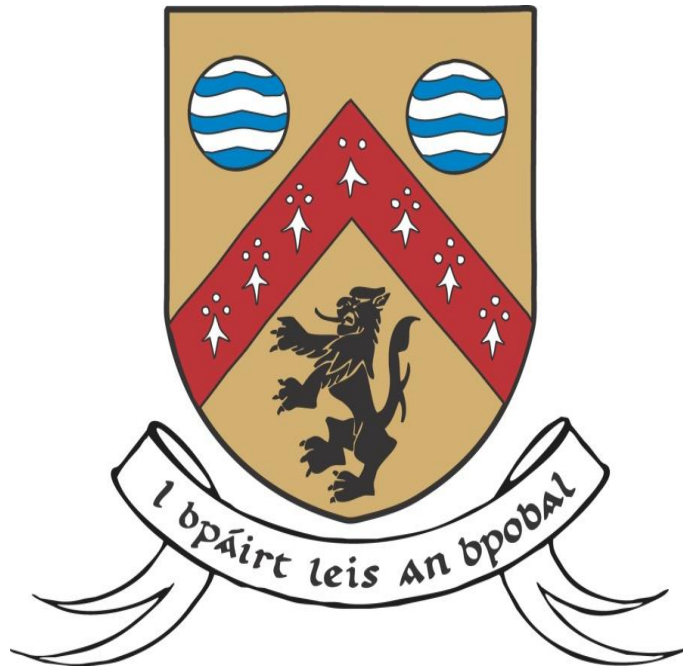


**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE LAOISE**



**MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**  
**JUNE 2023**  
**TUARASCÁIL BHAINISTÍOCHTA**  
**MEITHEAMH 2023**

**To: Each Member of Laois County Council**  
**Do: Gach Ball Comhairle Chontae Laoise**

Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2011 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, requires the Chief Executive to prepare monthly management report. The report for June 2023 is as follows:

**FINANCE & ALLOCATIONS NOTIFIED**

Expenditure and income to the 31/05/2023 is summarised below:

| <b>Service Division</b>                    | <b>Budget Allocation</b> | <b>Expenditure to 31/05/2023</b> |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Housing and Building                       | €21,247,400              | €6,700,487                       |
| Road Transportation and Safety             | €26,291,600              | €5,412,638                       |
| Water Services                             | €3,404,500               | €1,384,958                       |
| Development Management                     | €9,586,000               | €3,698,899                       |
| Environmental Services                     | €8,677,500               | €2,651,663                       |
| Recreation and Amenity                     | €4,990,000               | €1,259,462                       |
| Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare | €900,000                 | €194,026                         |
| Miscellaneous Services                     | €9,498,700               | €3,042,210                       |
| Central Management Charge                  | €11,213,300              | €3,684,659                       |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>€95,809,000</b>       | <b>€28,029,002</b>               |

| <b>Service Division</b>                    | <b>Budget Allocation</b> | <b>Income to 31/05/2023</b> |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Housing and Building                       | €22,725,300              | €7,465,392                  |
| Road Transportation and Safety             | €21,583,000              | €1,630,724                  |
| Water Services                             | €4,502,000               | €1,864,738                  |
| Development Management                     | €6,495,500               | €2,430,609                  |
| Environmental Services                     | €2,231,000               | €800,030                    |
| Recreation and Amenity                     | €1,049,000               | €363,163                    |
| Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare | €436,000                 | €61,151                     |
| Miscellaneous Services                     | €11,954,262              | €3,230,608                  |
| Superannuation                             | €720,000                 | €278,712                    |
| Local Property Tax                         | €9,033,703               | €3,011,234                  |
| Rates                                      | €14,578,963              | €5,508,579                  |
| Capital transfer                           | 500,272                  |                             |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>€95,809,000</b>       | <b>€26,644,940</b>          |

The Miscellaneous Services Expenditure is broken down as follows:

| Service Division                      | Budget Allocation | Expenditure to 31/05/2023 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Machinery Account                     | €220,000          | €92,628                   |
| Administration of Rates               | €2,211,000        | €217,955                  |
| Franchise Costs                       | €104,000          | €64,437                   |
| Op of Morgue and Coroner Expenses     | €130,000          |                           |
| Op of Markets and Casual Trading      | €3,000            | €1,617                    |
| Local Representation/Civic Leadership | €987,000          | €315,557                  |
| Motor Taxation                        | €226,000          | €74,727                   |
| Agency & Recoupable Services          | €5,617,700        | €2,275,289                |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>€9,498,700</b> | <b>€3,042,210</b>         |

The Central Management Charge Expenditure is broken down as follows:

|                                     |                    |                   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Corporate Building Costs            | €2,038,300         | €171,835          |
| General Corporate Services          | €1,281,000         | €535,425          |
| Information and Communications Tech | €1,738,000         | €706,312          |
| Human Resources Function            | €1,083,000         | €380,534          |
| Finance Function                    | €761,000           | €257,427          |
| Pensions and Lump Sum Costs         | €4,312,000         | €1,633,126        |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>€11,213,300</b> | <b>€3,684,659</b> |

**Allocations Notified:**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Building Acquisition Measure – 2023 TVRS Ballyroan  | €175,000 |
| OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works funding – Phase 3 of the River Nore between Abbeyleix and Durrow | €63,000  |
| OPW Minor Flood Mitigation Works funding – Whitehorse River Mountrath                             | €58,500  |

**HOUSING AND REGENERATION**

**SOCIAL HOUSING DELIVERY**

*Annual Social Housing Delivery Targets under Housing for All*

| Year  | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | Total |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Units | 200  | 79   | 80   | 87   | 88   | 534   |

|                                    | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | Total |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Social Housing completions to date | 229  | 85   | -    | -    | -    | 314   |

### Social Housing Schemes completed in 2023

| Location                                       | Total No. of Houses | House Types                               | Constructed by      | Comment  |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Market Square, Portarlinton (Vignoles Gardens) | 15                  | 15 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey                     | LCC (Turnkey)       | 15 units completed and remaining 3 units expected in June 2023 |
| Ballymorris Green, Portarlinton (Ph 1)         | 34                  | 34 no. 3 bed 2 storey houses              | Cluid Housing       | Phase 2 (12 units) to be completed in early 2024               |
| South Dublin Road, Kilminchy (Dunamais View)   | 36                  | 13 no. 2 bed houses<br>23 no 3 bed houses | Cooperative Housing | Tenanting to commence by end of June.                          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>85</b>           |   |                     |  |

### Social Housing Schemes Under Construction in 2023

| Location                                   | Total No. of Houses | House Types  | Constructed by     | Comment  |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Harbour Court, Mountmellick                | 6                   | 6 No. 2 Bed bungalows  | LCC (Construction) | On Site – expected delivery Q2 2023                            |
| Moore St, Rathdowney                       | 6                   | 6 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey   | LCC (Construction) | On site – expected delivery Q4 2023                            |
| Mooreville, Rathdowney                     | 7                   | 3 No. 2 Bed bungalow<br>4 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey                           | LCC (Construction) | On site – expected delivery Q1 2024                            |
| St. Kieran's Errill                        | 14                  | 6 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>8 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey                           | LCC (Construction) | On site – expected delivery Q4 2023                            |
| Church Avenue, Stradbally                  | 31                  | 9 No. 4 Bed 2 Storey<br>20 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>2 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey  | LCC (Turnkey)      | On site – phased delivery starting Q3 2023                     |
| Market Square, Portarlinton                | 3                   | 2 No. 2 Bed Apts<br>1 No. 3 Bed Apt                                    | LCC (Turnkey)      | 15 units completed and remaining 3 units expected in June 2023 |
| Bruach Na Habhainn, Killeen                | 1                   | 1 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey   | LCC (Turnkey)      | On Site – Phase 1 (1 unit) delivery Q2 2024                    |
| The Orchard, Ballylynan (Phase 3)          | 1                   | 1 No. 3-Bed 2 Storey   | LCC (Turnkey)      | On Site – Phase 3 (1 unit) delivery Q4 2023                    |
| Oak Park Halting Site                      | 4                   | 4 no. serviced bays  | LCC                | Contractor on site - Estimated delivery date Q4 2023.          |
| Oldcourt, Ballylinan                       | 1                   | 1 No. 4 bed 1 storey   | LCC (Renewal)      | On site – expected delivery Q4 2023                            |
| Townparks, Rathdowney Rd, Borris-in-Ossory | 26                  | 4 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>12 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>10 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey | LCC Turnkey        | On site – expected delivery Q4 2024                            |
| Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise                   | 44                  | 20 no. 2 bed houses<br>16 no. 3 bed houses                             | Respond            | On site – expected delivery July 2023                          |

|  |            |   |                |   |
|--|------------|---|----------------|---|
|  |            | 4 no. 1 bed apt<br>4 no. 2 bed apt  |                |   |
| Ballymorris Green, Portarlington (Ph 2)            | 12         | 12 no. 3 bed houses   | Cluid Housing  | Currently on site – Last phase of scheme – advised that these units will be delivered in early 2024.  |
| Clonrooske Abbey, Portlaoise                       | 18         | 18 no. 3 bed 2 storey   | Cluid Housing  | Advised delivery in Q3 2023.  |
| Goldencroft, Portlaoise (Old CBS site)             | 67         | 13 no. 2 bed apts<br>24 no. 3 bed houses<br>26 no. 2 bed houses<br>4 no. 2 bed bungalow | Cluid Housing  | 3 Phases – on site. Revised CALF application currently under review. Advised that Phases 1 and 2 will be delivered together in Q3 2023 (37 units) Phase 3 to be delivered by Q4 2023. |
| The Meadows (old Midland Dairies site), Portlaoise | 48         | 19 no. 3 bed houses<br>9 no. 4 bed houses<br>20 no. 2 bed apts                          | Cluid Housing  | Currently on site – expected delivery Q3 2023   |
| Ard Branagh, Portlaoise                            | 6          | 6 no. 3 bed houses  | Circle Housing | Currently on site – expected delivery   |
| Ashewood Walk, Portlaoise                          | 4          | 4 no. 3 bed houses  | LA Part V      | Contracts signed - expected delivery Q3 2023  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>299</b> |   |                |   |

#### Social Housing Schemes at Planning, Design or Tender Stage – LCC & AHB

| Location/Scheme                   | No of Houses | House Types   | To be constructed by | Comment  |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------|--|
| Carraig Glas, Stradbally          | 26           | 15 no. 2 bed houses<br>9 no. 3 bed houses<br>2 no 4 bed houses                            | LCC (Construction)   | Tender evaluation on-going and construction due to start in Q3 2023  |
| Clonrooske (Knockmay), Portlaoise | 12           | 8 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>3 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>1 No. 3 Bed 1 Storey                      | LCC (Construction)   | Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be submitted in Q3 2023.  |
| Iona, Portlaoise                  | 7            | 2 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>1 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>4 No. 1 Bed Apt                           | LCC (Construction)   | Part VIII approved. Stage 3 to be submitted Q3 2023.   |
| Doonane                           | 12           | 12 no. 3 bed 2 storey   | LCC (Construction)   | Stage 2 approved. Part VIII exemption. In-committee consultation with MD members will take place in Q2 2023. |
| Shannon Street, Mountrath         | 20           | 13 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>4 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey   | LCC Turnkey          | Turnkey approved and construction to commence in Q3 2023.  |
| Derry Road, Durrow                | 24           | 10 No. 1 Bed 1 Storey<br>5 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>5 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>4 No.2 Bed Apart | LCC (Construction)   | 24 dwellings and 4 serviced sites. Stage 2 to be submitted in Q3 2023  |

|   |    |  |                           |  |
|---|----|--|---------------------------|--|
| Ballyadams                                      | 1  | 1 no. 6 bed bungalow   | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 2 Approved. Part VIII exemption. In-committee consultation with MD members held and site notice erected.   |
| Stradbally Road, Portlaoise                     | 67 | Tenure mix to be confirmed   | LCC Social and Affordable | Design Team appointed. Site investigation and topographical surveys are currently being carried out on site. Upon completion of same (Q3 2023), a detailed design for a scheme will be produced and will include proposed mixed tenure of the scheme. Following this a meeting of the MD members will be arranged to discuss design. |
| Bracklone St, Portarlinton                      | 15 | 15 no. 2 bed houses  | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 2 to be progressed in Q3 2023  |
| Rushall Mountrath                               | 2  | 2 no. 3 bed 2 storey   | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 1 approved   |
| Maryborough School, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise | 11 | 2 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey<br>7 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey<br>2 No. 1 Bed 1 Storey | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 1 To Be Submitted in Q3 2023   |
| Main St, Ballinakill                            | 3  | 2 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>1 No. 1 Bed Apt                              | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 1 approved   |
| Moanbaun, Mountrath                             | 15 | 4 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>7 No. 2 Bed 2 Storey<br>4 No. 2 Bed 1 Storey | LCC (Construction)        | Stage 2 to be progressed in Q3 2023  |
| 1 New Road, Portlaoise                          | 1  | 1 No. 4 Bed 1 Storey   | LCC (Renewal)             | Stage 2 approved   |
| 6 Emmett Terrace, Mountmellick                  | 1  | 1 No. 4 Bed 1 Storey   | LCC (Renewal)             | Stage 2 approved   |
| 13 and 14 Lakeglen, Portlaoise                  | 2  | 1 No. 3 Bed 2 Storey<br>1 No. 4 Bed 2 Storey                         | LCC (Renewal)             | Design Team Appointed and Stage 1 To Be Submitted  |
| Convent Lands, Portlaoise (CAS)                 | 52 | 33 no 2 bed apts<br>15 no 1 bed apts<br>4 no. 2 bed houses           | Sophia Housing            | Tender evaluation ongoing. AHB to advise of construction commencement date.  |
| County Hotel, Portlaoise (CAS)                  | 10 | 8 no. 1 bed apts<br>2 no. 2 bed apts                                 | Cluid Housing             | Stage 1 approved under CAS. Site investigation and building condition surveys currently being carried out on site. On completion of surveys Cluid can confirm their revised cost plan and detailed design. Surveys carried out so far have outlined significant challenges re the protected front façade                             |

|  |            |   |                 |   |
|--|------------|---|-----------------|---|
|  |            |   |                 | which will be taken into account for the finalisation of the cost plan.<br>A section 57 planning report for the site has also been finalised and an agreement has been reached on which buildings on site can be demolished.<br>Revised cost plan and detailed design to be completed in Q3 2023. |
| “Radharc Darach”<br>Hepburn Court,<br>Portlaoise | 54         | 8 no. 2 bed bungalow<br>12 no. 2 bed 2 storey<br>34 no. 2 bed 2 storey  | Cluid Housing   | Site transfer being concluded. Local residents will be informed by Cluid in relation to phasing of the build and any potential effect of this.  |
| Curragh na Mona,<br>Abbeyleix Rd,<br>Portlaoise  | 39         | 5 x 2 bed fully accessible apts<br>12 x 2 bed bungalows<br>6 x 3 bed house with downstairs bedroom<br>2 x 4 bed house with downstairs bedroom<br>2 x 2 bed apts – accessible (ground floor) apts<br>2 x 1 bed 1 <sup>st</sup> floor apts<br>4 x 3 bed 2 storey.<br>6 x 2 bed 1 <sup>st</sup> floor apts | Respond Housing | Revised CALF application currently under review by Dept. Planned construction to commence mid -August 2023.   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                     | <b>374</b> |   |                 |   |

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING / COST RENTAL

Minimum targets for Laois issued by Dept of Housing in relation to the delivery of Affordable Purchase / Cost Rental housing by the local authority are as follows:

|  | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | TOTAL |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| LA Affordable Purchase & Cost Rental Delivery Target | 5    | 7    | 10   | 8    | 8    | 38    |

Discussions ongoing to progress potential affordable units as follows:

| Affordable         | <i>AHF Application submitted to DHLGH – Potential no of unit yield</i> | <i>Advance Turnkey Purchase arrangement – EOI's received Potential No of unit yield</i> | <i>Part V– Potential No of Unit Yield</i> | <i>LCC Construction Potential No of Unit Yield</i> |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Affordable</b>  | 13   | 48*   | 8   | 30 minimum   |
| <b>Cost Rental</b> |  | 27  |   |  |

\*Expressions of Interest received for 48 proposed units across 4 potential schemes, under consideration from the perspective of demand, affordability of price and feasibility of subsidy funding from DHLGH. Not all units may be realised.

\*\*Design Team procured for the design of social and affordable housing on Council owned landbank on the Stradbally Road, Portlaoise. No of affordable units to be determined.

Feasibility of constructing social/affordable units on site at Beladd currently being examined.

Call remains open for Expressions of Interest in respect of:

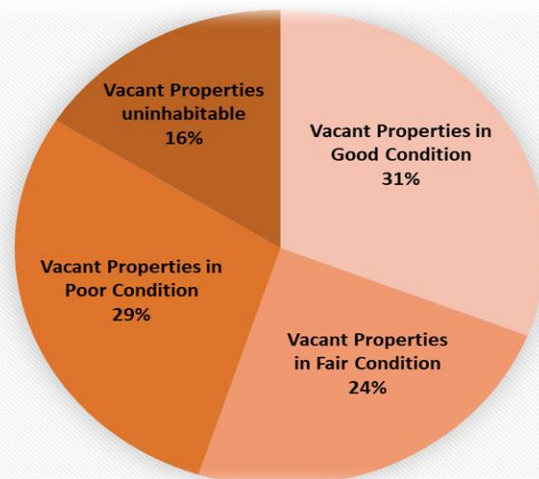
- a. Appropriately zoned land for housing development
- b. Advanced Turnkey Purchase arrangements for un-commenced residential developments in respect of social/affordable housing.

## REGENERATION / VACANT HOMES

### Vacancy Surveys

The Vacant Homes Team has commenced surveying properties identified as being vacant in data supplied by GeoDirectory (via a Dept of Housing initiative). The initial survey will involve assessment of approx. 650 properties located within 1km of a town/village centre. A further 634 properties located more that 1km from a town/village centre will also be surveyed at a later date. Properties will be assessed, and their status updated on a mobile App provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The app has shown the following data so far:

Of the 309 properties surveyed to date, **167 properties** were confirmed to be vacant.





Next step in this process will be to endeavour to make contact the owners of the above vacant residential properties and outline the schemes available to return the properties to use for housing purposes. Where ownership cannot be established, local enquiries will continue in relation to ownership, vacancy history, etc. Where all other means of returning the properties to use have been exhausted, use of the CPO process to acquire properties deemed to be suitable for social housing will be considered.

### Vacancy / Regeneration Funding Schemes

- **Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant - Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund**

Grant available up to a maximum of €50,000, including VAT, for refurbishment of vacant properties for *use as a principle private residence or to be made available for rent*, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential heretofore. A top-up grant of up to €20,000 is also available for properties which are derelict.

### Croí Conaithe (Towns) Applications at 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2023

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| No. of Applications received   | 62 |
| No. Approved                   | 23 |
| No. Approved in Principle      | 12 |
| Applicants under consideration | 23 |
| No. Refused                    | 2  |
| No. Withdrawn by Applicant     | 2  |

- **Buy and Renew Scheme**

- This scheme enables the local authority to recoup costs where we acquire a property that is need of major refurbishment, beyond the limits of our acquisition cost ceilings.
- 2 properties received B&R Construct Stage 2 approval in 2022 – 1 New Road, Portlaoise and 6 Emmett Terrace, Mountmellick.

- **Repair and Leasing Scheme**

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Applications received to date    | 45  |
| Applications approved to proceed | 10  |
| Applications under consideration | 4   |
| No. of Leases commenced          | 1   |
| Applications Refused             | 30* |

*\*Applications refused as properties deemed to be unsuitable for the R&L Scheme due to:*

- (a) their location in areas of low housing demand or;*  
*(b) the extent of works required exceeded the Scheme limit or;*  
*(c) works were commenced or almost complete before an application was submitted, which is not permitted under the R&L Scheme.*

### CPO Activation Programme

Circular 14/2023 provides details on the launch of the CPO Activation Programme. Laois target has been set for properties to enter the Compulsory

Acquisition process, where engagement with the owner has not resulted in the vacant or derelict property being brought back into use, to be subsequently used for social housing or made available for sale on the open market.

A target of **60 vacant and derelict properties** to enter the Programme and **16 CPOs / Compulsory Acquisitions** to commence in 2023 has been set for Laois County Council.

These targets can include vacant and derelict properties where engagement has already taken place / commenced in 2023 and compulsory acquisitions commenced.

Laois County Council has established a **multi-disciplinary Regeneration Team**, comprising staff from Housing, Planning and the Town Regeneration Officer, aimed at addressing vacancy and dereliction in the county.



This team aims to achieve targets set, by gathering data via:

- Geodirectory exercise (above)
- Continued engagement with property owners,
- Engagement via derelict sites legislation where appropriate
- Action objectives of the Town Centre First Plan for Rathdowney and other town/village plans.

### PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTIONS

Laois County Council is responsible, through inspection, for determining if a property meets the standards for rental accommodation in accordance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

Target for number of inspections in 2023 is **874**.

|                               | Jan - May 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| No of properties inspected    | 496            |
| No of notices of works issued | 461            |

The Housing Inspections team can be contacted via email at [propertyinspections@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:propertyinspections@laoiscoco.ie).

### SERVICED SITES FOR SELF BUILDERS

Laois County Council is actively considering the development of **serviced sites** over the coming years at a number of locations in the county.

In the first instance, eligibility will be determined by criteria as set out under the **Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund – Ready to Build Scheme (Serviced Sites for New Homes) Scheme**. Under the scheme, local authorities are supported to make serviced sites in towns and villages available to potential individual purchasers. These sites will be available at a discount on the market value of the site for the building of a property for occupation as the principal private residence of the purchaser. The level of discount to the individual will depend on the level of servicing cost incurred by the local authority before the sale of the site with discounts up to a maximum of €30,000. The amount of such discount will be reflected in the sale price of the site to the purchaser.

The following locations are currently under consideration for serviced sites and/or have advertised sites for sale. Sites to be a minimum of 0.25 acres in size.

| Location                               | No. of Sites | Comment   |
|--|--------------|---|
| Ballacolla Road, Durrow                | 4            | Sites currently on the market and application forms submitted to LCC. Evaluation of applications is on-going. |
| Gleann na Glaise                       | 4            | Sites currently on the market and application forms submitted to LCC. Evaluation of applications is on-going. |
| Doonane                                | 2            | Stage 1 approved as part of larger housing scheme<br>Part VIII to be progressed in Q3 2023                    |
| Derry Road Durrow                      | 4            | Stage 1 approved as part of larger housing scheme<br>Part VIII to be progressed in Q3 2023                    |
| Castletown                             | 9            | Proposal.<br>Detailed design currently on-going   |
| <b>TOTAL SITES UNDER CONSIDERATION</b> | <b>23</b>    |   |

## HOUSING STOCK

### Housing Re-Lets

| Month              | LA Keys Surrendered | Properties Acquired | Works Completed |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| January 2023       | 7                   | 2                   | 6               |
| February 2023      | 2                   | 2                   | 1               |
| March 2023         | 6                   | 6                   | 13              |
| April 2023         | 6                   | 4                   | 9               |
| May 2023           | 7                   | 2                   | 14              |
| <b>TOTAL (YTD)</b> | <b>28</b>           | <b>16</b>           | <b>43</b>       |

**NOTE:** There are currently 20 vacant units from our existing stock and a further 16 units that the Council acquired. Works are either ongoing on these properties or specifications are being prepared for works to be carried out.

### Housing Maintenance

| Month              | Work Orders Raised | Work Orders Closed | Work Orders Open |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| January 2023       | 504                | 504                | 0                |
| February 2023      | 378                | 378                | 0                |
| March 2023         | 464                | 453                | 11               |
| April 2023         | 357                | 311                | 46               |
| May 2023           | 440                | 281                | 159              |
| <b>TOTAL (YTD)</b> | <b>2,143</b>       | <b>1,927</b>       | <b>216</b>       |

### Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme:

The Midlands Retrofit Programme(MRP) was rolled into the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme(EERP) in 2022.

A summary of the 2 programmes is outlined in table below.

| PROGRAMME  | COMMENTS  |
|--|---|
| <b>MRP – 159 Units</b>   | 159 units completed.  |
| <b>EERP (2021) – 28 Units</b><br>–<br>(O’Moore Place)  | 13 units completed.<br>Remaining 15 units due to be completed in Q3 2023.   |
| <b>EERP (2022) – Phase 1&amp;2 – 41 Units</b><br>(Thornberry, Church Ave, Slieve Bloom Park)<br><br><b>EERP (2022) – Phase 3 – 21 Units</b><br>(St. Fintan’s Ter, Old School Road, St Johns Sq.) | Tender evaluation for the 2022 Retrofit Programme comprising 62 houses has been completed. However, because of funding constraints, it is now proposed to commence works in phase’s set out below.<br><br><u><b>Phase 1</b></u><br>1) Thornberry, Abbeyleix – 20 units.<br>• 20 units surveyed and tender awarded to contractor with works to commence in Q3 2023.<br><u><b>Phase 2</b></u><br>1) Church Avenue, Stradbally – 12 units.<br>2) Slieve Bloom Park, Clonaslee – 9 units.<br>• 21 units surveyed and tender awarded to contractor with works to commence in Q3 2023.<br><u><b>Phase 3</b></u><br>1) St Fintans Terrace – 6 units<br>2) Old School Road, Ballylinan – 8 units<br>3) St. John’s Square, Portlaoise – 7 units.<br>• 21 units surveyed and tender evaluation complete. Funding currently under consideration. |
| <b>EERP (2023) – 53 Units</b><br>(St. Bridgid’s Pl, Fr.O’Connor Cres., Erkindale Dr, Rossmore View)  | Surveys of the 53 units is under way and tender for retrofitting works to be advertised in Q3 2023 for completion in 2024.  |

## HOUSING NEED

### Social Housing Acquisitions

To date there have been 73 Notices to Quit reported to Laois County Council, of which 60 are valid. All NTQ's are examined on a case-by-case basis and tenants are being dealt with using all social and other housing options available.

*From 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023:*

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Acquisitions completed                | 12 |
| Acquisitions currently in progress    | 5  |
| Acquisitions under consideration      | 18 |
| No of above that have tenants in situ | 16 |

The above figures change with every case examined and regular cross referencing between NTQ's presented and Expressions of Interest for acquisition of properties.

### Homeless Presentations

| Time Period                                     | Homeless Presentations | Breakdown of Household              |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> May – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 | 23                     | 16 singles, 2 couples<br>5 families |

### Homeless Accommodation

|                | Emergency Accommodation Households booked at 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 | Social Housing allocated from homelessness in May 2023 |
|----------------|--|--|
| Families       | 6  | 1  |
| Single Persons | 13   | 1  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>19</b>  | <b>2</b>   |

### Social Housing List at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| TOTAL No of Social Housing Applicants on waiting list      | 1,765 |
| Proportion of SH applicants availing of HAP supports       | 47%   |
| Proportion of HAP tenants transferred from Rent Supplement | 15%   |

### RAS/Leasing Statistics at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Active RAS tenancies   | 70 |
| Active short-term leasing tenancies (Social Housing Leasing Scheme)        | 28 |
| Active Repair & Leasing Scheme tenancies                                   | 1  |
| Active long-term leasing tenancies with private landlords/investors        | 11 |
| Active long-term Mortgage to Rent leasing tenancies with a private company | 27 |

**Applicants housed during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

| Method of Delivery                                 | No. housed<br>1 <sup>st</sup> January – 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2023 |
|--|---|
| First allocation of New Build/Acquired unit        | 24  |
| Relet / Refurbished Stock Allocation               | 33  |
| Nominations to AHB housing which created a tenancy | 102   |
| Housed via leasing                                 | 0   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                       | <b>159</b>  |

## LOANS AND GRANTS

### Loans

#### *Local Authority Home Loan (LAHL) at 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| No of Loan Applications received since scheme commenced in January 2022 | 85  |
| No of Applications approved since scheme commenced in January 2022      | 32  |
| No of Applications refused since scheme commenced in January 2022       | 24* |

\*Predominant reasons for refusal are “*Repayment Capacity not demonstrated*” and “*Insufficient Savings Record/Source of Equity*”, i.e., applicant not showing that they can afford to meet the monthly repayments on the prospective mortgage, and/or they have not proven that they have consistent, regular savings, and/or the deposit is made up of lump sums lodged that cannot be verified.

### Private Grants

#### *Housing Adaptation Grants at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023*

Allocation €1,421,438 (€1,137,150 Exchequer + €284,288 LA Own Resources)

|              | No. of applications received to 31/05/2023 | No. of applications paid by 31/05/2023 | Value of applications paid by 31/05/2023 | No. of applications currently at work stage | Value of applications currently at work stage |
|--------------|--|--|--|---|---|
| HOP          | 91   | 48                                     | €209,935                                 | 54  | €253,670                                      |
| MAG          | 11   | 8                                      | €24,189                                  | 5   | €24,200                                       |
| HGD          | 70   | 11                                     | €82,220                                  | 46  | €407,348                                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>172</b>                                 | <b>67</b>                              | <b>€316,344</b>                          | <b>105</b>                                  | <b>€685,218</b>                               |

## *Disabled Persons Grant for Social Housing*

### DPG works at 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Allocation 2023 (including LA funded portion)    | €641,100 |
| No of new applications received to 31/05/2023    | 15       |
| No of Works approved to date (incl 3 extensions) | 33       |
| Value of approved works to date                  | €524,816 |

*Upon assessment, it is noted that completion of the full programme in 2023 will require additional Dept funding; this will be sought in Q3 2023.*

*Queries in relation to Housing Grants should be emailed to [housinggrants@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:housinggrants@laoiscoco.ie)*

### HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO REFUGEES FLEEING CONFLICT

Laois County Council continues to lead and coordinate the **Laois Ukrainian Community Response Forum**. The Forum, consisting of 23 statutory and voluntary groups/agencies, meets regularly, with 16 meetings held to date, ensuring consistency and efficiency in service delivery and supports to new arrivals to our county from Ukraine. The most recent data indicates there are approximately **1011** displaced Ukrainian citizens in the County. Approximately 300 of these are in accommodation centres such as hotels, guesthouses, hostels, and refurbished properties, with the remainder in privately sourced or pledged accommodation.

The Council continues to assist the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS - under the auspices of Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, DCEDIY) with the temporary accommodation of Ukrainian arrivals to our county, as well as providing liaison locally in relation to vacant buildings and sites suitable for medium to long term accommodation solutions.

The Council continues to allocate privately pledged/offered accommodation to Ukrainian families, with 47 households having been provided with accommodation through these mechanisms to date.

Site works are continuing at the 42 Modular Homes project in Rathdowney. DCEDIY have indicated a revised date of October 2023 for handover of the site to them from OPW.

## PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, ARTS & HERITAGE

### PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

#### DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

A draft Scheme for the period 2023-2029 has been prepared and is on display from May 22<sup>nd</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 during which time submissions can be made. The scheme can be viewed on [www.consult.laois.ie](http://www.consult.laois.ie) Notification to this effect has been sent to the Minister, the Elected Members, Local TD's and other relevant bodies.

#### DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>E-Planning Project</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>E-Planning has been live since 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022</li> </ul> |  |   |
| Planning Applications                        | <b>Year</b>  | <b>Valid applications from 01/01/2023 - 16/06/2023</b> | <b>Valid applications from 01/01/2022- 16/06/2022</b> |
|  |  | 250  | 280   |
| Total Number of valid applications received: | 250  |  |   |
| Number of decisions made                     | 259  |  |   |
| Invalid applications returned to applicant   | 120 (2023 invalid applications )   |  |   |
| Number of applications granted:              | <b>249 (Decisions to Grant)</b>  |  |   |
| Number of applications refused:              | <b>10(Decisions to Refuse)<br/>3.86% refusal rate</b>  |  |   |
| <b>PRE PLANNING</b>                          |  |  |   |
| No of requests to date                       | 141  |  |   |
| No of meetings held to date                  | 113  |  |   |
| <b>Wait time</b>                             | 2 weeks  |  |   |



## ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

| <u>Current year</u>  | <u>2023</u> |                  | <u>2022</u> |                  |
|--|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| <u>Service Review</u>  | <u>May</u>  | <u>Jan - May</u> | <u>May</u>  | <u>Jan - May</u> |
| Total number of new cases subject to complaints that were investigated                     | 15          | 64               | 15          | 58               |
| Number of Warning Letters served   | 50          | 187              | 16          | 161              |
| Number of Enforcement Notices served   | 5           | 57               | 1           | 19               |
| No Of cases referred for legal proceedings   | 0           | 8                | 1           | 3                |
| Number of cases in Court(incl adjournments)  | 10          | 31               | 4           | 27               |
| Number of cases Resolved in Court  | 0           | 5                | 1           | 5                |
| Number of Files Closed   | 6           | 47               | 9           | 102              |
| Number of cases on system  | 160         | 160              | 138         | 138              |
| Enforcement Costs recouped   | € 1,258.92  | €3,463.92        | 554.98      | 3711.96          |
| Number of Valid Retention Applications Received relating to Enforcement Action             | 3           | 17               | 8           | 23               |
| Fees received through Valid Retention Applications Received relating to Enforcement Action | €935.00     | €6,594.63        | 5239.8      | 20729.8          |
| Legal fees paid  | €469.86     | €3,801.11        | 12555.64    | 19195.96         |

## BROADBAND – DIGITAL PROJECTS

### *Vex Robotics.*

The Vex Robotics Program has been secured and rolled out in 4 schools to date - Scoil Eoin Phóil II Naofa Ballyroan, Shanganamore Barrowhouse, Camross and Emo NS.

3 of the 4 schools: - Scoil Eoin Phóil II Naofa Ballyroan, Shanganamore Barrowhouse and Camross competed in the All-Ireland finals in Castlebar on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of June. This was a huge undertaking for all schools considering they have only been involved in the program a few months.

All teams played a hectic 14 games and excelled on the day. In order to play the game each school had to build and program a Robot using coding along with building the board game and the obstacles.

Shanganamore were the Judges most impressive newcomer to the program.

Scoil Eoin Pol Naofa were pipped in their final game by 3 points by the current All Ireland champions from Donegal on a score line of 91 to 88 .

Camross were also narrowly beaten in the qualifier by the current Connaught Regional champions from Mayo.

This program has been supplied by funding secured from DRCD. The 4 existing schools will be given their Game for next year on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of June and it is proposed to roll out to more schools in September pending funding.

#### **WIFI 4 EU.**

WiFi4EU is a project developed by the European Union that intends to bring free WiFi to local communities.

The aim of WiFi4EU initiative is to bring high-quality WiFi access to places where it is not yet available but would provide value for the community and visitors to the County.

It is proposed to rollout in 2 locations in Rathdowney in the next few weeks.

#### **LAOIS ARTS OFFICE**

##### **Looking/Seeing/Making BOGLANDS Exhibition and Summer Arts Workshop**

Artist Bridget Flannery was selected for the annual Adult Summer Arts Programme. The programme commenced with a four-day workshop from Tuesday 13th June to Friday 16th June at the Malthouse, Stradbally. The week concluded with an exhibition opening of Bridget Flannery's new work entitled Looking/Seeing/Making BOGLANDS and selected work by the participants at the Laois Arthouse, Stradbally on Friday evening, 16th June starting at 5pm. Cllr Thomasina Connell, Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council officially opened the exhibition. The exhibition will remain open until Friday 28th July.

#### **Creative Ireland Laois**

##### **Short Film Bursary Award 2023**

There are three shortlisted films for the **Creative Ireland Laois Short Film Bursary Award 2023**. Interviews are scheduled for the shortlisted Short Film Bursary Award and an announcement before the end of June 2023. A grant of €10,000 will be awarded to a filmmaker towards the cost of production of a short drama or documentary film of 10-12 minutes duration to be shot in Laois.

##### **Cruinniú na nÓg at Laois Arthouse, Stradbally**

Cruinniú na nÓg is Ireland's national day of free creative activity for children and young people taking place on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. The Arts Office organised several events at the Laois Arthouse & Library in Stradbally. A Print Making workshop by Adelle Hickey; The City of the Dreams, a workshop creating a model city using geometric shapes by Evgeny Chubatyy and Sustainable Textile Art by Niamh Bakker. In Stradbally Library, there was engaging and entertaining storytelling with Laois author John Whelan from his book 'The Last Beekeeper'



*Pictured at Laois Arthouse, Stradbally; Catherine Guideria, Arts Office, Bernie Foran, County Librarian, Cllr Thomasina Connell, Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Muireann Ni Chonaill, Arts Officer, Diane Seale, Arts Office*

## HERITAGE:

- **Laois Heritage Plan Projects**  
**“In Your Nature” Podcasts by BirdWatch Ireland:**  
 New series has started which the Heritage Officer is promoting on social media.
- **Timahoe Heritage Festival 3rd and 4th June:**  
 Laois Heritage Office supported The School of Irish Archaeology to bring the ‘Big Dig’ to the festival.



## 1. Other Projects/ Updates:

- **Old St Peters Church and Graveyard:**

Old St Peters was officially re- opened by Cathaoirleach Thomasina Connell on the 13th June. The event was attended by the many of the individuals, and also representatives of organisations that supported and funded the project.

- **Gordon Bennett Event:**

Minister Noonan launched the Gordon Bennett Films which were a collaboration between Laois, Carlow, and Kildare Heritage Officers on the 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30p.m. in the Visual, Carlow.

### LOCAL ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### LEO Update – June 2023

- 2 trading online voucher applications approved
- 11 businesses set up to avail of 1-1 mentoring.
- 8 training courses were delivered to a total of 107 participants.
- 2 additional companies signed up for the Green for Micro programme
- 1 new Laois businesses was assisted to access Micro Finance Ireland (MFI) loan funding.

#### Business Support Unit (BSU) Update – May 2023

- Business Incentive Scheme: maps are currently being prepared to extend the scheme in Killenard.
- Abbeyleix Streetscape - 51 applications were received, 32 have been approved with works commencing, 2 in progress awaiting further documentation, 6 are not proceeding and 11 applicants did not meet the criteria.
- Killeslin Hub: Works are to commence 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### ROADS, TRANSPORTATION, DRAINAGE & PUBLIC REALM

#### Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) 2023

Laois County Council were allocated the sum of €319,050 from the Department of Transport under CIS funding for 2023.

Based on the costed works and the overall allocation available there was a requirement to phase some of the individual scheme works over this and subsequent years on a number of the schemes. Offers will now be made to the applicants on the listed schemes below.

| Project Number | Road Name and/or Townland Name         | Engineering Area | 2023 allocation |
|----------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| CIS008/2021    | Spa Quarter, Bunlacken, Cullohill      | Western          | 27,540.00       |
| CIS003/2022    | Ballaghmore Borris-in-Ossory (Phase 1) | Western          | 50,000.00       |
| CIS001/2023    | Acragar, Mountmellick                  | Western          | 50,000.00       |
|                |  |                  |                 |
| CIS002/2022    | Ross Vicarstown                        | Eastern          | 21,527.10       |
| CIS015/2022    | Ashfield Balllickmoyler                | Eastern          | 60,984.90       |
|                |  |                  |                 |
| CIS004/2022    | St Brigids Place Portlaoise (Phase 1)  | PMD              | 75,704.24       |
| CIS005/2022    | Hillview Drive, Knockmay, Portlaoise   | PMD              | 33,293.75       |

**Total Allocation**

**319,049.99**

### Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Laois County Council entered into an agreement with Eir/EasyGo for the installation of 14 No. EV chargers of various types throughout the County as follows:

| Location                                     | Charger Type                       | Location   | Status  |
|--|------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Portlaoise</b><br>Railway Street Car Park | 1 No. 75KW DC & 5 No 22KW INCH Duo | 53.0363385,-<br>7.3008401                          | ESB Application made and connection paid for  |
| <b>Mountmellick,</b><br>O'Connell Square     | 75 KW DC                           | 53.1173004,-<br>7.3273929                          | ESB application made                          |
| <b>Abbeyleix</b>                             | DC 50                              | 52.91418910706<br>137, -<br>7.349046361617<br>235  | ESB application made                          |
| <b>Durrow</b>                                | DC 50                              | 52.84635352497<br>817, -<br>7.394966079056<br>237  | ESB application made                          |
| <b>Graiguecullen</b>                         | DC 50                              | To be Confirmed                                    | TBC   |
| <b>Mountrath</b>                             | DC 50                              | 53.00103433928<br>0174, -<br>7.474047734432<br>863 | ESB Application made and connection paid for. |
| <b>Portarlinton</b>                          | DC 50                              | 53.15851387892<br>2896, -<br>7.185978404638<br>211 | ESB application made                          |
| <b>Stradbally</b>                            | DC 50                              | 53.01741109865<br>309, -<br>7.151831775085<br>489  | ESB application made                          |
| <b>Rathdowney,</b><br>The Square             | DC 50                              | The Square   | ESB application made                          |

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

1. **Kyletalesha Landfill, Transfer Station & Civic Amenity Site, Portlaoise:**  
Normal services continue at Kyletalesha Landfill Facility and Civic Amenity Site. Landfill monitoring and aftercare maintenance is on-going. All monitoring results are being submitted to the EPA.
2. **Bring Banks:**  
Tonnes of 2023 collected recyclable material is in Table 1 below.

| Month               | Tonnage | Month | Tonnage              | Month | Tonnage |
|---------------------|---------|-------|----------------------|-------|---------|
| Jan                 | 164.24  | May   | 156.04               | Sept  | 0       |
| Feb                 | 129.06  | June  | 0                    | Oct   | 0       |
| Mar                 | 140.63  | July  | 0                    | Nov   | 0       |
| Apr                 | 119.26  | Aug   | 0                    | Dec   | 0       |
| <b>Annual Total</b> |         |       | <b>709.23 Tonnes</b> |       |         |

**Table 1 – 2023 Bring Bank Tonnes**

The bring bank facilities in the county are being inspected and maintained by Environment Staff.

3. **Waste Management, Complaints & Litter Management:**

a) **Waste Enforcement & Complaints**

Table 4 below details the number and types of complaints received to the end of April 2023.

| Nature                       | Number | Nature               | Number |
|------------------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| Waste Management/Enforcement | 275    | Air                  | 18     |
| Litter                       | 181    | Noise                | 14     |
| Water                        | 23     | Waste Infrastructure | 5      |
| <b>Total</b>                 |        | <b>516</b>           |        |

**Table 2 – Environmental Complaint Register**

b) **Litter Fines**

| Month               | Number | Month | Number    | Month | Number |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|
| Jan                 | 11     | May   | 5         | Sept  | 0      |
| Feb                 | 9      | June  | 0         | Oct   | 0      |
| Mar                 | 4      | July  | 0         | Nov   | 0      |
| Apr                 | 3      | Aug   | 0         | Dec   | 0      |
| <b>Annual Total</b> |        |       | <b>32</b> |       |        |

**Table 3 – 2023 Litter Fines**

c) **Illegal Dumping**

Tonnes of material collected to the end of May 2023 is 152 tonnes.

#### **4. Waste Management & Enforcement:**

The Environment Section continues with its duties and responsibilities regarding facility authorisation, waste management and enforcement, producer responsibility and the national waste priorities.

#### **5. Anti-Dumping Initiatives:**

The procurement for the Bulk Waste Amnesties is completed. It is proposed to carry out the 2 No. Bulky Waste Amnesties – Portlaoise & Portarlinton in July 2023. Exact dates not yet confirmed.

#### **6. Environmental Protection**

##### **a) Protect the Water Quality Status in all Water Bodies**

On site investigations of complaints in relation to water quality/water pollution are being carried out by Environmental staff.

- On-site investigations of complaints in relation to water pollution.
- On-going assessment of planning applications with regards to water quality protection.

##### **b) Air & Noise:**

- All noise and air complaints are being investigated.
- On-going assessment of planning applications with regards to air and noise protection.

## **WATER SERVICES AND RURAL WATER**

### **Water Services Laboratory**

Laois County Council Water Laboratory is accredited to international ISO 17025:2017 standard accreditation. The Laboratory is inspected at least annually by INAB to ensure all sampling and testing undertaken by the Laboratory is being conducted competently in compliance with specifications in ISO 17025. The most recent INAB inspection occurred on 18th and 19th April 2023 and the Laboratory has retained its existing accreditation and also gained an additional accreditation for Enterococci, which is an important microbiological test for drinking water safety.

### **Portlaoise Water Supply**

Laois County Council in conjunction with Uisce Eireann, recently contracted Briody Well Drillers to carry out maintenance/remediation works at the Portlaoise Derrygarron Wellfield. The rehabilitation resulted in a significant improvement in the quality of source water, reduced reliance on the filtration treatment process and a substantial increase in water supply yield. To facilitate this work, the Derrygarron Wellfield was taken out of commission for three weeks, whereby new wells, in the Coolbanagher Wellfield, brought into service. The works undertaken at the two Wellfields has significantly enhanced the resilience of the Portlaoise Public Water Supply to summer droughts etc. The works also support capacity issues to support a growing population and expanding local economy.

### **Disinfection/PH Control Programme**

Civil works progressing in Fermoy, Meelick, Derryguile, Kyle, Five Wells, Derrymoyle and Lough WTPs. Mechanical, Electrical, Instrumentation, Control and Automation works progressed at the Strand, Knocks, Derryguile, Lough, Kyle, Five Wells, Clonin Hill, Derrymoyle, Ballyroan and Meelick Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

ESB supply upgrade currently being progressed for Five Wells. Design for Kilminchy, Castle Durrow, Drim, Donaghmore, Cloghogue and Camross Water Treatment Plants currently being progressed by CWL/Uisce Éireann (UE). An automated run to waste system recently installed at the Knocks WTP to address periodic raw water turbidity issue.

### **Uisce Éireann Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme**

Uisce Éireann is currently considering the options and pricing report for Ballyroan. Planning and design works are ongoing for Ballinakill and Borris in Ossory.

### **Mountmellick and Portarlinton DAP**

Survey works to be progressed throughout 2023.

### **Inlet Works Storm and Sludge Programme**

Ballyroan WWTP Upgrade – Workshop 4 with UE/LCC/Conway Engineering has been completed and works are expected to progress in Q3 of 2023/Q1 of 2024.

### **Networks and Water Conservation**

First fix, find and fix and lead replacement work is continuing in 2023. Mains rehabilitation works currently ongoing in Mountrath and also back yard services works in Mountmellick which will provide a safer, more secure water supply by minimising the frequency of bursts and improving the resilience of the network.

### **National WWPS Programme**

Pump Station (Bob's Bar) A preferred option has been identified with Uisce Éireann. This project shall not be progressing to detailed Design Stage at this juncture.

### **Taking in Charge**

Uisce Éireann have advised that the Moyadd Group Water Scheme, connected to the Swan Public Water Supply Scheme was taken in charge by Uisce Éireann on 3rd May 2023.

### **Multi Annual Rural Water Programme**

Projects under the current programme, 2019 – 2021, are being completed. It is expected that the Department will issue details of the next Rural Water Programme in mid 2023.

Application and feasibility studies for Vicarstown and Cullohill, submitted to the Department on the 15th of September for funding under Measure, A8 (Wastewater Collection and Treatment Needs for Villages and Settlements without access to Public Wastewater Services) are being reviewed and adjudicated upon. No response received as of yet from the Department.



Construction is continuing in Rosenallis on the Goodwin Estate Group Sewerage Scheme.

### Well Grants

There has been 25 well grant applications received to date in 2023 for grant aid assistance to improve private water supplies to domestic households.

### The Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme

The grant for the Domestic Lead Remediation Grant Scheme is no longer means tested and is available for both public and private water supplies. This grant provides 100% financial assistance (max of €5,000) to eligible applicants to replace lead piping and fittings in a house, that is occupied as the applicant's normal place of residence.

## Emergency Planning, Fire Services & Flood Relief

To date ( 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023), Laois County Fire & Rescue Service attended 278 emergency incidents, consisting of 103 fires, 127 special service incidents and 48 false alarms.

### Turnout by Station\*:

|                  |                   |                 |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Portlaoise - 143 | Portarlinton - 53 | Stradbally - 47 | Mountmellick - 36 |
| Abbeyleix - 26   | Mountrath - 38    | Durrow - 18     | Rathdowney - 24   |

\*Note – figures are higher as many incidents are 2 station turnouts as per the PDA.

### New Fire Station in Stradbally

Laois County Council has prepared a design brief for the project with a view to the appointment of a design team to oversee the detailed design, tendering and construction of the new Fire Station. A two stage tender competition is underway, to appoint the design team with a closing date for submissions ( restricted process to pre-qualify architect led design teams) of 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### Mountmellick Fire Station upgrade

Approval to go to tender for the upgrade has been sought from the NDFEM but no approval provided to date. Part VIII proposals are currently being developed by Tobin Consulting Engineers and will be brought forward both to the MD & Laois County Council in the coming months.

### Civil Defence

Internal and external layout options are under development, following recent agreement on the purchase of premises at Kew Lew.

## CORPORATE, COMMUNITY, CLIMATE ACTION, CULTURE, LIBRARIES & TOURISM

### **CORPORATE**

- Civic Reception for Mary Mulhare, Bronze Medal Winner at the 2022 European Championships in Turin was held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7.30.

### **COMMUNITY**

#### **Laois Public Participation Network**

Laois PPN in collaboration with Laois Tourism hosted a Regenerative Tourism Funding Workshop on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Fáilte Ireland will deliver the Regenerative Tourism Scheme as part of the EU Just Transition Fund. Through this scheme, tourism projects will be funded across Laois and the Midlands – sustaining jobs, businesses and communities. €68 million of EU Just Transition Regenerative Tourism funding is available.

#### **Community**

##### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Stakeholder engagement on the development of LECP Objectives and Actions has commenced and is ongoing.

##### **Laois Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairle meetings continue weekly and the Steering Committee meeting was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June in the Youth Cafe. The group are currently working on their Podcast and will be undertaking media training to assist with creating their podcast. They are also recruiting new members with the main focus on young people from small and larger towns and villages across Laois. Recently, members of Comhairle visited Dáil Eireann.

##### **Joint Policing Committee**

The June meeting of the Laois JPC was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. The Superintendent presented the quarterly Crime statistical Report and the updated JPC Strategy – Implementation Plan Update was noted by all members.

##### **Climate Action & Community SPC**

The June meeting of the Climate Action & Community SPC was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023. Updates were presented on Community Grants, LECP 2023-2028, Climate Action and Biodiversity funding.

##### **Laois Africa Day 2023**

Laois Africa Day 2023 took place on the grounds of Laois Leisure, Portlaoise on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023. Laois County Council together with Laois African

Support Group was among a number of organisations from around the country, that have been supported by Irish Aid, the Government's overseas aid programme, and which is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs to host Africa Day events this year. Africa's rich culture was showcased and celebrated through family-friendly activities, along with music, craft, performances, and educational elements. There was traditional African drumming and dance displays, African fashion, arts and crafts and much more throughout the day. A Laois Africa v Laois Gardai soccer match took place on the astroturf pitch as part of the celebrations, in which the Gardai prevailed this year. Cathaoirleach Thomasina Connell, Minister Sean Fleming, T.D. and Laois Africa Support Group Chair Mr Bolaji Adeyanju also addressed the crowd, on what was a beautiful day for such a colourful celebration.

### Community Support Fund 2022

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, announced the successful projects in Co. Laois under the 2022 Community Support Fund on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023.

| LCDC  | Group / Organisation                       | Name of Town/<br>Village area | Amount awarded<br>LCDC |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Laois | 2nd Laois(Rathdowney) Scout Group          | Rathdowney                    | €1,000.00              |
| Laois | 3rd Laois Durrow Scouts                    | Durrow                        | €1,000.00              |
| Laois | 4th Laois Scout Group                      | Portarlinton                  | €1,200.00              |
| Laois | Abbeyelix Bog Project                      | Abbeyelix                     | €475.00                |
| Laois | Abbeyelix AFC Juvenile Soccer Club         | Abbeyelix                     | €5,000.00              |
| Laois | Abbeyelix Community Garden                 | Abbeyelix                     | €500.00                |
| Laois | Abbeyelix Heritage Company                 | Abbeyelix                     | €3,435.00              |
| Laois | Abbeyelix Parish Hall Committee            | Abbeyelix                     | €950.00                |
| Laois | Abbeyelix Tidy Towns                       | Abbeyelix                     | €1,000.00              |
| Laois | Acquired Brian Injury Ireland              | Portlaoise                    | €1,368.00              |
| Laois | Arles Killeen GAA                          | Arles                         | €6,995.00              |
| Laois | Ballacolla Tidy Towns                      | Ballacolla                    | €2,453.00              |
| Laois | Ballybrittas Tidy Towns                    | Ballybrittas                  | €376.00                |
| Laois | Ballyfin Community Alert                   | Ballyfin                      | €300.00                |
| Laois | Ballyfin Community Development Association | Ballyfin                      | €600.00                |
| Laois | Ballylinan Community Council               | Ballylinan                    | €449.00                |
| Laois | Ballypickas Grounds Amenity for All (GAA)  | Ballypickas                   | €1,500.00              |
| Laois | Ballyroan Bluestars Basketball Club        | Ballyroan                     | €3,920.00              |
| Laois | Ballyroan Community Hall                   | Ballyroan                     | €2,305.00              |
| Laois | Barrowhouse Community Association          | Barrowhouse                   | €1,000.00              |
| Laois | Barrowhouse GAA                            | Barrowhouse                   | €1,000.00              |

|       |  |                  |           |
|-------|--|------------------|-----------|
| Laois | Borris Innovation Centre CLG                     | Borris           | €2,845.00 |
| Laois | Borris-in-Ossory Community Development           | Borris-in-Ossory | €995.00   |
| Laois | Borris-in-Ossory Men's Shed                      | Borris-in-Ossory | €950.00   |
| Laois | Borris-in-Ossory Tidy Towns                      | Borris-in-Ossory | €633.00   |
| Laois | Camross GAA Club                                 | Camross          | €1,500.00 |
| Laois | Camross Tidy Towns Group                         | Camross          | €995.00   |
| Laois | Castletown Community Centre                      | Castletown       | €1,013.00 |
| Laois | Castletown Community Field Development Committee | Castletown       | €1,049.00 |
| Laois | Clonad Juvenile Club                             | Clonad           | €2,006.00 |
| Laois | Clonanny Development Association                 | Portarlinton     | €424.00   |
| Laois | Clough Tidy Towns                                | Ballacolla       | €1,377.00 |
| Laois | Clough/Ballacolla Camogie Club                   | Ballacolla       | €2,282.00 |
| Laois | Clover United FC                                 | Rathdowney       | €4,000.00 |
| Laois | CoderDojo  | Portarlinton     | €878.00   |
| Laois | Colt GAA   | Raheen           | €743.00   |
| Laois | Community Hall Vicarstown                        | Vicarstown       | €2,185.00 |
| Laois | Corrán Na Nóir Residents Association             | Abbeyleix        | €300.00   |
| Laois | Crettyard Ladies Gaelic Football Club            | Crettyard        | €2,530.00 |
| Laois | Cullohill Community Centre                       | Cullohill        | €4,000.00 |
| Laois | Cullohill Handball Club                          | Cullohill        | €964.00   |
| Laois | Derrywood Residents Association                  | Durrow           | €928.00   |

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|-------|--|------------|-----------|
| Laois | Donaghmore Workhouse & Agricultural Museum | Donaghmore | €2,000.00 |
| Laois | Down Syndrome Ireland -Laois Branch        | Abbeyleix  | €2,512.00 |
| Laois | Durrow Development Forum                   | Durrow     | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Durrow Hall                                | Durrow     | €1,049.00 |
| Laois | Durrow Meals on Wheels                     | Durrow     | €2,850.00 |
| Laois | Durrow Tidy Towns                          | Durrow     | €867.00   |
| Laois | Emo Celtic Soccer Club                     | Emo        | €4,020.00 |
| Laois | Emo GAA Club                               | Emo        | €9,500.00 |
| Laois | Emo Gun Club                               | Emo        | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Emo Rangers                                | Emo        | €2,101.00 |
| Laois | Emo Sports Field                           | Emo        | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Errill Christmas Lights                    | Errill     | €960.00   |
| Laois | Errill Snooker Hall                        | Errill     | €1,000.00 |

|       |   |               |           |
|-------|---|---------------|-----------|
| Laois | Errill Tidy Towns Group   | Errill        | €714.00   |
| Laois | Esker Hills Residents Association   | Portlaoise    | €698.00   |
| Laois | Foróige Old Bank Youth Centre   | Portlaoise    | €2,804.00 |
| Laois | Fourth Wall Laois Theatre Group   | Portlaoise    | €999.00   |
| Laois | Golden Years Club   | Mountrath     | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Graigavern Lodge Residents Association  | Ballybrittas  | €929.00   |
| Laois | Graigue Cemetery Committee  | Graiguecullen | €1,325.00 |
| Laois | Happy Hearts Club Portarlinton  | Portarlinton  | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Harps GAA Club  | Durrow        | €3,000.00 |
| Laois | Jelly Tots Community Crèche & Playground                                      | Abbeyleix     | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Killeen Community Group   | Killeen       | €664.00   |
| Laois | Killeshin Community First Responders  | Killeshin     | €2,957.00 |
| Laois | Kilminchy Retirement Village Management Company                               | Portlaoise    | €698.00   |
| Laois | Kyle GAA  | Ballaghmore   | €2,000.00 |
| Laois | Labras - Laois Brazilian Support Association                                  | Portlaoise    | €525.00   |
| Laois | Laois Arch Club   | Portlaoise    | €1,615.00 |
| Laois | Laois Cricket Club  | Stradbally    | €799.00   |
| Laois | Laois Friends (Laois Friends, Special Needs, Social & Recreational Committee) | Portlaoise    | €856.00   |
| Laois | Laois PPN   | Portlaoise    | €7,318.00 |
| Laois | Laois Traveller Action Group  | Portlaoise    | €2,850.00 |
| Laois | Lions AFC   | Durrow        | €1,095.00 |
| Laois | Makeport Makerspace   | Portarlinton  | €660.00   |
| Laois | Mountmellick Christmas Tree Committee   | Mountmellick  | €904.00   |
| Laois | Mountmellick Community Arts Centre  | Mountmellick  | €3,836.00 |
| Laois | Mountmellick Community Sport Complex  | Mountmellick  | €3,000.00 |
| Laois | Mountmellick Men's Shed   | Mountmellick  | €1,599.00 |
| Laois | Mountmellick Yarn Bombing   | Mountmellick  | €834.00   |
| Laois | Mountrath Scout Group   | Mountrath     | €1,000.00 |
| Laois | Mountrath Tidy Towns  | Mountrath     | €2,000.00 |
| Laois | Mountrath Youth Theatre   | Mountrath     | €580.00   |

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|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Laois | Park/Ratheniska GAA Club       | Ratheniska   | €5,172.00 |
| Laois | Portarlinton Art Collective    | Portarlinton | €754.00   |
| Laois | Portarlinton Community Centre  | Portarlinton | €2,954.00 |
| Laois | Portarlinton Concert Band      | Portarlinton | €2,373.00 |
| Laois | Portarlinton GAA Club          | Portarlinton | €4,000.00 |
| Laois | Portarlinton Lawn Tennis Group | Portarlinton | €1,000.00 |

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|-------|---|---------------|------------|
| Laois | Portarlington Social Services                     | Portarlington | €3,135.00  |
| Laois | Portarlington Women's Shed                        | Portarlington | €2,915.00  |
| Laois | Portlaoise AFC (Soccer Club)                      | Portlaoise    | €3,000.00  |
| Laois | Portlaoise Men's Shed                             | Portlaoise    | €914.00    |
| Laois | Portlaoise Sports Hall                            | Portlaoise    | €10,000.00 |
| Laois | Rath Ballybrittas Development Association         | Ballybrittas  | €1,154.00  |
| Laois | Rathdowney Community Centre CLG                   | Rathdowney    | €7,180.00  |
| Laois | Rathdowney Men's Shed                             | Rathdowney    | €1,650.00  |
| Laois | Rathdowney Vision Group                           | Rathdowney    | €1,619.00  |
| Laois | Ratheniska Community Hall, St. Aongus Club        | Ratheniska    | €2,744.00  |
| Laois | Rosenallis Community Centre                       | Rosenallis    | €2,000.00  |
| Laois | Shanahoe Community Hall                           | Shanahoe      | €2,382.00  |
| Laois | Shanahoe National School Parents Association      | Shanahoe      | €3,950.00  |
| Laois | SOSAD Ireland Laois Branch                        | Portlaoise    | €4,115.00  |
| Laois | South Laois Beekeepers' Association               | Abbeyleix     | €900.00    |
| Laois | Spink Community Development Association           | Spink         | €1,013.00  |
| Laois | St. Abban's AC                                    | Crettyard     | €2,000.00  |
| Laois | St. Aengus FC                                     | Mountrath     | €3,000.00  |
| Laois | St. Brigid's Place Residents Association          | Portlaoise    | €900.00    |
| Laois | St. Fintan's Parish Hall                          | Mountrath     | €1,820.00  |
| Laois | Stradbally Community Allotments                   | Stradbally    | €900.00    |
| Laois | Stradbally GAA Club                               | Stradbally    | €6,915.00  |
| Laois | Stradbally Social Services Council                | Stradbally    | €5,000.00  |
| Laois | Stradbally St.Vincent de Paul                     | Stradbally    | €4,000.00  |
| Laois | SVT Activity & Wellness Hub                       | Stradbally    | €450.00    |
| Laois | The Fairways Estate Abbeyleix Residents Committee | Abbeyleix     | €947.00    |
| Laois | The Heath GAA Club                                | The Heath     | €850.00    |
| Laois | The Hermitage Residents Association               | Portlaoise    | €368.00    |
| Laois | The Port Project                                  | Portarlington | €2,219.00  |
| Laois | The Rock GAA                                      | Mountmellick  | €796.00    |
| Laois | The Swan Development Committee                    | The Swan      | €979.00    |
| Laois | The Swan Ladies Club                              | The Swan      | €858.00    |
| Laois | The Swan National School Parents Association      | The Swan      | €999.00    |
| Laois | The Thomas Hayes Trust CLG                        | Stradbally    | €7,980.00  |
| Laois | Tigh Mochua Le Chéile                             | Timahoe       | €4,000.00  |

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|-------|---|------------|-----------|
| Laois | Timahoe National School Parents Association | Timahoe    | €5,467.00 |
| Laois | Treo Nua Resource Centre                    | Portlaoise | €1,595.00 |
| Laois | Triogue Hub-Rehab Care                      | Portlaoise | €1,715.00 |
| Laois | Trumera Community Hall                      | Trumera    | €1,652.00 |
| Laois | Vicarstown Old Community Centre             | Vicarstown | €3,037.00 |
| Laois | White Horse Indoor Bowls Club               | Mountrath  | €5,000.00 |

## CLIMATE ACTION

### SEAI pathfinder

Laois County Council signed up as lead authority to SEAI pathfinder and SLAs have been signed by the other 4 Local Authorities in the Midlands Energy Agency. This 3 year agreement provides for up to 50% funding for deep retrofit of Council buildings.

### Positive Energy internal LCC energy campaign

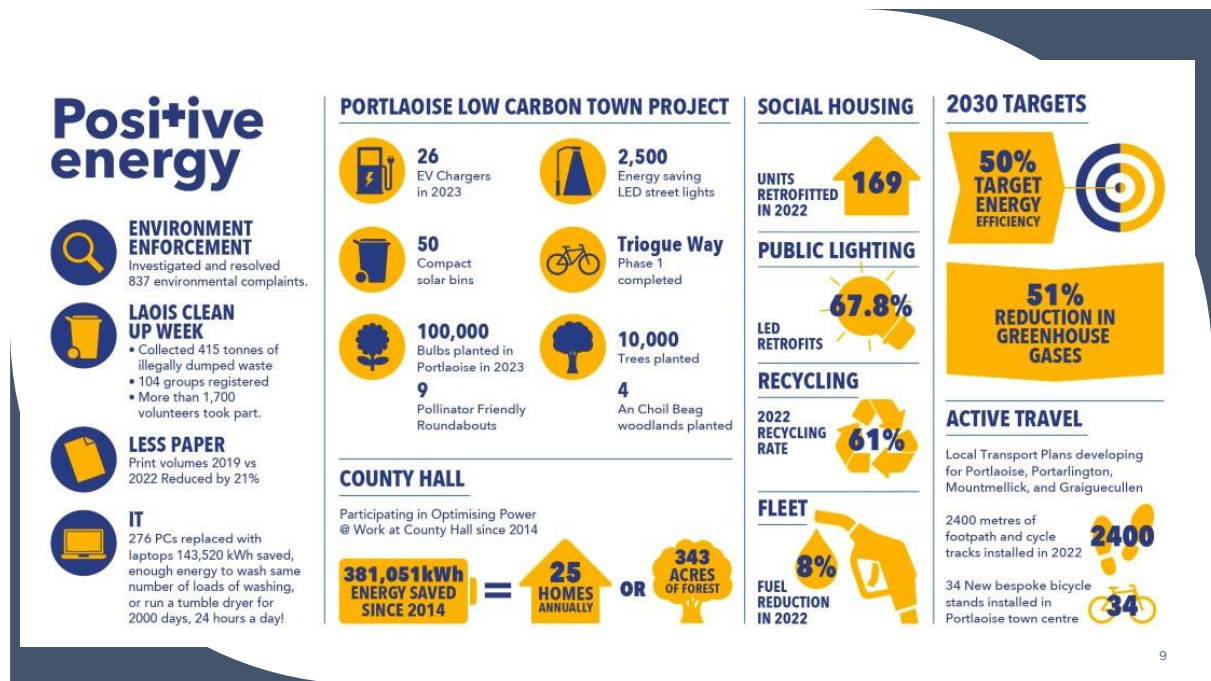
The Positive Energy campaign is to celebrate LCC achievements in energy conservation and climate action and to encourage further successes. An internal staff online survey was sent out to all employees via email. Moreover, the Positive Energy campaign was launched with informational material on how we can make small changes to cut down on energy use served alongside refreshments at tea break for staff in the canteen.

Through simple, everyday actions, Laois County Council is planning to address the energy and water use and the waste generated in our workplaces, along with trying to improve our local environment. The aim of this programme will be to:

- Reduce our environmental impact from energy and water use, and waste generation.
- Improve the environment around us, by actively encouraging measures such as powering down devices, switching off lights when not in use, and adopting energy-saving practices.
- Divert valuable funding currently spent on avoidable energy and resource waste and spend it where it should be spent, on delivering our services.
- Strive to work smarter, finding innovative ways to optimize resources and minimize waste.



“It’s the right thing, the smarter thing. It’s what we call Positive Energy”.  
 Example of poster from campaign



Infographic from campaign celebrating achievements

### Community Climate Action Fund outreach

Two information evenings were held on the new Community Climate Action Fund attended by 33 people representing 24 groups. Individual meetings between the Community Climate Action Officer and groups are also taking place. Project ideas are being developed for application stage which is yet to open.

Community Climate Action Officer Karen Moore at an info evening with PPN at the Cube

### Food waste cookery demonstrations

Laois County Council, in collaboration with chef Yvonne Carty (Hey Pesto) hosted a series of innovative food waste cookery demonstrations across Laois libraries this week. The events were to celebrate National Food Waste Recycling Week from 6th to 11th of June, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of reducing food waste and its connection to climate action. Creative recipes showcased using often discarded food items such as banana skins, potato skins, and carrot tops.





**food waste talk.** with *hey pesto!*

Join Yvonne Carty from Hey Pesto for a **cooking demonstration** and talk to celebrate National Food Waste Recycling Week. Food waste facts, menu planning and shopping tips are among the topics under discussion.

All participants will also receive a **free** food waste caddy.

**Register Now**

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY FOR DETAILS**

**Portlaoise Library**  
Tuesday 6th June 4pm

**Stradbally Library**  
Wednesday 7th June 3.30pm

**Portarlington Library**  
Wednesday 7th June 6pm

**Mountrath Library**  
Thursday 8th June 3.30pm

**Abbeyleix Library**  
Thursday 8th June 6pm

**Mountmellick Library**  
Friday 9th June 12 noon

**Rathdowney Library**  
Friday 9th June 4pm

8 Food Waste cookery demos took place, 7 in libraries and 1 in County Hall. All attendees received a kitchen caddy, a valuable tool for separating food waste and contributing to the brown bin system.

### Climate Change Resource Kit for Primary School Teachers

A new Primary school resource linked to the Abbeyleix Climate Action Walk Animated Series was launched. There are 4 Lesson plans for 2nd-6th classes, each linked to one of the walk videos, with information and activities on a different aspect of climate change.

**LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CLIMATE ACTION LAOIS**

Primary school resource for 2nd-6th class

4 Lesson plans linked to a video clip with information on a different aspect of climate change.

Susan Adams  
Education for Sustainability

Laura NI Mhóille

Dr Niamh Shaw

### New resource for Primary schools, Climate Action Laois.

June 2023, Launch of Climate Action Laois primary school resource with (back row, l-r) Dr Niamh Shaw (Dream Big), Suzanne Dempsey (Laois County

Council) and Susan Adams (Education for Sustainability), and in front row, pupils from Abbeyleix.

An EV van was delivered for a 3 month trial period from SEAI. This will be trialled by the Housing Maintenance Department

### **Community Environmental Grants awarded were:**

Cemetery grants - €14,500 was awarded to burial grounds under the ownership of Laois County Council.

Environmental Community grants scheme - €31,000 was awarded to 94 groups.

Tidy Towns grants – 22 groups were awarded a total of €35,000.

## **SPORTS & LEISURE**

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 saw the official opening ceremony of ‘An Ríocht Spraoi, Borris in Ossory Community Playground, at Wynne Park, Borris in Ossory by An Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Thomasina Connell MCC. This facility is an excellent example of the work of a community, which not only identified a need in their area but also worked tirelessly to be able to address that need in difficult and challenging times. It is an example of what can be done when communities and agencies work together to provide facilities that will benefit not just the children of Borris in Ossory but also the children of the surrounding communities. The playground and multi-use games area, which cost €275,000 to develop is located in a wonderful town centre site was uniquely designed by Sole Sport & Leisure and will be a focal point of activity to bring children to play in a safe environment, where they can have hours of fun.

## **Library Services**

**First Five Little Library** – Laois Libraries are delighted to announce that once again in 2023 the “My Little Library Bag “ initiative is continuing . Every child starting school in September will receive a free Little Library Book Bag. To help children navigate starting school, libraries have put together a bag of books especially for them that can be collected at any library. The initiative is a collaboration between libraries, the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth as part of the First 5 Strategy. For more information, click [here](#).



**Cruinniú na nÓg** was a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18 and took place on Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of Library Events include

**Abbeyleix library** hosted a Coding and Scratch Workshop on Saturday 10th June at 10.30am-12.30pm. for 8-12yrs. Children got the chance to invent their own multimedia instrument with everyday objects,

**Mountmellick Library** hosted Makermeet - a non-traditional **music workshop** from 12.30-1.30 p.m and a **Go Fly a Kite** workshop for 5-11-year-olds where children designed their own kites and take it home to fly over the summer months.

**Portarlinton Library** also hosted a STEAM event with MakerMeet and explored different ways to use Lego to build a moving robot. This workshop was an introduction to using Lego, robotics, how they are used and basic coding.

**Mountrath Library** held an interactive and creative storytelling event with Paul Timoney a children's storyteller.

**Stradbally Library** hosted an author visit & reading from the creator of 'The Last Beekeeper' Johnny Renko

**Rathdowney Library** hosted a free puppet show with Julie Rose Mc Cormick Puppeteer

**Portlaoise Library** Had "Go Fly Your Kite" sessions and interactive storytime with Storyteller Paul Timoney

**Summer Stars** – our Summer Reading Programme commenced in June 2023 and will run throughout July and August. Laois County Libraries has organised a full range of free activities, storytimes and fun reading events to encourage children to join the library and read over the summer click [here](#) for more details.



### **National Food Waste Recycling Week 5th -11th June**

During this week Laois County Library supported this initiative by hosting Cookery demonstrations in all branch libraries to encourage everyone to recycle food waste by providing practical advice along with hints and tips on how easy it is to recycle and get everyone involved. Yvonne Carthy from Hey Pesto! Hosted the workshops promoting National Food Waste Recycling Week. Food waste facts, menu planning and shopping tips were among the topics under discussion. Each participant received a free Waste Caddy



### Library Events -Highlights June 2023

Abbeyleix Library – Call 057 8730020 or email [abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:abbeyleixlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

**Adult Book Club** –Meet on the last Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Next meeting taking place on Thurs, 29th June.

**Chair Yoga Classes** – Classes continuing every week on Thursdays at 12noon. Check in branch for further details.

**Bridge Club** – the club meets every Wednesday at 12noon. New members always welcome.

**Art Gallery** – the gallery is hosting an exhibition by Kilkenny artist, Catherine Holohan. The exhibition KATE|Art is a display of farmyard animals, including dairy cows, depicting their many different personalities. A colourful collection of mixed media on Canvas.

Durrow Library – Call 057 8736090 or email [durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:durrowlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

**Fighting Words Workshop**-A creative workshops was held in the library on

7<sup>th</sup> of June, 10am with the 5<sup>th</sup> Class of Our Lady's Meadow primary school

**Irish Circle** – the Irish Circle group meets in the library on Tuesdays at 6.10pm. Beidh fáilte róimh cupán tae a ól agus cúpla focail Gaeilge a labhairt nó a canadh.

Mountmellick Library – Call 057 8644572 or email [mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

The Gallery in Mountmellick Library is delighted to host from 6-30th June, “**Time Exhibition**” by Laois Quilters. There will also be a raffle draw for a beautiful double bed quilt to benefit Family Carers Ireland.

Art Exhibition: **5th Class St Joseph's Girls** National school exhibited portraits in mixed media in Mountmellick Library for the month of June.

**Mountrath Library** – Call 057 8756378 or email [mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:mountrathlibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

The **Adult Book Club** met on Thursday 8th June at 6.15pm. Our book club choice up for discussion is This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger. Tea/Coffee was provided.

A meeting of the **Local History group** was held on Thursday 1st June at 6.15-7.30pm.

**Ciorcal Comhrá** - Dé hAoine 9ú agus 23ú Meitheamh ag 10am. Bígí linn le caint agus comhrá as Gaeilge agus cupán tae. Fáilte roimh bhail nua!

**Portlaoise Library** – Call 05786 22333 or email [portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:portlaoiselibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

**Genealogy Club** at Portlaoise Library was held on June 21<sup>st</sup> - **Ciorcal Comhrá** The group meet for a chat and conversation / weekly chat in Irish – Irish conversation every Wednesday at 5.30pm-6.30pm.

**Rathdowney Library** – Call 050546852 or email [rathdowneylibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:rathdowneylibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

**Sewing Club:** Monday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30.

**Book Club** Monday 26<sup>th</sup> at 8.00. Our book this month is The Nothing Man by Catherine Ryan Howard

**Women's Shed** please contact library 0505 46852

**Lego Free Play** during opening hours.

**Sensory Toy Resource Collection** – a service for parents of children with additional needs who live in Co. Laois. The toys are designed to support the development of gross motor skills, fine motor skills and communication skills. Take a look at the resource booklet [here](#)

**Stradbally Library** – Call 057 8641673 or email [stradballylibrary@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:stradballylibrary@laoiscoco.ie)

Relaxation and Mindfulness – 1.30-3PM was held on June the 1<sup>st</sup> and June the 8<sup>th</sup> 2023

Creative Writing with LOETB was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

### **Laois Local Studies**

Terry Dunne (Laois Historian-in-Residence 2021-2022) launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> episode of his podcast series .In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Terry discussed agrarian protests and an examination into two court cases from near Mountrath – one in the Dáil system and one in the old U.K. system. Some of these conflicts have a long history — going back as far as the 1870s and we'll get to see how the Dáil Courts related to earlier forms of dispute resolution. Finally, an outline of Lord De Vesci's call for "Dominion Home Rule".



The [Laois Local Studies](#) website for lots more detail on the various collections, materials and photographs available showcasing Laois History and Heritage, including the Colonel James Fitzmaurice Collection, the Helen Roe Collections and many more!

If you wish to unsubscribe from the mailing list, call or email your local library to be removed.

#### Chief Executive's Orders

- ✚ A schedule of Chief Executive Orders signed during the month of June 2023 will be circulated.

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**John Mulholland**  
Chief Executive

June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023

