

**Meán
Fómhair**



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



**September
2026**

**Tuarascáil
Bainistíochta an
Phríomhfheidhme**

**Chief
Executive's
Report**



Do: Gach Ball Comhairle Contae Cheatharlach

To: Each Member of Carlow County Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael Brennan, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

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

Claire Hartley, Stiúirthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:

Tithíocht / Housing

Coilín O'Reilly

Chief Executive
Coilín O'Reilly



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GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA/ CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Corporate Affairs	September
Freedom of Information Requests	20
Ombudsman Complaints	1
Meetings Facilitated for Elected Members Corporate	3
Electors Registered to Vote	46,626

Register of Electors:

The Electoral Reform Act 2022 modernised the Electoral Register allowing it to be updated throughout the year. This means people can register to vote or change their details at any time, except during the fourteen days before an election or referendum.

Anyone who wants to check if they are registered to vote, update their details, or register for the first time can visit [Voter.ie](https://voter.ie).

The Franchise Team was delighted to visit Tullow Library on 17th September 2026. Team members were available to answer questions, provide guidance, and help people register to vote or update their details.

People in Carlow are encouraged to check if they are eligible to vote, make sure their details are correct on the register, and learn more about their voting rights. Remember: Your Vote is Your Voice.

Voter.ie Migration

In August, Carlow County Council began using [Voter.ie](https://voter.ie) as part of a phased rollout across the country. [Voter.ie](https://voter.ie) is the new online service that allows people to register to vote and update their voter details. [Voter.ie](https://voter.ie) is being used daily by the Franchise team.

In September Franchise staff began a letter campaign to people on the Register of Electors who have not provided their date of birth. Collecting this information will help improve the accuracy of the register.

Communications and Customer Service Desk

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí/Customer Services	September
Telephone Calls Received	864
Customers to Reception	665
Website Visitors	48,510
Media	7

RÁS na mBan:

Event starting point was facilitated by Carlow County Council at the County Buildings.



OIFIG FIONTAIR ÁITIÚL/ LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

	No.	Ytd
Direct Financial Support Granted	16	121
Business Advice Clinics	22	261
Participants for all training programmes	158	1217
Start Your Own Business Training	19	95
No. of Completed Mentoring	31	146
No of Ongoing Mentoring	17	17

Evaluation & Approvals Committee

A meeting of the Local Enterprise Office Evaluation & Approvals Committee was held in September with €95,263 in grant aid was approved.

Future Focus Management Development Series

The Future Focus Management Development Series, delivered in partnership with Local Enterprise Office Kilkenny, commenced in September with 10 Carlow businesses participating in the programme.

Public Procurement for SMEs

The Local Enterprise Office delivered a programme for 15 Carlow businesses in September for SMEs interested in public sector procurement contracts.

Breakfast Networking Event

The Local Enterprise Office held a breakfast networking event in September focussing on building resilience in small businesses with economist and financial analyst Susan Hayes Culleton as guest speaker. 58 businesses registered to attend this event.

Powerhouse

20 female founders attended the Up Close with Oprah Winfrey event in Dublin's 3Arena on Monday 14th September. The event's themes included resilience and female leadership.

GRANT APPROVED (Ytd)	No.	€
Financial Assistance to Manufacturing & International Services Companies		
Business Expansion Grants	8	€283,056
Feasibility Grants	6	€42,968
Priming Grants	3	€56,303
Market Exporter Grants	8	€47,440
Green for Business Grants	26	€43,330
Digital for Business Grants	20	€28,425
Lean for Business Grants	12	€19,800
Energy Efficiency Grant	24	€211,758
Grow Digital Grant	14	€61,659



FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCH/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Exchange

The Exchange hosted two nights of music during the month as part of Carlow BEO! And Culture Night. Both events received very positive feedback and the venue continues to attract a lot of community interest and has led to an increase in activity in this area.

Industrial Estate Signage

A contractor has been awarded and the signage is in design stage for Strawhall Industrial Estate & Kernanstown Industrial Estates.

Samhain

The Samhain programme launched in early September with press releases, digital campaign, Bee Visible and road signage. 2,000 people have booked for events to date across the programme run by Active Carlow, Visual, Carlow Tourism, Carlow Library Services and Carlow County Council.

Pan Celtic International Festival 2027

The Executive and members of Pan Celtic committee held a meeting with the Pan Celtic International team in early September. The International Pan Celtic Committee were very complimentary of Carlow as hosts for Pan Celtic International Festival. Planning has commenced for Pan Celtic 2027.

Streetfest 2026

As part of Community Games in Visual and Carlow College, Carlow Makers Market was hosted on College Street. This market showcased some of the excellent craft makers from across County Carlow.

#ShopLocalShopCarlow & County Promotion.

The digital programme “Grá Carlow” in collaboration with County Carlow Chamber and Carlow Tourism continues to receive great traction online and new digital content will be created over the coming weeks. As part of Grá Carlow local businesses were featured on Ireland AM and in The Sunday Business Post during September.

Casual Trading Bye Laws

Casual Trading Bye Laws 2026 came into effect on 23rd September, 2026. Consultation with Carlow Farmers Market concluded with a published operational document. Applications will be evaluated in October 2026.

Carlow Tourism & Fáilte Ireland

Carlow County Council in collaboration with Carlow Tourism officially launched The Big Barn Bash Family Food Festival in September which is in part sponsored in part by Fáilte Ireland.

Carlow County Council continues to work on the VEDP with Fáilte Ireland and an in-house workshop on Tourism Mobility was held in September 2026.



FORBAIRT TIONSCADAL SPEISIALTA/ SPECIAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT

Catalyst HQ – SMART Regions

The project has moved into the delivery phase, with weekly project meetings now underway to progress design, governance, and implementation milestones. The project construction tender is closed and now in evaluation and award stage.

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 issued on 5 June, and a meeting will be held after the tender submission closing date. The tender was awarded and will commence on-site in October 2026.

Creative Europe – EU Craft Work 4.0 ALL

The EU Craft project is ongoing with regular weekly communications focused on monitoring and reviewing key performance metrics.

A call has been opened for participants to attend the Academy in Greece focused on jewellery in September. 3 people will be attending in person on the 29th September– 3rd October and 2 people will be participating online.

A call was opened for people to participate in the Craft Festival in Barcelona in December 2026. 7 people applied for 6 places.

Erasmus + KA2 - Hands Across Generations

A Steering Group meeting was held on 3rd and 4th June in Greece, with all project partners in attendance. The meeting focused on reviewing progress to date and agreeing on the next steps to support the continued development of the project. 2 digital training sessions were held online on 1st September - AI & Productivity Tools for the Creative Sector for Older Adults, with 33 people attending and one on the 23rd September Digital Marketing for the Creative Sector for Older Adults with 34 in attendance. Caroline Busher facilitated 2 workshops on the 15th and 22nd September for Crafters highlighting Creative Storytelling for your Business with 5 people in attendance. Preparations are ongoing for the Conference in February 2027 in Google Headquarters in Dublin, in partnership with the South East Local Enterprise Offices

Erasmus + KA2 - Digi-Text

A Brainstorming meeting was held on the 26th August to develop training modules, with the curriculum due by the 21st October. A partner meeting was also held online on the 8th September.

Erasmus + KA2 – EART

The first online partner meeting for the new project took place on the 7th September with all partners represented. The first in person meeting will take place in Greece on the 5th-7th October with 5 people from Carlow County Council and the Visual travelling. Carlow County Council attended a Project Management Information Day with Leargas in Dublin.

Carlow- Luxembourg

A series of meetings was progressed for the Economic Development programme for Carlow and Luxembourg during the EU Presidency. A funding application was submitted to Communicating Europe Fund in partnership with libraries for these activities.

Interreg Europe - Innocom

Planning is ongoing for the last partner meeting in Brussels on the 29th and 30th September. The closing conference for Innocom was held on the 29th and 30th September with 2 staff and 6 stakeholders attending same. Carlow County Council was responsible for preparing the closing video.



PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT/PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Bainistíocht Airgeadais/ Development Management

	Sept	YTD
No. Pre-Planning Meetings Held	15	50
FI/Clarification Requests	24	159
Decisions to Refuse	4	29
Decisions to Grant	30	232
Total Valid Application Received	26	242
Invalid Planning Application	8	72
Planning Applications Received	35	315
Exemption /Licence Applications Received	10	72
Compliance Requests Received	25	148

****1 planning app pre-validation at time of completion**

Láithreáin Thréigthe/ Derelict Sites

	Sept	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	9
No. of Bonds Files Closed	1
Cash Security Received 2026	€252,520
Security Bond Held	€3,224,914.30
Bank/Guarantee Bonds	€1,603,786.70
Bonds Archived	0

Gníomhaíochtaí Forfheidhmithe/ Enforcement Activities

	Sept	YTD
Court Proceedings Ongoing	9	
Warning Letter Issued	4	20
Enforcement Notice Served	1	8
Complaints Closed	7	18
New Enforcement Files Opened	4	43

Struchtúir Chontúirteacha/ Dangerous Structures

	Sept	YTD
Complaints Received	3	11
Notices/Letters Issued	0	3
No of Active Files	12	
No. of Live Dangerous Structure	3	

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

	YTD
Dev. Under Review (Subject to Security Bond Funding)	6
Proposed Declaration S180 P&D Act	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 September 2026

Planning and Development Act 2024 Commencement Order Number 2026/02

notifies local authorities and other stakeholders of the commencement of the remaining provisions of Part 16 of the Act in relation to the licensing of outdoor events which came into operation on the 9th September. Among other provisions within the 2024 Act, Section 478 restates section 230 of the Act of 2000 and obliges a person who intends to

hold an event covered by Part 16 to obtain a licence. It will be an offence to hold such an event without a licence, or to be in control of land when an unlicensed event is held. It also provides that regulations can be made concerning the procedures for licence applications, including public notice requirements and documentation required to be submitted with an application. Provision is also made for codes of practice to be issued by the Minister or any other Minister to provide practical guidance on the requirements of this Part. The Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026 (S.I. No. 468 of 2026) also came into operation on 09 September 2026 and provide the procedural framework for applications for licences for outdoor events.

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](#)



ATHNUACHANA/REGENERATION

Clár Gníomhachtaíthe/ Vacant & Derelict Property Activation Programme

Vacant/Derelict Properties identified through survey	699
Properties activated	660
Action being taken by owners	152
Owner has engaged	46
Properties brought back in to use	230

Deontas Athchóirithe Maoine Folmha/ Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Received	210
FI Requested	13
Inspection to be carried out	10
Applications Approved	62
Applications Declined	3
Applications Withdrawn	55
Works Complete being processed for payment	8
Grants paid to date	59

Clár CPO/ CPO Programme

CPO Commenced	50
CPO Withdrawn	5
CPO Referred to ACP	1
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	11
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 tender deadline 22/10/2026	€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. Kick off meeting took place 25/08/2026 Design progressing	€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 advertised, closed and submissions currently under evaluation	€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 held on 15/09/2026 Onsite meeting with Design Team scheduled for October	€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. Site visit with both teams took place on 11/08/2028. Design Team meetings scheduled for every 2 weeks Progress Report meetings scheduled for every month.	€6,650,000



BÓITHRE, IOMPAR AGUS TIONSCADAIL SPEISIALTA/ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

	September-2026	Ytd
Road Opening Licence	47	407
Abnormal Load Permits	11	65
Public Lighting repairs	90	589
Reported Outages	26	158
Total No of Ticketing awaiting repair	36	233

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 **(Complete, awaiting ESB Connection **
- Oaklawns ** Awaiting connection from ESB**
- Idrone Park ** Lighting design received, works to progress on a phased basis. Works to start in 2027**

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 <i>Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement)</i> 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 October, 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

	N80 Clonmacshane to Ballykealy Pavement Improvement Scheme	Pavement Repair & Renewal Report for this scheme. (expected in Q3-2026), Following approval, the design & procurement will 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.
	Specific Improvement Project (R448 Royal Oak Junction Safety Enhancement Scheme)	Carlow Co Co has progressed the detail design for Phase-1 consisting of works on the 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 2 (Options Selection) is currently underway, and an Emerging Preferred Option (EPO) has been identified by the project team, based on the detailed Phase 2 assessments. 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. This feedback will allow the project team to finalise their assessments with the objective of confirming the preferred option and will allow the project to progress towards the Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation.
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 27th February 2025, prior to the 28th February deadline. The Annual Noise Action Report details the summary list of actions within the noise action plan and provides progress made in the 2025 calendar year. Details of Priority Important Areas (PIAs) which have been addressed under the noise action plan in the 2025 year are set out in the Annual Noise Action Report 2025 submitted. This report has been published on the Council’s webpage under Roads Section on Noise.
Local Improvement Scheme	Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht	An allocation of €374,850 for Local Improvement Schemes has been received by Carlow County Council. Priority 1 5 Schemes selected costing €374,846.26. All works are now completed.
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 16th 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 Liaising 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	SRTS - Queen of the Universe National School, Bagenalstown.	The official opening of the scheme is due to take place on Monday 19 th October.

	SRTS – St. Brigid’s National School, Bagenalstown.	The official opening of the scheme is due to take place on Monday 19th October.
	Hillbrook Estate Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Tullow	The construction tender documents for the scheme were issued on 08/09/26 with the closing date for submissions set at 25/09/26. A total of 5no. tenders were received and are currently being assessed. The works contractor is expected to be appointed in early October with construction expected to commence shortly after.
	Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Graiguecullen	A Preliminary Section 38 Public Consultation Report was presented at September’s Council Meeting and subsequently uploaded to the public consultation portal for public consumption. The report summarised the initial findings of the public consultation process. Further site investigations and amendments to the scheme design are currently being undertaken to address the issues raised. Following this work a Final Section 38 Public Consultation Report will be prepared, the findings of which, will inform the next stage of the Section 38 process.
	SRTS – St. Brigid’s N.S., Grange, Tullow.	The construction tender stage is now complete and Tower Civil Engineering Ltd. have been appointed as the main Contractor for this scheme. Works are expected to commence shortly.
	SRTS - Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown	The Section 38 public consultation process commenced on 08/09/2026. The closing date for submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development was 28/09/2026. A total of 4no. submissions were made in relation to the proposals. 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.
	2026 NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:	Contractor’s start date further delayed despite best efforts to expedite a commencement. Tony Kirwin (Waterford) to now commence on 5 th October starting in Kildavin and then on to Ballon. Works programme will now run until Christmas week to complete 30 new Bus stop enhancements. Traffic sensitive locations are scheduled during School closures.

	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.
Special Projects	Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)	LUX testing of LED lanterns is underway to ensure installed lighting levels are in accordance with design levels.
	Carlow Town Mobility Hubs Project	The NTA are currently reviewing the impact of regulatory changes to scooter use and the impact on proposed mobility hub sites. Clarity is being sought from the Department of Transport if scooters will continue to the part of the mobility hub pilot. Progress is on hold until clarification is received.
URDF	Carlow Town – URDF – Rail Link through St. Patrick’s College	The contractor is progressing on site, with works programmed to finish by Nov., but likely to finish in Dec. Final finishes are underway in a number of areas for the works.
	Carlow Town – URDF – Town Centre Scheme - 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. The OMC has been updated and sent to the Dept. for approval, in order to publish the tender. A contractor framework is in the process of being set up. Framework submission window is now closed, submissions are currently being reviewed and sample projects are being inspected.
	Carlow Town – TCRIF – Link Streets Project	This is one of the four projects that were successfully submitted for funding. A Part 8 planning application is currently being finalised for consultation and publication in Oct.



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

Gearáin/Complaints 2026 Ytd.

Complaint Type	Complaints	Active	Resolved
Litter	363	68	294
Waste	121	37	84
Water Pollution	29	9	20
Noise	15	4	11
Air Pollution	4	2	2
Burning	21	6	15
Sludge/Slurry	7	0	7
Veterinary/Vermin	51	26	25
Paper	0	0	0
Glass	2	0	2
Hedge Cutting	0	0	0
Abandoned Cars	78	33	45
Invasive Species	3	1	2
Total	694	186	507

**excluding c/f from 2025*

Forfheidhmiú/Enforcement 2026 Ytd.

Legislation	Advisory Letter	Warning Letter	Notice	Fines issued
Litter Act	0	0	0	102
Air Pollution Act	27	1	0	0
Water Pollution Act	5	13	0	0
Waste Management Act	3	32	0	0
Environmental Protection Act	0	0	0	0
Farm Warning letters	3	0	0	0
Total	38	46	0	102

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

	2026
Month Beginning	0
Strays	10
Surrenders	7
Totals	17

	2026
Reclaims	2
Re-homed by Shelter	0
Directed to Rescue	7
End of Month	8
Total	17

Madraí a Rialú/Control of Dogs 2026

Licences purchased following Dog Warden visit	174
Annual Licences purchased	421
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments registered	10

Cigireachtaí Feirme/Farm Inspections

National Agricultural Inspection Programme NAIP - Initial	67
Follow up Inspections	8
Total	75

Iniúchtaí Uisce/Uisce Briste/Water/Wastewater Inspections 2026

	2026
Discharge Licences to Water (Section 4)	6
Audits of Private Water Supplies	0
Additional Farm Inspections – Complaints, Nutrient Management Plan Reviews, Sludge Spreading Inspections	60
River investigative monitoring samples and analysis	157
Bathing Water samples	2
Septic Tank inspections for National Inspection Plan	14
Surface & Groundwater Protection Inspections of land e.g. drinking water source protection for safe use of pesticides	7
Unauthorised discharges investigated – Pollution instances	27
Agricultural Planning Inspections - Reports	31

Bathing Water Monitoring

Bathing Water samples	10
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The 2026 bathing water monitoring programme concluded during September. Monitoring results for both designated bathing water locations at Clashganny and Bagenalstown were positive, with water quality remaining consistently good throughout the bathing season.

Testing showed low levels of the bacteria used to assess bathing water quality and no evidence of significant pollution events during the season. Overall, the results indicate that both locations remained suitable for recreational use and continue to reflect the generally good water quality of the River Barrow at these bathing areas

Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031

The Strategic Policy Committee recommended the adoption of the Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031 during September. The Plan sets out the Council's strategic approach to protecting, enhancing and restoring biodiversity throughout the county over the next five years and will be considered by the elected members at the October Council Meeting. During the reporting period, two biodiversity initiatives supported by Carlow County Council, the *Lawns into Lunch* campaign and the River Restoration Programme, were shortlisted for national awards reflecting the growing recognition of biodiversity and nature restoration initiatives being delivered across County Carlow.

Climate Change

Secondary School climate action workshops have commenced, with a focus on increasing students' understanding of climate change and raising awareness of the Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone and its role in delivering local climate action. The workshops form part of a pilot education programme developed in collaboration with the Rediscovery Centre, providing students with practical knowledge and opportunities to engage with climate solutions at a local level. The initiative is funded through the National Decarbonising Zone Activation Fund and aims to build climate literacy, encourage positive behaviour change, and empower young people to participate in the transition to a low-carbon future.

Support was provided to a range of events and activities during SDG Month at SETU, helping to promote awareness and understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among students, staff and the wider community. The collaboration strengthened partnerships with SETU and supported ongoing efforts to embed sustainability, awareness, and action, across the third-level education sector.

Carlow County Council's Climate Action Team partnered with South-East Technological University (SETU) Carlow to develop student-led research projects focused on the Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone. The initiative aims to gather insights into public attitudes, behaviours and barriers relating to climate action, with research themes including active travel, home energy retrofits, climate communications, food waste prevention, biodiversity, youth engagement and public awareness of the Decarbonising Zone. Council staff delivered a project briefing to students on local climate targets, emissions data and current climate action initiatives, with the findings expected to support future climate communications, community engagement and the delivery of climate action measures across Carlow Town.

Attendance at the Full Circle Awards in VISUAL Carlow on 17 September 2026 provided an opportunity to celebrate and recognise local achievements in sustainability, circular economy practices, and community-led environmental action. The event highlighted the positive impact of individuals, organisations, and community groups working to reduce waste, promote reuse, and support a more sustainable future for County Carlow.

Environmental Awareness

During September, a range of environmental awareness, education and community engagement initiatives were delivered across the county.

- Food waste prevention remained a key focus, with combined food waste awareness talks delivered by the EAO and Zero Waste cookery demonstrations by Derek Oman at An Gairdín Beo and Tullow Tennis Club, attracting more than 70 participants.
- A school waste management visit was carried out at Knockbeg College, providing students with practical guidance on waste reduction and sustainable resource management.
- Engagement took place with the Carlow Heritage Seed Library initiative at Carlow Library, promoting awareness of seed saving, biodiversity, and sustainable food systems.
- These activities supported increased community awareness of food waste prevention, waste reduction, and circular economy principles, while encouraging practical actions at household and community level.
- Circular economy and sustainable fashion initiatives continued throughout the reporting period, including the delivery of a Clothing Swap Event as part of Entente Florale, promoting textile reuse and waste prevention.
- A sustainability awareness stand was hosted during SETU Freshers Week, engaging students on waste reduction, circular economy principles, and sustainable lifestyle choices.
- Participation in the Regional Greener Festivals & Events Waste Workshop in Cashel provided opportunities to share best practice and build capacity for waste prevention and resource efficiency at community events.

These activities supported greater awareness of circular economy principles, encouraged sustainable consumption behaviours, and promoted waste reduction across the community.

Three fully booked textile sustainability workshops were delivered at the Town Hall as part of the Fabric of Change Carlow initiative, demonstrating strong public interest in sustainable fashion and textile reuse. The workshop series included:-

- Permission to Mend
- Empowering Young People, and
- Buying & Selling on Vinted & Depop

These workshops provided practical skills and knowledge to support more sustainable clothing choices. Participants were encouraged to extend the lifespan of textiles through repair, reuse, upcycling, and second-hand purchasing, helping to reduce textile waste and promote circular economy practices.

These activities contributed to increased awareness of waste prevention, resource efficiency, sustainable consumption, community development, and climate action, engaging a wide range of audiences across the county.

Bagenalstown Cemetery Extension

Works on the Bagenalstown Cemetery Extension progressed very well throughout September and the project is now nearing completion, with all works expected to be completed during October. The project represents a significant investment in cemetery infrastructure and will address the long-term burial needs of the Muine Bheag area.

The extension project will provide capacity for approximately 1,210 new grave spaces, together with a new columbarium wall, 41 car parking spaces, improved access arrangements and associated infrastructure. The development was progressed following the identification of limited remaining capacity within the existing cemetery and will ensure adequate burial provision is available to serve the community for many years into the future

Anti-Dumping Initiative

CCTV Location		Number of Offences Detected
1	Hacketstown Bring Bank	65
2	Tullogh Bring Bank	99
3	St. Mary's Cemetery	11
4	Perry's Car Park (1)	27
5	Perry's Car Park (2)	11
6	Carrigbrook	8
7	Ardristan Laneway	4
8	The Laurels	3
9	Booleyrathornan	2
10	Barrow Car Park Bring Bank	2
11	Askea Bring Bank	1
12	Cloughna Lane	1
Total Number of Offences YTD		234

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

Anti-Dumping Enforcement

Carlow County Council continued to make significant progress in tackling illegal dumping and littering offences during September through its Anti-Dumping Initiative CCTV surveillance programme. During the month, two further successful convictions were secured in the District Court arising from illegal dumping offences detected at the Tullow Bring Bank. These prosecutions build on previous enforcement successes and demonstrate the Council's commitment to pursuing offenders through the courts where sufficient evidence exists.



SEIRBHÍSÍ ÉIGEANDÁLA AGUS RIALÚ FOIRGNAÍOCHTA/EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL

	September 26	YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	6	44
Building Control Inspections	1	56
Disability Access Certificates	4	20
Commencement Notices	18	146
Certificates of Compliance	2	24

No. of Fire Call outs per Station	September 26	YTD
Bagenalstown	12	160
Carlow Town	15	321
Hacketstown	3	48
Tullow	11	124

No. of Fires within Areas	September 26	YTD
Carlow	17	178
Adjoining Counties	0	27

Special Services: September 2026	Number
Entrapment	0
Gas/Chemicals	1
Hazardous Substances in Transit	0
Hazardous Substances Non-Fire	0
Rescue from Machinery	0
Miscellaneous	4
Other Rescue	4
Rescue/Removal of Persons from Water	0
Road Traffic Accident	4
Water Pumping/Flooding	0
	13

Total	
False Alarms: September 26	Number
Malicious	0
Good Intent	1
Total	1

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 is now awaiting to commence the Part VIII process.

A new ECO Class B Fire Appliance has been delivered and is now stationed at the Bagenalstown Fire Station. One further new Class B Fire Appliance has been allocated to Carlow under the extended framework which will be built at HPMP Tullow in 2027.

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. These Generators will be installed in October 2026.

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. Tendering has been completed and HPMP have been awarded this contract.

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. Tendering is now complete and awards to successful suppliers will be made in October 2026.

Operations

Emergency Service Driver Standard training has been completed this month for new drivers across the four fire stations. Firefighters also attended the first QQI accredited Hazardous Materials training course delivered at Carlow Fire Station HQ.

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.

Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown

10 firefighters from Meath fire services completed the QQI Using Breathing Apparatus Compartment Fire Behaviour course. 60 firefighters from Louth and Cork County fire services completed Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher training and 13 firefighters from Waterford, Meath, Carlow, Longford and Galway fire services completed the QQI Using Breathing Apparatus course at the Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown in this period.



COSAINT SHIBHIALTA / CIVIL DEFENCE

Date September	Description / Purpose	Area
1 st	Emergency Generators	Myshall Community Hub
5 th	National Services Day – display of equipment	Kilkenny Castle
6 th	Display of Equipment – First Aid cover supported by Kilkenny Civil Defence with Ambulance.	Fenagh Steam Rally
9 th	Emergency Generators	Ballymurphy Community Hub
12 th	Search Responder Course	Bagenalstown
13 th	Search Responder Course	Bagenalstown
15 th	Emergency Generators	Hacketstown Community Hub
18 th	Presentation Night – Volunteer long service medal presentations	McGrath Hall, Bagenalstown
19 th	Entente Florale Europe – Generators and First Aid cover	St. Patricks College, Carlow

Weekly Training:

- Weekly training continued throughout September at Headquarters in Bagenalstown.

Training Courses:

- Current ongoing courses being attended include
 - Emergency First Responder – Local.
 - CFR, FAR & EFR Instructor recertification – Civil Defence College Roscrea.
 - Powerboat Coxswain familiarisation – Local.

New Recruits:

- Potential new recruits contacted re recruitment process starting October 1st.



AN RANNÓG TITHÍOCHTA/ HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Total Housing Stock	2172
Social Housing Applications	46/546 YTD
Total HAP Tenancies	424
New HAP 2026/Total applications received	16
HAP +/- on 2025	-98
Transfer Applications	10/56 YTD
Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints	9/47 YTD
Housing Maintenance Calls Logged	349/2258 YTD
CAS Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0 YTD
SHIP Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0
New Allocations	11/120 YTD

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

	September	Year to date
No. of Loan Offer drawdowns including partial drawdown	1	3
Final Loan Approvals	1	4
No. of AIPs Issued	0	5
No. of LAHL Received	2	13
Value of Drawdown	€200,000.00	€427,900.00

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

	Total applications approved at 30/09/2026	No. of valid applications under consideration at 30/09/2026	Total number of applications on hand at 30/09/2026
Housing Aid for Older People	145	44	189
Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability	56	80	136
Mobility Aid	8	12	20
Total	209	136	345

Location	No. of Units	Breakdown of units	Status	Delivery Date
CARLOW MD				
Lochain Bui	11	11 x 2 bed units	Part V Agreement completed.	2026/2027
Cois Dara (Phase 3) – Part V	16	16 x 2 bed units	Part V agreed, 8 units acquired & allocated, 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 unit	Completed	2026
12 Burrin Street (CPO)	3	4 x 1 bed units	Preliminary design stage.	tbc
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 closed, applications under review.	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, Part VIII advertised 08/09/2026 closing date for submissions 23/10/2026	2027
Muine Bheag MD				
Upper Main Street Borris	2	2 x 2 bed units	Allocated.	2026
Green Drake, Borris (AHB – Tintean)	17	2 x 1 bed units 15 x 2 bed units	Allocation process underway	2026
Health Centre Tinnahinch	1	2 x 2 bed units	Pre Part VIII	2027

Mionscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na Tithe/Housing Inspections

	Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	Private Rented (PRTB)	Complaints	Total
First Inspection	45	11	183	5	244
Re-inspection	42	5	14	5	66
Total Compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	13	1	26	1	41
Total Non-compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	73	15	171	9	268
Improvement Notice	11	2	3	2	18
Prohibition Notice	5	0	2	0	7

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Dídean / Homeless Services Update 30th September 2026

<i>Temporary Emergency Accommodation</i>			
	Adult	Children	Total
De Paul Accommodation	18	0	18
Additional Emergency Accommodation	45	40	85
Total in Emergency Accommodation	63	40	103
<i>Homeless Presentations – September</i>			
Total Presentations	42 Adults & 35 Children		
Prevention/not placed	36 Adults & 31 Children		

<i>Own Front Door (OFD) – Supported Accommodation</i>			
	Adult	Children	Total
KVHA	41	34	75
Refuge/Safehouse	4	6	10
Focus Ireland	4	10	14
Total	49	50	99



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	August-26	Year To Date
In Person Motor Tax Transactions	1,135	9,954
Online Motor Tax Transactions	5,820	48,704
Total Transactions	6,995	58,658
<i>Percentage of Online Transactions</i>	83.68%	83.03%



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

Active Carlow Programmes/Activities/Training/Workshops	23
Active Carlow Payments Processed	52
Active Carlow Social Media Metrics	19726 views
Community Engagement (meetings/events)	8
Community Grants Processed	15 claims processed totalling €12,089.81
Discretionary Funding Processed	30 claims processed totalling €18,024.75
Local Enhancement Programme 2026 Grants Processed	12 claims totalling €11,652.55

Active Carlow

Women's Introductory Swimming, delivered in partnership with She Swims, ran across September and October in Carlow, engaging **45 women** across two programmes and helping participants build confidence in the water, improve swimming skills and increase physical activity levels.

Teen Girls Strength & Conditioning programmes commenced in **Muine Bheag and Tullow** during September, engaging **20 teenage girls** in structured exercise sessions focused on strength, fitness, confidence and long-term participation in physical activity.

Teen Boys Strength & Conditioning programmes began in **Tullow and Muine Bheag**, introducing **19 young participants** to safe and effective strength training in a supportive and social environment.

Buggy Buddies continued in both **Tullow and Muine Bheag**, providing **25 new parents** with opportunities to be active, improve wellbeing and connect with others in their local community.

Come & Try Tennis was launched in **Tullow**, with participant recruitment underway and interest generated from **10 potential participants** ahead of programme delivery in October.

	Fit Farmers commenced in Muine Bheag on 23rd September, engaging 15 members of the farming community in a programme designed to improve physical health, mental wellbeing and social connection. Youthreach Winter 2026 began in Carlow on 18th September, engaging 18 young people through multi-sport activities aimed at increasing participation, building confidence and supporting positive lifestyle choices. One-to-one ESF engagement work continued throughout September, providing personalised support to individuals experiencing barriers to participation and helping connect them with suitable physical activity opportunities. Sports First Aid Training was delivered on 26th September, with 27 participants from local clubs and organisations completing accredited training in essential first aid and emergency response skills. Safeguarding training courses were delivered on 24th and 30th September, equipping 28 coaches, volunteers and club officers with the knowledge and skills required to create safe and inclusive sporting environments. Forever Fit continued throughout September, engaging 49 older adults in regular physical activity sessions designed to improve mobility, strength, balance and overall wellbeing while reducing social isolation. Across all programmes and training initiatives, Active Carlow engaged over 270 participants during the reporting period, with a strong focus on women, teenagers, older adults, disadvantaged groups and community capacity building through education and training.
Community Development	Community engagement remains strong, with tangible progress in developing and supporting Residents' Associations, encouraging youth volunteering and strengthening links between local communities and the Council. September also saw significant preparation for upcoming community initiatives and Pride of Place activities.

Community Roots Programme 2026

- The programme is nearing completion, with **24 young people completing 30 hours of volunteering each**.
- Participants have also completed training in **First Aid, Manual Handling and Child Protection**.
- The programme aims to encourage participants to maintain their involvement with local community and voluntary groups.
- An end-of-programme visit to **Shielbaggan Adventure Centre**, in conjunction with **CRY**, is being finalised.

Cois Dara Estate, Tullow Road

- An open meeting is scheduled for **17 October** to support the establishment of a Residents' Association.
- **Muintir na Tíre** will attend to provide information on community safety and supports available to residents.
- **Éire Óg** has been booked as the venue, refreshments arranged and **250 resident-designed flyers** printed for distribution.
- Engagement through the Cois Dara Facebook group continues to grow.

Poacher's Gate, Paupish Lane

- The Residents' Association continues to engage with the Council and **PPN** regarding estate improvements and strengthening the operation of its committee.
- A meeting with residents identified key priorities, with follow-up action undertaken on a number of requests.
- Council representatives have also engaged directly with the group, with positive feedback received on the support provided.

September Activity at a Glance

During the month:

- **14 estate site visits** undertaken across seven estates.
- **7 in-person meetings** and **2 training days** attended.
- **4 Christmas activities planning meetings** attended.
- **4 engagements with other Council departments** regarding projects, applications and enquiries.

	• 20+ interactions with councillors through meetings, telephone calls and email. • 1 potential new Residents' Association identified in Ballynattin, Borris. • 250 flyers printed and distributed to households in Cois Dara. Community Support Centre workshops were organised and held in Ballymurphy and Hacketstown. Carlow Pride of Place Awards are being finalised and preparations for the awards night is well underway. IPB Pride of Place Awards Night is fast approaching – 24th October 2026. Preparations were being finalised.
Healthy Carlow	• Carlow Period Dignity, funded by the Department of Health, is a community driven effort by Carlow County Council to aimed at addressing period poverty in the County. Having extended to this initiative through Carlow GAA, there are now 7 out of 27 GAA Clubs who offer free product to their communities in the clubs. Visual Art Centre are also listed as a publicly accessible building offering period product. • The NAU Campaign is a prevention campaign for smoking and vaping that is led by young people. The Campaign is an ask from young people to consider your activity in outdoor spaces. A presentation is scheduled before the Community Development, Recreation, Amenity, Sports, Arts, Culture, Libraries, Museum and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee Meeting on the 7th October 2026 to extend this campaign to the Carlow County Council's playgrounds and parks across the Town & County. • In collaboration with Carlow Local Community and Safety Partnership, the Farmer Roots Programme 2 no. four week safe pass training programme – A youth and Senior Programme which commenced this week beginning 5th October 2026 with a minimum of 20 participants from the farming community. On completion of the programme, participants will have achieved certified training for farming life which includes First Aid, Manual handling, Tractor Driving and TAMS Safety training.
Age Friendly Carlow	Age Friendly Programme • Continued implementation of the Carlow Age Friendly Strategy through engagement with Age Friendly Ireland, Carlow County Council departments, community organisations and service providers, with update

presentations from the HSE AND Active Carlow presented to the September quarterly meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance.

- Ongoing planning and coordination of the **Living Well Expo 2026**, including exhibitor engagement, event promotion, transport arrangements and stakeholder liaison.
- Developed and distributed promotional materials, press releases and social media content to support attendance and awareness of the event.

Age Friendly Alliance

- Convened and engaged with members of the **Carlow Age Friendly Alliance** to progress collaborative actions under the Age Friendly Strategy.
- Worked with Alliance members to promote the Living Well Expo through their networks and communication channels.
- Continued collaboration with statutory, community and voluntary sector representatives to identify opportunities to improve services, inclusion and participation for older people across the county.

Older People's Council

- Continued engagement with the **Carlow Older People's Council** to ensure the views and experiences of older people inform local decision-making and service planning.
- Worked with Council members on the promotion of the **Living Well Expo 2026**, encouraging participation and outreach through local networks and community groups.
- Supported the Council in identifying key issues affecting older people in County Carlow, including access to information, transport, social participation and community supports.

Next Step South East

- Assisted in the planning, delivery and evaluation of **The Next Step Southeast Networking Event**, strengthening links and facilitating information sharing between the OPCs in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, Wicklow and Tipperary. Eight people represented the Carlow OPC Executive Committee.

	Promoted Age Friendly initiatives in Carlow and developed new contacts to support future programmes and collaboration.
Comhairle na nÓg	Engaged with Carlow Comhairle na nÓg representatives to support the planning and implementation of the Carlow Comhairle Annual Youth Conference due to take place in November. Supported interagency partners in planning and reconfiguration of the Wellbeing Fest.
Carlow Traveller Interagency Group	Meeting Administration and support for the members of the Carlow Traveller Interagency Group for the September quarterly CTIG meeting. Contributed to discussions on social inclusion, access to services and opportunities to engage older members of the Traveller community in local initiatives and supports. Supporting the CTIG members with the process and procedure for the review of the previous strategy and the development of a new three year strategy.
Local Community Safety Partnership	Community Safety Plan. The Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) continued to progress the development and implementation of its Community Safety Plan with a particular focus on consultation, partnership development and the delivery of community safety initiatives. The LCSP Plan comprises two elements: the Strategic Plan and the Action and Implementation Plan. Public consultations and the LCSP survey have now been completed, with targeted consultations at final stage. Consultants People and Places have been engaged to assist with the development of a data profile for County Carlow. The public meeting was held at the September meeting. Financial reporting has also been completed. One Million Stars Ireland – Carlow Project The Carlow One Million Stars Ireland project, supported through a €5,000 Creative Ireland Fund, progressed during Q3. Six workshops were delivered between 4 June and 30 July, engaging 23 participants ranging in age from 5 to 83, with a core group of 10 participants. A total of 1,342 stars were woven, contributing to the collaborative artwork <i>Butterfly Rising</i>.

The project will continue into Q4, with an exhibition of the completed work planned as part of the 16 Days of Action.

- Safer Halloween

The LCSP is collaborating with Samhain Festival 2026 to provide family-friendly community safety activities in Carlow Town Hall over Halloween.

The initiative has received €6,000 in CYPSC funding through the Safer Community Events programme. Events are planned for Wednesday 28 October and Thursday 29 October 2026.

- Farming Roots

The Farming Roots initiative has progressed through two strands, reflecting the LCSP's commitment to supporting farm safety, health and wellbeing.

The Farming Roots Youth Programme is being piloted with Tullow Community School and Tullow Mart, with €8,050 allocated through the Department of Agriculture's Farm Safety, Health and Wellbeing 2026 programme. The initiative is supported by LCSP, Healthy Carlow, Active Carlow, KCETB, IFA and Teagasc.

The programme provides young people with a safe pathway into farming through certified training, practical experience and a graduation opportunity for all learners.

A parallel Farming Roots – Farm Families programme is being delivered in conjunction with Tullow Mart. This strand includes certified training, practical experience and a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Day.

- Loc8Code

The LCSP has established a dedicated subgroup to progress the Loc8Code public safety initiative, with work continuing on the development of the initiative during Q3.

- Bystander Intervention Initiative

The SETU Bystander Initiative continues to progress through the established LCSP subgroup. Recruitment has progressed, with Ciara now in post, supporting the delivery and development of the initiative.

- Funding and Future Development

The LCSP continues to work towards securing resources to support the implementation of its Community Safety Plan and associated projects. Financial reporting has been completed; however, no funding was secured through the New Solutions Fund or the Community Safety Fund during the reporting period. Work will continue to identify and secure funding to support the rollout of LCSP projects.

Carlow Local Community and Development Committee	A meeting of Carlow Local Action Group was held on 8th September, 2026 in The Women's Centre, Carlow and was hosted by Carlow County Development Partnership CLG. The following was discussed: • Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme • Healthy Carlow projects including Carlow Town achieving World Health Organisation Healthy Cities status • Public Participation Network update including the upcoming Community Networking Expo 2026 which will have the theme 'Brag a Little, Inspire a Lot'.
Carlow Local Action Group	A meeting of Carlow Local Action Group was held on 8th September, 2026. An update on LEADER 2026-2027 programme budgets was provided to the Members.
Integration Support	New Beneficiary of Temporary Protection (BOTP) Measures The Department of Justice have opened applications for the Temporary Protection Transition Scheme which will be provided on a Stamp 4 basis and will be for a period of up to two years, renewable for periods of two years thereafter. Time living in Ireland under the new permission will count towards naturalisation, whereas time under Temporary Protection is not reckonable for this purpose. People will be eligible to apply for the scheme if they: • are resident in Ireland as a Beneficiary of Temporary Protection for a minimum of one year on or before 30 September 2026; • are in employment or self-employment for six months on or before 30 September 2026, with a minimum annual salary of €29,432; and, • are not living in Ukraine State-supported accommodation, Rapid Build accommodation or hosted accommodation supported by the Accommodation Recognition Payment at the time of application. As with moves to other permissions, it will not be possible to be granted a Stamp 4 Temporary Protection Transition Scheme, and to hold Temporary Protection or any other immigration permission at the same time. Temporary Protection has been extended to 4 March 2028. People who do not satisfy the eligibility criteria for this new permission will still be entitled to Temporary Protection status while the Temporary Protection Directive is in effect. Offer A Home

The number of allocations under this scheme remains unchanged at 44 properties, providing accommodation for 127 Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP).

This scheme will come to an end in March 2027.

Integration Support

During the month of September, 8 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

New Communities Get Together

As part of Culture Night, Carlow Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) organised a special event for residents of IPAS and BOTP centres across the county. The event was delivered in partnership with Healthy Ireland, Active Carlow, Carlow County Development Partnership (CCDP) and Carlow Regional Youth Services (CRYS).

The Get Together took place in the community garden space, An Gairdín Beo, and provided an opportunity for residents from different centres to meet, socialise and celebrate cultural diversity. Activities included a barbecue, children's games, arts and crafts, face painting, and a cultural music playlist selected by residents themselves.

A total of 90 adults and children attended the event, which received overwhelmingly positive feedback. Participants particularly valued the opportunity to connect with families from other centres, enjoy a welcoming community atmosphere in a familiar space. The event successfully promoted social inclusion, community integration, and positive wellbeing among attendees.

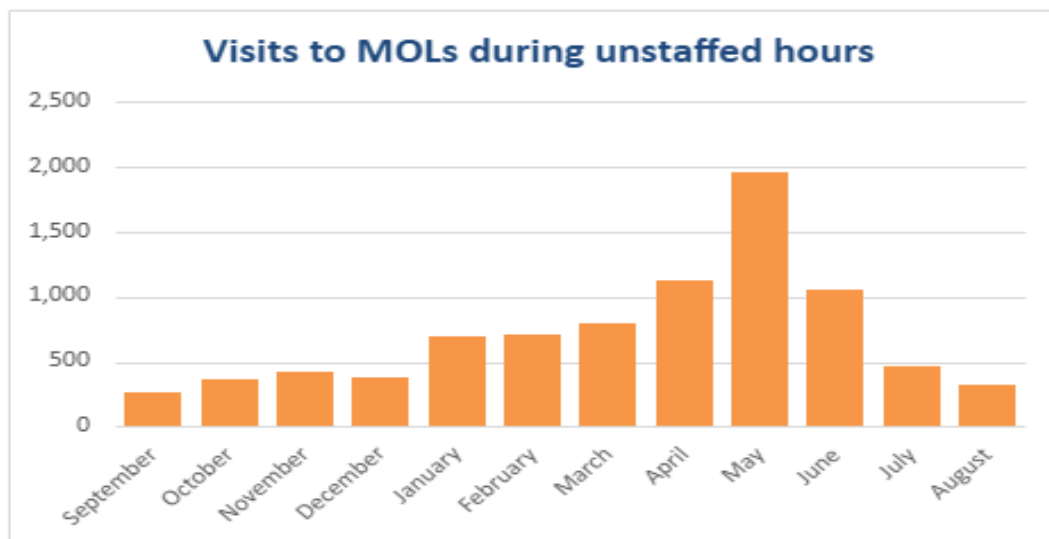


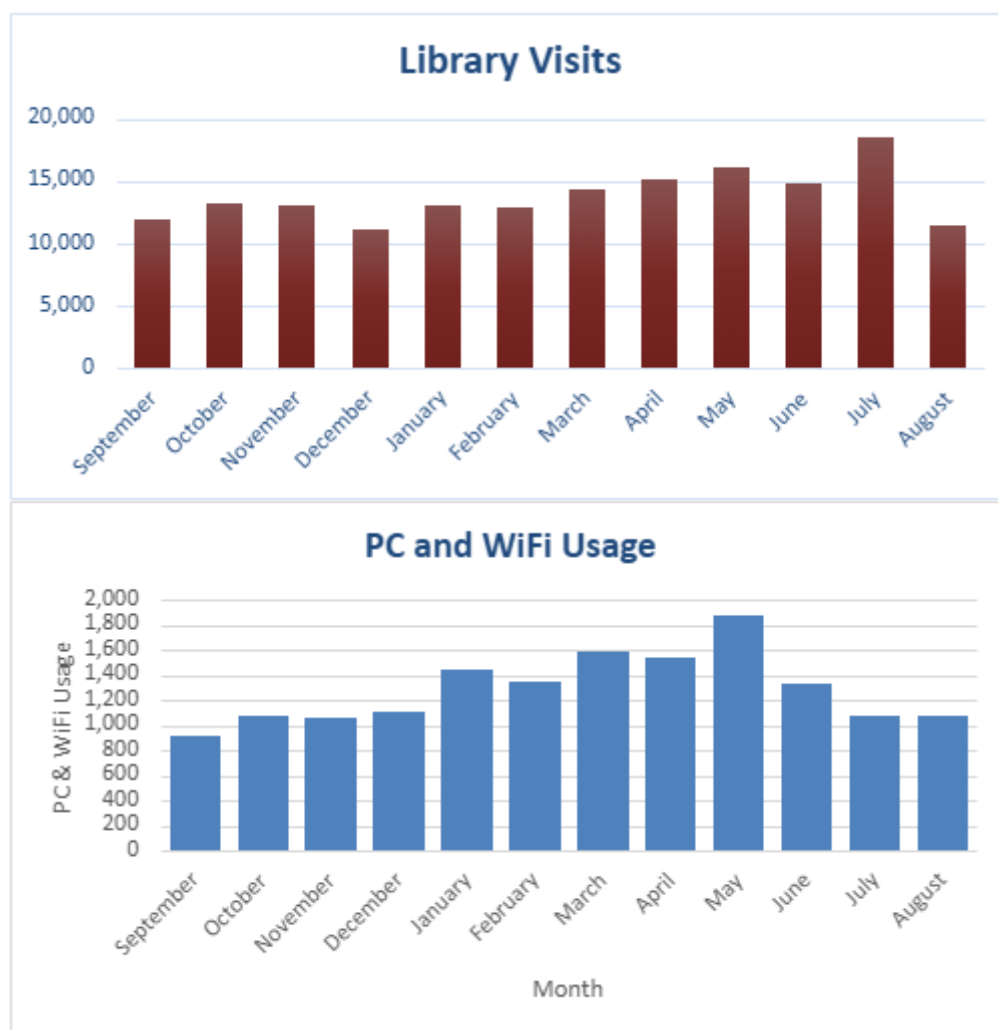
AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT CULTÚR DIRECTORATE

LEABHARLAN CONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY

Statistics and performance

- 2 in person appointments and one class visit of 20 students to the Local Studies department. 210 Local Studies and Genealogy enquiries
- Library App accessed 678 times on 79 different devices
- 827 eBooks, 2028 eAudiobooks, 11960 eMagazines and eNewspapers downloaded
- 309 access count to Transparent Languages online
- Instagram -1792 followers +3%
- Facebook Page – 5942 followers +5%
- BlueSky - 57 followers +7%





Group visits and Events

Group Visits

Adult Engagement/Events	72 groups/meetings/events/workshops 720 participants
Children's Engagement/Events	13 groups/events 587 participants
School's Engagement	31 class visits countywide 615 visitors
Book Clubs	4 Book Club meetings 19 participants

Borris Library Community Room:

- 8 Fáilte Isteach workshops supporting members of the community in developing their conversational English skills where local volunteers facilitate informal, welcoming classes.

- 1 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.
- 4 Borris Lace workshops
- 4 Crafty Crew meetings
- 4 Borris Male Voice Choir sessions
- 1 meeting of Rathanna Committee
- 3 Looney Tunes Choir sessions

Culture Night:

The service celebrated Culture Night with a range of events. Carlow Branch hosted an exhibition by the Chroma Art Group in the Shaw Room, a vibrant performance by the AHA Storytellers celebrating African culture, a musical recital by the Carlow Library Branch Manager and a collaborative showcase from the Carlow Storytellers and Dargan School of Dance. Children's author, Caroline Busher, led a children's Creative Writing class in Bagenalstown Library. Together, the events provided a lively and well-received celebration of creativity, culture, and community.

Launch of Bittersweet Radio Documentary:

"Bittersweet: The Rise & Fall of Carlow Sugar Factory" is a radio documentary created by Carlow writer Marc-Ivan O'Gorman to mark 100 years since the factory's founding. The official launch took place at the Carlow County Museum as a featured event for Culture Night. Commissioned by the Carlow County Council Commemorations Committee, the launch brought together former employees, beet growers, and locals to share memories and hear atmospheric audio excerpts blending voices and music. The documentary is available on Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts.

National Public Library Open Day:

Carlow libraries celebrated National Public Library Open Day with a vibrant programme of activities, showcasing the wide range of free services and opportunities available through library membership. Activities included a Puppet Portal workshop linking members in Carlow and Borris Libraries via video connection, live performances from the young members of Carlow Music Generation's Reelóg, face painting and balloon making. Athena Made also facilitated a children's Craft Workshop in Bagenalstown Library.

A key highlight of the day was the official launch of the newly renovated Children's Area and Sensory Zone, providing an attractive and inclusive space for children and families. These works were funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) under the Small-Scale Capital Investment Scheme 2026.

Superpowered Parents:

A 4-session course for parents of children with reading or writing difficulties began in Muinebheag library on 17 September. 11 participants have been attending each Thursday morning for a couple of hours to learn about dyslexia and strategies for helping their child both at home and in school. Carlow County Council writer in residence, Caroline Busher, delivered both sessions in September. The programme is

funded through the Collaboration and Innovation Fund as part of the government's Adult Literacy for Life Strategy.

Services and Developments

Right to Read:

September marked the conclusion of the 2026 Summer Stars reading initiative, which attracted participation from more than 560 children across the county. With the return of children to school, the final My Little Library Bags were also distributed to children commencing primary education. Almost 600 bags have been issued through the programme during 2026.

Story Streets:

The latest Story Streets family reading programme commenced in Tullow Library, delivered in partnership with the Forward Steps Family Resource Centre. National rollout of the programme continues with six counties now participating in the pilot which is supported by the Children's Fund (DCEDIY).

Skills for Life:

Starting in September, Minding Me – Stress Management was delivered in Carlow branch in association with the KCETB and facilitated by Sandra Kelly. Throughout the programme, participants explored techniques helping to reduce stress, build self-awareness and develop a greater sense of relaxation in everyday life.

The final workshop in a three-part series on seed saving and planting also took place during the month. Participants returned to share their experiences and the progress they had made since attending previous sessions. The group enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect and learn from one another's gardening journeys during a follow-up session with Molly Aylesbury.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library:

The monthly Let's Talk Memory drop-in service continued in September in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. This 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.

Singing For Wellbeing recommenced in both Carlow and Borris Libraries on Wednesday 2nd September with renowned singer/soprano Regina Hanley. This 8 week series of singing workshops focuses on enjoyment and is supported by Creative Ireland funding.

Library Outreach:

Building on outreach work undertaken with nursing homes during July and August, library staff met with administrators across a number of facilities in September to finalise the provision of library outreach services. Agreements are now in place with Borris Lodge, St. Lazerian's, Bagenalstown, and Sacred Heart Hospital, Carlow. As part of ongoing community engagement, a visit to Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre (BFRF) promoted the range of library services available to staff and service

users. This visit also provided an opportunity to explore potential areas for future collaboration between the library service and the centre.

Local Studies and the County Archive:

- Article submitted to The Past (Wexford Historical Society) examining the Norman invasion of Wexford and Carlow.
- Ongoing research and editing work on a history of Carlow County Council Library Service and the vernacular buildings associated with the county library network, including researching the LAI Archive.
- Articles completed for Carloviana 2027 on the Heritage Potato Project in Borris and Carlow Libraries. Assistance was also provided to a contributor preparing an article on Oak Park Arch.
- Publication submitted to ICAN as part of an initiative to contribute six articles annually from community groups across the county, including Carlow Local Studies.
- Lecture delivered to Castledermot Historical Society on the history of Carlow Sugar Factory and the associated archival collection held in the County Archive.
- Presentation delivered to 20 students from Presentation College on accessing local history and research resources available through Carlow Library's Local Studies collection.

Accessibility and Literacy Support:

With schools returning in September, the library service allocated literacy support software licences for the 2026/2027 academic year. A total of 120 Touch-type Read and Spell (TTRS) licences and 50 Lexia licences were provided to 22 primary schools, five parents and one adult guidance centre across the county. TTRS supports reading, spelling and typing skills, while Lexia helps develop foundational reading, vocabulary and comprehension skills.



AN TSEIRBHÍS EALAÍON/ARTS SERVICE

In September, Carlow Arts Service circulated the 3rd edition of our E-Bulletin, continuing to action our strategic plans emphasis on enhanced communication.

Culture Night:

Culture Night 2026 was a tremendous success across County Carlow, with **33 free events** taking place in over **25 different venues**. Audiences of all ages, enjoyed a diverse programme of music, visual arts, performance, workshops, heritage and hands-on activities, highlighting the richness and vibrancy of Carlow's cultural sector. Feedback from event organisers showed the programme drew an impressive **3,300 attendees** despite poor weather.

Carlow Beo!

During September, Carlow Beo! continued to deliver a varied programme of live music, spoken word and contemporary performance across venues in Carlow town, supporting both emerging local talent and nationally recognised artists. The programme included the spoken word event *Verse and Resonance*, the Carlow is Ceolmhar showcase featuring

local indie-pop trio Sitting Room and support act MÓR, and *Tunes, Songs and Tall Tales*, celebrating Ireland's musical heritage. Contemporary music audiences were engaged through a performance by KONUA at The Exchange, while festival favourites ALDOC headlined a major event at The Tower, supported by local band Asophonics. The programme provided a mix of free and ticketed events, contributing to audience development, artist support and the continued promotion of live cultural activity across the county.

Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the EU 2026

Carlow Arts Office continues to manage three key projects funded by Culture Ireland to form a key part of Carlow's cultural programme to mark Ireland's EU Presidency.

European Horizons: Visual Arts on the European Stage

An international visual artist exchange developed between Carlow and **María de Huerva in Spain**. The project will culminate in a specially curated programme at VISUAL and St Patrick's College, Carlow, bringing participating artists and audiences together for workshops, discussion and a showcase of work emerging from the exchange.

A particular highlight will be an evening artists' panel discussion led by **Nora Hickey M'Sichili, Director of the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris**, exploring artistic practice and the opportunities created when artists and cultural organisations connect across European borders. Featuring Máiréad Holohan, Beatriz Bertolin, Ally Nolan and Saturio Alonso. The panel will discuss artistic exchange, cross-cultural collaboration and the role of visual arts in connecting communities.

Storylands Exchange: Writer in Residence Cultural Exchange Programme

Led by **Carlow County Council Writer in Residence Caroline Busher**, young writers will make their own connections across Europe.

The project will connect young writers in Carlow with young people in **Luxembourg – Carlow's EU Presidency partner country** – through a virtual cultural exchange with the city library in Luxembourg.

Using creative writing and storytelling as a means of discovering one another's cultures, the project will give young participants an opportunity to share ideas, stories and perspectives across borders.

Bridge of Sound: Youth Music Exchange

Carlow's Cultúr 2026 programme concludes on **Sunday, 6 December** bringing together young traditional musicians for a celebration of music, collaboration and cultural exchange.

The project will connect **Music Generation's** senior youth traditional ensembles with Project SMOK, an exciting indie-trad trio, creating an opportunity for young musicians to work together, exchange musical traditions and explore the ways traditional music continues to evolve across different cultures.

Music Generation Carlow:

Music Generation Carlow, supported by Carlow Arts Service, continues to deliver programmes across:

- 24 primary schools
- 4 secondary schools

- Community HUB activity remains consistent, with strong engagement across centres:
 - o Bagenalstown HUB (Mondays)
 - o Junior Rockschooll (Tuesdays)
 - o Carlow HUB (Wednesdays)
 - o Borris HUB (Thursdays)
 - o Senior Rockschooll (Saturday mornings)

Participation levels remain stable, reflecting sustained demand and engagement across the programme.

Creative Ireland:

Artist in Residence Tullow:

This month our Tullow group led by Philip Cullen, our artist in Residence, are hoping to reignite the diminishing skill of stone sculpting. An exhibition of their work will take place in the coming weeks.

Short-Term Creative Communities Open Call:

Many of the projects which were successful under this open-call are currently underway or have been completed. The initiatives include Songwriting sessions, a collaboration between the Delta Centre and Tribe Art, The Muslim Sisters of Éire Carlow branch and many more.

Photographer in Residence Open Call:

The Open Call closed in September and many applications were received, showing a keen interest in this type of work in Carlow. Applications will be assessed in the coming weeks.

The **Intergenerational Project** also closed in September with the successful applicant, Tribe Art, been chosen to complete a project collaborating with Sacred Heart and a local creche. Another applicant was chosen to complete a project but that will commence in 2027.

Creative Places Bagenalstown:

Creative Places Bagenalstown, the Arts Council-funded programme led by Carlow County Council Arts Service, is in the second year of its 2025–2027 cycle under the framework *Cultivating a Creative Ecology*. The framework focuses on long-term investment in local people, partnerships and creative leadership.

Current activity includes *Under the Ballymoon*, an animation project with Turtle Street Studio. It developed from a workshop and field trip to Ballymoon Castle with St Mary's school, and will be presented to the community in the new year. A glass-making project with BEAM Services members is also under way, and a public showcase is planned.

This month a pilot group of local creatives and community leaders began work as the programme's Architects. Mentored through an artistic residency with experience designer Abraham Burickson, they will develop a cooperative model of creative leadership and a new socially engaged work with the community. The programme also continues its multiannual investment in Muine Bheag Arts and is establishing an advisory group of partners to help guide its direction.

The current cycle ends in May 2027, and an application for the next cycle (June 2027 – May 2029) will be submitted to the Arts Council in March 2027.



SEIRBHÍŚÍ OIÐHREACHTA/HERITAGE SERVICES

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 progress on their respective projects for inclusion in the forthcoming Carlow page of the Irish Community Archive Network website. The groups visited 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 completed or near completion before the grant funding deadline.

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 anxiety 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, that coincided with Heritage Week 2026. The participants were provided with a free coach trip and lunch in keeping with the 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 launched the video of the Heritage of the Carlow County Fire Service in Carlow Station House, Green Lane, Carlow Town on Tuesday 22 September 2026. The video was launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thomas Kinsella. 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 is available to view on the Carlow County Library You-Tube channel.

County Carlow Heritage Forum:

The third quarterly meeting of the County Carlow Heritage Forum took place in McGrath Hall, Muine Bheag, Carlow on Thursday 24 September 2026 at 11am. The meeting was followed by a short walk around Muine Bheag with a focus on Carlow Library, Muine Bheag Branch library.

'Our Street, My Story' – Carlow Town:

The oral history project for Carlow Town, overseen by oral historian Adrian Roche, has commenced. The project, with funding from the Heritage Council, will see a series of recorded interviews with people living and / or doing business within the Architectural Conservation Area of Carlow produced. The information will form part of the cultural

heritage component of a future digital heritage story map for Carlow Town as an action under the Historic Towns initiative Plan- Heritage-Led Regeneration for Carlow Town.

Audit of the Historic Churches and Graveyards in County Carlow (Phase II):

The second and final phase of the Audit of Historic Churches and Graveyards in County Carlow has commenced. The audit is being carried out by Barry Lacey (Archaeologist) with funding from the Heritage Council.



MÚSAEM CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Visitor Numbers:

Museum visitor numbers reached 1,555 in September, which included several school groups for guided tours.

Museum Events and Visits:

- As part of Culture Night on 18 September, the Museum hosted the launch of *Bittersweet*, a radio documentary by Marc-Ivan O’Gorman on the rise and fall of Carlow Sugar Factory. It includes an interview with the late Museum Curator, Dermot Mulligan.
- A group of Altar Servers from Echternacht visited Carlow in September, as part of the County’s EU Presidency pairing with Luxembourg. On 1 September, Museum Staff provided the group with a detailed tour and facilitated a visit to the archaeological site of Rath Melsigi and to St Laserian’s Cathedral.
- On 16 September, Carlow County Museum welcomed four pre-arranged visitors from the Netherlands for a guided tour of the Museum and Carlow Cathedral. The group also visited the site at Rath Melsigi.
- Also on 16 September, Transition Year students from St. Leo’s the Museum. As part of their visit, they sought information on George Bernard Shaw’s connections with Carlow and the Schwatschke family. A subsequent visit to the Assembly Rooms took place on 23 September 2026, facilitated by Carlow County Museum and Liam Carroll.

Museum Board Meeting:

The Q3 Museum Board Meeting took place on 28 September. Museum Staff submitted updated policies for review and approval by the Board. These will form part of the Museum’s 2027 application for Maintenance of Accreditation with the Heritage Council’s Museum’s Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI).

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

