



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



MARCH 2021

QUARTER 1

Roscommon County Council

Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

Management Accounts Summary to 31st March 2021

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/03/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/03/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	1,408,214	7,477,004	1,843,065	8,242,177	434,852
Road Transport & Safety	2,331,467	24,494,642	114,065	17,446,380	(2,217,402)
Water Services	917,402	7,613,827	1,449,872	7,521,282	532,470
Development Management	722,595	7,258,004	791,397	2,178,034	68,803
Environmental Services	1,223,947	5,972,794	127,414	958,825	(1,096,533)
Recreation & Amenity	518,733	4,343,863	147,429	554,200	(371,304)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	60,665	654,744	70,702	257,532	10,037
Miscellaneous Services	2,257,892	5,275,773	586,030	2,429,372	(1,671,862)
Central Management Charges	2,358,404	0	164,440	0	(2,193,964)
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	3,165,632	12,677,652	3,165,632
	11,799,318	63,090,653	12,068,610	63,090,653	269,293

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 31st March 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	12,672,862	807,058	910,510	13,691,868	4,125,408	9,566,460	17,400	30%	11%
Rents & Annuities	394,360	1,297,298		(637)	1,692,294	1,255,661	436,633		74%	74%
Housing Loans	145,193	59,318			204,511	59,924	144,588		29%	43%

Recourse to Overdraft;

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

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following Members direction to the Executive at a Special Meeting in November 2020 to formally commence the preparation of the *Draft Roscommon County Development Plan*, work continued within the Planning Section in January and February on preparing the Draft Plan. In addition to the internal preparatory work, there was also extensive engagement with a number of consultants contracted to undertake specialist areas of work relating to the Plan, including the Housing Strategy and associated Housing Needs Demand Assessment, and the suite of Environmental Reports (Strategic Environmental Assessment, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Appropriate Assessment) that will accompany the Draft Plan.

An informal virtual workshop was held with Members in early February, at which the proposed draft Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy was detailed, as well as information provided on areas of recommended key policy change.

The proposed Draft Plan issued to Members in early March, commencing their period of consideration of the Plan in advance of it being formally determined to be the Draft Plan.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Quarter 1. A total of 124 valid planning applications were received, which is an increase on the numbers received over the same period in preceding years (112 and 100 in 2019 and 2020 respectively). Decisions issued on 125 planning applications in Q1, of which 113 (90.4%) were grants of planning permission.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q1 2021	Valid app	54	70	124
	Extension of Duration	2	5	8
	DED	15	2	19
	Pre-planning meeting	36	38	74

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q1 2021	New enforcement case	26
	Warning letter	18
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	16
	Legal proceedings	2

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Activity on the ground in unfinished housing developments was significantly curtailed during most of the first quarter. In accordance with Covid 19 related public health restrictions, construction activity nationally was required to cease on Friday 8th January, with the exception of work on sites designated as essential projects by The Housing Agency. Silveroe in Boyle was the only development within the county classified as such, and works continued there during Quarter 1.

Schedules for three developments were referred to Irish Water for consideration as part of the initial stages of the taking in charge process – Ard Cuirne in Monksland, and Knight’s Court and The Spinney, both in Roscommon. At a further stage in the process, three developments were referred to the Roads Section for Taking in Charge. The developments are Castle Park in Roscommon and Lisacul Park and Lisacul Manor, in Lisacul.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**
Seventeen (17) 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. The funding has reverted to 50% as of 1st January 2021. There are two Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars available to book on the LEO Roscommon Website on April 13th & May 19th.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 29th April.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** A condition of this Scheme is that clients who received refunds (38 in total) must have agreed 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 crises. 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. An **eTender** document, for recruitment of a Panel of Consultants to deliver the programme, is live in compliance with procurement requirements. **The closing date is Thursday, 22nd April.** This initiative will be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31st December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 4 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, 2 approved; 1 pending; 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** Training to support the business community is ongoing.

- **Local Enterprise Week:** Took place virtually between 1st – 5th March. A schedule of 10 Spotlight Events was organised at National Level and accessible to all counties. LEO Roscommon organised 7 Events, with a total of 104 applicants.
- **EMPOWER Growth Programme:** This Programme is run by the GMIT iHubs, supported by LEOs in Roscommon, Galway, Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo & Donegal. It is provided for females with established businesses looking to grow and scale their enterprise.
The closing date for receipt of applications is: **30th April at 12noon.**
- **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. Also, 2 mentor clinics were held during Local Enterprise Week covering Retail and Website & Online Marketing Review. All bookings are taken via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** A successful Virtual County Final was held on the 15th March with **Castlerea Community School** taking the OVERALL prize and the Team who will represent Co Roscommon at the Virtual National Final scheduled for Friday, 14th May. The closing date for receipt for all submissions to the National Final is Friday, 16th April. The LEO will assist CCS with their National Final Submission.
- **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:** 4 Enquiries ongoing.
- **Just Transition:** 3 applications successful. Feasibility Study for the Boardwalk project successful, and two more Feasibility Studies for Cloontuskert Ballyleague Visitor Centre and Organic Farm and Cloontuskert Ballyleague Bog Heritage Train were successful with a total fund of €242k approx. Tender documents for 2 of the Feasibility Studies have been completed.
- **EI – LW met with Meabh Conaghy,** the new West Region Manager.
- **IDA:** A virtual Meeting was held on 25th March with the CE & Senior Management at the invitation of Catherina Blewitt to present the IDA's Strategy '**Driving Recovery and Sustainable Growth 2021-2024**' which was published in January 2021. This afforded a wider discussion in relation to FDI in Roscommon.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

Healthy Roscommon submitted cost projections to Pobal for July 2021 to Dec 2021. This is to allow for the continuation of projects funded under Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund that required additional funds following the announcement of the 6-month extension to the grant round.

Only two actions needed additional funds for the extension period, both involved the employment of workers – Healthy Roscommon Coordinator and Social Prescribing Worker.

All other Healthy Roscommon partners have sufficient funding to continue/ complete their actions by 31st Dec 2021 due to underspend between July 2019 and the present – underspend was relating to covid-19 restrictions.

Two community partners have indicated that they will not be in a position to expend the full HIF grant allocated to them. The LCDC Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee will reallocate this funding to other projects once approval from Pobal is granted.

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 –
- Preparation ongoing by the Community Forum Sub-Group: Staying Connected/Managing Your Mood: with regard to the preparation of Age Friendly Care Packs to be distributed to the most isolated throughout the County. (Reps: RCC, HSE, AGS, RLP).

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- LEADER Admin Return for January 2021 was completed.
- 14 LEADER claims paid in March

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- No LCDC meeting took place in March 2021.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

- No JPC meeting took place in March 2021.

CLÁR

- Work is ongoing with Community Groups as they prepare tenders and quotations for commencement of work on their projects for CLÁR 2020.
- The Department of Rural and Community Development announced details of the CLÁR programme for 2021 on 15th March 2021. There is a national allocation of €5.5million for 2021 under 3 measures to be operated via Local Authorities and the Department of Rural and Community Development for a range of School and Community projects.
 - Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures
 - Measure 2: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities
 - Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Measure:
- Community Gardens and Allotments

(b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

A New CLÁR Innovation Measure was launched whereby funding will be targeted at piloting new ideas which address specific challenges faced by communities in CLÁR areas, including rural isolation, population change, social disadvantage and marginalisation. This Measure provides a great opportunity for communities to identify the specific challenges they face and to come up with innovative ways to address them.

CLÁR 2021 was advertised with a closing date of Thursday, 15th April 2021.

Social Inclusion

Age Friendly Programme:

- AF Tablet Devices distributed to Nursing Homes throughout the County as part of the Keep Well Campaign and the HSE's Digital Support Grants.
- OPN Committee Meeting Attended.
- OPN Committee Members have signed up to attend AF Digital Training with the Library.
- AF Work plan for 2021 agreed in conjunction with the OPN and submitted to AF Ireland.

Comhairle na nÓg:

- Roscommon CNN chosen as 1 of 10 Comhairle to host a Youth Climate Conversation in relation to the Climate Action Plan 2021.

SICAP

- SICAP Payment made for March 2021
- Drawdown Request submitted to DRCD for Q2 2021

Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2021

- Tidy Towns & Amenity Grant Scheme 2021 was advertised on 11th March 2021 with a closing date of Thursday, 1st April 2021.

Heritage

• **Farming Rathcroghan EIP:**

Heritage Council funding has been secured for 2021. John Cronin & Associates have been appointed to deliver the community archaeology services to the project for 2021.

• **Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund:**

15 applications were received. For the BHIS of these 11 were recommended for funding and submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage for approval. Under the HSF, 1 x application was submitted under the vernacular pilot scheme, 1 x under Stream 2 and 3 x under Stream 1.

• **Heritage Research Bursary**

One application was received by the application deadline of 1st March. The recommendation of allocation of the bursary is awaiting approval.

- **Know Your Locality – Free online course**

This online course was fully booked out. The course commenced on 23.03.21.

- **#KnowYour5K**

Weekly social media posts continue to encourage participation in the #Knowyour5k initiative. This initiative is an unfunded part of the RCC Keep Well campaign.

- **Royal Sites of Ireland**

Rathcroghan forms part of the serial Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage project, and its application to the Tentative List is being coordinated by Tipperary County Council. The Steering group met online to discuss progression of the application to the World Heritage Tentative List. A workshop with UK Heritage Expert Christopher Young took place on 18.03.21.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

A presentation on RCC actions for pollinators as part of RCC signing up as a partner to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2026 was given at 3 x MD meetings. Actions for 2021 have been agreed for 3 of the 3 MDs with Boyle MD to be agreed in April.

Tourism

Funding announced by Fáilte Ireland for the following Schemes:

- Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business &
- Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Infrastructure – awaiting T&C on both schemes.

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Network:** Athlone and Carrick resilience Plan Meetings held.
- **WWI:** Launch of Shannon Master Plan on line and Royal Canal Greenway
- **BBW :** consultant team has been appointed to conduct a technical trail audit of the Beara Breifne Way

County Projects:

- **Tourism trade:** All information on training and supports from FI forwarded to tourism trade.
- **Social Media:** continuing weekly.
- **Marketing** – agreeing a schedule Marketing Plan with other counties in IHH to maximise marketing potential of the Region
- **Roscommon Tourism Network** – TEAMS meeting held on 23rd March. Update from all those at meeting - All trade using first quarter 2021 to prepare premises for opening June/July. Indoor Attractions struggling to adapt due to social distancing.
- **ORIS 2020** – work commenced on NFW and Boyle cycleway Shelters. Approval received from DRCD on videos to be produced in Summer and Autumn. Locations agreed for counters

King House

- Remaining Closed under Level 5 restrictions.
- Advertising for Staff ongoing
- Review of heating completed - awaiting proposal
- New Website opened – hope to launch in coming weeks
- T&V COVID scheme – procurement and purchasing complete for €10,000. Funding claim to be submitted to Dept.

Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works on hold under Level 5

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 meet on a fortnightly basis and will continue 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.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund – Round 2

- The department allocation for this scheme for Roscommon is €43,815
- At the December 2020 meeting of the LCDC Committee it was agreed to advertise and publish the application as per the department guidelines and per application form. This offered the following options to the applicant:
Small scale grant of €1,000 or less and Grant in excess of €1,000
- It was agreed that this scheme would be online application which closed 19th of February, 2021 at 1pm.
- Total applications received were 61 via my online services.
- As per department guidelines the LCDC agreed that 30% of the total funds (€13,144.50) be allocated to small scale grants of €1,000 or less with the balance (€30,670.50) to grants in excess of €1,000
- Under Grants up to €1,000 a total of 21 applications were received
- Under Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 40 applications were received.
- Due to level 5 restrictions and the requirement to limit meetings in person, an email was circulated to the subcommittee on the 12/03/21 requesting them to assess all applications received per guidelines of the scheme.
- As per department guidelines for assessment of projects the following were approved for funding by the subcommittee of the LCDC:
- Small scale grant of €1,000 or less, a total of 16 applications were awarded funding totalling €13,144.50
- Grants in excess of €1,000 a total of 16 applications were awarded funding totalling €30,670.50.

Arts Office

Consideration of Funding Schemes announced by Department TCAGSM and by Arts Council of Ireland

- In The Open/Faoin Speir 90k

- Creative Places 150k / 40k
- Outdoor Public Space Scheme (capital) 250k
- €5m to local authorities for outdoor live performances (9.3.21) – awaiting information.

Artists

- Artist Bursary Scheme – 50 applications received – 37 awarded, total €21,550.
- Zooming In - Artist Training & Talks Programme.

Music

- **Music Generation Roscommon** online lessons. Rock & Pop in partnership with Foroige/Youthreach in Roscommon town, Strokestown, Castlerea, Monksland and VTOS Boyle. Roscommon Young Carers Project. Early Years at Family Resource Centres. Youth Orchestra in Roscommon town, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle. Traditional Programme in Castlerea, Frenchpark, Strokestown. School programmes online at Primary and Post Primary levels.

Film

WRAP II and SLR Film

Creative Heartlands project: Recruitment of Film Development Officer (part-time) and purchase of equipment.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

New term of online programme and Talks Series

Creative Ireland

- Creative Roscommon Open Call – 20 applications – 13 funded, total €38,000.
- Cruinniú_na_nÓg_2021 planning including Creative Trail Commission & Cathaoirleach’s Award.
- Decade of Centenary Open Call – 9 applications - funded, total €9,000.

Keep Well

- Forget Me Not Choir
- St Patrick’s Day Special on Shannonside – 6 musician interviews and music. Promotional campaign.
- Conversations in Portrait – 8 portraits ongoing

Roscommon Arts Centre

The centre’s spring season of online events continued throughout March via Facebook and/or roscommonartscentre.ie. This included:

The Reel Thing Lunchtime Tunes: Daily lunchtime trad music from local performers Breda Shannon, Emily Keane, Alan Kelly & Steph Geremia

Yours Sincerely, Patrick De Witt: the continuation of this correspondence project with internationally acclaimed author Patrick De Witt and 15 older members of the community.

International Women’s Day Programme: an online programme of events that included:

- Jessamine O’Connor reading from her newly released book “Silver Spoon”
- The release of three new soundscapes from artist Leonora Neary that were developed with support from Creative Ireland

- Young traditional musician Emily Keane perform lunchtime tunes
- The re-release of a series of online interviews with leading Irish female writers Jane Clarke, Liz Nugent, Elaine Feeney and Hilary Fannin with Words Ireland Literary Development Officer Dani Gill, that Roscommon Arts Centre co-produced last year with the LIVE literary network

Mother's Day Event: The centre invited Roscommon native 96 year old published author, Brigid Kavanagh to read "A Portrait of my Mother" from her recently published book: "In My Mind's Eye, Walking Amongst Ghosts" for Mothers Day 2021.

Show Reels: a day long programme of events for St. Patricks Day, garnering national media coverage via RTE news and the Irish Times (online edition). The programme included:

- Live performances outside nursing homes in both Boyle and Roscommon town by mummers and garden visits to homes throughout the county on the day
- The world premiere of "The Fairies" by Seamus O'Rourke commissioned by Roscommon Arts Centre and Backstage Theatre Longford as part of "Tufts of O'Rourke"
- Trad Babies: a specially commissioned trad music performance for babies by Mossie Carroll & Sean Carroll in association with The Hawk's Well Theatre Sligo & The Dock Arts Centre Leitrim
- St Pstrick's Shenanigans: a live online performance for families by Kyle Riley
- The Reel Thing Re-jigged: an online compilation of performances from The Reel Thing lunchtime tunes programme that featured all 9 performers

REGENERATION UNIT

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Construction has commenced and progress are progressing well.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund

Castlerea Hub Extension:

- Tender documents have to be reissued for this project and are currently in train.

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Construction phase could not commence due to covid restrictions.

Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- The design process is continuing with the consultants.

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Design consultants were appointed and initial consultation phase has taken place with the MD and stakeholders in the town.

ORIS 2019

- Road work element on Rindoon project 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

- Landscaping works commenced.
- Group working on Fishing Stands and videos.

Castlerea

- Approach Road Signage ordered
- Tourist Information Boards almost finalised
- Painting element could not be recommenced due to covid and weather.

Gortaganny

- Planning permission submitted by Group for car park and decision due shortly.
- Difficulty with footpath and alternative options being considered.

Rooskey

- RCC element of project is complete and Waterways Ireland element is on track for completion once covid restrictions lifted.

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

- Both elements of project completed.

Town and Village 2020

Town & Village – Standard.

- 7 out of 10 applications submitted were approved with €800,000 grant awarded. These were: Dysart, Lecarrow, Knockcroghery, Termonbarry, Cootehall, Croghan and Rooskey.
- All groups have been contacted re rollout process and initial work has been commenced on detailed design where required.

Town & Village – Covid 19 Measure

- A total of 17 applications were submitted to the Department for assessment. The following projects were deemed successful by the Department.
- 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, kilteevan, Strokestown, Elphin and Ballyforan.
- Round 1 projects are completed and Round 2 and 3 are progressing where possible within covid restrictions.

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 documents are being finalised for the properties identified by the Conservation Architect.
- Owners have been briefed on the process with further online meeting planned.

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 start delayed due to covid restrictions but will be ready to commence once restrictions allow.

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 1,143 in the Roscommon Bound network from all over the world, 4,022 followers on Facebook, 705 followers on Twitter and 618 followers on Instagram.
- Initial work on the programme for 2021 has commenced.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

- Measure 2 - 2 out of the 3 applications submitted were approved. These were Doon Shore and Portrun.
- Measure 3 – one application only can be submitted and this was approved for Mote park and Cycle Link to the Beara Breiffne.

Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2020

- Significant work was put into preparing 3 applications under RRDF Category 1, which required planning permission to be in place prior to submission.
- Applications were submitted for Strokestown, Elphin and Boyle seeking grant assistance of €6.83m.

AEC

- AEC Hubs Outreach Scheme –3 hubs in Roscommon were successful in receiving total funding of €13,539 to assist in providing additional Covid 19 related measures. Allocation of this grant is complete.
- 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.

Active Travel

- The Regeneration unit submitted a number of projects to the NTA, through the Roads Section which have been approved. These include projects in Athleague, Ballaghaderreen, Ballyleague, Creagh, Elphin, Knockcroghery and Loughglynn.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Service Points

Due to level 5 restrictions, library service points have been closed to the public throughout Q1 2021. The full suite of online resources has continued to be available throughout the physical closure and staff have been supporting users by email and telephone in accessing online services, local studies queries and account queries.

Age Friendly Library Services

Roscommon County Library Service is offering a new Age Friendly service to assist older people with accessing online library resources. Library staff are available to deliver remote online or telephone training to the older community to provide them with the skills needed to access the wide range of online library resources. People interesting in access the training can contact library@roscommoncoco.ie or telephone Carolyn on 0906637295.

Small Scale Capital Works

The works in Strokestown and Ballaghaderreen library were not progressed in Q1 due to restrictions around building works. These works will progress once restrictions are lifted.

Library Events and Activities – Keep Well

- The Library Service was involved in a number of Keep Campaigns in Q1. Roscommon Library Services participated in Ireland Reads day, a national day of reading, on February 25th. The library service provided online book reviews, videos and storytelling to mark the day. People were encouraged to take time to squeeze in a read on the day.
- The Grow It Forward campaign launched in March. The campaign, also part of Keep Well sees people accessing free seed growing kits through their local library with free eBooks available to support the growing of the vegetables. Seed packs are being distributed by post while library buildings remain closed.
- The Library service is working with the Family Resource Centre in Ballaghaderreen and the GRETB on a Community Cookbook project that aims to collect recipes from the diverse communities across the county

Dormant Accounts Funding

The library service purchased a number of licences for Touch, Type, Read and Spell (TTRS) through Dormant Accounts Funding in 2020. Licences have been issued to schools across the county with additional licences being made available to the public through the library service. This online course is suitable for children and adults with reading, writing and spelling difficulties and those with dyslexia and dyspraxia.

Roscommon Library Service are working with the Library Services in Sligo and Leitrim to develop a new service for people with sensory and other additional needs. The service, entitled Sense-Ability will see the development of sensory friendly library services and will include using the services of a professional Occupation Therapist to advice on service provision. Great progress has been made on this project in Q1 with the development of a programme of online webinars for people with sensory needs, their families and caregivers

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.

22 = homeless cases presented in Q1, 2021

13 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q1, 2021

Breakdown Homeless figures Q1 2021				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
January	5	1	6	7 adults 1 child
February	5	1	6	6 adult 2 children
March	8	2	10	11 adults 5 children

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
January	4	1	5	7 adults 1 child
February	4	0	4	4 adults
March	3	1	4	4 adults 1 child

Galway Simon has been awarded the contract to provide Housing First services to the remainder of the Western Region (it was already contract 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 also been established to facilitate the coordination of Housing-led and Housing First support services.

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

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

325 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q1, 2021

690 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation

30 = offers of accommodation made in Q1, 2021

20 = nominations made to AHB

26 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q1, 2021

2 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q1, 2021

8 = refusals recorded in Q1, 2021

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 31 March, 2021, there are 384 households receiving support (279 private rented and 105 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. 29 HAP tenancies were opened in Q1 and 34 were closed in the same period. As of 31 March, 2021, there were 468 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

No significant change since Q4 2020; summary of activity end Q1, 2021 is as follows:

69 = 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 31 March 2021, Roscommon County Council has 5 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 2 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 31 March, 2021, Roscommon County Council has 31 active RAS Types leases throughout the county.
- Two MTR leases were granted in Q1 of 2021, which brings the total to nine MTR (4 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 with programme for completion extended to early Q2, 2021
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 and completed in Q1, 2021
- 12 units at Silveroe, Boyle -Construction commenced in January, 2020 and completed in Q4, 2020 (public sewer issues beyond Housing's control have delayed allocations but are near resolution)
- 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 Q1, 2022 (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 programme for completion scheduled for Q2 and Q3, 2021 in two phases. (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.

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):

As of 31 March, 2021, Roscommon County Council acquired 1 house 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 1 approved by the Department
- 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, contractor to be appointed in Q2, 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:

- 3 derelict rural houses which includes a demountable were sold in Q1, 2021.
- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle was advertised in Q3, 2019 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received during 2020. RCC propose to re-advertise these sites in late April/May 2021.

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:

169	=	applications received to date
88	=	offers made to date
66	=	offers accepted to date
37	=	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 in Roscommon.
- 25 inspections were carried out in Q1 (Jan, Feb & March) 2021, 13 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- The possibility of carrying out virtual inspections in some cases is under review and likely to be introduced in Q2 of 2021.

Management of Existing 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 and inspections are currently suspended.
- 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

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. No further funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage has been announced to date in 2021 in relation to the refurbishment of vacant stock.

Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 9 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q1, 2021 at a cost to date of €82,421.35 (excluding any outstanding payments).

Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 376 maintenance calls in Q1, 2021 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €126,978.66.

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 – 78 Approved

HGD – 45 Approved

MAG – 35 Approved

Seven applications for Disabled Persons Grants (works on Local Authority Housing Stock) with an estimated cost of €260,500 have been received and are under consideration for 2021. A Disabled Persons Grant allocation for the current year has not yet been advised by the Department.

ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

ASSETS

- 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 Q2 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 Plan
and to place on Intranet Document Library
- Form for Property Condition Surveys developed and to trial in Q2 2021

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
- 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 to submit by 14th May, 2021.
 - Currently at 29.4% of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2019 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)
- 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 completed and submitted to Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office in Q4 2020 – 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

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Register of Electors

The Electoral Register 2021-2022 was published on 1st February and is live from 15th February.

The following are the numbers registered:

Registration Authority	Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Roscommon County Council	Roscommon-Galway	41,582	43,152
Roscommon County Council	Sligo-Leitrim	5,666	5,883
Overall		47,248	49,035

Registration Authority	Local Electoral Area	Local Government Electors
Roscommon County Council	Athlone	15,256
Roscommon County Council	Boyle	17,929
Roscommon County Council	Roscommon	17,355
Overall		50,540

Exhibitions/Events

There were no exhibitions/events held from January – March due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Council Meetings:

Supplementary Standing Orders were adopted on 1st February to allow for remote Council Meetings. The first remote Plenary meeting of Roscommon County Council took place via Microsoft Teams on 22nd February 2021. Municipal District Meetings for Athlone, Boyle and Roscommon were also held remotely.

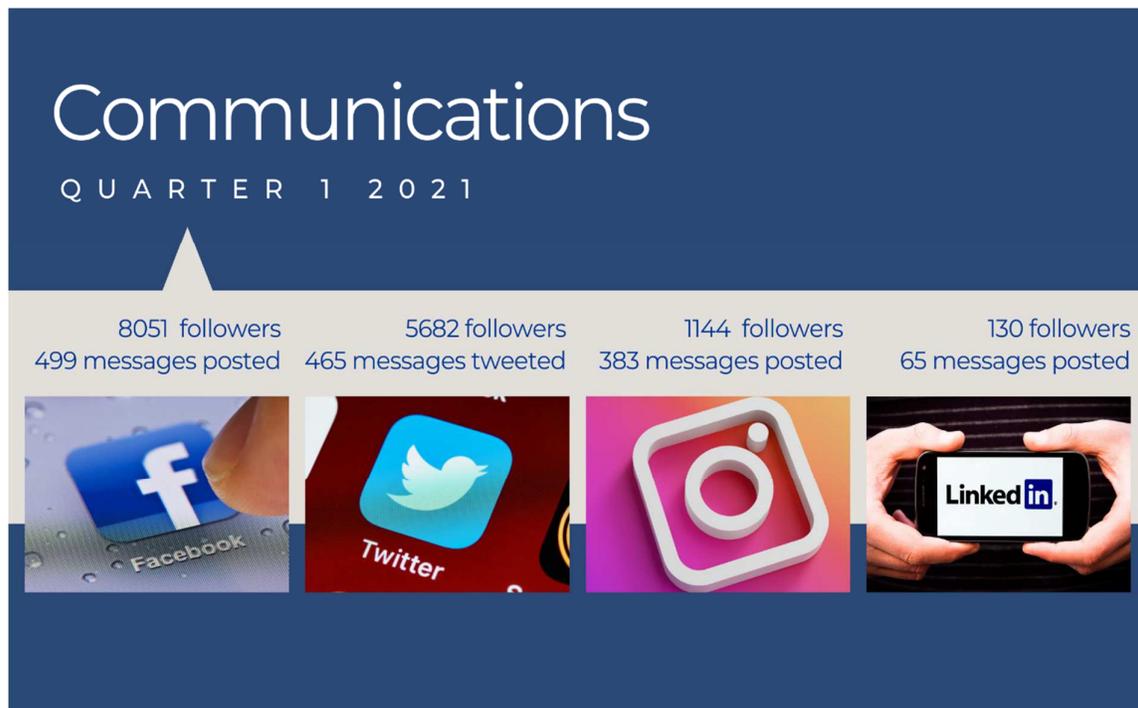
Dermot Earley Scholarships:

Interviews for the awarding of Dermot Earley Scholarships 2020/2021 were held on 29th January 2021. The successful candidates were Sean Trundle from St. Brigid's GAA Club and Aimee O'Connor from St. Dominic's GAA club.

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.

From 1st January to 31st March, 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 has been submitted to the board of IW to seek a budget to commence the construction works. All Wayleaves and land acquisitions are near completion with one outstanding.

Ministerial consent is expected in the coming weeks. Contractor appointment is expected shortly afterwards. It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in June 2021.

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.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:

Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme:

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry WWTP has being 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.

Currently we are in the closing stages of the Tender Evaluation for Contract 2 for the Inlet Works Programme. There is uncertainty as to when this may be awarded or signed up due to the uncertainty of the current climate.

Termonbarry will probably be one of the first to proceed as it has a Planning Permission for the proposed works.

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.

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 Q2/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. Currently on hold due to current level 5 Covid 19 restrictions.

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. New access covers to Harristown PS at Castlerea WWTP have been installed.

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 have been suspended due to the Covid-19 restrictions. It is hoped to resume works in 2021.

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 WWPS's that are located close to **shellfish, bathing and sensitive waters**. We are at a stage now where all these WWPS's 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 for RCC - BOYLE BRIDGE PS.

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. Reports are due to be issued shortly and a programme of works will be put in place.

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.

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 Rooskey, Roscommon Town and Castlerea.

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).
- Willsbrook – Design & Construction
- Ardure – Design only

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 Q1 of 2021 Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has been stood down due to Covid 19 Construction sector restrictions and are expected to resume working in a number of

District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone and in North Roscommon Water Supply Zone once these restrictions are eased. 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.

We are awaiting approval from IW to proceed with the establishment of a system that will allow caretakers/supervisors access to logged meter data from their phones/laptops.

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 €303,000 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 continues in Q1 2021. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans.

Works undertaken in 2019 & 2020 of €138,213.51 were 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 are being developed and farmers encouraged to fence off vulnerable areas on their lands. Catchment walks are being 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_DLI4Tuz7M7twQFjIbAPgyj/view?usp=sharing

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

- This initiative to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens and to educate and create awareness in schools continues with teachers, parents and schoolchildren taking part in a survey. The results 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 has also been shortlisted for the Cogeca European Award for Co-operative Innovation.

The 'Let It Bee' initiative will continue to be developed through this project in 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. This programme will continue into 2021.

Works to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems on the Design Build Operate bundle were undertaken in 2020 at a cost of €264,476 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.

In 2019 and 2020 works were completed in Mid Roscommon, Oran/Ballintubber, Corracreigh, Polecat Springs, Brusna and Castlestrange GWS'. Funding of €458,924.61 was paid to the Schemes at 85% of costs. In Q1 2021 works continued and funding at 85% of costs was paid out in the sum of €38,634.

At the end of Q1 2021 contracts have been awarded and works have commenced or are about to commence on the following projects totaling approx. 13 kilometers of watermains.

- Mid Roscommon -Contract 01(2020): – The contract provides for the installation of 415 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1509 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains -commenced
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 02(2020): - The contract provides for the installation of 2052 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains-commenced
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 03(2020): - 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
- Oran Ballintubber -Contract No.1(2020): -The contract provides for the installation of 1965 meters of 90mm water main with 10 service connections
- Polecat Springs -Contract 01(2020): - The contract provides for the installation of 1746 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains-commenced

Discussions/designs are ongoing with GWS for further upgrade contracts to proceed in Q3 & Q4 2021.

- **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 Q1 2021 Projects totaling 3.5 kilometers of watermains at a cost to date of €115,291 are underway.

Works are completed on the Drumheriff /Derrinasoo GWS. December 2020

- Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections .
- Works are almost completed on the Lisagallon GWS -April 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 Q1 of 2021 a total of 5 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-due for termination 30th June 2021- being processed.

Grants have been paid on 2 completed applications in sum of €2,000 to end of Q1 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 €478,468.56 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q4 2020.
- **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 €399,094.26 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q4 2020.

Total Subsidies paid to Group Water Schemes in 2020 is €877,562.82.

ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI)

Roscommon County Council, on an annual basis, prepares and submits to the EPA a plan relating to its functional area. This Inspection Plan encompasses routine environmental inspections carried out by Roscommon County Council. It includes monitoring and inspecting the Council’s own activities and ensuring compliance by the public, the farming community and the commercial and industrial sector with environmental legislation. The RMCEI Plan for 2021 was submitted in February.

Slurry Spreading

An Advertisement Campaign was run on local radio and Roscommon County Council’s social media platform in relation to slurry spreading and reminding farmers and contractors to follow good practice when spreading slurry.

Complaints

The Environment Section continues to deal with litter/pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded and every complaint is investigated. Set out below are the complaints received in Quarter 1 2021.

Environmental Report It Cases							
Received 1st January 2021 to 31st March 2021							
Cases							
Type	Athlone	Ballaghaderree	Boyle	Castlereagh	Roscommon	Strokestown	Grand Total
Air	5	1	1		2		9
Litter and Illegal Dumping	51	33	50	37	53	38	262
Noise	2		3		1	2	8
Other (Empty Bring Banks)	22	1	11	10	23	9	76
Waste	15	6	9	7	8	5	50
Water	2				2		4
Grand Total	97	41	74	54	89	54	409

Historical Landfills

- **Castlerea Closed Landfill**

Following the submission to the EPA of an application in respect of Castlerea Closed Landfill, a draft Certificate of Authorisation issued by the EPA in Q4, 2020. Submissions were made in relation to this draft and a Certificate of Authorisation was granted on 19th March 2021.

- **Annual Environmental Reports (AER's)**

AER's were completed and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills in March 2021

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 (eg landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality).

Roscommon County Council currently operates Civic Amenity Sites at these sites and the waste collected here is reflected in the AER and EPR returns.

- **Annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR)**

The EPA has developed a NEW on-line reporting application and associated database for annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR). This is part of our overall objective to promote efficient and effective work practices, reduce duplication in reporting and improve communications with EPA licensed facilities.

The first phase of the EPR on-line reporting application was launched on 1st February 2019. The second phase was launched on 1st January 2021 and brings online all remaining waste data reporting. This means that there will no longer be separate annual waste statistics surveys.

EPRs were completed and submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills in March 2021

- **Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management. Plan (CRAMP)**

The Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management. Plan (CRAMP) for Ballaghaderreen Landfill was submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in Q1.

Environmental Awareness

National Spring Clean

National Spring Clean normally runs for the Month of April each year, however, in quarter 1 of 2021 such was the interest from members of the public for assistance with clean ups, that we facilitated 59 groups with equipment such as Litter Pickers, gloves, bags and kids gloves for clean ups, all of which were delivered by the 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.

National Tree Week

National Tree Week took place this year between 21st – 27th March. Availability of tree saplings was advertised on Roscommon County Council's social media channels and website. Also, the advert was circulated by our Community & Enterprise Section to Tidy Towns groups, Residents Associations etc.

200 saplings of 5 different tree species were received from the Tree Council of Ireland. These tree saplings were distributed to 26 different groups throughout the county that had expressed interest in National Tree Week. These Tree saplings were delivered to each of these groups by our Litter Wardens.

Green Schools:

The deadline for all applications this year has been extended to the end of the school year (25/06/21). All assessments are taking place virtually. All schools and Environmental Awareness Officers have been provided with a [guide from An Taisce for virtual assessments](#).

Three virtual assessment took place in Q1 all under the Travel Category. To date five schools have booked in for assessments in Q2. A number of schools has also deferred the assessments this year due to time constraints.

Dog Fouling Campaign

The Environment Department is currently working on launching a campaign directed at Dog Fouling within the county, with this in mind a number of stencils, spray paint and poo bag dispenser were ordered in quarter 1. During this period posts were also placed on social media highlighting the negative impacts of dog fouling.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Successful close out of 2020 Surveillance INAB audit on 1/4/21. The date for 5 year full reassessment INAB audit has been scheduled for 2/6/21

Laboratory staff are working in 2 shifts since January with the Laboratory now operating 8am to 8pm. This will continue until level 5 restrictions are eased.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

The Road Works Scheme 2021 for the three Municipal Districts were adopted in March 2021. The overall 2021 programme is summarised in Table 1 below. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provided an allocation of €29,221,968, the Department of Transport provided an allocation €19,132,968 and funding of €2,082,600 was provided from the Council's own resources. The overall budget for national primary, national secondary, regional and local roads for 2021 is €50,437,536. In addition, the Council has received an allocation of €2,397,000 for 2021 from the National Transport Authority for projects under the Active Travel Investment Programme 2021.

Table 1: Roscommon County Council Road Works Scheme 2021

Road Works Scheme Summary 2021 - All Municipal Districts								
Grant Description	National Primary	National Secondary	Regional Roads	Local Roads	Low Cost Safety Measures	Contingencies	Lighting/Other Works	Total
Ordinary Maintenance - TII Grant	155,705	183,838						339,543
Winter Maintenance - TII Grant	129,500	139,500						269,000
Route Lighting- TII Grant	58,367	51,484						109,851
LA Eng. Support-Maintenance Schemes- TII Grant	57,300							57,300
Ordinary Maintenance - Department of Transport Discretionary Grant			850,000	1,880,500			370,000	3,100,500
Surface Dressing - Department of Transport Restoration Maintenance Grant			0	1,899,500				1,899,500
Winter Maintenance Grant-ex Department of Transport Discretionary Grant			150,000					150,000
Training Grant - DTTAS							69,000	69,000
Maintenance & Contingencies - RCC Own Resources				1,386,900		30,000		1,416,900
Public Lighting -RCC Own Resources							665,700	665,700
TOTALS - MAINTENANCE WORKS	400,872	374,822	1,000,000	5,166,900	0	30,000	1,104,700	8,077,294
Improvement Works - TII Grant	23,410,000	3,050,000						26,460,000
LA Eng. Support Improvement Schemes-TII Grant	1,986,274							1,986,274
Road Safety Remedial Schemes-TII								0
Specific Improvement Works Grant			0					0
Bridge Rehabilitation Grant			467,000					467,000
SR/RR - Restoration Improvement Grant			3,843,700	7,407,300			45,000	11,296,000
PSCI: Survey Support - Department of Transport				29,000				29,000
Low Cost Safety Improvement Grant - Department of Transport					377,500			377,500
Drainage Grant - Department of Transport							803,047	803,047
Former National Roads Rehabilitation Grant			300,000					300,000
TOTALS - IMPROVEMENT WORKS	25,396,274	3,050,000	4,610,700	7,436,300	377,500	0	848,047	41,718,821
TOTALS - ALL WORKS	25,797,146	3,424,822	5,610,700	12,603,200	377,500	30,000	1,952,747	49,796,115
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)								166,000
Active Travel								475,421
Total - All Works plus CIS and Active Travel								50,437,536
Roads Allocations								
National Road Grants - Revenue	775,694							
National Road Grants - Capital	28,446,274							
Total TII	29,221,968							
Non-National Road Grants	18,491,547							
Department of Transport								
Community Involvement Scheme	166,000							
Department of Transport								
Active Travel	475,421							
Department of Transport								
Total Department of Transport	19,132,968							
Council Resources ex Revenue Budget Roads	1,416,900							
Council Resources ex Revenue Budget Public Lighting	665,700							
Total Council	2,082,600							
Resources								
Overall Total	50,437,536							

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. Three tenders were received on or before the specified closing date, and the assessment process is ongoing. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, the draft Final Business Case was submitted to the Strategic Research and Analysis Division of the Department of Transport (SRAD, DoT) for Technical review in late December 2020. Initial comments have been received from SRAD. It is intended to issue an updated Final Business Case (Final Draft) to SRAD in April 2021.

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. commenced the Stage (ii) – (iv) Archaeological Resolution Contract in September 2017 and completed site works in April 2018 with 5 archaeological sites identified. The Stage (iv) reporting was completed in November 2020. 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 the alteration of the local road network at Dunamon Junction. The completion of some minor works in addition to outstanding snagging continued throughout Q4 2020. The 12 months' defects period is due to expire in September 2021. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council and are currently completing 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 following review and consideration of the feedback from 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 have been developed for the project. The Design is being updated to incorporate comments from ongoing environmental surveys and feedback from the non-statutory consultation process. The detailed topographical survey of the Preferred Route Corridor has been completed. Ground Investigation site works are scheduled to commence in Q2 2021.

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. Following the completion of the design and preparation of the contract documentation, pavement improvement works on the N63 (at R357 junction), 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 Drumharrow 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 to inform the public of the project and invite submissions. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event was not considered consistent with public health advice and alternatively a virtual public consultation accessible through the dedicated project website was held. Over forty submissions have been received on foot of this consultation. Initial route options are currently being developed and a preliminary ground investigation contract has been awarded to inform the option selection process. It is anticipated that the second public consultation presenting Route Corridor options will be held in Q2 2021.

Local Improvement Scheme 2021

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. In December 2020, the Council advertised for expressions of interest for the Local Improvement Scheme 2021. Applications under the Scheme are currently being examined for eligibility. To date, the Council has not received notification of an allocation from the Department. It is expected that the Local Improvement Scheme will proceed on the same policy basis as last year, including the maximum 10% administration costs to be claimed by each Local Authority and the €1,200 cap on the local contribution per individual household/landholder.

Community Involvement Schemes 2021

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.

Cemetery Maintenance and Improvement Grants 2021

Roscommon County Council allocated €35,000 in the 2021 budget for the maintenance of burial grounds in County Roscommon. The *Cemetery Improvement and Maintenance Scheme 2021* was advertised in the local media and on the Council's website. Application forms and details were also sent to all 2020 Cemetery Grant recipients. A total of 93 groups applied for funding under the Scheme. 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. A report on the grant allocations will be presented to the April Plenary Meeting.

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 Q1 2021 is 170

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 19 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q1 2021.

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.

CFRAM Bogganfin Athlone

Roscommon County Council and OPW have met in April 2021 to commence the Bogganfin Flood Relief Scheme.

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 were received from the public.

The design consultants, RPS, are in the process of writing to landowners in the consultation areas advising them on the progress on the project. The next step, once public health guidelines permit, is that the PLOs will be on the ground to carry out meetings with the local farmers. No decision will be made on a route until consultation with landowners is complete.

BROADBAND

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Roscommon has 8 BCP sites located at Tawnytaskin, Gortaganny, Cam, Dangan, Drumboylan, Creeve, Kiltoom and Tulsk which is also a Digi-hub. All sites are now set up with required infrastructure and are now connected to high speed broadband. The sites have internal and external wifi so the public can access high speed broadband internally or in the car park. All sites are currently being used by a variety of people, students doing college work, lecturers for online classes, office workers and general members of the public availing of the free wifi while parked outside. All the BCPs have office desks, chairs, interactive whiteboards, printers, social distancing desk screens and signage. Launch videos were recorded at all BCP sites over the past couple of weeks by Mimar Media, the video is being put together and edited at the moment and will be completed for the official public launch in the next week. An SLA is to be agreed and signed with each BCP in the coming weeks to determine the level of service that will need to be provided at each centre to meet the requirements of the department. The possibility of operating and managing an online booking system for BCPs will also be explored as part of this SLA.



E Cummins, A Johnston & S Conway – Tulsk Digi Hub Launch



St Catherines Hall - Drumboylan

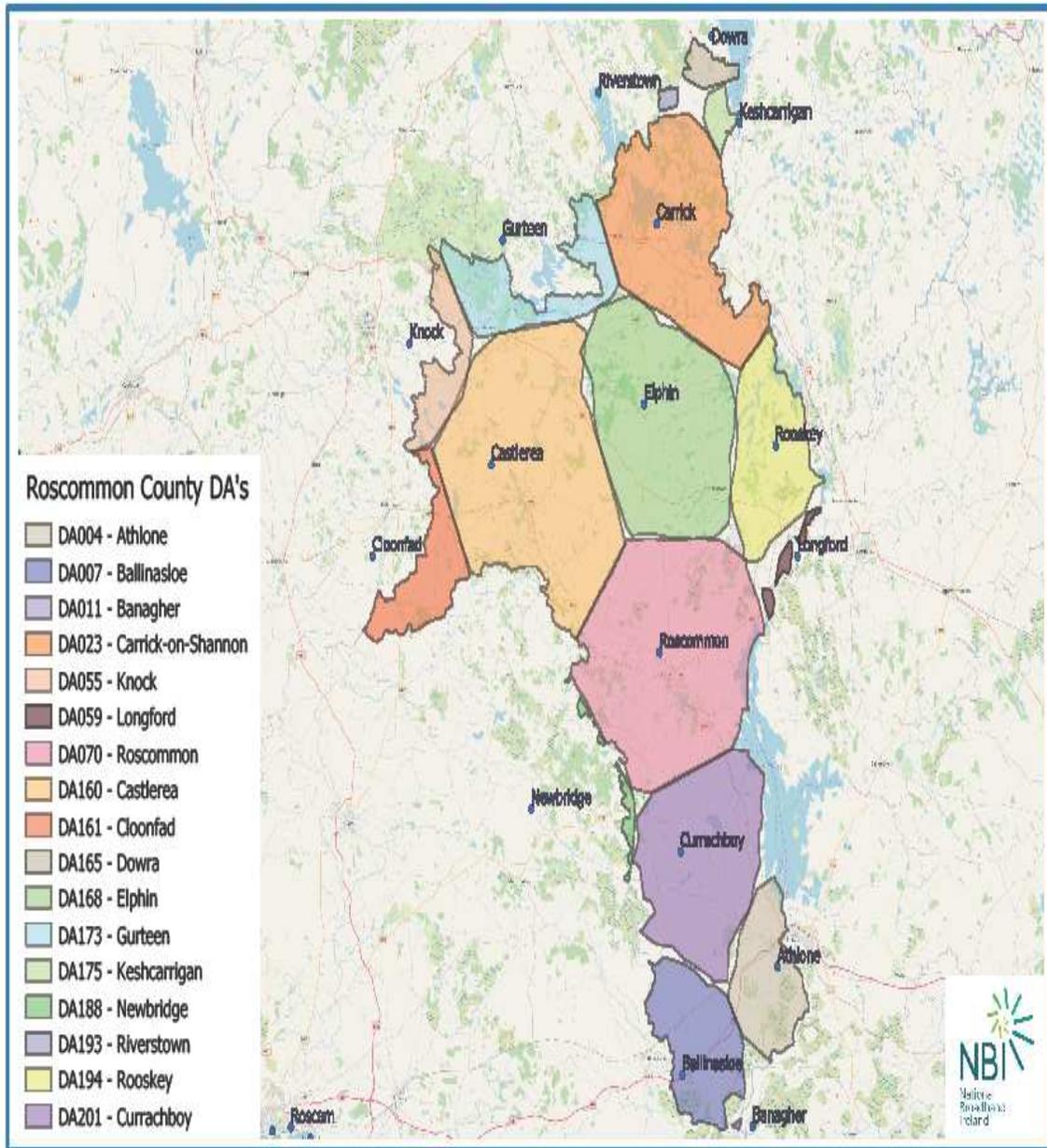
Wifi4EU

Tenders for the project to provide public wifi in locations throughout the County were returned in January. Wifi4EU will give public Wifi access in many of our medium to small towns and is another step towards full digital access throughout the county. Tenders have been assessed and a Letter Of Intent is currently being delivered to the preferred tenderer. It is intended to have the contract awarded officially by the end of the month. The contract is split into 4 separate lots. The delivery of the services over all 4 lots will depend on the uptake of the service in the previous lots. It is intended to commence work on lots 1 & 2 in May with Boyle, Elphin, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea & Strokestown among the first locations to be connected.

NBI rollout of High speed Broadband under the National Broadband Plan

NBI began carrying out initial surveys of Eir infrastructure on 14th April 2020 and the build out of infrastructure in the Ballinasloe and Athlone Deployment Areas commenced in January. Roscommon has 17 Deployment Areas and 19,126 premises eligible for connection. Progress updates are shown on the table below. RCC are currently engaging with NBI staff regarding build designs and S254 planning applications across the network. Procedures have been put in place to coordinate timely processing of the applications across the various departments.

National Broadband Plan Deployment Map



NBI Rollout DA	Progress To date	Estimated Connection Date
Ballinasloe DA	Build almost complete and properties will be in a position to seek connection to the network later this year – 668 premises in this DA are in Roscommon	Q4 2021
Roscommon DA	Build well underway – Properties should be in a position to seek connection to the network later this year – 2993 premises	Q4 2021
Athlone DA	Design has been completed and S254 applications are in regarding new pole infrastructure – build to commence in Q4 of this year - 668 premises in this DA are in Roscommon	Q3 2022
Castlerea DA	Surveying commenced recently in the Castlerea Deployment Area – build to commence in Q2 2022 – 3312 premises	Q3 2023
Carrick On Shannon DA	Surveying was completed in the Carrick Deployment Area – build to commence in Q4 of this year – 2042 premises in this DA are in Co Roscommon	Q2 2022
Longford DA	Surveying was completed in the Longford Deployment Area – build to commence in Q4 of this year - 59 premises in this DA are in Co Roscommon	Q3 2022
Remaining Deployment Areas	NBI don't have any indicative Survey date or build estimates for the remaining deployment areas in Co Roscommon at this time.	

Eir's rollout.

Eir have almost completed their Irish Fibre Network – Fibre to the Home rollout to the main urban centres in County Roscommon. 6000 homes were targeted in this rollout and work commenced in Boyle & Castlerea towns in 2019 and Roscommon town in 2020. 5200 of these homes now have high speed broadband available and the remainder will be facilitated in the near future.

Eduroam

Ireland's National Education & Research Network (HEAnet) are promoting the rollout of Eduroam in Ireland. Eduroam stands for education roaming. It is a service that provides secure and easy to use Wi-Fi access in thousands of locations in more than a hundred countries around the globe. This initiative aims to create extended virtual campuses and offer students multiple options to go online and connect to their Further and Higher Education institutions. The ambition is to make Eduroam Wi-Fi available as much as possible to students everywhere. The same Eduroam profile, and same credentials, allows them Internet access via any Eduroam hotspot anywhere in the world. Roscommon County Council will be looking to make the Eduroam service available in Public Libraries in the coming months.

Digital Strategy

Work is ongoing to produce Roscommon's Digital Strategy 2021-2024. Surveys undertaken and information collected from various departments pre pandemic will need to be updated to reflect the change in the entire digital landscape and requirements during and post Covid.