



Do: Baill Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí

To: Each Member of Offaly County Council

Tuairisc mhíosúil bainistíochta a bhreithniú i gcomhair
tionóil mí Feabhra.

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Report to the 31st January 2019 – (Appendix I).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGILE INNOVATION SUPPORTS EVENT IN TULLAMORE

Enterprise Ireland in association with the Local Enterprise Office
Offaly is running this event on Agile Supports on 27th February
at 8:30 am in the Tullamore Court Hotel.

INTERTRADE FUNDING ADVISORY EVENT, ATHLONE

The event will take place on 28th February at 7.30 am in the
Radison Blu Hotel in Athlone. Find out about InterTrade
Ireland's Funding Advisory Services for Established Businesses.

DRAFT NOISE ACTION PLAN

The plan is available to download free of charge from
www.offaly.ie. or purchase at a charge of €5. Submissions,
should be made in writing before 4:00pm on 13th March 2019.

WASTE MANAGEMENT—BYE LAWS: UPDATE

A public information campaign has been initiated and further
information will become available during the year. The website
www.mywaste.ie can provide more information to the public.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

Funding Announcement

An announcement was made 08/01/2019 by
Minister Ring on the results of the Outdoor
Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Offaly
County Council were successful in getting
funding for the following two extensions to the
Grand Canal Greenway - Ballycommon
Bridge to Campbells Bridge and Kilbeggan
Branch of Greenway for €200,000 and
Pollagh to Lough Boora Discovery Park for
€200,000

Launch of Midlands Regional Enterprise Plans to 2020

The Midland Regional Enterprise Plan to
2020 was launched by Minister Humphreys
on February 6th 2019 in Mountmellick County
Laois. The Plan seeks to increase the
potential of the Midland Region to grow
business, resilience, and create new
employment opportunities, whilst bringing the
unemployment levels to within 1% of the state
average, ensuring that a greater number of
people both work and live in the Midlands;
and to see an improvement in labour force
participation towards the national average.



The delivery of the Plan will be overseen by a
Steering Committee comprising of
representatives from Local Authorities, state
agencies and private business. The
committee is chaired by Dr Anne Cusack,
Critical Healthcare and Project Management
is provided by Sarah Morgan.

Housing

There were 13 allocations made in January
2019 -6 Local Authority, 2 Leasing and 5 to
Approved Housing Bodies.

PLANNING:

	To end January 2019	To end Jan 2018	Total 2018
Planning Applications	35	43	597
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	0	1	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	2 (0)	4(2)	41 (8)

Funding Announcement

An announcement was made 08/01/2019 by Minister Ring on the results of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Offaly County Council were successful in getting funding for the following two extensions to the Grand Canal Greenway;

- (i) Ballycommon Bridge to Campbells Bridge and Kilbeggan Branch of Greenway is approved for €200,000
- (ii) Pollagh to Lough Boora Discovery Park is approved for €200,000

Strategic Infrastructure Development

Following discussion at the January Council meeting, the Chief Executive's Report on the West Offaly Peat SID application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

The application was for the continued use of the peat-fuelled power station to facilitate the phased transition to exclusive firing with Bio-Mass and associated development works at the existing West Offaly Power Station and existing ash disposal site at Derrylahan, Co Offaly.

ROADS:**National Roads Allocation**

Offaly County Council received the 2019 National Roads Allocation of €2,957,235

from the TII. This is an additional €373k on the initial 2018 allocation and includes €300k to progress the planning and design stage of the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link and a €1.62m pavement scheme for the N62 South of Sharavogue to Baveen.

Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation

Offaly County Council received the 2019 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation of €9,878,991 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. This is an additional €2.18m on the initial 2018 allocation and includes a specific improvement Grant of €285k for Edenderry Inner Relief Road and €165k for a pilot scheme - testing on roads over peat.

2019 Roads Programme

The 2019 Roads Programme will be prepared by the Roads section and three Municipal Districts for the March Council Meeting.

ENVIRONMENT / WATER SERVICES:**Waste Management—Bye Laws: update**

Bye Laws, known as the 'Bye-Laws for Waste Management (Storage, Presentation and Segregation of Household and Commercial Waste) 2018, came into effect on the 1st December, 2018. A public information campaign has been initiated and further information will become available during the year. The website www.mywaste.ie can provide more information to the public.

Illegal Dumping

2019 Data thus far: Waste complaints 18
Litter complaints 111

Noise Action Plan

The Draft Noise Action Plan is currently on Public Consultation, The Draft Plan will be available for public inspection until the 27th February, 2019, at Environment & Water Services, Tullamore and other Council offices as specified below:

- Birr Town Council, Civic Offices & Library, Wilmer Road, Birr
- Tullamore Town Council, Acres Hall, Cormac Street, Tullamore
- Edenderry Town Council, Market Square, Edenderry

The Draft Noise Action Plan will be available to download free of charge from Offaly County Council www.offaly.ie. A copy of the Noise Action Plan will be available to purchase at Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, at a charge of €5.

Submissions, observations, comments or suggestions in respect to the Draft Noise Action Plan should be made in writing and addressed to Director of Services, Environment & Water Services, Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Tullamore and marked “Public Submission – Draft Noise Action Plan” or email to noiseplan@offalycoco.ie before 4:00pm on 13th March 2019.

Dangerous Structures

Preparation of tender documents for demolition of Clonminch Water Tower is ongoing.

Derryclure Landfill Site

Preparation of tender documents for resurfacing of entrance road is ongoing.

Water Quality

The collaboration which underpins the implementation of the Water Framework Directive as set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 was demonstrated in a recent conference on Farming Mitigation Options which was delivered to a capacity audience in Tullamore on 17th January which included staff from Local Authority, LAWPro, Agricultural Advisors and various interested parties. The conference demonstrated approaches to assessing the inter-relationships between the farming activity

and the natural water environment and how to implement practical and effective changes that will support the farming activity and the local water quality.

The assessment of the Gageborough River is due to commence shortly and the Water Quality team have provided support to the LAWPro Catchment Assessment Team in this regard. The Gageborough River is the source of drinking water for the Clara Regional Water Supply. A community meeting takes place on Tuesday 12th February next in Horseleap/Streamstown Community Centre, Streamstown Co. Westmeath N91X81C from 7:30pm. This meeting will inform the community about the planned work programmes involved and gather any local information that may help inform the process.

Water Services

The Tullamore Drainage Area Plan is ongoing and will inform the sewerage network upgrade going forward. Consultants have been appointed to look at storm water design in Cloghan and Shinrone – this is at design stage at present. Ground Investigation is being completed in Cloghan and Shinrone for tendering purpose. This is planned to go out to tender in Q2 2019.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2018

GWS Subsidies

A total of €654,509 was paid to 17 Group Water Schemes for annual subsidy 2017 and advance subsidy 2018. Circ. L 2/18 issued in August 2018 – revised maximum subsidies payable to GWS from 1st Jan 2018 – workshop arranged for implementation of same on 14th February, 2019. This Circular advised that a review of the Subsidy levels for group water schemes was completed and the Department has decided that several changes to the GWS Subsidy scheme will come into effect from 1st January 2018. Key changes are:

1. The maximum subsidy per house towards the operation and

maintenance costs in **Private GWS** is to increase from **€140** per household to **€231**.

2. An increased maximum subsidy of **€281** per household is available for small schemes of less than 100 houses that are willing to progress towards rationalization or amalgamation with other schemes.
3. The maximum subsidy per house for **Public GWS** is to increase from **€70** per household to **€115**.
4. The portion of costs than can be recouped by group water schemes is to increase to 85%.

Subsidy Payments	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
	€	€	€	€	€
Total	553,071	522,001	410,593	581,012	654,509

Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2016 – 2018

Circ. L3/18 received on 26th September, 2018 - Capital allocation – Final Block & Scheme Specific Grant Allocations to Local Authorities for 2018 under the Multi annual Rural Water Programme 2016-2018.

Measure 1 (a) – allocation of €240,000

Cadamstown €20,000

Mountlucas €20,000

Killeigh/Meelaghans €200,000 (approved in 2017)

Measure 1 (b) – allocation of €340,900 (approved in 2017)

Aghancon & Clareen

Measure 2 – allocation of *€200,000

Interim Funding Allocation of €100,000 decided by RWMC on 30/05/18

Scheme	Amount of Funding May 2018
Cadamstown	€67,354.00
Clonfanlough	€10,000.00
Ballyboy	€7,926.25

Final Allocation Circ. L3/18 €100,000 decided by RWMC on 09/10/18.

Scheme	Amount of Funding 2018
Killeigh/Clonegowan, Killurin GWS	€25,000.00
Bracknagh GWS	€25,000.00
Boher/Leamonaghan GWS	€25,000.00
Tubber	€10,000.00
Clareen/Aghancon GWS	€25,000.00

(*amount of €4,719.75 to allow if over-run on expenditure)

All works are complete or nearing completion except for Killeigh/Meelaghans who have applied for planning permission to Laois County Council for new reservoir. Cadamstown GWS have recently applied for planning permission to OCC, final grant should issue Q1 2019. Request has issued to DHPLG to carry over all the monies not spent by these two schemes to 2019.

Recoupment of grants has issued to DHPLG on 27/11/18 in the amount of €462,642.79 along with request to carry over the underspend of €40,312.69 for Killeigh/Meelaghans GWS and request to carry over €67,354.00 for Cadamstown.

The Department will shortly be inviting bids for the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021.

Burial Grounds Grant Scheme 2018

The following grants were paid in December 2018:-

Cemetery	Works	Grant Amount
Lowertown Cemetery	Grass cutting, general maintenance – purchase of equipment	€2,750.00
Croghan Cemetery	General maintenance, fuel costs, grass cutting	€2,500.00
Killoughey Cemetery	Planting of shrubs, purchase of peat, hedging and general maintenance works	€1,500.00
Raheen Cemetery	General maintenance, purchase of equipment, repairs, sprays etc.	€2,750.00
Moystown Cemetery	General maintenance, purchase of gravel for upgrades.	€2,500.00

Burial Grounds – General

Removal of trees in Clonmacnoise Burial Ground

Veterinary Services

Control of Dogs	2017	2018
Number of dogs in pound	466	500
Number of dogs rehomed	123	141
Number of dogs reclaimed	65	57
Number of dogs to rescue	263	291
Number of dogs PTS	15	11

Control of Horses	2017	2018
No. Of horses seized	60	16

Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Offaly County Council's Veterinary section is responsible for carrying out functions in

relation to food safety. There is a service contract between Offaly County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). The Veterinary Section implements this contract.

It covers the following:

- [licensing and inspection of slaughterhouses/abattoirs](#) – 4 no. in Offaly
- [supervision of small meat manufacturing premises](#) – 5 no. in Offaly

Allocation for 2019 from FSAI is expected in the coming weeks.

HOUSING:**Housing Update**

- There are 699 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support.
- A further 835 tenancies are supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme. 18 new HAP tenancies were agreed in January 2019, with 8 exiting from the Scheme.
- At 31st January 2019 there were 27 single people and 20 families in emergency accommodation.
- The *HAP Place Finder Service* commenced in December 2018 helping those in homelessness to secure an affordable tenancy. To date 3 HAP tenancies have been secured under this service.
- There were 13 allocations made in January 2019, i.e., 6 Local Authority, 2 Leasing and 5 to Approved Housing Bodies.
- *Local Authority Framework for Engaging with Traveller Communities* – A workshop for all Elected Members and Management was held on 31st January 2019.

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

- The total Council housing stock in Offaly is 1,807.
- There were 372 Maintenance calls logged in January 2019.

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

- Mid Offaly Housing Association, 4 units Mountbolus under construction, delivery date in 2019
- Oaklee: Kearney's Field, 41 units – public consultation held in Q4 2018, Part VIII planning to issued February 2019
- Oaklee: Clonminch 19 Units - public consultation held in Q4 2018, Part VIII planning to be progressed in 2019 subject to department Stage II approval (submitted in 2018)
- Cluid Housing: Scurragh, Birr, 6 Units under construction, delivery 2019
- Tuath: Killane: Drive, Edenderry 27 Units, Approved Housing Body

Tuath, re-tendering required in February 2019, construction start Q2 2019

- Sofia Housing: 32 Units @ Presentation Lands, Portarlinton, Stage 1 Approval in January 2019

Turnkey Developments

- MacGregol, Birr, 12 Units, started in Q4 2018
- Walsh Island, Coolagarry, 4 Units, approved November 2018, delivery Q4 2019
- Cluainn na Spideoga, Cloghan, 6 Units, under construction, almost complete
- Frankford, Kilcormac, 12 Units, completion Q1 2019

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Local Community Development Committee

(LCDC) met on 17th January, 2019. Agenda items included the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020, the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

National Community Weekend

Department of Rural and Community Development are to provide funding for a National Community Weekend to be held countrywide over the May bank holiday weekend 2019. €10,000 funding for local community-hosted events is to be provided to LCDCs via the Local Authority. Proposals will be discussed at the February LCDC meeting.

Age Friendly Strategy

The Age Friendly Alliance meeting took place on 18th Jan. Implementation of Actions in the 2019 Workplan were discussed.

Public Participation Network

Work on the PPN 3 year plan Strategic was undertaken with the Secretariat. The 2019 Work plan was also developed over 3 evenings and one facilitated training day.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Competition 2019

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly launched the Offaly stage of the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur programme for 2019. LEO Offaly is looking for dynamic, innovative young business people from across Offaly county to enter the Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019 competition. The competition invites 18-35 year olds who have a business idea, a start-up or an already established business to enter. Applying is quick and simple. It takes about 15 minutes, is free of charge and is done on www.IBYE.ie



Brexit Seminar

Members of the Local Enterprise Office Offaly attended the Brexit Seminar held on Friday 25th January in the Hodson Bay Hotel. The event was held to help staff in the Local Enterprise Offices around Ireland to actively engage with businesses to help in identifying and understanding the potential implications of Brexit and how the challenges can be addressed.

The event discussed key challenges which Offaly business will be exposed to in the event of a hard Brexit. The main issues raised at the seminar were Brexit tariffs, supply chain issues, customs clearance delays, currency volatility, financial supports and technical advice available to business.

Upcoming Events and New Initiatives

2019 County Enterprise Awards – Offaly Businesses Chance to Shine!

In order to qualify to enter the County Enterprise Awards, Offaly business must have



received funding from the Local Enterprise Office. This may include any of the following types of funding:

- Feasibility Study, Priming or Business Expansion Grants.
- LEO Innovation Investment Fund (LIIF) Support
- Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) Support.
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters (TAME) Support
- Trading Online Vouchers

Applicants must employ 10 or less employees on a full time equivalent basis as at 31/12/2017. Complete the application form and submit with a copy of the business accounts, and any other supporting information such as sales brochure, photographs, business plan. Closing date is 14th February 2019 at 4pm.

Local Enterprise Week 4th - 8th March

It's Local Enterprise Week from Monday



March 4th to Friday March 8th and to celebrate, Local Enterprise Office Offaly are

organising numerous events for start-ups and small businesses all over Offaly. Events will be held in a number of locations – Tullamore, Edenderry, Birr, Ferbane and Portarlington. To attend events please visit www.localenterprise.ie/offaly to reserve a place at each event. Numbers are limited so please book early.

Three events not to miss are:

- **Brexit and Beyond** - Strategies & Supports to address Business Opportunities & Challenges. This seminar will highlight the benefits of LEAN thinking and supports available to prepare your business for a post Brexit scenario.
- **Are you Afraid to Make Money for your Business?** - Free Breakfast event with Blaise Brosnan. Blaise will identify some of the issues which you the owner/manager of your business can successfully address in your business, irrespective of Brexit or Trump. He will also give you guidance on how you can consistently go about making more money from these issues. Blaise will be available for a limited number of 1:1 mentoring sessions with attendees until 1pm.
- **Remote Working - Practical Insights and Approaches** - This event will highlight the different approaches of remote working. Remote working is fast becoming an alternative to the traditional 9 to 5 office based employment. The appearance of co-working spaces or hubs across the country is evidence of the expansion of this area.

Free Customs Insights Course

This online course helps businesses understand the key customs concepts, documentation and processes required to succeed in a post Brexit world. It is designed for Irish businesses dealing with customs for the first time.

Intertrade Funding Advisory Event, Athlone

The event will take place on 28th February at 7.30 am in the Radison Blu Hotel in Athlone. Find out about InterTrade Ireland's Funding Advisory Services for Established Businesses.

Spring Business Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched the Spring 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.

Agile Innovation Supports Event in Tullamore

Enterprise Ireland in association with the Local Enterprise Office Offaly is running this event on Agile Supports on 27th February at 8:30 am in the Tullamore Court Hotel. The Agile Innovation Fund offers up to 50% in support for product, process or service development projects. The fund is offering fast-track approval & streamlined online application process.

LEO Outreach Offices: By Appointment

Birr: Thursday mornings

Edenderry: Tuesday afternoons

Ferbane: Wednesday mornings

Portarlington: First Wednesday morning of the month

Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs (O.N.E.)

Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs (O.N.E.) is free to join and is for anyone in business. If you are thinking of setting up your own business, you are also more than welcome. Benefits include: Members only Discount Card. Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs is free to join. Next meeting February 2019.

Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS)

The Youth Employment Support Scheme (YESS) is a new work experience placement programme which is specifically targeted at young jobseekers aged 18-24 years of age who are long-term unemployed or who face barriers to employment. The YESS will aim to provide jobseekers with the opportunity to learn basic work and work and social skills in a supportive environment while on a work placement.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Polar Express

The Polar Express interactive storytime was hosted in all 8 libraries with 9 performances. Over 450 children took part in this initiative. Family members also attended. All venues were fully booked within one hour of the release of the tickets. The event was also recorded by Midlands 103. The reaction from the general public was very positive. Tullamore Library also hosted "A night before Christmas" event with the local creative group reading Christmas poetry and two local choirs singing Christmas Carols- the Offaly County Council Choir and Le Cheile. This event was well attended.

January 2019

Lego model exhibition

On Saturday 26th January, Brick.ie, the Irish Association for



Adult Fans of LEGO®, put on a

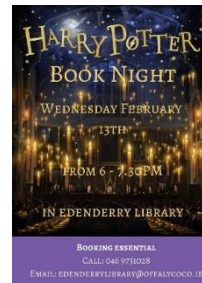
show of their amazing creations. The opening hours of the building were extended to accommodate the event. Most of the models on display have been designed and built by Brick.ie members and some of these have already received recognition of the highest order at international exhibitions. A family play area with thousands of bricks was a feature on the day so everyone could join in the fun. Over 1420 people attended the event in Birr Library.

There are also Lego play therapy workshops held in Tullamore Library during January which were also fully booked. The Stem Saturdays in Tullamore are fully booked and there are weekly updates on the activities of

the class on the Offaly Libraries Facebook page.

Health Promotion

The Heart Foundation van came to Tullamore Library as part of a Healthy Ireland / Healthy Offaly promotion. It was possible to get a quick health check with the Heart Foundation and then come into the library so check out the other health facilities available around Tullamore.



Library Promotion

The library has organised a promotional competition to increase library membership. The Six Nations Rugby Championship started on Friday 1st February. The library has a rugby related competition to encourage people to join. This competition is only open to library members – new members welcome. Membership is free. Simply predict who will win the Six Nations Championship for both the men and women and the top try scorer. The closing date for the competition is Friday 15th March. The winner will be announced on Friday 22nd March. The prize is two tickets to the Heineken Champions Cup Quarterfinal – Leinster vs Ulster on Saturday 30th March.

New events for February

The library has organised a number of new events in Tullamore during February. For the love of books- a chance to meet like-minded people who love books to discuss their favourite reads. This event is on Thursday 14th February at 6.00pm. Board games for adults is a growing group and will be on twice a month, every second Thursday. Colour for Calm- Adult Colouring Group is starting on 6th February at 11.00am. This is a mindfulness event. New members welcome.

Harry Potter Night

There will be two Harry Potter Night in Offaly this February. On Thursday 7th February in Tullamore Library starting at 3.30pm with wizard chess and in Edenderry on Wednesday 13th February starting at 6pm. These events are fully booked. Raven Haven will be in both locations with their beautiful birds. There are fun events for all Harry Potter fans both young and old.

**March 2019**

Daingean Library is trialing new opening hours to increase accessibility to the library service in the town. From the 2nd March, Daingean library will be opening at the following times:

- Wednesday: 1.30 – 5.00pm & 6-8pm
- Saturday: 10am – 1pm

There is now wifi access in the building and 5 public access computers with fibre broadband.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Offaly County Council
Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary
To 31st January 2019

	Full Yr Budget 2019 €m	Preliminary Value to January 2019 €m	% Year To Date
OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL			
Payroll costs	25.51	2.04	8.0%
Grants and Subsidies Income	26.87	1.85	6.9%

OCC to 31st January 2019

Opening Balance Jan 1, 2019

Invoices/Adjustments

2019 Cash Collected to end of January

Closing Balance January 31st, 2019

2018 Cash collected to January

% Collection at this point in 2018

<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rents</u>	<u>Loans</u>
<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>
2.25	0.81	0.41
13.69	0.40	0.43
0.18	0.47	0.05
15.76	0.74	0.78
0.31	0.43	0.03
59%	109%	185%

Bank Overdraft to 31st January 2019

Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date

Interest and non-conforming charges to January 31st 2019 YTD

Bank Administration and transactional charges to January 31st 2019 YTD

0 0%

€1,500

€2,610