

**JUNE
2022**



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council

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 Iúil

Monthly Management Report for consideration at the July 2022 Monthly Meeting.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Finance Report– Appendix 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TULLAMORE SHOW 2022

After two years of cancelled shows as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Tullamore Show is returning on Sunday 14th August.

SUMMERSTARS ARTS AND CRAFTS

Sessions will be also be hosted in Tullamore Library every Friday at 3pm.

SOCIAL INCLUSION WEEK

This will run in September and the Social Inclusion Showcase event on September 14th in the Tullamore Court.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

Killina Cycleway

Construction of the new walking and cycling track linking Killina School to the Grand Canal Greenway has commenced. It is envisaged that the works will be completed prior to the commencement of the new School year.

Offaly Job Fair 2022

Over 650 job seekers from all over the Midlands and further afield flocked to the first ever Offaly Job Fair held in the Tullamore Court hotel on Saturday 2nd July. There were 36 employer stands and over 500 hundred jobs on offer.

Offaly Disability Equality Network

A meeting of the Offaly Disability Equality Network took place. Brian Pey attended to present on the Disability Participation and Awareness fund. The meeting was well attended and was the first in-person meeting of the group since the onset of Covid-19.

National Play Day

Offaly Libraries celebrated National Play Day on Thursday 7th July.

PLANNING

	To end June 2022	To end June 2021	Total 2021
Planning Applications	342	414	831
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	9	12	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	27(4)	6(2)	30 (2)

During the month of June 2022, the following large planning applications were received:

James O' Connor Commercial development (retail and office) at O' Neill Place, Tullamore.

Irish Water Upgrade of the Daingean water treatment plant.

Riverside Print and Embroidery Ltd. Construction of a new printing and embroidery unit to replace existing unit at Patrick Street, Portarlinton.

Forward Planning

On 10th June 2022, a workshop was held with the Birr elected members in respect of the preparation of the draft Birr Local Area Plan 2023-2029 (LAP). This formed a part of the pre-draft consultation under Section 20(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

13th June 2022 was the closing date for the making of submissions from Environmental Authorities in respect of the scope and detail to be included in the SEA Environmental Report for the preparation of the draft Birr LAP. Four such submissions were received in respect of this.

ROADS

Green way Projects

Offaly County Council in collaboration with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Water Ways Ireland have now completed works on the Grand Canal Greenway from Daingean to Edenderry. The scheme design provides for parking facilities at a number of locations along the greenway and the picture below shows the Georges Bridge carpark which includes 2 disabled parking bays, 7 parking bays and a slipway entry point to the Grand Canal. Offaly County Council in partnership with our stakeholders continue to deliver Greenway schemes across the County to promote healthier communities, to provide potential zero carbon options to provide interconnectivity between our towns and villages and improve safety for all our communities and visitors alike.



Georges Bridge Carpark Grand Canal Greenway



Grand Canal Greenway

Active Travel

Roads continue to deliver Active Travel schemes across the County in collaboration with our funding partners in the National Transport Authority. Offaly County Councils Active Travel projects are designed to provide new infrastructure and upgrade existing infrastructure to promote walking and cycling, rather than using the private Car. Our Active Travel schemes are designed to assist in reducing Offaly's Carbon Emissions while also promoting and facilitating healthier Communities. The following are some examples of schemes both at completion stage and currently under construction.



New Cycle way and Pedestrian facilities at Hare's Lane Edenderry



Before construction and after construction images of the New Pedestrian facilities to St Michaels Cemetery Portarlington



Before construction and after construction images of the ongoing Junction upgrade works at Banagher at the intersection of the R-439-1 and Local road L-70162-1.

ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES

Climate Action & Energy

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between OCC and SEAI in order to provide bridge funding for Sustainable Energy Communities looking to carry out Energy Master Plans.

OCC have engaged with 3cea, who act as energy consultants to the MEA counties, in regards to a work programme for the remaining 6 months of 2022 and into 2023.

SI 426 Audits and Displayed Energy Certs will be a priority.

Rural Water Programme

The next Multi Annual Rural Water Programme circular and measures is due to be issued to Local Authorities in late 2022 and we are contacting all relevant Group Water Schemes to advise them to begin preparing their submissions. In advance of that, the Rural Water Unit have issued a circular and guidance for a new MARWP measure – A8 – Waste Water Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Waste Water Services – a workshop on the new measure was attended by OCC staff on the 15/06/22.

Burial Grounds

The tenders for the extension of Kilcoursey cemetery have been assessed and the letter of Intent has been sent to the preferred tenderer. It is anticipated that works will take place in Q3.



Veterinary

OCC is continuing with its shared service agreement for veterinary services with Westmeath Co. Co. and we are providing veterinary inspection services in 12 abattoirs across both counties.

In the first quarter of 2022, the Control of Dogs team cared for 59 stray or surrendered dogs. Of these, 12 dogs were reunited with their owners, 3 were rehomed directly from the Dog Shelter and 32 were rehomed by registered Animal Welfare charities, nine dogs remained in the Dog shelter at the end of the quarter. We have also had two successful prosecutions for control of dogs related issues so far in 2022.



Water Services

The Major Capital Upgrade of the Tullamore/Birr WTPs are close to completion and are in their one year post build operational phase.

The following schemes have upgrade design works in progress:

- Clara Water Treatment Plant
- Edenderry Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Rhode Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Daingean Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Clara Wastewater- mitigation of odour issues.
- Banagher Wastewater- upgrade of sewer on Harbour Road

Disinfection Programme

Construction works have commenced on Geashill Water Treatment Plant. Design works are ongoing at Holmshill (Rahan WSS).



New UV system at Geashill

Leak Reduction Programme

Clonbullogue DMA complete and the desired target has been achieved. Find and Fix works are ongoing in Birr, Daingean, Edenderry, Geashill, Portarlinton, Rhode, Rahan and Tullamore north. Watermain Rehabilitation works are ongoing at Pollagh.

HOUSING

To assist us in streamlining service delivery we encourage the use of the following email addresses:

HAP Enquiries

hap@offalycoco.ie

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans

homeloans@offalycoco.ie

Housing Inspections – HAP, Leased, Private, etc.

standards@offalycoco.ie

General Enquiries, Maintenance Issues, etc.

housing@offalycoco.ie

RAS & Leasing Enquiries

RAS@offalycoco.ie

Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People & People with a Disability Scheme

HousingAidGrants@offalycoco.ie

Anti-Social Behaviour

ASB@offalycoco.ie

June Housing Update

- There are 504 on the Social Housing List awaiting housing support at the end of June 2022.
- A further 725 active tenancies are currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 15 signed up for HAP and 16 exited from HAP in June.
- At the end of June, 20 single people and 12 families supported in emergency accommodation.

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

- Total housing stock at end of June 2022 is 1,993.
- 288 maintenance calls were logged in June.

Housing Capital Programme Update

- Raheen, Clara development (38 units) – The Stage 4 approval application was approved by the DHLGH on 24th February 2022. Project retendered with closing date in early July using the new Public Works Form of Contract and a new Stage 4 application will lodge with the Department following due diligence with the lowest tenderer.

- Dargan Drive, Chancery Lane (20 Units) – Part 8 passed in May council meeting. Stage 3 to be submitted to the Department
- Moneygall (4 units) – Contractor commenced works on site on 31st January 2022. Due for completion in Q1, 2023.
- Beechgrove, Belmont (7 units) – Project commenced on site on 10th November 2021. Due for completion in Q4, 2022.
- Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 no. Older Person's dwellings) – Stage 4 approval was granted on 11th April 2022, contractor appointed and due to start in July 2022
- Banagher, Kylebeg (18 Units) – Stage 4 approval received on 25th June 2021. Project is due for completion in Q4, 2022.
- Circular Road, Daingean (9 units) - Stage 4 approval was received on 8th March 2022 and works were due to commence on site in May 2022, however department have advised that scheme should be re-tendered.
- Circular Road, Daingean, Site 2 (10 Units) – Stage 1 approval application was granted on 3rd August 2021 for the site adjoining the OCC housing site on Circular Road. Stage 2 is due to be lodged in 2022. Consultant appointments are currently being put in place.
- Sycamore Drive, Ballycumber (9 Units) – Stage 1 approval was granted by the Department on 11th May 2021. The Design Team appointed and all surveys completed. Stage 2 will be lodged in Q2, 2022.
- 1 Newbridge Street, Birr: Works commenced on site on 16th December 2021. Works are ongoing and due for completion in July 2022.

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

- Cluid Housing Association: Jackson's Hill, Tullamore - Construction ongoing on 26 units Scheme is complete.
- Oaklee: Clonminch, Tullamore (19 units) – Completion in November 2022
- Oaklee: Kearney's Field, Tullamore (41 Units) – Completion in Q1, 2023
- Sofia Housing: Stage 2 approved (39 units) at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton. Stage 2 submission made in October. Sophia Housing will lodge a planning application for the development soon.
- Sofia Housing, Clonamore Hotel – the Department issued Stage 4 approval for the refurbishment received on 27th June 2022. Contractor to be appointed subject to normal conditions

Turnkey Developments/Part V

- 6 Turnkey Schemes (82 units) which received departmental approval in December 2020. The remaining units are progressing as follows:
 1. Mucklagh, 8 units – Completed May 2022
 2. Woodfield, Birr, 35 units - 16 completed to date. All completions will be in 2022
 3. Bog Road, Portarlinton, 28 units - Under Construction, completion in Q1 2023
 4. Walsh Island, 4 units - Under Construction
- 7 x Part V Units at the Hawthorns, Tullamore were completed in 2021, 5 more due in July 2022
- 2 x Part V units under construction at Ard na Carriage, Edenderry. Completion in 2022

Housing Grants (Private)

Housing were notified on 28th March that the 2022 Allocation - Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Scheme for private homes is €1,543,750 which is composed of €1,235,000 exchequer funding (representing 80%), and €308,750 matching local authority funding (representing 20%) to be provided from Offaly County Council's own resources.

Housing are progressing the 2022 works programme and continue to liaise with all applicants who have been approved for works in an effort to ensure that all works are progressing and to facilitate the timely drawdown of funds.

Disabled Person's Grants (Social Housing)

On 31st March 2022 Housing were advised that the allocation for Disabled Person's Grants for Social Housing Units is €658,800 (representing 90%), with €65,880 matching local authority funding (representing 10%) is to be added from Offaly County Council's own resources.

Retrofit Programme

The Council received notification on 22nd October 2021 of an increase in their allocation under 'Just Transition for the Midlands Region' programme to €4.2m.

Lot 1&2, Birr: The Contractor for the works appointed (Retrofit Design Ltd.) and works are in progress on the Birr houses. Completion in July 2022

Lot 3&4, Tullamore: Works are still awaiting Department funding approval.

Lot 5&6, Edenderry, Daingean, Clara, Ferbane, Shannonbridge, and Cloghan: The appointed consultants have prepared the works tender, which will be advertised on www.etenders.gov.ie. When and if funding is approved by the DHLGH.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**Offaly Community Response Forum**

The Community Response Forum continues to coordinate the response to the Ukraine crisis. The membership of the Forum includes the following agencies: Offaly County Council; Health Service Executive; Offaly Local Development Company; Offaly Volunteer Centre; TúsIa; County Childcare Committee; Department of Social Protection; An Garda Síochána; Civil Defence; Local Link Laois Offaly; Offaly Library Service; Family Resource Centres; Citizens Information Service; SVP and Laois Offaly ETB.

Meetings of the Forum were held on the 15th and 29th June, with useful sharing of information and co-ordination of communication of services between agencies. Offaly County Council also continues to work in co-operation with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth; the International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS); the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to provide local supports to the national response to the Ukrainian Refugee emergency.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Offaly LCDC held their monthly meeting on Thursday 9th June 2022. Main agenda items included the Selection of Chairperson & Vice Chairperson, Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020 & Transitional LEADER Programme 2021 – 2022, Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme 2018 – 2023 (SICAP) - Mid-Year Review and the Ukrainian Refugee Local Response Plan 2022 (OLDC).

Selection of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson:

Nominations were invited from the members for the selection of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson to serve for a maximum period of three years. Cllr. J. Leahy was deemed to be selected as Chairperson and Ms. S. Sweeney was deemed selected as Vice Chairperson of Offaly LCDC. Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. D. Harvey & Ms. S. McDonagh for their work as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively, with the LCDC over the past number of years.

SICAP Mid-Year Review:

Members were briefed on the SICAP Mid-Year Review 2022 currently taking place, and timelines for the 2022 Mid-Year reporting process were outlined. Members were informed that given the current operating environment, the DRCD has agreed there will be an opportunity to revisit SICAP targets for 2022 as a result of the immediate needs of the Ukrainian Community that SICAP is responding to. Further communication will be issued in Q.4.

Members were advised that Minister Humphreys and Minister O'Brien recently announced funding of €5 million for the SICAP Programme/Local Development Companies to assist the community response to support people arriving from Ukraine. This additional funding will support and enhance the work taking place to deliver vital supports and services and continue to assist in the integration of the Ukrainian people into our communities. Notification of SICAP Offaly's allocation expected in the coming days.

Ukrainian Refugee Local Response Plan 2022 (OLDC):

Members were provided with a comprehensive overview of the Ukrainian Refugee Local Response Plan

2022 including the supports provided, the role of SICAP and the Community Response Forum and the intentions of the SICAP programme in Offaly regarding continuation of its planned work and changing to meet the needs arising from the Ukrainian refugees arriving in Offaly. SICAP plans to support all of its existing clients and programmes across Goal 1 and Goal 2 with minimum interruption to planned work in 2022.

Public Participation Network

Offaly PPN had a very busy month with a range of activities and workshops.



An Environmental Pillar meeting was held which included a Climate Conversation Presentation and a focused session on the key elements impacting on Offaly. This was well attended with representation from right across County Offaly. Following on from this event, the key findings and feedback were presented in a Report to the Department.

Social Inclusion Meeting:

The Social Inclusion Pillar had a broad spectrum of membership in attendance. The discussion was primarily focused on group networking and the final element focused on the upcoming Social Inclusion Week in September and the Social Inclusion



Showcase event on September 14th in the Tullamore Court.

A Training Survey took place and garnered a lot of useful information in relation to plans for an Autumn Training plan.

Training took place with Ciaran Lynch for Green Offaly with a view to focusing actions and moving forward.

Funding Opportunities:

A list is compiled for the LCDC, this is a monthly occurrence where research into new funding opportunities is sourced and presented at the LCDC meetings.



Midland Regional PPN meeting: PPN staff and secretariat members attended this meeting in Kildare on June 30th where the Offaly PPN Secretariat presented on the Journey of Offaly PPN 2014 to date.



Joint Policing Committee: A gender based "Safety in Public Amenities" survey

launched on June 24th in Tullamore, Birr & Edenderry.



Offaly Age Friendly

The Age Friendly programme is quite busy with work underway on the 2nd Age Friendly Strategy for Offaly. A meeting took place with the Older Person's Network in advance of the Consultation to ensure that Older People from across the County were in attendance to feed into the new Strategy.

The Way We Were -

Local Promotion in Clara with Liam Handy & Liz Fleming. Copies of the Braille version of The Way We Were are now available at all Libraries in Offaly.



The Clara Age Friendly/ Disability Walkability Audit took place on 13th June. Staff from OCC participated including Mary Hussey, John Connolly, Area Engineer, Owen Curran, Active Travel and Cllr Mark Hackett. A number of members for Offaly Disability Network and members

of the community in Clara participated in the Audit also.

Clara FRC provided the venue and refreshments and facilitated the participants with a meeting room at the onset of the Audit and a space to complete the questionnaire following the completion of the Audit.



The Age Friendly Strategy Consultation took place on June 21st at the Tullamore Court. Over 100 people participated in the Consultation, which focused on the eight Age Friendly World Health Organisation themes. Members of the Age Friendly Alliance and Offaly County Council Age Friendly Interdepartmental Team facilitated the consultation process.



Cllr Tony McCormack opened the day and welcomed everyone, Brian Pey represented Offaly County Council Age Friendly Programme and Eileen Hughes Regional Age Friendly Midlands Manager presented on Age Friendly Ireland.



In the afternoon, a Workshop on Technical supports presented by the Age Friendly East Regional Manager Louise Edmonds was very favourably received. It highlighted the opportunities for people to remain independent and in their own homes by using assistive technology. Alone staff reiterated the opportunities to access funding for technology through Alone.

The proceedings came to a close with music provided by Peter Kelly and Pascal Brennan much to the delight of the Older People. Thanks to the Community team Fiona Craig, Catherina Clarke, Fiona Flaherty and Sharon Bollard for their assistance on the day.



Pride of Place Competition 2022

This is a national All Ireland competition organised by Co-operation Ireland and sponsored by IPB Insurance. The competition is about showing respect and inclusion for every sector in our communities, young, old, rich, or poor and creating communities to which people are proud to say they belong. It is also about communities demonstrating pride in their

heritage, culture, achievements, people, and place. The competition recognises the efforts of community groups to make their local neighbourhoods better places to live, work and socialise.

The entrants nominated by Offaly County Council in this year's competition are:

Community Group	POP Category	Municipal District
Geashill Tidy Towns	Category 2 Creative Place	Edenderry MD
Mucklagh Community Development CLG	Category 3 Population 1,000 to 2,000	Tullamore MD
Pullough Village	Category 8 Community Resilience	Birr MD

Judging will take place in person in late August. The awards ceremony is due to be held in November.

Comhairle na nÓg

The members continue to work hard on progressing their chosen project topic. June meetings were held online.

- Deidre Phelan from CYPSC joined a CNN meeting and consulted the group about the creation of their website and interest in a photoshoot.
- New CNN member nominated for Youth Representative on the PPN.
- The Comhairle na nÓg members analysed the results of a school survey they carried out to gain perspective on opinions of relationship religion and sex

education in schools. These were shared at the National Executive Meeting on 20th June. The guest speaker at this event was Saoirse Nic Gabhainn, Professor in Health Promotion and Project Leader in the Health Promotion Research Centre and the World Health Organisation Collaborative Centre for Health Promotion Research.

- 3 members represented Offaly Comhairle na nÓg at the National Networking Event in the DCEDIY buildings on June 30th.



SPORTS Staffing

Liam O Reilly, newly appointed ACE Coordinator commenced work with Offaly SP on Monday, 13th June. Liam joins us from the GAA; and we wish him all the best in getting to grips with his new role. The ACE programme will have a focus on supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds to become and remain involved in organised sport.



Funding

- Sport Ireland mid-year dormant accounts return submitted.

- Offaly Sports Partnership submitted an application to Sport Ireland for HER Outdoors funding to the value of €2,500 in June. HER Outdoors week takes place from 8th to 14th August 2022; and aims to celebrate and encourage more females to get out and enjoy the benefits of being in the outdoors while bringing visibility to the opportunities for females to get involved in outdoor physical activity.
- Health Services Executive mid-year return submitted.

Education & Training

- Two Safeguarding 1 (child protection) courses delivered in June.
- One Safeguarding 2 (club children's officer) course delivered in June.
- Additional Safeguarding courses to be delivered in July.

Programmes ACE

- Remote sprint event complete. 100 medals disseminated to top 10 finishers in boys and girls categories from senior infants to fourth class; while a further 100 medals were disseminated to most improved boys and girls from senior infants to fourth class.
- After school programme ongoing in Gracefield (Portarlinton catchment).

Community Sports / Sports Inclusion Development Programmes

Various programmes delivered including -

- Community sports development programmes
 - Secondary school rounders programme in Tullamore – 28 participants.

- Secondary school multi-sport camp for teenage girls in Tullamore – 14 participants.

ii. Sports inclusion development programmes

- Inclusive PE in two primary schools – Ballinagar: 100 participants; and St Peter & Paul, Horseleap: 25 participants.

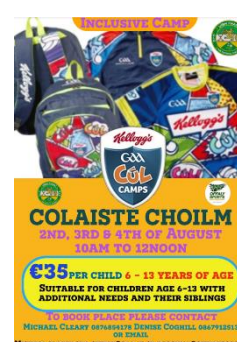
Upcoming programmes include -

i. Community sports development programmes

- Multi-sport camps for secondary school students in July – Banagher and Daingean.
- Activities on the green in association with the housing section of Offaly CoCo.

ii. Sports inclusion development programmes

- July provision days – 1st / 7th / 8th July with potential for additional dates to be added.
- Inclusive camps – multi sport on 26 / 27th July; and inclusive GAA from 2nd to 4th August.



Dormant account funded programmes Community volunteer supports

- Programme commenced on Monday, 13th June; and will conclude on Thursday, 14th July.
- 10 young people aged between 16 and 25 years currently participating with additional participants taking part in specific modules of the programme.
- Programme modules completed to date include athletics, safeguarding (child protection), rugby prime, GAA “foundation”, first aid and FAI “kick start”.
- Upcoming modules include basketball, water sports, badminton, CV writing, disability awareness and work experience.

Daingean sports hub

Recent activities rolled out through the Daingean Sports Hub include -

- mummies & buggies programme
- boot camp / circuit training
- “Mothers & Others Gaelic”
- walking challenges

Gymnastics equipment has also been recently purchased for the Hub; and it is hoped that gymnastics training can be delivered in quarters 3 and 4 of 2022 as part of the winter suite of hub programmes.



Sports inclusion development programme capital supports: In support of upcoming

inclusive camps, various items of sports equipment have been purchased.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Offaly Job Fair 2022



The Tullamore and District Chamber of Commerce together with support from the Local Enterprise Office Offaly, Offaly Local Development Company, LOETB, the Technical University of the Shannon and Tullamore and District Rotary Club organised the event.

Among the attendees from Offaly County Council were Chief Executive Anna Marie Delaney, Head of Enterprise Orla Martin, Cllr Neil Feighery, Cathaoirleach of Tullamore Municipal District, Cllr Declan Harvey, Cllr John Clendennen, Cllr Mark Hackett and Cllr Eddie Fitzpatrick. Also in attendance were Junior Minister Pippa Hackett and Deputy Carol Nolan.

Tullamore Show 2022

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly in conjunction with Offaly Local Development Company & Offaly County Council will support the "Experience Offaly" pavilion in the 2022 Tullamore Show

This is an excellent opportunity for local businesses to showcase the diversity of high-quality enterprises in the county.

Digital Start initiative

Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to give local eligible businesses that digital edge - from optimising processes to delivering a seamless digital customer experience, the aim is to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business.

Digital Start provides support to obtain digital strategy, technical and/or advisory services for eligible businesses.

Full details available on our website: <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Offaly/Financial-Supports/Digital-Start/>



UPCOMING MINISTER VISIT

Local Enterprise Office Offaly are looking forward to welcoming Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English, to Birr on 19th July. The Minister will be visiting companies in Birr and in the Ferbane Business & Technology Park Ltd.

Connected Hubs Voucher Scheme

On the 27th June the Department of Rural and Community Development launched Phase 1 of a new Voucher Scheme for those



registered to use Connected Hubs. The scheme gives remote workers free use of a hot desk at their local digital hub. There are many hot desk spaces across County Offaly which are eligible under the Scheme, which is aimed at both existing hub users, as well as those accessing hub facilities for the first time. These vouchers became available to those registered on 27th June and are redeemable until 31st August 2022. Phase 2 of the scheme is due to be launched in September 2022.

Upcoming Courses and Initiatives

For details on our upcoming training courses, please click on the link below <https://www.localenterprise.ie/Offaly/>

Streetscape Enhancement Initiative

The Streetscape Enhancement Initiative is a key part of Our Rural Future and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive places to live, work and visit.



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Todhchaí na
hÉireann Tuaithe
Our Rural Future

Under the scheme, property owners in towns and villages in Offaly applied for funding to improve the facades of their buildings, carry out artwork and install features such as canopies and street furniture.

23 businesses across County Offaly applied to participate in the scheme and the works carried out have greatly enhanced the streetscape of the towns.

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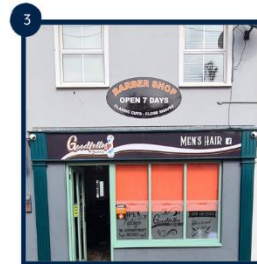


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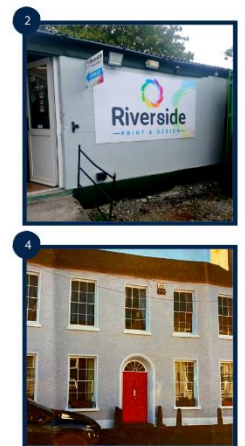


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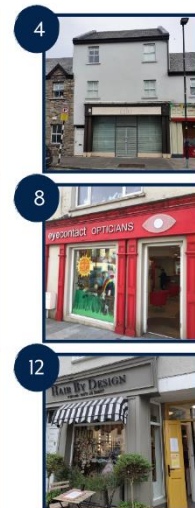
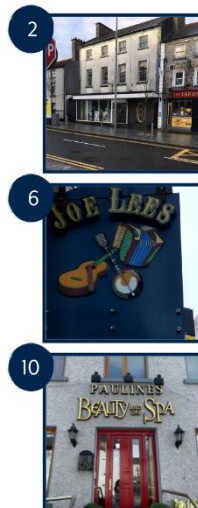


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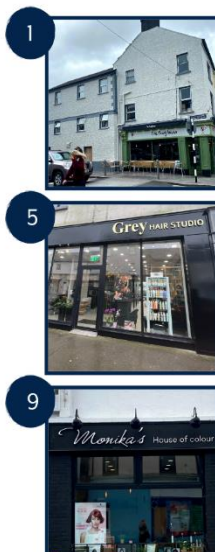


Tullamore

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LIBRARY SERVICES

Offaly Libraries Summerstars Reading Adventure 2022

Summerstars is back again for 2022! As part of the Right to Read initiative, Summerstars is a national programme that is marked on all library calendars.



Officially launched on the 13th June, children throughout the county are invited to continue or discover their love of reading and writing over the Summer. Every child who reads even one book is rewarded for completing the programme – and it's all free! To date, **over 700 children in Offaly have signed up for Summerstars!**

There are many activities planned for children as part of our Summerstars programme including our ever popular **Crafty Take Away bags, Online Quizzes** hosted every Wednesday evening, free Coloring Sheets and Roald Dahl 'Words of the Week' posted to our Social Media Channels every Friday.

Summerstars storytimes will also be delivered in our library branches and online. Tullamore Library have storytime for toddlers every Wednesday morning at 11am and a storytime for older children every Wednesday afternoon at 3pm. Edenderry Library have storytimes on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 10.30am.

National Play Day 2022



This initiative, funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, promotes **play and recreation** opportunities for children and young people across the country.

In support of this programme, Offaly Libraries have sourced almost **1500 Mix and Match items of Play**, with each item chosen to encourage paired social play, outdoor recreation and physical activity. Children and young people throughout the county are invited to drop into their local library from Thursday, 7th July to create their own individualised **Play Packs of 3 items** to ensure the needs of each child is met.

These items will include a choice of: **Skipping Rope, Frisbee, Football, Hula Hoop, Chalk, Play Dough, Water Squirters, Tennis Rackets & Balls.** Ukrainian children currently based in Offaly are also catered for on National Play Day and we look forward to welcoming all



children to our libraries to collect their Play Packs.

See library contact information [here](#).

Cruinniu na nÓg, Saturday 11th June

Another successful Cruinniu na nÓg programme was delivered throughout our library branches this past June! An array of activities including Art, Creative Writing, Drama and Music Workshops were hosted around the county, with **24 bookable events** that saw over **300 participants**.



In addition to these events, Offaly Libraries organised **7 development projects** with local schools and communities. Launches of the completed project pieces also occurred during the week of Cruinniu.

These project launches enjoyed an attendance of over **660 people**. [View photos of Cruinniu na nÓg here](#).

Offaly Libraries Comic Con, Saturday 18th June

We had a stellar day in Tullamore Library with our third instalment of **Offaly Libraries Comic Con**, held on Saturday 18th June.



Library staff welcomed almost **900 visitors to Tullamore Library** throughout the event.

Free workshops and activities were fully booked shortly after their announcement, with **24 participants in the 3 workshops**



and 14 participants in the Table Top Games.

Our special guest judges chose 4 winners out of over 160 entries to our 'Create a Comic Cover' competition and also awarded prizes to 6 winners out of 28 entries to our Cosplay competition on the day.

[A photographic account of Offaly Libraries Comic Con 2022 can be viewed here.](#)



Freeplay VEX Robotics at Tullamore Library



In collaboration with Ray Bell of Offaly Council Council's IT Department, we are delighted to continue to support the VEX Robotics programme by offering regular VEX Freeplay sessions in Tullamore Library over the Summer months.

Children of all ages are invited to drop into Tullamore Library, **every Saturday from 10am – 1pm** where they can build, fix and play with the robots.

In August, Tullamore Library plan to run **weekly Summer Workshops** for children wishing to get a head start on the VEX 2022 / '23 programme, with the opportunity to build the brand new 'Hero Bot' and new games arena for the coming competitive season.

More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Please keep an eye on our [website for news and updates](#).

Sensory Offaly

Our **Sensory Room** at **Tullamore Library** has

proven to be a valued resource within the community and has been well utilised with a total of



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

370 individuals using it since it first launched on May 3rd of this year.



Edenderry Library are delighted to make use of our new **mobile Sensory Trolley and Magic Table** and are hosting a regular Sensory Morning, every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm, beginning on Wednesday 6th July. The Sensory Trolley will also be made available by request every Saturday morning. Edenderry's first **Sensory Morning** session welcomed **12 attendees**.

‘Still Lives, Still Alive’ Exhibition at Edenderry Library



Edenderry Library is delighted to host 'Still Lives, Still Alive,' an exhibition from The Tullamore Camera Club

during July and August 2022. There will be a physical exhibition in the library and a digital exhibition on our social media channels.

The Still Lives, Still Alive project explores the theme of still life, using natural light and using objects which could be found around the house or garden. This exhibition will be held in branch, but the public can view the exhibition through our social media channels also.

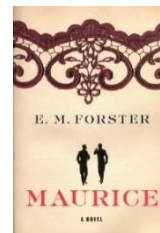
Sign up for our Library Newsletter

A quick reminder that the best way to keep up to date with all library programmes,

developments and new services is via our Library Newsletter and through following our social media channels. Currently we have **1,500 subscribers** to the newsletter. The link to subscribe to our newsletter is here; [Offaly Libraries Newsletter](#).

Offaly Libraries Online Adult Book Club

Our last book club meeting took place online via Zoom on Thursday, July 7th at 7pm where we discussed the novel, *Maurice* by E.M. Forster.



Did you know? We have two Offaly-native ladies who Zoom in to participate in our online bookclub all the way from France! Online Bookclubs are a great way to stay connected with home.

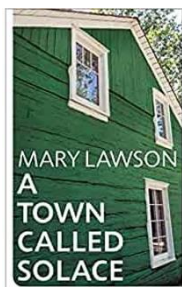
Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, 4th August. To register your interest in joining this Book Club, please email Tullamorelibrary@Offalycoco.ie

I'm just a Teenage Book Club!

School's out for Summer! Our Young Adult Book Club will be taking a break for the next couple of months and will reconvene in the Autumn. Our last meeting took place on Thursday, June 30th where we discussed *The Henna Wars* by Adiba Jaigirdar. To register your interest in joining the Book Club, please email Tullamorelibrary@Offalycoco.ie



The Novel Bunch - Tullamore Adult Book Club



Tullamore Library is delighted to welcome our Adult Book Club back to the library, meeting every first Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

Tullamore Adult Book Club will be meeting next on Tuesday August 2nd

and their chosen read is A Town Called Solace by Mary Lawlor. To register your interest in joining the Book Club, please email Tullamorelibrary@Offalycoco.ie

Edenderry Adult Book Club

The Edenderry Library Adult Book Club will continue to meet once a month, next meeting on Wednesday 27th July. Our next Book is Skin Deep by Liz Nugent - join now to borrow the book!



To register your interest in joining the Book Club please email

edenderrylibrary@Offalycoco.ie

Upcoming Programmes in August



We'll be celebrating Heritage Week again here in Offaly Libraries with events

scheduled in some of our library branches. Watch this space and remember to stay up to date with news on our website.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary to 30 June 2022

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2022 €m	Preliminary Value to June 2022 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	29.81	14.13	47.4%
Grants and Subsidies Income	37.98	16.93	44.6%

OCC to 30th June 2022

	<u>Rates</u> €m	<u>Rents</u> €m	<u>Loans</u> €m
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2022	2.77	0.48	0.13
Net Invoices & Adjustments, waivers	16.63	3.67	0.22
2022 Cash Collected to end of Jun	7.93	3.61	0.26
Closing Balance Jun 30th , 2022	11.46	0.54	0.08

2021 Cash collected to June 30th

	7.31	3.18	0.27

% Collection at this point in 2021	108%	114%	97%

*** Collections impacted in 2021 and 2022 by waiver uncertainty and effect of lockdowns

Bank Overdraft to 30th June 2022

	-	-	% YTD
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date		57	31%
Bank Interest and non conforming charges to June 30th 2022 YTD		€5,995	
Bank Administration and transactional charges to June 30th 2022 YTD		€16,486	