on. Based on the substantive issues raised in these submissions a revised plan with proposed

amendments was presented to members for their approval in June 2021

- A further period of public consultation will follow in July-August 2021
- The Draft Plan should be complete October-November 2021 for members adoption

Applications and Enforcement

Statutory Requirements maintained:

- Managing the various planning applications, housing, retail, industrial proposals, Part 8 planning schemes, CPOs
- 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



Longford County Council Cathaoirleach for 2020-2021 Cllr Paul Ross and Chief Executive Paddy Mahon enjoying the recently completed Corlea Bog Amenity Walk

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action Environment

Protect our Water from Pesticides

Longford County Council Environment Section is part of a multiagency group consisting of representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Teagasc, Irish Water and Leitrim and Roscommon County Councils who are focused on the challenges presented by pesticides in lakes and rivers. Ongoing monitoring for pesticides continues to show widespread issues in the Shannon Lough Rynn catchment. Poor practice in the use of pesticides to control weeds, by landowners and households is considered a significant contributor to this problem. A reduction in the use of pesticides has major benefits for water quality and biodiversity. Steps are being taken by Longford County Council to raise public awareness of this issue including via print, radio and social media during the summer months.

Littering from Outdoor Dining

During the month of June, Longford County Council ran a series of ads on iRadio in relation to outdoor dining and littering targeting a younger audience. A radio interview was also held to highlight the issue.

Longford Leader – Green Schools

Adverts were placed in the Longford Leader in June for the school supplement, the first thanking schools for their hard work in Green Schools and the second for keeping outdoor spaces clean and tidy after visiting them.



National poster competition winner Tanna Kruger a third year student from Mercy Secondary School Ballymahon, won a national poster competition through the Green Schools programme.



Stop BBQ Food Waste Campaign

Longford County Council joined forces with 13 other local authorities to sponsor a summer cookery demonstration hosted online by Chef Catherine Fulvio, to show you how to make the most of barbecue without wasting food this summer.

EV Charging Points

Longford County Council's Environment Department is currently assessing a report received from consultants on the feasibility of installing rapid EV charging points in Longford, Ballymahon and Granard.

Veterinary Services

Meat premises were visited in June to assess and advise on the current requirement for Veterinary Export Health Certificates for meat exported into or through Great Britain from 1 October.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in June: 25
- All stations remained fully operational

Health and Safety

No injuries to report, but two near miss incidents have been recorded and are being followed up on.

Training

- Training courses are being rescheduled on an ongoing basis due to COVID-19
- Fortnightly drills are back and up and running
- All fire-fighters did compartment fire behaviour training in Ballinrobe
- Longford Town Station Officer instructed on a national station trainer course for the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM)
- A further two fire officers completed officer command and control training in the Hydra Centre in Clonmel. Three fire officers completed this training in May.

Major Emergency Management

Regional Working Group meetings were held fortnightly by teleconference working on COVID-19 measures.

Fire Prevention

- Four Fire Safety Certificates processed in June
- 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)

The recruitment of one recently successful candidate is being processed.

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

- Volunteers provided medical cover at two Longford Town soccer matches, making up 36 volunteering hours
- Medical cover was also provided at one GAA match involving 18 volunteer hours

Training

- Manual Handling instructor recertification is underway for two volunteer instructors
- Community First Responder training took place for four new recruits
- Community First Responder course was provided to Longford Town FC underage coaches
- Training ongoing for new recruits
- One volunteer attended critical incident stress management webinar

Operations

- Attendance at the Community forum online meetings to provide an update and offer support for ongoing community response in Longford
- Volunteers remain on standby should they be required to assist in the vaccination centre
- Statutory inspections of equipment including vehicles and equipment

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Climate Action Initiatives

Tourism

Longford Tourism are developing their online advertising in order to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

Human Resources

- Climate Action Raising Awareness Training completed Grade V and analogous employees
- Climate action included in all recruitment competitions and contracts of employment

Regeneration

- Piloting of solar lighting on Ballinalee walkway to reduce energy usage
- Promotion of sustainable mobility through ongoing development of strategic walking and cycling corridors between tourism areas, towns and villages



Solar lighting at Ballinalee walkway

Housing

- As part of the Midlands Retrofit Programme work is ongoing on the retrofitting of four Council estates in Ballinalee: Rivers Crescent, Camlin View, Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View
- Tender is also in progress for St Matthews Park, Ballymahon
- Survey works commenced on a further 46 local authority houses in the county
- Tenders are now being prepared under the National Energy Efficiency Programme for the retrofitting of 19 houses at Slí na Móna, Ballymahon

Roads

Longford County Council Roads Department has been allocated funding of approximately €250K from the Department of Transport for three road schemes in Longford for road adaption and resilience works. These 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 and 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 graduate has been recruited to Planning to develop climate actions for the county

Fire Services

In the past month the fire service has been called out to bog fires to prevent the release of more carbon.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for June 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 June 2021 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed:



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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