



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**MAY 2021**

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/05/2021	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/05/2021	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	2,750,889	7,477,004	4,897,697	8,242,177	2,146,807
Road Transport & Safety	6,548,071	24,494,642	1,762,721	17,446,380	(4,785,350)
Water Services	2,384,201	7,613,827	2,565,643	7,521,282	181,442
Development Management	2,471,502	7,258,004	1,817,190	2,178,034	(654,311)
Environmental Services	2,199,461	5,972,794	220,320	958,825	(1,979,141)
Recreation & Amenity	1,431,971	4,343,863	210,958	554,200	(1,221,014)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	151,959	654,744	82,529	257,532	(69,430)
Miscellaneous Services	3,046,930	5,275,773	2,061,458	2,429,372	(985,472)
Central Management Charges	813,388	0	55,370	0	(758,018)
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	5,270,560	12,677,652	5,270,560
	<b>21,798,372</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>22,553,009</b>	<b>63,090,653</b>	<b>754,637</b>

**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 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off/Waivers</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	2,736,574	12,659,675	844,676	916,620	13,634,953	7,130,302	6,504,652	17,400	52%	24%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	394,360	2,173,583		(1,604)	5,569,547	2,147,909	421,638		84%	80%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	145,193	98,760			243,954	98,216	145,738		40%	52%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Forward Planning

The Draft County Development Plan consultation process commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> April and runs until 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. Webinars were held for members of the PPN on the 20<sup>th</sup> May and for members of the public on the 26<sup>th</sup> May to promote the process.

## Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in May. A total of 48 valid planning applications were received, which is generally comparable to the preceding monthly figures since the beginning of 2021. Decisions issued on 29 applications, of which 26 were grants of planning permission.

### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
May 2021	Valid app	28	20	48
	Extension of Duration	1	2	3
	DED	8	2	10
	Pre-planning meeting	14	15	29

### **Enforcement Activity**

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
May 2021	New enforcement case	14
	General letter	6
	Warning letter	6
	Enforcement notice	1
	Closed case	19
	Legal proceedings	0

### **Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)**

As Covid restrictions were lifted for construction activity, contractors began working in 8 no. estates, 5 in the Boyle MD area (Silveroe, The Warren, Cois Cuain, Canal Court and Maple Close) and 3 in the Roscommon MD area (Ard Ri, Shannonside and Waters Edge) primarily carrying out snagging works.

Roscommon County Council Area Staff are working in 2 no. estates in the Roscommon MD area (Ard Castle and New Road, Castlerea) primarily carrying out minor works.

Developers are working in 2 no estates, 1 in the Roscommon MD area (Cluain Ard, Roscommon) and 1 in the Boyle MD area (Cloonshanville Park, Frenchpark).

# ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

## Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
24 applications have been received and approved to-date. Clients who received TOV approval in 2020 and whose deadline date is approaching are being followed up. Once received, claims are being processed in a timely fashion. Funding on offer reverted to 50% on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. There are two Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars available to book on the LEO Roscommon Website on June 30<sup>th</sup> June & August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:** The next meeting is provisionally schedule for June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** A condition of this Scheme is that clients who received refunds (38 in total) must have agreed beforehand to complete a project focused on driving key themes such as Competitiveness, both Operationally and Green, Capability across Leadership, Innovation, Strategic Finance and new Market Development which will support the mitigation of the effects of the Covid-19 and Brexit. The intention is that the funding and associated projects will provide businesses with a platform from which they can sustain and grow, thereby contributing to the recovery of the Irish economy. Tenders were received from 67 consultants, assessed and a Panel formed. On a gradual basis, clients are being contacted and matched with a suitable mentor. This initiative is to be completed with client reports received by the LEO under stipulated headings by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021.
- **Microfinance:** 7 applications received and sent to MFI Y-T-D, with 5 successful; 1 pending; 1 declined. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance.
- **Training:** Training to support the business community is ongoing and well received.
- **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. Four applications were received from Roscommon based businesses, with one applicant successful in securing a place on the Programme: Sandra Ganey, owner of Jiving Juniors.
- **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. All bookings are taken via the LEO website online booking system.
- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** The National Final took place virtually on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. Rust Busters from Castlerea Community School weren't in luck on this occasion, having come to the fore at county level.
- **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** has met with Meabh Conaghy, the new West Region Manager, who has also joined the LEO Projects Evaluation Committee.
- **IDA:** LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

# COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

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

## **Wellness Campaign:**

- **Conversations in Portrait: RCC** are engaging with 8 participants in the Keep Well **Conversations in Portrait** – 3 in Nursing Homes, 5 at home –
- Preparation ongoing by the Community Forum Sub-Group: Staying Connected/Managing Your Mood: 400 Age Friendly Care Packs distributed to the most isolated throughout the County. (Reps: RCC, HSE, AGS, RLP).

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 3 LEADER claims paid in May

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

- There was no LCDC Meeting held in May.

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

A JPC meeting took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and discussed:

- Report from An Garda Síochána on Merging of the Roscommon/Longford Division with the Mayo Division
- Adoption of Draft Standing Orders 2021
- Adoption of Draft JPC Work Plan 2021
- Nomination to sit on Interagency Working Group to address social issues in Ballaghaderreen

## CLÁR

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

### **Community Enhancement Programme 2021**

- Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD, have recently announced €4.5 million to support community groups impacted by COVID-19.
- The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) will provide small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.
- The grants will range from a few hundred euro up to €10,000, however, exceptions will be made depending on the application.
- The funding is to help groups and clubs get back on their feet and may be used to carry out necessary renovations and repairs or to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, training equipment and so on.
- The department allocation for Roscommon is €133,301.
- On the 19th of May an email circulated to the grants subcommittee of the LCDC seeking approval to advertise and publish the grant scheme 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
  - Grant in excess of €1,000
- It was also agreed that this scheme would be online application made available from the 28th of May, 2021 with a closing date of midnight on the 20th of June, 2021.
- As per department guidelines the LCDC grants subcommittee agreed that 30% of the total funds (€39,990.30) be allocated to small scale grants of €1,000 or less with the balance (€93,310.70) to grants in excess of €1,000

### **Social Inclusion Unit:**

#### **Age Friendly Programme:**

- Meeting held with new Regional Age Friendly Programme Manager: – Eileen Hughes
- Review of AF Strategy progressing.
- Media Training attended by OPN – facilitated through RLP/SICAP

#### **Roscommon Accessibility Group;**

- County Roscommon Accessibility/Make Way Day Committee Meeting attended; presentation given by the Resident Engineer with regard to the Public Realm Works in Roscommon Town.
- Accessibility Committee invited to attend public consultation on Ballagherren Public Realm Project.
- This Committee is hosted by RLP under SICAP

#### **Africa Day 2021;**

- RCC on behalf of Athlone Women's Forum were successful in an application for Funding from the Dept. of Foreign Affairs in respect of Africa Day 2021 – Successful online event held on 25.05.2021

#### **Migrant Integration Strategy;**

- Meeting of Migrant Integration Working Group held – Community Champions to be identified in order to aid the consultation process going forward.

### Misc:

- Bike Week 2021 Webinar attended – this year Bike Week will be held in September.

### SICAP

- SICAP Q3 Drawdown Request was submitted to Department for payment.

### Pride of Place 2021

- The County Roscommon Pride of Place Competition 2021 closed on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- 2 groups were entered into the All-Island Pride of Place 2021 Competition under categories Housing Estates and Population 300-1,000.

### Heritage

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

4 x technical sub group and 1 x steering group meetings took place to progress the Tentative List application under the guidance of Dr. Christopher Young. A press release was prepared and issued to local media to publicize the new [www.royalsites.ie](http://www.royalsites.ie) and public consultation survey. Social media posts were scheduled for the month and an email sent to the Heritage Office News mailing list to promote the website and public consultation survey. The survey was open for the month of May. A presentation was prepared for the Map Plenary meeting and letters of support for the tentative list application sought from the Chief Executive and Cathaoirleach. Letters of support have also been sought from other stakeholders. A meeting was held with Pio Byrnes from the Planning Department to discuss the planning policy context for Rathcroghan and collate the required information. Technician support has been requested to prepare some mapping required for the application. This project is being co-ordinated by Tipperary County Council.

- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum:**

The Heritage Forum met on 26.05.21 to consider a submission to the Draft Roscommon County Development Plan.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

A 'Biodiversity & Pollinators News Update' was emailed to Heritage Office News and community groups who had applied for Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants 2021. All subsequent queries and requests for publications and signage have been followed up.

Roscommon County Council has received its certification as a Partner to the All- Ireland Pollinator Plan. Site meetings took place with staff from Ballaghaderreen Area to discuss and trial actions for pollinators at Rathcroghan carpark & the Douglas Hyde Interpretation Centre.

- **Historic Structures Fund 2021**

Letters of offer were sent to 3 x successful applicants. Letters were sent to unsuccessful applicants. Follow up phone contact was made with all applicants to discuss their options.

- **Irish-language shopfront stream of the Historic Structures Fund 2021**

The Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage announced the re-opening this funding stream on 14.05.21. The scheme was publicised on the council website and social media with a



closing date of 02.06.21. One query has been received to date, however the project was not eligible for the scheme.

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

Funding was secured for 2 x projects:

Invasive Alien Species – Japanese Knotweed €18,826

Biodiversity Awareness - €25,600

These projects must be delivered by Q4.

Projects include supporting the **Irish Hedgehog Survey**. A workshop for Roscommon is scheduled for 02.06.21. A press release was circulated to local media, social media posts were scheduled and an email sent to Heritage Office News about the project & workshop.

- **National Biodiversity Week 2021**

A series of informative and engaging biodiversity themed social media posts incorporating videos, images and publications was delivered over a 10 day period in support of National Biodiversity Week 2021.

- **Arigna Outdoors**

Participated in 1 x project meeting facilitated by Fáilte Ireland.

- **Rathcroghan Landscape Partnership Project**

Participated in 1 x project meeting facilitated by Fáilte Ireland.

- **Tulsk History Group:**

Heritage Office is providing support in the delivery of a Field-name Recording Project.

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

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

- **National Heritage Week 2021**

A press release announcing the details for the week was prepared and circulated to local media and emails sent to contacts and posted on social media.

## **Tourism**

Many attractions/activities now opening on phased basis

### **Regional Projects:**

- **Outdoor Dining Fund:** online application process open for applications until Sept. Applications review ongoing on a weekly basis
- **IHH Network:** Athlone and Carrick resilience Plan Meetings via TEAMS.

## County Projects:

- **Arigna Mining:** Fáilte Ireland Landscape Architect meeting to discuss potential for outdoor experience development at Arigna Mining Experience.
- **Social Media:** continuing weekly – EXPLORE ROSCOMMON theme for summer 2021
- **Marketing** – agreed a summer marketing scheme with Consultant – 2 weeks in June and 2 weeks in July. Ireland County by County recording took place in Roscommon over 3 days including King House. Interview on Local radio on the Trails
- **ORIS 2020** – Video awarded to Spicy Dog Media
- **ORIS 2021** – EOI received 6 applications for measure 1.

## King House

- Panels formed for King House Tours Guide. New Curator to commence in June
- New Exhibition for Maureen O Sullivan installed
- RRDF funding approved – meeting to discuss process

## Destinations Town – Boyle

- Works commencing on Pleasure Grounds at end of the month

## Covid 19 Initiatives:

- **Roscommon Community Response Forum:**

As part of the Governments 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 individual in Roscommon and to ensure delivery of targeted social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals.

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

- **Community Support Response Helpline:**

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

## Arts Office

### Artists

- Artist in Schools Term 3: 9 artists in 18 classes delivering 10 week programmes.
- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.

## **Bealtaine Festival Roscommon** – celebrating creativity as we age.

Conversations in Portrait online exhibition | Midwives of the Nation online theatre | Teatime Tunes with John Carty on facebook | Creative Conversations (5 artists/15 participants/45 sessions one to one)

### **Music**

- **Music Generation Roscommon** physical and 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 at Primary and Post Primary levels.

### **Film**

#### **WRAP II and SLR Film**

- Creative Heartlands with Arts and LEO Roscommon, Sligo & Leitrim (lead): Film Development Officer (part-time).
- Film Liaison: Mike Hourigan continues to assist in coordinating the advancement of the film sector within the region as the local point of contact for production companies, producers, directors, locations managers. Film prep work in Boyle to commence filming end June in King House and in private houses and on street (traffic stop/start system will be used).

#### **Roscommon County Youth Theatre**

Term 3 of online programme and 'In Conversation' Series. Preparation for *Cruinniú na nÓg* online event.

**Observances Arts Programme** with EROC and Ballaghaderreen Community. Part-funded by RCC Social Inclusion & Healthy Ireland. Artists Julie Griffiths & Vukasin Nedeljković.

#### **Literary Development Programme**

- Roscommon New Writing Award, Chapbook Bursary, Writer Mentoring – 67 entries

#### **Creative Ireland**

- *John McGahern* exhibition at The Barracks Cootehall.
- 18 projects via Culture Team: Arts Office, Arts Centre, Heritage Office, Tourism Office, Library incl Cathaoirleach's Award.
- 13 Open Call projects.
- Creativity in Older Age: Artist Laura Earley - A creative exploration of positive ageing amongst the farming community with a particular focus on the Roscommon Livestock Marts.
- Application to Creative Climate Action Fund - Creative Heartlands film project.
- *Cruinniú na nÓg* planning for Saturday 12th June. Ireland's national day of free creativity for children and young people – and entire families. 17 online and outdoor events organised by Arts Office, Library, Roscommon Arts Centre, Music Generation Roscommon and Roscommon County Youth Theatre.
- Decade of Centenaries: 7 Open Call & 4 Culture Team projects.

## Keep Well

- Forget Me Not Choir
- Conversations in Portrait – 8 portraits completed (1 couple)

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

## Roscommon Arts Centre

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Roscommon Arts Centre was one of the first venues in Ireland to open its doors to the public for the first time in 2021. **Barbara Kenevicz's exhibition 'Tools for Well Being'** is the first in a series of newly commissioned work by the centre this year, made possible with the support of the Arts Council. Curated by Visual Art Curator in Residence, Naomi Draper, the exhibition includes the site specific development of the artists 'Scapes' formations.

An accompanying video of the artist installing and speaking about the work was also produced, together with a Critical Text "*by way of cautious touches*" in response to the show by Visual Art Writer in Residence Sue Rainsford. Both are available to view online at: [roscommonartscentre.ie](http://roscommonartscentre.ie)

**Bealtaine Festival Events:** In May Roscommon Arts Centre delivered two Bealtaine projects, aimed at engaging with older members of the community with the support of Roscommon County Council's "Age Friendly Programme". "**My Dear Friend**" was a letter writing project between 5 older members of the public and 14 residents in nursing homes in Sacred Heart (Roscommon town) and Aras Mhathair Phoil (Castlerea).

Our second Bealtaine Project provided an opportunity for older members of the public to re-connect with song through a weekly virtual "**Songbirds**" series. Led by Cathy Jordan, 22 participants took part every week in workshops throughout the month.

**Creative Engagement:** Roscommon Arts Centre's Creative Learning Programme for 2021 is titled "Kaleidoscope". The programme aims to connect with people of all ages through a series of artistic engagements and cultural activity that helps develop a person's understanding, knowledge and skills. "Kaleidoscope" is being delivered by professional artists and practitioners and this month the first of two planned Kaleidoscope school programmes commenced virtually in schools throughout the county.

A total of 26 workshops will be delivered by professional artists and practitioners between now and the end of the school term in June. The programme is as follows:

- **Animal Grooves:** dance engagements for Junior – First Class students
- **Stargazing & Storytelling:** astronomy and storytelling workshops
- **Is Peace Possible? Zine Workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class students:** A zine is a self-made, DIY, publication that brings together collage image, text and personal writing on a theme or question. Zines have historically been a popular way of communicating ideas and experiences of marginalised people by not having to go through mainstream publishers.
- **Meet the Writer: Primary Schools in Roscommon 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class**
- **Ag Dull Ar Strae- Getting Lost:** a workshop which celebrates the different languages Irish, English, Polish and the other languages in the class, using drama, images and conversation

**Fregoli Theatre Company Residency:** This month 8 members of Fregoli theatre company continued with a series of professional development workshops as part of Phase 1 of their residency. Working with leading practitioners Debbie Wright, Raymond Keane and Annie Ryan, the company focused on movement, character development and performing in outdoor spaces.

**Playing on the Radio:** Work continues with actor Enda Oates on a new Creative Ireland project and members of Roscommon Drama Group. 12 members of the drama group will take part in two radio plays, directed by Enda, produced by Roscommon Arts Centre and rehearsed over the summer months. Plays will be aired in autumn 2021, with plans also being explored to perform the work as rehearsed readings on stage in September/October.

**Audience Development Plan:** work on the new audience development plan is continuing this month in-house.

**Strategic Plan:** This month, consultant Rowena Neville has also commenced work with the Centre Director on a new 5 year strategic plan for Roscommon Arts Centre, funding for which was secured via The Arts Council's capacity Building Award scheme in 2020. Engagements with key stakeholder will take place over the summer months and it is hoped that the plan will be produced in early September.