

Bealtaine / May 2023

Cathaoirleach Cllr Frank Moran, with Elected Members, Deputy Barry Cowen TD and Chief Executive, Anna Marie Delaney and OCC Staff at Civic Reception to honour boxers Gráinne Walsh, Paul Loonam and Nicole Buckley



Welcoming His Excellency Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Adriaan Palm to Tullamore on Europe Day Ann Dillon, Director of Services, Cathaoirleach Cllr Frank Moran, Orla Martin, Head of Enterprise, LEO, Olive Farrell Tourism Officer and Leas Cathaoirleach Cllr Tony McCormack.



On 31st May 2023 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD visited projects in Offaly



Tullamore Library staff were delighted to host Minister of State, Kieran O'Donnell, at the branch on Friday, June 2nd. The Minister spoke with elected members and senior OCC staff on housing initiatives and URDF funding, before touring Tullamore and Birr.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Online Planning is going live in Offaly County Council from Tuesday **27th June 2023**.

Nationwide 1-day filming **27/07/23** at Gloster House with owners and guest speakers

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PLANNING

Development Management

	To end May 2023	To end May 2022	Total 2022
Planning Applications	259	274	681
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	5	8	16
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	134 (47)	22 (4)	158 (15)

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

ELGIN ENERGY SERVICES LTD	PP CHANGE GRANTED PERMISSION 17/275, MERGE SUBSTATION AND ESB BUILDING TO ONE AND EXTEND OPERATIONAL LIFE TO 40 YEARS, WITH A PROJECT LIFE EXTENSION TO 10 YEARS. TOWNLANDS OF SHANDERRY AND KILMALOGUE, PORTARLINGTON
THE BOM OF SCOIL MUIRE	PP 2 NEW EXTENSIONS TO SCHOOL, DEMO WATER TANK & TOWER & PREFAB BUILDING, CONSTRUCT PARKING AREA & LPG TANK. CLONEYGOWAN.
JOHN FLANAGAN	PP DEMO OF EXISTING BUILDINGS & 148 DWELLINGS, CRECHE, COMMUNAL FACILITIES ALL SITE WORKS (LRD). ARDAN / PUTTAGHAN, TULLAMORE.
DECLAN & DIANE RAINSFORD	PP PROVISION OF 14 DWELLING UNITS, BY ALTERING NO 46 & 47 CHURCH STREET, TULLAMORE.
PETER MCCORMACK	PP 10 NO. DWELLINGS, TUBBER.

Online Planning

Offaly County Council will accept online planning applications from **Tuesday 27th June 2023**. This is part of the Local Government Planning portal, [Local Government Ireland Planning System](#) which is designed to streamline the application process for planning permission.

Applicants / agents can register for their own account and submit a planning application online, including making a payment. Planning applications and their status can then be viewed online. Submissions on a planning application which has been submitted electronically via the online system, can be made. Planning applications submitted electronically will be available to view online **only**. Paper copies of these applications **will not be available at the public counter**. It will however be possible to view online applications electronically at the public counter in Planning.

Forward Planning

At the Council Meeting held on 15th May 2023, the Birr Local Area Plan 2023-2029 was adopted. It will come into effect 6 weeks later on 26th June 2023. On 5th May 2023, the proposed material alterations of the Edenderry Local Area Plan 2023-2029 went on public display for a period of 4 weeks up to 5th June 2023.

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Conservation Architecture

1. **Birr Destination Town** - Failte Ireland funding, project to commenced on site and underway, new entrance to Birr Demesne, The Green. Liaise with consultants, stakeholders and in-house team. Fortnightly site meetings, formed part of visit by Minister Heather Humphries 31/05/23, to public realm works at The Green. Opening secured, internal separating stone wall constructed, large steam turbine moved.



2. **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**, 16 provisional grants have received approval by the Department for a variety of projects across the county,



total funding **€126,400**
New Thatching Grant by Department **€15,450**, funding approved for 4 thatch projects. Difficulty this year availing of thatchers, 2 are not working in Offaly this year. Several projects are underway, window repairs and roof repairs, site visits. (*Woodfield House*)

3. **Historic Structures Fund** – All 4 projects approved by Department, Kinnitty Castle window repairs (€37,500), Birr Suspension Bridge, repairs (€200, 000), St Mary's COI Ballyboy, structural rep[airs, OCC owned, (€37,500), Rahan Vernacular

building, structural repairs (€10,000).
Total for 2023 €285,000



4. **Heritage Stewardship – Heritage Council**, **€19,926** approved for Conservation Management Plan Tubberdaly Gazebo (former castle) by Howley Hayes Cooney. Site visit by full team to asses and agree proposed works and timeframe, 22/03/23.



5. **Creative Ireland:** Follies and Vernacular Architecture, part of Creative Ireland Team - Annual funding for Follies project **€10,000** and Vernacular Architecture **€5,000**

6. Department **NIAH Garden Survey**, provide Dept. with information to assist consultants. Another day of filming planned for later on the summer to highlight thatch projects in the county, in discussion with owners. Met with Minister O'Donnell to show the completed works to the **Acres Folly** 02/06/23



REGENERATION

Outdoor Recreation Scheme

The 2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme was launched on 1st June 2023.

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.

Local Authorities and Local Development Companies must seek Expressions of Interest (EOI) from local community groups to identify projects that enhance or redevelop existing amenities, or support new opportunities to develop local natural resources.

Offaly County Council is seeking expressions of interest on potential projects which may be considered for funding under this scheme which is administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The ORIS Scheme will be advertised in local media and on Offaly County Councils social media pages shortly and Expressions of Interest sought.

Minister Humphreys TD visit to Offaly

On 31st May 2023 Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD visited projects in Offaly including CLÁR Croghan Community Centre Extension and TVR project Croghan Hill, ORIS, Ballycommon to Kilbeggan

Greenway link, ORIS, Clara Bog Life Project link, TVR improved village connections at Brocca Road Junction, Mucklagh, TVR public realm project, The Green, Birr & TVR public realm projects in Shannonbridge.

Welcoming Minister Humphreys to Offaly, Cathaoirleach of Edenderry MD Robert McDermott noted "Funding such as CLAR, TVR, ORIS from the Department of Rural and Community Development ensures that rural communities continue to benefit from the economic, social and environmental opportunities creating vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also serving as a social, cultural and recreational hubs for the local community."

Ballycommon to Kilbeggan Greenway link was the next stop, where Cathaoirleach of Edenderry MD Robert McDermott said "standing here today, we can already see the fruits of this investment allowing pedestrians and cyclists travel from Ballycommon to Kilbeggan with the completion of this Greenway which is an invaluable recreational amenity for the local communities".



Speaking in Ballycommon, Minister Humphreys said "This a great day for the communities of Tullamore, Ballycommon and Kilbeggan as we formally unveil the country's newest greenway. Since Covid-19, we have all developed a deep

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appreciation of outdoor amenities – they really have taken on a newfound importance in all our lives.”

Clara Bog Life Project link just outside Clara was next on Minister Humphreys' itinerary. Funding for this amenity project was secured under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme and includes improved accessibility to the bog amenity. The new link project of 450m footway allowing safe travel for visitors improving accessibility and encouraging visitors to Clara Bog Visitor Centre in Clara Town and the Clara Bog Boardwalk and living bog.



Cathaoirleach Cllr Frank Moran said in his speech “This project has undoubtedly brought about positive changes and immense benefits to the users of the bog boardwalk and amenity within the area.”

Thereafter Minister Humphreys visited the Upgrade of Brocca Road, Mucklagh which has provided safe connectivity for the community from the centre of the village to well used services, facilities and residences.

Cathaoirleach of Tullamore Municipal District Cathaoirleach Cllr Neil Feighery said “The construction of these upgrade works has significantly improved access and safety here on Brocca Road. The upgraded infrastructure, including wider lanes, better signage, and improved

lighting has created a safer environment for all road users. This development will undoubtedly reduce accidents and fatalities, ensuring the well-being and security of our community.”



In the afternoon Minister Humphreys visited public realm works at The Green, Birr. Cathaoirleach of Birr Municipal District Cathaoirleach Cllr John Carroll took great pleasure in officiating this opening which has built on the success of previous works carried out in Birr under Offaly County Council's Public Realm Plan which has added value to the street for the enjoyment of locals and visitors.



Ms. Ann Dillon, Director of Services with Offaly County Council said “Birr town is a key, unique, heritage town in Offaly and deserves continued investment to capitalise on visitors to the main tourism attractions in the area. A further TVR project to develop the Market square in into a more pedestrian friendly plaza that will facilitate outdoor dining and be a

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recreation space for events, will further enhance Birr Town's offering for the future. "

The Minister's final stop of the day was in Shannonbridge where she officially opened public realm projects funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. These included the enhancement of an outdoor space at the Shannonbridge Tourist Office/Lock House and public realm connections throughout the village.



Anna Marie Delaney, CE of Offaly County Council extended sincere gratitude to all the communities in Offaly an for their diligent work and commitment to developing their towns and villages noting "Shannonbridge Action Group have tremendous resilience and the community and business together are striving to reimagine their future and the success of Shannonbridge".

Ms. Delaney said "relations between the Department of Rural and Community Development and Offaly County Council has always been strong and we will endeavour to continue this relationship with the support of Offaly communities."

Reflecting on the day, Minister Humphreys commend the ongoing work throughout the County. Noting the Department of Rural and Community Development has funded projects to the value of €29m in the County since 2020, reiterating it is very clear that when communities, Local Authorities and Departments work together great results can be produced.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

National Enterprise Awards Final 2023

Congratulations to Gretchen Donovan and the team from Glass Innovations Ltd. who have represented Offaly so brilliantly in the 2023 National Enterprise Awards and won a Regional Award at the prize giving ceremony held in The Mansion House on 1st June. Simon Coveney, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment presented the award to Gretchen.

Glass Innovations is an engineering company that specialises in printing and painting on glassware, for clients in the drinks, beauty, and retail industry. Glass Innovations receives the designs and artworks from clients, and then using in-

house expertise and equipment, transforms basic glassware into a luxurious product with optimum "shelf presence".

Speaking of the win Orla Martin, Head of Enterprise Offaly, said "Glass Innovations is a success story and we are delighted to support such an exciting and dynamic company".

On behalf of Cathaoirleach Frank Moran, Offaly County Council Members, Chief Executive Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Service Ann Dillon and the Local Enterprise Office Offaly, we wish Glass Innovations all the best with their business endeavors.

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Pictured at the National Enterprise Awards, John Magee, Chair of the LEO Network; Gretchen Donovan, Glass Innovations Ltd.; Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment; Orla Martin, LEO Offaly and Cllr. Neil Feighery, Offaly County Council.

Offaly ready to rival Europe's key cities as green Data Centre hub

Offaly in the Midlands of Ireland is well-placed to become a new global hub for data centres with the potential to create thousands of green jobs, according to a new report by technology company Siemens.



The study, commissioned by Offaly County Council, explores how Offaly in the Irish Midlands region could rival Dublin, Frankfurt, London, Amsterdam and Paris in being an anchor for data centres powered by renewable energy. The Feasibility study was co-funded by the EU Just Transition Fund and North Offaly Development Fund (NODF). The North Offaly Development Fund is a community group with Rhode Green Energy Park as its flagship project.

New Grant Support - Energy Efficiency Grant

The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Micro Report, GreenStart Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 50% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €5,000. The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses.

The Energy Efficiency Grant is another support from the Local Enterprise Offices for small businesses that enables them to increase their competitiveness and productivity. Small businesses are also able to avail of the Lean for Micro, Digital Start and Green for Micro programmes through their LEO that will all help small businesses to become more competitive and increase their productivity. www.localenterprise.ie/energy for more information on the new grant.

Offaly Job Fair 2023

The Offaly Job Fair took place again this year after a very successful inaugural event last year. Job seekers from all over the Midlands and further afield flocked to the Offaly Job Fair. There were over thirty employer stands and hundreds of jobs on offer.



The Tullamore and District Chamber of Commerce together with support from the

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Local Enterprise Office Offaly, Offaly Local Development Company, LOETB, the Technical University of the Shannon and Tullamore and District Rotary Club organised the event.



Upcoming 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>

Upcoming Events	Date
How to submit your Income Tax Return on ROS	Tues 20th Jun
How to use TikTok to market your business (beginners)	Mon 17th Jul
SYOB Evening Course	Wed 30th Aug - Wed 4th Oct
Management Development Programme	Mon 4th Sep - Mon 18th Dec
SYOB Day (In Person - Tullamore Library)	Mon 11th Sep - Mon 25th Sep
Social Media Marketing Bootcamp (5 sessions)	Tues 12th Sep - Tues 10th Oct
Grow Your Business Programme Introduction Webinar	Wed 20th Sep
How to plan a new website for your business	Tues 26th Sep
SYOB Evening Course	Thurs 28th Sep - Thurs 2nd Nov
SYOB Evening Course	Tues 7th Nov - Tues 12th Dec
Digital Marketing Programme (6 sessions)	Wed 8th Nov - Wed 13th Dec
SYOB Day Course	Mon 27th Nov - Mon 11th Dec

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* ceased on the 31st May 2023. Accordingly, deferred tenancy terminations may take effect over a staggered period from 1st May. Further information on the pathways available to Tenants on valid Notice of Termination are available at

<https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Housing/News/TENANT%20IN%20SITU%20NOTICE%20OF%20TERMINATION.html>

There are 497 on the Social Housing Support List at the end of May 2023.

A further 670 active tenancies are currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 11 signed up for HAP and 7 exited from HAP in May.

At the end of May, 34 single people and 18 couples and families were being supported in emergency accommodation.

The annual rent review of Local Authority Tenants has commenced. 1,984 rent assessment forms issued to Local Authority Tenants. These and any queries from tenants can be directed to our email RentReview@offalycoco.ie.

Local Authority Home Loans (LAHL): currently 4 applications at approval in principle stage to a value of €656,000. 3 loan applications with housing agency

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

Total housing stock at end of May 2023 is 2036.

307 maintenance calls were logged in May.

Housing Capital Programme Update

Banagher, Kylebeg (18 Units) – Stage 4 approval received on 25th June 2021. Project is due for completion in Q2, 2023.

Beechgrove, Belmont (7 units) – Project commenced on site on 10th November 2021. Due for completion in Q3, 2023.

Elderberry Drive Moneygall (4 Units) – Construction complete and houses allocated

Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 no. Older Person's dwellings) – Stage 4 approval was granted on 11th April 2022, contractor appointed and has started on site. Due for completion in Q4 2023.

Circular Road, Daingean (9 units) – Contractor appointed and project started on site in early March 2023.

Housing

Raheen, Clara development (38 units) – Project started on site in March 2023. Due for completion in Q3, 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 approval application will be 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 July 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

Oaklee: Kearney's Field, Tullamore (41 Units) – Completion in Q2, 2023.

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

Sofia Housing, Clonamore, Tullamore – Works schedule to be completed in June 2023

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 Q2, 2023.

8 Units (6 Turnkey & 2 Part V) Approved May 2023 @ Bell Lane, Daingean

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

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

Community Recognition Fund 2023

This Fund of €669,691 for capital projects was launched by DRCD on 24 January 2023 specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting Ukrainian refugees in significant numbers. A total of 26 applications were recommended by the LCDC subcommittee and approved for submission to the Department by the LCDC on 9th March 2023. Final approval for the successful projects was received from DRCD on 22nd May 2023. A funding agreement has been agreed between OCC and DRCD and all groups are being contacted to arrange completion of works. All projects must be completed by 18 October 2024.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2028

Offaly Local Community Development Committee is holding a consultation process as part of preparing a new integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for the 6 year period 2023-2028. 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.

Draft High Level Goals have been prepared for the next LECP, which are available for feedback. To advise the process Offaly LCDC and the LECP Advisory Steering Group prepared the following documents which are available on the Offaly County Council website at

<https://www.offaly.ie/I56H6LR>

A: Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals Document

B: Offaly Socio Economic Profile

C: Offaly Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2027

In person consultation meetings were held in the 3 MD's in May and an online questionnaire was available for completion at <https://submit.link/1Kp>

All submissions, comments and feedback will help further develop the High Level Goals and help develop an Implementation Plan.

Pride of Place 2023

The IPB Pride of Place is an all-island competition that is based on communities demonstrating their pride in their place by oral presentations where they highlight community activities, culture and many other aspects that contribute to their pride of place. It is also important that the community demonstrates a real partnership with their local authority and shows that all sectors of the community are included.

For the 2023 competition Community Section has entered 3 community groups, one from each MD, as follows:

Community Group	POP Category	Municipal District
Bracknagh Community Association	Category 1 Population 0 to 500	Edenderry MD
Tullamore Tidy Towns	Category 9 Climate Action and Biodiversity	Tullamore MD
Ballyboy Community Development	Category 7 Community Wellness Initiative	Birr MD

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Judging will take place over the summer months and the awards ceremony will be held on Friday 10th November 2023 in Armagh City Hotel in Armagh.

Public Participation Network



- Offaly Disability Equality Network Launch of the Accessible Report & Action Plan 2023 – 2025.
- New representatives: Induction took place for the new PPN representatives. Two Comhairle na nÓg representatives are joining the Community, Cultural & Emergency Services SPC under the Community & Voluntary Pillar, and one representative is joining the under the Social Inclusion pillar.



Pillar meetings

A number of meetings took place during May with a selection of Guests presenting on their areas of interest and also consulting with the attendees.

The OCC Climate Action Team attended the Environmental Pillar meeting in the Bridge House Hotel on May 10th.

At meetings of the Community & Voluntary



Pillar in Birr, Bracknagh and Tullamore, and the Social Inclusion Pillar meetings in Edenderry and

Tullamore, the Climate Action Team presented on the Climate Action Plan while



the Community Team led by Brian Pey presented on the LECP. There was good engagement and discussion at all of the meetings. Some PPN members opted to bring the surveys back to their groups for further engagement.

Property Marking Machine

The Property Marking Machine was on display during Community Engagement Week, a Gardaí & IFA initiative. This was a good promotional opportunity, with PPN, JPC



and Secretariat representatives attending at the different locations around the county including Tullamore, Edenderry, Daingean, Ballycumber and Ferbane.



Age Friendly

The National Older Person's Convention took place on 11th & 12th May 2023 in Tralee, County Kerry. Day one of the convention consisted



of speakers, workshops and a gala dinner. Day two was a panel of speakers made up of Philip King,

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musician, film maker & broadcaster, Donnchadh Walsh, Chartered Physiotherapist, Bon Secours Hospital, Tralee, Dr. Stephanie O'Keefe, National Director, Operations Planning and Francis Brennan, Age Friendly Kerry Ambassador. There was an open discussion followed by



questions and answers from the audience and was attended by members of

Offaly Older Person's Council and Offaly Age Friendly Programme Manager.



The Offaly Older Person's AGM was held on 30th May 2023 in the Tullamore Court Hotel. The event was well attended and was opened by the Age Friendly Ambassador for Offaly Michael Duignan. Guest speakers included PJ Lynam, Assistant Managing Director, National Ploughing Association, Sergeant Graham Kavanagh Laois/Offaly Crime Prevention Officer and Cianan Mullooly Former Chief Correspondent for RTÉ News, Community & Social Enterprise Worker. Information tables were provided on the day by LOETB, HSE, TFI-Local Link, Tullamore Library, Home Instead, TASK Community Care, Offaly County Council Check the Register, Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Consultation was carried out with the group on the development of both the Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2028 & the Local and Economic Community Plan 2023-2028.



Comhairle Na nÓg

Members Meeting 17May:

- 13 members attended.
- Declan (ODEN), Fergus (Community Gardaí) and Megan (libraries), attended to support the members Disability Awareness raising campaign.
- The library working group are designing a bookmark to be distributed in the libraries across the county during Offaly PPN Disability Awareness Week.
- ODEN will roll out a school's campaign with input from Comhairle na nÓg members.
- Aisling Lambe from Offaly County Council Climate Action team, joined members' meeting to discuss the Local Climate Action Plan and how young people can contribute.



Healthy Offaly



Finally the announcement that all involved in Healthy Offaly was waiting to hear came on 3rd May with the news that Department of Health and Pobal

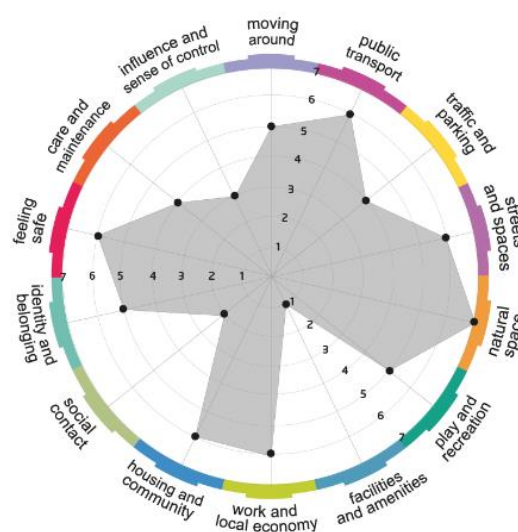
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had approved our Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 online application and local strategy. A grant award of up to €198,122.42 has been approved under the Programme. The funding has been provided for activities and planning in 2022 and to fund the implementation of a three-year strategy in Offaly that contributes to the Healthy Ireland Outcomes Framework as part of HIF Round 4 2023-2025. Rollout of the five approved actions to be delivered by Clara Community & Family Resource Centre, Social Farming Ireland, The Football Association of Ireland, Offaly Sports Partnership and Crinkle Sports & Recreation Centre will now commence in the summer and autumn of 2023.

On 11th May a 'Place Standard' training workshop took place for all Healthy Ireland Coordinators. The 'Place Standard' tool looks at our environment and how it has an important effect on our lives and our wellbeing. Improving the quality of places and the opportunities we have access to can help to tackle health and wellbeing inequalities. Understanding the existing and potential strengths of a place can help us make good decisions and allow us to

target resources to where they are needed most. This approach can deliver better results over the long term. The Place Standard tool can also support the design and delivery of successful places, creating good-quality development where people want to live. The remit of the Healthy Cities/Counties Coordinators to contribute to the discussion and policy formation on creating healthier places to live and work.

Sample Place Standard Tool



SPORTS

Funding

- 1: Age & Opportunity Active grant aid to the value of €1,600 secured.
- 2: Sport Ireland HER Outdoors Week funding to the value of €2,150 secured.



Staffing

Johnny Corboy commenced his ASPIRE graduate placement with Offaly Sports Partnership in May. Funded by Sport Ireland, this is an 11 month placement. Johnny will be working across the various sections of the Sports Partnership in the coming months.

Sport Ireland events and meetings

Our Sports Development Officers Jean Brady (Sports Inclusion Development Officer) and Liam O Reilly (ACE Coordinator) attended Sport Ireland's Development Officer Conference on the 30th and 31st May in the Sport Ireland Campus. Liam O Reilly also attended the recent Local Sports Partnership network communications day.

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Congratulations

At our recent AGM, the following congratulatory notes were minuted: -

Boxers, Gráinne Walsh, Nicole Buckley and Paul Loonam, following their recent attendance at a civic reception hosted by Offaly County Council in honour of their sporting achievements

Josephine Healion on her participation in the recent Paracycling World Cup in Huntsville, Alabama



Gráinne Walsh, Paul Loonam, Nicole Buckley and Josephine Healion

Offaly GAA - u20 Leinster Hurling Champions 2023



Irish Rugby Women's 7s following their qualification for the Olympic Games in 2024. Megan Burns of Tullamore RFC is a member of this 7s panel

Aoife Dalton on securing the "BearingPoint Women's Young Player of the Year" at the recent Leinster Rugby Awards 2023



Good wishes

At our recent AGM, the following good wishes were minuted - Offaly GAA on their participation in the upcoming Joe McDonagh Cup Final (hurling)

Programmes - ACE programme – Liam O Reilly

May saw the culmination of the ACE Spring athletics programme. Check out video footage from the day here <https://www.facebook.com/OffalySportsPartnership/videos/771280601339965>

A four week fundamental movement skills programme commenced in Clonmacnoise National School for junior infants through to 6th class

Liam and Johnny are also delivering a coaching programme for 18 students from the Tullamore Community Training Centre

Bike Week – Olivia Murphy

A range of activities were delivered in support of Bike Week 2023

Grand Canal Greenway Relay on Saturday 13/05 – Edenderry to Pollagh

150 people took part in the inaugural Grand Canal Greenway Relay on Saturday 13/05 from Edenderry to Pollagh

Congrats to the participants that completed the full Edenderry to Pollagh cycle; and well done to all the families and recreational cyclists who joined us on our "stages" event.

Many thanks also to Team 905 (Edenderry), Grand Canal Wheelers (Daingean), Tullamore Cycling & Touring Club and Lynx Cycling Club for providing ride leaders and refreshments on the day

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Grand Canal Greenway Relay



Daingean Bike Week

Congratulations to the Grand Canal Wheelers in Daingean on the successful hosting of their Peatlands tour
Congratulations also to the club on their hosting of a Grand Canal Greenway cycle to Ballycommon with Daingean National School



Birr Bike Week

Congratulations to Wolfrap Cycling Club on their successful hosting of the stages day 1 finish and stages day 2 start for the Rás Tailteann 2023

Congratulations also to the club on hosting a successful lunchtime cycle for schools in the area



Ferbane Bike Week

Congratulations to Lynx Cycling Club on their hosting of an “E-bike the Blooms event”; and their club / school event with St Cynoc’s Senior School

Community sports hubs

May saw the continuation of a number of successful programmes in both the Daingean and Mucklagh sports hubs. Additional programmes are also being planned for summer delivery targeting children and young people.

Healthy Offaly “Drop & Move”

Following the securing of funding from Healthy Offaly, the Sports Partnership’s “Drop & Move” programme commenced in May. The programme is being piloted across six GAA clubs; with an Offaly Sports Partnership tutor attending each GAA club to deliver a 45 min exercise session for parents, guardians, etc. while their children train.



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Integration

Offaly Sports Partnership hosted its second annual Africa Day athletics event in the Tullamore Harriers.

Inter schools remote fitness challenge

May saw Offaly Sports Partnership's inter schools remote fitness challenge return. 4,331 pupils across 36 schools participated on the programme throughout May. Results are currently being collated and analysed; and will be announced shortly.

Sports Inclusion Development Programme – Jean Brady

Among the programmes delivered in May were: -

Zumba taster sessions in St Marys Youth Centre for those who completed the Healthy Choices / Healthy Community Programme continued in May. The group also took part in taster Pilates sessions with Michelle Flynn in Leah Victoria. Both activities were a huge success.



IWA Boccia Tournament took place in Mucklagh Community Centre on the 16th of May. 12 teams took part with buses travelling from Offaly, Longford, Mullingar

and Athlone. Well done to all who took part in a very competitive and enjoyable day.



In association with Offaly LDC and Oaklands Secondary School, Jean delivered leadership training to 3rd and 5th year students on the 24th of May. The pupils worked on their leadership skills throughout the two hours while also learning a variety of team building games to deliver to younger members of their school community.



From an advocacy point of view, Jean presented on the 1:1 Adapted Physical Activity programme to the Laois / Offaly CYPSC Board on Thursday, 4th May.

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

Cruinniú na nÓg, Saturday 10th June

Cruinniú na nÓg is Ireland's national day of free creative activity for children and young people up to 18 years of age. Offaly Libraries, on behalf of Offaly County Council, has organised a diverse range

of **workshops** in all **8 library locations** and **at the Offaly Volunteer Centre hub.**

Creative activities include workshops on music, abstract art, illustration, creative writing, and story-telling.

Community Culture and Emergency Services



Offaly Libraries has also commissioned key **development projects** as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, with **students from 11 Primary and Secondary schools** around the county learning new skills including creative writing, clay character design, film-making, upcycling, and sustainable business and soap-making.

The outcomes of each of these projects will be unveiled on the day of Cruinniú na nÓg in various library branches.

[View our Cruinniú na nÓg events programme here.](#)

On June 10th, children were invited to collect **“Spinning Plate Kits”** and **Craft Kits** to suit all ages. For more information, please contact your local branch. [Details can be found here.](#)



*Kindly funded by **Creative Ireland**.*

Bealtaine Festival 2023

Offaly Libraries successfully delivered a vibrant and varied programme of events in celebration of Bealtaine Festival in May.



Free Irish Wildflower Seed packs were distributed across the county and we welcomed **59 attendees** to our **LOETB Wreath Making Workshops**.

Tea and Coffee mornings were also on offer in our libraries as well as other events including a **Gramophone Concert**, **Storytelling with Daria**, a **Gratitude Walk** and a talk on **Smartphone Photography**.



Local author, **Vincent Henry**, visited **Clara Library’s** Coffee Morning and read excerpts from his book **‘One Last Bend’**, which is [available to borrow](#) in all our libraries.



Bealtaine is an Age & Opportunity Arts initiative. Offaly Libraries Bealtaine programme is kindly co-funded by **Creative Ireland**.

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Community Culture and Emergency Services

Grant Success for Offaly Libraries



Offaly Libraries are thrilled to announce success in our application for funding from **CYPSC** to continue our popular **Parenting**

Programme, delivered in partnership with Laois Libraries. CYPSC has also awarded funding to Offaly Libraries to assist in delivering our 2023 strand of **Sensory Offaly** programming. **Preparations are underway for programmes to start in September 2023.**



NEW! Knitting and Crochet Group in Ferbane Library

Ferbane Library is delighted to report that a new Knitting and Crochet group has been established.



The group held their first meeting at 11am on Tuesday, 16th May and will continue to meet weekly. Those wishing to join the group are more than welcome. More information can be found by contacting Ferbane Library on 090 6454259 or

ferbanelibrary@offalycoco.ie

Ukulele Classes in Clara Library

Did you know that Clara Library hosts Ukulele Classes on Wednesday mornings? Ukulele Classes offered in conjunction with Music Generation Offaly and LOETB.



For more information, please contact Clara library on 057 93 31389 or claralibrary@offalycoco.ie



Music Generation
Offaly/Westmeath
Uibh Fhailí/na hIarmhí

Holiday
Prep with

Offaly Libraries

With the Summer holidays just around the corner, we would like to remind everyone that your library stocks plenty of [Travel Books](#) to help you plan the perfect getaway.



Our users can also [request items online](#) in time for their trip or they can ditch the books in favour of our free app [Borrowbox for eBooks and eAudiobooks](#).

Community Culture and Emergency Services

STEAM Experiences at Birr Library



73 students joined staff at Birr Library during **3 class visits** in May for some STEAM experiences.

Library staff demonstrated the wonders of our **3D Printer** and the students were enthralled with animal encounters, trips through space and even time travel, all through the use of our **Virtual Reality** headsets.



A **workshop** exploring the aerodynamics of **Paper Airplanes** was also delivered in keeping with the STEAM theme.

Healthy Ireland Events in May



A series of **Healthy Ireland at your Library** talks were organised both in branch at Tullamore Library and online during the month of May. **15 people** attended a talk on

Wellness during Menopause delivered by Dr Diane Cooper of EduFit. On the 10th May, we welcomed **27 students** for a presentation on **internet safety**, delivered by CyberSafeKids.

'Circle of Friends' Exhibition in Tullamore Library



Tullamore Library is hosting 'Circle of Friends', an exhibition of works by students of artist Claire Guinan's art group. This beautiful collection of paintings will be on display until the end of June.

'Under an Irish Sky' Exhibition Launch in Edenderry Library



Tullamore Library welcomed **35 attendees** to the May launch of Pauline McNelis's art exhibition 'Under an Irish Sky'. The exhibition has now moved to Edenderry Library and will launch there on 7th June.

Little Library Bags launching in June

The First 5 Little Library Bags initiative returns from June 8th, and children starting primary school in September 2023 can collect their free bag containing books and a story card on visiting the library at all library branches.



Community Culture and Emergency Services

Summerstars: Returning this June



We look forward to another **Summer Stars** Reading Adventure this Summer, with plenty of events organised in our libraries.

More details will be announced soon! [Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for updates.](#)



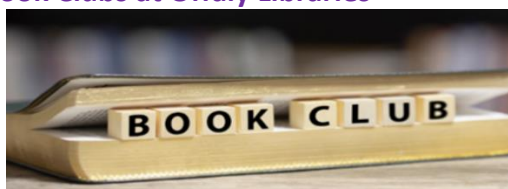
Offaly Libraries Comic Con will return this September!

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 over the Summer months. Watch this space!

Book Clubs at Offaly Libraries



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

We are proud to welcome our **newest book club to Banagher Library**. They had their first meeting on Wednesday 3rd May, bringing our collective of book clubs up to 10 strong! Here is a taste of what our book clubs are reading this month:



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 **1,836 subscribers** to the newsletter. Follow the link to subscribe to our newsletter: [Offaly Libraries Newsletter](#)

Sign up for our School Mailing List!

Offaly Libraries invite education professionals to sign up for our school-focused 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

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental Management

In May, the Environment Section received 76 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)	50
Waste (dumping/burning/unauthorised sites)	8
Noise (community/commercial/industrial)	2
Control of Horses	3
Control of Dogs	8
Water Quality	5

Environmental Awareness

Green Schools Awards

In May, 11 Offaly schools were awarded their Green Flag in Athlone. The schools were:

1. Gaelscoil na Lochra, Sandymount, Birr – Energy Flag
2. Edenderry Youth Reach – Water Flag
3. St. Mary's Secondary School, Edenderry – Water Flag
4. Mercy Primary School – Global Citizenship Litter and Waste
5. St. Cronan's NS, Dronakeenan
6. Scoil Mhuire NS, Tullamore – Marine Flag
7. Scoil Mhuire, Cloneyowan – Global Citizenship Food and Biodiversity
8. Mercy Primary School – Global Citizenship Litter and Waste
9. Colaiste Iosagain – Global Citizenship Energy
10. St. Joseph's NS, Gortnamona – Global Citizenship Energy
11. Scoil Bhríde NS, Edenderry – Biodiversity

All the schools worked on their environmental theme for the last two years and their hard work was recognized on the day.



In addition, an Offaly school was selected as Green Schools Water School of the Year for the East & Midlands Region – **Edenderry Youth Reach**. The focus of this initiative was on water conservation and raising awareness about protecting our drinking water and freshwater ecosystems.

Waste Management

3No. historical landfills at Kilcormac, Birr and Clara are going to tender for completion of remediation works under Historical Landfill scheme, funded by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. A Regional framework is in place. RPS Environmental Consultants have attended all 3 sites and provided assessment Reports. This will form the basis for the tender document.

Other historical landfill sites in the county such as at Ferbane and Edenderry will require assessment in conjunction with EPA prior to any development taking place. The EPA will approve final remediation works at the sites.

Climate Action Environment Water & Transportation

Civic Amenity Sites

Anti-Dumping Initiative for 2023

Offaly County Council was approved by the DECC for a grant of €72,500, to tackle the issues surrounding illegal dumping which remains high on national and local agendas. The E&WS department submitted projects and the following met the selection criteria for the grant:

1. Cleaning up of illegal dumping and litter blackspots in Offaly
2. Public awareness Campaign – promoting environmental issues such as Dashboard Dining, Unauthorized waste collectors, dog fouling
3. Provision of 5 no. solar litter bins, bringing the total to 15 across the County

Promotion of all Civic Amenity Sites will commence in conjunction with the CA sites operator during July and August under the Anti Dumping Initiative.

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Burial Grounds

St. Mary's Cemetery, Edenderry: The Part 8 process has progressed to the

assessment of the submissions following public consultation and the compiling of the Chief Executive's report. It is planned to have the Part 8 before the Council for approval at the July meeting.

Veterinary

Control of Dogs: From January to May 2023 we have cared for 118 dogs in the Dog Shelter and managed to reunite and rehome 111 of them in the quarter. This represents an increase of 30% in surrenders compared to the same period last year. We also received 25 complaints in that period.

Control of Horses: We have dealt with 16 complaints under Control of Horse legislation from January to May 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.

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.

Climate Action Environment Water & Transportation

TRANSPORTATION

Roads Program

Works across all the program headings in the 2023 Roads program have now commenced across each Municipal District. Works have been awarded for Active Travel Projects in Rhode, Ballycumber and Spollenstown Road in Tullamore. It is envisaged that all of the aforementioned schemes will commence in June 2023. Tenders for 5km of a pavement overlay were issued in May with a tender return date of the 6th of June 2023.

Velocity Patching Units

The Roads Department have taken delivery of two new Velocity Patching Units which will modernize and improve our approach towards Road Maintenance across our County. Both units will be deployed into service in mid June 2023 and will greatly decrease the Carbon footprint associated with this bespoke work. Both machines will operate on Hydro treated Vegetable Oil(HVO) low carbon biofuel which produces 90% less carbon emissions than standard road diesel. These vehicles are part of a wider pilot propose to assess the impact of HVO on our wider fleet with the view to migrating to HVO where possible in early 2024.

Birr North Distributor Road

The Roads team in collaboration with TOBIN consulting Engineers are progressing the Birr North Distributor Road with the intention to have a set of contract documents available for tender by the end of Q4 2023. It is hoped that subject to Department of Transport approval we will be in a position to commence construction works in 2024.

Speed Limit Review

The speed limit review is ongoing and is programmed for completion in Q4 2023 at which time it will come before the members for approval. It is tentatively planned that the draft program will go before each Municipal District in July for further comment. This will be followed by a public consultation, which is tentatively scheduled for August/September 2023, and this will allow for all and any comments to be submitted and considered in order to deliver a robust review.

Public Lighting Update

Our specialist Lighting contractor is currently working on repairing and maintaining our 9287 lighting units across the County. As the 14th of June there are approximately 80 lighting units or 0.86% of outages across the network which are programmed for repair.

Edenderry Town Inner Relief Road

Offaly County Council completed the tender award process for Edenderry Inner Relief Phase 2 with the contract award going to Tower Plant and Civil Engineering Limited. Works are scheduled to commence onsite in mid-June 2023 and expected completion is Q2 2024.



Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Finance

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 31 May 2023			
OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2023 €m	Preliminary Value to May 2023 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	32.97	12.04	36.5%
Grants and Subsidies Income	40.80	9.08	22.2%
OCC to 31st May 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	16.69	3.21	0.22
2023 Cash Collected to end of May	7.26	3.12	0.25
Closing Balance May 31st, 2023	12.44	0.65	0.07
<u>2022 Cash collected to May 31st</u>	6.62***	2.96	0.22
% Collection at this point in 2022	110%	105%	114%
*** Collections impacted in 2022 by Q1 waiver and effect of building business back up after lockdowns			
<u>Bank Overdraft to 31st May 2023</u>	-	-	% YTD
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date		47	31%
Bank Interest and non conforming charges to May 31st 2023 YTD (Estimate)		€4,368	(Estimate)
Bank Administration and transactional charges to May 31st 2023 YTD (Estimate)		€13,114	(Estimate)