

TUARASCÁIL MHÍOSÚIL BAINISTÍOCHTA

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Feabhra / February



**Offaly County Council
wins Best
Communications /
Innovation Award at
LAMA Awards**

**Official unveiling of
Lloyd Park Bandstand,
Tullamore with Public
Art Performance by
Donlon Dance Company**



**Comhairle na nÓg members were
welcomed to the
February Council Meeting**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Deontas i leith Méadú ar Chostais Ghnó (ICOB)- Is é an 1ú lá de mhí na Bealtaine 2024 an dátadeiridh faoinár féidir le gnólachtaí a n-incháilitheacht a dheimhniú agus a gcuid sonraí fíoraithe a uaslódáil.**
- **Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant-closing date for businesses to confirm eligibility and to upload verification details will be 1st May 2024**

Land Use, Planning and Economic Development Services

PLANNING

Development Management

	To end Feb 2024	To end Feb 2023	Total 2023
Planning Applications	83	81	695
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	1	1	20
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	11 (3)	64 (13)	181 (73)

Just Transition

Local and Regional Economic Support Strategies Support Scheme

LA led LECP aligned project applications – Offaly County Council applied for funding for an Economic Development Unit to support the objectives of the **Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029** and the **Offaly Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027**. The closing date was **8th December 2023**. A funding announcement for successful applications is imminent.

LECP aligned projects – Offaly County Council submitted four applications by the closing date of **23rd January 2024** for projects in Shannonbridge, Tullamore and Rhode, together with an application for a resource for FilmOffaly. A funding announcement for successful applications is expected in **April 2024**.

Fáilte Ireland

Under the Strategic Partnership Agreement which was signed in November 2023 between Offaly County Council and Fáilte Ireland, Offaly County Council submitted three applications by the closing date of 29th February 2024, under the Regenerative Tourism and Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands 2023-2026. The applications were in relation to projects in Birr, Shannonbridge and Portarlington.

Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)

Offaly County Council published its Draft map RZLT 2024 on 1 February showing land to be considered in scope for the RZLT maps along with explanatory text to accompany same and inviting submissions from landowners in relation to removal of land from draft maps (by 1 April) and zoning requests (by 31 May).

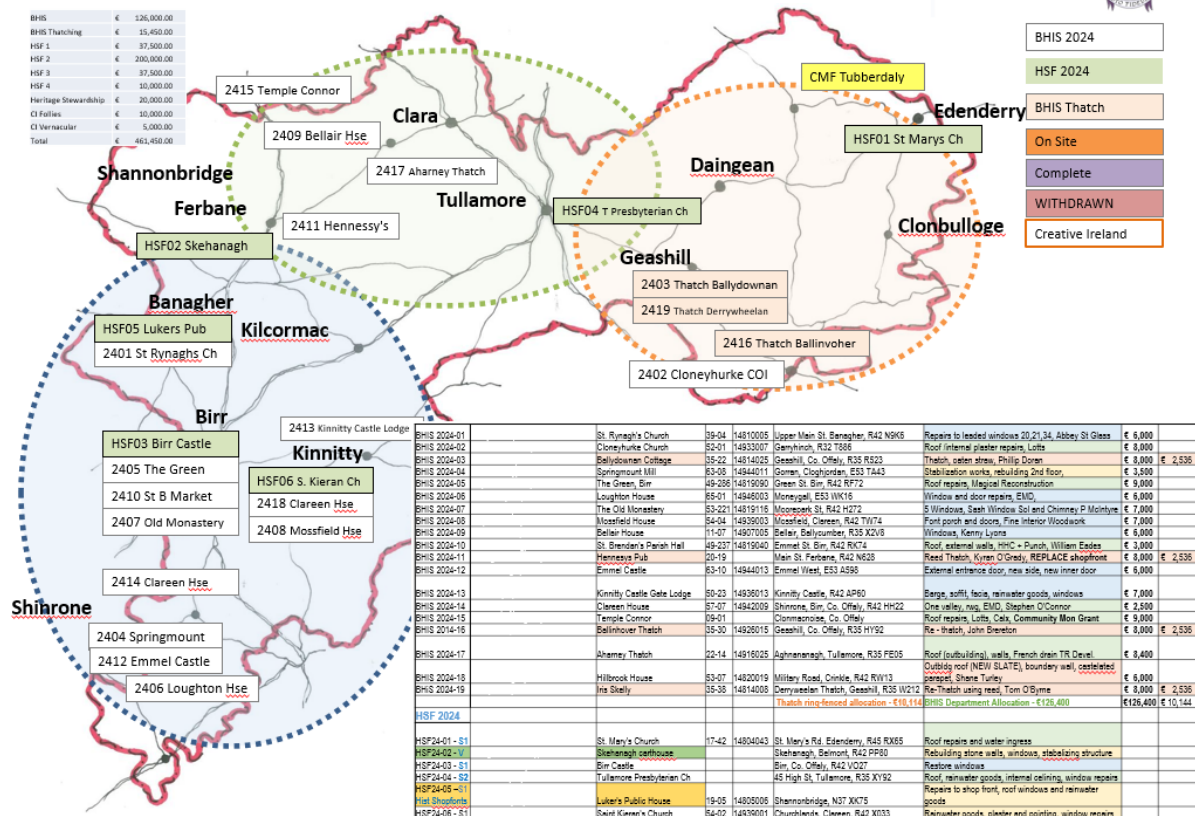
Architecture and Conservation – January to February 2024

1. **Birr Destination Town** - Fáilte Ireland funding, new entrance to Birr Demesne. Works practically complete. Pedestrian access from The Green to the new entrance to be carried out by Birr MD.
2. **Built Heritage Investment Scheme** - 19 projects sent to the Department for approval, total funding of €126,400 and ring-fenced thatching funding of €10,144. This is subdivided among four proposed thatch projects for 2024.

Distribution of proposed projects for 2024.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme + HSF 2024 – Offaly County Council

BHS	€ 126,000.00
BHS Thatching	€ 15,450.00
HSF 1	€ 37,500.00
HSF 2	€ 200,000.00
HSF 3	€ 37,500.00
HSF 4	€ 10,000.00
Heritage Stewardship	€ 20,000.00
CI Foilies	€ 10,000.00
CI Vernacular	€ 5,000.00
Total	€ 463,450.00



3. **Historic Structures Fund** – A total of six projects sent to the Department, decision to be announced early March. *Proposed HSF projects shown in green on map above.*



Birr Suspension Bridge – HSF 2023, completed repairs to the bridge. An event organised with Birr Primary School and Birr Secondary School to celebrate the project in conjunction with Engineers Week.

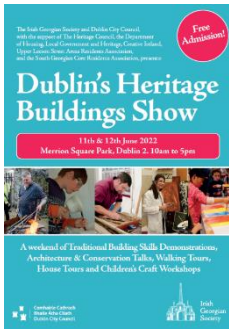


4. **Community Monuments Fund** – application submitted by HO for conservation repairs to Toberdaly Folly, awaiting decision by Department. This work follows on from successful Heritage Stewardship Fund in 2023 and the Conservation Management Plan, prepared by HHC.



5. Heritage Council:

- a. **Heritage Stewardship Fund** – application submitted with the Irish Georgian Society to run a Traditional Skills weekend in Birr, June 2024. Awaiting decision by Heritage Council. If successful it will be based in Birr Theatre and along Oxmantown Mall. *Sample event held in Dublin 2022.*



- b. **Heritage Office** – A short film on the unique craft of God-in-a-Bottle and the two makers in Offaly, Pat Gorman, Killurin and Ned and Eddie Hendrick, Shannonbridge. Working with the successful tender to produce this short film in 2024.



- c. **Heritage Forum** attend and update quarterly meetings.

6. **Creative Ireland** – two areas of funding Folly, will combine with CMF for Toberdaly Folly and Traditional Architecture. A new film on Thatching in Offaly has been commissioned. It will focus on Ben Purcell in Derrybeg and his son Tony Purcell, thatching their house outside Tullamore.



7. **Traditional Architecture in Offaly**, by Rachel Mc Kenna, sold out – to be reprinted with a further 500 copies.

8. **Follies Trust three-day visit to Offaly**. A group of 36 have booked into Kinnitty Castle (only available date and location for that many people) in September. Arranging access to suitable site for the group with commentary over the three days, Sunday to Tuesday. This is their second visit as a group to the county (2019) and they have also agreed to assist with funding towards the 2024 folly project. *Follies Trust visit to Ballycumber gazebo in 2019*



Town Centre First



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First

Clara Town Team recognised at national Town Centre First launch event 28th February 2024.

Clara was among 26 towns across Ireland off and running on an ambitious, multi-million-euro government initiative to breathe new life into their town centres. The Town Team responsible for developing the Clara 'Town Centre First' plan was recognised at the event held in Limerick, attended by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys and Minister of State for Local Government and Planning, Kieran O'Donnell.

Offaly Town Regeneration Officer, Olwen Cummins, Andrew Murray A/Director of Services along, with Anna Orman and Mary Delaney representatives from Clara's Town Team, attended the event. The event recognised the 26 towns and communities that are now moving forward with ambitious plans to breathe new life into their areas under the Town Centre First Programme.



Mary Delaney, Clara Town Team, Olwen Cummins Town Regeneration Officer, Offaly County Council, Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister for Social Protection Heather Humphreys, Minister of State Kieran O'Donnell, Anna Orman Clara Town Team, Andrew Murray, A/Director of Services Offaly County Council.

Town Centre First - Suite of Supports 2024

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced on 7th February 2024 a **€4.5 million package** to support our rural towns and villages. As part of a suite of measures, a new **Town Team Support Fund** will be established to build and develop a network of Town Teams nationwide.

The new package is designed to further enhance government support towards the revitalisation of rural towns and villages, making them more attractive places in which to live, work, visit and invest.

The new package of supports will support the following measures:

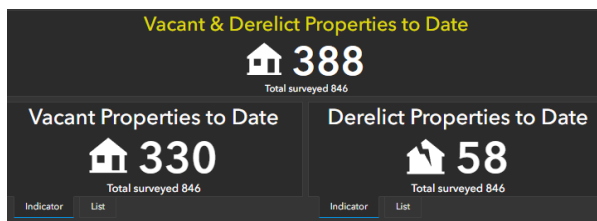
- **Town Team Support Fund** Funding of up to €10,000 each for three towns in each eligible local authority area to support research and data collection or establishment and/or development of town teams where they are not already well established.
- **Town Centre First Plan** Funding of €30,000 in each eligible local authority area to support the development of a TCF plan in a rural town.
- **Project Development Measure**
This measure will assist local authorities to contribute to a pipeline of significant, well-developed projects by providing funding of €50,000 each to support two projects. This support will be delivered under the umbrella of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

The Regeneration Team supported by the Town Regeneration Officer will apply for

the suite of supports above over the coming weeks and months as deadlines occur.

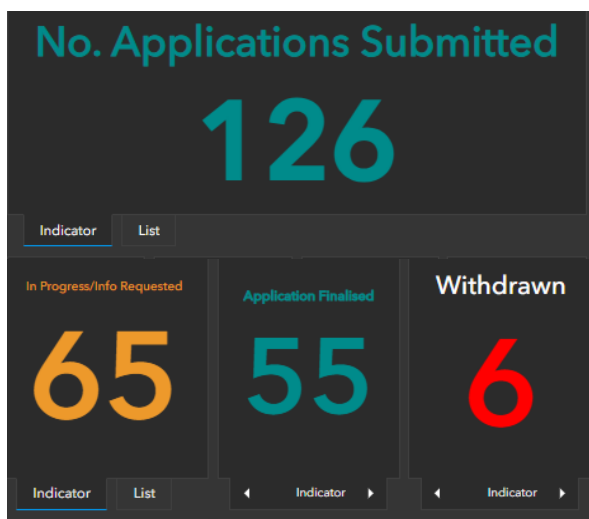
Vacancy & Dereliction Vacant Homes Survey App

A total of 846 properties have been surveyed to date in the county with 388 confirmed vacant. Letters are continuing to issue to the owners of vacant/derelict properties on a town by town approach with the aim of bringing their property back into use.



Croi Cónaithe – Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

The Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant is progressing as supports continue to be available to turn vacant residential and commercial properties into private residences/rental properties. Breakdown of applications received to date:



To date, 6 No. grants have been paid out totalling €318,631.17.

For information and application forms please see <https://www.offaly.ie/vacant-homes/>

Derelict Sites & Urban Regeneration Development Fund (Call 3)

The Derelict Sites team continue to target Derelict properties and sites through use of the Derelict Sites Act 1990. Extensive efforts have been undertaken throughout 2023 to lay the foundations of a derelict sites team that will oversee a structured and sustained approach to addressing vacancy and dereliction that exists in Offaly's towns and villages.

As of March 2024, there are 17 sites that make up the derelict sites register of Offaly County Council. With the continuous roll out of its derelict sites policy the derelict sites team envisage this number will grow in 2024 and beyond. The team will be taking a town-by-town approach to dealing with derelict sites throughout the county.

Derelict site levies for 2024 have been issued on each of these sites and served to the identified owners of each property. All queries in relation to derelicts sites in Co. Offaly should be directed to derelictsites@offalycoco.ie

URDF Call 3

Under Call 3 of URDF, Offaly County Council is now positioned to address dereliction and vacancy within the urban district of Tullamore Town. In 2023, the Department of Housing approved a list of 25 properties and allocated funding to activate these properties located in and near the town centre.

This approved list and allocated funding gives Offaly County Council a platform to activate properties that have, for one reason or another over time, become vacant and derelict. A dedicated team has

been put in place to oversee this, the approved list is live and will constantly change as properties are added and removed. To date, a number of properties have been put on the open market, others have been activated by owner as a result Offaly County Council engagement.

Of the 25 properties on the approved list, OCC have identified owners and opened engagement with 20. To date, this engagement has yielded the following:

- 2 properties on the list are not vacant.
- 5 properties have placed on the private property market by private owners.
- 1 property is being placed on the derelict sites register of Offaly County Council.
- 3 properties are being activated by owners, a process that is ongoing.

- 4 properties explored for acquisition by compulsory acquisition/acquisition by agreement.
- 5 properties at early stages of engagement with owners and will continue.

During engagement owners are made aware of available grants to support property activation, grants such as Croí Cónaithe offers €50k for vacant properties and €70k for properties considered derelict.

Offaly County Council will continue to identify and work with owners to active properties within Tullamore. The activation of properties within the town, supports policies such as Town Centre First and Local Area Plans.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Week 2024 in Offaly!

Small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs in County Offaly will enjoy the benefits from a diverse line-up of events designed to assist them in launching or expanding their enterprises during this year's Local Enterprise Week.

Local Enterprise Week is a fantastic opportunity for businesses to take stock, to identify areas in which to grow, innovate, or become more sustainable, and discover the resources available. The schedule of events cover everything from exporting and digital to going green or growing that idea.



Full details and photos from each event are available on the LEO website: localenterprise.ie/offaly

2024 County Enterprise Awards

Taking part in the County Enterprise Awards 2024 is a great opportunity for any business who wants to gain recognition and exposure for their achievements and innovations. By participating in the awards programme, businesses will be able to showcase their excellence and diversity to a large audience of potential clients and, if they are the

overall winner, represent Offaly at the National Enterprise Awards in Dublin in May.

The Student Enterprise Programme

This is an educational and fun-packed initiative that teaches second level students what it's really like to be an entrepreneur and set up and run their own business over the course of the academic year.



Over 600 students from 12 schools from all over County Offaly participated. 106 students made it to the County Final held on 5 March 2024 in the Tullamore Court Hotel. The overall winners in the Senior, Intermediate and Junior categories will go forward to the National Finals which will be held in the Mullingar Park Hotel in May 2024.

Mentors Refresher Workshop

LEO Offaly recently organised a workshop for our team of expert mentors. The purpose was to update them on the latest products and services offered by LEO Offaly and to encourage them to become well-versed in all available support resources. This knowledge will empower mentors to provide the best possible advice to clients for their benefit.



LEO Grant Workshops

LEO Offaly have a number of in-person Grant Application Workshops planned for 2024. These new workshops provide valuable insights on navigating the application portal, avoiding common errors, and providing essential financial information for Feasibility, Priming, and Business Expansion Grants.

Participants will also learn about projections, cash flow vs. profit & loss, budgeting, and creating an impactful short video. A great resource for anyone applying for a grant.

SDGs National Stakeholder Forum: SDGs Mean Business!

LEO Offaly and Offaly County Council's Climate Action Team attended the recent SDGs National Stakeholder Forum: SDGs Mean Business! The event took place in the Tullamore Court Hotel and it was a great opportunity to engage in impactful discussions with like-minded professionals and increase the knowledge of the LEO supports such as **Green for Business** and the **Energy Efficiency Grant**. These supports assist businesses to learn how to implement sustainable business practices, reduce their carbon footprint, and embrace eco-friendly initiatives with the guidance of LEO expert mentors.

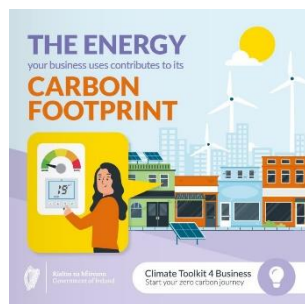


Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture with responsibility for Land Use and Biodiversity, who stepped in for Minister Eamon Ryan who was unable to travel due to the snow in the east of the country, complimented the work already happening in Ireland and especially in county Offaly.

It was great to hear about the excellent sustainability initiatives already happening and the shared experiences we can all learn from. LEO Offaly clients who participated in presentations, panel discussions and breakout groups included Lisa Dooley from The Factory, Kevin Dooley from Dooleys Wool, Helen Bracken from Fox Covert Farm and Niamh Dooley from BiaSol.

Climate Toolkit for Businesses

Tackling carbon emissions is good for our planet, our economy and for businesses. This Toolkit provides practical ways to start taking action.



Informational Workshop with external stakeholders

LEO Offaly recently invited external stakeholders, including banking business advisors, legal advisors, financial advisors, and business consultants to an information session to bring this group up to date with the current supports and services available from the Local Enterprise Office. The event was well attended and we received excellent feedback and have already been contacted by a number of referrals as a result of this session.



EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme

The LEO Offaly team collaborated with the Offaly Tourism Activator Officer, Offaly Tourism and Fáilte Ireland in the provision of information evenings on the EU Just Transition Fund Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme. Further details available on the [website](#).

EU JUST TRANSITION FUND REGENERATIVE TOURISM & PLACEMAKING SCHEME Information Evenings

- Tullamore Court Hotel, 5th March 7pm
- County Arms Hotel, Birr 13th March 7pm
- Edenderry Library 20th March 6.30pm

Find out how you can access funding to turn your ideas into reality. Open to existing or new tourism businesses.

Each evening the EU Just Transition Fund Tourism Activator for Offaly, Offaly Tourism Officer and Irelands Hidden Heartlands, Fáilte Ireland Manager will discuss the various funding options available under this scheme.

So if you are a micro, private small to medium business or community enterprise come along!



Statement of Strategy 2023-2025

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment recently issued a new Statement of

Strategy 2023-2025 which sets out 6 Strategic Goals and details actions on how to achieve these goals. Full information is available here: enterprise.gov.ie/statement-of-strategy

Training Events

Most of our courses are **FREE OF CHARGE!** Whether it is starting a business or growing a business there is something suitable for everyone. Full details and links to book are here: <https://bit.ly/3B5LTku>

LEO Team additions

We are delighted to welcome Brian Madden to Offaly County Council. As Economic Development Officer, Brian will be driving the implementation of the Offaly Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027. He will be working closely with the LEO Team on a variety of economic development projects and initiatives.

Also welcome to Aoife Daly who is joining the LEO Team for her six-month college placement from DCU. Aoife is working on the management of the co-working hubs along with lots of other projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS LEO OFFALY

MAR 13	GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP
MAR 19	HOW TO USE TIKTOK TO MARKET YOUR BUSINESS
MAR 21	BOOKKEEPING USING EXCEL FOR YOUR BUSINESS
APR 3	PART-TIME BUSINESS START UP WHILE HAVING A DAY-JOB
APR 5	SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING BOOTCAMP
APR 11	TRADING ONLINE VOUCHER WEBINAR
APR 15	START YOUR OWN BUSINESS COURSE EVENINGS
APR 18	GRANT APPLICATION WORKSHOP

[WWW.LOCALENTERPRISE.IE/OFFALY](https://www.localenterprise.ie/offaly)

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

- There are 521 on the Social Housing Support List at the end of February 2024.
- A further 580 active tenancies are currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 7 signed up for HAP and 10 exited from HAP in February.
- At the end of February, 29 single people and 15 couples and families were being supported in emergency accommodation.
- A rent review of Social Leasing Scheme Tenants (including Rental Accommodation, Short Term Leasing, Repair & Lease and

Mortgage to Rent) and HAP Tenants has commenced. All relevant Tenants have been written to and outstanding rent assessment forms and supporting documentation should be returned immediately. Tenant queries can be directed to our email at RentReview@offalycoco.ie

Housing Capital Programme Update

- Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 no. Older Person's dwellings) – Due for completion in Q2 2024.
- Circular Road, Daingean (9 units) – Construction commenced. Completion Q2 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 in May 2022. 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 planning process; Section 179A of Planning and Development Act completed. Stage 3 will be lodged with the DHLGH in Q2 2024.
- Group Housing, Croghan Road, Birr (4 Units): Stage 4 approval was granted on 21st November 2023. Preferred Contractor has been identified and works on site will begin on March/April 2024.
- Sycamore Drive, Ballycumber (10 Units) – Stage 2 approval received

30th Nov 2022. Stage 3 approval application to be lodged with DHLGH in 2024.

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

- Sofia Housing: Stage 2 approved (39 units) at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton. Planning Granted in November 2023. AHB is preparing tender documents (Stage 3)
- Sofia Housing, Clonamore, Tullamore – Works being finalised.

Turnkey Developments/Part V

- Bog Road, Portarlinton, 33 units – Snagging under way, handover April/May 2024.
- Silverbrook, Tullamore, 7 x Part V units - Complete.
- Redwood, Tullamore, 1 x Part V unit - Complete
- MacGregol, Birr, 8 Units (6 Turnkey & 2 Part V) - Approved June 2023, construction commenced with completion anticipated to be in Q1 2024
- Carrick Hall, Edenderry - 22 Units (18 Turnkey & 4 Part V's) approval received in July 2023.

Retrofit Programme

In deciding on a works programme, local authorities are urged to choose a mix of properties across a range of BERs to allow for homes which need significant expenditure to be balanced out by those needing lesser spend to achieve the overall average cost of €34,000 per property. A BER rating of B2 must be achieved.

- 105 Units completed
- 28 Units currently under construction
- Currently awaiting 2024 target

Community Development Programme

- Estate Management Funding for Birr and Edenderry Municipal Districts have been agreed at Municipal District meetings. Funding for Tullamore Municipal District is scheduled for inclusion in March meeting. Works will be scheduled to commence for all accordingly.
- Housing Liaison Officers are continuing to support established resident committees and engaging with other groups and communities in an effort to establish them and thereby support the development of their community.
- Housing are scheduling *Easter Games on the Green* events for a selected number of Local Authority Housing Estates across the Municipal Districts. A summer programme is also being developed.

Community Culture and Emergency Services

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Offaly LCDC held their monthly meeting on Thursday 8th February, 2024. Main agenda items included the Offaly LCDC Annual Report 2023, Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2022, Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP), SICAP 2024-2028, Draft Offaly Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029, Healthy Ireland/Offaly Fund Round 4 and Local Enhancement Programme 2024.



LCDC Annual Report 2023 The LCDC Annual Report 2023 Annual Report was adopted by the members and submitted to the elected members of Offaly County Council at the February 2024 Council Meeting. The report was presented to the members and a summary provided on the content and main achievements of Offaly LCDC in 2023 under various programmes of work.

SICAP Members agreed and adopted the 2023 SICAP Annual Performance Review and the 2023 SICAP Annual Progress Report. The SICAP Annual Plan 2024 was approved in principle.

Draft LECP A detailed presentation in relation to the Draft Framework Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2029 was provided to the members. Goals and objectives were highlighted and proposed implementation, reporting structures and timeframes outlined. Members approved the Draft LECP 2024-2029 as circulated.

Healthy Offaly A comprehensive update in relation to Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 Actions – Year 1 Results and Year 2 Proposals. The Healthy Offaly Grant Assessment Sub-Committee evaluated and proposed projects and budgets and their recommendations were put before the meeting. Members approved a wide range of projects and welcomed the invaluable progress made in the improvement of health and wellbeing of people in Offaly under the programmes.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024 An update was provided in regard to the application process and timeframes.

Local Enhancement Programme 2024

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 was announced on 6th December 2023 and opened for online applications from Monday 22nd January 2024, with a closing date of Wednesday 28th February 2024. An allocation of €127,369.50 is available for general community capital grants and €27,099.89 is ring fenced for supports for Women's Sheds, Groups and Networks in Offaly.

A total of 136 applications were received by the deadline. An evaluation committee of Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) will meet on 11th March 2024 to assess the applications and will make recommendations on successful projects to the LCDC meeting on 14th March 2024. Successful projects will be approved by the Minister in early April 2024.

Public Participation Network



A number of events took place during February. This included the Funding Roadshow coordinated by the PPN in collaboration with the Community Section. Three locations, one in each MD. Edenderry and Birr Libraries were the hosts in their MD's while Tullamore Town Hall was the location in Tullamore MD.

These funding events were well received as people had an opportunity to speak on a one-to-one basis with staff from a number of different sections withing the Council on Funding opportunities, current and potential future opportunities. All events were even more successful with the support of the staff in each of the locations.

The following areas of the council were represented:

- Community & Culture
- Climate Action Team
- Tourism
- Rural & Urban Regeneration
- Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Local Authority Waters programme



The PPN was represented at the Diversity & Equality Toolkit launched in Birr on February 13th. Offaly PPN were successful in sourcing funding via Leader to undertake a Community Energy Charter. Green Offaly



won the Tender and the process of developing a Charter has commenced with a survey released to membership and the first of 3 Workshops completed on Feb 22nd

Discussion took place with the ETB and the Older Persons Network on a Pilot Historical project to be undertaken during 2024.

Comhairle Na nÓg

Comhairle members held a number of meetings in February to develop their workplan for 2024. They are working on a more holistic approach to what can be done to improve mental health for young people in the county.



A steering committee meeting was held, and plans were made as to how to assist the young people to progress their topic. A number of committee members expressed interest in attending the Comhairle executive meetings. An invitation has been extended from Comhairle members to the Steering committee to join them for their April meeting.

HEALTHY OFFALY



February 2023 saw the results of the Healthy Ireland Round 4 year 1 actions published. Edufit were engaged to interpret the data collected from 6 x implementing partners. The two outcome indicators chosen by Healthy Offaly were 1. *'Increase in the percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines'* and 2. *'Decrease in the number of adults who are overweight and obese'*. The results were extremely positive with improvements in physical activity and obesity reduction levels achieved across the board.

To summarise the results, four of the six actions can be grouped together under the 'Physical Activity' outcome indicator which were assessed using the M1 measurement tool. The results are as follows:

A total of 141 adults took part in Healthy Offaly projects which measured physical activity participation pre- and post-programme ('Drop and Move', 'Social Farming' and 'Offaly Traveller Football Programme'). The average M1 score at baseline was 2.4 days of physical activity per week. The average M1 score following the programmes was 3.8 days of physical activity per week. This represents an average increase of 1.4 days of physical activity per week or 58.3%. For the fourth action a total of 42 children took part in the Healthy Offaly 'After Schools Physical Activity Programme' which measured physical activity participation pre- and post-programme. The average M1 score at baseline was 2.8 days of physical activity per week. The average M1 score following the programme was 5.0 days of physical activity per week. This represents an average increase of 2.2 days of physical activity per week or 78.6%.

Under the 'Obesity' intervention outcome indicator Clara Community & Family Resource Centre and Exwell Medical delivered the 'Invest in Yourself' programme. The average M1 score at baseline (start of programme) was 2.6 days of physical activity per week. Post-programme the average score was 5.2 days. This represents an average increase of 2.6 days of physical activity per week or a 100% increase in physical activity levels. Participants were invited to have their body weight measured at the start and end of the programme. Eight people volunteered to have this measurement taken. The results show an average reduction in body weight of 2kgs or 2.2% post-pilot.

The final project top note was the 'Activator Poles' programme run by Kilcormac Development Association. Sixteen adults took part in this pilot programme in Kilcormac. An analysis of the IPAQ-SF calculated that the group average MET-min/week was 2074 pre-programme and 2678 post-programme. This represents an increase in MET-min/week of 604 or 29.1%. The group average time spent sedentary pre-programme was 3.2 hours and 2.8 hours post-programme. This reflects a decrease in sedentary time of 0.4 hours per week or 12.5%.

Overall, the results show that the actions undertaken have shown real and tangible improvements in the health of all participants. The 'Drop & Move', 'Children's Afterschool Physical Activity', 'Traveller Men's Football Team' and 'Invest in Yourself' programmes have been extended for 2024.

New actions approved by Offaly LCDC to proceed this year are a 'Cycling without Age' rickshaw bicycle project for Lough

Boora; *'Dance Classes for Children and Adults in Edenderry'*; Support for the *'Offaly Athletics Road Race 5K Series'* with Healthy Ireland as headline sponsor; *'Exercise your way to wellness'* physical activity classes to be provided by Edenderry GAA & Exwell Medical; provision of activator poles for Portarlington Library which is a joint initiative with our partners in Healthy Laois; *'Minding Me'* a 6-week nutrition and exercise course for older adults; and *'Active Aging for Kilcormac'* by Kilcormac Development Association which will provide weekly Boccia, Pickleball and Activator Poles Classes for older adults. Encouraged by the excellent results from our year 1 actions we approach our programme of work this year with energy and enthusiasm. Please click on the Year 1 action [results](#) link for detailed reports on the assessment project.

SPORTS

Congratulatory notes / Good wishes



Congratulations to the Federation of Ireland "Volunteer in Sports Award 2023" winner for Offaly, John Corboy of Birr Town FC; seen here receiving his award from his son and Offaly SP Aspire Graduate, Johnny Corboy.



Funding

€13,222 secured to support the delivery of Bike Week activities across Offaly from 11th to 19th May 2024.

€12,400 in Healthy Ireland funding secured via Laois / Offaly CYPSC to support the delivery of 1:1 physical activity supports for young people with additional needs.

Human Resources

David Mc Caffrey commenced work with Offaly SP in the role of ESF+ Social Innovation through Sport Officer.



This role is designed to foster social inclusion and provide education, inclusion and personal development programmes for European Social Fund (ESF+) target groups such as youth at risk, persons with a disability, disadvantaged women, ethnic minorities and migrants throughout the county

Programmes

ACE schools programme – Liam O Reilly

Various programmes delivered throughout February including: -

- Spring athletics programme in four schools in the Daingean Community Sports Hub catchment area – Cappagh, Daingean, Rhode and Scoil Bhríde in Edenderry; and in another four schools in the Mucklagh Community Sports Hub catchment area – Coolanarney, Gortnamona, Rahan (Scoil Chartaigh Naofa) and St Colman's
- After school programmes in Scoil Bhríde, Scoil Mhuire and Scoil Eoin Pól in Tullamore

Expressions of interest have also been sought from primary schools to participate in the spring athletics event due after Easter with 30 schools signing up to date.

Community Sports Development Programme – Denise Coghill

The o50s boccia programme is drawing to a close with semi-finals underway; and finals due to take place in March.

Healthy Offaly Drop & Move – Liam O Reilly

- The Healthy Offaly funded drop and move has recommenced in eight locations – Ballycumber, Bracknagh, Clareen, Cloneyhurke, Kinnitty, Mucklagh, Rhode and Tullamore – with over 100 people taking part in the weekly sessions.
- Additional locations will also be coming onstream in the coming weeks.

Integration – Eamonn Henry

Various programmes delivered throughout February including: -

- School based programmes in primary schools in Portarlinton (St Patrick's), Banagher (St Rynagh's) and Tullamore (Educate Together)
- After school academy programme in Portarlinton twice a week with up to 30 children participating weekly

Sports Inclusion Development Programme – Johnny Corboy

Various programmes delivered throughout February including: -

- Banagher College / Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) boccia programme – 12 students and 12 members of the IWA are participating on a five week boccia programme hosted by the college. Additional students from the college are also officiating at each weekly session.
- Chime sports day – eight members of the group alongside their parents and siblings took part in a variety of activities including basketball and soccer on the 15th February.
- Six week “learn to swim” programme for children with

additional needs in association with Birr Leisure Centre



Women in Sport

Women in Sport week takes place from 4th to 10th March. The programme of events includes: -



The women in sport week rugby blitz was also held in February

Dormant account funded programmes Community volunteer programme

Volunteers from various clubs and organisations continue to be supported to secure additional coach qualifications to support them in their work.

Sports leader for young people

Four programmes commenced in secondary schools across the county – Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa in Clara, Banagher College, St Brendan's Community School in Birr, and Tullamore College

Community sports hubs

Daingean – Liam O Reilly

Various programmes delivered in the Daingean Community Sports Hub throughout February including: -

- Five week after school basketball programme
- Pilates with Sean
- Ready, Steady, Play programme in Daingean Childcare Services
- Strength & Conditioning for older adults – 23



Mucklagh – Liam O Reilly

Various programmes delivered in the Mucklagh Community Sports Hub throughout February including: -

- Activator poles
- After school basketball
- Physical activity programmes for people with disabilities



Ballycumber – Denise Coghill

Various programmes delivered in the Ballycumber Community Sports Hub throughout February including: -

- Boxercise – three classes underway catering for 100+ women
- Circuits / HITT – one session catering for 12 participants on a weekly basis.
- Drop & Move -
- Functional fitness for older adults – one session catering for 12 older adults on a weekly basis.
- Pickleball – one session catering for 16 participants on a weekly basis.
- Primary school programme with Boher National School
- Walking Football – one session catering for 20 participants on a weekly basis.

Urban outdoor adventure – Olivia Murphy

Following the securing of funding under Dormant Accounts in late 2023, Offaly SP will be delivering an Urban Outdoor Adventure Project in Tullamore in association with Tullamore Canoe Club, Paddle Together and West Offaly Training. Programme elements include: -

- the purchase of non-personal paddling equipment for the programme
- schools splash and dash for primary and secondary schools – scheduled for delivery in April
- community splash and dash programmes – expressions of interest being sought
- various other programmes including canoe polo, guided paddles and summer camps between March and October

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

ARTS

ARTS OFFICE

Arts Strategy 2024-2028



The new draft Arts Strategy 2024-2028 is now completed and is planned to be presented for approval to council in March/April. The strategy aligns with the adopted **Arts Infrastructure Strategy 2023-2028**.

ARTS OFFICE PROGRAMMES

Lough Boora - Art in Landscape Festival of Change

Art in the Landscape Festival of Change is fast approaching - taking place in **Offaly** on **5th and 6th April** at Eskers Arts and Lough Boora Sculpture Park. An exciting programme will soon be available which includes an event at Esker Arts called *Tionól – a gathering of ideas*; a creative space to share ideas and an opportunity for participants to share their 'big' or 'small' ideas around Art in the Landscape. Selected presenters will have presentation slots of 10 minutes each, this will be followed by a networking opportunity for communities called Conversation Café. Save the Date of 5th and 6th April for a full programme of events, workshops, exhibitions for artists and communities.



FilmOffaly Award 2023 the winning script *A Simple Killing* by Mark Conway, with the production team, Jason Branagan, (Director) Mark de Carreau, (Actor, Producer) Emer Durcan (Producer) and Brian Durcan (Cinematographer) of

Western Front Studios is currently in production in Offaly.

Film Offaly Award 2024

The call for the FilmOffaly 2024 Award has been announced with a closing date of **12 noon on Monday 11th March 2024**. This funding initiative aims to foster creative, resourceful filmmaking in the county. The Award is for unique, original stories by talented new filmmakers, professional and novice alike. The only stipulation is that the filming must take place in Offaly! The Offaly Film Commission also encourage the utilisation of local crew and a mentoring element of the production for local film makers.

FilmOffaly Review – The FilmOffaly Review undertaken by researchers, *Culture Works* across is now completed. Following presentations to FilmOffaly Commission Board and Community and Culture SPC, recommendations and actions will form part of the new Arts Strategy 2024-2028.

Annual Programme Funding Opportunities

The 2024 **Youth Arts Commissions** caters for the delivery of Youth Arts Projects for the cohort of 13- to 25-year-olds within Offaly. The Arts Office invited professional artists, individuals or groups, to work with youth organisations to submit a proposal outlining the proposed idea. The commission is open to submissions from all art disciplines including visual arts, film, animation, digital arts, performing arts, literature or sound art. The commission can concentrate on one art form or a range of art forms but must include the participation of/engagement with a professional artist. Young people's active participation and the co-creation of work should be central to the youth arts

projects. The funding process is currently ongoing.

The Arts Acts Grants 2024 were presented and approved in the February council meeting to a value of **19,966 euro**. Grants through this scheme have been awarded to: Riverview Resources, Banagher Drama Group, Colaiste Naomh Cormac, Coolderry Central School, Crinkill N.S., Dochas Offaly, Eden Chorale, Gemini Players, Irish Midlands Youth Orchestra, Irish Wheelchair Association, Killeigh Comhaltas, Midland Strings, Co Offaly Federation ICA, Rahan Drama Group, Red Embers, St Brendan's Community School, St Brendan's PS Birr and Tullamore Musical Society.

The Professional Artists Support Award were independently evaluated, with 29 grants awarded to professional artists to a value of **15,000 euro**.

The Festival Arts Scheme 2004 is designed for festivals taking place in Offaly in 2024 that are either dedicated arts festivals or have a strong professional arts element to the festival. The Professional Artist Support Award offers a support scheme for professional artists in developing their arts practice over a number of categories, with the aim of encouraging professional artists to live and work in the county. The funding process is currently ongoing.

Public Art

'FROM WITHIN' a newly commissioned piece of contemporary dance created with young people in Tullamore. The commission funding has been made available through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021 and is associated with the development of the new Bandstand in Lloyd Town Park Tullamore.

Local professional dancer Amy Donlon was commissioned to develop a new work of choreography working with an ensemble of young dancers from the area. The choreography explores the interplay between water, outdoor space and the connection between water and play. The newly commissioned work was performed at the Bandstand in Lloyd Park, Tullamore in February.



Creative Places Edenderry

Creative Places, Edenderry, a project funded by the Arts Council, led by Creative Lives in partnership with Offaly County Council Arts Office and Edenderry Municipal District, has been hosting an array of different arts-based activities, workshops and events. February continues to see activities in a wide range of art forms including: Visual Arts, Music, Poetry, Playwriting, Creative Movement; Dance; Ceramics; Drama; Radio, Photography

Creative Places Edenderry ran an open call for their seed funding scheme, which will see a number of projects receiving funding of up to 1,000 euro for creative projects in the Edenderry Community.



CAPITAL PROJECTS

Esker Arts

There has been a rich and varied programme of activity across February at Esker Arts. The first exhibition opening of the year proved to be a great success. Esker Arts hosted a fantastic crowd for the official opening of Murmuration: Craftlink - Connecting Creative Communities, which continued through February.

The exhibition features artists from Ireland and Finland. Many local artists were featured. Craftlink was developed by Offaly Local Development Company, Westmeath Community Development, Rieska & Keskipiste Leader (Finland) and funded through the LEADER Rural Development Programme. The programme across January has featured live music including Sharon Shannon, Solas Quartet and Trad as well as film, workshops and engagement with schools.



Edenderry Library and Arts Base

The Arts Office continues to work in close collaboration with the county librarian in the development of plans for a Multi-Purpose Arts space and Artist's Studio's to be incorporated into the planning of the new library for Edenderry, this include the audience and participant development as part of the Creative Places Edenderry project.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Bígi Linn: Seachtain na Gaeilge

In honour of Seachtain na Gaeilge, we are celebrating and promoting the Irish language through a variety of events between March 1-17.



Special story times and crafts will be on offer for children as well as Irish words and phrases displayed around our libraries to help everyone try to use their cúpla focail. On Saturday, 9th of March, Birr and Tullamore Libraries will become 'Pop-Up Gaeltachts', and all are welcome to come in for a comhrá and cupán tae with great craic and even some traditional Irish music on offer.

Tráth na gCeisteanna are on offer to primary and secondary school students around the county with some lovely prizes up for grabs for the winning teams. So, bígi linn and [get in touch with your local library](#) for more information. Our Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations are kindly co-funded by Creative Ireland.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Is Teanga Bheo í an Ghaeilge i Leabharlanna Uíbh Fhailí



An raibh a fhios agat? Tagann Ciorcail Comhrá le chéile gach seachtain i roinnt dár leabharlanna!

Leabharlann Bhiorra 11.00 gach Satharn
Leabharlann
Thulach Mhór 18.45 gach Máirt
Leabharlann
Chlóirthigh 15:00 gach Céadaoin
Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil [ar líne anseo.](#)

Ireland Reads: Author Visits



We enjoyed a fantastic series of events, including visits from acclaimed Irish authors, in the run up to Ireland Reads Day, Saturday 25th February.



Edenderry library had the pleasure of hosting an alternative Valentine's evening with crime novelist, Patricia Gibney, with 25 in attendance, and Geraldine O'Neill received a warm welcome at Birr Library on Wednesday, 28th February.

Tullamore Library virtually welcomed award-winning Irish author, Mark O'Connell, on Thursday, February 22nd for a chat about his book, *A Thread of Violence*, concerning the



infamous MacArthur murders of the 1980s.

[Watch the enthralling interview here.](#)

Offaly County Council wins Best Communications/Innovation Award

Offaly Libraries are thrilled to have played a supportive role in Offaly County Council's achievement at the LAMA awards, which recognise excellence by Ireland's County Councils. Offaly County Council was recognised with the 'Best Communications / Innovation Award' for 'STEAMing Ahead: How Offaly's Kids are Shaping our Rural Future'.

STEAM Event: Engineers Week 2024

Offaly Libraries are delighted to celebrate **Engineer's Week, March 2nd – 8th**, a key staple in our STEAM Programme for 2024, with a dynamic [programme of events](#) to inspire the budding engineers of tomorrow.



A series of Lego Workshops and Freeplay sessions will be hosted around the county. Edenderry Library will host a Fantasy Map Making workshop for teenagers and Tullamore Library will host a local school for a VEX Robotics workshop, delivered in partnership with Offaly's STEM Education Officer.

Libraries across the county will also support this initiative with STEAM themed book displays, story times and crafts to explain and inspire.

[More information can be found online at **offaly.ie/libraries**.](#)

STEAM Event: Irish Astronomy Week



Now in its second year, **Irish Astronomy Week takes place from March 9th – 16th** and invites all those interested in the night sky to look '*From your Garden to the Stars*'. Offaly Libraries are proud to include Irish Astronomy Week under the ever-expanding umbrella of our STEAM programme with astronomy themed book displays, story times and craft sessions on offer throughout the county.

Our highlight event will take place in Tullamore Library on Thursday, March 14th with a talk entitled '*Astro Landscapes to Deep Sky*', delivered by local photographer, Tom O'Hanlon.

[See **offaly.ie/libraries** for updates.](#)

Ready, Steady, Play: Sensory Offaly Workshops



Birr, Clara and Edenderry Libraries hosted sensory workshops with Ready, Steady, Play on Friday, 9th February.

The workshops were very well received and enjoyed by **42 attendees** across all locations.

These workshops were offered under our Sensory Offaly programme, kindly co-funded by Laois / Offaly CYPSC.



World Wetlands Day at Birr Library

45 students from St. Brendan's Boys school and Mercy Primary school were invited to Birr library to celebrate World Wetlands Day on Friday February 2nd. Each class enjoyed an informative series of videos and an activity afterwards.



LOETB: Basic Financial Management Course at Tullamore Library



The LOETB will run a free Basic Financial Management course at Tullamore Library over four weeks, starting on Monday, March 4th at 10.00. The course will help attendees learn how to manage a budget, and other financial tips.

[More information can be found here.](#)

Minding Me: Healthy Ireland at Tullamore Library



'Minding Me' is a 6-week nutrition, exercise and health education programme for retired adults living in Offaly. Dr Diane

Cooper from EduFIT delivered the first health education workshop to 'Minding Me' participants in Tullamore Library in January, focussing on 'Muscle Matters'.



Now in its fifth week, this initiative is designed and delivered by EduFIT in partnership with Healthy Offaly, Healthy Ireland, Pobal, the Government of Ireland, Offaly County Council and Healthy Ireland at your Library.

Local School Exhibition, 'The Past in My Place' at Birr Library



Second year students from St. Brendan's Community School, Birr will showcase their Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) entitled 'The Past in my Place' in Birr Library throughout the month of March. Projects include studies of individuals and studies of local interest, including Birr Workhouse, The Third Earl of Rosse, Clonmacnoise, Gloster House, and Coolderry GAA to name but a few.

This is an exciting new initiative by the History Department in St. Brendan's Community School, Birr. The official launch will take place on Tuesday 5th March at 10.30am in the atrium of Birr Library. All are welcome.

Art Exhibition in Edenderry Library

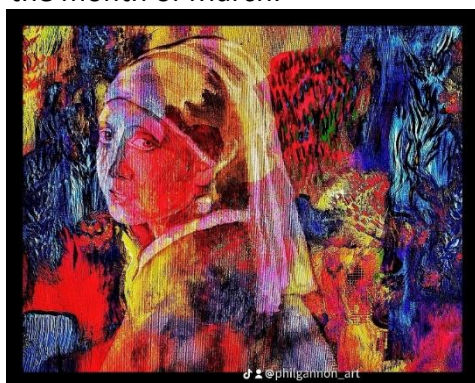
Edenderry Library, in partnership with Creative Places Edenderry, are delighted to display pieces from local artist, Becca

Thorne. This exhibition was launched on Friday, 9th February with 30 in attendance. The collection features semi-abstract landscapes and seascapes inspired by the artist's life-long love of wild places and will be on display in [Edenderry Library](#) for the duration of March.



'Different Strokes for Different Folks' Art Exhibition in Tullamore Library

Local visual artist, Phil Gannon, will hold an exhibition of her work in Tullamore Library for the month of March.



The collection of pieces will enjoy an official launch on Tuesday, March 5th at 18.15 in Tullamore Library and all are welcome to attend.

Books Clubs at Offaly Libraries

Offaly Libraries currently host 13 book clubs through the county and our library staff are always happy to **help source and select books** to suit all ages and tastes.

If you would like to join any of our existing clubs, [please check out the details for each here.](#)

Alternatively, should you wish to **establish your own book club** in one of our libraries please get in touch by emailing askthelibrarian@offalycoco.ie and we will be happy to help!

Sign up for our Library Newsletters

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.](#)

Currently we have **3,103 subscribers** to the general newsletter and **128 teachers** subscribed to the school newsletter.



Climate Action Environment Water & Transportation

ENVIRONMENT

Climate Action

Local Authority Climate Action Plan



Under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, each local authority is required to prepare a local authority climate action plan for its respective administrative area. The guidelines have

been issued under the provisions of the Act and are therefore statutory in nature.

On the 19th February 2024, after consideration of the CE Report and AA/SEA environmental report determinations presented, the elected members of Offaly County Council adopted the Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 without amendment.

Community Climate Action Fund

The Community Climate Action Fund (CCAF) was launched within Offaly on 13th December 2023, and remained open for application for 12 weeks, closing on 6th March 2024.

The Community Climate Action Programme, under the Climate Action Fund, has been developed under two strands addressing both direct climate action, and climate education and capacity building.

Strand 1 has two parts: strand 1 entitled “Action: Building Low Carbon Communities” for €24 million, and strand 1a entitled “Shared Island Community Climate Action” for €3 million.

Strand 1: Action: Building Low Carbon Communities

€444,000 is being provided to Offaly Co. Co. to work in partnership with communities, large and small, rural and urban, within their areas of operation to build low carbon communities in a considered and structured way. The projects will address the following five themes:

- Home/energy
- Travel
- Food and waste
- Shopping and recycling
- Local climate and environmental action

Offaly County Council received 23 no. application for Strand 1, and are currently assessing applications to avail of the €444,000 allocated for community groups in Strand 1. Suitable projects will receive 100% funding and must be completed within 18 months of the signed grant agreement (between OCC and relevant community group). It is anticipated that grant agreements will issue to successful applicants in August, following DECC approval. The Community Climate Action Officer (Sinead McEvoy) is co-ordinating this fund within Offaly Co. Co.

Green Awards

Offaly County Council were shortlisted for the **Green Awards 2024, Green Business & Sustainability** in the category of “**Green Public Sector Organisation of the Year**” following submission of our comprehensive application.

A record 250+ entries were received across a range of categories and the judging panel shortlisted our application along with other public sector organisations such as *An Post, CIÉ Group, DAA, Dublin Bus, Trinity College Dublin, Uisce Éireann and Waterways Ireland* for the Green Public Sector Organisation of the Year award.

While Offaly County Council were the only local authority to be shortlisted as finalists, recognising our leadership in Climate Action to date. Offaly County Council were not winners on the night, with *An Post* taking home the award.



Green
Public Sector
Organisation
of the Year

FINALIST

Energy

Offaly County Council, in line with our SEAI Public Sector Partnership, have signed up to an Achieving ISO 50001 Accelerator Programme designed for the public sector to enhance their energy management structures. Currently Offaly County Council have achieved 40% energy efficiency from a baseline year, with a target of 50% by 2030. ISO 50001 accreditation will be a core enabler to achieving this target.

ISO 50001 is based on the management system model of continual improvement also used for other well-known standards such as ISO 9001 or ISO 14001. This makes it easier for organizations to integrate energy management into their overall efforts to improve quality and environmental management.

ISO 50001 illustrates Offaly County Council's leadership in Climate Action, and accelerates our journey towards an exemplar organisation in energy management. This will be a 10 month

programme with accreditation achieved by early 2025.



Environmental Management Submissions to EPA

Environment Team made the annual submission to the EPA known as the RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections), detailing the numbers of environment inspections completed by Offaly County Council in 2023.

This was submitted through NEMSIS software system, supported by LGMA. The submission covers waste management, air and noise management and water quality. The programme of works is informed by the 20 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) which focus on delivering positive environmental outcomes for air quality, water quality and waste management. A 48-page supporting report detailing all the environment inspection work was also submitted summarising work completed, approach taken and environmental outcomes.

A submission on agricultural inspections in accordance with EPAs requirements was submitted. In 2024, there will be a renewed focus on improving agricultural compliance under the Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations. Funding has been provided to Offaly County Council for additional staff to carry out farm inspection to the end of 2027, in line with the existing Water Framework Directive and third cycle River Basin Management Plan.

A Noise Action Progress Report was submitted to the EPA outlining the noise reducing actions taken during 2023. The report focuses on progress made in urban areas and required collaboration with other sections e.g. Roads, Climate Action.

The EPA has a supervisory role in relation to the performance by local authorities of their statutory environmental protection duties. The EPA will review documentation and report on Offaly's progress in meeting agreed environmental indicators later in the year.

Litter & Waste

In February, the Environment Section received **92** 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)	55
Waste (dumping/burning/unauthorised sites)	5
Noise (community/commercial/industrial)	16
Control of Horses	2
Control of Dogs	8
Water Quality	4
Abandoned vehicles	2
Air	0

CCTV use for waste enforcement

The Minister for State Ossian Smyth signed the commencement orders that came into effect on 15th February 2024 allowing for the lawful use of CCTV in accordance with the following codes of practice.

1. Code of Practice on the Operation of CCTV for the Purposes of Prevention, Detection & Prosecution of Waste Offences, under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)
2. Code of Practice on the operation of CCTV for the

Purposes of Prevention, Detection & Prosecution of Litter Offences, under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended)

3. Code of Practice on the Operation of Mobile Recording Devices for the Purposes of Prevention, Detection & Prosecution of Waste Offences under the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended).

Due to the complexity of legislation surrounding data, the code require various procedures around establishing the need for CCTV, adjudication aby an oversight board, and permission by CE order. Offaly County Council will establish an Oversight Board who will analyse the use of CCTV and a Business Case and Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) will be considered by the Board for the use of CCTV.

Pilot studies in the three Waste Regions are currently being conducted and in the Eastern Midlands Waste Region, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co. was selected. Once the pilot has been completed Offaly County Council will be working in conjunction with WERLA in implementing the conditions adopted in the Codes of Practice. Upon establishing appropriate structures and safe-guards, CTTV will be available within the tool-kit of Offaly County Council litter and waste enforcement teams, funding permitting.

Burial Grounds

St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry: We will be appointing the contractor for the extension in the coming months.

Cemetery Committees: We currently work with 17 cemetery committees, and we look forward to working with new committees in 2024. There are grants and assistance available from the CA-ENV-RW section and we welcome engagement from groups that are currently maintaining their local cemetery or planning on forming a committee to do that.



RURAL WATER SERVICES - Capital

The Rural Water Unit of the Department of Housing have circulated the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2024 to 2026 for capital funding for Group Water Schemes. We are currently discussing projects with the Group Water Schemes and assisting them in putting together their bids for funding. Applications are due to be submitted to the Rural Water Unit by 12/04/2024.



Grants

Information and grant application forms for Well Grants, Domestic Waste Water Treatment, and Domestic Lead Remediation Grants are available on www.offaly.ie or from the CAERW section by contacting 057 9357403.

Veterinary Control of Dogs

So far in 2024 we have seized or received surrenders of 50 dogs, of which we have managed to re-home 36 so far.

On average 15% of the dogs are reclaimed by their owners, 15% are rehomed by the Care of Dogs Team and the other 70% are rehomed through animal rescue charities. The Control of Dogs team has also dealt with 15 complaints so far this year and has assisted AGS on a number of raids and have carried out inspections of premises under DBE and Animal Health and Welfare legislation.

Control of Horses

To date in 2024, we have dealt with 4 complaints, there have been no seizures to date.

Veterinary Inspections

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

TRANSPORTATION

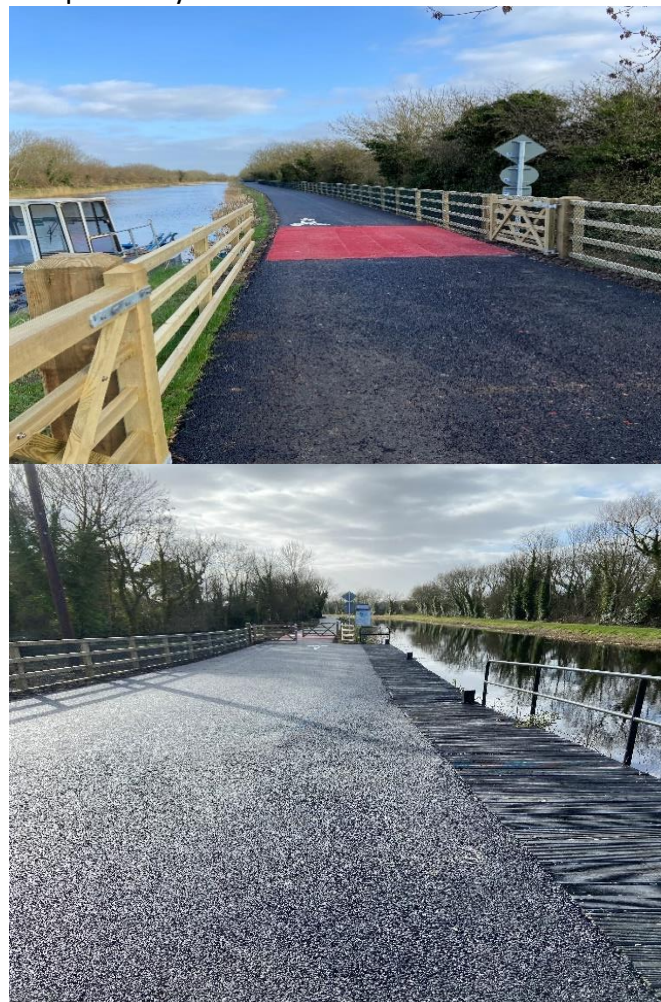
2024 Road Program Allocations

The Roads Department has been notified of the 2024 funding allocations from the three Transport agencies, TII, Dot and the NTA. Table 1 shows a comparison of the levels of funding from each of our funding partners along with the allocation from OCC own resources. All programs other than the TII allocation show a modest increase for 2024. The reduction in the TII allocation is due to a decrease in Pavement Renewal funding for 2024 as compared to 2023 which equates to a difference of approximately €2,800,000. The allocation as shown below have now been assigned to each Municipal District and it is intended that the Annual Roads Program will come before the members at the March Meeting.

Funding Partner	2023 Initial Allocation	2024 Initial Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland - National Roads allocation together with Greenways allocation	€8,761,012	€5,918,937
Department of Transport	€15,539,300	€15,754,150
National Transport Authority(incl Bus Stops)	€3,009,382	€3,500,000
Offaly County Council (Own Resources Local Roads)	€2,246,269	€2,396,269
Total	€29,555,963	€27,569,356

Grand Canal Greenway

Works are now substantially complete on the mainline of the Grand Canal Greenway and it is hoped that all works will be completed by the end of March.



Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Finance

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 2902/2024

Draft Consolidated Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division 31/12/2023		
	Expenditure €	Income €
Housing & Building	19,284,030	19,430,292
Road Transport & Safety	30,319,473	23,712,599
Water Services	5,996,659	5,569,242
Development Management	13,356,460	7,425,683
Environmental Services	10,236,554	2,697,904
Recreation & Amenity	5,249,930	338,494
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	683,477	329,016
Miscellaneous Services	10,310,320	11,518,129
Local Government Fund / GPG		8,317,795
Gross Rates Income		16,519,381
	95,436,903	95,858,535
Surplus to 31st December 2023		421,631

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary 29/02/24

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2024 €m	Preliminary Value to Feb 2024 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	35.68	4.57	12.8%
Grants and Subsidies Income	50.31	2.32	4.6%

OCC to 29th Feb 2024

	<u>Rates</u> €m	<u>Rents</u> €m	<u>Loans</u> €m
Opening Balance Jan 1st, 2024	2.58	0.64	0.04
Net Invoices & Adjustments, waivers	16.58	1.35	0.08
2024 Cash Collected to end of Feb	1.50	1.46	0.06
Closing Balance Feb 29th, 2024	17.67	0.53	0.06

2023 Cash collected to Feb 28th

	1.07	1.21	0.10
% Collection at this point in 2023	140%	121%	61%

Bank Overdraft to 29th Feb 2024

	-	-	% YTD
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date		9	15%
Bank Interest and non conforming charges to Feb 29th 2024 YTD (Estimate)			€1,100
Bank Administration and transactional charges to Feb 29th 2024 YTD (Estimate)			€5,500