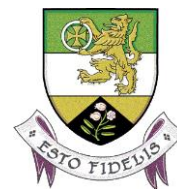


SEPTEMBER 2019

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 Deireadh Fómhair

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Report to the 30th September 2019 – Appendix

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HULLABALOO! OFFALY'S CHILDREN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Hullabaloo! festival takes place in Edenderry, Birr and Clara across four days during the mid-term. Weds 30h October – Saturday 1st November. Promotion is underway and tickets are on sale.

FOOD EIREEN MEET THE BUYER & MATCHMAKING EVENT

Enterprise Europe Network, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Offices in Ireland and Invest NI, is hosting Food eirEEN, a food “Meet the Buyer” event on the 21 November 2019 at the City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

1916 Commemorative Medals

Commemorative medals will be presented in the coming weeks to all members, both past and present, who served with Offaly County Council Fire & Rescue Service in 2016.

Autism Friendly Offaly Libraries

Offaly Library Service' autism awareness programme funded under the Dormant Account Fund began in September. The first strand of the project has delivered staff and public awareness training by Irish Society for Autism for library staff and representatives from partner agencies. Schools will benefit from sensory story-time sessions with a qualified play therapist in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore libraries and all 16 sessions are fully booked.

Local Enterprise Village' at the National Ploughing Championships

Local Enterprise Office hosted a number of Irish small businesses and start-ups at Europe's largest outdoor event – the National Ploughing Championships. LEO Offaly was represented at the Local Enterprise Village by Dotser, Tullamore.

Export to Netherlands Initiative

Three Local businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Office Offaly went to The Netherlands to explore and target new business opportunities in mainland Europe. The businesses travelled to The Netherlands for the 3-day group visit on the 24th to 26th September 2019. The feedback has been very positive. Our clients are very happy with how their meetings progressed and have identified viable business prospects in The Netherlands.

CREATING ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Successful National Business Conference on the Economic & Business Opportunities of Climate Change held in Tullamore

The “Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change” conference took place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Wednesday 9th of October. The conference room was packed to capacity for this event, the first of its’ kind to be hosted in the Midlands, and it did not disappoint. The conference, an initiative of the Regional Transition Team under the auspices of the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 (MREP), explored how businesses can realise unique economic and business opportunities in responding to climate change.

Cllr Peter Ormond, Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council got proceedings underway outlining that we as a nation and a region, *“are in a period of transition, framed by Climate Action Legislation 2015, the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and the recently published, All of Government Climate Action Plan - to tackle Climate Breakdown. We aspire to reach specific targets by 2030 and 2050 which in a global context, aim to provide a pathway to meet the ambition of the Paris Agreement, to limit global warming and to foster climate resilience”*.



This transition necessitates a shift towards transformative, clean and sustainable development that in particular, contributes positively towards climate action. Cllr Ormond acknowledged that whilst measures to curb emissions and reduce the impacts of climate change will be good for many, the industries and communities affected by climate policies risk losing their livelihoods.

The conference marked the commencement of discussions on Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change, examining international trends, and exploring how responses to climate change, by both business and communities, can effectively drive innovation, adoption of disruptive technologies, and more flexible work practices.

The conference speakers, from a range of business backgrounds, highlighted real world examples, illustrating how the pursuit of initiatives that seek to address and respond to climate change, can be a powerful stimulus and a source of competitive advantage that can transform business and uncover opportunities.



Members and Executive of Offaly County Council pictured with Dr Tara Shine, Conference Keynote Speaker

Dr. Tara Shine, Environmental Scientist and Director of Change by Degrees, opened the discussion as keynote speaker by recognising the positives and empowerment that can

come about by conscious efforts to change and adapt at home and at work.

Irish businesses sharing their experience of how they are adapting their business to take account of, and create opportunities from climate change were Bord na Móna, Lumclon Energy, Viva Green, Watershed Group and ABB Ltd.

Ron Immink, Entrepreneur-in-Residence with Sustainable Nation discussed funding and finance for Green Innovation. Dr Shane Ward, Professor of Biosystems Engineering in UCD described how the “Agrocycle” project offers a holistic approach to the application of the ‘circular economy’ across the agri-food sector.

Deirdre DeBhailis, Business Development Executive, Dingle Hub described how adopting a flexible approach to remote working can have environmental positives. Dr. Joanne Rourke, Resource Efficiency Officer, Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Offices demonstrated practical ways to work towards sustainability in business and using this as a marketing tool. Paddy Matthews, Head of Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands, Fáilte Ireland closed the conference by looking at the opportunities that Sustainable Tourism presents.

The conference partners comprised the Midlands Regional Enterprise Office, Offaly County Council, LEO Offaly and the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).



PLANNING

	To end September 2019	To end September 2018	Total 2018
Planning Applications	479	422	597
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	9	6	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	9 (4)	8(2)	41 (8)

County Development Plan (CDP) Review

The closing date for making submissions to the pre-draft Offaly Co. Development Plan 2021-2027 was 4pm Thursday 26th September. A total of 55 submissions were received, 6 of which were late, 3 related to land zoning, and 1 was both late and zoning related. These late and zoning related submissions cannot be considered. In accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, and as advertised in the public notice, zoning related submissions cannot be accepted at the pre-draft public consultation stage. Accordingly, 45 submissions will be summarised in a CE Report which shall be received by the elected members by 20th November for consideration.

HOUSING

Housing Update

- There are 645 on the Housing Waiting List awaiting housing support at the end of September 2019.
- A further 849 live tenancies currently being supported under the Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Scheme.

- At the end of September 2019 there were 24 single people and 9 families in emergency accommodation.
- 50 allocations to Local Authority; 21 allocations to RAS/Leasing units; and, 12 nominations to Approved Housing Bodies have been completed in 2019 to date.
- 10 Mortgage to Rent applications have been finalised to date in 2019.
- 8 Rebuilding Ireland Home Loans approved in 2019 and 6 drawn down.

Housing Grants

Departmental grant approval, in the sum of €1,244,948, was received in March 2019 for Housing Adaptation Grants; Housing Mobility Grants; and, Housing Aid for the Elderly. The Department, on 21st June 2019, notified the Council of an increased allocation in the sum of €284,042 thereby bringing the 2019 allocation to €1,600,000 and increasing Offaly County Council’s 2019 allocation to €320,000. (Offaly’s 2018 allocation was €1,443,397.)

172 grants have been allocated to date, i.e., 84 Housing Aid for the Older People, 19 Mobility Aid Grants and 69 Housing Adaptation Grants.

A further 11 Disabled Persons Grants (DPGs) on Council stock have been completed.

ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Environment

Waste & Litter complaints investigated to date 866. Legal proceedings have been instituted in 9 cases resulting in 4 convictions with the remaining cases ongoing.

Noise Action Plan

The Noise Action Plan will be presented to the members of the SPC in November.

Water Quality

Water Framework Directive – River Water Monitoring Programme for 2019 is ongoing.

This is co-ordinated by Offaly County Council as part of a national monitoring programme that is managed by the EPA .

Water Services - Capital Projects

The design and build contract for the major upgrade of the Tullamore and Birr Water continues to progress.

Water Main Rehab: design for Clonin, Croghan and Newtown is progressing. Works are completed in Clonmullen Lane with works at Blundell Wood now underway.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

General Updates

New Scania Class B Fire Appliance – Currently in build by Sídheán Teo, Galway, and due for delivery in October 2019



National Fire Safety Week

This will take place from 6th - 13th October 2019. It is jointly run initiative between the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to enhance fire safety, particularly in the home. This year the main theme is ‘Safer Together’. During October, firefighters from Offaly will be delivering the “Schools Fire Safety Programme” to all 3rd class children in Offaly primary schools.



1916 Commemorative Medals

Commemorative medals will be presented in the coming weeks to all members, both past and present, who served with Offaly County Council Fire & Rescue Service in 2016.

Training Courses

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

- Road Traffic Accident/HGV Course
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Course x 3



- Compartment Fire Behaviour Instructor Workshop (2-Day)
- Hazmat – CPC Wearers (new recruits)



Fire Service Operations

<i>Operational Incidents</i>			
<i>Fire Station</i>	<i>Total 2018</i>	<i>Aug 2019</i>	<i>Total to date 2019</i>
Tullamore	223	17	154
Edenderry	216	12	127
Clara	79	3	47
Birr	114	10	82
Ferbane	58	2	38
Total	690	44	448

Firefighter Recruitment

Post of Firefighter in Birr Fire Brigade is due to be advertised shortly. Post of Firefighter in Tullamore Fire Brigade has been advertised and the selection process is due to commence.

Fire Prevention & Building Control

<i>Applications Received</i>	<i>Total 2018</i>	<i>Sept 2019</i>	<i>Total to date 2019</i>
Fire Safety Certificates Received	55	3	50
Planning Referrals Received	95	8	80
Disability Access Certification Received	31	5	34
Fire Services Act Inspections	99	38	119
Commencement Notices Received	172	14	173
Building Control Inspections	53	30	144
Certificates of Completion of Compliance Issued	45	2	17

Capital Projects -Tullamore BA Training Centre

Submission has been made to the National Directorate Fire & Emergency Management for the expansion of Tullamore Fire Station Drill Yard into a 0.8 Acre site adjacent to the station and includes the construction of a Training Development Support Block complete with classroom, changing facilities, canteen and briefing rooms. This facility will be utilised by Local Authorities across the country.

Civil Defence - Operational Duties

Civil Defence provided medical cover for the following events in September:

- Kinnitty 5k Cross Country Adventure Challenge
- 100k Charity Cycle Lynx Cycling Club

Training & Professional Development

The following training was delivered to members of Civil Defence:

- Sent new student on Search managers course x 2 weekends. One weekend left for student to qualify.

Other News

Face book page for Civil Defence is proving very popular after having being only recently launched. This page will be devoted to the good community work that our dedicated volunteers continue to deliver and it is hoped that it will aid the attraction of new members.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC): The LCDC met on 12th September. Agenda items included Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020, Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy, Community Enhancement Programme 2019 – Ring-fenced fund for Men’s Sheds, Offaly County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

SICAP

Project visit took place on Friday 27th September by members of the LCDC and OCC Community section. The group visited St. Broghan’s National School in Bracknagh where a Community Food Initiative event was being held, hosted by SICAP and Safefood. The event consisted of the



children, teachers and parents being given a presentation by the Dental Hygiene Team from Trinity College, an excellent demonstration and presentation of CPR by local Cardiac Responders and entertainment by Jeca the Clown. The children were given healthy snacks and smoothies before the

Offaly Sports Partnership took over with some physical activities.



The group visited St. Broghan’s hall which has availed of SICAP and LEADER funding and is being widely used by the community. Finally, the day was completed with a visit to the recently opened community garden.

Age Friendly Strategy

Actions underway

A. Plans are well underway for the Offaly Age Friendly Showcase in October. Many exhibitors have confirmed attendance and the day promises to be a great source of information and entertainment for the attendees from all over the county. Workshops are to be facilitated by the Dental Hospital, Frailty team/Physiotherapy team at Tullamore Hospital and Dementia Awareness.

B. LEO Over 55’s Start your own business commenced

C. September also saw the launch of the Magic Table at Tullamore library Action to mark the beginning of Positive Ageing Week 2019. Attendees at the launch were addressed by Catherine McGuigan (National Age Friendly Programme Lead), Anna Marie Delaney (CE Offaly County Council & Chair of Offaly Age Friendly Alliance) and Cllr. Peter Ormond.





D. Laois Offaly local Link have been nominated for an Age friendly recognition award and the judging panel met with the management committee and the Offaly & Laois Age Friendly coordinators as part of the judging process.

Public Participation Network

Offaly PPN held municipal district meetings in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore and invited PPN members to nominate representatives for the Land Use, Planning & Economic Development Policy SPC and the Community, Cultural & Emergency Service Policy SPC.

Members were also invited to take part in the Community Wellbeing Vision Statement Survey.

On 13th September, the Midlands Region PPN's held an Environmental Showcase in Lullymore Discovery & Heritage Park. Delegates took part in workshops throughout the day facilitated by the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO), Biodiversity Ireland and VOICE Ireland. These workshops focussed on Climate Action and Dialogue; Reducing, Reusing & Recycling and Biodiversity & Pollinators. A guided walk to see the wildlife that thrives on the Bog of Allen completed the day's events. The event was attended by many PPN member groups from Offaly and surrounding counties.



Offaly PPN attended the Ploughing Championships alongside other PPN's from around the country within the Department of Rural & Community Development's visitors marquee. PPN resource and support workers spoke to members of the public about the work of the PPN and the benefits of being part of the PPN for community & voluntary groups.





Make Way Day: Offaly Co Co in conjunction with OLDC, (ODEN) Offaly Disability Equality Network and Offaly PPN held the Make Way Day on 26th July. This is now an annual event supported by Offaly Co. Co. 5 routes were walked including a route along the canal. Offaly CE Anna Marie Delaney was presented with the findings from the routes on the day in the Darmagh Centre along with walkability findings from Ferbane & Clara.



Music Generation Offaly/Westmeath

August saw the first leg of our Erasmus+ Youth Exchange with Ung I Kor (Ireland to Norway) 8 choir members along with Margret Broome & Geraldine Relph went to Bergen from 6th – 10th August. This proved a very successful trip and the week was spend attending a choral summer school and exchange learning tips and ways of teaching. We are about to start planning for the Norwegian return visit in 2020.

MGOW continued collaborating with youth setting / family resource centres in Edenderry, Clara, Tullamore and Mullingar

providing a range of day-long workshops and summer programmes.

September is always a busy time as we go back teaching in our partner schools. This year we have a number of new schools in Offaly & Westmeath and we welcome a new tutor Hazel Ward.

Culture Night on 20th September was a very successful & joyous occasion. We had a Choral Carousel showcase from 4-8pm featuring a number of local choirs and schools from Offaly.

Our Senior Singfest choir and our students from our Norwegian trip performed at the ETBI National Conference which was held in Athlone on 26th September 2019.





Arts

Lough Boora

The Arts Office, in consultation with Lough Boora Sculpture Park Committee, put in place a tender process to commission an artist research project for LBSP. The funding for the project comes from the Creative Ireland budget. The artists commissioned were Tim Collins and Reiko Collins from Scotland, who are environmental artists both with extensive experience working on land art projects with strong community connections working in America and Scotland. The intention of the project will be to reveal a detailed depiction of place, people, buildings, objects, flora and fauna, existing within it and surrounding it, and which are indivisible from all aspects of daily life, in collaboration with all stakeholders of the Sculpture Park. The artists are conducting research in consultation with stakeholders of the sculpture park which includes walk and talks and will host a small seminar at the end of the research.

Anam Beo

The Arts Office is currently working in partnership with Anam Beo, HSE and Music Generation and has developed an artist and musician in residence brief. This will be an intergenerational music project. Engagement with older people and young people (between 16 – 24 years) is the prerequisite, with a focus on the mental health and well-being of each demographic. It is intended that this initiative will also have an outcome that will be able to link into the Bealtaine Festival 2020. Applications are currently being assessed.

Youth Arts

Evaluation of the Youth Arts Facilitator (Contract for Service) was undertaken by a panel in September. Applicants were selected to progress to interview. These interviews will be taking place in October for a temporary post of Youth Arts Facilitator (contract for service), 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.

The final editing of the report *The Makings Fostering Youth Creativity*, will be completed by the end of the year. It is envisaged that the publication and launch of the document will coincide with the launch of a new youth arts forum in 2021.

Professional Development Training for Artists

The Arts Office in conjunction with Visual Artists Ireland are planning 2 days of professional development for artists, taking place in Tullamore library during November. A call has gone out to all artists in Offaly.

FilmOffaly Programme

Business Report We are currently working with LEO Offaly to prepare funding application to OLDC to undertake a feasibility/business report.

Awards Both the 2017 and 2018 FilmOffaly Award winners are completed and are doing extremely well on the international film festival circuit. Both films will have a local premiere at the OFFLine Film Festival in mid-October.

FilmOffaly – Mini Movies

Three schools in Edenderry; St Patricks Primary School, Gaelscoil Éadan Doire, St Marys Secondary School (TY Students), took part in this year’s Mini Movies

Programme. The workshops in September were facilitated by Lauren Hatchard. The finished films are to premiere at OFFLine Film Festival in October.



FilmOffaly – On Location

During Aug/Sept there were several enquires for film locations and three films were on location:



Tina Times Two: - RTE JR Production – on location for one week in Banagher Area.
 The Black River Herself: - Film by artist Patrick Hough – on location in Banagher, Croghan area
 Loose Thread: Short film – on location in Birr.

FilmOffaly - OFFLine

We are currently organising a Film Industry Event in partnership with OFFLine Film Festival, together with the launch of our Mini Movies and FilmOffaly Award winners.

Exhibition Programme

The Flights of Fancy was on show for the month of September. The exhibition is based on the publication by Rachel McKenna, and considers the range of follies in County Offaly. The next exhibition launches on the

17th October and is by visual artist Julie Spollen in conjunction with Anam Beo.

OCC Festival Programme

Culture Night

Culture Night Offaly took place on Friday 20th September with 22 events taking place



across Offaly in 20 venues. Art activities included: Music, Poetry, Exhibitions, Script Writing Workshops, Film, Drama, Choral Concerts, Trad, Dance Workshops, Art Workshops. The arts office is currently compiling audience figures and the Department's report.

Hullabaloo! Offaly's Children's Arts Festival

Hullabaloo! was launched at the end of September, the festival takes place in Edenderry, Birr and Clara across four days during the mid-term. Weds 30^h October – Saturday 1st November. Promotion is underway and tickets are on sale.

Public Art

The Banagher Public Art Literature Commission was awarded to Jessica Traynor. Jessica will be working on a writing project with the community to create a poetic history of Banagher, through a series of workshops with Banagher's writing community plus workshops with local schools. Jessica will also be working with renown composer Elaine Agnew to set the work created by local school children to music. As part of her poetiv history of Banagher she will also be developing an oral history project and collection.

Creative Edenderry

The new arts initiative, *Creative Edenderry* is underway facilitators from Voluntary Arts Ireland have been engaged to develop a community led arts project / network, the project started in July with a meeting of interested people in Edenderry. We are currently promoting an Open Conversation meeting which is planned for 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.’*

Creative Ireland Geashill Public Art

Geashill Public Art project is well under way with community art workshops having taken place with the artist. The sculpture is being fabricated



and will be due for installation prior to the end of Oct. The texts appearing on the sculpture have been developed in

conjunction with the community.

OFFLine Animation Residency

Animators, Keith Kavanagh and Carolina Larsson continue to work in residence in Birr. The animators will be giving a presentation during the 2019 OFFline Film Festival.

Tullamore Community Art Centre

The Art Centre construction tender documents have been advertised. Tullamore Community Art Centre Committee continue to meet to further operational plans and fundraising.

SPORTS

Announcements

Prominent sports women, Nora Stapleton – Rugby International and Mary O Connor – dual Cork Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football All Star, were on hand to present 17 young women with their community coaching award certification recently



Funding

Five funding applications under Sport Ireland Dormant Accounts submitted. Sport Ireland 2020 application to be submitted in October. All mid-year returns completed and submitted.

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 including all ability sports camps, summer activities on the green, summer soccer camps, summer rugby camps, urban outdoor adventure and schools’ programmes across the county.

Community Sports Development programme (Denise Coghill) - Community activities on the green / in the hall





Sports Inclusion Development programme (Jean Brady)



Urban outdoor adventure – Edenderry splash & dash with St Mary’s Secondary School



*Rugby inclusion camp
Inclusive GAA summer camp
(in conjunction with Leinster Rugby)(in conjunction with Offaly GAA)*



Urban outdoor adventure – Edenderry splash & dash with St Mary’s Secondary School



Summer soccer camps (Gary Seery)

LIBRARY SERVICES

Offaly Library Service projects from DRCD

Autism Friendly Offaly Libraries



Offaly Library Service' autism awareness programme funded under the Dormant Account Fund began in September. There

will be a phased approach to this autism awareness and understanding programme provided by Offaly libraries. The first strand of the project has delivered staff and public awareness training by *Irish Society for Autism* for library staff and representatives from partner agencies. Strands 2 and 3 focus on 'primary school needs' in Offaly and public awareness actions. Schools will benefit from sensory story-time sessions with a qualified play therapist in Birr, Edenderry and Tullamore libraries. All 16 sessions are fully booked.

Fiona Ferris from *AsIAM* (Ireland's national autism charity and advocacy organisation) will speak from personal experience regarding autism in Birr Library on **Wednesday 16th October at 6.30pm**. The project will conclude with follow-up sessions with a play therapist in libraries and will involve a consultation and research piece with experts to create plans for autism friendly spaces in libraries.

Articulate to Animate

This is a literacy focused programme for teens. There are two groups of students attending; 10 from Ard Scoil Chiaráin Naofa and 10 from Youth Reach in Clara. Students will discover their voices, tell their story of modern society in a graphic novel format. They will learn how to navigate their way through plot and theme by using the skills of a journalist and an illustrator. After 6 weeks, the students will have increased confidence in their writing and illustration/animation skills. They will have broadened their

awareness of animation techniques, story arc development and character evolution. They will also present their work in a showcase event for parents, teachers and fellow students.

Positive Ageing Week & Age Friendly Libraries



Offaly Libraries would like to thank everybody who attended the launch of our 'Magic Table/Tovertafel' at Tullamore Central Library on Friday 27th September. The event marked the beginning of Offaly Libraries' Positive Ageing Week and was a great success.

Catherine McGuigan, Chief Officer of Age Friendly Ireland, Cllr Peter Ormond, Cathaoirleach and Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive of OCC collectively launched our little piece of magic and bookings for the table have been brisk since. Positive Ageing Week saw events



such as an Agatha Christie Murder Mystery Night, Library Bingo and 'Cuppa & Chat' Library

Information Sessions happening throughout the County and was well attended. Bookings for the Magic Table can be made via Tullamore Library: tullamorelibrary@offalycoco.ie

Clara Library receives an Age Friendly Charter

On Tuesday 1st October Minister Michael Ring, Department of Rural and Community Development officially launched the National Age Friendly Libraries Recognition Programme and presented participating libraries with their Age Friendly Charter. **Clara library** received the first Age Friendly

Charter for Offaly Library Service in recognition of staff training and branch improvements in support of age friendly principles. Offaly Libraries look forward to progressing more branches through this initiative in the near future.

Children’s Book Festival and Hullabaloo

The National *Children’s Book Festival* is finally here, and is a much loved *Right to Read* action in the Offaly Library Service



calendar. **There are over 65 reading development events** planned for children throughout the library network. These include author visits, sensory story-times, *Famous Five* enthusiasts’ gatherings, dog trust events, creative writing workshops and much more! We are also delighted to participate in the 13th Annual Hullabaloo Festival with library events in Edenderry, Birr and Clara. Offaly’s Children’s Book Festival will:

- encourage children to enjoy reading for pleasure and supports their reading development
- provide reading development activities with writers, illustrators and storytellers
- promote children’s books, stories and story-making
- increase engagement with families, schools and new library audiences

For further information on our exciting Children’s Book Festival programme please visit: www.offaly.ie/eng/Services/Libraries/Events/Children-s-Book-Festival-in-Offaly-Libraries.html

Ferbane My Open Library (MOL) – One Year On

The Ferbane MOL opened on Saturday 6th October 2018. It was a busy year! The MOL service has been a huge success in Ferbane with a **27% increase** in stock issues with

10,560 issues between October 2018-September 2019. There was a **23% increase** in library visits during staff times, as well as **5,448 MOL visits**. Visitor numbers exceeded 10,000 over this period, averaging 27 visits per day. Associated positive outcomes demonstrate great community engagement with Ferbane Library achieving a 37% increase in adult members and a 14% increase in children’s membership.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Local Enterprise Village’ at the National Ploughing Championships

Local Enterprise Office hosted a number of Irish small businesses and start-ups at Europe’s largest outdoor event – the National Ploughing Championships – Held on the 17th to 19th September. The ‘Local



Enterprise Village,’ managed and funded by the Local Enterprise Offices, including LEO Offaly, catered for 31 diverse start-ups and small businesses from all over the country. Many of the small businesses were making their debut at the Championships, using the opportunity to launch new products and services to the 290,000 visitors to the National Ploughing Association (NPA). LEO Offaly was represented at the Local Enterprise Village by Dotser, Tullamore.



Export to Netherlands Initiative

Three Local businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Office Offaly went to The Netherlands to explore and target new business opportunities in mainland Europe. They were joined by seven businesses supported by the Local Enterprise Office from Laois, Longford and Westmeath.

The businesses travelled to The Netherlands for the 3-day group visit on the 24th to 26th September 2019. The Local Enterprise Office delivery agents for this Initiative – Full Circle in Belfast - arranged up to 5 meetings with potential customers in The Netherlands. The feedback has been very positive. Our clients are very happy with how their meetings progressed and have identified viable business prospects in The Netherlands.

The Netherlands has population of 17.1 million people and has consistently been one of the popular export markets for Irish SMEs over the last 10 years. Last year, over €7.9 billion of products and services were sold by Irish businesses to customers in The Netherlands and sales have increased significantly in the last few years. The Export to Netherlands Initiative offered our businesses in Counties Offaly, Laois, Longford and Westmeath the connections to explore and target new business opportunities in The Netherlands and Mainland Europe.



Economic Development News

Lumcloon Energy

Lumcloon Energy Ltd received planning permission for alterations to energy storage facilities on their sites in Lumcloon and Shannonbridge, marking the beginning of a €150m investment which will make the sites some of the largest facilities of that type in Europe.

The plants, which are a partnership between Lumcloon Energy and South Korean energy company, Hanwha Energy Corporation (HEC), will be used to store energy created through Ireland's growing renewable energy suppliers. Electricity generated by wind farms during periods of low demand can be stored and used later when customers need power.

The plants will have a combined capacity to hold 100 megawatts of electricity, making the project one of the biggest of its kind in Europe. 120 jobs will be created through the construction phase. 20 jobs will be sustained once construction has been completed

Updates on sites sold in Ferbane and Portarlington

Offaly County Council has approved the sale of sites 10, 11, 12 and 14 in Ferbane Business and Technology Park. Site number 3 in Botley Lane, Portarlington has been approved for sale.

National Women's Enterprise Day!

Midlands Region
National Women
in Enterprise
Event takes place



in Gloster House in County Offaly on Thursday 17th October. The theme of this year's Women's Enterprise Day is 'Making It Happen' and the sold-out event features guest speakers Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive of Offaly County Council, Emma Rose Conroy, Euro Stallions, Marissa Carter, Cocoa Brown and Ellen Gunning, Irish Academy. The event also includes female entrepreneurs, lively panel discussion, small-business case studies, an exhibition of

enterprise support agencies as well as plenty of opportunities to network with other female entrepreneurs and business owners.

Autumn 2019 Business Training Courses

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has launched the Autumn Business Training Course schedule. Bookings is now available for a number of courses such as Start your Own Business Course, Digital marketing for Business, Part-Time Business Start Up (while holding down a day job) and How to Sell Successfully.

EENGINEX Engineering Meet the Buyer and Matchmaking Event

The EENGINEX Engineering Meet the Buyer and Matchmaking Event takes place at the new, state of the art Combilift factory complex in Monaghan on the 16th of October 2019, where the client will be given an opportunity to participate in a series of talks and factory tours, before engaging in pre-arranged meetings with a variety of senior engineering buyers from throughout Ireland and the EU.

Food eirEEN Meet the Buyer & Matchmaking Event

Enterprise Europe Network, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Offices in Ireland and Invest NI, is hosting Food eirEEN, a food “Meet the Buyer” event which offers participants a unique opportunity to engage in face-to-face sales meetings with senior food buyers from throughout Ireland and the EU. It is expected that in excess of 25 food buyers, and 100 supplier companies, will attend the event. The event takes place on the 21 November 2019 at the City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath.

Co-Working Hubs & Enterprise Space News

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. The project was funded

under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Offaly County Council and is supported by LEO Offaly and Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG.

The Junction Business Innovation Centre in Tullamore recently expanded with four new offices. The businesses working from the new offices are The Lunchbag, Saludem Advisory, Anteo and Remote Working.

Work is currently underway on the STREAM Creative Suite in Birr. It will comprise of an open plan work area for researchers, a training room and smaller office spaces. The programme will also include a residential/visiting researcher programme, support for workshops, summer internships, and training in Data Analytics and related topics.

Co-working hubs are ideal for remote workers (working one or more days away from the main office), and for those setting up or growing their own business. provides quality accommodation for start-up and growing enterprises. The Centres provide business support services, quality training facilities, hot desks and office suites. Our hubs feature affordable hot desk facilities, meeting rooms and high speed internet access and are supported by LEO Offaly.

LEO Outreach Offices: By Appointment

Birr: Thursday mornings

Edenderry: Tuesday afternoons

Ferbane: Wednesday mornings

Portarlinton: First Wednesday morning of the month

Brexit

Get your Business Brexit Ready

The UK is due to leave the European Union on 31st October 2019. How and when they may leave is not yet certain. Ireland will be the EU Member State most affected by the UK’s decision to leave the European Union and businesses need to recognise regulations and procedures is going to change. The Local Enterprise Office Offaly has a range of supports to help businesses to address issues and maximise potential opportunities;

- Brexit Loan Scheme Information Pack - There is €300 million available to eligible businesses with up to 499 employees at an interest rate of 4% or less.
- Register for EORI number. This is a key requirement for all Irish traders importing or exporting goods into or out of the EU.
- Brexit Mentor Programme
- Lean for Micro
- The Enterprise Europe Network
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters
- Trading Online Voucher Scheme
- MFI – Micro Finance Ireland loan
- Intertrade Ireland Supports
- Enterprise Ireland Supports
-

Brexit Workshop: Tullamore 18th Oct

The Customs Export & Import Procedures workshop will take place in the Tullamore Court Hotel on Friday 18th October. It covers how export and import customs procedures on trade with 'Third Countries' apply, how tariffs work and the need to correctly classify your goods.

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

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

**Offaly County Council
Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary
To 30th September 2019**

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2019 €m	Preliminary Value to September 2019 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	25.51	19.09	74.8%
Grants and Subsidies Income	26.87	18.20	67.7%

OCC to 30th September 2019	<u>Rates</u> €m	<u>Rents</u> €m	<u>Loans</u> €m
Opening Balance Jan 1, 2019	2.21	0.92	0.39
Invoices/Adjustments	14.66	5.33	0.27
2019 Cash Collected to end of September	13.02	4.64	0.39
Closing Balance September 30th, 2019	3.86	1.61	0.28
<u>2018 Cash collected to September</u>	13.00	4.51	0.36
% Collection at this point in 2018	100%	103%	108%

Bank Overdraft to 30th September 2019

Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date	76	28%
Interest and non-conforming charges to September 30th 2019 YTD	€15,021	
Bank Administration and transactional charges to September 30th 2019 YTD	€32,889	