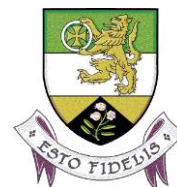


FEBRUARY 2019

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 Marta.

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

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS:

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

FINANCE:

Report to the 28th February 2019 – (Appendix I).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TOURISM SEMINAR

Offaly County Council in association with Offaly Tourism
Marketing (CLG) are hosting a Tourism Development
Seminar on Monday, 8th April in The Tullamore Court
Hotel, 9.30am – 1.30pm

TRADFEST TULLAMORE

The library will be hosting a family day on Sunday 14th
April as part of the new festival – Tradfest Tullamore. The
library will open as part of the programme with events and
music for all the family.

GRAND CANAL GREENWAY – TULLAMORE URBAN

The Part 8 is on public display up to Thursday 11th April
2019 and submissions can be made up until and including
the 25th of April.

REPORT AT A GLANCE

Offaly Tourist Office

Work has commenced on the kit-out of the
new Tourism Office on O'Connor Square.
It is envisaged that the office will be ready
and open for business at Easter to greet
the holiday season.

(LCDC) met on 14th February and The
Leader Annual Progress Report 2018, the
Implementation Plan 2019 was agreed by
the members. The SICAP 2018 Annual
Performance Review, Progress Report
and the End of Year Report were
approved. Also SICAP 2019 Annual Plan
was formally approved by the members.

Local Improvement Schemes

The Department of Rural and Community
Development (DRCD) announced further
funding and Offaly County Council
received an allocation of €278,871.

River Gageborough Catchment

The Local Authority Waters Programme
hosted a Community Information Meeting
in advance of any field work commencing
in the River Gageborough Catchment.
The meeting was held on Tuesday the
12th February in the
Streamstown/Horseleap Community
Centre and informed all present of
planned activities and assessments in the
Gageborough Catchment. The meeting
encouraged local input into the process.

PLANNING:

	To end February 2019	To end Feb 2018	Total 2018
Planning Applications	87	96	597
Extensions of Duration Applications & Assessments	1	1	13
Warning Letters and (Enforcement Notices) issued	2 (0)	4(2)	41 (8)

Rural Regeneration and Development Funding approval

The following is an extract of the result of the RRDF applications process for 2018 announced on 19th February 2019:

Edenderry Masterplan – Edenderry - Offaly County Council will develop an architectural masterplan for the JKL St Backlands and a commuter survey of the town, €75,000 allocation received

Greenways

Grand Canal Greenway – Tullamore Urban

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway was published on the 14th of March; it encompasses a 2.8km section of the Grand Canal Greenway from Convent View, Tullamore to Srah Bridge, Ballydrohid, West of Tullamore. This incorporates revisions to the previous Part 8 approved for the Grand Canal Greenway in 2015. The current proposal incorporates;

1. Improvements to the existing towpath and footpaths along the Grand Canal through the provision of a suitable surface i.e. Surface Dressing, Asphalt Tarmac, Quarry Dust and Concrete / Stone Paving.
2. Provision of traffic safety measures and signage to facilitate safe pedestrian and cycling crossings at

- Kilbeggan Bridge and Cox (Clara) Bridge (both protected structures).
3. Provision of Shared Surface Area at Bury Quay and Offaly Street.
4. Provision of access controls (pedestrian/cycling friendly gates/bollards) road makings, traffic calming measures facilitating the proposed cycle/walk way.
5. Provision of a new pedestrian bridge at the 28th Lock, Srah, Tullamore.
6. Information boards, street furniture, signage and lighting upgrades

The Part 8 will be on public display from Thursday 13th of March 2019 to Thursday 11th April 2019 and submissions can be made up until and including the 25th of April. Funding for this project has been approved under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, 2018. Dept. of Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Grand Canal Greenway – Ballycommon to Kilbeggan

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway, 6.5km, in Offaly, (13km in total) is at final design stage and final consultation with relevant stakeholders including Waterways Ireland and local landowners is due to be completed in the next month. It is expected to be published in April 2019. Funding for this Greenway has been allocated to both Offaly and Westmeath County Councils under the ORIS Fund, 2018. (Dept. of Rural and Community Development)

Grand Canal Greenway - Turraun to Shannon Harbour

The Part 8 for Grand Canal Greenway (16km) is at design stage and final consultation with relevant stakeholders including Waterways Ireland and local landowners is due to be completed in the next month. It is expected to be published in May 2019. Funding for this element of the Grand Canal Greenway has been sought under the National and Regional Greenway Strategy Fund, 2018, Dept. of Transportation

Tourism and Sport, under a joint application with Waterways Ireland.

ROADS:

2019 Roads Works Programme

The Roads section is currently preparing the 2019 Roads Works Programme. The 2019 budget of €14.63m includes €2.96m from the TII for National Roads, €9.88m from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for Regional and Local Roads and €1.79m in own resources. The 2019 Roads Programme will be presented at the March Council Meeting.

ENVIRONMENT / WATER SERVICES:

Illegal Dumping 2019 Data thus far

Waste complaints thus far 18, Litter complaints 200

We are currently in the process of working with Tidy Towns Groups and community groups on the National Spring Clean initiative. We provide groups with equipment to assist in their clean ups as well as arranging to remove the waste when it is collected.

Noise Action Plan

The draft Noise Action Plan is currently on Public Consultation, The Draft Plan was available for public inspection until the 27th February, 2019, at Environment & Water Services, Tullamore and other Council offices. All submissions, observations, comments or suggestions in respect to the Draft Noise Action Plan will be reviewed and incorporated into a final Plan, which goes to the Strategic Policy committee.

Water Quality

The Local Authority Waters Programme hosted a Community Information Meeting in advance of any field work commencing in the River Gageborough Catchment. The meeting was held on Tuesday the 12th

February last in the Streamstown/Horseleap Community Centre and informed all present of planned activities and assessments in the Gageborough Catchment. The meeting encouraged local input into the process.

The Gageborough River is 1 of the 190 Prioritised Areas for Action identified under the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 -2021. It is an important source for drinking water in County Offaly. The river supplies Clara Water Treatment Plant where it is treated and distributed through a network of approximately 183km. 43 people from varying areas of interest attended the meeting, including pupils from the local school, tidy towns/community group, Teagasc and staff from Offaly and Westmeath County Councils. The meeting was facilitated by Basil Mannion Community Water Officer for Offaly / Westmeath and members of the Catchment Assessment Team. The Catchment Assessment Team gave a presentation on how the catchment assessment/survey will be carried out. It is planned that work will commence once a suitable weather window permits. The team also discussed challenges presented with existing known pressures within the catchment and the importance of improving the water quality status of both the Gageborough River and its tributaries. Active participation was encouraged through questions/answers and informal discussion.

WATER SERVICES

Water services have met with Irish Water officials at Edenderry Wastewater Treatment Plant to discuss measures which will improve capacity at the plant. The Tullamore Drainage Area Plan is ongoing and will inform the sewerage network upgrade going forward. Consultants have been appointed to look at storm water design in Cloghan and Shinrone – this is at design stage at present. Ground Investigation is being completed in Cloghan and Shinrone for tendering purpose. This is planned to go out to tender in 2019.

Tullamore and Birr Water Supply Scheme

Contractors have been appointed to carry out the upgrades and are on site in Clonaslee, Birr and Tullamore. The works involve €21.5m investment in water infrastructure and will be carried out by Irish Water in partnership with OCC, works should be completed by 2021. The water rehabilitation works in Screggan, Mucklagh and Brosna South are complete. Works are ongoing in Crinkle and Mountbolus. Design works ongoing in Edenderry, Croghan, Clonin and Newtown.

Rural Water Programme

Submissions were invited from Group Water Schemes for funding for the period 2019 – 2021. Almost all of the Schemes in the County submitted proposals which have now been submitted to the Department for assessment and decision.

VETERINARY SERVICES**Control of Dogs**

The contract for the Control of Dogs Service in Offaly expired on 31st December, 2018. The service now operates solely under the auspices of Offaly County Council and staff, i.e. 1 full-time Dog Warden & 1 part-time Kennel Assistant are now employed directly by Offaly County Council.

HOUSING:**Capital Update****Local Authority Direct Construction****Projects: -**

- Blundell Wood, 33 Units - under construction, delivery date summer 2019
- Chancery Lane, 18 Units - currently under construction, delivery date Q4, 2019
- Raheen Clara – Stage 1 submission to be progressed in 2019
- Rectory Lands – Stage 1 submission to be progressed in 2019

- Banagher, Kylebeg 18 Units, construction to start 2019
- Beechgrove Belmont, 7 Units construction to start 2019
- Moneygall, 2 Units construction to start 2019
- Circular Road, Daingean, 7 Units - Design Consultants appointed and site investigations complete

Approved Housing Bodies Schemes: -

- Mid Offaly Housing Association: 4 Units Mountbolus under construction, delivery 2019
- Oaklee: Kearney's Field, 41 Units – public consultation held in Q4 2018, Part VIII issued in February 2019. Closing date for submissions or observations is Friday, 29th March 2019 at 3.00 p.m.
- Oaklee: Clonminch 19 Units - public consultation held in Q4 2018, Part VIII planning to be progressed in 2019
- Cluid Housing: Scurragh, Birr, 6 Units under construction, delivery 2019
- Tuath: Killane: Drive, Edenderry 27 Units, tenders are being examined
- Sofia Housing: 32 Units at Presentation Lands, Portarlinton, Stage 1 approval was received in January 2019 and their design team is being appointed

Turnkey Developments: -

Expressions of interest were sought for further turnkey schemes in the county with a closing date of 28th February.

Existing turnkey schemes are as follows:

- MacGregor, Birr, 12 Units, started in Q4 2018
- Walsh Island, Coolagarry, 4 Units, approved November 2018, delivery Q4 2019

- Cluainn na Spideoga, Cloghan, 6 Units, under construction, completion due in April
- Frankford, Kilcormac, 12 Units, allocations are currently being progressed
-

TOURISM

Offaly Tourist Office

Work has commenced on the kit-out of the new Tourist Office on O'Connor Square. It is envisaged that the office will be ready and open for business at Easter to greet the holiday season. A grant to the value of €20k has been secured under the Digital Innovation Programme 2018 and we are awaiting drawdown to purchase state of the art interactive screens and display boards. Offaly Tourism are currently seeking volunteers to assist in the manning of the new facility; details available on our Facebook page; www.facebook.com/visitoffaly/

Tourism Seminar

Offaly County Council in association with Offaly Tourism Marketing (CLG) are hosting a Tourism Development Seminar on Monday, 8th April in The Tullamore Court Hotel, 9.30am – 1.30pm. We are calling on all interested parties to attend and get informed and involved on all things Tourism. The morning will include talks from a number of interesting guest speakers, Q & A, followed by lunch and networking opportunities. It is hoped to be the first of a number of tourism networking events to be organised going forward.

Holiday World Show

'Visit Offaly' exhibited at the Holiday World Show in the RDS in Dublin on 25th, 26th & 27th January. The largest and most successful holiday show the country; it was great exposure for our brand and product offering. There was a genuine interest in what Offaly has to offer with visitors to the stand actively engaging in dialogue with the

'Visit Offaly' team. We look forward to turning these potential opportunities into increased visitor numbers.

Slieve Bloom Branding

The successful tenderers in the Slieve Bloom branding project are finalising brand concepts and guidelines for the new brand. The logo has been decided upon and we are very excited as the time draws near when we can launch the new brand to the public and share this exciting concept. It will be completed in time for the opening of the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trails.

LOCAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Local Community Development Committee

(LCDC) met on 14th February, 2019. Agenda items included the Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014-2020 and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). The Leader Annual Progress Report 2018 and Implementation Plan 2019 was agreed by the members. The SICAP 2018 Annual Performance Review, Progress Report and the End of Year Report were approved. The SICAP 2019 Annual Plan was formally approved by the members.

Mr. J. O'Brien, Integration Outreach Officer, Immigrant Council of Ireland attended the meeting and outlined details of the "Discussion Document and proposed actions for Local Authorities on developing local migrant integration strategies". Ms. Olive Farrelly, Tourism Officer, attended the meeting and provided an update on tourism in Offaly.

National Community Weekend

Members of the LCDC approved a proposal at their February meeting in relation to the Offaly Community Weekend taking place on 4th – 6th May 2019. Offaly Community Weekend aims to bring together people who share communities and provide neighbours with an opportunity to reconnect within their

communities and have a celebration which is open and inclusive for all at every local level. Community groups will be eligible to apply for a grant of €200 funding towards the cost of running the event. Application forms are available from the Community & Culture Section. There will be a main event celebrating Offaly and Offaly people which will be held on Sunday 5th May 2019 in Lough Boora Parklands. This will be a family fun day and a celebration of community and will be centred around food, art, sports, music and culture for all ages and abilities.

Age Friendly Strategy

Supporting Clara to become an Age Friendly Library, Attended Offaly Older Persons Network meeting in relation to A Housing Showcase event with Keynote speaker Jack Keys. This is a follow up to the Public Realm & Housing Training in the Council Chamber Nov 2018. Age Friendly Co-ordinators CPD Training identified Opportunities in Offaly for further Age Friendly developments.

Public Participation Network

Community Wellbeing Vision Training commenced. Promotion of National Community day. Development work undertaken to move the Green Offaly Environmental Trust forward. Met with Mountbolus Development group to deliver the Phase 1 findings from the Community Development Planning work undertaken in December/ Jan. Offaly PPN successfully hosted the Midland Regional PPN meeting in Tullamore with 5 local counties in attendance.

Comhairle na nOg

Members of the Comhairle na nOg Executive attended the February meeting of the Council, where they met the Elected Members and gave a presentation on their work over the last 12 months. The presentation was very successful with both the Members and Senior Management Team commending the Young People on their

work to date. The February meeting of the Comhairle Executive took place after the presentation with the Young People completing feedback on a CYPSC (Children and Young Persons Services Committee) survey into the availability of services in their area.

OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (OSP)

Education and Training

Child protection

Three Safeguarding 1 courses; and one Safeguarding 2 course delivered, requests for additional Safeguarding courses received

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Launch of Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020

On 6th February, The Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys TD, launched the first of nine new Regional Enterprise Plans to drive job creation and support enterprise growth in the regions. She was joined at the launch event in Mountmellick by Minister for Communications Climate Action and Environment, Richard Bruton TD, and Minister for Justice and Equality, Charlie Flanagan TD.



The Regional Enterprise Plan for the Midlands identifies seven Strategic Objectives that build on the region's strengths and address vulnerabilities that range from leveraging big data opportunities through the I-LOFAR telescope at Birr, to ensuring that the Midlands is well positioned

to address the challenges and new business opportunities presented by decarbonisation of the economy.

Seven Strategic Objectives and specific actions have been set out under each area:

- Strategic Objective 1: Ensure that the Midlands is well positioned to address the challenges posed by the transition to a low carbon economy and renewable energy
- Strategic Objective 2: Leverage opportunities in big data and data analytics from I-LOFAR
- Strategic Objective 3: Position and support the growth of the Midlands as an advanced manufacturing centre of excellence
- Strategic Objective 4: Enhance the collective offering of the Midlands as a place to live, work and invest in
- Strategic Objective 5: Strengthen the attractiveness of the Midlands as a destination to visit
- Strategic Objective 6: Harness the potential of the food and beverage industry in the Midlands
- Strategic Objective 7: Ensure the availability of skills and talent to realise the Midlands' economic potential and address upskilling requirements

STREAM Creative Suite – Minister Heather Humphreys' visit

Following the launch of the Midland Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020 on February 6th 2019 in County Laois, Minister Humphreys travelled to Birr Castle to visit I-



LOFAR and the STREAM Creative Suite Project.

Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG in partnership with Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Offaly, Offaly County Council and I-LOFAR has been awarded €458,240 from the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund to establish "STREAM Creative Suite" in Birr Technology Centre. Professor Peter Gallagher, Manager of the I-LOFAR Consortium briefed the Minister and guests on I-LOFAR telescope.

Orla Martin, Head of Enterprise in LEO Offaly explained that STREAM Creative Suite will be a natural extension to the I-LOFAR Project. It will bring together researchers and practitioners in areas such as the visual arts, multi-media, technology and astronomy, who share a common interest in Big Data.

Minister Heather Humphreys spoke of her delight "to be here in Birr Castle to see first-hand the work of I-LOFAR and the future plans for STREAM Creative Suite".

Offaly County Council Cathaoirleach Cllr. Danny Owens thanked Minister Humphreys and guests for taking the time to visit and he acknowledged the collaborative efforts those who made the successful application: Offaly County Council's Chief Executive, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney; Head of Enterprise/Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG, Ms. Orla Martin; Prof. Peter Gallagher, I-LOFAR Consortium and Mr. Joe Hogan, Founder of Openet.

LEO Offaly and Offaly County Council appear as Witnesses to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development.



This was an excellent opportunity to highlight the work undertaken by LEOs and Local Authorities to support and drive economic development.

Pre-Launch of e-hive – New co-working hub in Edenderry

In the coming months, Edenderry will have a co-working hub with 12-15 hot desks. E-hive will be situated on the first floor of Edenderry Town Hall.



Local Enterprise Week

It was Local Enterprise Week from Monday March 4th to Friday March 8th and the Local Enterprise Office Offaly organised numerous events for start-ups and small businesses all over Offaly.

Events were held in a number of locations – Tullamore, Edenderry, Birr, Ferbane and Portllington. There were so many highlights including the Offaly Enterprise Awards, Student Enterprise Awards, Remote Working Conference, Ferbane Food Event, and the Brexit and Beyond event in Edenderry.

2019 County Enterprise Awards – Offaly Businesses Chance to Shine!

Dotser Ltd. took the top prize of €1500 and will now represent Local Enterprise Office Offaly at the 21st National Enterprise Awards on Wednesday 29th May in the Mansion House in Dublin. Dotser Ltd. was founded in 2000 by Loughnan Hooper providing web development and marketing services to the SME business sector. Based in Tullamore, County Offaly Dotser Ltd. now employs a team of nine professionals,

delivering a suite of online software and related web services to over 300 clients throughout Ireland.



Other winners at the awards ceremony, held at the Tullamore Court Hotel included Edenderry based Derek McCreanor T/a Enhance Acoustics (Emerging Business Award); Ferbane based Ko Kombucha Ltd. (Artisan Food Business Award); Portllington based Carla Mooney, Cardel Entertainment Ltd. (Female Entrepreneur Award) and Rahan based NIS Ltd. (Business Service Award).

Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa Clara student secure spot at Student Enterprise Programme National Finals

Niamh McKeon from Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa, Clara won the Student Enterprise Programme. The young entrepreneur will be representing Offaly in the National Final on 3rd May with her business “Dulce



Chocolates”. She produces a range of delicious handmade chocolates including sea salt and orange chocolate truffles.

Over 450 students from nine schools took part in the annual programme locally. This

year a total of 19 businesses and over 50 students reached the County Final.

Rise and Benefits of Remote Working Highlighted at Offaly Conference

The benefits of remote working to both employers, employees and communities have been highlighted at a national conference in Tullamore on Friday last, 8th March. The conference entitled “Remote Working – Practical Insights and Approaches” was organised by the Local Enterprise Office in Offaly in collaboration with The Junction Business Innovation Centre in Tullamore. The speakers at the Remote Working Conference were John Riordan of Shopify, Geraldine Beirne of LEO Offaly, Tracy Keogh of Grow Remote, Therese Philbin of AirBnB, Caroline Spollen of The Junction Offaly and Rory O’Keeffe of Hotjar.



Set up and Grow a thriving Food Business in Ferbane

LEO Offaly held a Food Event in Ferbane Food Campus on Wednesday 6th March. The event discussed Eco-friendly packaging, Food Technology & Regulation, financial advice and guest speaker Gerard Cleary CFO of Glenisk spoke of his experience growing Glenisk to be a multi-million euro business and national brand.



Brexit and Beyond Event in Edenderry

This event was being run in association with the Local Enterprise Office Offaly and the Edenderry & Local District Chamber of Commerce. Speakers at the event included



James Maloney of Enterprise Ireland, Martina Keenan of Intertrade Ireland and Orla Martin of Local Enterprise Office. Lean expert Stuart Nelson of Jigsaw Consulting spoke about the benefits of using Lean techniques to save money, time and improve business performance. Eugene McNamara of Rosderra Meats shared their experience of adopting Lean strategies, and tips for other employers looking to do the same.

LEO Feasibility Grant Call

Feasibility grant towards prototype development & research available - Next closing date 31st March

LIBRARY SERVICES

Daingean – new opening hours

On Saturday 2nd March 2019, Daingean library held a family fun day as part of the new opening hours. There was great community support with over 100 people attending.

Daingean will be trailing new opening hours to meet the demand of the local community.

Wednesday: 1.00-5.00pm & 6-8pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Spring into Storytime

April is the month for the national initiative of Spring into Storytime. There will be

storytelling sessions in all 8 branches around the county. This is part of the Right to Read programme.

Tradfest Tullamore

The library will be hosting a family day on Sunday 14th April as part of the new festival – Tradfest Tullamore. The library will open as part of the programme with events and music for all the family.

Bealtaine 2019

The Library, Arts officer and the PPN officer are organising a number of events for Bealtaine. These events include the launch of the Tovertafel or Magic Table in Tullamore. The Tovertafel is a fun care innovation that connects older people in the late stage of their dementia journey with each other and with their surroundings, all the while stimulating movement. The beautiful games were developed specifically for the target group and can be played both independently and under supervision.

Cruinniu na nÓg

The library is curating a programme of events for the Cruinniu na nÓg day on Saturday 15th June. The programme will include a series of workshops in the lead up to the day. All types of creative expression are being considered. A draft programme will be available in April.

Lego workshops

The success of the Brick.ie Lego exhibition in Birr Library has led to the development of staff run Lego workshops in Tullamore library. This is a pilot and if successful will be introduced to the other libraries over time. There will be a series of 4 workshops on a theme. The children will learn STEM skills such as motor skills, spatial skills, language skills, and divergent problem solving.

"Legos are a good introduction to communicating ideas with physical objects," notes Tiffany Tseng, an engineer in the MIT Media Lab. "Putting things together and taking them apart got me interested in how

things work, and by the time I was an undergraduate, I knew I wanted to be an engineer."

Anna Marie Delaney, Chief Executive

**Offaly County Council
Revenue Account Grant Income & Payroll Summary
To 28th February 2019**

OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	Full Yr Budget 2019 €m	Preliminary Value to February 2019 €m	% Year To Date
Payroll costs	25.51	4.09	16.0%
Grants and Subsidies Income	26.87	2.32	8.6%

OCC to 28th February 2019

Opening Balance Jan 1, 2019

Invoices/Adjustments

2019 Cash Collected to end of February

Closing Balance February 28th, 2019

2018 Cash collected to February

% Collection at this point in 2018

<u>Rates</u> <u>€m</u>	<u>Rents</u> <u>€m</u>
2.21	0.81
13.69	0.81
0.31	0.86
15.59	0.76
0.46	0.82
68%	105%

Bank Overdraft to 28th February 2019

Number of days Overdrawn in Bank year to date 22

Interest and non conforming charges to February 28th 2019 YTD €3,684

Bank Administration and transactional charges to February 28th 2019 YTD €5,499