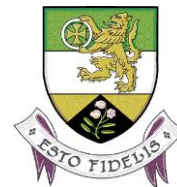


**MAY 2020**

## **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 meitheamh

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

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### **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:**

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

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### **FINANCE:**

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

## **COVID 19 UPDATES**

### **Finance**

#### **Restart Grant**

Offaly County Council is taking applications for the Covid-19 Restart Grant Scheme. This grant will give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses in Offaly to help them with the costs associated with reopening and reemploying workers following Covid-19 closures. The closing date for application is August 31st 2020. Before making an application, please check <https://www.offaly.ie/eng/News/Covid-19-Restart-Grant-Scheme-Press-Release-22nd-May.html> to see if your business is eligible.

#### **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.

#### **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.

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020**



## COVID 19 UPDATES

### ***Planning***

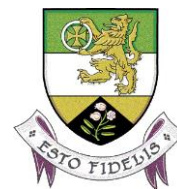
In the context of the most up-to-date public health advice during this COVID-19 Emergency, the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government commenced Section 9 of the recently enacted Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (Covid 19) Act 2020. This section inserts a new provision (Section 251A) into the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended which froze all timelines associated with statutory processes under the Planning and Development Acts. Subsequently, the Government made an order under Section 251A(4), to the effect that the period from 29th March 2020 to the 20 April 2020 inclusive (i.e. 23 days), may be disregarded when calculating timelines.

Final Extension of time to 23rd May has now ended and timelines have recommenced on all Planning Applications. Some Applications from prior to 29th March are completing their submissions period whilst all applications received during the COVID-19 emergency period recommence simultaneously on 24th May 2020. Approximately 140 applications were affected by the timescales.

Planning Administration continued to receive Planning applications throughout the Covid-19 Planning emergency period. As stated above all timelines for permissions have recommenced and this has resulted in a significant workload to be addressed in the coming weeks.

### ***Heritage***

Despite the C19 restrictions, the majority of projects planned to be delivered under the Heritage Plan 2017-21 are proceeding or have been adapted for delivery under the circumstances.



## COVID 19 UPDATES

**Library Services*****Offaly Libraries creating [an Offaly COVID-19 Photographic Archive 2020](#)***

In these extraordinary times it is more important than ever to recognise and document the changes to our environment due to the Covid-19 crisis. Offaly Libraries are encouraging everyone in County Offaly to help us create a visual archive of these interesting times in our local community. This initiative will enable us to create a valuable photographic record of social history for local historians and future generations.



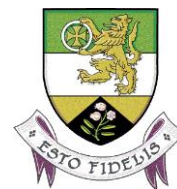
Offaly Libraries have invited the community to send in photographic submissions on their [COVID-19 experiences](#). Photos may be emailed to our new [askthelibrarian@offalycoco.ie](mailto:askthelibrarian@offalycoco.ie) email address.

Offaly Libraries look forward to this collection which will provide a unique visual record of our current lives and circumstances, offering 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.



**MAY 2020**

## **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**



### **COVID 19 UPDATES**

#### **Housing**

During this period of Covid-19 the Housing Section has continued to provide critical essential services as set out by the Government during the period of lockdown. We have modified a number of our processes to enable services to continue and ensure that essential repairs, housing allocations, HAP, rent reviews and continued work with persons presenting as homeless and Traveller welfare issues are addressed.

All Housing staff, working in the office and remotely, have ensured that service delivery has continued during this time. To assist us in streamlining service delivery we would encourage the use of the following email addresses:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
HAP Enquiries	<a href="mailto:hap@offalycoco.ie">hap@offalycoco.ie</a>
Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans	<a href="mailto:homeloans@offalycoco.ie">homeloans@offalycoco.ie</a>
Housing Inspections – HAP, Leased, Private, etc.	<a href="mailto:standards@offalycoco.ie">standards@offalycoco.ie</a>
General Enquiries, Maintenance Issues, etc.	<a href="mailto:housing@offalycoco.ie">housing@offalycoco.ie</a>
Anti-Social Behaviour	<a href="mailto:ASB@offalycoco.ie">ASB@offalycoco.ie</a>
RAS & Leasing Enquiries	<a href="mailto:RAS@offalycoco.ie">RAS@offalycoco.ie</a>

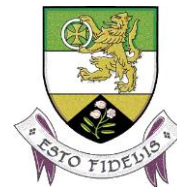
Our housing allocation process was modified, to allow us continue to allocate and conduct pre-tenancy courses, and 8 allocations to Council properties, AHB and RAS/Leasing units were completed in May (26 allocations completed since March 2020).

Our HAP Section has continued to be busy and staff have successfully assisted many to secure accommodation and have completed 26 HAP tenancies from March to the end of May. Staff continue to provide guidance and support to tenants and, where appropriate, households' differential rents, for both Council and HAP tenancies, have been recalculated.

Since the introduction of Phase 1 of Ireland's Roadmap for Reopening works on our capital build programme, in Chancery Lane, Tullamore and in Edenderry, have recommence. Pre-letting works on a number of properties have also recommenced. The pace at which houses can be completed is affected due to the restrictions that are required. Housing have continued to secure additional leased accommodation and are in the final stages of securing a number of leasing properties in both Tullamore and Edenderry.

Working in partnership with the Gardaí, Housing have continued to investigate anti-social behaviour complaints in line with the Council's policy and tenancy agreements. Staff have worked very effectively with other agencies to ensure that services continue to be provided to those in emergency accommodation or at risk of becoming homeless. The Council's HAP Place Finder has arranged interviews for and secured a number of HAP properties since his appointment in December 2019.

In line with essential works, we assisted contractors to finalise turnkey houses in Cloneygowan and Moneygall. These units were finalised in May and 5 families have been allocated to their new homes. The Council have continued to work with and made nominations to the AHB. We have received a number of Expressions of Interest for the provision of Turnkey Developments for Social Housing across the county following our recent advertisement campaign and these are being assessed. A number of AHB have also submitted their proposals for the Council's *AHB Register of Social Housing Opportunities*.



## COVID 19 UPDATES

**Offaly Covid-19 Community Response Helpline**

The Helpline call centre has been operating from the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The Helpline number is **1800 81 81 81**. To date it has operated from 8.00am to 8.00pm, 7 days per week, but this will change to **9am to 5pm, 7 days a week** from the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020, due to the significant reduction in calls in recent weeks.

The Helpline co-ordinates the delivery of food, fuel and medicine to vulnerable people where their usual source of support has become unavailable. It only deals with non-medical and non-emergency calls and refers callers to appropriate community supports or to the Gardaí or the HSE in the case of emergencies.

- There were a total of 405 calls to the Helpline up to 8pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.
- The total numbers of calls have reduced significantly in the last 3 weeks as people become more aware of who to contact locally to obtain services, and as the national and local media information campaigns becomes increasingly effective in delivering the message
- 18% of calls to date relate to deliveries of food, fuel or medicines
- 22% of calls relate to medical supports or HSE issues
- 6% 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, with a large proportion being offers of support from people who wish to volunteer their services and help in some way

**Offaly Community Response Forum**

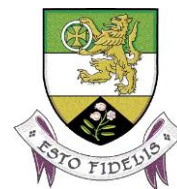
An interagency Community Support Forum has met 8 times to date, and will continue to meet regularly for the duration of the crisis. The next meeting will be held on 11 June 2020. The members of the Forum are Offaly County Council, HSE, GAA, OLDC, An Garda Síochána, ALONE, SVP, An POST, Offaly PPN, Local Link, Citizens Information Service, Túsla, IFA, Offaly Traveller Movement, Kildare Volunteer Centre (covering Offaly), Civil Defence, Offaly Library Service and Family Resource Centres. There is excellent co-operation and sharing of useful information between all of the agencies on the Forum.

**Covid-19 Emergency Fund**

On the 11th April 2020 the Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €65,553 in COVID-19 Emergency Funding to Offaly County Council. The grants are for current or capital expenditure and priority is given to locally based community and voluntary groups in disadvantaged urban and rural areas of Offaly dealing with the COVID crisis, such as Meals on Wheels and other similar activities. A total of 37 applications were received and were assessed by the Evaluation committee. All Emergency grant funding has been allocated as outlined in detail on <https://www.offaly.ie/eng/covidsupport/COVID-19-EMERGENCY-FUND-GRANTS/>

**MAY 2020**

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



### PLANNING

	To end May 2020	To end May 2019	Total 2019
<b>Planning Applications</b>	199	264	628
<b>Extensions of Duration Applications &amp; Assessments</b>	1	7	12
<b>Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued</b>	2(1)	4 (0)	14 (6)

#### Development Management

The Development Management Planners have been allowed to carry out site inspections with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 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.

#### Forward Planning

Due to extension of Covid-19 legislation, the pre-draft Offaly County Development Plan was submitted to elected members for their consideration on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

### REGENERATION

#### Urban Regeneration Development Fund: (URDF)

The Regeneration team in conjunction with Tullamore Municipal District and other sections submitted a URDF 2020 application for Tullamore Town Centre on the May 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 to Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

This application consisted of a suite of integrated urban regeneration projects to rejuvenate Tullamore Town and compliment previous URDF and ERDF successful projects. The following is a list of projects submitted –

Project A – O'Connor Square to Church Street Link, Urban Garden and Remote Working Hub

Project B - High Street to Tanyard – New Street Link

Project C – Meath Lane Link and Civic Space

Project D – Tullamore Regeneration Framework

Project E - Tullamore Harbour Development Option, Viability Appraisal and Master Plan

Project F – Acres' Folly Enhancements

The total cost of above projects for the application was €2,993,876, amount of funding sought €2,245,407.

#### Rural Regeneration Development Fund: (RRDF)

Awaiting RRDF Cat 2 successful announcements.

Awaiting call for Cat 1 RRDF 2020.

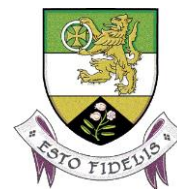
#### Town and Village Renewal Scheme

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a call for TVR 2020 funding on 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. There is a new strand to TVR for 2020. Planning Section, Regen Team will develop and prepare applications in conjunction with Municipal District and other relevant sections.

#### TVR 2020 accelerated measures in response to Covid 19

This strand focuses on immediate interventions that can be delivered in the short-term to assist towns and villages to adapt to COVID-19. The 2 main objectives





are assisting with measures to deal with social distancing and measures to deal with increasing footfall into rural towns and villages.

OCC can submit 10 projects over 2 rounds with projects of €25,000 each.

Round 1 closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020

Round 2 closing date 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

## TVR scheme 2020

The standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme is open for applications and 6 in total per Local Authority for 2020. The closing date is 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. Maximum fund available €100,000.

## **Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme: (ORIS)**

The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a call for ORIS 2020 funding. On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Applications will be developed and prepared for Measure 2 and 3 by Planning Department, Regen Team in conjunction with other relevant sections for 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

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## **HERITAGE**

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### **Heritage Council funding**

€23,000 has been secured in 2020 for two projects. The first is embedding the Offaly County Archive Service following the completion of the archive building at Axis Business Park. The official launch of the Offaly County Archives Service has had to be postponed, but work on the cataloguing and process of archives has continued. The second project receiving Heritage Council funding is the removal of the invasive Himalayan balsam plant on the Camcor and Little Brosna River Catchments which is a continuation of work done in 2018 and 2019.

## **Creative Ireland**

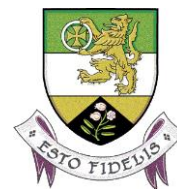
In 2020 a budget of €97,000 is allocated to the Offaly Creative Ireland programme. In Offaly the team involves the libraries, arts, architecture, corporate, heritage and community all working together. There is an addition budget of €15,000 for Cruinniu na nOg (June 13) which is managed by the library service. The work programme is being evaluated on an ongoing basis to see what projects are appropriate to deliver in 2020.

## **Decade of Commemorations**

An application for €10,000 from the Dept. of CHG in 2020 is currently being assessed. The foundation for the project applied for is the social history of the Rathrobbin Estate near Mount Bolus which is shown through the unique Magan photographic collection.

## **Offaly Biodiversity**

- **National Biodiversity Funding** of €16,000 has been applied for to develop actions in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan; to assist in the recording of biodiversity data and in the removal of invasive species.
- As all field club and workshops have been cancelled we have changed direction and worked with John Feehan to prepare short **YouTube clips on the Wildflowers of Offaly**, hosted on the Offaly Heritage YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/user/offalyheritage> These have been extremely popular with over 5,000 views to date and very positive feedback.
- For **Biodiversity Week in May** we worked with Midlands 103 radio and featured daily interviews of different aspects of biodiversity.



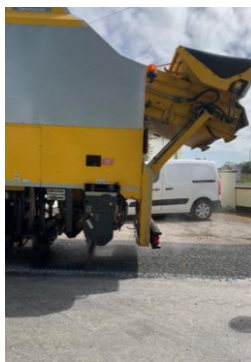
- In May we also joined with heritage officers nationally on a joint initiative to launch a **free booklet on Gardening for Biodiversity**. This came at a particularly good time with people based at home and relooking at their gardens and it has been very much in demand.
- With Westmeath and Laois County Councils we have continued to run the 'infomercials' about **pollinator actions on Midlands 103**.

### Medieval Churches

Work has commenced on measures to conserve Roscomroe medieval church following extensive consultation with the Dept. CHG in 2019. With C19 measures lifting, the work to carry out maintenance at other medieval church sites will restart.

### Publications

This is an area where work can continue fully during lockdown. We worked with Offaly History to publish the book on **Poet Egan of the Meelaghans** which has been launched on line in April. We are currently working with James Scully to publish a book on the memorials of St Ryanagh's medieval church in Banagher and with Stephen Callaghan on the burials in the Military Cemetery at Birr Barracks in Crinkill. **Derrinlough Briquette Factory**, a photographic book by James Fraher is printed and awaiting an online launch.



## ROADS

### The Roads Programme 2020

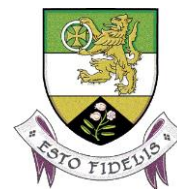
The Programme has commenced throughout the County. All works are proceeding with Covid safety measures in place. The following road works are currently ongoing or due to commence in the County:

- N52 Tullamore bypass resurfacing works were complete in May;
- N52 Eglishe & N52 Ballindown & Ballynaguilsha TII Capital Maintenance Works to commence in July;
- Offaly Greenway Digby Bridge to Ballycommon Bridge (6km) works commenced in June;
- Low Cost Safety scheme Erry Mills, Clara, works recommenced in June;
- N80 Tullamore to Killeigh Road (HD 28 scheme) Contractor appointed;
- Resurfacing on William Street programmed to commence on the first week of July;
- Works on the Collins Lane junction / Arden Way / Arden View Junction to commence in July;
- Works on the N52 Mucklagh junction and N80 Killeigh village will commence in June;
- Road Improvement Schemes and Surface Dressing in the County commenced in May and will continue throughout June and July;



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## **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**



Surface Dressing on the L1020  
Ballinagar to Geashill Road

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with the website [www.n52tullamoretokilbeggan.ie](http://www.n52tullamoretokilbeggan.ie) going live with receipt of submissions to Monday 27th July. A briefing session was held by zoom on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Local Improvement Scheme 2020**

Offaly County Council received an allocation of €278,871 for Local Improvement Schemes from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Following advertising for applications in May the list of schemes has been submitted to the Department for approval.

### **National Transport Authority**

The NTA has commenced a national project for the installation of wheelchair accessible bus stops serving high floor coaches in towns across Ireland. Tullamore and Edenderry have been identified as priority locations for this project. OCC working on behalf of the NTA are currently designing the bus stops and engaging with landowners to acquire the required land.

### **CLÁR**

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) announced the CLAR Programme for 2020. Applications for Measure 1 - support for school's/community safety measures and Measure 2 - community recreation areas will be submitted by OCC to the Department by 28th August, 2020.

Applications for Measure 3 - to assist groups providing mobility and cancer care transport services and organisations that provide meals on wheels services are made directly to the Department.

## **ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES**

### **Water**

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

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 will be in place from Tuesday 9 June until Tuesday 21 July. This restriction is necessary due to the exceptionally dry weather we have experienced. May 2020 was the driest May on record since 1850. The amount of rainfall needed to replenish supplies varies around the country and is site specific however Irish Water estimate that a minimum accumulation of 100mm rainfall spread over a number of weeks would be required and normal rainfall levels after that before the threat to water sources would pass.

## **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. There were 10,474 trips to the three Civic Amenity Sites and Derryclure waste transfer station, that is a 2850 increase on May 2019.



### **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 is now commencing on the initiatives which were successfully funded.

### **Community Clean ups**

There were 26 community clean ups so far this year, where the Environment Section provided assistance to the communities.

### **Water Quality**

Water Framework Directive sampling programme has been suspended during the current restrictions in place for Covid-19. Detailed submission has been returned to the EPA regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle Characterisation of local rivers under the EPA's River Basin Management Plan.

### **Burial Grounds**

Part 8 approval was granted for an extension to the cemetery at Kilcoursey, Clara. The works are now being scoped out

### **Tullamore River Enhancement Project**

The Part 8 process for the Tullamore River Enhancement Project has been extended due to ministerial order following on from the Covid 19 pandemic. Public consultation/ submission ended on the 4<sup>th</sup> June.

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## **HOUSING**

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- There are 671 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support at the end of May 2020.
- A further 850 live tenancies currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme, 8 signed up for

HAP and 1 exit from HAP in May 2020.

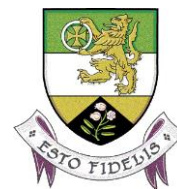
- At the end of April 2020 there were 20 single people and 6 families in emergency accommodation.
- 6 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans applications were received in 2020 to date and 2 RIHL have been approved.

### **Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair**

- Total housing stock at end of May 2020 is 1,901.
- 1,224 maintenance call logged from 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020

### **Housing Capital Programme Update**

- Works recommenced at Chancery Lane, Tullamore 18 units on 18<sup>th</sup> May works.
- 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 June 2020.
- Offaly County Council will act as Architect with Design Team consultants who are appointed for the development of Church Street, Clara (3 OPD units); Beechgrove Belmont (7 units); Moneygall (4 units) & Sr. Senan, Edenderry (4 Units). Site investigations on all sites completed and the Stage 2 submission will issue to the department in June.
- 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 30<sup>th</sup> and are due back on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The scheme design will progress in tandem with the tender period.

- 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 the next fortnight.
- Circular Road, Daingean 9 units - Stage 2 approval was approved on the 4th December 2019 with a request to increase the number of units. Part 8 application is ready to go pending reopening of services and will be advertised when public display can take place.
- Rectory Lands, Birr – options for consideration are being developed.

#### **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 has been delayed due to Covid 19 but have resumed since the lifting of restrictions on 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- Oaklee: Clonminch, Tullamore - 19 units, stage 3 approved on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March. AHB has sought expressions of interest from contractors.
- Oaklee: Kearney's Field – 41 Units, AHB has sought expressions of interest from contractors.

- AHB - Killane Drive 27 units – Construction resumed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Sofia Housing: Stage 1 approved for 32 units at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton. Stage 2 submission from AHB will issue in June with an additional 9 units.
- Cluid Housing Association are finalising a Turnkey development, of 26 Units, on Rahan Road, Tullamore. Construction is scheduled to start in June 2020.

#### **Turnkey Developments**

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

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#### **LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

Offaly LCDC held their monthly meeting on Thursday 21st May with some members in the Council Chamber and the remainder attending by video link. Agenda items included the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020; COVID 19 Emergency Fund 2020, Updates on the Community Response Forum and Community Helpline and the Offaly Age Friendly Alliance. Members approved revised actions for the Healthy Offaly Programme for 2019-2021 and the redistribution of funding.

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## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



Under the Rural Development Leader

be widely advertised and will close the end of September.



Programme, 8 Projects were approved and the total amount of funding awarded was €168,683.44. It was agreed by the members to issue 2 target calls inviting expressions of interest under the following:

- Hospitality and Tourism Re-Opening Grant Scheme: To assist local businesses and social enterprises in the tourism and hospitality sectors towards the costs of re-opening in light of the COVID 19 Pandemic and support them to put in place the essential health and safety measures that will facilitate the public to safely use their businesses again. The call will be widely advertised and will close the end of August.
- Support for Community Facilities Grants: To assist and support the re-opening of community facilities in the wake of the COVID 19 Pandemic and to support them to put in place the essential health and safety measures that will facilitate the public to safely use their community centres, facilities and services again. The call will

### Age Friendly Strategy

Information & Communication are two

key elements of the Age Friendly Strategy. Edition 2 of the Age Friendly Newsletter 'Connecting the Faithful' was delivered to 4,000



homes where people are cocooning. An Post are delivering the Newsletter at no cost to Offaly Co. Co. The online version is attracting lots of attention too via Social Media and the Offaly Co. Co & Offaly PPN Websites.

Contributions from a range of Age Friendly Alliance members and others help make for interesting reading. Healthy Offaly have also committed Healthy Ireland funding to assist with the printing of the publication.

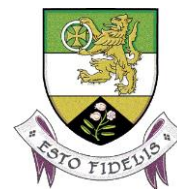
### Public Participation Network

The PPN continues to deliver information in a timely manner to membership both from a National & Local Perspective. The PPN contributes to the Offaly Community Response Forum and continues to support the call centre phone service. A family magazine consisting of helpful information and about 20 pages of puzzles, colouring



**MAY 2020**

## **MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**



and much more to stimulate all ages both mentally and physically. It was compiled by the PPN in collaboration with Clara & Tullamore FRC's and distributed to

10,000 households across the county with the assistance of OLDC, Laois Offaly Local Link and the GAA. Requests for more magazines are coming in, however this was a once off publication enabled by PPN & Healthy Ireland Funding.

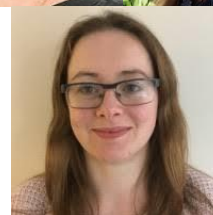
A call for Nominations for PPN Vacancies took place during May. Covid-19 impacted heavily on the process as groups are not meeting or making decisions, however enough nominations were submitted to address the majority of vacant posts.

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Gender Balance and Diversification in Local Government. We are preparing for webinars which will take place next week for the Gender Balance and diversification project. Communication was made with all 12 secondary schools in Offaly and 1-2 students from the TY programmes have been selected to attend a webinar on zoom in conjunction with existing Comhairle na nÓg members.

Three webinar's using zoom have been organised for June in which a panel of experts will give talks and discuss gender balance and diversity on local government and decision making structures. The panel consists of: Senator Pippa Hackett; Councillor Claire Claffey and Catherine Lane (Women's Council of Ireland). Our Comhairle members are looking forward to

getting involved in the debate and also writing the policy which will be presented at the Council meeting in July 2020.



### **ARTS**

#### **Music Generation Offaly Westmeath**

The last two months have been very busy for Music Generation Offaly Westmeath adjusting to the 'new norm' that has come with the current Covid 19 crisis.

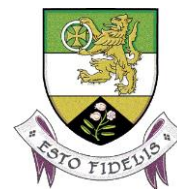
Most of the MGOW programmes have gone or are going online. Some of the programmes which have gone online to date are as follows:

- Singfest – Festival Choirs now holding Virtual Rehearsals
- Online Music Production course – 60+ participants
- Cruinniu na nÓg – Zoom family choir and Sing along sessions
- Virtual Instrumental Tuition
- Preparations for virtual summer camps
- Music Generation Music Educators have been preparing and distributing resource music letters, tuition videos and online lessons – Regular zoom meetings with our Music Educators have been taking place



MAY 2020

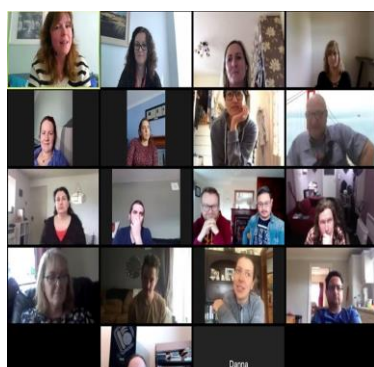
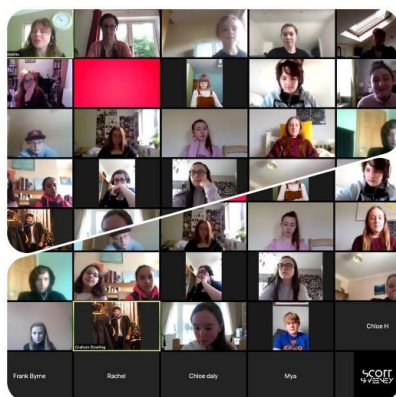
## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



- Development of a virtual baby / toddler sing along commencing in the library, Edenderry
- Weekly newsletter
- Preparation of online School Programme
- Maintaining Social Media outlets - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Keeping Music Generation Offaly Westmeath website updated

We are still corresponding with all our schools, parents and children on a regular basis. Applied to Chamber Ireland 2020 for Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Photo of our online music production course



Musician Team Meeting

### Arts Grants

**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.



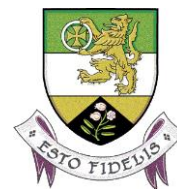
### Festivals Online

We are working closely with festivals to enable them to find online solutions. Offaly's Scripts, Irelands Playwriting Festival took place in late May, as did the national Bealtaine Festival. Both events had online events. Offaly festival Shakefest is due to take place online in early June.

### FilmOffaly Programme

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

1. **FilmOffaly Award 2019:** The filming of this award has been postponed until Sept/Oct. Awaiting guidelines from Screen Ireland before commencing shoot.
2. **FilmOffaly Award 2020**
  - 80 scripts shortlisted to four
  - Four shortlisted took part in a virtual script writing workshop with two script readers.
  - Productions Packs and revised scripts received and sent to



interview panel Interviews are due to take place 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June

### 3. **FilmOffaly** **Mentoring Programme** Call for Mentors and Mentees for



our new programme was announced in early May. Evaluation of same will take place in June. Programme is in collaboration with LOETB, LEO and Screen Skills Ireland.

### **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 and venues. A call for film makers and interested artists was issued in mid-May. Proposals are due back in June. There will also be some restricted physical independent events taking place.

### **Hullabaloo!**

An evaluation of the artist's submitted proposals has been undertaken. The Arts Office are progressing to scheduling of workshops and events. Two possibilities for the programme – restricted physical workshops – pending approval and a series of online workshops and performances.

### **Youth Arts**

We have 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 report *The Makings Fostering Youth Creativity* – currently evaluating print and design quotes for approval.

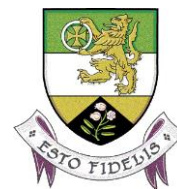
### **Child Protection Policies**

In response to ongoing initiatives with Youth Arts it was legally required that we update all the arts Child Safeguarding Policies/statements plus produce a Child Safeguarding Policy specifically for online activities with guidelines for facilitators, this has been completed.

### **Anam Beo**

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) and a focus on the mental health and well-being of each demographic. Will work with Andy to see if there are any ways we can progress the project.

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 project members have held their first meeting and are in discussion with regards developing a brief for a researcher for the project.

### 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. Online workshops have taken place with more to follow.



- ITC Research Project - The funding from the Arts Council (ITC) for a research project with Mayo County Council and Visual Artists Ireland is progressing – We have issued a call out for researcher proposals/tenders, closing date due in mid-June.

### SPORTS

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

### Funding

*Dept. of Children & Youth Affairs*

- Playground capital - €13,125 allocated (Lloyd Town Park - €4,219; Connolly / Kearney Park - €1,406; Birr - €7,500). Initial 50% drawdown received
- Play Day – call for applications made with a focus on supporting play opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people at this difficult time under the Let's Play Ireland campaign

### Lough Boora



- The Deep Mapping project is nearing completion – the final report will be available shortly. Currently evaluation print and design quotes

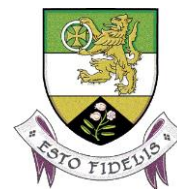
### Sport Ireland

- Q1 budget returned, accompanied by risk / opportunity register which will be used to draft return to sport / physical activity protocols for local sports partnerships
- 2020 outstanding core and dormant accounts funding secure
- Mid-year returns for 2020 due September
- Core & Dormant Accounts funding applications for 2021 due October

### Healthy Offaly

- awaiting approval of revised work plan submitted to Pobal





- Healthy Ireland Fund portal open for download of relevant reporting documentation for year 1. Reporting to be completed by end July 2020
- Healthy Ireland funded Fit Class programme weekly challenges posted to social media channels
- Offaly's Longest Day launched in mid-May. 830 entry forms and diaries disseminated.



### Programmes

- Planning for summer fit camps underway. Anticipated commencement date – phase 3 of roadmap to recovery
- Camps to be delivered via the south Offaly sports hub, the community sports development officer and additional tutors recruited to our tutor panel

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

#### Student Enterprise Programme National Finals

The Student Enterprise Programme National Finals took place online and the region had five student enterprises involved on behalf of Local Enterprise Office Offaly. The event was originally scheduled to take place in Croke Park on the 1st May, but the winners were announced virtually on Wednesday 27th May via live stream on the Student Enterprise Programme's Facebook and YouTube channels.

Cathal Flannery from Clononey Crafts, at Banagher College won the Special Merit Award in the Student Enterprise Programme National Finals Senior Category. Cathal produces an excellent range of crafted wooden items including lamps, pens and bowls.

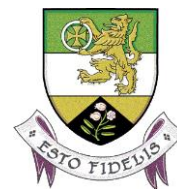
In the Intermediate Category, Anthony's Wooden Crafts from Tullamore College is run by 3rd year student Anthony Gorman who makes handcrafted wooden reindeers. In the Junior Category, the students representing Offaly were Oisín Kennedy, Ryan Keenaghan, Iris Samonte and Rachel Doorley from Cluny Sustainable Crafts in Gallen Community School. They produce flower arrangements using upcycled jars. The new "My Entrepreneurial Journey" competition featured Daniel Scally from Tullamore College and Sophie Moore of Oaklands Community College.

#### Remote Summer Business Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched the COVID 19 Business Training Courses. Booking is now available for a number of courses such as Remote Start your Own Business Course, Remote Digital marketing for Business, Remote Training - Forecasting and risk management in an

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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 and Remote Training Marketing Strategy ReBoot Camp.

### **Remote 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.

### **LEO Feasibility Grant Call**

Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available - Next closing date 30th June. 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/](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Offaly/).

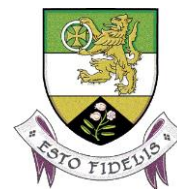
### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Food Academy Programme**

Food Academy is a training programme aimed at supporting and nurturing early stage food businesses. The Local Enterprise Offices have joined forces with Bord Bia and SuperValu on this initiative to provide a consistent level of food marketing knowledge to early-stage food business owners.

At the final workshop, participants will get the opportunity to present their product to a





panel from SuperValu and if successful, can participate in a trial based in local shops, which in the right circumstances, could progress over time to a national listing with SuperValu. There is no guarantee of your product being listed as part of the programme. However, the majority of products do proceed to trial with Supervalu. The programme helps develop an in-depth knowledge of the tools which can be used to assess market gaps for your product. It gets food companies to understand core technical issues facing your food or drink business and learn how to grow sales for your product range through better branding and packaging design

The Food Academy is aimed at those in the early to mid-stages of developing a food or drink business. Selection criteria will apply. Contact LEO Offaly for further details.

### 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.

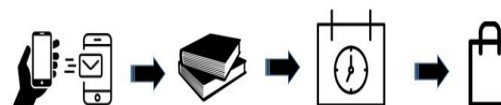
### New Frontiers Phase 1 2020 - OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

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

#### Roadmap to Re-opening Offaly Libraries

##### Offaly Libraries Contact and Collect Service



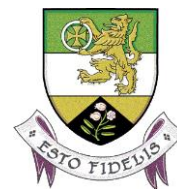
1. Contact us by Phone or Email
2. Books/DVDs etc. will be selected for you
3. We will send you an appointment time to collect your items
4. Collect your items at the agreed collection time

Offaly County Council Library Service began offering some more library services to the public from June 8th 2020 as part of phase 2 of the Government Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business.

The first day was a tremendous success with 184 books issued across the four branches 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](#).

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While library buildings remain closed to public access during this period, library staff are working behind the

scenes to assist our users with new models of service delivery to enable borrowing and returning of library materials.

Our new Contact and Collect Service enables users to request and return library material in Birr, Clara, Edenderry and Tullamore Libraries.

Staff are engaged in preparations of buildings, lending stock, staff and public communication messages. Significant changes to building layouts, handling of library materials and changes to staff work practices and public engagement practices will be progressed over the coming weeks as all libraries adjust to different models of service delivery. The full extent of these changes is not yet determined but adherence to all national health and safety guidelines will be ensured. Research and provision of Perspex screens, drop boxes, signage, self-service technologies and equipment, and cleaning services across library buildings is currently underway.



Creative Ireland is delighted to present [our Cruinniú na nÓg programme of events](#) to celebrate young people and their creativity on Saturday 13th June 2020.

Cruinniú na nÓg is Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people. It celebrates and encourages participation by children and young people in creative activities in their local neighbourhoods and communities. However, this year we will be doing things a bit differently and everything is going online.

Offaly Libraries are running 65 events – a mixture of videos and webinars for blended learning with a mixture of



Download music here!

local and national creative facilitators. A curated programme of creativity including creative writing, Hip-Hop dance classes, Art classes, music and sing-along sessions and Brick Flicks stop-motion movies workshops ensures that there is something for every child's taste! Bookings may be made [online](#).

### 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

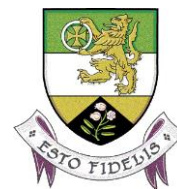
### Cruinniú na nÓg Programme 2020



Offaly County Council in association with

**MAY 2020**

## MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT



programme and open to all children. It will include a new dedicated eCollection of children's titles available via Borrowbox and include writing competitions. The programme will also feature Chapter Readings from library staff, reminiscent of our very successful online storytime readings for younger children which happened during April and May this year.

### 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



streams in the first two weeks. 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. It is similar to Spotify® or Apple® Music in that it allows you to create playlists and stream great music.

### Offaly Libraries new online Newsletter



Offaly Libraries was delighted to introduce its first [online newsletter](#) via a virtual launch recently by Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council, Cllr. Peter Ormond. Cllr. Ormond made a lovely speech acknowledging the wonderful services the libraries provide throughout the community and used a very appropriate quote from Albert Einstein, "The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library."



We aim to build a database of subscribers in the coming weeks through promotion on social media.

### New film and documentary streaming service for Offaly Library members

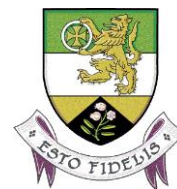
Offaly Libraries are pleased to announce that [Beamafilm](#) movie and documentary streaming service is now available to all library members.



Beamafilm is a streaming platform that has a curated collection of international movies and documentaries, with a strong

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Australasian focus. 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.



Our [Healthy Ireland at Your Library](http://www.librariesireland.ie) continued in Offaly Libraries with some very successful online Healthy Ireland at Your Library Events delivered during the month of May with high levels of engagement on social media. Eleanor Glennon, Play Therapist delivered webinars on creative coping skills for children during Covid-19, self care for parents and ASD and sensory play at home. All were well attended. Further Healthy Ireland events will be delivered online during June.

*Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive*



**MAY 2020****MONTHLY  
MANAGEMENT  
REPORT****Appendix 1**
**Draft Consolidated Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division  
To 31st March 2020**

	Expenditure €	Income €
Housing & Building	3,137,709	2,876,725
Road Transport & Safety	2,681,390	1,359,544
Water Services	1,087,974	960,817
Development Management	2,689,451	1,401,408
Environmental Services	1,850,330	420,241
Recreation & Amenity	1,126,973	171,312
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	139,333	42,372
Miscellaneous Services	1,785,731	768,746
Local Government Fund / GPG		2,099,667
Gross Rates Income	0	4,487,509
	<b>14,498,890</b>	<b>14,588,340</b>

Deficit reduction to 31st March 2020	89,450
Budget deficit reduction to 31st December 2020	400,000

<b>OCC to 31st May 2020</b>	<b><u>Rates</u></b> <b><u>€m</u></b>	<b><u>Rents</u></b> <b><u>€m</u></b>	<b><u>Loans</u></b> <b><u>€m</u></b>
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2020	2.29	0.73	0.32
Invoices/Adjustments	14.63	2.62	0.15
2020 Cash Collected to end of May	3.67	2.64	0.24
Closing Balance May 31st, 2020	13.25	0.71	0.24
<b><u>2019 Cash collected to May</u></b>	7.03	2.60	0.22
% Collection at this point in 2019	52%	101%	108%
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date	21		14%
Overdraft Interest and non-conforming charges to May 31st 2020 YTD			€12,247
Bank Administration and transactional charges to May 31st 2020 YTD			€15,118

**15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020**