



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



## Quarter 3 2018

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/09/2018	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/09/2018	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,327,627	6,409,640	4,489,272	6,488,226	161,646
Road Transport & Safety	14,837,609	19,881,423	7,417,870	14,080,462	(7,419,738)
Water Services	4,965,840	7,359,460	4,654,637	7,279,000	(311,203)
Development Management	4,426,770	5,680,715	2,274,817	1,516,387	(2,151,952)
Environmental Services	4,060,039	5,703,366	645,453	849,329	(3,414,586)
Recreation & Amenity	2,744,611	3,643,551	584,595	572,772	(2,160,016)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	375,997	760,781	191,659	283,949	(184,338)
Miscellaneous Services	3,982,352	5,018,665	1,730,206	1,153,975	(2,252,146)
Central Management Charges	0	0	0	0	0
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	8,513,525	10,216,000	8,513,525
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	8,812,861	12,017,500	8,812,861
	<b>39,720,844</b>	<b>54,457,601</b>	<b>39,314,895</b>	<b>54,457,601</b>	<b>(405,947)</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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off</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>	2,428,797	11,742,543	1,133,525	531,831	12,505,984	8,707,157	3,798,827	69,467	70%	63%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	412,573	3,360,035		(8,470)	3,781,078	3,337,658	443,419		88%	88%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	140,224	121,322			261,546	124,202	137,345		47%	49%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of September 2018

## **WATER & 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 brief 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 completed SI tender documentation and these have been assessed by IW. This Site Investigation contract commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018. The Roscommon Town Network model has been completed by Tobin's in April 2018. A Final Design review report has been recently completed which informs of upgrade works, land acquisition and way leaves. Draft way leaves and land acquisition drawings have been completed. Negotiations with landowners has commenced in late August. A Solicitor and Valuer has been appointed for land negotiations. Detailed design has commenced on the project and planning permission will follow in Q1 2019. The tender process will commence soon after. Estimated construction works Q1 2020.

#### **Boyle WSS Extension to Grangemore RWSS:**

This project involves extending the recently upgraded Boyle RWSS supply southward to the Grangemore RWSS and ultimately to allow the decommissioning of the Cavetown WTP. AECOM and Jennings O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed for the project. Compensation agreed with land owners and legal teams are completing process. CPO process for two land owners has ended by agreement with Irish Water Legal and all wayleaves are all in place. A Tender process has taken place recently and the successful contractor has been contacted. The contract is due to be signed by early November 2018. Estimated construction start date will be approximately early December with completion by November/December 2019.

#### **Castlerea & Environs Phase 2 (Williamstown to Castlerea) Contract:**

The long term solution for the Castlerea WSS is that the scheme is ultimately to be supplied from the Lough Mask Water Treatment Plant. This is to be achieved by extending the Lough Mask RWSS eastward from where the Phase 1 contract terminates at Williamstown Water Tower to supply Ballymoe WSS and then northward to ultimately supply the Castlerea WSS, thus allowing the decommissioning of both the Ballymoe and Castlerea WTP's. The Terms of Reference for the appointment of Consulting Engineers was issued to the Consulting Engineers representing Irish Water on Phase 1 of this project. The fee proposal was submitted to IW but this process has now been put on hold as there are capacity issues that require upgrade works to the treatment plant at Lough Mask. Once this capacity issue has been resolved, Irish Water will go to the market for Consulting Engineers to re-start the above process again. No Timeframe for Phase 2 is available at present.

#### **Ballaghaderreen WWTP:**

The Ballaghaderreen 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. Ryan Hanley has been appointed as Employers Representative for the Project including 4no. WWTP's in Mayo, 2no. In Galway and 1no. In Roscommon (Ballaghaderreen). An asset survey report has been issued from Ryan Hanly which requires revisions. Other Data gathering and monthly

progress meetings are on going. A draft feasibility study report has been reviewed recently and various amendments have been noted. Final report is due by the end of October. Conceptual design will then follow on from the final feasibility report which will be reviewed and agreed with Irish Water. Detailed Design and Planning Permission will follow on in Q1 of 2019.

#### **Monksland and Boyle Drainage Area Plans:**

The preparation of a Drainage Area Plan and Wastewater Source Control Study is being 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.

The manhole and sewer CCTV survey are complete for both Towns and the Flow and Load Survey in Monksland and the Flow and Rainfall Survey in Boyle are also complete. The Model build for the networks on both Towns is complete. A Technical Solution Development Report has been issued for both locations in June 2018. The Process Optimisation Report for Monksland is complete.

The scope of the upgrade works at Monksland includes the provision of new Inlet Works, storm tank and storm water overflow chamber and also includes for a telemetry upgrade. Site Investigation work has been undertaken for the Monksland WWTW. A procurement exercise has been undertaken to carry out the above works in Monksland. Submissions have been assessed and the successful contractor will be awarded the contract by the end of October. It is anticipated that Main Construction Works for Monksland will commence in December 2018.

#### **CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:**

##### **Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme:**

Termonbarry WWTP has been included in the programme. JB Barry has been appointed as consulting Engineers. Conceptual Design is ongoing. The technical options report has been reviewed and amendments made. Awaiting on approval of report. Once approved it will form part of a project bundle that Irish Water will roll out Q1 2019 for tender submission.

##### **National Certs of Authorisation Programme (NCAP):**

RPS Consulting Engineers appointed and currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. Sites in Roscommon. Assessment is based on the impact on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff are engaging with RPS by providing detailed information on each of the plants been examined under this programme. An upgrade programme of works will be rolled out for these sites from 2018-2021.

##### **Satellite Dewatering Programme:**

Jacobs/Tobin has been appointed as Consultants by Irish Water for the Sludge Hub and Satellite Programme: Satellite Dewatering Centre Contract.

Jacobs Tobin prepared the content of the Asset Survey with Irish Water who carried out survey works. Boyle WWTP was identified as one of the 15no. Sites nationally however, following the site survey Boyle WWTP was deemed not suitable. Castlerea WWTP was substituted in its place. A site survey was carried out on 28/11/2017. A Feasibility report was issued on 5<sup>th</sup> April. Two options are under consideration.

Two options were considered at design review stage. The preferred option is reuse of existing PFT for import sludge thickening. 2no. new mechanical thickeners for indigenous sludge. Additional centrifuge for dewatering. Cost estimate €3,580,606.

Asset planning to prioritise sites nationally for delivery. First three to be tendered during the current investment plan period. Proceeding with planning and detailed design for all sites including Castlerea WWTP.

##### **Process Optimisation and Control Programme:**

##### **North Roscommon WSS:**

Process proving for the original contract is completed on North Roscommon WTP. Commissioning Plans have to be agreed and signed off on with IW. A new Powder Activated Carbon (PAC) plant has been installed and is expected to be operational by end November 2018.

An EPA audit was carried out 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018. It is expected that the North Roscommon Water Supply Scheme will be removed from the Remedial Action List (RAL) end December 2018.

#### **Water Treatment Programme.**

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. The Commencement meeting took place on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The overall programmed completion date is June 2020. 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. Value Engineering Workshop no.2 will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

#### **Reservoir Cleaning Programme.**

10no. Sites were identified for cleaning in Co. Roscommon as part of a regional reservoir cleaning programme. AQS Ltd were appointed by Irish Water to carry out the works. Works commenced on 23/10/2017. The following reservoirs have yet to be cleaned.

- Lisacurkia Reservoir. Due to be completed end November 2018.
- Derrinacantha Reservoir. Due to be completed end November 2018.

#### **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. Castlerea WTP and Mount Talbot WTP are included in this programme

Coffey Water Appointed for the North West Region and the procurement of equipment is underway.

#### **Access to Heights and Edge Protection Programme.**

This is a regional programme aimed at addressing medium and high risk items identified in HSQE audits. There are 12no. Locations in Roscommon included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been appointed to carry out the works. Site assessments were carried out on 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> July. Works are expected to commence in Q4 2018 and the programme is intended to be delivered during 2019.

#### **SME Energy Efficiency Programme.**

The Regional SME Energy Efficiency Programme has commenced. There are 6no. Locations in Roscommon included in the Regional Programme. Site visits are currently underway and the programme is intended to be delivered during 2019.

### **WATER NETWORKS PORTFOLIO:**

#### **Water Network Framework Programme:**

Irish Water is rolling out a new 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.**

Water Network Mains rehabilitation and lead services replacement has been completed in Athleague village and Athlone Road. Works were completed on 9<sup>th</sup> July replacing lead services on Castle Street and the Square. Works were completed in Kiltewan in September laying new water mains, which replaced an existing problematic water main. Works were completed in August laying a new water main at Carrick, Ballinlough to replace an existing problematic water main. Rooskey water main replacement is due to commence end October. Water Main and lead services are due to commence in Ballaghaderreen in December. Water main replacement is due to commence at Emmoo in February 2019. There is an ongoing programme of works for Lead replacement for Roscommon town and Castlerea. A prioritised list of water mains rehabilitation is to be agreed with Irish Water in November 2018.

### **Find and Fix Programme:**

This is a two year programme targeted at DMA's with high UFW figures and commenced in June 2018. The appointed contractor in the North West Region, Farrans, have started work in Ballinlough and surrounding DMA's. Farrans have also been tasked with examination of DMA'S establishment and they have employed the services of Jacobs Consulting Engineers to carry out this work. Roscommon County Council has also employed a find and fix team to operate in tandem with the Irish water contractor. The team has been deployed to the southern half of the county. This team is made up of a leak detection person and two operatives who will be supervised by a resident engineer.

### **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 Construction have appointed by IW to carry out works in the programme Matched meter exchanges have been completed. Surveys of unmatched meters are ongoing.

### **RURAL WATER MULTI ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2016-2018:**

The Rural Water Programme 2018 bid from Roscommon County Council was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in January.

A block and scheme specific allocation has been advised by the Department of Housing Planning & Local Government in Circular L3/18 dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 of **€856,000**.

The €856,000 is allocated over Measure 1 and Measure 2 as follows:

**Measure 1a –€461,000** Environmental and Public Health Compliance – Improvements on GWS' in order to achieve compliance with the quality parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations.

This is apportioned as follows:

- **Capital Replacement Costs of €141,00**

The water treatment plants in the four Group Water Schemes (2 in Mid Roscommon GWS, Oran/Ballintobber GWS and Corracreigh GWS) that make up the Roscommon DBO Bundle have been in operation since 2011 and as per the Capital Replacement Fund forecast work commences in year 6 to replace equipment as deemed necessary and this process continues on an annual basis thereafter. A meeting was held earlier this year with representatives from the schemes, Roscommon County Council, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and Glan Agua Ltd (Contractor) in relation to these costs. . It is envisaged that applications will be made to drawdown from the CRF in 2018.

- **Roscommon DBO Bundle - Glan Agua Contract - €320,000**

The population served by the Roscommon DBO Contract is 6,000 people. While each plant as outlined above has a U.V. system in place, the existing units are not validated to current standards. In order to comply with current requirements the existing units should be replaced with a validated UV Unit and filtration system. The estimated cost for this proposal is €320,000 and has been approved for funding in 2018.

The relevant parties have been requested to progress the above contracts to completion in order to avail of this funding in 2018.

The Department have also provided approval under Measure 1a to Brusna GWS, Gortaganny GWS, Peak Mantua GWS and Polecat Springs to receive funding from a retained reserve to support projects not included in the above allocation. The Department advise they will work with LA's to ensure there is a plan in place to ensure satisfactory progression to completion.

**Measure 2 –€395,000 Block Grant allocation for Group Water Scheme Network Upgrades and Water Conservation.**

Projects proposed or underway on the following Group Water Schemes in 2018:

Brusna, Carane, Carroward, Corracreigh, Gortaganny, Mid-Roscommon, Oran-Ballintubber, Peake Mantua, Polecat Springs and Woodbrook Group Water Schemes.

**REVISION OF SUBSIDY TOWARDS THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF GROUP WATER SCHEMES:**

The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in consultation with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes has carried out a review of existing subsidies and with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS:**

The funding for Individual Well Grants is demand led and applications continue to be processed for those who do not have access to an alternative water supply in their area. The maximum grant available is €2,031.58 or 75% of the cost of the work, whichever is the lesser. To the end of Q3 2018 a total of 13 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received with 8 receiving Provisional Approval for financial support. Grants have been paid on 7 completed applications in the sum of €13,458 to the end of Q3.



## Forward Planning

### Vacant Site Levy work arising from the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Further to the issuing of formal notification to owners of 30 sites in June, advising of the entry of the lands on the Vacant Sites Register, the valuation process commenced in July, with all valuations being undertaken by an appointed Valuer. Following the conclusion of that work, the valuations details were included on the Vacant Site Register. Formal notification of the valuations was issued to all relevant site owners, together with information on their entitlements to appeal the valuations to the Valuations Tribunal.

### Vacant Homes Office

Following receipt of Circular VHU 01/2018 in June from the DHPLG to all Local Authorities, advising of the availability of partial funding for a Vacant Homes Office, a Vacant Homes Officer was formally designated in July, to assume responsibility for vacant homes activity and to progress initiatives to identify and address vacancy in the key settlements of the county. The Vacant Homes Office has been incorporated into the Forward Planning section. Vacant homes survey work in Q3 initially focused on the Monksland / Bellanamullia LAP area, where it was noted that the extent of vacant homes has decreased significantly since a survey was originally carried out in December 2017 (from 94 to 42). The first quarterly return on Vacant Homes activity was provided to the DHPLG in September.

## Development Management (including enforcement activity)

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in Q3, with the number of valid planning applications submitted in Q3 being similar to that of Q2. In overall terms, by the end of Q3 2018, the number of planning applications received<sup>1</sup> has increased substantially in comparison to the same period last year (413 in 2018, compared to 351 in 2017). A total of 152 decisions were made on planning applications in Q3, of which 5 were refusals, representing a refusal rate of just 3.2%.

Period	Activity	Q3
Q3 2018	Valid App	144
	Invalids	27
	Extension of Duration	1
	DED's	17
	Pre Planning Meeting	54

### Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Q3
Q3 - 2018	New enforcement case	11
	Warning letter	1
	Enforcement Notice	1
	Closed Case	2

<sup>1</sup> Valid planning applications

### **Unfinished Housing Developments**

As has been evident throughout 2018, activity is taking place 'on the ground' in a number of unfinished developments, with works being undertaken in accordance with agreed site resolution plans. On-site activity in Q3 was slightly less intensive than previous quarters, with this being largely attributable to the traditional summer holiday period during parts of July and August.

Overall, developers have been undertaking works in a number of developments in Ballaghaderreen, Strokestown and Rooskey. In addition, a contractor appointed by Roscommon County Council commenced works in a development in Monksland in July, and RCC's direct labour semi-skilled workers undertook work in developments in Ballaghaderreen, Ballinagare, Frenchpark, Knockcroghery and Scramogue (with the latter being emergency works in response to a treatment plant malfunction).

#### **Local Enterprise Office:**

- 177 enquiries were recorded.
- Two Mentor Clinics were held with 17 participants.
- Ongoing one-to-one mentoring for the business community took place.
- An Evaluation Meeting was held with 4 businesses being approved for direct financial support.
- Autumn training commenced including the Lean for Business Programme.
- Student Enterprise Programme commenced with 8 of the 9 Second Level Schools in Co Roscommon signed up.
- An Enterprise Awareness in Primary Schools Workshop has commenced with 16 schools in the county signed up.
- Taste of the Lakelands meetings took place regarding this year's Event being held in Lanesboro from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October being supported by counties Roscommon and Longford.
- Brexit Clinics, free of charge, have been organised for October and November and are on the LEO online booking system.
- Sligo IT held an Innovation Voucher Clinic in Áras an Chontae, in collaboration with the LEO office.
- Clients were supported to attend The Ploughing and one client, Saoirse Saddlery, exhibited in the LEO Enterprise Village.
- Staff member attended the Regional "EMPOWER - Spirit of Entrepreneurship" Event in GMIT, Castlebar.
- Staff member attend the Network Ireland Annual Conference held in Galway.
- Staff member attended a 'Learning Network' meeting in Roscommon attended by various agencies.
- National Women's Enterprise Day (NWED) – 18<sup>th</sup> October. LEO Roscommon is taking the Lead for the West Region. This year's Regional Ambassador has been chosen – Michelle Daly, Deputy Managing Director, P & G Cards, Athleague. A client speaker has been sourced from each of the Mayo & Galway LEOs. The theme is '**from local to global**'. All bookings are via Local Enterprise Offices websites.
- A delegation from Slovenia visited Roscommon in collaboration with the LEO and Westbic ref: Trinno Project. They were taken to The Ploughing Event in Screggan.
- A delegation from Roscommon, including Louise Ward, LEO; James Donlon, Westbic; Brendan Allen, Castlemine Farm; and Una Fannon, An Chistin, Enterprise Centre, Castlerea visited Florence, Italy, on a food research project.

#### **Vacant Sites:**

- Sites are being advertised and two were sold recently, with one current sale in progress.

#### **Innovation Centre – Monksland:**

- An application under Rural Regeneration Programme for an Innovation Centre has been submitted.

**STEM:**

- Attended workshop on Ireland Funds with co-ordinator who is now going to follow up with Midland STEM project to see about learning from their experiences.
- Full time person to co-ordinate project is in place. In the meantime, ongoing work continues and preparatory work to extend what is involved will be put in place, as well as looking at other funding.
- STEM showcased to Minister Mary Mitchell O Connor in RCC offices in July.
- Presentation of STEM project update given to SPC by new co-ordinator, Sean Fleming, during September.

**USEFE:**

- Annual contribution of €10,000 approved in April for 2 years.

**Marketing of County:**

- Photographer has completed a number of the business and tourism photographs. Final list to be delivered in October.

**Monitoring of Economic Element of LECP:**

- Update provided in relation to Economic actions.

**Tourism Development and Promotion:**

- **Regional Projects:**

**IWAK:** All images and text for the new brochure forwarded to IWAK.

**Destination Athlone:** Attended launch of *Athlone Festival* on 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018.

**USEFE:** Meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. Agreed that Blueway product development and engagement with trade along the Blueway could fall under the remit of the USEFE Working Group. Farm trip to be organised for Angling.

- **County Projects:**

**Famine Walk:** Visited the proposed Famine Walk.

**Strokestown Park:** First round of Interviews for Archivist position carried out. 2<sup>nd</sup> round in October.

**An Tain:** Meeting for proposed festival on Sliabh Bawn in May 2019. Funding to be sought from festival grants.

**Douglas Hyde:** Attended Douglas Hyde festival launch and included Roscommon Tourism brochures in the conference packs.

**AIT:** Tourism imagery for Fellowship Conferring forwarded to AIT.

**Lough Key Drumman Island:** Meeting with Richard Jack of Coillte re reclamation of channel to Drumman Island.

- **Rebranding:** First concept due in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Oct from Design West.

#### **Publicity & Media:**

**Publicity Material/Website:** IHH logo added to website.

**Signage:** 2 further signs for Casey's Roscommon of King House and Arigna Mining Experience printed and erected.

**Social Media:** Information from attractions and communities being updated on daily bases. Enterprise Department has agreed to co-ordinate Council Social Media usage for Arts, Heritage, Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Community Section. Ongoing.

**Events Calendar:** Enterprise Department approving events and promoting through numerous channels and contacts. GIS Officer has promoted in Local Authority News publication. Working with GIS Officer to develop more user friendly links before advertising on local print and social media in 2018. Calendar advertised on 2 local papers and also through social media advert during March.

**Trade Shows:** Attended the 50 Plus show in Galway, World Canal conference over 2 days and the National Ploughing Championship over 3 days.

- **Outdoor Recreation:** Donamon project under Measure II 2017, commenced. Extension granted to mid Nov for submission of claim.
- **Healthy Ireland:** Collection of information for Family Walks Book commenced.
- **2018 Festival and Events:** 9 projects paid out to date. All successful applicants reminded to send in forms.

## **Q3 Environment Section Management Report**

### **Mattress Amnesty**

Approval for the provision of a maximum grant of €9,000 in respect of a Mattress Amnesty was received from the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in June 2018. Over 900 mattresses were collected at three sites at the end of Quarter 2. These mattresses were all transported for recycling and the final claim submitted early in quarter three.

### **Green Your Festival/Education Awareness**

Green Your Festivals initiative was again rolled out at number of events during quarter 3 - the Ballyleague food fair, Regatta in Portlun and all major matches played in the Hyde. Presentations were made to Active Age coordinators throughout the county during Quarter 3.

### **Complaints**

The Environment Section continues to deal with litter/pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded and every complaint is investigated. In Quarter 3 of 2018 158 complaints were received.

### **2018 Anti Dumping Initiative**

Roscommon received approval of a maximum grant in the amount of €53,000 for projects submitted under the above initiative. The projects include the development of an Awareness Campaign, the purchase of Equipment, removal of asbestos and the clean up of a number of sites. Work was completed on all but one of the selected sites in Quarter 3 and the claim submitted through WERLA.

### **Food Waste Prevention**

Roscommon in collaboration with a private company called Profitwatch has carried out workshops in minimising food waste in various restaurants throughout the county. RCC has also made a submission for funding to the DCCAE to roll out this project to all the other restaurants in the county.

### **Laboratory Accreditation**

Following an audit in August, the Laboratory succeeded in extending its accreditation for 3 new parameters in addition to extending the scope of two existing parameters and retaining accreditation for all other existing parameters.

## **Assets & Energy Management -Q 3 Management Report 2018**

### **ASSETS**

- Update of Building/Land Assets as of January, 2018 prepared and to forward to OPW for inclusion on National Property Register
- PIR ( Property Interest Register ) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing
- Plant/Equipment and Housing listings commenced
- Members of / contributors to National Property Interest Register Working Group – Business Case in relation to Management System submitted to CCMA for approval
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Draft Policy documents for approval prepared for:
  - Disposal of Land/Property
  - Acquisition of Land/Property
  - Property Asset Management Plan

### **ENERGY**

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme –**
  - Agreement signed on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Maria Rivas Duarte, assigned to Roscommon County Council
  - Energy Action Plan 2018 – updated per Budget submission
- **Grant Applications –**
  - SEAI Better Energy Communities (BEC) Scheme successful in respect of energy upgrades to:
    - Library HQ, Arts Centre and Leisure Centre (all Roscommon Town)
  - Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) successful in respect of Public Lighting Upgrades in:
    - Roscommon Town (2 no. – 114 no. PL's)
    - Tulsk and Frenchpark (69 no. PL's)
- **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 – OP@W Mentor, Colm O'hAonghusa, reviewing monthly
  - Monitors installed to 5 no. Buildings in Roscommon Town and ESB Networks data connection complete / monitoring ongoing with support from ResourceKraft
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M & R) 2017 –**
  - Data for 2017 submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 - currently at 22.8% (provisional) of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2017 energy usage

# HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT UPDATE Q3/2018

## 1.0 Homelessness & Housing Allocations

### 1.1 Homelessness:

A range of responses to homelessness in accordance with the West Framework Homelessness Action Plan are in place.

- 22 = homeless cases presenting during Q3 2018
- 11 = cases requiring short term accommodation during Q3 2018

### 1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

Housing Needs Assessment was completed in June 2018; following assessment 369 households (net of transfers) were deemed qualified for social housing at the time.

- 388 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q3 2018
- 293 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation
- 37 = offers of accommodation made during Q3 2018
- 32 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q3 2018
- 7 = refusals recorded in Q3 2018

### 1.3 Refugee Applicants:

Of the 19 Syrian refugee families assigned to Roscommon, nine were housed by Q3 2018. One family was reassigned to a different County and RCC has agreed to accommodate two additional families which will bring the overall total to 20. With the exception of one of the additional families, all remaining families will be housed in Q4 2018.

## 2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

### 2.1 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 September 2018, there were 411 households receiving support (318 private rented and 93 in voluntary housing).

### 2.2 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. As of 30 September 2018, there are 318 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP since the scheme was rolled out on 01 December 2016.

### 2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

- 51 = 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 = applications are under further consideration however, some of these have unresolved planning issues
- 2 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments in Roscommon Town)



## 3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

### 3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

Summary of projects in progress:

- Turnkey acquisition of 10 three-bed semi-detached houses at Monksfield Park, Athlone was completed in Q3 2018.
- Stage 2 submission to DHPLG for one 3-bedroom detached house at Cloonfad on HSE site was submitted in Q2 2018 as advised by RCC/Planning; however, this was rejected by the Department (insufficient density). After extensive discussions with RCC/Planning and the Department a new application for 3 terraced units has been prepared and will be submitted in Q4 2018.
- Construction of 10 turnkey units in Boyle continues and is on target for expected completion date in Q1 2019.
- Stage 2 documentation was submitted to the Department in Q3 2018 for direct build project on Part V lands adjacent to Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon; however, differences regarding the suitability of the design delayed the project (Department questioned density and design approach). Concerns raised by the Department have been addressed with minor changes and a new stage 2 submission will be issued in Q4 2018.
- Stage 1 submission for one 3-bedroom detached house in Monksland, Athlone was submitted and approved in Q3 2018 (CPO site). Stage 2 design will be submitted for approval in Q4 2018.
- RCC Housing and Planning have met with short listed tenderers as part of the ongoing competitive/technical dialogue stage of the tendering process. Tender award and construction phase of PPP Bundle 2 at The Walk (53 units) is scheduled for Q2/Q3 2019; delivery of units in 2021.

### 3.2 Housing Association Activity:

- Cluid CALF purchase of 13 existing units at Monksfield, Athlone was completed in Q3 2018.
- Respond CALF acquisition of 12 units at Riveroaks, Ballaghaderreen is completed – all units have been tenanted.
- Tuath was approved to pursue a CALF scheme for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksland (expired Cluid CALF scheme); RCC is awaiting a formal application.
- Tuath CALF acquisition of 6 units at Woodstream, Castlereagh is completed. Refurbishment works are completed and 3 of the units are tenanted.
- Co-operative Housing Ireland acquisition of 2 units at Ros Ard, Monksland is complete & tenanted.
- Cooperative Housing Ireland CALF proposal pending for 7 units at Castle Manor, Roscommon.
- Cooperative Housing Ireland CALF proposal pending for 18-20 apartments on Castle Street, Roscommon.
- Tuath CALF proposal for 17 (initially 21) units at Riverwalk has been approved. Conveyance is in progress but proving difficult (required assurances from Vendor not forthcoming). Tuath to keep RCC closely informed of progress/lack of progress.
- Acquisition of three 2-bedroom dormer units at Woodstream is complete and units are now being tenanted (Tuath CALF proposal).
- Tuath CALF proposal for 3 units in Forest Park Manor, Boyle has been accepted; RCC still awaiting formal proposal.

### 3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

Approximately 18 acquisitions are progressing or completed in 2018, including:

- Single house purchases at various primary urban locations (some completed)
- 1 CPO acquisition at Henry Street, Roscommon (completed but works required)
- 10 units at Lisroyne Court, Strokestown (unfinished estate)

RCC continuing to monitor the private market for one-off house acquisitions where there is a social housing need.

### **3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018:**

- 34 specific or standard units have been delivered under the programme to date.
- 8 families have been accommodated via the HAP programme.
- Extensions to 4 traveller-specific units at Saint Patrick's, Torpan Beg, Ballyforan is at Part 8 planning approval stage.

Preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 began in Q3 2018. LTACC membership was revised/renewed and consultation has begun. The final plan must be adopted by the Council's elected members by 30 September 2019.

### **3.5 Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:**

- The 15 Rural houses in areas of low demand were put on sale by way of tender and the bids were evaluated during the quarter. The successful bids will come before the Council as disposals in due course. As of 30 September 2018, 6 are sold with 5 more at advanced stage of conveyance.
- Roscommon County Council advertised the sale of 9 developed sites at Forest View, Boyle and 1 developed site at Ardsallaghmore, Roscommon. No applications were received for Forest View, Boyle and one application was received for Ardsallaghmore, Roscommon. A decision to dispose of site No. 24 at Ardsallaghmore Townland, Roscommon Town was approved at the Plenary Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018 and the conveyance process has now commenced. It is proposed to re-advertise the affordable sites at Forest View, Boyle in quarter 1 of 2019.

### **3.6 Tenant Purchase:**

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. Information Booklets were sent to approximately 800 potentially eligible tenants in 2017.

105 = applications received  
47 = offers made to date  
16 = offers accepted  
15 = sales completed

### **4.0 Private Rented Accommodation Standards**

Inspections of private rented dwellings continue to be carried out under the Housing (Standards for Private Rented Houses) Regulations 2017.

- 254 inspections were carried out as of 30 September 2018, 68 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- Target for 2018 is 300 inspections.

## **5.0 Management of Existing Housing Stock**

### **5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):**

The RCC Submission for the 2018 Energy Efficiency Works Programme included for:

- 49 homes under Phase 1 Works (€44,100) – No confirmation of funding to date
- 52 homes under the new Phase 2 Works (€102,850)

Phase 2 works were subject to the introduction of a new Department scheme (SEAI scheme not suitable for LAs due to exposure to costs). No scheme has been introduced to date and RCC does not expect to carry out any Phase 2 works in 2018.

## **5.2 Voids Programme:**

1 No. Void was upgraded and brought back into use at North Yard, Scramogue with a cost of €29,749 of which €22,600 was funded by the Department. This house was tenanted early in Q3 2018.

## **5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)**

Up until the end of September 2018, 31 units have been refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties (works required between lettings) at a cost of €245,395.

## **5.4 Housing Maintenance**

RCC Housing received 283 maintenance calls in Q3 2018 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the quarter was €130,780. Note; expenditure/billing for works by the appointed maintenance service providers may lag behind the execution of works.

## **5.5 Housing Grants (including Improvement Works in Lieu)**

Confirmation has been received from the Department for 2018 allocation (Private Grants) which is €1,039,550, an increase of over €40,321 on 2017. This comprises of a DHPLG contribution of €831,638 and the Council's contribution of €207,912. The 2018 budget for Housing Aid for Older People Scheme and Housing Adaptation for People with a Disability Schemes is fully committed – 168 grant applications committed/approved. RCC has process payments amounting to €691,000.

Roscommon County Council received the 2018 grant allocation of €349,322 in Q2 of 2018 towards adaptations & extensions to council housing stock / improvement works in lieu. The department grant-aid 90% (€314,390) and RCC funding the balance 10% (€34,932). Commitment to-date is €328,272.07 which includes an Improvement Works in Lieu & two extensions. €86,561 is recouped to-date. Further recoupments will be submitted to Department at the end of October.

### **Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022**

On 12th September, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD., joined by Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Josepha Madigan TD., and Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government Eoghan Murphy TD., launched Roscommon County Council's Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 at the Irish Architectural Archive in Merrion Square, Dublin, as part of the all-of-government Creative Ireland programme.

This ambitious and innovative 5-year Culture and Creativity Strategy has been developed in consultation with local artists, creatives, cultural and heritage organisations, community groups, the creative industries, centres of education and schools. The Strategy aims to provide meaningful opportunities for citizens and local communities, together with Roscommon County Council, to nurture, sustain and facilitate participation in cultural and creative activities.

Some of the special initiatives delivered to date in 2018 as part of the Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 - 2022 include the Cathaoirleach's Creative Citizenship Award, The Roscommon Anthology of Contemporary Writing 2014-2018, the International Fibre Arts Exhibition, the Douglas Hyde Conference and Vóáil 100.

### **Register of Electors**

The annual revision of the Draft Electoral Register commenced in Q3 2018. A total of 23 field workers will visit all houses in the county in the 101 Polling Districts to update the register. The Draft Register will be published on 1st November 2017.

In Q3 work also commenced on the preparation and compilation of the Supplement to the Register of Electors for the Presidential Election and Referendum on the Thirty-seventh Amendment of the Constitution (repeal of offence of publication or utterance of blasphemous matter) Bill 2018 which takes place on 26th October

### **Control of Dogs**

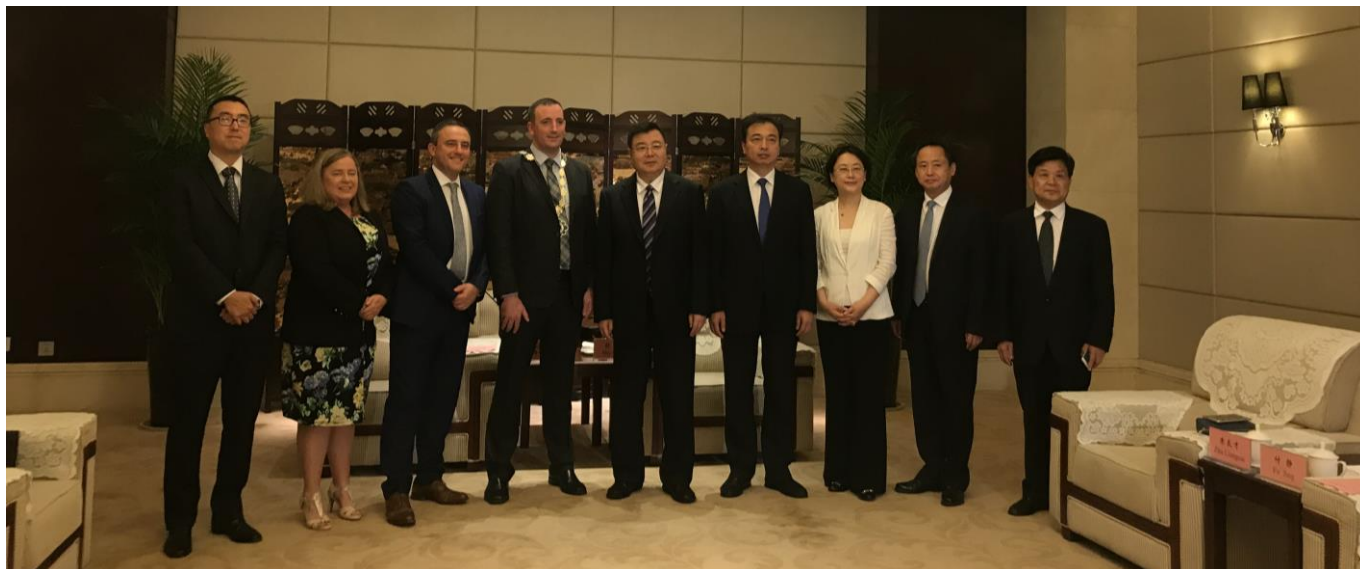
From 2nd July 2018 the National Dog Register was introduced by An Post enabling online purchasing of dog licences.

### **Twinning Visit to China**

A Delegation representing Roscommon County Council travelled to China in September to meet with the Henan and Shanxi Provinces with a view to establishing a friendly relationship and enhance mutual understanding between the two communities with a view to carry out exchanges and cooperation in the fields of trade, culture, tourism that would be of mutual benefit. The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Connaughton, Director of Services Martin Lydon and Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator travelled to Beijing, Zhengzho and Taiyuan and signed a friendship MOU with the Governor of Shanxi, Mr. Lou Yangsheng.

### **Visit of Chinese Ambassador to Ireland**

Dr. Yue Xianrong, the Chinese Ambassador to Ireland visited Roscommon on 24th September. After a meeting with the Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive and the Management Team, he travelled to Rathcroghan and Strokestown Park House.



**Delegation Visit with Henan Province Government Officials**



**Signing Friendship MOU with Shanxi Province**



**Chinese Ambassador to Ireland with Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive**

## **Roads and Transportation Report Q3 2018**

**N5 Ballaghaderreen–Longford:** 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 was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to An Bord Pleanála was 6 March 2018. An Bord Pleanála made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 2018. An Bord Pleanála has required that notice of this additional information be published in newspapers. The closing date for making submissions on this additional information is 23 August 2018. The Board set an Oral Hearing date commencing on the 09 October 2018.

**N60 Oran Road Realignment Project** involves the realignment of approximately 3.4 km of the 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 50% 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, Stage (iv) reporting is ongoing. The detailed design and main construction contract tender documents are substantially complete.

**N61 Ballymurray to Knockcroghery Road Project:** This project comprises the improvement of the N61 National Secondary Road between Ballymurray and Knockcroghery, a length of approx. 7.5km. It will incorporate a bypass of Knockcroghery village. Work has commenced on the initial planning phases of the project. A range of environmental and technical specialists have been appointed and the Concept and Feasibility, and Options Selection phases of the Planning and Design of the project are underway. The Constraints Public Consultation was held in March 2018. It is anticipated that engineering consultants will be appointed in Q4 2018 to advance the project through the remaining Planning and Design Phases.

**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 ongoing on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. Post excavation archaeological works are ongoing. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd., Ballylahan Bridge, Foxford, Co. Mayo on 14 December 2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are progressing well.

**N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment Project** involves the realignment of approximately 4.5km of the N61 National Secondary route from north of Tulsk village to Clashaganny. Various environmental specialists have been procured in order to assist in the development of the project from conception through to the completion of the EIA/EAR & The Statutory Processes. Work is continuing on the initial planning phases of the project, with the preparation of the Constraints Study and Route Options underway.

### **Pavement Overlay**

Tender documents were issued and assessed, contracts awarded for N5 Frenchpark West Surface Replacement and N5 Tulsk Surface Replacement. Works commenced in Q3 2018 for the following works on national Roads: N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay and N61 Corroy Surface Replacement. Works commenced at Cortober, Carrowtoosan and Clonfad. Pavement repairs were carried out at Ballybay, Cloonfad, Ballyleague, at Bumlin, and north of Tulsk. Overlay on the N61 Athlone Road Roscommon was completed.

### **Non-National Roads**



The 2018 Roads programme on Regional and Local Roads is nearing completion in all areas. The DTTAS has requested a 3-year programme 2019 – 2021 to be submitted. This is being prepared for submission in Q4 2018.

#### Low Cost Accident Locations and Bridge Repairs

Works were carried out in Q3 the following low cost safety improvement schemes locations in the county:

R361 Demesne Castlerea
R363 Culleeneolagh
L1602 Betal Castlerea
L1618 Carrowgarve
L1810/L7122 Killeenboy
L1823/L1806 Cloonsellan
L1635 Cartron
R371 Ballykilcline, Rooskey
L1416 Cloonmore whitehall
L1410 Lisheen
L6001 Corbally West, Elphin

Works are ongoing at L1225/L5556 Lissacurkia; R369/L60231 Cartronagor; L1031 NE of Hillstreet Village

Bridge repairs works were completed at the Clooneebaun west; Emlaghmagree Bridge and Emlagh Beg bridge

#### Road Opening Licences

No excavation may be made in a public road or footpath without a Road Opening Licence. All applications for licences to open the public road are lodged through the central portal with the Road Management Office [www.rmo.ie](http://www.rmo.ie). Roscommon County Council Roads department processes the licences for county Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The following table indicates the number of applications received 2016-2018 (to date).

Year	Total Applications	Applications Granted by RCC	Applications Refused by RCC	Withdrawn by applicant
2016	111	104	4	3
2017	112	101	4	7
2018 (to end Q3 2018)	239	209	20	10

#### Community Involvement Schemes 2018

Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €595,000 for CIS Schemes from DTTAS. Funding was granted over a 2-year period as follows: 2018, €300,000 and 2019, €265,000. Schemes were completed in Q3 at the following locations:

Area	Q3 works complete	Q4 works planned
Athlone		Schemes at Coolderry and Kilbegnet
Ballaghaderreen	Tartan	Finsiclin, Kingsland.

Castlerea		Kilmurray
Roscommon	Schemes at Ballyleague and Farraghher	
Strokestown	Cloonshee	

### **Cemetery Capital Works**

Works on the extension to Fairymount Cemetery were carried out at a cost of €30,000. This included building a boundary wall and an internal road.

### **Footpath Repairs Programme**

Funding was received in 2018 from Irish Public Bodies for footpath Repairs. Each Operational Areas received an allocation of €10,000 to carry out repair work. An inventory of all footpath types/makeup has been completed on major pedestrian routes of all towns/villages in county Roscommon. A Trips/Slips/Falls Hazards Identification-mapping in progress. The Roads department is coordinating with Eir and identifying chambers which require remedial works in all towns/villages.

Roscommon MD: Roscommon Town main pedestrian routes- hazards identified. Works are completed at Lanesboro Street (approx. €25,000) and Galway Road (approx. €5,000). Works commenced on Athlone Road (approx. €10,000).

Boyle MD: Boyle Town pedestrian routes hazards identified at Green Street and Patrick Street. Works are ongoing at Ballyfarnon (approx. €30,000) and Keadue (approx. €10,000). Ballaghaderreen Town footpath types/makeup inventory was completed. Footpaths repairs were carried out in Ballinameen.

### **Hedgecutting Grant Scheme**

The Roads department invited applications are from local community groups in county Roscommon for the Pilot Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme. The Scheme encourages a joint approach with communities and groups of local residents and landowners for the cutting of hedges/trees which need attention on the Public Road Network. The new grant scheme will provide a grant of €50 per km of roadside hedge/overhanging trees with a minimum length of 3km of road network per application. The proposed Hedge Cutting Area must be agreed in advance with the Area Engineer. Application forms and terms and conditions are available at [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie) or by emailing [roads@roscommoncoco.ie](mailto:roads@roscommoncoco.ie). Completed forms should be submitted as soon as possible but not later than 4 pm on 31/10/2018.



## **Community and Enterprise Function**

### **Funding Applications – URDF and RRDF**

- A number of meetings held with Town Team and Chamber of Commerce to prepare the application under URDF
- 2 applications were submitted by the Project Team under URDF
- Four applications were submitted by the project team under RRDF
- Assistance was provided for a regional project.

### **Town and Village**

- Government announcement made in late September confirming that the following applications had been successful – Athleague, Ballaghaderreen, Boyle, Monksland, Strokestown, Rooskey and Roscommon.
- A total of €880,000 in funding has been achieved, including two €200,000 projects.

### **LCDC Related Activity:**

#### **CEP**

- Additional funding under the CEP was announced in late July ring fenced for Men's Sheds.
- Four Men's Sheds in the County applied and were successful in securing funding – offer letters issued in September.
- CEP Round 2 – announcement of additional funding of €106,255 for County Roscommon. No new applications required due to the volume of unsuccessful applications in Round 1.
- LCDC Sub-Committee, on agreement with LCDC, met and approved applications
- Groups notified.

### **HEALTHY IRELAND:**

- Attendance at Healthy Ireland Networking event in the Dept of Health
- Contracts put in place with the Dept of Health and Pobal for Healthy Ireland Funding 2018.
- Meeting of Health and Wellbeing sub-committee held and event to promote Healthy Roscommon planned for November.

### **FIELD TRIP:**

- LCDC field trip took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

### **SICAP:**

- SICAP payment was made to IP.
- Meeting held with SICAP Sub-Committee to identify targets and budgets for SICAP 2019.

**LEADER:**

- The Leader Evaluation Committee and Leader Sub-Committee met in advance of September LCDC meeting.
- 4 claims/part claims under LEADER Programme paid up to end of September.
- Working with Assets management to arrange lease of lands for Keadue Development Association

**Other Community Initiatives****Pride of Place**

- Pride of Place winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner and Awards ceremony which is being held on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> November in Cork City Hall. Roscommon is represented by Strokestown Town Team, Ballintubber Tidy Towns and Tulsk Action Group CLG.

**Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants**

- The 83 groups awarded funding under this scheme are carrying out their small scale capital amenity and local enhancement projects currently and payments are being issued as works are completed. Nearly all claims have been submitted and are being checked and processed.

**Age Friendly**

- Programme status update given to National coordinators in Meath County Council.
- Introductory meeting held with working group members including GRETB, OPC, Brothers of Charity and LEADER company representatives.
- Date proposed for 1<sup>st</sup> working group meeting end of Sept to allow OPC hold meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September and update AFWG.
- WHO affiliation application sent to WHO for official recognition
- 1<sup>st</sup> Working Group Meeting due to be held on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Strategy review scheduled to take place 24<sup>th</sup> of October work under way to identify new Working Group members.
- Age & Ability Awareness Training & Information event in conjunction with Age Friendly Alliance and Town Teams arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> Oct in Aras an Chontae as part of Social Inclusion Week speakers will include Dementia Ireland and Age & Opportunity Ireland

**Social Inclusion**

- Plans underway to develop Healthy estate in Boyle
- Call seeking projects for Social Inclusion week published in August.
- Social Inclusion week calendar finalised for October with over 20 events published and advertised through paper and Social Media
- Provisional meetings held with Sloviakian Community in Roscommon & Quad Youth Centre & FAI officer with a view to arranging community integration initiative with both parties.

**Town Teams Community**

- Tender request for Monksland Community Centre feasibility study consultancy works advertised via e-tenders, Successful tender chosen
- Community Sports day held in August in Monksland
- Roscommon Town Team Wellness weekend event scheduled for September.
- Monksland Survey final draft due to be presented to Town Team in October.

### Roscommon Arts Centre

- The arts centre's on-site programme of events re-commenced in September with 5 performances in comedy, music and theatre and over 700 people in attendance. This included a multi-cultural Culture Night Event in association with Roscommon Women's Network which brought over 25 performers to the stage.
- Off-site Park Project artist in residence Lucy McKenna continued her residency at Lough Key and artist Fiona McDonald's "Gateway" exhibition opened in King House Boyle. Fiona also participated in Culture Night with an event at Doon Shore Lough Key.
- An application for Arts Council funding for 2019 was also submitted in September, requesting an increase of 37% to reflect the programming plans for next year.

### Roscommon Arts Office

- September was a busy month for the arts office, with two of its major annual programme events taking place. The countywide Culture Night programme included 13 events in seven towns and villages throughout the county and in excess of an estimated 600 people attending and participating in events.
- The Annual Douglas Hyde Conference also took place this month with over 60 delegates attending the two-day event, the theme of which this year was "People, Places & Time; Converging Histories".
- Both Roscommon County Youth Orchestra and Roscommon County Youth Theatre have re-commenced after the summer break. Weekly tuition in music continues at 3 centres countywide: Ballaghaderreen, Boyle and Roscommon town, while the youth theatre's weekly sessions have re-located to Roscommon library due to the building works at Roscommon Arts Centre.
- The winner of the Chapbook Bursary was announced this month as Kevin Hora and the publication of the Roscommon Anthology of Writing is nearing completion and due for release in November.

### King House

- This month visitor numbers for King House were 1704. The house participated in Culture Night, offering free tours with 60 people visiting the house as part of this. As part of Roscommon Arts Centre's off-site programme of visual art events, King House hosted Fiona McDonald's exhibited "Augmented Reality" and the launch of Boyle 2040. The 2018 season finished on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September, however private and group tours can still be arranged by appointment.

### Heritage

- **The Cats of Cruachan** – Cartoon: Pink Kong Studios were appointed to animate the script. The vocal soundtrack was recorded in lake Recording Studios Cootehall. This project is funded by the Heritage Office. It is progressing well.
- **Táin March 2019:** A steering group meeting took place on 11<sup>th</sup> September with representatives from Co. Roscommon, Co. Longford & Co. Louth. Plans are being discussed to expand the Roscommon part of the Táin March into a three or four-day festival in 2019. The Táin March events will start in Roscommon town on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and continue over the weekend.
- **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage – Schools Project:** An invitation was posted out to all primary schools in the county to take part in this project. Twenty-eight schools will receive over 30 full day visits from a Heritage in Schools Scheme Heritage Expert of their choice. Participating schools will also enter an art competition and their drawings will be exhibited in Áras an Chontae in November.
- **2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage – Social media project:** Plans were finalised for the #makeaconnection with heritage challenge which will take place over the month of October.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Structures at Risk Fund:** Site visits are ongoing to inspect works and paper work is being prepared for the funding recoupment which must be carried out by 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

