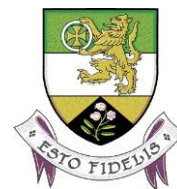


NOVEMBER 2019

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 Nollaig

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Report to the 30th November 2019 – Appendix 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LEO FEASIBILITY GRANT CALL

Feasibility/Innovation Grants Next closing date **31st December**.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEW INITIATIVES

REMOTE WORKING TRAINEESHIP STARTING 13 JANUARY

This new and exciting traineeship, developed in association with Grow Remote, aims to prepare learners to work remotely – whether that be from home or from a Digital Hub.

BUILT HERITAGE INVESTMENT SCHEME 2020 & HISTORIC STRUCTURES FUND

The (BHIS) and the (HSF) 2020 were officially launched on 14th November 2019 by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The closing date for receipt of applications under both Schemes will be **Friday, 31st January 2020**.

OFFALY ARTS GRANTS CALL NOW OPEN

Closing date for all schemes is Friday **31 January**. Guidelines and Application forms can be downloaded from the Offaly County Council website.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

Destination Towns Funding

Great news for Birr, as it has been chosen as a "Destination Town" under the new Fáilte Ireland's Destination Towns Initiative. Fáilte Ireland's Destination Towns scheme is funded under the Government's Project Ireland 2040

Pride of Place

Birr Tidy Towns capped a fine year by grabbing a Special Award at the Pride of Place awards in Kilkenny on the 30th November 2019.

Science Week

Offaly Library Service teamed up with the Midland Science Festival to promote STEM subjects and encourage more children to take an interest in science, engineering, maths and technology. There were over 40 events or workshops for all ages programmed in Offaly libraries between 11th – 18th November with over 5,000 visitors to Offaly Libraries during Science Week 2019

Midland United Powerchair Football

Members of Offaly County Council, celebrated the extraordinary achievements of Midland United Ireland at the European Powerchair Football Association Nations Cup 2019 in Finland

Development Management

Planning Application numbers have continued to increase year on year since 2014. Applications received to end of November 2019 represent a 75% increase on the same period for 2014.

PLANNING

	To end November 2019	To end November 2018	Total 2018
Planning Applications	582	546	597
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	11	10	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	14 (4)	35(2)	41 (8)

Greenways

Works are continuing on the Ballycommon to Kilbeggan link of the Grand Canal Greenway, on foot of funding from ORIS Scheme, 2018, (Department of Rural and Community Development, (DRCD)). This relates to a 4km stretch from Ballycommon to the Wood of O Bridge. It is likely to be complete in December 2019. Westmeath County Council works commencing early 2020.

Works on the Tullamore to Daingean Stage from Digby Bridge to Ballycommon Bridge, (6km) are expected to commence in early 2020. This section is funded under the National and Regional Greenway Fund. (Department of Transport Tourism and Sport, (DTTAS))

Works on the Grand Canal Greenway in the Tullamore Environs from Cox's Bridge, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid (2km) are also expected to commence in early 2020. This section is funded under the URDF for Tullamore, 2018.

Derelict Sites

A review of properties on the Derelict Sites Register in Tullamore is ongoing. Property owners have been contacted with a view to improving the registered properties. A number of other sites have been identified and notice of intention to place on the register has been issued to relevant landowners.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme

Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2020 & Historic Structures Fund (HSF) 2020 were officially launched on 14th November 2019 by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The BHIS seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in a number of small-scale, labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve structures protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and in certain cases, for the conservation of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and tradespeople. Under BHIS 2020, the allocation for Offaly County Council is up to €79,000. The HSF focuses on caring for and restoring historic structures and buildings for the benefit of communities and the public. A notice was placed in local newspapers (weekending 1st December 2019) advertising both Schemes and seeking expressions of interest. The closing date for receipt of applications under both Schemes will be Friday, 31st January 2020.

Development Management

Planning Application numbers have continued to increase year on year since 2014. Applications received to end of November 2019 represent a 75% increase on the same period for 2014.

HOUSING

Housing Update

- There are 651 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support at the end of November 2019.
- A further 889 live tenancies currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme.
- At the end of November 2019 there were 23 single people and 9 families in emergency accommodation. The Peter McVerry Trust were awarded the Housing First Tender for the

midland counties of Offaly, Laois, Westmeath and Longford. The tender documentation is currently being finalised.

- 61 allocations to Local Authority; 21 allocations to RAS/Leasing units; and, 18 nominations to Approved Housing Bodies have been completed in 2019 to date.
- 11 Mortgage to Rent applications have been finalised to date in 2019.
- 14 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approved in 2019 and 6 drawn down.

Housing Stock – Number, Maintenance & Repair

- 23 sales closed and a further 18 bids have been accepted in 2019 to date.
- 3,362 maintenance calls logged in 2019 to date.

Housing Capital Programme Update

- Council staff continue to work with the Contractors to finalise Blundell Wood, Edenderry (33 units) and Chancery Lane, Tullamore (18 units).
- The Council are processing the successful tender for an architect led Integrate Design Team was received for the Raheen, Clara development and hope to finalise the appointment in the coming weeks.
- Design Team consultants, Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers; Hayes Higgins Partnership M&E; and, Kane Crowe Kavanagh Quantity Surveyors were appointed for the development of Church Street, Clara (3 OPD units); Beechgrove Belmont (7 units); Moneygall (4 units) & Sr Senan, Edenderry (4 Units). An Initial Design Team meeting was held on 4th December 2019 to progress the projects.
- Rectory Lands, Birr – options for consideration are being developed.

- Banagher, Kylebeg 18 units - Stage 2 & Stage 3 will be submitted to the Department on 3rd December 2019.
- Circular Road, Daingean 7 units - Stage 2 approval was approved on the 4th December 2019 with a number of conditions. The Part 8 drawings are well progressed.

Houses in Blundell Wood to be allocated December 2019



Approved Housing Bodies Schemes

- Mid Offaly Housing Association: Mountbolus - 4 units under construction.
- Oaklee: Clonminch, Tullamore - 19 units, Part 8 Planning approved by the members at the July Council meeting, stage 3 to be submitted in December with tenders issue in January.
- Oaklee: Kearneys Field – 41 Units, Part 8 Planning approved by the members at the April Council meeting, project will proceed to tender when transfer of lands to Oaklee conclude in 2019.
- Cluid Housing: Scurragh, Birr - 6 units under construction, delivery by December 2019.
- Tuath: Riverside, Portarlinton –8 units being finalised, delivery of the units is imminent.
- Tuath: Killane Drive, Edenderry - 27 units, construction commenced in September 2019, delivery Q4, 2020.
- Sofia Housing: 32 units at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton, Stage 1 approval was received in January 2019, their design team is appointed and meetings with the Department have been held. Stage 2 will issue in December 2019.

Turnkey Developments

Existing turnkey schemes are as follows:

- Frankford, Kilcormac: 12 units completed in 2019 and tenants allocated
- Cluainn na Spideoga, Cloghan: 6 units completed in 2019 and tenants allocated
- MacGregol, Birr: 12 Units - 4 units to be completed in Q4 2019 & 8 units in 2020
- Tuath: Riverside, Portarlinton - Nominations to Tuath for the initial 8 units have been made by the Council

and the delivery of these units is imminent.

Housing Grants

The Department provided approval in the sum of €1,600,000 for 2019 Housing Grants. Accordingly, Offaly County Council's 2019 contribution towards the grants increased to €320,000. 66 Housing Aid for Older Person grants, 16 Mobility Aid grants, and 65 Housing Adaption grants were paid to the end of November. Housing staff are following up with those allocated grant funding to ensure that all grants are completed and funding drawn down in 2019. 11 Disabled Persons grants on Council stock were completed in 2019.

ROADS

The Roads Programme 2019 is complete throughout the County with all grant claims successfully submitted to the TII and Departments.

RPS Consulting Engineers Ltd have been appointed for the **N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan Link Road** to provide the engineering, environmental, economic and appraisal services required to successfully deliver the scheme through the planning and design phases in 2020.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

General Updates

1916-2016 Commemorative Medals have been presented to eligible members of Edenderry, Clara and Tullamore Fire Brigades, both past and present, who served with Offaly County Council Fire & Rescue Service in 2016. Ferbane and Birr Fire Brigade will be presented with medals in December 11, 2019

Edenderry Fire Brigade



Tullamore Fire Brigade



Clara Fire Brigade



Grant Aid has been provided by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Planning for the purchase of four *Battery Operated Hydraulic Rescue Tools*. These tools will offer immediate intervention at road traffic collisions when compared to traditional rescue tools.

New Class B Fire Appliance has been delivered and following operator training by both Scania and the builder, Sídheán Teo, Galway, it will be operational before Christmas. The appliance will be based in Tullamore Fire Station.



Training Courses

The following training courses were attended by members of Offaly County Council's Fire & Rescue Service:

- Emergency Service Driving Standards – Theory x 1
- Emergency Service Driving Standards – Practical x 2
- Breathing Apparatus Instructors
- Fire Service Station Officer Course

Fire Service Operations

Operational Incidents			
Fire Station	Total 2018	Nov 2019	Total to date 2019
Tullamore	223	20	205
Edenderry	216	14	155
Clara	79	4	58
Birr	114	7	94
Ferbane	58	4	43
Total	690	49	555

Firefighter Recruitment

Post of Firefighter in Birr Fire Brigade has been advertised.

Fire Prevention & Building Control

Applications Received	Total 2018	Nov 2019	Total to date 2019
Fire Safety Certificates Received	55	5	61
Planning Referrals Received	95	11	98
Disability Access Certification Received	31	2	38
Fire Services Act Inspections	99	14	138
Commencement Notices Received	172	18	191
Building Control Inspections	53	21	195
Certificates of Completion of Compliance Issued	45	8	25

Civil Defence - Operational Duties

Civil Defence also provided the following operational duties November:

- Emergency Services Open Day, Edenderry

- National Radiation Monitoring Exercise



TOURISM

Operation Transformation is coming to town!

Offaly Tourism is delighted with the decision of Vision Independent Productions and RTÉ to base its successful Operation Transformation programme in Tullamore for its 2020 season. For six weeks next January and February, Offaly will be in the national spotlight and it is a very significant promotional opportunity to showcase all that we have to offer. The Operation Transformation studio will be based inside Tullamore Harriers facility in Tullamore and many of the various challenges, which are a feature of the show, will take place in and around the county. Offaly Tourism and Offaly Sports Partnership have been working closely with the production company and have secured filming for the 'Ad Break Challenges' to take place in seven different towns in Offaly, on seven consecutive Saturdays. It will be great exposure for Offaly towns and villages as they are broadcast on the national airways.

The dates and locations of the 'Ad Break Challenges' are:

- Saturday 4th January, Birr (Emmet Square)
- Saturday 11th January, Edenderry (O'Connell Square)

- Saturday 18th January, Banagher (The Marina)
- Saturday 25th January, Clara (the Green)
- Saturday 1st February, Moneygall (Main St.)
- Saturday 8th February, Kinnitty
- Saturday 15th February, Tullamore (O' Connor Sq.)

Offaly Tourism and Offaly Sports Partnership will be calling on all the various communities, sports clubs and associations throughout the county to get on board and support the OT team. Filming for the 'Ad Break Challenges' will take place on the seven Saturdays and broadcast on the following Wednesday/Thursday on RTÉ One. It's a great incentive for locals to get involved and get fit!

Destination Towns Funding

Great news for Birr, as it has been chosen as a “Destination Town” under the new Fáilte Ireland’s Destination Towns Initiative. Fáilte Ireland’s Destination Towns scheme is funded under the Government’s Project Ireland 2040 strategy with the aim of driving sustainable growth in the Irish tourism sector and higher revenue and job creation around Ireland.

The premise of the new scheme is to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of towns. It will assist on building on the success of Birr as a visitor destination and is a testament to the wonderful historic town and its people. In our application last September Offaly County Council sought funding in respect of a number of projects in the core town centre. Offaly County Council will match fund 25% of the grant awarded. Further details of the grant will be announced in the new year.

with Alliance members Frances Kawala, Molly Buckley. Declan Costello & Bridie Costello Hynes representing Offaly



Public Participation Network

PPN & Green Offaly presented at Banagher College STEM event on Friday 15th. The PPN/Green Offaly facilitated a Tidy Towns forum taking place on Nov 16th in Ferbane. Theme: Biodiversity & Pollinators. Guest speaker Duncan Stewart.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC met on 14th November 2019. The allocation of an additional €500,000 in LEADER 2014-2020 funding to Offaly LEADER Local Action Group (LAG) for investment in rural communities in Offaly was discussed. Members welcomed the allocation of additional funding for ten areas that are most advanced in the delivery of the LEADER Programme from Mr. Michael Ring, Minister for Rural & Community Development.

Age Friendly Strategy

The Alliance meeting took place on Nov 7th, where a review of the actions to date took place. The Alliance should be commended on the breadth and depth of actions undertaken to date. Local Link Laois/ Offaly was nominated for an Age Friendly Transport Recognition Award and were presented with a recognition cert on the night. The event took place in Croke Park

The Community Plan for Mountbolus is currently being further developed while the Ballyboy Community plan is also underway. The PPN Plenary took place at the Bridge House Tullamore with in excess of 160 people in attendance. Catriona Rodgerson Irish Environmental Network presented on Sustainable Development Goals. Two Offaly students who took part in the Youth Summit for Climate at Dáil Eireann presented on their specific recommendations to government



Comhairle na nÓg

On the 23rd November 2019, young people from the 31 Comhairlí nationwide entered the Dáil Chamber in Leinster House for Dáil na nÓg 2019 to have their voices heard on Climate Change. On the historic centenary of the first sitting of the Dáil, Offaly Comhairle na nÓg was proudly represented in the



chamber by Offaly Comhairle na nÓg executive members Aaron, Owen, Kenneth, Joseph, Aishling & Ciara. Comhairlí members from all over the country voted on the 2020 work topic for the national executive - Climate Change - Awareness and Transport.



Tidy Towns

2019 has been a really successful year for Tidy Towns groups in the county. Three special awards came to Offaly for the first time - Birr won a Fenestration Award; Geashill won a Pollinator Award; Ferbane won a Tree Council Award. Shannonbridge won the Endeavour Award. Tullamore Tidy Towns kept their Gold medal; Geashill won Gold in their category for the first time, and Birr won a Silver Medal for the first time. Geashill are now only 2 points behind the winning national score.

Following on from this success, on Tuesday 5th November 2019, a group of 36 volunteers from 11 different Tidy Towns groups in Offaly visited Glaslough in Monaghan, the 2019 National Tidy Towns winner, to get fresh ideas on how to improve their own communities.

A Tidy Towns networking event was held in Birr on 26th November attended by 28 members who were encouraged to start preparing their 2020 applications now, if they have not already done so. Updates were given on funding schemes and other supports available in the year ahead. Birr Tidy Towns capped a fine year by grabbing a Special Award at the Pride of Place awards in Kilkenny on the 30th November 2019.

Pride of Place

On 30th November 2019 the Annual Pride of Place awards took place, hosted by Kilkenny County Council. The Programme was set up to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers and those involved in local community development.



Three Community Groups were nominated by Offaly County Council at the 2019 competition. Representing the Edenderry Municipal District were St. Brigid's Social Club in the Community Well-Being Initiative. The group works closely with other community groups and strives to enhance community well-being through the provision of much needed social inclusion services. Currently, there are active retirement groups, a book club, art & crafts organisations and many other local groups using the centre. The highlight of the social calendar for St. Brigid's is the Senior Citizens Party which caters for in excess of 80 people each Christmas. The group is a shining example to rural areas and have made their Community Centre and the services

provided therein, a focal point for the local community.

In the population category 300- 1,000 representing the Tullamore Municipal District is St. Colmcille's Community Centre committee. Situated in the heart of the Durrow Community the Centre plays an integral role for people of all ages in the community. The current committee was established in 2014 with a mandate to fund and fully restore the Centre. The completely refurbished building was opened in August 2019 to an excellent standard and plays host to many activities in the locality; Progressive 25, Irish Set Dancing. GAA Meetings, Local Lottery, drama, Christmas & Funeral events and Communion celebrations.

Finally, from the Birr Municipal District Area, Birr Tidy Towns were selected to represent the County in the Urban Neighbourhood category. Birr Tidy Towns have had a hectic year firstly being involved in Pride of Place and secondly winning silver in the National Tidy Towns awards last September. The icing on the cake was when Birr Tidy Towns were presented with an award at the all-Ireland 2019 Pride of Place Awards. The town took a special award after judges were impressed with how the local community "takes enormous and justifiable pride in enhancing the town's built heritage to its full potential – and whose ongoing work in this area is exemplary."

SPORTS Announcements

Dermot Egan commenced work as the Healthy Ireland Offaly / Westmeath Coordinator on 1st November 2019. He will



be attached to Offaly SP for the duration of the Healthy Ireland round 3 programme (1st July 2019 – 30th June 2021); and will be responsible for implementing delivery of the Healthy Ireland

Offaly and Westmeath programmes when approved by the Department of Health and Pobal

Sporting achievements

Liam Brady of Tullamore Harriers winning the National Senior Cross Country Championship in Abbotstown. As a result of the win, Brady has also secured his place to represent Ireland at the European Cross Country Championships in Lisbon on the 8th December



Danielle Donegan, also of Tullamore Harriers finished second in the national junior ladies' cross country championships; and has also secured her place to represent Ireland the European Cross Country Championships in Lisbon

Gráinne Walsh of Spartacus Boxing Club, Tullamore finished runner up in the national elite boxing finals at welterweight category (69kg)



Sarah Haghighat of St Brigid's Boxing Club, Edenderry won the national elite boxing finals at 54kg weight category



Naomh Ciaran Ladies Football secured victory at the All-Ireland Intermediate

Ladies Football Club Championships in November

Funding

Dept. of Rural & Community Development Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme – five measure one projects supported:

Outdoor recreation videography bank - production of 30-60 second videos showcasing outdoor pursuits in Offaly which will be used on social media and website: €14,760 Offaly

Outdoor Recreation Marketing project - production of Offaly Outdoor Recreation brochures to be distributed in tourist office, various attractions and activity providers throughout Offaly; and the development of content for the Visit Offaly website and social media: €15,760.00

Slieve Bloom Way & ancillary loops - maintenance of the Slieve Bloom Way including repair and replacement of trail furniture and signage, resurfacing of route and promotion of amenity: €11,860.00

Offaly Way & ancillary loops (Kilcormac/lough Bora) - maintenance of the Offaly Way including repair and replacement of trail furniture and signage, resurfacing of route and promotion of amenity: €11,860.00

Grand Canal Loop, Edenderry - creation of 10 additional car park spaces, new map board at the car park and signage showing the route: €5,840.00

Go for Life grant application submitted and €1,300 of a total allocation of €7,180 to Offaly secured. HSE Section 39 application submitted (€10k towards SIDO salary & SIDP costs) Sport Ireland mid-year report submitted - 25% drawdown received. Sport Ireland core application submitted. Sport Ireland dormant accounts allocation secured:

- South Offaly Sports Hub - €20,000
- Sport Inclusion Development Programme capital supports - €10,000

- Community volunteer programme - €15,000
- Youth leader - €13,500

Programmes

Staff of the Sports Partnership, the south Offaly sports hub and partner agencies (FAI and Leinster Rugby via their development officers) continued to deliver sport and physical activity programmes across the county including: -

Community Sports Development programme in west Offaly –

fitness through walking football, multi-sport programmes for older adults and women, multi-sport and SPORTSHALL

Athletics programme for primary school pupil and Sports Leader 1 for TYs



NGB (rugby and soccer) development officer work in schools and communities

Schools sport and physical activity programmes – Sports Leader training for transition years; SPORTSHALL Athletics and multi-sport programmes in primary schools



Action from Offaly SPORTSHALL Athletics finals – 18th to 22nd November 2019

South Offaly sports hub – winter fitness programme in primary schools

Sports Inclusion Development Programme – swim programme for children with additional needs; activator pole programme for older adults; fitzone challenge for adults with disabilities



Sports Inclusion Development Programme - activator pole workshop



Sports Inclusion Development Programme – fitzone challenge for adults with disabilities

Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath

MGOW started off October by performing at the Age Friendly showcase which was held in the Tullamore Court Hotel on 1st October. The intergenerational Ukulele group performed at this and it showcased what a great way it is to spend time with your grandchildren by learning an instrument together.



12th October was the official commencement of our Singfest festival and Sinfonia Orchestra for the 2019/2020 year. We had an increase in registrations for our choirs and

likewise for our Orchestra. Singfest & Sinfonia are definitely embedding in as national events that children & teenagers



want to be a part of. It is giving children in the Midlands who have an interest in singing an opportunity that they wouldn't have if it wasn't for Singfest. There is nothing else of its kind in the Midland's area.

Offaly County Council Social Club committee has organised for Geraldine Relph, Music Generation Resource Worker to teach Ukulele to interested staff members. This commenced the 24th October with a very good number of 24 musicians learning the Ukulele.

MGOW are in a position to lend the musicians the Ukuleles from our Instrument bank.

During mid-term break, Margaret Broome, MGOW Development

Officer, took a group of 5



students to participate in Brass Off in Music Generation Waterford. Brass Off is a three-day residential course for young wind, brass and percussion players which took place in Waterford City hosted by Music Generation Waterford Oct 30th - Nov 1. Over 120 players from across the country came together to experience workshops, sectionals, chamber groups and mega wind band. An inspirational team of respected professional musicians worked with the

young players alongside guest band director Darcy Williams who joined us from Texas, USA.



During the month of November, we had two very big events: We took a group of approx..10 of our Singfest singers to the Opera Workshop which was run in conjunction with Irish National Opera and Maynooth University on 23rd November 2019. This proved to be a very successful and intense workshop. Video clips of the workshop can be found on Music Generation Offaly Westmeath Facebook page. Three of our Sinfonia members had the privilege of playing with Sir James Galway to mark his 80th Birthday celebrations. This was an unforgettable experience for our three musicians.

Our Intergenerational Ukulele group is continuing in Arden View Resource Centre and more recently with the staff of Offaly County Council. The Kodaly & Instrumental school's programmes are continuing and our schools are getting ready for their Christmas performances.



Singfest & Sinfonia rehearsals continued in Athlone IT



ARTS

Lough Boora

Environmental artists Tim Collins and Reiko Collins from Scotland, have been developing an artist research project or deep map of the Sculpture Park to reveal a detailed depiction of the ecology, place, people, building, objects, flora and fauna, existing within it and surrounding the Parkland. The artists have been conducting research in consultation with stakeholders of the sculpture park which has included walk and talks. A public presentation and discussion was held on Friday Nov 29th at St Joseph's Community Centre. The subject was an open conversation about post-peat restoration, art, ecology and public space, associated with Lough Boora Sculpture Park, and included expertise from ecologists, artists, heritage, farming local community representative and the general public. The event both followed and was part of the community feedback for a deep-mapping project and seminar, and will feed into the final report due in December.



Anam Beo

The Arts Office working in partnership with Anam Beo, HSE and Music Generation commissioned musician Andy Spearpoint to develop an intergenerational music project.



Engagement with older people and young people (between 16 – 24 years) is a prerequisite, with a focus on the mental health and well-being of each demographic. Andy is currently making contact with groups in Clara, for programming to begin early in 2020. It is also planned that this initiative will also have an outcome that will be able to link into the Bealtaine Festival 2020.



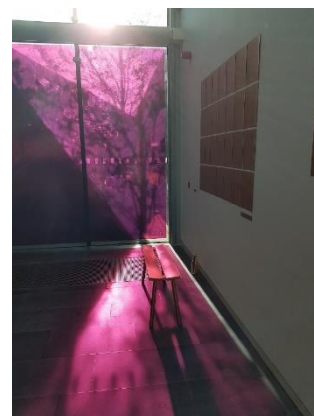
Youth Arts

From the evaluation of the Youth Arts Facilitator (Contract for Service) application undertaken by a panel in September; interviews were held in October for a temporary post of Youth Arts Facilitator (contract for service). Youth arts facilitator Oisín Robbins was selected and the contract is being processed for commencement early 2020. The facilitator will work with the Arts

Office and external agencies to further recommendations that have arisen from the Youth Arts Report. There will be a focus on the 'youth voice' in terms of planning and delivery of arts initiatives and the development of a county Youth Arts Forum in 2020. It is envisaged that the report *The Makings Fostering Youth Creativity*, will be published and launched to coincide with the launch of a new youth arts forum in 2020.

Professional Development Training for Artists

The Arts Office in conjunction with Visual Artists Ireland organised 2 days of professional development open for Offaly artists. These took place in Tullamore library during November; the first 'Landscape of Opportunities' with Maeve Mulrennan, offered practical advice on assessing different opportunities for artists on a local, regional, national and international arena and 'How to Apply for Funding' with Neva Elliott, was aimed at enabling participants to look at the many different kinds of funding available, and identifying how to make the best case for your projects. The programme will continue into 2020 with a planned café event to take place in February – providing an opportunity for networking and peer to peer dialogue.



FilmOffaly Programme

The Arts Office are continuing to work with LEO Offaly to examine potential funding from the OLDC to undertake a strategy for the development of FilmOffaly:

Awards: 2019 FilmOffaly Award winners are waiting a contract pending a request for submission of final budgetary and finance information.

FilmOffaly – On Location: The Arts office continued to support enquiries with regards location and information pertaining to FilmOffaly

FilmOffaly – OFFLine Film Festival: As part of OFFLine Film Festival in Oct, the Arts Office co-hosted a Film Industry Event, together with the launch of our Mini Movies 2019 and FilmOffaly Award winners 2017 and 2018.

Exhibition Programme:

The exhibition for October –December was 'A Conscious Place for Living' by Julie Spollen. The exhibition uses themes of Places, Engagement, Personal & Community Narratives to promote access to artistic expression that enables societal inclusion. The exhibition forms one element of a collaboration with visual artist Rowena Keaveny into the research of a Creative Charter by Older People for Older People; Spaces – Identity Participation Equality, in partnership with individual Offaly Active Age Groups and relevant support networks

Festival Programme

Hullabaloo! Offaly's Children's Arts Festival
Hullabaloo! took place in Edenderry, Birr and Clara across four days during the mid-term. Weds 30th October – Saturday 1st November, at Birr Theatre and Art Centre, Clara Family Resource Centre and an Art Camp at St Mary's Primary School. Initial feedback was very positive but a full audience and budgetary report is in process.



Grants & Awards

There was a call out for all 2020 awards made in Nov including; Arts Acts Grants, Professional Artists Support Scheme, Festival Grants and the Atrium Exhibition Programme for 2020. Assessment will be carried out in early Feb 2020

Public Art

The Banagher Public Art Literature Commission was awarded to Jessica Traynor. Jessica will be hosting a series of free public creative writing workshops, (the first held in November and continuing into 2020), an oral history recording project, schools' writing and choral workshops, mentorship opportunities for local writers and events in conjunction with the That Beats Banagher Festival.

Creative Edenderry

Creative Edenderry facilitated by Voluntary Arts Ireland has continued to progress the Open Conversations held with individuals and local community groups in Edenderry. An Open Conversation was held in October, asking people to 'come and spark creative activity in Edenderry, help shape and develop a new local creative network. People from all walks of life welcome. No need to be an artist or a business just have an interest.' The evening was highly successful with over 40 people attending the meeting and lively discussions taking place. A report and recommendations for next steps are currently being finalized by VAI, for a progression plan to be developed early 2020.

Creative Ireland

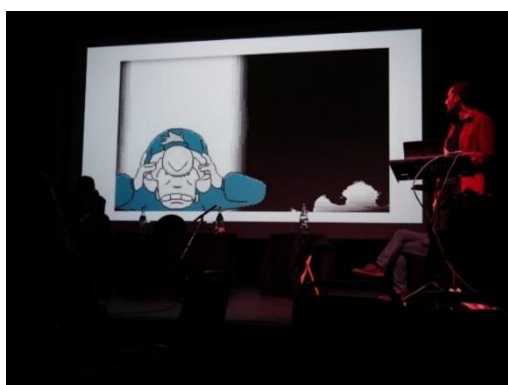
All Creative Ireland projects were completed and reports submitted to Creative Ireland including:

Geashill Public Art



OFFline Animation Residency

Animators, Keith Kavanagh and Carolina Larsson gave a presentation during the 2019 OFFline Film Festival.



Capital Projects

Tullamore Community Art Centre: The Art Centre construction tender documents have been received and are in process. Tullamore Community Art Centre

Committee continue to meet shortly to discuss further operational plans and fundraising.

Edenderry Library and Arts Space: The Arts Office worked in collaboration with the county librarian to develop a specification for a multi-purpose arts space to be incorporated into the planning of the new library for Edenderry

LIBRARY SERVICES

Science Week

Offaly Library Service teamed up with the Midland Science Festival to promote STEM subjects and encourage more



children to take an interest in science, engineering, maths and technology. There were over 40 events or workshops for all ages programmed in Offaly libraries between 11th – 18th November including a 'myth buster' talk on Cancer in Tullamore Central Library. This continued significant partnership with Midlands Science ensures Science programming is more accessible to everyone in Offaly. There were over 5,000 visitors to Offaly Libraries during Science Week 2019; many attending our libraries for the first time due to the attraction of science programming.

The third year of our Lego competition was a wonderful success. The theme this year was 'Climate Change'. There were some exciting and unique Lego models this year including volcanoes, polar ice caps and even windmills! Jessica Farrell from Channel 4 Lego Masters judged the competition and details of the winners can be found on our Facebook page.

LAI Public Libraries Section Project Prize 2019



The LIBRARY ASSOCIATION of IRELAND
Cumann Leabharlann na hÉireann

We are delighted to announce that the Offaly's *Library Comic Con at Tullamore Library* is the winner of the LAI Public Libraries Section Project Prize for 2019. With the prize money in our pocket, we look forward to a wonderful Comic Con on the 16th May 2020. Save the date.....

Library Ireland Week: 1st– 7th December

Library Ireland Week is an annual initiative of the Library Association of Ireland and brings all libraries throughout the Country together in the celebration of all things library related! A competition for the public is ongoing through Social Media and via www.libraryirelandweek.ie - "How does your library inspire you?" so share your story with #LIW2019. Offaly Libraries are hosting a number of events throughout the County promoting the theme 'Libraries Inspire'.



Offaly Library Service projects from DRCD



Articulate to Animate –

Certificate award ceremony

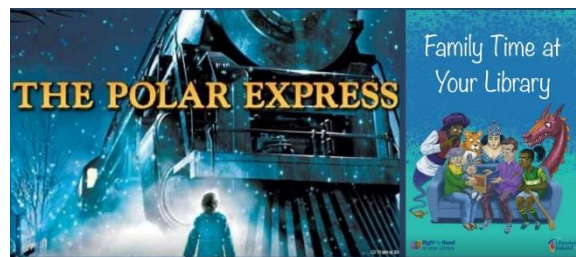
On Wednesday 4th December, Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council, Cllr. Peter Ormond officiated at an award ceremony for the participants of the *Articulate to Animate* programme in Clara Library. Nine students from Ardscoil Chiarain received certificates of completion for this innovative creative writing and animation project. Students showcased their work to the invited audience present. Facilitators Maeve Devoy (Creative writer) and Padraic Byrne (Animator) in conjunction with Offaly Library Service developed this programme to increase

confidence and sense of place in participants. The process supported participants in finding their voice through a directed creative experience, the value of which was very evident in their work.

Christmas Family Time at Offaly Libraries: Polar Express



The Polar Express is gathering steam with a storytelling experience in each of the 8 library branches this Christmas season. These events are part of Offaly's 'Family time at your library' and form a core offer of the national Right to Read programme. The final stop of the Polar Express was Daingean Community Hall on Wednesday



11th December. There is a full programme of events in all libraries for the Christmas season so check out our website at www.offaly.ie/libraries.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Official Opening of E-hive Co-Working Space

Minister Michael Ring officially opened E-hive co-working hub in Edenderry on Thursday 28 November. The project cost of €300,000, and grant aided by the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

E-Hive, situated in Edenderry MD Town Hall is Edenderry's first digital hub. E-Hive has over 20 desks in a co-working environment, meeting rooms, and event space for workshops. E-Hive is ideal for remote workers (working one or more days away from the main office), and for those setting up or growing their own business.

The project was funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Offaly County Council. The hub features affordable hot desk facilities, meeting rooms and high speed internet access and is supported by LEO Offaly and Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG.



E-hive aims to offer individual the opportunity to work from a professional office with flexible options, and so far has been embraced by user such as a software start-up founder, an engineer designing facades, a golf holidays company owner and an auditor from a big four accountancy firm, to mention a few.



Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs' held its End of Year

Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs' held its End of Year on Monday 25th November. Pat Divilly was guest speaker at the event.

Pat Divilly is an Irish fitness expert, author, motivational speaker, coach and entrepreneur. Pat has the experience and

strategies to assist any company big or small with their cohesion and future ambitions. Pat has worked all over the world helping companies put in place programs, coaching and presentations to support, inspire and educate their staff on areas of physical, mental and emotional health and wellness.



Upcoming Events and New Initiatives Remote Working Traineeship Starting 13 January

This new and exciting traineeship, developed in association with Grow Remote, aims to prepare learners to work remotely – whether that be from home or from a Digital Hub. This programme is focused on equipping learners with the skills and competencies necessary to apply for and gain employment in a remote environment, to develop an understanding of this area of employment and to open up opportunities to more flexible working arrangements.

Local Enterprise Week 2020

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

LEO Outreach Offices: By Appointment

Birr: Thursday mornings

Edenderry: Tuesday afternoons

Ferbane: Wednesday mornings

Portarlington: First Wednesday morning of the month

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

Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs (O.N.E.) is free to join and is for anyone in business. If you are thinking of setting up your own

business, you are also more than welcome. Benefits include: Members only Discount Card. Offaly's Network of Entrepreneurs is free to join. Next meeting February 2019.

Funding Opportunities

LEO Feasibility Grant Call

Feasibility/Innovation Grants are designed to assist the promoter with researching market demand for a new product or service and examining its sustainability. It includes assistance with innovation including specific consultancy requirements, private specialists, design, and prototype development. Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available - Next closing date 31st December.

LEO Financial Supports

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



eCommerce Grants Available

Up to €2500 available to any existing business under Trading Online Voucher Scheme. Small businesses throughout Offaly can apply to the government for digital vouchers to the system in helping their businesses trade online. The objective of the scheme is to help small businesses grow their sales, exports and ultimately jobs. Businesses will be able to apply for grants of up to €2,500 (matched funding).

Agile Innovation Fund through LEO Offaly

Responding to the threats and opportunities posed by Brexit demands innovation – products, services and processes need to be tailored and improved for international markets before opportunities are lost to the competition or changing conditions.

The new Agile Innovation Fund allows companies to access up to 50% in support of innovation projects with a total cost of up to €300,000 – with fast-track approval. Contact us for more information.

Microfinance Ireland loans

MFI works with small businesses based in the Republic of Ireland, with fewer than 10 employees and turnover up to €2m, by providing unsecured business loans of €2,000 to €25,000 for commercially viable proposals. Loans can be used to fund start-up costs, working capital, purchase of stock, equipment, machinery, business expansion. Apply through us and avail of a 1% discount on standard lending rate & get free business mentoring.

Get your Business Brexit Ready

Offaly Local Enterprise Office has a range of supports to help you to address issues and maximise potential opportunities;

- Brexit Loan Scheme Information Pack - Eligible businesses can now apply for the €300 million Loan and is available to eligible businesses with up to 499 employees at an interest rate of 4% or less.
- Brexit Mentor Programme
- Lean for Micro Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters
- Training and Management Development
- The Enterprise Europe Network

CORPORATE SERVICES

Chinese Ambassador Visit

Chinese Ambassador, Mr. He Xiangdong accompanied by his wife Ms. Xia Lining visited on the 14th November 2019



Midland United Powerchair Football

Members of Offaly County Council, celebrated the extraordinary achievements of Midland United Powerchair Football club members, Conor Troy, Sean Donogher and Tom Donogher, with their families and invited guests at the November meeting. They paid tribute to the athletes, in their pursuit of excellence in their sport, and acknowledged their dedication to same.



History of the Club

Midlands United Powerchair Football Club was founded in 2009. In 2011/2012 they took the national league title. In 2013 members took part in the U16 and U18 International Tournament in Paris and also competed in their first European Champions Cup. They travelled to Denmark in October 2016 to compete in their second European Champions Cup, finishing a respectable sixth place. In 2017 players travelled to Florida to compete in the World Cup. In May 2019 players were selected as members of Team Ireland to participate in the Nations Cup in Finland and in a dramatic play off against Denmark secured a bronze medal.

Sights are now firmly focused on the next Champions Cup in Geneva in August 2020 and World Cup in Australia in 2021.

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Draft Consolidated Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division To 30th Septemebr 2019				
			Expenditure €	Income €
Housing & Building			9,192,947	9,221,403
Road Transport & Safety			14,729,444	10,646,510
Water Services			4,453,990	4,203,950
Development Management			6,494,442	3,400,605
Environmental Services			6,046,496	1,176,025
Recreation & Amenity			2,890,445	371,789
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare			531,549	293,178
Miscellaneous Services			5,523,958	2,527,275
Local Government Fund / GPG			0	5,742,216
Gross Rates Income			0	12,701,078
			49,863,271	50,284,029
Deficit reduction to 30th September 2019				420,758
Budget deficit reduction to 30th September 2019				412,500
OCC to 30th November 2019		Rates	Rents	Loans
		€m	€m	€m
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2019		2.21	0.92	0.39
Invoices/Adjustments		13.61	5.58	0.37
2019 Cash Collected to end of November		13.87	5.68	0.48
Closing Balance November 30, 2019		1.95	0.81	0.28
2018 Cash collected to November		13.91	5.58	0.46
% Collection at this point in 2018		100%	102%	104%
Bank Overdraft to 30th November 2019				
Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date			90	27%
Overdraft Interest and non conforming charges to November 30th 2019 YTD				€18,788
Bank Administration and transactional charges to November 30th 2019 YTD				€42,495