

C A R L O W
C O U N T Y C O U N C I L
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FOREWORD

Carlow is a progressive, vibrant County which is attractive, inclusive and accessible. Carlow County Council is committed to providing the highest quality public services for local residents, visitors and for new and existing companies, from multinationals to entrepreneurs and SMEs. Creating an environment for economic growth and driving quality of life for all is a priority for this Council.

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2019, which outlines the work of the Council in delivering important public services during the year, all of which contribute to making County Carlow an attractive place in which to work, live and do business.

2019 has seen the strengthening of the Council's role in economic development and community development and this is welcomed by all. It must be acknowledged that the changing economic climate both at national and local levels have made a defining influence on the extent to which our services are delivered. Despite the reduction in human and financial resources in recent years, Carlow County Council continues to deliver a high standard of service. The Council welcomes the easing of financial restrictions and the improving economic position. Our staff, with the support and leadership of the elected members, continue to maintain and deliver quality services as referenced in our Corporate Plan, whilst also keeping the Council on a firm financial standing. Similar to all local authorities in the country, Carlow County Council relies heavily on government funding. It follows that a reduction in overall funding can profoundly impact on our capacity to deliver our services and any increase in funding enables the Council to leverage these monies to provide additional and enhanced services. The external and internal environments continue to shape and influence the allocation and provision of resources and the strategic direction of Carlow County Council.

It is noted that 2019 was a local election year and a new Council took office in June 2019 and following a local government boundary review, the number of Municipal Districts increased from two to three, with the introduction of a new Municipal District for Tullow (which was previously covered by the Carlow Municipal District). We wish to thank the former Council members who retired or did not retain their seats, for their service to the people of Carlow and we welcome the newly elected members and look forward to working with them during their time serving on the Council.

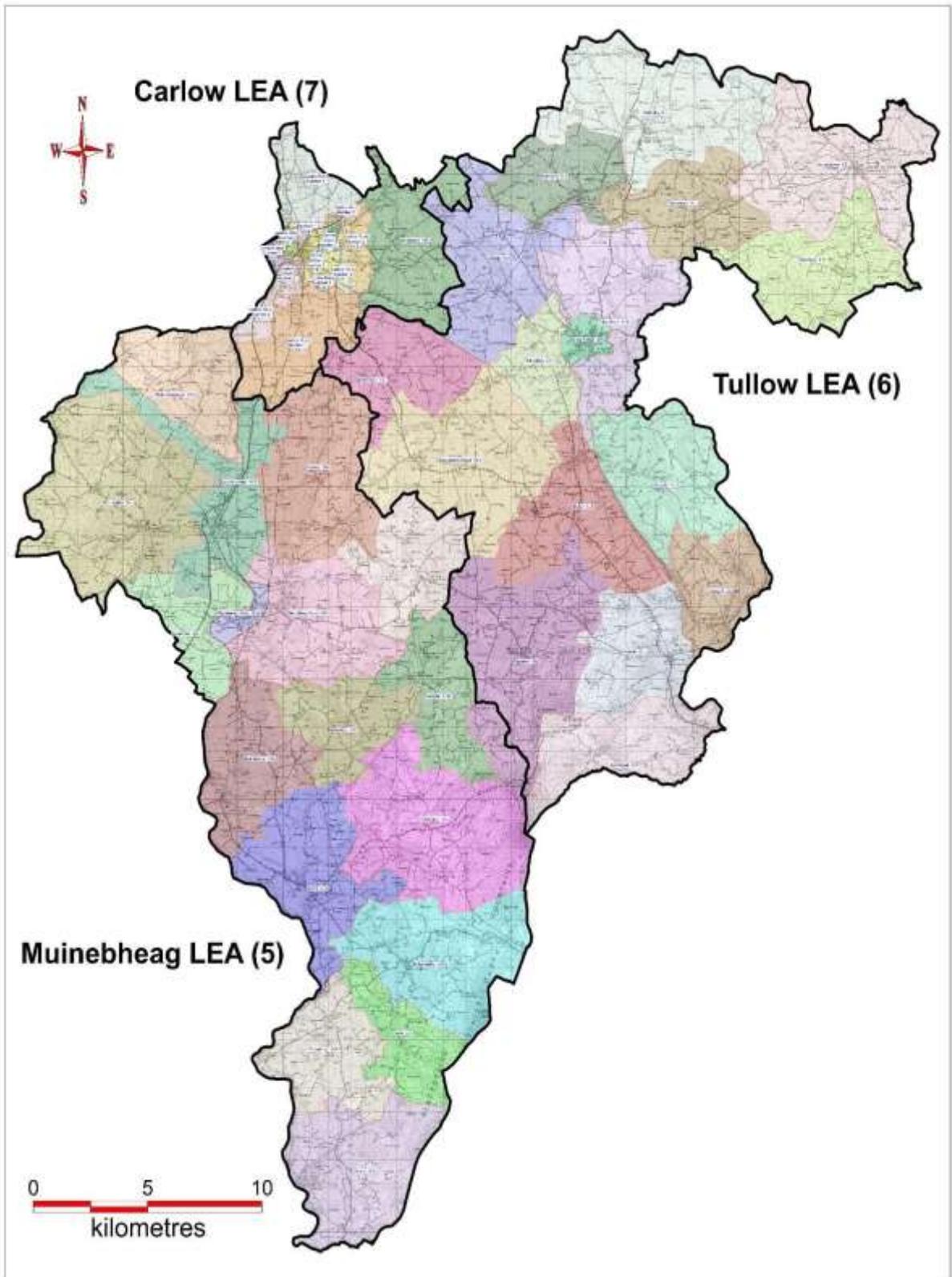
We would like to pay tribute to the work being done at Municipal District level and at Strategic Policy Committee level. These committees are invaluable in assisting the full Council in pursuing its objectives and getting through its business. The Commitment of the Councillors and external members is evident from the activities outlined in the report. I express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Elected Members, my colleagues on the management team and the staff of the Council. I am confident, given the abilities and spirit of cooperation that is consistently shown by the elected members and staff that we should be in a position to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

John Pender/Cathaoirleach



Kathleen Holohan/Chief Executive





MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW



Cllr. Fergal Browne



Cllr. John Cassin



Cllr. Andrea Dalton



Cllr. Ken Murnane



Cllr. Tom O'Neill



Cllr. Fintan Phelan



Cllr. Adrienne Wallace

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF TULLOW



Cllr. John McDonald



Cllr. Charlie Murphy



Cllr. John Murphy



Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue



Cllr. William Paton



Cllr. John Pender

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG



Cllr. Michael Doran



Cllr. Andy Gladney



Cllr. Thomas Kinsell



Cllr. Arthur McDonald



Cllr. William Quinn

CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES

The Corporate Services and Human Resources Section is responsible for the provision and management of a wide range of services which includes Council and Corporate Policy Group meetings, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to the business of the Council.

CORPORATE SERVICES

- Management of Council and Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Attendance of Councillors at Conferences, Payment of Councillors Allowances and Expenses, Civic Receptions, Linkage with National Bodies such as LAMA and ACCC, and Joint Policing Committees.
- Register of Electors
- Local Elections
- Customer Service
- Corporate Communications – Press Releases
- Co-Ordination of Customer Service Performance Indicators
- Control of Dogs
- Coroners Court
- Management of Council Property
- Preparation of Annual Report
- Preparation of Corporate Plan
- Ethics Register
- Freedom of Information
- Ombudsman
- Data Protection
- Public Relations
- Irish Language Scheme
- Disability Plan
- Schools Business Programme Partnership
- Service Indicators co-ordination.
- Promotion of new Council initiatives such as Fix My Street and MapAlerter
- Major Emergency Management – Communications. Liaison with public, media and Councillors including during severe weather conditions.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employees: Headcount at 31/12/2019 = 317 (FTE 282.49 (excluding 45 retained fire-fighters))

- Deployment of staff to all service areas
- Manpower Planning, Recruitment and Selection
- Training, Learning and Development
- Performance Management (PMDS)
- Industrial Relations
- Staff Wellbeing and Employee Assistance Programme
- Equality & Diversity
- Work Life Balance
- Creating a Positive & Safe Working Environment
- Workplace Partnership
- Superannuation
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Implementation of Core HR/Payroll/Superannuation System • Attendance Management
- HR Policy Development.

The Department also provides co-ordination and leads on the implementation of the Public Service Agreement under the Public Service Pay and Pensions Agreement of 2017. This includes actions required under the following categories:

- Restructuring
- Shared Services
- Procurement
- E – Government
- Redeployment

Carlow County Council has achieved several of the targets and aims of the plan including:

- The transfer of payroll, including the superannuation function to MyPay (operated by Laois County Council)
- Regional procurement of public lighting contract etc.
- Sharing of resources between Carlow Library, new County Museum and Tourist offices
- Rationalisation of the revenue collection service
- Preparation and implementation of an overarching workforce plan
- The transition to a single local authority including Rationalisation of engineering area supervisory structures

OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Ombudsman was established to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with bodies such as Government Departments, Local Authorities, Health Service Executive etc. Carlow County Council received one complaint in 2019.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors is produced annually and the Register of Electors for the period 2019/2020 issued on the 1st February 2019. The total number of electors registered to vote in the European/Local Elections in May, 2019 was 44,440 (Carlow Local Electoral Area 16,425, Muinebheag Local Electoral Area 13,175, and Tullow Local Electoral Area 14,840).

LOCAL ELECTIONS 2019

The Boundary Review Commission established by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government divided County Carlow into three electoral areas for the Local Elections 2019 – Carlow Municipal District, Muinebheag Municipal District and Tullow Municipal District.

The local elections and the European Elections 2019 were held on the 24th May, 2019. Thirty one candidates contested for the 18 seats on the County Council.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, 1997-2014 gives three legal rights to those seeking access to information held by public bodies covered by the Act:

- The right of access to official records created after 21st April 1998 which are held by Government Departments or other public bodies subject to the Act
- The right to have personal details on official records corrected or updated when such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading and
- The right to be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect the requester.

A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act must be made, in writing, and should indicate that the information is being sought under the Freedom of Information Act. The number of requests received under the Freedom of Information Act in 2019 was as follows.

Number of applications received	93
Number of requests granted	41 and 11 part granted
Number of requests refused	33
Live cases at 31st December, 2019	15
Number of internal reviews	2
Number of Appeals to Information Commissioner	2

CONTROL OF DOGS

The Control of Dogs Acts 1986 & 1992, Section 2, makes it an offence for a person to keep a dog unless he/she holds a licence for the dog or a general licence covering any number of dogs at specified premises, except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardai, Defence Forces or the Custom & Excise Services. Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council operate a joint Dog Warden Service with two Dog Wardens based at Paulstown.

Licences issued: 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 = 1,677

Income: 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019 = €56,303.11

DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 2010

The Council has also developed protocols for risk assessments and inspection guidelines to act as a template for site assessments. The Council is now conducting at least two unannounced inspections on each registered Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) each year.

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council has been involved for several years now in an initiative with an organization called the 'Schools to Business Partnership', whereby the Council has a link with Carlow Vocational School.

Under this initiative, the Council delivers a programme with transition year students who visit the Council and attend brief talks from different staff about their work for the Council ('a day in the life'). The student also has a site visit, to locations such as the Fire Station, Library etc. The final phase of the programme involves the Council's HR Department delivering CV and interview preparation advice, followed by a Council team attending at the school, conducting mock interviews and delivering feedback.

The annual assessments of the scheme have been very positive over the last number of years.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

The Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for all Corporate Property and the maintenance and upkeep of same. It is also responsible for leases of property to and from other parties. Following the abolition of the Town Councils, the County Council is now also responsible for all former Carlow and Muinebheag Town Council properties and leases. There is a recent value for money study carried out by the Department of Housing, Community and Local Government on this subject which is currently under review, to ensure that corporate property management is in line with sector best practice.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Chief Executive prepares a report on the performance of each directorate/section during the month following the previous monthly report. This report is an agenda item at every monthly Council meeting and questions are taken from members on any aspect of the report. This report also serves as a mechanism through which members have oversight of the progress on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. A copy of the Chief Executive's monthly report is also forwarded to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government each month.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (LGMA)

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is a state agency of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, established in 2012 to provide a range of services to the Local Government Sector. The Agency was created through the merger of the Local Government Computer Services Board, Local Government Management Services Board and An Comhairle Leabharlanna.

The LGMA is an agency of local authorities, primarily funded by local authorities and operates in the local government sector, reporting on performance as required to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The Agency aims to meet the needs of the local authorities and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPLG) in delivering on the public-sector reform agenda in the local government sector (particularly in terms of sectoral approaches to service delivery), researching emerging and identified issues, assisting local authorities in the implementation and measurement of change, and supporting, in general, enhanced performance by the local government sector.

The statutory remit of the Agency extends to include:

- Delivery of advisory services to local authorities to assist and co-ordinate the business of these local authorities.
- Delivery of such services as may be required by local authorities in the Industrial Relations (IR) and Human Resource Management (HR) domain.
- Delivery of such services as may be required by local authorities for co-ordinating and securing compatibility in, the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).
- Provision of advice, assistance and services to Library Authorities in relation to the public library service.
- Provision of such other management services as may be required by Local Authorities.
- Provision of such services for meetings of Local Authorities Chief Executives and such support services required by the County and City Management Association (CCMA).
- Provision of such services as required as Registrar of Public Lending Remuneration.
- Provision of such advice, information and assistance required by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2019

Date	Conference	Location	Councillors Attending
18 th -20 th January, 2019	Understanding the Asylum Process	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	William Quinn
9 th -10 th April, 2019	Dundalk Chamber Cross Border Tourism Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	Jim Deane Arthur McDonald Ken Murnane Denis Foley Andy Gladney
6 th November, 2019	Housing Agency Annual Conference	Aviva Stadium, Havelock Suite, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4	Arthur McDonald
8 th -9 th November, 2019	The Labour Party Conference	Cork City	William Quinn
6 th – 9 th December, 2019	Celtic Conference – Irish Social Welfare System in Ireland	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Arthur McDonald John Pender
13 th -14 th December, 2019	First Time Buyers Incentive Conference	Carlingford, Co. Louth	John Pender

Statements of Donations & Election Expenses: Local Elections, 24th May 2019

The Total Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999

Candidate Surname	First Name	Party	Total Spent
Ansbro (nee Murphy)	Maria	Fine Gael	€ 873.46
Browne	Fergal	Fine Gael	€ 4,793.33
Byrne	Kevin	The Labour Party	€ 756.00
Byrne	Helena	Renua Ireland	€ 2,220.28
Cassin	John	Non Party	€ 3,250.00
Dalton	Andrea	Fianna Fáil	€ 2,557.15
Daly	Josie	Fianna Fáil	Not submitted
Deane	Jim	Sinn Féin	€ 2,263.95
Dooley	Ciarán	Sinn Féin	Not Submitted
Doran	Michael	Fine Gael	€ 2,627.82
Fennell	Wayne	Fine Gael	€ 1,678.16
Foley	Denis	Fine Gael	€ 6,600.00
Gahan	Philip	Fianna Fáil	Not Submitted
Gladney	Andy	Sinn Féin	€ 1,750.00
Hande	Mary	Aontú	€ 1,697.96
Jennings	Bernard	Non Party	€ -
Kinsella	Tommy	Fine Gael	€ 5,146.00
McDonald	Arthur	Fianna Fáil	€ 3,800.00
McDonald	John	Fianna Fáil	€ 2,320.00
Murnane	Ken	Fianna Fáil	€ 1,187.58
Murphy	Charlie	Non Party	€ 5,670.60
Murphy	John	Fine Gael	€ 2,095.78
Nolan	Billy	Non Party	€ 4,100.00
O' Neill	Tom	Fine Gael	€ 6,595.70
O' Brien	David	Non Party	Not Submitted
O' Donoghue	Brian	Fine Gael	€ 2,833.42

Statements of Donations & Election Expenses: Local Elections, 24th May 2019**The Total Elections (Disclosure of Donations and Expenditure) Act 1999**

Candidate Surname	First Name	Party	Total Spent
Paton	William	The Labour Party	€ 1,345.63
Pender	John	Fianna Fáil	€ 870.00
Phelan	Fintan	Fianna Fáil	€ 2,879.45
Quinn	Willie	The Labour Party	€ 1,600.00
Wallace	Adrienne	Solidarity People Before Profit	€ 361.22

HEALTH AND SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

1. Carlow County Council has a clear commitment to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all its employees, service users and others who may be effected by Council activities. The Council also places a high value on the principles of openness and accountability, including monitoring the services it provides.
2. The objective of this annual health and safety report is to demonstrate Carlow County Council's commitment to:
 - The ongoing effective implementation of the County Council's health and safety policies, organisation and arrangements
 - To endeavour to comply with all legal enactments relating to Safety, Health and Welfare in the workplace
 - To monitor and measure health and safety performance, with a view to highlighting areas where the County Council perform well and also areas for improvement
 - Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for employees, service users and visitors to the County Council premises
3. The County Council aims to achieve all of the above by continuing to work in partnership with all our stakeholders, both internal and external.

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2019

The following is a highlight of major initiatives and achievements during 2019:

- Carlow County Fire and Rescue Service received an OHSAS 18001 Surveillance audit in December by the NSAI and successfully retained their certification.
- The project to review and update the current safety management system to ISO45001 standard continued during the year. ISO 45001 is an International Standard that specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, with guidance for its use, to enable an organisation to proactively improve its OH&S performance in preventing injury and ill-health. This means updating all current risk assessments, policy and procedure documents, and safety forms throughout the organisation changing the council's safety statement to a manual and introducing a document control system for managing the documents. The Health and Safety folder is currently being updated and work continues on improving the access point for staff with the assistance of the IT section.
- Building Maintenance inspections and CCTV Survey were carried out throughout 2019 in the following buildings:
 1. Tullow Civic Office and Library
 2. McGrath Hall
 3. Bagenalstown Library
 4. Carlow Town Hall – Still Ongoing
 5. Assembly rooms
 6. County Buildings

- Risk Assessments revised for Finance, IT and Planning
- Ongoing Checking of Daily Vehicle checks paperwork is completed and items requiring repair are followed up on by Line manager.
- Consultation with employees on health and safety issues is carried out at a number of levels:
 1. Safety Consultative Committee comprising of Departmental Safety Representatives and a member of the Safety Management Committee, and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met 1 time in 2019.
 2. Safety Management Committee comprising departmental management, chairperson of the Safety Consultative Committee and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met April 4th 2019.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

Carlow County Council provided an extensive programme of health and safety training courses during 2019. Statutory training is given priority and the following courses were provided by the Training Office in 2019:

- Manual handling Training was organized throughout 2019
- Staff Induction Training was organized for all new staff on joining in 2019

ENFORCEMENT

There were no scheduled inspections from the Health and Safety Authority in 2019.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENTS

There were three reportable incidents to the HSA involving Staff recorded in 2019.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION CHANGES

- **The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 129 of 2019)** amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (SI No. 291 of 2013) to facilitate the recognition by SOLAS of equivalent registration cards to Safe Pass and construction skills certification schemes from states other than Member States.
- **The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Carcinogens) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 592 of 2019)** amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Carcinogens) Regulations 2001 (SI No. 78 of 2001). Various terminology changes have been made and a new paragraph on health surveillance has been inserted.
- **The Radiological Protection Act 1991 (Ionising Radiation) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 30 of 2019)** provide for the protection of workers and members of the public from the harmful effects of ionising radiation.
- **The Radiological Protection Act 1991 (Authorisation Application And Fees) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 34 of 2019)** set out the application process for the authorisation to carry out a practice involving the use of radiological sources and sets out the relevant schedule of applicable fees. **The Radiological Protection Act 1991 (Non-Ionising Radiation) Order 2019 (SI No. 190 of 2019)** extends certain functions assigned to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Radiological Protection Acts 1991 to 2018 to cover matters pertaining to non-ionising radiation.

- **The European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 438 of 2019)** amend the European Communities (Sustainable Use of Pesticides) Regulations 2012 (SI No. 155 of 2012). The purpose of the amendment is to give effect to Commission Directive (EU) 2019/782, to clarify the registration requirements for professional users, to broaden the pesticide application equipment requiring inspection and to increase the protection of water sources used for the abstraction of water for human consumption from pesticide use.
- **The Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019 (No. 5 of 2019)** aims to clarify and strengthen the data sharing rights and obligations of public bodies. The Act allows for the sharing of personal data between public bodies where the sharing is for the performance of a function of either of the public bodies.
- **The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (SI No. 179 of 2019)** amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008 (SI No. 28 of 2008) to facilitate the recognition by SOLAS of equivalent registration cards and certification schemes from states other than Member States as compliant with the provisions of these Regulations.

New Codes of Practice/Guidance Documents

- HSA Guidance "Risk Assessment for Managing Ergonomic Risks".
- HSA Guidance on "Managing Driving for Work - Managing Grey Fleet".
- The Health and Safety Authority has published two new Codes of Practice for Inland and Inshore Diving and Offshore Diving.
- The Health and Safety Authority published a new Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines.
- The Code of Practice for Access and Working Scaffolds came into effect in January 2019 and replaces the Code of Practice for Access and Working Scaffolds issued by the Authority in 2009.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The overall objective of the planning department is to promote the development of the County in a manner which facilitates sustainable economic and social progress. The day-to-day operation of the planning department covers a number of separate areas namely development management, forward planning, planning enforcement, unfinished estates and taking in charge of residential developments.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Planning Applications:

Carlow County Council received a total of 502 planning applications during 2019. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2019 by Carlow County Council:

<i>Number of valid applications received</i>	377
<i>Number of invalid applications received</i>	125
<i>Number of applications granted</i>	315
<i>Number of applications refused</i>	30
<i>Number of pre-planning consultations held</i>	180

The procedure for dealing with pre-planning consultations is as follows:

1. The applicant submits a completed pre-planning application form along with relevant documentation.
2. The applicant is advised of an appointed time with pre-planning meetings being held weekly.

ENFORCEMENT

The planning department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with.

The planning department investigates all written complaints of unauthorised development where they appear to be well founded. Following an investigation of a bone fide complaint the commencement of the enforcement steps is initiated by the issue of a Warning Letter followed by the issue of an Enforcement Notice should the matter not be satisfactorily resolved following the issue of a Warning Letter. In the event of noncompliance with the Enforcement Notice legal proceedings are initiated.

2019	Carlow County Council
<i>Complaints Received</i>	86
<i>Warning letters issued</i>	41
<i>Enforcement notices served</i>	28
<i>Legal proceedings initiated</i>	6

TAKING OF ESTATES IN CHARGE

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requests to take estates in charge can be made by the Developer or the majority of the owners residing in the development. The Planning and Development Act 2010 allows the Local Authority to take part of an estate in charge.

The following housing developments were taken in charge during 2019:

Name of Development	Address of Development
Inis Gardens	Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
Pottersway	Carrigduff, Bunclody
Castleoaks	Pollerton Little, Carlow
Cuanahowan	Rathoe Rd., Tullow, Co. Carlow
Browneshill Crescent	Chaplestown, Carlow.
Dun na Ri,	Carrigduff, Bunclody
Presentation Place	Barrett St. Bagenalstown

DERELICT SITES AND DANGEROUS STRUCTURES

In accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990 a total of 51 Derelict Sites Notices were issued during 2019. At 31st December, 2019 a total of 37 properties were listed on the Derelict Sites Register. The Compulsory Purchase Order process was initiated in respect of 17 properties during 2019.

In accordance with the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 a total of 5 Notices were issued during 2019 requesting the owner of the property to carry out works to their properties.

FORWARD PLANNING

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)

Following the implementation of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Assembly commenced the formal process for the formulation of a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region as provided for under Section 21(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Throughout 2019, Carlow County Council continued to engage and participate in the formulation of the Plan. The draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region as provided for under Section 21(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) was considered by the Members of the Regional Assembly at

a meeting held on 29th November 2019 at which the Members of the Regional Assembly agreed to make the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region, on the 31 January 2020, in accordance with section 24(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

Carlow County Development Plan Review

The formal commencement of the review of the Carlow Development Plan 2015-2021 and the preparation of a new Plan is required to commence within 13 weeks after the making of the RSES - pursuant to section 12 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018. During 2019 the Planning Authority commenced background research and appointed consultants for the Strategic Environmental Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which will accompany the new Plan. Publication of the Pre-draft Issues Paper and public consultation will commence in 2020, followed by publication of the Draft Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018 – Variation no. 3

The Planning Authority progressed Variation (no. 3) of the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 – 2018 (JSP) incorporating the Carlow Town Development Plan 2012-2018 to amend the land use zoning of the “Braun site” from Industrial to Enterprise and Employment. This amendment facilitates a broader range of employment uses on this key opportunity site within Carlow Town. In tandem a further variation was also initiated to incorporate a specific objective to support the provisions of the Vacant Site Levy and to clarify the land use zonings for the application of the Vacant Site Levy within the Carlow Town Development Plan. Variation no. 3 was approved by the Members of Carlow County Council at the meeting of the Council held in February, 2020.

Graiguenamanagh – Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2020-2026

Carlow County Council in conjunction with Kilkenny County Council pursuant to Section 18(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) intend to jointly prepare a Joint Local Area Plan in respect of the combined functional area of Tinnahinch (County Carlow) and Graiguenamanagh (County Kilkenny). The preparation of the Joint Local Area Plan commenced with the publication of a Pre-Draft Issues Paper in October 2019. The draft Local Area Plan for Graiguenamanagh – Tinnahinch will be placed on public display during 2020.

VACANT SITE LEVY

The Planning Department continued to progress during 2019 the establishment of a Vacant Site Register as provided for under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018. The assessment of potential vacant sites comprises of the carrying out of site inspections, planning history and landownership searches, the drafting of site reports and template letters and notices, and referrals to internal departments for comments/observations. The Vacant Sites Register is available to view online on the Council’s website at www.carlow.ie. Entries are made on the Register following the completion of site assessments and the issuing of notices pursuant to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, as amended by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018.

To date a total of 29 sites have been assessed, 23 of which have been subject to 7(1) Notices of proposed entry on the register, and 10 have been subject to 7(3) Notices of Entry on the register. There are currently 6 sites listed on the Vacant Site Register, however 2 no. entries have been cancelled following appeals by landowners to An Bord Pleanála under Section 9 of the Act.

There were no levies charged for Vacant Sites in 2019.

SHORT-TERM LETTINGS

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (Exempted Development) (No. 2) Regulations 2019 gave effect to legislation regarding Short-Term Lettings. The legislation came into effect on 1st July, 2019. On 26th September, 2019 the Carlow Local Electoral Area was designated as a Rent Pressure Zone and consequently, new regulations regarding Short Term Lettings will be enforceable by Carlow County Council during 2020. Section 38 of the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019 was amended by the insertion of the following which provides a definition of a short term letting to be *'the letting of a house or part of a house for any period not exceeding 14 days, and includes a licence that permits the licensee to enter and reside in the house or part thereof for any such period in consideration of the making by any person (whether or not the licensee) of a payment or payments to the licensor.'* A person who contravenes a provision of regulations under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a class A fine.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNIT

The Local Enterprise Office/Economic Development Unit is responsible for the design, delivery and implementation of the economic development, business support, special projects and tourism programme for Carlow County Council. The Tourism Programme is delivered in partnership with Carlow Tourism. The unit has core team of 9 staff made up a Head of Enterprise, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, Business Advisor, Economic Development Officer, Economic Development Officer (Town Centre), European Project Officer, Graduate & Clerical Officer.

The programme delivered is strategically designed based on a Local Enterprise Development Plan from 2018-2020 which is a 3 year strategy. This strategy is aligned to the Local Economic & Community Plan. The executive is supported by the Centre of Excellence in Enterprise Ireland and a publicly appointed Approvals & Evaluation Committee which is made of enterprise experts. The following are the members of the approvals & evaluation committee during 2019:

- Mr. Brian Ogilvie
- Mr. John Brophy
- Ms. Clare O Shea
- Mr. Michael Condon
- Ms. Rosemary Ward
- Mr. Jerry O'Driscoll
- Mr. Brian Fives

The committee is chaired by the Director of Services on behalf of the Chief Executive. During 2019 Bernie O'Brien & Michael Rainey represented the Chief Executive and Eamonn Brophy & Fiona O'Neill deputised as Chair of the Committee as Acting Director of Services also.

During 2019 the following staff were appointed to the Local Enterprise Office:

- Maria Couchman – Economic Development Officer
- Jim Woods – European Project Officer
- Lisa Moore – Clerical Officer

In terms of policy development, the unit is supported by the Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development, Planning & Corporate.

Programme Delivery 2019

The Local Enterprise Office/Economic Development Programme is delivered in 7 programme pillars:



The programme is wide ranging in terms of activities and spans the entire Local Authority in terms of projects. Over 3000 individuals engaged with the Local Enterprise Office during 2019 for a variety of services. The activities of the unit are funded by:

- Enterprise Ireland
- COSME (Enterprise Europe Network)
- Department of Rural & Community Development
- EU (Ireland-Wales Programme)
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Carlow County Council
- Generated Income / Sponsorship / Partnership Projects

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland maintains a service level agreement with Carlow County Council for the provision of business support services. These services provide financial support for manufacturing and international traded service companies (Measure 1), and business development supports (Measure 2) 2019. In 2019, the following performance metrics were associated with the SLA:

Measure 1 Clients – Manufacturing & International Traded Services

During the year 79 net jobs were records as a result of Direct Financial Support to the LEO clients.

Measure 1	Output 2019
Number of Applications Received:	29
Feasibility/Priming/Business Expansion/TAME	12
Number of Clients Approved Funding:	
Feasibility: Number: 4	€ 40,133.71
Priming: Number:1	€104,395.40
Business Expansion: Number: 8	€215,202.22
TAME: Number: 12	€ 12,776.43

No. of projected potential new jobs associated with Approvals (Priming & Business Expansion)	21
Costs per job calculation associated with approvals (Average Cost calculated on new jobs over three years)	€7,442.60

As at 31st December 2019, the LEO portfolio of clients was represented as follows:

	2019			
LEO	No. of LEO Clients	LEO Portfolio Jobs (FT+PT)	Gross Jobs Created	Net Jobs Created
Carlow	217	1,209	185	79

The following metrics were recorded for Measure 2, Enterprise Support activity under the SLA:

Measure 2	Output 2019
Training/Development Programmes (All Training and Networking events)	
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	118
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	1432
No. of Females	801
No. of Males	631
No. of SYOB Programmes	7
No. of Participants attending SYOB Programmes	154
No. of Brexit Seminars / Brexit Information Events	2
No. of Participants attending Brexit Seminars/Events	64
No. of Completed Brexit Scorecards	
No. of LEO clients receiving Brexit related Mentoring	42
Mentoring:	
Total Number of individual mentoring – (participants availing of one to one mentoring – one to one engagement by a Mentor with one client)	316
Total Number of group mentoring participants – (are all group mentoring engagements or clinics where a mentor engages with a group of clients.	0
Total Number of Mentoring Participants (both one to one and group)	316

Progression Pathway:	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Clients transferred to E.I.		

Schools Entrepreneurship:	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Schools Participating (Secondary schools only engaged in school enterprise programmes)	9	9
Number of Students Participating	465	480

Trading On Line Vouchers:	Output 2019	Target 2020
No. of Trading Online Vouchers approved	12	15

MFI:	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Applications submitted	4	4

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur:	Output 2019	Target 2020
Number of Applications	42	N/a

Lean for Micro Project:	Output 2019	Target 2020
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	15	

COSME (Enterprise Europe Network)

As part of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices, Carlow County Council has been named as one in seven local authorities as a hub for COSME funding via the National Contract for the Enterprise Europe Network held by Donegal County Council. During 2019, a trade mission to the Netherlands has held in association with County Carlow Chamber.

Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur

IBYE was rolled out to entrants from Carlow in 2019. IBYE is a nationwide competition, run across three categories: Best Business Idea, Best Start-Up Business and Best Established Business.

With an IBYE investment fund of €50,000 each, every LEO will award up to six investments to three category winners and three runners-up at county level. The local winners in the Best Start-Up and Best Established Business categories at county level will receive investments of up to €15,000 each and the two runners-up will each receive up to €5,000.

The Best Business Idea winner at county level will receive an investment of up to €7,000 and the runner-up will receive up to €3,000 of investment. These winners at county level will progress to Regional Final. In 2019, Equireel represented County Carlow in the National Final in Google. .

Network of Local Enterprise Offices / National Representation

Carlow County Council is responsible for the co-ordination of the Local Enterprise Village & Local Enterprise Showcase on behalf of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices. The Head of Enterprise is the chair of the National Committee and the Business Advisor is a member of the committee which is made up of representatives of seven local authorities and Enterprise Ireland. Carlow County Council is represented on the Local Steering Group, LEO Communications Group, and Making It Happen Campaign.

Department of Rural & Community Development

The Department of Rural & Community Development operates the “Town & Village Renewal Scheme” and “Redz” scheme of funding which is operated by the Local Enterprise Office via a cross functional working group from planning , community , tourism and procurement. In 2019, 9 projects areas were awarded funding for delivery by 30th June 2020 and 4 projects were awarded funding for projects to be delivered by 30th June 2021.

EU (Ireland-Wales Programme) & EU Funding

The EU Interreg Ireland Wales Funded Catalyst project is under way and being rolled out by Carlow County Council LEO. During 2019, 32 businesses are in receipt of the stage one support of mentoring and PR & Communications development.

Recruitment to the programme is currently open to Food, Drink and Life Science businesses in Carlow and Tipperary looking to develop new products and processes with innovation and sustainability as a core theme.

The €1.3m pilot project consists of partners from University of Wales Trinity St David (Lead partner), WRAP Cymru, Tipperary County Council, IT Carlow and Carlow

During 2018/19 the LEO Office coordinated an EU funding programme for 20 participants.

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

The Trading Online Voucher Scheme assists small businesses to trade online. Eligible businesses can apply for a voucher to invest in developing their ecommerce capability, of up to €2,500 matched by own funding to develop a trading online component to their business.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Agri-Food Tourism Programme

Carlow County Council was successful in 2019 for funding under the Agri-Food Tourism Fund. Agri-food tourism broadly is the practice of offering an activity or activities in rural areas to visit areas of well-known agricultural produce and to sample and taste the local or regional cuisine or specialties. The programme for 2019 included:

- Support to Carlow Farmers Market
- Support to Ducketts Grove Christmas Food & Craft Fair
- Food Tourism Website
- Food Tourism & PR Development
- Experience Training & Mentoring
- Carlow Culinary Christmas

Carlow County Council – Revenue Supported Activities

As part of its Revenue Budget, Carlow County Council provides for the following programmes:

Christmas Programme 2019: The Local Enterprise Office supported the delivery of a coordinated Christmas Programme for 2019 called “County Carlow – A Festive Family Experience” which included co-ordination of Carlow Town Lighting Programme, Festival Programme, and Carlow Christmas Market & Digital Marketing & PR Campaign.

General Promotion / FDI Investment: Carlow County Council continues to work with IDA in respect of attracting investment into the County.

Regional Action Plan for Jobs / Ireland South East: As part of a co-operative programme across the Local Authorities in the South East the Regional Action Plan for Jobs Office is co-ordinated by the Regional Director and support staff. The office is designed to engage in co-ordinated approach to regional activities.

Festival & Event Fund: During 2019, a Festival & Event Fund was operated by Carlow County Council. This included the support of 25 festivals and events and 3 community tourism venues.

inCarlow Programme: Carlow County Council developed the inCarlow Brand projects in 2019 to include:

- inCarlow Exhibition @ NPA
- inCarlow Magazine
- inCarlow Food & Drink Strategy
- inCarlow – Cara Flight Promotion.

Regeneration / Ireland 2040

The Economic Development unit co-ordinated applications under the Ireland 2040 funding. This competitive funding process has resulted in the following awards of funding in 2019:

Rural Scheme: Borris Viaduct

- Re-development of Borris Viaduct as an amenity and tourism project

Urban Scheme: Carlow Town

- Development of Masterplan & Core Project Strategy for Funding

These projects were progressed in 2019 and further applications developed in respect of a variety of Rural Projects for Delivery & Development.

Carlow Town Development Forum

Carlow County Council continued to support The Carlow Town Development Forum was established to oversee and direct the implementation of a Town Centre Action Plan during 2018. This plan sets out a strategy that when implemented will positively impact the growth and prosperity of the town centre through increased visitation, business, revenues and jobs.

The Vision of the Carlow Town Development Forum is to improve the prosperity of the Town Centre and enhance the well-being of the community, creating a viable and sustainable Town Centre economy.

The Forum will help revitalize the Town Centre by supporting the development of a broad mix of retail, community and leisure uses that create a distinct Town Centre, appealing to residents and visitors alike.

The Carlow Town Development Forum provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards a shared vision that will enhance the quality of the town environment, strengthen the town centre offering and generate a thriving town centre to maximize visitor footfall, increase spending and ultimately offer customer choice and satisfaction.

Strategic Projects

During 2019 the following strategy work was progressed:

Outdoor Recreation Strategy: In partnership with the Community & Amenity Section, an outdoor recreation strategy for the County will be developed. This strategy will outline and provide a framework for the strategic development of outdoor recreation assets. Initially the focus of applications will be in the area of walking and cycling. This strategy will be launched in Qtr. 2, 2020

inCarlow Food & Drink Strategy: This strategy examines the opportunity and methodology for development of the food and drink sector in the County and will be launched in Qtr. 2, 2020

Carlow Town Bio-Diversity Strategy: In partnership with the Town Forum funding was sought to develop a Carlow Town Bio-Diversity Strategy. **This strategy will be complete in Qtr. 2, 2020**

Representation

As part of its ongoing work in addition to the project groups above, the executive represents Carlow County Council on the following Boards and Working Groups:

- Carlow Early Years Training Services CLG
- Carlow County Development Partnership
- Carlow Local Community Development Committee

- Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG
- Carlow County Childcare Committee
- Ireland South East – Tourism Officers Group.
- Carlow Tourism CLG
- South East Regional Skills Forum

Communications / PR & Promotion:

A communication/PR & Promotion programme was developed for 2019 which included:

- Press Releases on all LEO activities & County Economic Activities
- Feature Press Releases on case study companies
- Social Media Management of Carlow County Council Twitter / Carlow LEO Twitter / Carlow LEO Facebook / County Carlow – A Festive Family Experience Facebook / County Carlow a Festive Family Experience Twitter

Two featured were commissioned in the Sunday Business Post in line with the inCarlow Promotional Campaign.

Protocols and templates for all press activity was designed in 2019 and training provided to all LEO Staff in Communications.

Supporting External Programmes / Partners:

As part of its ongoing work, the Local Enterprise Office supports the delivery of the following programmes in County Carlow:

- Bank of Ireland – Enterprise Towns
- Social Enterprise Development Fund
- Enterprise Ireland – New Frontiers
- Enterprise Ireland – Funding Calls
- South East NDRC Programme

WATER SERVICES AND ROAD TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

WATER SERVICES

Since January 2014, Irish Water, the national water utility is responsible for the delivery of water and wastewater services. Carlow County Council and Irish Water agree to work under the terms of a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) to provide efficient and quality water services to satisfy the needs of the customers in compliance with the statutory and regulatory requirements.

In 2019, there were 79 specific objectives and performance targets measured, which include issues relating to drinking water quality, wastewater discharge quality, customer services and budget control. The performance score for the Carlow ASP in Quarter 4 of 2019 was 100% and it is hoped that we can continue to deliver this performance into 2020. In December 2019, IW issued the 2020 ASP to Carlow. There was a notable reduction in the operational goods and services budget of 7%. Additionally, the capital maintenance budget was dramatically reduced. IW have quoted the demands of the Commission of Regulation for Utilities (CRU) as the reason for this cut.

Water Operations

Carlow County Council staff continue to deliver approximately 14,000 m³ of drinking water per day from the twelve treatment plants it operates on behalf of Irish Water to its customers in Carlow. There has been a reduction of approximately 400 m³ per day in 2019. This reduction represents savings achieved through Leakage Management and other efficiencies. The 'unaccounted for water' (UFW) levels are just under 36% which is one of the lowest UFW rates in the country.

Non-Domestic metering works have been completed exchanging meters and fitting of boundary boxes in Borris, Tinnahinch, Leighlinbridge and Carrickduff and works have commenced in Hacketstown on all non-domestic meters. This work is targeted for completion in 2020.

The continuous upgrade of district metering is ongoing and aids in the discovery of leaks, standardised water pressure for all customers, and greater overall control and management of this precious resource.

Substantial investigative work has been carried out on our distribution system which allows for more targeted future capital investment on the network.

A new disinfection programme was commenced in 2019 in Carlow. This programme which eliminates dangerous chlorine gas use will ensure that all water issued for public consumption will meet all EU Standards while improving the safety of operative staff.



The new all-in-one chlorination cabinet, a trial unit which was designed by staff and constructed for use at the Ballyloo secondary chlorination site.



The new monitoring instrumentation set-up at Oak Park.

The intermediate national telemetry system was commenced in the county which gives a view and early alarm notification of any potential issues at all plants.

Optimisation of water production and monitoring of water parameters is continually under review and improvement across the county.

Wastewater Operations

Carlow County Council staff continue to operate the twenty-four wastewater treatment plants in County Carlow on behalf of Irish Water. Eleven plants operate to the strict requirements of EPA Discharge Licenses, the remainder, the smaller treatment plants, are operated to the requirements of their respective Certificates of Authorisation.

In total 564 samples were taken with 5,802 individual parameters tested. Results were uploaded to Irish Water and EPA on a monthly basis. There were 17 reportable incidents in 2019, of which six were reoccurring. Seven EPA audits were carried out at wastewater treatment plants. Site specific operating procedures were completed in 12 wastewater plants in conjunction with Irish Water Process Optimisation and caretakers for wastewater plants. Annual environmental reports were completed for 11 EPA Licensed wastewater plants. The operation of the larger plants at Mortarstown, Bagenalstown and Tullow continues to be demanding as all three plants need capital investment to meet current and future demand if the emission limit values for the various parameters of the wastewater discharge licenses are to be achieved.

A pilot project to trial the use of Reed Beds for the management and treatment of Sludge at 5 WWTPs was commissioned during 2019 and is ongoing. If successful, this will be a more efficient and sustainable method of treating sludge with reduced operational costs.



Pilot project on Reed beds at waste water treatment plants

Capital Works

During 2019, the Water Services section progressed numerous Capital Projects in conjunction with and funded by Irish Water and continue to advocate for the progression of these critical infrastructural projects.

Notable Capital Works projects progressed during 2019 include developing of plans to upgrade Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant including the construction of a new water tank to pre-planning stage.

Works completed through the Water Networks Programme were delivered in conjunction with the Regional Contractor. The works included the replacement of watermains in parts of Bagenalstown, Carlow town and Graiguecullen, focusing on the replacement of backyard services with over 500 properties now fed from new high quality watermains.



New Watermain Laying – Threading the needle – Dublin Street. July 2019

In Tullow, plans are underway to upgrade the Waste Water Treatment Plant to increase capacity to cater for recent and future growth in Tullow. Design of the upgrade has been brought to an advanced stage in 2019 and construction is scheduled for 2020.

Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade projects are also underway for Bagenalstown and Carlow Town, both are in the detailed design phase with anticipated earliest start towards the end of 2022.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

Having a good road and rail network is integral to the economic prosperity of a county. It is essential to have good access to Dublin, the ports, and the large towns of the region. For local economic, social and recreational purposes it is also essential that the regional and local road asset base is maintained to the highest possible standards consistent with available funding.

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as financial resources permit. The administrative area of Carlow has a road network of 1,329 km comprising of:

Motorway	24 km
National Secondary	54 km
Regional	186 km
Local	1,065 km

Carlow Co. Co. is committed to maintaining & improving the road network, including improving road safety. All of which is managed with a staff complement of 10 technical, 5 administrative and 43 outdoor staff utilizing a central and 2 municipal district offices in 2019.

Motorway

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), formally the National Roads Authority manages and provides funding for all motorway schemes. Currently the TII have a contractor in place with responsibility for maintaining the 24km of the M9 motorway through Co Carlow.

National Secondary Roads

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for national roads. Initially, in 2019 an allocation of €3,302,160 was received for improvement works for bridges and carriageways and to meet costs associated with supervision, public lighting and general maintenance of the national road network.

Subsequently, Carlow Co. Co. applied for and was awarded additional funding for Improvement and Maintenance schemes on the National Roads in the amount of €1,867,020, totalling €5,169,180 of an investment in the National Road infrastructure through Co Carlow.

It is significant to note that there is of the 54km of National Secondary road in the county, contracts were awarded in 2018 to re-surface circa 30% of the network, which was maintained during the 2019 season. These projects are categorized as follows:

Pavement Improvement Schemes

This scheme is a targeted programme of specific improvement projects based on a comprehensive survey of the national road network, undertaken by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in conjunction with Carlow Co. Co.

This programme enabled Carlow Co. Co. to complete pavement improvement works at the following locations:

- N80 Carlow Town Pavement Scheme (completion of 2018 project with an investment of €446,000)
- N80 Whitemills to Bunclody (completion of 2018 project with an investment of €2,800,000)
- N80 Bunclody (completion of 2019 project with an investment of €1,850,000)



Night time works on the N80 @ Bunclody

In addition, forward planning preparations commenced for 2020 Pavement Improvement Schemes located at:

- N81 @ Tullow Main Street (potential investment of €700,000)
- N81 @ Ballymogue (potential investment of €450,000)

Capital Maintenance Schemes

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) initiated a scheme to improve road surface on the National Road. In essence, this scheme facilitates Local Authorities to submit applications for funding for projects larger than Maintenance Projects and smaller than Pavement Improvement Projects, typically within the range €50-200k.

Initially, Carlow Co. Co. received an allocation of €193,000, however was successful in submitting applications for 3 locations receiving an additional €353,000 for urgent remedial measures located at Askea, Ballinacarrig & Kilknock.

HD28 Surfacing programme

This scheme is a targeted programme of pavement repairs based on mechanical surveys undertaken on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Carlow Co. Co. initially received an allocation of €750,000 enabling retexturing and resurfacing works to be undertaken at various locations on the N80 & N81.

Carlow Co. Co. developed the contract documents in-house, procured and managed the completion of the works. Subsequently Carlow Co. Co was successful in recouping the extra-over costs of €61,400 from TII for the project.



Re-texturing on the N80

HD17 Road Safety Inspections

Carlow Co. Co. in conjunction with consulting engineers engaged by TII undertook a comprehensive survey of the N80 and N81 through Carlow. The aim of the survey was to assess potential safety issues on these routes. The survey identified a series of interventions which will be undertaken by Carlow Co. Co. to reduce the potential for traffic accidents occurring on the route.

N80 & N81 Route Lighting Project

TII initiated a scheme to improve public lighting on the National Road network, upgrading the existing lighting equipment with energy saving LED's. Following the successful completion of the 2018 Scheme through Carlow Town, Carlow Co. Co. applied for funding to upgrade all remaining 211 public lighting units on the N80 and N81, resulting in an investment of €145,300.

Defects Maintenance Schemes

During the course of the year, Carlow Co. Co. undertake regular and comprehensive surveys of the N80 and N81 through the county. These surveys identify issues requiring urgent attention, whereby Carlow Co. Co. apply to the TII using an information technology surveying system (GeoApp) for funding to remedy the defects.

Carlow Co. Co. was successful in its bid, receiving €196,000 additional funding for urgent remedial measures (i.e. signage repairs, road marking repairs, damaged road & footpath surfaces and drainage issues, etc.) at specific locations along the National Secondary road network

Leinster Bridges Maintenance Contract.

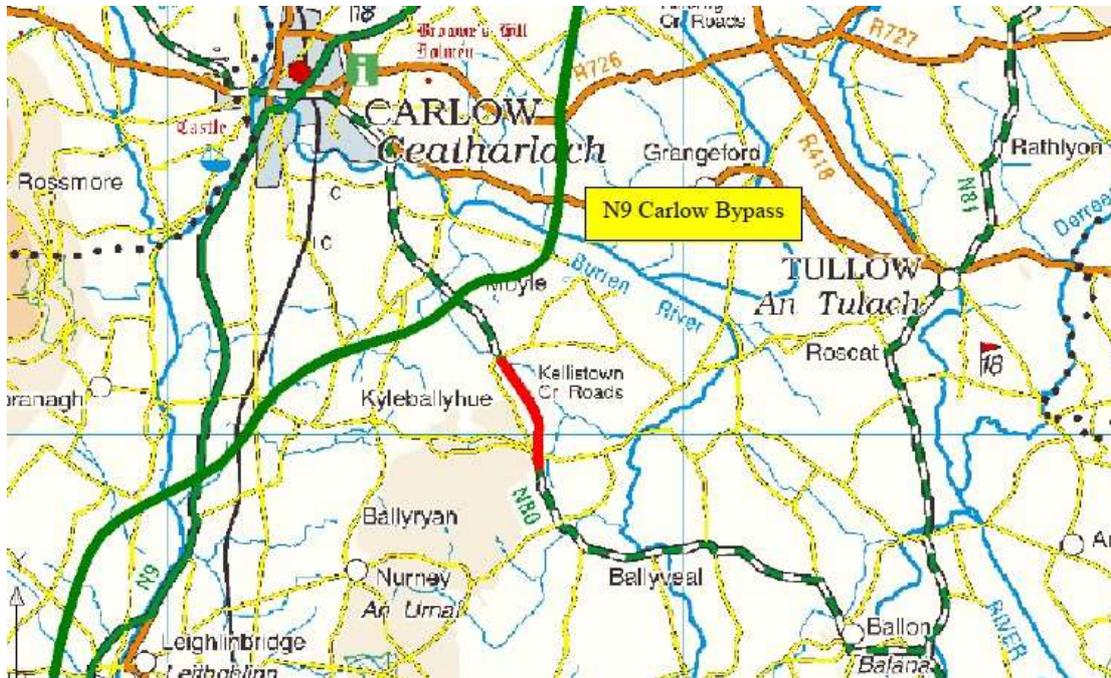
In 2018, TII initiated a Leinster Area Bridge maintenance project to undertake on-going assessments & maintenance works to bridges on National Roads in participating Counties. Kildare RDO commissioned the project to design and oversee the project including 11 bridges on the N80 & 8 bridges on the N81 in County Carlow. These assessments & maintenance works are ongoing.

National Road Fencing Retrofit Programme

Following inspections of the National Road network, completed in 2018 specific areas requiring attention were identified. Carlow Co. Co. submitted a case, resulting in an investment of €100,000. The Municipal District Engineers met with landowners to progress the projects to completion.

National Road Safety Improvement Scheme.

In 2011, the National Roads Authority (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland) commissioned a National Roads Needs Study to assess the standard of the existing national road network throughout the country. The identification, appraisal and prioritisation methodology undertaken identified specific sections of the national road network that were below standard, including potential remedial proposals to resolve the issues.



Extract from National Secondary Road Needs Study

Contained within the study report, the section of N80 National road east of Castletown Cross Roads to Graiguenaspidogue Cross is identified. The key considerations include environmental, safety, economic, accessibility, social inclusion and integration objectives.

Armed with this information, Carlow Co. Co. persisted to highlight the location of concern, and in September the TII granted approval to undertake a detailed assessment of the location to identify the optimum solution to resolve the issues.

Following this approval, Carlow County Council prepared, tendered and engaged technical consultancy services to undertake the necessary assessments to advance this project. It is intended to develop route options in Q1 of 2020.

Regional & Local Roads Grants

The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport provides funding for Regional & Local roads. In 2019 an allocation of €5,845,729 was received for improvement works and general maintenance of the non-national road network. This programme targets much needed remedial measures on regional and local roads in the county under the following:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Restoration Improvement | € 2,760,000 |
| • Restoration Maintenance | € 506,000 |
| • Supplementary Restoration Maintenance | € 199,500 |

• Discretionary Grant	€ 1,029,500
• Bridge rehabilitation	€ 160,000
• Strategic Improvement Grant	€ 200,000
• Safety Improvement Works	€ 135,000
• Speed Limit	€ 28,340
• Community Involvement Scheme	€ 542,919
• Training Grant	€ 21,500
• Drainage Works	<u>€ 263,000</u>
	€ 5,845,729

Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance Projects.

This programme targets improvements to the structural integrity & surfaces of regional and local roads in the county. Carlow Co. Co. received an allocation of €3,465,500, an increase of €320,000 on the previous year, enabling structural and resurfacing works to be undertaken throughout the county.



Restoration Improvement @ Borris Main Street

Discretionary Grant

This programme includes maintenance activities across the 1,251km of regional and local road networks throughout the county, including specific targeted improvement projects. These specific improvement projects include signage installations, road markings, footpath improvements & repairs. This funding category also includes including specific activities (i.e. winter maintenance services).



Winter Maintenance Services

Winter Maintenance Plan 2018 / 2019

Since the commencement of the season in mid-October 2018, spanning a 25 week period, weather conditions resulted in 34 treatments of P1 routes using circa 300 ton of salt and 17 treatments of P2 routes using circa 370 ton of salt.

It should be noted that while the costs associated with treating P1 routes are refunded by the TII, the associated costs of treating the P2 routes are deducted from the Discretionary Grant allocation issued by DTTAS. During the 2018/2019 season, Carlow treated the P2 routes 17 times costing circa €100,000.

Therefore, requests to treat additional roads, not included in the plan, and cannot be positively responded to due to significant knock-on effects that alteration of routes can have on resources and response times.

Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme.

Carlow Co. Co. undertake regular surveys of bridge conditions throughout the county. The results of these surveys facilitate a programme of maintenance works required to maintain the structural integrity of the bridge network.

This programme targets repairs to bridges on regional and local roads in the county. In 2019 Carlow Co. Co. received an allocation of €160,000 enabling repairs to Bridges located at Grangewatt, Croneskeagh, Portusheen, Knockloe and Knockeen Bridges. In addition, design work commenced on proposals to replace Brook Lodge Bridge.



Clearing Debris from bridge for structural assessment.

Community Involvement Scheme

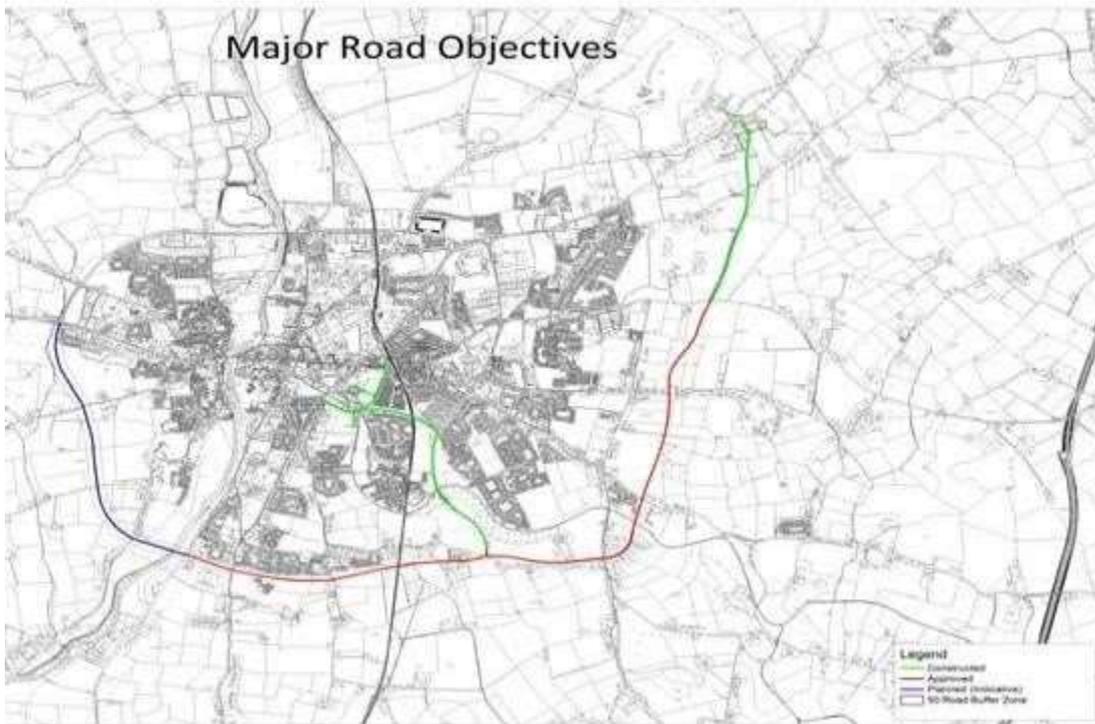
This programme targets improvements to the structural integrity & surfaces of local tertiary roads in the county, based on applications submitted by the local community. DTTAS allocated €542,919 to Carlow Co. Co., enabling remedial works to be undertaken to 18 local tertiary roads in 2019.

Subsequently on the 20th September in accordance with Circular RW 08/2019, Carlow Co. Co. submitted proposals for the 2 year programme for the qualifying applications in the amount of circa €670,000 for consideration.

Strategic Improvement Grant Carlow Eastern and Southern Relief Rd

The overall scheme will include the construction of a road extending from the R726 Hackettstown Rd, orbiting Carlow Town to the south crossing the N80, the Dublin to Waterford Railway line, the R448, the River Barrow and joining with the already constructed section of the road in Co Laois.

This project is included as a 'project currently subject to appraisal' under National Strategic Outcome 3 of "Project Ireland 2040 – National Development Plan 2018-2027. As indicated above, €200,000 was allocated under this funding category to facilitate progression of the Carlow Relief Road project.



Outline Plan of major road objectives for Carlow Town

Given the time period which has elapsed since 2004 and the introduction of new legislative provisions pertaining to appropriate assessment, environmental and ecological considerations in the intervening period, and given recent case history, it is considered that environmental reports comprising an Environmental Impact Statement Screening Report and determination regarding Appropriate Assessment are required. Such reports will assist in informing the requirement for either a new Part 8 or approval by An Bord Pleanála as maybe deemed appropriate.

To progress the project, firstly the Members of Laois & Carlow Co. Co.'s approved the Section 85 agreement in May 2019 to facilitate the progression of the project with Carlow Co. Co. as the lead authority. Following this Carlow Co. Co. submitted a revised Preliminary Appraisal Application to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS).

Subject to DTTAS approval, the next step is to proceed to Detailed Appraisal, which will require a new planning process including appropriate assessment, environmental and ecological considerations and may require consideration of alternative route options. Carlow Co. Co. intends seeking Technical Consultancy Services to undertake the specialised assessments and to deliver the project. To that end Carlow Co. Co. has drafted the Technical Consultants Brief and forwarded to the Regional Road Design Office for final check. Subject to a favourable assessment, it is intended to seek tenders in Q1 of 2020.

Drainage Works.

Carlow Co. Co. received an allocation of €263,000, specifically ring-fenced for drainage improvement works. Good surface water drainage is essential to maintain structural integrity and increase the longevity of the road network. This allocation facilitated the completion of 11 drainage improvement projects throughout the county.



Drainage Grant Project

Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes.

Carlow Co. Co. is committed to improving road safety on the roads of Carlow. In 2019 an allocation of €135,000 was received to carry out minor improvement works in areas where there is an established accident history. The locations identified for Improvement works were Busherstown, Dunleckney, Ballycarney, Royal Oak Junction, Castlemore, Carriglead and Hacketstown to Scotland road.

Projects and Forward Planning

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads, as financial resources permit, for the safer transport and economic prosperity of a county. The following outline Carlow's commitment to achieve the policy objectives:

Performance Indicators

The performance indicators which measure road condition by pavement surface condition rating (PSCI) for each of the road classes is a complex system which categorises the roads into different groupings depending on the maintenance intervention required. The results from a national study identify roads in Carlow are better than the national average across each of the road classes.

Local Improvement Scheme.

On 7th February last, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced a new round of funding for Local Improvement Schemes (LIS) from which Carlow received €250,000 facilitating the completion of 14 schemes.

Significantly, the Minister has also announced that the 2019 LIS will include a cap of €1,200 on the amount that any individual householder or landowner will be asked to contribute towards the cost of repairs to their road.

The Municipal District Engineers prepared programmes, subsequently presented and adopted at Municipal District Meetings. Arrangements made arrangements to complete the projects.

In compliance with the announcement, Carlow Co. Co. submitted a Secondary list of applications for consideration, however no additional funding was forthcoming.

Carlow Town Bus Service

In December 2016, Carlow Co. Co. SPC highlighted the potential for a town Bus Service. In 2017, Carlow Co. Co. made contact with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to develop a business case to develop an urban bus service to serve Carlow Town & Environs. A series of meetings were held resulting in 2 provisional routes (with a proviso for a 3rd should the service require it in the future) to serve the town, including agreeing potential bus stop locations.

It had previously been hoped that sanction to proceed to tender development for the project would have been given in 2018 with the tender process taking place in 2019. Unfortunately, this has not transpired due to competing priorities within the NTA.

Since the initial meetings, the NTA attended a number of Carlow Municipal District meetings to update the members on progress and assure the members of their commitment towards the project. Resulting from these meetings, the Carlow members raised concerns regarding access/service linking to the Carlow Train Station and the service provision to the greater Graiguecullen area.

The NTA took the concerns on board, whereby they met with the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District Members to discuss project, considering alternative options. Resulting from the meeting a preferred option was identified consistent with the initial proposal of 2 routes, with a proviso for a 3rd should the service require it in the future to serve the greater Graiguecullen area.

Subsequently, the Carlow Town Bus Service developed into 2 elements forming a single project as follows:

- Train Station Access
- Bus Routes & Infrastructure - Specification & Design.

The NTA have progressed the preliminary design with the intention of seeking “Approval in Principle” for the Bus Stop locations prior to advancing to detailed design and valuation.

Once granted the tender process can commence for Bus Service Providers and vehicles, while in tandem the infrastructural works required for the Bus stop locations can be undertaken.

Public Lighting Upgrade Project

Carlow County Council, in conjunction with 3 Counties Energy Agency prepared a submission to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) for funding under the better energy communities grant scheme. The objective of the scheme is to undertake a public lighting upgrade programme to maximise cost and energy savings.

Disappointingly this application was not initially approved with SEAI citing nonadherence to guidelines. This decision by SEAI is somewhat ironic given the global need to reduce energy consumption. It is considered that the guidelines were adhered to and the decision was subsequently appealed, in mid-April. Carlow County Council subsequently received confirmation that the appeal was successful, awarding Carlow County Council up-to 30% of the overall contract costs.

Subsequent Carlow Co. Co. successfully appealed the decision, facilitating the progression the replacement of approximately 610 existing high energy SOX / SON lights with lower energy LED lights at an estimated cost of €90,000, up-to 30% of which will be grant-aided. The installation of the replacement lights was completed by September, so enabling drawdown of the appropriate grant-aid.

Regional Local Authority Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project

The Road Management Office (RMO) are progressing the public lighting improvement/replacement scheme, on a national basis to assisting the Local Authorities meet the 2020 energy saving targets. Involved in the scheme is a survey of the current public lighting stock, undertake the design, tender & manage the public lighting upgrade. Carlow Co. Co. confirmed its commitment to partake in this scheme to upgrade the remaining public lighting stock throughout the county. It is expected that the Section 85 Agreement will be presented to Council in Q1 of 2020.

Risk Remediation Works Programme

On the 21st March, Carlow Co. Co. met with the Risk Advisor for Irish Public Bodies (IPB) insurance to discuss potential risk remediation work proposals designed to combat/reduce future potential public liability claims.

To aid in the development of a multi-annual footpath improvement programme, IPB's Risk Advisor suggested that, like other Local Authorities, Carlow Co. Co. should develop a policy regarding footpath improvements/repairs outlining the considerations, material types, etc. This policy is currently at draft stage, scheduled to be presented to the SPC for consideration.

Concurrently, based on historical/current public liability claims and considering the potential risk of such future claims, the Municipal District Engineers are preparing a 3year plan to upgrade footway infrastructure. Once complete, the proposal will be submitted to IPB for funding consideration. Subsequently, funding was received facilitating the remediation of high risk areas throughout the county.

Carlow Noise Action Plan

Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment, circulated correspondence, requiring all Local Authorities to undertake a review of the 2013 Noise Mapping and Noise Action Plan. The draft review was submitted to the EPA for comment prior to public display in late 2018 and was completed in 2019.

National Ploughing Competition 2019

The 2019 National Ploughing Championships took place at Ballintrane, Fennagh from the 17th/19th September 2019. The general consensus of the Co-Ordination Group, attended by representatives from Carlow Co. Co., the National Ploughing Association, the Gardai, the HSE, Fire & Emergency Services and Carlow Tourism, the event was a great success.

Subsequently, it was confirmed at the annual awards event held on the 13th October, where the National Ploughing Association announced that the National Ploughing Championships will remain in Ballintrane, Fennagh for 2020 to be held from the 15th/17th September.

Environment

The Environment Department of Carlow County Council performs a wide range of functions that are growing annually as new legislation is introduced, new national priorities emerge and work practices within the organisation change. The following is a non-exhaustive list of functions: -

- Environmental Compliant Management
- Waste Management – Enforcement & Licencing
- Operation of Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Centres
- Litter Prevention & Control
- Environmental Education & Awareness
- Water Pollution/Water Framework Directive
- Farm Inspection and Nutrient Management
- Environmental Planning
- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Burial Grounds
- Rural Water/Small Private Supplies
- Climate Change
- Energy Management & Targets
- Resource Efficiency Planning
- Veterinary
- Miscellaneous Environmental Legislation

There was an increased emphasis on enforcement in 2019 at litter black spots and areas where illegal collections were suspected to be in operation. The Environment Department continues to receive correspondence about concerns outside its functional remit including overgrown hedges, open spaces, dangerous structures, derelict sites, rodent infestation, domestic noise and unauthorised departments. Advice in relation to these areas is provided where possible.

Complaints/Non-Routine Inspections

The highest volume of complaints that are received by the Environment Section in 2019 was from cases of illegal dumping of waste and litter which accounted for over 60% of the call volumes. In 2019, Environment Staff investigated and actioned 792 complaints, many of them requiring further action under Waste Management and Litter legislation. Unauthorised waste collectors and those who continue to use the services of unauthorised collectors represent a significant issue and continued to be a priority focus. Any business or householder that transfers their waste to unauthorised collectors are liable for prosecution, together with consequent fines and court costs. In such cases Carlow County Council will seek legal and clean-up costs. If any person notices waste collections in vans or trailers without a waste collection permit number, they are encouraged to report this to Carlow County Council. The table below summarises the complaints received in 2019.

Summary of Environmental Complaints Received in 2019

Complaint Type	Complaints	Investigated	Active	Resolved
Litter	186	186	0	186
Waste	291	291	0	291
Water Pollution	30	30	0	30
Farm Inspections	15	15	0	15
Noise	19	19	0	19
Air Pollution	4	4	0	4
Burning	34	34	0	34
Section 63 EPA	1	1	1	0
Sludge – Odour	12	12	0	12
Veterinary	27	27	1	26
Paper Recycling Banks	39	39	0	39
Glass Recycling Banks	29	29	0	29
Invasive Species	4	4	0	4
Hedge Cutting	7	7	0	7
NECL	6	6	0	6
Abandoned Cars	68	68	2	66
Cemeteries	20	20	0	20
Total	792	792	4	788

To make any complaint to the Environment Section a call must be logged with environment@carlowcoco.ie. All complaints must be logged on the central complaints system before any Authorised Officers will conduct an inspection.

Civic Amenity/Bring Centres

Carlow County Council operate 28 bring sites and 2 Civic Amenity Sites at Powerstown and Kernanstown. Paper collection is provided at 4 sites. Operation of sites and the range of facilities provided are reviewed on a regular basis. A new regional contract was advertised on tenders during April and is now in place.

Carlow County Council in association with Repak created new bring sites at Carlow Town Hall Carpark, Ballon, and Fenagh and at the Tesco Carpark in Tullow. Sites at Green Road, Rathvilly and Askea have also received a facelift. Upgrades to existing sites have been carried out at 6 locations across the County.



New bottle bank location in Carlow Town (Town Hall)

The use of bottle banks continues to be strong and in 2019, 950 tonnes were collected across the facilities.

Breakdown of Materials Collected at Bottle Banks in 2019

	Aluminium	Steel	Brown Glass	Green Glass	Clear Glass	Total
2017	24.4	4.52	218.7	279.51	317.9	845.03
2018	27.03	4.47	249.1	300.54	358.78	939.92
2019	28.74	2.87	246.28	283.59	387.18	948.66

National Spring Clean 2019

National Spring Clean ran for the month of April throughout the Town and County of Carlow. The launch took place on Monday 15th April in Delta Centre as part of Environ 2019. Over 100 groups registered with An Taisce to receive clean up kits. Community and Voluntary groups throughout the county completed clean-up operations of all sizes and were supported by the small team in the environment department of Carlow County Council. Over 15 tonnes of material was picked by groups and this was managed through Powerstown.



Launch of National Spring Clean 2019

Waste Management Bye Laws

Over 500 inspections were carried out under the waste management byelaws. Subsequent reminder letters were issued, to a number of households, which failed to engage with Carlow County Council during these inspections. In some cases notices are being prepared to initiate prosecutions. Housing estates were monitored on collection days to gauge participation in the waste collection services and the compliance of waste collectors in operating a 3-bin system. The housing estates where rates of participation were found low will be targeted in the 2020 programme.

High Court proceedings were initiated in one case for failure to participate with the 3-bin system in accordance with the regulations.

Southern Waste Management Office/WERLA

Carlow County Council is part of the Southern Waste Management Office (SWMO) and the Southern Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority Office (WERLA). Cooperation with these offices assists in analysing the national waste capacity, organising national awareness campaigns, lobbying for legislative change, providing funding under the Anti-Dumping Initiative, provision of legal assistance and assistance in investigation for non-compliers. The latest campaign to be launched is the 'mywaste' website, which is the one stop shop for information about waste management in Ireland.

Ireland's guide to waste
mywaste

Annual Inspections

Every year Carlow County Council produces an RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections). This plan sets out the anticipated inspection regime for the Environment Section under many different categories.

Inspections are broken into routine or planned inspections and non-routine or reactive inspections. Planned inspections cover inspections of identified sites under e.g. Bye Laws, Food Regulations, Discharge Licences and Permits. Non routine are inspections carried out following complaints or the discovery of environmental pollution. Once drawn up, the resources available to complete the inspections are compared against the requirement to ensure the plan is achievable. In 2019 the following number were completed: -

Number of Inspections carried out in 2019

Total Routine Inspections end of year	3,008
Total Non-Routine Inspections end of year	708
Total Inspections end of year	3,716

Powerstown

During 2019 there were over 26,000 visitors to Powerstown, with a record number of 236 in one day. The facility operated ahead of expectation for the year and provides a useful centre for the reception and storage of material collected for illegal dumping and clean ups. The facility also is useful to run amenity days and has the capacity to deal with larger items like furniture and electronic equipment. The facility collected approximately 1,300 tonnes of domestic waste and over 1,300 tonnes of recyclable/green waste.



Capping of waste cell at Powerstown

Restoration works including capping at the site were completed in 2019.

Powerstown Community Fund

Phase 5 of the Community Fund concluded in December with 48 domestic applications and 4 Community applications paid. Since the commencement of the community fund, €380,000 has been invested into local improvements and community projects.

Carlow County Council Environment Department & IT Carlow.

The Environment Department worked on several different projects with IT Carlow in 2019.

Green Campus

Following ongoing support, IT Carlow has signed up for the Green Campus Programme on 24th January 2019. Members of the Green Committee attended the National Conference for the first time on Thursday, 7 February. The programme will run over a 3-4 year period looking at Waste, Energy, Water, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Staff from Environment have carried out waste audits and waste efficient audits and will be working with the committee to provide training and ongoing support to:

- Avoid & reduce food waste
- Implement the correct segregation of all waste streams.
- Significantly reduce single use plastics



Energy, Green Campus and SDG Awareness Day – Carlow IT

(Environ 2019) Day-to-day sustainability festival: what can I do?"

Environment Staff worked closely with IT Carlow to present a Sustainable Communities Workshop as part of the Environ 2019 programme. The festival took place on Monday 15th April in Delta Centre Carlow and comprised of over 20 environmental workshops and information stands that sought to encourage and support attendees to take small yet tangible steps towards living a more Environmentally Sustainable lifestyle. Workshops were hosted by local, regional and National environmental supports and agencies.

IT Carlow Litter and Waste prevention Marketing Project.

The results and findings of the IT Marketing and digital marketing project were presented on Monday 29th April at 6pm in the Town hall, Carlow. The environment Department worked with faculty and students in IT Carlow to determine a base line study into the attitudes and habits of the wide community of Carlow in relation to litter, waste and recycling. Students presented their findings as well as several possible marketing campaigns aimed specifically at the people of Carlow based on their research results. This project was funded by the LAPN and Carlow County Council.



National Tree Week

This year 600 native Irish Saplings were distributed to community groups and schools throughout the County. The environment Department also hosted a public workshop on 4th April to encourage the use of Native Irish Willow and the creation of living structures to enhance biodiversity.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

Carlow County received over €60,000 under the anti-dumping initiative which is run jointly by the Department of Communication Climate Action and Environment and the Waste Enforcement Lead Authority (WERLA). The fund was used for a number of measures including clean ups, surveillance, brown bin promotion and special waste collection days. The waste collection days included a bulky waste day, a mattress collection, a WEEE collection day and a household hazardous waste day. There was an enormous interest in the days with hundreds of participants getting involved.



Billboard at Fairgreen, Carlow

Green Schools

Over 20 Green Schools Visits were carried out in 2019. The Environment Department continues to support the Green School programme through the provision of workshops, funding through LA21 and Green School assessments.



Scoil Mhuire, Carlow (Marine Environment)

Regional Green Schools Award Ceremony was held in the Hotel Kilkenny on the 22nd May.

10 Carlow Schools received flags and were recognized under the following themes:

Water

- St. Brendan's N.S., Drummond, St. Mullins.
- St. Michaels N.S. Newtown, Borris.

Travel

- Fr. Cullen Memorial School, Tinryland.
- Presentation De La Salle, Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown.

Biodiversity

- Scoil Treasa Naofa, Tynock, Kiltegan
- St. Brigid's N.S. Station Road, Bagenalstown

Global citizenship Litter & Waste

- Rathoe N.S. Rathoe, Tullow

Global Citizenship & Energy

- St. Leos College, Dublin Road, Carlow
- Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Peadar's Pól, Ballon,

Global Citizenship & Marine Environment

- Carrigduff National School, Carrigduff, Bunclody

Ploughing Championships

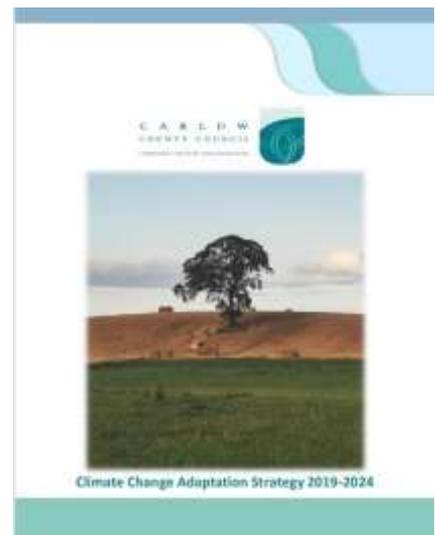
Having regard to the County of Carlow (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018, the Environment Department worked with the IPA, Southern Regional Waste Management Office and AES to introduce a segregated waste collection for the Ploughing Championships 2019. The 3-bin system allowed for food waste, Mixed Dry Recyclables and general waste. Signage was erected and 'green bin angles' were deployed to inform visitors to the site about the segregated system. Volunteers were provided from secondary schools, the scouts and County Council staff. The site was kept remarkably clean for the duration.



Green Bin Angels @ The Ploughing

Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Carlow County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was completed in 2019. The strategy was presented and approved by members of Carlow County Council unanimously at the Council meeting on the 9th of September. The Strategy was launched at the National Ploughing Championships in Fenagh on Wednesday 18th of September where members from the Climate Action Regional Office in Kildare and Met Eireann attended the launch. An Implementation plan has been developed. The purpose of this plan is to break down the adaptation framework into what actions will be taken and when, and who will carry out the actions within the Council. The Climate Action Steering Group will devise a methodology for implementation. An implementation report will then be presented Elected Members, Management Team and to the proposed Planning, Environment, Climate Action, Energy &



Agriculture Strategic Policy Committee every six months to ensure that the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy is to the forefront of Council's activities. From a broader view, this strategy will encompass a period of approximately 35 years where a new strategy will be drafted every 10 years, with a 5-year review point to determine the strategy's continued relevance and performance against adaptation objectives.

Resource Efficiency Action Plan/Single Use Plastic

Carlow County Council's Resource Efficiency Action Plan and Single Use Plastic Policy were developed in 2019. An on-site assessment and audit of energy, water and waste resources within County Buildings has been carried out and recommended actions were put in place including the implementation of 3-bin waste segregation systems. This resource efficiency initiative commenced in County Building in September and will be rolled out to all other building.

The single use plastic policy was approved in August of 2019. The policy outlines a ban of the purchase of a range of single use plastic items. It is also a requirement that venues or catering contractors employed by Carlow County Council would refrain from single use plastic use.

Sustainable Development Goals

At the ploughing, Minister Richard Bruton announced Carlow County Council as one of twelve Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) champions for Ireland. The SDGs are 17 global goals set by the United Nations that are to be achieved by the year 2030. The SDGs Champions have been selected from a range of private companies, sporting organisations, national community organisations and public agencies to promote and raise awareness of the 17 goals.



Launch of the SDg Champions Programme with Minister Bruton

Carlow County Council are championing 5 of the goals which include Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production and Climate Action. Carlow County Council are representing the Local Government Sector as a SDG Champion and are working closely with our partners in 3CEA, The Local Authority Waters Program, Waste Management Regional Offices, PPN, National Group Water Federation and other organisations to promote and help achieve the goals set out by the UN.

Rural Water

The Rural Water Programme for Carlow is administered by the Environment Section. There are 2 main areas within the scheme i.e. individual grants and group grants. The group grants are further divided into water treatment and sewerage treatment. Grants administered are recouped directly from the Department.

In 2019 the following individual grants were administered:

Individual Water Grant

Application Status	No
Apps 2019	98
Apps Paid 2019 (Incl 2018)	83
Apps refused	6

It is anticipated that the maximum grant may change in 2020 and private well owners are encouraged to analyse their wells to ensure that the quality of their water is up to standard.

In December the Rural Water Liaison meeting was held and attended by reps from IFA, Teagasc, Group Water Scheme, the Federation and elected officials. There was a lengthy agenda which included discussion on capital funding for 2020 and beyond. The recent announcement for additional funding was welcomed but there was concern about the lack of funding for mains replacement.

The main activity in the Group Scheme Programme in Carlow is with four Group Water Schemes, namely Ballinabranna, Ballyellen, Ballyloughan and Glynn/St Mullins.

On 14th October Circular L2/19 issued regarding the approval of schemes/projects under the Multiannual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 and grant Allocations to local authorities for 2019. Circular L1/19 (8 February 2019) sought bids from Local Authorities for funding under the 2019-2021 funding cycle of the rural water multi-annual programme. An Expert Panel was put in place for recommendations for funding arising for allocations for 2019 for Measures 1-7 of the Programme. In summary Carlow received the following:

Measure	Funding Sought €	Funding being provided in 2019 €
Measure 1 – Source Protection	2,000	2,000
Measure 2 – Public Health Compliance	5,000	Nil
Measure 3 – Enhancement/Water Conservation	146,029	86,529
Measure 5 – Transition	5,000	5,000
Measure 6 b) – Community Connection Networks - Wastewater	33,110	22,500
TOTAL	191,139	116,029

Domestic lead Remediation (Financial Assistance) Regulations 2016 (SI No 56 of 2016) brings into operation a grants scheme to assist householders with the costs of replacing lead pipes in their homes under Circular L3/16 Remediation of Domestic Lead Piping - Two applications were received and paid in 2019.

Energy

Carlow County Councils continued to collaborate with the 3 Counties Energy Agency in 2019 to deliver on energy saving targets and to promote energy awareness through various programmes. By the end of 2018, Carlow County Council has achieved a 28.7% reduction in energy consumption since the baseline was set in 2009.

During 2019, targets for 2030 have now been set and energy savings are required to be 50% on the baseline with an overall carbon reduction of 33%. This target is challenging and together with the Climate Adaptation Strategy, measures will need to be agreed to achieve the targets.

The Better Energy Communities Programme in 2019 continued to support communities and households through grant funding available through the SEAI. Carlow County Council received support for the LED lighting programme.

In December, 3CEA launch their 10-year strategy at Castlecomer Discovery Park. This strategy set out the targets and goals around energy performance required in the Carlow, Kilkenny and Wexford and the supports available.

Water Framework Directive

The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 (RBMP) sets out a new approach for the protection and management of water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries, groundwater, and coastal waters. This RBMP is underpinned by a strong evidence base resulting from the work of the Environmental Protection Agency, Inland Fisheries Ireland and all 31 Local Authorities in assessing the status of water quality. Developing this current RBMP involved extensive collaboration between the relevant public bodies together with public and stakeholder involvement.

The RBMP lists 190 Priority Areas for Action where collaborative efforts will be focussed to improve water quality over the period 2018 – 2021. These Areas for Action include 726 specific waterbodies. A water body can be a river or tributary, a lake, a body of groundwater, an estuary, or a coastal area.

Water quality improvements will deliver multiple benefits for human health, wildlife, and local economies through tourism and sustainable industry. This approach will require ongoing coordination and collaboration between local authorities, State agencies and stakeholders, together with continued public engagement and participation.



Public meeting for the Burren Catchment – Seven Oaks

In 2019 'on the ground' actions and stream walks commenced by catchment scientists to gain a better understanding of the issues impacting on water quality in the Priority Areas for Action (PAAs) and to develop solutions that are relevant and workable locally. In Carlow the PAAs are the Slaney, Burren, Old Leighlin, Dereen and Mountain rivers. In addition, small areas of the Dinin, Lerr and Derry PAA's are located in Carlow.



Emergency Services & Building Control

Introduction

Carlow County Council maintains Fire Brigades in four Fire Stations located in Carlow Town, Muinebheag, Tullow and Hacketstown. A Fire Service Training Centre utilised by Fire Services from across Ireland is also based in Hacketstown. The dedicated crews, together with modern vehicles and equipment, ensure delivery of a prompt, efficient and effective service responding to 536 incidents on a 24/7 basis in 2019. This is supported by the Eastern Regional Control Centre located in Dublin Fire Brigade HQ in Townsend St, which receives calls from the public through the 999/112 service and mobilises the appropriate fire service resources in County Carlow.

Services such as administration, fire safety activities, Building Control, Major Emergency Management etc. are delivered from the Fire Service Headquarters at Green Lane, Carlow.

The number of Emergency Incidents which Carlow Fire & Rescue Service attended reduced in 2019 compared to 2018. The total number of emergency incidents the Fire Service attended in 2019 was 536, down from 612 in 2018. This was primarily due to the fact that in 2018, Carlow Fire Service experienced an extremely busy period from May to August as a result of the extended dry weather and associated attendance at grass and gorse fires. The total number of grass fires attended in 2019 was 31, down from 120 in 2018. Unfortunately, attendances at Road Traffic Collisions in the County increased during the year, up from 71 in 2018, to 95 in 2019.

In July 2019, Carlow Fire Service took delivery of 4 new operational support vehicles which were funded by the Dept. of Housing, Planning & Local Government through the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management. Three new Ford Ranger 4x4 vehicles were delivered to Carlow Town, Muinebheag and Tullow Fire Stations while an operational support van was delivered to Hacketstown Fire Station and Training Centre. The vehicles were converted to have an operational Fire Service response locally by High Precision Motor Products Ltd. in Tullow.



The Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2018 carried out by NOAC (National Oversight and Audit Commission) which was published in September 2019 highlighted the fact that Carlow Fire Authority had the 4th lowest cost per capita for the entire country at €34.71 per head of population.

This compares favourably when compared against the national average of €61.63 per capita.

The NOAC report also highlighted that in 89% of mobilisations, a crew from Carlow Fire Service arrived at the scene of an emergency incident within 20 minutes from time of mobilisation, the 3rd best performing Retained Fire Service nationally.

Applications for Fire Safety Certificates were granted within the statutory period of 2 months in 82.05% of cases.

In 2019, Carlow County Firefighters completed training courses in Breathing Apparatus, Heavy Vehicle Rescue, Road Traffic Collision, Emergency Fire Appliance Driving, Flood First Responder, Emergency First Responder and Critical Incident Stress Management.



Safety, Health & Welfare

Carlow Fire & Rescue Service undertook a full external NSAI (National Standards Authority of Ireland) reaccreditation audit of our Safety Management System in December 2019. No non-conformances or any other serious Health & Safety related issues were highlighted and full accreditation of the OHSAS 18001 Safety Management System was awarded for a period of one year.

A regular inspection regime of fixed work places has been very effective in highlighting any Health & Safety issues at an early stage and reducing or eliminating the risk to personnel as quickly as possible. The document management system for OHSAS accreditation has been made considerably more streamlined by the advent of an electronic cloud based document management system which can be accessed on the fireground by all personnel using portable electronic tablets. The system has dual functionality in that all operational decisions and Risk Assessments are recorded dynamically throughout emergency incidents and provides documentary evidence of all assessments that are carried out. All Road Safety Authority requirements for vehicle inspections are recorded on the electronic tablet also.

Operations

As mentioned previously, the number of emergency incidents attended in 2019 was lower than those attended in 2018. Regrettably, there was an increase in attendance at Road Traffic Collisions, Automatic Fire Alarms as well as chimney fires in the County.

Total Number of Call Outs

	2018	2019
Total No. of Fires Attended	356	246
Road Traffic Collisions Attended	71	95
Flooding Incidents	5	4
Rescue/Removal from Water	12	14
Non Fire Rescues	44	43
Miscellaneous	84	68
False Alarms	40	66
Total Incidents Attended	612	536

	2018	2019
Chimney Fires	29	40
Outdoor Grass Fires	120	31

Fire Safety & Prevention

In addition to its operational activities, Carlow Fire Service was also very active in promoting fire safety and continues to inspect public-assembly buildings in an effort to meet the obligations under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003.

The annual licensing and inspection of premises was completed in September with publicans, dance and restaurant license renewal applications before the Courts. In total 46 premises were inspected in the run up

to the Court date in late September. A large body of work was undertaken to comply with the provisions of the Fire Services Act along with the administrative duties associated with issuing certificates, letters and conditions of license.

A number of warning letters were issued to premises owners and occupiers following inspections on foot of complaints by members of the public as well as issues that have arisen post incident and other matters that they have been brought to the Fire Officers attention. Carlow Fire Service was granted a High Court Order against one premises for breach of Fire Safety Regulations in February 2019.

Extensive planning and liaison was carried out with the organisers of the National Ploughing Championships in Ballintrane, Fenagh on September 17th – 19th (approx. 300,000 people attended) to ensure the safety of all involved. An extensive programme of consultation and inspections were implemented and carried out in the lead up to and during the event.



Building Control

The Building Control section actively manages the Building Control Management System and carries out routine inspections of construction projects to ensure compliance with all parts A to M of the Building Regulations during construction stage, validating and technically examining Disability Access Certificates as well as advising members of the public on the system.

Fire Safety Certificate and Statutory obligations for Building Control inspections are also being maintained.

Building Control Activity Summary 2019

Commencement Notices	Bldg. Control Inspections
190	72
Fire Safety Certificates	Disability Access Certificates
58	36

Major Emergency Management

Carlow Fire Service continues to partake in MEM Regional Working and Steering Group meetings. Carlow Fire Service manages the fund for the South East Region MEM Steering Group as well as the regional On Site Co Ordination Centre and support equipment to be used in the event of a Major Emergency. This vehicle and equipment is available to be deployed from Muinebheag Fire Station and is available to be used by all of the Principal Response Agencies in the South East Region; Local Authorities, HSE and An Garda Siochana.



Community Fire Safety

National Fire Safety Week was held on the 7th to the 14th of October 2019. Open nights were held in the 4 stations in County Carlow on Thursday night, October 4th, members of the public were invited into the stations to receive advice on fire safety as well as viewing firefighting equipment and attending a number of fire safety demonstrations. Large crowds attended in each of the 4 stations.

The annual schools programme continues to be rolled out to all 3rd class primary school students with a view to educating children and their families of the dangers of fire and fire safety measures and precautions to be taken in the family home.

At the Tullow Show in August, Tullow Fire Brigade presented a demonstration, simulating to members of the public what it is like to experience being in a low visibility, smoke filled environment.



Hacketstown Training & Development Centre

During 2019 Hacketstown Training Centre facilitated Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour Training courses for Laois, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford, Tipperary, Limerick, Cork County, Kerry and Meath Fire Services as well as the Irish Air Corps and Irish Defence Forces. In May, Hacketstown Training Centre and Carlow Fire Service hosted a week long training course for the National

Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management which saw Officers from across the country learn about specialist techniques to be used where Heavy Goods Vehicles have been involved in serious Road Traffic Collisions.

In addition, Hacketstown Training Centre hosted 8 workshop courses for CFBT (Compartment Fire Behaviour Training) Instructors which saw every CFBT Instructor in the Irish Fire Service attend a 2 day workshop in instructional techniques as well as new developments and best practice.

In total, Hacketstown Training Centre hosted training and development courses for a total of 140 days during 2019, it is expected that the amount of training hosted will increase in 2020.

Works were completed to develop and deliver Compartment Fire Behaviour, Tactical & Positive Pressure Ventilation and Tactical fire-fighting courses in the Training Centre. Hacketstown now is the only training centre in the country which offers learners the opportunity to undertake this type of learning all in the one facility.



NDFEM Resilience Fleet

Carlow Fire Service continues to support the work of the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management through the management of the Directorate's fleet of 9 Resilience and Training fire appliances. These 9 fire appliances are managed and maintained through Carlow Fire Service and are used by the National Directorate for the delivery of the national training programme across Ireland for fire officers at all ranks from recruit to senior officers.



Tetra Communication System

In July 2019 Carlow Fire Service migrated to a new Tetra digital radio communication system. This network is far superior to the existing analogue VHF radio system which was unreliable particularly in upland areas such as the Blackstairs Mountains and Mt Leinster.

Rescue Organisation Ireland

In April 2019, firefighters from Carlow Fire Service competed against fire crews from across Ireland in the National Road Traffic Collision Challenge. Following success in the national event, firefighters Carlow Fire Service was selected to represent Co. Carlow and Ireland in the World Rescue Challenge in La Rochelle, France in September.

The team was very successful and achieved first place in the rapid scenario in the World Rescue Challenge, Carlow firefighters competed against teams from across the world in September, including teams from Miami, Portugal, New Zealand, France, Hong Kong, Canada and Brazil.



Presentation of 1916 Commemorative Medals

1916 Commemorative Medals were presented to all Carlow Fire Service Firefighters who were in service during 2016 to mark the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

The issuing of 1916 – 2016 Commemorative medals was a commitment in ‘A Programme for Partnership Government’ for the Defence Forces. The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Medals commissioned medals in recognition of the role played by staff working in the Fire Services in relation to the 1916 commemorations. All Fire Services staff serving in 2016 – a total of 3,800 nationwide - were eligible to receive the medal.

The medals are awarded to fire fighters who served in 2016, to honour the legacy of continued service by the fire service to the state since its foundation. The medals acknowledge the work of the fire services across the country over the past 100 years, as well as the role that the fire brigades played in the 1916 Easter Rising.





Road Safety Authority – Leading Light Award

On December 11th, Carlow Town Fire Brigade's recently retired Station Officer John Comerford received a Special Recognition Award from the Road Safety Authority at their Leading Lights Awards Ceremony in Croke Park. John received the award for the work he carried out whilst serving with Carlow County Fire Service in the field of Road Traffic Collision Extrication and Trauma care. John spent many years tutoring Carlow Fire Service Staff as well as Fire Officers from all over Ireland with the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management. The skills that he has imparted has been used to save lives throughout County Carlow and in Counties all over Ireland.



HOUSING

It is the policy of the Housing Section of Carlow County Council:

- To enable every household to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and as far as possible at a tenure of their choice.
- To promote home ownership and a thriving more diverse and well managed rented sector, both public and private.
- To maintain the living and construction standards of all properties to a high standard
- To liaise with our tenants and social partners to ensure that present and future needs are tackled

Carlow County Council's activities as a Housing Authority can be summarised under the following headings:

- The provision, management and maintenance of rented Social Housing
- The review and update of social housing demand
- The provision of self-help grants to enable tenants carry out improvements to their homes
- The promotion of home ownership by promotion of Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan
- The improvement of accommodation, for both the elderly and disabled persons, by way of grant assistance under Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants.
- Working with Approved Housing Bodies and Voluntary Bodies to assist in addressing the housing needs in Carlow.
- Operation of Rental Accommodation Scheme/Leasing schemes and the Housing Assistance Payment for social housing provision.
- Operation of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme.
- Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Implementation of Energy Upgrade Programme
- Housing Inspections Programme

Housing & Social Policy Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing, Recreation, Amenity and Community Strategic Policy Committee held a meeting in April, 2019. Issues considered at this meeting included the following:

- Carlow Tourism
- Proposed Deposit Scheme for LA Houses
- Control of Horses Draft Bye Laws
- Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 -2024
- Community, Recreation & Amenity Progress Report

This was the final meeting of the Committee in advance of Local Elections to be held in May 2020

Housing Activity in 2019

The Council meets the housing needs in the county by the direct provision of accommodation or assisting individuals to provide their own accommodation. Improvement Works in Lieu of Rehousing, Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability also contribute to meeting housing need by adapting the existing homes to meet the needs of the occupants.

The following new housing units were completed by **Carlow County Council** in 2019:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF UNITS	Delivery Date
Dublin Road, Tullow	21	December 2019
Drummin, St. Mullins	1	March 2019
Carrigbrook, Tullow Road, Carlow	12	November 2019
Father Flood Avenue, Rathvilly	8	December 2019

The following new housing units were completed by **Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)** in Carlow in 2019:

LOCATION	NUMBER OF UNITS	Delivery Date
Sleaty Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow	26	February 2019
Brownshill Rise, Brownshill Road, Chapelstown, Carlow	59	September 2019
Rivercourt Carlow	7	September 2019

Carlow County Council Pipeline Projects 2020- 2021

Location	Number of Units
Carrigbrook, Carlow	51
Bagenalstown (Phase 1)	20
Crowsgrove, Kildavin	1
St. Mary's Court, Rathnapish	4
Dereen Heights, Carlow	2
Myshall	4
Main Street, Borris	2
Pound Land, Borris	9
Ardattin, Carlow	12
Spahill Borris	1
Brownbog Hackettstown	1

Approved Housing Bodies

Proposed Approved Housing Bodies Projects 2020 – 2021:

Location	Number of Units	AHB
Shillelagh Road, Tullow	49	RESPOND
Brownshill Carlow	59	TUATH
Bagenalstown	6	RESPOND
Carlow	6	TINTEÁN
Ballickmoyler Road, Carlow	57	CHI
Rivercourt, Carlow	47	CHI

Greenhills, Carlow	8	CHI
Cox's Lane, Carlow	6	FOCUS IRELAND
Courtkeep, Tullow	12	CHI
Millrace, Carlow	22	CHI
Tanner Hall	9	CHI
Slí na Rí Bagenalstown	19	CHI

RAS and Leasing

The Housing Section has a total of 427 properties under the Rental Accommodation Scheme at the end of 2019, this includes 6 properties which were added in 2019. In 2019 11 new units were taken on under the Social Housing Leasing through Long Term Leasing and Repair and Lease Schemes.

Housing Assistance Payment

Carlow County Council continued to offer support through the HAP Scheme with a total of 742 active properties at 31st December, 2019. We will continue to endeavour to meet our weekly target on acquiring properties in 2020.

Traveller Accommodation

The Housing Section continues to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018. Targets under the Programme for the accommodation of Travellers are being achieved. Work also commenced on the preparation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019 – 2024.

Housing Loans

46 mortgage applications received
23 Approved

Grants

In March 2019, Carlow received notification of capital allocation for payment of the Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability Schemes of €1,589,398 of which €317,880 was to be provided by Carlow County Council. 411 applications were received during 2019, and 294 applications received approval which included applications received in 2018.

Carlow County Council continue to provide assistance under this scheme where appropriate.

Energy Efficiency Programme

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government continued to fund the improvement of social housing stock in 2019 with grant aid of €217,342 for energy efficiency works to housing stock.

In 2019, Carlow County Council Housing Department received award as part of 2020 All Ireland Community and Council Awards in association with IPB Insurance and LAMA "Best Social Housing Initiative" for construction of 18 Houses at Fr. Flood Avenue, Rathvilly.



COMMUNITY, RECREATION, AMENITY & SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Carlow County Council continued to build on the strong working relationship it enjoys with all communities throughout County Carlow during 2019. With the Council's assistance, communities are continuing to enhance and develop their areas socially, culturally, environmentally and in a sustainable manner. The Community Section organised a very successful Community Information morning in April in the Town Hall Civic Space. Over 100 hundred people attended from residents associations, Tidy Towns and community groups. Speakers included Molly Aylesbury an Environmental Educator who presented on Zero Waste, Betty Kehoe from the Stop Food Waste Programme, Dr. Betsy Hickey, Ecologist and Pride of Place Judge who spoke on pollinator friendly planting and plants, Jannette O'Brien, Environmental Awareness Officer, Carlow County Council spoke on waste and the best use of bins and Margaret Nolan, Administrative Officer, Carlow County Council gave an overview of the grants available to groups.



Tidy Towns

In 2019 County Carlow maintained its strong and proud reputation for being a County proud of its beautifully presented villages and towns that strive to be litter free and environmentally friendly. In the 2019 National Tidy Towns Competition, Clonegal once again received the highest marks in County Carlow just 4 points behind the overall winner. Clonegal and Leighlinbridge retained their gold medals status, Carlow town retained its silver medal. Myshall won the Endeavour Award with an increase of 12 points on last year's results (highest % increase on last year's marks). Ballon also gained points receiving a commended award for third highest points in the County. Queen of the Universe Bagenalstown National School won the South East Supervalu Schools Award.



All 19 entrants from County Carlow increased their points reflecting the dedication and hard work of the Tidy Towns Groups and their volunteers. The high standard is achieved and maintained by the positive co-

operation and partnerships that exists between the community groups, Carlow County Council and other agencies. Tidy Towns Groups throughout the county are supported by personnel in the Community Section.

Carlow's Pride of Place

Carlow's Pride of Place continues to be a great success. In 2019 we celebrated the 20th year with a Gala Ceremony in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel with 350 people in attendance from across the county. Eanna Ni Lamhna was the Guest Speaker and Edward Hayden was the M.C. There were over 165 entries in the different categories from Tidy Towns Groups, residents associations, community and voluntary agencies, schools and businesses. This initiative encourages all individuals and communities in the county to enhance the presentation of their town, village, estate, school or business to keep their area litter free, preserve local heritage; continue to build community spirit and reflect the pride generated by enhancing the environment in which one lives, works and plays this has both a social and an economic spin off.

The awards were presented by Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr. John Pender, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow Cllr. Andrea Dalton and Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Cllr. Thomas Kinsella.



The coveted Overall Winner in the Town and Villages Category was awarded to Leighlinbridge. Kernanstown Estate, Carlow won the 2019 Overall Award for Estates.



Scoil Muire Gan Smal (Carlow), Queen of the Universe (Bagenalstown) and Ballon National School were recognised in the School / Ogra Awards for their projects increasing awareness of and promoting biodiversity and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

The Michael Deering Cup was presented to An Gairdín Beo by Deputy Pat Deering, T.D., in recognition of their stellar work creating a beautiful, sustainable and welcoming space in the heart of Carlow. Carlow County Council presented over 60 prizes to the value of €20,750 to community groups throughout the county under this initiative.

IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2019

An Gairdín Beo represented County Carlow in the IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2019.



The judges were welcomed by Cathaoirleach Cllr. John Pender, Cllr. Ken Murnane Deputy Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow, Kathleen Holohan Chief Executive Carlow County Council and Community Hosts Mary Carmody and Michael Roberts. The members of An Gairdín Beo did an excellent job showcasing every aspect of their project.

Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme 2019

A total of 143 grants were awarded to Community Groups/Residents Associations and schools throughout the county. A flavour of successful projects awarded funding under this scheme in 2019 include:

- Grass cutting, hedge and tree trimming, planting of new native trees and shrubs.
- Enhancement of common green areas for all estate members.
- Pollinator Friendly Planters and Window Boxes.
- Provide seating and benches in picnic areas.
- Signage, repair and replace paths and developing Pollinator Friendly beds. Grant funding of €47,900 was awarded in 2019.

Community Development Grant Scheme 2019

A total of 41 grants were awarded to Community Groups throughout the County under this scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support community and voluntary groups in County Carlow who undertake projects that will:

- Carry out a service or activity that contributes to the quality of life in their local community.
- Increase voluntary activity.
- Target the social excluded and increase their opportunities for participation.
- Support the valuable contribution of community and voluntary organisations in County Carlow.

Grant funding of €11,600 was awarded in 2019.

Students Awards

Carlow County Council awarded bursaries to students in I.T. Carlow and Carlow College (St. Patrick's)

Discretionary Funding

A total of 220 grants were awarded by Elected Members to residents' associations, Tidy Towns groups, community and voluntary organisations, schools and sporting organisations from their Discretionary Funds to the value of €82,000.

2019 Community Environment Action Fund (formerly Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund)



Through funding from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, and match funding from Carlow County Council, a total of €19,550 was allocated to 26 community groups in County

Carlow. These groups have undertaken projects that contribute to increasing environmental awareness at local level or which promote building greener, more sustainable communities.

The Plots Community Garden & Allotment Project

This continues to be a very successful working partnership with the communities of St. Mary's Park and Rathnapish, St. Catherine's Community Services Centre and Carlow County Council.

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) monitors the implementation of the actions contained in the Interagency Traveller Strategy. Once again, a very successful Traveller Pride Week was organised in June by Carlow Traveller Network with support from St. Catherine's Community Services Centre. Forward Steps Tullow and Tullow School Completion Programme hosted a morning of celebrating Traveller Culture. Following a successful funding application to the Department of Justice & Equality a part-time Community Development Worker has continued to be employed through St. Catherine's Community Services Centre to develop and support the Carlow Traveller Forum.

Famine Walk

The 6th Carlow Famine Walk took place in 2019. Each year AFri (Action From Ireland) in conjunction with I.T. Carlow, Gael Scoil Ceatharalach and Carlow County Council organise a Famine Walk to the Workhouse Plots Graveyard. An oak tree was planted, and this was followed by music, reflections and a moment of silence to honour those buried there.



Twinning Events

- **Student Exchange Programme with Tempe Arizona**

3 Carlow Students went to Tempe Arizona and 3 Tempe Arizona Students visited Carlow during the summer months on a student exchange programme.

- **Dole Sister Cities**

A delegation from Carlow Twinning and Diaspora Committee visited Dole in January 2019. Under the Student Exchange Programme, Irish students visited Dole in October 2019 and Dole students will travel to Ireland in February 2020.

- **Tempe and Davenport**

Delegations from Tempe Arizona and Davenport, Iowa visited Carlow during the year.



Social Media - Communications

The Community Section continue to run a successful Social media Facebook page *Carlow Community* where we interact with people to create, share, and/or exchange information and ideas through virtual communities and networks.

Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC consists of 19 members both statutory and non-statutory including four elected members. Due to the Local Election 2019, the following members resigned from the committee, Michael Doran (Statutory Interests), Andrea Dalton (Statutory Interests), Charlie Murphy (Statutory Interests) and John Murphy (Statutory Interests) Also Karl Duffy (Social Economic and Community Interests) from CCDP resigned. These members were replaced by Andrea Dalton (Statutory Interests), Thomas Kinsella (Statutory Interests), Tom O'Neill (Statutory Interests), Willie Quinn (Statutory Interests) and Annette Fox (Social Economic and Community Interests) respectively.

Carlow LCDC Members are:

Statutory Interests		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local Government	Andrea Dalton	Members of Carlow County Council
	Thomas Kinsella	
	Tom O'Neill	
	Willie Quinn	
	Kathleen Holohan	Chief Executive
	Kieran Comerford	Head of Enterprise

State Agencies	Noel Barry Sarah Barron Joan-Ita Murphy	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board Health Service Executive
Non Statutory Interests		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local & Community Development	Thomas Kelly Mary Doyle Ann Shortall John Murphy Eamonn Moore	Drumphea Cemetery Committee (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep) Hacketstown Community Group (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep) Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre(Social Inclusion PPN Rep) BEAM, Bagenalstown (Social Inclusion PPN Rep) An Táisce (Environmental College PPN Rep)
Social Economic and Community Interests	Annette Fox John Brophy John Nolan Eilish Langton Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG. Carlow Chamber (Business Employer) Agricultural / Farming Arts & Culture - Civic Society Carlow Tourism

Eleven LCDC/LAG Meetings were held in 2019 as follows:

- 17th January 2019
- 14th February 2019
- 21st March 2019
- 18th April 2019
- 16th May 2019
- 27th June 2019
- 11th July 2019
- 4th September 2019
- 23rd October 2019
- 19th November 2019
- 17th December 2019

The LCDC/LAG has programme oversight and programme management in respect of the following activities:

- Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER).
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018 -2022.
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.
- Healthy Carlow

- Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019.

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER)

Carlow was allocated €6,416,803.43m under the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020. The LCDC has approved Carlow County Development Partnership CLG as Lead Implementing Partner. The LCDC/LAG approved 31 LEADER Expression of Interests to the value of €2,587,771.25 in respect of Rural Tourism, Festivals, Rural Enterprise, Rural Towns, Social Inclusion, Environmental and Co-operation projects. 23 projects to the value of €1,976,789.54 were approved in 2019.

The LCDC/LAG has approved /considered the following matters:

- LEADER Annual Report 2018 and Implementing Plan 2019
- Local Development Strategy Midterm review • LEADER Budget Review and adjustments
- LEADER Co-Operative Projects.
- LEADER Financial Report.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme. SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish Society.

SICAP Vision

To improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty and unemployment, through community development approaches, targeting supports and interagency collaboration where the values of inclusion are promoted, and human rights are respected.

SICAP Aim

To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

SICAP has three goals:

1. To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
2. To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.
3. To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities. SICAP Target Groups The target groups are:
 - Children and Families from disadvantaged areas;
 - Lone parents;
 - New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers);
 - People living in Disadvantaged Communities;
 - People with Disabilities;
 - Roma;
 - The Unemployed (including those not on the live register);
 - Low Income Workers/Households;

- Travellers;
- Young unemployed people from disadvantaged areas;
- NEETs-Young People aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training.

2019 is the second year of the SICAP Programme covering the period of 2018 to 2022. The LCDC is the contracting authority and Carlow County Development Partnership is the Programme Implementer. County Carlow is one Lot for the purposes of this programme. The budget for 2019 was €547,157 and over the period of the programme funding of €2,682,140 will be spent on the programme

The LCDC reviewed the 2018 SICAP Annual Plan in January 2019 and approved the SICAP Annual Plan for 2019. The 2019 SICAP Annual Plan Mid Term review for the period January–June 2019 was reviewed by the members in 2019 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2020 will be considered in January 2020. A subgroup of the LCDC committee comprising of Andrea Dalton and Noel Barry including Margaret Moore, A/Chief Officer and initially Roisin Hennessy and then replaced in September by Hilda Minchin, Community Section of Carlow County Council met on several occasions during 2019 to examine and review the implementation of the programme initially with Karl Duffy Carlow County Development Partnership, Programme Implementer and then with Annette Fox who replaced Karl in the latter half of 2019. All headline targets in the SICAP Programme will be achieved by the Programme Implementer for 2019.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. This is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the *Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First* “local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development.” Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the making of a six-year integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The preparation of the Plan was the responsibility of the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Carlow County Council. The Community elements of the Plan were developed by the Local Community Development Committee and economic elements by Carlow County Council through the strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Planning.

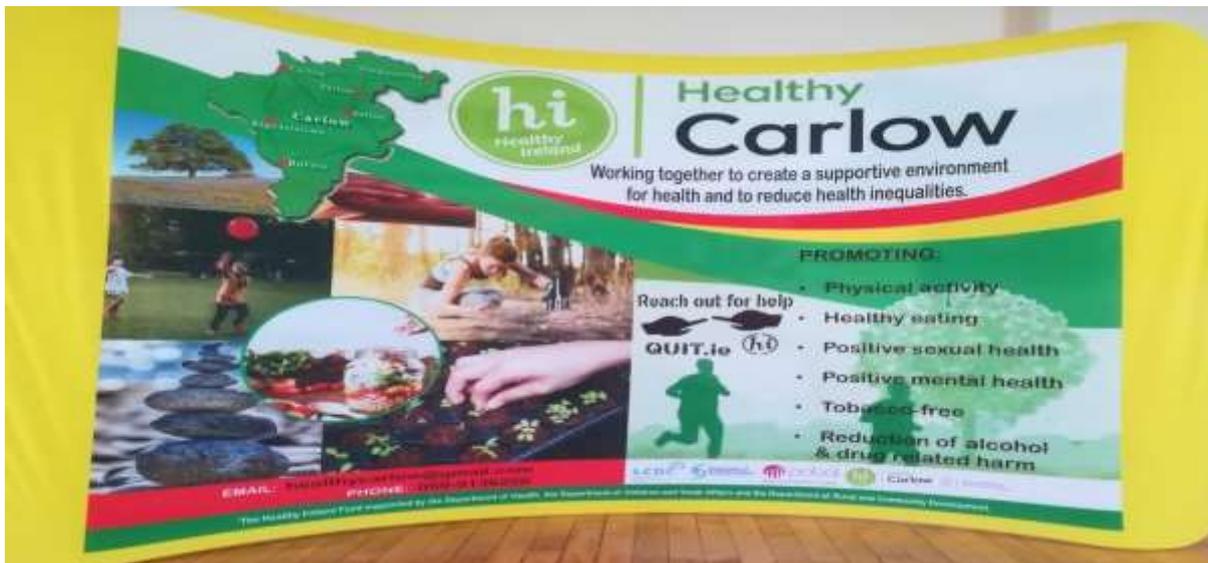
The purpose of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for County Carlow, was to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community development dimensions of the local authority area over the six year period 2016-2021 and in a manner that both reflects and supports the implementation of the existing Carlow County Development Plan, Joint Spatial Plan for Carlow and the Draft Guidelines and proposed Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), to be prepared by the Regional Assembly and the National Planning Framework. In preparing the LECP, it was necessary also to consider the proposed Rural Development Strategy for County Carlow 2014 to 2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Government’s Action Plan for Jobs.

The role of the LCDC is to implement, oversee, coordinate, monitor and review the plan in partnership with Carlow County Council. The National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) will have a monitoring role in the implementation of the Plan. During 2019 the following LEAD Agencies reported to the LCDC by delivering a verbal/written progress report on the actions detailed in the Implementation Plan:

- Carlow Universal Access Movement (CUAM)
- Kilkenny/Carlow ETB

- Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (CTIG)

Healthy Carlow



Carlow Local Community Development Committee has been successful in securing funding from Healthy Ireland over the past two years. This funding is specifically to improve health and wellbeing in line with the Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025. Applications have been guided by our Healthy Carlow County Plan 2018-2021.

The Community Section of Carlow County Council administers the funding, supports the Healthy Carlow Sub-Group of the LCDC in their work and also develops and runs projects on behalf of the LCDC. The local steering committee includes representatives from the LCDC, Health Services Executive, Carlow Regional Youth Services, Carlow County Development Partnership, County Carlow Sports Partnership, St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Carlow Public Participation Network, Carlow Library Services, Carlow Children & Young People Services Committee and Carlow County Council.

Some of the initiatives which took place in 2019 include:

- A Regional Health and Wellbeing Training & Awareness Programme which was led by the Health Services Executive.
- Capacity Building for LGBTI Community in County Carlow was led by County Carlow Development Partnership and included building the capacity of the newly established LGBTI Network group, developing supports for parents of LGBTI children and providing awareness training programmes across the county for professionals and individuals.
- Physical Activity for Families & People Residing in Disadvantaged Areas was led by County Carlow Local Sports Partnership. This initiative provided opportunities for families and people living in areas of disadvantage to participate in a range of low cost, inclusive physical activity programmes whilst maximising the use of local amenities and facilities.

The Healthy Ireland grant provided match funding for a Carlow Sports Partnership Social Inclusion Disability Officer.

Community Health & Well-Being Hubs were organised in Carlow town and Bagenalstown by Carlow County Council. The hubs provided a wide range of information on health issues and signposting in health and well-being services, programmes and events in Carlow County.

Promotion of positive sexual health was led by Carlow Regional Youth Services and had two elements, training for Youth Workers in a Youth Identity Toolkit which they will now deliver to their Youth Groups. Carlow Regional Youth Services will roll out the Sammy the Caterpillar Programme - a resource to support parents to have a conversations with their child in the home on sexual health. 1,726 people participated in these projects.

During 2019 Healthy Carlow secured a further €245,800 for the next eighteen months to deliver a range of projects to be completed by June 2021. A mandatory action was the employment of a part time co-ordinator for Healthy Carlow. The co-ordinator will lead on the implementation of the Healthy Carlow County Plan and co-ordinate an approved programme of work. The person will deliver projects to encourage older people and people from rural areas who may be isolated to become more involved and promote positive mental health. Following on from the very successful Health Expo held last year in Carlow town it is proposed to organize similar events in the Municipal Districts of Tullow and Muinebheag.

Funding will be also be used to expand the Follaine Youth Counselling Services which is operated by Carlow Regional Youth Services. This programme offers supports from professionals to deal with a wide range of issues such as communication difficulties, anxiety, depression, physical and sexual abuse, and problems resulting from alcohol or drug abuse and bereavement.

Carlow County Development Partnership will receive funding to deliver a Social Prescribing Project. The service will be aimed at people over 18 years of age who are identified by Health Professionals and G.P.s as experiencing social exclusion and isolation; have vague or unexplained symptoms; symptoms of depression or anxiety; are frequent attendees at their GP's and/or have poor social supports and are stressed.

County Carlow Sports Partnership will receive funding for Physical Activity for Wellbeing. This involves 3 initiatives to increase participation in physical activity through outdoor non-competitive initiatives: Green Exercise - Woodlands for Health & Walking Programme, Blue Exercise - Waterways for Health & Water Sports Programme and Youth Yoga - Yoga for Youth Wellbeing Programme.

Community Enhancement Programme 2019

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was introduced in 2018. It built on and replaced the Communities Facilities Scheme and the recast RAPID programme, which launched in 2017. The CEP provides capital funding to communities across County Carlow to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas.

The CEP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) in each Local Authority area.

The aim of the scheme is to enhance communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at a local level by providing access to small scale capital grants. Under the programme 30% of the funding was allocated and ring-fenced for grants of €1,000 or less and the balance of the fund for targeted disadvantaged areas / groups which were assessed and evaluated by the Social Inclusion Forum which was established by the LCDC as an action of the Local Economic and Community Plan. Carlow Local Community Development Committee was allocated €134,206 for County Carlow. In August, ring-fenced funds from the Community Enhancement Programme was allocated to Men's Sheds who were affiliated to Irish Men's Shed's Association and Carlow received €5,236. Details of all funding and allocations detailed below.

All applications for funding under this scheme were reviewed and accessed by a sub-group of the LCDC to ensure complementarity with County Carlow 2021 Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

38 grants were allocated in the Municipal District of Carlow, 33 grants were allocated in the Municipal District of Muinebheag and 22 grants were allocated in the Municipal District of Tullow.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 – Small Scale Capital grants (30%)		
Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant Sought	Funding Awarded
TULLOW		
Ballon Business & Training Service Ltd.	Upgrade existing fire alarm system	€585.35
Bunclody Amateur Boxing Club	Sports Equipment	€585.35
Bunclody Swimming Pool Committee	Safety equipment (Elevated lifeguard chair)	€585.35
Cairdeas Centre	Development of Community Facility	€585.35
Clonegal Tidy Village Association	Enhancement of a feature in the village	€585.35
DeLacey Abbey Residents Association	Lawnmower, strimmer, tools & planting of flowers	€585.35
Develop Tullow Association CLG	IT Equipment	€585.35
Elvis Roots Festival	Signage	€585.35
Forward Steps Family Resource Centre	Safety Equipment	€585.35

Fr. Cullen Park Residents Association	Equipment - leaf blower, strimmer, wheelbarrow, digging equipment and lawnmower	€585.35
Gortnahowan Residents Association	Ride on lawnmower	€585.35
Hacketstown Community Group	Equipment/Upgrading of Building	€585.35
Hillview Drive Residents Association	Ride on lawnmower	€585.35
Michael Collins Park Residents Association	Lawnmower	€585.35

Myshall Muintir na Tire	Sports Equipment/Development of community facility	€585.35
Rathoe Training Hub	Training Equipment	€585.35
Rathvilly N.S. Parents Association	Equipment - burco, table, press, cups, saucers and cutlery.	€585.35
Rathvilly Tidy Towns	Safety equipment, weed killer, signage, lawnmower, cleaning equipment etc.	€585.35
Shroughaun Residents Committee	Purchase of garden tools	€585.35
St. Patrick's Park Residents Association	Maintenance equipment, weedkiller, lawnmower and tools	€585.35
Tullow & South Leinster Tennis & Sports Club	IT Equipment/Signage	€585.35
Women's Health & Development Group	Sports Equipment/Training Equipment	€585.35
MUINEBHEAG		
Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre	Training Equipment - Tables and Chairs	€585.35
Bagenalstown First Responders	Training Equipment/Other	€585.35
Bagenalstown Improvement Group	Lawnmower	€585.35
Bagenalstown Junior Tidy Town Group	Signage	585.35
Ballinkillen North Enterprise	Development of Community Facility	€585.35

Ballinkillen Village	Table and chairs	€585.35
Ballinkillen/Lorum Community Centre	Defibrillator	€585.35
Ballydarton Residents Committee	Weedblock and stones along green areas/repairing wooden fence	€400.00
Ballyellen Development Group	IT Equipment	€585.35
Ballymurphy Badminton Club	Training equipment (rackets)	€500.00
Ballymurphy Hall Ltd.	Purchase of storage shed	€585.35
Ballymurphy Indoor Soccer	Training equipment	€500.00
Borris Community Development	Development of Community Facility	€585.35

Borris Focus Centre	Training equipment/Development of community facility	€585.35
Borris Handball & Racquetball Club	Cleaning equipment and a kitchen/meeting room table	€585.35
Borris Town Hall Committee	Upgrade of Building/Development of community facility - to improve ladies' toilets and provide baby changing unit.	€585.35
Borris/St. Mullins Community Games	Purchase of tent	€585.35
Carrigduff Residents Association	Two benches	€585.35
Chestnut Court Residents Association	Lawnmower	€585.35
Drummond Hall Committee	Upgrade of Building/Safety Equipment	€585.35
Drumphea Community Centre	Upgrade of building	€585.35
Fenagh Improvement Group	Signage	€585.35
Gleann na Bearu	Signage/Development of Community Facility	€585.35

Glynn & Bahana Residents Association	Hedge cutter, strimmer with mask, power washer, benches and garden shed.	€585.35
Kilcumney Residents Association	Development of Community Facility	€585.35
Lodge Court Community Group	Purchase of Community Green House as part of BioDiversity Programme	€428.00
Muintir na Tire	IT Equipment/Signage/Upgrade of building	€585.35
Myshall Community Centre Committee	Development of Community Facility/Energy efficient upgrade/safety equipment	€585.35
Newtown Hall Committee	Development of community facility - lighting	€585.35
Railway Place Residents Association	Upgrade playground/Development of community facility/Safety equipment	€585.35
Rathanna Community Group	Upgrade of building	€585.35

Rathoe Community Childcare	Sports Equipment	€585.35
Scorthreen Residents Association	Signage/lawnmower/2 no. garden benches	€585.35
CARLOW		
Afterschool Programme/Carlow Regional Youth Service	Defibrillator	€585.35
Amigos	IT Equipment	€585.35
An Gairdín Beo	Development of Community Facility	€585.35
Bagenalstown Youth Project - Carlow Regional Youth Services	Signage/Development of Community Facility	€585.35
Barnardos Family Support Project	Signage/Upgrade of building	€585.35
Bourlum Residents Association	Defibrillator/External Box	€585.35

Carlow & South Leinster Rape Crisis Centre	Create an additional therapeutic space	€585.35
Carlow Active Retired	IT Equipment	€299.00
Carlow Cricket Club	Sports Equipment/Training Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Dragon Boat Club	Upgrade of building	€585.35
Carlow Intercultural Forum	IT Equipment	€585.35
Carlow LGBT & Network	IT Equipment/Signage/Training Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Mental Health Association	Purchase of Gazebo	€585.35
Carlow Older Persons Forum	IT Equipment/Upgrade of building/Safety Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Pride Festival	IT Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Rohingya Community Group	Sports Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Rohingya Women's Group	Training Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Town Community First Responders	IT Equipment	€585.35
Carlow Women's Aid	CCTV	€585.35
Carlow Women's Refuge Campaign	IT Equipment/Signage/Other	€585.35
County Carlow Environmental Network	IT Equipment	€585.35
Graiguecullen Youth Project/Carlow Regional Youth Service	Development of Community Facility	€585.35

Green Polish Club	Training equipment	€585.35
Highfield Residents Association	Defibrillator	€585.35
New Oak Community & Residents Committee	Defibrillator	€585.35
New Oak Community Centre	Upgrade of building	€585.35
Oakpark & Deerpark Community Text Alert Scheme	Signage	€585.35
Old Burrin Residents Association	Hedge cutter, strimmer, leaf blower, rubbish bins and nesting boxes	€585.35

Order of Malta - Carlow Cadet Unit	Training equipment	€585.35
Palatine GAA Club	Training Equipment - Jerseys	€585.35
Polish Community School in Carlow	IT Equipment	€585.35
Rohingya Action Ireland	Signage/Other	€585.35
St. Fiacc's Swimming Club	IT Equipment	€585.35
St. Patrick's Boys AFC	Installation of porous grass pavers	€585.35
The Vault Youth Project - Carlow Regional Youth Service	IT Equipment/Development of Community Facility/Other	€585.35
Tullow Road Community Development Group	Signage/Branded Clothing	€585.35
You Are Not Alone	IT Equipment	€585.35
Tinryland Tidy Towns	Purchase of Mulch Lawnmower	€585.35
Tinryland Community First Responders	Defibrillator	€585.35

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 – Targeted Disadvantaged Areas (70%)

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant Sought	Funding Awarded
Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre	Training Equipment - Tables/chairs/notice boards/projector screens/flip charts	€10,000.00
Carlow Regional Youth Services	Purchase of temporary durable pop up marquees, a storage shed and outreach equipment for the Tullow Road	€30,770.00
Carlow Regional Youth Services	Upgrading of Multi Use Games Area at John Sweeney Park	€24,000.00
Hacketstown Scout Hall/Tullow Youth Project/Carlow Regional Youth Service	Upgrade of building/Sports Equipment	€12,000.00
Tullow Youth Project/Carlow Regional Youth Service	Upgrade of building	€3,200.00

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 – Ring-fenced Men’s Sheds Funding

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant Sought	Funding Awarded
Borris Men's Shed	Canteen facilities, tools and equipment	€1,568.00
Carlow Men's Shed	Installation of fire alarm system	€1,568.00
Tullow Men's Shed	Upgrade of building	€1,000.00
Leighlin Parish Men's Shed	Upgrade of building/Safety Equipment/Other	€1,100.00

National Community Weekend (May Bank Holiday Weekend 2019) – The Big Hello

The Department of Rural and Community Development allocated €10,000 to each LCDC to provide local events that motivate and encourage people to get to know their neighbour and these events were to take place over the May Bank Holiday Weekend 2019. After two calls for funding, 10 grants were allocated in the Municipal District of Carlow and 8 grants were allocated in the Municipal District of Muinebheag. Details of all funding and allocations are as follows;

The Big Hello – May Bank Holiday Weekend 2019

Name of Group / Organisation	Purpose of Grant Sought	Funding Awarded
Carlow		
Ballon Business & Training Service Ltd.	Upgrade existing fire alarm system	€585.35
An Gairdín Beo	Gathering of committee members and volunteers to prepare, pickle and preserve surplus food.	€500.00
Aspiro	Fund event refreshments/food for those attending the Dawn Chorus which will be held on Sunday 5th May.	€500.00
ASCA Juvenile AFC	Social Barbeque for the friends and family of ASCA GAA.	€500.00

Bourlum Residents Association	Gathering focused around food/culture and involving older residents.	€500.00
Governey Park Residents Association	Day of nostalgia and fun. Tea/coffee and treats. Pictures of the estate old and new	€500.00
Hacketstown Community Group	Day of storytelling for children and a movie day	€500.00
Rathvilly Tidy Towns	Event to showcase work of Rathvilly Tidy Towns	€500.00
St. Johns Caring Centre	"Tea and Bun" Open day for people to see work of St. Johns caring centre	€500.00
Tullow Road Community	Fun day at the Faery Ring including Workshop with Bee Keeper, Story Tellers, Fancy Dress, Refreshments.	€600.00
Tullow Tidy Towns	Get-together with refreshments to paint the park benches	€600.00
Muinebheag		
Ardattin Tidy Village	A day of celebration of local heritage to include storytelling, music, food etc.	€500.00
Ballinkillen Lorum Community Centre Club	School Disco in Community Centre with refreshments and also for parents to chat.	€600.00
The Blackstairs & Barrow Valley Tourism Network	Food and Film in Borris	€600.00
Borris Focus Centre	Garden party with musicians, historians, flowering arranging demo etc.	€600.00
Granite Court Residents Association	BBQ for residents, soccer match for parents and children and bouncy castle.	€500.00
Myshall Community Centre	Guided Walk followed by afternoon tea focusing on new residents and people from other countries	€800.00

Old Leighlin Village Fun Day	A day of fun, sport and chat with refreshments and prizes.	€700.00
Woodlawn Park Residents Assoc.	BBQ Reunion for residents old and new.	€500.00

The LCDC also approved/considered the following matters:

- LCDC 2018 Annual Report.
- LCDC Risk Register
- Healthy Ireland
- Carlow Socio Economic Profile
- Carlow Migrant Integration and Intercultural Strategy 2020 -2024
- SICAP Distance Travelled Tool
- Local Authorities Waters and Communities Office
- Sustainable Development Goals

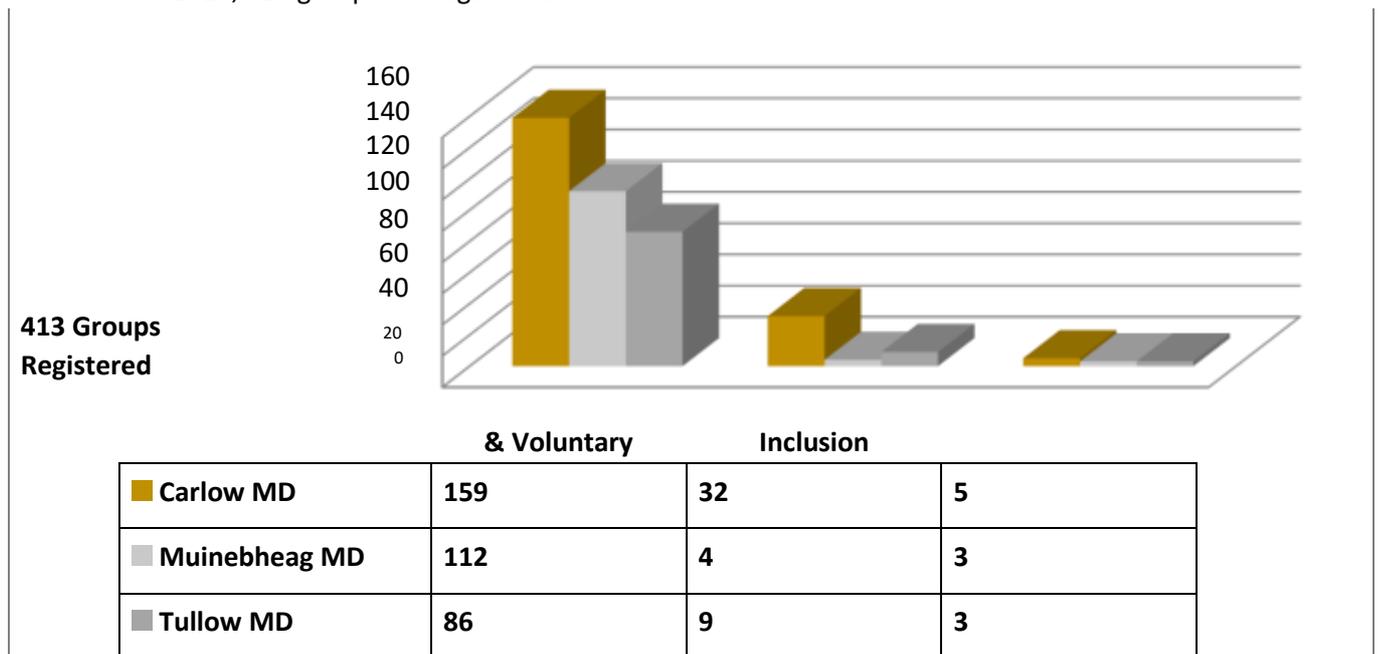
Training was organised at National Level by the Department of Community and Regional Development and Pobal for members of the LCDC in respect of:

- Operations of the LCDC
- Ecohesion
- SICAP
- LEADER

Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN)

Membership

At the end of 2019, 413 groups are registered with Carlow PPN.



Training & Capacity Building

The PPN offered free training to all community groups on the following: - • GDPR

- An Introduction to Facilitation Skills
- Fundraising and Grant Applications
- Charities Governance Code – this was offered over a three-week period with two principles covered one morning a week. All were very well attended

Plenary Meetings

- First Plenary meeting of 2019 was held in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel on Saturday, 18th May and focused on the Wellbeing Vision and Sustainable Development Goals with presentations from: Dan McNerney, Carlow County Council, Caitriona Rogerson, National Environmental Pillar, Janette O' Brien, Carlow County Council



- Second Plenary Meeting of 2018 was held in An Gairdín Beo on Wednesday, 24th November and again focused on the Sustainable Development Goals with presentations from: - o Joe Gallagher, Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment o Brian O' Donovan, Carlow County Council o Janette O' Brien, Carlow County Council and Molly Aylesbury, Carlow PPN Secretariat *1st Plenary Meeting of 2019*



2nd Plenary Meeting of 2019 **Salesforce**

- E-Bulletin issued monthly to all members via email through Salesforce BeeFree software. The E-Bulletin is posted to approximately 50 groups who do not have email

Outreach Worker

- Full time Support Worker – Fiona Broadbery was successful in securing this full-time post. Extra funding from the Department was allocated for this post across the country which was match funded by Carlow County Council

National Ploughing Championships

- National initiative for PPNs organized by Carlow PPN.
- Great awareness raising of PPNs took place with Co-ordinators and Support Workers attending

National PPN Conference

- Carlow PPN hosted the National PPN Conference in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel on the 10th and 11th October
- The Conference was opened by Minister of State Deputy Sean Canney TD and was very well attended with 188 delegates attending on both days



Wellbeing Vision

- The Vision for Community Wellbeing is intended to set out a vision for the wellbeing of the local community for this and future generations.
- The process for developing the Vision involved consultations with member groups, online consultations and drafting of vision.
- Consultations concentrated on six domains: - o Health (Physical and Mental) o Economy and Resources of Social and Community Development o Participation, Democracy and Good Governance o Values, Culture and Meaning o Environment and Sustainability
- Draft vision will be taken to first Plenary of 2020 for further consultation.

- Vision will inform the work of the PPN going forward and feed in to policy such as the Local Development Plan etc.

County Carlow Universal Access Movement

- Work continued to raise awareness and build the profile of County Carlow Universal Access Movement and to raise awareness of access issues for all in County Carlow
- Logo and information leaflet developed
- Took part in national 'Clear Your Footpath' Campaign in Tullow where we were joined by local elected representatives who were blind folded to experience the difficulties the visually impaired face on a daily basis trying to navigate their way through town. This was an NCBI national initiative
- Took part in national 'Make Way Day' Campaign in Carlow Town where we were joined by Transition Year students from Knockbeg College. This was an DFI national initiative
- Worked in partnership with Carlow County Council and Access Earth to map Carlow towns' accessibility on an app which is freely available to everyone and can be downloaded to any phone.

Comhairle na nÓg

Comhairle na nÓg/Youth Councils were established in response to the National Children Strategy launched in 2001 by the Department of Health and Children and was set up in 34 City and County Development Boards around the Country. Under the auspices of these City/County Development Boards, Comhairle na nÓg is the responsibility of the local authority in each area. In County Carlow, Comhairle na nÓg is managed by Carlow Regional Youth Services in conjunction with the Community Section of Carlow County Council. It is a forum for structured input into decision making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies that impact on young people's lives.

- In January the Community Section and the programme implementer Carlow Regional Youth Services reviewed 2018 Plan and prepared the 2019 Plan and submitted both to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
- Four Advisory Steering Committee Meetings were held in 2019.
- Representatives from Carlow Comhairle na nÓg attended the Relationships in Sexual Education (R.S.E.) Programme national consultation which took place in the Department of Children and Youth Affairs in March.
- Under the theme 'How's Your Head?' members developed short videos promoting positive mental health for young people.
- Members completed Volunteer Training and subsequently volunteered at camps for other young people.
- Members went on a team building weekend in Carlingford, Co. Louth taking part in various adventure challenges.
- Four members gave a presentation to the local Children and Young Peoples Services Committee and engaged in discussions with key decision makers on a range of topics.
- The Carlow Comhairle na nÓg was held on 25th October. It was organized by the members and thirteen secondary schools and training centres from County Carlow were represented. The young people participated in two workshops and voted that they would focus on the topic of Climate Action – this is also the topic chosen by the National Executive for 2020.



Carlow Comhairle na nÓg members at Leinster House.

- Dáil na nÓg took place on 23rd November in Leinster House. This year 168 young people were elected to Dáil na nÓg (the National Youth Parliament for 12-17 year olds) through Comhairle na nÓg. The young people voted to adopt the theme of Climate Change to work on over the next two years and this was welcomed by Minister Katherine Zappone TD who addressed the closing ceremony.

A **Community Development Officer** was employed in March 2019 tasked to work with 3 communities; Tullow Road, Bagenalstown and Hacketstown, one community in each of the municipal districts.

Tullow Road

The Community Section are supporting the process of the development of a Masterplan for the Tullow Road which includes a shared multi-functional Community Hub and recreational green infrastructure. The Tullow Road Community Hub Steering Committee was established in 2019, with representation from the community and relevant agencies and were actively meeting in 2019. A multi-disciplinary team was engaged in December 2019 to develop this Masterplan and will be consulting with the community and key agencies during this process.

The Community Section supported the Tullow Road Development Group, in partnership with other agencies to run a Community Street Feast and Bake-Off for the Tullow Road in September.



Bagenalstown

The Community Section worked in partnership with the community and other agencies to create and deliver an 8-week Programme of Events in July & August for the whole community, concluding with a very successful Family Fun Day.



The Bagenalstown Area Steering Group was established in September 2019 to work on behalf of the community to build on and add to existing supports and opportunities, to make Bagenalstown Area a better place to live, work and visit. In 2019, the group have conducted a community mapping exercise, SWOT analysis and have engaged in community projects and workshops. The group have also been involved in developing a whole of community inter-agency, inter-generational project for 2020.

Hacketstown

The Community Section delivered a community consultation in May 2019 with assistance from other departments in the County Council and Carlow County Development Partnership. 30 people involved in different clubs and groups in the town engaged in the process.

A Community Team was established in June 2019 supported in partnership with Carlow County Development Partnership. The Team represent the wider community of Hacketstown and work to develop opportunities for the town and the people that live and visit there. The Community Team investigated the potential for the development of a community café in 2019 and ran a trial community café in November and December.



Hacketstown community were successful in their 2019 Towns & Villages Scheme application, which brings opportunities for the town in 2020.

The Community Section also supports the community in project development in line with the County Development Plan and Local Economic and Community Plan.

Carlow Age Friendly County

The Carlow Age Friendly County Committee was supported by Carlow County Council in 2019 and continued to deliver on the current Age Friendly County Strategy. A Mid-Plan Report for this strategy was produced in 2019, to be launched in 2020.

The Community Section provide the role of Age Friendly Programme Manager for Carlow, working to support the committee and representing Carlow Age Friendly at local, regional and national meetings and events. Carlow worked in partnership with other agencies and counties in the role out of the South East Regional Positive Ageing Seminar in November 2019.



The Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach, Age Friendly Programme Manager and Chair of the Carlow Older Persons Forum attended Slane Castle in December 2019 where Carlow formally received an Age Friendly affiliation certificate as part of a whole of Ireland celebration; Ireland is officially the first country to achieve a whole country formal membership to the World Health Organisations Global Age Friendly Network.



Carlow Sports Partnership



Inclusive Cul Camp 2019

2019 Annual Report Highlights

Carlow Sports Partnership is part of a national network of 29 Local Sports Partnerships funded by Sport Ireland and supported by local and national agencies. Carlow Sports Partnership operates as a sub-committee of Carlow County Council. Please see below for a summary of 2019 Annual Report highlights.

- **3,985 people in total took part in sport and physical activity initiatives, programmes and events organised by Carlow Sports Partnership (CSP) during 2019**
- **1,116 people took part in CSP cycling programmes and events**
- **757 children participated in CSP youth programmes**
- **409 people took part in CSP walking programmes**
- **312 people took part in CSP swimming and water sports programmes**
- **132 females took part in CSP Women in Sport initiatives**
- **284 clubs and community groups were supported with information and resources by CSP**
- **Carlow Sports Partnership delivered 311 training and education courses and 399 people from 28 clubs participated on these training courses**
- **200 secondary school students took part in the first ever County orienteering event and 16 local teachers were upskilled in orienteering teacher training**
- **235 people completed 17 Child Welfare & Protection Safeguarding courses**
- **419 people with a disability participated in the Sports Inclusion Disability Programme**
- **571 people took part in Carlow Sports Partnership and National Governing Bodies of Sport partnership programmes**
- **72 older adults took part in 4 Carlow Sports Partnership active age initiatives**
- **€10,800 distributed to 18 local sports clubs and community groups through the Local Sports Grant Scheme**
- **€363,930 was secured by Carlow Sports Partnership to increase participation in sports and physical activity in 2019**

go for life

★ GO FOR LIFE ★
GAMES

FOR OVER 55'S

**VENUE: ST. LAURENCE
O'TOOL'S AC**

**WEDNESDAY 8TH
MAY @ 11AM**

FOR 4 WEEKS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
CARLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP ON
087 0950237

ALL ARE WELCOME

Carlow Local Sports Partnership
Carlow Local Sports Partnership



Carlow 'Go for Life' team participate in the national Go for Life Games held in Dublin in June 2019

Funding and Resources

Project Funding Sources

Funding from Sport Ireland (Core, Disability, Women in Sport, & Dormant Accounts) accounted for €203,072 of the total CSP funding in 2019. The remaining €160,858 was raised from local partner agencies and income generated from courses and workshops.

Funding Source	Amount
Sport Ireland Core Grant	€203,072.00
Sport Ireland Women in Sport Grant	€8,400.00
Dormant Accounts Funding	€62,930.00
Healthy Ireland Funding	€21,800.00
Health Service Executive Funding (HSE)	€7,650.00
Local Authority Funding/County Council Contribution	€24,500.00
Age and Opportunity/Go for Life	€1,300.00
Bike Week	€8,000.00
Department of Children & Youth Affairs	€3,000.00
Programme/Course/Event Income	€23,278.00
Total	€363,930.00

2019 funding secured by CSP for sports development

After core funding from Sport Ireland, the Dormant Accounts Fund were the next most significant source of funding for Carlow Sports Partnership in 2019. Other significant funding partners were Carlow County Council, the Health Service Executive (HSE), the Department of Tourism, Transport & Sport, the Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA), and Healthy Ireland.

Carlow Sports Partnership continues to be successful in securing funding from local sources. 45% of total funding has been contributed by local sources. Monetary funding sourced locally accounts for 45% of overall CSP support and benefit-in-kind support accounts for a quarter of overall funding.

Carlow Sports Partnership is once again pleased to note that over 50% of the CSP network costs are being sourced locally (funds sourced locally + benefit-in-kind). This follows a recommendation from the 2005 Fitzpatrick & Associates Review of the LSP programme.

Carlow Sports Partnership Management and Staff

Carlow Sports Partnership Advisory Committee – Participation and Representation

In 2019 over 60 volunteer hours were committed to oversee and support Carlow Sports Partnership staff from a wide variety of partner organisations.

A total of 12 people serve on the Carlow Sports Partnership Advisory Committee. 33% are female which is positive in terms of diversity in governance.

Committee members bring specific skillsets to their work with Carlow Sports Partnership. This expertise is in the areas of finance and management, as well as strategic planning, public relations, governance and sports/physical activity development.

Carlow Sports Partnership Advisory Committee Members 2019

	NAME	AGENCY/GROUP/COMMUNITY
1.	Declan Doyle (Chairperson)	Sporting Community Rep
2.	Carmel Lynch	Sporting Community Rep
3.	Olive Fanning	Health Service Executive
4.	Tom Geoghegan	Sporting Community Rep
5.	Kathryn Wall & Karen Mullins	Carlow Regional Youth Services
6.	Donal McNally	Institute of Technology Carlow
7.	Michael Brennan	Carlow County Council
8.	Helen Rothwell	Carlow Volunteer Centre
9.	Denis Shannon	Sporting Community Rep
10.	Garry Coady	Sporting Community Rep
11.	Ronan Dempsey	Sporting Community Rep
12.	TBC	County Carlow Development Partnership

LEARN TO CYCLE

€15




 County Carlow
 Local Sports Partnership
 SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE NS
BAGENALSTOWN
JULY 9TH - 11TH
11.00AM - 12.15PM

SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN WITH OR WITHOUT ADDITIONAL NEEDS

AGES 5-6

For More Information
 Contact Teresa or Tomas on
tomeara@carlowcoco.ie
tomas@carlowcoco.ie







Learn to Cycle Camp Carlow College 2019

Achievements of Carlow Sports Partnership in 2019

Carlow Sports Partnership undertakes a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing sport and physical activity participation levels in their local communities. These actions are grouped within four outcome areas:

- Working to increase participation levels, especially amongst specific target groups;
- Building sustainable local sporting infrastructure through support for clubs, coaches, and volunteers and supporting partnerships between local sports clubs, community based organisations and sector agencies;
- Creating greater opportunities for access to training and education in relation to sports and physical activity provision;
- Providing information about sport and physical activity to create awareness and access.

Development of Local Sports Clubs and Communities

A key focus for Carlow Sports Partnership is that there is a sustainable level of development within the local sports infrastructure. Across the network, sports partnerships work with clubs and groups to ensure that structures are in place to enable participation for all community members in a wide range of sport or physical activity options.

This sustainable environment is facilitated through supporting volunteers and coaches in opportunities to enhance their skills and improve the quality of sports participation in their communities.

Funding work

In 2019, Carlow Sports Partnership worked with 246 sports clubs, groups and community organisations throughout the country on a one-to-one basis and a further 8 clubs through group sessions. 6 group information sessions were delivered to club committees.

Carlow Sports Partnership has worked with 18 of these clubs to assist them on a one-to-one basis in developing funding applications and a further 6 clubs to support fundraising strategies.

Club Development Work

Carlow Sports Partnership supports providers of sports and physical activity across the County, as well as working with sports clubs, communities and individuals to introduce new sports opportunities and pathways for participation in physical exercise. To this end, in 2019:

- 16 clubs/groups were supported in the delivery of activities
- 3 clubs/groups were helped in developing their organizational or management structures
- 2 clubs/groups were helped in the development of policy
- 25 clubs/groups were helped with governance best practice
- 18 clubs/groups availed of the Local Sport Grant Scheme

Local Sports Partnerships play a key role in advising clubs in the areas of planning, evaluation and in the development of governance standards and policies. This support work, helps clubs to make improvements to attract and retain members.



Gaelic for Girls Programme 2019

Training & Education Courses and Workshops

Local Sports Partnerships Provide a range of important upskilling and training opportunities at local level for volunteers, coaches and administrators:

- Carlow Sports Partnership planned and delivered 28 training and education courses, workshops and seminars with their partner agencies
- 399 people participated on these training courses and workshops representing 225 clubs and community groups

Name of Course	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
Safeguarding 1	12	180
Safeguarding 2	3	37
Safeguarding 3	2	18

Sports First Aid	2	25
Garda Vetting Workshop	1	7
GDPR	1	9
REC Level 3	1	14
Orienteering	2	33
Autism in Sport	3	64
Cycle Right Disability Tutor Training	1	12
Totals	28	399

Summary of 2019 Training

Delivering Sport Ireland Programmes

Child Welfare & Protection Safeguarding Programmes

The Safeguarding programme targets sports leaders and adults involved in the organization of sport for young people to promote child welfare and protection policies and procedures. The full programme consists of three stages:

Safeguarding 1 – Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Course

All Coaches, Children’s Officers and Designated Liaison Persons must first complete the 3 hour Child Welfare and Protection Basic Awareness Course. This course educates participants on the implementation of best practice in protecting the welfare of children involved in sport.

Safeguarding 2 – Club Children’s Officer

A person appointed to the Club Children’s Officer position in a club must complete Safeguarding 1 Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness Course and follow this with the Club Children’s Officer 3 hour workshop. This course will help the Club Children’s Officer to carry out the function of their role in the club and support the implementation of best practice in the club. Participants will also receive a Club Children’s Officer Action Planning document as part of training.

Safeguarding 3 – Designated Liaison Person

A person appointed to the Designated Liaison Person position in a club must have completed Safeguarding 1 Child Welfare & Protection Basic Awareness workshop and follow this with the Designated Liaison Person 3 hour workshop. A club may appoint the same person to both the CCO and the DLP positions however best practice advises that they are kept as separate roles.

Club Children’s Officer

The Club Children’s Officer should be child-centred in focus and have, as the primary aim, the establishment of a child-centred ethos within the club. They are the link between the children and the adults in the club. They also take responsibility for monitoring and reporting to the Club Management Committee on how club policy impacts on young people and sports leaders.

Designated Liaison Person

Every club and organization should designate a person to be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The Designated Liaison Person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to TUSLA Child and Family Agency and/or An Garda Síochána. It is recommended that this person is a senior club person. However, if there is difficulty identifying a separate individual to take this role, the Club Children’s Officer can be appointed as the Designated Liaison Person one the club/organization is clear about the responsibilities of each role. The organisation’s child protection policy and procedures should include the name and contact details of the Designated Liaison Person and the responsibilities attached to the role.

In 2019, 180 sports leaders and coaches completed Safeguarding 12 training courses organized by Carlow Sports Partnership. 37 volunteers attended the follow-on

Children’s Officer training across 3 courses. 18 completed Safeguarding 3 Designated Liaison Person training.

Name of Course	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
Safeguarding 1	12	180
Safeguarding 2	3	37
Safeguarding 3	2	18
Totals	17	235

Table 3: Breakdown of Child Safeguarding training outputs



CARA Disability Awareness Training 2019

Participation Initiatives

The design, delivery and review of targeted programmes by Carlow Sports Partnership directly increases the level of local participation, particularly amongst the harder to reach social groups. Through local expertise and connections within the sports infrastructure, the LSP identifies specific needs and plan accordingly. In 2019, Carlow Sports Partnership maintained its delivery of an innovative range of participation programmes;

- 3,985 people participated in 30 locally delivered participation programmes
- Of that, some 419 people with a disability took part in Sports Inclusion Disability programmes and initiatives

Name of Programme/Initiative/Action	Participants
Gaelic 4 Girls	90
Swim for A Mile (Women only)	22
Buggy Buddies	20
Bike Week	60
Play Day	1000
Barrow Way Walk	135
Autism Friendly Swimming Hour	20
IWA Sport Inclusive Club	25
Inclusive Golf	32
Inclusive Water Sports	39
Easter & Summer Camps	90
Inclusive Clubs	40
Inclusive Yoga	45

NGB People with a Disability Inclusive Programme	25
Autism in Sport	79
GAA Kellogs Cul Camp	24
Swim for A Mile	46
Swim for A Mile	50
Soccer for Travellers	8
Sports Hall Athletics	140
Walking Football	30
Go for Life Games	18
Operation Transformation Walk	200
Multi Activity Club	68
Barrow Way Walk	74
Learn to Cycle Camp	41
Orienteering Event	200
Bike Week Events	1015
Healthy Ireland Community Fitness	51
Youth Services Watersports	298
Total number of participants	3985

Table 4: Breakdown of Programmes delivered by Carlow in 2019

Local Sport Partnership Initiative Categorisation

The design, delivery and review of targeted programmes by Carlow Sports Partnership directly increases the level of local participation particularly amongst the harder to reach social groups. Through local expertise and connections within the sports infrastructure, Carlow Sports Partnership identifies specific needs and plan accordingly. In 2019, Carlow Sports Partnership maintained its delivery of an innovative range of participation programmes. See below for a summary of programme categories.

- Carlow Sports Partnership Programmes**
 Defined as fixed duration participation opportunities which last longer than one or two sessions. Usually delivered over a number of weeks or non-consecutive days e.g. Go for Life Games.
- Carlow Sports Partnership Events**
 Defined as fixed duration participation events usually lasting single days. Participants would usually set a goal to enter the event and undertake some training or require underlying fitness of skill to take part e.g. 5km runs, cycling events, etc.
- Carlow Sports Partnership Taster Sessions**
 Defined as once off participation opportunities which offer no more than a single experience, although they may sign post to more long-term opportunities. Participants usually need no training in advance and minimal previous skill/fitness to take part e.g. fun days, Be Active Nights, family events and promotional weeks etc.

- **Carlow Sports Partnership Camps**

Defined as sports camps which offer sports participation opportunities in a sport or multi sports. Usually lasting less than a week e.g. Sports Inclusion Camp, Learn to Cycle Camp etc.

- **National Governing Body Programmes**

Defined as participation opportunities with an NGB as the main deliverer of the initiative. Support and resources may be provided by Carlow Sports Partnership e.g. Inclusive GAA Camp, Rugby Bees Inclusive Team etc.

CARLOW OUTDOOR ADVENTURE HUB

THE CARLOW OUTDOOR ADVENTURE HUB PROGRAMME IS SUPPORTED BY
CARLOW SPORTS PARTNERSHIP & CARLOW REGIONAL YOUTH SERVICES
 AND FUNDED THROUGH SPORT IRELAND AND THE DORMANT ACCOUNTS FUND

Age 11-18 years
 Participants must be able to swim

- ▶ Limited number of places per session.
- ▶ No walk in's available. Must be booked in advance @ Carlow Regional Youth Service's Reception, Montgomery House, Athy Road, Carlow Tel: 059 9130476
- ▶ Parental consent is required for all participants
- ▶ All equipment will be provided
- ▶ Kayak & SUP: Wear swim gear and bring 2nd pair of runners and a towel
- ▶ Rowing: Bring a packed lunch
- ▶ Arrive 15 minutes prior to start time

Activity	Date	Time	Cost
Kayaking	Wednesday 7 th August	10am- 12pm	€5
Kayaking	Wednesday 7 th August	1pm - 3pm	€5
Kayaking	Wednesday 14 th August	10am- 12pm	€5
Kayaking	Wednesday 14 th August	1pm - 3pm	€5
Kayaking	Wednesday 21 st August	10am- 12pm	€5
Kayaking	Wednesday 21 st August	1pm - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Tuesday 6 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Thursday 8 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Monday 12 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Tuesday 13 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Thursday 15 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Monday 19 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Tuesday 20 th August	10am - 3pm	€5
Rowing	Thursday 22 nd August	10am - 3pm	€5
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Friday 10 th August	10am - 12pm	€5
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Friday 16 th August	1pm - 3pm	€5
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Monday 19 th August	10am - 12pm	€5
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Monday 19 th August	1pm - 3pm	€5
Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Tuesday 20 th August	10am - 12pm	€5
Boat Trip	Wednesday 14 th August	11am - 12pm	€5
Boat Trip	Wednesday 14 th August	1pm - 2pm	€5
Boat Trip	Friday 16 th August	11am - 12pm	€5
Boat Trip	Friday 16 th August	1pm - 2pm	€5
Boat Trip	Wednesday 21 st August	11am - 12pm	€5
Boat Trip	Wednesday 21 st August	1pm - 2pm	€5
Boat Trip	Friday 23 rd August	11am - 12pm	€5
Boat Trip	Friday 23 rd August	1pm - 2pm	€5
Fishing	Monday 12 th August	3pm - 5pm	€2
Fishing	Friday 16 th August	3pm - 5pm	€2
Fishing	Monday 19 th August	3pm - 5pm	€2
Fishing	Friday 23 rd August	3pm - 5pm	€2

Carlow Sports Partnership & Carlow Regional Youth Services Water Sports Schedule 2019



Inclusive water sports sessions for people with a disability at Carlow Town Park



Teenagers trying out kayaking at Carlow Town Park

Local Sport Partnership Initiatives Delivered in 2019

During 2019 Carlow Sports Partnership engaged with a range of different sports in providing participation opportunities to their audience. The following image shows the range of sports that participants were engaged in during their involvement in participation initiatives in 2019. The most popular 3 sports in 2019 were cycling, walking and swimming/water sports. 1,116 people were reached through cycling, 409 people were reached through walking activities and 312 were reached through swimming and water sports activities.

Building and Sustaining Partnerships

Information Provision

Carlow Sports Partnership acts as an information hub and point of contact within communities. Carlow Sports Partnership works to share information, as well as direct, signpost and refer their target groups to the most appropriate next step, whether that is a link to a sports club, a community-based organization or a volunteering opportunity.

Carlow Sports Partnership collects ongoing information on the nature and extent of their work to provide information to their communities and profile their activities and programmes.

A range of communication platforms are utilized by Carlow Sports Partnership, both via traditional and social media outlets.

Carlow Sports Partnership is also active in developing specific resources to highlight and promote the range of activities and opportunities available locally. This can be in the form of newsletters, press releases, booklets, directories, as well as email contact lists.

Carlow Sports Partnership also promotes work through annual reports such as this document. Research publications and presentations are also used regularly to disseminate key messages regarding participation. In 2019, 14 presentations were delivered to local stakeholders.

Walking Football Participants 2019



Weekly sessions in two locations in Carlow Town & Tullow with post match analysis!



Networking, Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Building Alliances and relationships with local and national partners is an important area of work for Carlow Sports Partnership, as well as representing key concerns in the policy arena. In order to carry out this strand of its work, Carlow Sports Partnership, actively engages in committee work and networking activities at local and national level. In 2019, Carlow Sports Partnership has participated in 9 local, regional and national committee actions associated with building networks and advocating on behalf of their target groups.

The local and national networks bring together sports clubs, statutory and non-statutory agencies, volunteers and other working partners and provide opportunities for partnership endeavours that influence and resource sport and physical activity at county and national level.

These networking and awareness raising actions allow for an increase in the reach of Carlow Sports Partnership, as well as profiling ongoing work. They are also a sounding board for advice and recommendations as to what Carlow Sports Partnership can do to assist sports clubs and partners. Actions in the area of advocacy and policy allow for Carlow Sports Partnership to promote the importance of sport in community life.

Partnership Engagement

Carlow Sports Partnership aims to lead and coordinate sport and physical activity opportunities locally. In 2019, 20 initiatives were delivered by Carlow Sports Partnership core and contract staff, and 10 Initiatives were delivered by community groups, clubs, NGBs, volunteers and other partners.

Street Velodrome Event

WHEN: SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2019
TIME: 11AM - 5PM @ IT CARLOW

FEATURING:
Velodrome Track - open session 3pm to 5pm
No need to book between 3pm to 5pm - first come first serve
BMX Show Times - 12noon, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm
BMX stunt riders are available for workshops between shows
Balance Bikes & Obstacle Course - 3pm
Bikes will be provided. You can also bring your own if you wish
Mini-Cycle Path - open 11am - 5pm
Show bike rack and mini-duathlon for kids who bring their own bikes
Bring your Bike - while supplies last!

TICKETS
 Admission is free to celebrate Bike Week 2019
 All welcome to come and view events at any time during the day.
 Food and drinks will be available to purchase on site.

CONTACT
 Carlow Sports Partnership
 Office 059 9136207
 mj.duggan@carlowcoco.ie

County Carlow
 Local Sports Partnership
 www.carlowcoco.ie

SPORT
 OF CARLOW

CARLOW
 COUNTY COUNCIL

SPORT
 IRELAND

Street Velodrome Event to celebrate Bike Week 2019

BIKE WEEK 2019

Carlow Sports Partnership presents

FREE
BMX SHOW

Sun June 30th
 At the IT Carlow

FUSION
 EXTREME

FUSION
 EXTREME

FUSION
 EXTREME

Join us at IT Carlow next Sunday 30th June for a #BikeParty! Fusion Extreme will perform four free BMX stunt shows at 12noon, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm. Fun for all ages, there will be lots to do including, kids duathlon track, bring your bike, bike obstacle course, and a street velodrome.

For more info: 059 9136207 / mj.duggan@carlowcoco.ie

BMX Stunt Show for Bike Week 2019

Next Steps for Carlow Sports Partnership

Delivery on the National Sports Policy

On the 25th July 2018 the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport launched the 2018-2027 National Sports Policy. The National Sports Policy aims to increase sports participation in Ireland from 43% to 50% by 2027, the equivalent of 1% per year. To achieve this the policy highlights the need to tackle participation gradients by targeting groups in our society that participate significantly less than the overall average. These include people with disabilities, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, women and girls and ethnic minority groups, such as the Traveller community. The vision of the National Sports Policy for participation is:

‘People will be inspired, their lives enriched, their enjoyment enhanced, and their quality of life improved as a result of their own active or social participation in sport’

The National Sports Policy has 15 participation specific actions in the Participation Chapter: One of the key actions is Action 8 below.

Action 8:

We will establish through Sport Ireland, an initiative to support Local Authorities in developing Local Sports Plans consistent with the overall vision and objectives of this National Sports Policy. The Local Plan will review needs and set out actions to increase participation locally. It will be developed and implemented in cooperation with LSPs, clubs, communities and partners within and beyond sport.

Carlow Sports Partnership will work closely with Carlow County Council and other key stakeholders to develop such a plan in the short to medium term. It is envisaged that this holistic framework will provide an integrated roadmap for future sport development in the County.

Building Capacity to Deliver

Fundamental to delivering on the Actions of the National Sports Policy is increasing the capacity of the sports sector to deliver, especially partnerships such as Carlow Sports Partnership and the smaller National Governing Bodies of Sports (NGBs). Thanks to an increase in government investment in 2019, Sport Ireland is in a position to increase Local Sports Partnerships capacity and capability. For the first time, Carlow Sports Partnership have 100% core funding for four full time staff, namely:

- Carlow Sports Partnership Coordinator
- Carlow Sports Partnership Administrator
- Sports Inclusion Development Officer
- Community Sports Development Officer

The Sports Inclusion Development Officer (SIDO) is specifically tasked to work with persons with a disability and the disability NGBs of sport. The Community Sports Development Officer (CSDO) is tasked to work with disadvantaged communities, minority groups and smaller sports and NGBs who do not have a network of regional development officers.

In addition, the Dormant Accounts investment has allowed Carlow Sports Partnership to contract a Community Sports Hub Coordinator for the Carlow Town Park area and for Bagenalstown.

Continued support and investment from Government is paramount to achieving the objectives of the National Sports Policy.

Demonstrating the Impact

Critical to bringing the National Sports Policy vision to life is the capacity of Carlow Sports Partnership; through direction from Sport Ireland to evaluate the impact of its programmes/initiatives. Carlow Sports Partnership is committed to the development and implementation of such evaluation systems and significant progress was made in this regard in 2019. The evaluation work focuses on answering the questions - what works, for whom and under what conditions. A mix of quantitative and qualitative tools will be used to understand what works when trying to get people to be active, whom it works for and what

conditions must exist for it to work. These overarching questions will govern all evaluations undertaken across the breadth of Carlow Sports Partnership activities.

Following a pilot initiative Sport Ireland has adopted the internationally validated self-report measure – the single item question – to measure participants’ levels of physical activity. Carlow Sports Partnership will be adopting this evaluation framework across all participation programmes in 2020 with trends generated from this data then further explored through the use of qualitative measures. This evaluation ecosystem will form the basis for decisions relating to not only programme design but also national and local strategic investment/funding streams.

Special Guest Sean O’Brien visits the Carlow Sports Partnership Inclusive Activity Camp 2019 in IT Carlow



Inclusive Summer Camp at IT Carlow 2019



Carlow Sports Partnership & Carlow GAA Inclusive Kellogs Cul Camp 2019



Carlow Sports Partnership & Irish Wheelchair Association Activity Club 2019





ANNUAL REPORT - 2019

**Carlow County Council
Library Service**



Leabharlann Chontae Ceatharlach --- **Carlow County Library**

CONTENTS

1. About	02
2. Facts & Figures	03
3. Reading & Literacy	04
4. Learning & Information	06
5. Community & Culture	08
6. Special Projects	10
7. Staff Matters & Training	11

ABOUT

Carlow County Library Service

Our Service Points:

Carlow Library

Tullow Library

Muinebheag Library & *My Open Library*

Borris Library

Local Studies & County Archive

Online at:

www.carlowlibraries.ie

Carlowcountylibrary
@carlowlibraries

Carlow County Council Library Service is a network of four libraries where people of all ages gather to freely pursue knowledge, information and enjoyment of life. Libraries in Carlow provide a popular and heavily used service for everyone, allowing unbiased and unparalleled access to knowledge, information, creativity and culture. Carlow County Library Service experienced high demand for services again in 2019.

Carlow County Library Service operates in the communities of Carlow Town, Borris, Tullow and Muinebheag. Opening hours for 2019 remained at 124 per week which include late nights and Saturday openings. The branch libraries are supported by the administrative functions of Library Headquarters from where the Local Studies and Genealogy service also operates. The Local Studies service is open to the public for 35 hours per week. A dedicated Genealogist is available by appointment two days a week, a partnership agreement with the Irish Family History Foundation.

Carlow Library Service works collaboratively with a range of local and national organisations which allows the library to promote itself as a valuable accessible space actively engaging with the community. In 2019, the library service continued this collaborative approach to service delivery to ensure the library is viewed as a social and versatile space for everyone.



Statistics Overview

Book & Item issues:

165,007 books and multimedia items were issued in Carlow libraries.



People:

172,856 people visited Carlow libraries & **2,502** new members joined.



eLearning:

1,117 eLanguage Learning sessions & **1,361** eLearning sessions

eReading:

2,342 eBooks & **2,717** eAudiobooks were downloaded.



Online:

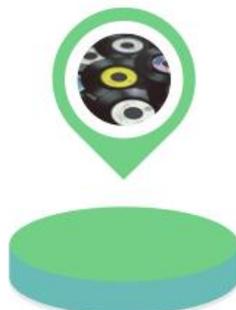
62,933 visits to www.carlowlibraries.ie & Library App used **3,595** times

Circulation Statistics

165,007 Books and other items issued



Adult Non Fiction
27,829



Audio Visual & Other
16,864



Adult Fiction
35,290



Children & Youth:
85,024

Strategic Programme

Reading & Literacy

Right to Read is a national programme to promote literacy and reading development for people of all ages and backgrounds. It currently includes four national programmes designed to promote children's reading and literacy. These include:



Spring into Storytime

Spring into Storytime sessions were held in all library branches in April in addition to the Storytime Fun pilot which involved library staff members visiting local play-schools to read stories and engage with the children.



Summer Stars Programme

The Summer Stars Reading Challenge was a great success. A total of 34,554 books were borrowed by children during the summer months and almost 1,100 children from around the county signed up.



Children's Book Festival

October is Children's Book Festival Month and to mark this, Patrick Ryan, Storyteller, Writer and Research Consultant held Storytelling Workshops in all County Library Branches. Andrea Dalton.



Library Family Time

Family Time in the Library events included an Elves Workshop & Storytime run in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services, Christmas Carols in Tullow Library by Regina Hanley and Storytelling with Mrs. Claus in Muinebheag Library.

Book Ninjas & Story Ninjas



NEW LOCAL PROGRAMME:

New Story and Book Ninja Reading Challenges for both preschool and primary school children were launched in January. Participants in the Story Ninja and Book Ninja Challenges received a special bookmark and earned a different colour belt (sticker) on each library visit. When the black belt was achieved, children received a Certified Book Ninja medal.

Plain English Awards

Carlow County Library Service was shortlisted for a NALA Plain English Award for its Carlow County Council Right to Read Strategy. It is the first Library Service in the country to be awarded the Plain English stamp on their Right to Read Strategy. The aim of the award is to reward organisations that communicate clearly and promote the use of Plain English in all public information.

Right to Read Award Certificates

In October Right to Read Award Certificates were presented to John Shortall, County Librarian and Trish Nolan, Programme Coordinator by Minister Seán Canney, Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development.

Story Streets:

The Story Streets project was one of three supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development under *Library Supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities*, and by Carlow County Council. 75% funding of €17,400 was awarded to Carlow County Council Library Service in July; €12,900 towards *Story Streets* with Carlow County Council providing the remainder in matched funding of €4,300.

Story Streets is a family literacy project to help families in disadvantaged communities improve their literacy skills. The pilot ran in collaboration with three local family resource centres - St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre and Forward Steps Family Resource Centre, Tullow.

The aims of this project were to:

- encourage families to read together
- help people who don't use the library to join and start to use their local public library.

Twenty-eight families from different backgrounds took part in this successful project. Parents and children appreciated the project and valued:

- reading together at home and chatting about the books read,
- spending time together as a family,
- visiting the local library – they found it relaxed and welcoming experience, and
- meeting weekly in their group to socialise and make new friends.

Detailed information, including full report and video are available at www.carlowlibraries.ie

Next steps:

- Investigate sources of funding to continue and expand the programme
- Continue to build and improve partnerships with the three centres involved
- Share our learnings with Irish Public Library Services, the LGMA and other interested bodies to support the running of similar programmes.

Strategic Programme

Learning & Information

Carlow Library Service supports and facilitates learning, provides access to information and supports the acquisition of new skills. Providing access to information and guiding people towards what they need is a central role of the service. Two programmes being run to support learning and information are:

Work Matters

Carlow County Library is participating in the Work Matters programme since 2015. Now a national programme all public libraries in Ireland offer business and employment support services.

The Work Matters Service includes:

- Free membership
- Direction and help with your research
- Business and employment books, journals, newspapers, reports, wire-feeds
- eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines
- PCs and Internet access
- Space for meetings, study and research
- Online learning and services with access to over 500 e-learning courses
- Printing, scanning and photocopying
- Workshops, presentations and networking opportunities
- Language learning



Healthy Ireland

Healthy Ireland at your Library is a nationwide initiative which seeks to encourage people to make positive choices to improve their physical and mental health, while also providing support and information to help people make more healthy choices.

Carlow Library Service is involved in the initiative and services provided include enhanced health information with all library branches having books, eBooks, audio and eMagazines on various issues such as healthy eating, positive ageing, childhood health and wellbeing.

Healthy Ireland Events held in all libraries were:

- Parenting Workshops with Val Mulally of Koemba Parenting
- Self-Care for Parents Workshops with Jordane Marie Play Therapist



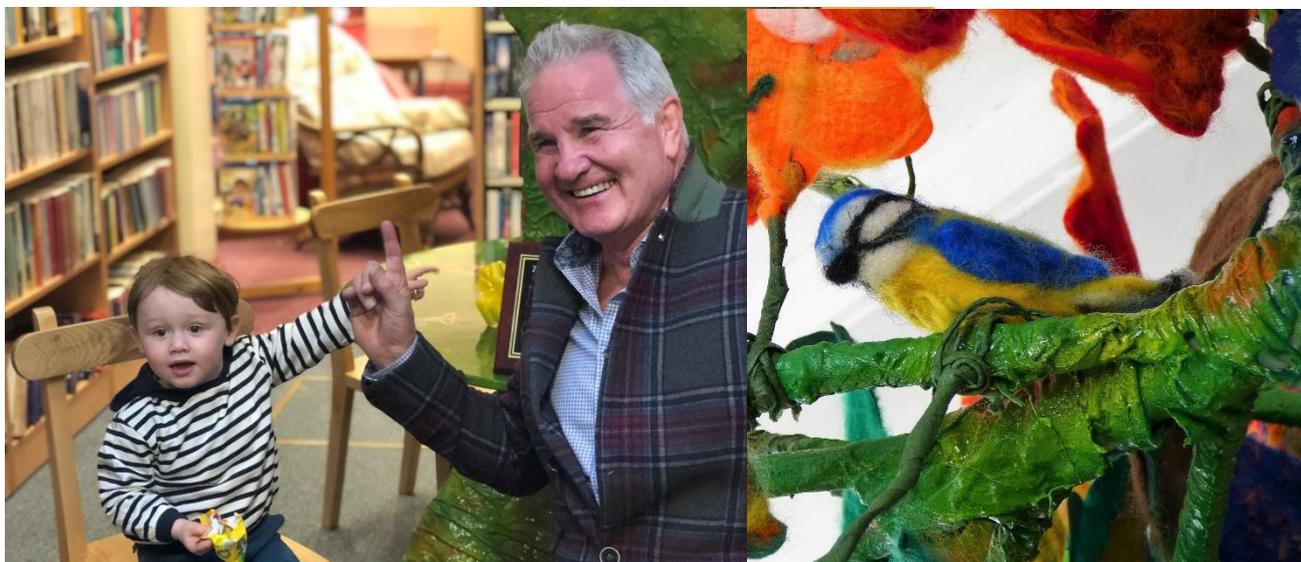
The Tree of Inspiration:

The “Tree of Inspiration” is the culmination of a collaborative eight-month long project which began in August 2018 at the Dolmen Centre’s Studio and Gallery at St. Dymphna’s Hospital. The project involved the HSE/South East Community Healthcare’s mental health services with Carlow County Library Services, supported by grant aid from Carlow County Council.

The drive for this idea came from a greater need to involve those recovering from mental illness to engage in public projects. This has the double benefit of facilitating those in recovery to create worthwhile art pieces, thus developing their artistic skills, as well as engaging with the public through the forum of Carlow County Library – who themselves promote a health awareness programme on an ongoing basis.

The Tree of Inspiration is based on a fantastical version of an oak tree, which in ancient Ireland was believed to be the ‘Tree of Knowledge’ and the ‘King of the Forest’. So, it is very fitting that a tree of knowledge should find its way into a place of knowledge, offering inspiration, joy and comfort to all who engage with this functional sculpture. The project has brought enormous happiness, pride and confidence – together with a great feeling of achievement to each of the 20 artists involved.

The tree sculpture is designed with a table top incorporated in to it and hand painted with fairies and fantasy creatures. The seats are designed by artist Mary Cassidy and hand made in Irish ash by furniture maker Patrick Walsh of Saltmills, Co. Wexford. The wood work was facilitated by Danny Byrne of Declan Byrne & Sons, Timber Suppliers, Graiguecullen, Carlow. The sculpture itself is made of a variety of materials, including recycled materials such as bubble wrap and cardboard – as well as Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), wood, chicken wire, cotton cloth, latex, pva, acrylic paint and topped off with an amazing, colourful array of 550 hand felted wool oak leaves, acorns, birds, a squirrel eating an acorn, a thrush with its nest of eggs and many other little hand felted characters hidden within its branches.



Strategic Programme

Community & Culture

The library is at the centre of community and cultural activity acting as a catalyst for the imagination, encouraging and inspiring creativity among individuals and communities and supporting diversity. Libraries are free, open, democratic and welcoming places for everyone.

Music Services:

Carlow County Library Service launched the new Community Piano in the GB Shaw Room in Carlow Central Library in January 2019. This addition to the library service was made possible due to a 75% grant from Music Network Ireland, funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, as part of their Music Capital Scheme with matched funding from Carlow County Council. There have been several events to date including performances by Carlow College of Music students, practice sessions with Carlow Music Generation's MouthBox and a short recital for visiting delegates from Hunan Province, China.

Other musical performances throughout the year included Carlow Music Generation's Boombrastic brass and wind ensemble, Reelig and ReelÓg performances and Mouthbox practice sessions and outdoor performance. Little People Big Voice, a series of music workshops for young children, ran for ten weeks in the Autumn. This initiative was funded by Creative Ireland Carlow and in collaboration with Music Generation Carlow.

ArtistWorks – a new music tuition online service - was introduced this year, offering library members world-class instruction through self-paced video lessons from Grammy Award-winning music and artistic professionals. ArtistWorks is dedicated to providing anyone, anywhere, with affordable, interactive access to the greatest music teachers in the world.



Local Studies and County Archive:

The public library is a curator of memory and is responsible for creating, storing and making accessible local cultural and historical records. Carlow County Library Service continued to enhance the physical collections held in 2019 and worked towards the establishment of a County Digital Archive in partnership with Carlow College, St. Patrick's, Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society and Carlow County Museum.

During 2019, the binding of Local studies materials continued. This year, a significant section of the *Journal of the Irish Railway Record Society* was bound along with some local journals including *Carloviana*, *Reaching Out* and *Contact*.

Christopher Power, Library Assistant had two articles published in *Carloviana* 2020 entitled:

1. 'Watering Slips to Train Trips – Carlow's legacy through maps and plans'
2. 'Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles in Carlow 1909 -1917'

Acquisitions included the following items:

- *The Watsons of Kilconnor 1650 – present* by Peter J F Coutts and Alan Watson
- *Old Carlow Photos Part 3* by Dermot O'Brien
- *Landholding in the new English Settlement Town of Hacketstown, Co. Carlow 1635 – 1875* by Oliver Whelan
- *O'Hanrahans Centenary, 1919 – 2019* compiled by Leo McGough
- *From Kyle Hill to Pennsylvania* by Paddy Byrne
- *50 Years of Hurling: Carlow Town Hurling and Camogie Club, 1968 - 2018*

Genealogy:

The Genealogy Service was very popular with both locals and the diaspora again in 2019. The service was used by many walk-in clients, especially from Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Europe all looking to trace their ancestors in County Carlow. There were many inquiries relating to the workhouse and about where ancestors are buried in Carlow. The online newspaper archives were also researched heavily. Sadly, there appeared to be many people looking for details on ancestors drowned in the River Barrow during the year. One story during 2019 involved a local man in his 80's who came for an appointment looking for relatives from Tullow Street, with the name Lennon. His family history was researched with him and he learned of names that he never realised where in his family. As he left and started down the stairs, he met a lady coming up. She was a walk-in client, so Genealogist, Bernie Walsh did not know the name of the family she was researching. As her family history was interrogated, Bernie realised that she was related to the gentleman who had just left. Bernie rushed downstairs and luckily the gentleman was reading the newspaper in the library and she asked him if he would be willing to come back upstairs to meet the lady and explained that she was looking into his family. He was delighted and when Bernie asked the researcher would she be interested in meeting a living relative the joy on her face and the tears in her eyes said it all. She never knew that she had living relatives in the area. Despite having booked a trip to Kerry the next day, she decided to stay with him for a few days, so he could introduce her to all the cousins she never knew about, his grandchildren and neighbours.

Special Projects & Initiatives

01

Decade of Centenaries:

Carlow County Council Centenaries Committee met on several occasions during the year and completed actions and events which included the commemoration of James Lennon TD who was the first TD from Carlow in the 1st Dáil. A Community Lead Grant Scheme and a 4-month Historian in Residence Grant Scheme were facilitated, and work continued on the County Digital Archive throughout the year. Funding of €10,000 was drawn down from the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht to support the Programme.

02

Dormant Accounts Funding:

Funding applications were submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under Library Supports for marginalised, socially excluded and disadvantaged communities. 75% funding of €17,400 was awarded to Carlow County Council Library Service in July for three of the four projects applied for:

1. Family Engagement – A 10 week 'Story Streets' interactive literacy programme for ten families from Carlow, Tullow and Bagenalstown who have never visited their local library.
2. Irish Sign Language – Monthly Storytime sessions for parents and children with an ISL interpreter, information clinics/talks for parents of newly diagnosed deaf children and provision of literature and information. Deaf Café and staff training in deaf awareness and ISL classes.
3. News for the Visually Impaired – The Nationalist newspaper recorded weekly in the library using podcasting equipment and uploaded for all to access.



03

My Open Library:

The Muinebheag My Open Library Service commenced on February 1st, 2019. My Open Library members can use the library in self-service mode outside of normal staffed hours from 8am to 10pm every day of the year including Sundays and Christmas day. The service was used over 800 times during unstaffed hours up until year end. In November, The Department of Rural and Community Development have committed €97,387.50 in grant funding towards the development of Borris Library and Community Focus Centre as a My Open Library. 25% matched funding will be provided by Carlow County Council.

04

Culture Night:

To celebrate Culture Night on the 20th September, events took place as follows:

- There was a Latvian and Syrian Cultural Celebration at Tullow Library at 4pm. This was an official launch of Latvian and Syrian Book shelves in Tullow Library with the Latvian Ambassador Janis Silis in attendance. Latvian and Syrian food made by the communities in Tullow was enjoyed by all and was followed by an Irish traditional music session.
- Music Generation Carlow's talented young musicians ReelÓg performed in Carlow Central Library at 4pm.
- *Chroma* Art Group had an official launch of their exhibition 'In the Quiet Place' at 7pm in the GB Shaw Room.
- Carlow Storytellers celebrated the life and work of the writer George Bernard Shaw in Carlow Central Library at 7.30pm. There were excerpts from some of his finest plays and a mix of songs, stories, poetry and laughs.

05

PenFest:

Carlow County Library's Creative Writing Festival took place on 30th, 31st & 1st November as follows:

- A two day *Write for Your Life* Workshop with Jackie Hayden. Jackie has published twenty books and took participants through the entire process of Memoir Writing, from getting started to become a published author.
- A three hour *Why I Write* Workshop with Beau Williams. Beau Williams is a performance poet, writer, organiser and facilitator from the United States. Beau welcomed first time writers and published authors to this workshop to give them the proper tools to address their emotions and experiences and express them in an effective way on the page
- A book launch by Simon Lewis called "Ah, Men!" was hosted in Carlow Central Library on 1st November. Simon was the winner of the Hennessy Prize for Emerging Poetry and the runner up in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award in 2015. This is be Simon's second collection of poetry.

Staff Matters & Training

There was a wide and varied training programme in place in Carlow County Library during 2019.

The training programme included interview skills, requirements for being a member of the compliance team, GDPR training, communications and media skills, online services, manual handling and a training day for age friendly libraries. Library staff also completed specialist presentation skills training in advance of Carlow Ploughing Championships.

Two library staff got the opportunity to attend the Youth Library group conference in Thurles in September and another two staff attended the Library Association of Ireland Public Libraries conference in November. Three staff were nominated to attend the NALA conference in November also.

There were no changes in personnel in 2019. However, as part of national review a Library Workforce Plan was agreed, and the County Library compliment now stands at 20 staff over the four branches and Library Headquarters. John Shortall was appointed County Librarian in February and all vacant positions will be filled in early 2020.



ARTS

Arts Council

The Arts Office of Carlow County Council funding allocation for the County Arts Programme from the Arts Council of Ireland for 2019 was €72,950, which remained the same as 2018. No local authority received an increase in funding this year.

In 2019, The Arts Council of Ireland for arts development across Ireland total investment into County Carlow was **€553,969**. The breadth and reach of that investment included the following breakdown:

€ 72,950	Carlow County Council Arts Programme
€108,000	VISUAL - Annual funding
€165,019	Strategic Funding - Carlow Arts Festival
€145,000	United Fall – Emma Martin Dance (Rathoe)
€ 35,000	Take A Part Carlow
€ 10,000	Carole Nelson – Music Development
€ 10,000	Borris House Festival – Literature Development
€ 8,000	County Carlow Youth Theatre – Young Ensembles

In addition to this and the County Arts programme allocation the Arts Office led an application in 2019 under the Invitation to Collaborate Scheme for Local Authorities with other key partners and the Arts Office were successful in securing a further €73,500 for a collaborative project over the next 2 years which is building on the successful arts participation model Take A Part Carlow.

In 2019, due to the ongoing work of place-based arts practice in Carlow, the Arts Council of Ireland are planning their Places Matter national conference in Carlow which will be hosted by VISUAL in the Spring of 2021.

Throughout 2019 the Arts Office continued to work closely with the Arts Council both in terms of training for Arts Officers and to maximise supports for artists and arts organisations throughout County Carlow.

During July and August following the Arts Council of Ireland commissioning an organization called Quality Matters to undertake work with Take a Part Carlow, members of the community of the Tullow Road engaged with the organization looking at outcomes of the project and the social impact that the projects is having on the lives of the community of the Tullow Road area of Carlow. Take A Part Carlow continued as a national model of excellence for local community decision making and participation in the arts.

Creative Ireland



Creative Ireland Carlow Community Gathering 2019

The Creative Ireland programme is a major all of Government initiative to put creativity at the centre of public policy. This programme has enormous potential for delivering significant, long term, positive impact for people and organisations all over Ireland. In 2019 the delivering of Open Call successful projects were delivered.

Communities had responded in 2018 to the first Open Call under the Carlow Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022, and 16 projects countywide being successful during 2018 and 2019 and had responded to the key themes which include:

Theme 1: Connecting people, ideas and communities

Theme 2: Celebrating County Carlow

Theme 3: Cultivating Young Futures

Theme 4: Cherishing County Carlow's History & Heritage



During 2019 a new funding opportunity was developed for a further Open Call for projects to happen during 2020 and 2021.

The Following Projects were awarded Open Call Funding 2018/2019, and all completed by the end of 2019:



Successful recipients of Open Call 2018/2019 Creative Ireland Carlow
The Sugar Factory Studios by Carlow Artist Victoria Callinan along with other Creatives in Carlow. This was a residency over 6 weeks during summer in an Independent art space in An Gairdin Beo an environment in which they performed and produced work. The project was awarded €5000.

Carlow Youth Reach collaboration with Carlow Youth Services and Carlow Youth Theatre produced a drama project to engage young people out of school giving opportunity to foster creativity & self-expression. The project was awarded €1,500.

Dave Barron a local historian produced 'From Carlow Streams' with countywide Traditional singer groups & Rambling Houses. The project collected and stored collections of singers and storytellers to recount traditional traditions and easily accessible cultural heritage. A website was also produced to act as a live archive of this rich material. The project was €2000.

Carlow Historical Archaeological Society, Knockaunarelic Graveyard, National Monument Service and the County Museum were provided with the opportunity for clearance, survey, recording, and dissemination, and the creation of a long-term conservation plan for Knockaunarelic Cemetery neglected graveyard in use since 18th Century. This project was awarded €1,500.

Clare Breen, Artist worked in collaboration with the County Arts Office, VISUAL, Freelance Arts Educational Providers and other artists as an initial artist in residency programme for VISUAL which provided every school in Carlow an opportunity to engage with artist Marjetica Potro, exhibition in VISUAL through a coordinated programme of arts educational activities.

This project was awarded €7,000 over many months.



Clare Breen Artist working with schools in VISUAL



Forward Steps Tullow produced a project called 'A Cup of Tea' which included a multicultural collaboration with community and artists this project explored community & cultural participation in Tullow, putting the centre's café at the centre of the art project & making clay tea pots across diverse cultures. The project culminated in an exhibition in VISUAL and was awarded €4,000.



'Cup of Tea' project publicity

Angela Keogh local artist produced a project called 'Moment in Time' with the Royal Oak Community Committee in Bagenalstown and local Musician and photographers taking photos of each family in village of Royal Oak, outside their houses to record one of their memories, of a moment in time in the village. The project was awarded €1,500.

Myshall Muintir Na Tire with local artists Philippa Bayliss, Noirin O'Brien, Breda Malone, Naomi Jonson and Eoin Coogan produced a project to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Muintir na Tire. Offering young people one day tasting workshops with local artists in photography, sculpture, paint, poetry & music. The project was awarded €1200.

Simone Webb and her husband Liam Webb who are both Social Farmers from Rathoe County Carlow produced a 'Social Farming' project in collaboration with Cairdeas Centre, BEAM Service, St Dymphna's, St Patrick's, Kilkenny HSE. This project offered art processes for intellectually & physically disabled & those suffering from mental health issues, taking place as part of Social Farming offering. The project held an exhibition in Carlow Library and was showcased at the National Ploughing Championship in County Carlow in 2019. The project was awarded €6,000.



Simon Webb Social Farmer Project



Annabel Konig an artist from Rathanna County Carlow produced a project called 'Memory Map' with the Rathanna Community Group Committee. 'Memory Map' was project that encouraged interaction within the growing community of Rathanna, to combat rural isolation through social engagement & to record an oral history before it is lost. The project held a series of talks and culminated in a publication. The project was awarded €6000.

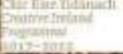
Drummond & St Mullins South Co. Carlow 'Bog Rosemary Project is a collaboration between artists, Farmers, Ecologists, Scientists and the community and schools. Through creative practices it celebrates and values local history and knowledge of older residents of a critical Carlow habitat of national ecological significance. Video interviews, photography, filming of bog & print publication was produced, and the project is ongoing. Initial funding for the project was €3500.

Another dimension to this project was Drummin Bog Project 'The Fraughan' with Primary school students, South Carlow Artists, National Parks & Wildlife Service. 'The Fraughan' Phase 2 (2019) of The Bog Rosemary Project, An Eco-social art project engaging three local schools in Drummin Bog, St Mullins. It culminated in an art exhibition in schools and the project was awarded €3500.



An Fraughan Exhibition
2 -3 pm Thurs 6th June 2019
Drummond Hall, Drummond, Co Carlow

Please join us for an exhibition to celebrate the work of the children from the national schools of Drummond, Glyn and Newtown, Co Carlow. This project, led by artist Jules Michael, supported by Cathy Fitzgerald, Annabel König and Emma McGrath, is a collaboration between the pupils of the schools, South Carlow artists and Drummin Bog, St Mullins.

   For more information please see - www.drumminbog.com

Equal Chances Polish School collaborated with Carlow Youth Theatre and the Oisín Players Theatre Group and their project was called 'The Vibes. Discover Yourself'. The project gave expression to children's feelings and emotions through drama within the Polish and Eastern European Communities across County Carlow. The project was awarded €1300 .



Equal Chances Polish School

Mend & Make do Theatre local theatre company headed up by John McKenna produced 'Between Your Love & Mine' working in collaboration with Mary Amond O'Brien, ASPIRO & actors, singers, designer & Artist Siobhan Jordan to bring a requiem Mass devised by John using Leonard Cohen's words, songs & music to the stage of National Concert Hall, VISUAL & other locations. The idea originated around county Carlow and the issues relating to youth suicide and particularly those in County Carlow. The project was awarded €11,000.

Carlow Arts Festival in 2019 celebrated its (40th Anniversary) and worked with artistic director Dina Abu Hamden, Director Aarhus European City of Culture, local artists Tadhg O Sullivan, Emma Martin, Olwyn Lyons and Gerry Morgan along with local communities to produce a project called "Sugartown". The project was managed by Arts Office staff Aileen Nolan. This large-scale spectacle event focussed on the lamented loss of sugar factory and included live music, choirs, young percussionists, professional marches, fire and ceremony. Along with collaborating with Waterford Spraoi and saw a crowd of over 5,000 congregate on the grounds of St. Patricks Carlow College in June 2019. This project was awarded €16,000.



Waterford Spraoi at Carlow Arts Festival Sugartown Project

Sugartown



The final project awarded Creative Ireland Carlow Open Call 2018/2019 funding took place in 2019 with Music Generation Carlow who collaborated with Carlow Regional Youth Services and the Rock Band Rip Tide Movement to create a weekend of workshops and mentorship for the rock bands across County Carlow.

The Riptide Movement spent the weekend in Carlow which ended in a concert for young people. The project was awarded €9,000.



Finally, throughout 2019 the County Carlow Creative Ireland Culture Team met on a quarterly basis Chaired by Director of Service Pat Delaney, Coordinated by Sinead Dowling with Kelly Mooney (and Aileen Nolan Maternity leave cover for Kelly), with key personnel, John Shortall County Librarian, Dermot Mulligan Museum Curator, Margaret Moore Community Development Community Section, Emma Lucy-O'Brien CEO and Artistic Director of VISUAL.

Throughout 2019 also meetings were held nationally for Creative Ireland Coordinators across the country.

Cruinniú na nÓg Carlow 2019



In its second year, ***Cruinniú na nÓg*** celebrates and encourages participation by children and young people in creative activities in their local neighbourhoods and communities. Led by the local Creative Carlow Culture and Creativity Team, coordinated through the County Council Arts Office, with huge support from local artists, arts organisations, creative practitioners and community festivals, activities included everything from dance and music workshops in your local library to a Printmaking Workshop as part of the 'Let Loose Festival' on the Tullow Rd. With a strong emphasis on participation, activities

were specially designed to spark an interest and encourage the inner creative in children to try something new or fulfil a secret ambition!





With over **23 free** creative activities for under 18's as part of Creative Ireland Programme initiative supported by Carlow County Council and RTÉ this took place on Saturday 15th June 2019. These free events took place in venues museums arts galleries libraries on the street and in fields throughout County Carlow.



Over 1100 young people took part over the day and the Cruinniú na nÓg Carlow programme was widely circulated and children and young people got hands on with art, music, dance and heritage as part of the completely free programme. Throughout the programme workshops were fully booked and were met with very enthusiastic creative young people. Both VISUAL and The Vault remarked on how the programme had greatly increased footfall into their venues.

Carlow Regional Youth Services: *“Overall, we are extremely thankful for Carlow Arts Office’s support in helping us put together a very successful day. Most encouragingly, a number of significantly troubled young people accessed the event and it was a turning point for many of them. Three young people who do not attend school due to complicated factors and who struggle to be part of groups were able to join in for the entire day. This is highly significant.”*

Highlights of this *Cruinniú na nÓg Carlow* included:

- The Vault hosted their own Game-Fest, giving an opportunity for young people to come together to celebrate the games and technology they love! Game-Fest gave a 'Comic-Con' style event to Carlow, with a range of creative activities, including producing video game art, cosplay workshops and games tournaments. The event included STEAM activities throughout and young people learnt many new and exciting skills.
- The Big Dig comes to Carlow Town!
This workshop gave young people the chance to experience what it is like to be an archaeologist by learning how to excavate the remains of a Viking house. As they dug through the site, participants will unearth Viking treasures and artefacts dating back 1,000 years. They also learnt about the lives of our Viking ancestors as history is brought to life by qualified archaeologists.
- Take A Part Carlow hosted a Children's Festival inspired by the children and young people of the Tullow Road area of Carlow called the 'Let Loose Festival' which took behind the Gaelscoil on the Tullow Rd from 1pm-5pm with Circus skills workshops, printmaking, concerts, face painting, drop-in badge-making, arts and crafts corner allowing young people the opportunity to get creative!



In the Tullow Road area of Carlow this year saw double the number of those who attended the day, in 2018 164 people attended, however this year **360 people attended the day** with their families. They participated in a small parade, learning circus skills, print making with PrintVanGo, badge making, music, arts and crafts and fun in the baking corner



Music Generation Carlow

The Arts Office throughout 2019 continued to work strategically with Music Generation Carlow and acts as support to the Music Generation Coordinator and is a member of the Music Education Partnership Committee under the local Kilkenny/Carlow Education and Training Board.

Music Generation Carlow continues to support over 27 musicians working across the County with 5,500 young people actively involved in schools and communities music programme throughout the county. This represents the largest music education partnership in the country. Music Generation continue to work throughout the county in schools, youth centres and hubs on a weekly basis.

Music Generation Carlow is seen nationally as a flagship project of excellence in terms of the numbers participating weekly in Performance Music Education across the county and in terms of artistic quality of the programmes. The initial programme was designed 8 years ago through the Arts Office with partners from across the county before the application was successful and includes 4 programme stands – Little People Big Voices (catering for the preschool children), Encore (Primary Schools programme), Bravo (Secondary school programme) and Community (2 hubs exist out of school hours one in Carlow Town through the Vault and the partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services and one in Borris which works with 2 exemplary traditional music groups Reelog and Reelig).



Music Generation Carlow

In 2019 Music Generation Carlow has a 100% continuation rate for performance led music education across all school and community settings which include **weekly activity** in the following:

- 4 Little People Big Voices pre-school settings,
- 21 primary schools in County Carlow availing of vocal and instrumental programmes,



- 1 Secondary programme in Tyndall College Carlow along with a county Brass ensemble called BoomBrastic.

- Community Programmes included in 2019 Holy Angels Day-Care Centre which has 2 music generation musicians leading weekly sessions, Carlow Rock School in the Vault Carlow and Borris Reelig and Reelog traditional groups.
- Music @Mount Leinster in February 2019 which sees the very best Traditional Musicians come to County Carlow to teach workshops for young people across the county and culminates with countrywide Music Generations coming to Carlow to perform and learn from the very best musicians.



- During the summer months registration was open for children and young people to register for the countywide Hubs for music generation. These included Carlow Town and Borris for Fiddle, Tin-Whistle and Flute. Also Violin Classes in the Carlow Hub.
- Carlow and Borris hubs for Bodhrán lessons facilitated by Dale McKay renowned Bodhrán player were full.
- In late August a young Carlow Uilleann Pipe player Colm Broderick who has been nurtured through Music Generation and was a member of the traditional band Reelig was honoured by being bequeathed Liam O'Flynn the extraordinary pipe player who sadly died last year, uilleann pipes. These pipes were originally made for Sean Reid, piper and generous champion of musicians in Clare, he passed them to Willie Clancy and they have had an honourable journey since. Colm had the opportunity to play them for the first time in late August in Na Píobairí Uilleann offices in Dublin and will now own the pipes.
- In October Reelig the traditional music group of Carlow had been invited to Sitges in Spain and performed to other countries and a large audience.
- In October Music Generation Carlow were a part of the Brass Off Festival hosted in Waterford IT.
- In December Music Generation Carlow working across 21 primary schools in the county performed Christmas Concerts.



Carlow Youth Theatre



Carlow Youth Theatre managed through the Arts Office and is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland, VISUAL Carlow and Carlow Regional Youth Services. In 2019 the Youth Theatre continued working with young people across the county to provide and enjoy drama facilitation workshops, for 11-14 year olds and 15-19 year olds. Workshops took place over 40 weeks across three school terms in VISUAL each Monday evening. Throughout 2019 there were a total of 56 young people accessing the youth theatre on a Monday evening in Carlow.

Workshops include skills sharing, facilitation, directing, acting, mindfulness, movement, voice, and devised pieces by young people. Artistically the Youth Theatre is managed by two highly skilled youth arts facilitators Eimear and Anna who worked throughout 2019 with Carlow Youth Theatre.

During the summer months and following the successful securing of a further €8,000 from The Arts Council of Ireland under the Youth Ensemble Scheme Carlow Youth Theatre worked closely with renowned national theatre director Ursula McGinn and youth theatre leader Eimear Cheasty on a reimagining of Shakespeare's *Twelve Night*. This culminated in a staged a production called *What You Will* in VISUAL Carlow in the summer of 2019 which was very well attended and received locally.



Arts Act Grants Scheme 2019 Applications

- **Individual Artists Grants under the Arts Act (2019)** Grants for Practicing Artists living in Carlow or who are from Carlow to enable them to pursue their practice and to develop within their chosen discipline, were advertised. The dead line for applications has now closed. Total funding available is € 14,500. Carlow Arts Office received 30 applications to a value of € 74,100 and 15 grants are recommended for approval following adjudication by an independent panel.
- **Arts Organisations and Community Arts Grants under the Arts Act (2019)** Grants for local arts organisations and community groups who wish to undertake an art related activity or project in 2019 has now closed. Total funding available is € 24,700. Carlow Arts Office received 28 applications to a value of € 58,800 and 18 grants are recommended for approval following adjudication by an independent panel.

Artlinks Bursaries 2019 Awarded

The Artlinks partnership of local authorities Arts Offices in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford have awarded over €60,000 to artists in the South East. Supported by the Arts Council Ireland / An Chomhairle Ealaíon this grants stream provides professional development opportunities and supports for established and emerging artists who are resident in these four counties.

The recipients of €16,000 in bursaries from the Arts Office, Carlow County Council are:

Film:	Liam O'Neill, Borris
Film:	Tadhg O'Sullivan, Old Leighlin
Theatre:	Sinead Cormack, Bagenalstown
Visual Arts:	Katie Watchorn, Carlow
Visual Arts:	Rachel Joynt, Borris
Visual Arts:	Chloe Brennan, Carlow
Music:	Marian Gaynor, Carlow

Carlow Writer in Residence Programme

Carlow Writer-in-Residence is a partnership initiative led by Carlow County Council Arts Office with Carlow College St. Patricks & County Carlow Library Services and supported by the Arts Council of Ireland.

With the second instalment of the Carlow Writer-in-Residence programme underway in 2019 the first of three writers to work in Carlow throughout the year was writer and filmmaker Oonagh Kearney.

On March 12th, Oonagh delivered a well-attended screening and discussion of a selection of her short films at Carlow College facilitated by St Patrick's with lecturer Dr Derek Coyle. A crowd of over thirty came out for this event, which consisted of a screening of movies, a contextualizing discussion of them, and questions and answers afterwards.

Oonagh ran weekly meeting of participants from the wider community, along with students of Carlow College, St Patrick's who were interested in a creative writing workshop. The session consisted of writing prompts designed by Oonagh Kearney. Oonagh guided these sessions in an encouraging and creative fashion in a session that is now known within the college as The Writing Room. Participation consistently attended a group ranging from 18 to 26 people. After the writing- hour, Oonagh has spent several hours exploring aspects of screenwriting and filmmaking with participants. Again, the public have supported this aspect of the residency with considerable enthusiasm. This has allowed her to focus on specific issues that arise in the practice of dedicated individuals, to help explore creative and technical dilemmas that arise in the course of producing a body of work. In this arena, she is enhancing and developing practice skills for Carlow based emerging writers.

Oonagh's residency period ended with readings from the Carlow writers throughout the gallery spaces of VISUAL in the spring of 2019.

Throughout July and August Darren Donohue, a multi award-winning playwright and poet continued to work with Carlow writers. Also, over the summer Darren worked closely with students visiting from the US to Carlow College. Darren's group consisted of up to 30 people engaging weekly with the residency as well as then local people who have written works or wish to publish writings who avail of this service and one to one mentoring with the writer.

Darren also worked during the summer with Carlow Little Theatre in order for there to be public readings of the writer's work. This event took place on 4th September in GB Shaw Theatre led by the Arts Office in partnership with Carlow College and Carlow Library Services.

On 4th September the new Writer in Residence Colm Keegan an award-winning Spoken Word artist and writer started his 4 month residency period in Carlow.

Colm Keegan continues to work as our Writer in Residence in Carlow College, he is a writer and poet from Dublin, Ireland. He has been shortlisted four times for the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award, for both poetry and fiction and won the All Ireland Poetry Slam. His first book "Don't Go There" was released to critical acclaim in 2012. His latest collection "Randomer" is out now and available from Salmon poetry. In 2014 he was awarded a residency in the Lexicon, Ireland's largest public library. He has developed numerous creative writing projects for schools and colleges across the country. He is a creative writing teacher and co-founder of the Inlinks Project, a writing initiative for young writers. He was a co-founder and board member of Lingo, Ireland's first Spoken Word festival. He co-wrote "Three Men Talking About Things They Kinda Know About" - which toured Ireland and sold out in Bristol, London and Paris. His short play "The Process" was staged in the Abbey Theatre as part of 24 Hour Plays 2017. His debut full-length play "For Saoirse" was staged in the Axis Theatre as part of the Dublin Fringe 2018, and was nominated for the Fishamble New Writing Award.

Colm worked throughout September through until January 2020 in Carlow College at “The Writing Room” which is a two hour session of creative writing; the first hour, free writing in response to Colm’s prompts and ideas for the session; and the second hour saw Colm guide writers through the techniques of one of his favoured forms; he works in poetry, spoken word and drama, and so we await to see what medium he will explore with us.

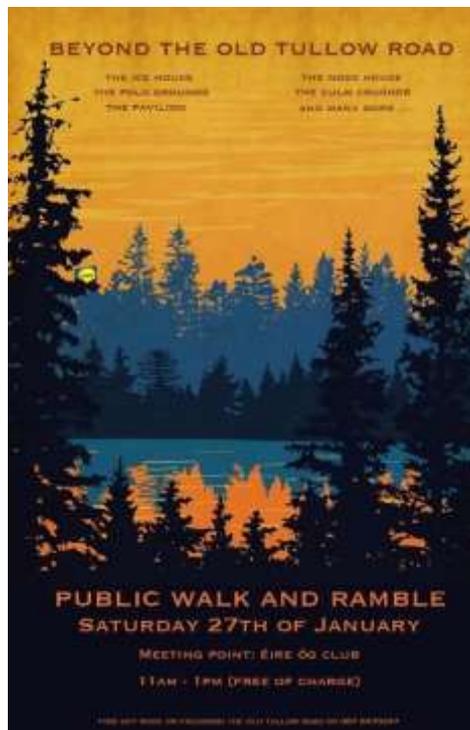
Colm concluded his residency by leading an open mic session of Carlow writers in Teach Dolmain in early 2020 which included an introduction to the new 2020 writer in resident Jessica Traynor.

Take A Part Carlow

Take A Part Carlow is an arts office led initiative that is working in the Tullow Road area of Carlow. At the core of the work is through art the community get to decide what art they wish to see in their local area. There is an Arts Action Group made up principally of community reps along with the County Council Arts Office, Community Section, CCDP and Carlow Regional Youth Services and the Tullow Road Community Development Group. Take A Part Carlow is project coordinated by Aileen Nolan.

2019 was a busy year for Take A Part with ongoing development and project delivering. In the early part of the year Take A Part Carlow held two project planning meeting with Arts Action Group members.

Michael Fortune began his work this year with Take A Part through a series of Saturday morning walks around the area with local residents as below:



The Fairy Fort Folklore Project with Michael Fortune, included children’s Fairy Door workshops and community tidy up of the Tullow Road Fairy Fort commenced Wednesday 6th February. The Fairy Fort Folklore Project began in February with a series of talks, workshops and community clean-up days.

Michael and a core people behind the project met with Christan Corlett from National Monuments of Ireland who offered advice on the 'do's and don'ts' and how to sensitively clear off vegetation from the site and to establish a longer-term plan for the space. The project received support of the Arts Department of Carlow County Council, Take A Part Carlow, Local TUS Scheme as well as community members and local groups on the ground. Following several weeks of "spring clean" events the Fort is now cleaned out and we have received great coverage online and in local media.

Take A Part Carlow represented in the National Folklore Collection in UCD

During March Michael Fortune was invited to present his entire collection of Folklore DVD's to the National Folklore Collection in UCD. Consequently, Take A Part Carlow is delighted to report that all the recordings Michael carried out during his residency on the Tullow Road were presented to Dr. Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh at the National Folklore Collection in the University College Dublin

Take A Part Carlow members began working on a theme and producing work to represent the Tullow Road at this year's St. Patrick's Day Festival Parade. We have now commenced a series of art visual art workshops with local artist Paul Byrne and all are looking forward to taking part in the parade.



In May Take A Part Carlow was presented by the Director of the Arts Council to the council of the Arts Council the following information was *written by the Arts Council about Take A Part Carlow as a national case study as an excellent model of engaging communities in the arts in their local area:*

Case Study – Take a part Carlow

In the opening round of the scheme, Carlow County Council made an application to partner with Take a Part Plymouth in England to set up a sister project in Ireland, Take a Part Carlow. Take a Part Plymouth are experts in socially engaged audience development for contemporary art. They work in areas of socio-economic deprivation and regeneration that don't usually engage in the arts. Their long term, embedded process starts with listening and supporting communities to set agendas for projects that reflect and address community need and diversity. Their purpose is to engage, educate and inform new audiences in contemporary arts while developing policy and setting agendas for neighbourhood regeneration and contributing to the social infrastructure of the city. They are a portfolio organisation of Arts Council England.

In Carlow town, the Tullow Road area had been identified as the location for developing Take A Part Carlow for the potential of investing in this particular community, its people and place that could greatly benefit from sustained engagement in creative and artistic activity. The area, largely residential, had been long identified by the local authority for regeneration and had met various social deprivation indexes. Other local agencies were included as partners such as Tullow Road Development Association, Carlow Regional Youth Services and Carlow County Development Partnership.

Once awarded, the project recruited a community arts development coordinator Aileen Nolan to work within the area and begin to forge relationships with local people. Through a series of meetings, taster events within the community and lots of tea and chats, an Arts Action Group was set up. This group were supported to identify, design and organise their own arts events in the area. The Arts Officer, Sinéad Dowling initiated the idea for Carlow having forged a link with Take A Part in the UK. Both Sinead and Take A part Plymouth director, Kim Wide were critical partners in providing support, direction and advice. Sinéad commented that the project, while local authority led, did not 'feel' like that to the community and that allowed for trust to build up early on. By allowing the community to take the lead and be the decision makers, it gave both the community and the local authority a route into regeneration that it had not had before. It is important to also acknowledge that Take A Part Carlow is coordinated by Aileen Nolan who has driven the development and implementation over the last few years.

Kim Wide of Take A Part Plymouth who has mentored the project, said it "has increased the confidence of the Tullow Road residents participating in Take A Part Carlow. It has increased pride, understanding of creative practice and connected communities together. It has most importantly allowed for risks to be taken along the way to ensure that, through trial and error and through sharing visions and responsibility, that art and creativity are owned and fostered from a grass-roots approach upwards."^[1]

Based on the community's ideas and interests, the critical partners introduced artists who could work with them to support their ideas. Artists such as Michael Fortune, Sarah Clancy, Splattervan and Catriona McGowan were commissioned to make manifestos, explore local folklore and shared traditions across cultures and young people began to make their mark with street art and dance. Creating a sense of place and a sense of community is critical to the ethos of the project. Artist Michael Fortune, who through his exploration of folklore in the area, discovered how residents who originated from countries such Poland and Slovakia practiced similar traditions to those that were felt uniquely Irish, thus bringing new points of commonality among the diverse community. Over 15 projects have taken place in 2 years, involving more than 2,000 local people. It is important to note that this project is not being measured by the numbers of people who participate but the impact the project is having in the wider community and on individual lives.

"There is a great sense of community spirit and a great sense of friendship on the Tullow Road. There's a great support network, that's hard to find that we cherish. Take A Part Carlow has opened people's

eyes to the wider world of art to include more than painting and sculpture, but folklore, circus, community involvement and lots more.” Lisa Brooks, member of the Arts Action Group^[2].

^[1] Quote taken from email correspondence regarding the review

^[2] Quote reported in the *Carlow Nationalist* on 20 March 2019, when the community made a presentation to the members of Carlow County Council.

Their work with Mensana, the local mental health group and Eire Óg GAA club for painting positive messages on their walls has been highly commended and successful in raising the profile of their work within the wider area. Cllr. Andrea Dalton at a Carlow County Council meeting said the project was “true community development, where the community come together themselves to harness their own potential” and that the work should be used as “an example of good practice, not just in Carlow but for around the country”^[3]

In 2018, the Tullow Road Development Association successfully made an application under Arts Grants Funding to continue to support the project. This has resulted in the Arts Council investing in total €110,000 into the project (€75,000 under the Invitation to Collaboration Award and €35,000 under Arts Grants Funding). This investment has leveraged continued support through the local authority arts office to date. The project is now in a critical phase and is developing ways to make the project more sustainable for the longer-term.

Take A Part Carlow is also one of three projects / counties participating in the Social Impact Assessment Playbook measurement pilot between the Arts Council and local authorities. The pilot aims to establish methodologies in partnership with the local stakeholders in how to continuously measure the social impact of the project.

The Arts Action Group have been encouraged and supported to attend conferences and events both in Ireland and England, to broaden their understanding of socially engaged practice and to learn from other projects, practices and research. The next stage of the project is to provide further training and supports to key community members who have expressed an interest in continuing with the project with the intention that it becomes an autonomous arts organisation. Voluntary Arts Ireland will provide the next stage of this development alongside the local authority to ensure the group have skills such as governance, financial oversight, grant writing, developing artist’s briefs, evaluation and programming.

In 30 months (Nov 2016 to March 2018) immense progress has taken place. It has not been without its challenges and the community and its project partners have demonstrated determination to make Take A Part Carlow a success. The project partners feel the Invitation to Collaboration award was critical in providing the motivation, the funding and the credence to realise a strategic ambition.

In July Take A Part Carlow through the support of the Arts Office were successful in securing a further 70K from the Arts Council of Ireland for the period 2020 and 2021, 35K per year. This funding was secured for the continuation of this long term initiative for the Tullow Road area of Carlow with the understanding the funds are used towards artists’ commissions that engage with the community.

Throughout the summer Take a Part continued to run a project called Breadfellows Chats with local artist Clare Breen, this project was open to all adults in the Tullow Road area and is took place weekly in people’s homes. The project moved around from home to home as community members played host. The culmination of this project will take place in VISUAL on Culture Night 20th September.

^[3] Reported in the *Carlow Nationalist* on 20 March 2019



Take A Part Carlow was shortlisted over the summer for Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019 in the 'sustaining the arts' category.

Take a Part Carlow was also shortlisted in the 'Creative' category for the National Spark Change Awards 2019, run by the Community Development organisation The Wheel. The awards celebrate the people and groups working across Ireland to make their communities socially, environmentally and economically sustainable and took in October in Dublin Castle. In October Take A Part Carlow attended the National Spark Change Awards held in Dublin Castle, run by the community development organisation The Wheel. The National Spark Change Challenge was an open call nationally for community led organisations to respond to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. 65 community organisations from across the country signed up to the National Spark Change Challenge. Out of the 65 projects submitted 11 were shortlisted which included Take A Part Carlow. Take A Part Carlow was highly commended as one of the top 3 creative projects.

In October 7 local residents from the Tullow Road community and who are a part of Take A Part Carlow visited the Macnus parade in Galway with a view to working with Macnus in Carlow over the coming year.

From October a master's student from IT Carlow studying Community, Youth and Families will be working on a voluntary basis with Take A Part Carlow and based in the Arts Office on a Monday and Friday each week. The student is using the Take A Part Carlow model as part of her Masters course as a case study looking at participation through the arts in harder to reach communities.

Throughout November and over the winter months on every Tuesday evening from 4.30pm – 5.30pm in Eire Óg Clubhouse Take A Part Carlow are continuing the Let Loose Dance classes for young people from the Tullow Road community and area, this is open to all led by Sean nos dancer Irene Cunningham. The

workshops have been regularly attended by 15-20 young people with their parents' present from the Tullow Road community.



Throughout November each Saturday from 2-4pm in Eire Óg Clubhouse Take A Part Carlow are working with renowned Hip Hop dancer Tobi Omotoso, this is open to all from ages 6+. For all information relating to both workshops contact takeapartcarlow@gmail.com or come along yourselves and join in.

In November weekly the Lantern Making workshops continued in Eire Óg Club House from 6pm each Thursday evening and over 40 lanterns were made which will be showcased in the Community Garden of Carlow event below.

In November Take a Part Carlow completed its Bread Fellows Chats project with Artist Clare Breen who worked in people's houses who live in the Tullow Road area making food receptacles and sharing stories and food. This project culminated in an evening in December in the Community Garden Dublin Street and marked the end of another busy year for Take A Part Carlow and a chance for us to look back and reflect on the huge range of arts projects and events we have undertaken. It also provided a chance for us to discuss what we would like to see happening in the future for Take A Part Carlow.

On the evening we displayed the finished ceramic pieces, unveiled a selection of Willow Lanterns created by the community and launched our new web site. www.takeapartcarlow.com.



Culture Night 2019

Carlow County Council Arts Office coordinated a cultural trail of family friendly events all free of charge and highly accessible as part of Culture Night Carlow 2019 which took place on Friday 20th September around Co. Carlow.



2019's programme there was something there for everyone including a multicultural celebration hosted by *Forward Steps FRC* in Tullow Library, a *Rambling House* in *O'Shea's Borris* and a tour of all the night has to offer with *Carlow Regional Youth Services*. The incredibly talented young people of *Music Generation* filled Carlow Town Hall with music. Guided tours of *Carlow County Museum* exhibitions, and *IT Carlow Art Collections* took place. Not to forget open nights at *Carlow Library* where a George Bernard Shaw Storytelling performance took place along with a performance by Music Generation Carlow.



VISUAL played a key role again this year in hosting the official announcement of Carlow being host town for *Pan Celtic 2020*, as well as hosting pop up exhibitions from *Take A Part Carlow BreadFellows* Chats and musical performances from *Carlow Ukulele Players* and *Carlow Youth Orchestra* throughout the evening, large numbers attended this evening which was a huge success for Carlow.



Another highlight of Culture Night this year was partnership with Carlow Pride Festival with an insight into the culture, skill and artistry of Drag Makeup with a Masterclass from celebrity makeup artist *John Paul Payne*.

Carlow Arts Festival

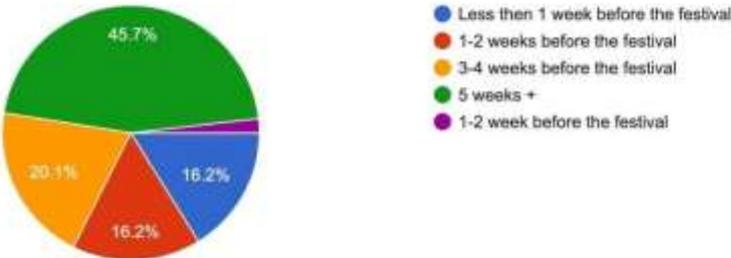
In 2019 Carlow Arts Festival celebrated its 40th anniversary and has gone from strength to strength under the Directorship of Jo Mangan. The following information is a post festival report which gives a snapshot of the attendances and level of media coverage Carlow received during the Arts Festival and an audience survey.



CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL 2019 - AUDIENCE SURVEY

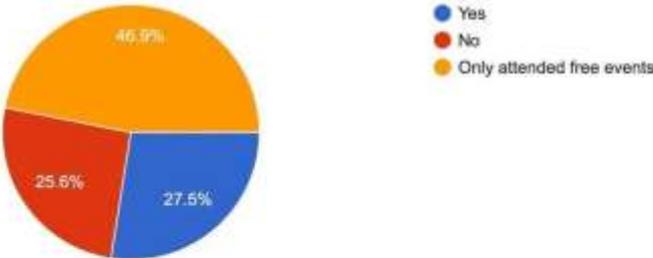
How far in advance were you made aware of the festival?

278 responses



If you purchased or booked tickets did you book them in advance?

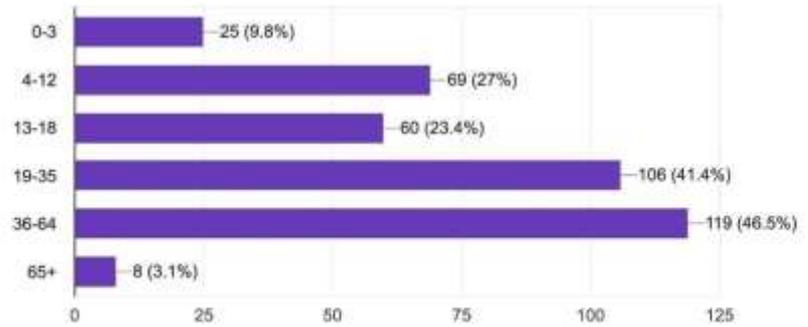
273 responses



Average party size 3.9

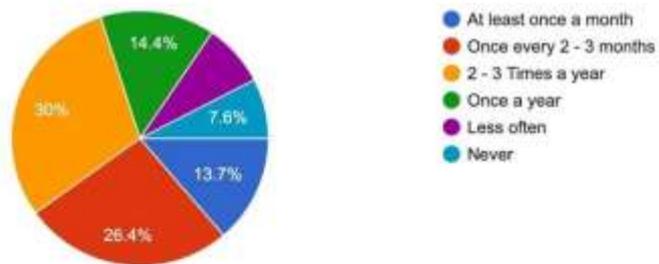
If travelling with a party what age range are they in? (select as many as is relevant)

256 responses



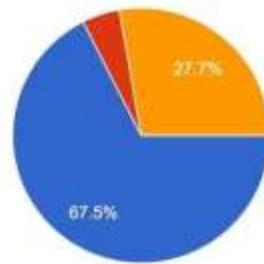
On average outside of CAF how many arts, i.e. theatre/ art/ music/ events would you attend a year?

277 responses



Did we meet your access requirements at the festival?

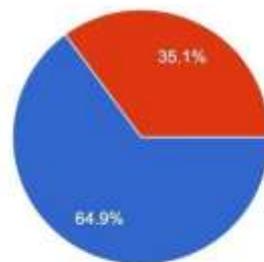
274 responses



- Yes
- No
- Not applicable - I didn't require any additional access needs

Do you live in Carlow?

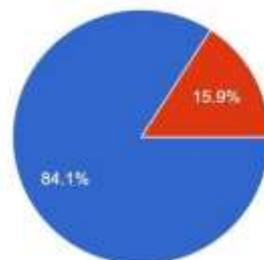
248 responses



- Yes
- No

Are you living in Ireland?

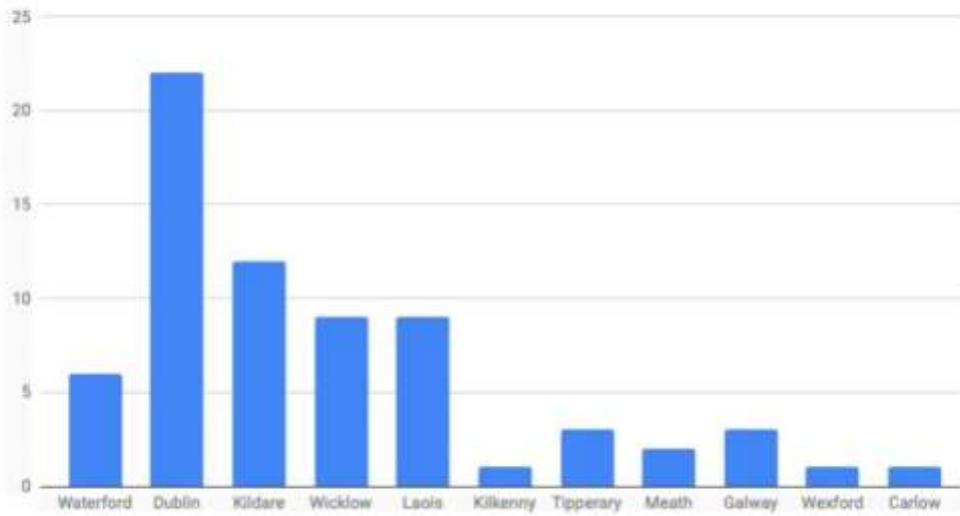
88 responses



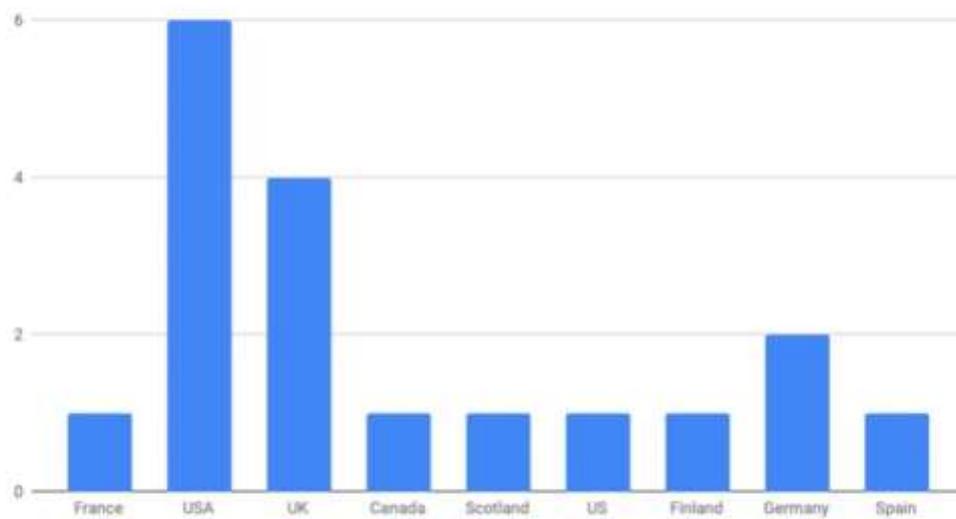
- Yes
- No, visiting

If yes, which county in Ireland do you live?

69 responses

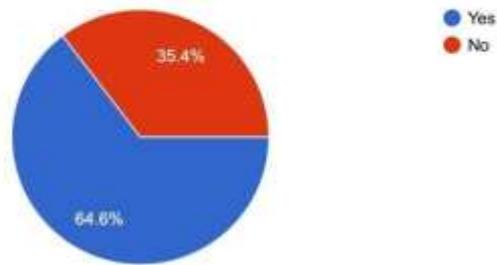


If outside, what country are you travelling from?



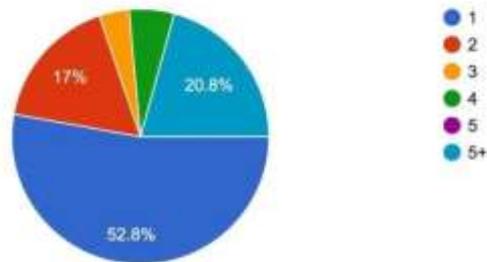
Are you staying overnight in Carlow or nearby for the festival?

82 responses



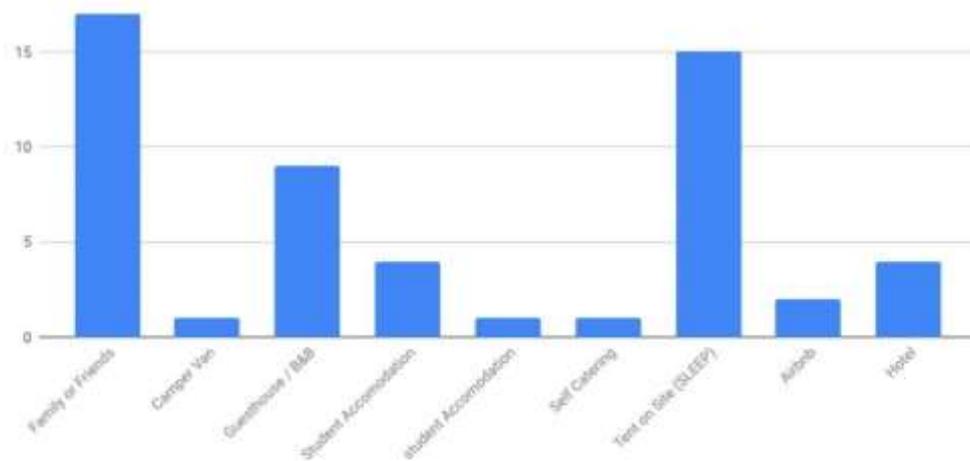
How many nights are you staying in Carlow?

53 responses



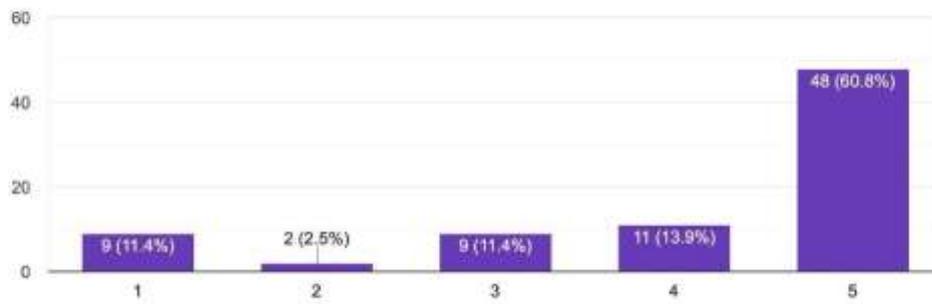
What kind of accommodation did you use?

54 responses



How important was Carlow Arts Festival 2019 in your decision to visit the Carlow Area?

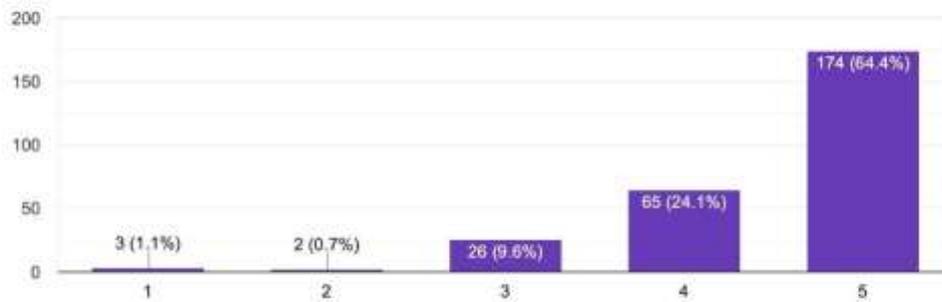
79 responses



(1 = not important, 5 = very important)

Please rate your experience at Carlow Arts Festival?

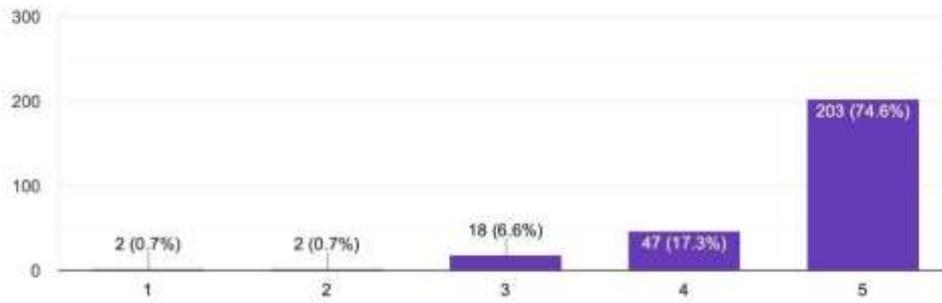
270 responses



(1 = poor, 5 = excellent)

How likely you recommend Carlow Arts Festival to a friend/ family member?

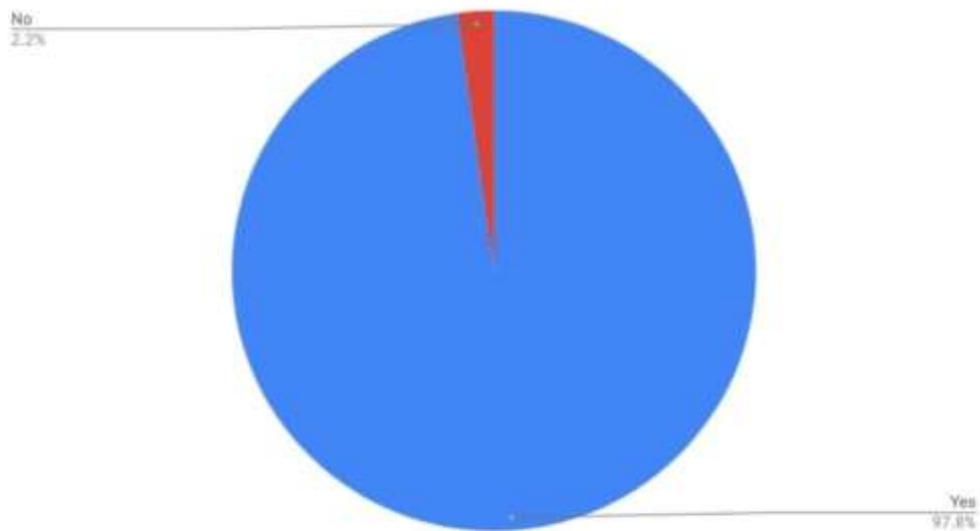
272 responses



(1 = not likely, 5 = very likely)

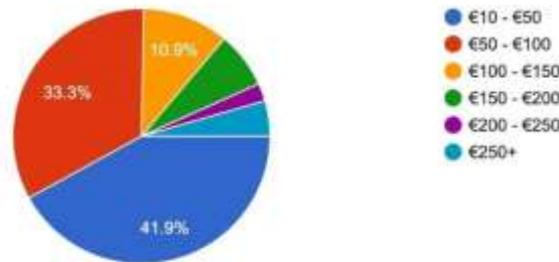
Do you feel Carlow Arts Festival benefits the local community?

268 responses



How much do you estimate your party is spending at this year's festival?

267 responses



CARLOW ARTS FESTIVAL COVERAGE DOCUMENT

Client: Carlow Arts Festival **Date:** 4 - 9 June
Venue: Carlow College, St Patrick's
Note: Dublin launch & photo call - Wed 17 April 2019.

BROADCAST MEDIA

RTE NEWS: Carlow Arts Festival Feature 1pm slot, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

RTE NEWS: Carlow Arts Festival Feature 6pm slot, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

RTE Radio One Arena: Interview feature with Max Richter **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

RTE Radio One Arena: Max Richter Competition **(RAN 30 MAY)** **RTE Radio One Arena:** Our Carnal Hearts Competition, **(RAN 31 MAY)** **RTE Lyric FM, Marty in the Morning:** Interview feature with Max Richter, 31 May **(RAN 5 JUNE)**

Midlands 103, Encore: Interview feature with Jo Mangan, 24 May **(RAN 30 MAY)**

South East Radio, Morning Mix: Interview feature with Jo Mangan, 30 May **(RAN 30 MAY)**

KFM, Kildare Focus: Interview feature with Jo Mangan, 5 June **(RAN 5 JUNE)**

KCLR Lunch with John Keane: Interview with Jo Mangan, 15 May **(RAN 15 MAY)**

KCLR, Breakfast: Weeklong ticket giveaway starting 3 June **(RAN FROM 4 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Seth - PIG, 4 June **(RAN 4 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Camille - VR Ireland 5 June **(RAN 5 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Jo Mangan, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Dina - Sugartown, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Rachel Mars, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Anna - Sing Me To The Sea, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Eja, CRAVE #2, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview with Bryan - Horsebox Theatre, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

KCLR, Drive: Interview 2 with Jo Mangan, 7 June **(RAN 7 JUNE)**

Dublin City FM: Interview with Jo Mangan, 29 April **(RAN 29 APRIL)**

KCLR FM News: Interview with Jo Mangan, 27 March **(RAN 27 MARCH)**

Carlow FM: On air announcement secured, requested competitions, 27 March **(RAN 27 MARCH)**

CWLTV (Carlow Television), AnomalE: Interview with Jo Mangan 28 May **(RAN 29 MAY)** **CWLTV (Carlow Television), AnomalE Repeat:** Interview with Jo Mangan 28 May **(RAN 2 JUNE)** **CWLTV (Carlow Television), AnomalE:** Festival feature **(COMPLETED)** **CWLTV (Carlow Television), Out and About with Alicia:** Festival feature **(COMPLETED)**

PRINT MEDIA

Sunday Independent Event highlight (**RAN 2 JUNE**) **Sunday Business Post:** Event highlight (**RAN 2 JUNE**)
Sunday Times Ireland: Event highlight (**RAN 2 JUNE**) **Irish Times:** Visual Arts highlight (**RAN 1 JUNE**)
Irish Daily Mail: interview feature with Jo Mangan, 7 May (**RAN 1 JUNE**)
IMAGE Magazine: Event Highlight, May (**RAN 1 JUNE**) **Irish Times, The Gloss:** event highlight (**RAN 6 JUNE**)
Dublin Gazette City Edition: Interview feature with Elaine Mai, 29 May (**RAN 5 JUNE**)
Dublin Gazette West Edition: Interview feature with Elaine Mai, 29 May (**RAN 5 JUNE**)
Dublin Gazette North Edition: Interview feature with Elaine Mai, 29 May (**RAN 5 JUNE**)
Dublin Gazette South Edition: Interview feature with Elaine Mai, 29 May (**RAN 5 JUNE**)
RTE Guide: Highlight (**RAN 1 JUNE**)
Irish Times: interview feature with Jo Mangan, 22 May (**RAN 30 MAY**)
Irish Daily Star: Event highlight (**RAN 31 MAY**) **Sunday Times Ireland:** "Book It Now" highlight (**RAN 26 MAY**)
The Examiner: Festival event highlight (**RAN 24 MAY**)
Hot Press: interview feature Crave #2, 13 May (**RAN 23 MAY**)
Irish Country Magazine: Event Highlight, May (**RAN 28 MAY**)
Woman's Way: Event Highlight, May-June (**RAN 27 MAY**)
The Times Ireland Edition: Photocall highlight, 18 April (**RAN 18 APRIL**) **Carlow People:** Event Highlight (**RAN 5 JUNE**) **The Kilkenny People:** Festival Feature (**RAN 5 JUNE**) **Laois Nationalist:** Feature (**RAN 29 MAY**) **Kildare Nationalist:** Feature (**RAN 29 MAY**)
Kildare Post: interview feature with Jo Mangan (**RAN 31 MAY**)
Leinster Express: Event Feature (**RAN 28 MAY**)
The Echo: Festival event highlight (**RAN 24 MAY**)
Irish Examiner: Highlight (**RAN 24 MAY**) **The Nationalist:** Festival Feature (**RAN 5 JUNE**) **The Nationalist:** Feature (**RAN 29 MAY**) **The Nationalist (Carlow Askea):** Feature (**RAN 29 MAY**) **The Nationalist: (Hacketstown):** Feature (**RAN 29 MAY**) **The Nationalist:** Highlight (**RAN 14 MAY**) **The Nationalist:** Front page Feature, 23 April (**RAN 23 APRIL**) **The Nationalist:** Festival Feature, 23 April (**RAN 23 APRIL**)



Arts Development in Bagenalstown

During June a number of community meetings were held in the Family Resource Centre to finalise plans for taster workshops over the months of July and August in the community in order to engage the community further in the arts. The following activities have been initiated by the Arts Office in consultation with the agencies in Bagenalstown for the summer:

Digitales (Digital Storytelling) for Ages 10+

We all love a good story! Especially in Ireland - it's in our DNA! Combine this with the amazing possibilities that modern technology enables and you have Digital Storytelling - or as we like to call it - DigiTales! Through a programme of collaboration, critical thinking and creativity, Createschool teach kids to make art and tell stories with mobile digital technology. They can share their stories, realise their ideas and gain lots of new skills in stop motion animation, digital music making, photography & video, podcasting and more. All materials and equipment are supplied (including iPads). These took place throughout the summer.

In addition Brick Flicks - for Ages 10+ and families will be offered also. What if.....your favourite LEGO Minifigure came to life and saved the day?

What if they defeated a foe, sailed the high seas or flew through the sky? The community got to work in small teams with like-minded young animators to create short films and learn some of the basic skills of stop motion or master some existing ones if you are already making your own films. Our tutors LOVE stop motion animation and they will help you make amazing Brick Flicks that we will share on our own YouTube Channel.



VISUAL 2019



Irish Time image: Rohingya Remembrance day, Carlow

VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art remains one of Ireland's leading contemporary art spaces, an iconic civic arts centre in Carlow Town. Through art VISUAL finds ways to explore the world, creating experiences which enrich, inspire and improve the everyday. VISUAL holds inclusion, dignity and creativity as its core values. This arts centre is guided by a strategic plan 2017 - 2021 and works to:

- Develop audiences through inspiring, innovative and relevant artistic and engagement programmes based on excellence.
- Create value with and for many communities of interest by realising the transformative benefits of the arts.
- Contribute meaningfully to and develop the long term sustainability of the cultural sector.



Carlow artist Sarah Deveraux

In April 2019 Emma-Lucy O' Brien was appointed Interim CEO & Artistic Director and in December contracted fully to the role. She was previously Curator of Visual Arts at VISUAL. VISUAL celebrated 10 Years of operations in 2019. In 10 years it has welcomed over 600,000 visitors, presented 156 visual art exhibitions, supported 637 artists to make work, hosted 4287 events (including 2 weddings) and issued over 250,000 tickets. VISUAL has worked with 1172 suppliers locally and nationally to make all of this happen.

In 2019 VISUAL welcomed 71,259 visitors, 41040 of which were gallery visitors showing an increase 16% on 2018. 70% of VISUALs visitors for 2019 were from the Co. Carlow. VISUAL is supported by a wide variety of organisations locally and nationally to deliver its programme of arts. In 2019 VISUAL collaborated with Carlow County Development Partnership and presented a number of arts led projects with migrant communities.



Festival 2019 at VISUAL

Central to VISUAL's Schools Engagement Programme for 2019 was The Bees Needs, an arts led biodiversity project working with school children aged 9-13 years across 9 rural towns and villages in co. Carlow. This project was supported by LEO/Rural towns and Villages Scheme.

VISUAL with the help of the County Arts Service continued its support and development artistic residencies for artists working in the areas of education and young people, contemporary dance, youth theatre, and visual arts. Dance company in residence United Fall is led by Carlow based artist Emma Martin. In 2019 United Fall created *Bird Boy* a dance performance for young audiences. This work will tour to national and international audiences in 2021.

A report from the Arts Council of Ireland in 2019 commented that "VISUAL continues to show creative leadership in the visual arts presenting work of regional and national significance."

In 2019 Carlow County Council invested €498,000 in VISUAL and continues to prioritise VISUAL Carlow as a significant cultural asset to Carlow and the region.

Bird Boy by United Fall



CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM

Museum Board

The Museum is operated by Carlow County Council in partnership with the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS). The Board of Carlow County Museum consists of seven members, three Members of Carlow County Council, three representatives of the CHAS and a Chief Executive's nominee. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, acts as Secretary to the Board. The Chairperson is chosen from the three Members of the County Council and the three CHAS representatives. The position of Chairperson alternates on an annual basis between the Members of the County Council and the CHAS representatives. In December 2018 at the 2018 AGM Cllr. Walter Lacey was elected Chairperson. The lifetime of the Board coincides with the lifetime of Carlow County Council. In May 2019 local elections were held nationwide and the newly elected Carlow County Council first met in June 2019. The Museum Board was reformed with Carlow County Council nominating Cllr Fergal Browne, Cllr Andrea Dalton and Cllr Ken Murnane as their representatives. The Chief Executive's Nominee to the Board is John Shortall, County Librarian. The CHAS nominees to the Board are Pdraig Dooley, Garry Hughes and Dr Séamus Ó Murchú. Cllr Fergal Browne was elected Chairperson to serve until December 2019. The Board met on four occasions during 2019 and held their AGM in December 2019 in IT Carlow where they approved the Twelfth Annual Report of the Board of Carlow County Museum, 2018. At the AGM, Pdraig Dooley was elected Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum.

Visitor Numbers:

Carlow County Museum had a total of 25,795 visitors to the Museum & Tourist Office in 2019, our largest visitor numbers. This figure does not include the visitors who would have participated/attended Museum events held outside of the building.

St. Willibrord – Visit from Luxembourg

From Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th August, Carlow County Council welcomed a delegation from Echternach, Luxembourg, led by Yves Wengler, Mayor of Echternach, as part of the ongoing renewal of friendship between both areas. The highlights of the visit were the signing of a Friendship Agreement between both Councils and the unveiling of the restored early medieval Cross of Rath Melsigi. Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, led the welcome by Carlow County Council. Their visit to the county was coordinated by Carlow County Museum.

Since 2000 there have been several visits by delegations to both towns. Significantly, this visit was the first led by the Echternach Council. Accompanying Mayor Wengler were Aldermen Ben Scheuer and Luc Birgen with Councillors Jean-Claude Strasser, Ricardo Pacheco and Christophe Origer. Also present were members of the Willibrordus Bauverein (Willibrord Foundation) who have been to the fore of re-establishing contact between both areas. Among them was Pierre Kauthen, former President and Alain Muller, Echternach visit coordinator. The group were joined by Ivan Healy, Honorary Consul General to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, making this his first visit to the county as Honorary Consul.



Unveiling the restored 7th century Cross of Rath Melsigi, County Carlow, on Wednesday 7th August 2019 were (L to R) Ivan Healy, Honorary Consul General to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Yves Wengler, Mayor of Echternach, Luxembourg and Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

The highlight of the four days was on Wednesday 7th August when the entire day was devoted to exploring places associated with St. Willibrord in County Carlow. At midday, the delegation, with an invited audience, gathered at Rath Melsigi, Garryhundon, County Carlow, around the recently restored early medieval cross, which is now all that remains in County Carlow of the monastic settlement. The cross has for a long time been in several pieces and in preceding months the National Monuments, Kilkenny Branch, OPW, in partnership with Carlow County Council, through Carlow County Museum, restored the cross.



At the unveiling of the restored 7th century Cross of Rath Melsigi, Garryhundon, County Carlow. Photograph: Paul Curran

In his welcome to Rath Melsigi, Cathaoirleach John Pender said "it is here, at Rath Melsigi, Ireland's most important ecclesiastical settlement in the 7th and 8th centuries, that Willibrord spent twelve years being trained under the guidance of St. Ecgerct of Rath Melsigi and Iona. It is very likely, that Willibrord and his colleagues were ordained at the nearby monastery of Old Leighlin, the seat of the Bishop of Leighlin." Mayor Wengler said "Our stay in County Carlow is very interesting. We have a very filled program with a lot of interesting visits and meetings. But I think that the most exciting moment was the rededication of the 7th century cross at Rath Melsigi. This place is the direct link from Carlow

to Echternach by St. Willibrord.” Honorary Consul Healy in his speech said that we were standing on holy ground that joined both County Carlow and Echternach through nearly 1,300 years of history.

Cathaoirleach Pender along with Mayor Wengler and Honorary Consul Healy unveiled the restored 7th century cross that St. Willibrord would have stood beside. Then the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin, Archdeacon Robin Bantry-White and Canon Nancy Gillespie led the ecumenical rededication of the Cross of Rath Melsigi. The Litany of St. Willibrord was recited, and the unveiling ceremony concluded with all present gathering in a circle and undertaking the ‘hopping’ that is celebrated each year in Echternach in honour of St. Willibrord. The ‘hopping procession’ has UNESCO World Heritage Status.

Later in the day, the delegation visited the Town Hall where both Councils met, being welcomed by Cathaoirleach Pender. Kathleen Holohan, CE of Carlow County Council, outlined the Council’s vision for County Carlow and acknowledged the long and important historical link between both Carlow and Echternach. Then both Cathaoirleach Pender and Mayor Wengler signed copies of the Friendship Agreement. The Carlow copy of the agreement is framed and displayed in Carlow County Museum.



(R to L) Cllr. John Pender presenting Yves Wengler, Mayor of Echternach, Luxembourg, with a framed photograph of the restored 7th century Cross of Rath Melsigi, after signing a Friendship Agreement between both Councils in the Town Hall. Photograph: Paul Curran

Through the mists of time St. Willibrord’s Carlow connection, for the most part, had been forgotten until 1982 when Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department of History, NUI Galway, began researching this aspect of our history. Over the course of the last thirty-seven years this historical connection between both areas has been re-established. Prof. Ó Cróinín was present at the unveiling and he said “Rath Melsigi is at the heart of the Irish and English engagement with the continent in the Early Middle Ages. From here a group of Irishmen and Englishmen set out in AD 690 on a voyage that would transform the religious and political landscape of Europe forever and lay the foundations for the great cultural revival of the decades leading up to AD 800 that scholars call The Carolingian Renaissance.”



L-R: Before and after the Cross of Rath Melsigi is restored

Earlier in the day the delegation had a guided tour of Carlow County Museum and spent time viewing the special St. Willibrord exhibition that the Museum has displayed since 2017. The Museum has been coordinating the contact and events from the Carlow side for over a decade. They were welcomed to the Cathedral of the Assumption by the Bishop Nulty and Fr Ruairi O Domhnaill, Administrator. Members of the Presentation Band played several pieces of music during their visit to the Cathedral. The delegation was pleased to see the Relic of St. Willibrord on display, the beautiful bronze statue gifted to County Carlow in 2017 by the people of Echternach to say "Thank You" to Carlow for training and ordaining St. Willibrord.

In the afternoon the delegation were welcomed to Leighlinbridge by local historian Martin Nevin. Martin was one of the original contacts between both areas and he had welcomed the first tour from Echternach to Carlow in 2000. The delegation was welcomed to Old Leighlin by Archdeacon Robin Bantry-White, Canon Nancy Gillespie and George Kidd, where they guided them from Molaise's Holy Well to St. Laserian's Cathedral, the site of where St. Willibrord and his colleagues were possibly ordained.

The delegation also visited Visual, Borris House, St. Mullins and had a walking tour of Carlow Town. It is planned that a Carlow group will visit Echternach in June 2020 to partake in the 'hopping procession'.



The delegation visiting the special 'St. Willibrord' exhibition in Carlow County Museum

On Wednesday September 11th the Museum welcomed 34 members of the St. Jakobus und Johannes Gilde, Emmerich am Rhein, Germany (Guild of St. John and St. James Rhineland) to the county. They stayed for two nights in the Seven Oaks Hotel and were here in the county to follow in the footsteps of St. Willibrord, St. Brigid and St. James.

St. Willibrord and his missionaries spent time in Emmerich am Rhein and his influence is still there to this day. In the Church of St. Martin is displayed the 7th century Relic presented to St. Willibrord by Pope Sergius in AD 695.

St. Brigid (Brigida as they call her) is also known in this area, while it is not believed she left Ireland, it's possible that her cult was brought to the area by St. Willibrord and his colleagues. As part of their tour they visited St. Mullins and took interest in the Cell of St. James, where he was venerated.

They also visited the Museum, both Cathedrals, Rath Melsigi, St Molaise's Holy Well and St. Mullins.

Dr. Hans Jürgen Arens, the leader of the group had visited County Carlow in June 2018. Subsequently he invited Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, to visit Emmerich am Rhein and present a paper at their conference in November 2018.

Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, visited the must-see temporary exhibition in the British Library, London. The exhibition featured one hundred and eighty medieval manuscripts from around Europe that had a connection to the Anglo-Saxon world in the United Kingdom. The initial part of the exhibition, dealing with the early medieval period, featured several books associated with Rath Melsigi, County Carlow. One was the 'Calendar of Willibrord', now in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France (French national library) and was written here in Carlow in advance of St. Willibrord's mission to the continent. The book also contains St. Willibrord's signature, the oldest dateable signature of an English person. Also featured, was the Durham Gospels, which was quite likely written in Rath Melsigi under the guidance of St. Egbert, who led the mission from Northumbria to County Carlow in the 7th century.

Carlow Scouts 90th Exhibition

Museum staff with the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts developed and officially opened the exhibition, "**On My Honour I Will Try..., Scouting in Carlow, 90 Years Growing**", to mark their 90th anniversary. Approximately one hundred and fifty guests attended the launch of this exhibition on Friday 13th September, in the Museum's O' Hanrahan Gallery.

The Scouts were out in full force with all ages represented, with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts and Rover Scouts all decked out in their uniforms.



The 5th Carlow Town Scouts at the launch of the new exhibition in Carlow County Museum.

Speeches by Cllr. John Pender, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council and Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum, acknowledged the growth and development of the Scouts in Carlow. The founding of Scouting began in England when Robert Baden-Powell held the first Scout Camp in 1907. The movement spread worldwide and in 1929 the 1st Carlow Troop was established. 90 years later the 5th Carlow Town Scout Group is still going strong with a membership of approximately 200.

Gale Scanlon, Group Leader of the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts, along with Brendan Hoyne, County Commissioner, made surprise presentations to Kevin Murphy, Provincial Commissioner, Seán Scanlon, former Group Leader of the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts, and Colin Whelan, Chairperson of the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts, for long-term service to Scouting. There was also a special presentation of '90th Anniversary' neckerchiefs made to guests, including Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Museum Board, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow, Maureen Murphy, President of the Irish Girl Guides, Fr. Ger Ahern, former Chaplain to the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts, and other Scout leaders.

Of course, it wouldn't be a Scout event without a song or two! Colin Whelan, Chairperson of the 5th Carlow (Town) Scouts, and Seán Farrell, Honourary Vice-President of Scouting Ireland, led the audience in a rousing rendition of "I want to Scout until I'm 73". A special 90th Birthday Cake was presented to celebrate the historic achievement of the Scouts in Carlow.



Cutting the ribbon on the new exhibition



Museum Standards Programme of Ireland (MSPI)

Carlow County Museum has submitted its extensive application to the Heritage Council for Interim Accreditation under the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) on Friday 27th September. The sixty-six-page application is supported by twenty-four detailed appendices, with four bound submissions being delivered to the Heritage Council. The staff of the Museum have spent extensive time over the past year working on this application. MSPI promotes professional standards in the care of collections in Irish museum and recognises the achievement of those standards through accreditation.

As part of the process the Interim Accreditation application the Museum devised and had approved the following plans and policies by the Museum Board and Carlow County Council:

- Carlow County Museum Mission Statement
- Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Plan 2019 – 2024
- Carlow County Museum Strategic Management Action Plan 2019 – 2020
- Carlow County Museum Collection Policy 2019 – 2024
- Carlow County Museum Disposal Policy 2019 – 2024

On Friday November 15th the assessors for the MSPI programme spent the day in the Museum and storage facility. Helen Lanigan Wood, retired Curator of Fermanagh County Museum, and Dr Hugh Maguire, former Heritage Council's Museums & Archive Officer and former Director of the Hunt Museum, were the assigned assessors.

Along with meeting with the Museum staff the assessors also meet with Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, IT & Cultural Services, John Shortall, County Librarian, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chair of the Museum Board, Eileen O'Rourke, CE Carlow Tourism, and Pdraig Dooley, President of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society.

An initial summary of follow up actions has been received, the Museum will have until February 2020 to have these actions updated/ completed. In March 2020, the Heritage Council will meet to make the final decision to grant the Museum Interim Accreditation. The assessors were happy with the work practices in place and that it is in the main with the policy documents that they are recommending changes and amendments.



L-R: Tomas Skinner, Aisling O' Halloran and John McDarby with the final completed applications and copies for the Heritage Council. The sixty-six-page application is supported by twenty-four detailed appendices, with four bound submissions.

Cruinniú na nÓg

On Saturday June 15th we celebrated Cruinniú na nÓg with two incredible Calligraphy Workshops, presented by Tim O' Neill, widely acknowledged to be the finest contemporary calligrapher in Ireland. In all, 35 children, as well as a few adults, tried their hand at mastering a craft that the monks would spend years learning.

Carlow has a fantastic history and tradition of calligraphy and producing illuminated manuscripts. In the 7th and 8th centuries, monasteries in County Carlow were producing fabulous books made of vellum. A number of these books survive to this day, including the Book of Mulling from Saint Mullins and the Calendar of Willibrord from Rath Melsigi, Milford. At the back of the Museum, the Big Dig took place throughout the day, with children getting a practical lesson on the life of an archaeologist. Cruinniú na nÓg is part of the Creative Ireland Programme and is coordinated and managed by Carlow County Council Arts Office.





Hard at work learning the old techniques! Tim O' Neill overseeing one of the calligraphy sessions in Carlow County Museum. Two separate workshops were held over the course of the day.

Heritage Week 2019

Carlow County Museum in partnership with Myshall Muintir na Tíre and the Myshall Community Centre presented a lecture, 'Making Europe: Columbanus, Robert Schuman, and the Idea of Europe' by Dr Alexander O'Hara, Department of Mediaeval History, University of St Andrews, on Monday 19th August, in the Myshall Community Centre as part of national Heritage Week. Myshall also has a strong connection to St. Columbanus (c. 550-615) who, according to his biographer was born in Leinster and spent his early years there.

The border area between Counties Wexford and Carlow and the village of Myshall in particular, have long been believed to have nurtured the saint. His journey took him from here to the north of Ireland to Bangor, Co. Down, whose monastery had a close association with Carlow town. From Bangor, Columbanus set off on his great missionary journey to the continent where he founded many monasteries including Luxeuil in France and Bobbio in Italy. Columbanus was described by Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich as 'Ireland's first European, a poet, scholar, abbot, preacher and teacher'. He founded monasteries, associated with kings and corresponded with popes. Many of Columbanus' writings survive, and they consistently inspire and encourage.



It was a packed room in Myshall during Heritage Week 2019. Dr Alexander O'Hara (right) speaking in Myshall Community Centre.

In 1950, following the devastation of World War II, a group of statesmen and scholars from across Europe met in Luxeuil-les-Bains in eastern France to commemorate the 14th centenary of the birth of Columbanus, and to discuss plans for the future of Europe. The founding of the modern European Union can be traced to this gathering. Dr O'Hara's lecture looked at the surprising influence of Columbanus on Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister and a founding father of the European Union, and how an Irish immigrant from the edge of Europe was one of the first to voice the concept of a united Europe.

Dr Alexander O'Hara is Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Mediaeval History, University of St Andrews. He is the author of *Jonas of Bobbio and the Legacy of Columbanus: Sanctity and Community in the Seventh Century* and editor of *Columbanus and the Peoples of Post-Roman Europe*, both published by Oxford University Press in 2018. Heritage Week is coordinated and managed by the Heritage Council. This event has been shortlisted for a Heritage Council's Heritage Week 2019 Award.

Culture Night 2019

Carlow County Museum conceived and delivered a short dramatic presentation "Oh Brother Where Art Thou?" scripted by Tomás Skinner, Museum Archaeologist, and performed by museum staff Derek Keating and John McDarby. The performance dealt with the lives of early Christian monks in Carlow around the time of St. Willibrord's arrival in Echternach. This was an entertaining "show and tell" event suitable for all ages. It was a well-attended and appreciated event. Special thanks for to the Capuchin's, Dublin Street, for the loan of robes.



Brother Aloysius and Brother Laurence (aka John McDarby and Derek Keating) sharing stories of their daily life as early Christian monks.

Tomás Skinner co-authored and voiced the script for a short film by IT Carlow Librarian, Jacinta Moore, titled "Stone Age and Beyond" which was screened in IT Carlow on Culture Night. This short film provided a modern and thought-provoking interpretation of the Browneshill Dolmen with stimulating audio visual. In December at the Museum Board's AGM Jacinta presented a copy of the film to the Museum.



Stone Age and Beyond, screened in IT Carlow on Culture Night

Tullow Town Trail Map Launched

Museum staff assisted the Daniel Delany Museum, Tullow, in hosting the launch of the new 'Tullow Town Trail Map'. The map was developed by Tullow Tidy Towns, Develop Tullow Association and Carlow tourism through the 'Towns and Village' scheme coordinated by Carlow County Council. The map was launched on Friday 1st of February, St. Brigid's Day, the day that Bishop Delany founded the Brigidine Order in Tullow in 1807.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

The Museum, with Glór Cheatharlach, played several short Irish language-based films as part of the weekly Irish circle in the Museum. TG4 visited the town and interviewed staff of Glór, the Library and the Museum. The approximately five-minute long report was broadcast on TG4 on Sunday April 10th. The Museum continued to host the weekly Irish conversation, Ciorcal Gaeilge, on Wednesday mornings in partnership with Glór Cheatharlach. This well attended event runs from the beginning of September to the end of June.

CHAS Schools Prize Giving

On Wednesday 27th, the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS) held their annual primary school history competition prize giving ceremony in the Museum. The competition saw almost one hundred and fifty entries, the highest ever. First place went to Kate Sommers of Ballon NS; second place to Kevin McKeon, Carlow NS and third place to Reuben McCarthy, Scoil Pádraig Naofa, Tullow.

St. Laserian's Feast Day

St. Laserian's Feast Day falls on April 18th, as it fell on Holy Thursday 2019, the celebrations in Old Leighlin were deferred until the afternoon of Saturday 20th April. The celebrations consist of an ecumenical service in St. Laserian's Cathedral, with a guest speaker, followed by a procession to the nearby St. Molaise's Holy Well where the service concludes. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, was the guest speaker this year. The speech is on the Museum's website.

Moran Family Photo

On May 10th members of the Moran Family of Larkfield, Catherine, Betty, Mary and Tony, visited the Museum and had their photograph taken with the display about their father, Johnny Moran, who featured in a full-page Sunday Press newspaper article on April 20th, 1952 under the title, 'Midnight Matinee of a £6,000,000 Show'. The family had offered the Museum quality copies of the article and the accompanying photographs.



Members of the Moran family with Museum staff.

IRTP Conference, Belgrade

From the 26th to the 29th of June, the 11th International Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage (IRTP) conference took place in the Singidunum University, Belgrade, Serbia. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, attended and presented a paper on St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and the First Apostle of the Netherlands and his County Carlow Connection. The conference had fifty papers presented by people from twenty-six countries, including America, Australia, Russia, Canada, England and Italy. The well organised conference covered a variety of topics and developments relating to religious tourism. The conference papers will be published later in the year. In 2012, the IRTP conference was hosted in Ireland and Dermot spoke then about the Carlow Trails of the Saints project.

Carlow Tourism Radio Adverts

During July to promote the Carlow Garden Festival, there were three Carlow Tourism adverts played across several of the national radio stations. These adverts are all voiced by Carlovian Kathryn Thomas. One of the adverts features Carlow County Museum.

National Ploughing Championships

The Museum co-ordinated a Carlow Museums & Historical Society stand at the InCarlow marquee at the National Ploughing Championships, held at Ballintranee, Fenagh, Co. Carlow from the 17th to the 19th of September. The InCarlow marquee was developed by Carlow County Council through the Local Enterprise Office. The stand backdrop was a display of images of objects from the museums in the county along with a selection of Carloviana front covers. Aisling O'Halloran, Graduate Intern, liaised with CHAS, the Military Museum and the Tullow Museum, to arrange a rota for the stand along with

Museum staff. The Museum coordinated and presented some talks on the stage area, including talks about CHAS, the Military Museum, Carlow County Museum and the newly opened Scouting exhibition. Aisling also acted as MC for a day on the stage. Jim Shannon spoke about CHAS, its role, its activities and upcoming lectures; Paul Maguire and Peter Heary spoke about the Military Museum and their upcoming military vehicle event; Colin Whelan and Kevin Murphy spoke about ninety years of scouting in the town. Many visiting national politicians and dignitaries visited the stand including Kathryn Thomas, Sean O'Brien and Sinéad Flannagan, the Rose of Tralee.

In advance of the Championships, Mairead Lavery, Journalist with the Farmers Journal 'Irish Country Living' Magazine visited the county and published an article titled "Follow Me Up to Carlow", featuring a number of attractions in the county including the Museum.



Lots of meet and greets at the Ploughing Championships, including Sean O'Brien, Kathryn Thomas, Ministers Simon Harris and Charlie Flanagan, and TD Mary-Lou McDonald.

Mensana 2019:

As part of the Carlow Mental Health Association's annual Mensana Festival the Museum were asked to lead a walking tour of the town on Saturday 12th of October. The tour started in the Museum and stopped at the Carlow Gaol (Carlow Shopping Centre), the Liberty Tree, Burren Bridge/ Deighton Hall; Carlow Castle; St. Mary's Church; Town Hall; Cathedral & Carlow College; the Courthouse and St. Leo's. The walk concluded at An Gairdín Beo with a 'cuppa'. The idea was for people to get to know their surroundings and meet other people for a chat as the tour make its way around the town.

Scarefest

As part of Scarefest 2019 the Museum organised two events.

On Friday October 25th, the Museum led a 'Lucinda Sly Walking Tour'. Owing to the bad weather the tour started in the Museum, under the gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol and then proceeded to Carlow Goal (Carlow Shopping Centre) to view the condemned cell and to stand at the window over the entrance where the executions took place. Extracts from Maidhc Dainín Ó Sé's historical fiction book were read out. Museum staff provided the historical background to Carlow in late 1834 and early 1835 when the events associated with the murder of Walter Sly took place and for which Lucinda and her servant, John Dempsey, were found guilty of his murder.



John McDarby setting the scene for the Lucinda Sly Walking tour as he stands below the gallows trapdoor from Carlow Gaol.

On Tuesday October 29th, the Museum hosted 'A Night at the Museum' in partnership with Scarefest and Ceatharlach Creathlach. This evening saw ten characters from Carlow's past reappear in the Museum to tell their story. The characters included Carlow's first Stone Age inhabitant, Judge Mary O'Toole, Rev Bibby OFM, Kevin Barry and Nurse Margaret Kehoe.



Carlow's first inhabitant catching up on the news in advance of meeting present day Carlow inhabitants.

Oral History Network of Ireland

The Oral History Network of Ireland (OHNI) presented a one-day workshop on "An Introduction to Oral History –The Life Cycle Approach" on Friday 1st November in the Carlow Cathedral Parish Centre, College Street, Carlow Town. This workshop was kindly facilitated by Carlow County Museum.

The workshop offered a basic introduction to all aspects in the life cycle of an oral history project from commissioning to disseminating and archiving. It introduced concepts of best practice in terms of ethical and legal considerations. The trainer was Adrian Roche, a member of OHNI and there were twelve participants who came from Carlow (6), Galway (1), Kerry (1), Kilkenny (2) and Wicklow (2).



Some of the attendees at the OHNI with Dermot Mulligan and Adrian Roche, OHNI

St. Willibrord Biennial Lecture

On Thursday November 7th to mark the Feast of St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and First Apostle of the Netherlands, the second St. Willibrord Biennial Lecture took place at 7.00pm in St. Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin. The evening began with Vespers, led by the Very Revd Tom Gordon, Dean of St. Laserian's, and then the lecture coordinated by Carlow County Museum. Dr Niamh Wycherley, Maynooth University, delivered an excellent lecture on "The Cult of Relics in Medieval Ireland: Power, Patronage and Devotion". Earlier in the day Bishop Denis Nulty celebrated 10.00am Mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption.



(L to R) Pdraig Dooley, President of CHAS & Museum Board Member; John McDarby, Staff Officer, Carlow County Museum; Dr Niamh Wycherley, Maynooth University and the Very Revd Tom Gordon, Dean of St Laserian's Cathedral, at the St. Willibrord Biennial Lecture.

UCC Museum Studies MA Students

On Monday December 2nd, fifteen Museum Studies MA students from University College Cork visited the Museum with their lecturer John Sheehan. They requested an extended tour of the Museum and to hear about the operations of the Museum. This is the fourth year that the students of this course have visited Carlow.

Carloviana:

CHAS launched their 2020 edition of Carloviana on Thursday November 28th last. The Journal, 220 pages, has an article from the Museum about the British Library's exhibition, Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms, in which Rath Melsigi and St. Willibrord were featured. Also screened that evening was the restored 1913 Carlow Home Rule Demonstration. The film shows the Museum's Irish National League banner for Tinryland and Benekerry (Bennekerry), CCM 02-2528. A copy of the DVD was presented to the Museum and will be displayed during the course of 2020.

Carlow Town Council Chain of Office

At its December Board Meeting the Board agreed to the Carlow Municipal District's request for the return of the Carlow Town Council Chain of Office for use by the Mayor as the chain of office. At the November meeting of the Municipal District for Carlow, the Members agreed to request from Carlow County Museum the return of the Carlow Town Council Chain of Office for use by the Mayor. The Town Council, like all Town Councils, was abolished in May 2014. As part of the abolition it was agreed at the Monthly Meeting of Carlow Town Council on the 8th May 2014, to present the Chain of Office to the Museum. All operations of the Town Council, including the Museum, were transferred to Carlow County Council, as the single local authority for the entire county.

Museum Staff & Volunteers

The Museum's staff are, Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, John McDarby, Staff Officer, Aisling O'Halloran Graduate Employee, Martin O'Rourke, Maintenance Superintendent (shared staff member with the Library Service), and Tomás Skinner, Archaeologist. The Museum has access to positions under the Tus Social Scheme, coordinated by the Carlow County Development Partnership. In June the Museum's then three Tús participants, Kevin Donohue, Brian Kelly and John O'Neill all completed their year on the scheme. They have been replaced by three new participants: Sean Glancy, Derek Keating and Sean McDermott. In August Noelle Timmons joined the team. In December Claire Donegan completed her time on the Tús Scheme.

Museum Volunteers

The Museum's 8th Annual Volunteer's Christmas Party took place on Thursday 19th of December in the Delta Centre and is our way of saying "Thank You" to our many volunteers for their assistance throughout the year. The Museum has approximately fifty volunteers and they provide a valuable invigilation service throughout the museum galleries. Museum staff and several of the volunteers attended the Carlow Volunteer Centre's annual volunteer 'Thank You' coffee morning in the Seven Oaks Hotel on the 16th May.



Enjoying the Annual Volunteers Christmas Party are Museum volunteers and staff.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Property Register 2019

A review of the Property Register continued during 2019. The register identifies both the geographical location and the extent of registered properties. Registered properties are those in ownership of Carlow County Council. The register also identifies property that has been acquired and disposed of throughout the year. The property Register was then reconciled with the Fixed Asset Register from our Financial Management system to identify properties that should be added / removed from the Fixed Asset Register.

ArcGIS Enterprise

ArcGIS for Server was upgraded from version 10.2.1 to ArcGIS Enterprise during 2019. The ArcGIS Enterprise product includes the following software components that are designed to work together:

- ArcGIS Server—the core web services component for making maps and performing analysis.
- Portal for ArcGIS—allows you to share maps, applications, and other geographic information with other people in your organization.
- ArcGIS Data Store—lets you configure data storage for hosting and federated servers used with your deployment.
- ArcGIS Web Adaptor—allows you to integrate your ArcGIS Server and Portal for ArcGIS with your existing web server and your organization's security mechanisms.

Autodesk AEC Collections

In addition to AutoCAD Map 3D a number of Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) Collections are now available to Carlow County Council.

The AEC Collection includes an extensive range of products such as Map 3D, Civil 3D, Revit, Vehicle Tracking, Infracore and Insight. THE AEC Collection provides a comprehensive set of tools to managed projects from inception to completion. Another key advantage is that AEC Collection eliminates the headache of managing multiple product licences for multiple products. One Network Licence Manager can be used to manage all products within the AEC Collection.

Application and Software Services

In 2018 the vast majority Carlow County Council's client PCs all ran the Windows 7 operating system, which have a support expiry date from Microsoft of January 2020. This presented a security challenge to the ICT department as PCs which no longer receive Microsoft's monthly patches are left vulnerable to new types of malware & viruses.

To that end, the ICT department embarked on a programme of PC upgrades to remove Windows 7 from the network and replace with Microsoft's newest Windows 10 operating system during 2019. Windows 10 is planned by Microsoft as their final operating system, with rolling improvements made year on year. It is also designed for desktops, laptops, and touchscreen tablets to provide a familiar and consistent interface across all user devices.

Carlow's PCs numbered nearly 300 in 2019, with over 80% receiving the Windows 10 upgrade in 2019. The ICT Department will continue to work with staff into 2020 to upgrade the remaining PCs and future-proof our resiliency to outbreaks of viruses and malware. The official Microsoft support for the few remaining Windows 7 PCs was extended to continue to receive updates while they transition to the Windows 10 operating system.

The fleet of Carlow County Council's laptops were recalled during 2019 for a health-check and a change-over to a cloud-first policy. Staff can now utilise their own personal space in the cloud to edit and share documents in a secure manner and collaborate with other staff. Some suitable department data has been identified and migrated to the cloud as well, for easier access & increased capabilities of sharing & document collaboration, using their work-issued laptops and mobile phones.

Digital Services

Free Wi-Fi is now available in the Cultural Quarter of Carlow County Council. **CarlowFreeWiFi** went live in the Cultural Quarter for Carlow Arts Festival in June 2019.

The service was successfully trialled in Carlow County Councils Local Election Count Centre in Askea Boys School.

This is currently a joint initiative between Carlow County Council and Magnet Networks and is a brilliant facility for the town.

The service is powered by Magnet Networks with Carlow Library, Carlow Museum and Visual Carlow currently providing access points. It is very simple to access - click settings on your phone, then go to connections and Wi-Fi to login to **CarlowFreeWiFi**. A once off registration is required and can be done with either Facebook or Twitter or you can register with an email.

Businesses and any other interested parties will be able to use the Wi-Fi to promote their products, services and events to users who sign up.

Broadband Connection Points

What are Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)?

Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) are public locations which have been selected to receive 150Mb high-speed broadband connectivity in the first year of the National Broadband Plan. A BCP, is a location where public WIFI will be provided. People living in the general area shall then be able to make use of the broadband as they require. 7 locations were selected and approved in County Carlow. The 7 Carlow locations are made up of public buildings, such as schools, community centres and tourist attractions. Some of these sites were surveyed in late 2019 to ensure that they were viable options for the BCP project.

How were the Broadband Connection Points selected (BCPs)?

The main criteria for selection of the BCP was that the BCP had to be located in the AMBER area of the National Broadband Plan and that the area where the BCP resides had to have no plans for commercial development to deliver high speed broadband.

What can the BCPs be used for?

Each BCP will provide 150Mb high speed, high quality fibre broadband access to the local community. This will enable people living in the area to go to the selected location and access broadband for daily use including remote working, general access and even keeping in touch with family and friends abroad through video calling.

When will the BCPs be available?

All BCPs will be connected in Carlow in the first year (2020) of the National Broadband Plan roll-out.

Locations of the BCPs in Carlow

- Ducketts Grove
- Altamont Gardens
- Borris Library
- Newtown Community Hall
- Rathanna Community Hall
- Kildavin National School
- Nurney National School

New 1GB Fibre Connections for Remote Offices

During 2019 the ICT Department rolled out faster 1GB uncontended fibre connections between the County Buildings and the Assembly Rooms, Carlow Town Hall, Carlow County Library and Carlow Fire station. This connection is provided securely over Government Networks. The connection to government networks is essential for hosted services.

MOTOR TAXATION

Carlow County Council's Motor Tax Office delivers a high standard of service to members of the public. The collection of Vehicle Licence Fees remains its primary function.

The Motor Taxation Online service is available 24/7 - 365 days per year at www.motortax.ie

STATISTICAL DATA

Over 33,000 transactions were processed in the Motor Tax Office in 2019 including 28,000 tax discs issued.

Total monies collected in 2019 amounted to €5 million as follows:

	€ million	%
Private Vehicles	3.4	68%
Goods Vehicles	1.1	22%
Miscellaneous	.5	10%
Total	5	

In addition to the above 56,000 transactions to a total of €8.6 million were processed online.

WATER SAFETY

Funding was provided by Carlow County Council during the year to ensure the provision of the Water Safety program, including the employment of two teams of lifeguards on a daily basis at the very popular bathing areas located on the River Barrow at Bagenalstown and Clashganna Borris. The two month period of employment commenced on Monday 1st July. During the summer the lifeguarding service completed 6 rescues, gave first Aid 24 times, gave advice over 255 times and prevented 14 accidents as well as providing risk management interventions which prevented accidental drowning's and potentially hazardous aquatic situations, involving all age groups developing.

The favourable weather together with visibly good bathing water conditions resulted in a number of locations being utilized for unsupervised bathing purposes throughout the county during the summer. The quays at Carlow Town, Bagenalstown, St. Mullins and Tinnahinch remain popular locations for fishing, boat berthing and a variety of social and recreational activities. Access to the popular bathing areas is mostly on the riverside/canal towpath.

Clashganna and St. Mullins serviced with suitable car parking and nearby refreshment facilities, are continuing to experience a very significant presence of camping, hiking and commercially orientated water-based adventure activities. Clashganna is an official venue for canoe/kayaking competitions and training events also organized by the Irish Canoe Union. The intensity of use by local and non-local commercial interests at this location is increasing pressure on existing access and parking facilities. While the County does not yet have a significant 'dependent on water' business population the existence of passenger/leisure craft and marine infrastructure concurrent with upgraded restaurant/social venues in close proximity to the navigable River Barrow in the County makes the river an increasingly significant leisure/tourism activity asset, especially so during favourable weather conditions. 2019 also seen a large increase in the volume of open water swimmers and open water swimming clubs training on the river barrow in Bagenalstown.

The Water Safety Development Officers annual conference was held in Roscommon during April. Issues discussed at the conference included Galway Thermal Imaging Cameras, Duties of the WSDO, Public Rescue Equipment & Risk Assessment. The operational effectiveness of local authority's water safety programs during the 2019 high season was subsequently reviewed by WSDO's/Irish Water Safety during a review seminar held in Belvedere House, Mullingar on 24th September 2019.

Efforts to minimize the risk of accidental drowning are by necessity, a team effort. During the year unusual climatic conditions occasionally transformed tranquil rivers in the county into torrents, representing a threat to life and property. It is during such events that the coordinated efforts of the Councils area offices, technical and outdoor staff and an appropriately equipped and trained Civil Defence unit are most effective.

The Garda Authorities operate the Riverwatch Scheme in an effort to control the risk of antisocial behaviour on or adjacent to the River Barrow in the county and the Councils lifeguarding service cooperates closely with the Gardaí in this regard.

Aware that most drowning's occur in inland counties the Council will continue to implement Irish Water Safety policy on managing risk at its popular bathing areas. During the summer of 2018 at the request of Carlow County Council Irish Water Safety carried out Risk Assessments at our four bathing areas and also on Carlow Town Park.

Carlow County Council has implemented the additional safety signage and railings recommended in this report at Carlow town park. Also large scale upgrades have been completed at the bathing areas in Bagenalstown and will be completed in Clashganny before the start of the next bathing season. Complementary to these efforts the County Water Safety Committee will continue to deliver the water safety message through providing a self financed program of activities including a broad spectrum of specialist training and swimming/rescue skills development courses, for all age groups, during the current year.

The skills development courses referred to are held in the Bagenalstown, Athy and St. Fiacs Graiguecullen swimming pools during the year. Access to indoor swimming pools at reasonable cost, combined with the planned availability of highly qualified instructors, teachers and examiners ensures positive outcomes for course participant's and the availability of a cohort of suitably qualified lifeguards for employment as lifeguards on the River Barrow.

The Committee's annual Water Safety Festival for children together with the water safety fortnight in Bagenalstown enjoyed record attendances during July & August. The Committee's volunteers together with Carlow Civil Defence assisted at the four open water swims held on the river barrow in Bagenalstown during August.

During 2019 €15,610.00 was raised through course fees. These funds were applied to training volunteers, upgrading equipment, purchasing revised instruction manuals, and replacement of livery - see draft 2019 accounts attached. Professionally validated Accounts will follow when completed. These accounts will be presented for ratification by the County Water Safety Committee at its AGM due to be held on March 27th 2020.

Carlow County Civil Defence

Carlow County Council, is the Civil Defence Authority for the administrative area of County Carlow. The 2003 Civil Defence Act sets out a number of roles for Civil Defence. Among these roles are providing a backup service to the Primary Emergency Services; Community Service; Training in Casualty; Radio Communications; Rescue; Welfare; Fire Fighting and Boating Skills (Search and recovery). Civil Defence also provides service to the Local Authority, Health Service Executive, and the Gardai in the event of severe weather conditions such as flooding and snow.

Nationally, since January 2013, The Civil Defence Board has been dissolved and Civil Defence is now the direct responsibility of the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch, through the Local Authorities.

The Major Emergency Management Framework document also sets out roles and responsibilities for Civil Defence in the event of emergencies, such as setting up Welfare Centres, Registration of Casualties, responsibility for casual volunteers and Secondary Line back up to the Principle Response Agencies.

The members of Carlow Civil Defence are all volunteers except for the Civil Defence Officer who is employed as CDO on a part-time basis by Carlow County Council. At present we have over 67 volunteer members ranging from locations such as Carlow town, Muinebheag, Borris and Rathanna. Weekly training on subjects such as First Aid to CPR level, First Aid Responder, Emergency First Responders, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighting skills, Rescue techniques, Technical Rescue, Search Skills, Welfare etc., are taught and practised. On our training schedule at weekends the subjects taught are exercised and the skills resulting from this are pitched against other counties in competition at various venues.

Also our training at field days are used for searching in open country, AFS firefighting events, and Search Skills training on land and with boats in the river Barrow and Slaney. The Civil Defence Headquarters, completed in September 2009, is fully operational, making the Carlow operations more efficient and so providing an effective and quick response.

In 2014 Carlow Civil Defence rolled out a new Search Skills Training Course for its volunteers. It was taught in the Garda College and Carlow volunteers were among the first to embrace this activity and we gained status to Instructor level. Since mid-2014 we also have Instructor level at Water Awareness and Swift Water Flood First Responder. Water and Search Management Training was also provided and this was carried out in Wales. Since 2015 we also have Search Managers trained in a specific Field Skills course.

Civil Defence Boat units provide back-up assistance to the (PRAs) Fire service and Gardai in River Search and Recovery (RSR) situations. Volunteers are trained in Boating skills, River and land search and recovery techniques for back up situations to Gardai. Water awareness and Swift Water Flood Response courses are run throughout the year.

Civil Defence set up a Multi-Agency Day and Night Searches exercise on different sections of the River Barrow which included Gardai and Fire Service to test various skills which include River search techniques in hours of darkness, Lighting equipment, Access points to River edge, Control of Boating, Communications, and Body Recovery.

In 2019 four Carlow members trained in Sonar and Water camera searching equipment for River searching. In April 2018 three members were trained with the Irish Aviation Authority to fly and control Drones. These are now used for open country searching for missing people.

The following is a list of some of the activities covered by Carlow Civil Defence in 2019:

Date	Activity	Venue
01/01/2019	Call out for drone use to incident	Killerrig and Tullow area.
12/01/2019	Operation Transformation Event	GAA centre in Fennagh
27/01/2019	5 Km Charlie Curran Charity Race.	Oakpark, Carlow.
28/01/2019	Start of Radio Technicians Course. Part 1.	Civil Defence HQ.
03/02/2019	Radio Course Part 2 and Swiftwater training	Civil Defence HQ.
16/02/2019	Emergency First Response Exams	Roscrea, Civil Defence College
17/02/2019	Boat Training	Muinebheag / Leighlinbridge River.
17/02/2019	Search Skills Training	Mt. Leinster area
24/02/2019	Community Event. Unveiling of plaque, Borris	Borris
03/03/2019	Boat Training River Barrow	County Carlow.
10/03/19	All boats and all crew	Carlow Town.
16/03/2019	Radio operations and testing. Carlow Festival Stewarding	Carlow town
17/03/2019	Stewarding at St. Patrick's Day Parades.	Carlow Town and Myshall, Muinebheag and Leighlinbridge.
24/03/2019	Safety Boat Duty	Dragon Boats. Carlow Town
07/04/2019	Radio Operations	Goresbridge to Tinnahinch area. Co. Carlow

21/04/2019	Easter Parade	Bagenalstown
28/04/2019	Boat Trainee Coxwains	River Barrow
05/05/2019	Start of Search Skills Course	Mt. Leinster Area.
11/05/2019	Darkness into Light Duty	Carlow Town
19/05/2019	Drone and Inspections training	Dublin
25/26/05/2019	Election Count Duty	Carlow
01/06/2019	Carlow Regata, Duty	Carlow
02/06/2019	Carlow Regata, Duty	

09/06/2019	Dragon boat Safety Boat duty	Carlow River Area
16/06/2019	Arts Festival events	Carlow College
21/06/2019	Carlow College Community event Duty	Carlow Cathedral grounds. Cemetery Mass
30/06/2019	SOG`s on Boating	McGrath Hall HQ.
07/07/2019	Boat training for Trainee`s	River Barrow Goresbridge
14/07/2019 to 15/07/2019	River Boat Safety for Races	Bagenalstown various
23/07/2019	Festival Duties. Fleadh Cheoil	locations
12/08/2019	Pride of Place Cover Drone Training	Carlow Clashganny area.
15/08/201	Borris Fair First Aid and stewarding.	Borris.
24/08/2019	National Dawn Walk	County Carlow
17/09/2019	National Ploughing Duty	Fennagh, Co. Carlow
18/09/2019	National Ploughing Duty	Fennagh, Co. Carlow
19/09/2019	National Ploughing Duty	Fennagh, Co. Carlow

13/10/2019	A Day with The Duckett`s	Duckett`s grove Co. Carlow
10/11/2019	Boat Operations	River Barrow,
24/11/2019	Radiation National exercise	County and Region.
08/12/2019	Community Christmas event Duckett`s Grove.	Carlow Duckett`s Grove.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BALANCE SHEET 31st DECEMBER 2019		
	€	€
	2019	2018
Fixed Assets	1,074,075,352	1,059,376,183
Work in Progress and Preliminary Expenses	6,554,848	4,679,395
Long Term Debtors	47,925,605	43,348,778
Current Assets		
Stocks	-	-
Trade Debtors & Prepayments	10,525,556	8,200,050
Short Term Deposits	42,797,639	39,707,612
Cash at Bank	447,233	266,009
Cash on Hand	55,790	84,074
Total Current Assets	53,826,218	48,257,745
Current Liabilities		
Bank Overdraft		
Creditors & Accruals	14,691,708	14,437,161
Finance Leases	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	14,691,708	14,437,161
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	39,134,510	33,820,584
Creditors		
Loans Payable	39,208,465	37,943,456
Finance Leases	-	-

Refundable Deposits	2,187,306	1,421,528
Other	8,123,800	5,282,541
Total Creditors	49,519,571	44,647,525
Net Assets	1,118,170,744	1,096,577,415
Financed by		
Capitalisation Account	1,074,075,352	1,059,376,183
Income WIP	4,421,848	2,130,928
Specific Revenue Reserve	-	1,248,228
General Revenue Reserve	744,828	687,939
Other Balances	38,928,716	33,134,137
Total Reserves	1,118,170,744	1,096,577,415

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT STATEMENT 31st DECEMBER 2019				
Expenditure by Division	Gross Expenditure 2019	Income 2019	Net Expenditure 2019	Net Expenditure 2018
	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	12,250,227	14,661,009	(2,410,782)	(2,911,320)
Roads Transportation & Safety	11,176,436	6,968,430	4,208,006	3,906,742
Water & Sewerage	4,530,966	4,367,381	163,585	82,675
Development Incentives & Controls	5,156,064	2,018,634	3,137,430	3,007,183
Environmental Protection	6,500,339	1,396,052	5,104,287	4,686,773
Recreation & Amenity	3,604,844	138,343	3,466,501	3,398,307
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	355,311	67,450	287,861	236,524
Miscellaneous	4,889,354	1,785,158	3,104,196	2,768,858
Total Expenditure/Income	48,463,541	31,402,457	17,061,084	15,175,742
Net cost of Divisions to be funded from Rates & Local Property Tax.			17,061,084	15,175,742

Rates	14,625,602	14,602,024
Local Property Tax	6,138,657	6,138,657
Pension Related Deduction	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	3,703,175	5,564,939
Transfers from/(to) Reserves	(3,646,286)	(5,526,387)
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	56,889	38,552
General Reserve @ 1st January	687,939	649,387
General Reserve @ 31st December	744,828	687,939