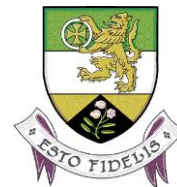


JUNE 2020

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 Lúil

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Report to the 30th June 2020 – Appendix 1

COVID 19 UPDATES

Housing

Covid 19 – Housing:

During this period of Covid-19 the Housing Section has continued to provide critical essential services as outlined in the Government Roadmap. Housing services continue to be managed effectively on a remote basis with appointments being scheduled as required.

To assist us in streamlining service delivery we would 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
Anti-Social Behaviour	ASB@offalycoco.ie
RAS & Leasing Enquiries	RAS@offalycoco.ie

20TH JULY 2020

**COVID 19 UPDATES*****Restart Grant 2020*****Progress to date**

Up to July 10th, a total of 455 applications had been approved for payment or paid to a value of €1.448m, with 59 further applications pending approval. This we estimate is approximately 31% of expected applications. The table below shows the grant aid paid to date by business re-opening phase.

Reopening phase	Grant aid	Numbers of grants paid/approved
0	192,574	55
1	265,979	88
2	242,456	73
3	161,490	51
4	205,901	88
5	379,935	100
Grand Total	1,448,335	455

The closing date for application is August 31st 2020. No late applications can be accepted.



COVID 19 UPDATES

Community and Culture

2) Offaly Covid-19 Community Response Helpline:

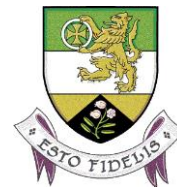
There were a total of **426** calls to the Helpline in the 13 weeks up to Wednesday 8th July 2020. Calls to the Helpline have significantly reduced in recent weeks due to the easing of restrictions, the awareness and access to the support services available and as people have family supports in place.

The Helpline is currently operating from **9.00am to 5.00pm, 7 days per week**

- **17%** of calls to date relate to **deliveries** of food, fuel or medicines
- **22%** of calls relate to **Medical supports or HSE** issues
- **7%** of calls relate to problems of **social isolation**
- **2%** of calls relate to **Meals on Wheels** services
- **1%** of calls relate to **Garda** matters
- **51%** of calls relate to **other** general queries

3) Offaly Community Response Forum

The Forum has met 10 times up to June and will continue for the duration of the Covid 19 crisis. Councillor John Carroll joined the Forum from 25th June following his election as Cathaoirleach, and replaces outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr Peter Ormond.



COVID 19 UPDATES

Local Enterprise Office COVID 19 Supports

Trading Online Voucher (eCommerce) Grants Available

LEO Offaly continues to experience high demand for the Trading Online Voucher scheme. The voucher is a financial incentive to small businesses to develop or enhance their ability to trade online. Under the scheme a qualifying business may apply for funding to a maximum value of €2,500 or 90% of eligible expenditure (exclusive of VAT), whichever is the lesser. Following approval of their application, a successful applicant can engage suppliers and upon completion of the work, submit a request for payment to the LEO in line with the terms and conditions of their voucher. One to one mentoring and information seminars are available online or by conference call to prospective applicants to support them in their application process and it will be a condition of applying for the vouchers that applicants participate in one of these mentoring sessions or seminars. The mentoring attendees will be informed of the purpose of the scheme and how best to use and get value from the application of the voucher. The application process for the vouchers will be a competitive process.

The vouchers are targeted at businesses with the following profile:

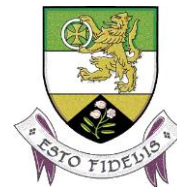
- Limited or no e-commerce presence;
- 10 or less employees;
- Turnover less than €2m;
- Applicant business must be trading for at least 6 months;
- Business are located in County Offaly.

Online Summer Business Training Courses

Booking is now available for a number of Online courses such as Start your Own Business Course, Digital marketing for Business, Forecasting and risk management in an uncertain world, Vat Returns and Submissions, A Beginner's Guide to Using Instagram To Market Your Business, How to plan a new website for your business, How to create marketing videos on a budget, How to create marketing videos on a budget and Marketing Strategy ReBoot Camp. There has been a good uptake and the feedback is very positive.

JUNE 2020

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



COVID 19 UPDATES

Local Enterprise Office COVID 19 Supports

Phone and Online Mentoring Sessions

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched a number of free mentoring sessions to assist businesses through the Covid 19 crisis. Please book online to arrange a mentoring session. The types of mentoring available are Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Business, Finance, Banking Supports & Advice, Covid-19 Remote Mentoring on Human Resources, Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Business Planning, Covid 19 - Remote Mentoring - Social Media Strategy, Covid-19 Remote Mentoring on Microfinance Loans and Trading Online Voucher One to One Mentoring - Phone or Video Call

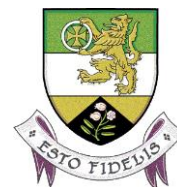
Microfinance Ireland loans

The COVID-19 Business Loan from Microfinance Ireland is a government initiative to support small businesses with less than 10 employees through the current period of uncertainty and protect job creation or sustainment in Ireland. Loans from €5,000 – €50,000 up to 3 years. First 6 months – 0% Interest & Zero repayments. Reduced interest rate 4.5% APR for LEO applications.

If your business is impacted or may be impacted by COVID-19 resulting in a reduction of 15% or more in actual or projected turnover or profit, and you are having difficulty in accessing finance from commercial lending providers, the MFI COVID-19 Business Loan may be able to help your business. Local Enterprise Office Offaly will provide assistance with MFI applications.

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PLANNING

	To end June 2020	To end June 2019	Total 2019
Planning Applications	262	312	628
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	2	7	12
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	2(1)	6 (0)	14 (6)

Planning Administration

Planning Administration continued to receive Planning applications throughout the Covid-19 Planning emergency period. Timelines affected by the Covid Emergency Legislation extended many timelines to 18th July 2020 with large numbers of decisions due on the third week of July. Since the lifting of restrictions Planning Applications received are back to normal levels.

Development Management

The Development Management Planners have been continued to carry out site inspections and are assessing/undertaking: planning applications, planning compliance matters, minor pre-planning requests (via email) and planning queries (via email), which can be processed in light of the current Covid 19 restrictions and in accordance with the updated Government guidance. Processing of large volumes of new Planning Applications including biomass, grid connection, windfarms shows

the complexity of proposed development in the past month.

Forward Planning

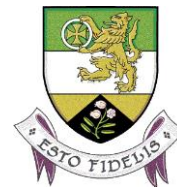
The pre-draft Offaly County Development Plan was sent to members 10th June for their consideration. Two special meetings were organised to discuss the volumes of the proposed draft plan at the end of June and early July.

ROADS

Roads Programme 2020

The Roads Programme 2020 has commenced throughout the County. All works are proceeding with Covid safety measures in place. The following road works are currently ongoing or due to commence in the County:

- N52 Eglish & N52 Ballindown & Ballynaguilsha TII Capital Maintenance Works to commence in July;
- Tenders received for pavement overlay works for the Birr to Roscrea Road (N62) at Boveen, Glasderry Beg, Glasderry More. Construction to commence in August;
- Low Cost Safety scheme Erry Mills, Clara, in progress to be completed and lights on at the end of July;
- N80 Tullamore to Killeigh road surface improvement scheme to commence in August;
- Resurfacing on William Street is currently ongoing;
- Works on the Collins Lane junction, Arden Way and Arden View Junction to commence in July;
- Construction of TVR Scheme in Daingean to commence early August;



- Designs prepared for new bus stops and pedestrian crossing in Tullamore & Edenderry;
- Road Improvement Schemes and Surface Dressing in the County commenced in May and will continue throughout June and July;

Retexturing the road on the N52, June 2020

The process of blasting small ball bearings onto the roads increases the skidding resistance of the road surface and extends the roads life by up to 10 years.



Offaly Grand Canal Greenway

Offaly Grand Canal Greenway is under construction between Cappincur (Digby Bridge) and Ballycommon. Once complete, cyclists and walkers can enjoy the Greenway from Tullamore to Ballycommon and onwards to Ballycommon Church via the Kilbeggan Branch. Designs for extensions to Daingean



(East) and Kilbeggan (North) are ongoing with works complete by mid-2021.

N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link Road

TII Major Capital scheme is in Phase 2: Option Selection. The first phase Public Consultation through the website, brochures and letter drop commenced on 15th June 2020 with the website www.n52tullamoretokilbeggan.ie going live with receipt of submissions to Monday 27th July.

CLÁR 2020 Programme

The **CLÁR 2020 Programme** provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas. Completed applications under Measure 1 and 2, in the designated areas, must be submitted to the relevant Municipal Districts on or before 7th August.

Edenderry Inner Relief Road

Consulting Engineers, Tobin, for the **Edenderry Inner Relief Road** is progressing with the detailed design, preparation of contract documents and land acquisition.

Edenderry Granary Court to Fairgreen Link Road

This progressing with tendering of the works due to commence in late July on e-tenders.

Birr Distributor Road

Part 8 Planning will commence in July.

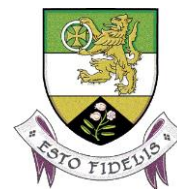
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES

Water

Works on the upgrade of the Tullamore, Birr and Clonaslee Water Treatment plants recommenced on May 18th, following the suspension of works due to Covid.

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MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



IW are currently preparing the design for replacement reservoir at Clonbullogue and considering a replacement reservoir at Walsh Island.

Leak repair: Find and fix works are ongoing in Dunkerrin, Rhode and Tullamore.

Irish Water has confirmed that a National Water Conservation Order commonly referred to as a hosepipe ban has been lifted due to the extensive rain which we have had.

Environment

Civic Amenity Sites

All Civic Amenity Sites, bottle banks and Derryclure waste transfer station continue to see increased levels of usage over the past month. Visitor numbers have started to level off to previous year's averages after the very high demand seen during the peak of the Covid-19 crisis.

Illegal Dumping

An application was made to the DCCAE for funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative to clean up some very littered areas and to provide funding for CCTV at bottle banks. Offaly County Council received €64,534. Work continues on the initiatives which were successfully funded. Some clean ups have already taken place in Clonearl and Garryhinch and one is scheduled for the Derries.

Community Clean ups

There were 20 community clean ups completed in the month of June, where the Environment Section provided support and supplies to communities' groups and individuals.

Water Quality

Water Framework Directive sampling programme has recommenced again having

been suspended during the current restrictions in place for Covid-19.

Detailed submission has been returned to the EPA regarding the 3rd Cycle Characterisation of local rivers under the EPA's River Basin Management Plan, covering both the Midlands & East region and the South East region.

Tullamore Low Smoke Zone

DCCAE are currently finalising the SI and Regulations wording to cover the 13 additional towns to be covered by a Low Smoke Zone. Tullamore town and its surrounds will come under the new Regulations which is due to come into effect from September 2020. The DCCAE are preparing a press release together with digital and PDF maps showing the full extent of the Tullamore Low Smoke Zone.

Tullamore River Enhancement Project

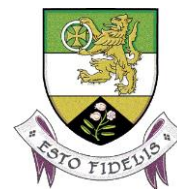
The Part 8 process for the Tullamore River Enhancement Project is coming to a conclusion. Public consultation/submission period ended on the 4th June. CE and planning report will be presented to the elected members at their July meeting.

Rural Water Programme

The Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021 is ongoing, and the annual subsidies paid to the group water schemes have been received prior to the 30th June deadline. OCC are currently assessing these.

Domestic Water and Domestic Waste Water Grant Schemes

Under Measure 8 of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 a revised Private Water Supply (Well Grants) and Domestic Waste Water Treatment grant scheme has been announced by the Dept of Housing, Planning and Local Government. We have been in consultation with the



Department about the new scheme and are awaiting their clarification about certain aspects of the new scheme and we intend to have the new applications and details available through our office and www.offaly.ie as soon as possible.

Well Grants

The application process and the level of grant payable have been revised. The main revision of the scheme is that the applicant must provide three quotes for the proposed works, the introduction of a Water Treatment Grant of up to €1000.00 and the percentage of the approved cost of works that can be claimed by the applicant has been increased from 75% or a max of €2,031.58 to 85% or €5,000.00, whichever is the lesser. There are also new grants available for Well Rehabilitation and Water Treatment Systems up to €3,000.00 and €1,000.00 respectively.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment grants

This grant may be available to householders where they have been identified by the Local Authority under various river basin and catchment area plans and they must meet specific criteria (an applicant cannot self declare for these grants). The percentage of the approved cost of works that can be claimed by the applicant has been increased from 75% to 85% or €5,000.00, whichever is the lesser.

HOUSING

June Housing Update

- There are 669 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support at the end of June 2020.
- A further 849 live tenancies currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 15 signed up for

HAP and 9 exits from HAP in June 2020.

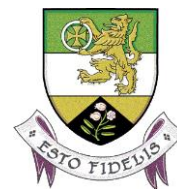
- At the end of June 2020 there were 20 single people and 6 families in emergency accommodation.
- 6 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans applications were received in 2020 to date; 2 RIHL have been approved; 2 were invalid; and 2 are under consideration.

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

- Total housing stock at end of June 2020 is 1,901.
- 260 maintenance call logged in June 2020.

Housing Capital Programme Update

- Works recommenced on the 18 units at Chancery Lane, Tullamore on 18th May with completion due in July/August.
- An architect led Integrated Design Team has been appointed for the Raheen, Clara development. Site Investigations are ongoing and stage 2 is being prepared at present and should be ready to submit to DHPLG in July 2020.
- Offaly County Council will act as Architect with Design Team consultants who are appointed for the development of Church Street, Clara (Church St 3 Units); Beechgrove Belmont (7 units); Moneygall (4 units) & Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 Units). Site investigations on all sites completed and the Stage 2 submission was issued to the department in June in relation to the Moneygall and Belmont developments. Stage 2 issued for Sr Senan on the 6th July.



- Stage 2 (permission to submit for planning) for Clara (Church Street) will be submitted to the Department in July.
 - Dargan Drive, Chancery Lane (near new Chancery scheme): Consultants to be procured by Offaly County Council as part of new consultant framework for 16-20 units; OCC are acting as Architects; Stage 1 granted on the 5th March 2020. Consultant Tender have gone live on e-tenders on May 30th and are due back in July. The scheme design will progress in tandem with the tender period. The consultant framework can be used for further local authority schemes once in place.
 - Banagher, Kylebeg 18 Units, a second stage 3 submission was made in April 2020. Stage 3 was approved by the DHPLG in May 2020 and the Tender documentation is being prepared and will issue in July.
 - Circular Road, Daingean 9 units - Stage 2 approval was approved on the 4th December 2019 with a request to increase the number of units from 7 to 9. Part 8 is currently on public display for a period of 4 weeks starting on 30th June, 2020.
 - Rectory Lands, Birr – options for consideration are being developed.
- to Covid 19, have resumed since the lifting of restrictions on 18th May.
- Oaklee: Clonminch, Tullamore - 19 units, Stage 3 was approved on the 26th March. Tenders are due back in mid-August and works are to commence later this year.
 - Oaklee: Kearney's Field – 41 Units, Tenders are due back in mid-August and works are to commence later in 2020.
 - AHB - Killane Drive, Edenderry 27 units – Construction resumed on the 18th May with completion now due in Q1 2021.
 - Sofia Housing: Stage 1 approved for 32 units at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton. Stage 2 submission from AHB will issue in July with an additional 9 units.
 - Cluid Housing Association are finalising a Turnkey development, of 26 Units, on Rahan Road, Tullamore. Construction is to commence Summer 2020.

Turnkey Developments

- MacGregor, Birr: 12 Units – Works resumed on the 18th May, 8 units will be delivered in 2020.
- Advertisement for expressions of interest for Turnkey schemes closed on the 28th May 2020. Currently assessing over 20 submissions across all MD's.

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

- Mid Offaly Housing Association: Mountbolus - 4 units are substantially completed and the AHB have informed the successful nominees when the units will be made available. Works on concluding the houses, delayed due

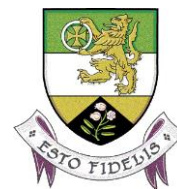
LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Age Friendly Strategy

The Age Friendly Alliance held its June meeting via Zoom. This meeting was well attended and there was appreciation all-round for the great work and collaboration

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MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



between agencies and service providers. The level of collaboration and deliverance of such a wide range and comprehensive level of supports and services is to be commended. The Faithful Fields Newsletter continues to be produced and delivered on a fortnightly basis and is being received well across the county. Offaly Age Friendly are currently working in conjunction with Westmeath Age Friendly on an Intergenerational Music project. This is in collaboration with Music Generation the Library services and LOETB.



June 2020. The PPN would like to thank the following reps for their work with the PPN. Secretariat member Loughnan Hooper has stepped down after giving 5 years' service to the Secretariat. We also want to thank Jimmy Todd for his representation on the LCDC as a PPN Community representative. Sylvia Sweeney was elected as the Community Rep on the LCDC for a three-year term & Sinead McDonagh is returning as a Community rep for a further 3 years. Congratulations to all.

The PPN continues to present new information to membership on an ongoing basis as per directives both at National & Local level. The Midlands Regional PPN continue to meet with a view to delivering cross county services to membership, supporting the Community & Voluntary services during these challenging times.

Comhairle na nÓg

Offaly Comhairle na nÓg held a meeting with Cllr. Neil Feighery and Director of Services Sharon Kennedy on "Your Council Day" the 1st of July. It was a meeting to share knowledge and experience from the Council's perspective and from the perspective of a Councillor. It was a great opportunity for the young members to learn about each job.



Comhairle na nÓg members also took part in a climate change talk with Prof John

Public Participation Network

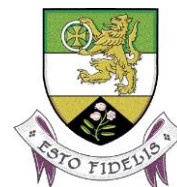
The PPN continues to participate in the Offaly Community Response Forum providing updates on progress and concerns about the Community sector living with and post Covid 19.

The PPN Elections took place with new and returning reps taking up their position in

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Sweeney from Maynooth University in conjunction with Mayo Comhairle, to learn more about climate change as it is the topic for this year!

Pride of Place

IPB Pride of Place is an All-Ireland competition which recognises the work that communities do all over the island. It will be held remotely this year due to Covid restrictions. The entrants from Offaly for 2020 are Lusmagh Development Group and Glendaniel Residents Association. Judging will take place in September and the online awards ceremony will be held in November.

ARTS

Music Generation Offaly Westmeath

MGOW Music Technology Course: A 6-week music technology and composition course has just been completed. Through a series of zoom sessions, and by making use of a learning management system (Google classroom) young people were introduced to making music online using an audio package and given the chance to work with a midlands based song writer and producer. We hope to produce a virtual concert of some of their compositions in the near future.



Cruinniú na n'Óg 2020

MGOW was involved in delivering sessions as part of the Cruinniú programme in both Offaly & Westmeath. From developing story and music sessions to family and teen sings – MGOW musicians delivered in excess of 5 hours of live music making online on Saturday 21st June.



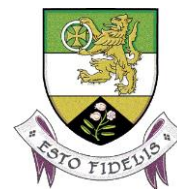
Quality Framework

Along with all Music Generations, MGOW is in the process of implementing the Quality Framework – a flexible, non-prescriptive Framework which we use as a tool for the consideration and planning for Quality in our own particular context(s). The Quality Framework includes tools and templates that can be used to stimulate discussion about the goals of our work, to explore where we are achieving on our objectives and where we want to develop and grow.

We had already made a good start on selecting an area for review and introducing the musician team to the process and purpose of the exercise. We have been able to refocus our efforts during this time and collectively reflect on our progress, identify needs and next steps.

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Summer Voices Online Singing Camp

MGOW have joined forces with Music Generation Louth, Sing Ireland and IMRO to create an on-line singing camp for teens. The camp will involve workshops in everything from singing and song-writing to rap.

The 3-day course will take place from 21st-23rd July and be led by Irish Youth Choir tutor and Chamber Choir Ireland member Alan Leech alongside workshop leaders and musicians from Music Generations Offaly Westmeath and Louth including extra sessions on Rap with Rapper Garry McCarthy (GMCBeats), Songwriting with Singer Songwriter Luan Parle, Vocal Sound with Irish Youth Training Choir Conductor Patrick Barrett and Warm Ups with Singer Helen Hassett.

Arts Office

Arts Grants: We are assessing the arts act grants, professional artist support grants and festival grants on a continual basis, with a view to aid community groups and artists find alternative means of engagement if their original proposal could not take place. In most cases the response is that the group will be rescheduling from Sept. The latest update is that several Arts Act Grants and Festivals are now on course for delivery.

Festivals Online



We are continuing to work closely with festivals. The majority of our granted festivals are now taking place both online and offline, advice and H&S guidelines are being provided. *Shakefest* – dance and cultural festival took place online in June and was an online success. We also assisted in promoting Cruinniú na nÓg.

Exhibition Programme

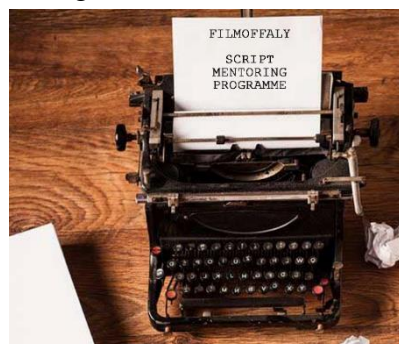
The exhibition programme for the Atrium has been suspended but we are looking into ways of hosting a virtual gallery space.

FilmOffaly Programme

We are working with several independent films on locations which are waiting to commence in Offaly later this year.

FilmOffaly Award 2019

The filming of this award is due to commence in Sep/Oct 2020. Screen Ireland has released specific H&S guidelines for the film industry and although challenging the production company is able to start planning for a shoot.



FilmOffaly Award 2020

Interviews took place in June 2020 over zoom and the winning script and production team chosen. Contract will issue soon.

FilmOffaly Mentoring Programme

Evaluation of submissions for mentors took place in June, mentor selected was Helen Flanagan. Currently working with Helen to

JUNE 2020

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promote the scheme to mentees and organise workshops for later in the year. Programme is in collaboration with LOETB, LEO and Screen Skills Ireland.

FilmOffaly

The Arts Office in conjunction with LEO are looking into the possibility examining funding potentials for the development of a Masterplan/Feasibility study on Film and Animation in Offaly, with a further development which would cover employment supports towards Project Manager, bursaries + residencies + incentives for industry. An application to Just Transition START is the first step in the process.

Event Co-Ordinator

The event organiser for Culture Night and Hullabaloo! has been selected and she is currently working closely with the Arts Office, our partners and artists with regard to formulating an online and offline programme for these events.

Culture Night

The Arts Office is concentrating on an online response for Culture Night. It is intended to produce a short film showcasing our artists, venues and locations. 16 proposals were received from film production companies / filmmakers to undertake the Culture Night Film, same will be evaluated shortly. In addition, 13 proposals were received from artists wishing to take part in the film. There will also be some restricted physical independent events taking place.

Hullabaloo

The Arts Office are progressing to scheduling of workshops and events.

Midland Arts Magazine

Production suspended- working with other partners to see if we can organise an online review. Also looking at possibility of producing an online newsletter (Offaly only) with contributions from artists / arts organisations.

Youth Arts

The Arts Office has been working with youth arts facilitator Oisín Robbins to create an online project entitled 'Capture Your Creativity'. Young creatives have been invited to capture their artwork (any medium) and submit same to us. The art work will be curated together and showcased through a short film on social media, depending on response there may be more than one film. The project aims to capture the range and diversity of youth art for ages between 12-20 years. This project aims to celebrate and showcase the creativity that's inside young people and to encourage young voices to be heard and to develop a youth-led, Youth Arts Forum for the county.

The Youth Arts report *The Makings Fostering Youth Creativity* – is ready for production, quotes for a digital design have been received and evaluated. The document will be designed and disseminated online.

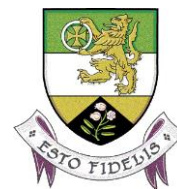
Anam Beo



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The intergenerational music project with Andy Spearpoint is currently on hold as engagement for this project is with older people and young people (between 16 – 24 years). The project is a collaboration with Music Generation and Anam Beo and the partners are investigating ways to progress it.

The Arts Office are one of the partners for an Arts Council funded award through their 'Invitation To Collaborate' Funding – The lead partner in this project is Laois County Council Arts Office. The project is a regional project titled Mapping Arts Provision in Health Settings. Partner organizations are Laois County, County, Westmeath County Council, Offaly County Council, Music Generation OW, Anam Beo, Helium Arts, Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT). The brief for a researcher for the project has been advertised and the partnership are awaiting submissions for evaluation.

Public Art

Jessica Traynor who was awarded the Banagher Public Art Literature Commission



continues to develop links within the community to develop her oral history recording project, schools' writing and choral workshops, mentorship opportunities for local writers and events in conjunction with the That Beats Banagher Festival. Prior to the lockdown Jessica conducted a number of workshops with TY students, and local writers. Following lockdown Jessica arranged a 4-week series of online workshops with local writers plus arranging a summer mentorship programme for 6th

year students and adults. Further programming will be taking place throughout the summer.

Lough Boora

- The Deep Mapping project is nearing completion – the final report will be available shortly.
- ITC Art in Landscape Research Project – Collaboration with Mayo County Council and Visual Arts Ireland. A national call was issued for researcher proposals/ tenders, closing date due in mid-June.
- The Arts Officer and Heritage Officer were involved with BNM in the submission as part of the Just Transition for the development of Lough Boora Sculpture Park

Creative Edenderry

An ongoing initiative in conjunction with Voluntary Arts Ireland and Offaly Libraries that encourages discourse and awareness of the arts in Edenderry with the view to building a strong Creative Network.



The development of the Creative Edenderry network is progressing well with regular meetings taking place with a cohort of interested people. The Group are progressing with the development of an Arts project, looking at the theme of Our Place, with a focus on industrial heritage – the new project is titled Shoes of Edenderry and will include curating stories, images,

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anecdotes from locals around the old shoe factory. The group are preparing an event for Culture Night. An application from the IPB / Galway 2020 was made in conjunction with the group with a planned series of events to take place in March 2021.

Birr Writer's Retreat

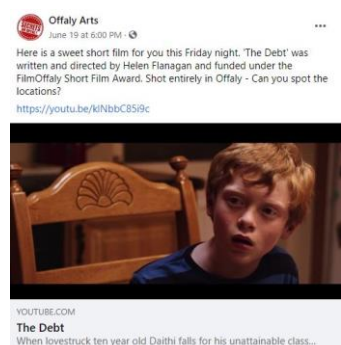
Evaluation of submissions for the Birr writers's Retreat took place in June. Four candidates were awarded.

Capital Projects

Tullamore Community Art Centre

Exploring operational planning options. An initial programming proposal has been developed for the Arts Centre. This would be a stand-alone curated project – based on a re-ignited Foundation Festival – to run from September 2020 – 2021 with the aim to re-engage an audience / local community participation in advance of the Art Centre opening – Foundation Festival could then become an annual / bi-annual festival with invited curators.

Online Communication Strategy



We continue to engage the public and artists through our online and social platforms, Facebook, twitter and our extensive email

distribution databases, some topics covered in May include:

- Offaly Artists encouraged to share their work to Offaly Arts – Visual & Music
- Promotion of online festivals i.e. Bealtaine, Scripts, Shakefest.

- Awareness building of Covid 19 grants currently available.
- Public Interest – i.e. Sharing of online virtual tours, films, drama shows, dance shows, creative writing forums, arts activities for children

SPORTS

Staff of Offaly Sports Partnership continue to support the helpline as required

Funding

Dept. of Community & Rural Development

- Progress reports on Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2019 submitted
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 launched. Closing date for receipt of measure 1 applications submitted by Offaly Sports Partnership on behalf of Offaly County Council is Wednesday, 30th September

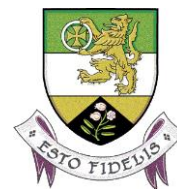
Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport Bike Week (now taking place from 19th to 27th September) revised funding application submitted

Sport Ireland

- Sport Ireland 2019 Local Sports Partnership Annual Report launched 23rd June by zoom
- Mid-year returns for 2020 due September
- Core & Dormant Accounts funding applications for 2021 due October

Programmes

- Three day (covid19 risk assessed) summer fit camps (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) hosted by Offaly Sports Partnership commenced 6th July in Crinkle, Edenderry and Tullamore



- Healthy Ireland funded Fit Class programme weekly challenges posted to social media channels between April and June - over 19,000 people viewed the challenges on Facebook; over 19,500 viewed the challenges on Twitter with over 950 Twitter engagements; while over 1,700 people viewed the challenges on Instagram
- Offaly's Longest Day physical activity challenge concluded on 20th June. Diaries and photos currently being adjudicated on
- Healthy Offaly Community mental health fund small grants scheme launched. Closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 28th August
- Healthy Ireland Offaly web pages live on www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Community-Culture/Healthy-Ireland/

TOURISM

Offaly Tourism have been busy during this difficult and unprecedented times. The government's decision to ease some of the phase three restrictions was very welcome and the tourism & hospitality sector is opening up and welcoming visitors back. They are working hard to adjust to social distancing guidelines and ensuring their businesses are safe for customers.

Many supports are available for the industry through Fáilte Ireland and the tourism team have been working closely with their representatives from IAE & IHH to assist and support the trade where possible.

Offaly Tourism Marketing held their first 'virtual' meeting on 18th June. It was very

welcome by the trade and well attended. Fáilte Ireland's Lorraine Sheehan spoke to members on updates and further assistance available to them. It was a good opportunity for the trade to discuss their issues, findings and learnings during this difficult time.

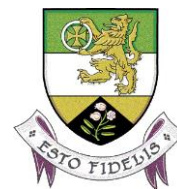
The Tourist Office in Tullamore opened its doors again to visitors on 29th June after being closed for a period of ten weeks. Once again the loyal volunteers have assisted in making this possible and we thank them greatly for their continued support.

Offaly Tourism's national Summer marketing campaign launched on 15th June. The national radio campaign ran for a period of 4 weeks on Today FM & Newstalk. It included a week long promotion on Today FM's Fergal Darcy afternoon show. There were daily prizes of a stay for 2 nights and dinner in the newly refurbished Tullamore Court Hotel and the grand prize at the end of the week promotion was a 5 night stay on board a luxury cruiser with Silverline Cruisers. Both the adverts and the promotion has been very well received and has definitely boosted Offaly's profile nationwide.

For the first time ever, Offaly tourism was delighted to collaborate with its neighbours in the midland counties to jointly promote the area on local radio. The 'Magical Midlands' adverts began broadcasting on Midland 103 on 1st June and are running for a period of 4 weeks. The campaign consisted of three county specific adverts for Offaly, Laois & Westmeath. The common message at the beginning and ending of the adverts is to enjoy the 'Magical Midlands'. The adverts encourage the Midlanders to get out and

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explore the wonders and beauty within the region, with so much to see and do, you don't have to travel far!

Fáilte Ireland's Irelands Ancient East have come together with Offaly LEO and Offaly Tourism to offer tailor made free online courses for the hospitality and tourism businesses within the county.

There are three different two-hour training courses available to the trade; the first once taking place Thursday 16th July. These are a valuable resource for the tourism providers in the county as they re-open and require assistance in different areas of the business.

The tourism team are preparing for this year's virtual Meitheal commencing on 2st July. Fáilte Ireland's largest in-Ireland event was cancelled in March due to COVID 19. The event which hosts over 300 international buyers is now going on-line for seven days and Offaly Tourism is delighted to be represented for the first time.

Offaly Tourism have commissioned videography & photography for this Summer so look out for the cameramen and photographers when you're out and about. The tourism team are looking forward to Offaly Tourism first ever dedicated tourism videos being available to assist in promotion soon.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly team continues to work remotely and provides a full service to new and existing enterprises in Offaly. In addition to the core LEO staff, two additional staff members – Ann Marie O'Brien and Aideen Moore from Offaly

County Council have been temporarily assigned to the LEO office. These additional staff members are providing much needed assistance to deal with the unprecedented numbers of business owners contacting the Local Enterprise Office. Orla Martin, Head of Enterprise acknowledged that the extraordinary efforts of staff and expressed her thanks to all members of the Local Enterprise Office for their hard work and commitment to support and help Offaly businesses.

Going Green Programme

Going Green is a new competitive Midland LEOs pilot initiative offering Offaly's micro-businesses up to €5000* to make environmental improvements to their business.

Along with the grant businesses will also get access to an Environmental Auditor and an individualised Environmental Audit of your business. They will also receive Environmental Training to help get the most out of your grant. This should result in short and long-term cost savings as a result of the environmental work completed.

There are also free promotional and marketing opportunities as part of the Going Green Programme and they will have access to a Programme Coordinator to help businesses with every step of the process.

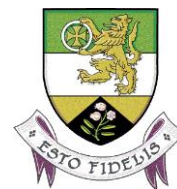


Competitive Start Fund - Women Entrepreneurship

Applications are invited from individual women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurial teams and existing early stage women led start-ups. A qualification requirement for

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this call is that, the applicant / applicant company must have at least one woman promoter that has a place on the lead management team and who owns or will own at least 25% of the voting share capital of the company at the point prior to Enterprise Ireland Competitive Start Fund Tranche 1 investment of €25k for 5% of the company if successful in this competition.

LEO Feasibility Grant Call

Feasibility/Innovation Grants are designed to assist the promoter with researching market demand for a new product or service and examining its sustainability. It includes assistance with innovation including specific consultancy requirements, private specialists, design, and prototype development. Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available.

LEO Financial Supports

In response to Covid-19, refundable aid is no longer a feature of Business Expansion Grants. Priming, Business Expansion & Feasibility grants are available for eligible businesses. Local Enterprise Office Offaly offers a wide range of financial assistance to help you start up your business or grow your existing business. We provide a free information and advisory service to new and existing entrepreneurs on all aspects of setting up and running a business. For further information, please visit www.localenterprise.ie/Offaly/.

Upcoming Events

NEW ONLINE FOOD PROGRAMME SET TO GROW IRISH PRODUCERS

An innovative new online food programme, from the Local Enterprise Offices, is set to boost the number of Irish food start-ups. The Digital School of Food is the first of its kind in Europe and gives food

entrepreneurs expert advice and guidance, from their home, office or kitchen.

The programme will give food entrepreneurs an education in planning a product journey and route to market, through thinking about finance and how to grow sales, right up to expanding the business. It includes support from experts in the field as each course has a real producer who contributes tips and advice throughout. The programme includes contributions from trade buyers in Supervalu, Musgraves and Spar.

New Frontiers Phase 2 2020 - OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

New Frontiers is the national programme designed to develop entrepreneurs. It is delivered on behalf of Enterprise Ireland by Institutes of Technology and Universities across Ireland. The programme's primary purpose is to accelerate the development of sustainable new businesses that have strong employment and growth potential and contribute to job creation and economic activity in regional locations. It is open to business ideas from across all sectors including food & consumer products; information & communication technology; engineering & electronics; medical devices; biotechnology; pharma, digital media; cleantech/renewable energy; and eligible internationally-traded services.

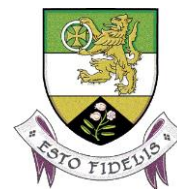
LIBRARY SERVICES

Welcome Back, we missed you!

Offaly Libraries are delighted to announce that **Birr, Clara, Edenderry and Tullamore Libraries** have re-opened to the public for ***Browsing By Appointment*** services. There have been 52 users visiting the library in the first days. Virtual tours our

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new library layouts and arrangements will be available via social media and on our website as branches return to business.


In line with other sectors during this Phase, this is a **gradual return** to library services which is consistent with Government Guidelines, bearing current public health guidance in mind at all times, and subject to review.

This new service offers:

- Quick browsing service
- Contactless printing & photocopying
- Self-service issue & return of library items
- Staffed opening hours at dedicated times



Book online, phone or email us for available appointment times



Receive your appointment time to visit the library





Come to the library at your appointment time to browse, borrow and print from your device



Our online booking system, phone numbers and email addresses are all available on [Offaly.ie/Libraries](https://offaly.ie/Libraries)

Online Services

Online Library Booking System

 @OffalyLibraries  @OffalyLibraries

We are unable to offer study spaces and/or access to newspapers and magazines at this time. However, we are continually reviewing the availability of these services, as part of the graduated return to library services. Significant changes to building layouts, technologies, equipment and handling of library materials are underway.

Our Offaly Libraries team look forward to welcoming you back.

Our **Contact and Collect Service** continues to be very popular and enables users to request and return library material in Banagher, Birr, Clara, Daingean, Edenderry, Ferbane and Tullamore Libraries.

Offaly Libraries Contact and Collect Service



This service continues to be a tremendous success with **2,258 books issued** across the County so far and engagement levels on social media have been high and very positive. More information and FAQs are available on the website [Click and Collect page](#).

CONTACT AND COLLECT SERVICE

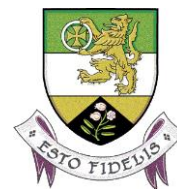
Contact the library by phone or email, ask for books to be selected and receive a collection time to collect your books.



It was lovely to hear from Tom, Hannah and Alice and their mum Niamh - "This house of avid readers were so excited to avail of the Contact and Collect service in Tullamore Library. They couldn't wait to open their mystery bags of 5 books each. It was so enjoyable to read books that you may not have known about or picked yourself. We can't wait to go to the library again".

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Offaly Digital Libraries

We continue to build on our full digital suite of online resources and services which have been widely used over the past few months. We had **7,348 hits on our website** for the month of June.



There have been over **11,000 eAudiobooks and eBooks borrowed** in Offaly in 2020 already! Users have access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers, educational courses, language learning, free music and film streaming. You'll find these services gathered in the Digital Library section of our website.

Cruinniú na nÓg Programme 2020



Cruinniú na nÓg was hosted entirely online in 2020. The proposed programme of events originally planned for Cruinniú was

cancelled at the end of March due to Covid-19. The decision was made to move the entire programme online in mid-April with an open call for creative facilitators with online content.

All submissions were reviewed and assessed from both a value for money perspective and to ensure quality cultural content. By using a mixture of local and national creative facilitators, Offaly County Council organised [66 events](#) which can be watched [here](#). A blended approach was adopted with a mixture of videos and webinars featuring 13 different providers on three different social media platform – Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



47 videos and 8 posts were posted on Facebook which generated 11,388 views with 1,959 people engaging with the content and a reach of 50,540.



6 posts featured on Twitter with a reach of 3,059 and engagement of 112.



The reach of our 6 Instagram posts was 736 with 26 likes.

The overall reach of Offaly's Cruinniú na nÓg for 2020 was 54,335 and engagement of 2,097. All our online events may be viewed online, [SEE MORE HERE!](#)

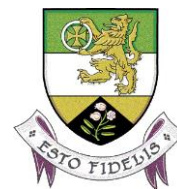
Offaly Libraries creating an Offaly COVID-19 Photographic Archive 2020

To date we have received 63 submissions for our photographic archive. This initiative will enable us to create a valuable photographic record of



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social history for local historians and future generations.

We continue to welcome photographic submissions from the community on their [COVID-19 experiences](#). Please email: askthelibrarian@offalycoco.ie.



Offaly Libraries look forward to this collection which will offer a 'living history' for future researchers. A digital photographic archive will be created as part of Offaly Library Service Archive collections and will be housed in Offaly Archives facility in Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Offaly Libraries Virtual Summer Stars



Summer Stars is the national reading programme for children taking place this year online in Offaly Libraries from the 15th of June until the end of August. Summer Stars is a completely free programme and open to all children. This year it includes a new dedicated eCollection of children's titles available via Borrowbox and national writing competitions. The programme also features Chapter Readings from library staff, reminiscent of our very successful online story time readings for

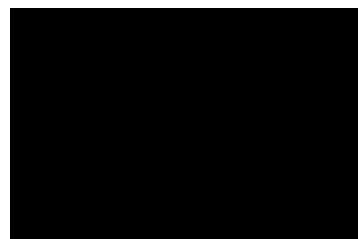
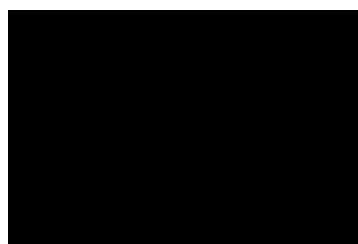
younger children during *Spring Into Storytime*. Signing your child up for Offaly's Summer

Stars Reading Adventure has never been easier!

Contact your local library to sign up, order



books and also receive fun activity sheets. We will post online stories and craft videos throughout the summer months on social media and our website. Have a look at some of our videos below.



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New Music streaming service for Offaly Library members

Offaly Libraries is delighted to announce



that we are now subscribed to a fantastic music streaming service called The Freegal® Music Service.

This brilliant new digital resource has had almost **1,000 songs streamed by Offaly Libraries members in the first two weeks of subscription**. We hope it will continue to be widely accessed and help uplift our users during these strange times.

Studies have shown that listening to music is good for you, it can make you happier, improves your sleep, can strengthen learning and memory and even increase verbal intelligence. The Freegal® Music service allows patrons to access a collection spanning over 15 million songs, music videos and audiobooks from more than 40,000 music labels.



Offaly Libraries Online Newsletter



Following its launch in May we continue to receive positive feedback on our Newsletter

and subscriber numbers are growing. We will continue to promote subscription to the Newsletter on Social Media.

New film and documentary streaming service for Offaly Library members

Offaly Libraries are pleased to announce that Beamafilm, our new movie and documentary streaming service is now available to all library members.

Beamafilm is a streaming platform that has a curated collection of international movies and documentaries. They have over **500 movies** to choose from and new titles are added regularly. The carefully curated collection of award-winning documentaries, independent features and festival favourites will delight, inspire and entertain you.



Offaly Libraries Blog – Read All About It!

Offaly Libraries Blog was started in December 2017 as a platform to highlight multi-faceted Offaly Libraries news and topics of interest.

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To date 63 individual posts have been published and there have been over 6,100 blog views. Thirteen library staff have



written blog posts and there have been four guest bloggers. The blog is edited and managed by our dedicated and qualified library staff.

The blog is read in 38 different countries which features countries from 6 of the 7 continents Ghana, Ecuador, Nepal, South Korea and Australia to name a few.

There was a **103% increase** in the blog views in June compared with May 2020.

*Creating your Covid19 Toolkit: Self-care for Parents and Children; *ASD and Sensory Play at Home: Benefits and Barriers.

Further Healthy Ireland events will be delivered online during the Summer, full details will be available on our social media pages and on our website.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive



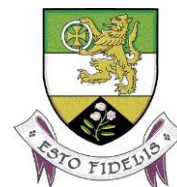
Our [Healthy Ireland at Your Library](http://www.librariesireland.ie) programme continued in June with some very successful online Hi library events delivered, with high levels of engagement on social media.

Leona McDonnell, Mindfulness and Wellbeing facilitator produced two videos for Offaly Libraries which are both available on social media and on our website; **An Introduction to Mindfulness and Meditation** and **Mindfulness for Stress and Anxiety**.

Eleanor Glennon, Play Therapist produced 3 video pieces as follows: *Covid19 and the Anxious Child: Creative Coping Skills, Safe Spaces, and Parenting Tools;

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Appendix 1 Offaly County Council Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 30th June 2020

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2020 €m	Preliminary Value to June 2020 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	27.07	13.46	49.7%
Grants and Subsidies Income	34.94	13.89	39.8%

OCC to 30th June 2020

	<u>Rates</u> €m	<u>Rents</u> €m	<u>Loans</u> €m
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2020	2.29	0.73	0.32
Invoices/Adjustments	14.59	3.09	0.24
2020 Cash Collected to end of June	5.90	3.15	0.28
Closing Balance June 30th, 2020	10.99	0.68	0.29

2019 Cash collected to June

	9.94	3.09	0.26
% Collection at this point in 2019	59%	102%	110%

Bank Overdraft to 30th June 2020

Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date	23	13%
Overdraft Interest and non conforming charges to June 30th 2020 YTD		€13,133
Bank Administration and transactional charges to June 30th 2020 YTD		€16,725