



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report March 2022

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March Highlights

co:worx Edgeworthstown officially open

Minister Robert Troy TD was welcomed to County Longford to open co:worx Edgeworthstown, a state-of-the-art digital hub and remote working facility. Book your desk and find out more at coworx.ie.



A taste of home with the new Longford Hamper

Longford Tourism joined Ballymahon business Wilder & Gold to launch the Longford Hamper. Filled with products made within County Longford, the hamper is available to buy on wilderandgold.com or in-store from Wilder & Gold.



Helping Hands at St Patrick's Day Parade

Longford Civil Defence assisted with the St Patrick's Day parades in both Longford and Ballymahon. The team helped to make sure everyone in attendance enjoyed the festivities.



Granard student wins at Relove Fashion Competition

Ella Mulligan from Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School in Granard was crowned Overall Winner at the Relove Fashion competition. The competition encourages sustainable fashion choices, with students upcycling clothes into a new outfit.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee

A meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) took place on Tuesday, 8 March.

Intercultural Working Group

An Intercultural Working Group meeting was held on Wednesday, 9 March.

One of the main items on the agenda was a Longford Women's Link presentation on their work with a Migrant Women's Group. This group consists of 25 migrant women and represents 10 nationalities. This work was supported by Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) throughout 2021.

Intercultural Grants Scheme

Longford Women's Link was allocated €4,340 under the Intercultural Grant Scheme. This funding will help to continue their work with the Migrant Women's Group throughout 2022.

Following the Midlands Polish Community Clg Intercultural Grant Scheme funding allocation, the group held a successful integration event in celebration of International Women's Day at the County Longford Golf Club.

On the day, women of different ethnicities showcased their culture and traditions, including their food, music and dance. Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan and Cllr Uruemu Adejinmi attended the event.

LEADER

Four LEADER projects were approved for funding totalling €161,114 at Longford LCDC's meeting on Tuesday, 8 March.

Comhairle na nÓg

Eight representatives of Longford Comhairle na nÓg attended Dáil na nÓg on Saturday, 26 March. Held in the Convention Centre in Dublin, the event was opened by Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD.

This year it celebrated 'fiche bliain ag fás' or 'twenty years of growing', marking its 20-year anniversary. Delegates participated in workshops on equality.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development (Contd)

CLÁR Funding 2022

Schools, community groups and local development companies can now apply for CLÁR Funding, under Measure One of the programme: Developing Community Facilities and Amenities.



This will support capital interventions that enhance existing community recreation facilities, or to develop new facilities. Community recreation facilities may include:

- Multi-use gaming areas or astro-turf facilities
- Playgrounds
- Walking or running tracks
- Skateboard parks
- Handball alleys
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Outdoor bowling areas
- Sensory or community gardens
- Community gyms
- Community cinemas

- Outdoor toilet facilities
- Car parking
- Public lighting

This scheme is run by Longford County Council in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development.

It closes for applications at 4pm on Tuesday, 19 April. Further details are available on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://www.longfordcoco.ie).

Community Activities Fund

Applications for the Community Activities Fund were considered at Longford LCDC's meeting, with 125 community groups approved for funding.

This funding will help these groups with their running costs, as well as facility improvements and equipment costs.



Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives

County Longford Libraries

Public use of County Longford libraries is growing. This is helped by the resumption of all events, including workshops, exhibitions, book clubs, writers groups and class visits.

Basis digital skills training for older people is running in four libraries. Spring into Storytime and Science Week events took place. A Longford and the War of Independence exhibition was opened by Longford County Council Leas Cathaoirleach Paraic Brady.

Creative Ireland Programme

A guide to creative and cultural events happening across County Longford up to July 2022 was published. With great quality and diversity of events on offer, it shows the successful collaboration between Longford County Council and the community.

The Creative Ireland Programme has also been extended to 2027.

Longford Age Friendly programme

Longford Age Friendly Alliance and Longford Older Persons Council meetings put plans in place for developing a new Age Friendly Strategy for County Longford.

Part of a National Day of Remembrance and Reflection, an event to remember those who died during the COVID-19 pandemic was held in The Mall, Longford Town. It was led by Longford ONE and Longford Pipe Band.

Archives

The Circle of Courage sculpture by Longford artist Gary Robinson was unveiled at the site of the Clonfin ambush in Ballinalee. This unique work was commissioned by the County Longford Decade of Centenaries Programme.



Families of the Longford men who took part in the Clonfin ambush attended the unveiling. They were presented with replicas of The Circle of Courage sculpture.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives (Contd)

Heritage

The Heritage Council approved the three County Heritage Plan funding applications:

- County Longford Popular Music Heritage Project
- County Longford Heritage Research, and
- the County Longford Heritage Engagement Programme 2022.

Work has now started on all of these projects.

Heritage submitted applications to the Local Biodiversity Fund for a regional research project on quagga mussel, hedgerow survey and engagement, and a biodiversity engagement project.

All applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022 were successful. Funding was also allocated to Oldtown House, Ardagh for repairs to their roof and exterior walls.

Heritage continues to update Longfordatwar.ie database, with additional World War One deceased from the county included on the Ireland's Great War Dead database.

Tourism

Longford Hamper launched

Filled with local products, the Longford Hamper was launched with Longford County Council and Ballymahon business Wilder & Gold.

The hamper provides a taste of Longford for visitors and locals alike, as well as making an ideal corporate gift for companies wishing to celebrate Longford-based businesses. Packed full of non-perishable items, it also a great gift to send to people living abroad who have a Longford connection.

The hamper is available to purchase online from wilderandgold.com and in-store from Wilder & Gold in Ballymahon.



Community & Enterprise

Local Enterprise Office

National Enterprise Week

National Enterprise Week took place at the start of March. There was a green focus to the week for Longford Local Enterprise Office (LEO). Events included marketing clinics, business training and seminars on being agile and sustainable in business.

The week culminated in County Longford Finals of the National Enterprise Awards and the County Final Awards for the Student Enterprise Programme.

National Enterprise Awards

Cirtex were worthy winners at the County Final of the National Enterprise Awards. The company upcycles old mattresses for the manufacture of products, including insulation and underlay. Cirtex will go on to represent County Longford in the National Enterprise Awards grand finals.



Student Enterprise Programme

The County Final Awards for the Student Enterprise Programme took place online in mid-March. Around 200 students from seven schools in County Longford took part this year.

CMG Skinny Bottoms and Halfzips from Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School in Granard won the top prize in the senior category.



Senior category winners: CMG Skinny Bottoms and Halfzips

Saoirse's Bakes and Cakes from Moyne Community School took first prize in the intermediate category.

Other prize winners included mini-businesses from Ardscoil Phádraig in Granard, Ballymahon Vocational School, and Meán Scoil Mhuire in Longford.

Guest speakers on the day included European U20 Champion and former Student Enterprise Programme participant, Cian McPhillips and Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan.

The Student Enterprise Programme National Finals will take place on Wednesday, 18 May at The Helix in Dublin.

Financial Support

This month, €98,000 was awarded to Longford-based companies who are in the development or growth phase of their business.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

International Women's Day event

To celebrate women in sport on International Women's Day, around 100 Transition Year girls from across County Longford took part in a day of yoga, functional fitness, teamwork activities and pella.

Held in the Sports Hub Edgeworthstown, all tutors and staff taking part were also female, and the event was enjoyed by all participants.



Spring Walking Series

Longford's walking trials were enjoyed on Sunday mornings for all who took part in the Spring Walking Series. On average, 40 people took part each week of the six-week programme.

This series will culminate in two walks at the start of April, with Drumlish Community Sports Hub supporting local groups organising a Climb with Charlie. These walks start at 11am on 2 April at Brí Leith in Ardagh and at Corn Hill in north Longford.

World Down Syndrome Day 2022

As the colour associated with raising awareness of Down syndrome, everyone wore purple for two multi-sport sessions in celebration of World Down Syndrome Day.

Held in Drumlish Community Sports Hub, children with Down syndrome and their siblings took part in their finest purple outfits, as well as their best odd socks. Many activities took place and all involved had a great time.



Activator walking taster sessions

Taster sessions of walking with activator poles took place mid-March at The Mall, Longford. Activator poles can help people with balance or mobility issues. Their use can increase mobility, strength, balance and overall fitness and activity levels.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented
- Customer Service desk responded to 875 calls
- General queries from the public are dealt with at public counters and through the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system
- The draft 2021 Annual Report is being finalised
- Six employees started the Certificate in Professional Irish course with Gaelchultúr

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

March meetings were both in-person and online.

Date	Meeting
8 March	Corporate Policy Group
9 March	Longford County Council Committee of Longford County Council
22 March	Granard Municipal District (MD) Committee of Granard MD
23 March	Longford MD Committee of Longford MD
25 March	Ballymahon MD Committee of Ballymahon MD

Data Protection

- Spring Clean your Data, an employee awareness campaign on data minimisation, was launched
- One Data Subject Access Request was closed

- Data Protection update was presented to the Senior Officers Group
- The Data Protection Officer represented local authorities, in consultation with the Data Protection Commission, on the publication of personal data within planning applications

Freedom of Information (FOI)

	March	YTD
FOI requests received	3	12
Access to information on Environment Request	1	1
Office of Ombudsman complaints received	0	2
See FOI Disclosure Log on Longfordcoco.ie		

Health and Safety

Inspections

Three safety inspections were completed.

Internal Audits

Internal audits completed for Water and Housing.

Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee

Safety Monitoring Consultative Committee meetings took place within the Directorates of Community and Enterprise, Finance and IT, and Infrastructure, Housing and Innovation. These meetings hear safety concerns from safety representatives.

Health and Safety Training

Traffic Management Guidance Manual Training was completed within Roads and Water Services.

Opportunity for Improvement

Management of lone working is being reviewed, with meetings with Water employees and lone working devices providers.

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (Contd)

Communications

- Media queries received: 6
- Media queries resolved: 3
- Publicity campaigns commenced: 12
- Advertisements and features prepared: 5

Highlights included:

- Preparation and publication of communication campaigns including:
 - ◊ Minister Robert Troy TD opens co:worx digital hub in Edgeworthstown
 - ◊ Granard student wins national title at Relove Fashion Competition
 - ◊ 'The Circle of Courage' sculpture unveiled at site of Clonfin ambush
 - ◊ Longford County Council launches Longford Landscapes
 - ◊ Longford Tourism launches Longford Hamper with Wilder & Gold
 - ◊ Longford Sports Partnership celebrates International Women's Day
 - ◊ Launch of Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024
- Coordination and support of promotion of Longford Live and Local events
- Support for the visit of Minister Robert Troy TD to open co:worx Edgeworthstown
- Continued work on Longford County Council website to enhance end-user experience
- Roll-out of communication strategy and policy updates to all staff and the coordination of organisational Communications Working Group

Social media

Longford County Council continues to use social media to communicate with Longford people.

In March, the Communications shared updates from across the Council via social media. These included posts on the Longford Community Safety Survey from Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, Local Enterprise Week with Longford Local Enterprise Office, and CLÁR Funding from the Community section.



National events were also shared, including Daffodil Day 2022 from the Irish Cancer Society and a local event in The Mall, Longford Town for the National Day of Remembrance and Reflection.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	83	68	46
Stories	1	-	1
Reach*	73K	-	12.5K
Impressions**	82K	14.9K	9.7K

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

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

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Employee Numbers

Longford County Council had a total of 382 employees as of March 2022. These include:

- Managerial: 5
- Administrative: 169
- Technical: 69
- Outdoor: 97
- Retained Fire Fighter: 42

Recruitment

- Competitions completed: 5
- Candidates interviewed: 37
- New starters: 3
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 8
- Employee ceased employment: 3

Learning and Development

Training held in March included Business Skills training and Health and Safety training.

Business Skills training included:

- Low Value Purchase Card Policy Overview
- Disability Awareness Training
- Communications Policy Overview
- Certificate in Professional Irish
- Employment Law Essentials

Health and Safety training included:

- Chapter 8 Traffic Management Guidance Manual
- Pavement Surface Condition Index: Rural and Urban Flexible
- Road Opening and Reinstatement Basic
- Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks

- Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks Update
- Confined Spaces Low Risk

Health and Wellbeing

The following programmes were made available to employees in March:

- Pilates for Beginners eight-week programme was completed
- Choirworks 2022 continued
- The Walk the Length and Breadth of Ireland steps challenge continued
- Planning for retirement programme called Changing Gears started
- Online health awareness talk on Putting your Best Face Forward took place

COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 employee updates continue to keep employees aware of public health advice, any changes nationally, as well as locally, and any decisions from the Management Team.

Finance & IT

Finance

Longford County Council
Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Year to Date to Quarter End 31 December 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 or (Deficit) (€)
Housing	10,380,656	9,292,019	112%	(1,088,637)	10,621,116	10,522,822	101%	(98,294)	240,460
Roads	19,160,798	19,991,409	96%	830,611	14,172,537	15,078,605	94%	906,068	(4,988,261)
Water Services	4,154,222	3,906,342	106%	(247,880)	3,800,374	3,679,017	103%	(121,357)	(353,848)
Development Management	11,152,804	10,100,980	110%	(1,051,824)	6,025,003	5,078,053	119%	(946,950)	(5,127,801)
Environment	5,703,054	5,863,098	97%	160,044	952,676	507,244	188%	(445,432)	(4,750,378)
Recreation and Amenity	4,548,527	4,272,545	106%	(275,982)	1,135,294	647,068	175%	(488,226)	(3,413,233)
Agri, Health and Welfare	489,755	474,695	103%	(15,060)	291,477	217,012	134%	(74,465)	(198,278)
Miscellaneous Services	7,810,052	3,328,889	235%	(4,481,163)	7,289,147	3,480,440	209%	(3,808,707)	(520,905)
Local Government Fund					9,242,927	9,242,297	100%	(630)	9,242,927
*Commercial Rates					9,978,084	8,777,418	114%	(1,200,666)	9,978,084
	€63,399,868	€57,229,977	111%	(€6,169,891)	€63,508,635	€57,229,976	111%	(€6,278,659)	€108,767

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 25 February 2022.

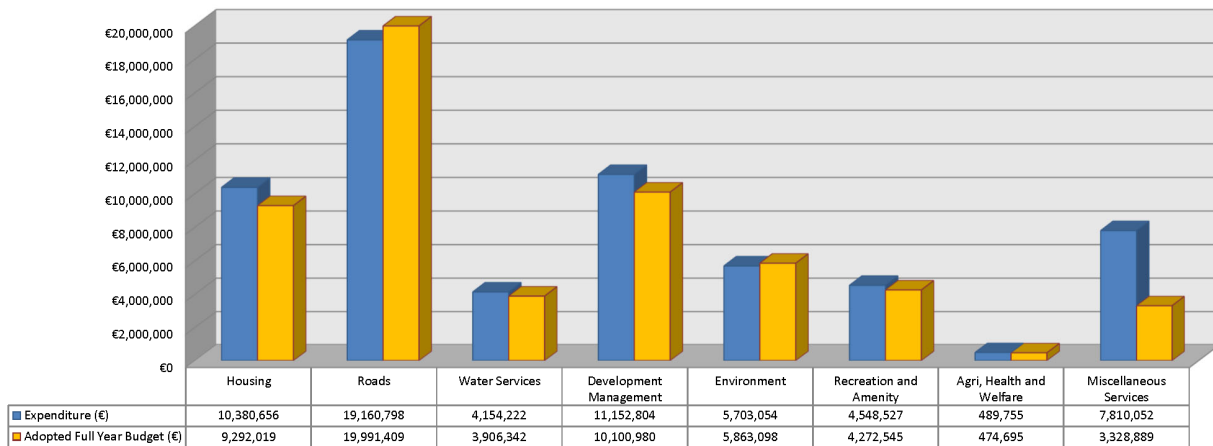
Where COVID-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 12-month waiver scheme for Q4, 2021 was €3,092,069

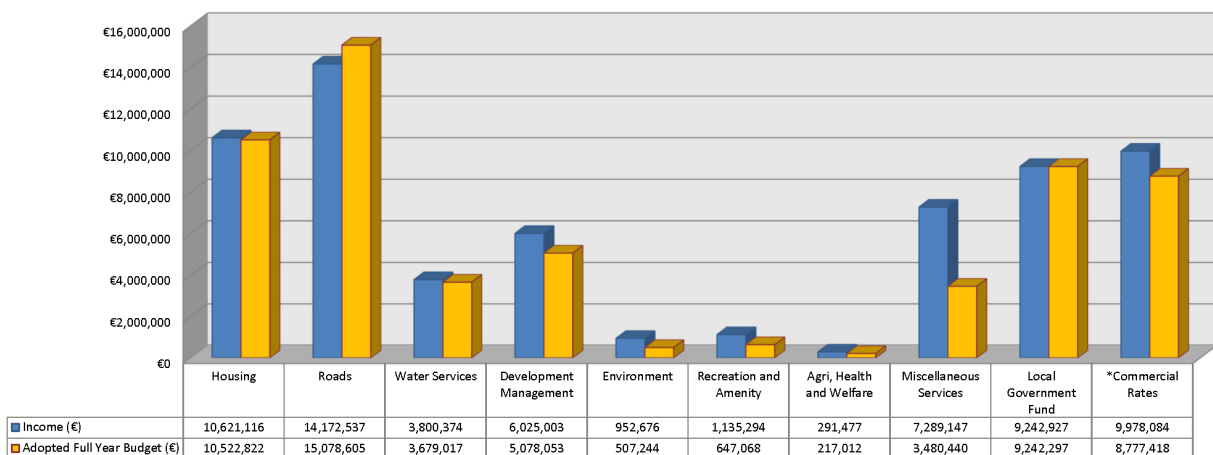
Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 4, 2021



Income V Budget - Quarter 4, 2021



Finance & IT

Finance (Contd)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 4, 2021

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€9,974,823	€6,015,200	€5,048,260	€966,940	84%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€7,246,939	€8,070,198	€7,270,045	€800,153	90%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€998,116	€1,479,460	€1,021,506	€457,954	69%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 4, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,632,835	€5,738,651	€4,614,033	€1,124,618	80%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€7,101,310	€7,799,967	€6,960,295	€839,672	89%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€751,783	€1,373,808	€892,464	€481,344	65%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€90,791	€1,341,988	€276,549	€434,227	(€157,678)	4%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€102,674	€145,629	€270,231	€309,750	(€39,519)	1%
Housing Loans	(€143,251)	€246,333	€105,652	€129,042	(€23,390)	4%

*COVID-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €3,092,069 in Q4, 2021.
These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.

Finance & IT

Information Technology

Town WIFI

This month, 332 new guest and 1,596 returning guests used the free Town WIFI in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish. There was an average usage time of six minutes per user.

Broadband Connection Points

This month, 44 new guests and 275 returning guests used the Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) available in County Longford.

An Introduction to Coding course took place in BCPs at Mullinalaghta Community Centre and Moydow Community Centre. This is funded by Creative Ireland.

A Basic Digital Skills course is happening in the BCP at the Latin School Community Centre in Moyne.

Digital Services

Colmcille community text alert group are due to go live on the Longford Text Alert app. Preparations for this took place in March.

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

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

Technology Infrastructure

ServiceDesk dealt with 530 enquiries this month. Hybrid meeting room set up is now complete, and the library management system transfer has started. Cybersecurity training plan is being developed.

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

- Patching of client and server systems
- Hybrid meetings
- Review, updating and implementation of security policies
- Mobile phone administration and support

Geographic Information Systems

To support the Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, work has started on a mapping application.

Longford Text Alert has been supported with mapping of existing community text alert groups. This includes work surrounding General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) concerns.

Support has also been given for the implementation of a new application to capture planning application site geometry.

The environmental map viewer was also updated in March.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Housing

Support for Ukrainian refugees

As part of the government's response to the war in Ukraine, support was sought from local authorities to help people seeking refuge in Ireland.

As part of this, Housing are working to identify properties potentially suitable for immediate and longer-term accommodation, including private units. Housing contacted over 30 providers to ascertain vacancy levels and to seek commitment to support these effort.

Property Optimisation Unit set up

The Housing Agency has established the Property Optimisation Unit to provide a central advisory service and support local authorities in the delivery of the government's Housing for All policy.

Housing for All aims to address vacancy rates, with a target to acquire 2,500 vacant properties by 2026 under a Compulsory Purchase Order.

Social Housing Assessment

New Social Housing Assessment regulations have been issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This includes changes to the social housing application form, including:

- Inclusion of a Traveller identifier for members of the Traveller community wishing to be included in Traveller Accommodation Programme. This will allow the Council to capture information to develop and adopt future Traveller Accommodation Programmes

- Clarification on documents required for proof of income to assess income eligibility

Housing Capital Programme

Project	Units	Status
O'Hara's Site, Richmond Street	14	On site
St Patrick's Court, Ballinamuck	8	On site
Alderfield, Farnagh	1	On site (23 complete)
Campbell's Drive	2	On site (21 complete)
Cranleymore, Abbeylara	3	Stage 3 approved. Tender drawings being prepared.
St Rita's Park Road	11	Stage 2 approved. Due to go for Part 8 Planning.
24 Congress Terrace	2	Stage 2 approved. Part 8 Planning advertised.
Woodland Path, Keenagh	4	Stage 1 approved
Clough Dillons, Keenagh	4	Stage 1 approved
Radharc na Muileann, Lanesborough	22	Stage 1 approved
Drynan, Ballymahon	13	Stage 1 approved
Cnoc na Gréine, Granard	6	Stage 1 approved
2 Woodview, Newtownforbes	2	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval
2 Legion Terrace	4	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval
Lettergeeragh, Drumlish	1	To be submitted for Stage 1. Single Stage approval

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Roads

Annual Roads Programme

Annual Roads Programme was prepared for each municipal district. This was presented to the municipal district councillors for approval, prior to submission to the Department of Transport.

This follows on from February's Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations for 2022. Work under this Annual Roads Programme involves much preparation, including significant input from Longford County Council Roads employees and public representatives.

TikTok Mic Drop Road Safety Campaign

Longford County Council's Road Safety Officer, along 11 other local authorities, supported the TikTok Mic Drop Road Safety campaign with iRadio. In its second year, the campaign promotes road safety among people aged 15-34.



Longford County Council's Road Safety Officer helped circulate the campaign's road safety material to schools, youth groups and sports clubs. There was one Longford winner for the campaign's competition. They shared in a prize fund of €6,000.

National road schemes

N63 Majors Well Road works continued in March, with installation of drainage pipes and preparation for footpath installation. This work will include cycle lanes along the route and provides enhanced pedestrian facilities.



N63 Majors Well Road footpath installation

Work continued on the N4 Pavement Scheme at Newtownforbes with undergrounding of overhead services. It is envisaged that all works, including pavement and footpath works, will be completed by the end of April.

Works on the N63 Lanesborough Pavement Scheme has started. Lagan Asphalt Ltd were awarded the contract and have started construction works on new footpaths.

Municipal District works.

An extensive procurement process has been undertaken by Roads, as it does annually during the first three months of the year. This includes seeking and evaluating tenders for works and services.

Maintenance works continued in each municipal district, including footpath repairs, drainage and pothole repairs.

Preparations for the 2022 Annual Roads Programme has started.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Water Services

Capital Network Schemes

The Water Services Capital Section continues to liaise with Irish Water to progress two Capital Network Rehabilitation Schemes, improving security of supply and reducing leakage. These works, which are funded by the Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme, include:

- Ballywillan to Creevy, Granard: the contractor for Irish Water has substantially completed the replacement of approximately 500 meters of problematic watermain, including a section under the N55 national secondary road at Creevy. The contractor is currently progressing from Creevy junction with the N55 to connect with the existing watermain at Ballywillan
- Rathcline Road, Lanesborough: replacement of approximately 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe reservoir is substantially complete. A further 1.5km section to the Carrowoe reservoir is progressing



Watermain installation Lanesborough to Carrowroe Reservoir

Longford to Lanesborough Network
The Water Services capital section continue to liaise with Irish Water to deliver network upgrades to enable water supply from Longford Central Supply Zone into the Lanesborough Supply Zone.

This work includes the design and installation of a pump station and other infrastructural works. This will improve the resilience of the water network and provide security of supply to the Lanesborough area.

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team are operating in the Longford Town-South and Longford West district metered areas. Teams have found and fixed leaks in the Ardnacassa area of Longford Town saving approximately 90,000 litres of drinking water per day.



Leak repair by Find & Fix crew at Ardnacassa, Longford Town

Find & Fix teams continue to make significant progress with the identification and reporting of 'apparent losses'. This includes unmetered connections, unmetered non-domestic properties, replacement of defective medium to large non-domestic meters, metering or logging of private developments, as well as IDA and other business parks.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Environment

Longford student crowned Overall Winner at Relove Fashion

Ella Mulligan from Cnoc Mhuire Secondary School in Granard was crowned the Overall Winner title at the Relove Fashion competition. She fought off 18 other finalists with her outfit made from sustainable materials and using environmentally-friendly manufacturing techniques.



National Spring Clean is here

Clean up kits are now available for National Spring Clean 2022. Organise a local event to help clean up your area by registering with An Taisce at nationalspringclean.org. Environment are also happy to help, call the team on 043 334 3367 to organise a pickup of the waste collected.

National Tree Week 2022

National Tree Week was celebrated in March. It encourages greater awareness around the value of trees for the environment and for our own enjoyment. It also encourages local people and groups to plant trees in their area.

Veterinary

Service contract with Food Safety Authority of Ireland extended

A three-month extension to the service contract between Longford County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland has been signed by Longford County Council Chief Executive Paddy Mahon. This extension is up to 30 June 2022.

Longford Dog Pound site visit planned

A site visit to the Longford Dog Pound is being planned for April. This is in relation to the environmentally-friendly upgrades which have taken place at the facility.

Supporting Ukrainian refugee crisis

Local authorities are supporting the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the monitoring of the health of imported animals travelling with Ukrainian people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking refuge in Ireland.

Helping Galway County Council look for a new dog warden

Longford County Council supported Galway County Council in March for their Dog Warden selection process.

Infrastructure, Housing & Innovation

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in March 48
- All stations remained fully operational

Health and Safety

- No injuries or near misses to report

Training

- Incident command training courses completed in Granard and Lanesborough Fire Stations
- Two new recruits passed their induction training

Major Emergency Management

- A Regional Working Group meeting was held in March in Mullingar. This working group has setup several sub-groups
- Preparations underway for onsite coordinator training which will recommence in April

Fire Prevention

- Two Fire Safety Certificates were processed

Recruitment

- There are still vacancies in Granard and Lanesborough Fire Stations

Equipment

- A van to carry road collision equipment at Lanesborough Fire Station continues to be fitted out as an emergency vehicle
- Upgrade works are being carried out on a Ford Ranger

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover at:

- three Longford Town soccer matches
- two St Patrick's Day parades
- one GAA match



Training and Operations

- First Aid Responder (FAR) course continues for four volunteers
- Emergency First Responder (EFR) recertification course continues for three volunteers
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students have concluded the theory module of their course and are currently on ambulance placement with the Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Statutory inspections were carried on vehicles
- Road Safety Authority (RSA) inspection took place
- A bicycle risk assessment was completed with the Health and Safety Support Officer
- Volunteers collected and packed items to be sent to Ukraine to assist with humanitarian aid. This collection was carried out in the County with the Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Emergency supplies were acquired to enable a rest centre to be set up, should it be required. Volunteers assisted with a stock inventory
- Funding approved by the Department of Defence to complete works on the Communication unit

Planning & Project Delivery

Regeneration

Knappogue Bog Walk Carpark

Work is complete on the Knappogue Bog Walk carpark at Clonard in the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park. This important and necessary facility is at a safe location for road users with approximately 15 parking spaces. The project was funded under Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 and by Longford County Council.



Ballinalee Forest Walk and Aughnacliffe River Walk opened

Regeneration welcomed Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD to County Longford for the official opening of Ballinalee Forest Walk and Aughnacliffe River Walk.

Regeneration worked with community groups, elected members and relevant stakeholders to bring both projects to completion. Both funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Longford County Council.

Breadan's Lane, Longford Town

Improvement works are now complete on Breadan's Lane which connects Dublin Street and New Street in Longford Town. This area caters primarily to pedestrians, with the work addressing surfacing and lighting issues.



New public lighting and associated civilw work have allowed for an increased sense of security in the area and will benefit local businesses. This work was funded by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020.

Town & Village Renewal Funding

Funding of €677,093 for four projects in the county has been secured by Longford County Council through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2021.

The four projects include:

- the completion of renovation of Rose Cottage in Ballinalee
- the development of a carpark adjacent to a school and third-generation synthetic surface pitch facility in Bunlahy
- redevelopment of a former abattoir in Lanesborough as an incubation campus for the Lanesborough Food Hub
- enhancement of the Latin School Tourism Centre in Moyne through the recreation of a hedge school and development of an amphitheatre

Planning & Project Delivery

Planning

County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 policies and strategies are currently being implemented. The basic draft has been published. Work related to the printing of the final document is ongoing, with this expected to be completed by April 2022.

Longford Town Plan

Procurement of consultants for Strategic Environmental Assessment and a traffic study of Longford Town has concluded.

Work will now commence on the review of the Longford Town Plan. This will include information on climate adaptation, regeneration, employment, transport, housing, active travel, and the coordination and implementation of various development projects.

Specific design work on the draft Active Travel Plan for Longford Town's Main Street will be presented to councillors in April 2022.



Applications and Enforcement

Planning continues to assist the public with planning projects, applications, and by dealing with queries and planning issues for developments in the county.

Planning also assists across various Council services, including the implementation of the housing, regeneration, environment and infrastructural programmes.

The statutory requirements are broad and include managing various applications for housing, retail, amenity, industrial, compulsory purchase orders, and enforcement among others. The planning office, public counter and technical advice including planning enforcement have remained fully functioning and busy at all times.

Planning & Project Delivery

Climate Action Initiatives

Libraries

Longford Libraries are taking part in Literacy and Environmental Action of Food or 'LEAF'. This is a national programme which helps libraries provide information to help people grow their own food as a pro-environmental action.

Human Resources

Climate action is included in all recruitment competitions and contracts of employment.

Information Technology

Several paperless projects are having a positive impact. This includes the ePMDS app is live. A digital divide project will see less paper used by our outdoor staff. A digital-first bases for schemes is being rolled out. This includes a paperless community grants application system. Increased power saving policies have been applied to all computers.

Housing

Work continues in Ballinalee on the Midlands Retrofit Programme, while work on Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View is ongoing. Under the National Energy Efficiency Programme, works are ongoing on 11 houses in Slí na Móna.

The tender is in progress for St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon and assessment of works required is being considered on 46 local authority houses across the county.

Environment

Environment organised the planting of 60 London Plane trees at Alder Field housing estate in Longford Town.

Planning

Climate adaptation actions continue to be prepared and will include the following:

- Work on renaturing of bogs, woodland, amenity areas, walkways and cycleways
- Compiling a baseline of all climate action works within Longford County Council through meetings with a senior member of each section
- Analysing housing Building Energy Ratings (BER) to see how many houses are up to standard
- Mapping BER ratings on council housing stock on Geographical Information Systems to analyse the BER of stock in any area
- Planting of 60 London plane trees at the new Alderfield estate. These can capture PM10, an air pollutant (particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less) through the bark

Roads

Longford County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland are considering incorporating warm mix materials, which have a lower carbon footprint than traditional hot mix materials, in some future Longford National Road Pavement Schemes.

Fire Services

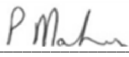
Two assessors for stage one for vapour recovery for petrol stations have been approved to work in County Longford.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

Management Report for March 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 March 2022 in securing the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan.

Signed: _____

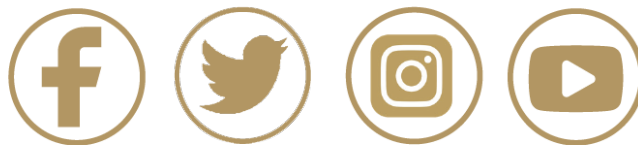


Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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