



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2020

QUARTER 3

**Roscommon County Council**  
**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**  
**Management Accounts Summary to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 30/09/2020	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 30/09/2020	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	4,852,923	6,640,134	5,496,979	7,294,094	644,056
Road Transport & Safety	13,820,083	24,288,076	7,240,876	17,645,706	(6,579,208)
Water Services	4,670,502	7,639,343	4,656,304	7,510,258	(14,198)
Development Management	9,544,458	7,126,358	8,814,926	1,631,071	(729,532)
Environmental Services	4,144,533	6,001,605	372,195	937,131	(3,772,338)
Recreation & Amenity	2,738,710	4,126,824	492,502	607,634	(2,246,208)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	350,659	679,748	229,787	258,556	(120,872)
Miscellaneous Services	3,072,816	4,785,214	1,682,349	1,932,252	(1,390,467)
Central Management Charges	913,213	0	53,426	0	(859,787)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	9,803,198	10,817,200	9,803,198
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	9,355,662	12,653,400	9,355,662
	<b>44,107,897</b>	<b>61,287,301</b>	<b>48,198,202</b>	<b>61,287,301</b>	<b>4,090,305</b>

**Note 1;**  
The Central Management Charge is allocated one month in arrears. The costs included in the Central Management Charge are distributed among Divisions A-H and include costs from Area Offices, Corporate Affairs, Corporate buildings, Finance, Human Resources, IT Print & Post Room Services, Pension & Lump Sums.

**Summary of Major Collections as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,358,169	12,474,216	843,254	69,185	12,919,946	5,798,032	7,121,914	69,240	45%	70%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	474,828	3,860,805		(1,664)	4,337,297	3,812,947	524,350		88%	89%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	120,379	166,961			287,340	180,131	107,209		63%	64%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

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

## PLANNING SECTION

### Forward Planning

A range of activity associated with the initial stages of the statutory process of making the new Roscommon County Development Plan (RCDP) 2021 – 2027 was on-going in Q3. Efforts continued throughout July to encourage engagement from the general public during the pre-draft consultation period, particularly through on-line promotion of the public consultation process. All documentation can be viewed on the dedicated RCDP website at [www.rosdevplan.ie](http://www.rosdevplan.ie)

Following the easing of some Covid 19 related restrictions on indoor gatherings, pre-draft public consultation workshops took place at the end of July, at six locations around the county – Roscommon, Monksland, Boyle, Castlerea, Ballaghaderreen and Strokestown. Following the conclusion of the pre-draft public consultation process, the Chief Executive's Report on the Pre-Draft Consultations was prepared and issued to Members in September. The report will be formally considered by Members at a Special Meeting of the Council in November, after which the plan making process will progress to the next stage i.e. the preparation of a Draft Plan.

### Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in the Planning Section in Q3. A total of 137 valid applications were received, which was a slight reduction on the 145 valid applications received for the same period in 2019. Decisions issued on 122 planning applications, of which 101 were grants of permission. Over the same period, further information requests issued on 87 applications, primarily due to insufficient demonstration of compliance with rural housing policy (local need) and due to public health considerations, including in some instances there being a lack of evidence of trial holes on some sites.

### **Development Management Statistics**

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q3 2020	Valid app	70	67	137
	Invalid app	12	9	21
	Extension of Duration	0	5	5
	DED	15	22	37
	Pre-planning discussion	15	32	47

## Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
<b>Q3 2020</b>	New enforcement case	46
	General letter	22
	Warning letter	12
	Enforcement notice	0
	Closed case	18
	Legal proceedings	0

## Unfinished Housing Developments (UHD)

The UHD Team continued to progress a range of work during Q3 including site inspections, survey work and engagement with stakeholders in unfinished housing development, as well as desk top activity in the form of the preparation of tenders, and the preparation of schedules to issue to Irish Water as part of the taking in charge process.

Resolutions were passed in July to take in charge four housing developments - Hillview, Ballinlough, Lime Grove, Ballinlough, Oaklawn, Ballinlough and Ascaill Eoghain, Roscommon. During the quarter covering this report schedules were prepared and issued to Irish Water in respect of developments in Rooskey, Tulsk, Ballaghaderreen, Ballinlough, Cootehall, Ballintubber and Lisacul. In September a tender issued for a range of works at three developments in the Monksland area.

Development activity on the ground showed a reduction from levels over the same period in 2019, most likely attributable to the Covid 19 situation. Contractors engaged by bondholders were active on a two sites, in Monksland and Cootehall in the earlier part of the quarter, while developers continued work on development sites in Roscommon, Rooskey, Tulsk, Frenchpark, Tarmonbarry and Lisacul at various stages over the period.

## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

### Local Enterprise Office (LEO):

- **Trading On Line Vouchers (TOVs):**  
A total of 162 applications for TOVs were approved year to date. (A total of 153 TOVs have been approved with 90% funding since the funding was changed from 50% to 90%). A business which obtained a Voucher previously is 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 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Demand for this scheme locally and nationally is unprecedented. It is not known whether the 90% grant aid will apply after the current deadline for receipt of applications, ie 30<sup>th</sup> September. Updates awaited.
- **Business Continuity Vouchers:** The total number of applications received is 233, with 186 being eligible for funding. Payment of vouchers is ongoing. 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.
- **Training:** The Autumn training programme is ongoing, including 4 Brexit Customs workshops. Interest is beginning to increase in the past week. A schedule of possible training for 2021 is being prepared.
- **Remote Mentoring:** Is being provided on an ongoing basis for the business community on Finance, Business Advice, Planning, Social Media, Micro Finance, etc. Bookings are taken via the LEO website online booking system. General Business & Brexit Mentor Clinics are on offer and in demand.
- **Enquiries:** Enquiries are ongoing and appropriate support is being provided.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:** This programme has commenced in remote format with 8 of the 9 second level schools in the county signed-up. Abbey Community College, Boyle, is taking part in Enterprise Encounter (where a small group of students visits a business to interview the owner/manager). LEO has made contact with businesses in the Boyle area, on behalf of the school.
- **National Women's Enterprise Day:** This Event will take place remotely as a Nationally Event on the 14<sup>th</sup> October.
- **National Enterprise Awards:** The current plan is for an Awards Ceremony to take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021, but this will be monitored in line with Government guidelines for such Events and is subject to change. Assessment of Applications will take place in mid-November.
- **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 submitted. Feasibility Study for the Boardwalk project successful.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- Financial and progress reports for Year 1 of Round 3 Healthy Ireland Funding were submitted to Pobal.
- Several partners started their Healthy Ireland funded activities in September. Partners have reduced group numbers to ensure social distancing, are operating in line with Government guidance and taking all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of staff and group participants.

## LEADER:

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- 1 LEADER claim paid in September

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

LCDC meeting and Local Action Group meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and following agenda items dealt with:

- Nomination of LCDC Chairperson
- Rotation of LCDC Membership
- Update on 2020 Community Enhancement Programme
- SICAP 2018 Audit
- SICAP Mid-Term Review 2020

## CLÁR

- 1 CLÁR project paid under CLÁR 2019
- Inspections ongoing for CLÁR 2019 projects.

## **Community Enhancement Programme – Round One**

- The department allocation for this round 1 CEP scheme is €56,000 (rounded)
- At the June meeting of the LCDC Committee it was agreed to allocate €16,000 to Strand A (Grant up to €1,000) & €40,000 to Strand B (Grants in excess of €1,000 subject to max spend of €8,000)
- It was also agreed that this scheme would be online application made available from the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020 with a closing date set for the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020.
- A subcommittee meeting was held on the 21/09/20 to assess all applications received.
- As per department guidelines for assessment of projects the following were approved for funding:
  - Strand A - Grants up to €1,000 a total of 16 applications were awarded funding totalling €15,899.59
  - Strand B – Grants in excess of €1,000 subject to a max spend of €8,000 a total of 11 applications were awarded funding totalling €39,750.

## **Community Enhancement Programme 2020 Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings**

Under the governments July Stimulus package an additional allocation of funds was made available to the Community Enhancement Programme targeting Community Centres and Community Buildings.

- The department allocation for this round CEP scheme aimed at community centres and community buildings is €113,318
- Due to the short timeframes surrounding same the application was published as per the department guidelines and per application form. This offered the following options to the applicant:
  - Small scale capital grant of €1,000
  - Capital grant in excess of €1,000
- Total applications for both = 39 applications received via my online services.
- A subcommittee meeting was held on the 21/09/20 to assess all applications received.
- As per department guidelines for assessment of projects the following were approved for funding:
  - Small scale capital grant of €1,000 a total of 11 applications were awarded funding totalling €10,799
  - Capital grant in excess of €1,000 a total of 11 applications were awarded funding totalling €102,696

<b>Summary</b>	
Less than 1K	€10,799.00
Great than 1K	€102,696.00
	<b>€113,495.00</b>

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

### Age Friendly Programme:

- AF Programme Managers Meeting attended on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020
- In-house AF Programme Promotion Meeting held in conjunction with AF Housing Specialist
- Facilitated Meeting held with AFI and Roscommon OPC Re: transition of OPC under the LA.

### Integration Strategy

- Work continuing on the tender documents for the development of strategy in conjunction with RLP and CYPSC
- €5k Received from Dept. of Rural & Community Development in respect of project proposal by RLP in relation to the LGBTQI+ Community.
- Social Inclusion Measures Subgroup Meeting attended on the needs of Slovakian/Roma Families in Roscommon

### Social Inclusion Awareness Week 2020

- Online Applications invited in respect of funding for Social Inclusion Awareness Week events 2020 (Closing date: 11/10/2020)



### Bike Week 2020

- Successful Bike Week held in conjunction with Roscommon Sports Partnership

### Make Way Day 2020

- Successful online launch and walkabout held for Make Way Day in conjunction with RLP – (MWD is a campaign that brings the disability and wider community together to consider the needs of people with disabilities in the public spaces we all share).

### SICAP

- Drawdown Request for 2020 Q4 Payment made to Department
- Mid-Term Review completed and approved by LCDC

### Pride of Place 2020

- Waiting on details from Co-Operation Ireland in regard to Awards.

### Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme 2020

- Grant payments are being processed as works are completed and relevant documentation is submitted.

### HERITAGE

#### National Biodiversity Action Plan Funding (NBAP):

**Trees and Our Heritage Schools Workshops:** 2 of the schools remaining on the list from last spring opted to take up their workshops.

#### Creative Ireland Funding:

**‘The Guided Tour’ series:** Elphin Windmill will be the next site featured in this video series.

**The Táin March:** Events planned for autumn have been cancelled. The schools workshops postponed last March have been reconfigured into ‘virtual’ workshops including a zoom workshop. 7 of the schools who had expressed interest in spring have opted to take part in the ‘virtual’ Táin project.

#### Heritage Council Funding:

Two projects ongoing under this funding are:

**Field Monument Advisor for farming Rathcroghan EIP:** project progressing.

**Conservation Specifications for Masonry Ruins:** Project progressing.

### **Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht Funding:**

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme:** Progress report submitted to Dept. One project withdrew and their funding was re-allocated to other projects.

**Historic Structures Fund:** Progress report submitted to Dept.

**July Stimulus Funding - HSF/BHIS Additional Funding:** 17<sup>th</sup> C Church & Mausoleum @ Strokestown Park & Kiltullagh Church of Ireland were allocated an additional €17,429 under this scheme for their ongoing conservation projects.

**July Stimulus Funding - Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2020:** The Heritage Council announced this grant scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> September and the deadline for applications was 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Heritage Office provided advice and letters of support to community groups making an application.

**July Stimulus Funding – Community Monuments Fund 2020:** The National Monuments Service announced this funding scheme. Heritage Office provided advice to community groups and individuals considering applying and submitted 8 applications from the county with a total value of €76,900. We are waiting to hear back on these.

### **Other projects:**

**Rathcroghan - Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Tentative List Application:** The draft application was submitted to DCHG at the end of September.

**Autumn Heritage Bucket List:** This was shared on RCC social media on 25.09.20. The Facebook post got 125 shares!

**Evaluation of the Local Authority Heritage Officer Programme (LAHOP):** Heritage Office inputted data in to this review which is being carried out for the Heritage Council and Local Government Management Association.

### **Regional Projects:**

- **IHH Website Scheme:** 1<sup>st</sup> concept design approved. Photographer procured to take photos of King House and Boyle cycleway
- **USEFE** – update on tourism activity within each county given at Sept 2020
- **Fáilte Ireland** – Information on Funding for Adaptation Grant and COVID updates to all Tourism Trade.
- **Greenways Funding** - €100,000 approved for Greenway feasibility from Tarmonbarry to Athlone.

### **County Projects:**

- **Tourism Trade Networking (IHH)** – next Task Force Destination Town meeting set for mid Oct.
- **Coillte Steering meeting** – held on site in Mote park to review potential of Mote Park application under Measure 3 2020 and review progress on all Coillte Trails.

- **2020 Festival and Events:** Call issued for Winter Festival to all Town Teams, though Fáilte Ireland Festival funding
- **Social Media:** continuing on twice weekly basis.
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2020 scheme):** 6 applications submitted under Measure 1 – Lough Key Awning; Boyle to Lough Key cycleway Shelters; Upgrade of infrastructure at Gaelic Chieftain; Upgrade of NFW on n%; Roscommon walks 4 seasonal videos and Walking/Cycling counters
- **Outdoor Recreation: (2019 scheme):** 4 projects under Measure 1 all received an extension to end Oct for submission of Claim.
- **Creative Ireland Project** – Douglas Hyde video completed
- **Roscommon Walks Book Edition No2** – Walks video to complement the Book nearing completion.
- **County Projects** – Launch of the NFW online. Presentation to AIT tourism & sports 3<sup>rd</sup> year students on tourism in Roscommon. V

### **King House**

- Well visited during the 10-week season. Now closed for the winter period
- Culture night - 'A Poem to be Said on Hearing the Birds Sing' outdoor film projection over weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- Artist Studios/Toilets – meet onsite with engineers to discuss potential design.

### **COVID 19 INITIATIVES:**

#### **Roscommon Community Response Forum:**

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

The Forum met once in September 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 September, 12 calls were received.

### **Arts Office**

#### **Literary Bursaries & Awards**

New Roscommon Writing Award 2020 'Life' by Anne Byrne - announced and printed in Roscommon Herald.

#### **Culture Night Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

Programme of online and offline events delivered. Feature commissioned event 'A Poem to be Said

on Hearing the Birds Sing’ outdoor film projection at Roscommon Arts Centre, King House Boyle, Strokestown House and Douglas Hyde Centre (projected Fri, Sat, Sun). Boyle Songwriter Collective Documentary ‘For the Love of It’. Open Night at King House and Roscommon Arts Centre Gallery Space. Online Theatre by Fregoli Theatre Company.

### **Artists**

- Ongoing payment of artist bursaries.
- Networking and training event for Artist Panel at Roscommon Arts Centre

### **Music**

King House Piano Commission 2020/21 announced – call for professional composers to write new music for piano & traditional instruments. In collaboration with Boyle Arts Festival.

### **Film**

Ongoing work by Film Liaison Mike Hourigan in response to enquiries through WRAP and SLR Film to promote Roscommon as a location for incoming productions and production companies.

### **Festivals**

‘Agents of Change’ networking and training for festival committees in partnership with Galway County & City Councils.

### **Artist in Schools**

Applications from 18 national schools/31 classes for 2020-2021.

### **Roscommon County Youth Theatre**

Open Day at Roscommon Arts Centre for new and existing members.

### **Music Generation Roscommon**

Start of term 1 2020/21 programmes for schools and evening classes in hubs county-wide. Online and offline.

### **Creative Ireland**

- Conversations in Portrait – 4 participants selected and portraits commenced, 2 in nursing homes, 2 living at home.
- Creative Communities Projects awarded to 14 artists & creatives, as part of the July Stimulus Package.

## **Roscommon Arts Centre**

**Autumn Programme:** Roscommon Arts Centre’s autumn programme got underway in September. Funded by the Arts Council the season has been re-imagined and includes music, theatre, literary & children’s events. With current Government restrictions, capacities are severely limited and depending on how patrons book, a full-house is now anywhere between 24 and 37 patrons.

The September programme included music with John Wynne, Alan Kelly and John McEvoy as part of the continuing “Reel Thing” series focusing on Roscommon musicians and theatre with “The Man in the Woman’s Shoes”. A second sold-out theatre performance had to be cancelled due to illness.

**Culture Night:** This month also included a Culture Night Celebration which included a weekend screening of “A Poem to be Heard on Hearing the Birds Sing” on the external wall of the arts centre; a re-screening of theatre company in Residence Fregoli’s two short online presentations created during lockdown and the late opening of the gallery space on Culture Night for Mark Garry’s exhibition “An Lucht Siuil”.

**Studio 2020:** this initiative continued throughout September with 3 artists in residence: David Pierse, Mintesinot Getachew and Louise Shine.

**Curator in Residence:** Naomi Draper commenced her Visual Art Curator Residency which will continue until the end of 2021.

**Hatch 2020:** Hatch participants Cathal Maguire and Claire Mullane participated in their mentored residencies, both on and off-site in September, with further residency phases planned for early October.

**Artist Panel:** September also saw the first meeting of the new Artists Panel, established in conjunction with the Arts Office with a presentation for those participating taking place in the arts centre.

**Creative Ireland Residencies:** The selection of two new artists, one working in the area of music and another in the area of dance artist to undertake Creative Ireland funded residencies at the centre took place during September, with the residencies due to commence in early October.

## REGENERATION UNIT

### URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project:

- Construction tender stage nearing completion.

### RURAL REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

#### Castlerea Hub Extension:

- Construction tender stage nearing completion.

#### Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Construction tender stage nearing completion.

#### Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Design Consultant appointed and design phase started.

#### Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Design stage tender documents nearing completion.

### **OUTDOOR RECREATION 2018**

All projects completed.

### **TOWN AND VILLAGE 2018**

#### Boyle

- Main Street project underway – delayed due to covid

#### Ballaghaderreen

- Further Community plan meetings held and first draft prepared.
- Contractor for landscaping works delayed due to Covid 19 Restrictions. Due to commence mid-October due to seasonality of work.
- Content for tourist signs sourced from Community and design being finalised.

#### Rooskey

- Completed to final snag works.

#### Monksland Urban Park

- The site has been cleared of the vegetation in advance of the works.
- Monksland tender returned, awaiting opportunity to proceed as the successful tendered is UK based.

#### Roscommon

- Lighting of Castle and parking element are nearing completion. Signage on approach roads for Castle in construction phase.

#### Strokestown

- Enhancement to buildings contract underway – delayed due to covid.
- Lighting of Strokestown Park House Gate completed.

### **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.
- Landscape plan element completed and tender being prepared for landscape elements.
- Fishing Stands – group working on completing this element.

### Castlerea

- Town Painting Scheme – significant proportion of works completed.
- 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.
- Group working on final drawings for car park.

### Rooskey

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

### Keadue

- Contract for works has been awarded.

### Creagh

- Both elements of project nearing completion.

## **TOWN AND VILLAGE 2020**

### Town & Village – Standard.

- Work was carried out on assessing the EOIs submitted and follow ups were organised with all communities where projects were deemed to score high enough to go forward.
- Ten projects were put forward to the Department for assessment. Cootehall, Croghan, Dysart, Four Roads, Knockcroghery, Lecarrow, Loughglynn, Rooskey, Tarmonbarry and Tulsk.

### Town & Village – Covid 19 Measure

- There were three rounds under the Accelerated Measure. A total of 17 applications were submitted to the Department for assessment. Rounds 1 and 2 have been assessed with funding received for the following towns/villages;
- Round 1: Athleague, Castlerea, Keadue
- Round 2: 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.
- Rounds 1 and 2 are due to be completed by November so work has commenced with community groups to complete works within the timeline.

### **HISTORIC TOWNS INITIATIVE ROSCOMMON**

- Contractor appointed and works have commenced.
- Ongoing liaison with property owners to complete scheme.

### **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**

- Design work on landscaping and architectural elements has been ongoing.
- Tender Documents for the Refurbishment of the Pleasure Grounds are almost complete and will be uploaded to eTenders in the next couple of weeks

### **ROSCOMMON BOUND - GLOBAL ROSSIE PROJECT**

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

### **FUTURE APPLICATIONS**

- Work is ongoing in relation to preparing projects for Outdoor Recreation 2020 and RRDF Category 1 2020.
- Part 8 applications have been prepared for public realm projects in Boyle and Elphin with regard to RRDF Category 1 applications.

### **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.
- The AEC Strategy and the AEC Hubs Strategy are nearing completion and are due to be published in the next few weeks.



# LIBRARY SERVICES

## LIBRARY SERVICE POINTS

Boyle, Roscommon and Castlerea libraries offered Browse, Borrow and Return services in July, August and September. Ballaghaderreen Library continued a Contact and Collect service 4 days per week. Structures have been put in place in conjunction with the Digital Transformation Team to reinstate a Contact and Collect Service in Boyle, Castlerea and Roscommon in line with level 3 of Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021: Plan for Living with COVID-19.

## FUNDING FOR SMALL SCALE CAPITAL WORKS

In September, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of €66,666 for Ballaghaderreen Library and €44,445 for Strokestown library as part of a Small Scale Capital Works Programme in public libraries.

In Ballaghaderreen the funding will allow for the reconfiguration of the library space to achieve social distancing and includes the creation of a dedicated space for teenagers, spaces for the use of Wifi enabled devices, new flooring, flexible shelving and furniture.

In Strokestown the funding will allow for a dedicated children's space within in the library, space for Wifi devices, new furniture and shelving and occupancy control software to ensure maximum numbers for social distancing are not exceeded.

## LIBRARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The delivery of library events and activities have moved online for the moment. The annual Summer Stars programme encouraged the use of eBooks and eAudiobooks this year along with the physical books borrowed from local libraries. During the Summer almost 4,000 items were borrowed by children in the County. A full programme of online events has been created for the Ros na nÓg Children's book festival in October. This programme is supported by the Creative Ireland programme.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

The wide range of online resources continue to be available to library users 24/7. Users can join online at [www.librariesireland.ie/join](http://www.librariesireland.ie/join) to get immediate access to these resources including free eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines and Online Courses. PressReader is the most recent service to be added to the range of online resources. This service gives users access to daily newspapers from around the world on their devices. Over 1500 session were recorded in this quarter. A quick start guide for accessing library resources online is available here: [http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Library/ICT\\_Resources\\_In\\_Libraries/\\_Roscommon-Library-Quick-Start-Guide.pdf](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie/en/Services/Community/Library/ICT_Resources_In_Libraries/_Roscommon-Library-Quick-Start-Guide.pdf)

# HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

## HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

### Homelessness:

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

15 = homeless cases presented in Q3, 2020

12 = cases required short-term accommodation in Q3, 2020

Breakdown Homeless figures Q3 2020				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
July	4	0	4	
August	4	0	4	
September	5	2	7	1Ad/5Ch & 2Ad/2Ch

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
July	4	0	4	
August	2	0	2	
September	4	2	6	1Ad/5Ch & 2Ad/2Ch

### Housing Assessments & Allocations:

The 2020 Housing Needs Assessment commenced in September 2020.

344 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q3, 2020 – iHouse Report 19

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

44 = offers of accommodation made in Q3, 2020 (which include 7 nominations to AHB's)

14 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q3, 2020

3 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q3, 2020

25 = refusals recorded in Q3, 2020

## **SOCIAL HOUSING RENTAL ACCOMMODATION MARKET**

### **Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS):**

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 30 September, 2020, there are 390 households receiving support (286 private rented and 104 in voluntary housing)

### **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):**

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. 37 HAP tenancies were opened in Q3 and 11 were closed in the same period. As of 30 June, 2020, there were 465 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

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

No significant change since Q4 2019; summary of activity end Q3 2020 is as follows:

- 67= 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
- 5= further information/potential applications under further consideration; however, some of these have unresolved planning issues;
- 3= number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (two 1-bed apartments and a 4-bed house in Roscommon Town)

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

As of 30 September, 2020, Roscommon County Council has 5 long-terms leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 2 in Roscommon Town.

As of 30 September, 2020, Roscommon County Council has 23 active RAS Types leases throughout the county.

## **PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS**

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

Summary of projects in progress up to March 2020 was as follows; however, works on all capital projects was suspended at the end of March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. The negative impact on the below programmes/schedules remains to be fully determined:

- Three 2-bed units at Cloonfad on HSE site - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.
- 7 units at Cluain Fraoigh, Roscommon - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion extended to Q1, 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.
- 2 Units Old Tuam Road (CPO) – Construction commenced in January, 2020 with programme for completion scheduled for Q4, 2020.
- 6-10 units at Longford Td. – Proposal to develop via an AHB through Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) funding is under consideration (material contravention of current Area Plan would be required)
- 12 units at Silveroe, Boyle -Construction commenced in January, 2020 with programme extended to Q4, 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 delays.

- 18 units Meadowbrook, Ballyleague – Contractor appointed, works commenced in September 2020 with expected completion for Q4 2021.
- 10 units Elphin Street, Strokestown –Successful contractor identified. Works due to commence on site in late October 2020 with expected completion for Q1 2022.
- PPP Bundle 2 at The Walk (53 units) - Construction commenced in Q4, 2019 with programme for completion scheduled for Q3, 2021.

### **Housing Association Activity:**

- Co-operative Housing Ireland delivered 10 units at Castle View Apartments (Block B) under the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility (CALF) Scheme at the end of December, 2019. These were substantially allocated in Q1, 2020.
- A second proposal for 10 units at Block A (fronting onto Castle Street) received Department approval in May, 2019; The contract of sale between the AHB and property owner is not yet finalised. These units will not be delivered in 2020.
- A 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 is Jan 2021. However, due to COVID 19, the expected delivery date is expected to the Q3 of 2021.

As per RCC's capital programme, works on the above projects were also suspended in March 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Impact on delivery maybe be affected but this is currently being monitored.

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

As of 30 September, 2020, Roscommon County Council have acquired 3 houses under the acquisition programme. These acquisitions were a carry-over from 2019. In July 2020, some funding became available to acquire further one-off acquisitions subject to social housing demand and terms and conditions of the acquisition programme. RCC have negotiated 4 further acquisitions and these are currently at the conveyancing stage.

### **Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:**

- Torpan Beg Extension of 4 units – project is suspended as RCC was unable to facilitate existing tenants to the satisfaction of said tenants or secure agreement from said tenants to relocate in order for the works to proceed.
- 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 DHPLG. Part 8 planning process to commence in Q4 2020.
- Approval received from the department for the refurbishment of 4 units at Bri an Caoilinn, Harristown. Works to commence in Q4 2020.
- A welfare unit was provided in Q3 at the Ballincullia site, Kiltewan, Co. Roscommon.

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

- Approximately 8 vacant and derelict rural houses (without known legal complications) identified for sale. 5 were advertised for sale in late August / September 2020 and 3 sales were negotiated with the adjacent/original landowners. The conveyancing process has commenced on 7 of these houses.
- The sale of 11 low cost sites at Forest View, Boyle were advertised in Q3, 2019 with a reduced purchase price of €10,000 per site. No applications were received (no change in Q1 2020).

## **Tenant Purchase:**

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. At 30 September 2020, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

151	=	applications received to date
81	=	offers made to date
61	=	offers accepted to date
33	=	sales completed to date

### **PRIVATE RENTED ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS**

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

All inspections were suspended in March 2020 due to 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. Inspections resumed in line with Phase 2 and 3 relaxations.
- 167 inspections were carried out in Q3 2020, 67 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.

### **MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK**

#### **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.
- 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 Q2 2021.

## **Voids Programme:**

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

### **▪ Voids (Covid-19)**

The DHPLG have identified a special Voids Programme for LA's 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.

### **▪ Voids (July Stimulus)**

The DHPLG have 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 have been approved funding of €306,000 for the refurbishment of 36 no. vacant units.

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

A total of 9 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q3, 2020 at a cost to date of € 99,447 (excluding any outstanding payments).

## **Housing Maintenance**

RCC Housing received 119 maintenance calls in Q3, 2020 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €39,105.77.

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

Housing grant funding allocated to Roscommon County Council for 2020 is €1,157,814 (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded).

Commitments and expenditure to-date are in the order of €1,199,333 (104% of allocation). Inspections for grants have recommenced since the Covid-19 initial phase restrictions were lifted.

## 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.

A planning application to upgrade the Castlerea pumping station, as an addendum to the proposed works is under consideration by the planning authority. A submission on the request for further information has been submitted.

It is expected that construction works in the town of Roscommon will commence in late Q1 2021 or early Q2 2021.

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

The official opening took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020. The project is now in its defects period with snagging and reinstatement of roads and fields taking place recently in early June after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted allowing contractor to return to construction work.

#### **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.

Site topographical and invasive species surveys have recently taken place. A site Investigation survey will take place in Q3 to locate services and investigate ground conditions as part of the design process.

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 virtual meeting meeting is planned in the coming days to assess progress to date.

#### **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 is due to be 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. The overall programmed completion date is June 2020. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. 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 the coming weeks. Construction works are expected to commence in Q3/Q4 2020.

#### **Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.**

Leakage has been identified in clear water tank no.2 at North Roscommon WTP. Remedial works has been identified and costed and awaiting capital maintenance approval from IW.

#### **Advance Investigation Works Programme.**

This is a €1.5million Regional Programme. Mechanism for carrying out investigation works to include as part of upcoming tenders, optimise existing treatment processes and to gather data which will aid decisions on future treatment plant upgrades. Castlerea temporary WTP is included in this programme. Coffey Water Ltd have been appointed for the North West Region. Filter assessments has been carried out. The filter assessment report has identified a number of deficiencies with the existing filtration system. This report is under consideration by Irish Water. Following consultation with IW after the recent drought, discussions are under way regarding the provision of additional borehole and an additional filter at the water treatment plant.

#### **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.

#### **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. This work has not resumed to date.

#### **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.

### **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 will commence later this year.

## **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. It is expected that these works in addition to air scour the mains will be completed early November.

Pressure Mangement works are about to commence in Arigna under funding received from the Government Stimulus Package. It is expected that the works will be 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 2020.

#### **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. Farrans have also been tasked with examination of DMA establishment and they have employed the services of Jacobs Consulting Engineers to carry out this 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**

### **Introduction:**

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

The objective for this cycle is to provide enhanced funding certainty for priority investment needs to support the implementation of proper planning and sustainable development in rural areas. This is to assist in meeting the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive in relation to rural water supplies and to support the delivery of measures identified in the *River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021* to meet the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

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

### **Source Protection – Measure 1-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.

### **Pilot Project:**

Roscommon County Council in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other stakeholders are working on a Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project in the County. This involves developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of Group Water Schemes drinking water. The planning for this project has already taken place.

- Catchments have been delineated.
  - A 'Framework for Drinking Water Source Protection' and
  - A 'Handbook of Source Protection and Mitigation Actions for Farming' have been prepared.
- <https://nfgws.ie/nfgws-source-protection-publications/>

The farming community will play a significant role in this project, however everyone has a part to play. There will be an emphasis on raising awareness, education, and inclusion. One of the aims of the project is to work towards sustainable farming practices that lead to improved water sources, increased biodiversity and enhancement of climate awareness. The project will focus on farming benefits with environmental outcomes. We are now progressing well with the implementation stage.

Work commenced in 2018 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. Sampling for this project is being undertaken in our own accredited Laboratory in Roscommon County Council. Mitigation measures for swallow holes are being discussed with farmers. Catchment walks are being undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution.

A media campaign to raise public awareness on source protection and incorporating Biodiversity was developed to coincide with Rural Water Week on 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 with many initiatives. All materials carry the Roscommon County Council and the NFGWS brand logos.

- Live 1 hour Broadcast from Polecat Springs GWS on Mary Clare Greally Show on Shannonside Radio on 7<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Sept –promotional editorial along with brochure identifying and promoting good practice for Source Protection.
- Promotional Video clips were also undertaken to promote the project.  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z\\_DL14Tuz7M7twQFljlbAPgyj/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z_DL14Tuz7M7twQFljlbAPgyj/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 is 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 linked to the 'Let it Bee' initiative.

##### **'Let It Bee'**

The 'Let It Bee' initiative-Farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity as part of the GWS Source Protection Pilot Project.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EW4EjXtHdVj9k\\_3vQtXyFfnCblDwaZeM?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EW4EjXtHdVj9k_3vQtXyFfnCblDwaZeM?usp=sharing)

- **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.

This includes work to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems and to replace equipment as deemed necessary. These UV upgrade works have commenced. The Capital Replacement works are ongoing in accordance with a planned programme on the Design Build Operate Group Water Schemes.

- **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.

At the end of Q3 2020 contracts have been awarded and work has commenced or is about to commence on the following projects totaling 14.5 kilometers of watermains:

- Oran Ballintober: 664m of 90mm watermains with 20 connections
- Castlestrange: 400m of 90mm watermains with 3 connections
- Corracreigh: 319m of 90mm and 1209m of 125mm watermains with 12 connections
- Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10m connections
- Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with 25 connections
- Mid Roscommon: 415m of 63mm and 1509m of 690mm watermains with 12 connections
- Mid Roscommon: 2052m of 90mm watermains with 28 connections
- Oran Ballintober: 965m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections
- Polecat Springs: 290m of 63mm and 1746m of 90mm watermains with 3 connections
- Mid Roscommon: 2852m of 63mm and 1913m of 90mm water mains
- Gortaganny: 785m 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.

Work has commenced or is about to commence on the following projects totaling 3.5 kilometers of watermains

- Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with 25 connections
- Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10m connections

- **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

For grant purposes, a private water supply is defined as a system providing a supply of water to a single house by means of a source that is not common or shared.

The grant enables improvement works to be carried out to a private water supply so that it will provide water that is compliant with the quality standards of the Drinking Water Regulations and/or will supply the sufficient quantity of water that meets the domestic needs of the household.

Important: Houses with individual connections to a common source of supply using separate abstraction and distribution systems do not constitute a private water supply for the purposes of the grant. The grant must be used solely for the improvement of a private water supply to a house. No part of the grant payment may be used to cross subsidise other non-domestic use e.g. farming activity or other commercial use.

## **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 Q3 a total of 8 applications for the upgrade of individual wells have been received in 2020 with 3 receiving Provisional Approval for financial support. Grants have been paid on 9 completed applications in sum of €16,728.61 to end of Q3 2020.

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

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

**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 Q3 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 €191,984.39 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q3 2020.

## ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

### 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 3 2020.

Complaint Type	Athlone	Ballaghadereen	Boyle	Castlerea	Roscommon	Strokestown	Total
Water		1	2	1	2	3	9
Waste	9	9	10	13	4	4	49
Noise	1	1	2		1	1	6
Litter	30	11	14	19	30	20	124
Air	3	1	5	1	1	1	12
	43	23	33	34	38	29	200

### Casual Trading Bye Laws:

Casual Trading Bye-Laws came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2020. Twenty three Casual Trading Licences have been received to date. Of the Twenty three applications received, fifteen licences issued in Quarter 3. Follow-up communication is ongoing with the remaining 8 applicants. Casual Trading Pitches were marked out in August as per the adopted layout plans for each designated casual trading area and Casual Trading Signage will be erected in October 2020.

Enforcement action has been active throughout this period, with a number of casual traders permanently removed from non-designated Casual Trading locations within County Roscommon. On-going monitoring and enforcement action will continue into the future to ensure compliance with the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

### 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. Letters have issued to householders advising them of the upcoming inspections which will commence in quarter 4.

### Litter Management Plan 2020 - 2020

The Litter Pollution Act 1997, as amended, requires Local Authorities to adopt and implement a Litter Management Plan specifying the following:

- Measures to prevent and control litter
- Measures to encourage public awareness
- Measures to achieve the objectives of the plan



A Draft Litter Management Plan to cover the period 2020 – 2022, including a review of the previous plan, was prepared for consultation. Submissions/comments were invited from individuals, community and voluntary groups and representative bodies including Residents Associations, Tidy Towns Committees, Chambers of Commerce etc. Eight submissions received were considered for inclusion in the plan.

At the Planning, Environment, Climate Change and Corporate Governance SPC Meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 the SPC members considered and recommended the plan, without amendment, for consideration at the Plenary Council meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at which meeting the plan was adopted.

### **Anti Dumping Initiative 2020:**

A number of projects funded under the Anti Dumping Initiative 2020 were completed in Quarter 3. These included Bulky Goods Collection held in a number of locations throughout the County and clean up carried out in both Boyle and Athlone area. The remaining projects will be completed in quarter 4.

# ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

## **ASSETS**

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing – application made to PRA in Q3 2020 for update of Folios
- 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

## **ENERGY**

- **Public Sector Energy Partnership Programme –**
  - Agreement signed on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 - new Partnership Support Manager, Niall Kiernan, assigned to Roscommon County Council and first meeting has taken place. No further meetings due to Covid-19 restrictions
  - Energy Action Plan 2020 – ongoing subject to restrictions
- **Grant Applications –**
  - BEC Application for King House, Boyle, Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen, Library HQ and Aras an Chontae submitted to SEAI/partially approved – funding constraints identified in 2020 with possible Application to re-submit in 2021, subject to Budget resources
- **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 first meeting has taken place with further meetings subject 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 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 and Part 2 submitted by 29<sup>th</sup> 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 (this represents balance of TII PLs in Co. Roscommon)  
  
- Approval received for 108 no. PLs at various locations in Co. Roscommon and works completed in Q3 2020
- Survey of all School Warning Lights in Co. Roscommon completed and Final Report issued – review of repairs/possible upgrades to follow, 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 2021
- 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 of submitted Tenders in progress by all Local Authorities
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) – 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 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019
- CCAS 2019 – 2024 Progress Report in progress and for submission 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
- RCC represented at inaugural Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) sub-Region Meeting – further meetings 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. Archaeological testing and resolution is ongoing. Fencing, topographical proof survey and geotechnical investigations are nearing ongoing. 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 the pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2020. The tender process in respect of the main construction contract is ongoing.

A range of protocols in full compliance with Government, construction industry and H.S.E. guidelines are being implemented in order to combat the spread of COVID -19.

**N60 Oran Road Realignment Project** involves the realignment of approximately 3.4 km of the N60 National Secondary route including 1.7 km of offline construction and 1.7 km of online widening to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is currently ongoing, to date approximately 90% 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 on all 5 sites. 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 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and site works commenced in April 2019. To date approx. 98% of the works have been completed. The Certificate of Substantial Completion was issued to Wills Bros Ltd. on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020. There are some minor works ongoing comprising accommodation works, signing & lining and snagging. The completion of the works also includes the implementation of necessary alterations to the local road network including the Dunamon Junction. Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers continue to administer and supervise 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 village. 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. It is anticipated the emerging preferred route corridor will be identified in Q4 2020.

**N61 Coolteige Phase 1 Road Project** involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 2.9km of a section of National Secondary Road on the northern outskirts of Roscommon Town predominately to Type 1 single carriageway standard. The land acquisition process is ongoing on foot of the approved CPO. Archaeological resolution field works were completed in November 2016. Post excavation archaeological works are ongoing. The main construction contract was awarded to Wills Bros Ltd. on 14 December 2017. Works commenced on site in Q1 2018 and are complete. The Defects Period initially extended to April 2020 however on the 27 March 2020 the Government introduced significant additional restrictions to combat the spread of COVID-19 and directed a cessation of all non-essential construction works. All remaining snag items have been completed and the Defects Certificate has been issued.

**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. The identified emerging preferred route corridor has been identified and is currently available to view on Roscommon County website. The Design Team is currently undertaking technical and environmental surveys within the Preferred Route Corridor and is developing the road design to a level of detail sufficient to identify the land take requirements.

**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 contract was awarded in March 2020 and the N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay was awarded in July 2020. Following the completion of water main replacement works undertaken by Irish Water, the N60 Castlerea Pavement Overlay (Phase 2) Contract was awarded in September 2020. The N60 Castlerea South Pavement Overlay works are currently ongoing and are anticipated to be complete in October 2020.

**N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project** involves the provision of a transport solution, which may include a new bridge crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon. The extents of the project include a 21 km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharrow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. A Section 85 Agreement under the local Government Act is in place between Roscommon County Council and Leitrim County Council. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (Arup) to progress the project through the planning process in March 2020. Arup completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020 and are currently undertaking a Constraints Public Consultation (running from 5 October 2020 to 23 October 2020) to inform the public of the project. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event is not considered consistent with current public health advice to combat the spread of COVID-19 and has been replaced by a virtual public consultation which can be accessed through the project website.

#### **Local Improvement Scheme 2020**

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) operates the Local Improvement Schemes for the improvement of local non-public roads. The scheme of priorities for 27 roads was approved by the DRCD in 2020 with grant funding of €349,691.30. These Schemes are complete. There are eight Schemes remaining on the waiting list amounting to €131,086. At the September meeting of the Roads, Transportation and Emergency Strategic Policy Committee, it was agreed to reopen the Scheme. The Council will advertise for expressions of interest, subject to and in anticipation of funding becoming available from DRCD in 2021.

### **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](http://www.rmo.ie). Roscommon County Council Roads department processes the licences for county Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q3 is 66.

### **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 25 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q3 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 27<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.carrickonshannonfrs.ie) Newsletter No. 2 will be issued in September 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 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).

## **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.
- The BCPs are located at Tawnytaskin, Gortaganny, Cam, Dangan, Drumboylan, Creeve and Tulsk hub and Ballybay. Two schools, Tarmon and Ballagh will also benefit from high speed broadband but no longer available to the public.
- Site inspections took place at each site in Q1 2020 in order to check line of sight.

- Enet on behalf of NBI are currently installing external infrastructure. Cam, Ballagh, Creeve, Gortaganny, Drumboylan and Tulsk complete.
- Vodafone commenced connections on week ending 21<sup>st</sup> September at Creeve, Tulsk and Gortaganny.
- The Council has been successful with two applications under accelerated town and village renewal scheme for desks, chairs and equipment for the BCPs, total value €49,284

**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 vacant unit in Meadowbrook, Tulsk. Internal construction works complete, equipment and furniture installed. High speed broadband being installed. Due to open in October.

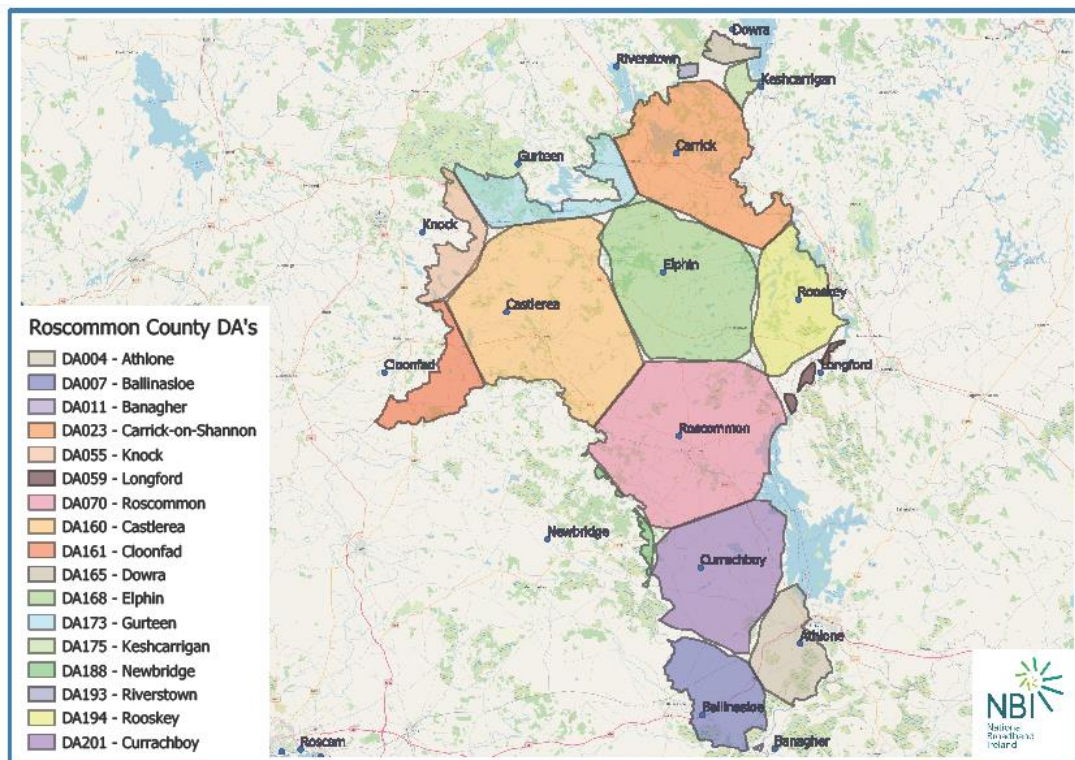
#### **NBI rollout of High speed Broadband under the National Broadband Plan**

- NBI began carrying out initial surveys of Eir infrastructure on 14<sup>th</sup> April
- NBI presentation to relevant Council staff on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

#### **Progress to date:**

- Ballinasloe DA - survey completed and design being finalised. Build scheduled to begin. T2s submitted
- Roscommon DA- survey completed, design being finalised. Build schedule to begin
- Longford DA- Surveys in progress
- Athlone DA – Surveys in progress
- Carrick-on-Shannon DA -Surveys to commence.

#### **National Broadband Plan Deployment Map**



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

Eir have commenced their rollout of fibre broadband in the larger towns in County Roscommon.

- Eir almost finished **Boyle**, approx. 1600 Homes targeted are able to avail of service now.
- They are almost 70% through **Castlerea**, around 1000 Homes able to obtain GB broadband.
- About 40% of **Roscommon** town has been completed, almost 1200 homes.
- There were around 500 premises on the Roscommon side of **Carrick** in scope, all complete.
- Eir is hopeful to be finished in both Roscommon and Castlerea by October.

### **Lough Funshinagh**

Malachy Walsh & Partners (MWP) revised their initial Report to include reference to the Environmental Report, revised cost estimates and Benefit Cost Analysis based on 1:1 ratio for relocation schemes. It was submitted to the OPW on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020. The OPW responded in August that the proposed schemes were not considered to be economically or environmentally sustainable and recommends that property-owners who have applied for home relocation be approved. A presentation was made to Athlone Municipal District on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to discuss the Reports and response received.