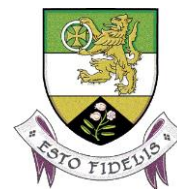


**JANUARY 2020**

## **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 Feabhra

Monthly Management Report for consideration at the February 2020 Monthly Meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:**

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

### **FINANCE:**

Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – Appendix 1

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **BREXIT CUSTOMS WORKSHOP – 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

The Customs Export & Import Procedures workshop will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **LEAP INTO LIBRARIES: #LEAPINTOLIBRARIES**

A national *Leap into Libraries* day planned for the **29<sup>th</sup> February**. All 8 libraries in Offaly will host a programme of events ranging from Arts and Crafts and Origami workshops to Creative Music and Play sessions.  
<https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Libraries/Events/>

### **LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK 2<sup>ND</sup> – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

Events will be held in a number of locations – Tullamore, Edenderry, Birr and Ferbane. To attend events please visit [www.localenterprise.ie/offaly](http://www.localenterprise.ie/offaly) to reserve a place.

### **FREE BUSINESS ADVICE SESSIONS ON ECOMMERCE GRANTS**

A free 45-minute one-to-one mentoring session on how to set up an ecommerce website and avail of grants will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## **REPORT AT A GLANCE**

### **Roads**

Offaly County Council received the 2020 National Roads Allocation of €3,169,755 from the TII, the 2020 Regional and Local Roads Allocation of €11,027,499 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. In summary the 2020 initial Roads Budget is €16,064,384 representing a 10% increase on the 2019 budget.

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The LCDC met on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The 2019 Annual Report of the Local Community Development Committee was adopted by the members.

### **New eServices in Offaly Libraries**

During February 2020, two new service providers for online resources will contribute to our eServices offer in Offaly Libraries. Transparent Languages online will replace Mango Languages and provide online language learning and Pressreader will become the library online newspaper provider, replacing Proquest.

**PLANNING**

	To end January 2020	To end Jan 2019	Total 2019
<b>Planning Applications</b>	21	35	628
<b>Extensions of Duration Applications &amp; Assessments</b>	0	0	12
<b>Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued</b>	1 (0)	2(0)	14 (6)

**Forward planning**

At January Council Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January the Directions to the draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 were compiled by the elected members.

**Grand Canal Greenway**

Works are now completed on the Ballycommon to Kilbeggan link of the Grand Canal Greenway, (Phase 1), on foot of funding from ORIS Scheme, 2018, (Department of Rural and Community Development, (DRCD). This relates to a 4km stretch from Ballycommon to the Wood of O Bridge. A decision is awaited regarding further ORIS 2019 funding to allow further works towards Kilbeggan (Phase 2).

A contractor has been appointed in respect of 6kms of the Grand Canal Greenway from Digby Bridge to Ballycommon Bridge, and works are due to start in the next month. This section is funded under the National and Regional Greenway Fund. (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport, (DTTAS)

The Part 8 for the extension of the Grand Canal Greenway from Turraun to Shannon Harbour (16km) is at an advanced stage of preparation and is expected to be published in the next month.

**HOUSING**

Presentation for members at February Council Meeting.

**ROADS**

Offaly County Council received the 2020 National Roads Allocation of €3,169,755 from the TII. The allocation includes funding for the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link major scheme, N62 Cloghan to Derrinlough peat replacement minor works scheme. €1.5m has been allocated for pavement schemes and €500,000 for Road Safety Improvement Schemes.

Offaly County Council received the 2020 Regional and Local Roads Allocation of €11,027,499 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in January. This included two specific improvement grants for the Edenderry Inner Relief Road and the Birr Distributor Road.

Offaly County Council has allocated €1,867,130 from own resources. In summary therefore, the 2020 initial Roads Budget is €16,064,384 representing a 10% increase on the 2019 budget.

<b>2020 Initial Roads Budget</b>	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€3,169,755
Department of Transport Tourism & Sport	€11,027,499
Offaly County Council (Own Resources)	€1,867,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>€16,064,384</b>

The 2020 Roads Programme will be presented at the March Council meeting.

Phase 1 of the **N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link Road** Project is ongoing with Phase 2 Route selection including initial public consultation will commence in March.

Consulting Engineers, Tobin, for the **Edenderry Inner Relief Road** is progressing with the detailed design and

preparation of contract documents for the Project.

**Edenderry Granary Court to Fairgreen Link Road** is progressing with detailed design, contract documents and tendering of the works in 2020.

The works on the **Grand Canal Greenway** continue with 4km of the Ballycommon to Kilbeggan Link complete and 6km from Digby Bridge to Ballycommon commencing in February. OCC staff are currently installing signage and waterways Ireland are carrying out maintenance work on existing routes.

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## ENVIRONMENT & WATER

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### Environment

A total of 98 complaints in relation to waste and litter were made to date in 2020. No legal action has been instigated this year so far.

### Burial Grounds

Part 8 approval was obtained for Kilreahan Cemetery at the September 2019 Council meeting and the next step is to prepare the tender documents Part 8 Public Consultation for Kilcoursey Cemetery in Clara open until 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Water Services - Capital Projects

Works are progressing at Tullamore, Birr and Clonaslee. Rehabilitation works at Clonin will proceed in 2020 while Croghan & Newtown are at design stage. IW are currently preparing the design for replacement reservoir at Clonbullogue and considering a replacement reservoir at Walsh Island.

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## LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC met on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The 2019 Annual Report of the Local

Community Development Committee was adopted by the members. Agenda items included Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020 and an update on the Healthy Offaly Work Plan. Members approved the Healthy Offaly Programme for 2019-2021.

### Age Friendly Strategy

The Age Friendly Co-ordinator attended the first meeting of the Offaly Older Persons' Network 2020 where plans for 2020 actions were discussed.

### Public Participation Network

The PPN Resource Workers held their meeting in Trinity Place Dublin on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. The PPN Secretariat held their first meeting of 2020 on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> Jan with a discussion on the work plan for 2020 and upcoming elections for some of the PPN reps.

The Resource Worker represented the PPN at the CCTV meetings. The Resource Worker made a presentation to the Housing & Disability steering group on the disability linkage group ODEN.

The Garda Community Day took place in Mucklagh on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. The PPN also participated in the Community Awards meeting.

### Comhairle na nÓg

The first Comhairle na nÓg meeting of 2020 took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 where new members were welcomed to the group and given an overview of project work to date. Members met with film producer Mr. Garrett Daly to discuss the shooting of their upcoming YouTube video in relation to exam stress.

### Community CCTV

A Project Team meeting was held with 3 proposed Community CCTV schemes in Tullamore on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 to progress their applications with further meetings scheduled for March.

## SPORTS

### Funding

Sport Ireland - €233,825 allocated.

Dept. of Rural & Community Development – €60,080 secured under outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme 2019 (Offaly Way & ancillary routes; Slieve Bloom way & ancillary routes; Offaly Outdoor Recreation marketing programme & videography bank (two projects); Extension of the car park at Killeen Bridge on the Grand Canal in Edenderry).

Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport – call for Bike Week funding made.

### Healthy Offaly

Healthy Offaly plan of work approved by Pobal. Healthy Offaly team met to progress delivery of actions.

### Programmes

Staff of the Sports Partnership, the south Offaly sports hub and partner agencies (FAI and Leinster Rugby via their development officers) continue to deliver sport and physical activity programmes across the county. Key programmes delivered in January included: -

### Diversity Games for primary and post primary schools

The key aim of the programme is to encourage the participation of children and young people from ethnic minority backgrounds in the sport of athletics. The programme is delivered in conjunction with Athletics Ireland

Post primary diversity games took place on 16<sup>th</sup> January in Athlone – 325 students (60% Irish and 40% ethnic minority background) participated



Primary diversity games took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> January in Athlone – 441 pupils (52% Irish and 48% ethnic minority background) participated



*Action from Diversity Games*

### Operation Transformation

Four ad break challenges filmed in Offaly (Birr, Edenderry, Banagher and Clara – approx. 400 people in attendance)

Tullamore hosted Kathryn Thomas and Jean Kinahan at the national walk day – approx. 750 people in attendance







*Action from the Operation Transformation national walk day*

### Sports Inclusion Development Programme

8 - week “Healthy Choices, Healthy Community” programme underway – 50 people in attendance across a spectrum of age groups, people with disabilities and community organisations.

6-week activator pole programme underway for older adults – 45 older adults in attendance.



*Action from the Healthy Choices, Healthy Community programme*

### LIBRARY SERVICES

#### National Campaign promoting Libraries: #Takeacloserlook



This national advertising campaign is asking everyone to ‘Take a Closer Look’ at what their local authority library has to offer and was launched on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Offaly Library Service has proudly embraced the campaign, which is running across radio, cinema, TV on demand, digital and social media. The aim of the campaign is to encourage people of all ages to join and use the library. The ‘Take a Closer Look’ campaign was devised by the Libraries Development Unit of the LGMA with the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is part a wider national strategy to increase library membership and usage in Ireland. See the ‘Take a Closer Look’ advert at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZOvJVnHhY0>

#### Leap into Libraries: #Leapintolibraries

The aforementioned advertising campaign will culminate with a national **Leap into Libraries** day planned for the 29<sup>th</sup> February. All 8 libraries in Offaly will host a programme of events ranging from Arts and Crafts and Origami workshops to Creative Music and Play sessions. Please check social media to view the complete programme of events or our website:

<https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Libraries/Events/>

### Healthy Ireland at Your Library



Offaly Libraries' *Healthy Ireland at Your Library* programme is now entering its third year. A 5-month programme of 36 events for all ages groups is now finalised. The programme features a selection of public lectures in support of health and wellbeing by qualified practitioners and advocates. Events include **"Let's Get Messy: Exploring the benefits of Messy Play for children with ASD"** and **"Navigating the Wobbly World of Anxiety: helping parents to cope with the challenges of childhood"**, as well as talks on dealing with Arthritis, Dementia Impacts, Exam Stress and much more. Full details can be found at [www.offaly.ie/libraries](http://www.offaly.ie/libraries). An updated reading collection has also been added to our Healthy Ireland collection for 2020, embedding Offaly libraries as a valuable source of health information in the local community.

### Harry Potter Book Night: Tullamore Library



Harry Potter Book Night is an annual Offaly Library Service programme and is in its third year. This ever popular event promotes children's



literacy and reading development and is a key pillar of

Offaly's Right to Read Campaign. On the Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February (4.00pm – 8.00pm), Tullamore library became home to all things Harry Potter with our own **Offaly Tri-wizard Tournament** involving dragon eggs, spells and some Vex Robots! The evening was a huge success with over 300 wizards and their 'muggle' parents in attendance who

enjoyed Quidditch Pong, Face Painting, our Costume Competition and a wonderful family-friendly Magic Show which closed the evening's Harry Potter celebrations.

### Vex IQ Robotics at Offaly Libraries

The Offaly Primary School County Final for the Vex IQ challenge was



held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January in Colaiste Choilm with **28 schools** taking part. It was a great event with positive comments received from teachers, pupils, parents and volunteers. The library service is an enthusiastic partner on Vex projects providing support, access to robots and programming software in the library environment. This programme ensures today's students are qualified for the jobs of tomorrow. It's an ideal introduction for students who we hope will drive Offaly's economic ambitions, support innovation and provide foundations for future prosperity in the county.

The Offaly Secondary School County final for the Vex robotics competition – "Tower Takeover" will take place on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February** in Sacred Heart School with **5 schools** competing to become the Offaly Excellence Champion. The library service will again provide volunteers to support this final.

### Clara Library Opening Hours

Offaly Library Service is delighted to announce that Clara Library has returned to full opening hours with library access now available on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. The Clara library team are busily engaged in developing the library collections and a programme of outreach and library events for the benefit of all the community.

### New eServices in Offaly Libraries

During February 2020, two new service providers for online resources will contribute to our eServices offer in Offaly Libraries.

*Transparent Languages* online will replace *Mango Languages* and provide online language learning and *Pressreader* will become the library online newspaper provider, replacing *Proquest*.

**Transparent Languages** is a complete language-learning system for independent learners with 100+ languages, flexible learning paths, extensive English collection, core skill building exercises and course completion certificate.

**Press reader** has access to over 7,000 newspapers from around the world, available to download immediately to 5 different devices and instantly translates articles into 16 languages.

Both resources are free of charge to all library members.

#### The Acorn Project Photographic Exhibition, "Our Town, Our Vision", Edenderry Library



This striking photographic exhibition opened in Edenderry Library on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February and had a wonderful attendance at the launch. The exhibition will be on display until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (during library opening hours) and the Acorn Project invite you to join them on a journey through our community, via photography!

Lastly, don't forget all upcoming library events for the month ahead can be found at <https://www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Libraries/Events/>

#### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

##### Showcase 2020

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly attended Showcase 2020 in the RDS Arena, Dublin. Heartworks from Tullamore exhibited at the event. Showcase 2020 is Ireland's Creative Expo for Irish designer and craft business.

Over 450 exhibitors including leading Irish designers and manufacturers and the very best emerging home grown creative talent attended the event.



#### Upcoming Events and New Initiatives GradStart scheme now available for LEO clients

The GradStart scheme is a 24-month graduate placement programme with funding of up to €30k (€15k per year). Local Enterprise Office client companies with at least 5 full time staff can apply for the GradStart programme.



The objective of GradStart is to assist indigenous companies to scale and grow their businesses through the introduction of good graduate talent (with a minimum Level 6-degree qualification) to deliver clearly defined projects.

#### Local Enterprise Week 2020

Save the Dates! From 2nd - 6th March there will be a range of free events on throughout the county. You won't want to miss out so mark your diaries now!

Events will be held in a number of locations – Tullamore, Edenderry, Birr and Ferbane. To attend events please visit [www.localenterprise.ie/offaly](http://www.localenterprise.ie/offaly) to reserve a place. Numbers are limited so please book early. Three event not to miss are:



### **Keep your Eye on the Prize with Blaise Brosnan.**

Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs (O.N.E.) is a free Network Evening with Blaise Brosnan. Blaise will help you to identify the commercial variables in your business which you can take more control over and then he will show you how to squeeze more commercial rewards from these variables.

**LEAN Lunchtime Seminar** - Free lunchtime event with LEAN expert Stuart Nelson of Jigsaw SAE. He will explain the benefits of adopting LEAN techniques and how the LEAN for Micro scheme works and will introduce Lean principles.

**Digital Marketing for Business** - This course is run over 6 weeks starting on Wednesday 4th March with Keith Feighery of Digital Insights Ltd. The course is designed for owners/managers of existing businesses in Offaly who wish to understand how to make the most of digital marketing within their business.

### **Innovation Vouchers - open call**

Open call for applications continues for 2020. Standard €5k vouchers are available to assist a company explore a business opportunity or problem with a registered knowledge provider.

### **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.

### **2020 County Enterprise Awards – Offaly Businesses Chance to Shine!**

In order to qualify to enter the County Enterprise Awards, Offaly business must have received any of the following types of funding from the Local Enterprise Office.

- 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 31/12/2018. Please encourage eligible businesses to 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 Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 4pm.

### **Free Business Advice Sessions on eCommerce Grants**

A free 45-minute one-to-one mentoring session on how to set up an ecommerce website and avail of grants will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The one to one mentoring session designed to help you get an application ready for the Trading Online Voucher Scheme. After this session you will have a clearer picture of what's involved in running an eCommerce website, the practicalities, logistics and potential issues that may arise.

### **Brexit Customs Workshop - Monday, 24 February 2020**

The Customs Export & Import Procedures workshop will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Monday, 24th February 2020. It covers how export and import customs procedures on trade with 'Third Countries' apply, how tariffs work and the need to correctly classify your goods.

Attendance is free but early booking is essential. These workshops are fully funded by DBEI, through Enterprise Ireland and are delivered by Export-Edge Training, on behalf of Local Enterprise Office Offaly.

*Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive*



## APPENDIX 1

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 31st January 2020			
OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2020 €m	Preliminary Value to January 2020 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	27.07	2.08	7.7%
Grants and Subsidies Income	34.94	1.42	4.1%
OCC to 31st January 2020	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rents</u>	<u>Loans</u>
	<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>	<u>€m</u>
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2020	2.47	0.73	0.33
Invoices/Adjustments	14.60	0.48	0.04
2020 Cash Collected to end of January	0.17	0.59	0.05
Closing Balance January 31st, 2020	16.90	0.62	0.32
<u>2019 Cash collected to January</u>	0.18	0.54	0.04
% Collection at this point in 2019	93%	111%	143%
<u>Bank Overdraft to 31st January 2020</u>	-	-	
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date		0	0%
Interest and non-conforming charges to January 31st 2020 YTD			€1,804
Bank Administration and transactional charges to January 31st 2020 YTD			€2,869