



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Bealtaine

**May
2026**

**Tuarascáil
Bainistíochta an
Phríomhfheidhme**

**Chief
Executive's
Report**





Do: Gach Ball Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach

To: Each Member of Carlow County Council

Tugtar léargas sa Tuarascáil Bainistíochta Míosúil seo ar rialachas leanúnach Chomhairle Contae Cheatharlach agus tá sé á chur ar fáil do d'fhaisnéis agus do bhreithniú. / This Chief Executive's Report gives an overview of the operations and governance of Carlow County Council and is being provided for your information and consideration.

Clúdaíonn an tuarascáil na réimsí Stiúarthóireachta seo a leanas / The report covers the following Directorate areas.

P. J. Leonard, Ceann Airgeadais / Director of Finance:

Airgeadas, TFC, Soláthar & Mótarchánach
Finance, ICT, Procurement & Motor Tax

Paula O'Brien, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

Gnóthaí Corparáideacha/Acmhainní Daonna, Pleanáil, Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht, Forbairt Eacnamaíoch/an Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil, / Corporate Affairs, Human Resources, Planning, Health & Safety, Economic Development & LEO

Padraig O'Gorman, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí: Iompar, an Comhshaol agus Seirbhísí Uisce, Rialú Foirgníochta agus Seirbhísí Éigeandála / Transportation, Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services

Michael Brennan, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

Forbairt Pobail, Caitheamh Aimsire, Taitneamhacht, Spóirt, Ealaíona, Cultúr, Leabharlanna, Músaem & Oidhreacht, Freadgairt dhaonnúil na hÚcráine / Community Development, Recreation, Amenity, Sports, Arts, Culture, Libraries, Museum & Heritage, Ukrainian Humanitarian Response

Claire Hartley, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

Tithíocht / Housing

Coilín O'Reilly

Chief Executive
Coilín O'Reilly



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GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA/ CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Corporate Affairs	Stats up to 26 th May
Freedom of Information Requests	7
Ombudsman Complaints	0
Meetings Facilitated for Elected Members Corporate	3
Electors Registered to Vote	46,677

Register of Electors:

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 introduced the modernisation of the Electoral Register, which allows for a rolling or continually updating register. This is more convenient for electors as they can register or update their details at any time, other than the closing date before a polling day (14 days). Voters go to checktheregister.ie if they want to check if they are registered to vote or check or update their details.

The Franchise Team collaborated with St Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow to host a National Voter Registration Day Event on Thursday 30th April 2026. At the event Carlow Co Council was on hand to provide guidance, answer queries and support anyone who needed assistance registering to vote or checking and updating their registration details.

Register of Electors National Data Cleansing Project

The Franchise Team are actively participating in a National Data Cleansing Project. For the month of May, the Franchise Team continued reviewing the register and are in the process of facilitating communication to electors who need to update their details on the register of electors. The changes to the Register for the month of May included the following:

Additions	Deletions	Modifications	Changes to Register up to 26 th May
40	23	41	104

Communications and Customer Service Desk

Customer Services	Stats up to 26 th May
Telephone Calls Received	938
Customers to Reception	626
Website Visitors	57,144
Media	4

Rás Tailteann 2026

The Rás Tailteann returned to Carlow in May 2026. On Saturday 23rd May Stage four started in Carlow and finished in Wicklow. On Sunday 24th May the final stage started in Carlow, crossing the plains of Carlow and onto Kildare. Event registration and the starting point took place at County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow and was facilitated by Carlow Co Council. The race entourage stayed in Carlow town on 22nd and 23rd May.

Carlow Town has hosted stages of the international cycling stage race in previous years, including 2013, 2015 and 2018.

Performance Indicators:

The National Oversight & Audit Committee 'NOAC' gathers and validates data on local authority performance indicators annually. The 2025 data collection will inform NOAC's performance indicator report. The data submission date was Friday, 17th April 2026. Carlow Co. Council was selected for a random evaluation process which was facilitated by Corporate Services on 27th May. The NOAC Report will be published Q4 2026.



OIFIG FIONTAIR ÁITIÚL/ LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

	No.	Ytd
Direct Financial Support Granted	11	61
Business Advice Clinics	23	147
Participants for all training programmes	126	679
Start Your Own Business Training	21	61
No. of Completed Mentoring	9	29
No of Ongoing Mentoring	15	15

LEO 'Lunch & Learn' Outreach events

The Local Enterprise Office held a series of 'lunch and learn' outreach events in May to introduce LEO services to the business community. Events took place in each Municipal District with almost 70 business owners attending.

Lean Educational Visit

13 Carlow businesses participated in a Local Enterprise Office educational trip to Adman Steel Sheds in Wexford, a nationally recognised model of best practice in the use of lean processes in business.

Management Development Programme in Hacketstown

The Local Enterprise Office, in partnership with South East Technological University, announced the launch of 'Hub Grow' a management development programme focussing on business innovation. The programme will commence in June and will be delivered in Station House, Hacketstown.

Evaluations & Approvals Committee

A meeting of the Local Enterprise Office Evaluations & Approvals Committee was held in May. €69,404 in grant aid was approved to 3 applicants.

Student Enterprise Programme

County Carlow was represented by 3 student groups at the National Final for the Student Enterprise Programme: 2 from Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown (Junior and Senior Category) and 1 from Tullow Community College (Intermediate Category).

Management Development

Business Owners Toolkit: AI for Business 11 people attended the 1-day workshop with Simone Foster of Optimum Results. This practical course was designed to teach business owners and managers how to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) into their business in a responsible way, to teach them how to use accurate prompts and ultimately to help them optimise their business processes.

Business Owners Toolkit: Branding & Storytelling 12 people attended the 1-day workshop with Helen McNulty of The Entrepreneur's Academy. The course was a structured, practical branding and storytelling training programme designed to help business owners and managers formalise and strengthen their business' branding and storytelling process.

Wellbeing with Impact

A total of 62 businesses attended a programme delivered by Carlow County Council's Local Enterprise Office, in association with Carlow Kilkenny Skillnet, focused on building high-performing workplaces that support wellbeing. Participants gained practical tools to enhance performance, resilience, and employee wellbeing.

GRANT APPROVED (Ytd)	No.	€
Financial Assistance to Manufacturing & International Services Companies		
Business Expansion Grants	6	€202,046
Feasibility Grants	1	€15,000
Market Exporter Grants	5	€35,541
Green for Business Grants	18	€31,000
Digital for Business Grants	10	€10,650
Energy Efficiency Grant	13	€113,441
Grow Digital Grant	8	€37,274



FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCHT/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Streetscape Scheme 2026

A public consultation event in relation to a Mural on College Street will be held on 16th June 2026.

Samhain 2026

Carlow Co Council met with stakeholders and partners during May to progress plans and activities for 2026.

Pan Celtic International Festival 2026

The Economic Development team met with committee members from Pan Celtic International to review Pan Celtic 2026.

Streetfest 2026

Carlow Makers Market will take place on Lower Tullow Street on 30th May 2026 as part of Carlow Arts Festival. The Makers Market showcases a range of crafts from ceramics to contemporary jewellery and art.

#ShopLocalShopCarlow & County Promotion.

The creation of professional digital content with Businesses and retailers across County Carlow continued during May. Each participating businesses will receive digital mentoring on how to showcase their business. The Economic Development team in partnership with County Carlow Chamber and Carlow Tourism are developing a comprehensive visual identity and digital promotional toolkit for Grá Carlow which will be launched in June 2026.

Carlow Tourism & Fáilte Ireland

The Executive attended the 2026 Local Government National Tourism Conference in Roscommon on 14th and 15th May 2026 gaining new perspectives and many new collaborative opportunities. Carlow Tourism exhibited at Balmoral Show during May showcasing County Carlow as a destination break for 2026.



FORBAIRT TIONSCADAL SPEISIALTA/ SPECIAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT

Catalyst HQ – SMART Regions

The project has moved into the delivery phase, with weekly project meetings now underway to progress design, governance, and implementation milestones. The tender will be advertised in June 2026.

Catalyst HQ will be delivered in partnership with Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG. Southeast Catalyst Innovation Company CLG, trading as Catalyst HQ, is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern and Midland Regional Programme 2021–2027.

The Sorting House – Borris

The tender pack is being finalized for the project and will be advertised in June 2026.

Creative Europe – EU Craft Work 4.0 ALL

The EU Craft project is ongoing with regular weekly communications focused on monitoring and reviewing key performance metrics. A Creative Spark Fab Lab was held on 30th April 2026 with 12 participants in association with the Library Service. A workshop was held in Louth as part of our partnership with Louth County Council.

Participants from Ireland will visit Greece on the 2nd – 5th June as part of the Craftwork 4.0 All project with Borris Lace travelling to deliver workshops.

Erasmus + KA2 - Hands Across Generations

Carlow Library Service co-ordinated the delivery of the development of a sustainability training module as part of the programme which will be delivered later in the year. An inter regional meeting was held on the 2nd – 5th June 2026 in Greece. The feedback for the first progress report was received with some recommendations to be actioned.

Erasmus + KA2 - Digi-Text

The Digi Text project with Kilgis Chamber (Greece) was progressed during the month. Representatives from Greece will visit Carlow between 6th – 10th July 2026 for a programme development session. Representatives from Ireland visited Greece on the 2nd-5th June 2026. Applications were open until the 7th May for interested crafters to attend. 13 applications were received and 6 people were selected.

Carlow- Luxembourg

A series of meetings was progressed for the Economic Development programme for Carlow and Luxembourg during the EU Presidency.

COSME – Slow Tourism

An application was developed for the EU Fund COSME in respect of a proposed Slow Tourism project in partnership with a series of EU Partners. A decision is expected in October.



PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT/ PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Bainistíocht Airgeadais/ Development Management

	May	YTD
No. Pre-Planning Meetings Held	1	22
FI/Clarification Requests	22	92
Decisions to Refuse	2	16
Decisions to Grant	32	132
Total Valid Application Received	24	133
Invalid Planning Application	14	42
Planning Applications Received	42	179
Exemption /Licence Applications Received	6	40
Compliance Requests Received	13	71

***Figures accurate up to 28/05/2026
- 2 apps pre-validation at time of completion

Láithreáin Thréigthe/Derelict Sites

	May	YTD
No. of Derelict Sites on the Register	6	6
No. of Active Files	27	27
Letters Issued to owner/occupier	0	5
Complaints Received	1	1
No. of Derelict Sites Files Closed	0	1
Meetings Held with Developer	0	0
DS Archived	0	0

Bannaí Slándála a Phleanáil/ Planning Security Bonds

	YTD
Total No. of Bonds Files	83
Total No. of Compliance Letters Issued	3
No. of Bonds Files Closed	1
Cash Security Received 2026	€94,520
Security Bond Held	€3,224,914.30
Bank/Guarantee Bonds	€1,603,786.70
Bonds Archived	0

Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe/ Enforcement Activities

	May	YTD
Court Proceedings Ongoing		10
Warning Letter Issued	4	6
Enforcement Notice Served	1	1
Complaints Closed	2	4
New Enforcement Files Opened	5	35

Struchtúir Chontúirteacha/ Dangerous Structures

	May	YTD
Complaints Received	3	5
Notices/Letters Issued	0	0
No of Active Files		12
No. of Live Dangerous Structure		3

Tógáil Eastáit i gCúram / Eastáist Neamhchriochnaithe – Taking In Charge of Estates/ Unfinished Estates

	YTD
Dev. Under Review (Subject to Security Bond Funding)	6
Proposed Declaration S180 P&D Act	2
Development TIC	2
Requests Received for TIC	1
TIC Archived	0

Forward Planning

Update on Development Plan

Variation No. 3 of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028 to incorporate the draft and final Tullow District Town Plan 2026 was formally approved by the Elected Members at the full Council Meeting on 11th May 2026 and becomes effective immediately

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region is currently under review. The Issues Paper was published on the 26/3/26 and identifies key strategic themes encompassing creating a liveable region, a green region, a creative and innovative region. The public consultation period closed on 22/5/26. Carlow County Council as a key stakeholder in the process has made a formal submission to the process. The content of the submission is available for public viewing at this link: [Review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region \(RSES\) | Southern Regional Assembly's Consultation Portal](#) Following consideration of submissions a Directors Report will be prepared for consideration by the members of the regional assembly followed by preparation of the Draft RSES at which time further consultation will take place.

Given the strategic position of Carlow Town within two regional assembly areas Carlow County Council has also made a submission to the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly which can be accessed at this link: [Pre-DRAFT RSES Public Consultation - Strategic Issues Paper | Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly's Consultation Portal](#).



ATHNUACHANA/REGENERATION

Clár Gníomhachtaíthe/ Vacant & Derelict Property Activation Programme

Vacant/Derelict Properties identified through survey	645
Properties activated	620
Action being taken by owners	133
Owner has engaged	53
Properties brought back in to use	193

Deontas Athchóirithe Maoine Fola/ma/ Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Received	190
FI Requested	11
Inspection to be carried out	25
Applications Approved	55
Applications Declined	3
Applications Withdrawn	41
Works Complete being processed for payment	7
Grants paid to date	48

Clár CPO/ CPO Programme

CPO Commenced	50
CPO Withdrawn	5
CPO Referred to ACP	2
Vested	20

Glaó 3 URDF/ URDF Call 3

Properties approved	14
Activated	14
CPO commenced	5
CPO Referred to ACP	0
Vested	4
Acquired	1
Sale Agreed	5

Suíomhanna Tréigthe/ Derelict Sites

Section 8(2) Notice	9
Section 8(7) Notice	5

Town & Village Renewal Projects

PROJECT	PROJECT ELEMENTS	STATUS	BUDGET
Tullow	Upgrades to Riverfront Amenity Area, Biodiversity Garden, provision of signage, Virtual Heritage Trail and a paint scheme. Wayfinding.	All works complete.	€406,600
Clonegal	Village enhancement project to include paint scheme, signage, upgrade of Heritage Centre, public realm upgrades in village furniture and Wicklow Way Park. Wayfinding.	All works complete.	€110,240
Carrigduff	Playground in Carrigduff. Playground.	All works completed.	€277,770
St. Mullins	Village enhancements including community park and parking enhancement, paint scheme, signage, and public realm upgrade.	All works complete	€130,000
Tullow Town Park	Transformation of Tullow Town Park into a vibrant, accessible, multi-use community space featuring paths, skatepark, games area, river access and nature-based amenities.	Architectural Design Consultant appointed. Project commenced. Biweekly meeting scheduled with Design Consultant.	€500,000
Rathtoe	Funding approval to undertake preparatory work for the development of a multifunctional, inclusive outdoor recreational hub in Rathtoe.	Brief for Design Tender being finalised.	€48,750

Rural Regeneration & Development Projects

PROJECT	PROJECT ELEMENTS	STATUS	BUDGET
Schoolhouse Rathvilly	Provision of a Community Centre through the renovation of existing original structure.	Full Design presentation provided by Design Team to Community Group on 12th May. Design approved by Community Group. Construction Tender being prepared.	€2,737,384
Market Square Tullow	Preparatory work for the revitalisation of the Market Square in the Town Centre.	Funding approval received to bring the project through the Part VIII process. Design Team tender documents near completion and tender will publish shortly.	€157,415

Thrive Project

PROJECT	PROJECT ELEMENTS	STATUS	COST
Former Bank of Ireland Building, Court Place, Carlow	The redevelopment of the premises for office and community use	Funding Agreement in place. Part VIII approval obtained. QS/PM tender closed and assessment underway. Design Team tender being finalised and will publish shortly. Ongoing engagement with the Southern Regional Assembly and first Project Performance Report submitted.	€6,650,000



BÓITHRE, IOMPAR AGUS TIONSCADAIL SPEISIALTA/ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

	May-2026	Ytd
Road Opening Licence	28	240
Abnormal Load Permits	6	34
Public Lighting repairs	38	475
Reported Outages	25	96
Total No of Ticketing awaiting repair	25	124

Please note that Total No of Tickets includes faults that require ESB to attend, traffic Management reports, access issues etc. This figure will change throughout the month as the status of jobs changes.

Lighting outages that have been referred to ESB:

- Abbey St Templeowen **Awaiting technician from the ESB to repair the fault**
- Somerton Court: **Awaiting technician from the ESB to repair the fault**
- Ballygowan: **Awaiting technician from the ESB to repair the fault

Jobs awaiting Traffic Management Plans

- Tullow St (to be reviewed with Lighting contractor)

Jobs awaiting lighting design/commencing on-site

- Old Chapel Lane **(Civil works starting 27-04-26 **
- Oaklawns ** Awaiting connection from ESB**
- Idrone Park ** Lighting design received, awaiting site commencement date from contractor**

Funding Category	Project Name & Updates	Status
National Road Maintenance Investment	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provide funding for the maintenance & improvement of the National Road network throughout the county	Carlow County Council was notified by Transport Infrastructure Ireland of the 2026 allocation in the amount of €1,907,146 for the maintenance & improvement of the National Road network throughout the county.
	National Road – Additional Maintenance	Carlow Co Co submitted applications for additional funding to repair specific locations identified on the National Road Network, receiving €59,000
National Road Improvement Investment	N80 Leigh Bends Scheme	On the 14 th November 2025, ACP issued its decision in respect of 177AE Planning Application & the CPO Application, confirming the applications with conditions & modifications.

	N80 Average Speed Camera Zone	Following the decision, the statutory period pertaining to Judicial Review has now elapsed, whereby on the 8th April Carlow submitted to TII the completion of Phase 4 (Statutory Processes), seeking consent to commence Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement). On the 18th March, Carlow County Council submitted the Feasibility & Options Report for consideration, subsequently receiving approval. Carlow Co Co will progress the Design Report for the proposal.
	N81 Judy Lee's Crossroads Safety Improvement Scheme	Resurfacing works are rescheduled until August, while discussions progress with neighbouring landowners in respect of lands to facilitate further improvements works.
	M9(J5) Park & Share Facility	On the 15th January, Carlow County Council submitted the Feasibility & Options Report for consideration & approval to develop a facility adjacent to M9(J5). The application has now been approved, whereby Carlow Co Co will progress the Design Report for the proposal and proceed with negotiations to acquire the necessary lands.
	N80 O'Brien Road Safety Scheme	Carlow Co Co engaged Kildare RDO to progress, the topographical survey has been completed, and the Feasibility & Options Report is being developed.
	N81 Bough to Rathvilly Bridge Pavement Improvement Scheme	Following notification of funding, Carlow Co Co engaged Kildare RDO to progress the Pavement Repair & Renewal Report for this scheme
Regional & Local Road Grant Allocations	The Department of Transport (DOT) provides funding for the maintenance & improvement of the Regional & Local Road network throughout the county.	Carlow County Council was notified by the Department of Transport of the 2026 grant allocations in the total amount of €9,707,625 for the maintenance & improvement of Regional and Local Road. Separately a submission has been made to the Department seeking additional emergency funds for structurally damaged roads in the county of approximately €4 million following the recent severe weather event. Carlow is awaiting a decision Phase 1 (Feasibility) was completed in August 2025.

	Strategic Improvement Project (Carlow Southern Relief Road)	Phase 2 (Options Selection) is currently underway as follows: Stage 1 (Route Corridor Options) consultation complete. Stage 2 (Route Corridor Assessments) CBA & MCA currently underway. Thereafter a public display will be held to inform the public & stakeholders of the preferred option under Stage 3 (Emerging Preferred Option).
Road Opening Licencing	Uisce Éireann Interim Agreement for Asset Operations	MapRoad Licensing is the national system for the management and processing of roadworks licence for which Utilities and contractors must submit applications online. Local Authorities are responsible for validation and overseeing of licence agreements within their jurisdiction. Carlow County Council has entered an interim agreement with Uisce Eireann in advance of their transitioning to MapRoad Licensing (MRL) before/by 30th June 2026.
Carlow Noise Action Plan	Carlow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 Annual Return	The Noise Action Plan Annual Report for 2025 was completed on the reporting template for the return of NAP Progress Reports for 2025 and was submitted to the Office of Radiation Protection and Environmental Monitoring in the EPA on the 27th February 2025, prior to the 28th February deadline. The Annual Noise Action Report details the summary list of actions within the noise action plan and provides progress made in the 2025 calendar year. Details of Priority Important Areas (PIAs) which have been addressed under the noise action plan in the 2025 year are set out in the Annual Noise Action Report 2025 submitted. This report has been published on the Council's webpage under Roads Section on Noise.

Local Improvement Scheme	Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht	An allocation of €374,850 for Local Improvement Schemes has been received by Carlow County Council. Priority 1 5 Schemes selected costing €374,846.26.
Hedge Cutting	Under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, landowners and occupiers of land are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that trees, ditches, hedges and other vegetation growing on their land are not a hazard or a potential danger to people using or working on a public road or public footpath. Examples of hazards might be dead or dying trees, ditches or hedges interfering with traffic, blocking footpaths, obscuring road signs, public lighting or a view of the road ahead. Restrictions on cutting hedgerows are set out in Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976 as amended by the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Heritage Act 2018. These Acts stipulate that it is an offence to destroy vegetation on uncultivated land between the 1st of March and the 31st of August each year.	Publication of Notice was placed in Carlow Nationalist dated Tuesday 3rd February 2026 notifying landowners of their obligations under the legislation and the Hedge Cutting season between the 1st September 2025 to 28th February 2026. All MD's continue to carry out inspections and a significant number of hedge-cutting notices have issued since the 1st September. These are followed up with revisit inspections. Please do not hesitate to contact the MD offices if you wish to report hedges causing an obstruction or contact roadsoffice@carlowcoco.ie.
Speed Limit Review	Default Urban Speed Limits	Circular RW 21 of 2025 issued on the 16 th October 2025 with regards to the implementation of built-up and urban area speed limits. Chapters 4 and 7 of the "Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland" have been updated to assist local authorities in this process. The Circular notes that Phase 2 of the speed limit changes is to be implemented through the adoption of a "Special Speed Limit Bye Law" rather than the introduction of a 30km default speed limit in built up and urban areas. An implementation date for all urban speed limit changes has been set for 31 st March 2027. Appendix A as required by the Department of Transport for the estimation of signage quantities for the implementation of the Built-up and Urban area Speed Limits was returned to the Department as required on the 25 th February 2026.

Development of an EV Infrastructure Strategy for Region 5 of the Regional and Local Electric Vehicle Strategy	Regional EV Infrastructure Strategy	As part of the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030, Tipperary County Council as lead authority recently announced the appointment of Ove Arup & Partners Ireland, T/A Arup as the Consultant for the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy for Region 5. Tipperary County Council as lead authority will develop the strategy in collaboration with the local authorities of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. An information webinar for elected members and senior local authority officials was held on the 16th December 2025. The draft strategy is being reviewed by ZEVI and it will likely go on public display in Q2 of 2026.
	Active Travel	
	Active Travel Pathfinder - Carlow to SETU Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme	This scheme is being progressed in two phases. Phase 1 runs from Munnelly's Junction to The Creek Restaurant while Phase 2 runs from The Creek Restaurant to Granby Row Junction. The Phase 1 works are substantially complete with just some road markings and landscaping outstanding, which are expected to be complete in the coming weeks. Works on Phase 2 of the scheme of the scheme are progressing as planned and are expected to be complete in July.
	Hillbrook Estate Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Tullow	The Section 38 public consultation process for the scheme is now closed for submissions. 7no. submission were received. A Section 38 report is currently being prepared for the Director of Services with recommendations on how best to proceed. If approved, the scheme is expected to progress to construction this summer and be complete by the end of the year.
	Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Graiguecullen	The preferred option for the scheme has been agreed with the NTA and the preliminary design is nearing completion. The Section 38 public consultation process is expected to be commence in mid-June, for a period of 4 weeks.
	SRTS - Queen of the Universe N.S., Bagenalstown.	Tower Plant & Civil Engineering Ltd. were appointed as the main contractor for the scheme in Q4 '25. The scheme is substantially complete with just some landscaping works outstanding, which are expected to be complete in the coming weeks.

	SRTS - Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown	The Project Outline Delivery Plan has been received from An Taisce's Infrastructure Officer. This document has been reviewed and a preliminary design for the scheme will now be prepared based on its recommendations. The Section 38 public consultation process for the scheme will commence upon completion of the preliminary design.
	SRTS – St. Brigid's N.S., Grange, Tullow.	The preliminary design for the scheme is now complete and the Section 38 public consultation process commenced on Tuesday 05 th May for a period of 4 weeks.
	2026 NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:	Potentially 35 Bus Stop upgrades to be undertaken in both urban and rural locations throughout the County. Outcome will be dependent on tender prices received relative to the €500,000 budget. Final design for tender and construction purposes is currently ongoing. Planned tender publication in mid-June with an expected construction start date in early August.



Tionscadail Speisialta Forbairt/Special Projects Delivery

Project Name	Key Updates
Bagenalstown Town and Village Public Realm	The Council is still awaiting the Contractor to return to site to remedy the remaining snags.
Historic Structures Fund–Tullow Court House	The list of conservation works is still being finalised to align with the funding granted by the Department. There is a need to balance conservation works and upgrade works within available funding while preventing deterioration of the building into the future.
Carlow Town – URDF – Rail Link through St. Patrick’s College	Works are continuing on site with construction of boundary walls nearing completion and 90% of underground services completed. Alterations to St. Catherine’s Community Centre car park are underway and installation of the limestone kerbing bordering the link has commenced. The current programme of works is scheduled to the end of November 2026.
Carlow Town – URDF – Town Centre Scheme	The advance works to the wall for the Barrack Street Link are complete with the exception of the weathered steel gate. Delivery of the gate has been delayed, and we are awaiting confirmation from the Contractor when installation will proceed. Detailed design work for the main Town Centre scheme is ongoing. The single party framework of Contractors is at tender assessment stage. Framework applicants will be shortlisted and a subsequent mini competition held to award the works contract during Q3 2026.
Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)	Kilkenny County Council, as Lead Authority, are supervising completion of the remaining supplementary agreement works in conjunction with the Contractor. Updating of the Unmetered Register to reflect the LED upgrades is ongoing.
Carlow Town Mobility Hubs Project	The Part 8 for the first phase of Mobility Hub locations is approved. Drawings have been prepared for the second phase of hub locations, located mostly on private property, and discussions are ongoing to reach agreement with landowners for the provision of additional hub locations. A second Part 8 process is required for these locations. Funding is to be provided by the NTA once all hub locations are approved.



AN COMHSHAOL AGUS CNÍOMHÚ AR SON NA HAERÁIDE/ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION

Gearáin/Complaints 2026 Ytd.

Complaint Type	Complaints	Active	Resolved
Litter	206	45	161
Waste	65	19	46
Water Pollution	17	5	12
Noise	7	2	5
Air Pollution	1	0	1
Burning	10	5	5
Sludge/Slurry	2	0	2
Veterinary/Vermin	35	19	16
Paper	0	0	0
Glass	0	0	0
Hedge Cutting	0	0	0
Abandoned Cars	35	13	22
Invasive Species	1	0	1
Total	380	108	271

*excluding c/f from 2025

Forfheidhmiú/Enforcement 2026 Ytd.

Legislation	Advisory Letter	Warning Letter	Notice	Fines issued
Litter Act	0	0	0	81
Air Pollution Act	27	1	0	0
Water Pollution Act	5	13	0	0
Waste Management Act	3	26	0	0
Farm Inspections	13	3	0	0
Septic Advisory Notices	3	0	0	0
Total	51	43	0	81

Ceatharlach/Cill Chainnigh Dídean Madraí / Carlow/Kilkenny Dog Shelter

	2026
Month Beginning	5
Strays	18
Surrenders	5
Totals	28

	2026
Reclaims	9
Re-homed by Shelter	0
Directed to Rescue	15
End of Month	4
Total	28

Madraí a Rialú/Control of Dogs 2026

Licences purchased following Dog Warden visit	42
Annual Licences purchased	212
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments registered	10

Cigireachtaí Feirme/Farm Inspections

National Agricultural Inspection Programme NAIP - Initial	27
Preliminary Farm Visit – selection list 2026	162
Total	189

Pionóis Bruscair/Litter Fines 2026 Ytd.

Litter Fines Issued	81
Appeals Received	16
Successful Appeals	3
Unsuccessful Appeals	13
Successful Prosecutions	0

Iniúchtaí Uisce/Uisce Briste/Water/Wastewater Inspections 2026

	2026
Discharge Licences to Water (Section 4)	4
Audits of Private Water Supplies	0
Additional Farm Inspections – Complaints, Nutrient Management Plan Reviews, Sludge Spreading Inspections	25
River investigative monitoring samples and analysis	93
Bathing Water samples	0
Septic Tank inspections for National Inspection Plan	8
Surface & Groundwater Protection Inspections of land e.g. drinking water source protection for safe use of pesticides	0
Unauthorised discharges investigated – Pollution instances – Farm complaints	19
Agricultural Planning Inspections - Reports	19

Climate Action

A new Community Climate Action Officer has been appointed on a 20-month contract and will primarily oversee the administration of the Community Climate Action Fund.

Community Climate Action Fund Phase 2

Carlow County Council have been awarded €423,696.11 in funding to deliver locally led projects through Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme.

The fund will support 18 community projects across the county, and once delivered, the approved projects are estimated to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 40 tonnes per year.

Rathvilly Tidy Towns	Establishment of a community growing space, including a polytunnel, soil preparation, rainwater harvesting, and composting infrastructure. The project supports local food production, circular economy practices, and community engagement, delivering positive environmental outcomes at an achievable scale.	€14,147.00
Éire Óg GAA	Installation of bicycle parking infrastructure to encourage active travel to and from club facilities. The project is low cost, easily deliverable, and supports behaviour change in line with sustainable mobility objectives. The project will be delivered in conjunction with the ongoing Green Club programme.	€3,843.75
Ballinkillen Lorum Community Centre Club	Provision of bicycle parking facilities to support active travel and reduce car dependency among users of the community centre. The project is simple, cost-effective, and complements wider sustainable transport and community wellbeing goals.	€9,409.15
St. Patrick's GAA Club (Tullow)	Installation of a rainwater harvesting system to support more sustainable water use and circular economy practices at club facilities. The project is low cost, easily deliverable, and demonstrates practical environmental stewardship. The project will be delivered in conjunction with the ongoing biodiversity enhancement and Green Club programme.	€1,875.75
O 'Hanrahan's GFC	Installation of bicycle parking infrastructure to promote active travel and sustainable access to club facilities.	€6,998.70

Carlow Town Hurling & Camogie Club	Provision of bicycle parking infrastructure to encourage active travel among players, members, and visitors. The project will be delivered in conjunction with the ongoing biodiversity enhancement and Green Club programme.	€498.15
Kildavin Clonegal Community GAA Club	Installation of a bicycle repair station to support cycling and active travel within the community. The project will be delivered in conjunction with the ongoing biodiversity enhancement and Green Club programme.	€3,313.75
St. Fiacc's Swimming Pool and Community Hall CLG	Delivery of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures identified in an independent energy audit, including building fabric upgrades and installation of solar PV. The project also includes bicycle infrastructure to encourage active travel and will leverage complementary biodiversity supports, delivering strong climate impact and multi-theme benefits.	€47,020.71
St. Mullins GAA Club	Implementation of energy efficiency measures identified in an independent energy report, including insulation and replacement of doors and windows to improve the building fabric. The project delivers clear emissions reduction benefits, is readily achievable, and represents good value for money for a rural community facility.	€31,644.00
Bagenalstown Swimming Club CLG	Installation of a low-carbon heat pump system, as recommended in an independent energy assessment, to replace fossil-fuel heating for the outdoor swimming pool. The project delivers significant energy and emissions savings and supports long-term operational sustainability of a key community asset.	€45,190.00
An Gairdín Beo	Integrated climate action project combining Solar PV installation, building fabric improvements, creation of a community growing space, rainwater harvesting, and bicycle storage. The project demonstrates strong innovation, cross-theme integration, and high community impact across energy, food, circular economy, and active travel objectives.	€47,592.90
Carlow GAA County Board	Installation of solar PV and battery systems to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. The committee	€24,000.00

	will also upgrade lighting to energy-efficient replacements.	
Carlow Senior Citizens Association	Energy efficiency upgrade of a community facility through replacement of external windows and doors and conversion to LED lighting, as identified in an independent energy assessment. The project delivers immediate emissions reductions, improved comfort for users.	€26,790.72
Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group (BACDG)	Establishment of a new growing space including perimeter fencing, a polytunnel and storage, along with the construction of a covered bike shelter to encourage active travel.	€22,489.77
Delta Centre CLG	Installation of solar PV in accordance with an independent energy audit to increase renewable energy generation. The project delivers strong social and climate co-benefits.	€40,000.00
Tullow Day Care Centre CLG	Energy upgrade project comprising replacement of external windows and installation of solar PV, as identified in an independent energy report.	€53,302.73
Palatine GAA Club	Palatine GAA Club are approved for funding to upgrade their club facilities to increase the energy efficient by installing cavity wall insulation. The project is intended to increase the comfort of the building and reduce their emissions by reducing their heating consumption.	€2,951.00
Tullow Rugby Football Club	The committee are seeking to upgrade their windows and doors to reduce their energy consumption for heating. They propose to minimise their waste by installing water stations and introduce waste segregation bins.	€42,628.03

A funding opportunities workshop for community and voluntary groups is currently in development and will be delivered in partnership with Carlow PPN in June.

District Heating Feasibility Study

Carlow County Council have undertaken a District Heating Feasibility Study in Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone. This project involves the delivery of a district heating feasibility study for Carlow Town, led by Carlow County Council in collaboration with SEAI under the Pathfinder Programme. It aims to evaluate the technical, financial, environmental and planning viability of establishing a district heating network within the Carlow Decarbonisation Zone, building on initial pre-feasibility findings that highlight strong potential due to the town's compact layout, concentrated heat demand, and available renewable energy sources such as geothermal heat. The expected outcomes of the project include the identification of the most suitable areas and anchor clients for network development, a detailed heat demand and supply assessment, appraisal of viable heat source options, and the preparation of an evidence-based business case with indicative costs, risks and governance structures, ultimately providing a clear roadmap for the potential implementation of a low-carbon district heating system in Carlow.

SDG

An SDG awareness workshop was delivered to Laois County Council on 11th May. The workshop outlined Carlow County Council's SDG journey since its appointment as SDG Champions and its current role as SDG Ambassadors. It also explored opportunities for Laois County Council to integrate the SDGs into their work programmes and projects.

Biodiversity

Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

Public consultation on the pre-draft Discussion Paper took place, with in-person events in library branches and on-line events with Carlow PPN, along with newspaper, radio and signage campaigns. A Draft Plan is due to go to the June SPC meeting.

Local Biodiversity Action Fund

Grant funding in the amount of €96,700 was secured under this scheme. 6 projects will be delivered across the county, including the completion of the County Wetlands Survey, extension of the Hare's Corner initiative, and, support for the Urban Pollinator Foraging Network, among others.

Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan

Several projects spearheaded by Carlow County Council through its Biodiversity Action Plan were highlighted by the Independent Advisory Committee in their Recommendations Report to government. These included the Hare's Corner initiative, River Restoration projects, and Farming for Nature Celebration. Of particular note, was the recommendation to roll out the Urban Pollinators Foraging Network approach to managing urban areas, developed and trialled by Carlow County Council, through its Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Guardians of the Grasslands

Created by local schools and community groups, and inspired by the need to raise awareness of Fast Fashion impacts on the environment, several "Guardians of the Grasslands" Scarecrows appeared throughout Carlow town, intent on protecting these areas from lawnmowers and supporting biodiversity through the Urban Pollinator Foraging Network.

National Biodiversity Week

A joint radio campaign with Kilkenny County Council featured a wide range of interviews and reports from around the county.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

CCTV Location		Number of Offences Detected
1	Hacketstown Bring Bank	36
2	Tullogh Bring Bank	26
3	Town Hall Car park Bring Bank	0
4	St. Mary's Cemetery	2
5	Mt. Leinster	0
Total Number of Offences YTD		64

**Enforcement proceedings have issued for offences detected where supporting CCTV evidence has met the legal requirements to discharge the burden of proof*

Four free WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) recycling collection days were successfully delivered in Tullogh, Hacketstown, Borris and Carlow Town during the month. These events provided a free and environmentally responsible disposal option for household electrical waste, supporting increased recycling rates and contributing to the Council's broader waste management and circular economy objectives.

An application for €163,780 in funding has been submitted under the Anti-Dumping Initiative to support enhanced enforcement and prevention measures across the county. If approved, this funding will assist in addressing illegal dumping through targeted actions such as surveillance, clean-up operations, and community awareness initiatives, contributing to improved environmental quality and compliance.



SEIRBHÍSÍ ÉIGEANDÁLA AGUS RIALÚ FOIRGNAÍOCHTA/EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL

	May 26	YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	3	27
Building Control Inspections	12	45
Disability Access Certificates	0	13
Commencement Notices	13	75
Certificates of Compliance	4	14

	May 26	YTD
No. of Fire Call outs per Station		
Bagenalstown	10	66
Carlow Town	21	130
Hacketstown	5	25
Tullow	6	50

	Mar 26	YTD
No. of Fires within Areas		
Carlow	11	48
Adjoining Counties	1	7

Special Services: Dec – 25	Number
Entrapment	0
Gas/Chemicals	0
Hazardous Substances in Transit	0
Hazardous Substances Non-Fire	0
Rescue from Machinery	0
Miscellaneous	4
Other Rescue	0
Rescue/Removal of Persons from Water	0
Road Traffic Accident	11
Water Pumping/Flooding	0
Total	15

False Alarms: Mar- 26	Number
Malicious	0
Good Intent	7
Total	7

Capital Projects

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management for capital funding to refurbish the Bagenalstown Fire Station. The final design, 3D modelling, and quantity surveying is now complete and has been presented to the NDFEM, a total of €2.778m has now been approved and this project has now progressed to tendering and the Part VIII planning process.

Minister James Browne, T.D has approved funding from the fire services capital programme 2026 -2030 to support the framework extension and the appliance allocation detailed below. March 10th, 2026 there was an announcement for an additional 20 Class B Fire Appliances for which Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service have been allocated one new Class B Fire Appliance. This is in addition to the current new Class B Appliance under this framework which is being built at HPMP Tullow.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow as part of a €4.566m capital funding for further development works at the Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown. The new Training Tower, Underground Confined Space Training Unit and site palisade fencing is progressing through the Part VIII planning process. A tender has been launched to procure a procurement consultant to tender and establish a framework for the supply of a fully enclosed carbonaceous fire training facilities with a smoke capture and filtration solution. This tender has now concluded and has been awarded. In this period a tender was launched to procure a supplier to convert a Breathing Apparatus training facility to LPG simulation, this tender has closed in this period and has been awarded to LION Products B.V.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and €487,000 Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow for the procurement of a new Water Tanker which will replace the oldest Water Tanker in the fleet, a heavy diesel HGV with a modern vehicle HVO compliant and fitted with the latest safety features. This project has now completed the tendering process, and contract has been awarded to HPMP Tullow.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and €90,000 Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow for the procurement of a new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) equipped with a water tank, pump and firefighting equipment. This ATV will be HVO compliant and will be stationed in Bagenalstown fire station to support wildland firefighting across Mt. Leinster and the Black Stairs Mountain areas. This ATV has now been procured with fire service livery applied and is now undergoing fit out of water tank and pump. We expect to see this vehicle to be operational June 2026. Drivers are currently being trained for using this vehicle offroad.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and €120,000 Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow for the procurement and installation of back-up generators and change over switches for all fire stations and the Fire Services Learning & Development Centre, Hacketstown. This project has now completed the tendering process, and contract has been awarded to Depower Solutions.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and €90,000 Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow for the conversion of a Fire Appliance into a dedicated Community Fire Safety Fire Appliance equipped with virtual reality equipment and other modern day education equipment to further improve Community Fire Safety engagement in the modern-day society. This will be the first of it's kind in the country. This project has moved to tendering stage.

Approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management and €363,000 Capital Funding has been allocated to County Carlow for the purchase and replacement of all Breathing Apparatus Sets and Breathing Apparatus Air Cylinders in addition to a new Breathing Apparatus set decontamination machine, drying cabinet and a new Air Compressor. This project has moved to tendering stage.

Operations

Emergency Service Driver Standard training has been completed this month for new drivers across the four fire stations. Firefighters also attended Mental Health Champions training.

The County Fire Service firefighters have completed Manual Handling and dedicated team building training at each fire station during this period.

Community Fire Safety

Firefighters from across the County completed further Home Fire Safety Visits, offering fire safety advice to homeowners and installing smoke detectors in homes where there were none present or where additional detectors are required due to the layout or complexity of the home.

Firefighters also attended the Carlow Older People's Council information roadshow at the Hacketstown Community Hall providing home fire safety advice.

Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown

13 firefighters from Kilkenny fire service completed the QQI Breathing Apparatus course and 10 firefighters from Waterford completed the QQI Compartment Fire Behaviour course at the Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown. A regional training event was also hosted for Emergency Generator training for Local Authorities from across the region.



AN RANNÓG TITHÍOCHTA/ HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Total Housing Stock	2174
Social Housing Applications	53/273YTD
Total HAP Tenancies	446
New HAP 2026	7
Transfer Applications	7/27 YTD
Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints	4/28 YTD
Housing Maintenance Calls Logged	206/1328 YTD
CAS Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0 YTD
SHIP Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0
New Allocations	13/81 YTD

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil//Local Authority Home Loan Update May 2026 Year to date

No. of Loan Offer drawdowns including partial drawdown	May 2026	Year to date
	0	1
Final Loan Approvals	0	3
No. of AIPs Issued	3	5
No. of LAHL Received	2	8
Value of Drawdown	€99,900.00	€99,900.00

Líon na nIarratas ar Dheontais Cheadaithe/ No. Approved Grant Applications

	Total applications approved at 27/05/2026	Number of valid applications under consideration at 27/05/2026	Total number of applications on hand at 27/05/2026
Housing Aid for Older People	99	78	177
Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability	52	80	132
Mobility Aid	09	18	27
Total	160	176	336

Location	No. of Units	Breakdown of units	Status	Delivery Date
CARLOW MD				
Lochain Bui	11	11 x 2 bed units	Part V	2026
Friar's Green (Part V)	2	2 x 3 bed units	Completed	2026
Cois Dara (Phase 3) – Part V	16	16 x 2 bed units	Part V agreed, 6 units being acquired, balance due by end of year.	2026
Kennedy Street (CPO)	3/4	Number of units to be confirmed once design complete	Appointment of the design team completed, and site surveys are ongoing.	2026
151 JKL Avenue	1	1 x 3 bed	On site	2026
12 Burrin Street (CPO)	3	Number of units to be confirmed once design complete	Preliminary design stage.	2026
Montgomery Street (Cluid)	26	2 x 1 bed apt 12 x 2 bed apt 12 x 3 bed apt	On Site	2026
St Endas, Graiguecullen	4	1 x 1 bed unit 3 x 2 bed units	Tender process in progress	2026/27
Tanner Hall	49	8 x 2 bed units 26 x 3 bed units 15 x 2 bed units	Funding application approved by Dept.	2026/2027
TULLOW MD				
Tullowbeg (CHI)	26	21 x 2 bed units 5 x 3 bed units	Works ongoing	2025
Brigidine Convent	1	TBC	Part V agreement process underway	2026
An Cúirt, Hacketstown	12	5 x 1 bed units 5 x 2 bed units 2 x 3 bed units	Pre Part VIII approved, process commencing to full Part VIII application.	2026
Railway Close – Part V	4	4 x 3 bed units	Completed – 2 Part V units being acquired, 2 remaining to be affordable.	2026
HSE Unit Hacketstown	1	1 x 2 bed unit	Pre Part VIII	2026
An Cúirt, Hacketstown	12	5 x 1 bed units 5 x 2 bed units 2 x 3 bed units	Pre Part VIII approved, process commencing to full Part VIII application.	2027
Muine Bheag MD				
Upper Main Street Borris	2	2 x 2 bed units	Allocation process underway	2025
Green Drake, Borris (AHB – Tintean)	17	2 x 1 bed units 15 x 2 bed units	Allocation process underway	2025
Health Centre Tinnahinch	2	2 x 2 bed units	Pre Part VIII	2027

Mionscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na Tithe/Housing Inspections

	Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	Private Rented (PRTB)	Complaints	Total
First Inspection	24	6	36	3	69
Re-inspection	30	4	13	3	50
Total Compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	7	0	9	0	16
Total Non-compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	47	10	40	6	103
Improvement Notice	9	1	2	0	12
Prohibition Notice	5	0	2	0	7

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Dídean / Homeless Services Update 27th May 2026.

Temporary Emergency Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
De Paul Accommodation	17	0	17
Additional Emergency Accommodation	31	26	57
Total in Emergency Accommodation	48	26	74
Homeless Presentations – MAY			
Total Presentations	28 Adults & 11 Children		
Prevention/not placed	23 Adults & 10 Children		

Own Front Door (OFD) – Supported Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
KVHA	42	31	68
Refuge/Safehouse	1	4	5
Focus Ireland	4	10	14
Total	47	45	87

Note: The position as outlined below is relevant to a particular date and is subject to change.

Capacity – New Temporary Emergency Accommodation is 4 rooms, 2 are vacant due to refurb work after families moved out.

One exit to a tenancy



AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT AIRGEADAIS/FINANCE DIRECTORATE

Financial Management Report - Period Ended 31st Mar 2026				
	Opening Bal. 01/01/26	Expenditure	Income	Closing Bal. 31/03/26
Revenue Account	-1,043,195	16,007,671	-16,263,160	-1,298,684
Capital Account	-50,248,509	19,350,823	-15,082,754	-45,980,440
Debtors (Gross)	20,260,983			30,022,339

MÓTARCHÁIN/ MOTOR TAX

Motor Tax Transactions Month Ended	Apr-26	Year To Date
In Person Motor Tax Transactions	1,224	5,016
Online Motor Tax Transactions	5,910	24,519
Total Transactions	7,134	29,535
<i>Percentage of Online Transactions</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>83%</i>



POBAL, ÁINEAS, TAITNEMHACHT, SPÓIRT AGUS TACAÍOCHT CHOMHTHÁTHAITHE / COMMUNITY, RECREATION, AMENITY, SPORTS & INTEGRATION SUPPORT

Active Carlow Programmes/Activities/Training/Workshops	22
Active Carlow Payments Processed	61
Active Carlow Social Media Metrics	16,000 combined views
Community Engagement (meetings/events)	112
Community Grants Processed	4 (€6,813.48)
Discretionary Funding Processed	19 (€17,352)

Active Carlow

The following outlines the programmes/activities/training and workshops that were delivered during the month of May;

- **She Swims** is a welcoming women's swim programme designed for both beginners and improvers who want to build confidence in the water at their own pace. The programme started on April 16th and runs until June 4th with 25 women taking part to date.
- **New Communities Learn to Swim Programme** is an ongoing programme of free-swimming lessons for 60 children aged 4-17 hosted in Graiguecullen Swimming Pool.
- **Men's Walk & Talk** was delivered in partnership with the Carlow Mental Health Association. Delivered in Oughaval Wood and Clashganny Viewpoint, the walks saw 20 participants sharing conversation, connection and exercise during the month of May.
- **Men's Shed Adapted Exercise** is an exercise programme for members of the Men's Shed which continued for the month of May. The initiative, based in St Fiacc's Hall, combines adapted physical activity sessions with structured walks to support health and peer connection.
- **Lowland Wanderers** saw two guided walks in Kilbrannish South Forest and Brandon Hill with a combined 36 participants taking in the views in these scenic locations for the month of May.

- **Wednesday Wanderers** had four walks with a combined number of 116 participants enjoy Altamont Gardens, Goodly Barrow, Oak Park Forest Park and Mullegreehan Wood for the month of May.
- **ForeverFit** is an ongoing Older Adults Resistance Training programme across various locations throughout County Carlow. It helps over 100 participants weekly over the age of 55 build strength and confidence benefiting daily life.
- **Scooch Skirmish** was a once off tournament that took place between Carlow and Kildare at St. Fiacc's Hall on Wednesday 20th May, it saw 32 participants enjoy the day.
- **Teenage Girls Weight Training** was a specialised programme in Bagenalstown which successfully engaged 12 participants in structured strength and conditioning sessions. The initiative focuses on building physical confidence and teaching proper lifting techniques in a supportive environment tailored for young women and concluded in May.
- **Buggy Buddies** is an on-going programme for new parents and their babies, this exercise programme in Bagenalstown saw 15 participants take part in outdoor fitness sessions. The classes provide a wonderful opportunity for new parents to stay active and socialise while ensuring their little ones can join in the experience.
- **May's Women's Hike** was in Ballycristal, Mount Leinster, this outdoor initiative saw 26 participants complete a scenic trek through the local landscape. The programme encourages women of all fitness levels to explore the outdoors, promoting both physical endurance and a shared appreciation for the natural environment each month.
- **Safeguarding 1** was an online Course, with 9 participants upskilled in child welfare and safeguarding procedures in May.
- **Sports First Aid** saw 3 in person courses helped 40 participants learn vital lifesaving skills in May.
- **Youthreach Basketball** is a targeted basketball programme that was delivered for young people attending Youthreach, focusing on skill development and team integration. The sessions provide a positive outlet for physical activity, helping participants build confidence and

	coordination through regular coached practice during the month of May.
Community Development	Community Development Programmes, Projects & Initiatives <i>Carlow's Pride of Place Grants and Competition</i> <u>Grants</u> Applications have been prepared for the Pride of Place Judges who will begin their judging in June until early August. Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition (Tullow and Ballymurphy) Preparation for the competition is ongoing with the Community Development Workers assisting the Tullow and Ballymurphy communities. The routes have been identified and works along those routes have commenced. Events according to themes is being planned along those routes. Community Development Officers (CDO) During May the Community Development Officers continued community engagement as follows: • <u>Outreach - Cois Dara, Carlow</u>: This initiative involved a leaflet drop to 120 households providing guidance on how to form a Resident Association and run a Community Get Together event. Requests for further information has been received from interested parties. • Supported community groups in their capacity development including local events such as, Co-operation Ireland, POP, Tullow Road 10-year anniversary, Bagenalstown in Bloom, Carlow Arts, Tullow's Men Shed, Brownhill Rise, Clonegal etc. • <u>Community Get Togethers (Healthy Ireland Funding)</u>: A strategic approach has been taken to deliver 10 of these community events in each Municipal District. There are 2 main aims; bringing new communities together with the ambition of getting them to connect and potentially start a resident's association and to bring estates that are in more disadvantaged areas together to create a family fun day. • <u>The community roots programme</u>: This programme was launched in May across the county. Youths aged 16-18 have been given the opportunity to take part in a programme that will enhance their skills and enable them to volunteer within their local communities/ groups. As a result of the response, two groups (maximum of 12) were set up in Carlow (includes young people from Bagenalstown) and Tullow and the course started on 18th June.

	• <u><i>Food Waste Workshop Bagenalstown</i></u>: A food waste workshop was hosted in McGrath Hall on May 16th. There were 25 participants. Guest contributors were Ms Jannette O'Brien, Climate Action Coordinator and Mr. Derek Oman, • <u><i>Residents/Tidy Towns/Community Groups</i></u>: Continued to work with community organisations throughout the month, dealing with queries, capacity building issues, funding opportunities and setting up resident's associations. • <u><i>Stakeholder consultations</i></u>: Supported Carlow Arts workshop for Bagenalstown for upcoming Arts Festival, supported and attended Safety Partnership Public consultations and information events.
Healthy Carlow	• Healthy Carlow is sponsoring the Barrowside Junior Aquathon which will be held on the 20th June 2026 in Bagenalstown. Registration is still open www.triathlonireland.com. • The application for WHO European Healthy Cities for Phase VIII was submitted on 19th May 2026, and Carlow County has been designated as a member city for Phase VIII of the Network.
Age Friendly Carlow	Older People's Council Carlow - Supporting the Older People's Council to progress their priority actions for 2026 under the themes of Communication, Accessibility and Transport. The Executive Committee members are currently progressing actions in governance, communications, transport, fraud awareness, and rural outreach. Transport, particularly access to hospital appointments, remains the most frequently raised issue. Work is underway to develop targeted responses, including improved signposting of transport supports and engagement with the HSE on appointment scheduling challenges. Hacketstown Information Roadshow - The Hacketstown Information Roadshow took place 26th May in Hacketstown Community Hall. The event formed part of the wider community outreach programme aimed at improving access to information, supports and services for people living in rural areas. Age Friendly Southeast Programme Managers Network Planning continues for the regional physical activity networking day for OPC Executive Committees during the European Week of Sport in September. Participation is expected from all southeast local authorities, with an estimated 70–90 attendees. Age Friendly Alliance The focus of the Age Friendly Alliance is to oversee the implementation of the Carlow Age Friendly Strategic Plan 2025 – 2029. It also provides a platform for the voice of older

	adults with two representatives from the Older People's Council represented on the Alliance. Preparation is underway for the June meeting. National Older People's Convention 7th & 8th May in Athlone - The National Older People's Convention took place on the 7th and 8th of May in Athlone and brought together representatives from Older People's Councils, Age Friendly Programme Managers, national agencies and community organisations. The convention focused on key themes including healthy ageing, transport and mobility, digital inclusion, housing, and community safety.
Comhairle na nÓg	Work has progressed following the national cluster meeting facilitated by the Participation Office of the Department of Youth in April. The Interagency Advisory Group continues to support the young people with their theme of Youth Facilities. The Advisory Group meeting took place on the 22nd of May. The Comhairle currently has 28 members, with average meeting attendance of 22 young people.
Local Community Safety Partnership	Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership met on Wednesday 20th May in SETU, 70% of members attended the May meeting 1. Community Engagement and Consultation Four public consultations are now complete, the Municipal District of Tullow consultation took place on the 14th of May in Teach Brid, Tullow in addition to this the LCSP team engaged with communities in Hacketstown during the Carlow Older Peoples Council Information Roadshow on the 26th May in Hacketstown Community Hall. 350 respondents completed the LCSP Community Safety Survey, and 150 individuals engaged in Community Consultations through the Empowered Community Safety Day and Community Consultations. Priority issues identified at this point of the consultation process are as follows • Anti-social Behaviour • Drugs & Alcohol Issues • Public Safety • Youth Safety • Rural Issues • Mental Health 2. Funding and Project Development Community Safety Fund • The interviews for the Bystander Intervention Project Coordinator role were completed on the 18th of May. The successful candidate will commence in the coming weeks.

- The 2026 Community Safety Fund is now closed. Carlow LCSP are working with KCETB to support an application for of the Development of Community Wellbeing & Mental Health First Response Training by Developing Carlow Mental Health Champion.

Farm Safety, Health & Wellbeing 2026

An application for €25,846.50 was submitted to deliver the Farming Roots Programme 2026.

The proposed six-week pilot programme was designed to address the absence of a “safe pass” equivalent in farming and to enhance safety, skills, and wellbeing across farm families.

Partial Funding of €8,050 has been allocated to this initiative by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

A multi-agency subgroup which was established to support the programme development and delivery, will now revise the programme to fit within the scope of the allocated funds.

Creative Ireland 2026

An application for €5,000 has been successful in partnership with Amber Domestic Abuse CLG for the One Million Stars Ireland – Carlow Project.

This initiative was launched on go purple day, the women’s groups and family resource centres which took part in the initiative on the 15th May were invited to join the One Million Stars Carlow Project which begins in June. This programme will deliver inclusive, trauma-informed star-weaving workshops across County Carlow, bringing communities together in a shared expression of hope, solidarity, and commitment to ending domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence.

Bike Week 2026

Active Carlow allocated €595 funding to Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership to create a video promoting Cycle Safety. Recording took place in St Josephs National School, Carlow on Wednesday 13th May with Carlow Gardaí, Active Carlow and Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership. Video to be released on Social Media in the coming weeks.

3. Communications and Public Engagement

The LCSP continues to enhance its communications strategy through Carlow County Council’s digital platforms.

During May, communications focused on:

- Promoting Go Purple Day
- Promoting Property Branding Scheme and Community Consultations
- Promoting LCSP member organisational information

4. Property Branding Scheme

- Following on from the Property Branding Machine training at Carlow Garda Station in April, members of An Garda Síochána have utilised the Property Branding Machine at a Community Alert meeting in Palatine on Tuesday 19th May.
- A crime prevention talk, and live demonstration was delivered in Tullow as part of the Community Consultation on 14th May in Teach Bride.
- Community members engaged in Property Branding and Community Safety Consultations as part of the Older Peoples Council Information Road Show on 26th May in Hacketstown.

5. Go Purple Day

An Garda Síochána, through Carlow Gardaí, lead a local awareness initiative in partnership with the Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership and Amber Domestic Abuse CLG to mark **Go Purple Day**, a national campaign highlighting the supports available to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. As part of the initiative, Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership, Carlow Gardaí and Amber Domestic Abuse CLG, engaged with Carlow-based community groups and Family Resource Centres. Five community coffee mornings took place where cupcakes and information materials were distributed. These engagements raised awareness of local and national domestic abuse supports in a welcoming community setting and encourage conversations around available help. Coffee mornings were held in St. Catherines Community Service Centre, Forward Steps Family Resource Centre, Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre, Hens Forge Women's Shed and Bosom Buddies Women's Shed during the week of the 15th May.

6. National Local Community Safety Partnership

Carlow LCSP attended the National Community Safety Network Event held on 27th May in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel. This event brought together Local Community Safety Partnerships from across the country to share ideas, experiences and best practice in building safer communities. The event provided a valuable opportunity for engagement, collaboration and learning around the evolving role of Local Community Safety Partnerships and community-led approaches to safety and wellbeing. Representing Carlow LCSP at the event were staff members Laura Kelly and Donna Humphreys alongside Chairperson Cllr. Michael Doran and Vice-Chairperson Cllr. Fintan Phelan, highlighting Carlow's continued commitment to strengthening partnerships and supporting safer, more connected communities for all.

Community Capital Projects	CLÁR Community Development Officers are working with potential applicants and other relevant stakeholders to progress CLÁR applications. The closing date for applications is 4th June 2026. Tullow Road Multifunctional Hub Construction works are progressing well, however, there are capacity issues with the ESB supply which is being pursued with the utility company. Water Activity Hub Tender process to engage a design team has commenced. A decision from the Department is awaited before the next stage can commence.
Carlow Local Community and Development Committee	A meeting of Carlow Local Community Development Committee was held on 12th May 2026. The following items were discussed: • Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme update • Healthy Carlow update • Public Participation Network update
Carlow Local Action Group	A meeting of Carlow Local Action Group was held on 12th May 2026. The following items were discussed and approved: • Expression of Interest for Askea Community Centre CLG • Project Approval for St. Fiacc's F.C.
Integration Support	Offer A Home There are currently 47 properties allocated under this scheme, housing 150 Ukrainian persons who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP's). The Department of Justice has confirmed that the monthly contribution rate for the scheme will be reduced from €600 to €400 from October 2026, returning it to the original rate set when the scheme was launched in 2022. This tapering of the rate will enable an orderly and gradual winding down of the scheme with due regard to all those involved. Further steps will be considered in due course to ensure an orderly exit from the scheme. Integration Support During May, 16 clinics were delivered across Beneficiary of Temporary Protection (BOTP) Accommodation Centres, International Protection Applicant (IPA) Accommodation Centres, and within the wider community. These clinics provided ongoing support, information, and guidance to individuals and

families engaging with integration services. The team continues to foster strong collaborative relationships with statutory, voluntary, and community organisations at both local and national levels.

Building on the success of last year's Woodlands for Health programme, a new six-week programme commenced on Wednesday, 20th May in Rathwood, with 46 participants attending over the first two weeks. Woodlands for Health is designed to promote mental wellbeing through engagement with nature. The programme is delivered in partnership with Mental Health Ireland, Carlow County Development Partnership, the HSE, Túsla, Active Carlow, and Carlow Mental Health Association.

Carlow PPN Membership

Carlow PPN membership is currently 346: 272 - Full Members, 74 - Associate Members

Communications:

- E-bulletins sent: 387
- Special notices sent: 1284
- Facebook: 89 posts
- Instagram: 84 posts

PPN Governance

- May Secretariat meeting held online
- National PPN Workers Meeting held online
- Southeast Region PPN Meeting held online
- Carlow PPN Reps attended the Housing & Integration SPC
- LCSP PPN Reps attended the LCSP Public Consultation and Property Branding event
- PPN Implementation Roadmap Subgroup meeting - to Support the commencement of point 5.1.A of the Implementation Roadmap Recommendations - online

Open PPN members meetings:

- Met with new West African group – Ghana Union Carlow – Associate Members – Offering group support & signposting
- Supporting new PPN member group, Dementia Awareness in Leighlinbridge, to plan an awareness campaign around dementia.

Engagement and Collaboration:

- Attended National Biodiversity Week 2026 celebration with Woodlands of Ireland online

- Attended Integration workers meeting with LAIT – Enterprise House
- Attended the OPC Roadshow with CCC in Hacketstown, with PPN stand
- PPN Representatives attended the Carlow Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP) consultations
- A PPN Representative also attended the Suir and Barrow Rivers Trusts Public Consultation
- Attended the 'Make Way Day' launch with the Disability Federation of Ireland (DFI) - PPN invited members of the newly formed Carlow Disability Persons Organisation (DPO) and a member from the Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) to attend also.
- Promoted the Carlow Traveller Pride 2026 event

Consultations and Surveys:

Carlow PPN promoted/input into the following surveys:

- Promoted Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 - 2031 Consultation – (Discussions Paper) for Carlow MD and Tullow MD
- Attended the Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) consultation online
- Facilitated the Biodiversity Action Plan 2026 - 2031 Consultation online with Shane Casey, Bio. Officer with CCC
- Promoted the following consultations/surveys:
 - Local Authority Climate Action WEBINAR SERIES 2026 - Coastal Change
 - Community Consultation on Tourism Strategy for Carlow Community
 - Decarbonising Zone Review 2026
- Promoted and encouraged community groups to enter the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2026

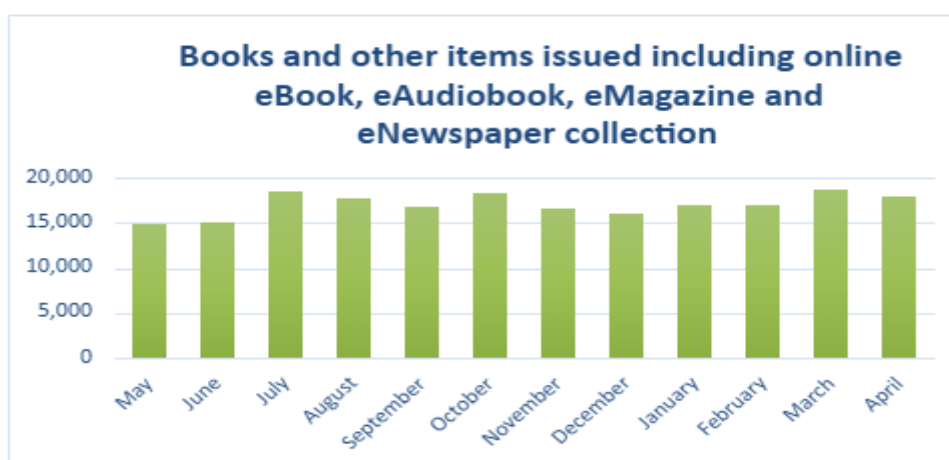
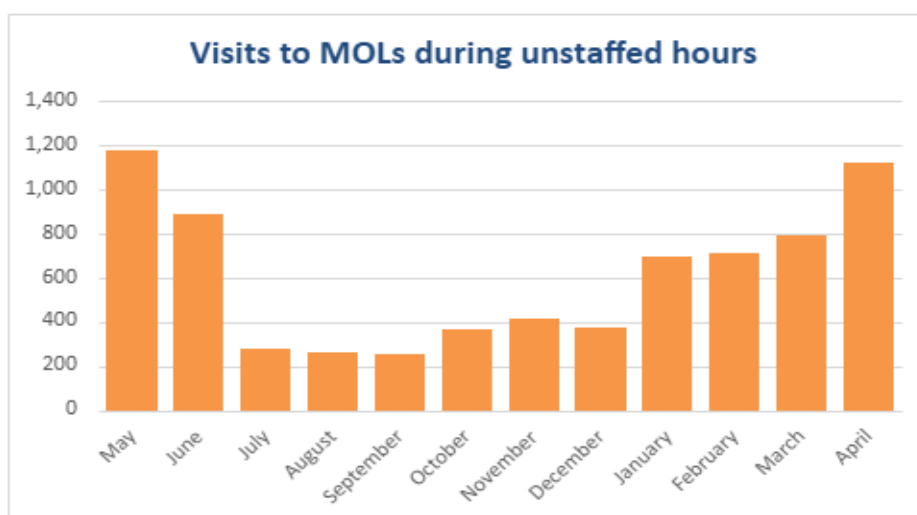


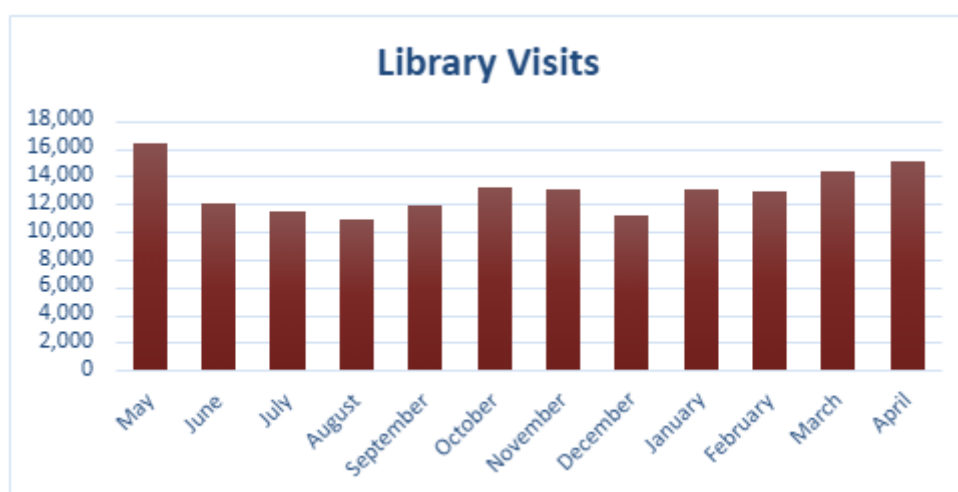
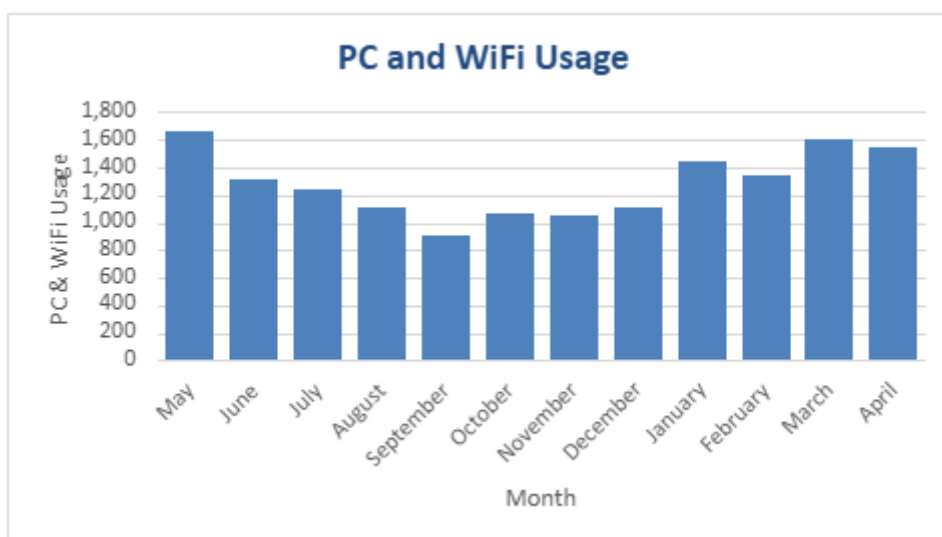
AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT CULTÚR DIRECTORATE

LEABHARLAN CONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY

Statistics and performance

- 11 in person visits to the Local Studies department, 88 Local Studies and Genealogy enquiries
- Library App accessed 484 times on 61 different devices
- 870 eBooks, 2011 eAudiobooks, 9715 eMagazines and eNewspapers downloaded
- 491 access count to Transparent Languages
- Instagram -1646 followers
- Facebook Page – 5812 followers
- BlueSky has 50 followers





Group visits and Events

Group Visits

Adult Engagement/Events	65 groups/meetings/events/workshops 558 participants
Children's Engagement/Events	19 groups/events 474 participants
School's Engagement	26 Class Visits Countywide 588 visitors
Book Clubs	1 Book Club Meeting 2 participants

Borris Library Community Room:

- 8 Failte Isteach workshops
- 4 Borris Lace workshops
- 3 Active Retirement meetings
- 4 Crafty Crew meetings
- 3 Borris Artists workshops
- 4KCETB English Language classes

The room was also used to host a meeting with the Bishop and Parish representatives, a Fáilte Ireland community consultation with Kieran Comerford LEO, Community Games quiz practice and KCETB student meetings.

Music Generation Exhibition and Activities:

Music Generation Carlow held a fantastic exhibition in the Shaw Room throughout the month to mark 13 years of operations in Carlow. 65 attendees, including elected members, parents, friends and young performers, helped launch the exhibition on Monday 27 April. Throughout May there were lunchtime choral performances from primary schools, traditional music performances by groups such as Reelóg, ReelNua and Reelig as well as a contemporary rock and pop performance on the main library floor. On top of all of this, each Saturday the library hosted Come and Try sessions which gave members of the public the opportunity to try their hand at playing a musical instrument including flute, fiddle, concertina, accordion, banjo and mandolin. 485 people attended across 10 music performances and Come and Try sessions throughout the month.

Singing for Wellbeing:

Singing For Wellbeing funded by Creative Ireland Carlow commenced in Tullow Library on Wednesday 13th May with renowned singer/soprano Regina Hanley. This is an 8 week series of singing workshops for people of all ages and abilities, no experience necessary – the focus is on enjoyment!

Hello Carlow Day:

The Hello How Are Wellness Campaign took place on Friday 15th May and staff participated by wearing the Campaign Tee Shirts helping to highlight the campaign and distribute the information booklets to library members.

Bealtaine:

To mark Bealtaine, there was a talk held on the recently released 1926 Census of Ireland with Bernie Walsh, Genealogist on Friday 15th May.

Carlow Older People's Council Information Roadshow:

On Tuesday 26th May, two Library Staff Members attended the Carlow Older People's Council Information Roadshow in Hacketstown. This roadshow is designed to support older people in the community by providing information on safety, supports, services, and local initiatives

Services and Developments

Carlow Famine Potato Project:

As part of Carlow's 2026 Commemorations Programme, this initiative involves the planting of both modern potato varieties and heritage potatoes — the closest surviving relatives of the varieties grown during the Great Famine. Enthusiastic pupils from Bishop Foley National School rolled up their sleeves and helped prepare and plant the beds. Having recently studied the Famine in class, the boys were captivated to see their classroom learning come alive in the soil beneath their feet.

The project sees traditional Irish lumper potatoes, similar to those grown during the 1840s, cultivated alongside modern varieties to highlight the contrast in resilience, yield, and quality. This living history initiative forms a key part of Carlow County Council's Commemorations Committee programme for 2026.

A public harvest event is planned for Heritage Week in August, where the crop will be lifted, assessed, and transformed into both ancient and modern recipes — offering the community a unique opportunity to explore Ireland's food heritage from past to present.

Skills for Life:

Weekly Basic Digital Skills for Beginners courses took place in Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag libraries during May. Just under 120 members of the public, mostly older persons, learned how to access online government services, banking and more via their own device. The courses were facilitated in association with KCETB Community Education.

Other Skills for Life courses in association with KCETB included Stress Management classes (40 attendees over 6 sessions) and Digital Photography (22 attendees over 5 sessions).

Shane Casey, Biodiversity Officer for Carlow County Council, presented a special Skills for Life lunchtime talk for Biodiversity Week in Carlow Central library entitled Revealing the Nature of our Heritage. In the talk Shane explored how Carlow's biodiversity interweaves with our cultural and built heritage. 16 members of the public attended the talk.

Healthy Ireland at your Library:

Two popular wellbeing events took place in May facilitated by Fiona Hall, Psychotherapist.

- Decluttering Workshop for Wellbeing
- Wardrobe Edit for Wellbeing

Cathaoirleach's Bursary Presentation:

On Friday, 22 May, Cathaoirleach Ken Murnane presented the winners of the 2026 Cathaoirleach's Bursary Award with their new Apple laptops. The recipients were Aoife Doyle, Regina Doheny, Katie Haughney, Chloe Cody, and Farzaneh Khast. Cllr Murnane highlighted the dedication of Carlow County Council to supporting learning at all levels across the county, congratulated the award winners and wished them every success in their future studies.



AN TSEIRBHÍS EALAÍON/ARTS SERVICE

Carlow Beo!:

Carlow BEO! programme was launched on 9th May in Tully's Bar. Carlow BEO! is an extensive series of cultural activities and live performances set to animate towns and villages across the county from May through November 2026. Designed to celebrate the vibrancy of the local creative sector, Carlow BEO! features a diverse programme showcasing many artforms including music, street performance, poetry and comedy. The initiative brings professional performances directly into the heart of communities, utilising a variety of settings from tourism and hospitality venues, public spaces and community centres.

Open Call – Exhibition at VISUAL 2027:

There was a phenomenal response to the Visual/Carlow Arts Office Open Call 2027, with over one thousand applications received. Many exciting proposals have been received from around the world, and all applicants invested a lot of their time and enthusiasm making their applications.

A shortlisting process will now take place, and all shortlisted applicants will be contacted with next steps in due course.

Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026:

Carlow Arts Office is working through the planning and development stages of our three Culture Ireland funded projects. These projects will embed youth participation in music, visual artist exchange programmes and a community literacy exchange, within Carlow's cultural programme to mark Ireland's EU Presidency this Summer, all cumulating in a EU cultural showcase on Culture Night.

Culture Night:

Applications for Culture Night 2026 closed on 18th May. 41 applications were received from across the county, showcasing a strong interest in the free night of Cultural events in the county. A programme, supported and managed by Carlow Arts Office, featuring all artforms in a multitude of venues across all municipal districts will be launch in August.

Creative Ireland:

Artist in Residence Tullow:

Philip Cullen- Philip began the 2nd phase of his Tullow in Artist Residency. The residency is based in Tullow Men's Shed and they meet every Thursday morning. The group has been opened to the general public with 20 members and people waiting to join. This has been a huge success with an exhibition opening in June.

Cruinniú na nÓg:

On 15th May Forward Steps Family Resource Centre was alive with fun and laughter as children from 'Little Steps' marked the official launch of Cruinniú na nÓg Carlow 2026. 'Little Steps' are currently taking part in a workshop, as part of the 2026 programme, led by the wonderfully talented Little Gem Puppets, giving young participants the chance to explore puppetry, storytelling, and hands on making.

This year Cruinniú na nÓg returns on the 6th of June, bringing an exciting programme of **21 free events across County Carlow**. From Tullow to Carlow Town to Bagenalstown, the county will come alive with opportunities for young people to imagine, experiment, and create.

Creative Places Bagenalstown:

CAF ON THE ROAD | Carlow Arts Festival | 28 May – 1 June 2026

Through CPB support, the partnership with Bagenalstown and Carlow Arts Festival has been realised, extending activity beyond Carlow town. The event on 1 June (12–5pm), centred on *CAF on the Road*, is funded by Carlow Beo! and Carlow Arts Service, and creates valuable opportunities for local, emerging, and international artists to connect and present work. CPB's investment ensures communities are not just participants but active co-creators. This is evident in initiatives such as BIG Cultural Productions' open call and artist showcase at St Mary's COI. The day is anchored by *BLOCK* and contributes to the lead-up to Bagenalstown in Bloom 2026.

Meet the Team

CPB attended a special performance of *Grace*, featuring actor Eleanor Walsh, who has recently moved to Bagenalstown. This *Meet the Team* iteration brought together 18 participants, who experienced the work as an intimate, multisensory performance exploring themes of grief and communication, as Grace and her father invite audiences into their world.

Carlow Youth Theatre

In May, Carlow Youth Theatre completed its regular workshop programme and began preparations for several major projects taking place over the coming year. For the junior group, a total of 25 participants took part, including 20 female and 5 male participants. In the senior group, 31 participants attended, consisting of 20 female and 11 male participants.

For the new season, lead Theatre Facilitator Yakup aims to increase overall membership numbers by delivering taster workshops in nearby schools and encouraging new young people to join the programme. As theatre rehearsals will also begin during the new season, some participants may focus only on play rehearsals and attend workshops less regularly. Therefore, we anticipate the need to expand participation and reach a wider group of young people through these school-based outreach workshops.



SEIRBHÍŚÍ OIDHREACHTA/HERITAGE SERVICES

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026. Several projects are planned to commence in June with one project of the seven awarded funding completed to date.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN). The community groups in County Carlow that are part of the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) attended two successful day's training, organised by Lorna Elms (iCAN Coordinator) and Niamh Shannon (Carlow Heritage Office), in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow. The groups were trained in the editing, administration and governance of their respective allocated pages on the Carlow iCAN website, that is planned to be launched before the end of 2026. The training was delivered by Jack Latimer, Director of Community Sites.

Joint SPC meeting of Tullow and Enniscorthy Municipal Districts. The Heritage Officers of Carlow (Eoin Sullivan) and Wexford (Colm Moriarty) brought the inter-county, multi-annual, *Blackstairs Mountain – Heritage of the Landscape Project* to the attention of the elected members of the joint Tullow and Enniscorthy Municipal District on Wednesday 6 May 2026. The presentation by the Carlow Heritage Officer outlined several

key aspects of the research that will enable the community groups of the Blackstairs Mountains understand, engage and protect the heritage of the mountain. The Carlow and Wexford heritage officers will combine resources to undertake initial projects addressing minor placenames, access routes for human and animals in the farmed landscape and research addressing aspects of climate change within areas of the mountains.

Community Heritage Grants 2026. Two community groups were successful in their Heritage Council funded, Community Heritage Grant applications to secure funding for their proposed heritage projects for 2026. The *Ardattin Community Group* secured €8,456 for a Conservation Management Plan focusing on guidance on the restoration of the windows and doors of a former church and the *Carlow Older Person's Council* secured €25,000 for their oral history project titled *Echoes of the Barrow: A Digital Oral Archive of County Carlow 1950's-1960's*.

Shackleton Carlow Connections Project. Carlow County Council, through the Carlow Heritage Office, in collaboration with the Shackleton Carlow community group is undertaking research to assist in the animation of the Shackleton Carlow Connection heritage story. As part of the project Carlow County Council and the community group welcomed Jonathan Shackleton, cousin of Sir Ernest Shackleton, to St. Mary's Church of Ireland Church, Carlow. On 28 February 1872, Sir Ernest Shackleton's parents, Henry Shackleton (of Kilkea) and Henrietta Letitia Sophie Gavan (of Carlow) were married in St. Mary's Church of Ireland. In the coming weeks the services of a professional genealogist will be secured to prepare a specialist genealogical account of the family. This initiative is an action of the *Historic Towns Initiative Plan – Heritage-led Regeneration for Carlow Town*.



MÚSAEM CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

UNESCO Hopping Procession:

On Tuesday May 26th the centuries old annual UNESCO Hopping Procession took place in Echternach, Luxembourg, in honour of Carlow trained, St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg. Cllr Ken Murnane, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Paul Doogue, Mayor, and Michel Brennan, Director of Services, participated. They were accompanied by Her Excellency Jean McDonald, Ireland's Ambassador to Luxembourg. They were welcomed to Echternach by Carole Hartmann, Mayor of Echternach.

CHAS Primary School's History Competition:

The Museum hosted the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society's (CHAS) annual Primary School's History Competition Prize Giving Ceremony. The competition was won by Jenny Barron, Borris National School with a project on the Story of Maggie O'Toole. There were six overall prize winners along with individual school winners. The top six projects are now on display in the Museum.

International Museum's Day 2026:

Monday May 18th was International Museum's Day 2026. The Museum hosted the students at Missouri University on that day. They are studying in Carlow College.

Museum Reserve Collection:

Continuing the development of the Museum's new Reserve Collection Storage Facility new all metal shelving has been installed. This will be used for housing the reserve collection.

Carlow Tourism Familiarisation Trip:

Carlow Tourism organised two days of Familiarisation Trips around the county for 'front of house' staff. One tour was looking at attractions in the north of the county, and one was looking at the south of the country. The first trip, looking at the north of the county, started at the Museum and Tourist Office. Several Museum staff attended on both days.

Carlow Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP):

Fáilte Ireland has commenced the development of a Carlow Destination and Experience Development Plan (DEDP), in collaboration with Carlow County Council and Carlow Tourism.

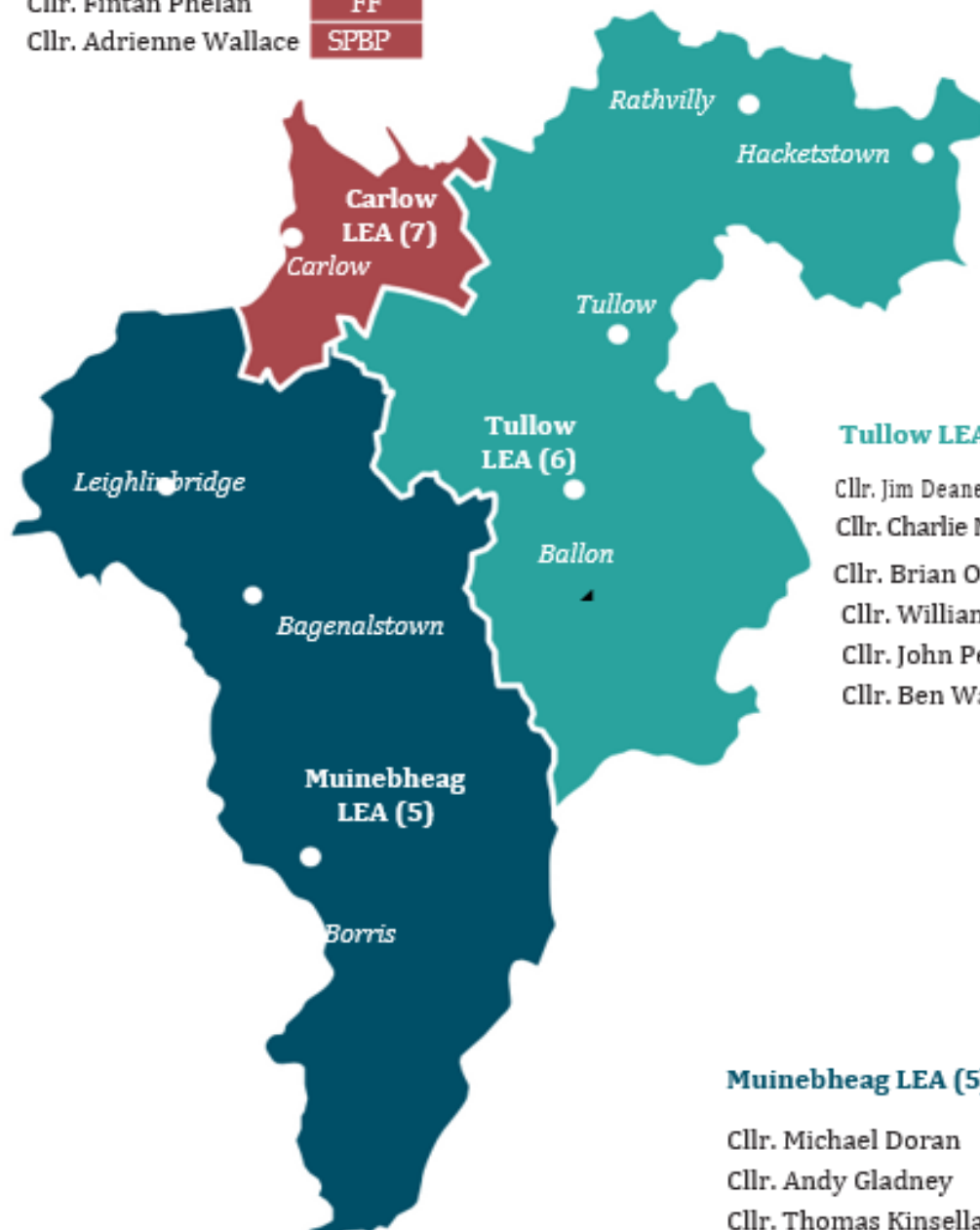
The Carlow DEDP is a five-year sustainable tourism development plan. It brings proposed tourism development projects together into one coordinated strategy to maximise Carlow's tourism potential. Museum staff attended the Carlow Tourism Seminar and Workshop in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel.

Staff Training and Events:

During the month Museum staff attended a variety of training sessions including Pro Work, Manual Handling, Mental Health and Wellbeing. Museum staff represented the Museum at the Irish Registrars Group (IRG) annual meeting in Kilkenny. Jenny Greiner, Collections and Documentation Officer, has been elected Co-Chairperson of the IRG Database and Documentation Sub-Group.

Carlow LEA (7)

Cllr. Fergal Browne	FG
Cllr. John Cassin	Ind Irl
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	FF
Cllr. Paul Doogue	FG
Cllr. Ken Murnane	FF
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	FF
Cllr. Adrienne Wallace	SPBP



Tullow LEA (6)

Cllr. Jim Deane	SF
Cllr. Charlie Murphy	Non Party
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	FG
Cllr. William Paton	Non Party
Cllr. John Pender	FF
Cllr. Ben Ward	FG

Muinebheag LEA (5)

Cllr. Michael Doran	FG
Cllr. Andy Gladney	SF
Cllr. Thomas Kinsella	FG
Cllr. Daniel Pender	FF
Cllr. William Quinn	Lab