

**Iúil &
Lúnasa**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



**July &
August
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 Stiúirthóireachta 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	July	August
Freedom of Information Requests	8	12
Ombudsman Complaints	1	0
Meetings Facilitated for Elected Members Corporate	3	0
Electors Registered to Vote	46,646	46,633

Register of Electors:

The Franchise Team visited Carlow Town Library on 6 August 2026. Team members were available to answer questions, provide guidance, and help people register to vote or update their details.

The Register of Electors Social Media Campaign continued in July & August.

Voter.ie Migration

In August, Carlow County Council began using Voter.ie as part of a phased rollout across the country. Voter.ie is the new online service that allows people to register to vote and update their voter details.

A campaign will commence shortly to encourage people on the Register of Electors to provide their date of birth, which will improve the accuracy of the register.

Communications and Customer Service Desk

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí/Customer Services	July	August
Telephone Calls Received	1,331	821
Customers to Reception	675	497
Website Visitors	45,675	23,088
Media	9	4

Reports & Plans:

The 2025 Annual Report is now available on the Co Council's website.



OIFIG FIONTAIR ÁITIÚL/ LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

	No.	Ytd
Direct Financial Support Granted	18	102
Business Advice Clinics	55	234
Participants for all training programmes	90	1041
Start Your Own Business Training	0	76
No. of Completed Mentoring	36	104
No of Ongoing Mentoring	17	17

Evaluation & Approvals Committee

A meeting of the Local Enterprise Office Evaluation & Approvals Committee was held in July. €31,035 in grant aid was approved.

Hub Grow Management Development Programme - Hacketstown

As part of their outreach activities to businesses throughout the County, the Local Enterprise Office and South East Technological University held joint meetings in Hacketstown with businesses who are participating in the Hub Grow Management Development Programme.

Powerhouse Business Break: Networking

20 female founders attended a 2-hour networking workshop over the summer which was designed to facilitate women in business (owners and senior managers) the opportunity to meet other Carlow-based women in business and share knowledge.

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	7	€233,081
Feasibility Grants	1	€15,000
Priming Grants	2	€42,903
Market Exporter Grants	6	€44,194
Green for Business Grants	23	€38,620
Digital for Business Grants	17	€24,950
Lean for Business Grants	12	€19,800
Energy Efficiency Grant	23	€208,043
Grow Digital Grant	11	€48,074



FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCH/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Streetscape 2026

A Public Consultation in relation to the proposed mural on College Street took place on 15th July 2026. The Executive is now awaiting approval from the Parish Council regarding mural design to progress the project.

The Exchange

During the months of July and August, The Exchange hosted pop-up shops by two different community groups. A Nigerian Music & Fashion Event was also held in The Exchange in July. The venue is attracting a lot of community interest and has led to increased activity in the area.

Samhain

Meetings continued in July and August with partners to plan for Samhain Festival 2026. The programme has been arranged and will launch in early September and include a new large scale free public event.

Pan Celtic International Festival 2027

The Economic Development team continues to work on plans for the 2027 festival and will meet with Pan Celtic International Committee in September. Funding has been secured from SETU & Carlow Kilkenny ETB in respect of the 2027 activities for the festival.

#ShopLocalShopCarlow & County Promotion.

The digital programme “Grá Carlow” in collaboration with County Carlow Chamber and Carlow Tourism continued during summer months. The content encourages consumers to support local business and keep spending within County Carlow. Over fifty businesses have engaged in the process to date.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

Casual Trading Bye Laws 2026 will come into effect in September 2026. 22 one day event licences were issued during July and August in respect of two festivals in Carlow.

Carlow Tourism & Fáilte Ireland

The Garden Trail sponsored by Carlow County Council was held in July.

Big Barn Bash

Carlow County Council in collaboration with Carlow Tourism, Active Carlow & Coppengagh House launched a “save the date” for The Big Barn Bash Family Food Festival which will be held in October which is part sponsored in part by Fáilte Ireland.



FORBAIRT TIONSCADAL SPEISIALTA/ SPECIAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT

Catalyst HQ – SMART Regions

The Tender process closed for the build contract for Catalyst HQ and is currently under evaluation. 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 construction tender has been awarded for the Sorting House project with the project due to commence on-site during September 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.

On 19th August, a Sales for Craft & Creative Business workshop was delivered by The Entrepreneurs Academy in Enterprise House, with 13 participants in attendance.

Erasmus + KA2 - Digi-Text

A Study Visit took part from 6-9th July whereby 4 of our Greek partners visited Carlow as part of the Digtex programme.

Erasmus + KA2 - Hands Across Generations

A series of digital seminars were launched in July 2026 to be facilitated from Ireland to be held in September 2026.

Erasmus + KA2 – E-Art

Carlow County Council was successful in a €400,000 EU Funding Application in the development of Sustainability in Exhibitions programme in partnership with Carlow Arts Centre and other EU Partners. The project will be launched in October 2026.

EU Presidency

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

Trail's EU Funding Application

Carlow County Council, Active Carlow & Carlow Tourism submitted an EU Funding application in respect of Trail Development for County Carlow in August 2026.

Interreg Europe - Innocom

Planning is ongoing for the last partner meeting in Brussels on 29th 30th September. Cynthia Ní Mhurchú has confirmed that she will be available to speak at the closing conference.



PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT/PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Bainistíocht Airgeadais/ Development Management

	July & Aug	YTD
No. Pre-Planning Meetings Held	9	32
FI/Clarification Requests	47	138
Decisions to Refuse	4	25
Decisions to Grant	41	200
Total Valid Application Received	40	211
Invalid Planning Application	19	65
Planning Applications Received	61	278
Exemption /Licence Applications Received	19	62
Compliance Requests Received	34	120

***Figures up to 28/08/2026

2 planning apps pre-validation at time of completion

Láithreáin Thréigthe/ Derelict Sites

	July & Aug	YTD
No. of Derelict Sites on the Register	4	13
No. of Active Files	21	21
Letters Issued to owner/occupier	0	5
Complaints Received	0	2
No. of Derelict Sites Files Closed	2	3
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	5
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

	July & Aug	YTD
Court Proceedings Ongoing	9	
Warning Letter Issued	4	13
Enforcement Notice Served	1	5
Complaints Closed	7	11
New Enforcement Files Opened	2	39

Struchtúir Chontúirteacha/ Dangerous Structures

	July & Aug	YTD
Complaints Received	3	8
Notices/Letters Issued	0	0
No of Active Files	12	
No. of Live Dangerous Structure	4	

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	4
Development TIC	2
Requests Received for TIC	1
TIC Archived	0

Forward Planning

Proposed Extension to period of Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2026 came into force on 20th July 2026, and for the purpose of supporting the orderly commencement of provisions in the Planning and Development Act 2024, it included the introduction of an amendment to Part 3 of the 2024 Act to support the transition to new 10-year County Development Plans. To support this transitional arrangement, specific provision has been made in the amended legislation to extend the period of existing County Development Plans, to ensure they remain in force pending (a) the completion of reviews for the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and (b) the preparation and adoption of new 10-year County Development Plans. Extending the period of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022–2028 is necessary to ensure that it remains in force pending completion of the review of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region and the preparation and adoption of a new 10-year Carlow County Development Plan.

To progress an extension to the period of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022–2028 in accordance with the amended legislation referred to, including the preparation of a Chief Executive's Report for the consideration of the Elected Members in Q3/Q4 2026, consultants (CAAS Ltd.) have been procured for the purposes of carrying out Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region is currently under review. The public consultation period on the published Issues Paper closed on 22/5/26. Carlow County Council made a formal submission to the process which 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 the submissions a Directors Report was prepared for consideration by the Members at the July 2026 Meeting of the Regional Assembly. The Director's Report can be accessed using this link: [Directors-Report-on-Pre-Draft-RSES.docx](#) The next step will include the preparation of the Draft RSES at which time further consultation will take place.

Legislative Updates July & August 2026

Circular Letter CEPP 03/2026 regarding the **European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2026. S.I. No. 323 of 2026** amends sections 37B and 37D of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and **became effective 9th July 2026** to allow limited parallel processing of pre-application consultation and EIA scoping for renewable energy development and repowering development with An Coimisiún Pleanála. [European Union \(Planning and Development\) \(Renewable Energy\) Regulations 2026 Circular CEPP 3/2026](#)

Planning and Development (Extension of Duration – Planning and Development Act 2000) Regulations 2026. S.I. No. 330 of 2026 became effective 20th July 2026.

This provision extends the period within which an applicant can seek an extension of duration of a planning permission from one year before expiry to two years before expiry. [2026 Time limits for extensions of time applications under Section 42 of Act of 2000](#)

Planning and Development (Exempted Development (Act of 2000)) Regulations (No. 2), (No. 3), (No. 4), (No. 5), (No. 6), (No.7) Regulations 2026 effective from 27th July 2026. [Planning and Development \(Exempted Development \(Act of 2000\)\) Regulations 2026](#)

The seven Planning and Development (Exempted Development (Act of 2000)) Regulations, amend the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (Regulations of 2001) to provide for:

- The existing exemption for extension of the principal dwelling will be increased from 40 square metres to 45 square metres.
- A new exemption will provide for extension via the addition of dormer roof boxes and roof lights on the principal dwelling.
- A new exemption for sub-division of the principal dwelling will allow for the creation of up to 1 additional self-contained unit within the existing building envelope, with a minimum floor area for each subdivided unit of 32 square metres.
- A new exemption for an auxiliary habitable dwelling will allow for the addition of a detached auxiliary dwelling to the rear of the principal house, linked to the services of the principal house, which may be between 32 square metres and 45 square metres.
- A new exemption will allow for the provision of insulation on external walls of a dwelling, in line with existing SEAI grant provision.
- The exemption for a heat pump will be expanded so that it is not restricted to the rear of the property.
- A new exemption will provide for cycle or bin storage at both the front and back of the property, with enough space to hold either 3-4 adult size bicycles, 2 cargo bikes or 3 wheelie bins.
- The existing exemption for a structure in the back garden (such as a shed, store, home office or gym) will be increased from 25 square metres to 30 square metres.

Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2026 (Commencement) Order 2026 (S.I. No. 414 of 2026), effective from 12 August 2026.

The Act of 2026 amends the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act of 2000) and the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024) and other enactments, as appropriate. The purpose of the Act of 2026 is primarily to support and assist in the smooth commencement of the remaining provisions of the Act of 2024, later in 2026. The Act of 2026 consists of 149 sections set out in 4 Parts and its provisions can largely be grouped into five main themes:

Amendments to Part 3 of the Act of 2024

This Act of 2026 provides a 90-week deadline for the completion of the RSES review processes and ensures that the current reviews are completed by end 2027.

The Act of 2026 allows for the current Development Plans to remain in force on a transitional basis, until no later than a specified date between February and December 2030. The relevant date for this purpose is linked to the date on which the relevant Development Plan was made under the Act of 2000. In line with the hierarchy of plan making, the revised end date should act as a trigger for the completion of the review of the Development Plans under the Act of 2024 and thereby the timely introduction of 10-year Development Plans.

The Act of 2026 provides for the designation of towns with populations of 10,000 or more as Key Towns. Note: Carlow Town is already designated as a Key Town, no other towns in Carlow fall under this category.

The Act introduces further transitional arrangements for the transition from the Act of 2000 to the Act of 2024.

Amendments to Part 9 of the Act of 2024

This Act will speed up the implementation of the new procedural rules for planning Judicial Review introduced in the Act of 2024.

Amendments to Part 4 of the Act of 2024 related to critical infrastructure projects

The Act includes a number of amendments to Part 4 to speed up the delivery of critical infrastructure projects, including measures committed to in the Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce Report and Action Plan 2025 and provides:

- A definition of “material contravention” of the Development Plan to clarify what constitutes a material contravention for the purpose of assessing and determining a planning application.
- Amendment to the eligibility requirements for making certain planning applications in order to clarify the capability of the applicant to make an application;
- Additional flexibility so that a Statutory Undertaker may make a planning application for the distribution of electricity under Chapter 3 of Part 4 and have the development treated as “standard development”, rather than “Chapter 4 development”, as may be applicable;
- An amendment to speed up and streamline certain application processes for development that is wholly or partially in a Maritime Area, by removing the

requirement to have a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) and other consents prior to entering into the “Chapter 4 development” planning process, specifically the pre-application consultation process;

- Transitional arrangements for consultations in respect of electricity transmission lines or strategic gas infrastructure carried out under section 182E of the Act of 2000 to be deemed pre-application under the Act of 2024.

Amendments for the alignment of Parts 4, 21 and 22 with Part 6

- The Act of 2026 provides a number of amendments, to clarify the role of competent authority and the environmental screening obligations for both Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in respect of retention permission, retrospective consent, Local Authority Development, State Authority Development, planning schemes (Part 21) and development schemes (Part 22).

Technical Amendments and miscellaneous

- The Act of 2026 provides a number of technical amendments to correct cross-references, typographical errors and to clarify the existing text without changing its intent.

Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2026 (Commencement) Order 2026

The provisions of the Act of 2026 require Commencement Orders in order to bring them into effect. The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2026 (Commencement) Order 2026 brings the following provisions of the Act of 2026 into effect from 12 August 2026: Part 1, Chapters 1 (other than paragraph (a) of section 4), Chapter 3 (other than section 29), and Chapters 13 and 14 of Part 2, and sections 74, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 115, 140, 141, 142, 143, 148 and 149. These provisions relate to amendments to sections of the Act of 2024 which have already come into effect.



ATHNUACHANA/REGENERATION

Clár Gníomhachtaithe/ Vacant & Derelict Property Activation Programme

Vacant/Derelict Properties identified through survey	675
Properties activated	652
Action being taken by owners	149
Owner has engaged	49
Properties brought back in to use	203

Deontas Athchóirithe Maoine Folmha/ Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Received	201
FI Requested	14
Inspection to be carried out	9
Applications Approved	67
Applications Declined	3
Applications Withdrawn	45
Works Complete being processed for payment	6
Grants paid to date	57

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	18
Activated	14
CPO commenced	5
CPO Referred to ACP	0
Vested	4
Acquired	1
Sale Agreed	4
Sale Closed	1

Suíomhanna Tréigthe/ Derelict Sites

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

Town & Village Renewal Projects

PROJECT	PROJECT ELEMENTS	STATUS	BUDGET
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. Bi-weekly meetings scheduled with Design Consultant. Construction Tender published 07/08/2026, tender deadline 04/09/2026	€726,342
Rathtoe	Funding approval to undertake preparatory work for the development of a multifunctional, inclusive outdoor recreational hub in Rathtoe.	Tender for Design Team published 8 th June 2026. Design Team appointed and initial meeting took place 25/08/2026	€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.	Gateway 2 approval received from DRCD to proceed to tender. Construction Tender published 05/08/2026, tender deadline 18/09/2026	€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. Tender for Design Team published 5 th June 2026. Design Team appointed and kick-off meeting being arranged	€197,415

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 appointed. Design Team appointed.	€6,650,000



BÓITHRE, IOMPAR AGUS TIONSCADAIL SPEISIALTA/ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

	July & August-2026	Ytd
Road Opening Licence	75	353
Abnormal Load Permits	9	54
Public Lighting repairs	24	499
Reported Outages	36	132
Total No of Ticketing awaiting repair	73	197

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 Templeown **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 **(First phase complete. Date TBC for second phase **
- Oaklawns ** Awaiting connection from ESB**
- Idrone Park ** Lighting design received, in talks with 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	Following a condition survey of the national secondary road network, Carlow submitted applications for additional funding, receiving €446,300 to undertake the necessary remedial works.
	HD28 Programme	Carlow received notification from TII of 2 number HD28 locations on the national road network, receiving €180,000 to undertake the necessary remedial works.

	National Secondary Road Delineation works (Tullamore to Enniscorthy)	Carlow in conjunction with TII & Tramore house NRO developed a proposal to refresh the road markings & studs on the N80 from Enniscorthy to Tullamore. Works are currently on-site on the section of the N80 through Co Carlow.
	2026 Leinster Bridge Maintenance Contract	Carlow in conjunction with TII & Kildare NRO (Bridge Section) and other participating LA's to developed the program to undertake condition surveys of Bridges on the National Road Network. Maintenance & Remedial works are currently underway on bridges serving the N80 & N81 throughout Carlow.
National Road Improvement Investment	N80 Leagh Bends Scheme	On the 25 th August 2026, Carlow County Council received approval from TII to proceed with Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement) for the N80 Leagh Bends Improvement Scheme, including approval to commence Land and Property Acquisition for the Scheme.
	N80 Average Speed Camera Zone	On the 18 th March, Carlow submitted the F&O Report, subsequently receiving approval to progress the Design. Separately, Carlow submitted a request to An Garda Síochána in respect of the enforcement equipment. Carlow is awaiting a decision.
	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 15 th January, Carlow submitted the F&O Report to develop a facility adjacent to M9(J5). The application has been approved. Carlow 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 engaged Kildare RDO to progress the Pavement Repair & Renewal Report for this scheme. (expected in Q3-2026), Following approval, the design & procurement will

	N80 Clonmacshane to Ballykealy Pavement Improvement Scheme	progress. Following the substantial completion of the Pavement Scheme, the Road Safety Audit identified measures required at the Junction with L-30495 Ballintrane to further improve safety. The approved remedial works commenced on site in August.
	N80 Kilbride Safety Enhancement Scheme	Carlow Co Co developed & submitted the Feasibility & Options report, subsequently receiving approval from TII. Carlow Co Co is now progressing the Design Report & RSA Stage 1-2
	M9 Motorway – Land Transfer	Following the completion of the M9 Motorway Scheme, Kildare Co Co as lead authority are now completing the Land reconciliation for the scheme, whereby lands acquired for the scheme within county Carlow are now to be transferred.
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
	Severe Weather Allocation (Storm Chandra)	Following a submission to the DoT, on the 3 rd July Carlow received notification of an allocation of €2.79 million to undertake remedial works to the Regional & Local road network resulting from damage experienced following Storm Chandra, The Municipal District Engineers are progressing the necessary remedial work.
	Specific Improvement Project (R448 Munnelly's Junction Improvement)	The project is completed & the final retention payment has been processed.
	Specific Improvement Project (R418/R725 Tullow Junction Safety Enhancement Scheme)	Carlow Co Co commenced assessments to inform the Feasibility & Options report to progress the scheme. Carlow Co Co has progressed the detail design for Phase-1 consisting of works on the

	Specific Improvement Project (R448 Royal Oak Junction Safety Enhancement Scheme)	R448 and is now developing the contract documents. It is intended to commence procuring a contractor, with works to commence on site in Q1-2027. Thereafter, Phase-2 consisting of safety enhancement works on the R724 Royal Oak Road will be progressed.
	Strategic Rehabilitation Regional Road (R448 Ballyknockan to Ballynolan Resurfacing Scheme)	Following DOT notification, Carlow developed the detailed design, the contract documents & completed the tender process, awarding the project for circa €550,000 to undertake the necessary works. Onsite works are expected to commence in October.
	Strategic Improvement Project (<i>Carlow Southern Relief Road</i>)	Phase 1 (Feasibility) was completed in August 2025. Phase 2 (Options Selection) is currently underway as follows: Stage 1 – Complete Stage 2 – Currently Underway Stage 3 - TBC During the reporting period, the Project Team has continued to advance the various scheme development activities, background studies, assessments, and traffic modelling/appraisal tasks as required for Phase 2. These activities are progressing as planned and are informing the identification and appraisal of the EPO. A third Non-Statutory Public Consultation event is anticipated in the coming weeks to provide an update on project progress and present the EPO for feedback and engagement.
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 30 th 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

		27 th February 2025, prior to the 28 th 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 31st 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 25th February 2026. Under section 4.8 of the Guidelines for Setting & Managing Speed Limits in Ireland, the PRE-DRAFT CONSULTATION has been completed in which 7 Workshops have been held with MD Engineers, MD Elected Members, Garda Síochána plus Liasing with adjoining Local Authorities. It has been agreed with Elected Members to progress to a Non-Statutory Pre-Draft Bye-Laws Public Consultation to be advertised in July.
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	Works on the scheme were completed at the end of July and the route is now open to pedestrians & cyclists. The ESB are due to attend site in the coming months to remove redundant poles and overhead lines.

	Hillbrook Estate Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Tullow	The Section 38 public consultation process for the scheme is complete. Following consideration of the submissions received during the public consultation process the Director of Services has decided to proceed with the proposed development, in accordance with the plans and particulars placed on public display, including some minor and immaterial alterations made in response to submissions. The decision of the Director of Services has been formally recorded in a Chief Executives Order (Traffic Works Order). The construction tender is expected to be issued in late August with works expected to commence in Q4.
	Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Graiguecullen	The Section 38 public consultation process commenced on 09/06/2026. A public information session was held in St. Fiacc's Hall, Graiguecullen on 26/06/2026. The closing date for submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development was 07/07/2026. A Section 38 report is currently being prepared for the Director of Services which will seek to address the issues raised during the public consultation process and will contain recommendations on how best to proceed.
	SRTS – St. Brigid's N.S., Grange, Tullow.	The construction tender documents for the scheme were issued on 16/07/26 with the closing date for submissions set at 14/08/26. A total of 5no. tenders were received and are currently being assessed. The works contractor is expected to be appointed in September with construction expected to commence shortly after.
	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 is nearing completion. The Section 38 public consultation process for the scheme is expected to commence in early September.
	2026 NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:	30 Bus Stop upgrades considered for 2026 in both urban and rural locations throughout the County. 3 sites are suitable for shelters in 2026. New bench seating will be provided where possible as an alternative. 3 Tenders received by the closing date with Tony Kirwin from Waterford been awarded the contract. Tender price 60k above the

		500k budget. NTA committed to increase budget to account for shortfall and may further increase 2026 budget to allow for a few additional bus stops also. Contractor has programmed a start date of Sept 14 th to start on site. With the delayed start date, contractor intends having 3 separate crews at times to complete the works on time before year end.
URDF	Rail Link Project:	The contractor is progressing on site, with works programmed to finish by Nov. 2026. Final finishes are underway in some areas of the works.
	Main Town Centre Projects: - Tullow St. - Barrack St. Link - Barrack St. & Shamrock Sq. - Kennedy Ave. - Potato Market	The main TC project tender package is almost complete. The BoQ is being finalised with OMC to be updated for approval by the Department, in order to publish the tender. A contractor framework is in the process of being set up. Framework submission window is now closed, and submissions are currently being reviewed.
	TCRIF (Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund): - 1A Barrow Track Masterplan - 1A Town Hall Feasibility Study - 1B Link Streets - 1B Carlow Old Town Quarter	Four projects have been submitted and are currently under review by the department. The projects will, if funded, be delivered by the URDF & Regeneration Teams.



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

Gearáin/Complaints 2026 Ytd.

Complaint Type	Complaints	Active	Resolved
Litter	324	62	262
Waste	104	29	75
Water Pollution	25	8	17
Noise	11	3	8
Air Pollution	3	1	2
Burning	17	3	14
Sludge/Slurry	7	0	7
Veterinary/Vermin	47	24	23
Paper	0	0	0
Glass	2	0	2
Hedge Cutting	0	0	0
Abandoned Cars	69	29	40
Invasive Species	3	1	2
Total	612	160	452

**excluding c/f from 2025*

Forfheidhmiú/Enforcement 2026 Ytd.

Legislation	Advisory Letter	Warning Letter	Notice	Fines issued
Litter Act	0	0	0	83
Air Pollution Act	27	1	0	0
Water Pollution Act	5	13	0	0
Waste Management Act	3	30	0	0
Farm Warning letters	0	0	0	0
Septic Advisory Notices	7	0	0	0
Total	42	44	0	83

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

	2026
Month Beginning	6
Strays	26
Surrenders	21
Totals	53

	2026
Reclaims	15
Re-homed by Shelter	2
Directed to Rescue	32
End of Month	4
Total	53

Madraí a Rialú/Control of Dogs 2026

Licences purchased following Dog Warden visit	400
Annual Licences purchased	912
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments registered	10

Cigireachtaí Feirme/Farm Inspections

National Agricultural Inspection Programme NAIP - Initial	49
Preliminary preparation of NAIP 2026 farm inspections file	45
Follow up NAIP Inspections	6
Total:	100

Pionóis Bruscair/Litter Fines 2026 Ytd.

Litter Fines Issued	95
Appeals Received	17
Successful Appeals	3
Unsuccessful Appeals	14
Successful Prosecutions	1

Iniúchtaí Uisce/Uisce

Briste/Water/Wastewater Inspections 2026

	2026
Discharge Licences to Water (Section 4)	5
Audits of Private Water Supplies	0
Additional Farm Inspections – Complaints, Nutrient Management Plan Reviews, Sludge Spreading Inspections	55
River investigative monitoring samples and analysis	150
Bathing Water samples	2
Septic Tank inspections for National Inspection Plan	10
Surface & Groundwater Protection Inspections of land e.g. drinking water source protection for safe use of pesticides	7
Unauthorised discharges investigated – Pollution instances	25
Agricultural Planning Inspections - Reports	29
Misconnection Surveys of sewer lines	6

Climate Action

Signing of Climate Action Charter 2026 - Carlow County Council has reaffirmed its commitment to tackling climate change and creating a more sustainable future for the county with the signing of the Climate Action Charter 2026 by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Tommy Kinsella and Acting Chief Executive Padraig O'Gorman. The signing reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to taking practical action to reduce carbon emissions, protect the environment, support biodiversity and help communities prepare for the impacts of climate change.

Community Climate Action Program (CCAP) - A photocall was held in the County Chamber to mark the signing of 18 grant agreements under Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Program (CCAP). Attendees included members of the elected representatives, Deputy Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD, Deputy Catherine Callaghan TD, and representatives from each of the 18 community groups that were awarded funding through the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment. The funding will support the delivery of a range of community-led climate action initiatives across County Carlow.

Final report for Phase 1 of CCAP is being compiled and will be submitted to the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment by the end of August 2026.

IPB LEAF Fund 2026 - The €50,000 IPB Insurance-sponsored "IPB LEAF Fund 2026" was launched for community groups across County Carlow. Nineteen applications, with a combined funding request in excess of €97,000, were assessed, and 11 community groups were approved for funding. Letters of offer have been issued, with funded projects to be completed between September and December 2026.

Organisation Name:	Summary of Proposed Project:	Approved Amount:
Ardattin Community Group	Energy audit of the community hall to guide future decarbonisation and retrofit investments.	€1,230.00
Bagenalstown Area Community Development Group & PDLS Bagenalstown	Purchase of bikes for community use in partnership with PDLS, to encourage active travel within the community.	€4,735.50
Bagenalstown Improvement Group & Bagenalstown FC	Installation of rainwater harvesting system to support sustainable water management in the Bagenalstown FC facilities.	€5,749.65
Ballinkillen Lorum Community Centre Club	Upgrading community hall windows to improve thermal efficiency.	€6,741.58
Ballymurphy Hall Committee	Replacement of internal lights with LED lights to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions.	€3,400.00
Carlow Beekeepers Association	Upgrade of facilities to improve pollinator habitat and to create a space for hosting volunteers & workshops.	€3,005.00

Carlow Town Sustainable Energy Community	Provision of energy audits for community facilities throughout Carlow Town to inform future decarbonisation measures and retrofit investments.	€6,150.00
County Carlow Environmental Network	Community workshops on designing and establishing food forests	€7,500.00
DTA Tullow Tidy Towns and Climate Action Committee	Biodiversity and environmental measures, including swift conservation, rainwater harvesting, and traffic monitoring to inform future sustainable travel activities.	€5,986.76
St. Fiacc's Swimming Pool and Community Hall CLG	Installation of smart metering systems to track and improve energy efficiency.	€1,762.12
Tinryland Community Hub CLG	Community education workshops focused on sustainable food growing practices.	€3,739.39

National Decarbonising Zone (DZ) Demonstrator Fund, - Carlow County Council received an allocation of €56,000 under the National Decarbonising **Zone** (DZ) Demonstrator Fund, which provides ring-fenced funding to support local authorities in advancing Decarbonising Zone initiatives and showcasing effective approaches to local climate action. The fund combines support from the Local Government Climate Action Programme and the National Dialogue on Climate Action Programme, promoting an integrated approach that places a strong emphasis on community engagement and participation.

The projects outlined below were developed through collaboration across a range of Council departments and were carefully aligned with the priorities, objectives and actions identified within the Carlow Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) and the Carlow Decarbonising Zone programme. These initiatives aim to accelerate emissions reductions, enhance public awareness and engagement, and demonstrate practical climate solutions that can be replicated and scaled across the county.

Initiative	Description / Purpose	Related Action
Decarbonising Zone communication & PR	Development and delivery of communications materials to increase public understanding of what a Decarbonising Zone is, where it is located, and why it has been established.	Supports community awareness and engagement with climate action initiatives within the DZ.
Interactive workshops for 2nd level education facilities in Carlow DZ	Educational workshops delivered in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre to introduce students to climate action, sustainability and the purpose of the Decarbonising Zone.	Promotes climate literacy and youth engagement.
SDG-DZ Mapping Project	Mapping of Decarbonising Zone projects against the United Nations	Promote awareness and understanding of the UN

	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to demonstrate how local climate actions contribute to global sustainability objectives.	Sustainable Development Goals through thematic public realm projects.
Hydration Stations at Carlow Town Park and Hanover Park	Installation of public hydration stations to encourage the use of reusable water bottles, reduce single-use plastic waste and support sustainable lifestyles.	Supports waste reduction, public health and climate action objectives.
Town Centre Sustainable Travel Map	Development of a town centre map highlighting journey times by walking, cycling, public transport and private car to increase awareness of sustainable travel options and encourage modal shift.	Supports active travel, sustainable mobility and reduced transport emissions.

Biodiversity

Work continues on the DRAFT Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031. Following an extensive consultation process the summary of submissions and recommendations is currently being prepared for presentation to the September SPC meeting.

“Turning Lawns into Lunch for Urban Pollinators” project has been shortlisted in the annual Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2026.

A successful Nature and Folklore table quiz was hosted in An Gairdin Beo to celebrate National Heritage week.

Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Office continued to promote sustainable consumption and waste prevention through the launch of the Threads of Carlow campaign, highlighting the social, environmental and economic benefits of supporting local charity shops, alongside the ongoing Textile Tuesday social media campaign, which encourages textile reuse, repair and responsible clothing consumption. The project included the filming of four participants undertaking the Threads of Carlow Charity Shop Challenge, where volunteers were challenged to create outfits and purchases on a budget of €30 across six local charity shops.

In addition, the Environmental Awareness Office engaged with VOICE Ireland's Fabric of Change programme to further develop the Made to Last initiative and support the planning of a series of youth-focused workshops for Climate Action Week in October, aimed at promoting sustainable fashion, textile reuse and circular economy principles among young people.

Works continue with Regional Environmental Awareness Officers and the Southern Region Waste Management Planning Office to develop a Greener Festivals Workshop for local authority staff, scheduled for September.

The Heritage Seed Saving Workshop series also continued, with the third workshop delivered by Molly Aylesbury in partnership with Carlow Library's Skills for Life programme.

Information stands and workshops were delivered at locations throughout County Carlow to promote environmental awareness, sustainable living and waste prevention. This included participation in a number of community events, most notably the Tullow Agricultural Show, where Carlow County Council hosted an information stand for the first time, providing an opportunity to engage with a broad audience on climate action, recycling, biodiversity and circular economy initiatives.

Pathfinder Project

Carlow County Council appointed Ryan + Lamb Architects as the Design Project Management and Integrated Design Team (DPM&iDT) for the energy retrofit and decarbonisation of County Buildings on Athy Road, Carlow. The contract was formally signed at a ceremony held in the Oval Room of County Buildings on 28 July 2026.

The appointment of Ryan + Lamb Architects will now allow the project to commence detailed assessments, option development and design stages, leading ultimately to the implementation of energy retrofit works aimed at delivering substantial energy savings and carbon reductions at County Buildings.

Anti-Dumping Initiative.

A river clean-up was undertaken at The Laurels on the Tullow Road to remove illegally dumped waste and improve the local environment. Following ongoing concerns regarding dumping in the area, CCTV cameras were installed to monitor the location and deter future incidents, while also assisting in the identification of individuals responsible for the illegal disposal of waste into the river.

CCTV Location		Number of Offences Detected
1	Hacketstown Bring Bank	45
2	Tullow Bring Bank	44
3	Town Hall Car park Bring Bank	0
4	St. Mary's Cemetery	2
5	Mt. Leinster	0
Total Number of Offences YTD		91

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



SEIRBHÍSÍ ÉIGEANDÁLA AGUS RIALÚ FOIRGNAÍOCHTA/EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL

	July/Aug 26	YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	10	38
Building Control Inspections	10	55
Disability Access Certificates	1	16
Commencement Notices	38	128
Certificates of Compliance	5	22

	July/Aug 26	YTD
No. of Fire Call outs per Station		
Bagenalstown	54	146
Carlow Town	115	302
Hacketstown	13	45
Tullow	35	111

	July/Aug 26	YTD
No. of Fires within Areas		
Carlow	96	160
Adjoining Counties	14	27

Special Services: July/Aug 2026	Number
Entrapment	0
Gas/Chemicals	1
Hazardous Substances in Transit	0
Hazardous Substances Non-Fire	0
Rescue from Machinery	0
Miscellaneous	9
Other Rescue	2
Rescue/Removal of Persons from Water	0
Road Traffic Accident	22
Water Pumping/Flooding	0
Total	34

False Alarms: July/Aug 2026	Number
Malicious	0
Good Intent	18
Total	18

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.

Carlow have launched our new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) equipped with a water tank, pump and firefighting equipment, this vehicle was Capital Funded by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management to the tune of €90,000. This ATV is be HVO compliant and is stationed in Bagenalstown fire station to support wildland firefighting across Mt. Leinster and the Black Stairs Mountain areas. Members of Bagenalstown Fire Station crew have already received specialized off-road training in how to operate the vehicle which is equipped with a 250-litre water tank, fire pump and 50m hose with a nozzle reach of 20 meters. The vehicle has been deployed to a number of wildland fire throughout the county and also assisted Tipperary Fire Service in extinguishing a very large scale fire in Slievenamon.

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. The generators are currently being installed in the stations.

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 from tendering stage to design and build 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

Fire calls across the county, and the country have dramatically increased due to the prolonged dry period, fire calls have doubled since the start of July in some stations. Fire crews in all the 4 stations have been extremely busy over the past number of weeks extinguishing fires in gorse and dry grass areas. The temperatures in Carlow reached new records and had a dramatic effect on fire fighting operations, a combination fuel loading from dry materials, dry conditions and negligence from certain individuals have led to wildfire burning and, in some cases, placing property at risk, making fire fighting operations very difficult at times.

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 roadshows at both Hacketstown Community Hall and Ballinakillen Community Centre providing home fire safety advice.



AN RANNÓG TITHÍOCHTA/ HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Total Housing Stock	2176
Social Housing Applications	105/441 YTD
Total HAP Tenancies	425
New HAP 2026	13
Transfer Applications	11/45 YTD
Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints	9/47 YTD
Housing Maintenance Calls Logged	371/1909 YTD
CAS Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0 YTD
SHIP Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0
New Allocations	08/106 YTD

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil//Local Authority Home Loan Update

	July/August	Year to date
No. of Loan Offer drawdowns including partial drawdown	1	2
Final Loan Approvals	0	3
No. of AIPs Issued	3	5
No. of LAHL Received	1/3	10/11
Value of Drawdown	€128k / €0	€227,900.00

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

	Total applications approved at 27/08/2026	Number of valid applications under consideration at 27/08/2026	Total number of applications on hand at 27/08/2026
Housing Aid for Older People	111	83	194
Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability	80	56	136
Mobility Aid	10	12	22
Total	201	151	352

Location	No. of Units	Breakdown of units	Status	Delivery Date
CARLOW MD				
Lochain Bui	11	11 x 2 bed units	Part V process ongoing	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 acquired & allocated, 2 in conveyancing, 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.	2027
151 JKL Avenue	1	1 x 3 bed	On site for completion this month.	2026
12 Burrin Street (CPO)	3	Number of units to be confirmed once design complete	Preliminary design stage.	2027
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	2027
Tanner Hall	49	8 x 2 bed units 26 x 3 bed units 15 x 2 bed units	Funding application approved by Dept. Extension to Planning Permission application ongoing	2027/2028/2029
TULLOW MD				
Tullowbeg (CHI)	48	41 x 2 bed units 5 x 3 bed units 2 x 4 bed units	Works ongoing	2026
Bridigine Convent	1	TBC	Part V agreement process underway	2026
Railway Close – Part V	4	4 x 3 bed units	Completed – 2 Part V units being acquired, 2 remaining advertised as affordable. Portal opened 28 th Aug.	2026
HSE Unit Hacketstown	1	1 x 2 bed unit	Pre Part VIII	2027
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	2026
Green Drake, Borris (AHB – Tintean)	17	2 x 1 bed units 15 x 2 bed units	Allocation process underway	2026

Health Centre Tinnahinch	2	2 x 2 bed units	Pre Part VIII	2027
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Mionscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na Tithe/Housing Inspections

	Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	Private Rented (PRTB)	Complaints	Total
First Inspection	10	4	107	2	119
Re-inspection	7	1	0	0	8
Total Compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	2	1	12	0	15
Total Non-compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	15	4	95	2	116
Improvement Notice	0	1	0	0	1
Prohibition Notice	0	0	0	0	0

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Dídean / Homeless Services Update 26th August 2026

Temporary Emergency Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
De Paul Accommodation	16	0	16
Additional Emergency Accommodation	44	45	89
Total in Emergency Accommodation	60	45	105
Homeless Presentations – July and August (to 26 th)			
Total Presentations	89 Adults & 62 Children		
Prevention/not placed	76 Adults & 53 Children		

Own Front Door (OFD) – Supported Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
KVHA	43	35	78
Refuge/Safehouse	4	6	10
Focus Ireland	4	10	14
Total	51	51	102

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

Defective Concrete Blocks Scheme

On 7th July 2026 DHLGH signed an Order designating the whole of the administrative area of Carlow County Council for the purposes of the Remediation of Dwellings Damaged by the Use of Defective Concrete Blocks Act 2022 (No. 28 of 2022). Thus, relevant affected homeowners with homes located in the administrative area of Carlow County Council will now be able to apply to avail of the Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) Grant Scheme. Carlow County Council is working with other Local Authorities designated under the scheme to gain knowledge and experience of the DCBS and its operation. Carlow County Council will advertise the scheme on its website in October 2026 and will be open for applications. From knowledge at a local level, a small number of dwellings are affected.



AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT AIRGEADAIS/FINANCE DIRECTORATE

Financial Management Report - Period Ended 30 th June 2026				
	Opening Bal. 01/01/26	Expenditure	Income	Closing Bal. 30/06/26
Revenue Account	-1,043,195	35,440,179	-35,668,300	-1,271,316
Capital Account	-50,248,509	26,022,108	-20,176,269	-44,402,670
Debtors (Gross)	20,260,983			30,990,880

MÓTARCHÁIN/ MOTOR TAX

Motor Tax Transactions Month Ended	July-26	Year To Date
In Person Motor Tax Transactions	1,391	8,819
Online Motor Tax Transactions	6,589	42,829
Total Transactions	7,980	51,648
<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	24
Active Carlow Payments Processed	106
Active Carlow Social Media Metrics	50,553 Socials Views
Community Engagement (meetings/events)	12
Community Grants Processed	10 claims totalling €11,500
Discretionary Funding Processed	35 claims totalling €23,369
Local Enhancement Programme 2026 Grants Processed	19

Active Carlow

July

- **Disability Multi-Sport Camp for Adults** ran in Carlow from 1st –3rd July, giving 35 adults with additional needs the chance to try a range of sports in a supportive group setting.
- **Heritage, Sport & Library Camp** brought 20 children together in Carlow from 6th –8th July for a multi-sport camp with a cultural twist, blending physical activity with heritage and library-based learning.
- **Buggy Buddies** continued through July and into mid-August, giving 15 new parents a chance to stay active and connect with others while caring for their babies.
- **Come & Try Hockey** ran throughout July, introducing 17 newcomers to the sport in a relaxed, low-pressure format.
- **HER Outdoors Week** was a standout of the month, giving women across the county the chance to sample a different outdoor activity each day from kayaking and paddleboarding to yoga, padel and dragon boating — with strong turnout throughout.
- **Come & Try Tennis** ran across July, drawing 21 participants keen to pick up a racket for the first time.
- **Learn to Cycle at SETU** helped 45 people build cycling skills and confidence over three days in mid-July.

	• HER Moves – Teenage Girls Camp kicked off on 16th July and continued through to 20 August, giving 12 teenage girls a dedicated space to try new sports together. • Disability Multi-Sport Camp – Rugby, held in Carlow with support from the NGB, gave 25 children a rugby-focused camp experience from 21st –23rd July. • Introduction to Open Water Swimming ran through July, easing 15 participants into open water with a focus on safety and confidence. • Old School Games brought the community together for a nostalgic, fun-filled event on 24th July, with a strong turnout of 70 people. • Sports First Aid Training equipped 13 participants with essential first aid skills over a one-day course on 25th July. • Cúl Camp (GAA For All) offered an inclusive Gaelic football camp for 25 children in Carlow from 28th –30th July. August • Multi Activity Camp gave 33 children a varied programme of sport and activity in Carlow from 5th –7th August. • Learn to Cycle in Bagenalstown helped 21 people build cycling confidence over three days in mid-August. • Tullov Photo Orienteering, run jointly with the Heritage Office, combined orienteering with photography around Tullov on 15th August. • Discovery Session, IPAS Tullov engaged 6 participants as part of the IPAS programme, exploring what future activity offerings might look like for the group. • Old School Games and Orienteering, Myshall paired traditional games with orienteering in a joint Heritage Office event, drawing 30 participants on 23rd August.
Community Development	Community Development Programmes, Projects & Initiatives <i>Carlow's Pride of Place and Competition</i> Judging of applicants took place over the months of July and August. Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition (Tullov and Ballymurphy)

Judging of the communities of **Tullow** and **Ballymurphy** took place on 24th July 2026 by IPB Pride of Place adjudicators **Colette Byrne** and **Brendan McGrath** as part of the national judging process for this prestigious all-island competition.

Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) 2026

The **Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF) 2026** is a national initiative funded in partnership between **IPB Insurance** and all 31 local authorities in Ireland, marking IPB's 100th anniversary. The fund aims to support **Tidy Towns committees, Residents' Associations, and similar voluntary community groups** in delivering projects that enhance the local environment, promote biodiversity, and take meaningful climate action. The scheme in Carlow was launched on 15th July with €50,00 available for community groups. The community section supported the Environment Section to roll out this funding scheme. 19 applications were submitted and 11 applications were successful.

Community Development Officer (CDO)

During July and August the Community Development Officer continued community engagement as follows:

- *Cois Dara Estate:* Met with over 32 residents to discuss establishing a Residents' Association, provided guidance on next steps, supported a community clean-up to identify potential committee members, and are working towards forming a committee by mid-September with ongoing support for meetings and communications. After meeting with the residents, their dedicated Facebook page went from 70 to 152.
- *Tullow Rd Community:* The Tullow Road Community Group were supported in holding a Car Boot Sale on 22nd August, which featured over 80 traders, attracted strong local attendance, facilitated community fundraising, and was promoted through the provision of 400 flyers and 20 posters.
- *Father Byrne Park – Graiguecullen:* Engaged with residents and both Residents' Associations in Father Byrne Park, highlighted available Council supports, and encouraged a community gathering to help address volunteer shortages, strengthen participation, and plan future estate improvements.
- *Community Get Togethers:* Supported 10 targeted community inclusion events across the county, with 8 completed to date. Consistent feedback was that these

	events helped strengthen social connections, increased participation, and build community cohesion in estates facing engagement challenges. • <u>Other:</u> Engaged with seven new and emerging community groups, including Carlow Indian Group, Muslim Sisters of Éire Carlow, Cois Dara, St. Oliver's Crescent (Myshall), Pairc Mhuire Community Garden, Dereen Heights, and a new Tullow Road mental health/intergenerational initiative.
Healthy Carlow	Carlow has been officially accredited as a World Health Organisation's (WHO's) European Healthy City for Phase VIII (2026–2030), joining a prestigious network of cities across Europe recognised for their commitment to placing health, wellbeing, equity and sustainability at the centre of local governance and development. Pobal have announced an extension of the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 4 to be extended for an additional year until 31st December 2027, with an indicative budget allocation of €75,000 for the continued delivery of work relating to approved outcomes.
Women and Diversity in Local Government	Work continues under the Equality and Diversity in Politics funding stream. Engagement with stakeholders has identified priority cohorts including migrant women, young women, and Traveller women. A programme of activities for Q3 and Q4 is being developed, including leadership workshops, civic participation sessions, and awareness-raising events aligned with LECP goals on inclusion and representation.
Age Friendly Carlow	Age Friendly Carlow Significant progress continues on the Directory of Services for people aged 55+, with over 60 services and supports catalogued. The Directory remains on track for completion pending final submissions from partner agencies. Collaboration continues with the HSE through the Southeast Positive Ageing Working Group, Friends of ASI, and internal departments including Environment (Warmer Homes Expo), Fire Service (Rural Outreach Roadshows), and Local Community Safety Partnership (Vulnerable Persons Register). Next Steps • Finalise Directory content • Continue coordination of outreach initiatives

	Older People's Council Carlow The Older People's Council continues to play a central role in informing Age Friendly Alliance work. The Executive Committee (12 members) is progressing actions in governance, communications, transport, fraud awareness, and rural outreach. Transport access to hospital appointments remains the most frequently raised issue, with work underway to improve signposting of supports and strengthen engagement with the HSE. Fraud awareness sessions with Gardaí are planned for the coming months.
Traveller Interagency Working Group	The Carlow Traveller Interagency Group has scheduled the review of the Assessment of Need and Strategic Plan 2023–2026 for Q1 2027. A structured consultation process is being developed, including engagement with Traveller families, service providers, and relevant local and national bodies.
Comhairle na nÓg	Work has progressed following the national cluster meeting facilitated by the Department of Youth. Preparations for the 2026 theme of Youth Facilities are well underway, with mapping of existing infrastructure, identification of service gaps, and collation of data to support young people's project development. The Advisory Group last met on 22 May, and the Comhairle continues to demonstrate strong engagement, with 44 active members and average attendance of 18 young people.
Local Community Safety Partnership	LCSP Meetings Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) met with the Elected Representatives of Carlow County Council on 8th July 2026 to provide an update on the work of the Partnership and the ongoing implementation of community safety initiatives across the county. The meeting provided an opportunity to highlight progress on the development of the Local Community Safety Plan, emerging issues identified through community engagement, and the collaborative work being undertaken by partner agencies to address local community safety concerns. The next meeting of the LCSP is open to the public and takes place on Wednesday 16th September in Carlow Town Hall. One Million Stars Ireland, Carlow Project During July, the Carlow LCSP completed the One Million Stars Ireland, Carlow Project, delivered in partnership with Amber Women's Refuge and supported by Creative Ireland. Six

	community workshops were held in Carlow Town Hall between 29th June and 30th July, engaging 23 participants aged between 5 and 83 years. Participants collectively wove 1,342 stars which formed the completed artwork, “Butterfly Rising”, symbolising resilience, hope and support. The project promoted awareness of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (DSGBV), while fostering inclusion, wellbeing, creativity and community connection. The completed artwork stands as a visible symbol of solidarity, respect and community action, reinforcing the Partnership’s commitment to building safer and more inclusive communities across County Carlow. Property Branding Scheme The LCSP continued to support practical crime prevention measures across County Carlow through the provision of the Property Branding Machine. During July and August, An Garda Síochána continued to utilise the machine at community engagement events and local initiatives, enabling residents to mark and identify valuable property. Property branding acts as a deterrent to theft, assists in the recovery of stolen items and promotes greater awareness of personal and community safety.
Community Capital Projects	CLÁR 13 applications were received with 11 being submitted to the Department for funding approval. Awarding of funding to successful applications are due to be announced in November. 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 14th July 2026. The following was discussed: - Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme ○ Case Study approval ○ Approval of sub-contractors

	○ Mid-year review approval - Presentation from the Health Service Executive - Public Participation Network update
Carlow Local Action Group	A meeting of Carlow Local Action Group was held on 14th July, 2026. The following Projects were approved: - Carlow Tourism – County Carlow Digital Destination and Co-operative Marketing project - The Sorting House – procurement approval
Integration Support	New Beneficiary of Temporary Protection (BOTP) Measures The Department of Justice has updated their guidance for those wishing to remain in State provided accommodation. For those currently living in State provided accommodation that continue to need accommodation support, an online application to stay in State provided accommodation will open between 4 August and 11 September 2026. Successful applicants may be offered accommodation in a different location, subject to eligibility and prioritised need. For further information and support, can be found online www.gov.ie/ukraineupdates or by attending one of the available information webinars. Offer A Home There are currently 46 properties allocated under this scheme, providing accommodation for 148 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection. This scheme will come to an end in March 2027. Integration Support During the months of July and August, 9 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. Projects/Initiatives <u>National Play Day Fund</u>

Carlow LAIT secured funding of €3,000 through the National Play Day Fund to provide play packs for children living in congregated settings. The initiative aimed to support play opportunities and promote positive childhood experiences for children who may have limited access to recreational resources. The packs included sensory and dexterity-based resources designed to support fine motor skill development, encourage play, and promote overall wellbeing.

Summer Camps

In partnership with Carlow CYPSC, €2,000 was secured through the Túsla Seed Project Fund to provide summer camp places for children living in congregated settings. This funding enabled children to participate in inclusive recreational activities, supporting their social development, wellbeing, and engagement with their local community.

Castlecomer Discovery Park Day Trip

Carlow LAIT applied for CYPSC IPAS Integration funding to provide a day trip for families which took place on the 6th August, benefiting 45 children and 24 adults with all children participating in scheduled activities and lunch was provided for all. It was a very enjoyable day for everyone.

Carlow PPN Membership currently 354 - comprised of:

- 277 Full Members
- 77 Associate Members
- 5 new member applications in process

PPN Governance

- Carlow PPN annual report submitted to DRCDG
- Carlow PPN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 review document prepared
- Draft Strategic Plan 2026 – 2031 prepared for discussion, along with SWOT analysis and guidelines for completing

PPN member groups:

- There is a noticeable increase in member groups wanting to join the PPN, particularly when grants are announced by the Local Authority. Additionally, lapsed members are seeking to re-join

- Open members meet ups were facilitated on Wednesdays during the summer at An Gairdin Beo from 11am – 12.30pm. Members meet ups moving to Seven Oaks Hotel/other local areas depending on group locations throughout the autumn/winter

Engagement and Collaboration:

- Attended IPB LEAF Fund Webinar
- Collaboration meeting between Carlow and Kilkenny PPN re: PPN promotional radio campaign
- PPN Sponsored 4 x family vouchers for Nature & Folklore Table Quiz organised by Biodiversity officer, environment office
- Attended meeting with Rathoe community
- PPN collaborated with biodiversity officer re: Draft Carlow Biodiversity Plan 2026-2031

Autumn Winter workshops organised as follows:

- 'Let's Talk GDPR' 2nd Sept online Wed. 2nd Sept @1.30pm – 2.30pm
- 'Your Community, Your Council, Demystifying Local Government in Carlow' 1st Sept online @12.30pm - 1.30pm
- 'The Charities Regulator – Good Governance for Community Groups' 30th Sept 5pm – 8pm and 1st October 10.30am to 1.30pm
- Carlow Disabled Persons Organisation and Carlow PPN - Disability Awareness Training 29th Oct. 2026 - Seven Oaks Hotel 10am – 1pm

Consultations and Surveys:

Carlow PPN promoted/input into the following surveys:

- Draft Carlow Biodiversity Plan 2026-2031– Carlow PPN organised an online webinar with Biodiversity Officer Shane Casey



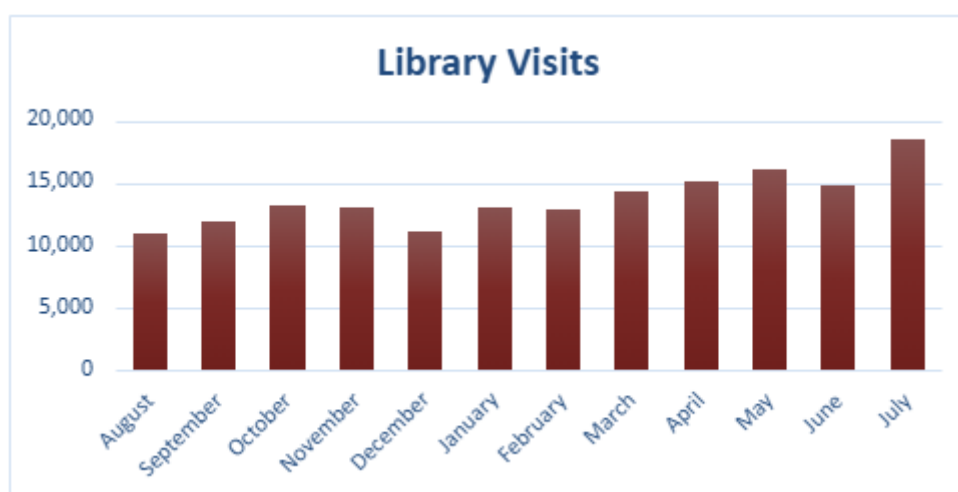
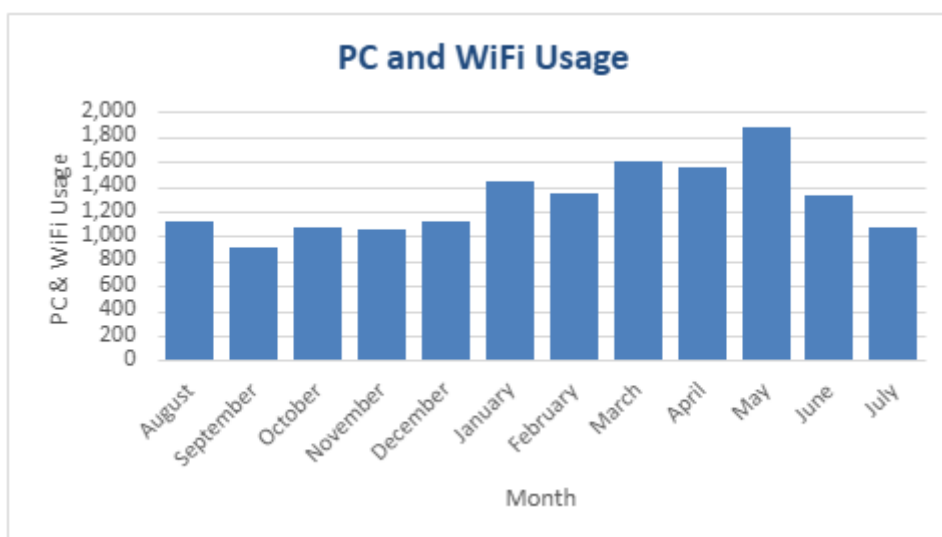
AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT CULTÚR DIRECTORATE

LEABHARLAN CONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY

Statistics and performance

- 11 in person appointments to the Local Studies department, 302 Local Studies and Genealogy enquiries
- Library App accessed 1196 times on 155 different devices
- 1,472 eBooks, 3,976 eAudiobooks, 22,063 eMagazines and eNewspapers downloaded
- Instagram -1738 followers
- Facebook Page – 5913 followers
- BlueSky - 53 followers





Group visits and Events

Group Visits

Adult Engagement/Events	118 groups/meetings/events/workshops 1,087 participants
Children's Engagement/Events	23 groups/events 381 participants
Book Clubs	2 Book Club Meeting 13 participants

Borris Library Community Room:

- 15 Failte Isteach workshops supporting members of the community in developing their conversational English skills where local volunteers facilitate informal, welcoming classes.
- 4 Community Games Drama Group sessions - supporting the St Mullins/Borris Community Games Drama Group by providing a venue for rehearsals as they prepare for the next stage of the Community Games competition.
- 7 Borris Lace workshops

- 7 Crafty Crew meetings
- 1 Community Games Quiz practice

Book Launches:

Carlow Library hosted two successful book launches during July and August, highlighting local literary and historical contributions.

- *The Write Room: A Collection of Poetry and Prose*, created by the writers of the Involvement Centre. The publication was dedicated to the late Robert Duffy, who led the Centre's writing group and inspired participants to embrace creative writing at any stage of life.
- *The Landlords and Tenants in County Carlow, 1879-1960* by Oliver Whelan. Launched by historian Turtle Bunbury, the book explores the decline of landlordism and its impact on County Carlow. The event attracted over 70 attendees and featured an engaging presentation followed by a lively discussion on local history.

Heritage Week:

Heritage Week took place from 15 August to 22 August and all library branches hosted a variety of events. More than 280 people participated in events throughout the week, demonstrating strong public engagement with local heritage and culture.

The programme included:

- Adult and children's weather workshops with Joanna Donnelly
- Art workshops led by Jean Robertson
- *Echoes from the Barrow* oral history sessions with Jason Culleton
- Rock art presentations by Liga Valge
- Ice cream science workshops with Anyone 4 Science
- A talk by Paul Gorry on Ernest Shackleton's connections to Carlow
- Jam and butter making workshops for children with the Cool Food School

The wide-ranging programme was very well received and celebrated the rich heritage of County Carlow.

Seed Savers:

The Seed Savers event in Carlow Library on 8 August brought together gardeners for an engaging morning focused on preserving Ireland's traditional fruit, vegetable, and grain varieties. Molly Aylesbury of Bare Necessities showcased rare and heirloom seeds, discussed the importance of maintaining genetic diversity and offered practical advice on saving seeds at home. Attendees learned simple seed-saving techniques and discovered how community participation helps safeguard Ireland's agricultural heritage for future generations. The event formed part of Carlow Libraries' wider climate and environment programme, highlighting sustainability and local engagement.

Carlow Heritage Potato Project – The Harvest:

The Harvest event at Borris Library marked the end of the Carlow Heritage Potato Project. Over the summer, heritage potato varieties, including Irish Queen and Black Skerry, were grown alongside modern varieties such as Records and Maris Piper. This allowed participants to see how different potatoes coped with this year's hot and dry weather.

The event brought together community members, local representatives, and visitors to watch the harvest and compare the results. Guests also enjoyed a range of traditional and modern potato dishes prepared by Bia Blasta. Supported by Carlow County Council, the Department of Community, Culture and Sport, and the Carlow Commemorations Committee, the project celebrated local heritage, food history, and community involvement. All videos are now available to view on the Library YouTube Channel.

Art Exhibition:

Visual Artist Mairead Holohan held an Environmental and Eco-Art Exhibition in Carlow Library from 25th July to 1st August. This featured eco-prints and nature-focused works created by participants in an eco-art course. The initiative was funded and assisted by Creative Ireland and the Carlow County Council Arts Office.

Grant Funding Updates

Small Scale Capital Investment 2026:

Following a successful funding application, €31,677.32 was awarded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) under the Small-Scale Capital Investment Scheme 2026 for the refurbishment of the children's area in Carlow Central Library. The project will enhance the library environment for children and families, creating a more welcoming, accessible and engaging space for reading, learning and participation in library programmes. Refurbishment works are currently underway, with the fit-out scheduled for completion in the coming weeks.

Services and Developments

Literacy Friendly Carlow County Council:

This initiative is currently being delivered as a pilot project in support of the objectives of the current Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), promoting inclusion and improved access to public services. Library, Heritage, Museum, Corporate and Economic Development/LEO staff have completed Literacy Awareness Training. Plain Language workshops have also commenced, helping staff communicate more clearly and make Council services and information more accessible. The pilot will help inform the wider rollout of the initiative across the organisation in 2027.

Skills for Life:

A total of 50 people participated in Skills for Life activities. These included Basic Digital Skills classes delivered in Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag libraries in partnership with KCETB Community Education. Participants gained practical digital skills to support everyday tasks and increase confidence in using technology.

Muinebheag library also hosted an 'Introduction to Sustainable Renewables and Energy Saving' pilot course, again in association with KCETB Community Education. Over the 5 sessions to date, 34 members of the public have learned about renewable energy technologies, sustainable energy practices and practical methods for reducing energy consumption at home and in the workplace. Library staff took the opportunity to promote the Home Energy Saving Kit which is available to borrow from all 4 libraries in the county.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library:

Two workshops were held in August, facilitated by Fiona Hall, psychotherapist and owner of Consciously Clearing. The workshops, “Tackle That To-Do List” and “Satisficing: How to Get Things Done When You Have Perfectionist Tendencies,” focused on supporting participants to improve productivity, wellbeing and self-management.

In August, Carlow Library commenced a monthly Let’s Talk Memory drop-in service in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. The initiative provides a welcoming and supportive space for people living with dementia, their families, carers and community members to discuss their experiences and access information and support. The drop-in service also offers reassurance and guidance for individuals with memory concerns or those seeking early advice and information in a confidential and supportive environment.

Library Outreach – services to Care Homes:

Staff from the library service accompanied the Arts Office ‘Music in Care Homes’ initiative to care homes throughout the county during late July and early August. Connections were made with residents and staff with a view to setting up outreach services to each of the homes. As part of the service the library will come to them, instead of them having to visit the library. A staff member from their local library branch will provide residents with the opportunity to borrow books, audiobooks, large print books, DVDs and other library materials. Residents will also be given help and advice with using library eServices on their smartphone or tablet and will be assisted with any other technical issues that they may have with using their device. It is hoped to begin services to all care homes in the next couple of months. Homes visited with the Arts Office include Sacred Heart Hospital, Bethany House and Hillview (all Carlow town), Signacare and Sonas (Tullow), St. Lazerian’s (Muinebheag) and Borris Lodge.

Local Studies and Archives:

During the summer work continued on many aspects of Local History and Archives including:

- The history of Carlow County Library Service book and research of the Library Association of Ireland Archive.
- An article was submitted to The Past (Wexford) and a publication to the Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN).
- Preparation and delivery of talks and lectures including Carlow Saints, Harsh Justice, Mullawn Cemetery and the Sugar Factory.
- Ongoing work on Carloviana, including the first article for the 2027 edition, two articles nearing completion and assistance with a further contribution.
- Participation in Heritage Week events, including launches at Borris House and Tullow Library.
- Attendance at the LAI Local Studies Committee meeting on 12 August.
- Continued contributions to ICAN ahead of its September launch.

AWS Upgrade – Library Management System:

At the end of July, the Library Management System was moved to Amazon Web Services (AWS). This provides a more reliable service with fewer interruptions, better security and improved backup of data. The new system can also handle higher demand and support future growth with minimal disruption to library services. Data is backed up in several secure locations, allowing quick recovery if something goes wrong, and updates can be applied more smoothly without taking the system offline.



AN TSEIRBHÍS EALAÍON/ARTS SERVICE

Carlow Beo!

As part of the Carlow BEO! 2026 programme, several live music and cultural events took place across County Carlow during July and August.

In July, the programme featured *Carlow is Ceolmhar* at Tully's Bar in Carlow Town on 11 July, with local band This Violet Ocean celebrating local and traditional music, while *Tullow Live Sessions: Celebrating Traditional Irish Music* took place at the Tara Arms in Tullow on 12 July, featuring Bran Murphy, Laura Doherty and guest fiddler Tara Breen, bringing traditional performers and audiences together in an intimate venue setting.

The programme expanded significantly in August. Carlow is Ceolmhar returned to Tully's Bar on 2 August, featuring Wizard Fruit with support from Makayla Chloe. On 7 August, *The Spirit of Opera* was staged in Carlow Methodist Church, showcasing performances by Maksym Lozovyi, Aoife Moran, Sarah Luttrell and Laura Ahearne. Later in the month, Carlow Methodist Church hosted a series of cultural evenings under the Carlow BEO! banner. A Night of Opera took place on 13 August, followed by Two Acts and a Monologue on 20 August, and Bernard & Brendan's African Musings on 27 August, combining music, storytelling, theatre and spoken-word elements. On 14 August, a trip down memory lane ensued as Rory Walsh and his band performed classics from the MTV Unplugged era in Scraggs Alley, while one of the Carlow Beo! programme highlights was Sounds of Carlow on 16 August at The Barracks, Carlow. Curated by Oisín O'Reilly, the event showcased a selection of Carlow-based musicians, including Ciara McNally, Adam Byrne, Becca Mitchell, Asophonics and Just Alice, demonstrating the depth and variety of contemporary musical talent in the county.

Overall, the July and August Carlow BEO! programme combined traditional music sessions, opera, storytelling and contemporary performance, bringing cultural activity to venues in Carlow Town and Tullow while supporting local artists and strengthening the county's live arts scene.

Culture Night:

Culture Night will take place nationwide on 18th September. Culture Night Carlow's Programme, managed by Carlow County Council Arts Office will feature over 30 free events across the county featuring hands on community workshops, musical performances, gatherings as Gaeilge, exhibitions and more. Full details are available on CultureNight.ie/Carlow, this programme will be officially launched on 3rd September.

Creative Ireland:

Intergenerational Creative Community Projects – Open Call

Creative Ireland Carlow, supported by Carlow Arts Office, is now inviting artists and creative practitioners to develop and deliver an exciting new intergenerational creative project bringing young people and older people together through the arts and creativity. This open call invites submissions for imaginative, inclusive projects that create genuine opportunities for both generations to work together, share stories and skills, learn from each other and create something together.

All artforms and creative disciplines are welcome. Projects should include a meaningful coming together of both groups, with a shared event, exhibition, performance, presentation or celebration at the end of the project.

Closing date: 1pm, Friday 4 September 2026

Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings

Funded through the Creative Ireland - Creativity for Health and Wellbeing fund, Carlow Arts Office is delighted to bring Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings concerts back to Carlow this summer, with lots of smiles, songs and plenty of great memories shared! This year's initiative, "Round the House and Mind the Dresser," sees Creative Ireland Carlow and Carlow Arts Office collaborate with Maksym Lozovyi, Alison Behan and Mad for Trad Carlow to deliver 17 live performances across eight Residential Healthcare Settings, helping ensure people of all ages can continue to experience the benefits of creativity and positive ageing.

Tullow Artist in Residence Group

After three months of creativity, learning and collaboration, the Tullow Artist in Residence Group is delighted to present Love, Life and Time, an exhibition of plaster cast works created with Artist in Residence Philip Cullen, now on display in Tullow Library. Over the course of the programme, each participant mixed their own plaster, designed and carefully planned their individual piece. The final 18 works reflect the unique stories, memories and creativity of each artist.

Hung in Tullow Library on 16 July, Love, Life and Time is a wonderful celebration of personal expression and the artistic journey the group has shared together.

A huge thank you to Philip Cullen for his inspiring guidance throughout the programme, Tullow Library for providing such a welcoming exhibition space, and Tullow Men's Shed for generously hosting the group over the past three months.

This project is funded by Creative Ireland Carlow and supported by Carlow Arts Office.

Creative Places Bagenalstown:

Experience Design artist: Abraham Burickson visited Bagenalstown in July as part of his Research & Development residency. The visit offered an inspiring opportunity to exchange ideas, share local experiences, and reflect on the future of community-led cultural development. Through conversations with residents and a close engagement with the town, he brought valuable insights into the importance of collaboration, inclusion, and creative place-making through Experience Design principles. His visit strengthened our ongoing work and reaffirmed the potential of Bagenalstown as a place where creativity and community can thrive together.

Supporting Creative Pathways for Neurodivergent Young People

CPB was delighted to support Óige, a parent-led group, in developing a successful Tusla funding application for a new year-long programme for neurodivergent young people. Working alongside parents, CPB helped shape the programme vision and develop a

strong proposal based on the needs and aspirations of local young people and their families.

The resulting programme, *Connections*, will take a neuro-affirmative approach, recognising and celebrating the unique strengths, talents, and perspectives of neurodivergent young people. Through a range of accessible creative workshops, participants will explore different forms of creative expression while building confidence, self-expression, social connections, and wellbeing. Parents will remain actively involved in guiding the programme throughout the year, ensuring it continues to reflect the interests and needs of participants.



SEIRBHÍŚÍ OIÐHREACHTA/HERITAGE SERVICES

Heritage Camp 2026:

The Heritage Office in collaboration with Active Carlow and Carlow County Library Service delivered a Heritage Camp for Children, aged 8-12 years, on a pilot basis for 2026. The 3-day Heritage Camp ran from 6-8 July 2026 inclusive. The events were designed to raise children's awareness of built, natural and cultural heritage and to get children actively involved in physical activities. The workshops had a focus on creativity and active participation in place-based learning. The facilitated workshops included a pottery making workshop in the morning, where children made and decorated pots using methods used in prehistoric times, making stained-glass designs inspired from the stained-glass windows in Presentation Buildings. The children learnt about bats and butterflies and participated in a creative workshop on kite making and decoration. Purpose made kites were also decorated and flown to much enjoyment in the ground of Carlow College, St. Patricks. The activities were a mix of sports, old style games and Gaelic football, face painting and paint a staff member's face. The tutors under the direction of Active Carlow ensured safe play and recreation activities and Carlow County Library staff ensured the events ran smoothly in the use of the Shaw Room, Carlow Library. Feedback was positive and the intention is to host a Heritage Camp in June 2027.

Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN):

The annual Regional meeting for the Irish Community Archive Network took place in Spellman Hall, Kildavin, Carlow on 9 July 2026. The one-day event saw a presentation by the Barragh Church and Cranavane Holy Well group that was followed by a county update meeting. The meeting enabled the participating groups discuss their progress on their respective projects for inclusion in the forthcoming Carlow page of the Irish Community Archive Network website. The groups went for a field visit to Cranavane Holy Well to acquaint themselves with the site and hear about the community work being done in the curtilage of the Holy Well.

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2026:

Several projects are commencing as scheduled and some are near completion.

Shackleton Carlow Connections:

The Heritage Officer is undertaking research into the Carlow connections with the Shackleton family, with specific reference to Ernest Shackleton's mother and grandmother. The research project is part of a collaboration with a community group associated with St. Marys Church of Ireland Church, Carlow, where Ernest Shackleton's parents were married. Mr. Paul Gorry is undertaking the genealogical research for the project, the preliminary results are proving interesting, and we look forward to the completed report at the end of 2026.

Restoration of Barge 107.b:

The Heritage Office in collaboration with several other Local Authority Heritage Offices has funded restoration works of a historic Barge 107.b. that utilised the River Barrow and Irelands inland waterways since the 1950's. A dedicated group of volunteers have restored the barge, are researching the historical context of the use of the barge and will kit-out the barge as an educational facility for community events and workshops to tell the heritage story (built, natural and cultural) of the canals and rivers that the barge utilised in its long work history.

Heritage and Wellbeing Project:

The Heritage Office has completed the data gathering for its pilot research project into Heritage and Wellbeing in County Carlow. The project expanded upon the Creative Carlow Holy Wells Project, where analysis of the results showed a reduction in stress for those who engaged with the Holy Wells. In 2026, the team of Carlow Heritage Office and Aisling O'Connor (Psychotherapist and Counsellor) expanded the research to include facilitated visits to Sherwood Park House, Borris House, a farm visit in Kilcruit and Biodiversity Garden, Hacketstown, intentionally timed to coincide with Heritage Week 2026. The participants were provided with a free coach trip and lunch in keeping with the consultant's findings regarding 'respect and social inclusion' and 'social participation' in the Age Friendly Carlow Strategic Plan (2025-2029). We look forward to sharing the results of the pilot research project before the end of the year.

Heritage video of the Carlow County Fire and Rescue Service:

The Heritage Office completed a video recounting aspects of the heritage of the Carlow County Fire and Rescue Service. The video was made possible with the support and input of Ben Woodhouse, Acting Chief Fire Officer, active and retired fire officers and Paul Curran. The heritage video will be launched before the end of the year.

Heritage Week 2026:

The Heritage Office delivered a programme exceeding fifty in-person events in County Carlow, over the nine days of Heritage Week 2026 from Saturday 15 to Sunday 23 August. The Heritage Office collaborated with Active Carlow and Carlow County Library Service, who kindly hosted events including book launches, children's heritage workshops in all branches and facilitated the presentation of the results of the Carlow Older Persons Council's project on oral recordings about the River Barrow in the mid-twentieth century. The Ardattin Community Group hosted an event showcasing the proposed steps for the conservation of the community hall in Ardattin; Borris Lacemakers celebrated their 10 anniversary with a range of activities in Borris that complimented the Carlow Heritage Potato project delivered by Carlow Library Service on behalf of the Carlow County Council Commemoration Committee and Ben Bayley

delivered a lecture on Echoes of Ourselves- Folk History and Architecture in Kildavin. Michael McCarthy (Active Carlow) worked with Orienteering Ireland and Carlow Heritage Office that culminated with the launch of a Tullow Photo Orienteering App before Heritage Week and hosted a children's events in Myshall on the second Sunday of Heritage Week. Several historic properties affiliated with the Historic Houses of Ireland opened their doors during Heritage Week and Borris House and Sherwood Park House agreed to open their doors as part of the Carlow Heritage and Wellbeing coach tours on Saturday 15 August. Carlow County Museum hosted the 'Big Dig' during Heritage Week that allowed children learn about excavation techniques. The programme was promoted on KCLR throughout the week with features of a selection of events in County Carlow.



MÚSAEM CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Museum Tours and Visitor Numbers:

July, in particular, was a busy month in the Museum. Tours were provided for eight separate groups, ranging from children's summer camps to international language schools and retirement groups. Both July and August had high general visitor numbers, reaching 3,500 over the two months.

Museum Events:

The School of Irish Archaeology's *Big Dig*, which was originally planned as a Museum event for Cruinniú na nÓg in June, was rescheduled for 20 August as part of Heritage Week. As always, it was a hugely successful sold-out event. Museum staff enhanced the event by providing attendees with additional information and encouraging a visit to the archaeology display.

Donations to the Museum Collections:

In early 2026, PL Curran (RIP) donated almost 100 items relating to Carlow Sugar Factory, to the Museum. His family contacted the Museum in July, to offer additional items and the Museum has now accepted a significant number of objects, including unique photographs, archival records and branded material relating to the establishment, progress and closing of the Carlow Sugar Factory.

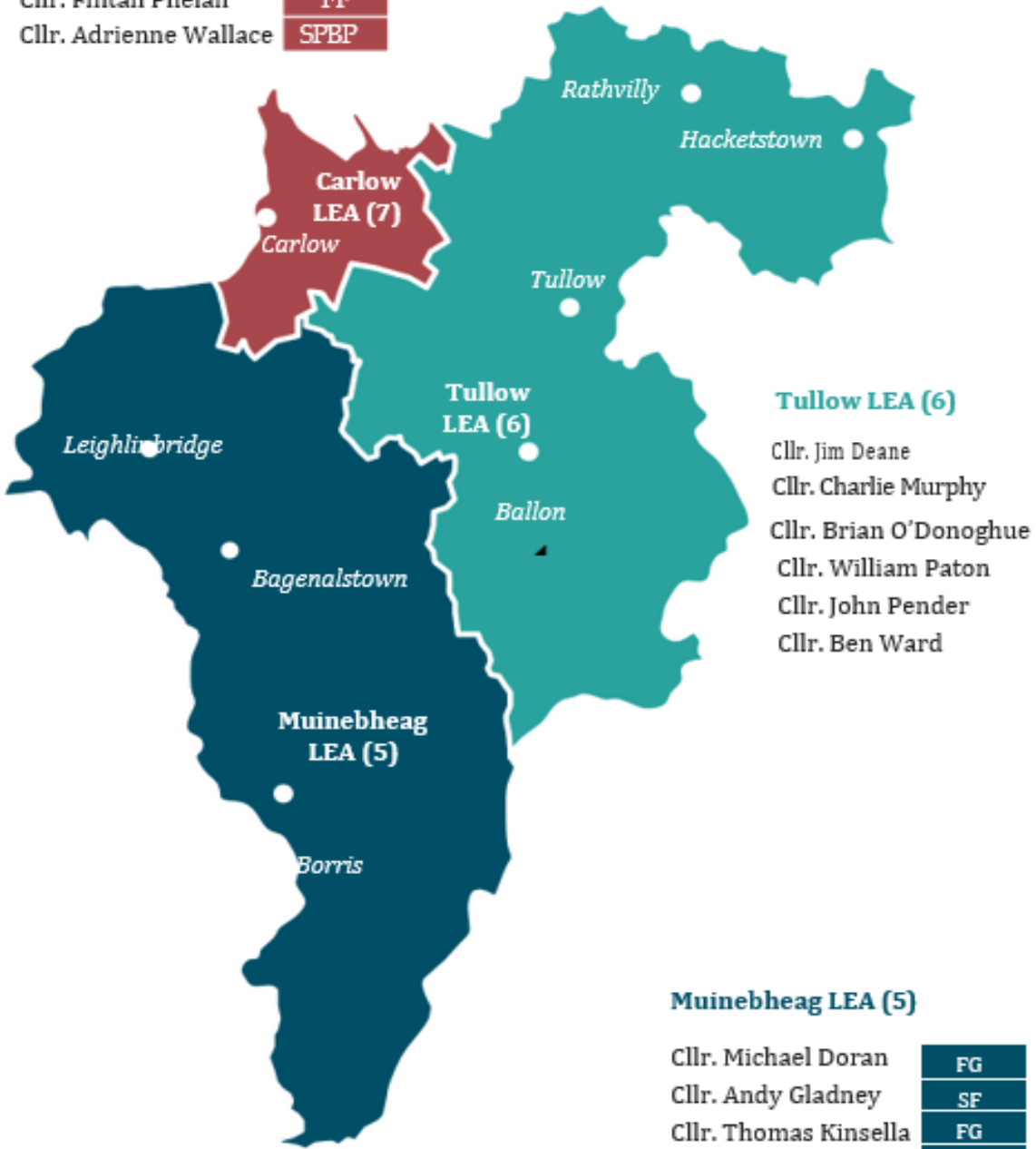
Carlow Choral Society have also donated their complete archive to the Museum. This includes all minute books since the establishment of the society in 1965, performance programmes and photographs. It makes a wonderful and comprehensive addition to the collections.

Staff Training:

During the months of July and August, Museum staff completed the IPB Risk Management Workshop, Literacy Awareness Training, Plain Language Training, Climate Action Training and Workstation Health and Safety Assessments.

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