

Meitheamh / June

The official opening of Esker Arts by President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins took place on Tuesday 6th June, on what was a historic day for both the arts centre and Offaly as a whole. Accompanied by his wife Sabina Higgins, President Higgins enjoyed a tour of the building and the Arts Council Breaking Ground exhibition, before addressing the invited guests in the Ailiuin theatre, in what was a rousing and moving speech



A Public Information Session for the Draft Clara Town Centre First Plan took place on Wednesday the 21st June from 6pm-8pm, in Clara Library.



Offaly PPN coordinated the Offaly PPN Disability Awareness Week from June 12th – 16th with a variety of activities taking place across the county.

A very enjoyable day was had by all, as the group visited nine different tourism businesses, gaining knowledge and making valuable connections

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****Outdoor Recreation Scheme**

Expressions of Interest are now available at

<https://www.offaly.ie/oris-2023/>

PLANNING

Development Management

	To end June 2023	To end June 2022	Total 2022
Planning Applications	325	343	681
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	9	9	16
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	135 (57)	27 (4)	158 (15)

During the month of **June 2023**, the following large planning applications were received:

Tullamore Vita Stilo Ltd., t/a capital	For (a) the construction of 98no. Dwellings, comprising of 10no. Three-bedroom two storey semi-detached (type a), 12no. Four-bedroom two storey semi-detached (type b), 10no. Three-bedroom two storey end-terrace (type c), 10no. Three-bedroom two store ... Clara Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
On Tower Ireland Limited	The removal of an existing 30 meters lattice antennae support structure and replacement with a new 30 meters lattice antennae support structure together with antennas, remote radio units (rru's), dishes, dipole antenna, cable ladder, gantry poles, su ... Coolreen, Kinnity, Co. Offaly
PMB Construction Ltd	A proposed residential development of 48 units comprising of a residential mix of 25 no. 1 bed apartments, 14 no. 2 bed apartments and 9 no. 3 bed terrace houses, car & bicycle parking, open spaces, play areas, landscaping and all associated site wor ... In the townland of Edenderry co. Offaly
Bord na Mona Energy Limited	Recreational development consisting of repurposing and refurbishment of c.5km

	of pre-existing narrow-gauge rail line for the use of 10-15 no. Velo rail cars. This rail line had previously been used by bord na mona for peat production and transportati ... Lough Boora discovery park Leabeg, Boora, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Codd Property Holdings Limited	PI2/17/231 for development consisting of (i) the demolition of all existing farm outbuildings, totalling 370 m2; (ii) the construction of 202 no. Two-storey dwellings, comprising of 12 no. Two-bedroom terraced (type a), 8 no. Three-bedroom terraced (t ... Eiscir Meadows/Norbury Woods Ardan Tullamore, Co Offaly
Slieve Bloom Escapes Ltd	The provision of a glamping/ camping site, to include glamping pods, camping area, service building, entrance, parking and wastewater treatment system, including all associated siteworks Pidgionstown Cadamstown Birr, Co. Offaly
Thrace Synthetic Packaging Ltd	A solar panel array consisting of up to 500kwp (c.1968m2) of solar panels fixed to metal frames and placed on the ground, underground cable ducts, security fencing, cctv masts, security lighting and all associated works Erryarmstrong, Ballycumber Road Clara, Co. Offaly

Online Planning

The successful launch of 'Online Planning' in Offaly County Council took place on **Tuesday 27 June 2023**. This is part of the Local Government Ireland Planning System which is designed to streamline the application process for planning permission.

Land Use, Planning and Economic Development Services

Just Transition

The Secretariat for Technical Assistance for Regions in Transition (START) and Offaly County Council agreed a Service Level Agreement and Work plan for the provision of 72 days of Technical Assistance to Offaly. The objectives of this agreement are centred around identifying clear roles in relation to roles and responsibilities, a description of the technical support services, together with details of the expected planning and timeframe for the provision and receipt of the agreed services.

Following the site visit in March 2023, the START team have completed an evaluation of the information gathered. At a review meeting in mid- June, it was agreed that

the aim now is to develop a partnership approach with relevant stakeholders, which will include regional, national and EU actors. Two workshops are planned for early and late autumn 2023.

Forward Planning

The Birr Local Area Plan 2023-2029 came into effect on 26th June 2023.

The closing date for making a submission on the proposed material alterations of the Edenderry Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was 5th June 2023. A Chief Executive's Report on the 12 no. submissions that were received is due to be submitted to the members on 3rd July 2023.

REGENERATION

Clara Town Centre First

A Public Information Session for the Draft Clara Town Centre First Plan took place on Wednesday the 21st June from 6pm-8pm, in Clara Library.

This, in addition to previous public consultations, together with presentations to the Town Team and elected members of Tullamore Municipal District, gave members of the public an opportunity to view and comment on the conceptual projects and ideas formulated as part of the Draft Plan.

The Clara Town Centre First Plan is in the latter stages of being prepared and will be finalised mid-July.

Outdoor Recreation Scheme

Expressions of Interest are now available on Offaly.ie with respect to the 2023 ORIS Scheme. <https://www.offaly.ie/oris-2023/>

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational

infrastructure. It also provides support for the necessary repair, maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in rural areas across Ireland.

The Measures being funded under this year's Scheme are:

- Measure 1 - for small scale projects requiring funding of up to €30,000,
- Measure 2 - for medium scale projects with funding of up to €200,000,
- Measure 3 - for large scale projects seeking funding of up to €500,000, and
- Project Development - Measure funding of up to €50,000 for development costs for strategic large scale projects.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF)

Offaly County Council in partnership with An Síolán, community group in Ferbane

signed contracts for an Architect led multi-disciplinary design team, Kenny Lyons Associates to design the refurbishment and redevelopment of St. Joseph's Convent, ancillary buildings and grounds for use as a multipurpose community, enterprise and learning hub. The development also includes the large site and gardens associated with the Convent grounds for use as an urban garden and walking trails by the River Brosna.

In consultation with Offaly County Council and An Síolán, Kenny Lyons Associates will engage and consult with residents, communities and businesses throughout the design process of St. Joseph's Convent and grounds over the coming months. It is envisaged that the design process will reimagine the potential reuse of St. Joseph's Convent into a modern, energy efficient building for multipurpose community use.

The aim of the project is to secure the long term future use of this historical, landmark building in Ferbane which was once a centre for educational and religious activity and become a key catalyst building to assist rejuvenating the town centre of Ferbane.



TOURISM

The tourism team are continuing to do what we can to support tourism businesses and drive demand and as we moved through the summer season, it is fantastic to see visitors arriving and the festival calendar was in full swing once again.

FAM Trip

The Tourism Team hosted a very successful familiarisation trip for Offaly Tourism Marketing members



in April. A very enjoyable day was had by all, as the group visited nine different tourism businesses, gaining knowledge and making valuable connections.



Radio Advertising

In Summer 2023 the tourism team continued to strengthen their radio presence with a number of campaigns on different radio platforms:

- Advertisements on the popular national stations Today FM & Newstalk ran for a 3 week period, commencing 29th May.
- iRadio campaign broadcast over two weeks in May/June 2023.

Offaly Tourism also ran a competition on much listened to Ray Foley show on afternoons on Today FM. The competition was held over the w/c 29th May and received great interest.

Events

Preparations are underway for the Offaly's popular and newer events being held over

the coming weeks. The tourism team are busy organising the following events which are all sponsored by Offaly County Council:

- Tullamore Show – 13th August
- Rose of Tralee Visit – 15th & 16th August
- Ballooning Festival, Tullamore – 23rd – 29th Sept.

Tourist Office

The Tourist Office is busy welcoming visitors to the county. Manned by a team of loyal volunteers the office continues to open 6 days a week; 10am – 5pm Monday – Saturday



Marketing Activities

Marketing Activities are continuing through the summer season, with a focus on public relations and social media, blogs, e-zines, & monthly events guide.

Housing

To assist us in streamlining the delivery of Housing Services we encourage the use of the following email addresses:

Service	Email Address
HAP Enquiries	hap@offalycoco.ie
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	homeloans@offalycoco.ie
Housing Inspections – HAP, Leased, Private, etc.	standards@offalycoco.ie
General Enquiries, Maintenance Issues, etc.	housing@offalycoco.ie
RAS & Leasing Enquiries	RAS@offalycoco.ie
Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme	HousingAidGrants@offalycoco.ie
Anti-Social Behaviour	ASB@offalycoco.ie

Housing Update

The 'Winter Emergency Period' under the *Residential Tenancies (Deferment of Termination Dates of Certain Tenancies) Act 2022* has ceased and accordingly, deferred tenancy terminations may take effect over a staggered period from 1st May. Further information on the various pathways available to Tenants on valid Notice of Termination are available at <https://www.offaly.ie/c/housing/> on the *Notice of Termination Information* link.

There are 510 on the Social Housing Support List at the end of June 2023.

A further 664 active tenancies are currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 7 signed up for HAP and 8 exited from HAP in June.

At the end of June, 33 single people and 17 couples and families were being supported in emergency accommodation.

The annual rent review of Local Authority Tenants (1,984) commenced in January 2023. Letters notifying Tenants of their revised rent, calculated in accordance with the Council's Differential Rent Scheme, issued on 4th July and become effective on 15th July 2023. A number of Tenants have yet to return details of their income and accordingly will be placed on maximum rent for their property type. These forms and any queries from tenants can be directed to our email RentReview@offalycoco.ie. If any Tenant is experiencing financial difficulties they should contact their area revenue collector at the earliest opportunity by contacting our Finance Rent Arrears Team or emailing rentarrears@offalycoco.ie

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

Total housing stock at end of June 2023 is 2036. 286 maintenance calls were logged in June.

Housing Capital Programme Update

Banagher, Kylebeg (18 Units) –Snagging started and Project is due for completion in Q3, 2023.

Beechgrove, Belmont (7 units) – Due for completion in Q3, 2023.

Elderberry Drive Moneygall (4 Units) – Construction complete

Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 no. Older Person's dwellings) –Due for completion in Q4 2023.

Circular Road, Daingean (9 units) – Construction commenced. Completion 2024

Raheen, Clara development (38 units) – Project started on site in March 2023. Due for completion in Q4 2024.

Dargan Drive, Chancery Lane (20 Units) – Part 8 approved at the May council

meeting. Stage 3 to be submitted to the Department once ESB lines on the site are undergrounded.

Circular Road, Daingean, Site 2 (10 Units) – Stage 2 approval was granted on 27th February 2023. New Part 8 exemption process; Section 179A of Planning and Development Act will shortly be advertised.

Section 179A advertised for 4 x Units at **Croghan Road, Birr**; Stage 3 submission lodged with the Department in June 2023.

Sycamore Drive, Ballycumber (10 Units) – Stage 2 approval received 30th Nov 2022. Part 8 resolution was received on 17th April 2023. Stage 3 to be lodged with Department in September 2023.

4 Holly Park, Birr, 1 Unit: Consultants have been appointed; Combined Stage 2/3 application submitted to Department in early May 2023.

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

Oaklee: Clonminch, Tullamore (19 units) – Construction complete and houses allocated.

Oaklee: Kearney's Field, Tullamore (41 Units) – Completion in Q3, 2023.

Sofia Housing: Stage 2 approved (39 units) at **Presentation Lands, Portarlinton**. Planning Application lodged awaiting decision

Sofia Housing, Clonamore, Tullamore – Works completed snagging ongoing

Turnkey Developments/Part V

2 x Part V units under construction at **Ard na Carriage, Edenderry**. Completed and allocated.

Bog Road, Portarlinton, 28 units - Under Construction and anticipated completion in Q3, 2023.

8 Units (6 Turnkey & 2 Part V) Approved May 2023 at **Bell Lane, Daingean**. Construction complete, snagging ongoing.

Part V units in **Redwood & Silverbrook, Tullamore** under construction and delivery expected in 2023 and 2024

8 Units (6 Turnkey & 2 Part V) Approved June 2023 at **MacGregol, Birr**. Construction commenced. Completion 2024

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People

Housing received notification on 28th April 2023 that the combined capital allocation to Offaly County Council for the payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme for private homes in 2023 is €1,579,375 which is composed of €1,263,500 Exchequer funding (representing 80%), and €315,875 matching local authority funding (representing 20%) to be provided from the authority's own resources. The Council anticipating the budget have committed a significant portion of this funding to date and to allow for works to be completed and funding claimed during the financial year.

Additional funding to ensure maximisation of the Council's allocated budget was sought from the Department.

Disabled Persons Grants 2023

On 12th May 2023 Housing received notification of the Council's 2023 DPG funding. Total funding received towards the programme of works is €732,000, i.e. 90% departmental grant of €658,800 and 10% Local Authority funding of €73,200.

Community Culture and Emergency Services

COMMUNITY

Local Community Development Committee

Offaly LCDC held their monthly meeting on Thursday 1st June. Main agenda items included the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014–2020 & Transitional LEADER Programme 2021–2022, LEADER Programme 2023–2027, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2024–2028, Community Support Fund 2022, Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2024–2029 and the Community Recognition Fund 2023.



SICAP members were advised that procurement will commence in July 2023 for the new SICAP Programme 2024–2028 on the basis of separate competitions across the LCDCs. Prior Indicative Notice regarding procurement is now live on eTenders.

Community Support Fund 2022/23 On the 21st June 2023 Ministers Humphrey and O’Brien announced that approval was given for funding totalling €283,843 to be awarded to 188 community groups in Offaly under the Community Support Fund 2022/23. The grants were approved by Offaly LCDC on Thursday 9th March 2023. The Community Support Fund, funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, is a once-off Fund which supports community groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with either their Operating/Running Costs such as utility bills, insurance, etc., or capital costs which aim to enhance facilities or purchase equipment. A list of the successful projects in Co. Offaly is available on the www.offaly.ie website.

LECP 2024–2029 Offaly LCDC held a consultation process as part of preparing a new integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the 6 year period 2024–2029 during the period 3 May 2023 to 26 June 2023. In person meetings were held in the 3 MD’s, an online questionnaire was provided, and submissions were welcomed via email or by post. PPN groups and key organisations were contacted and invited to make a submission to the Plan. The new LECP will set out the objectives and actions which are needed to promote and support the economic and local community development of County Offaly.

Feedback was sought on the Draft High Level Goals prepared by the Advisory Steering Group. A Socio Economic Statement and Profile, along with the Offaly Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2027 were provided on the www.offaly.ie website.

The next steps in the process is to review the submissions received, revise the Socio-economic Statement and High-Level Goals based on latest Census 2022 data, and to expand the High-Level Goals into specific Objectives and outcomes.

Community Recognition Fund 2023 Final approval for the 26 successful projects amounting to €636,206 was received from DRCD on 22nd May 2023. Funding Agreements have been agreed between OCC and the successful applicants and contact has been made to agree timeframes for completion of works. All projects must be completed by 18 October 2024.

Pride of Place 2023

The judging dates for the 2023 Pride of Place competition have now been decided, as follows:

Community Group	POP Category	MD	Judging Date
Ballyboy Community Dev.	Community Wellbeing Initiative	Birr	Wed 6 th Sept 2023 AM
Tullamore Tidy Towns	Climate Action and Biodiversity	Tullamore	Wed 6 th Sept 2023 PM
Bracknagh Community Association	Population 0 to 500	Edenderry	Thur 7 th Sept 2023 AM

The awards ceremony will be held on Friday 10th November 2023 in Armagh City Hotel in Armagh.

Public Participation Network:



Public Participation Network Offaly

Disability Awareness Week. A brochure of events was produced by Offaly PPN, and the

different activities were promoted via the PPN mailing list, newsletter and Social Media. A variety of groups and organisations participated throughout the week; including the Library Services, Comhairle na nÓg, Offaly Sports Partnership, Tullamore Chamber, OLDC, ODN, Inclusion Ireland, St. Cronan's Birr, Offaly Traveller Movement, The Cabin Edenderry, IWA Ballinagar and Mucklagh Community Centre.



Following on from the success of the Disability Awareness Week, Offaly PPN plan to run the Disability Awareness Week on an annual basis.



Age Friendly

Age Friendly Offaly carried out a Walkability Audit in Kilcormac on Thursday 15th June with the support of the Kilcormac Development



Association. 3 routes were covered by groups on the day, participants included a local



elected member, the local area engineer, Age Friendly Alliance member, OPC member, members of KDA and local residents.



Age Friendly Offaly along with Regional Manager for the Midlands, Eileen Hughes, returned to Kilcormac on Tuesday 20th June, and gave a presentation on Age Friendly Ireland and Age Friendly Offaly to the lunch club.



The Offaly Age Friendly Alliance met on Friday 30th June 2023, in the Tullamore Library, where presentations were given on Climate Action, by the Offaly Climate Action Team, Age Friendly Healthy Homes Project, by the new Regional Manager for Health Area B, the progress of Age



Friendly Offaly for 2023, by the Local Programme Manager.

Comhairle Na nÓg:

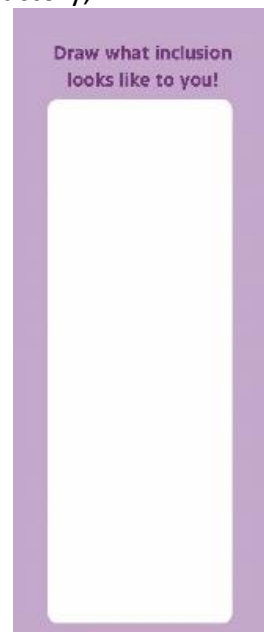
A Podcasting Workshop attended by 11 members on 22nd June – facilitated by Ray Bell, OCC and Ann Marie Kelly (formerly Midlands 103 host), Laois County Council. Declan Costello and Jimmy



Durgan, ODEN, joined to assist with interviews and ideas.



Offaly CNN Member, Olivia Gorska, was selected for the National Youth Assembly. Members designed bookmarks for the PPN Disability Awareness Week and these were distributed throughout Offaly County Libraries. Offaly CNN had them printed ethically by the Print Factory, Birr.



ARTS

Arts Strategy 2024-2029



Following an open call and selection process the Arts Office recently commissioned arts consultant John O'Brien to

assist with the planning, consultation and writing of the new Arts Strategy 2024-2029. The new strategy will align with the newly adopted **Arts Infrastructure Strategy 2023-2028**. The development of the new strategy will be through a phased approach of research, consultation and writing throughout 2023. The consultant is currently working in the first research phase.

ARTS OFFICE PROGRAMMES

Lough Boora - Art in Landscape Project Funding

Offaly County Council Arts Office in collaboration with Mayo County Council Arts Office and Visual Artists Ireland were successful in securing project funding under the Art Council's Invitation for Collaboration Scheme. OCC Art's Office is the lead partner on the project. The project will include a series of events to take place at Lough Boora Sculpture Park and Tír Sáile (County Mayo) in September. Following an open call and selection process the project are delighted to announce that curator Helen Pheby, who works as an associate director of programming for Yorkshire Sculpture Park has taken on the role of curator for the project. Selection of project management for the Hedge School is currently ongoing.

FilmOffaly Interviews have taken place for the FilmOffaly Short Film Award 2023. The announcement of the winning script and successful team will take place in the

coming months. The FilmOffaly Award 2022 entitled, *Missing*, shot on location in Offaly in March, is now in post-production.

FilmOffaly Review The FilmOffaly Review is underway by researchers, *Culture Works*. The draft report is expected shortly.

Annual Programme

Planning for Hullabaloo Children's Arts Festival, Mini Movies and Culture Night is underway. The callout for Culture Night and Hullabaloo Children's Arts Festival took place and have undergone an evaluation process. The Mini Movies programme is also under review, with a refreshed programme planned for 2023.

The Arts Office supported Birr Theatre &



Arts Centre and Esker Arts in working with the **Bealtaine Roots & Shoots Programme** scheduled for May 2023. Both venues hosted age-friendly Arts events in May 2023 including film curated for the audience, dance workshops, exhibition tours and a story-telling event the popular Midlands writer and story-teller Jean Farrell with an afternoon of Memories & Melodies. A highlight was "*Timeless Tunes*" taking place at Esker Arts, presented this dedicated afternoon of vocal delight in Ireland's newest Arts Centre, Esker Arts at the close of the festival month. Offaly

County Council and HSE Tullamore Staff Choirs together with Le Chéile Singers, under the assured guidance of Musical Director Andrius Kozlovskis, presented “Timeless Tunes”, a lively and eclectic mix of music from across the ages.

A specially curated programme of songs from a variety of genres, was performed in three-part harmony, with live musical accompaniment throughout by Ciaran Whelan, in the beautiful surroundings and acoustics of Esker Arts.

An afternoon of song, memory, fun and culture where the programme covered a broad range of classics from The Beatles, Bob Dylan and musicals such as Les Misérables and West Side Story to name but a handful of the eclectic programme performed.

The performance once again showcased the broad appeal across the community to attend events in the newly opened venue, with a full house in attendance.

Artist Supports



Building a stronger performing arts community in Ireland.



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council





Offaly Arts Office are delighted to be working with Theatre Forum to offer two bursaries for arts practitioners living in Offaly the opportunity to attend the Theatre Forum 'Waterford Gathering' in 'Waterford City' on 30th and 31st May 2023. **Applicants must be living in Offaly.**

The bursary will cover tickets to all events, an Artist Honorarium of €150 and Accommodation and Travel Contribution of €150

The Arts Office also recently supported three local artists to attend the annual **Theatre Forum conference**, taking place in Waterford via a bursary programme for Offaly-based artists.

This opportunity offered a way for artists to engage in dedicated CPD with peers, collaborate, network and bring new thinking to their work as creative practitioners in the area.

Creative Places Edenderry

The Creative Places programme is well underway with Creative Places co-ordinator Seonaid Murray in place leading a number of initiatives on the ground. The



Creative Places programme is divided into three phase, **‘Connect, Cultivate, Celebrate’** Now in the Cultivate phase of the project, over the last few months and following the gathering of ideas, thoughts and input from the local community a number of workshops, events and projects have been taking place including:

- A community social
- A 3 day playwriting and screenwriting course ran with Eugene O’Brien
- An 8 week Visual Art project for and by people who identify as disabled began with Eleanor Farrelly
- A Tea Dance as part of Bealtaine
- The Carbury Players ran a one day drama workshop
- An 8 week Music workshop started at The Youth Cafe with Tom Nolan
- St. Patrick’s Primary School completed their mural created with recycled bottle tops
- A Memoir writing project with John Grogan



- An 'Acoustic Picnic' event as part of Pride 2023



Creative Edenderry have also distributed 5 Creative Grants to the local community: the successful recipients were; Eden FM Community Radio, Retox Dance, Creative Crafts, St. Patrick's Primary School, Edenderry Women's Shed and Fighting Words, Story Seeds. And have also advertised 4 Artist Commissions currently in progress.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Esker Arts

President Higgins noted the "significant achievement of all involved" in the realisation of the superb facility, noting that "I have no doubt that Esker Arts will play an important role in the provision of the cultural space that we so dearly need in Ireland as we continue our journey of building an inclusive, equitable, sustainable republic, one that places a high value on artists and cultural practitioners and the participation of the arts by all of its citizens,"



A specially curated programme of entertainment included Tullamore Poet Cormac Lally with a unique collaboration of music from internationally known artists and Tullamore natives Dónal Lunny and Tolú Makay, with choral accompaniment provided by local children from Music Generation Offaly.



Following the evocative performance, President Higgins unveiled an official plaque, as part of the opening ceremony. Internationally recognised, locally based artist, Michelle O'Donnell of Glasshammer Studios, created the bespoke glass plaque, based on the casting of an actual Esker from County Offaly. Michelle's work is internationally commissioned as her work speaks to the head and appeals to the heart.

President Higgins was presented with another sculpture of a small esker by the artist, whilst Chief Executive Anna-Marie Delaney presented Mrs. Higgins with a locally sourced pink rose to be planted in the President's private rose garden, the 'new dawn' variety rose, representative of the occasion. Cathaoirleach Cllr Frank Moran, Chief-Executive of Offaly County Council Anna-Marie Delaney, former Taoiseach Brian Cowen and Chairperson of Esker Arts Conor Brady joined President Higgins and Mrs. Higgins for a beautifully presented lunch, catered by local bespoke caterers, which featured an array of organic, locally sourced ingredients. Guests enjoyed refreshments and mingled

in great appreciation of the historic and enjoyable occasion.

Edenderry Library and Arts Space

The Arts Office continues to work in close collaboration with the county librarian in the development of plans for a multi-

purpose arts space to be incorporated into the planning of the new library for Edenderry, this will include developments as part of the Creative Places Edenderry project.

HEALTHY OFFALY



The rollout of Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund continued in June with the signing of the Service Level Agreements between Offaly County Council and the 2023 Implementing Partners. Once the signed agreements were received in, an initial 50% grant allocation payment to partners was processed by Healthy Offaly.

Work has already commenced on Offaly Sports Partnership's 'Drop & Move' action whereby parents of children attending GAA training at five clubs in the County are able to avail of Sports Coach led fitness training classes. These classes are taking place at St. Broughan's, Rhode, Clodiagh Gaels, Tullamore and Kilcormac/Killoughey GAA clubs with over 60 people taking part overall.

On Thursday 29th June Lourda Giles, Gillian Cunningham, Clodagh Armitage, Honor Ridgeway and Dermot Egan from the Healthy Offaly Subcommittee joined Councillors John Leahy, Noel Cribbin and Declan Harvey in attending Social Farming Ireland's 'Open Day' in Catherine Molloy's Farm, Killyon, Birr.

Social Farming Ireland are one of our implementing partners for Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund. Helen Doherty and Emma Owens from Social Farming Ireland gave a brief introduction to Social Farming listing the four farms in Offaly where it is

currently taking place. Catherine Molloy then gave a brief history and her own pathway to farming and becoming involved in the project. Finally, some of the participants spoke about how much they enjoy being involved in Social Farming and visiting Catherine's Farm. It was a really positive experience to see the impact the project has on the health & wellbeing of the participants.



Further project visits are planned for other Round 4 projects later in the autumn.

Community Culture and Emergency Services

SPORTS

Funding



Offaly Sports Partnership called its club development grant scheme for 2023 in June. Over 70 applications were received under the scheme by the closing date of 30th June. The process of assessing applications has commenced.

Offaly County Council also approved the allocation of funding under the NGB grassroots scheme for the following bodies

Offaly Camogie - €5,800 towards the delivery of five projects in the county

- primary school coaching in four DEIS schools
- Camogie on the Green in four housing estates
- four week Hurl with Me programme in each of its 12 affiliate clubs
- mentoring programme for weaker clubs
- hosting of interschool's tournaments for non-exam years in secondary schools

Offaly GAA Handball - €5,800 towards the reactivation of GAA Handball among school children in Crinkle, Fahy and in other local handball alleys

Golf Ireland - €3,700 towards the delivery of three projects - golf project for children with autism in association with Edenderry Golf Club; get into golf project with the Acorn project in Edenderry and get into golf programme for teenage girls in the Sacred Heart School in association with Tullamore Golf Club)

Football Association of Ireland - €12,000 towards the delivery of 11 projects

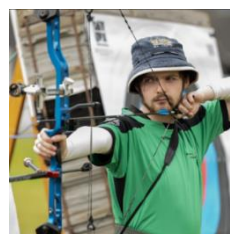
including projects for older adults, people experiencing disadvantage in urban areas, people with a disability, women and girls, and youth at risk

Hockey Ireland - €2,700 to deliver hockey coaching in primary schools and introduction of previously trained members to club coaching

Congratulations

Offaly Sports Partnership wishes to extend its congratulations to

The Irish Men's Rugby Sevens team on their recent victory at the European Games in Krakow, Poland. This victory has ensured that the Irish Men's Rugby Sevens team joins the Irish Women's Rugby Sevens team at the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024; with Offaly represented on each of the teams by Jordan Conroy and Megan Burns respectively



Corey & Olivia Eady (siblings from Edenderry) on their recent Junior selection for the World Archery Youth Championships being held in Limerick in July.

Patience Chinda, a member of Offaly Sports Partnership's Integrated Academy for Athletics Performance on her recent win at the All Ireland u17 Schools Triple Jump; this win has resulted in her



being selected to represent Ireland at the SIAB games in Scotland.

Edenderry Canoe Club on their official opening on Sunday, 01/07. The club was re-established with support from the “urban outdoor adventure” strand of Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts funding administered by Offaly Sports Partnership



Programmes

ACE programme – Liam O Reilly



June saw the presentation of awards to a number of the 36 primary schools that participated in our “interschools remote one minute endurance challenge” held in May



July will see the delivery of an ACE Academy summer camp

Community Sports Development Programme – Liam O Reilly

June also saw the commencement of the roll out of our teen summer programmes including rounders, kayaking and multi-sport camps

The first rounders programme of the summer saw 10 teens take part

The first multi-sport camp of the summer saw 15 teens take part in the Tullamore programme. Our second teens summer camp takes place in August in Daingean



The first come try kayak programme of the summer saw 12 teens participate across two sessions in Tullamore. Additional teen kayak sessions will take place in Daingean, Tullamore and Shannon Harbour in the coming weeks



Community sports hubs

June saw the continuation of a number of successful programmes in both the Daingean and Mucklagh sports hubs

July will see the delivery of a number of multi-sport camps for migrant children in Mucklagh



July provision days for 120 pupils with additional needs across four schools in Clara (Scoil Bhríde), Edenderry (St Patrick's) and Tullamore (Scoil Eoin Pól & St Joseph's).



Healthy Offaly "Drop & Move"

The Healthy Offaly funded "Drop & Move" programme continued throughout June

Sports Inclusion Development Programme – Jean Brady

Among the programmes delivered in June were - Learn to Cycle programmes for 80 pupils with additional needs across six schools in Crinkle, Clareen, Daingean, Killeigh, Rahan and Tullamore (Educate Together)



Additional July provision days as well as all ability summer camps will take place throughout July

Women in Sport

HER Outdoors week takes place from the 14th – 20th August 2023. Offaly Sports Partnership will be hosting a number of come try kayak days across the week. Keep an eye on our website and social media feeds on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for information on same

For more information on the work of Offaly Sports Partnership, check out www.offalysports.ie or our social media feeds on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram

LIBRARY SERVICE

Spring Into Storytime Success



Our library staff successfully delivered an amazing **108 events** to over **2,000 participants** in celebration of Spring into Storytime during March and April!

We now look forward to delivering even more events under the national **Right to Read** banner with the launch of our **Summer Stars** programme.



Tullamore hosted a 'Bring your Own Teddy' story time for **40 attendees** and the official Summer Stars launch saw **50 in attendance**.

Staff from Tullamore also Zoomed in for virtual story times, delivered to **47 pupils**.

Edenderry Library hosted **8 Storytimes** and library staff visited **over 700 children** from Scoil Bhride and St. Patrick's in Edenderry in one day alone!



Offaly Libraries will continue the fabulous Summer Stars programme throughout July and August with an exciting and inclusive range of events.

Birr Library will hold craft sessions every Wednesday at 3pm and storytimes every Saturday at 10:30.

26 children participated in 'Crafty Fridays' at **Edenderry Library** in June and, following on from this success, will continue every Friday at 15:30 in July.

There is plenty on offer in **Tullamore Library** throughout the Summer, including a friendship-bracelet-making session on July 15th and a Wind-Down Storytime on the evening of July 11th for kids aged 3-7, who are encouraged to bring their teddy.



On July 17th, we will welcome **CHIME** to Tullamore Library for storytime, crafts and use of the Sensory room for children who are deaf or hearing impaired. An **Irish Sign Language interpreter** will be taking part.

We encourage families to drop in and check out all the wonderful resources we have to offer.

[Details of our Summer Stars Programme throughout the county can be found here.](#)

Cruinniú na nÓg, Saturday 10th June



On Saturday 10th June, over **254 children** from all over the county were captivated by **28 free events** organised for Cruinniú na nÓg, delivered by Offaly Libraries on behalf of Offaly County Council.



In the run up to Cruinniú, Offaly Libraries commissioned several development projects with local schools including Film-Making, Creative Writing and Clay Modelling.

Each participating class produced extraordinary pieces of creativity, which were exhibited for all to enjoy in our libraries.

As well as that, young visitors to the library on the day received their choice of **free craft projects** to take home including Cross

Stitch Kits, Eco Friendly Crafts and much more.



Over the past 5 years, it has become a key date in Ireland's cultural calendar, providing opportunities for Ireland's 1.2 million children and young people to be inquisitive and curious, inventive and innovative, to fulfil a creative ambition or showcase an inner creative talent.



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



STEAM Ahead with Birr Library!

There's been a crime in the library! Participants will get to experience some code cracking, fingerprinting, puzzle

solving and forensic testing to solve the mystery and reunite the victim with his beloved hat in this STEAM experience for ages 6 to 8, **Thursday 13th July and 20th July at 3.00pm.**



Places must be booked to avoid disappointment. Contact Birr library on 057 91 69410 or birrlibrary@offalcoco.ie

Our **3D printer** is constantly on the go in Birr Library! Try some mind-bending 3D puzzles that were made in the library on our 3D printer.

Solving one can be a real challenge, but prizes await for the brainy Summer Stars who can put one back together.

Parent and Toddler Support Groups



There are Parent and Toddler groups in our libraries!

Birr Library: Fridays at 11:00

Edenderry Library: Fridays at 10:30

For more information on any of the groups above, please contact the hosting library directly. [Contact information can be found here.](#)

Sensory Play Sessions



Eleanor Glennon, play therapist, will host several Sensory Play sessions in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore Libraries in July.

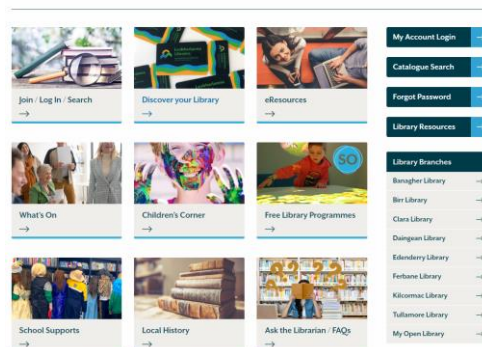
Places are limited; to book, contact Birr library on 057 91 69410 or BirrLibrary@offalcoco.ie

New Website Launch

Have you seen our new-look website?

www.offaly.ie/libraries

Offaly County Library Service



[Take a look](#) at our newly made-over [website](#) where you'll find a wealth of information on our library branches, our wide range of services, and our free programmes for all!

Exhibition in Tullamore Library

American-born Anna Brodsky is a surrealist

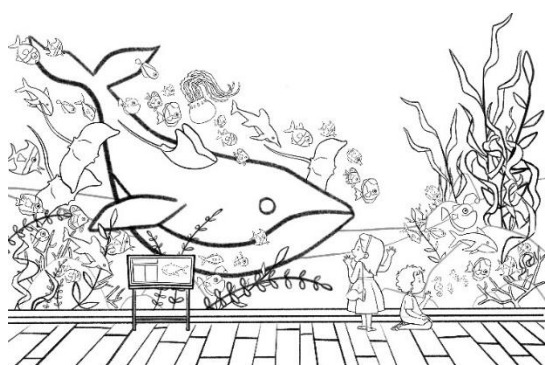


automatist visual artist, specializing in watercolour and oil pastels. An exhibition of her works will be displayed in Tullamore Library for the month of July.

Exhibition Launch in Birr Library

Originally, from Birr, Shannon Bergin is an Irish illustrator, avid doodler, and tea drinker. Her debut-illustrated book, written by Siobhan Parkinson and published by Little Island Books was shortlisted for the 2021 Irish Book Awards.

After a successful exhibition in Tullamore, Shannon's work will be on display in her hometown library for the month of July, which **launched on Wednesday 5th July at 6.30pm.**



MORE COLOURING PAGES AT: SHANNONBERGIN.COM @SHANNONBERGIN

Offaly Libraries Comic Con will return this September!

We have had so many queries about our innovative Comic Con event, which has taken place around this time in recent years.

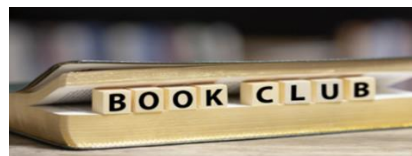


We are pleased to announce that Offaly Libraries Comic Con will return in September, with more details to be announced shortly!

Book Clubs at Offaly Libraries

Did you know that Offaly Libraries have **book clubs** spread across our library branches *and* online? [Check them all out here.](#)

We look forward to welcoming back our children's book clubs in September after a break during July and August.



Sign up for our Library Newsletter



A quick reminder that the best way to keep up to date with all library programmes, developments and new services is via **Offaly Libraries Newsletter** and by following our social media channels. [Read our latest newsletter here.](#)

Currently we have **1,883 subscribers** to the newsletter. Follow the link to subscribe.

Sign up for our School Mailing List!

Offaly Libraries invite education professionals to sign up for our school-focussed mailing list, due to launch this September!



Joining our mailing list is the best way to stay up to date with all the supports and services Offaly Libraries has to offer to **Early Learning Centres, Primary schools, Secondary schools and Further Education Centres.**

Sign up is easy, [simply click here and add your details.](#)

Climate Action Environment Water & Transportation

CLIMATE ACTION

Work continues on preparing the draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024-2029. Stakeholder engagement events continue with suggestions/comments welcome from all interested parties on our dedicated email address climate@offalycoco.ie. People are being encouraged to “Have Your Say” and join the climate conversation.



ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Management



In the first half of the year the Environment Section received 506 environmental complaints. All were investigated in a timely manner and resolved where possible.

Complaint Category	Number
Litter pollution (fly tipping/casual litter/litter on property)	369
Waste (dumping/burning/unauthorised sites)	56
Noise (community/commercial/industrial)	9
Control of Horses	17
Control of Dogs	32
Water Quality	23

Civic Amenity Sites:

The Civic Amenities operator will undertake a promotional campaign in July

and August to increase awareness of the CA sites and services available at the sites. It is hoped that use of the sites will increase

Burial Grounds

St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry: The Part 8 public consultation process for the extension of the Cemetery is complete and will be presented to the July Council meeting for approval.

Veterinary

Control of Dogs: In the first 6 months of 2023 we have cared for 152 dogs in the Dog Shelter and managed to reunite and rehome 133 of them in year to date. We also received 32 complaints in that period.

Control of Horses: We have dealt with 17 complaints under Control of Horse legislation from January to June 2023, which resulted in the seizure of 11 horses and donkeys.

Veterinary Inspections: Offaly County Council continues to operate the Shared Service Agreement for Veterinary Services in the Westmeath County Council administrative area.

Climate Action Environment Water & Transportation

WATER

Rural Water Programme

Subsidies: Group Water Scheme Subsidies help to support group water scheme to operate to their full potential and deliver potable water to their customers. The subsidy application forms have been sent to the Group Water Schemes, with a return date of 30/06/2023.

Capital: 18 of the 22 projects under the current Multi Annual Rural Water Programme have been completed. The Rural Water Unit is due to release the details of the next phase of the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme in 2023.

TRANSPORTATION

Roads Program

The procurement process for the appointment of Technical Consultancy Services for the Birr South Eastern Distributor Road has been completed in June. The Roads Department will now issue a tender assessment report and approval request to appoint the successful tenderer to the Department of Transport. It is planned that a consultant will be appointed to commence this project in late Q3 2023.

Public Lighting Maintenance Contract

Maintenance works are ongoing on the Public Lighting Network across the County by our specialist contractor. There are 9287 lights on our network. There are 64 outages across the County, which equates to 0.69% outages.

Edenderry Town Inner Relief Road

Tower Plant and Civil Engineering Limited have commenced the site works for the

Edenderry Inner Relief Road. The scheme will complete a vital strategic link within the urban environs of Edenderry.

N62 Pavement Protection and Renewal Works 2023

Under our 2023 TII allocation Offaly County Council received an initial allocation of €4,000,000 to deliver Pavement Protection and Renewal Works on the N62. The scheme equates to an overall length of 8.625km. Works are scheduled to commence prior to the end of July 2023 and all works must be completed by mid-October 2023.

R400 Peat Roads Pilot Scheme

Tender documentation has been issued for the proposed R400 Peat Road Pilot scheme as part of our 2023 Roads Program. Completed tenders are due for return in Mid July 2023 and a subsequent tender assessment report will follow thereafter.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Finance

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 30 June 2023			
OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2023 €m	Preliminary Value to June 2023 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	32.97	15.03	45.6%
Grants and Subsidies Income	40.80	13.20	32.4%
OCC to 30 June 2023	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rents</u>	<u>Loans</u>
	<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>
Opening Balance Jan 1st, 2023	3.00	0.56	0.10
Net Invoices & Adjustments, waivers	16.68	3.78	0.26
2023 Cash Collected to end of June	10.88	3.84	0.30
Closing Balance 30 June, 2023	8.81	0.50	0.06
<u>2022 Cash collected to end of June</u>	7.93***	3.61	0.26
% Collection at this point in 2022	137%	106%	114%
*** Collections impacted in 2022 by Q1 waiver and effect of building business back up after lockdowns			
<u>Bank Overdraft to 30 June 2023</u>	-	-	% YTD
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date		47	26%
Bank Interest and non conforming charges to 30 June 2023 YTD (Estimate)		€4,369	(Estimate)
Bank Administration and transactional charges to 30 June 2023 YTD (Estimate)		€17,723	(Estimate)