



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report October 2021

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October Highlights

Awards season awaits for Longford County Council

Longford County Council's strategy and guidance documents on Rural Working Hubs has been shortlisted for the Local Authority Innovation category of the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards and the Economy category of the prestigious European Innovation in Politics Awards.



Unique take on local history with Sergeant Virgil

Through the Faoin Spéir initiative, Longford welcomed a unique outdoor performance with The Fabulously True and Timeless Tales of Sergeant Virgil, reimagining life in Longford's Camlin Quarter 150 years ago.



Spooktacular community Halloween events!

Around the county many frightful and family-friendly events took place, bringing all of our communities together, helping reduce anti-social behaviour and keeping everyone safe this Samhain.



Helping with rehabilitation

Longford Sports Partnership teamed up with Health Service Executive's Respiratory Integrated Care Service, (Longford/Westmeath) to provide a Pulmonary Rehab Exercise Programme.



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

A meeting of the LCDC took place on 12 October.

LEADER

Seven LEADER projects were approved for funding of over €509,358 at the LCDC meeting in October.

Intercultural Fund

COVID-19 severely impacted children's ability to interact and participate in activities. To encourage children and their families to come together, while also promoting intercultural activity, Melview Football Club held a tournament over two weekends back in August. Eight Longford clubs and 40 teams participated, with over 400 children taking part.

Following on from this, under the Intercultural Fund €3,000 was allocated to an intercultural community Halloween event in Ballymahon. Hosted by Ballymahon Town Team. It brought together the community and helped reduce anti-social behaviour around Halloween for the enjoyment of everyone. The event included a controlled wood-only bonfire, fireworks display, live entertainment, and snacks.

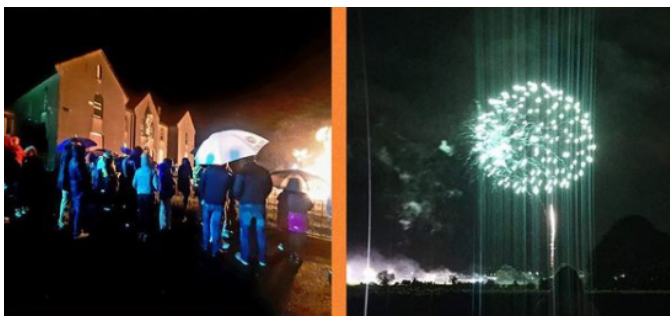


Photo courtesy of Bridgeways FRC Ballymahon on Instagram

Tourism

Halloween Events Guide

Longford Tourism compiled a Halloween Events Guide to promote Halloween events throughout County Longford. This was in addition to the monthly events guide. All Halloween events were also supported with online promotion to encourage visitors to support these locally organised events.



EZexploring Map Promotional Video

To spread the word about the new EZexploring maps which offer a self-guided tour around the county, a new promotional video was launched. The launch took place ahead of the Halloween mid-term break to encourage people to get out during the break and explore some of Longford's hidden gems and local landmarks with their EZexploring map!

This promotional video are available to view on Longford Tourism's social media, including the Longford Tourism's YouTube channel, and on Longford.ie.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives

Longford Age Friendly

Cathaoirleach Peggy Nolan hosted a tree planting ceremony in the Mall, Longford town to remember Longford people who died during the COVID-19 pandemic. This event was attended by members of Longford Older Persons Council.



Decade of Commemorations

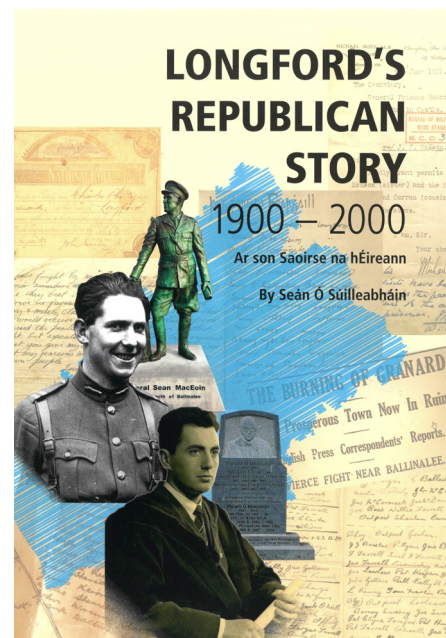
Planning work took place for History Month happening in November. A free Longford Leader supplement was researched and prepared, with publication mid-November. An online conference entitled '1921: Partition, Truce and Treaty', with a distinguished panel of speakers was prepared and will take place on 6 November.

Edgeworthstown Library

Edgeworthstown Community Library is progressing well, with the official opening set to take place on 19 November with Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphries TD in attendance.

Longford County Library Service

All services to the public are restored, with the exception of My Open Library. Longford, Granard and Ballymahon libraries hosted three launches of Longford's Republican Story 1900-2000, a new book by local historian Seán Ó Súilleabháin. All were well-attended, while adhering to public health guidelines.



Heritage Office

Work continues on the County Heritage Plan projects. Work has also commenced on the Community Monuments Fund project on Rossduff Castle and on the Abbeyshrule Abbey.

The Fabulously True and Timeless Tales of Sergeant Virgil

Following on from the summer's successful Longford Live & Local and Faoin Spéir events, The Fabulously True and Timeless Tales of Sergeant Virgil, an outdoor arts performance looking at the social history of the Camlin quarter took place between 22-24 October.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Sports Bursary Awards

Longford County Council through Longford Sports Partnership announced the Longford County Council Sports Bursary for 2021 in October.

The Council has allocated €5,000 towards this Bursary. Awards will go to individual sports people who have shown ability in their sport and possess the potential to achieve excellence at national and international level.

Buggy Walks

Buggy Walks, a series of social walks taking place across the county for parents, grandparents, childminders and others in the care of babies and toddlers, started in October. The walks take place every Tuesday in Longford, Wednesday in Ballymahon and Thursdays in Granard, at 11am-12pm in all locations until 25 November.

Buggy Walks is a partnership between Longford Westmeath Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), Longford Sports Partnership and Westmeath Sports Partnership.

Pulmonary Rehab Exercise Programme

Longford Sports Partnership and the Health Service Executive (HSE) Respiratory Integrated Care Service (Longford Westmeath) have teamed up to provide a Pulmonary Rehab Exercise Programme.

Before starting, all participants were screened by a physiotherapist and cleared to take part. All participants also previously completed a Pulmonary Rehab

Programme with HSE physiotherapists, before this follow-up community-based programme.

For this exercise-based programme, Longford Sports Partnership provided an exercise tutor, exercise programme and venue. Working is ongoing to support participants to form a club and become self-sustaining.

Club Development Grant

October also saw the opening of the Club Development Grant 2021 for applications. These Grants aim to support initiatives from sports and physical activity clubs across County Longford. The maximum grant available is €500. Closes for applications at 4pm, 10 November.

Healthy Communities Enhancement Funding Scheme

Healthy Communities Enhancement Funding Scheme supports projects positively impacting residents' health and wellbeing. Under this Scheme, Longford County Council will receive €250,000 in funding for a proposal developed from the Regeneration team.

The proposed development is for Ballyminion within the Longford Rural Electoral Division (ED). It will connect and serve disadvantaged areas within the Longford Urban EDs. Ballyminion is located south-west of Longford town, linking the N5 Strokestown road and N63 Athlone road. The project aims to serve these areas with:

- Cycleways installation and enhanced pedestrian connections, including public lighting, road crossings and environmental improvements, between Ballyminion's medical centre to Flancare link road
- Cyclelane installation in addition to Active Travel proposals on the N63

Works will link the Royal Canal and the Mid Shannon Wilderness Park Greenways at the Strokestown Road, serving Farranyoogan and Gleann Riada Housing Estates.

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 862 calls in October
- General queries from the public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer services email and at public counters

Franchise

The Draft Register of Electors was published and circulated for the public to view. Online voter registration forms were also made available on Longfordcoco.ie

This was supported by a social media campaign to raise awareness about the Register of Electors 2022/23 and to encourage Longford people to register and check their details online.



Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

Longford County Council's October meetings were held in the context of COVID-19 public health guidelines, and held both virtually and in-person.

Date	Meeting
12 October	Longford Municipal District (in committee) Placename Sub Committee Corporate Policy Group
13 October	Longford County Council (in committee) Longford County Council
14 October	Granard MD (in committee) Granard Municipal District
18 October	Placemaking Strategic Policy Group
19 October	Governance Strategic Policy Group Longford County Council (in committee) Longford County Council Draft County Development Plan
20 October	Climate Action and Planning Strategic Policy
21 October	Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy
26 October	Granard Municipal District (in committee) Granard MD Budget Meeting
27 October	Longford Municipal District (in committee) Longford MD Budget Meeting
28 October	Ballymahon Municipal District (in committee) Ballymahon MD Budget Meeting

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (contd)

Data Protection

- Data Protection awareness campaign: Personal Data Breach Awareness, rolled out on the Corporate Policy and Training Platform.
- Data Protection queries: 9
- Informational video rolled out to Senior Executive Officers and Administrative Officers on the Data Processing Unit's Data Protection Compliance and Monitoring Programme
- Clean and Clear Desk Policy and Personal Data Breach Policy approved.



Freedom of Information (FOI)

	October	YTD
FOI requests received	5	57
Access to information on Environmental Request	0	5
Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	1	3

See FOI Disclosure Log on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie)

Health & Safety

Safety Inspections

There were five Safety Inspections completed by the Health and Safety section and the Management Team.

External Surveillance Audit

Longford County Council's external surveillance audit of the Safety Management System took place on 5-6 October, with the successful retention of our ISO 45001:2018 accreditation.

The audit was undertaken by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), by two auditors over two-days. This year's audit focused on the council's high-risk areas of the following sections: Fire Services, Building Facilities, Roads and Water Services. This was the first year Fire Services were included, meaning all sections within the Council are now included in the scope of this audit.

The audit had a very positive outcome, with the previously mentioned retention of the ISO 45001:2018 accreditation. At the closing meeting, the auditors also highlighted the Council's strengths, including employee engagement and active participation. This closing meeting was held online, with 104 employees attending.

Management and Health and Safety thank all sections who took part in the audit and those who attended at the closing meeting. The audit could not happen and be so successful without the knowledge and engagement of employees in the safety management system.

Community & Enterprise

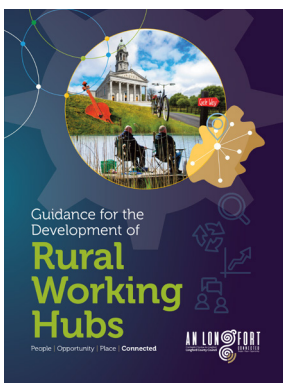
Corporate Services (contd)

Communications

- Media Queries responded to: 14
- Publicity Campaigns commenced: 10
- Advertisements/Features prepared: 5

October highlights included:

- The launch of Longford's first ever Digital Strategy
- Promoting Longford County Council's Rural Working Hubs Strategy and its was shortlisting for both the European Innovation in Politics Awards and the Chambers Ireland award for Local Authority Innovation Category



- Longford's first ever promenade performance in Connolly Barracks under the Faoin Spéir initiative: The Fabulously True and Timeless Tales of Sergeant Virgil
- Longford County Council and An Garda Síochána's joint appeal against illegal bonfires and fireworks
- Promoting Longford Tourism's video on EZxploring in Longford

- The unveiling of a plaque to remember Longford people who died during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Longford County Council shortlisted for 2021 Pakman National Environmental Awards
- Working with partners of Longford County Council on the celebration of the almost 50 gigs that took place as part of the Longford Live & Local outdoor music performance programme
- Promoting and sharing the work of Longford Sports Partnership on the Sports Bursary being open for applications
- Working on the preparation of internal and external video communication campaigns

Social media

Social media continued to be used as an effective communication tool. Messaging focused on activities across the Council, including the Longford County Council Sports Bursary and Longford Tourism's EZxploring video, as well as messaging on staying safe and enjoying local activities at Halloween.



	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	87	93	46
Stories	19	-	19
Reach*	97K	-	1.2K
Impressions**	100K	38K	15K

*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

The Department of Rural and Community Development has extended the date for completion of works to 31 December due to a contractor shortage and potential weather-related delays. It was also agreed to offer a level of autonomy to Local Authorities in exceptional cases where works are delayed due to lack of contractors. These exceptional cases have until 31 May 2022 to complete works, once agreed with their Local Authority.

Longford County Council has also been allocated additional funding, raising the Streetscape Enhancement Measure budget to €236,800. This additional funding will increase funding to projects who received less than originally applied for in their initial offers. It is also intended to issue funding to applicants who missed the initial deadline or who declined their offer due to the short timeframe, prior to the extension now given.

Support

	YTD
Grant Aid Applications	15
Approvals	15
Value of Approvals	€240,000

Training & Development

Total Programmes	42
Total Participants	813

Mentoring

Total Participants	110
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Brexit

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

Trading Online Vouchers

Total Applications	22
Total Approvals	32
Value of Approvals	€69,749.50

Streetscape Enhancement Measure Applications and Payment Summary

	Applications	Approvals	Rejections	Requested	Funded	Grants Paid (YTD)	Paid Out (YTD)	Decommited (YTD)
Longford	77	66	11	€363,827	€113,600	4	€6,123.75	€526.25
Granard	37	37	0	€172,070	€55,100	2	€1,000	€0
Lanesborough	20	20	0	€101,950	€37,000	0	€0	€0
Drumlsh	14	13	1	€72,350	€31,100	0	€0	€0
Total	148	136	12	€710,197	€236,800	6	€7,123.75	€526.25

Community & Enterprise

Human Resources

Recruitment

- Competitions advertised: 6
- Candidates interviewed: 25
- Competitions completed: 5
- New starters: 10
- Existing employees commenced new roles: 6
- Employee ceased employment: 2

Learning and Development

- Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) continued in the pilot directorate of Community and Enterprise
- Other training programmes included: Safepass, Pavement Condition Index Surveying, Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process training, Abrasive Wheels, and Competency Based Interviewing.

Health and Wellbeing

- Stress and anxiety booklets distributed to mark World Mental Health Day
- Information sent to all staff mark World Osteoporosis Day on 20 October



Finance & Regeneration

Finance

Year to Date to Quarter End 30/06/2021

	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	4,710,733	9,292,019	51%	4,581,286	5,161,635	10,522,822	49%	5,361,187	450,902
Roads	6,724,074	19,991,409	34%	13,267,335	4,317,004	15,078,605	29%	10,761,601	(2,407,070)
Water Services	2,064,371	3,906,342	53%	1,841,971	1,752,862	3,679,017	48%	1,926,155	(311,509)
Development Management	4,769,596	10,100,980	47%	5,331,384	2,405,943	5,078,053	47%	2,672,110	(2,363,653)
Environment	3,072,922	5,863,098	52%	2,790,176	520,493	507,244	103%	(13,249)	(2,552,429)
Recreation and Amenity	2,113,869	4,272,545	49%	2,158,676	332,339	647,068	51%	314,729	(1,781,530)
Agri, Health and Welfare	246,610	474,695	52%	228,085	152,786	217,012	70%	64,226	(93,824)
Miscellaneous Services	4,683,274	3,328,889	141%	(1,354,385)	3,813,960	3,480,440	110%	(333,520)	(869,314)
Local Government Fund					4,621,149	9,242,297	50%	4,621,148	4,621,149
*Commercial Rates					5,010,556	8,777,418	57%	3,766,862	5,010,556
	€28,385,449	€57,229,977	50%	€28,844,528	€28,088,727	€57,229,976	49%	€29,141,249	(€296,722)

These figures were submitted to the Department on Friday 27 August 2021.

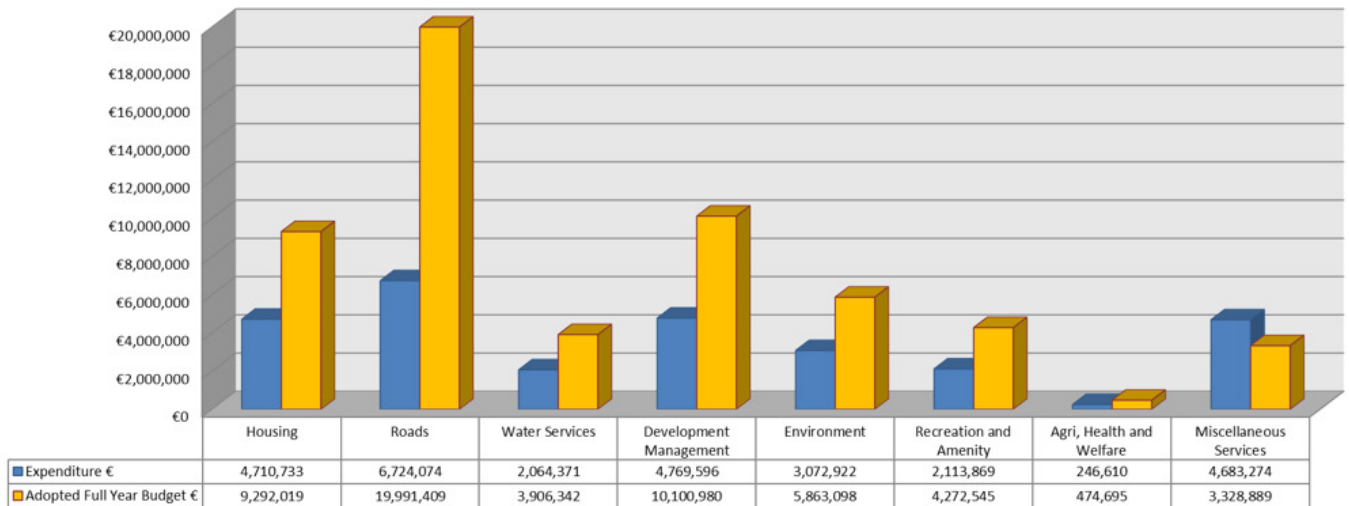
Where COVID-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

*The amount of Commercial Rates waived under the 2021 6-month waiver scheme for Q2, 2021 was **€1,745,641**

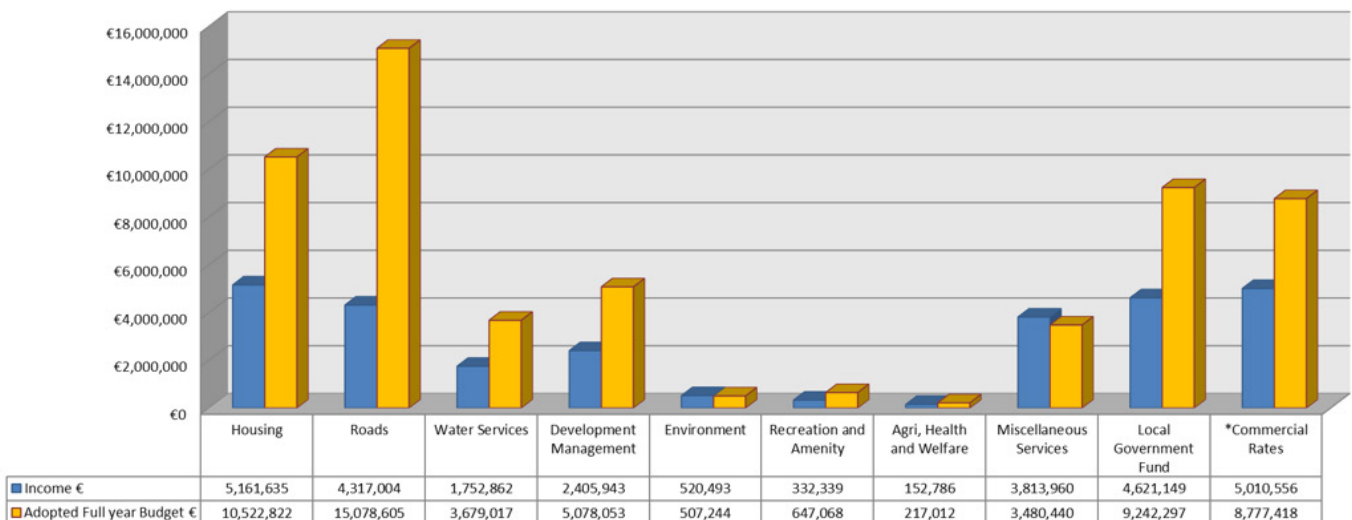
Finance & Regeneration

Finance (contd)

Expenditure V Budget - Quarter 2, 2021



Income V Budget - Quarter 2, 2021



Finance & Regeneration

Finance (contd)

SUMMARY OF MAJOR REVENUE COLLECTIONS - QUARTER 2, 2021

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2021	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,124,618	€10,021,112	€9,397,540	€3,337,142	€6,060,398	36%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€839,673	€3,612,656	€4,450,408	€3,506,899	€943,509	79%
Housing Loans	€481,344	€473,512	€954,856	€469,634	€485,222	49%

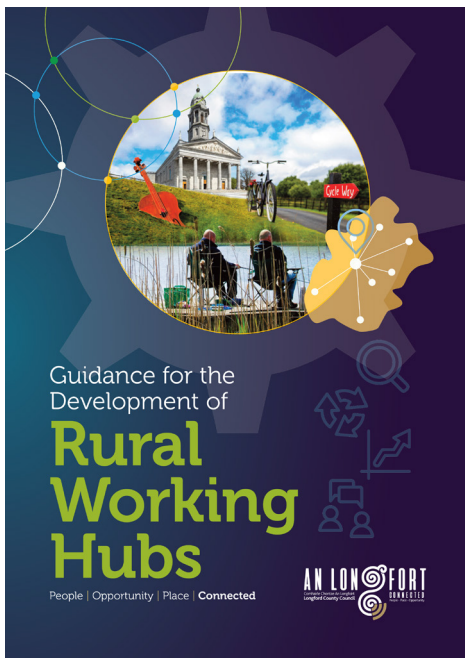
	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
Quarter 2, 2020	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€1,033,827	€8,682,329	€9,715,439	€3,640,561	€6,074,878	37%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€736,999	€3,560,717	€4,298,331	€3,367,663	€930,668	78%
Housing Loans	€624,595	€463,436	€1,088,032	€424,674	€663,358	39%

	Opening Arrears	Billed	To be Collected	Collected	Closing Arrears	Collected
VARIANCE YOY	€	€	€	€	€	%
*Rates	€90,791	€1,338,783	(€317,899)	(€303,419)	(€14,480)	-2%
Rents (inc. RAS)	€102,674	€51,939	€152,077	€139,236	€12,841	0%
Housing Loans	(€143,251)	€10,076	(€133,176)	€44,960	(€178,136)	10%

***COVID-19 Commercial Rates waivers amounted to €1,745,641 in Q2, 2021. These have been taken account of in the 'To be Collected' figures above.**

Finance & Regeneration Regeneration

**Rural Working Hubs Strategy
Shortlisted for Prestigious Awards**
Regeneration's Rural Working Hub Strategy and Guidance Document has recently been shortlisted for two separate awards: the Local Authority Innovation Category at the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021, and the Economy category at the European Innovation in Politics Awards 2021.



The latter recognises innovative projects based on European values of social balance, democracy, and human rights. Longford County Council joins five finalists from Ireland, helping make up the 90 shortlisted projects across nine categories. The winners will be announced in December.

Old Bog Line, Culray in Aughnacliffe
The Old Bog Line, Culray in Aughnacliffe project involved developing a historic walking trail of approximately 500m. Part of this project included the development of a bog access roadway, which had become overgrown in recent years. This trail now links to the other recreational amenities, including Lough Gowna's Dring carpark and Derrycassin Woods walking trail.

This development makes up the first phase of a larger project which will link up with approximately one kilometre of bogland at the Old Bog Line: a throughway road built in famine times from Granard to Arva and onto Cavan.



Finance & Regeneration

Regeneration (contd)

Red Bridge Ballymahon

Coordinated by Waterways Ireland in cooperation with Longford County Council, the Red Bridge project has recently been completed. This involved the installation of a floating jetty at the Red Bridge on the River Inny at Shrule, as well as construction of a car park and installation of new solar powered lighting. It is a welcome enhancement of the tourism infrastructure in County Longford. The Red Bridge is also one of many projects to develop new and enhanced waterside amenities and enable infrastructure at different locations along the Shannon Navigation.



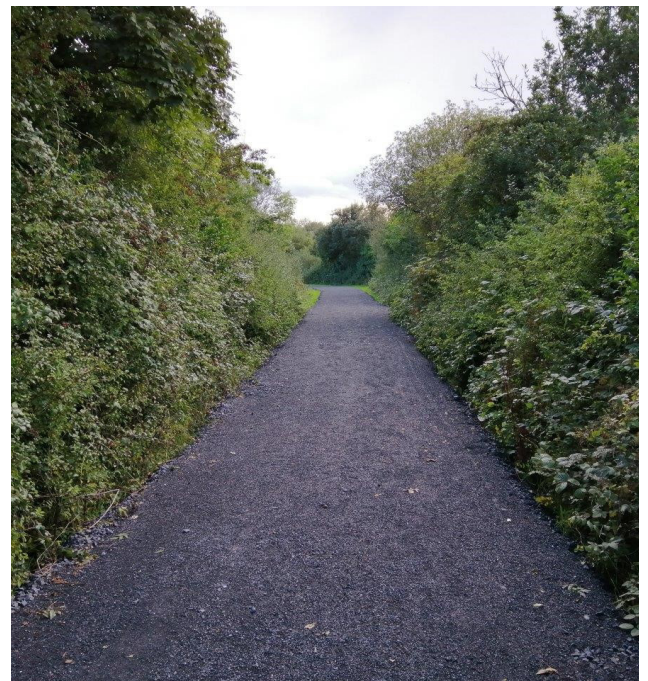
New jetty at Red Bridge, Ballymahon

Commons North Walk Upgrade, Lanesborough

The Commons North Walk upgrade in Lanesborough focused on the maintenance and upgrading of an existing walkway of approximately 800m. This project involved clearing overgrowth, raising the ground above flood-level and protecting the trail against future flooding.

Located close to Lanesborough village centre, the walk forms part of the area's tourism offering. It also links the village with the countryside through forestry, punctuated with glimpses of Lough Ree.

Since completion, Longford County Council has received very positive feedback, especially relating to the increased accessibility and the contribution the walkway now makes to the local amenity infrastructure.



Finance & Regeneration

Information Technology

Connected Hubs Call

- The Connected Hubs Call is a project to develop remote working facilities around the county
- Refurbishment is near completion in the Moyne Latin School Community Centre
- Procurement is ongoing for equipment at Moydow, Mullinalaghta, Abbeyshrule and Co:worx, Edgeworthstown.

IT Infrastructure

- ServiceDesk for October: 454 tickets
- IT provided support for statutory and Microsoft Teams hybrid meetings
- IT security policies are being reviewed and updated
- Hybrid meeting software is being installed in three meeting rooms
- Firewall upgrades for branch libraries have started
- Smart phone upgrades for fire tender units are in train
- Phase 2 of the People XD Version 28 upgrade has started

Geographic Information Systems

- Web mapping application developed for citizens to explore Longford's walking trails
- National Broadband Ireland (NBI) Pole Survey application was developed. This will facilitate the survey of proposed NBI pole locations in preparation for the Section 254 application.
- Development of a map viewer to assist with landowner identification within the N4 Longford

to Roosky study area

- Minecraft for Longford town is progressing

Broadband Connection Points

- Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) have free high-speed broadband for public use
- In October, there were 48 new users and 144 returning users to Longford's BCPs
- Moyne BCP at Latin School Community Centre hosted the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) Talking Art Online again in October
- Mullinalaghta Community Centre held beginners painting classes with artist Oonagh Latchford
- Skillshare courses are available at Longford's BCPs, with free online courses on many topics
- Moydow and Mullinalaghta Community Centre BCPs and Longford Westmeath Education Training Board will offer courses to help people make the most of their device

Learn how to **make the most of your device,**
feel confident and secure online,
in the comfort of **your local community...**

...in **Moydow or Mullinalaghta**
Broadband Connection Points



Finance & Regeneration

Information Technology (contd)

Digital Services

- Electronic Performance Management and Development System is at full implementation
- Longford's Digital Strategy and the Rural Working Hub Strategy are being presented at National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) Good Practice event in November
- WIFI4EU: 1,923 new users; 1,174 returning users
- Coding events in Bridgeways Family Resource Centre and St Colmcille's National School took place as part of Meet & Code 2021
- Meeting with contractors SKS to upgrade the Council Chamber for hybrid meetings
- Procurement is complete and a letter of intent issued for Longford Text Alert, a new app to unify community communications across the county
- The Department of Rural and Community Development and Munster Technological University are launching the BCP VEX IQ robotics programme. Mullinalaghta Community Centre has been selected for participation.



Council Chamber to be upgraded for hybrid video meetings

October in IT in Pictures



Launch of Longford County Council's Digital Strategy



Free Skills Workshops



One of the activities taking place in Longford's BCPs

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

Social Housing Assessment

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment is underway, with the purpose of capturing the total number of households who qualified for social housing support across the county and whose social housing need is not currently being met. This will help to understand the level of need for such support. Over 80 qualified households whom are not currently in receipt of social housing support are being reviewed to ensure that they still want and qualify for support, and to ensure that the detail of the applicants' household is up to date and accurate.

Members of Longford County Council Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) are currently engaging in shared training to build momentum behind the work of the LTACC. Three two-hour sessions are being facilitated to explore and agree on the: LTACC potential; LTACC process; and LTACC commitment. The facilitator will draft a guidance document for the ongoing work of the LTACC.

At the end of September, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage notified Longford County Council of the Social Housing Delivery targets. These targets have been developed based on recent social housing waiting lists and data obtained from our Social Housing Assessment.

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	TOTAL
Build	75	74	76	82	83	391

Housing Capital Programme

- 9 units complete at Slí Corglass, Legga
- 15 units complete Campbells Lane and a further 6 to be completed by year end
- 12 units completed in Alder field, Longford



Completed estate at Slí Corglass, Legga

Housing projects

Work is ongoing on the following:

- 6 units Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 6 remaining units Campbells Lane
- 14 units O'Haras site, Richmond Street
- 11 units at Alder field, Farnagh

Refurbished Voids

- 21 completed to date
- Tenders in progress for further properties
- Work completed on the Community Centre, following previous fire damage in McEoin Park

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Roads

Roadworks Programme

Work on Local Improvement Schemes, Community Involvement Schemes and Climate Change Adaption and Resilience Schemes is continuing in each municipal district (MD). Drainage and bridge works are also ongoing in the various MDs.

A three year roads programme is currently being prepared for 2022- 2024 and these programmes were presented for approval at special October municipal district meetings before being submitted to the Department of Transport.

National Road Schemes.

- Works complete on N63 Barnacor Pavement Resurfacing Scheme, involving drainage, verge banking, pavement resurfacing and strengthening, tree removal, lining, road studs and associated works on a 1,200m stretch
- Newtownforbes Pavement Resurfacing Scheme is progressing, due to be completed in November
- The N63 Majors Well Road project has started and will take approximately six months. Priority Construction is the contractor.
- Work on the N63 in Lanesborough starts next February, with work due to take approximately three months

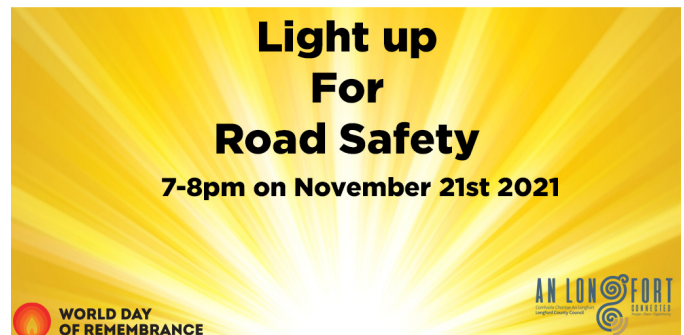


Works carried out on the N63 at Barnacor - before (left) and after (right)

World Remembrance Day

World Remembrance Day for Road Traffic Victims is Sunday, 21 November. The Council is inviting businesses and householders to 'Shine a Light' for road crash victims. An amber or white light will shine on public buildings while people are also invited to shine a light in their front windows on the evening.

As we know, Gardaí, fire and ambulance personnel are the first responders to road traffic incidents, and based on last year's success, all services are invited to line-out and shine a light outside their stations and base.



Road Safety

The Tik Tok Road Safety Campaign ran on iRadio in March 2021, in conjunction with the Local Road Safety Officers Group. iRadio won a Silver Award for Best Digital and Social Innovation Campaign for the work at the IMRO Radio Awards for 2021.

Irish Road Safety Week ran from the 4 October to 10 October 2021. Local schools took part in road safety activities and competitions which were run by the Local Authority Road Safety Officer during the week. In addition to this, the Play It Safe Road Safety Programme was offered by the RSA Road Safety Promotion Officer and delivered to schools.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

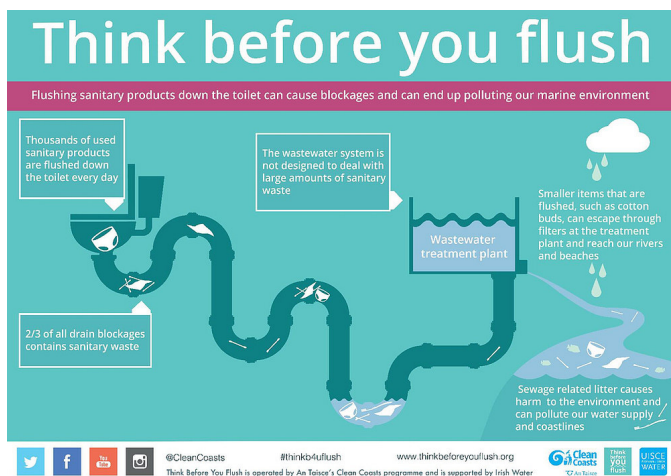
Water Services

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team recently completed a Find & Fix campaign in the Corn Hill-Drumlush area of County Longford achieving savings of approximately 58,000 litres of treated drinking water per day. The Find & Fix team are currently operating in the Ballinalee and Longford Town District Metered Areas (DMAs).

Think before you flush

Longford County Council is supporting an Irish Water Think before you flush campaign to raise awareness of the damage and costs of unsuitable items being flushed down toilets. Blockages in the wastewater system are known as fatbergs, with one recently cleared from the wastewater network at Temple Michael Terrace at a cost of €1,500.



Capital Network Schemes

Water Services Capital section are currently liaising with Irish Water to progress three capital network

rehabilitation schemes:

- Cahanagh-Prucklish: replacement of c.400 l/m of problematic watermain between Cahanagh Cross and Prucklish (along the R198)
- Rathcline Road, Lanesborough: replacement of approximately 2.5km of problematic watermain between Lanesborough and Carrowroe reservoir
- Creevy, Granard: replacement of approximately 500 metres of problematic watermain

These works ensure security of supply and contribute to reducing leakage. These works are funded by Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.



Watermain replacement works along the R198 at Cahanagh

Small Towns and Villages Growth

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, under the Irish Water 2020-2024 Capital Investment Plan, will fund a project to provide additional wastewater treatment capacity at Killashee. This project now proceeds to the design stage.

This also supports the recently-published Housing for All strategy, as well as the achievement several objectives and outcomes of the National Planning and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies. It is focused on providing for growth in areas already served by Irish Water infrastructure where current or future capacity deficits have been identified.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Planning



Longford Town Plan

Work now has commenced on the review of the Longford Town Plan to include a Transport Study, Affordable Housing, Climate Change, Active Travel and co-ordinating various development projects.

Applications and Enforcement

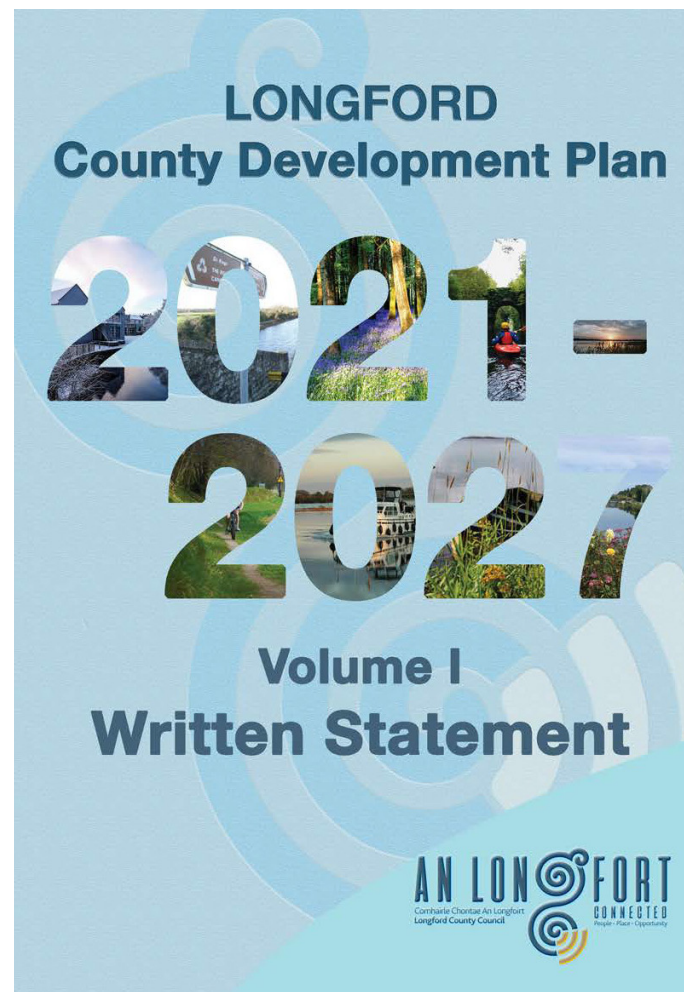
The Planning Section's public counter is now open to accept planning applications and deal with public queries once again.

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

County Development Plan

Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 was adopted on 19 October. The Chief Executive's report on public consultation in regard to the proposed material amendments were discussed and the Draft Plan was approved by the members for adoption. The new Plan will be in effect on the 30 November 2021. Work is ongoing in relation to amending the final document as required and publishing the Plan.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment

Columbarium Wall

The construction of the Columbarium Wall at Ballymacormack Cemetery was completed in October 2021. There are 40 niches, each capable of accepting two urns.



Historic Landfills

Longford County Council has lodged applications with the EPA for Certificates of Authorisation for Cartron Big and Ballymulvey historic landfills

International E-Waste Day

International E-Waste Day took place on Thursday, 14 October 2021. The day saw leading experts call on households, businesses and governments to support efforts to get more end-of-life or unused plug-in or battery-operated products to authorised facilities, where they can be either repaired or recycled. Irish homes contain an average of 15 to 20 electrical items which are broken or unused. So to mark International E-Waste Day, WEEE Ireland challenged families to become e-detectors in October and follow electrical leads around their homes to identify at least five hoarded devices that are beyond repair and ready for recycling.

Successful Large Goods Collection

Another successful large goods collection took place at Mulleady's Civic Amenity site Drumlish on Friday, 1 October.



Over nine tonnes of materials were collected for recycling and disposal. Due to the ongoing restrictions the number of these types of collections have had to be reduced, meaning more members of the public were ready to make use of this one.



These collections are very important as they help reduce the build up of bulky goods in the community and prevent them from ending up being dumped along country roads and in our bogs.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in October: 24
- All stations remained fully operational
- Fire Service dealt with a fire in a commercial premises in Drumlish

Health and Safety

- No injuries or near misses to report
- Fire Service was audited by the National Standards Authority of Ireland, joining Longford County Council's Accreditation for Health and Safety and meeting ISO 45001 standard. The Fire Service meet the standard and were accredited
- Irish Engineering Services has completed its six-monthly checks on the Fire Service inventory of equipment requiring statutory inspections

Training

Seven personnel attended an electric vehicle awareness course offered by the Rescue Organisation of Ireland in Sligo Fire Station.

Major Emergency Management

The National MEM Conference was held online.

Fire Prevention

- One Fire Safety Certificate was processed
- The Fire Service assessed a fireworks application for a display in Ballymahon

Recruitment

There are five vacancies in three fire stations: Granard (2); Edgeworthstown (1) and Lanesborough (2).

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

Civil Defence provided medical cover at the following local and community events:

- IBTS blood bank clinic
- Cruthu Arts Festival
- Longford Athletics cross country races
- Longford Ladies GAA finals
- Bridgeways FRC Halloween event



Training and Operations

- Two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) students passed their EMT pre-course assessments
- Cardiac First Responder Advanced (CFRA) course took place for EMT students from Longford
- Manual Handling Instructor passed recognised prior learning course and can now assist with training in this discipline
- Probationary volunteers are continuing with their induction and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training
- One EMT was selected by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) to submit their EMT Continuous Professional Competence (CPC) portfolio
- Approved Driving Instructor has been providing lessons to volunteers undertaking their C1 licence over the coming weeks.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Climate Action Initiatives

Library Services

Retrofitting of doors and windows in Longford Branch Library has taken place and low energy lighting has been installed throughout.

Roads

Construction work is ongoing on two projects which are funded under the Climate Adaption & Resilience Fund 2021. Embankment stabilisation works including fencing, drainage, rock fill and verge construction are currently taking place on the R198 at Tawnagh. Drainage installation works are taking place in Abbeylara village to alleviate flooding issues on the R396.



Planning

- Following the adoption of the County Plan consideration is now being given to drawing up climate change actions in the county. This will include work on Active Travel for Longford Town.
- A preliminary list of actions is being prepared including the implementation of the Lough Ree UNESCO Biosphere proposal.

Veterinary Services

Longford Dog Control Services commenced an energy audit process for the Dog Pound and Dog Warden vehicle in October.

Information Systems

- The section is progressing several paperless projects including the eCorporate Planning and ePMDS apps which are being launched presently.
- The Head of Information Systems, as a member of the organisation's climate action team, is currently attending Building Capacity Training as part of the Eastern & Midlands CARO Region.

Regeneration

- Installation of energy efficient solar LED lighting at Red Bridge, Ballymahon alongside new jetty project.

Housing

- Four council estates in Ballinalee are included in the Midlands Retrofitting Programme – River Crescent and Camlin View are now completed, while Cois na habhainn and Hill View are ongoing.
- Tender in progress for St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon
- Assessment of works required is underway on the 46 local authority houses in the county.
- Tenders has been received under the National Energy Efficiency Programme for the 20 houses at Slí na Móna, Ballymahon and works are due to commence on 8 November 2021.

Fire Services

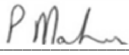
The Fire Service fleet is being surveyed for its CO2 emissions based on annual fuel consumption.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed: _____

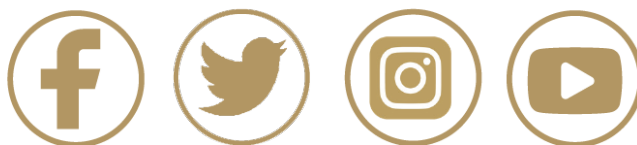


Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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