



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



JUNE 2021

QUARTER 2

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to 30th June 2021

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/06/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/06/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	3,230,907	7,477,004	7,307,430	8,242,177	4,076,523
Road Transport & Safety	9,236,463	24,494,642	3,460,566	17,446,380	(5,775,897)
Water Services	2,692,585	7,613,827	3,047,035	7,521,282	354,450
Development Management	2,974,095	7,258,004	1,880,964	2,178,034	(1,093,131)
Environmental Services	2,810,602	5,972,794	249,083	958,825	(2,561,519)
Recreation & Amenity	1,683,509	4,343,863	270,393	554,200	(1,413,116)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	191,563	654,744	152,428	257,532	(39,135)
Miscellaneous Services	4,165,210	5,275,773	2,169,563	2,429,372	(1,995,647)
Central Management Charges	1,727,408	0	110,407	0	(1,617,001)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	3,608,564	10,825,200	3,608,564
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	6,322,365	12,677,652	6,322,365
	28,712,340	63,090,653	28,578,797	63,090,653	(133,543)

Note 1;

The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, Human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

Summary of Major Collections as at 30th June 2021

Debt Type	Opening Balance	Accrued	Vacant Property Adjustments	Write Off/Waivers	Total for Collection	Collected	Closing Balance	Specific Doubtful Arrears	% Collection	% Collection Previous Year
Commercial Rates	2,736,574	12,655,062	892,989	1,834,401	12,664,426	8,220,318	4,443,928	17,400	65%	35%
Rents & Annuities	394,360	2,616,195		(1,604)	3,012,159	2,574,056	438,103		85%	82%
Housing Loans	145,193	116,143			261,336	116,537	144,799		45%	58%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of June 2021

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

A significant milestone was reached in April as part of the process of preparing the *Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027*, with Members agreeing the content of the Draft Plan at a Special Meeting of the Council on 7th April 2021. Following this, the period of public consultation on the Draft Plan commenced on 21st April, running until 2nd July. Webinars were held during the public consultation period - for members of the PPN on 20th May and for the general public on 26th May.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q2 2021. A total of 146 valid planning applications were received, representing a substantial increase from the same period last year in which 91 applications were received during a time of Covid 19 related restrictions in the planning system, and also representing an increase on the Q1 2021 figure of 124.

Decisions were made on 116 applications, of which 105 (90.5%) were grants of permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q2 2021	Valid app	87	59	146
	Extension of Duration	1	5	6
	DED	14	6	20
	Pre-planning meeting	44	41	85

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q2 2021	New enforcement case	33
	General letter	21
	Warning letter	26
	Enforcement notice	3
	Closed case	66
	Legal proceedings	3

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Following the easing of Covid 19 related restrictions in the construction sector from April 12th, contractors were on site at several unfinished housing developments, including five in Boyle, two in Ballyleague and one in Roscommon town.

Developers have also been on site undertaking site resolution works in a number of locations, including two developments in Roscommon and one in Frenchpark.

Following the conclusion of works at a number of developments, four were referred to the Roads Section for the Taking in Charge process - Cois Cuain and Maple Close in Boyle, New Road in Castlerea and Ard Ri in Roscommon.

Two contracts were awarded for the undertaking of a range of site resolution works in the Boyle Municipal District (at developments in Cootehall, Croghan and Cortober) and in the Athlone Municipal District (for three developments in Monksland). A tender was also advertised for a single contract covering works in 4 developments in the Boyle Municipal District (of which two are in Strokestown and one each in Elphin and Tulsk).

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
33 applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2020 and whose deadline date is approaching are being followed up. Once received, claims are being processed in a timely fashion. Funding on offer reverted to 50% on the 1st January 2021. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with booking accepted via the LEO website.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** A projects evaluation meeting took place on June 24th. Five projects were approved for funding.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** A condition of this Scheme is that clients who received refunds (38 in total) must have agreed beforehand to complete a project focused on driving key themes such as Competitiveness, both Operationally and Green, Capability across Leadership, Innovation, Strategic Finance and new Market Development which will support the mitigation of the effects of the Covid-19 and Brexit. The intention is that the funding and associated projects will provide businesses with a platform from which they can sustain and grow, thereby contributing to the recovery of the Irish economy. Tenders were received from 67 consultants, assessed and a Panel formed. All clients have been matched with a suitable mentor and work will be carried out over the next months. This initiative is to be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31st December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 7 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, with 6 successful; 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** Training to support the business community is ongoing and well received.
- **LEO/DCCI Joint Initiative:** A Building Craft & Design Programme has been offered to the Creative Sector, to include a number of partnership initiatives through 2021 and into 2022 to help support the economic stability and growth of their mutual clients in the craft and design industry. It will take place over 7 months and include 8 workshops and 2 one-to-one mentor sessions and London Trade Show research.
Two Roscommon clients have been successful in their application, ie Una Burke Leather and Rita Oates Artist.
- **Networking:** Network Ireland Roscommon Branch hosted a very successful 'live' Business Women of the Year Event on Friday, 25th June at 5pm. The winners will go through to National Awards in October.
- **Remote Mentoring:** General one-to-one mentoring is ongoing. Brexit & Business Advice Clinics were held and continue to be offered on the LEO online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** Planning is in place for the 2021/2022 Programme.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The next Awards will take place in 2022.

- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 2 sites are under enquiry and 3 sites remain for sale.
- **Just Transition:** Tenders have been awarded for the 2 successful feasibility studies.
- **EI:** LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghy, the new West Region Manager, who has also joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee.
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- No decision has been made by Pobal yet in respect to the request for additional funding to continue two Healthy Roscommon projects until the end of the year.
- Pobal have announced that a progress and financial return on Healthy Ireland Fund activities will be due on July 31st 2021.
- Pobal have also given a deadline of July 31st 2021 for the final return of all financial and progress reports relating to the Community Resilience Fund – Keep Well Campaign.

Wellness Campaign:

- **Conversations in Portrait:** RCC are engaging with 8 participants in the Keep Well **Conversations in Portrait** – 3 in Nursing Homes, 5 at home –
- 400 Age Friendly Care Packs distributed to the most isolated throughout the County. (Reps: RCC, HSE, AGS, RLP).

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 4 LEADER claims paid in June
- March and April Admin Monthly Returns

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- There was no LCDC Meeting held in June.

CLÁR

- Work in ongoing with Community Groups as they prepare tenders and quotations for commencement of work on their projects for CLÁR 2020 funded projects.
- 10 applications in total were forwarded to the Department for Rural and Community Development for CLÁR 2021. The successful projects will be announced in July.

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2021

- The allocation for Co. Roscommon was €113,301 this year and the deadline was midnight on 20th June - a total of 77 applications were received.
- As per department guidelines the LCDC grants subcommittee agreed that 30% of the total funds (€39,990.30) be allocated to small scale grants of €1,000 or less with the balance (€93,310.70) to grants in excess of €1,000
- Under Small scale grant of €1,000 or less 26 applications were received totalling €22,917.39. As the 30% ring fenced amount for this section is €39,990.30, there was a balance to fulfil of €17,072.91.
- Under Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 51 applications was received. 11 applications from here were moved to Small scale section in order to exhaust the spend under this element of the scheme. These applications were all for €2,200 or less.
- In total 66 applications were successful while 11 were unsuccessful – all have been notified.
- The deadline for acceptance of grants is Monday 26th July.

Social Inclusion Unit:

Age Friendly Programme:

- AF Walkability Audit of a 'Loop' in Roscommon Town carried out.
- AF Ambassador Appointed – Mr. Paddy Joe Burke
- 'Message in a Bottle' Initiative rolled out in conjunction with the JPC; AGS and Roscommon Lions Club
- Review of AF Strategy progressing.

Migrant Integration Strategy;

- Suggestions sought from Working Group for suitable persons to be identified as possible Community Champions.

Misc.;

- **Comhairle na nÓg:** – Steering Committee Meeting attended
- **Nat. Play Day:** – Application made to the Dept. for Funding for County Roscommon Play Day in conjunction with Roscommon County Childcare Committee – Application successful - €3000 Grant Awarded – Play Day to take place 03.07.21.

SICAP

- SICAP Q3 Drawdown paid to RIDC.

Pride of Place 2021

- Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the All-Island Pride of Place Competition cannot take place in its usual format. Community groups who are entered into the All-Island Pride of Place 2021 competition were asked to submit a detailed submission. Community groups will be judged on their submission.
- A template for the submission was sent to groups along with judging criteria to use as a guideline when completing the submission.
- The detailed Submissions completed by the Groups along with supporting material was submitted to Co-Operation Ireland before the deadline of 23rd June 2021.

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2021

- The groups awarded funding under this scheme are carrying out their small scale capital amenity and local enhancement projects currently and payments are being issued as works are completed.

Heritage

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application:**

The application for this list has now been submitted.

- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum:**

The Heritage Forum held their 3rd meeting on Wednesday 30th June.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

Requests for publications and signage is ongoing and being distributed on a regular basis.

Roscommon County Council is now a partner to the All- Ireland Pollinator Plan. Tidy Towns groups are being encouraged to enter the Local Authority Pollinator Award, supported by the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, in the national Tidy Towns competition. The closing date is July 23rd 2021.

- **Historic Structures Fund 2021**

Works are ongoing as part of the scheme for 2021

- **National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) Grant 2020-2021**

Funding was secured for 2 x projects:

Invasive Alien Species – Japanese Knotweed €18,826

Biodiversity Awareness - €25,600

These projects must be delivered by Q4.

One project called the Irish Hedgehog Survey organised a workshop for people who wanted to volunteer in Roscommon on 02.06.21. A number of people expressed interest in the survey and follow up is taking place to provide tunnels for volunteers.

- **County Roscommon Folklore & Oral History Network:**

A new recording has been collected, edited and sent back to the interviewee for approval. The project and its public interface 'The Roscommon Media Archive' is currently being reviewed and updated in conjunction with the County Library Service.

- **National Heritage Week 2021**

A number of projects are in the works for submission as part of this year's Heritage Week.

- Work ongoing on a flipbook to showcase the conjectural drawings that were produced through funding from Community Monuments Fund 2020. This will be uploaded as a project for Heritage Week in the coming weeks.
- Support is ongoing to various groups/individuals who need assistance promoting their events/projects online.

Tourism

Many attractions/activities now opening on phased basis and many restaurants offering outdoor dining.

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Network:** Marketing campaign for 2021 commenced in June. Recording of Sharon on the Shannon for TG4 in Keadue, Tarmonbarry and Strokestown.

County Marketing:

- **Social Media:** continuing weekly update of EXPLORE ROSCOMMON theme for summer 2021
- **Marketing:** summer marketing scheme of 2 weeks in June on the Trails has been complete and the 2 weeks in July highlighting Activities is ongoing. Video of Roscommon Activities to be released in July to complement the marketing campaign.

Funding

ORIS 2020 – Measure 1

- Video production is ongoing on the 4 Trails video by Spicy Dog Media
- Pedestrian Seating has been installed on Boyle Lough Key Cycleway
- Works on the National Famine way nearing completion
- Dept consent sought to purchase an additional counter for trails

ORIS 2021 – Measure 1

- RCC submitted 6 applications under ORIS 2021 Measure 1 for Cavetown, Gaelic Chieftain, Age Friendly Seating, County Mapping of Trails and Points of interest on Waterways, Lough Errit and Judy's Harbour

ORIS 2021 – Measure 3

- 2nd workshop with The Paul Hogarty Company to agree the final plan for outdoor experience development at Arigna Mining Experience. Working with the Arigna Energy Valley Co Ltd to complete Measure 3 application including design, supports and costing. Application due for submission end July.

Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works commencing on Pleasure Grounds and paths in coming weeks. Delays due to COVID backlog.

Outdoor Dining Fund:

- online application process open for applications (both outdoor dining and more recently Public houses) until Sept. To date 18 applications received

King House

- New Curator commenced duties under 18-month contract
- Tour guides will have commenced at end of June for summer season to end Sept
- Mary McAleese Exhibition reinstated for 2021
- Recording of film in King House (13 Days) took place over 2 weeks at end of June, The House also facilitated the Costume and makeup rooms and was the main base for the film crew for the 2 weeks recording
- RRDF Funding – Discussions on going with Connaught Rangers and Shane Forsythe in regard to exhibition development

Douglas Hyde

- Centre opened end June and will remain open until Sept (open wed to Sunday 10.30am to 4.30 pm). 2 Tour Guides working for summer season.

Covid 19 Initiatives:

- **Roscommon Community Response Forum:**

As part of the Government's response to the COVID-19 crisis, Roscommon County Council in partnership with principal response agencies and community and voluntary groups have come together to form the Community Response Forum to lead the co-ordination of the COVID-19 community supports and resilience. The Forum brings together a number of organisations to identify vulnerable groups and individuals in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

The Forum continues to meet regularly to discuss and resolve matters utilising the expertise contained within this multi partnership team.

- **Community Support Response Helpline:**

Roscommon County Council in partnership with An Garda Síochána and Roscommon Leader Company have set up a 24-hour Freephone community support response help line to assist in the delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

Arts Office

Artists

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.
- Awarded funding in the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme Engaging Artists and Professionals for involvement.
- Artscope awarded tender for Event Management under LLPPS

Music

- **Music Generation Roscommon** provided 7 Cruinniú na nÓg Projects for ages 4-18

Film

WRAP II and SLR Film

- Film Liaison: Mike Hourigan continues to assist in coordinating the advancement of the film sector within the region as the local point of contact for production companies, producers, directors, locations managers. Film prep work in Boyle to commence filming end June in King House and in private houses and on street (traffic stop/start system will be used).

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

- Summer Programme Announced, featuring online and in person/outdoor workshops and film camp

Literary Development Programme

- Roscommon New Writing Award, Chapbook Bursary, Writer Mentoring – Winners and Successful applicants announced. 2 upcoming writers to receive mentoring support, one Chapbook Bursary Awarded to Anne Byrne, previous winner of the Roscommon New Writing Awards.

- Autumn Leaves Broadsheet announced-open for submissions of Poetry, short fiction and non-fiction. Year 2 of this publication

Creative Ireland

- 18 projects via Culture Team: Arts Office, Arts Centre, Heritage Office, Tourism Office, Library incl Cathaoirleach's Award. Ongoing grant payments
- Project Knockcroghery-Burning of the Village Commemoration event supported under Decade of Centenaries Programme
- 13 Open Call projects. Ongoing payments
- Creativity in Older Age: Artist Laura Earley - A creative exploration of positive ageing amongst the farming community with a particular focus on the Roscommon Livestock Marts.
- *Cruinniú na nÓg* Saturday 12th June. Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people – and entire families. 17 online and outdoor events organised by Arts Office, Library, Roscommon Arts Centre, Music Generation Roscommon and Roscommon County Youth Theatre. Artist engagement funded. Public engagement level high and all projects successful

Culture Night

- Programming for Culture Night Sept 17th
- Call out to Artist and Venues

Planning re **Outdoor Public Space Scheme** and **Local Live Performance Programme Scheme**.

Roscommon Arts Centre

Visual Art

Barbara Kenevicz's exhibition *'Tools for Well Being'* continued at the arts centre and the second exhibition of 2021 **Anna Spearman's "Loose Parts"** opened on June 29th. An accompanying video of Anna in her studio space and also on site speaking about the work was also produced, together with a Critical Text in response to the show by Visual Art Writer in Residence Joanne Laws. Both are available to view online at: roscommonartscentre.ie

Cruinniu na nOg

The arts centre participated in Cruinniu na nOg with two online events. The first **"An Ant called Amy"** is a new theatre show for young audiences which was first conceived as part of a Roscommon Arts centre commission award by Roscommon practitioner Julie Sharkey and which the centre has continued to support the development of over the years. With the support of the Creative Ireland programme, the production was completed and recorded at the arts centre before premiering online this month.

The second event was programme in association with the LIVE Literary network, of which we are a member, **"Observational Storytelling with Sarah Bowie"**, writer and co-founder of the Comic Lab. Over 270 people engaged with the events over the weekend of June 12th.

Creative Engagement:

Roscommon Arts Centre's Creative Learning Programme "Kaleidoscope" continued in primary schools throughout the month of June with a range of artistic engagements taking place online. In total 472 primary school children in twelve schools participated in 22 events

Community Project: Playing on the Radio:

The radio play project with members of Roscommon Drama Group commenced in June. 11 members of the group have commenced rehearsals online with Roscommon native and Fair City actor Enda Oates. Enda has selected two plays “The Tinkers Wedding” and “Spreading the News” for production later this year. Shannonside FM have also tentatively agreed to come on board as a broadcast partner for this project, which has been made possible by Creative Ireland funding.

Fregoli Theatre Company

This month our resident theatre company commenced Phase 2 of their residency with preparations for live street performances in July of “Angels” in both Roscommon town and at Boyle Arts Festival. A second site-specific Fregoli project for Boyle Arts Festival “Castle Tales” is now also in development for next month. The company are also prepping a workshop programme for primary and second level students at the EROC centre in Ballaghaderreen where they will spend a week in July on-site working with 50+ young people.

Artist Supports:

June saw a number of initiatives announced to support artists:

Words Ireland National Literary Mentorship Award: This award offers an opportunity to a writer or poet to receive literature mentoring over a 6 – 8 month period. Hosted in association with Words Ireland, the closing date for applications is July 22nd.

Wings 21 Residency: This Creative Ireland funded residency was advertised this month via a national open call. The residency will provide an artist working in any discipline with the opportunity to avail of a two-month paid residency (€4000) opportunity at Roscommon Arts Centre. Wings 21 will provide an artist with the time, space and resources to develop a project/body of work and/or develop their own practice with mentored support. Wings 21 will take place over the autumn/winter period at the centre.

Studio 21: This open call is aimed at professional artists whose practice would benefit from access to studio/workshop space for periods of up to 4 weeks at the centre this summer. The programme will commence in July 21.

Strategic Developments:

Funding was secured in 2020 via The Arts Council’s Capacity Building Scheme to undertake two strategic plans – An Audience Development Plan which is now being developed in-house, led by the Marketing Officer with mentored support from Blue Line Arts Consultants.

Blue Line Consultants have also been appointed to develop a new 3 – 5 year Strategic Plan for the arts centre. It is anticipated that both plans will be completed by September 2021.

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund:

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Construction is progressing well
- Ongoing engagement with local business and residents
- Promotion of the project also ongoing

Rural Regeneration Development Fund:

Castlerea Hub Extension:

- Updated construction tender documents being finalised with tendering process scheduled to take place in Q 3.

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Construction has commenced and is progressing to plan.

Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- The design process is continuing with the consultants.

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Preliminary design completed and project proceeding to Part 8 planning process in July.

ORIS 2019

- Road work element on Rindoon project completed.
- Significant proportion of Judy's harbour element also completed.

Town and Village 2019

- 7 projects were approved for funding under the 2019 scheme to the value of €688,000. These are Athleague, Castlerea, Creagh, Gortaganny, Rooskey, Keadue and Tulsk.

Athleague

- Group working on Fishing Stands and videos.
- Welcome signage has been put up, more landscaping completed.

Castlerea

- Approach Road Signage ordered
- Tourist Information Boards ordered
- Painting element is currently being completed.

Gortaganny

- Planning permission approved for car park.
- Difficulty with footpath and alternative options being considered.

Rooskey

- RCC element of project is complete and Waterways Ireland element is on track for completion mid- August.

Keadue

- Contract for works has been awarded. Delayed due to Covid and will be in later part of 2021 due to bare root planting element.

Creagh

- Completed.

Town and Village 2020

Town & Village – Standard.

- All groups have been contacted re rollout process and initial work has been commenced on detailed design where required.

Town & Village – Covid 19 Measure

- 14 projects were approved.
- Athleague, Castlerea, Keadue, Monksland, Boyle, Brideswell, Dysart
Support to Broadband Connection Points Roscommon North – Creeve, Dangan, Drumboylan and Tawnytaskin, Support to Broadband Connection Points Roscommon South – Gortaganny, Cam, Ballybay and Kilmurry Community Centre, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Kiltewan, Strokestown, Elphin and Ballyforan.
- 7 projects have been completed with 7 projects due for completion by the end of August and one the end of October.

Town and Village 2021

- Information webinar held for community groups
- 10 Expressions of Interest received for the 2021 scheme – closing date 4th June
- EOI's will be developed into full applications which will then issue to the DRCD for decision.
- Each Local Authority can submit 8 applications in the following categories:
 - 1 application for funding up to €500k
 - 2 applications for funding up to €250k
 - 4 applications for funding up to €100k
 - 1 Development Measure for funding up to €50k

Historic Towns Initiative Roscommon 2021

- A successful application for properties on Upper Abbey Street, Goff Street and Castle Street was submitted to the heritage Council.
- Tender process for construction works has been completed.
- Owners have been briefed on the process and correspondence issued regarding match funding contributions.

Large Scale Sports Capital Infrastructure Scheme

- Initial announcement of funding towards detailed design work was announced. Supplementary information to complete stage 7 assessment has been ongoing with the Department.

Destination Towns

- Works scheduled to commence the first week of August in Pleasure Grounds in Boyle.

Roscommon Bound - Global Rossie Project

- Work on social media element is ongoing and information on various projects of the Regeneration team is being highlighted.

- There are now 1,181 in the Roscommon Bound network from all over the world, 4,112 followers on Facebook, 709 followers on Twitter and 618 followers on Instagram.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

- Measure 2: Doon Shore: tendering process has commenced.
- Measure 2: Portrun: design currently being finalised before works go to tender.
- Measure 3 – Mote Park – work has yet to commence on this project.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2021 Category 2

- Applications currently being prepared under Category 2 of the RRDF 2021 which has a closing date of the 30th July.

AEC

- The AEC Strategy and the AEC Hubs Strategy are nearing completion and awaiting ministerial sign-off.
- The establishment of a community network and booking engine, for Hubs within the AEC, is ongoing.
- AEC Hub Strategy is now going to be rolled out nationally due to Covid.

Just Transition

- Cloontuskert Visitor Centre: tenders being assessed and consultant to be appointed.
- Ballyleague boardwalk: tenders being assessed and consultant to be appointed.
- Mid Shannon Wilderness Park: tenders for consultants to undertake strategic needs assessment and business case issued. Closing date for submissions July.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Service Points

Following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, the libraries in Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon town reopened from Tuesday 11th May 2021. During May and June, more than 5,500 people visited libraries to borrow almost 9,000 items. The mobile library commenced a service to Elphin, Strokestown and Ballaghaderreen Libraries.

Small Scale Capital Works

The construction works in Strokestown Library are nearing completion with fit-out of furniture and shelving due to commence in the coming weeks.

Sense-Ability

Sense-Ability is a collaborative project between the County Council Library Services in Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon. It is supported by each of the Local Authorities and the Dormant Accounts Fund through the Department of Rural and Community Development. It aims to deliver sensory friendly library services for neuro-diverse people in the community.

The project was launched in May 2021 by Cllr Laurence Fallon, Cathaoirleach, Roscommon County Council with a series of six online seminars with expert speakers discussing topics in neurodiversity. The series was highly successful with almost 500 individual registrations and live viewer numbers approaching 100 each night. Details of the service including videos of each event are available at www.roscommoncoco.ie/Sense-Ability

The library service engaged with a professional Occupational Therapist to develop an extensive list of sensory equipment that will form part of a lending collection. A sensory pod was installed in Roscommon Library at the recommendation of the Occupational Therapist. This will become available as soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow.



Library Events and Activities – Right to Read

Children across Roscommon are being encouraged to visit their local library to sign up for Summer Stars. Children receive a bag, a notebook and a record card to keep track of all the reading they are doing while schools are closed. This is a part of the Right to Read. The library service is running a range of online events and competitions to encourage children to engage with the Summer Stars Programme. Roscommon County Council has received the Right to Read Award 2020 in recognition of its implementation of a core programme of Right to Read literacy support services in 2020.

Cruinniú na nÓg

The library service joined in this national day of creativity for young people on the 12th June with Sensory Friendly Storytime delivered by a Speech and language therapist through social media platforms.

HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

Homelessness & Housing Allocations

Homelessness:

A range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Framework Homelessness Action Plan are in place. The Western Region Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022 has been prepared by the lead Council (Galway City Council) with input from the other authorities in the region.

- 18 = homeless cases presented in Q2, 2021
- 5 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q2, 2021

Breakdown Homeless figures Q2 2021				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	5	1	6	1Ad/2Ch
May	3	1	4	1Ad/2Ch
June	8	0	8	N/A

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
April	0	0	0	N/A
May	0	1	1	1Ad/2Ch
June	4	0	3	N/A

Galway Simon has been awarded the contract to provide Housing First services to the remainder of the Western Region (it was already contracted to provide these services for Galway City Council). Resources to support six Housing First applicants over a three-year period will be made available to County Roscommon under the Housing First programme. A Homeless Action Team (HAT) has been established to facilitate the coordination of Housing-led and Housing First support services. To date three referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Three referrals have been accepted onto Housing First and units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of Housing First tenancies.

Housing Assessments & Allocations:

The 2020 Housing Needs Assessment commenced in September 2020 and was finalised on 07 December, 2020.

- 311 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q2, 2021
- 676 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation
- 18 = offers of accommodation made in Q2, 2021

- 34 = nominations made to AHB
- 27 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q2, 2021
- 1 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q2, 2021
- 12 = refusals recorded in Q2, 2021 (10 AHB and 2 RCC)

Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 June, 2021, there are 379 households receiving support (271 private rented and 108 in voluntary housing).

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. 31 HAP tenancies were opened in Q2 and 35 were closed in the same period. As of 30 June, 2021, there were 474 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

No significant change since Q4 2020; summary of activity end Q2, 2021 is as follows:

- 71 = applications were received and were assessed since the scheme was rolled out in Q1, 2017; the majority of the applications related to properties outside areas of need/demand or were remote rural dwellings in poor condition
- 3 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)

Leasing- Long-term Leasing and RAS-Type leases:

- As of 30 June 2021, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 30 June, 2021, Roscommon County Council has 40 active RAS Type leases throughout the county.
- Two MTR leases were granted in Q2 of 2021, which brings the total to ten MTR (5 with AHB's & 5 with HFL) leases in place.

Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

- 3 units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 and completed in Q2, 2021
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 and completed in Q1, 2021
- 16 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Contractor appointed, works commenced in September 2020 with expected completion for Q4, 2021 (works suspended between January and April 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions)

- 10 units Elphin Street, Strokestown – Works commenced on site in late October 2020 with expected completion for Q4, 2021 (works suspended between January and April 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions)
- PPP Bundle 2 at The Walk (53 units) - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with completion achieved in Q2 2021. (works partially suspended between January and April 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions)
- 6 units at Windmill Rd., Elphin. – Stage 1 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q4, 2020.
- 4 Units at Lake View Heights, Boyle - Stage 1 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q1, 2021.
- 8-10 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Stage 1 Received in Q1 2021.

Housing Association Activity:

Housing association activity in County Roscommon appears to have declined. It is suspected that the cost of new build via third parties (turnkey delivery method) versus market rents in the County are a factor.

- Tuath proposal for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksfield, Athlone – A Building Agreement/Contract of Sale was entered into between Tuath Housing Association and the Developer on 31 October, 2019. An extension to the back stop delivery date was sought by Tuath and granted by RCC and the Department. New delivery date was Jan 2021. However, due to Covid 19 restrictions in 2020 and Q1, 2021, the expected delivery date will be late 2021/early 2022.

LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

Roscommon County Council sought expressions of interest in June 2021 to buy and refurbish long term vacant property for social housing use under the Buy and Renew Scheme. The focus under the Buy and Renew will be on older stock in urban areas with a view to tackling dereliction and improving streetscapes in urban areas of Roscommon, Castlerea, Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Elphin or Strokestown. 34 applications were received. These applications are currently being assessed under the terms and conditions of the Buy and Renew Scheme.

As of 30 June, 2021, Roscommon County Council acquired 3 houses under the acquisition programme. While some acquisitions will be permitted for 2021, the budget for single dwelling acquisitions will be nominal as funding is diverted towards the delivery of houses under the construction programme.

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:

- 2 Lough Road post-fire reconstruction project – Completed in Q1, 2021
- Proposal for 2 additional units at Cluain Airne, Killarney is stage 2 approved by the Department, part 8 process to commence in Q3 2021.
- Proposal to alter units at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown is also in progress (one-bed units to be combined into larger more functional units); Part 8 planning approved in Q1, 2021, works commencing in Q3 2021.
- Approval received from the department for the refurbishment of 4 units at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown; Works completed in Q1, 2021

Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:

- 1 derelict rural house was sold in Q2, 2021.
- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle was advertised in Q2, 2021 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received at this time.

Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. As at 31 March 2021, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

176	=	applications received to date
94	=	offers made to date
66	=	offers accepted to date
41	=	sales completed to date

Private Rented Accommodation Standards

Inspections of private rented dwellings are carried out under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

All inspections were suspended from the 30th December 2020 due Covid-19 restrictions, Level 5 Lockdown.

- Prior to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the recommended inspection target for Roscommon in 2021 was 745 inspections.
- 90 inspections were carried out in Q2 (April, May & June) 2021, 14 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- “Virtual Inspections” commenced in Q2 of 2021 on a pilot basis.

Housing Stock**Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):**

- Funding under the Just Transition Midlands Retrofit Programme has been identified for a number of counties in the midlands, including County Roscommon. RCC have procured Collins Boyd Engineers and Architects as consultants to manage the project. The project entails energy efficiency upgrades to 50 LA units in Roscommon. Surveys commenced in July, 2020 with target completion of the works scheduled for Q4, 2021; however, progress has been adversely affected by Covid-19 restrictions. Works in progress.
- RCC have received approval for the upgrade of a further 26 units (increased from 13) in 2021 under the Energy Efficiency Retrofit programme (EERP). Surveys commenced in Q1, 2021 with target completion of the works scheduled for Q4, 2021. Contractor to be appointed in Q3 2021.

Voids Programme:

There are no viable ‘voids’ (at least 6 months vacant) remaining within the housing stock and the national ‘voids’ programme has essentially ended. Any remaining non-viable (derelict) units are in

isolated rural locations with low or no demand. These properties will be sold unless a specific demand presents in the meantime.

- **Voids (2021 programme)**

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., has approved a major investment in the 2021 Voids Programme which will build on the momentum from 2020, enhance social housing delivery considering the impact of the pandemic on new social housing supply and further aid the transition to a planned maintenance approach to stock management and maintenance. The 2021 Voids Programme will support the refurbishment of c. 3,000 vacant properties Nationally including properties vacant less than 6 months. Roscommon County Council have received funding for the refurbishment of 40 units at a cost of circa €500k.

Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 17 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q2, 2021 at a cost to date of €208,477 (excluding any outstanding payments).

Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 305 maintenance calls in Q2, 2021 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €151,359.93.

Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

Housing grant funding allocated to County Roscommon for 2021 was €1,190,393.00 (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded). Despite the ongoing COVID 19 restrictions which commenced in March 2020, the Council has committed its full allocation for 2021, as follows:

HOP – 80 Approved
HGD – 69 Approved
MAG – 47 Approved

To date, 18 applications for Disabled Persons Grants (works on Local Authority Housing Stock) with an estimated cost of €333,600.00, have been received and are under consideration for 2021, however, this value may increase given the current increased costs of materials. A Disabled Persons Grant allocation of €355,500.00 (90% Department funded and 10% Roscommon County Council funded) for the current year was received.

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

ASSETS/FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing – update of Folios received from PRA and being evaluated for submission to OPW in Q3 2021
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon to all Sections – partial completion to date with reminders issued
- Housing Assets being reconciled with iHouse
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Policy documents approved and signed off for:
 - Disposal of Land/Property
 - Acquisition of Land/Property
 - Property Asset Management Planand to place on Intranet Document Library
- Form for Property Condition Surveys developed and to trial in Q3 2021
- Role of Facilities Management to clarify and implement from Q3 2021 including re-naming of Section

ENERGY

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme –**
 - Agreement signed on 25th April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Niall Kiernan, assigned to Roscommon County Council and meetings taking place online due to Covid-19 restrictions – most recently of 24th June, 2021
 - Energy Action Plan 2021 – to review and update
- **Grant Applications –**
 - BEC Application(s) to consider in 2021 for King House, Boyle, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Library HQ and Aras an Chontae with approval subject to funding constraints and Budget resources
- **Energy Elephant software –**
 - Ongoing monitoring and review of significant energy usage in RCC Buildings and Vehicles
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme –**
 - Submission in respect of Aras an Chontae accepted
 - Monitors installed in June, 2017 and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing – subject to data commissioning / verification.
 - New OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, appointed and meetings taking place online due to Covid-19 restrictions
 - Monitors installed to 5 no. Buildings in Roscommon Town and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing with support from ResourceKraft - subject to data commissioning / verification
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M & R) 2020 –**
 - Data for 2020 – Part 1 submitted by 29th January, 2021 and Part 2 by 14th May, 2021.

- Currently at 38.1% of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2020 energy usage

PUBLIC LIGHTING

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Funding Applications:
- 2021** – Funding Application submitted in Q1 2021 for 24 no. PLs at various locations in Co. Roscommon (this represents balance of TII PLs in Co. Roscommon) and approval received in June, 2021
- Survey of all School Warning Lights in Co. Roscommon completed and Final Report issued – review of repairs/possible upgrades ongoing, subject to funding
 - Section 85 Agreement signed with Mayo County Council for the National LED Retrofit Project – Co. Roscommon forms part of Region 3 of the National Project with an expected commencement of Q4 2021/Q1 2022
 - Loan Approval for the National LED Retrofit Project placed before and approved by the Members of RCC at Plenary Meeting of 21st December, 2020
 - Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade – ongoing
 - Connaught Public Lighting Maintenance, LED Retrofit, New Works & Associated Services – Tender prepared by Mayo County Council on behalf of Six Connacht Local Authorities. Documentation reviewed and Evaluation process completed with Electric Skyline Ltd appointed in October, 2020
 - Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – continuing in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections

CLIMATE ACTION

- Draft RCC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) 2019 – 2024 - adopted by Members of Roscommon County Council at September Plenary Meeting of 23rd September, 2019
- CCAS 2019 – 2024 Progress Report to be completed and submitted to Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office in Q4 2021 – this forms part of the national report on Adaptation Strategies to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- RCC Climate Action Implementation Team – Section nominations completed and 2 no. meetings held in Q3 2020 with further meetings dependent on CARO Training Programme (ongoing) and passing by the Oireachtas of Climate Action Act
- RCC represented at inaugural Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) sub-Region Meeting – further meetings being held online subject to Covid-19 restrictions

SECTION UPDATE

- Climate Action and Energy Management functions to be aligned with and reported on from Q3 2021 by Environment Section

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- The Annual Report 2020 was adopted at the June Plenary Meeting.
- COVID-19: All Roscommon County Council public offices remained closed to the public in Quarter 2 due to the pandemic restrictions and services are available by telephone, email, online, post and where necessary by appointment only.
- At a Special Plenary Meeting of the Council on 11th May, Cllr. Emer Kelly was Co-Opted to replace Cllr. Ivan Connaughton, who resigned.
- At the Annual Meeting on 21st June, Cllr. Joe Murphy was elected as the Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council, succeeding Cllr. Laurence Fallon. Cllr. Orla Leyden was elected as Leas Cathaoirleach.

Communications:

The Communications Unit monitors and updates social media channels, with creative content to enhance engagement with the public and maintain awareness of the Council.

Roscommon County Council Corporate Social Media Channels From 1st April to 30th June, 2021:



WATER AND WASTE WATER

There is an ongoing extensive Infrastructural portfolio, Capital Programme portfolio and Water Networks portfolio in place for Water and Waste Water schemes in the County. The following is a summary of works planned and underway.

INFRASTRUCTURE PORTFOLIO:

Roscommon Town Main Drainage:

The key objective of the Roscommon Town Main Drainage project is to address and remove the drivers for the Roscommon Agglomeration being listed on the EU Commission's Letter of Formal Notice 2015 under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Tobin Consulting Engineers have been appointed as the Clients Representative for the project. A recommendation and paper was submitted to the board of IW to seek a budget to commence the construction works.

Ministerial consent was issued on 26th May 2021. The contract was awarded to GMC Utilities Ltd. Works commenced on 15th June 2021.

The following is a brief summary of the works involved.

- Installation of 7.2km of new higher capacity sewers and rising mains.
- Upgrade of six existing storm water overflows and decommissioning a further six.
- Construction of a new inlet pumping station, balancing tank and storm water holding tank at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- New/upgraded pumping stations with stormwater storage at Circular Rd, Castlerea Rd, Ardsallagh and Ballinagard.

The expected duration of the works is eighteen months with an estimated cost of €20m.

Upgrade works to Ballaghadereen Waste Water Treatment Plant:

The Ballaghadereen WWTP has been included under the 2017-2021 Investment Plan for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of UWWTD compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. The project has moved to a new delivery mechanism and will now be progressed under the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Contract. The National ECI contracts are divided into two regions with Roscommon County in the Northern Region. The successful Contractor within this region is Veolia who has now taken over the project since January 2020.

A project brief of the proposed upgrade has now been issued to Veolia. Veolia is currently proceeding with a proposed detailed design in consultation with all parties having their input to the overall outcome to the delivery of the project.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the ECI project are:

- Upgrade the terminal Pumping Station with increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works
- Upgrade the site Boundaries by separation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance to both Irish Water and Roscommon County Council
- Upgrade the Secondary Treatment process in order to improve capacity of the existing process
- Associated ancillary site works including upgrade of the SCADA System

Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study was undertaken in Monksland and Boyle to accurately estimate the condition of the existing networks and the flow and load arriving to the Wastewater Treatment works. This Drainage Area Plan work was carried out by

Nicholas O'Dwyer Consulting Engineers together with McCloys Water and Environmental Consulting Engineers.

The manhole and sewer CCTV surveys for both towns, Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle have been completed. A Model build for the networks on both towns was carried out. A Technical Solution Development Report was issued for both locations in June 2018 and following on from this a Process Optimisation Report for Monksland was developed.

There are no capital works planned at present.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:

Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme (IWSS):

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry WWTP has been included in this programme. JB Barry has been appointed as Consulting Engineers. A Conceptual Design was completed in Q4 2018. A technical options report has been reviewed and approved. Irish Water asset planning have reviewed the report and the following upgrade works have been approved: New inlet works, a storm tank and replacement of the old sludge tank with a larger sludge tank together with associated mechanical and electrical works and upgrades.

There is currently no Roscommon WWTP in the IWSS Programme for RC3 (Revenue Control). The only Roscommon WWTP in the top 50 priorities is Termonbarry WWTP which is currently unlikely to progress to contractor design/construction in RC3.

National Certs of Authorisation Programme (NCAP):

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed and are currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. sites in County Roscommon. The assessment is based on the impact the asset has on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff have engaged with RPS and have provided detailed information on each of the plants that have been examined under this programme. A draft site assessment report on each of the above locations was reviewed in Q2 2019 and commented on by Roscommon County Council Operations engineers.

RPS are in the process of preparing technical options reports for each of the sites based on the recommendations contained in the site assessment reports. A technical options reports were circulated in Q3 2020. It is anticipated that a programme of works will be rolled out for some of these sites under the 2021-2022 programme of work.

There is currently no Roscommon WWTP approved for NCAP capital funding.

Water Treatment Programme.

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. Advance works are completed at Mount Talbot WTP. Raw water data gathering is ongoing. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade. Detail design for the source protection works is to be submitted. Construction works are expected to commence in Q3 2021.

Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.

Leakage has been identified in clear water tank no.2 at North Roscommon WTP. Approval received to install a new scour valve and chamber.

Investigations are to be carried out at Ballyfeeney reservoir on 16th July 2021.

Advance Investigation Works Programme.

This is a €1.5million Regional Programme. Mechanism for carrying out investigation works to include as part of upcoming tenders, optimise existing treatment processes and to gather data which will aid decisions on future treatment plant upgrades. Due to funding constraints, this programme has been suspended.

Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme.

This is a regional programme aimed at addressing medium and high-risk items identified in HSQE audits. IW have requested a review of any outstanding HSQE items that may be considered for delivery under this programme. A site assessment is due shortly at Monksland WWTP bio towers.

Storm Water Overflow Assessment Programme.

Jacobs/Tobins appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of current list of WWTP's and storm water overflows (SWO's) is completed. Site assessments reports on all sites are expected in the coming weeks.

Waste Water Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme.

Jacobs have been appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. A review of the top 10 priority pumping stations and top 3 priority rising mains has been carried out. Surveys were due to commence in mid-March but were suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

A survey of Ballyfarnan WWPS was carried out in May 2021. We await the findings to determine works required.

Waste Water Below Ground Telemetry Programme.

The WWBG Telemetry programme provides for installation of telemetry outstations at WW pumping station sites in order to allow early warning in case of spills to sensitive waters and to obtain data for future upgrades, connection requests, etc. All sites covered under this programme will be connected to interim National Telemetry System (iNTS). Each local authority will have a full access to data from sites in their county.

The programme has been running since 2018 with the priority sites being WWPSs that are located close to **shellfish, bathing and sensitive waters**. We are at a stage now where all these WWPSs are in hand/complete and there was capacity in the programme to add a limited number of pumping stations. This allowed us to add 10 per region to the programme for 2020. One pumping station was selected - Boyle Bridge WWPS.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme.

All reservoirs and clear water tanks are cleaned up to date. The programme remains in place for future cleaning works.

Sewer Rehabilitation Programme.

AECOM have been appointed by IW to develop a National Sewer Rehabilitation Programme. A workshop was held with IW, RCC and AECOM to identify areas for rehabilitation. CCTV surveys have been completed on sections of sewer at Boyle and Ballyleague.

Sewer rehab works have been completed in Boyle and Ballyleague.

Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.

It is proposed that there will be a Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme which will support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF (e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach under National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF). The Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme is intended to provide WWTP and WTP growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the Investment Plan.

It is anticipated that local authorities will be notified of successful projects on a staggered basis from Q2 2021 as project details are agreed.

Energy Efficiencies – Heating & Lighting Programme.

A list of sites has been issued to IW for inclusion in this programme.

National Water Resources Plan.

Irish Water is currently developing the first National Water Resources Plan (NWRP). The NWRP sets out the strategy of how we will move towards an environmentally sustainable, secure and reliable drinking water supply over the next 25 years. The plan involves assessing the external factors that will impact our water supplies, including changing environmental legislation, government policy on growth, spatial planning, water usage patterns and climate change. The plan also provides the

framework for developing new water supply assets that will improve the reliability, sustainability and resilience of the water supply over future investment cycles.

As part of the plan, we will assess the water availability at all of our existing supplies and compare these to demand profiles over the next 25 years. The demand profiles include for growth, based on the national planning framework and leakage reduction targets. The plan also includes our proposed methodology for developing interventions where supply demand balance deficits are identified. Two regional workshops have been held to date.

A submission on the draft framework plan was submitted to Irish Water.

WATER NETWORKS PORTFOLIO:

Water Network Framework Programme:

Irish Water has rolled out a Water Network Portfolio under its Capital Investment Plan 2017 to 2021. Works intended to be rolled out under this programme include:

- New mains and service laying.
- Back yard lead replacement.
- DMA establishment.
- Pressure management.
- Resolution of shared services.
- First fix.
- Lead services.

Water Networks Rehabilitation Programme.

Contract Works:

Farrans Ltd are the appointed regional contractor to undertake works on behalf of Irish Water. Snagging to be completed in Roskey, Roscommon Town and Castlereagh.

Note the following rehab works to proceed in Roscommon for 2021 are as follows:

- Roscommon Town in conjunction with Public realm works.
- Tibohine – Design (4.8km) & Construction (1.9km). Works commenced on 8th June.
- Willsbrook – Design & Construction. Due to commence in September 2021.

- Ardmore – Design only. Design walk over carried out 1st July 2021.

Direct Labour Works:

Assistance provided on public realm works in Roscommon Town.

Find and Fix Programme:

The Find & Fix scheme involves leak detection crews undertaking surveys to prove the extent of the supply area, 'Step testing' to focus areas with leakage and using sounding and logging equipment on footpaths and other public areas to find the leaks. Once the leaks are found a repair crew then completes the repair. In Q2 of 2021 Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has resumed working after a stand down due to Covid 19 Construction sector restrictions, focusing on a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone and in North Roscommon Water Supply Zone where unaccounted for water levels are high. Target Leakage reduction has been achieved in a number of DMAs and are now closed and handed back to the operations caretakers. Other DMAs are still being investigated and in some cases have been split into sub DMAs to assist in leakage reduction and operational management process. Roscommon County Council Direct labour crew are currently working in the Boyle Regional Water Supply Zone in North Roscommon. This ongoing find and fix work has resulted in a reduction of unaccounted for water within County Roscommon and will continue to do so over the lifetime of the programme. Pressure Management proposals have been investigated and where potential reduction of pressure and flows could be achieved, pressure reducing valves have been proposed and installed. Ongoing monitoring indicates reasonable savings as a result.

First Fix Programme.

Farrans Construction has been appointed by IW to carry out works under this programme. The duration depends on the take up by customers who will avail of the scheme. Letters have been issued to customers with meter usage <1M3/day. Farrans Construction will undertake the find and fix for customers who wish to avail of the scheme.

Non-Domestic Meter Replacement.

Farrans commenced exchanging meters in Roscommon. They have commenced replacing DN15 concentric meters. We have a list of just under 2000 concentric meters for Roscommon. These are matched Non Domestic meters which have no reads.

Leakage Management System.

Netbase is now operational. However, Primeworks is still operational and is being supported by IT until the end of 2021.

IW allowed us to proceed with the establishment of a system that will allow caretakers/supervisors access to logged meter data from their phones/laptops. This system will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2019-2021

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 is a scheme specific or project based approach to funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.

The objective for this cycle is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs to support the implementation of proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas. This is to assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to rural water supplies

and to support the delivery of measures identified in the *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

The 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme consists of eight measures. These measures reflect the key challenges currently facing the rural water sector in respect of funding support. In particular, the measures have been more expressly focused around a 'multiple barriers' approach, from catchment to consumers (source – treatment - distribution), to prevent the contamination of, and ensure that, drinking water is safe and meets the quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Approval of the schemes/projects under the MARWP 2019-2021 and the grant funding allocations were received from the Department in Circular letter dated 14th October, 2019.- €2,861,263

The eight funding measures are:

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- Funding approved for the GWS Pilot Project at Peak Mantua, Polecat Springs, Corracreigh, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber & Castlestrange GWS and additional works at Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange GWS' -total available €351,150 for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at protecting the raw water source of existing group water schemes thus contributing to the safety of water users through the ability of the scheme to sustainably achieve compliance with the water quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis.

Roscommon County Council are working in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other stakeholders on a Source Protection Pilot Project developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of Group Water Schemes drinking water. The work commenced in 2018 and continued in Q2 2021. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans.

Works undertaken to date at a cost of €216,095 were 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Further works were undertaken at Brusna and Castlestrange GWS' at a cost of €5,117.

Total expenditure under Measure 1 to end of Q2 2021 €221,212.

A campaign to raise public awareness on source protection and incorporating Biodiversity was developed to coincide with Rural Water Week on 7th to 11th September, 2020 with many initiatives. Mitigation measures for swallow holes were developed and farmers encouraged to fence off vulnerable areas on their lands. Catchment walks were undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution. Farmers and contractors are also being reminded of the importance of proper and effective nutrient management to help protect water sources from pollution. Promotional Video clips were also undertaken to raise awareness. Available on www.roscommoncoco.ie under Water & Wastewater/Rural Water Programme.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z_DLl4Tuz7M7twQFjlAPgyj/view?usp=sharing

'I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free'

- Approximately 8,000 trees were distributed to all the primary schools in the County. This initiative was to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens and to educate and create awareness in schools. Surveys undertaken suggest that most householders that currently use pesticides are prepared to rethink their use in order to protect the environment. Concerns at the

damaging impacts of pesticides on water sources and biodiversity lie behind the initiative and is developed as part of this project in Roscommon County Council. A main objective is to educate the wider community on the damage that pesticides can do in their domestic gardens. This is an important part of the overall project, and is very much linked to the 'Let it Bee' initiative.

- [I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free](#)
- The 'Let It Bee' initiative- Farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity is another initiative of the Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon.

Bees, hives, equipment and mentoring are being supplied to selected members of the community. In return the farmers are looking at changing their practices, putting in biodiversity measures and informing the wider community about the dangers of pesticides.

The farmers taking part in the initiative also receive a Plaque which is put on the wall outside their homes to highlight their involvement.

- **'European Bee Award 2020' for Roscommon**

The Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon recently won the European Bee Award 2020 for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators promoted by the European Landowners' Organisation. The project was also shortlisted for the Cogeca European Award for Co-operative Innovation. The 'Let It Bee' initiative will continue to be developed through this project throughout 2021.

- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. The Capital Replacement works are ongoing in accordance with a planned programme on the Design Build Operate Group Water Schemes. Works were undertaken to date on Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh GWS at a cost of €148,608.98. Further Capital Replacement works costing €238,270 are underway with 85% of costs €202,530 recoupable.

Works to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems on the Design Build Operate bundle, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh Group Water Schemes were undertaken in 2020 at a cost of €248,186.34 to date.

- **Measure 3 – Enhancement of existing schemes including water conservation (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €1,431,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure supports projects to make existing group water schemes more efficient in their operation (e.g. water conservation and network upgrades, including storage) and contributing to good water quality on a consistent sustainable long-term basis.

Funding of €563,587.94 has been paid to the Group Water Schemes at 85% of costs in Mid Roscommon, Oran/Ballintubber, Corracreigh, Polecat Springs, Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange.

- At the end of Q2 2021 contracts have been awarded and works have commenced or are about to commence on the following projects totaling approx. 13 kilometers of watermains.
 - Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2020: - The contract provides for the installation of 319 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 1209 linear meters of 125mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 4 connections to existing water mains, installation of 1 Air Valve, 6 Sluice Valves, 1 No Elster 4000 Bulk water meter, 1 No Cla Val Pressure reducing valve with strainer, 3No. Domestic PRVs and 12 no connections to services in the Townlands of Cloonyquin and Killynagh - **95% Complete**

- Gortaganny GWS Upgrade Contract 1(2019)- 785 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 2 No connection to existing water mains, installation of 1 Bulk water meter, installation of 1 scour valve, 4 Sluice Valves and 14no connections to new and existing service pipes in the Townlands of Gortaganny and Carrowbehy–extra necessary works were also carried out. **Completed**
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 01(2020) Tulsk: – The contract provided for the installation of 415 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1509 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains-**Completed**
- Mid Roscommon-Contract02(2020) Kinnity: - The contract provides for the installation of 2052 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains - **95% Complete**
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 03(2020) Various: - The contract provides for the installation of 2852 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1913 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- **Ready to start in Bushfield Phase 1, Rd Closure in operation.**
- Oran Ballintubber-Contract No.1(2020): -The contract provides for the installation of 1965 meters of 90mm water main with 10 service connections-To commence in Q3 2021.
- Polecat Springs -Contract 01(2020): - The contract provides for the installation of 1746 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- extra works necessary – **95% complete.**

Discussions/designs are ongoing with GWS for further upgrade contracts to proceed in Q3 & Q4 2021.The following are at tender stage or about to go to tender. Due to the projected construction costs of these contracts they are required to go on Etenders.

- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 1 Ballinderry-Carrowbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 meters of 90mm water main water and 1350 meters of 63mm water main water, with various fittings laid in the public road at two locations. –**Tenders Assessed-Etenders-Letter of Intent issued**
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 2 Carrowduff-Tonbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 950 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains – **On Etenders**
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 3 Coggalbeg: – The contract provides for 4100 meters of 90mm water main water with various fittings laid in the public road. –**On Etenders**

Group Water Scheme Managers have been advised to identify works/upgrades necessary on their schemes in preparation of the next programme of funding.

- **Measure 5 – Transition of Existing Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector: Funding of €247,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure enables existing group water schemes and existing group sewerage schemes, where they wish to do so and with the agreement of Irish Water, to transition to the public water sector (Irish Water).

Discussions are underway with 2 Group Water Schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water.

At the end of Q2 2021 Projects totaling 3.5 kilometers of watermains at a cost to date of €168,261 are completed.

- Works are completed on the Drumheriff /Derrinasoo GWS. December 2020
Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections .
- Works are completed on the Lisagallon GWS -June 2021
Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with over 25 connections.

- **Measure 6 –A Community Water Connection at Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken in 2019.**

Measure 8 - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY- Grants for the improvement of a private water supply to a house

The existing grant scheme to support improvement works for a private water supply providing water intended for human consumption and domestic purposes to a house, (more commonly known as private or household wells) has been revised with effect from 4th June, 2020 under the ***Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020)***.

1. Purpose of grant

The purpose of this grant scheme is to assist households in rural areas that are dependent on a private water supply (individual well) for their household use, by financially assisting them where they incur capital expenditure, to carry out improvements to the supply to ensure that the water supply is wholesome and clean, or that the quantity supplied is insufficient to meet the domestic needs of the household as defined in the Housing (Private Water Supply Financial Assistance) Regulations 2020 (S.I. No. 192 of 2020).

2. Level of grant

The level of a grant is determined by the type of improvement works being undertaken and shall not exceed the following amounts:

- (a) (i) 85% of the approved costs for rehabilitation works, subject to a maximum of €3,000;
or
(ii) 85% of the approved costs for the provision of a new well, subject to a maximum of €5,000 (where the housing authority agrees that this is the most appropriate solution);
- (b) 100% of the approved costs for works that, in the opinion of the housing authority, are necessary to treat the water to meet the water quality standards specified in the Regulations, subject to a maximum grant of €1,000. Examples of such treatments are filtration or Ultra Violet treatment.

The previous maximum grant available was €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser.

To the end of Q2 of 2021 a total of 10 applications for the upgrade of Private Water Supplies have been received.

There are 3 outstanding grant claims on the pre June 2020 Individual Well Grant scheme- being processed.

Grants have been paid on 5 completed applications in sum of €5,363.34 to end of Q2 2021.

SUBSIDY -Payable towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes Providing Water for Domestic Use:

With effect from 1st January, 2018, the subsidies have been increased, streamlined and new incentives introduced for smaller schemes. This is intended to bring greater equity and fairness to ensure that domestic users on group water schemes receive comparable benefits to those receiving their water supply from Irish Water.

- **Annual Subsidy** - An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €159,852 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q2 2021.
- **Operational and Maintenance Subsidy** – This subsidy is payable towards Operational and Maintenance (O&M) costs associated with “bona fide” Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contracts for group schemes that have their own water treatment facilities. O&M subsidies have been paid in the sum of €225,156.42 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q2 2021.

Total Subsidies paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q2 2021 is €385,008.42.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE UNIT

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

The Environment & Climate Unit submits an annual inspection plan to the EPA. The plan includes routine and non-routine environmental inspections carried out by Roscommon County Council. Non-routine inspections are typically carried out in response to specific complaints. It also includes a broad monitoring programme to ensure compliance with environmental legislation; activities monitored include local authority, domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial sector operations. The RMCEI Plan for this year was submitted in February 2021.

Complaints

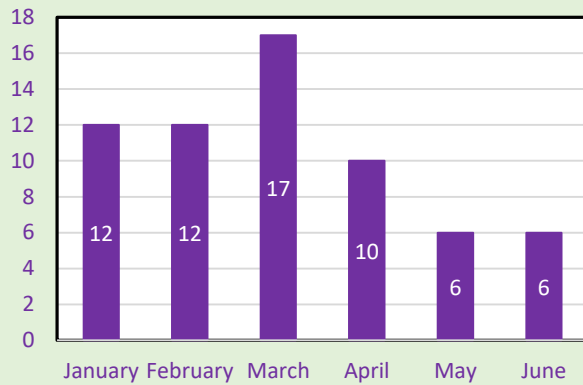
The Environment Section continues to investigate litter and pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded, assigned and investigated using a newly developed database. The number of complaints in Q2 are similar to 2020 numbers following a very high level of complaints in Q1. Complaints received in Q2 2021 are set out below:

Complaints Received 1st April 2021 to 30th June 2021

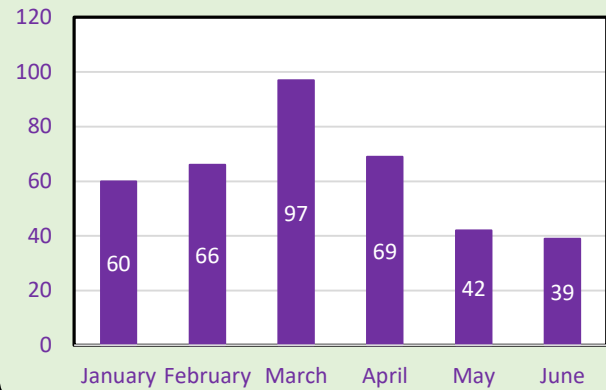
Category	Operational Area						Grand Total
	Athlone	B'derreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Ros'n	Strok'n	
Air	1	3	4	2	3		13
Litter, Illegal Dumping & Waste	29	39	26	26	43	18	181
Noise		2		1	3	3	9
Water		1	2	1	3		7
Other	9	1		4	14	2	30
Grand Total	39	46	32	34	66	23	240

LGMA Return Complaints Summary by Month 2021

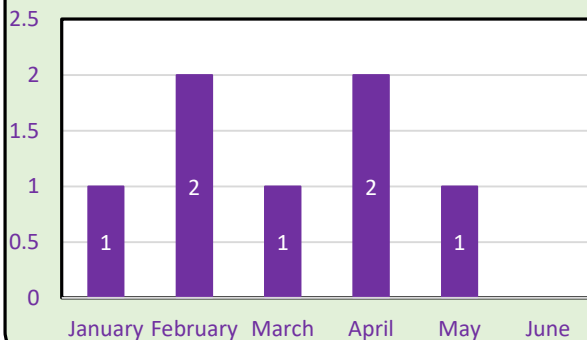
Litter Complaints (excluding fly tipping and illegal dumping)



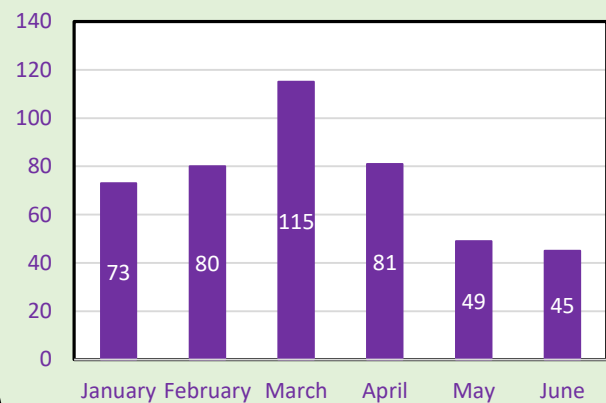
Waste Complaints, non-C&D. Includes fly tipping and illegal dumping



Waste Complaints, C&D only.



Total Complaints



Environmental Awareness

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean normally runs for the month of April each year; however, due to Covid-related delays and uncertainties the programme (assistance with clean-ups) was extended to ensure the various community groups were facilitated. Interest from members of the public was exceptional and 68 groups were facilitated with equipment such as litter pickers, gloves, bags and kids gloves for clean ups, all of which were delivered by RCC Litter Wardens. Volunteers were requested to follow An Taisce advice in relation to registering online at www.nationalspringclean.org and following public health guidelines in relation to Covid restrictions.

Green Schools

The deadline for applications this year has been extended to the end of the school year (25/06/21). Assessments were carried out virtually due to Covid restrictions. An Taisce provided schools and Environmental Awareness Officers with guidance on virtual assessments. Eleven virtual assessment took place in Q2.

Dog Fouling Campaign

The Environment & Climate Unit is launched a campaign directed at Dog Fouling within the county. A number of stencils, spray paint and poo bag/Mutt Mitt dispensers were distributed to community groups in Q2 2021. Posts were also placed on social media during this period to highlight the negative impacts of dog fouling. The Green Dog Walkers initiative was also rolled out at a number of locations such as Ballyleague, Strokestown and Elphin.

Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021

The Anti-Dumping Initiative work programme commenced in Q2 2021 and a range of initiatives are scheduled for Q2/Q3 2021. Funding allocated in 2021 is €100,117 and projects include Bulky Goods collections at four civic amenity sites; enhancement of the bottle banks throughout the county; targeted clean-up operations; and a number of awareness campaigns.

Media Campaigns

Dog Fouling - reminding owners to clean up after their dogs while out walking.

Slurry Spreading - reminding farmers and contractors to follow good practice when spreading slurry.

Waste Collection and Civic Amenity Sites

Roscommon County Council operates four Civic Amenity Sites. Sites are open to the public three days a week. All waste collected is reflected in the Annual Environmental Report (AER) and the annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) return submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. Lough Forbes Pesticides Action group are looking at mechanisms to address pesticides exceedances within catchment area.
2. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region among a number of national agencies.
3. A new Code of Practice for domestic wastewater treatment and disposal systems was published and implementation to commence from 07 June, 2021. Amendments include changes to method of determining site percolation value and certain concessions for advanced disposal methods.
4. Aerial survey (using RCC drone) of drainage works at Lough Funshinagh began and will continue for the duration of the works.

The EPA recently published the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems Inspection 2020 Report. See Roscommon figures below.

Local Authority	Inspections required 2020	Inspections done 2020	Failure rate 2020	Total systems failing 2013-2020	Percent fixed 2013-2020 (on 17/05/2020)
Roscommon	35	20	85%	163	50%

Historical Landfills

Castlerea Closed Landfill:

A Certificate of Authorisation was granted on 19 March 2021. The site now requires additional works in 2021 such as installation of additional boreholes to facilitate monitoring.

Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills:

These landfill facilities have ceased accepting waste for landfill disposal but Waste Licences still remain in place and as per the conditions set out in the Licences, Roscommon County Council is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with the closed facilities (e.g., landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular maintenance and servicing also takes place. Two pumps were replaced in Ballaghaderreen landfill this quarter.

Laboratory Services

The five-year full reassessment INAB audit was carried out in Q2 2021. The audit was carried out virtually. The INAB audit team noted 12 minor non-compliances. These are due to be addressed by the laboratory in Q3 2021. Laboratory staff continued to work in two shifts during Q2 2021; operating from 8 am to 8 pm. Sample numbers continue to rise in the laboratory with sample numbers up 17% on 2019 levels.

Climate Action

Memorandum of Understanding between RCC and SEAI to provide bridge funding to Sustainable Energy Communities for preparation of energy plans was reviewed and prepared for signing.

A commitment to contribute funding towards researching alternatives to herbicides was given via a Service Level Agreement with Kildare County Council.

RCC has requested to join counties Longford, Westmeath, Offaly and Laois in establishing an Energy Bureau for the CARO Midlands Sub-regional Group.

The Climate Action Bill was approved at national level in Q2 2021. Preparation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans is scheduled to begin in Q1 2022. Provision of guidelines on the preparation of Climate Action Plans by the DECC is pending.

Casual Trading

Two applications for a Casual Trading Licence were received in Q2 2021. Further information was requested from one applicant (application pending); the other application was withdrawn. To date, the number of Casual Trading licences issued for 2021 remains at 24. Any casual trader whose insurance expired during the period was requested to submit copies of their renewed insurance policy (with Roscommon County Council specifically indemnified) to the Council.

As Covid-19 public health guidelines were relaxed during the period, a number of enquiries were made to the Environment Department regarding the process for obtaining Casual Trading licences. Most of these queries related to potential coffee/tea/light confectionery operators for locations that are not designated as casual trading areas. The majority of enquiries concerned popular locations such as Loughnanane Park, Sliabh Ban and Mote Park.

A number of enquiries were also made in relation to the review of casual trading bay locations. Those making enquiries were informed that the review would take place once Covid-19 public health measures permit; that licensed traders would be informed when this process would commence; and that the review process would be advertised locally.

Compliance with the Casual Trading bye-laws was actively monitored by the Casual Trading Enforcement Officer in Q2 2021. This involved visiting towns on designated and non-designated trading days. There were five cases of non-compliance reported which included traders operating in undesignated areas adjacent to designated areas on a trading day; traders operating on days outside of permitted days; and traders operating without a casual trading licence. Three traders were issued with a warning (first warning) in Q2 2021; no Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) were issued for the period.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

N5 Ballaghaderreen–Scramoge: The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is 33.4km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 11 December 2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to ABP was 6 March 2018. ABP made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 2018. Following an Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála ('The Board') in October 2018 the Board approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land & property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition have been procured. Various works and services contracts were procured in advance of the main construction contract. Fencing and Archaeological testing & resolution are nearing completion. Topographical surveys and geotechnical investigations are complete. Advance diversion of Authority & Utility apparatus is ongoing. Technical consultants have been appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The main construction contract tender documents were issued to all pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2020 and the closing date for receipt of tenders was set for Tuesday 22 December 2020. The tenders received on or before the specified closing date were assessed. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, the updated Final Business Case together with a request to award the main construction contract was submitted to the Department of Transport on 14 April 2021. On 11 June 2021, the Department of Transport advised that Government approval as required under the Public Spending Code was given on 9th June 2021 and granted approval to award the main construction contract under the direction of TII. TII approval to award of the main construction contract was received on 14 June 2021. The Main Construction Contract was awarded to Roadbridge Ltd. on 16 June 2021 by issue of the Letter of Acceptance.

N60 Oran Road Realignment Project involves the realignment of approximately 3.4km of N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is currently ongoing, to date approximately 95% of the land cases have been settled. Irish Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. have completed the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract. Following the completion of the detailed design, the main construction contract was tendered in November 2018. The contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 9th April 2019 and site works commenced in April 2019. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued to Wills Bros Ltd. in September 2020, closing out the main construction contract works including necessary alterations to the local road network. The remaining snagging is to be completed

prior to the expiration of the defects period in September 2021. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council and are currently drafting the TII Phase 7 Deliverables (Post Project Review & Project Closeout Report).

N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project: This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery which will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery. A range of environmental and technical specialists have been appointed by RCC to progress the project through the planning, design and statutory phases. The Constraints First Public Consultation was held in March 2018. Roughan & O'Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in December 2018 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. The initial study area was increased in consideration of potential future upgrades to the N61 corridor. Throughout 2019 ROD-A progressed the project through the constraints and option selection phases. The Second Public Consultation presenting six Route corridor Options was held in November 2019. Work continued throughout 2020 on the assessment of the route corridor options. Route Corridor C-3 has been identified as the emerging preferred route corridor. The Third Public Consultation consisting of a virtual online consultation commenced on the 14th of December presenting this corridor along with other relevant project information to the public on the dedicated project website www.N61Roscommon.ie. This consultation process ran until the 29th of January 2021. A total of 75 individual landowner consultation meetings were held during this period, over 100 submissions were received from landowners and interested members of the public. ROD-A are currently updating and finalising the Option Selection Report to incorporate feedback and issues raised during the public consultation process.

N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is substantially complete on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. Post excavation archaeological works including preparation of a monograph are ongoing. The main construction contract was fully completed in September 2020.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Project involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from a location immediately north of Tulsk village to Clashaganny. An initial design and Junction Strategy has been developed for the project. The detailed topographical survey of the Preferred Route Corridor and ground investigation site works have been completed. The Design is being updated to incorporate feedback from the non-statutory consultation process, ongoing environmental surveys and the findings of the ground investigations.

National Road Pavement Projects: Design and Contract documentation are currently being prepared for the pavement overlay projects included in the TII National Road Allocations for 2021. A pavement improvement project for the N63 (at R357 junction) was tendered in June 2021. Following completion of the Design and preparation of the contract documentation, pavement improvement works on the N5 Moneylea to Carrowntoosan and the N61 Athlone North will be tendered in 2021.

N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project involves the provision of a transport solution, which may include a new crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. The extents of the project include a 21km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharrlow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. A Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act is in place between Roscommon County Council and Leitrim County Council. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (ARUP) to progress the project through the planning process in March 2020. ARUP completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020. As part of Phase 2 (Option Selection), a

Constraints Public Consultation was held in October 2020 by means of a virtual public consultation accessible through the dedicated project website, to inform the public of the project and invite submissions. Over forty submissions were received during this consultation. A preliminary ground investigation contract to inform the option selection process commenced in April 2021 and is currently ongoing. Public Consultation No 2 (Alternatives and Options) was held between the 19th of May 2021 and the 25th of June 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event was not feasible considering public health advice and associated public health risks. A virtual public consultation accessible through the project website was held which included the facility to book online meetings with the project team. A total of one hundred and eighty-nine (189) virtual online meetings were undertaken as part of the consultation. Submissions are currently being reviewed by the project team.

Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. On 14th May 2021 the Council received notification from the Department of an allocation for 2021 in the amount of €375,104 - (an increase of €22,559 from 2020). The Department has made some changes to the Local Improvement Scheme: 2021 Scheme Outline from last year. Notwithstanding the changes, the Local Improvement Scheme will proceed on the same policy basis as last year including that the local contribution is set at 10% for eligible roads with up to and including five beneficiaries and is set at 15% for those with six or more beneficiaries

On 21st Jun2021 the scheme of priorities for 26 roads was approved by the DRCD. All applicants have been informed and works will commence when the local contribution is received. All works must be completed and funding claimed from the Department by early October 2020.

Community Involvement Schemes

The Department of Transport provides grant assistance which must be matched by a minimum 15% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €166,000 in 2021. There are two projects currently underway under this Scheme

Cemeteries

Bye-Laws

in accordance with Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 Roscommon County Council's Cemetery Bye-Laws 2020 to regulate and control the use of Cemeteries under their control or in their ownership were made by Members of Roscommon County Council at its meeting held on 22nd March 2021. These Bye-Laws came into operation on 1st May 2021.

Cemetery Maintenance and Improvement Grants 2021

Roscommon County Council initially allocated €35,000 in the 2021 budget for the maintenance of burial grounds in County Roscommon. At the March Plenary Meeting, Members agreed a further allocation of €35,000, on a once off basis, to assist groups seeking grant assistance as fundraising efforts have been negatively impacted by Covid 19 restrictions. Following the advertisement of the Scheme, a total of 93 groups applied for and received funding for ongoing maintenance and improvements of burial grounds in County Roscommon.

Road Opening Licences

Excavations made in a public road or footpath require a Road Opening Licence. Applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office www.rmo.ie. The Roads Department processes the licences for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q2 2021 is 100

Abnormal Load Permits

Roscommon County Council operate a permit system for abnormal loads on all or part of journeys where specific weight and height conditions apply. The Roads Department issued 15 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q2 2021.

Lough Funshinagh Urgent Flood Relief Work

Following record water levels on Lough Funshinagh in April 2021 and on foot of a report from the A/Senior Engineer and Director of Services, the Chief Executive evoked powers under the Local Authority (Works) Act 1949 to divert waters from Lough Funshinagh to the River Shannon via a pipeline measuring circa 2.9km.

Design was prepared in May 2021 and on 8th June the OPW as the contractor mobilised onto site to commence the project. The OPW are currently working at two locations within the scheme with circa 100m of pipe in the ground by end of Q2.

CFRAM Carrick on Shannon (and Cortober) Flood Relief Scheme

Ryan Hanley have been appointed by Leitrim County Council as Design Consultants. Roscommon County Council is on the Steering Group Committee. The opening Public Consultation Process took place from 27th July to 14th August 2020 where the public and Statutory and non-Statutory consultees were contacted. The Hydrological Method Statement and Hydrology Workshop have been completed. The Project website is live: www.carrickonshannonfrs.ie Newsletter No. 2 was issued in December 2020.

Required surveys include river channel, topographical and CCTV surveys, ecology surveys and site investigation. McDonalds Surveys (MCDS) to commence the topographical survey. Tenders for site investigation works are being assessed. Hydrological analysis is ongoing and hydraulic modelling is being progressed. The Constraints Study Report is complete. Initial habitat and species surveys have been completed. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report is being prepared for the site investigation.

Site Investigation is near completion for the scheme.

CFRAM Bogganfin Athlone

In May 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the Office of Public Works in the amount of €350,000 for the project at Bogganfin.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS from Galway, were appointed in 2020. A dedicated Project Office was established in Ballinasloe where people can liaise with the project team by appointment by contacting (091) 509267 or info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

The first of four periods of public consultation, which will be undertaken before a planning application is made, took place during the week of 10th to 14th August 2020. 524 people attended a series of five public information events held in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore. Roscommon residents primarily attended the events in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone (53 attendees) and the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe (105 attendees). This early stage consultation was useful to listen to feedback from members of the public on the need for the project and to identify local amenities, attractions and features within the study area. Over 800 submissions were received.

In Q1 2021, Roscommon County Council appointed a Project Liaison Officer (PLO). The PLO will be the main point of contact for the landowner and will ensure that the farmers interests and concerns are considered in all decisions.

The public consultation No 2 was in February 2021 up to 1st March 2021 where several options were on display for feedback. No venues were organised for the consultation due to Covid-19 restrictions. All materials were available in the online virtual consultation room at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

The public could also make contact with the Project Liaison Officers by telephone. Over 11, 000 responses received from the public.

In May 2021, letters and information leaflet to landowners in the 'consultation areas' along the five route corridor options for the Cycleway. The Project Liaison Officers have been 'on the ground' over the past number of weeks carrying out face to face meetings with the landowners and this work is ongoing. To date the response to the meetings has been positive. Meetings have also been held with Bord na Móna and other state owned landowners.