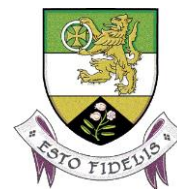


APRIL 2019

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



Do: Baill Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

To: Each Member of Offaly County Council

Tuairisc mhíosúil bainistíochta a bhreithniú i gcomhair
tionóil mí Aibreán.

Monthly Management Report for consideration at the May
2019 Monthly Meeting.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

A schedule of Chief Executive Orders is included with the
Council Agenda.

FINANCE:

Report to the 30th April 2019

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MUSIC GENERATION

Singfest a 5-day festival of singing will take place from 22nd to 26th May in Athlone IT and culminates in a Gala Concert for the children and their families on 25th May. 26th May is Community Come & Sing Day a day of singing & workshops for both choirs and individuals to come along and sing together. A Music Generation Intergenerational Concert will be held in Tullamore Library on June 14th at 12pm

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st May

BIODIVERSITY

Geashill are hosting a BioBlitz for a 24-hour period from 29 to 30 May.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDLANDS: SKILLS, EDUCATION & JOBS FAIR

This Skills, Education & Jobs Fair is an opportunity to engage with over 350 Bord na Mona employees accepting voluntary redundancy, to offer job opportunities in Manufacturing and Construction businesses across the Midland Region. Reservation of a table is free of charge, contact Martina: email@optimumevents.ie or call 086-8290390

REPORT AT A GLANCE

Offaly Tourism Development Seminar

A successful Inaugural Offaly Tourism Seminar took place on the 8th of April, in the Tullamore Court Hotel. This event was used to gather industry leaders together and provide a chance for them to network and be updated with relevant industry information

Grand Canal Greenway

Tullamore Urban - Part 8 submissions were due up to the 25th of April. Ballycommon to Kilbeggan - the Part 8 is at final design stage and it is expected to be published in May 2019. Turraun to Shannon Harbour - The Part 8 design stage is expected to be published in June 2019

Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is the start of the process of adaptation planning. The draft Strategy will go on public consultation in June 2019 and will be presented to the Elected Members of Offaly County Council for adoption in September 2019.

PLANNING

	To end April 2019	To end April 2018	Total 2018
Planning Applications	193	192	597
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	7	3	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	4 (0)	8(2)	41 (8)

Grand Canal Greenway – Tullamore Urban-Part 8

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway was published on the 14th of March; it encompasses a 2.8km section of the Grand Canal Greenway from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, West of Tullamore. This incorporates revisions to the previous Part 8 approved for the Grand Canal Greenway in 2015. Part 8 proposal going to Council for meeting on 20th May.

Grand Canal Greenway – Ballycommon to Kilbeggan

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway, 6.5km, in Offaly, (13km in total) is at final design stage and final consultation with relevant stakeholders including Waterways Ireland and local landowners is due to be completed in the next month. It is expected to be published in May 2019.

Funding for this Greenway has been allocated to both Offaly and Westmeath County Councils under the ORIS Fund, 2018. (Dept. of Rural and Community Development)

Grand Canal Greenway - Turraun to Shannon Harbour

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway (16km) is at design stage and final consultation with relevant stakeholders

including Waterways Ireland and local landowners is due to be completed in the next month. It is expected to be published in June 2019. Funding for this element of the Grand Canal Greenway has been sought under the National and Regional Greenway Strategy Fund, 2018, Dept. of Transportation Tourism and Sport, under a joint application with Waterways Ireland.

National Greenway Fund

OCC participated in a site assessment by Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and Failte Ireland for the funding application to complete the Grand Canal Greenway from Dublin to Shannonharbour. Council staff co-operated with staff from South Dublin and Kildare County Councils on the preparation for the technical assessment and the site visits. A decision is expected later this month.

Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail

A launch is being planned for 31st May in Kinnitty village.

Regional Social & Economic Strategy

The Regional Social & Economic Strategy for the Eastern & Midlands Region was adopted on the 3rd of May and comes into effect on the 28th of June 2019. The County Development Plan review process (initial public consultation) must proceed within 13 weeks from the adoption of the RSES.

HOUSING:**Housing Update**

- There are 710 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support at the end of April 2019.
- Social Housing Needs Assessment 2019 has commenced. Notice was placed in the local press and all relevant approved applicants on the Social Housing List have been written to. The required forms

should be completed and documentation submitted to the Housing Section by Friday, 17th May 2019.

- 16 housing allocations; 7 leasing allocations; and, 14 nominations to Approved Housing Bodies were made in 2019 to date.

Capital Update

Local Authority Direct Construction Projects

- Blundell Wood, 33 Units - under construction, delivery date summer 2019
- Chancery Lane, 18 Units - currently under construction, delivery date Q4, 2019
- Raheen Clara – Stage 1 submission to be progressed in 2019
- Rectory Lands – Stage 1 submission to be progressed in 2019
- Banagher, Kylebeg 18 Units, construction to start 2019
- Beechgrove Belmont, 7 Units construction to start 2019
- Moneygall, 2 Units construction to start 2019
- Circular Road, Daingean, 7 Units - Design Consultants appointed and site investigations complete

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

- Oaklee: Kearney's Field, 41 Units – Part 8 planning approved by the members at the April Council meeting
- Oaklee: Clonminch 19 Units - Part 8 advertised in April 2019. The closing date for submissions or observations is 3pm on Friday, 21st June 2019

Housing Grants

Departmental approval was received on 11th March advising that Offaly County Council's 2019 grant for Housing Adaptation Grants; Housing Mobility

Grants; and, Housing Aid for the Elderly is €1,244,948 of which €248,990 must be from the Council's own resources. (Offaly's 2018 original allocation was €1,203,009, and later raised to €1,443,397).

45 grants have been allocated to date, i.e., 24 Housing Aid for the Older People, 1 Mobility Aid Grants and 20 Housing Adaptation Grants.

ROADS

Edenderry Inner Relief Road

The Department of Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport has approved the procurement of Engineering Consultants for detailed design, archaeology and site investigation to progress the design stage of the Edenderry Inner Relief Road. It is anticipated that the detailed design and preparation of contract documents will be complete by the end of 2019.

Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is the start of the process of adaptation planning in Offaly County Council. Adaptation, along with mitigation, is an essential part of addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change.

The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was given statutory authority by the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

Working with the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region the Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was developed by a team of staff across various sections in Offaly County Council.

The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is currently being reviewed by Environmental Consultants for SEA and AA

screening. The draft Strategy will go on public consultation in June 2019. The Offaly Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will be presented to the Elected Members of Offaly County Council for adoption in September 2019.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) met on 11th April 2019. Agenda items included the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020, National Community Weekend; Local Migrant Integration Strategy & Community Enhancement Programme 2019.

Age Friendly Strategy

A Range of Bealtaine events have been organised in conjunction with the Arts Office, Offaly Older persons forum & OLDC. The Bealtaine launch took place on 2nd May at 5pm in the Áras. The National Older persons convention took place in Donegal 8th-10th May and was attended by members of Offaly Age Friendly



Network. A Music Generation Intergenerational Concert will be held in Tullamore Library on June 14th at 12pm. Age Friendly Sports programmes are being rolled out across Offaly in conjunction with Offaly Sports Partnership. The Age Friendly Alliance meets on Thursday 2nd May.

Public Participation Network

The Green Environmental Development Trust held 4 workshops around the county which were well received.

The launch of Green Offaly will take place in Lough Boora on 1st May 2019. A

Community Watch federation meeting will take place on May 20th to manage CCTV in communities across the county. Community Funding Information Evenings & Workshops took place in Birr, Mucklagh &



Edenderry to assist with applications for the Community Enhancement Programme 2019. Secretariat member, Linda Dowling has been elected to the National Secretariat group.

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath

This is a very exciting and busy time of year for Music Generation Offaly Westmeath (MGOW). We have just completed our orchestral residency Sinfonia which concluded in two concerts on 6th/7th April in Mullingar & Maynooth University.



The 2nd annual National Music Generation Musicians Day was held in Athlone IT on 15th April 2019. This major National event brought together 150 professional musicians from all backgrounds and musical genres, with management and administrative staff from across the 21 Music Generation cities and counties in Ireland.

Singfest a 5-day festival of singing from 22nd to 26th May in Athlone IT. It

comprises singing & workshops for Secondary & Primary schools; a Gala Concert and culminates in a Gala Concert for those children and their families on 25th May. 26th May is Community Come & Sing Day a day of singing & workshops for both choirs and individuals to come along and sing together.

OCC Arts Office

Arts Acts Grants - 19 grants have been awarded to community groups.

Birr Writers Residency 2019 - 4 residencies have been awarded

Professional Artist Support Scheme: 12 awarded funding

Festival Arts Grants: Festivals funded will be taking place in April/May, include Tullamore Tradfest, Birr Festival of Music and Voice, Tullamore Club Sessions.

FilmOffaly 2019

- FilmOffaly Short Film Award - Shortlist due end of April
- Marketing Strategy – Summary Draft Received
- Films on Location:- Two large productions (500K-1m) at Charleville Castle and a production around Clara by IFTA Short Film award 2018 Award Winner.
- Mini Movie 2018 Films were selected for the finals of the Young Filmmaker of the Year Awards.

Creative Ireland – Arts Office projects include: Geashill Public Art Project – artist selected; Vintage Luminaries

TCAC- Arts Officer along with other TCAC board members to make a presentation to the council regarding the Arts Centre at the May Council meeting

OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (OSP)

Funding

Capital application regarding playground equipment to the value of €22,500 submitted

Play day & Recreation week application to be submitted. Play Day and Recreation Week to take place between June and September 2019

Application to the value of €5,000 submitted to the communities' integration fund 2019

€5,000 allocated for Bike Week

Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Scheme – Edenderry GAA submitted under stream 1

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019

Closing date for receipt of applications is 31st May. Funding available under three measures: -

- Small scale maintenance / promotion / marketing - €20,000 per project to a max of nine projects
- Medium scale repair / upgrade & new trail development - €200,000 per project to a max of four projects
- Large scale repair / upgrade & new trail development - €500,000 (one project)

Programmes

A civic reception was held recently hosted by Offaly County Council to recognise the achievements of Special Olympians – Mark Sadler, Damien Breslin and Oisín Feery at the Abu Dhabi World Games.



Offaly Sports Partnership in conjunction with Athletics Ireland coordinated the delivery of the All Ireland SPORTSHALL Athletics Festival on Wednesday, 27th March in Athlone IT. 12 counties and 600 primary school pupils participated on the day.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Offaly's "Best Young Entrepreneurs"

Offaly's "Best Young Entrepreneurs" for 2019 and €50,000 investment fund winners were announced at an awards ceremony hosted by Local Enterprise Office Offaly on the 2nd May.

IBYE, now in its fifth year, is a nationwide youth enterprise initiative to help 18-to-35 year olds with an innovative business idea, new start-up or established business. The six winners and runners-up were chosen from a shortlist of fifteen local finalists and will now share a €50,000 investment fund.

The county final was hosted by LEO Offaly. The 'Best New Idea' category, with a €7,000 investment fund, was won by Brian Darby, founder of "Little Champions" School



lunches in Geashill. The runner-up award and €3,000 investment fund went to Martin McGuinness, of ACM Energy in Edenderry.



The winner of the 'Best Start-Up Business' category and the €15,000 investment fund was Christina McLoughlin, founder of Vove Media in Tullamore. The runner-up in this category, collecting a €5,000 investment fund, was Conor Scally, of S13 Ireland in Tullamore.

Meanwhile, the title of 'Best Established Business', with an investment fund of €15,000, went to Emma-Rose Conroy, founder of Euro Stallions (Ireland) Ltd in



Durrow, Tullamore. The runner-up in this category, scooping a €5,000 investment fund, was Mark Feely, of Carpentry Works in Daingean.

Emma-Rose Conroy was also awarded the title of 'Best Young Entrepreneur' for Offaly.



Upcoming Events and New Initiatives

Employment Opportunities in the Midlands: Skills, Education & Jobs Fair

This Skills, Education & Jobs Fair is an opportunity to engage with over 350 Bord na Mona employees accepting voluntary redundancy, to offer job opportunities in

Manufacturing and Construction businesses across the Midland Region.

Those leaving Bord na Mona are engaged in the following and are seeking new opportunities: Operations and Supply Chain Logistics including general operatives, fitters, team leaders and supervisors.

Businesses and educational bodies are encouraged to participate through reserving an exhibit table. Reservation of a table is free of charge. Those exhibiting are encouraged to share their job vacancies on a job board and meet potential employees on the day. Register by emailing Martina: email@optimumevents.ie or call 086-8290390

Lean for Small Businesses Training & Mentoring Programme

The programme will be delivered through two full day group workshops which will take place in Portarlington Enterprise Centre on 10th & 17th June 2019. The lean process is a method for creating a more effective business by eliminating wasteful practices and improving efficiency.

Management Development Programme with Blaise Brosnan

LEO Offaly & Laois will be running a 15-week Owner Management Development programme with Blaise Brosnan starting this September. To register your interest, contact the Local Enterprise Office Offaly.

Local Enterprise Businesses at Showcase 2020

Offaly's Craft & Design businesses are invited to apply for a subsidised stand in the LEO area at Showcase 2020 from the 19th – 22nd January 2020 in the RDS Dublin.



Summer Business Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched the Summer Business Training Course schedule. Booking is now available

for a number of courses such as Start your Own Business Course, Digital marketing for Business, Part-Time Business Start Up (while holding down a day job) and How to Sell Successfully.

LEO Outreach Offices: By Appointment

Birr: Thursday mornings

Edenderry: Tuesday afternoons

Ferbane: Wednesday mornings

Portarlington: First Wednesday morning of the month.

TOURISM

Offaly Tourism Development Seminar

A successful Inaugural Offaly Tourism Seminar took place on the 8th of April, in the Tullamore Court Hotel. This event was used to gather industry leaders together and provide a chance for them to network and be updated with relevant industry information. Those in attendance, were treated to some fantastic and informative presentations from guest speakers; Cillian Murphy of Loop Head Tourism, John Clendennen from Giltraps Townhouse & Glamping, Mark McGovern and Derek Dolan from Failte Ireland, who spoke about Irelands Hidden Heartlands and Ancient East respectively. Finally, Olive Farrelly, Tourism Officer for Offaly spoke about the work and developments happening within the county to promote it as a tourism destination.



The Seminar was well attended and guests included local representatives from Offaly

County Council and Laois County Council, accommodation providers, owners and managers of attractions, cafes and restaurants were also present, as well as community development associations, event and festival organisers and other relevant stakeholders from the tourism and hospitality industry.



The event was developed to bring industry providers together and use it as a platform to drive tourism forward for the coming year and beyond.



Tourist Office

It was with great anticipation that the new Tourist Office opened its doors to the public on Monday 13th May. Located on O'Connor Square, Tullamore, this prime town centre location is the perfect site to attract visitors



to centre of Tullamore. The office will be open Monday – Saturday and the tourism team are fortunate to have the assistance of a number of volunteers to assist them in servicing the public.

Events

The tourism sector is looking forward to the exciting season ahead and festivals and events are key to attracting visitors to the area.

A very successful Edenderry Harbour Festival was held in April and the



inaugural Tullamore Tradfest was a terrific success, welcoming visitors from as far as Switzerland to participate. We are delighted of the announcement that the Tradfest will return again next year and wish it continued success.



Upcoming events we are preparing for include the 25th Slieve Bloom Hill Walking Festival & Birr Festival of Music as May promises to be an exciting month in Offaly



HERITAGE

Offaly Heritage Forum

Two meetings of the Offaly Heritage forum have been held in 2019.

Archives

Offaly County Council are working with Offaly Historical Society to develop a county archive service in the Axis Business Park. The fit out of the unit has commenced and should be completed in June 2019. This will then offer much improved and streamlined service for the public and greatly improved storage for archives relating to the county. Progress is being made daily hosting information on www.offalyarchives.com

Town and Village renewal

Working with the wider OCC team with a particular focus on delivering the Croghan hill project.

Medieval Churches

In 2019 maintenance at conserved medieval churches will continue with an assessment needed for the church at St Rynagh's Banagher. We are working with Eglisk community to finish phase two of Drumcullen medieval church and Lemanaghan group on the repair of the boundary wall.

Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland programme for Offaly involves a team with the libraries, arts, architecture, corporate, heritage and community all working together. There is a budget of €97,000 to deliver the county programme in addition to €15,000 for Cruinniu na nOg (June 15). The Creative Communities grants are currently being assessed. Projects include the sculpture commission to commemorate the Battle of Geashill; development of Lough Boora Sculpture Park; support for the OFFline animation bursary; conservation of Ballycumber folly; the key commission in

2019 Vintage Luminaries based in Birr; funding to deliver programming in the library service; support for the county archive strategy; creative communities allocation; vernacular architecture. In addition, the LOETB has received €100,000 and the heritage officer is working on the team for this project.

Decade of Commemoration

The Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht have allocated €10,000 for commemorating this year. We are working with historical societies to deliver a number of projects focused on documenting and conserving material from this period.

Publications

A number publications are on hand in 2019 which are being facilitated by the Heritage Office including a number of memorial recording projects carried out by community groups.

Biodiversity

The Department has offered up to €67,000 for a three-year period to deliver actions from the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 in Offaly. A meeting of stakeholders was held on Monday 29 April to look at what options are viable. This will include actions relating to invasive species and the delivery of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan. Geashill are hosting a BioBlitz for a 24-hour period from 29 to 30 May. This will record the number of species seen and raise awareness of biodiversity within a village setting. The Offaly Naturalists' Field Club programme has commenced with 22 days of field trips during the year including hosting the Association of Field Clubs for 4 days in June.

Tidy Towns' Network

A county network meeting was held in April focusing on Town and Village Applications and other funding streams available to groups. Support is being provided to groups preparing their entry forms for 2019.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Spring into Storytime

April was the month for the national initiative of Spring into Storytime. This is part of the Right to Read programme. There were 35 different storytelling sessions around the county. The library staff visited schools and community centres as part of this programme. 850 children took part in this initiative.

Tradfest Tullamore

The family day in the library on Sunday 14th April as part of the new festival – Tradfest Tullamore. 331 visitors were in the library on Sunday for the family workshops.

Healthy Ireland

The free CPR training in five library locations during April and May were all well attended. The last remaining event was in Edenderry on May 13th.

Bealtaine 2019

As a joint programme with the PPN officer, Arts, library and OLDC there are 4 libraries hosting “Be our guest: Tea, Chat and Chill Cafes” around the county.

The launch of the Tovertafel or Magic Table in Tullamore is slightly delayed to accommodate all interested parties and a date in June will be confirmed later this month. The Tovertafel is a fun, care innovation that connects older people in the late stage of their dementia journey with each other and with their surroundings, all the while stimulating movement. The games were developed specifically for the target group and can be played both independently and under supervision.

Poetry Day Art competition

The poem chosen for the primary school is “Four Friends” by AA Milne. 33 entries were received. The poem chosen for secondary school students is “Postscripts” by Seamus Heaney. 36 entries were received. The

judging will take place on Saturday 11th May by local artists in Edenderry.

Comic Con

Tullamore library will host its first Comic Con on Saturday 18th May. This will include a number of stalls, cosplay competition for adults, children and families, a Viking Re-enactment group from Rhode, workshops, game stations and much more. The focus is on demonstrating the local interest and talents on the Animation, Comic/Graphic Novels and Gaming scene. The library will open from 10am – 5pm for this event.

Cruinniu na nÓg

Each library will host a series of workshops in the lead up to the 15th June. There are 58 events and workshops which reflect possible creative outlets including film, dance, music, art, sewing, map making and much more in 8 different locations. A full programme is available on

<https://cruinniu.creativeireland.gov.ie/events/location/offaly/>

Summer Stars 2019

Summer Stars is an annual programme which promotes children’s literacy and reading development. It takes place during the summer months and focuses on encouraging children to develop and continue the reading habit during their school holidays. This programme will be launched on the 15th June. Over 1,000 children took part in 2018. The target set for 2019 is 1,200 children.

A summer programme of events will accompany this launch which will include Harry Potter’s birthday parties, Heritage week events, Lego clubs just for starters.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Offaly County Council
Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary
To 30th April 2019

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2019 €m	Preliminary Value to April 2019 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	25.51	7.84	30.7%
Grants and Subsidies Income	26.87	4.97	18.5%

OCC to 30th April 2019

	<u>Rates</u> €m	<u>Rents</u> €m	<u>Loans</u> €m
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2019	2.21	0.81	0.39
Invoices/Adjustments	13.69	1.72	0.14
2019 Cash Collected to end of April	3.76	1.78	0.17
Closing Balance April 28th, 2019	12.14	0.76	0.36
<u>2018 Cash collected to April</u>	1.43	1.72	0.14
% Collection at this point in 2018	264%	104%	117%

Bank Overdraft to 30th April 2019

Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date	47	39%
Interest and non conforming charges to April 28th 2019 YTD	€6,838	
Bank Administration and transactional charges to April 28th 2019 YTD	€19,077	