



Longford County Council Chief Executive Report September 2021

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September Highlights

Longford comes together for Culture Night

The great success of Longford Live & Local culminated in Longford's largest ever attended Culture Night. Celebrating arts and diversity, the African Carnival and the Concert at the Cathedral, among other events, showcased our broad spectrum of homegrown talent!



Granard's French connection

With shared Norman heritage, the two communities of Granard and East Rouen in Normandy, France came together with a new official Twinning partnership.



Longford welcomes Dutch Ambassador

Longford County Council welcomed His Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Adriaan Palm. The visit signals a strengthening of Longford's relationship with our friends in the Netherlands, now and into the future.



European Week of Sport gets a glow up!

Longford Local Sports Partnership hosted a great week of activities for European Week of Sport, including the 10K Blueway Kayak and the Ready, Set, Glow 5K run and walk event!



Community & Enterprise

Community Development

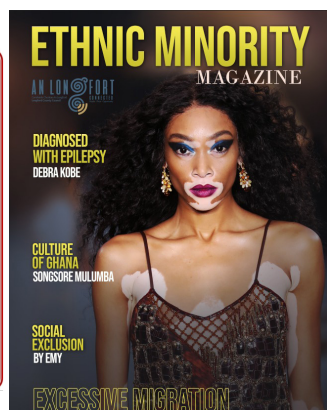
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

There was no meeting of the LCDC in September. The next meeting takes place on 12 October.

Intercultural Working Group

An Intercultural Working Group meeting was held on 22 September. At the meeting there was a Roma culture presentation by the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) Community Outreach Support Worker Eliska Schneiderova. Agencies exchanged information and highlighted community issues and the difficulties agencies have in responding to them.

Groups continue to run activities from intercultural grants allocations. For example, the Midlands Polish Community's grant has gone towards the creation of an information desk supporting Polish nationals, by providing information to help participation in Irish society. Grants have also supported the Ethnic Minority Hub in printing a magazine created by the African community.



Longford Comhairle na nÓg

The Interagency Steering Committee held a meeting on 13 September. The National Youth Participation Officer gave a presentation on the new Comhairle na nÓg Development Plan, as prepared by the Department of Children, Equality Disability Integration and Youth. This was previously launched by Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD earlier in the summer.

An increase in the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund was also announced. Comhairle na nÓg members continue to work with schools on their climate project, as well as preparing for their Annual General Meeting.

Dormant Accounts Funded Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme

Social enterprises can apply to Longford LCDC for funding under the Dormant Accounts Funded Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme. Grants will be provided to social enterprises towards small scale capital projects. Capital cost for the purchase of equipment, and repairs and refurbishment of facilities can be funded. Operating and administrative costs do not qualify.

This Scheme is part of the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland. It is coordinated by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by LCDCs. €19,737.04 was allocated to Longford.

In October, Longford LCDC will assess applications and submit recommendations to the Department.

Community & Enterprise

Community Development (Contd)

CLÁR 2021 Funding

CLÁR funding of over €344,227 towards nine projects was announced in September. Longford County Council will fund up to five per cent of approved costs. This funding is under CLÁR Measure One: Support for Schools and Community Safety, Measure Two: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities, and Measure Three (a): Community Gardens and Allotments.

Facility	Project Description	Funding
Colehill Community Group, St. Sinneach's National School	Footpath, landscaping, road markings and signage	€45,000
Colmcille Area Development Group	Footpath, hedge clearance and replacement, drainage, fencing, safety measures	€30,000
Dromard Rural Development	New playground	€44,951.40
Killoe Development Group	Walking track, picnic tables, outdoor exercise stations	€37,800
St. Patrick's National School, Killeen/Muckerstaff	Safety signs, covered outdoor area	€24,355.30
Sacred Heart Primary School	Sensory garden, playground equipment	€40,500
Clonbroney Parish Hall Committee	Public lighting, footpath	€40,500
Abbeylara Tidy Towns	Sensory garden, outdoor stage, play area, benches	€49,999.50
Abbeyshrule Tidy Villages Association	Parking, footpath, community garden	€49,997

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Local Community Safety Partnership is based on the principle that policing is not only the responsibility of An Garda Síochána and the Department of Justice. It is a shared responsibility, involving other departments and agencies including local government and the wider community.

LCSP will give communities a stronger voice in identifying and tackling issues, and connect them with services to address their issues. Agencies and service providers will work with community representatives on solutions to safety problems.

LCSP, a pilot project running in Longford, Waterford and Dublin North Inner City, replaces the Joint Policing Committee (JPC). Learnings from the pilot will be used to improve the functioning of the partnership and inform the national rollout.

Longford LCSP's inaugural meeting took place on 20 September. This new structure will develop strategic partnership approaches to local issues. Longford LCSP will develop a Community Safety Plan, following public consultation. It fosters closer interagency collaboration and community participation.

The LCSP is comprised of 30 members, 51 per cent non-statutory and 49 per cent statutory representatives. It is supported by a Community Safety Coordinator. Martina Moloney has been appointed as an independent chairperson by the Minister for State with Special Responsibility for Civil and Criminal Justice, Hildegard Naughton TD.

The LCSP's next meeting will be an interactive workshop, held in early-November. It will aim to develop key objectives to guide the public consultation process.

Community & Enterprise

Library, Heritage & Archives

Edgeworthstown Library

Edgeworthstown Community Library is progressing well towards completion. An official opening date has not yet been confirmed.

Longford County Library Service

Most services to the public have now been restored. Smaller events were held while strictly observing public health guidelines. Customers, especially older citizens, are slowly coming back to their libraries.

Longford Age Friendly

Longford Older Persons Council's first in-person meeting since the pandemic began was held on 29 September. There was great excitement, with members able to meet once again and sharing their lockdown stories. This was the first meeting attended by the new Head of Community Policing. Longford's new Healthy Homes Coordinator also gave a report on their work with relevant services to raise awareness of supports for older people to help them stay in their own homes. Much appreciation from members was also given to Longford County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr Peggy Nolan's plans to plant a tree in the Mall in memory of Longford people who died from COVID-19.

Longford Live & Local and Faoin Spéir

Longford Live & Local came to an end in September. With this series of events, Longford had one of the largest and most diverse arts programme of all Local Authorities.

Longford Live & Local, with almost 6,000 attendants at 49 events held across the county, culminated in the largest ever attended Culture Night events on 17 September. Over 119 local musicians were employed throughout these event, a hugely positive experience for all involved.

Official Town Twinning Agreement

An official Twinning agreement was signed by Longford County Council Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive at a reception hosted by the French Ambassador in his residence on 18 September. Previous to this, Longford County Council and Granard Town Twinning Committee hosted the first meeting of a delegation of officials from East Rouen in Normandy, France. Many events were arranged for the visitors, showcasing the best of what Longford has to offer. The Honorary French Consul Catherine Gagneaux also attended an event hosted by the Cathaoirleach and members of the Council on 19 September.

Decade of Centenaries

Commemoration of the Centenary of the Clonfin Ambush was held in September. On 25 September, Sr Maeve Brady, daughter of one of the members of the North Longford Flying Column Tom Brady gave a talk on the Ambush. The next day a ceremony hosted by the Cathaoirleach, members of Longford County Council and the Clonfin Committee was attended by family members of the North Longford Flying Column. Guest speaker Professor Marie Coleman and the Band of the Second Brigade also attended.

Heritage Office

Work is continuing on the County Heritage Plan projects. Work also commenced on the Community Monuments Fund project on Rossduff Castle and tender documents have been issued for the Abbeyshrule project.

Community & Enterprise

Local Sports Partnership

Bike Week 2021

Bike Week, which took place from 12-18 September, celebrates and promotes the benefits of cycling. Many in-person and online cycling events took place in Longford, with the Royal Canal Greenway prominent as a great amenity for cycling activities.

Events over the week included the Royal Canal Greenway Family Cycle, Transition Year Greenway Cycles, Schools Safe Cycling primary schools promotion, Guided Royal Canal Greenway Cycle Tour and Balance Ability Cycling Sessions with primary school students who have autism.



European Week of Sport

European Week of Sport, promoting physical activity for everyone, regardless of age, background or fitness level, took place from 23-30 September. Many grassroots initiatives took place, aimed at inspiring regular activity and creating exercise opportunities. These included the Be Active Night and the Blueway 10K Challenge Kayak.

Be Active Night on Saturday 25 September was a focal night for the week with many events organised. In Longford, the first Ready, Set, Glow Run and Walk along

the Royal Canal saw many people take part, lighting up the Canal in neon and illuminous colours!

Blueway 10K Challenge Kayak for European Week of Sport was held on Sunday 26 September. Paddling from Clondra up the Camlin River, back down the Shannon to Tarmonbarry, before heading onto the Royal Canal back to Clondra. Many participants had attended previous kayaking programmes during the summer, setting themselves the challenge of completing the 10K as finale to their kayaking journey. Many participants are now ready to become involved in local kayaking clubs.



Inclusion Programmes

A busy month of inclusion programmes and events took place held across Longford.

Inclusive kayaking programmes took place with service users from St. Christopher's and Red Leaf House, as well as inclusive children's kayaking in Leebeen Lake Aughnaccliffe, as part of the children's kayak programme.

New inclusive programmes also started, including an in equestrian programme with St. Christopher's service users. Inclusive Balance Ability Cycling sessions also took place with primary school students who have autism.

Community & Enterprise Tourism

National Golf Championship

Longford Tourism helped welcome participants and their families to the U14 Boys National Golf Championship, run by Golf Ireland and held in the County Longford Golf Club. Longford Tourism sponsored welcome packs for the players, which were also supported by Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Fresh Today supermarket.



EZxploring Maps Video Promotion

Longford Tourism is working on a new video promotion of the newly-complied EZxploring maps. Due to be released ahead of Halloween and the midterm break, this promotion aims to encourage families to get out and explore all of Longford with their EZxploring map!

Events Funding Opportunity

Fáilte Ireland's Regional Festival & Participative Events Fund has been supported by Longford Tourism through promotion and distribution to festivals across Longford.

Monthly Events Guide

The Longford Tourism Monthly Events Guide continues, with a focus on what's happening throughout the county. In September events included Longford Live & Local, Culture Night, kids kayaking, and a rugby taster session. The Monthly Events Guide is available on Longford.ie and in the Longford Leader.

Local Enterprise Office

Support

Grant Aid Applications	15
Approvals	1
Value of Approvals	€240,000

Training & Development

Total Programmes	32
Total Participants	660

Mentoring

Total Participants	99
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Brexit

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

Trading Online Vouchers

Applications	19
Approvals	32
Value of Approvals	€69,749.50

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services

Ongoing Corporate Services

- Corporate Services COVID-19 Business Response Plan continues to be implemented.
- The Customer Services Desk responded to 1012 calls in September.
- General queries from the public continue to be received, monitored and dealt with through our customer services email and at public counters.

Elected Members Supports and Meetings Administration

September meetings were in-person and online, while strictly adhering to COVID-19 public health guidelines.

Date	Meeting
3 September	Committee Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District
7 September	Corporate Policy Group Meeting
8 September	Meeting of Longford County Council
22 September	Longford Municipal District Meeting
23 September	Committee Meeting of Ballymahon Municipal District Ballymahon Municipal District Meeting
28 September	Committee Meeting of Granard Municipal District Granard Municipal District Meeting

Franchise

- Draft Register of Electors 2022/2023 preparations is ongoing.

- A social media campaign to raise awareness and encourage people to register and check their details is being prepared.
- Online voter registration forms are available on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie).

Data Protection

- Data Protection awareness campaign: the Role of the Data Protection Officer
- Data Protection queries: 11
- Corporate Policy and Training platform, rolled out on pilot basis, is delivering Customer Services Charter training to a pilot group of employees.
- Data Protection Officer presented at Longford County Council interview preparation sessions.
- Guidance report issued to Environment Section regarding the seeking of information from third-parties for law enforcement purposes.
- Guidance report also issued to Facilities Section regarding the use of CCTV for security, and health and safety.
- Clean and Clear Desk Policy and Personal Data Breach Policy were sent for consultation.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

	September	YTD
FOI requests received	6	52
Access to information on environmental Request	2	5
Office of the Ombudsman complaints received	1	3

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

Community & Enterprise

Corporate Services (Contd)

Communications

- Media queries responded to: 18
- Publicity campaigns commenced: 12
- Advertisements and features requested and/or processed: 7

Communications highlights include:

- Promoting Granard's new twinning with East Rouen, Normandy
- Coordinating and promoting the visit of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Adriaan Palm to Longford.
- Strategic Communications Plan submitted to Management Team for consideration
- Working with partners of Longford County Council on the promotion of over 50 music events taking place as part of Longford Live & Local, which culminated in Longford's biggest ever Culture Night.
- Promoting and sharing the work done by Longford Sports Partnership for Bike Week 2021 and Be Active Week 2021.
- Working on the preparation of internal and external video communication campaigns.
- Promoting the progress of the work being done to upgrade four Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) and Co:worx in Edgeworthstown.
- Promoting the commemoration of centenary of the Clonfin Ambush.

Social media communications

Longford County Council's social media channels continued to be used as effective communication tools to easily and cost-effectively reach Longford people. Messaging continues to include COVID-19 related updates, as public health restrictions continue to change and ease. Initiatives like Longford Live & Local and the twinning of East Rouen in Normandy with Granard have also been promoted through social media.

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Posts	71	66	39
Stories	47	-	47
Reach*	79.5K	-	5.5K
Impressions**	83.7K	34.9K	23.5K

*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

Recruitment

- Competitions advertised: 11
- Candidates interviewed: 37
- Competitions completed: 10
- New starters: 10
- Employees commenced new roles: 14
- Employee ceased employment: 4

Learning and Development

- Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) rollout continued in the pilot directorate of Community and Enterprise.
- Phase two of the PMDS rollout is due to start in the Finance and Infrastructure directorates.
- Personal Safety at Work, Safepass, Confined Spaces, Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and Human Resources Policies Training is also taking place.
- Phase two of PMDS rollout in Housing, Planning, Emergency Services and Roads.
- Customer service pilot training was held for Customer Serving working group.
- Travel and subsistence policy.

Health and Wellbeing

- Metabolic health screenings were held for employees.
- Physical activity was promoted by encouraging employees to take part in Longford Local Sports Partnership's summer programmes, including kayaking, biking and walking programmes.
- As part of Heart Month, blood pressure readings were available to employees, with 94 employees

(29 outdoor and 65 indoor) participating.

- Heart health also promoted with the Escape your Chair programme.
- Bike Week was supported, in conjunction with Longford Local Sports Partnership.
- World Suicide Day's Know the Signs campaign supported, with information on courses.

Health and Safety

Internal Audits

Internal audit were completed within the following sections:

- Safety Management System
- Civil Defence

External Audit Programme

External audits for Longford County Council and subsequent certification to ISO 45001:2018 are provided by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI).

The next surveillance audit for Longford County Council's Safety Management System is scheduled to take place on 5-6 October. As part of this audit, the scope is being extended to include Fire Services.

Fire Services Safety Statement

The Fire Services Safety Statement has been issued and briefed to Fire Services employees

Communication

Community Garda, Roads and the Environment Sections held a meeting focused on coordinating efforts to safely remove stockpiles of materials for use in bonfires at Halloween in Longford town.

Finance & Regeneration

Finance

Longford County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division 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.

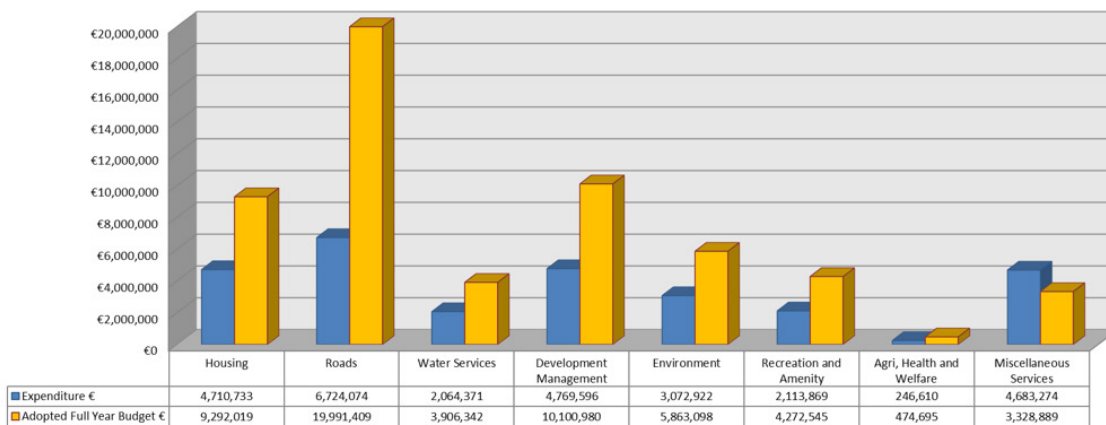
Where COVID-19 related expenditure has been incurred, corresponding Deferred Income from Central Government has been accounted for.

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

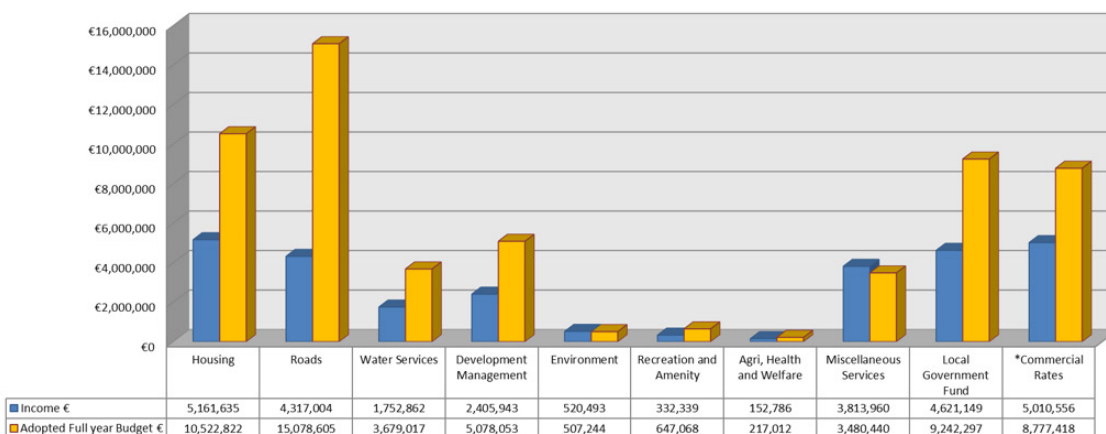
Finance & Regeneration

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

Restoration of Rose Cottage

Ballinalee's Rose Cottage is in the final stage of its restoration. The cottage played host to General Sean MacEoin, the Blacksmith of Ballinalee and an important leader in the War of Independence (1919-21). The aim of the project is to reflect this historic significance and develop the tourism potential of the cottage. The property also forms an integral part of the Rebel Trail within Longford.



The project included: demolition and reconstruction of internal walls; removal of wood flooring and paneling; treatment of rot and mould; installation of wooden floors; work on exterior walls including replacement of external columns, doors and windows; removal of roof tiles and reinstatement of thatch roof. Further funding has been sought to complete the fitout of the cottage interior to operate as a café.

Ardagh Community Centre Fitout

The fit out of Ardagh Community Centre's remote working facility is now complete. The project facilitates access to high-speed broadband so that

members of the local community can work and study close to home.

The facility is built onto an existing historic building and its development ensures the buildings ongoing use and protection and brings it back into the heart of the community. The project converted three rooms into remote working spaces, with a meeting room for socially-distanced training and meetings, a one-to-two person office and a six-person coworking space. This work involved drylining, painting, flooring, toilets and kitchen upgrade, provision of desks and chairs, TVs and ancillary works.

URBACT Update: Garvey's Yard

Improvements are being made in Garvey's Yard in Longford town with the removal of the planters creating a more open, inviting space. Groundworks and fabrication of an art installation is also imminent.



The ENGAGE project hosted a well-attended event in Garvey's Yard on Culture Night 2021, illustrating the potential of the space to engage the community and work as a positive and vibrant element in the urban realm. The next transnational meeting will be hosted by Michalovce in October and will explore how to survey citizens and evaluate impacts of urban security actions.

Finance & Regeneration

Regeneration (Contd)

Ballinamuck Signage Project

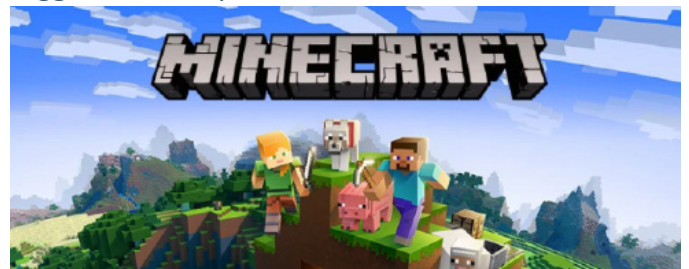
Recently-installed signage in Ballinamuck identifies easily accessible walks surrounding the village. These signs includes maps, directional signage, and specify four walks with places of interest along all trails. Assisting visitors to Ballinamuck, these trails add to the tourism offering of the area and benefit the local economy through increased footfall.



Information Technology

Minecraft for Longford progressing

IT is progressing with the creation of a Longford town virtual Minecraft World from OSi data. It is hoped that this will engage younger residents through the visualisation of their local area and to allow them to suggest build improvements.



New Digital Strategy Launched

Longford County Council's new Digital Strategy was approved at September's County Council meeting. This new Strategy knits together multiple digital actions that the Council has and will be taking, until a review which will take place in 2023.



Connected Hubs Call joint project with Regeneration Department

- Works has commenced in the Latin School Community Centre in Moyne on this project
- Procurement is ongoing in Abbeyshrule, Moydow, Mullinalaghta and Co:worx in Edgeworthstown

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Information Technology (Contd)

Broadband Connection Points (BCP)

- In September, there have been 59 new guests and 126 returning guests.
- The Irish Museum of Modern Art's (IMMA) Talking Art Online event took place in Latin School Community Centre in Moyne on 8 September.
- Painting classes for beginners with Wexford artist Oonagh Latchford took place in Mullinalaghta Community Centre on 6 September.



- Free Skillshare online courses are available at BCPs. Email the Council's Broadband Officer for more: broadbandofficer@longfordcoco.ie

Ongoing Digital Services projects:

- First Responder Pilot Project is being developed to support litter reporting, working with the Environment Section.
- Customer Relationship Management (CRM) pilot is currently in progress.
- Development of a new housing inspections application is in progress. It is being designed to enhance this process.
- Evaluation of tenders is complete and letters of intent have been issued for the new hybrid video meetings solution for the Council Chamber.

- The new Electronic Performance Management Development System (ePMDS) software has commenced with a rollout to initial directorates.
- A digital project on the Corporate Department's Annual Service Delivery Plan process is now progressed to first release of this software
- eDocument management project is progressed
- Internal Microsoft (MS) Teams application has been developed for staff leave information
- MS Teams adoption among staff is ongoing
- WIFI4EU project offering free Wi-Fi in Longford Ballymahon and Drumlish had 945 new users and 1,666 returning users in September
- IT have successfully applied for Meet & Code 2021, a Europe-wide event to introduce young people to the world of tech and coding.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects:

- Web mapping application are developed for citizens to explore Longford's many walking trails. For more, please visit: <https://arcg.is/04D8eW>
- National Broadband Ireland (NBI) Pole Survey application developed to facilitate survey of proposed NBI pole locations, in preparation for Section 254 application.
- Development of a map viewer to assist with landowner identification within the N4 Longford to Roosky road upgrade study area.

IT Infrastructure Section projects:

- IT's ServiceDesk had 527 tickets in September
- Regular patching of client and server systems
- IT configured and planned new equipment for Edgeworthstown's new library
- IT supported statutory and hybrid meetings
- Community CCTV repairs took place
- IT security gap analysis has commenced

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Housing

Summary of Social Housing Assessment

The Summary of Social Housing Assessment has commenced. This assessment aims to understand the level of social housing need by surveying households who qualify for social housing support, but whose social housing needs are unmet. Over 100 such households will be reviewed to ensure they still require and qualify for the support, and to ensure their details are accurate and up-to-date.

Housing Capital Programme

- Nine units complete at Slí Corglass, Legga
- Nine units complete at Campbell's Lane, with a further 12 units to be completed by year end



Work is ongoing on all other projects. These include:

- Six units at Rose Cottage, Ballinalee
- 12 remaining units at Campbell's Lane
- 14 units at the O'Hara's site on Richmond Street
- 23 units at Alderfield, Farnagh

Refurbished Voids

- Works to voids ongoing with 18 complete to date and tenders in progress for further properties
- Work completed on the Community Centre, following previous fire damage in McEoin Park.

Roads

Roadworks Programme

Roads Programme works in all Municipal Districts (MD) have progressed. Despite COVID-19 delays to the commencement of the programme, end of the year completion within each MD is on track. All MD employees deserve great credit for their dedication in progressing these works in very difficult circumstances.

Restoration maintenance and restoration improvement works are now substantially complete, with work on Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) and Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) projects progressing.

Remedial work on various bridges is also ongoing throughout Longford.

National Road Schemes

The Newtownforbes pavement resurfacing scheme is progressing well. Roadstone Ltd are carrying out footpath replacement works, drainage, undergrounding of overhead services and road resurfacing works. The scheme is due to be completed in November 2021.

Lagan Contractors are due to start construction work on the N63 Barnacor pavement overlay scheme on 4 October. This is estimated to take two weeks to complete and will require a road closure of the N63.

Contractor Priority Construction is due to commence works on the N63 Majors Well Road on 18 October. The scheme is expected to take approximately six months to complete.

The N63 Lanesborough pavement is at tender stage. Construction work is due to commence in November.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Water Services

Find & Fix Programme

Longford County Council Find & Fix team recently completed a Find & Fix campaign in the Foygh area of County Longford achieving savings of approximately 70,000 litres of treated drinking water per day.

The Find & Fix team are currently operating in the Corn Hill-Drumlish and Ballinalee District Meter Areas (DMAs).

Capital Network Schemes

Water Services Capital Section are currently liaising with Irish Water in order to progress three capital network rehabilitation schemes:

- Replacement of circa 400 l/m of problematic watermain between Cahanagh Cross and Prucklish (along the R198)
- Replacement of approximately 2.5K of problematic watermain between Rathcline Road, Lanesborough and Carrowroe Reservoir
- Replacement of approximately 500 metres of problematic watermain in Creevy, Granard

All above works will ensure security of supply to customers on the water network and contribute to reducing water leakage. These works are funded under Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.

Pressure Management Works

Water Services Capital Section recently successfully obtained funding for the repair and replacement of eight pressure reducing valves (PRVs). This will help maintain and improve the existing water supply network.



Old PRV due for replacement at Clough, Longford

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Fire Services

Operations

- Total callouts in September: 22
- All stations remained fully operational

Health and Safety

- No injuries or near miss incidents to report
- Funding has been secured for two new vehicle cutters to deal with modern vehicles

Training

- New breathing apparatus instructor completed training in Exeter
- All fire stations completed Haz Mat training
- Senior officers undertook one day Performance Management Development System (PMDS) training

Major Emergency Management

One regional working group meeting was held.

Fire Prevention

- One Fire Safety certificate has been processed
- Inspections and community fire safety activities continue by appointment only. Before the seating of the Annual Licencing Courts, 10 licence inspections were carried out.

Recruitment

We have five vacancies in three fire stations:

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

Fleet

Contracts signed for the provision of a new fire engine for Longford town, with an expected delivery date of Q1 2023. All vehicles have completed their annual service.

Planning

Development Plan

Statutory requirements maintained:

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

Applications and Enforcement

Statutory requirements maintained:

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

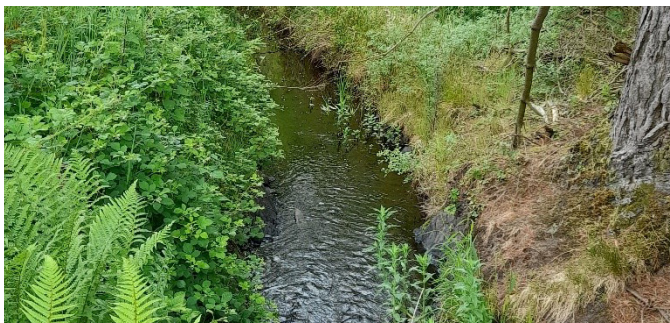
Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action Environment

Septic Tank Inspections

Septic tank inspections were carried out, in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency's National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems requirements. Statutory notices were subsequently issued where remedial works need to be carried out.

Farmyard Inspections

Farmyard inspections were carried out in accordance with the nitrates regulations' requirements. These inspections focused on the River Black 010 catchment, an area stretching from Lough Annagh to Ballinamuck village in north Longford, where surface water quality is not meeting legal requirements under the Water Framework Directive. Inspections were combined with an awareness raising exercise, advising farmers on herbicide use in controlling rush in a catchment, which is prone to run-off into surface waters. Additionally, ecological surveys and chemical monitoring took place as part of preliminary catchment assessments at the River Black 010 catchment. The resultant data is under review and further surveys may be required.



Landfill Monitoring

Landfill monitoring has commenced as preparatory work before the Council applies for Certificates of Authorisation (COA) for Ballymulvey and Cartron Big legacy landfills. The Council is obliged to apply for COA (or licences, if appropriate) for closed landfills to ensure that the landfills' waste disposal is not causing or posing a risk of environmental pollution.

Long Garden Bees Hive Report



HIVE REPORT

DATE: AUGUST 2021

EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION

Well done to the willing participants who visited the hives this month.



BROOD DEVELOPMENT

Now that we are in Autumn, the bees are busy preparing for Winter. These days are vitally important for the survival of the hive as winter bees have a different physiology than summer bees. Winter bees will soon hatch out and will maintain the hive until next Spring, living up to 6 months in comparison with 6 weeks for their summer counterparts.

HONEY STORES

The bees had a good summer in terms of producing honey. The weather combined with plentiful nectar, has meant that the bees produced approximately 55lbs of honey. To ensure that the bees successfully prepare for winter, it is essential to leave the bees with sufficient honey stores. However, the surplus honey was removed from the hive, extracted, jarred and presented to Longford County Council resulting in 80 jars of honey.

THANK YOU

Now that this hive has been in operation for one year, we thank members of Longford County Council for their support in this initiative and look forward to another successful year for bees.



Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Environment (contd)

Veterinary Services

Longford County Council Dog Control Service, along with the Housing Department continue to cooperate with An Garda Síochána to enforce responsible dog ownership.

Valuable puppies rescued from local property

Liam Cosgrove
liam.cosgrove@longfordleader.ie

Dogs and puppies valued at several thousand euro were seized from a house in a joint operation involving Longford County Council, LSPCA and gardai.

Golden Retrievers, Dachshunds, Spaniels and Pomeranian type breeds were removed and rescued on foot of a warrant issued under the Dog Breeding Establishment Act.

It's believed last Thursday's joint agency

operation, involving the gardai, local authority dog warden and Longford Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, took place at a house in Longford town amid concerns its tenants were in breach of a tenancy agreement.

Under new tenancy laws, tenants are permitted to house one dog per local authority house.

The gardai investigation is continuing with part of that focus concentrated on whether a dog breeding operation was also in existence.

Article reproduced courtesy of The Longford Leader

Civil Defence

Duties & Taskings

Medical cover was provided at:

- One Longford Town Football Club match
- One Bike Week event
- Culture Night
- Ballinamuck Charity Tractor Run
- Commemoration of the Centenary of the Clonfin Ambush
- Cruthú Arts Festival

Civil Defence collaborated with the Health and Wellbeing Section for Happy Heart Week. 92 employees attended blood pressure checks during the week.

The Civil Defence internal audit took place in September

The tender for a 4x4 vehicle was successful. The vehicle should be received in October

Training

- Over two days, 12 volunteers travelled to TerraFirma, Kildare to complete their 4x4 severe weather off-road driver training.
- Two student Emergency Medical Technician (EMTs) started training for the pre-course exam.
- Volunteers from Longford Town Football Club attended the cardiac first responder training. Eight team members completed the course.
- Five volunteers completed the cardiac first responder training.
- One instructor is undertaking recognised prior-learning training to practise as a manual handling instructor.

Strategic Infrastructure & Climate Action

Climate Action Initiatives

Corporate Services

Corporate Services introduced reusable bottles to help reduce single-use plastic in the organisation, starting with Corporate Services and the Elected Members. Double-walled stainless steel, these bottles maintain temperatures for up to five hours.



Libraries

Edgeworthstown's new library will achieve a Nearly Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard, our first civic buildings to achieve this SEAI-certified standard.

Human Resources

Climate Action Raising Awareness Training was completed for Grade 5 and analogous. Grade 4 and analogous to be completed by 15 October.

Regeneration

Ardagh Community Centre's new remote working facilities will help reduce emissions by lessening users' commuting times, as well as reducing heat and lighting consumption in users' individual homes.

Tourism

Longford Tourism is now operating a paperless office from an administrative point of view.

Housing

- Midlands Retrofit Programme continues on four Council estates in Ballinalee, with River Crescent and Camlin View nearing completion, and Cois na hAbhainn and Hill View ongoing.
- Tender is progressing for St Matthew's Park, Ballymahon.
- Survey works are also near completion on 46 local authority houses across Longford.
- Tenders have been received under the National Energy Efficiency Programme for 20 houses at Slí na Móna, Ballymahon. Work is due to commence in Q4 2021.

Roads

- An Active Travel Team is now being recruited.
- Funding is allocated to Active Travel programmes across Longford, including walking and cycling schemes which will progress in the coming years.
- Funding will be sought for road schemes under the Climate Adaption and Resilience Works 2022 for works now necessary due to climate change.

Planning

- The Development Plan Review includes a specific climate change chapter and each individual chapter has a climate change checklist.
- Work is being prepared on Active Travel for Longford town.
- A new Climate Action Officer has been recruited to develop climate actions for the county. A preliminary list of actions is being prepared, including the implementation of the Lough Ree biosphere proposal.

CONNECTED

People • Place • Opportunity

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

Signed:



Paddy Mahon
Chief Executive





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