



Welcome to the July edition of Greener Together. We are pleased to bring you articles about the events we have launched, our anti-litter video, parklets for Portlaoise and our ebike hire.

What a whirlwind these past months have been! June and July were bursting with events. Here's a peek at what's in this month's newsletter:

- Biodiversity Demonstration Garden
- Launch Picture Our Future Exhibition
- Launch: Greener Together
- Gash Gardens
- Midlands Park Bug Hotel
- Anti-Litter video in the cinema
- Parklets
- Smarter Travel Workshop
- BOLT ebikes
- Future Events
- Top Tip

## RECENT EVENTS

### Launch: Biodiversity Demonstration Garden

Laois Education Centre hosted a launch for their new biodiversity garden. The garden at the Laois Education Centre is a delightful outdoor classroom, brimming with native species, habitats, and buzzing pollinators.

This project aligns with the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town (PLCT) initiative and the "Town in a Garden" concept, which aim to integrate green spaces into urban settings, enhancing quality of life and promoting sustainable living.

[Find out more ›](#)





## Launch: Picture Our Future Exhibition

On June 26th, we had a fantastic reception celebrating "Picture Our Future," a one-of-a-kind exhibition at Portlaoise Library.

[Find out more ›](#)

The exhibition has now moved to County Hall, so if you missed it at the library, don't worry! This is your last chance to catch this inspiring showcase in its new location.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to see how our community is coming together to make a difference. Head over to County Hall and be part of the change!



## Launch: Greener Together Newsletter

The Laois Education Support Center unveiled its new biodiversity garden designed as a living classroom. It features habitats like native plants, wildflower meadows, insect hotels, and small ponds to create an ecosystem. The garden shows schools how to enhance biodiversity regardless of size.

Educational signs provide species information, enhancing learning. Resources on the center's website offer guidance for biodiversity projects.

This is expected to inspire similar projects across 200 schools. The garden contributes to broader learning and understanding through its practical biodiversity example. The center invites visits for educational programs and conservation appreciation.

[Watch the Launch here ›](#)

[Learn More ›](#)

## Gash Gardens - Best Practices for increasing biodiversity



The Laois Federation of Tidy Towns had a delightful visit to Gash Gardens on July 10th. Mary Keenan, the garden's proprietor and a former Tidy Towns adjudicator, shared her expert advice on planting strategies. Her tips focused on minimizing the need for weed control, which in turn reduces maintenance and the use of pesticides or herbicides.



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[Find out more ›](#)

## DID YOU KNOW?

### **Anti-litter video in cinema** ***Starting 19th July***

Exciting news! Our Anti-Litter Campaign video is set to hit the big screen in Portlaoise Cinema for the next six weeks. Imagine this: 21,000 moviegoers will see our message before every showing. That's a lot of eyes on our cause!

This is a fantastic opportunity to spread awareness and encourage our community to keep our streets clean. The cinema is a popular spot, and with our video playing before each film, we're sure to make a lasting impression. Plus, who doesn't love a good movie night with a side of social responsibility?

[See the video ›](#)

## Parklets



Ever heard of a parklet? It's like



a mini oasis right on the sidewalk. These nifty little extensions usually take over a few parking spots, transforming them into vibrant, community-friendly areas.

Recently, the folks from Laois County Council, LOETB, Tidy Towns and the Men's Shed took a trip to Cork City to understand the lowdown on how to bring these awesome parklets to life. They explored the ins and outs of the process, gathering all the tips and tricks needed to make it happen in Portlaoise.

## Smarter Travel Lunch and Learn

**Laois Chamber Alliance**  
Advancing business together

**TFI Smarter Travel**  
Behaviour Change Programme

**PORTLAOISE LOW CARBON TOWN**

**Networking Lunch and Learn**

**July 17th**  
12:30pm Laois Chamber Office

Join Laois Climate Action Coordinator Suzanne Dempsey and Siobhan Hamilton from TFI to discuss the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town initiative and the Smarter Travel Programme from TFI.

Learn how your business can get involved in these powerful programmes

Booking: <https://forms.office.com/r/Y5xKgjzyM> or [admin@laoischamber.ie](mailto:admin@laoischamber.ie)

TFI Smarter Travel and Laois County Council recently hosted a lively lunch and learn session. This national program helps employers craft voluntary Workplace Travel Plans to make commuting greener and more fun. Think showers, lockers, secure bike parking, and carpooling options. Plus, with exciting initiatives like annual step challenges and cycling campaigns, it's easier than ever for organizations to inspire their staff to stay active, both on the way to work and in their free time.

## BOLT ebikes



Soon there will be 50 e-bikes available 24/7 at 38 locations across town. Rides cost €0.18 per minute with a €0.20 unlock fee waived for the first two months. Destinations include Lyster Square, Main Street, the

train station and hotels.

These e-bikes come with a nifty dashboard, built-in GPS for easy parking, reliable drum brakes, and a speed cap of 25 km/h. From 10 PM to 5 AM, riders take a quick reaction test on the app to ensure they're fit to ride. If your reaction time is a bit slow, the app will suggest safer alternatives.

## FUTURE EVENTS



### SME Business Briefing

***Tuesday, July 23rd  
from 10am to 11am***

Save money and energy

[Register for free >](#)



### Recycle your bike for free!

***Saturday, July 27th from  
11am to 3pm***

Join the fun with this exciting upcycling initiative!

## Local Enterprise Office increase in grants

The Energy Efficiency Grant supports the investment in technologies and equipment identified in a Green for Business Report, Green Start Report or a SEAI Energy Audit with 75% of eligible costs up to a maximum grant of €10,000.

The aim of the scheme is to reduce the impact of enterprises on the environment thereby increasing the agility and resilience of these businesses, to operate in a sustainable manner.



[Find out more ›](#)

## TOP TIP

### *Fancy a walk?*

Did you know that it takes about 10 minutes to walk 1 kilometre at a moderate pace?

Midlands Regional Hospital to County Hall is a 30 minute walk.

30 minutes of walking helps with: cardiovascular fitness, strengthen bones, reduce excess body fat, and boost muscle power and endurance. It can also reduce your risk of developing conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and some cancers.



[Find out more ›](#)



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