COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Deireadh Fómhair



October 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 Stiúrthóireachta 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, Stiúrthóir 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, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:
Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí: Iompar, an Comhshaol agus Seirbhísí Uisce, Rialú Foirgníochta agus Seirbhísí Éigeandála / Transportation, Environment & Water Services, Building Control & Emergency Services

Michael Brennan, Stiúrthóir 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, Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí / Director of Services:
Tithíocht / Housing

Coilín O'Reilly

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Chief Executive
Coilín O'Reilly

Contents

GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA/CORPORATE AFFAIRS 4
OIFIG FIONTAIR ÁITIÚL/LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE 5
FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCH/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 6
FORBAIRT TIONDASCAL SPEISIALTA/SPECIAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT 8
PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT/PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT 10
ATHNUACHANA/REGENERATION.....12
IOMPAR AGUS TIONSCADAIL SPEISIALTA/TRANSPORTATION & SPECIAL PROJECTS.....15
AN COMHSHAOL AGUS CNÍOMHÚ AR SON NS HAERDÁITHE/ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE ACTION.... 23
SEIRBHÍSI ÉIGEANDÁLA RIALÚ FOIRGNAÍOCHTA/EMERGENCY SERVICES/BUILDING CONTROL..... 29
AN RANNÓG TITIIÍOCHTA/HOUSING DEPARTMENT 33
AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT AIRGEADAIS, MÓTARCHÁIN/FINANCE DIRECTORATE/MOTOT TAX.....36
POBAL, ÁINEAS AGUA TAITNEMHACHT / COMMUNITY, RECREATION AND AMENITY 37
AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT CULTÚR/CULTURE DIRECTORATE 48
LEABHARLAN CONTAE CHEATHERLACH/CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY..... 48
AN TSEIRBHÍS EALAÍON/ARTS SERVICE 53
SEIRBHÍSEALAÍON/HERITAGE SERVICES 54
MÚSAEM CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM 55

GNÓTHAÍ CORPARÁIDEACHA/ CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Corporate Affairs	October
Freedom of Information Requests	10
Ombudsman Complaints	0
Meetings Facilitated for Elected Members Corporate	4
Electors Registered to Vote	46,618

Register of Electors:

Register of Electors Social Media Campaign continued with the theme for the month of October as follows:

Have you moved house recently or moved to Carlow from another county?

If so, make sure your details on the Register of Electors are up to date.
You can update your details online at **Voter.ie** or contact the Franchise Team to request a paper form:

059 917 0332
059 917 0308
059 917 2448

register@carlowcoco.ie

The social media campaign has been updated to reflect changes to the new system and are all done following plain language guidance.

Franchise Letter Drop

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. So far, 2,060 electors have been contacted.

Communications and Customer Service Desk

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí/Customer Services	October
Telephone Calls Received	1,258
Customers to Reception	622
Website Visitors	55,810
Media	5

OIFIG FIONTAIR ÁITIÚL/ LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

	No.	Ytd
Direct Financial Support Granted	4	130
Business Advice Clinics	31	291
Participants for all training programmes	72	1300
Start Your Own Business Training		95
No. of Completed Mentoring	8	198
No of Ongoing Mentoring	14	14

Blas na hÉireann

The Local Enterprise Office presented the 'Best in Carlow' category at the Blas na hÉireann annual food awards in Dingle. This year, seven producers from County Carlow were shortlisted across a wide range of categories, highlighting the strength of the local food sector. Murphy's Craft Butchers were the winners of this year's 'Best in Carlow' title.

'Energy Supports Made Simple' Green Business Seminar

Sixty-five business owners attended a Local Enterprise Office networking breakfast to learn about the wide range of green business supports and sustainability programmes offered by government agencies.

The Business Break with Ray Goggins

A group of 18 business owners attended a business resilience workshop led by Ray Goggins, renowned for his role as host of RTÉ's *Ultimate Hell Week*.

National Women's Enterprise Day

The National Women's Enterprise Day event, held on 15th October in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel, attracted 100 women from Co. Carlow and Co. Kilkenny. The event provided an opportunity for female entrepreneurs and business leaders to connect, share experiences and gain valuable insights from keynote speakers, while highlighting the important contribution of women-led businesses to the regional economy.

Enterprise Ireland – SLA Performance Review

The Enterprise Ireland Annual Performance Review was held in Athlone with Carlow County Council. The Council remains on track to meet its 2026 performance targets and is expected to receive additional funding in November 2026.

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	10	€57,822
Green for Business Grants	27	€44,830
Digital for Business Grants	22	€33,225
Lean for Business Grants	13	€22,220
Energy Efficiency Grant	26	€218,592
Grow Digital Grant	15	€63,966

FORBAIRT EACNAMAÍOCH/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Exchange

The Exchange was a hub of family entertainment during Samhain, hosting two days of activities centred around a spectacular Dragon and Fire Experience, which attracted approximately 650 attendees.

In addition, Active Carlow delivered two further days of Halloween-themed events at the Exchange, featuring interactive games, family activities, and seasonal surprises for visitors of all ages.

Samhain

Over 75 events were delivered as part of the Samhain 2026 programme, attracting strong community participation across the county. A highlight of the festival was the popular Fire Night at Carlow College, which drew an audience of over 2,000 people. The programme was delivered through a collaborative partnership between Active Carlow, VISUAL, Carlow Tourism, Carlow Library Services and Carlow County Council, showcasing the county's commitment to supporting cultural and community events.

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.

Féile Lonrach – Festival of Glow
Rebranding of our Festival Family Experience is currently being progressed - "Jinglefest" will launch during November.

Jinglefest – Comedy Shows
The Council launched the Jinglefest Comedy Shows during November attended by 55 people which will be taking place from 3-6 December 2026, featuring a diverse programme of stand-up, family-friendly comedy, improv and live entertainment across venues throughout the county.

The festival programme includes performances by Karl Spain, Ardal O'Hanlon, Colm O'Regan, Sharon Mannion, John Colleary, Anna Clifford and other leading comedians, with events hosted in Carlow Town, Tullow and surrounding locations.

#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
The new Bye-Laws were enacted for the first round of applications receipted.

Carlow Tourism & Fáilte Ireland
Carlow County Council, in collaboration with Carlow Tourism, Active Carlow and industry partners, hosted the Big Barn Bash, a flagship event designed to showcase Carlow's food, tourism and rural enterprise offering. Supported in part by Fáilte Ireland, the event attracted significant media attention and provided a valuable platform to promote the county as a vibrant destination for visitors and businesses alike. Promotional activity included coverage by Virgin Media, the Farmers Journal and 2FM, helping to raise the profile of the event and of County Carlow on a national scale.

District Economic Development Plan (DEDP)
The Executive presented an update on the implementation of the DEDP to the Strategic Policy Committee in October. The presentation outlined progress achieved to date, and members were briefed on ongoing initiatives to support enterprise development, tourism, town centre regeneration and community-led economic activity, with discussion focused on maintaining momentum and strengthening collaboration among stakeholders.

FORBAIRT TIONSCADAL SPEISIALTA/ SPECIAL PROJECTS DEVELOPMENT

Capital Projects

The following is the update on the capital projects lead by Economic Development.

Project Name	Update
Catalyst HQ	This project is at procurement evaluation stage.
Sorting House	Construction has commenced on the Sorting House in Borris which is in partnership with Carlow Community Enterprise Centres and supported under the Leader Fund.
The Hive	This project is currently at tender stage. This project is in partnership with Carlow Community Enterprise Centres and supported under the Leader Fund.

Creative Europe – EU Craft Work 4.0 ALL

The project continues to progress steadily, with weekly partner communications focused on monitoring activities, reviewing key performance indicators, and tracking overall project delivery.

A call for participants was issued for the Jewellery Academy in Greece, which took place from 29 September to 3 October. Three participants attended the programme in person, while a further two engaged online.

Looking ahead, two local craft businesses have been selected to exhibit their work at the Craft Festival in Barcelona in December 2026, providing an opportunity to promote local talent on an international stage.

As part of a Craft Happening initiative, 12 participants visited Creative Spark in Louth on 8 October to explore best practice, innovation, and collaboration opportunities within the creative sector.

The second-year evaluation meeting was held with the Greek partners on 19 October, bringing together project partners to review progress, assess project outcomes, and agree priorities for the next phase of project implementation.

Erasmus + KA2 - Hands Across Generations

A partner meeting was held during the month for the HAG Project. Digital content is currently being developed for delivery later in the year and planned for 2027 is progressing.

Erasmus + KA2 - Digi-Text

A partner meeting was held online on the 13th October. Digital content is currently being developed for delivery later in the year and planned for 2027 is progressing.

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 project meeting took place in Greece from 5-7 October. Three representatives from Carlow County Council and two representatives from The Visual attended. The meeting brought together all project partners to review progress, share updates on project activities, discuss forthcoming work packages, and strengthen collaboration across the partnership. All partners were represented at the meeting. 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.

Interreg Europe - Innocom

The closing conference for the Innocom project took place on 29 and 30 September, with two staff members and six stakeholders in attendance. Carlow County Council was responsible for producing the project's closing video. In addition, two representatives from Carlow County Chamber attended the final communication and dissemination event, Unlocking the Innovators: Smarter Policy for SME Participation Across Europe's Regions, in Lille from 26 to 28 October.

EU Applications

Carlow County Council submitted two funding applications during September and October 2026, both focused on tourism development and targeting the COSME Funding Call and Cost Action Call.

PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT/PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Bainistíocht Airgeadais/ Development Management

	Oct	YTD
No. Pre-Planning Meetings Held	6	56
FI/Clarification Requests	7	167
Decisions to Refuse	3	32
Decisions to Grant	21	253
Total Valid Application Received	33	276
Invalid Planning Application	7	79
Planning Applications Received	42	357
Exemption /Licence Applications Received	6	78
Compliance Requests Received	17	165

**2 planning apps pre-validation at time of completion

Láithreáin Thréigthe/ Derelict Sites

	Oct	YTD
No. of Derelict Sites on the Register	0	13
No. of Active Files	21	21
Letters Issued to owner/occupier	0	5
Complaints Received	0	2
No. of Derelict Sites Files Closed	0	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	11
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

	Oct	YTD
Court Proceedings Ongoing	9	
Warning Letter Issued	15	35
Enforcement Notice Served	0	8
Complaints Closed	7	25
New Enforcement Files Opened	3	46

Struchtúir Chontúirteacha/ Dangerous Structures

	Oct	YTD
Complaints Received	0	11
Notices/Letters Issued	0	3
No of Active Files	13	
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	4
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). Consultation on the SEA process commenced on the 21st October with submissions from environmental authorities closing on the 18th November. Following same it is anticipated that a report will be presented to the Elected Members for the December Full Council meeting.

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 October 2026

Planning and Development (Short Term Letting – Planning and Development Act 2000) (Change of Use) Regulations (S.I. No. 500 of 2026) came into effect on Wednesday, 30 September 2026. These Regulations amend Articles 22 and 33 and Schedule 3 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. The purpose of these Regulations is to prescribe a new form to be used in respect of planning applications made for the retention of change of use to short-term letting within existing properties, where there are no new works proposed, to be submitted without a need for detailed plans and drawings. The Regulations will apply to all such applications, irrespective of duration of use or location. S.I. No. 500/2026 - Planning and Development (Short Term Letting - Planning and Development Act 2000) (Change of Use) Regulations 2026

ATHNUACHANA/REGENERATION

Clár Gníomhachtaithe/
Vacant & Derelict Property Activation Programme

Vacant/Derelict Properties identified through survey	701
Properties activated	667
Action being taken by owners	160
Owner has engaged	53
Properties brought back in to use	232

Deontas Athchóirithe Maoine Folmha/
Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant

Applications Received	215
FI Requested	3
Inspection to be carried out	22
Applications Approved	62
Applications Declined	3
Applications Withdrawn	58
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	15
Vested	20

Glao 3 URDF/
URDF Call 3

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

Suíomhanna Tréigthe/
Derelict Sites

Section 8(2) Notice	11
Section 8(7) Notice	7

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 with Design Consultant. Construction Tender closed, tender evaluation in progress.	€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 8th June 2026. Design Team appointed. Kick off meeting took place 25/08/2026 Draft designs complete and presented at public consultation session in Rathtoe on 20/10/2026 Public consultation survey open until 06/11/2026	€48,750

Rural Regeneration & Development Projects

PROJECT	PROJECT ELEMENTS	STATUS	BUDGET
Schoolhouse Rathvilly	Provision of a Community Centre through the renovation of existing original structure.	Gateway 2 approval received from DRCD to proceed to tender. Construction Tenders undergoing evaluation. Relocation of bottle bank	€2,737,384

		agreed.	
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 5th June 2026. Design Team appointed and kick-off held on 15/09/2026 Onsite meeting with Design Team held on 16/10/2026. Design in progress.	€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 Multiple surveys underway. In-house consultation ongoing in relation to project. Community consultation and engagement held in person on 23/10/2026. Design in progress.	€6,650,000

BÓITHRE, IOMPAR AGUS TIONSCADAIL SPEISIALTA /ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

	October-2026	Ytd
Road Opening Licence	50	459
Abnormal Load Permits	8	73
Public Lighting repairs	63	652
Reported Outages	17	175
Total No of Ticketing awaiting repair	22	255

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

Lighting outages that have been referred to ESB:

- Abbey St Templeowen **Awaiting technician from the ESB to repair the fault**
- 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 **)
- 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. Works are now complete.
	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. Works are now complete

	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 25th August 2026, Carlow County Council received approval from TII to proceed with ***Phase 5 (Enabling and Procurement)*** for the N80 Leagh Bends Improvement Scheme, including approval to commence Land and Property Acquisition for the Scheme. Competitions are currently underway to engage specialist services (Real-Estate & Archaeological), whereby it sis intended to enact the confirmed CPO in February 2027, with on-site Archaeological Assessments to commence thereafter.
	N80 Average Speed Camera Zone	On the 18th 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. Thereafter on the 28th September, Carlow received confirmation that this location will be progressed as a National Piolet. Further traffic/volume assessments are required, however installation works may commence in Q1-2027
	N81 Judy Lee's Crossroads Safety Improvement Scheme	Resurfacing works are completed, while discussions with neighbouring landowners in respect of lands to facilitate further improvements works are ongoing.
	M9(J5) Park & Share Facility	On the 15th January, Carlow submitted the F&O Report to develop a facility adjacent to M9(J5). The application has been approved. Carlow will progress the Design Report for the proposal and proceed with negotiations to acquire the necessary lands.

	N80 O'Brien Road Safety Scheme	Carlow Co Co engaged Kildare RDO to progress, the topographical survey has been completed, and the Feasibility & Options Report is being developed.
	N81 Bough to Rathvilly Bridge Pavement Improvement Scheme	Following notification of funding, Carlow engaged Kildare RDO to progress the Pavement Repair & Renewal Report for this scheme. (expected in Q3-2026), Following approval, the design & procurement will progress.
	N80 Clonmacshane to Ballykealy Pavement Improvement Scheme	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. On-site works are now complete.
	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 3rd 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. The contract documents are complete & submitted to DOT for review. It is then intended to commence procuring a contractor, with works expected 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. On-site works are expected to commence in November.
	Strategic Improvement Project *(Carlow Southern Relief Road)*	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 in person event was held on Tuesday 20th of October, 2026 in the Talbot Hotel and Thursday 22nd of October, 2026 in the Seven Oaks Hotel with over 200 people attending the in-person events. The EPO was presented by the project team. The consultation period is closing on the 3rd of November 2026 for submissions and feedback. There is on-going effected landowner meetings scheduled over this period. The feedback from this Public Consultation 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 30th June 2026.
Carlow Noise Action Plan	Carlow County Council Noise Action Plan 2024 – 2028 Noise Modelling	The Environmental Noise Regulations require local authorities to prepare noise maps with the next round of mapping due to be completed by 30 June 2027, Round 5.. Under these regulations Carlow County Council is assigned responsibility for developing noise maps for the non-national major roads sources in the County. Progressing this noise work is important as Ireland has obligations and deadlines to meet under the Environmental Noise Directive. Under the Environmental Noise Regulations all local authorities must have the noise mapping work completed by 30 June 2027. The roads department is currently completing a review of Round 4 data for return to the EPA.
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	Publication of Notice was placed in Carlow Nationalist dated Tuesday 18th August 2026 notifying landowners of their obligations under the legislation and the Hedge Cutting season between the 1st September 2026 to 28th February 2027. 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.

	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.	
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. Carlow County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act, 2004 (No. 44 of 2004), as amended, gave notice of its intention to make Special Speed Limit Bye-laws in respect of Built-Up and Urban Areas within the administrative area of County Carlow. The "Draft" Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws together with associated maps are available for inspection at Carlow County Council Offices during public opening hours from **Tuesday, 22nd September, 2026 to Friday, 30th October, 2026** inclusive at the following locations: 1. County Buildings, Athy Road Carlow, R93 E7R7 2. Tullow Civic Offices, Link Road, Tullow, R93 WP86 3. Bagenalstown Civic Offices, McGrath Hall, Bagenalstown, R21 WR66 Submissions or observations must be made in writing no later than **4.00 p.m. on Friday 30th October 2026.**

Development of an EV Infrastructure Strategy for Region 5 of the Regional and Local Electric Vehicle Strategy	Regional EV Infrastructure Strategy	As part of the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030, Tipperary County Council as lead authority recently announced the appointment of Ove Arup & Partners Ireland, T/A Arup as the Consultant for the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy for Region 5. Tipperary County Council as lead authority will develop the strategy in collaboration with the local authorities of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford. An information webinar for elected members and senior local authority officials was held on the 16th December 2025. The draft strategy is being reviewed by ZEVI and it will likely go on public display in Q4 of 2026.
Active Travel	SRTS - Queen of the Universe National School, Bagenalstown.	The official opening of the scheme took place on Monday 19th October.
	SRTS – St. Brigid's National School, Bagenalstown.	The official opening of the scheme took place on Monday 19th October.
	Hillbrook Estate Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Tullow	The construction tender stage is now complete and Total Highway Maintenance (THM) Ltd have been appointed as the main Contractor for this scheme. Works are expected to commence shortly.
	Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme, Graiguecullen	The Preliminary Section 38 Public Consultation Report is complete and available from the Council's public consultation portal. Amendments to the scheme design have been made to address the issues raised during the public consultation period. The appointed Archaeologist is currently awaiting the issuance of an Excavation Licence prior to carrying out an archaeological investigation of the area of the site in close proximity to the Croppy Graves. 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 construction tender documents for the scheme were issued on 17/09/26 with the closing date for submissions set at 09/10/26. A total of 7no. tenders were received. The appointment of the works Contractor is imminent with construction expected to commence shortly.
	2026 NTA Bus Stop Enhancement Programme:	Contractor has now completed the works at Kildavin and Ballon. Carlow train station and Tydnall sites will be completed in coming days while Schools remain closed for mid-term. Carlow train station works involved substantial alterations to provide additional space to accommodate newly designated Bus Stops. Works at Rathoe will then follow. Programme will now run until Christmas week to complete 29 new Bus stop enhancements.
Special Projects	Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP)	The Contractor is carrying out Defect correction works to close out the Project.
	Carlow Town Mobility Hubs Project	The Pilot is on hold pending clarification from the Department of Transport on the inclusion of e-scooters.
URDF	Carlow Town – URDF – Rail Link through St. Patrick's College	The Contractor is encountering supply chain issues affecting completion of the works. They now expect works to be substantially complete in December.
	Carlow Town – URDF – Town Centre Scheme - Tullow St. - Barrack St. Link - Barrack St. & Shamrock Sq. - Kennedy Ave. - Potato Market	The tender package is complete with the BoQ being finalised. The updated All-in-Cost plan is awaiting approval from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. for approval to go to tender. A works contractor framework is under evaluation and expected to be setup in November.
TCRIF	Carlow Town Link Streets Project	The Part 8 planning process has been published with a closing date for submissions of the 19th of Nov. A public information meeting regarding the project was held in the Seven Oaks Hotel on 23rd October.

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

Gearáin/Complaints 2026 Ytd.

Complaint Type	Complaints	Active	Resolved
Litter	374	46	328
Waste	132	24	108
Water Pollution	30	10	20
Noise	18	4	14
Air Pollution	6	3	3
Burning	21	2	19
Sludge/Slurry	7	0	7
Veterinary/Vermin	55	26	29
Paper	0	0	0
Glass	2	0	2
Hedge Cutting	0	0	0
Abandoned Cars	86	27	59
Invasive Species	3	1	2
Total	734	143	591

**excluding c/f from 2025*

Forfheidhmiú/Enforcement 2026 Ytd.

Legislation	Advisory Letter	Warning Letter	Notice	Fines issued
Litter Act	0	0	0	128
Air Pollution Act	27	1	0	0
Water Pollution Act	5	8	0	0
Waste Management Act	3	31	0	0
Environmental Protection Act	0	0	0	0
Farm Warning letters	3	0	0	0
Septic Advisory Notices	7	0	0	0

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

	2026
Month Beginning	8
Strays	8
Surrenders	1
Totals	17

	2026
Reclaims	3
Re-homed by Shelter	1
Directed to Rescue	10
End of Month	3
Total	17

Madraí a Rialú/Control of Dogs 2026

Licences purchased following Dog Warden visit	169
Annual Licences purchased	416
No. of Dog Breeding Establishments registered	10

Cigireachtaí Feirme/Farm Inspections

National Agricultural Inspection Programme NAIP - Initial	113
Follow up Inspections	8
Total	121

Pionóis Bruscair/Litter Fines 2026 Ytd.

Litter Fines Issued	128
Appeals Received	23
Successful Appeals	1
Unsuccessful Appeals	22
Successful Prosecutions	3

Iniúchtaí Uisce/Uisce Briste/Water/Wastewater Inspections 2026

	2026
Discharge Licences to Water (Section 4)	8
Audits of Private Water Supplies	0
Additional Farm Inspections – Complaints, Nutrient Management Plan Reviews, Sludge Spreading Inspections	61
River investigative monitoring samples and analysis	160
Bathing Water samples	2
Septic Tank inspections for National Inspection Plan	16
Surface & Groundwater Protection Inspections of land e.g. drinking water source protection for safe use of pesticides	7
Unauthorised discharges investigated – Pollution instances	26
Agricultural Planning Inspections - Reports	31
Misconnection Surveys of Sewer Lines	6

Climate Action

Climate Action Week 2026

Carlow County Council hosted its third annual Climate Action Week from 3rd to 12th October 2026. The initiative provided a coordinated programme of over 40 events aimed at increasing climate awareness, promoting sustainable behaviours and encouraging community participation in climate action across the county.

The programme included workshops, seminars, demonstrations, biodiversity initiatives, business engagement events and family-focused activities, providing opportunities for individuals, communities and organisations to learn about and engage with climate action. Events addressed a range of themes including energy efficiency, sustainable transport, biodiversity, waste prevention, circular economy principles and community climate resilience.

Climate Action Week was delivered in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including community groups, schools, businesses, public bodies, sporting organisations, libraries and voluntary organisations. Key partners included Carlow PPN, Teagasc, VISUAL Carlow, Carlow Library Service, County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN), SEEA Energy Engineers and Carlow Local Enterprise Office.

To support locally led initiatives, a Community Climate Action Week Grant Scheme provided funding of up to €500 per project. A total of 13 applications were approved, with grant funding of €3,475 awarded to community groups to deliver climate-related events and activities within their local areas.

In addition to the public programme, a number of schools, workplaces and organisations delivered their own Climate Action Week initiatives, further extending the reach and impact of the campaign throughout County Carlow.

Climate Action Week 2026 provided an important platform for collaboration, awareness raising and community engagement, showcasing the wide range of climate action activities being undertaken across County Carlow and supporting implementation of the Council's Climate Action Plan.

Decarbonising Zone Awareness

Small Town – Big Mission Decarbonising Zone Awareness Campaign

The *Small Town – Big Mission* awareness campaign was launched on 1st October 2026 at Carlow Fire Station. The campaign aims to raise public awareness of Carlow Town's Decarbonising Zone (DZ) and to highlight, through local voices, the climate action projects, initiatives and services being delivered by Carlow County Council within the zone. Funded by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment through the Decarbonising Zone Activation Fund, the campaign was developed with the support of Eimear.ie. The project includes a suite of 14 short social media videos featuring local residents and stakeholders explaining Decarbonising Zone projects and their benefits in a relatable and accessible way. Press releases were prepared and distributed to local and national media outlets to support the campaign rollout. As of 19th October 2026, six videos have been released, generating more than 130,000 views across Carlow County Council social media platforms. The campaign also received media coverage from *Council Review Magazine*, *Irish Independent*, *Irish Examiner* and *KCLR*.

In addition, the project was promoted through a double-page feature in the *Carlow Nationalist*, which highlighted the key sources of greenhouse gas emissions within the Decarbonising Zone and outlined the significant opportunities for emission reductions, particularly in the transport sector.

Carlow SDG Mapping Project
Through collaboration with the Carlow Municipal District, the *Carlow SDG Mapping Project* was undertaken to raise awareness and understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by identifying and showcasing local Authority projects and initiatives that contribute to sustainable development across Carlow Decarbonising Zone.

The project was delivered through the installation of simple, accessible signage at relevant locations. The signage outlined each project in clear, easy-to-understand terms and explained its contribution to one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, helping to make the SDGs more visible, relevant and understandable to local communities.

Rediscovery Centre Decarbonising Zone Education Programme
In October 2026, Carlow County Council commenced the delivery of a *Decarbonising Zone (DZ) education programme* in partnership with the Rediscovery Centre. The programme comprises 20 workshops delivered across secondary schools and educational facilities within the Carlow Town Decarbonising Zone, including Carlow Institute of Further Education and Carlow Youth Training Centre.

The workshops are designed to increase awareness and understanding of the Decarbonising Zone among young people by providing information on the purpose of the DZ, the climate action measures and initiatives already underway within the zone, and opportunities for individuals and communities to support and participate in local climate action. The programme seeks to encourage greater youth engagement in the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.

Delivery of the programme commenced in October 2026 and is scheduled for completion in November 2026.

Biodiversity

Carlow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2031
In line with Heritage Council guidelines, and following recommendation from the September SPC, the Plan went before the October Council meeting, and was adopted by Elected Members. Implementation is now underway, and an official launch will be arranged for late November.

Why Helping Nature is a Climate Action
As part of Climate Action Week and Children's Books Festival, the Biodiversity Officer delivered an interactive workshop in Tullow Library, focussed on Carlow's "Lawns into Lunch" Initiative, and it's role in Climate Action, along with a reading of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff of Carlow*.

Environmental Awareness

During October, the Environmental Awareness Officer continued to engage communities through a range of sustainability initiatives.

The second series of the *Eco Chats* podcast was launched in partnership with Creative Ireland Carlow and Carlow Arts Office, showcasing local environmental champions and community-led climate action projects across the county.

A programme of *Made to Last* Textile workshops for adults was delivered in Carlow Town Hall, helping participants develop practical repair and reuse skills.

The Environmental Awareness Officer also coordinated the *Fabric of Change Carlow* pop-up shop, which transformed a vacant Carlow town-centre retail unit into a space promoting circular fashion, repair, reuse and sustainable living. The project, which was developed in partnership with VOICE Ireland, ran from 5th to 10th October, aimed to tackle fast fashion and textile waste by helping people repair, reuse, swap and rethink their clothing consumption. Collaboration was welcomed from local charity retailers, CCDDP through their Be Kind project, and, local business'. The programme of events included clothing swaps, upcycling demonstrations and educational workshops for both Transition Year students and adults, supported by a strong network of local partners.

The Environmental Awareness Officer participated in the *PPN Showcase Event*, demonstrating the Cycle to Work Scheme and promoting the benefits of active and sustainable travel to community groups and stakeholders throughout the county.

Congratulations are extended to Dee Sewell, Environmental Awareness Officer, who won the Writing on Sustainability in Irish Food and Drink Award at the 2026 Irish Food Writing Awards. The award recognised Dee's work in authoring *Saved and Savoured*, a Carlow County Council publication developed under the Embracing Change Programme to promote sustainable cooking practices and reduce household food waste. The publication was commended by the judging panel for its practical, accessible and community-focused approach to sustainability. This achievement represents a significant national recognition for both the project and the work of Carlow County Council in environmental awareness and climate action.

Bagenalstown Cemetery Extension

The Bagenalstown Cemetery Extension was officially opened on 28th October 2026, marking an important milestone in the delivery of essential community infrastructure within Muine Bheag. The project was developed in response to the need to provide additional burial capacity for the town and surrounding hinterland and ensures that suitable burial space will be available for future generations.

The extension includes new burial plots together with associated access roads, footpaths, public lighting, landscaping and supporting infrastructure. The opening ceremony was attended by elected members, local clergy, community representatives and members of the public, providing an opportunity to acknowledge the significance of the project and the collaborative effort involved in bringing it to completion. The development represents a significant investment by Carlow County Council in supporting the long-term needs of the community and enhancing local cemetery facilities.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

	CCTV Location	Number of Offences Detected
1	Hacketstown Bring Bank	65
2	Tullow 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*

SEIRBHÍSÍ ÉIGEANDÁLA AGUS RIALÚ FOIRGNAÍOCHTA/EMERGENCY SERVICES AND BUILDING CONTROL

	October 26	YTD
Fire Safety Certificates	3	47
Building Control Inspections	6	61
Disability Access Certificates	4	24
Commencement Notices	5	151
Certificates of Compliance	1	25

No. of Fire Call outs per Station	October 26	YTD
Bagenalstown	10	170
Carlow Town	38	356
Hacketstown	3	51
Tullow	10	134

No. of Fires within Areas	October 26	YTD
Carlow	17	195
Adjoining Counties	5	32

Special Services: October 26	Number
Entrapment	1
Gas/Chemicals	1
Hazardous Substances in Transit	0
Hazardous Substances Non-Fire	0
Rescue from Machinery	0
Miscellaneous	6
Other Rescue	3
Rescue/Removal of Persons from Water	0
Road Traffic Accident	7
Water Pumping/Flooding	0
Total	**18**

False Alarms: October 26	Number
Malicious	0
Good Intent	14
Total	**14**

Capital Projects

Revised application and further approval has been granted by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management for capital funding to refurbish the Bagenalstown Fire Station. A total of €3.87m has now been approved and this project will now commence the Part VIII process in November.

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 November 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. Works to this vehicle will now commence in November.

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

Operations

Two new firefighters for Carlow Town and Hacketstown have completed their QQI Firefighting Skills Course and have now commence operational duties in this period at their respective fire stations maintaining a complement of 12 firefighters per fire station.

Drivers have also completed Special Vehicle driver training for Water Tankers and Hydraulic Platforms in October.

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.

To date this year 150 residential properties have received a Home Fire Safety Check with 400 smoke alarms having been installed by the Carlow Fire and Rescue Service across the County.

Fire Safety Week 12th October – 18th October. This year Carlow Fire and Rescue Service promoted the Fire Safety theme "Know Your Room, Know the Risk, Know the Person" which highlights the importance of understanding the fire hazards that may exist in the spaces we use every day, thus educating the citizens of Carlow and empowering our community to look after themselves and others.

Carlow Fire and Rescue Service raised awareness of fire safety and safeguard our homes and our communities by opening all 4 fire stations to members of the public during the week and also promoted the free Home Fire safety Visits available to the citizens of Carlow. The Fire Safety open day events in the station utilised our new state of the art VR Headsets and Digital Fire Fighting to educate the citizens of Carlow the importance of understanding the fire hazards.





Fire Services Learning and Development Centre, Hacketstown

15 firefighters from various Fire Authorities have completed the QQI Firefighting Skills recruits course and 10 firefighters from Wicklow and Louth have completed the QQI Breathing Apparatus Compartment Fire Behaviour course in October. 20 firefighters from Wicklow and 40 firefighters from Waterford have completed Breathing Apparatus refresher training and 40 firefighters from Wexford and 20 firefighters from Kildare have completed Compartment Fire Behaviour refresher training in this period.

Civil Defence – Operations/Training Report

Civic Duties/Events:

- **October 3rd – Boat Training** – River Barrow, Goresbridge.
- **October 11th – Boat Training** – River Barrow, Goresbridge.
- **October 17th – Level 2 National Powerboat Course** – Wexford Harbour.
- **October 18th – Level 2 National Powerboat Course** – Wexford Harbour.
- **October 27th – Emergency Generators** – St Fiacc's Hall Graiguecullen.
- **October 28th – Emergency Generators** – O 'Hanrahan's Football Club.
- **October 29th – Emergency Generators** – Tinryland GAA Club.
- **October 31st – Coppenagh Coo 5km Race.** – Coppenagh Farm, Tullow.

Weekly Training:

Weekly training continued throughout October 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.
    - Radio Communication's - Local

New Recruits:

Potential new recruits attended HQ for a walk around during October and are in the process of joining.

AN RANNÓG TITHÍOCHTA/ HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Total Housing Stock	2176
Social Housing Applications	46/565 YTD
Total HAP Tenancies	424
New HAP 2026/Total applications received	16
HAP -/+ on 2025	-100
Transfer Applications	6/62 YTD
Anti-Social Behaviour Complaints	3/50 YTD
Housing Maintenance Calls Logged	363/2625 YTD
CAS Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0 YTD
SHIP Acquisitions (Sale Closed)	0
New Allocations	10/134 YTD

Iasacht Tí Údaráis Áitiúil//Local Authority Home Loan Update

	October	Year to date
No. of Loan Offer drawdowns including partial drawdown	0	3
Final Loan Approvals	1	5
No. of AIPs Issued	1	6
No. of LAHL Received	3	19
Value of Drawdown	€0.00	€427,900.00

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

	Total applications approved at 31/10/2026	No. of valid applications under consideration at 31/10/2026	Total number of applications on hand at 31/10/2026
Housing Aid for Older People	134	56	190
Housing Adaption Grant for People with a Disability	62	69	131
Mobility Aid	10	12	22
Total	**206**	**137**	**343**

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	2027
St Endas, Graiguecullen	4	1 x 1 bed unit 3 x 2 bed units	Tender process completed. Design Team appointed	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	Funding drawdown ongoing	2026
Bridigine Convent	1	TBC	Part V agreement process underway	2026
Railway Close – Part V	4	4 x 3 bed units	Completed – 4 Part V units being acquired as social housing units. No Affordable applicants eligible	2026
HSE Unit Hacketstown	1	1 x 2 bed unit	Pre Part VIII completed	2027
An Cúirt, Hacketstown	12	5 x 1 bed units 5 x 2 bed units 2 x 3 bed units	Part VIII advertised 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	13	183	5	246
Re-inspection	41	5	14	5	65
Total Compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	13	1	26	1	41
Total Non-compliance (After 1st or subsequent inspections)	73	17	171	9	270
Improvement Letters	58	14	170	5	247
Improvement Notice	10	3	2	0	15
3Prohibition Notice	5	0	2	0	7

Seirbhísí do Dhaoine Dídean / Homeless Services Update 31st October 2026

Temporary Emergency Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
De Paul Accommodation	17	0	17
Additional Emergency Accommodation	42	41	83
Total in Emergency Accommodation	**59**	**41**	**100**
Homeless Presentations – October			
Total Presentations	38 Adults & 20 Children		
Prevention/not placed	33 Adults & 17 Children		

Own Front Door (OFD) – Supported Accommodation			
	Adult	Children	Total
KVHA	39	34	73
Refuge/Safehouse	4	6	10
Focus Ireland	4	10	14
Total	**47**	**50**	**97**

AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT AIRGEADAIS/FINANCE DIRECTORATE

Financial Management Report - Period Ended 30th 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	Sept - 26	Year To Date
In Person Motor Tax Transactions	1,213	11,167
Online Motor Tax Transactions	5,338	54,108
Total Transactions	6,551	65,275
Percentage of Online Transactions	*81%*	*83%*

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

Active Carlow Programmes/Activities/Training/Workshops	25
Active Carlow Payments Processed	53
Active Carlow Social Media Metrics	72,800
Community Engagement (meetings/events)	22
Community Grants Processed	20 claims processed totalling €16,072
Discretionary Funding Processed	23 claims processed totalling €19,322

Active Carlow	October was another strong month for Active Carlow, with a wide range of programmes and initiatives delivered across the county to support increased participation in physical activity and sport. Through targeted opportunities for women, teenagers, older adults, parents, disadvantaged groups and local communities, Active Carlow continued to promote health, wellbeing, social inclusion and lifelong engagement in physical activity. In addition, education and training initiatives helped strengthen community capacity and support the delivery of safe, inclusive sporting environments. Overall, more than **468 participants** engaged in Active Carlow programmes and training opportunities throughout the month Key participation, inclusion and capacity-building initiatives delivered by Active Carlow during October are outlined below, demonstrating the continued commitment to increasing opportunities for physical activity and sport across the county: Women's Introductory Swimming, delivered in partnership with She Swims, continued in Carlow, engaging **46 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 took place in **Carlow, Tullow and Muine Bheag** during October, engaging **35 teenage girls** in structured exercise sessions focused on strength, fitness, confidence and long-term participation in

physical activity.

Teen Boys Strength & Conditioning programmes took place in **Carlow, Tullow and Muine Bheag**, introducing **31 young participants** to safe and effective strength training in a supportive and social environment.

Buggy Buddies took place in **Carlow**, **Tullow and Muine Bheag**, providing **44 new parents** with opportunities to be active, improve wellbeing and connect with others in their local community.

Mother and Baby Yoga commenced in **Carlow** offering **10 new parents** gentle, embodied movement to support postpartum recovery while providing a welcoming space for mothers to connect and exercise alongside their babies.

Women's Strength & Conditioning programme commenced in **Carlow,** welcoming **29 participants** to explore the benefits of strength training in a supportive women-only environment.

Women's Hike at Conavalla engaged **18 participants** in an outdoor physical activity.

Two Lowland Wanderers hiking events took place at Carrigmeal Woods and the Glen of Imaal, attracting **40 participants** of all ages to enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation.

The Come & Try Tennis programme in **Tullow** wrapped up on Sunday, 25th October, with **8 participants** taking part in a finale American Tournament alongside club members. The event provided a great opportunity for participants to put their new skills into practice and enjoy some friendly competition.

Fit to Farm continued in **Muine Bheag**, engaging **15 members of the farming community** in a programme designed to improve physical health, mental wellbeing and social connection.

The One-to-One Personal Training Programme commenced in **Carlow and Tullow**, with **2 participants** receiving tailored support to improve their fitness, confidence, and overall wellbeing.

New Communities Football Programme began in **Tullow**, with **15 men** participating in weekly training sessions designed to promote physical activity, social inclusion, and community participation.

The **Traveller Handball Programme** commenced in **Muine Bheag**, engaging **8 men and 8 boys** in regular handball sessions that promote physical activity, skill development and community

	participation. Men's Pilates started in **Muine Bheag** engaging **25 participants** in weekly sessions focused on improving strength, flexibility and overall wellbeing. The **Men's Shed** Physical Activity Programme is ongoing in Carlow, with **15 participants** meeting weekly to engage in a variety of activities that encourage physical activity, social interaction and improved wellbeing. The Sláinte Maith Older Adults Dance Movement Programme began in **Carlow**, with over **20 older adults** taking part in enjoyable, low-impact dance sessions that support active ageing, wellbeing and community engagement. Chair-based exercise classes began at a senior care facility in **Muine Bheag**, with **20 older adults** taking part in activities designed to enhance mobility, balance and wellbeing. Safeguarding training courses were delivered on 8th and 22nd October, equipping **29 coaches, volunteers and club officers** with the knowledge and skills required to create safe and inclusive sporting environments. Forever Fit continued throughout October, engaging **50 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 **467 participants** during October, with a strong focus on women, teenagers, older adults, disadvantaged groups and community capacity building through education and training.
Community Development	Community engagement remained positive throughout October, with the successful establishment of a new Residents' Association in Cois Dara, continued support for community groups, participation in national Pride of Place awards. Significant progress was also made in recognising youth volunteering achievements through the Community Roots Programme. **Carlow Bus Service Review** • Engagement continued with residents regarding the **National Transport Authority Bus Service Review**

- Concerns were raised regarding accessibility for residents in estates along the **Tullow Road**, particularly older residents and people with mobility challenges.
- Information and guidance were provided to Residents' Associations to support submissions to the consultation process.
- Key themes highlighted included accessibility, reduction of car dependency, improved access to services and the future Community Hub.
- To date, **three resident submissions** have been made seeking improved bus services for the area.

Cois Dara Estate, Tullow Road

- A public meeting was held on the **17th October** to formally establish the **Cois Dara Residents' Association**.
- A committee of **9 residents** was elected, including Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer roles.
- The newly formed committee has engaged with the **Carlow PPN** regarding governance, training and supports available to Residents' Associations.
- Community safety remains a priority, with discussions ongoing regarding a workshop from **Muintir na Tíre**.
- The committee has also been encouraged to build links with local councillors and relevant stakeholders.

Community Roots Programme 2026

- Planning for the programme's end-of-year field activity has been completed.
- **Emerald Park** was selected as the destination following consultation with participants, enabling greater inclusion and participation.
- The trip will involve **12 participants and 4 team leaders**.
- Arrangements are also underway for a recognition event in November to celebrate the achievements of the **24 young people** who completed the programme.

October Activity at a Glance

During the month:

- **7 estate site visits** undertaken across Askea Lawns, Cois Dara and Mount Leinster Park.
- **3 Christmas planning meetings** attended relating to Jinglefest, Christmas Movie Night and Comedy Night events.
- Promotional support provided to **Mindful Makers** to assist with fundraising and awareness activities.

	• **4 engagements with other Council departments** regarding projects, applications and enquiries **Community Support Centre workshops** were organised and held during October in Ballinabranna, St. Fiacc's Hall and O'Hanrahan's Football Club in Carlow Town and Tinryland. **Carlow Pride of Place Awards** are being finalised and preparations for the awards night, which is being held on the 24th of November in Mount Wolseley Hotel, are well underway. **IPB Pride of Place Awards** *Recognition Night* A civic reception was held by Carlow County Council on the 8th of October in the Town Hall Civic Space to celebrate the achievements of Tullow and Ballymurphy in the IPB Pride of Place Awards, recognising the dedication and outstanding community effort shown throughout the judging process. The event was well attended and featured a presentation of Certificates of Recognition to both communities, along with a screening of the showcase videos prepared for the judges. *National IPB Pride of Place Awards.* Tullow's success in winning the Over 5,000 Population Category at the IPB Pride of Place Awards was a significant achievement and a testament to the strong community spirit, partnership and volunteer commitment across the town. Representatives from both Tullow and Ballymurphy attended the national awards ceremony held in the Convention Centre, Dublin, on Saturday 24th October, proudly representing County Carlow and showcasing the dedication and community pride that continues to strengthen and enhance local communities. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of both communities and highlight the positive work taking place across the county.
Age Friendly Carlow	**Age Friendly County Alliance -**The purpose of the Alliance is to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Age Friendly County strategy 2025 – 2029 and at the most recent quarterly meeting the Alliance received update presentations from the HSE Integrated Care Programme for Older People and Active Carlow on their respective actions under this strategy. The other key purpose of the Alliance is to facilitate the Older People's Council representatives to surface issues arising and at this meeting the main item discussed was the challenges around transportation to hospital appointments and the high number of missed appointments due to lack of transport. **Carlow Older People's Council**

	The Carlow Older People's Council are currently operating from An Gairdin Beo as a base for meetings and currently meet weekly to progress work on actions including representation, heritage project, communications, Dementia Cafe, Living Well Expo and the proposed monthly social gathering for the wider membership. **Collaboration & Partnership Working** Currently working with Age Friendly Ireland and Wexford Age Friendly and An Garda Siochana on a national guideline publication towards developing Age Friendly Garda Stations. On Thursday, the 8th of October 2026, at the Strand Hotel in Limerick the Leighlinbridge Dementia Friendly Community were nominated as finalists in the Age Friendly Community Innovation category. **Living Well Expo** Developing and planning the Living Well Expo 2026 for Older People which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25th November at Mount Wolseley Hotel from 9.30am to 1.00 pm.
Comhairle na nÓg	The Comhairle na nOg members are currently finalising plans for their Annual Youth Conference which is due to take place on Thursday the 12th of November in the Seven Oaks Hotel from 9.30am – 3.30pm.
Local Community Safety Partnership	Carlow Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) work continued on the development of the Carlow Local Community Safety Plan. Following the completion of the public consultation, survey, targeted, consultants were engaged and to progress to the final stage of the plan. Consultants were engaged to develop a comprehensive community safety profile for the county, with preparations underway for presentation of a draft plan to the Partnership at its December meeting. Planning and delivery preparations were completed for the Safer Halloween initiative, funded through €6,000 from CYPSC. Working in partnership with the Samhain Festival, family-friendly film events were organised in Carlow Town Hall to provide safe and inclusive recreational opportunities for children

and families during the Halloween period.

The One Million Stars Ireland Carlow Project continued throughout October following a successful summer programme. The initiative, supported through Creative Ireland funding, engaged participants ranging in age from 5 to 83 years and facilitated the creation of over 1,300 woven stars. Planning commenced for a public exhibition of the collaborative artwork, "Butterfly Rising", as part of the upcoming 16 Days of Action campaign.

Progress was also made on the Farming Roots programme. The pilot youth programme completed engagement with 15 young people through a partnership between Tullow Community School and Tullow Mart. Interest was subsequently expressed by two additional schools seeking to participate in future delivery. Alongside this, the Farming Roots for Farm Families programme supported 12 farming families through practical farm safety, wellbeing and skills-based training, including first aid, manual handling, farm safety and chainsaw training.

The LCSP continued to support the rollout of the Loc8Code public safety initiative during October. Awareness-raising activities included media promotion, information campaigns and community engagement measures. The initiative aims to improve emergency response times through the use of unique location codes, with signage already installed at Brownshill Dolmen and further developments planned through a dedicated LCSP subgroup.

Significant progress was also achieved under the Seas Suas Bystander Intervention Programme. A project coordinator was appointed, governance structures were established through a steering committee, and consultation findings from 701 students informed programme development. Delivery plans were finalised for implementation across nine post-primary schools, with preparations underway for the official programme launch in December.

During October, governance and administration activities also continued, including ongoing financial reporting, implementation

	planning and preparations for the presentation of the draft Community Safety Plan. While applications to the New Solutions Fund and Community Safety Fund were unsuccessful, funding of €14,000 was secured to support communications and public awareness activities. This period demonstrated the LCSP's continued commitment to collaborative, community-led approaches to improving safety, wellbeing and social inclusion across County Carlow.
Community Capital Projects	**CLÁR** 13 applications were received with 11 being submitted to the Department for funding approval. Awarding of funding to successful applications are due to be announced in November. **Tullow Road Multifunctional Hub** Project substantially completed. Awaiting ESB connection to facilitate final certification. **Water Activity Hub** Design Team has been appointed.
Integration Support	**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 October, 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**

	A joint workshop on human trafficking, delivered by Ruhama and AkiDwA in collaboration with Carlow Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) and County Carlow Development Partnership (CCDP), took place on the 15th October and was very well attended by staff from local agencies. The workshop helped raise awareness of trafficking issues and strengthened local knowledge of available supports and responses.
Carlow PPN	**Carlow PPN Membership** currently 363 member groups comprised by pillar as follows • Community and Voluntary 301 • Social Inclusion 44 • Environment 18 **PPN Governance** • The PPN Community Expo, held in partnership with Carlow County Council Environment Department on 7th October 2026, brought together a wide range of community groups, volunteers, environmental champions and stakeholders to celebrate local climate and environmental action. Under the theme 'Brag a Little, Inspire a Lot', the event showcased projects supported through LEAF and Climate Action funding, highlighting the positive impact communities are making in sustainability, biodiversity and energy efficiency across County Carlow. A particular highlight was the 'From the Floor' sessions, where groups shared their achievements and lessons learned, inspiring others to act. An engaging panel discussion explored project development, volunteer engagement, funding opportunities and overcoming challenges, while the interactive Q&A encouraged networking, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among attendees. This successful event demonstrated the strength of community-led climate action and the value of creating spaces for communities to learn from and support one another • Carlow PPN Coordinator holds 1 of 3 staff seats on the DRCDG Implementation Roadmap Working Group, the working group was set up by the DRCDG following a root and branch review of PPNs • Liaised with PPN representatives about forthcoming Reps Forum meeting

PPN member groups:

- Open members meet ups are facilitated throughout the county over the autumn and winter period; where relevant we invite colleagues such as the Community Development Officer/Biodiversity Officer to meetings, particularly where there are new funding announcements

Engagement and Collaboration:

- Carlow PPN acts as the national point of contact for PPNs in relation to the AILG training and capacity-building sessions on the development of a National SPC Training Series, including the module on 'Developing and Delivering Effective SPC Work Programmes' where one of our Carlow PPN SPC reps presented
- In collaboration with the Regeneration Office – Carlow PPN invited member groups to attend an information session about the Thrive Project for the Old Bank Building
- Following the launch of the new Carlow Disabled Persons Organisation, PPN collaborated with the ILMI to develop and publish media and comms about forthcoming Disability Equality Training on 29th Oct 2026
- Attended Community Support Centres Capacity Building training sessions in Ballinabranagh and Ballymurphy
- PPN staff, Secretariat members and Council staff attended National PPN Conference in Roscommon on the theme of 'Empowering Communities Through Connection, Collaboration and Cohesion'

Autumn workshops: Carlow PPN organised the following training sessions for community groups as follows:

- Good Governance for Community Groups, two sessions held
- Let's Talk GDPR

Consultations and Surveys:

Carlow PPN promoted/input into the following surveys:

- Carlow PPN organised and facilitated an online webinar on the National Transport Authority consultation about the Carlow Bus Service
- Parents Survey 2026 - National Survey for parents who currently use a childminder
- Public Consultation on the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2026-2028

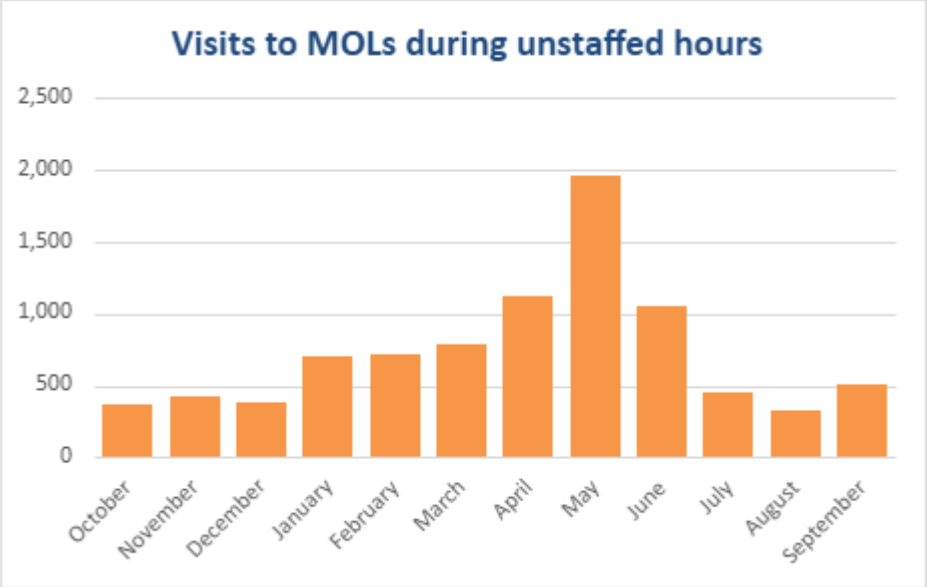
- Wellbeing: Measuring What Matters – This survey aimed to find out what Wellbeing in Ireland means
- National Strategy for Improving Community Safety - National Strategy for Improving Community Safety, titled 'An Enabling Framework for Community Safety' to redefine and improve community safety across Ireland
- The Charities Regulator's Biennial Survey – Survey to gain crucial insight into charities of all sizes on a range of issues, including the challenges that charities are currently facing.
- Public Consultation on Census 2027 Outputs - A public consultation on the data outputs from Census 2027
- Public Consultation to inform the Review of the Disability Act 2005 - The purpose of this consultation process is to inform the review of the Disability Act in its entirety

AN STIÚRTHÓIREACHT CULTÚR DIRECTORATE

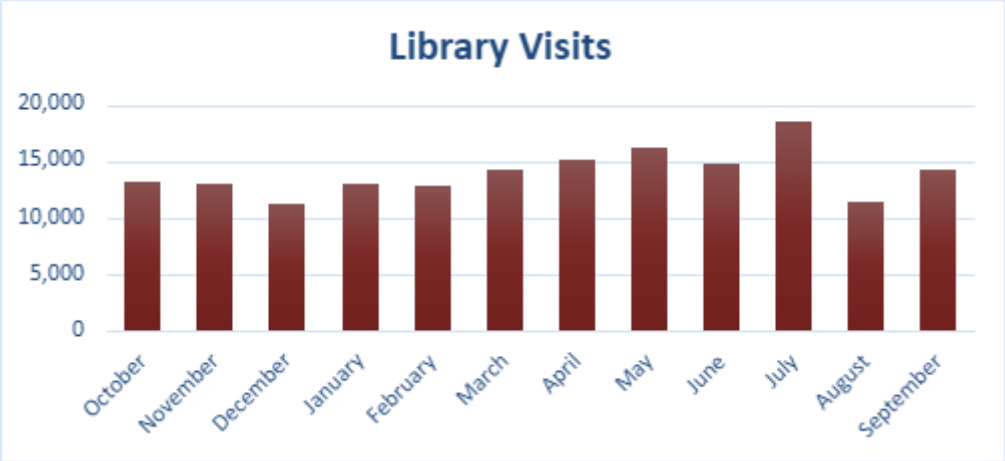
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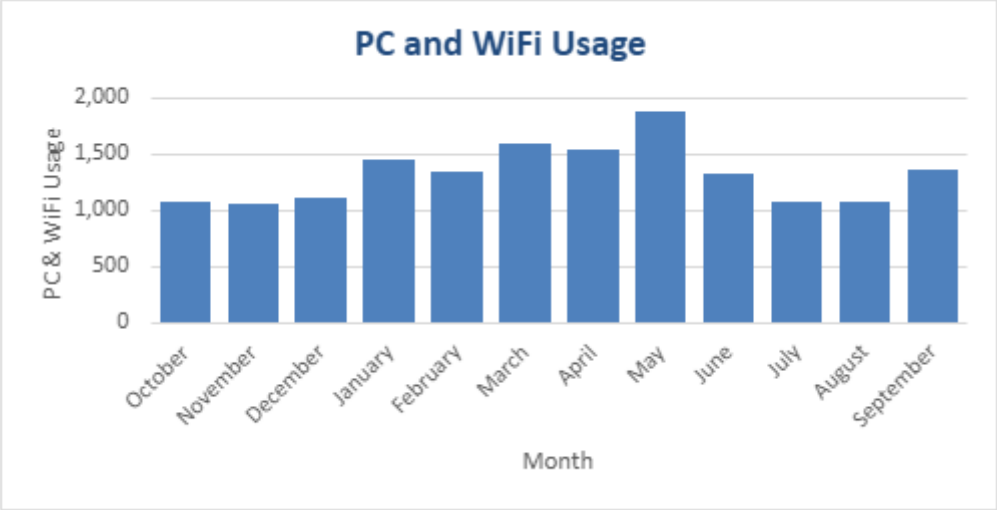
Statistics and performance

- 111 Local Studies and Genealogy enquiries
- Library App accessed 641 times on 81 different devices
- 847 eBooks, 2049 eAudiobooks, 12,549 eMagazines and eNewspapers downloaded
- 286 access count to Transparent Languages online
- Instagram -1857 followers +4%
- Facebook Page – 5976 followers +6%
- BlueSky - 60 followers +5%









Group visits and Events

Group Visits

Adult Engagement/Events	70 groups/meetings/events/workshops 712 participants
Children's Engagement/Events	30 groups/events 690 participants
School's Engagement	27 class visits countywide 573 visitors
Book Clubs	1 Book Club meeting 7 participants

Climate Action Week:

Climate Action Week took place in October. As part of the programme, Joanna Donnelly, former RTÉ meteorologist, delivered an illustrated talk for school children in Carlow Library. One of four talks held across the county; it explored Irish weather and climate in an engaging and accessible way.

Changemakers Chapters was launched as a new initiative to encourage children and young people to engage with environmental issues through reading. The collection features approximately 60 children's books covering topics such as climate change, biodiversity, sustainability and recycling. Developed in partnership with the Climate Action Office and launched by meteorologist Joanne Donnelly, the collection aims to increase environmental awareness and empower young readers to become informed and active changemakers in their communities.

Library staff also attended the Carlow PPN Expo 2026 – Bringing Communities Together. This provided an opportunity to highlight climate action events taking place in libraries and showcase practical initiatives that help library members learn more about climate action and sustainable living.

250th Anniversary of the Presentation Order:

Carlow Library hosted a special event to mark the 250th anniversary of the Presentation Order, whose convent and school were once located in the building that now houses the library. The evening was hosted by John McDarby of Carlow County Museum and included a talk by Christopher Power on the history of the building.

The event was attended by members of the Presentation Order, Bishop Denis Nulty, local clergy and members of the community. Several Presentation Sisters shared memories of their time in the building. The event was very well attended and was followed by a celebration in Carlow Cathedral.

Samhain Festival:

Carlow County Library Service once again participated in the Samhain Festival 2026, delivering a varied programme of Halloween-themed events across the county.

- **Dave's Halloween Jungle** in Carlow Library attracted 80 attendees, who enjoyed an interactive reptile show featuring snakes, spiders and frogs.
- **Halloween Art Camps** were held in Carlow and Borris libraries, where 30 children took part in creative workshops led by local artist Jean Robinson.
- A **Halloween Cookery Class** in Carlow Library welcomed 30 children, who created chocolate apple mummies and enjoyed a fun, interactive session with food educator Deirdre Doyle of the Cool Food School.
- **Halloween Clay Monster Workshops** took place in Carlow and Tullow libraries, with 20 children designing and creating their own polymer clay monsters under the guidance of Liga Valge of Valg Studios.
- **Spooky Stories and Songs** sessions were held in Carlow and Bagenalstown libraries, with musician Ali Behan entertaining 60 children through music, storytelling and Halloween-themed activities.

Additional Halloween activities were delivered across all library branches, including:

- Halloween Crafts workshops in Bagenalstown Library, attended by 50 children.
- Ghosts and Giggles sessions featuring storytime, nursery rhymes, interactive play and bubbles, attracting a total attendance of 150 children.

Superpowered Parents:

The Superpowered Parents programme, for parents of children with reading and writing difficulties, concluded in October. Author and psychotherapist Dr Richard Hogan delivered an interactive talk on his personal experience of dyslexia and parenting a child with dyslexia. KCETB tutors and library staff then supported twelve participants in exploring practical strategies and library resources to help their children's literacy development. The programme was funded through the Collaboration and Innovation Fund under the Government's Adult Literacy for Life strategy.

Services and Developments

Story Streets:

The Story Streets initiative came to an end in Tullow Library, in partnership with Forward Steps Resource Centre. Three families identified through Forward Steps attended weekly story and craft sessions in the library, receiving a copy of each featured book to take home. The programme concluded with a celebration event, where participants received certificates and goody bags. A monthly family book club is planned as a follow-on activity. Story Streets is supported by the Children's Fund (DCEDIY).

Skills for Life:

- A **Literacy Clinic** was piloted in October in partnership with KCETB Adult Literacy, supporting people with forms, online applications and other literacy needs. The initiative was well attended and will continue through the winter months.
- The **Minding Me – Stress Management** programme was delivered in partnership with KCETB Adult Education Office and facilitated by Sandra Kelly. This initiative helps participants develop practical techniques to manage stress and support wellbeing.
- The monthly **Let's Talk Memory** drop-in continued in Carlow Library in partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. The aim is to provide information, support and a welcoming space for people living with dementia, their families, carers and those with memory concerns.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library:

Singing for Wellbeing continued in both Carlow and Borris Libraries throughout October with renowned singer and soprano Regina Hanley. Supported through Creative Ireland funding, this eight-week series of workshops focuses on the enjoyment and wellbeing benefits of singing together. A total of 80 participants took part across both library branches.

HSE Primary Care Child Psychology Services delivered a five-week series of **Parenting Talks**, in Carlow Library. Topics included Positive Parenting, Parenting in the Digital Age, Managing Strong Emotions, Relaxation Techniques, and Anxiety Management. The programme attracted 30 participants and provided practical guidance and support for parents and caregivers.

Right to Read:

A wide range of events was delivered across all four library branches as part of the

Children's Book Festival.

- Author Workshops with meteorologist Joanne Donnelly formed part of both the Children's Book Festival and Climate Action Week programme. Through engaging and illustrated presentations, Joanne introduced children to the science of weather and meteorology using storytelling and humour. A total of 122 children from schools in Carlow, Tullow, Borris and Bagenalstown attended.
- Story and Song Workshops with Ali Behan took place across all library branches and were attended by 60 children.
- Storyteller Helena Byrne delivered themed storytime and song sessions, including Let's Go to the Zoo and Under the Deep Blue Sea, attracting a total attendance of 350 children across the county.

Adult Learners' Library Awareness Week, an annual collaboration with KCETB, took place in library branches across the county from 12 to 16 October. Library staff delivered introductory sessions for KCETB learners, highlighting the range of services and resources available to support educational, professional and personal development. A total of seventy-five adult learners participated during the week, representing an increase on the previous year's attendance. The programme also provided an opportunity to introduce library services to several newly appointed KCETB tutors. It is hoped that participation will continue to grow in the coming years.

Library Outreach:

A presentation on library services was delivered to eight staff members of St. Catherine's Community Services Centre. The session highlighted the breadth and range of services available through the library, with attendees expressing surprise at the scope of supports and resources on offer.

Local Studies and Research:

- Tullow Genealogy Club held its inaugural meeting on 7 October, attracting 11 participants and highlighting strong local interest in genealogy and family history research.
- Presentation Sisters 250th Anniversary event attracted over 100 attendees and successfully marked the Order's significant contribution to education and community life in County Carlow.
- Ongoing local history research included a site visit to Templemoling cemetery with John Rice. This is part of ongoing work exploring the history of Carlow Saints which will inform a future public event in Tullow Library.
- Continued editing of a publication on the history of Carlow Library Service and the vernacular buildings now used as libraries, documenting an important aspect of the county's cultural and architectural heritage.

AN TSEIRBHÍS EALAÍON/ARTS SERVICE

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

In October, The Storylands Exchange Project, a folklore-based schools initiative, highlighting the Ireland-Luxembourg connection through the two countries' unique folkloric histories took place. To illustrate this, Writer in Residence of Carlow Arts and Library Services, Caroline Busher, facilitated workshops with Ballinabranna National School in County Carlow as well as a primary school in Luxembourg, through Luxembourg Library Services. The children explored the similarities between Irish mythology and folklore as well as the folklore of Luxembourg, particularly focusing on the tale of the mermaid, Melusina. Thirty-five school children wrote stories and created illustrations to accompany their stories. These stories have travelled between the students in Carlow and Luxembourg, emphasising an important cultural exchange.

Carlow Beo!

As part of the Carlow Beo! programme, October was strongly linked with traditional music, live performance, and the wider Samhain Festival activities taking place across County Carlow. The programme was designed to bring performances directly into local venues and communities throughout the county, with 11 free events happening over the Bank holiday weekend.

Music Generation Carlow:

The recent national announcement of Phase 3 Music Generation funding represents a significant milestone for the national programme and demonstrates continued investment in music education for children and young people throughout Ireland.
For Music Generation Carlow, this investment provides confidence in the long-term sustainability of programme delivery while creating opportunities for future growth and development. Continued national support will help strengthen existing programmes, support workforce development, and enhance access to high-quality music education experiences for children and young people across the county.

County Carlow Youth Theatre:

In October, 16 CCYT participants attended "CHOP!" at VISUAL, under a free ticket initiative between the two organisations to help remove accessibility barriers to professional theatre performances for these young people.

CCYT continues their regular weekly Monday workshops facilitated by Graham Butler Breen, assisted by two international artists.
Junior Group (ages 11–13) runs from 5:00pm to 6:30pm with 9 participants, and the Senior Group (ages 14–18) runs from 7:00pm to 9:00pm with 20 participants.
CCYT remains open to new members and is completely free to join.

Creative Places Bagenalstown:

October marked the start of this phase of programme delivery under the Cultivating a Creative Ecology framework, with work underway across several of its pillars.

The Architects pillar formally began this month. Six local participants are now engaged, and introduction and planning workshops are being used to set the parameters of their engagement and plan how their programme will roll out to May 2027. Towards the end of the month, the group will also take part in an online workshop with experience designer Abraham Burickson, who will mentor them through the rollout of their programme. The Architects will work together to develop a cooperative model of creative leadership and will attend Create's national networking event in Limerick in November as a group.

Design of the Ambassadors pillar, the community-led strand of the framework, has now been completed. Ali Clarke, the programme's Community Weaver, will work directly with the community to develop a project. She will also work with community partners to build strategic partnerships and to support ongoing creative projects that align with the programme's remit. Current projects in this strand include Under the Ballymoon, an animation project developed with students from St. Mary's school, and a glass-making project with BEAM Services members.

The programme is also currently seeking a suitable space in Bagenalstown to establish a Creative Places hub. The hub would give the programme a visible, accessible home in the town for community participation, making and gathering.

Creative Ireland:

Carlows October programme continued to demonstrate the commitment of Creative Ireland Carlow to placing creativity at the heart of community life while supporting cultural participation, lifelong learning, and wellbeing. Four community-led projects took place hosting practical workshops in bookbinding, art in natural environments and art for wellbeing.

SEIRBHÍSÍ OIDHREACHTA/HERITAGE SERVICES

EU Presidency:

The annual Regional meeting for the Irish Community Archive Network took place in Spellman Hall, Kildavin, Carlow on 9 July 2026. The one-day event saw a presentation by the Barragh Church and Cranavane Holy Well group that was followed by a County update meeting. The meeting enabled the participating groups discuss their progress on their respective projects for inclusion in the forthcoming Carlow page of the Irish Community Archive Network website. The groups 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.

Creative Carlow's Holy Wells Project:

The *Creative Carlow's Holy Wells – Pocketbook of Poetry*, written by Clifton Redmond and compiled by Eoin Sullivan was launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thomas Kinsella in An Gairdín Beo in Carlow town on Thursday 29 October 2026. The Pocketbook of Poetry was the artistic response to a multi-annual Heritage project, co-funded by Creative Ireland. The poetry was married with architectural photography, works from a visual

scribe and original wellbeing analysis of people who visited the holy wells as part of a wider Heritage and Wellbeing project being finalised by the Carlow Heritage Office. The book will be made available as an ebook through the borrowbox platform.

MÚSAEM CHONTAE CHEATHARLACH/CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Visitor Numbers:

Museum visitor numbers reached over 1,500 in October, which is slightly higher than 2025 numbers for the same period.

Museum Staff and Training:

Brian Kelly joined the Museum team in October, as part of the Tús scheme. Museum staff have been undertaking training courses in Manual Handling and the LGMA's Certificate in Coaching.

Presentation Sisters 250th Anniversary:

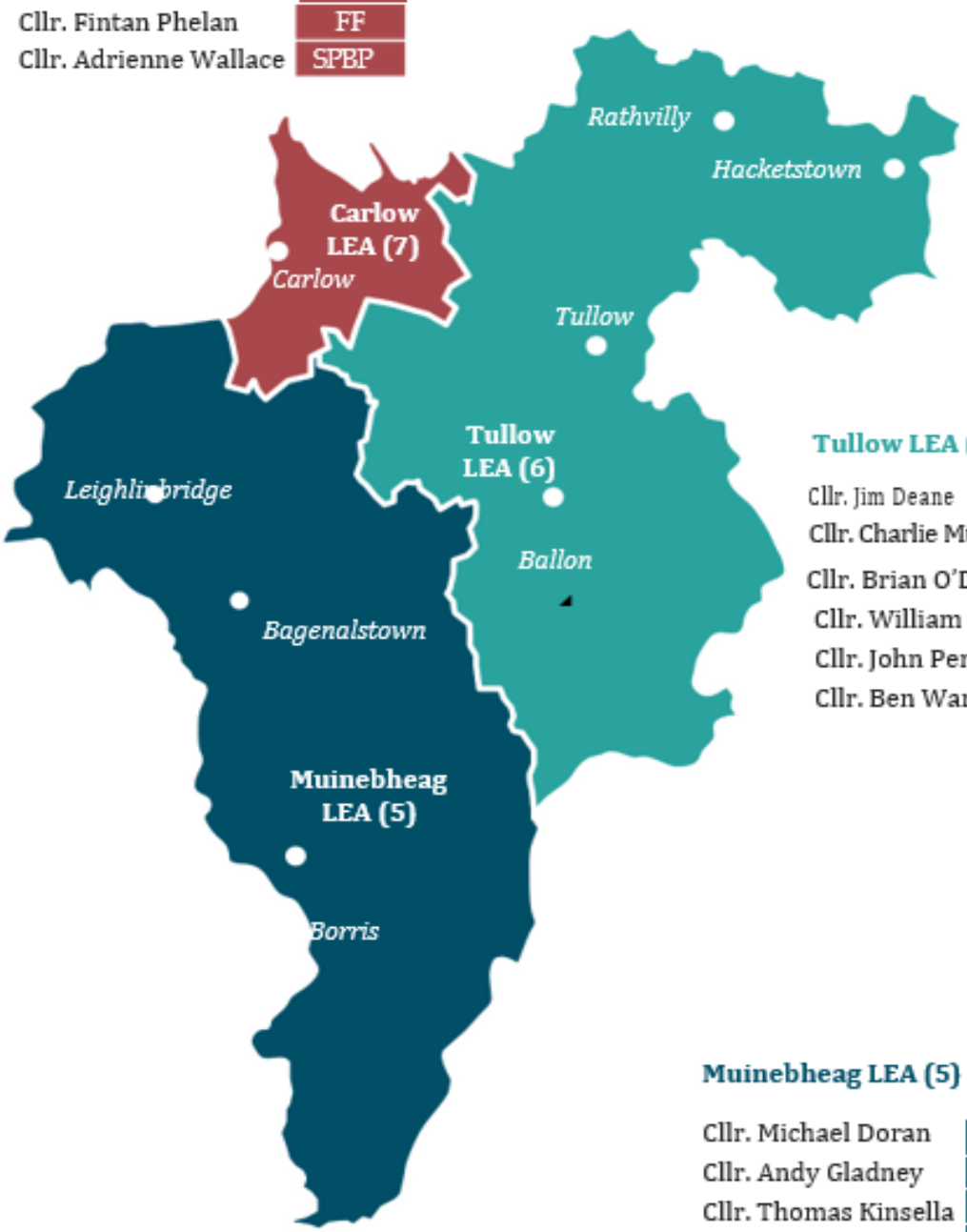
The Presentation Sisters celebrated their 250th Anniversary on 22 October, with a short event in Carlow Branch Library assisted by Museum staff. There was a blessing at the Presentation Cemetery and a Prayer Service in the Cathedral, with refreshments in Carlow College. A number of sisters also toured the Museum and Library, their former convent, on 23 October.

ICRI Conference:

As part of the Biennial Institute of Conservators-Restorers Ireland (ICRI) Conference, Collections and Documentation Officer, Jenny Greiner, presented a poster entitled 'Turning a Challenge into a Solution'. This presentation outlined the Museum's collection move to new storage in early 2026.

Carlow LEA (7)

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



Tullow LEA (6)

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

Muinebheag LEA (5)

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