



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



MANAGEMENT REPORT



DECEMBER 2020

QUARTER 4

Roscommon County Council
Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division
Management Accounts Summary to 31st December 2020

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/12/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/12/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	6,472,369	6,640,134	8,267,084	7,294,094	1,794,715
Road Transport & Safety	27,249,104	24,288,076	20,656,780	17,645,706	(6,592,324)
Water Services	6,332,121	7,639,343	6,143,994	7,510,258	(188,127)
Development Management	14,649,784	7,126,358	12,173,931	1,631,071	(2,475,853)
Environmental Services	5,723,120	6,001,605	732,184	937,131	(4,990,936)
Recreation & Amenity	3,890,100	4,126,824	713,289	607,634	(3,176,811)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	549,245	679,748	307,686	258,556	(241,559)
Miscellaneous Services	8,197,074	4,785,214	6,685,583	1,932,252	(1,511,491)
Central Management Charges	1,617,017	0	109,855	0	(1,507,162)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,817,612	10,817,200	10,817,612
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	13,822,676	12,653,400	13,822,676
	74,679,934	61,287,301	80,430,675	61,287,301	5,750,741

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 December 2020

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	1,358,169	12,425,769	1,150,229	4,102,155	8,531,554	6,989,415	1,542,138	45,768	82%	89%
Rents & Annuities	474,828	5,148,892		(5,551)	5,629,271	5,193,021	436,250		92%	91%
Housing Loans	120,379	221,550			341,929	246,714	95,215		72%	76%

Recourse to Overdraft;

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of December 2020

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Forward Planning

Following the circulation of the *Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received on the Pre-Draft Consultation on the Roscommon County Development Plan 2021 – 2027*, meetings took place with Members in each of the three Municipal Districts (Boyle, Athlone and Roscommon on 20th, 21st and 27th October respectively). A range of issues and themes which arose during the public consultation process were highlighted at the meetings. A Special Meeting of Roscommon County Council was convened on 12th November at which Members formally considered the Report. In accordance with Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), Members issued a direction to the Executive to formally commence the preparation of the Draft Plan. Work was on-going throughout November and December in preparing the Draft Plan.

Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Quarter 4. A total of 131 valid applications were received – this compares to 146 received in the same period in 2019. Decisions issued on 113 planning applications, of which 97 were grants of permission. Relatively strong interest continued in respect of requests for pre-planning discussions throughout the period.

Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q4 2020	Valid app	68	63	131
	DED	15	8	23
	Refusals	11	5	16
	Pre-planning discussions	28	26	54

Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q4 2020	New enforcement case	6
	General letter	2
	Warning letter	3
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	1
	Legal proceedings	0

Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

Development activity continued across various unfinished housing developments during Q4. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council continued to work in four developments in the county throughout much of the period – one in Roscommon town, one in Boyle and two in Ballyleague. Developers were on site progressing works at a number of developments in Roscommon town, Monksland, Frenchpark, Tulsk, Tarmonbarry and Lisacul.

Following on from schedules being considered by Irish Water in October as part of the initial stages of the taking in charge process, Lakeview Heights in Boyle was progressed to Roads for taking in charge in November.

ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

Local Enterprise Office:

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**

A total of **249** applications for TOVs were approved in 2020. (A total of **240** TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the funding was changed from 50% to 90%). A business which obtained a Voucher previously was eligible to apply for a second Voucher, if considered appropriate. The max grant remains at €2,500. A number of remote Information Seminars were held to facilitate clients wishing to apply as this is compulsory prior to making an application, with the next one is scheduled for the 21st of January 2021. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally in 2020 was unprecedented. The 90% grant assistance ceased on December 31st 2020. The scheme has now reverted back to 50% matched funding from January 1st 2021. There are currently 21 TOV'S to be graded that came into the LEO from December 23rd to December 31st 2020 to meet the 90% offer deadline. If all 21 TOV's submissions are approved, the total approved for 2020 will be 270.

- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received was 233, with 186 being eligible for funding. Each voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. All vouchers were processed.

- **Client Stimulus Scheme:** Its purpose is to sustain eligible businesses through the provision of a cash stimulus to support operational costs and enhanced engagement with their LEO. The funding was provided through an immediate cash contribution to support liquidity and can be used to cover ongoing operational costs, for example, utilities, insurance, refurbishment or for measures to ensure employee and customer safety. It effectively meant that clients still trading and who complied with LEO stipulated criteria around refundable aid, current number of employees being under 10, tax status, etc., and who paid back 30% of their grant in refundable format between 2016 – 2019 got a refund of that amount, with a minimum of €1,000. A total of 38 payments were made totalling €193,103 which was funded through EI.

- **Microfinance:** 25 microfinance applications have been made with 13 successful, 5 withdrawn and 5 unsuccessful and 2 pending.

- **Training:** A Brexit Customs Workshop took place on 4th and a SYOB course ended on the 8th. A TOV Seminar took place on the 9th. The 1st tranche of training to support the business community during 2021 was finalised and went live on the LEO website online booking system. A LEO Brexit Support Line was set up to operate from Tuesday, 29th December to Sunday, 3rd January 2021 from 9am – 5.30pm each day, with Brexit Business Advisors on hand to provide advice and assistance.

- **Remote Mentoring:** A Brexit Mentor Clinic took place on the 8th and a Business Mentor Clinic on the 10th. All bookings were taken via the LEO website online booking system.

- **Enquiries:** Appropriate support was provided.

- **Student Enterprise Programme:** This programme is ongoing in remote format with 8 of the 9 second level schools in the county engaging. A total of 443 students are involved. Date/format of the County Final has yet to be finalised. The National Final will be held virtually on the 14th May.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The current plan is for an Awards Ceremony to take place online on the February 11th 2021. Assessment of Applications took place in mid- November. Roscommon LEOs entry is Lidan Design.
- **Promotion:** All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **Sites at Ballyboughan:** 3 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 €300k approx.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Healthy Ireland

- Pobal have extended Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund from June 30th 2021 to December 31st 2021. The planned return of progress and financial reports in January 2021 has been moved to July 2021.
- A 4th round of Healthy Ireland Funding has also been confirmed. The start date of round 4 is not yet known.
- The scoring process of the Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme took place and 8 applicants were successful. The process was ratified by the LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup.
- Under the Keep Well campaign, a 'Community Resilience Fund' was established and €67,225 was allocated to Roscommon County Council. The fund must be spent on activities under the themes 'Keeping in Contact', 'Switching Off and Being Creative' and 'Your County'. A submission of planned activities and spend has been made to Pobal.

Wellness Campaign

- **Virtual Christmas Tree** – launched by Cathaoirleach as a way for people from Roscommon, near and far, to send Christmas greetings to one another.
- **Shannonside Radio** – 6 funded Outdoor Radio Broadcast from Roscommon, Strokestown, Monksland, Ballaghaderreen, Castlerea and Boyle held from 10th to 21st Dec to highlight wellness campaign and encourage *Stay Local Shop Local*. Interviews on radio programmes by elected Representatives, Town Teams and local Chambers in each town.
- Commissioning of Christmas Projections in Roscommon, Boyle, Ballaghaderreen and Castlerea
- As part of the Government's 'Keep Well' Community Resilience Campaign, 14 Nursing Homes in County Roscommon were presented with Christmas Hampers to promote the "Staying Connected" element of the Keep Well Campaign with the message "Everyone belongs to the extended family of Roscommon and so do you".

LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 3 LEADER claims paid in December
- LEADER Admin Return for October was completed.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held online via Microsoft Teams on the 16th of December 2020 and the following items were dealt with:

- Update provided from Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee in relation to Healthy Ireland Small Grants Scheme 2020 and the Community Resilience Fund;
- Update provided to LCDC members on the new Transitional LEADER Programme;
- Financial Report provided on programme from Financial Partner;
- Implementation update received on programme from Implementing Partner;
- LEADER Projects discussed and decisions agreed.

CLÁR

- Work in ongoing with Community Groups as they prepare tenders and quotations for commencement of work on their projects for 2020 CLÁR funded projects.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

Age Friendly Programme:

- Online Launch of Age Friendly Housing Specialists Attended.
- Work ongoing on Terms of Reference for OPC Re: OPC's transition under the LA on a trial basis.
- A number of Pre-Christmas Age Friendly Care Packs were prepared and distributed to Brothers of Charity service users.

Integration:

- No quotations received in after the initial request. Further quotations to be sought in January 2021 for the development of County Roscommon Migrant Integration Strategy.

Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020:

- Final payments processed for successful events as part of Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020.

Comhairle na nÓg:

- DCYA Grant monies received for Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg in respect of ICT Hardware Grant - €3000.

SICAP

- Sub Committee meeting was held on 8th December 2020 with regard to SICAP Annual Plan Review 2021. This Plan is now approved in principal.

Pride of Place 2020

- Kiltewan Tidy Towns and Roscommon Gaels GAA All Stars received their Pride of Place trophies, Certificates of Participation and monetary prize.
- Ballaghaderreen Men's Shed received their Certificate of Participation

Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020

- All successful recipients of an amenity grant in 2020 received an additional sum of €300.00 as agreed by the Elected Members of Roscommon County Council to spend on Christmas lights, Christmas trees or other initiatives that the group wished to undertake to support their community and business during this difficult time.
- The majority of groups awarded funding under this scheme have carried out their small scale capital amenity and local enhancement projects and payments have been processed.

HERITAGE

Farming Rathcroghan EIP:

Heritage Officer attended a project operational group online meeting. There are 30 farmers participating in the project now. Roscommon County Council continues to support the Field Monument Advisor/Community Archaeologist element of this project.

- **#natureisgoodforyou:**

This is series of radio 'infomercials' which started in November on MidWest Radio & on Shannonside FM, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo & Longford CoCos, is a national radio campaign in support of the keep well campaign. This project continued in December. Adverts were also shared on RCC Social Media.

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

Both schemes were announced for 2021, by the Department of Housing, Local Government & heritage and were advertised in paper, website, social media, heritage office mailing list and to all who had enquired during the past year. Roscommon has been allocated an additional 10K under the BHIS (allocation for 2021 now 70K). The HSF includes a pilot scheme for Vernacular Structures, Historic Shopfronts & Historic Irish Language Shopfronts.

- **National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding (NBAP):**

Roll out of 2021 projects has commenced:

#natureisgoodforyou: a national radio campaign, in support of the keep well campaign. This is a series of 5 radio 'infomercials' which started in November on MidWest Radio & on Shannonside FM, in conjunction with the Heritage Offices of Mayo & Longford CoCos.

TOURISM

Reduction in COVID restrictions in mid-December enabled many restaurants and hotels to reopen their doors. Most Attractions opted to remain closed in the run up to Christmas.

Regional Projects:

- **IHH Website Scheme:** final TEAMS meeting with upper and Mid Shannon Networks for 2020

County Projects:

- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** –Task Force Destination Town meeting for Athlone and Carrick on Shannon, final 2020 Meetings
- **2020 Festival and Events: funding of €3,700 received from Fáilte Ireland toward 2020 festivals**
- **Social Media:** Online Facebook Competition held for overseas members which generated great interaction. Roscommon Walks promotion on lead up to and over Christmas.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2020 scheme):** additional information on applications submitted as requested by Dept.
- **Roscommon Walks** – getting largest feedback on social media according to IHH figures.
- **Roscommon tourism network** – end of year report on 2020 activity sent to all members

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 met once in December 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. During the month of November, 3 calls were received.

COVID-19 Emergency Fund – Round 2

- Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development, and Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O’Brien TD. announced details of an additional €1.7 million funding to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID-19.
- The fund will be administered through the structures used for the Community Enhancement Programme, in order to ensure there is sufficient flexibility to allow funding to be targeted to where it is needed in each Local Authority area.
- The funding, under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, is in recognition of the important role played by community and voluntary organisations across the country as we head towards the Christmas period. It will enable groups to embrace the Government’s ‘Keep Well’ campaign which focusses on the themes of staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.
- It brings the total funding provided under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to €4.2 million in 2020.
- Roscommon LCDC received an allocation of €43,815 for round 2. It will be online application process to be advertised early January with a closing date of late February.

ARTS OFFICE

Artists

- Final payment of artist bursaries.
- Circulation of news and opportunities to relevant artist databases.
- Assessment of Roscommon applications to Platform 31: A nationwide artist development & funding scheme by the 31 Local Authority Arts Offices, in collaboration with the Arts Council.

Music

- **Music Generation Roscommon** programmes for schools and evening classes in hubs county-wide. Online and offline.

Film

Savage Productions and Hail Mary Pictures filming The Cellar from 16th November to 18th December 2020. Aras an Chontae, Ballyleague, Strokestown, Boyle, Castlerea. **WRAP** funded.

Artist in Schools

Programme will be delivered to 30 classes in 18 schools by 13 artists across the county November 2020 – June 2021 through a combination of 10-week physical and virtual workshops with children from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

Roscommon County Youth Theatre

Online programme of workshops ongoing. Development of new website.

Creative Ireland

- Development of King House Exhibitions including Erwin Springbrunn 'Hidden Gem' and Connaught Rangers

Arts Council of Ireland

Notification of funding offer of €69,000 towards our shared objectives in 2021 and to support RCC Arts Office in our strategic work in local arts development. (2020 funding €52,000)

ROSCOMMON ARTS CENTRE

Roscommon Arts Centre re-opened its gallery doors at the beginning of December in line with Government guidelines, though the theatre space continued to remain closed.

With the cancellation of the Fibre Art Exhibition, artist Paul Hallahan's exhibition **"Running, Returning, Running"** has been extended until the end of January at the centre.

Theatre Company in Residence Fregoli presented their final project for 2020 with the support of the Creative Ireland Roscommon programme. **"Home for Christmas"** is a moving 12-minute video capturing people's memories of Home at Christmas time. Following an open call by the company earlier this year to the public, an online collection of stories and memories have been woven into a piece, which is interspersed with footage of the county. The video can be viewed via Roscommon Arts Centre and Fregoli's website and on various social media platforms.

A full programme of online events, with a strong focus on young audiences was also developed for December. This included: a week of streamed performances of **"Christmas Toons"** a co-production between Roscommon Arts Centre and the Hawk's Well Theatre and a new online streamed performance of Charles Dickens **"A Christmas Carol"** by Livin' Dred Theatre Company for school audiences. A nominal screening fee of €50 per school to access both performances, resulted in 32 schools accessing the shows.

Family shows during December included **"A Christmas Carol"** and three free online events: a **"Holly Jolly Family sing-along"** live on Facebook with Kyle Riley from Little Folk Music and access on Christmas Eve to the "Christmas Toons" performance. There was also free screenings throughout the Christmas period of Theatre Lovett/National Concert Hall's **"The Festive Mr. Fox"**.

Beginning on Christmas Night, Roscommon Arts Centre marked the twelve days of Christmas in a new online project entitled **"Twelve Days of Poems for Christmas"**. Curated by Roscommon poet Jane Clarke who invited eleven other poets to read their favourite festive poem, along with a poem from one of their own collections. Each night a different poet performed via the arts centre's Facebook Page and participating poets include the acclaimed Paula Meehan, Aifric Mac Aodha, Ciarán O'Rourke, Mary Noonan, Elaine Feeney, Roscommon's Jessamine O'Connor and Gerry Boland, Julie Morrissey, Paul Perry, Chandrika Narayanam Mohan and Gerard Beirne with Jane Clarke herself reading the final poems on January 5th.

REGENERATION UNIT

URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- A letter of intent was issued to the successful tenderer. Funding approval has been received. Construction will commence in January 2021

RURAL REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

Castlerea Hub Extension:

- A letter of intent has been issued to the successful tenderer. Funding for the project is approved. Expected commencement on site Mid Jan 2021

Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Department approval has been granted to proceed to the construction stage. A letter of acceptance has been issued and construction will commence in mid- late January 2021.

Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- The design process is continuing with the consultants.

Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Design stage Consultants Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed.

ORIS 2019

- Funding for two Measure 2 applications approved – Cloonlarge and Rindoon Loop and Judy's Harbour – initial survey work 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

- Hot Desk Hub - Contractor works completed. Internal fittings adjusted to meet covid requirements.
- Bike stands purchased.
- Approach road signage and information boards design and information completed. Information boards delivered and due to be installed shortly.
- Approach road signage awaiting delivery.
- Landscape plan element completed. RFT completed for landscaping materials.
- Fishing Stands – group working on completing this element.
- Circle of Life park design completed.
- Logo completed by group and working on video content and brochures.

Castlerea

- Town Painting Scheme – 40 buildings complete, 10 remaining buildings to be completed in Spring 2021 when weather conditions are suitable.
- Outdoor Gym element completed.
- Approach Road Signage - awaiting images from Town Team
- Tourist Information Boards - awaiting content information from Town Team.

Gortaganny

- Carpark/Footpath –surveying and design completed by RCC.
- Met with Group. Land dedication maps prepared for group to sort.
- Land agreement not achieved.
- Final design drawings for carpark complete.
- Group submitted planning application for carpark on 26/11/2020.

Rooskey

- RCC element of project is complete and ongoing liaison re rollout of Waterways Ireland element.

Keadue

- Contract for works has been awarded. Due to start in early 2021.

Creagh

- Both elements of project completed.

Town and Village 2020

Town & Village – Standard.

- Outcome of projects submitted is currently awaited.

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.
- Letters of offer have been issued to all and work is ongoing in assisting communities through the procurement process. Some really exciting projects are underway.

Historic Towns Initiative Roscommon

- Eligible works were completed on a total of 15 buildings under the 2020 Spire Quarter HTI.
- A promotional video on the work was also completed highlighting the transformation of this area.

- The work has received some very favourable comments locally and on social media from Global Rossies unable to return home in 2020 but who lived, went to school or worked in Roscommon town.

Large Scale Sports Capital Infrastructure Scheme

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

Destination Towns

- Tenders for the Refurbishment of the Pleasure Grounds have been assessed.
- Works due to commence in Q1 2021.

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 1,048 in the Roscommon Bound network from all over the world, 3,689 followers on Facebook, 664 followers on Twitter and 547 followers on Instagram.
- Approximately 30,000 people were reached through the Global Rossie Day live event and the engagement has been ongoing since so a New Year's Eve highlights video has been prepared.
- Roscommon Bound Calendars have also been prepared in association with the Community Forum and will be available for collection around the county over Christmas.

Outdoor Recreation 2020

- Measure 2 - 3 applications have been submitted for Doon Shore, Portrun and Ballintubber.
- Measure 3 – 1 application has been submitted for Mote Park.
- Grant aid of
- Part 8 applications have been submitted for the Doon Shore and Mote Park projects.

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 ongoing.
- The AEC Strategy and the AEC Hubs Strategy are nearing completion and are due to be launched in January 2021.
- The establishment of a community network and booking engine, for Hubs within the AEC, is ongoing.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Service Points

Library services have operated in line with the different phases in *Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19* during Q4. This included some periods where only Online Services were available, some periods of operating a Contact and Collect Service and some periods where libraries were open to the public.

Small Scale Capital Works

Works commenced in Strokestown branch Library under the Department of Rural and Community Development funded Small Scale Capital Works Scheme. In Ballaghaderreen Library, preparatory works continued including the removal of equipment and book stock to allow for works to commence in early 2021.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library

The library service collaborated with Roscommon Sports Partnership to deliver an online Couch to 5k programme. There were 86 participants in the programme which encouraged people to exercise in the local area through regular videos and remote support. All participants received a t-shirt and one lucky participant won a Fitbit smart watch.

Library Events and Activities

The library service continued to deliver online events through social media during Q4. The Right to Read programme delivered Family Time at Your Library with sing along videos, story time and crafts with almost 3000 views during the month of December.

Decade of Centenaries

The library service began the digitization of items under the Decade of Centenaries. A total of 34 volumes and over 19,000 pages were scanned. Many of the volumes were in a delicate condition. The digitisation project included County Council Minute Books, Board of Guardian Minute Books and Rural District Council Minute books dating back to the 1920s.

Online Resources

Varying levels of restrictions have resulted in increased use of library online resources during 2020. eMagazine downloads increased by 10% across the year, eAudiobook use was up 104% on 2019 with more than 6000 books downloaded in 2020. eBook downloads increased by 250% and the use of Online Courses through the Free Universal Class service was up 658% on 2019 with the top 5 courses. A quick start guide for online res http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Library/ICT_Resources_In_Libraries_/Roscommon-Library-Quick-Start-Guide.pdf

Dormant Accounts Funding

The library service purchased a number of licences for Touch, Type, Read and Spell (TTRS) through Dormant Accounts Funding. This online course is suitable for children and adults with reading, writing and spelling difficulties and those with dyslexia and dyspraxia. Staff training was completed in December and the service will be made available to schools in early 2021.

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.

HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

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. 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.

8 = homeless cases presented in Q4, 2020

7 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q4, 2020

Breakdown Homeless figures Q4 2020				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	4	0	4	4 Single Adult Males
November	2	0	2	2 Single Adult Females
December	2	0	2	2 Single Adult Males

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	4	0	4	4 Single Adult Males
November	2	0	2	2 Single Adult Females
December	1	0	1	1 Single Adult Male

1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:

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

313 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q4, 2020

690 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation (increase due to RAS tenants pre 2011 in receipt of RAS and remain open) – iHouse Report 24

30 = offers of accommodation made in Q4, 2020 (which include 7 nominations to AHB's)

20 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q4, 2020

3 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q4, 2020

5 = refusals recorded in Q4, 2020

2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market

2.1 Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 31 December, 2020, there are 387 households receiving support (282 private rented and 105 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. 28 HAP tenancies were opened in Q4 and 32 were closed in the same period. As of 31 December, 2020, there were 468 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

2.3 Repair & Lease Scheme (RLS):

No significant change since Q4 2019; summary of activity end Q4 2020 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)

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

- As of 31 December, 2020, Roscommon County Council has 5 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 2 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 31 December, 2020, Roscommon County Council has 25 active RAS Types leases throughout the county.
- As of 31 December, 2020, Roscommon County Council has 6 Mortgage to Rent leases completed (3 with AHB's & 3 with HFL), in various locations throughout the County.

3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units

3.1 LA Build (including turnkeys & PPP):

Summary of projects in progress up to December 2020 is as follows; however, delays caused by Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 are likely to be compounded by further restrictions in 2021. As a result, expected/programmed completion dates may need to be revised:

- Three 2-bed units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021
- 2 units Old Tuam Road (CPO) – Construction commenced in January, 2020 and completed in Q4 2020
- 6-10 units at Longford Td. – Proposal to develop via an AHB through Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) planning, funding and delivery method is under consideration
- 12 units at Silveroe, Boyle -Construction commenced in January, 2020 and completed in Q4 2020

- 18 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Contractor appointed, works commenced in September 2020 with expected completion for Q4 2021 (works suspended in January 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 in January 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 Q3, 2021 (works suspended on lower half of development in January 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 was received in Q4 2020
- 4 units at Lakeview Heights, Boyle – Stage 1 application was made to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q4 2020

3.2 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 suspension of works in January 2021, the expected delivery date is under review.

3.3 LA Acquisitions (including Buy & Renew):

As of 31 December, 2020, Roscommon County Council acquired 8 houses under the acquisition programme – including one unit acquired under the Buy and Renew Scheme. While some acquisitions will be permitted for 2021, it is expected that budget for single dwelling acquisitions will be nominal as funding is diverted towards the delivery of houses under the construction programme.

3.4 Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:

- 2 Lough Road post-fire reconstruction project – On site – Scheduled for completion Q1, 2021
- Proposal for 2 additional units at Killerney is stage 1 approved by the Department
- Proposal to alter units at Harristown is also in progress (one-bed units to be combined into larger more functional units); Stage 2 approval received from the DHLGH; Part 8 planning process commenced in Q4 2020
- Approval received from the department for the refurbishment of 4 units at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown; Works commenced in Q4 2020

As above, capital projects are subject to delay as a result of Covid-19 restrictions in 2020 and 2021.

3.5 Sale of Sites and Rural Houses:

- derelict rural houses were sold during the year and 3 are at an advanced stage of the conveyance process. It is expected these sales will be closed by Q1 of 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

3.6 Tenant Purchase:

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. As at 31 December, 2020, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

160	=	applications received to date
86	=	offers made to date
64	=	offers accepted to date
35	=	sales completed to date

4.0 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 in March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. No inspections were carried out during level 4 and level 5 Covid-19 restrictions.

- Prior to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions the recommended inspection target for Roscommon in 2020 was 596 inspections in Roscommon. However, no inspections were carried out during the Covid-19 lock down phase (level 4 and level 5).
- 155 inspections were carried out in Q4 2020, 71 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.

5.0 Management of Existing Housing Stock

5.1 Energy Efficiency Programme (retrofitting existing stock):

- RCC have not received phase 2 funding due to our participation in the Just Transition Midlands Energy Retrofit Programme (a similar scheme aimed at midland Counties affected by the transition away from fossil fuel and a reliance on peat, in particular).
- Funding under the Just Transition Programme has been identified for a number of counties, 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 Q3 2021; however, progress has been adversely affected by Covid-19 restrictions and inspections are currently suspended.

5.2 Voids Programme:

There are no viable 'voids' (at least 6 months vacant) remaining within the housing stock and the national 'voids' programme has essentially ended. Any remaining non-viable (derelict) units are in isolated rural locations with low or no demand. These properties will be sold unless a specific demand presents in the meantime.

- **Voids (Covid-19)** - The DHLGH has identified a special Voids Programme for LAs to seek the cost of refurbishing standard units reserved for Traveller or Homeless use for the purpose of Covid-19 isolation/cocooning requirements. RCC have received approval and funding for 7 units under this programme.
- **Voids (July Stimulus)** - The DHLGH has provided €40m in additional funding nationally for voids under the July stimulus programme. The funding has been provided under the stimulus programme in recognition of the very challenging financial circumstances which local authorities are currently experiencing with a very real risk that the short-term vacant

homes, which would normally be refurbished by local authorities as 'Casual Vacancies' using their own resources, would be significantly impacted in 2020. Roscommon County Council has refurbished 38 units under this programme and has submitted claims to the department to recoup €396k.

5.3 Casual Vacancy Works (pre-letting works)

A total of 14 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q4, 2020 at a cost to date of €152,000 (excluding any outstanding payments).

5.4 Housing Maintenance

RCC Housing received 337 maintenance calls in Q4, 2020 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €177,503.12.

5.5 Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

Housing grant funding allocated to County Roscommon for 2020 was €1,157,814 (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded). Despite the COVID 19 restrictions which commenced in March 2020, the Council processed 90% of the full allocation. €215,500 was spent on adaptations to 11 Council houses under the Disabled Persons Grants for LA stock.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Register of Electors

The annual revision of the Draft Electoral Register commenced which commenced in Q3 was completed in Q4. The Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 was published on 1st November 2020.

Annual Service Delivery Plan

The Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021 was adopted at the Council meeting on 21st December 2020.

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 October to 31st December, 2020:



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 complete with one outstanding. It is anticipated that all agreements will be in place by the end of Q4 2020.

Planning Permission has been granted to upgrade the Castlerea Road wastewater pumping station. It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in late Q2 2021 or early Q3 2021.

Boyle WSS Extension to Grangemore RWSS:

The project is now in its defects period with snagging and reinstatement of roads to be completed.

Upgrade works to Ballaghadereen WWTP:

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
- Providing a new settlement tank
- Associated ancillary site works including upgrade of the SCADA System

Information and plant data has been issued to Veolia. A 3 month sampling programme commenced in November 2020.

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. On foot of the above, a scope of upgrade works at Monksland was prepared which included the provision of new inlet works, storm tank and storm water overflow chamber and also a telemetry upgrade. The project is now in the defects period with outstanding defect items being completed at present.

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. It is increasingly likely it will not be awarded until the new year.

Termonbarry will probably 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 2020-2021 programme of work.

Lead Mitigation Programme:

The aim of this programme is to provide Ortho Phosphate dosing in up to 200 WTPs countrywide by end 2019 as an interim measure for lead mitigation. The long-term solution is to remove all public side lead services by 2026. The permanent solution to have zero lead in the water supply by 2026. Five sites have been prioritised in Co. Roscommon as follows. North Roscommon WTP, Rockingham WTP, Ballinagard WTP, Killeglan WTP, Longford Springs WTP. The first site to be rolled out is North Roscommon WTP. EPS Ltd has been appointed and a detailed design is in progress. Following a request from RCC a repeat plumbosolvency test was carried out. The repeat test has indicated that since the water treatment plant upgrade, the water is not as aggressive as it was prior to the upgrade. Therefore, North Roscommon WTP has been reprioritised. IW are now focussing on sites that do not require Planning Permission.

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 due to be submitted in January 2021. 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.

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 to be 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 January 2021.

Reservoir Cleaning Programme.

Emergency cleaning work was required at Lissacurkia reservoir due to an issue with the rising main. 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.

Submission have made to IW for inclusion in the programme.

National Water Resources Plan.

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

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

A public consultation seeking feedback on the draft NWRP and associated environmental reports has been published. Submissions to be made by 14/02/2021.

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.

IW has advised that due to funding restrictions there will be limited water main rehab works carried out in 2020.

A review of all proposed water main rehabilitation projects for 2021 is being carried out.

Direct Labour Works:

Bulk water meter installations on semi private group water schemes has been completed at a number of locations around the county.

Due to ongoing water quality issues in Elphin, RCC will commenced the transfer of 17no. connections from an existing cast iron main to an existing PVC main. This work was completed in November 2020.

Pressure Mangement works commenced in Arigna in October 2020 under funding received from the Government Stimulus Package. The works was completed in December 2020.

Tranche 5 proposals for the next investment phase has been submitted and is under consideration by Irish Water. However, IW has advised that due to funding restrictions there will be limited water main rehab works carried out in 2021.

Find and Fix Programme:

This is a programme targeted at District Metered Areas (DMA's) with high Unaccounted for Water (UFW) figures. The aim of the programme is to drive down leakage to Sustainable Economical Leakage Levels (SELL). This work commenced in late Q2 of 2018 with a regional contractor (Farrans Construction Ltd) appointed by Irish Water to deliver this programme of work. Under the find and fix programme, it has been agreed between Irish Water and Roscommon County Council that the local authority could form their own direct labour crew made up of a leak detection operative and two other operatives to carry out Find and Fix in other water supply zones and DMA'S (District Metering Areas).

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. At present Farrans Construction Ltd (the contractor) has been working in a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) within the Ballinlough Water Supply Zone and in North Roscommon Water Supply Zone. 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 Construction have been appointed by IW to carry out works in the programme. Matched meter exchanges have been completed. Surveys of unmatched meters are ongoing.

Leakage Management System.

Netbase is now operational. However, Primeworks is still operational and is being supported by IT until 2021. We are delighted to start the next stage of configuration in Netbase, alongside the continued work that is currently underway. We are now going to look at all water storage reservoirs and tanks, then using these to calculate the change in storage.

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, Planning & Local Government.

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 (most are further broken into sub-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 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.

Works undertaken in 2019 at a cost of €31,666.03 and in 2020 €100,547.48 were 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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 Q4 2020 with sampling at water sources to build a database which will inform actions and practical measures within each catchment to protect sources from current or future pollution risks. Mitigation measures for swallow holes are being discussed with farmers and fencing is being erected. Catchment walks are being undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans.

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. All materials carry the Roscommon County Council and the NFGWS brand logo.

- Live 1 hour Broadcast from Polecat Springs GWS on Mary Clare Greally Show on Shannonside Radio on 7th Sept interviewing participants from Roscommon County Council, The National Federation of Group Water Schemes, the Group Water Scheme managers and local community participants.
<https://www.shannonside.ie/podcast/podcast-importance-minimising-use-pestici>
- Publication in both the Roscommon Herald and the Roscommon People week commencing 7th Sept –two page promotional piece on the Source Protection Project along with a brochure identifying and promoting good practice.
- Local Marts participated in publishing the importance of protecting water sources in our communities. Informative bill boards on Agricultural practices that can impact on water quality, both positively and negatively, were erected at marts in Roscommon, Elphin and Castlerea. By engaging with the farming community on the critical issue of source protection we can ensure that our farming activities do not pose a threat to this vital resource.

- Mitigation measures with an initiative to encourage farmers to fence off specific vulnerable areas on their lands is also in train presently with some success so far.
- 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_DL4Tuz7M7twQFjlAPgyj/view?usp=sharing

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

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

- A campaign to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens and to educate and create awareness in schools with the initiative 'I've Planted a Tree and my Garden is Pesticide Free'. Primary Schoolchildren (age 5 -12) across the county of Roscommon will plant 7,500 trees this autumn in an eco-initiative that will play a vital part in helping to protect local water sources, enhance biodiversity and capture carbon. They will also receive an online education programme and certificates of involvement. 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 with the support of developer Sean Mulryan Ballymore Homes and Irish children's charity Variety Ireland funding the trees.

A main objective was to also 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.

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

Roscommon County Council in partnership with The National Federation of Group Water Schemes has been announced in a live stream from Brussels on the 8th December, 2020 as winners of the 'European Bee Award 2020' in the category 'Land Management Practices' for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators promoted by the European Landowners Organisation. Details can be found at www.roscommoncoco.ie and

<https://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award>

- **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 completed 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 commenced in 2020. Works at a cost of €263,594.42 have been completed on Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh Group Water Schemes.

Total works under Measure 2 completed at a cost of €412,203.40 were 100% grant funded.

- **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 works were completed in Mid Roscommon, Oran/Ballintubber, Corracreigh, Polecat Springs and Brusna GWS. Funding of €213,914.76 was paid to the Schemes at 85% of costs in 2019.

At the end of Q4 2020 contracts have been awarded and work has commenced or is about to commence on the following projects totaling approx. 5 kilometers of watermains.

In 2020 -funding of €264,476.64 was paid to the following Group Water Schemes:

- Castlestrange: 400m of 90mm watermains with 3 connections
 - Corracreigh: 319m of 90mm and 1209m of 125mm watermains with 12 connections
 - Oran Ballintubber: 965m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections
 - Polecat Springs: 290m of 63mm and 1746m of 90mm watermains with 3 connections
- **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 4 Group Water Schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water.

Tenders have been agreed and preparatory work commenced on Lisagallon GWS which will progress in 2021. Work is underway on the Drumheriff /Derrinasoo GWS. Projects totalling 3.5 kilometers of watermains at a cost to date of €72,577.58 are underway.

 - Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with 25 connections
 - Drumheriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10m connections
 - **Measure 6 –A Community Water Connection at Crosshill, Arigna was undertaken in 2019 and received financial support of €22,313.86 which equated to 85% of the cost of the works.**
 - **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 Q4 a total of 11 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received in 2020. Grants have been paid on 15 completed applications in sum of €25,596.77 to end of Q4 2020.

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

National Inspection Plan:

Under the Water Services Act 2007 as amended, a minimum of 35 sites were required to be inspected by Roscommon County Council in 2020. Given restrictions under Covid 19 this number was reduced to 25. 25 sites were identified and inspected in quarter 4. 68% (17) failed the inspection and Advisory Notices issued to the property owners.

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 4 2020. During this period 155 complaints were received, 149 were investigated and 144 complaints were closed.

Complaint Type	Athlone	Ballaghaderreen	Boyle	Castlerea	Roscommon	Strokestown	Total
Water			1	1		1	3
Waste	1	13	7	14	4	4	43
Noise	1			1			2
Litter	21	11	15	13	35	8	103
Air	2			1		1	4
	25	24	23	30	39	14	155

National Litter Pollution Monitoring System surveys:

The Litter Pollution Monitoring System provides an accurate picture of litter pollution countrywide and accurately measures changes over time. The System was developed by the Department and Tobin Consulting Engineers in consultation with local authorities. Under the System Roscommon County Council carried out 24 No. Quantification Surveys and 82 Litter Pollution Surveys during 2020 and these were forwarded to Tobin Engineering in Q4 for analysis and report.

Solid Fuel Campaign 2020:

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications approved funding support of for a print media communication campaign in relation to solid fuels. Advertisements were placed in the Roscommon Herald and Roscommon in December 2020 with the cost for same being recouped from the above Department. The advertisement was also placed on Roscommon County Council social media portals.

Anti Dumping Initiative 2020:

A number of projects were completed under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2020, these included the purchase of equipment and removal of asbestos from a number of locations. Clean ups were also completed in each of the Municipal Districts and approximately 96 tonnes of waste was removed which included almost 4 tonnes of tyres. The Initiative was funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Historical Landfills:

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. Submissions were made in relation to this draft and we are now awaiting the finalisation of the COA by the EPA

Casual Trading Bye Laws:

Casual Trading Bye-Laws came into effect on 1st January, 2020. One new licence application was received in the Q4 bringing the total number of applications received for the year (Jan – Dec 2020) to 24. Eight Casual trading licences issued in the period, bringing the total number of licences issued for the year (Jan – Dec 2020) to 23. One application was considered invalid as follow up information/clarification sought by Roscommon County Council was not submitted by the applicant.

Licensed Casual Traders were advised that due to COVID 19 a 75% reduction of the Casual Trading Licence fee would apply for 2021 bringing the cost for renewal of licences to €75

During October 2020 Casual Trading Signage was erected at designated casual trading locations. On-going monitoring and enforcement action will continue into the future to ensure compliance with the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

Laboratory Services:

Following an audit by the National Accreditation Board in August, the laboratory has retained its accreditation for its present scope.

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 Q1 2021
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon to all Sections – partial completion to date with reminders issued
- Housing Assets being reconciled with iHouse
- Ongoing Administrative / Technical involvement with Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets
- Policy documents approved and signed off for:
 - Disposal of Land/Property
 - Acquisition of Land/Property
 - Property Asset Management Planand to place on Intranet Document Library
- Form for Property Condition Surveys being developed

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 2020 – to review and update in Energy Action Plan 2021
- **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) 2019 –**
 - Data for 2019 – Part 1 submitted by 24th January, 2020 and Part 2 submitted by 29th May, 2020.
 - 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:
 - 2020** – Funding Application submitted for 164 no. PLs
 - Approval received for 108 no. PLs at various locations in Co. Roscommon and works completed in Q3 2020
 - 2021** – Funding Application to submit in Q1 2021 for 56 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 Q3/Q4 2021
- 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 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

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

N5 Ballaghaderreen–Scramoge: The Ballaghaderreen to Scramoge Road Project is 33.4km in length and extends from the east tie-in point of the N5 Ballaghaderreen By-pass to Scramoge and bypasses Frenchpark, Bellanagare, Tulsk and Strokestown. The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made on 11 December 2017. The application for Development Consent and for confirmation of the CPO and associated documentation was submitted to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) on 20 December 2017. The closing date for receipt of submissions to ABP was 6 March 2018. ABP made a request for additional information and same was submitted to the Board on 7 June 2018. Following an Oral Hearing convened by An Bord Pleanála ('The Board') in October 2018 the Board approved the scheme and confirmed the CPO in January 2019. CPO notices have been served on all persons listed in the CPO and land negotiations are progressing. Land & property valuation services and legal services to assist with land acquisition have been procured. Various works and services contracts were procured in advance of the main construction contract. Fencing and Archaeological testing & resolution is 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 scheduled to commence in early 2021. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, the draft Final Business Case was submitted to DTTAS for Technical review in late December 2020.

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 has now been completed. 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. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer the main construction contract on behalf of Roscommon County Council.

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. 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 will run until the 29th of January 2021.

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 are ongoing. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 14 December 2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are complete.

N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Realignment 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 the various environmental assessments underway and feedback from the non-statutory consultation process. The detailed topographical survey of the Preferred Route Corridor has been completed. The procurement of Ground investigation data is ongoing and site works are anticipated to commence in early 2021.

National Road Pavement Projects: Contract documentation have been prepared for all pavement projects which are listed under TII National Road Allocations in 2020. The N5 Carrowntoosan to Tulsk Pavement and the N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay contracts were completed in Q4 2020. Following the completion of water main replacement works undertaken by Irish Water, the N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 2) Contract was awarded in October 2020. Drainage works commenced in November 2020 and pavement works are scheduled for completion 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 Drumharlow 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.

Road Projects Outputs 2020

The total estimated outturn expenditure for the Roads and Transportation Department at 31st December 2020 is over €25.1m. The categories of expenditure and the funding sources/departments are detailed in the table below. The finalised figures for 2020 will be published in the AFS. The 2021 allocation from the Department for Regional and Local Roads is expected in January 2021.

Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outturn 2020
National Primary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	£ 800
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	£ 74,850
Winter Maintenance & LA Support Grant	TII	£ 121,305
Route Lighting	TII	£ 58,367

Route Lighting Improvement	TII	£ 70,035
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	£ 154,884
National Primary Totals		£ 480,240
National Secondary Improvement/Maintenance Works		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	£ 1,997,827
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	£ 38,345
Winter Maintenance	TII	£ 72,287
Route Lighting	TII	£ 51,484
Route Lighting Improvement	TII	£ 6,809
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	£ 323,309
National Secondary Totals		£ 2,490,061
Other NP & NS Allocations	TII	
NP/NS Pavement	TII	£ 56,738
LA Support Maintenance & Engineering	TII	£ 252,378
Other NP & NS Allocations		£ 309,115
Totals National Roads - Improvement/Maintenance Works		£ 3,279,417

Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outturn 2020
Regional and Local Roads Expenditure		
Restoration Improvement	DTTAS	£ 10,524,236
Restoration Maintenance	DTTAS	£ 1,882,657
Discretionary Maintenance	DTTAS	£ 3,209,464
Bridge Rehabilitation	DTTAS	£ 325,537
Safety Improvement Works	DTTAS	£ 321,906
DTTAS Training Grant	DTTAS	£ 69,000
Community Involvement Scheme	DTTAS	£ 243,502
Drainage Works	DTTAS	£ 800,996
Climate Change Adaptation 2020	DTTAS	£ 469,998
Active Travel Measures 2020	DTTAS	£ 634,579
Totals Regional and Local Roads		£ 18,481,875
Other Roads Projects		
Local Improvement Schemes	DRCD	£ 349,691
Minor Flood Mitigation Works	OPW	£ 102,362
Local Roads Ordinary Maintenance	RCC	£ 1,257,398
Amenities & Burial Grounds Maintenance	RCC	£ 445,897
Arterial Drainage	RCC	£ 148,063
Cemetery Improvement Grant	RCC	£ 33,784
Public Lighting	RCC	£ 1,051,676
Totals Other Roads Projects		£ 3,388,871
Overall Total Expenditure 2020		£ 25,150,163

Local Improvement Scheme

The Local Improvement Scheme 2021 was advertised in December 2020. Applications must be submitted via **My Online Services** at: <https://roscommon-self.achieveservice.com>

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. Roscommon County Council 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 Q4 is 89.

Abnormal Load Permits

Local Authorities operate a permit system for abnormal loads on all or part of journeys where specific weight and height conditions apply. Roscommon County Council Roads Department issued 17 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q4 2020.

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, 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 ongoing. Initial habitat and species surveys have been completed. An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report is being prepared for the site investigation.

Galway to Athlone Cycleway

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS from Galway, were appointed earlier this year. 524 people attended a series of five public information events held in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Athenry, Loughrea and Oranmore between 11a.m. and 8p.m. during the week of 10th – 14th August. 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 people's feedback on the need for the project and to identify local amenities, attractions and features within the study area. This is the first of four periods of public consultation which will be undertaken before a planning application is made. Over 800 submissions were received and are currently being reviewed. The project team expects to publish a number of potential corridor options for the new Galway to Athlone Cycleway later this year. All open day materials are also available in the online Virtual Consultation Room at www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com. A dedicated Project Office is open in Ballinasloe where people can meet the project team by appointment by contacting (091) 509267 or info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com.

Public Consultation No 2 open Monday 25th January 2021 with five proposed corridors.

Broadband

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

- BCPs are primarily Community Centres and schools in the amber area, where high speed broadband will be made available to the public within the first year of the rollout of the NBP
- Roscommon's BCPs are located at Tawnytaskin, Gortaganny, Cam, Dangan, Drumboylan, Creeve, Kiltoom and Tulsk hub. Two schools, Tarmon and Ballagh will also benefit from high speed broadband but will not be available to the public
- Seven out of eight 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 in the car park. Some sites have been used by students and remote workers
- Under the accelerated town and village renewal funding, total value €49,284, and following a tendering process, the BCPs now have office desks, chairs, interactive whiteboards, social distancing desk screens and signage. Printers will be installed in January
- Launch to take place early 2021.

Digiwest: Funding was received under the Rural and Regional Development Fund as part of a joint scheme led by Western Development Commission, working with Donegal, Sligo and Mayo, to create *Digiwest* – a Western Region Network of Rural Digital Working Hubs. Roscommon's location is a commercial unit in Meadowbrook, Tulsk. Internal construction works complete, equipment and furniture installed. High speed broadband is now connected. Due to launch early 2021.

Wifi4EU

The Project to provide public wifi in locations throughout the County has been tendered and will be rolled out in 2021.

NBI rollout of High speed Broadband under the National Broadband Plan

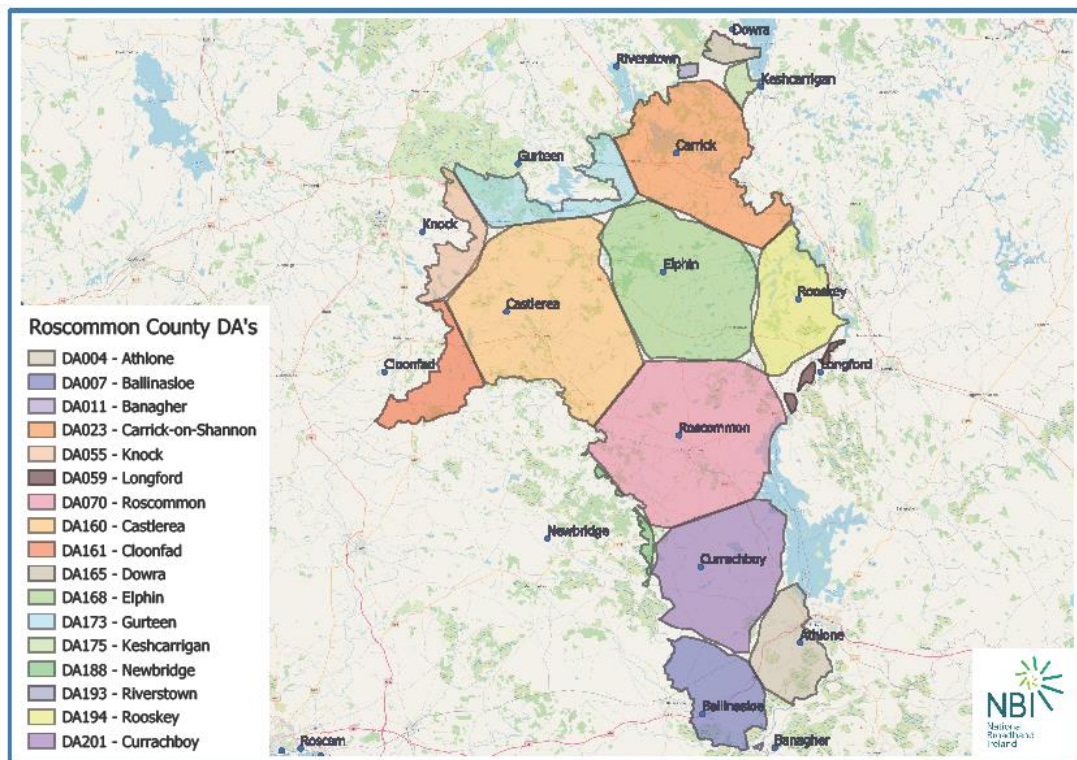
NBI began carrying out initial surveys of Eir infrastructure on 14th April 2020

NBI gave a presentation to relevant Engineering and Planning staff on 24th September 2020

Progress to date (December 2020)

1. Ballinasloe DA is currently being built with a completion timeline of Q3 2021
2. Roscommon DA has been surveyed and designed and to begin the build in Q1 2021 with completion date Q4 2021
3. Athlone DA has been surveyed and designed and planning to begin the build in Q2 2021 with completion date Q1 2022
4. Castlerea DA is due to begin survey in Q2 2021 with build timeline to be confirmed.
5. Longford DA- survey completed, with design for sign off.
6. Carrick-On-Shannon DA - survey completed, with design for sign off.

National Broadband Plan Deployment Map



Eir Rollout

Eir has completed its 300k rollout in County Roscommon, having passed 5746 premises. This includes 434 additional premises.

Eir has almost completed its rollout of fibre broadband in the larger towns in County Roscommon. To date, these include Boyle, Cortober, Castlerea and Roscommon. All homes covered will be able to obtain GB Broadband.