



Comhairle Contae  
Ros Comáin  
Roscommon  
County Council



# MANAGEMENT REPORT



**December 2022**

**QUARTER 4**

**Roscommon County Council**

**Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division**

**Management Accounts Summary to**

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME		NET
	Expenditure Incurred up to 31/12/2022	Adopted Full Year Budget	Income Receivable up to 31/12/2022	Adopted Full year Budget	Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit)
	€	€	€	€	€
Housing & Building	7,286,627	7,912,319	9,015,345	8,204,123	1,728,719
Road Transport & Safety	28,625,841	27,651,100	22,383,802	20,614,583	(6,242,040)
Water Services	6,231,385	7,543,881	6,846,360	7,503,821	614,975
Development Management	7,792,865	7,235,048	4,422,462	2,079,655	(3,370,403)
Environmental Services	5,620,955	5,964,033	1,025,269	961,143	(4,595,687)
Recreation & Amenity	4,921,293	4,216,889	1,605,798	554,668	(3,315,495)
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	728,202	818,316	334,274	257,927	(393,928)
Miscellaneous Services	5,437,019	5,261,757	6,802,589	2,892,172	1,365,571
Central Management Charges	1,623,837	0	110,236	0	(1,513,601)
Local Government Fund/General Purpose Grant	0	0	10,825,752	10,825,200	10,825,752
Pension Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Rates	0	0	12,496,462	12,710,052	12,496,462
	<b>68,268,024</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>75,868,348</b>	<b>66,603,343</b>	<b>7,600,324</b>

**Note 1;**

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

**Summary of Major Collections as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022**

<b>Debt Type</b>	<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>Accrued</b>	<b>Vacant Property Adjustments</b>	<b>Write Off/Waivers</b>	<b>Total for Collection</b>	<b>Collected</b>	<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>Specific Doubtful Arrears</b>	<b>% Collection</b>	<b>% Collection Previous Year</b>
<b>Commercial Rates</b>	1,232,568	12,833,883	1,144,199	649,097	12,273,155	10,591,883	1,681,272	16,713	86%	89%
<b>Rents &amp; Annuities</b>	370,508	5,613,446		4,840	5,979,114	5,454,307	524,806		91%	93%
<b>Housing Loans</b>	136,487	324,775			461,262	325,981	135,281		71%	65%

**Recourse to Overdraft;**

There has been no recourse to overdraft during the month of December 2022

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Forward Planning

Key activity in Forward Planning in Q4 included the progression of pre-draft work on the forthcoming *Roscommon Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029* and the *Boyle Local Area Plan 2023-2029*. Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) will be undertaken in respect of both Plans and as part of this, scoping notifications issued to all Environmental Authorities, inviting submissions / observations on the scope and level of information to be included in the respective environmental reports. Other preparatory work, including the development of draft Plan templates, and the drafting of preliminary text was also on-going.

The resources of the Forward Planning team were also deployed during Q4 (particularly throughout October) on work associated with the initial stages of the roll out of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) initiative, which will replace the current Vacant Site Levy initiative in 2024. The RZLT was introduced in the Finance Act 2021 and the administration of it is the responsibility of the Revenue Commissioners. The role of the Local Authority is limited to certain specified tasks to assist in the process. Consequently, the work undertaken by the Forward Planning Team in October (in conjunction with Roscommon County Council's GIS Officer) involved the identification of 'lands in scope' for the application of the RZLT and the preparation of maps demonstrating such lands. As per statutory requirements, the RZLT draft maps were published on November 1<sup>st</sup>, as part of the commencement of a public consultation process, which ran until January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

## Development Management and Planning Enforcement Activity

The table below summarises Development Management activity in Q4. A total of 104 valid planning applications were received. Decisions issued on 85 planning applications, of which 74 were grants of planning permission.

### Development Management Statistics

Period	Activity	Roscommon North	Roscommon South	Totals
Q4 2022	Valid Applications	53	51	104
	Extension of Duration	1	0	1
	DED	1	6	7
	Pre-planning meeting	25	34	59

### Enforcement Activity

Period	Activity	Countywide Totals
Q4 2022	New enforcement case	15
	General letter	10
	Warning letter	10
	Enforcement notice	2
	Closed case	2
	Legal proceedings	0

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

The level and nature of activity on site in unfinished housing developments during Q4 was relatively low in comparison to earlier quarters. Contractors engaged by Roscommon County Council undertook remedial works at various times during Q4 on pumping stations in two developments - one in Monksland and the other in Roscommon. A developer was also at work in one other development in Boyle.

Schedules were sent to Irish Water for one development in Roscommon (Anvil Court) as part of the taking in charge process. No developments were taken in charge in Q4.

# ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT PROMOTION

## Local Enterprise Office:

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

37 applications have been received and approved in 2022. Clients who received TOV approval in 2021 have now been paid, de-committed and reconciled. Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminars are held regularly, with booking accepted via the LEO website. The next Remote Trading Online Voucher Information Seminar is on 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2023.

- **Evaluation & Approvals Meeting:**

In total 17 M1 grants have been approved in 2022 totalling just over €295,000. The next Evaluation Committee meeting will be scheduled early in 2023.

- **Green for Micro Scheme:**

The Green for Micro helps small businesses become more environmentally friendly and sustainable by providing advice and technical support covering topics such as resource efficiency, understanding carbon footprint and implementing an environmental management system. LEO Roscommon has processed 16 applications in 2022.

- **DigitalStart Scheme:**

Digital Start is a pilot initiative from the Local Enterprise Office designed to help businesses prepare and implement a plan for the adoption of digital tools and techniques across the business. 4 applications were received in 2022 of which 3 were approved.

- **Technical Assistance for MicroExporters:**

Helps small businesses expand into export markets by assisting with the costs of exhibiting at international trade shows. LEO Roscommon has processed 10 applications in 2022.

- **Microfinance:**

Year to date, 15 applications have been received, 11 have been approved, 3 declined and 1 Withdrawn. Post MFI Mentoring has been completed with 3 clients. Work continues on the promotion of this source of finance on social Media and via mentoring clinics.

- **Training:**

Demand for Training to support the business community is high and well attended. A total of 863 participants have been facilitated between January and December 2022.

- **Remote Mentoring:**

Remote Business Advice Clinics were held in January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November & December. 338 clients in total have been facilitated through Business Advisory Clinics and One to One Mentoring via Submit.com.

- **REBOOT Training Programme:**  
is a co-operative collaboration between Local Action Groups and Local Enterprise Offices in Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. It will ensure consistency, flexibility, stimulation and activation of tailored training needs and skills development and will run for 18 months. 3 courses have now commenced. A networking event was held in Roscommon on December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Enquiries:**  
Appropriate support provided on an ongoing basis. **436** enquires were logged in total between January and December 2022.
- **Student Enterprise Programme:**  
This programme is ongoing with all nine 2<sup>nd</sup> level schools in the county participating and school visits ongoing. The County final is scheduled for Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 and will take place in person in the Abbey Hotel.
- **National Enterprise Awards:**  
This initiative has concluded for 2022 and will recommence in 2023.
- **Promotion:**  
All LEO supports were promoted on the LEO website and on various social media platforms.
- **EI:**  
LW continues to work with Meabh Conaghan, the new West Region Manager and Noeleen Hussey.
- **IDA:**  
LW is keeping the line of communication open between IDA, CE & Senior Management of RCC in the hope of encouraging FDI to Roscommon.

# COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Healthy Ireland

- HIF Round 4 Grant Agreement Signed and in place
- €40,000 up to end of December 2022 for planning purposes
- 3-year round 4 fund strategy and online application to be complete by January, 2023.
- €12,599 up to the end of December 2022 for Social Prescribing action
- €75,000 allocated to 2023 and €40,000 for 2024 and 2025.

## LEADER

- Article 48 checks are ongoing
- LEADER Admin Returns being processed monthly
- 11 LEADER Payments made in December
- An expression of interest for the New LEADER programme was submitted on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> and we are awaiting an update

## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Meeting of Roscommon Local Community Development Committee scheduled to take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 via MS Teams.

## LECP

The Development of an Overall Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) integrated Framework for 6-year period and Initial Implementation Plan (2 Year) for County Roscommon has been awarded to Hub Planning. Meeting to plan development held in December.

A meeting took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January with Hub Planning and the LECP Advisory Group Members. Work already completed was presented and feedback sought.

Already drafted;

- A socio-economic profile of County Roscommon
- A consultation Plan
- High level goals of the LECP

## Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

Meeting to be scheduled in January with the JPC Sub-Committee to confirm dates for the Committee meetings as well as Public Meeting for 2023.

## **2022 Community Safety Innovation Fund**

Liaising with IT to review at various options that can be considered as part of the €5,000.00 funding (Community Safety Innovation Fund) for Digital Safety among Adults/Older People in the community.

## CLÁR

- **CLÁR 2020**

CLÁR 2020 is nearing completion with the final project finished and drawdown submitted for payment. 7 projects completed and paid in full.

- **CLÁR 2021**

7 Projects totalling €269,412 was granted funding under CLÁR 2021 and work is ongoing on these projects. 5 projects completed and 3 paid in full. 2 projects awaiting drawdown.

- **CLÁR 2022**

12 Projects totalling €498,167 was granted funding under CLÁR 2022.

All groups have accepted their Letter of Offers and Funding Agreement.

## SICAP

- SICAP 2023 Annual Plan Report is under review.

## Tidy Towns and Amenity Grants Scheme

- Final 2022 Funding being paid out

## Community Support Fund 2022

The Community Support Fund (CSF) was announced in November and Roscommon has been allocated €279,884. This funding will be administered by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) to support groups with their energy costs or to carry out small upgrade works or to purchase equipment to support their activities.

Eligible groups include Parish Halls, Community Centers, Local Development Associations, Social Clubs, ICA Groups, Senior Citizen Groups, Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds and much more. Online application will open on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, closing date 1pm, 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## Social Inclusion Unit

- **County Roscommon Comhairle na nÓg Programme:** Contract with Youth Work Ireland Midlands due to expire on 31.12.22; Tender Documents devised and advertised on E-Tenders with a closing date of 31.01.23 in order for a new Contract to be put in place.
- **Age Friendly:** Age Friendly Programme Managers Meeting held. Evaluation of Creative Ireland Regionals Age Friendly initiatives attended.
- **Migrant Integration Strategy:** Strategy nearing completion – Online meeting held with Consultants; final logos etc. sent to Exodea. Final Draft of Strategy expected early January 2023.

## Heritage

- **Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Bid:**  
Work is ongoing and a 30k budget will be required from RCC each year for the next 5 years.
- **Farming Rathcroghan EIP – Community Archaeology Project**  
A meeting is scheduled for December to review activities for 2022 and plan activities for 2023.
- **Built Heritage Investment Scheme**  
1 recoupment claims submitted. 13 projects were offered funding under the BHIS. 4 projects were unable to proceed due to difficulty securing a contractor. 9 projects were completed – these received BHIS grants of €64,851, this was matched with private funding of €65,404, giving a total project spend of €130,255. The 2023 scheme has been advertised.
- **Historic Structures Fund**  
2 recoupment claims were submitted. 2 projects were funded under the HSF receiving grants of €31k. The 2023 scheme has been advertised.
- **County Heritage Plan Funding**  
3 recoupment claims were submitted to the Heritage Council – for the Farming Rathcroghan EIP Community Archaeology Programme, the Owen O’Conor Mausoleum Conservation project and Review of the County Heritage Forum/Heritage Plan.
- **Local Biodiversity Action Fund:**  
1 recoupment claim was submitted. 5 projects were supported under this scheme with a total spend of 43k which received 36k funding. The Invasive Alien Species project was largely under subscribed.
- **Community Monuments Fund:**  
3 recoupment claims were submitted. 3 projects to the value of €131,758.10 were funded & recouped.
- **Táin March / Royal Rathcroghan - Schools Programme 2022**  
12 primary schools, in County Roscommon are signed up to ‘Royal Rathcroghan’ – a FREE schools programme delivered by heritage expert Chris Thompson this autumn. Project is now complete.
- **Aleen Cust Commemorations 2022**  
‘A Woman of Measure’ podcast series was shared on RCC social media. This project is led by the Aleen Cust Society and Galway County Council with the support of Roscommon & Tipperary County Councils. The Aleen Cust Exhibition will be exhibited in 2023.
- **County Roscommon Heritage Forum/Preparation of New County Heritage Plan:**  
John O’Brien Culture & Creativity Consultant had a very successful workshop with County Roscommon heritage Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> November. 4 workshops in the series will follow in 2023.

- **RCC Actions for Pollinators**

A Report of RCC Actions for Pollinators has been submitted to the AI Ireland Pollinator Plan, as part of the 'Council Partners 2022 Annual Review'.

- **Health and Safety Issue at Cloonshanville Cemetery**

Bat survey has been completed and AA Screening Report has been completed.

- **Owen O'Connor Mausoleum Conservation Project**

Project design has been completed and it is hoped that funding can be obtained from the Community Monuments Fund 2023.

## **Tourism**

### **Regional Projects:**

- Meeting Prof Jennifer Stewart, On tourism research project by TU Dublin
- Fáilte Ireland Announced €68million has been approved for Regenerative Tourism & Placemaking Scheme for Ireland's Midlands. This fund will transform tourism across 8 counties in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, including Roscommon. Full T&C just to be received. The focus of the scheme is to provide new employment opportunities for workers and communities that were heavily dependent on peat by diversifying the local economy, which will include new opportunities for tourism. The scheme encompasses four strands, which include: Trail Development; Visitor Amenities; Alternative Low Carbon Accommodation; and Smart Specialisation, which involves digital transformation – full details are yet to be announced

### **County**

- County Marketing Campaign highlighted all the Christmas markets and events
- Roscommon Tourism registered for the Holiday world Trade Fair on the last weekend in January

### **Outdoor Recreation Scheme 2021 and 2022**

- Funding for Lough Errit, Age friendly seating claimed form Department.
- Arigna Measure 3 project at final design stage.

## **Arts Office**

### **Arts Participation Programme**

#### **CARE: Creative Ageing in Roscommon**

- HSE Nursing Homes Artist Residencies: Weekly activities funded by HSE in Boyle, Roscommon and Castlerea. 5 artists total engaged with 2 residencies now completed.
- Slow Art Bursaries: Open call for applications from artists to propose Slow Art Projects which engage with older communities in County Roscommon. 13 applications from different disciplines were received. 7 projects were selected.

### **Creative Community Collective**

- In conjunction with FirstFortnight: a national annual arts and mental health festival, there was an open call to local organisations to respond creatively to the themes positive mental health, recovery and hope. 44 submissions were received from 10 different community groups based across Roscommon.

### **Artists in Schools**

- 42 schools applied to the call out for *Artists in School* residencies where artists deliver a 10 week programme for 2022-2023 Term. 16 schools were matched with an artist. 2 residencies commenced for Term 1.

### **Capital Programmes**

In collaboration with Regeneration & Tourism

- RRDF – Reimagining Exhibitions & Visitor Experience at King House Boyle – ongoing.  
- Call out for King House animation commission as part of the exhibition. 6 submissions were received and 1 granted the commission after assessment.

### **Public Art (Other)**

- Artist directly commissioned from Roscommon's Public Art Artist Panel for new stone sculpture at Somers Park to commemorate the achievements of the O'Rourke sisters.

### **Roscommon Arts Centre**

#### **Performance Programme**

The arts centre held three events in the auditorium during December. Events included a performance by **Pilgrim Street, Sunday Sounds** with Music Generation Roscommon Students, and a sold out performance by the **Dublin Gospel Choir**.

#### **Visual Art Programme**

Artist Ann Henderson exhibition **DUST** continued in the Gallery and Ann also hosted a number of virtual exhibition tours.

Marian Balfe hosted two **Primary Colours** sessions with students from St Coman's Wood School where they visited the exhibition and then did a hands on workshop.

Marian also hosted two sold out **Gallery Days** sessions, a family events where participants visit the Gallery and then participate in a workshop.

#### **Workshop Space**

**Roscommon Youth Theatre, Tai Chi & Cor Comain** (choir) continued their weekly sessions on the workshop space.

The weekly **Songbirds (choral) and Elderberries (dance)** initiatives for people aged 50+ continued at the centre, with 15 + people participating weekly.

Some of the artists and participants in the summer events **Artist On My Green** had an evening meet up to discuss the initiative and look at the works created.

#### **Residencies/Artist Supports**

Artists **Julie Sharkey** and **Mintesinot Wolde** continued their Artist in Residency 2022 schemes, using the workshops and studio spaces for research and development of future projects.

### **Ukrainian Response Forum**

Roscommon Community Response Forum was established in March 2022 to co-ordinate the community led response in the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainian Refugees in Co. Roscommon. Partner agencies of the forum (Social Inclusion Measures Sub Committee SIM) work together to guide Refugees to the relevant services and supports required such as welfare, child care, health, education, employment, social and other integration needs and meet on a regular basis.

### **Accommodation provider's information and network meeting**

RCC hosted an Information Evening for Accommodation providers on 8<sup>th</sup> November, as part of the SIM Ukrainian Emergency Forum. PPN developed an information booklet, which was distributed on the evening, detailing all the services available for the Accommodation providers and their residents. Presentations on the evening included RCC, HSE, Tulsa and RLP.

### **Offer a Home**

Scheme was launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> Nov and offers €800 per month tax free for rent of vacant property. Applications can be made via Offer a Home website and this will be followed up with inspections to determine the suitability of the property. Advertisements of the scheme have been placed on line (RCC website and Social media) and in the local newspapers. To-date 38 properties have been offered in Co. Roscommon. Six properties have been allocated to Ukrainian families. There are currently 529 Ukrainians in the County that we are aware of, however, there are also a number is privately arranged units of accommodation. There are 15 accommodation Service Providers, three of which are under contract with Roscommon County Council and the remaining are under contract with IPAS.

17 properties have been referred to us for the Emergency Refurbishment Programme which is being administered by Department of Housing.

### **HI Ukrainian Refugee Health and Wellbeing Support**

A total of €9,525 was awarded to Roscommon Co Co and this has been allocated to Roscommon LEADER Partnership (Christmas Day Outing and Community Garden project), Strokestown Ukrainian Community Event and The Welcome Centre Cuisle. Roscommon LEADER organised a family day to visit Santa in the Arigna Mines and this was a very successful and enjoyable day. Also, in Strokestown a Welcome Day was organised, whereby all the group in Strokestown, e.g. Parkrun, GAA, Tidy Towns came together to meet and greet all the families in the area and to initiative involvement in the local groups.

# REGENERATION UNIT

## Urban Regeneration Development Fund

### Roscommon Public Realm Enhancement Project

- Construction work on Main St and Market Square is now complete. Defects Period Ends 28/1/23.
- Covered Civic Space is now out to tender. Tenders due 13/1/23. Contract commencement anticipated Q1 2023.

### Putting the Spokes back into the Wheel URDF

- Part 8 published late November 2022. Closing date for submissions 23/1/23.

## Rural Regeneration Development Fund

### C1 Castlerea Food Hub:

- Construction works ongoing with an expected completion date of Q2 2023

### C1 Boyle Enterprise Hub and Riverside Promenade

- Construction is progressing well. Anticipated completion date of Q1 2023.

### C1 Monksland Life Sciences Hub

- Construction tender process complete. On receipt of formal approval the award the construction contract will proceed with an expected 12-month construction programme

### C2 Ballaghaderreen Public Realm

- Construction Tender Pack presented to RCC by BDP consultation require a number of changes, additions & amendments. The updated Construction tender pack is due to be returned to RCC by 01<sup>st</sup> February for review & submission to NTA for gateway approval to publish construction tenders in Q1 2023.

### C1 Energising Boyle Town Centre and King House

- Tenders received for Conservation Works to Doors and Windows of King House. Architect currently preparing tender report
- Mechanical/Electrical Consultant to project manage Energy Upgrade works to King House – Contractor has been appointed and due to commence Q1 2023.
- It is anticipated to complete all mechanical/electrical works to King House during off-peak season. Conservation works to doors and windows will progress during 2023.
- Boyle Public Realm Scheme – Tender documents for construction being prepared in-house by Regeneration Team. It is anticipated to publish tender documents in January 2023.

### C2 Putting the Heart into Monksland

Award of the Consultancy Tender is paused until legal issues re land ownership is resolved.

### C2 Strokestown Bawn St Public Realm Project

- A number of consultation meetings have been held with local councillors and community/ stakeholder groups. Open consultation event held at Strokestown Agricultural Show in Sept.
- Internal consultation with RCC section heads held on 19<sup>th</sup> October.
- Part 8 publication planned for Q1 2023

### Rural Regeneration Development Fund 2021 Category 1

- Two applications for funding were submitted for Ballaghaderreen and Boyle.
- Boyle application was announced as successful.
- Part 8 Planning for proposed Boyle Community Library has obtained approval and preparation of tender documents for Design Consultancy Team is ongoing.

### **Town and Village 2020**

#### Tarmonbarry

- Project complete

#### Croghan

- Project complete

#### Dysart

- Construction Works are ongoing to be completed Q1 2023.

#### Lecarrow

- Project Complete

#### Knockcroghery

- Project Complete

#### Rooskey

- Construction of footpaths complete. Landscaping to be completed Q1 2023.

#### Four Roads

- Approval received from the DRCD to revise the scheme and expected completion Q2 2023.
- Lighting element complete.

### **Town and Village 2021**

#### Cloonfad

- Construction Tender Contract has been awarded with works scheduled to commence in February 2023
- Outdoor exercise equipment has been installed
- Upgrades to Community Hall being progressed by Local Group

#### Monksland.

- Award of the Consultancy Tender is paused until legal issue re land ownership is resolved.

### Ballintubber

- Letter of offer has issued to the lead local community group who are implementing this project. Planning permission for new Community Park has been submitted by the group. Decision due by 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### Global Rossie

- This project will fund a County wide marketing campaign to attract remote workers and mobile talent to the county.
- Tender process for PR services ongoing. Tenders are being assessed and it is expected the successful tenderer will be appointed in January 2023.

### Former Garda Stations Tarmonbarry & Ballintubber - Development Measure.

- Public Consultation Event (PCE) No 1 took place in both Tarmonbarry & Ballintubber. A 2<sup>nd</sup> PCE is scheduled for late January 2023 following which it is expected the agreed future use for the building will be secured following which, the preliminary design phase can commence.

### Town and Village 2022

The following projects were successful in securing funding under the 2022 scheme:

- Arigna - reinvigoration of Arigna Village through the development of a Public Sports Park, a pedestrian Plaza and ancillary works to put the Heart back into this historical Village.
- Cootehall - Refurbishment of derelict building at John McGahern Museum, upgrade of amenity area, landscaping, outdoor seating and installation of welcome signage.
- Athleague - The development of a public green space and recreational amenity in the village core – the Circle of Life Park.
- Ballinagare – Project Development Measure - to develop the recreational amenity of the village at the community centre site. This project will be in preparation for an application under the standard scheme.

### TVR Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2022

- The Department of Rural and Community Development requested each Local Authority to nominate one town/village for inclusion in the 2022 scheme. RCC nominated Ballinlough. This project has now been approved by the DRCD for implementation. Initial meeting held in the village to discuss the scheme rollout. Project expected completion Q3 2023.

### Destination Towns

- Enhancement works to Boyle Pleasure Grounds are complete
- King House to Boyle River Enhancement Scheme – This project was re-tendered as the initial contractor withdrew his tender due to inflation in materials and labour. The project was re-tendered and the contractor due to be appointed by the end of October, however, it is expected that works will not commence until Q2 2023.
- Lighting to pedestrian bridge installed and lighting upgrade along river walk is complete. Procurement of new flood lighting to Boyle River Bridge is complete.
- Sculpture Trail – All 5 sculptures have now been installed

### **Roscommon Bound - Global Rossie Project**

- Work on social media element is ongoing and information on various projects of the Regeneration team is being highlighted as well as county wide news etc
- The number of followers on social media continues to grow with 1459 (1,443) in the Roscommon Bound LinkedIn network from all over the world, 4,668 (4,582) followers on Facebook, 816 (805) followers on Twitter and 795 (771) followers on Instagram.

### **Outdoor Recreation 2020**

- Measure 2: Doon Shore: Works are complete. Additional works have been approved by the Department which will be completed by Q2 2023.
- Measure 2: Portrun: Project Complete
- Measure 3 – Mote Park – Trail enhancement/car parking works are complete. Stage 2 Road Safety Audit of looped cycleway is complete. Viewing Tower is not proceeding due to costs and a new application for ORIS funding has been submitted for large sculptures and natural play area (and subsequently approved in ORIS 2022 – see below)

### **Outdoor Recreation 2021**

#### **Ballyleague**

- Construction Contract has been awarded for RCC element of the scheme & associated works is due to commence in Q2 2023.
- Two Artists have been appointed for Artistic Installation element.
- Signage Manufacturer & Designer has been appointed for Wayfinding & Information Display Signs element of the project. The design of signs in consultation with local group are ongoing & scheduled to be completed by end Q1 2023 with installation as part of the Construction Contract.

#### **Ballintubber/Ballymoe Waterway and Looped Cycleway**

- Stage 2 Road safety Audit of looped cycleway is complete. Tender for the slipway element is progressing.

#### **Arigna Energy Inclusive Park and Miner's Trail**

- Consultants to project manage the delivery of the park were appointed on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Detailed design of this project is ongoing.

### **Outdoor Recreation 2022**

The following projects were successful in securing funding under the 2022 scheme:

- Measure 2 North Roscommon Accessible for all Water Launch Systems - Installation of accessible for all Kayak/Canoe easy launch systems in Lough Key, Doon Shore and Boyle Canal/River, to include trail upgrades, disabled parking and biodiversity tree planting.
- Measure 2 Mote Park Outdoor Recreation Sensory Sculpture and Natural Play Trail Experience. Installation of large sculptures with sensory elements (approximately 4) and natural play area based on the history of Mote Park and its natural environment to enhance the attractiveness of Mote Park. Tenders for Consultants to project manage this scheme have been sought and closing date for receipt of tenders is 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- Measure 3 Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails. The Rathcroghan Archaeological Looped Trails is an all-inclusive set of trails, developed to immerse the walker in the uniquely preserved cultural heritage of Cruachain - the ancient royal site of Connacht.

## **AEC AK**

Currently the future role AECO is subject to ongoing discussions with the CCMA.

Once agreement has been reached with the CCMA on role profiles, the DRCD will be making a formal submission to the Minister.

The DRCD are currently working to update and finalise the draft AEC Strategy.

## **Just Transition**

### **Ballyleague Boardwalk**

- Feasibility Report Complete and submitted to the Department. Final funding claim submitted and approved.

### **Cloontuskert Works Project**

- Feasibility Report Complete & submitted to the Department & final funding claim submitted & approved with funding received by RCC.

### **Mid- Shannon Wilderness Park**

- Project transferred from Regeneration Section to Specialist Greenway Team within Roscommon NRDO

## **Greenways Carbon Fund**

### **Athlone to Lanesboro Greenway**

- Project transferred from Regeneration Section to Specialist Greenway Team within Roscommon NRDO

### **Castlerea Outdoor Performance Space**

- Civils element complete
- Tensile Stage Canopy – Substantially Complete

### **Strokestown Town Centre First Plan**

- A number of consultation meetings have been held with local councillors and community / stakeholder groups. Open consultation event held at Strokestown Agricultural Show in Sept.
- Internal consultation with RCC section heads held on 19<sup>th</sup> October
- Draft TCF Plan due Jan 2023.

# LIBRARY SERVICES

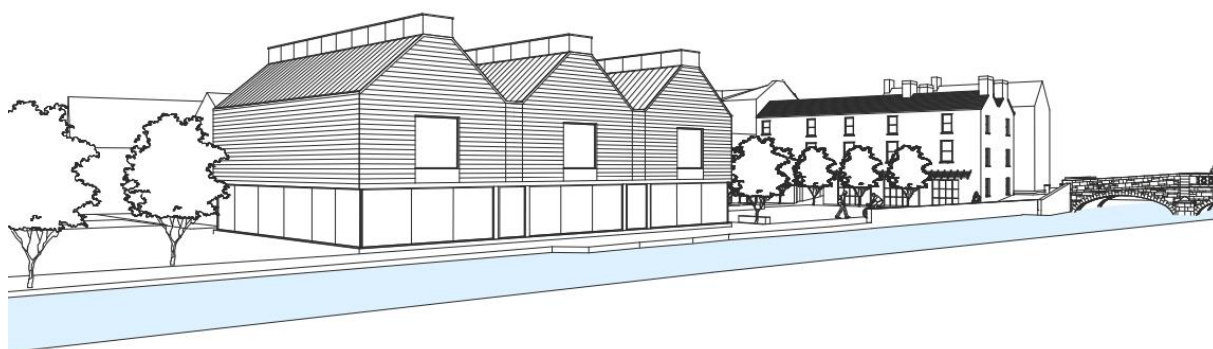
## Summary of Library Services 2022

In total, more than 100,000 items were borrowed through the library service in 2022. This is an increase of more than 25% compared with 2021. The visits to libraries, were up 150% compared with 2021 figures, with more than 80,000 people through the doors. Usage of online resources such as eBooks and eAudiobooks remain at more than 200% higher compared to pre-covid figures.

## Boyle Community Library

In November, The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding of €4.35 million for the development of a new Community Library in Boyle. The project will tie in with existing large-scale Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) investment in the town, on foot of Boyle 2040.

The new library, located to the rear of the former Royal Hotel, will face out onto the river walk, in the King House Cultural Quarter. It will be accessible, flexible and suitable for the provision of innovative library services into the future. Alongside traditional library services, the facilities offered in the new multi-functional library will include meeting, workshop and event spaces, technology and research spaces and indoor and outdoor sensory spaces. The new library will operate as a My Open Library, providing a free, accessible, town centre, cultural and community resource, available 14 hours per day, 365 days per year.



*Artist's Impression of New Boyle Library*

## Sense-Ability

The catalogue of loanable sensory toys and tools was launched in October in Ballymote Library in Sligo Strokestown Library. The Sense-Ability Project was shortlisted for a Chamber's Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards which took place in November. Also in November, Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council, Councillor Tom Crosby officially open the new Cubbie sensory space. The Cubbie was installed with the support of the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund through the Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth.

## Library Events and Activities

Supported by the Creative Ireland Programme, the Siarscéal Festival returned to Roscommon Library in November. The response from libraries and schools in Counties Roscommon, Leitrim and Sligo was also very positive. There were over 60 entries to the Hanna Greally Literary Awards, including entrants from as far afield as the UK, US, Canada and India. The entries covered all age groups, from primary school to adult. This year also included a new award for the under-18 young adult category of aspiring writer. The Awards Presentation Day held in Roscommon Branch Library was attended by over 70 people, including poets and artists from throughout Connacht, the competition entrants, their families and the general public. It was a diverse and inclusive festival, engaging for the first time in several years, new schools in the three counties and young to old, including this year one centenarian poet and storyteller. The festival generated strong interest, locally and online, and has been well-covered by local newspaper media.

Right to Read events for children held this quarter included the Children's Book Festival (Ros na nÓg) in October and Family Time at Your Library in December. The events were well attended and included visits from authors, interactive history workshops, badge making and art.



Healthy Ireland at Your Library events were positively received in October on the theme of Mindfulness for adults and children.

The library service participated in Explore Your Archive Week, with a digitization project featuring among the highlighted events on RTÉ radio's History Show about the week. This related to the digitization of Roscommon Infirmary Patient Registers.

# HOUSING BUSINESS UNIT

## 1.0 Homelessness & Housing Allocations

### 1.1 Homelessness:

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

**19** = homeless cases presented in Q4, 2022

**13** = cases required short-term accommodation in Q4, 2022

Breakdown Homeless figures Q4 2022				
Presentations	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	9	4	13	6 Ad & 7Ch
November	1	1	2	2 Ad & 4Ch
December	4	0	4	N/A

Accommodated	Individuals	Families	Totals Households	Breakdown of Family unit
October	7	3	10	4AD & 5Ch
November	0	1	1	2 AD & 4Ch
December	2	0	2	N/A

Galway Simon has been awarded the contract to provide Housing First services to the remainder of the Western Region (it was already contracted to provide these services for Galway City Council). Resources to support six Housing First applicants over a three-year period will be made available to County Roscommon under the Housing First programme. A Homeless Action Team (HAT) has been established to facilitate the co-ordination of Housing First and Housing-Led support services.

To date nine referrals have been forwarded to the HAT for consideration. Four referrals have been accepted for Housing-Led services and four referrals have been accepted for Housing First services. Four Housing First Tenancies and two Housing Led tenancies have commenced and other units of accommodation are currently being identified for the creation of further Housing First tenancies and Housing-Led tenancies. One referral was submitted to the HAT in Q2 2022 for consideration but was declined for both Housing Led and Housing First Services, as the client did not meet the criteria set out for eligibility under both mechanisms. (No change to this paragraph, remains as is).

## **1.2 Housing Assessments & Allocations:**

The 2022 Housing Needs Assessment commenced in September 2022 and the Minister has directed (circular 32/2022) that the summary be prepared on 1 November, 2022 and returned to the Department on or before 29 November 2022.

- 303 = applicants (excluding transfers) on the approved housing list at end of Q4, 2022
- 158 = applicants are currently in private rented accommodation with no housing support
- 15 = offers of accommodation made in Q4, 2022
- 4 = nominations made to AHB
- 15 = new tenants appointed/allocated in Q4, 2022 to LA dwellings
- 3 = AHB Tenants appointed in Q4, 2022
- 6 = refusals recorded in Q4, 2022 (3 for AHB houses)

## **2.0 Social Housing Rental Accommodation Market**

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

Financial support continues via the RAS Scheme for those applicants who have a long-term housing need. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, there are 351 households receiving support (241 private rented and 110 in voluntary housing).

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

Roscommon County Council is working closely with the Community Welfare Officers in the Department of Social Protection to continue the transfer of Rent Supplement recipients to the HAP Scheme. 20 HAP tenancies were opened in Q4 and 21 were closed in the same period. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, there were 413 social housing applicants in receipt of HAP.

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

- 93 = 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.
- 4 = number of lease agreements RCC has entered into under the RLS (2-1 bed apartments, a 3 bed ground floor apartment and a 4-bed town-house in Roscommon Town).

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

- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 4 long-term leases: 3 in Boyle Town and 1 in Roscommon Town.
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, Roscommon County Council has 49 active RAS Type leases throughout the county. As part of Housing for All Programme, only 200 RAS Type leases nationally were available. RCC has received approval for 15 RAS type leases for 2022.
- As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, there were 49 active Mortgage to Rent Scheme Leases in place (6 with AHB's & 13 with HFL). The Mortgage to Rent Scheme is a government scheme to help homeowners who were at risk of losing their homes due to mortgage arrears.

### **3.0 Provision of Additional Social Housing Units**

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

- 10 units at Windmill Rd., Elphin – Contractor Appointed, works commencing October 2022 with estimated completion Q4 2023.
- 6 Units at Lake View Heights, Boyle - Stage 4 approval received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Q2 2022. Works commenced in July 2022 with estimated completion Q3 2023.
- 13 units at Lisnamult, Ardnanagh, Roscommon – Successful contractor identified in Q4 2022. Works to commence Q1 2023 with estimated completion Q4 2023.
- 2 Units at The Meadows, Castlerea – Works commenced in Q4 2021 for the refurbishment of unfinished houses acquired by RCC in 2021. Works completed Q4 2022 and allocated
- 1 Unit at Ardnanagh, Lisnamult, Roscommon – Works commenced in Q4 2021 with estimated completion Q4 2022. This is a specially adapted property. Works completed Q4 2022 allocated and occupied
- 27 units at Esker Lawns, Monksland – RCC received departmental approval for the turnkey acquisition of 3 and 4 bed houses, works commenced on site in Q3 2022 and expected completion in Q3 2023.
- 4 Units at Cortober, Carrick on Shannon - RCC received stage 2 approval in Q3 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands. Planning process expected to commence in Q1 2023.
- 14 Units at Curlew View, Boyle - RCC received stage 1 approval in Q1 2022 for the construction of houses on RCC lands. Planning process expected to commence in Q1 2023.
- 40 units at Sli an Choiste, Monksland –Stage 1 approved in Q3 2022 for the construction of 20 houses of the 40 due to demand concerns raised by the Department. Planning process expected to commence in Q1 2023.
- 1 Unit at Pound St., Ballaghaderreen – Stage 1 approved in Q3 2022 for the refurbishment of a vacant property owned by RCC. Planning process expected to commence in Q1 2023.
- Units at Elphin (Library) - Stage 1 approved in Q3 2022 for the refurbishment of vacant properties owned by RCC. Planning process expected to commence in Q1 2023.

#### **3.2 Housing Association Activity:**

Housing association activity in County Roscommon appears to have declined. It is suspected that the cost of new build via third parties (turnkey delivery method) versus market rents in the County are a factor.

- Tuath proposal for 35 units at Cloongowna, Monksfield, Athlone – A Building Agreement/Contract of Sale was entered into between Tuath Housing Association and the Developer on 31 October, 2019. An extension to the back stop delivery date was sought by

Tuath and granted by RCC and the Department. Unfortunately, delays have arisen. Tuath and RCC are meeting with the developer weekly to ensure these units delivered as quickly as possible. Expected completion date Q1 2023.

- Tuath Housing Association are working with a developer on a turnkey project under the Capital Advance Leasing Facility (CALF) model to deliver 10 units in Roscommon Town. The expected delivery date is late 2023 / early 2024.

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

#### **3.3.1 Buy & Renew Scheme**

Roscommon County Council sought expressions of interest in June 2021 to buy and refurbish long term vacant property for social housing use under the Buy and Renew Scheme. The focus under the Buy and Renew is on older stock in urban areas with a view to tackling dereliction and improving streetscapes in urban areas of Roscommon, Castlerea, Boyle, Ballaghaderreen, Elphin or Strokestown. 36 applications were received. Some offers were made to property owners in accordance with independent valuations received by RCC and some agreements were reached. 4 properties have been secured as part of Buy & Renew Scheme in Patrick Street, Castlerea and Elphin Street, Strokestown. Plans to develop these properties will proceed through the four stage process.

#### **3.3.2 Acquisition Programme**

As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, Roscommon County Council acquired 4 houses under the acquisition programme which included 1 house under a Part V Agreement. Funding for acquisitions was nominal in 2022 as funds were diverted towards the delivery of houses under the construction programme.

#### **3.3.3 – Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures**

The Housing Department took over the function of Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures and Places in late February / March 2022. It is intended the focus will be on the towns within the county initially. Roscommon County Council may acquire by agreement or compulsorily purchase any derelict site situated within their functional area. Revised policies were presented to the Housing, ICT and Rural Water SPC in September 2022.

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

- Proposal for 2 additional units at Cluain Airne, Killarney is at stage 3 (Pre Tender) approved by the Department in Q1 2022. A new fee proposal is to be submitted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> place consultant as the original consultant is no longer in a position to proceed.
- Proposal to alter units at Bri Chaoilinne, Harristown (one-bed units to be combined into 2no. larger more functional 5 bedroom units); works completed in Q3 2022 and one unit has been tenanted.
- RCC to proceed with 3 extensions in Torpan Beg to existing units. Part 8 planning permission is in place with works expected to commence in Q2 2023.

### **3.5 Tenant Purchase:**

The Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme was published under the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014. As at 30 September 2022, tenant purchase statistics were as follows:

225=	applications received to date
136	offers made to date
94=	offers accepted to date
63=	sales completed to date

Total proceeds of sales received during Q3 2022 is €315,045

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

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

- The recommended inspection target for Roscommon in 2022 is 745 inspections.
- 155 inspections were carried out in Q4 2022, 96 of which were follow-up inspections required to address issues arising from previous inspections.
- “Virtual Inspections” commenced in Q1 of 2022 on a pilot basis. Approximately 90 letters sent out and 27 responses were received to date.

## **Housing Stock**

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

- Funding has been approved for the upgrade of a further 52 units in 2022, however part funding may be required by the LA. Works commenced in Q3 2022, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 41 units were completed, with remaining works expected to be complete by Q2 2023.
- Initial measured surveys and BER inspections for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme 2023 are due to commence from January 2023.

### **5.2 Voids Programme:**

There are no viable ‘voids’ (at least 6 months vacant) remaining within the housing stock and the national ‘voids’ programme has essentially ended. Any remaining non-viable (derelict) units are in isolated rural locations with low or no demand. Unsold rural properties will be assessed for suitability for renewal where a specific demand exists. However, RCC received funding approval of €297k from the department for refurbishment of 27 no. short term vacant stock in 2022.

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

A total of 11 houses were refurbished due to normal turn-over of properties in Q4, 2022 at a cost to date of approx. €100,417.40 (excluding any outstanding invoices).

### **5.4 Housing Maintenance**

RCC Housing received 403 maintenance calls in Q4, 2022 and billed expenditure on maintenance works during the same period was €173,391.41.

### 5.5 Housing Grants (Private Grants and LA Grants)

RCC received a budget allocation of €1,412,065.00 for private house grants (80% Department funded and 20% Roscommon County Council funded and the allocation is fully committed for 2022.

The council received a large volume of grant applications and the process of validating applications was on going to year end 2022.

The Disabled Persons Grant allocation for local authority housing stock for 2022 is €260,947.00 (90% Department funded and 10% Roscommon County Council funded), which is a reduction of €95,553.00 on the allocation for 2021. A total of 16 applications have been approved under this budget allocation to a value of €382,965.00 and €310,631.34 was recouped to year end 2022.

### 5.6 Croí Cónaithe Fund

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the Minister for Housing launched the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant which provides grant funding to support the refurbishment of vacant properties in town and villages for residential use. A grant of up to a maximum of €30,000 will be available for the refurbishment of vacant properties for occupation as a principal private residence, including the conversion of a property which has not been used as residential heretofore. This will be subject to upper limits for the types of work specified below having regard to a reasonable cost assessment by the local authority. The grant is inclusive of VAT cost of the works.

Where the refurbishment costs are expected to exceed the standard grant of up to €30,000, a maximum top-up grant amount of up to €20,000 will be available where the property is confirmed by the applicant to be derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous) bringing the total grant available for a derelict property up to a maximum of €50,000. In the case of a top-up grant in respect of a derelict property, an independent report prepared by an appropriately qualified professional (e.g. quantity surveyor, engineer etc.) is required to be submitted along with the application confirming that the property is derelict (i.e. structurally unsound and dangerous).

The scheme is now extended to rural vacant properties.

<b>Number of Applications Received</b>	<b>Refurbishment Type (30K)</b>	<b>Top-up Grant (50 K)</b>	<b>Further info</b>	<b>Under review</b>	<b>Refused</b>	<b>Granted</b>
41	14	27	24	10	2	4

# ASSETS, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- The responsibility for Facilities Management transferred to Assets and Energy Management in August 2021. Systems and procedures are being implemented in this area.
- Cleaning contract results received from OGP and successful contractor will be appointed in Q1 2023.

## ASSETS

- PIR (Property Interest Register) Roscommon for all Building / Land Assets ongoing – update of Folios received from PRA, evaluated and submitted to OPW.
- Full listing of RCC Assets across all Sections prepared and issued for reconciliation of FAR and PIR Roscommon to all Sections. Follow-up actions agreed with Finance Section and LG Auditor.
- Housing assets reconciled with iHouse to 31/12/2021.
- Ongoing administrative and technical involvement with Letting, Leases, Acquisitions and Disposals of RCC Assets.
- Policy documents approved and signed off for:
  - Disposal of Land/Property
  - Acquisition of Land/Property
  - Property Asset Management Plan
- Form for Property Condition Surveys developed and to be trialled using digital platform.

## ENERGY

- **Reduce Your Use**  
Energy Team has been setup and are rolling out the ‘Reduce Your Use’ national energy saving campaign across the organisation.
- **Energy Elephant Software**
  - Ongoing monitoring and review of significant energy usage in RCC Buildings. Expansion of energy monitoring from primarily electricity usage through Energy Elephant to other energy sources such as oil, gas and biomass.
- **Optimising Power @ Work Programme**
  - OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, appointed and monthly meetings taking place in-person.
  - OP@W Mentor, Mark Skerritt, is advising on workplace energy saving programs and issues a Monthly Energy Report.
- **Energy Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) 2021**
  - Data for 2021 submitted to SEAI.
  - Achieved 38% of targeted 33% energy efficiency improvement by 2020, based on 2020 energy usage.

Liaise with Environment Section with regard to the ongoing development of the gap-to-target model (GTT model) which is a spreadsheet model for use by public bodies to evaluate their energy efficiency

(EE) performance and energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions over time, using data and methodologies from SEAI's Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) system.

## **PUBLIC LIGHTING**

- Survey of all School Warning Lights in Co. Roscommon completed and Final Report issued. Review of repairs and possible upgrades is ongoing and repair works is subject to funding.
- Section 85 Agreement signed with Mayo County Council for the National LED Retrofit Project (PLEEP). Roscommon County forms part of Region 3 of the National Project. Consultants appointed by Mayo County Council on behalf of Region 3 and Regional Meetings commenced in October, 2021. Tender for D&B Contract issued in July 2022 with three tenders returned in October 2022. Tender assessment board are currently reviewing tenders. Construction is expected to commencement in 2023, subject to confirmation by Mayo County Council.
- Loan Approval for the National LED Retrofit Project placed before and approved by the Members of RCC at Plenary Meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020.
- Updates to DeadSure Inventory and UMR Database in preparation for National LED Upgrade are ongoing.
- A tender for 'Connaught Public Lighting Maintenance, LED Retrofit, New Works & Associated Services' was prepared by Mayo County Council on behalf of Six Connacht Local Authorities. Documentation was reviewed and evaluation process completed with Electric Skyline Limited appointed in October 2020.
- The cost of the annual maintenance of public lighting has risen substantially due to the unavailability of replacement SOX lamps and associated cost of replacing SOX lamps with LED units.
- Taking-in-Charge of Estates (Public Lighting) is continuing in conjunction with Planning and Roads Sections. Updates are posted to RCC website.

# CORPORATE AFFAIRS

## Annual Service Delivery Plan

- Annual Service Delivery Plan was adopted at the Plenary Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## The Freedom of the County of Roscommon

- The Freedom of the County of Roscommon was awarded to two sisters Aoife and Lisa O'Rourke at a ceremony in the Council Chamber on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022. The presentation was made to the sisters by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tom Crosby and the Chief Executive Mr. Shane Tiernan on behalf of Roscommon County Council Elected Members. Lisa and Aoife both spoke of their pride in receiving the award and thanked everyone, especially their family for all of their support in their boxing careers to date.

## Electoral Registration Process

- The electoral registration process changed with the Rolling Register that came into effect on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The Rolling Register will be continuously updated and is always live. The following are the main changes to the register;
- - Details can be updated at any time during the year, effective on the live register when verified by the Local Authority.
  - Electors can register online at [checktheregister.ie](https://checktheregister.ie)
  - Voters already registered to vote under the new legislation you are now required to add your PPSN, Date of Birth and Eircode.
  - A person can pre-register from the age of 16, vote will be automatically be added to the rolling register when they turn 18.
  - Facilitation of an elector with no fixed or permanent address on the register
  - Registration as an anonymous elector

## 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. Ministerial consent was issued on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The contract was awarded to GMC Utilities Ltd. Works commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The following is a brief summary of the works involved.

- Installation of 7.2km of new higher capacity sewers and rising mains. 95% completed.
- Upgrade of six existing storm water overflows and decommissioning a further six. Not commenced.
- Construction of a new inlet pumping station, balancing tank and storm water holding tank at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant. 70% completed.
- New/upgraded pumping stations with storm water storage at Circular Rd, Castlerea Rd, Ardsallagh and Ballinagard. 80% completed.

#### **Works are underway at the following locations:**

- Circular road. Carrying out sewer connections.
- New pumping stations at Circular road, Ballinagard, Ardsallagh & Castlerea Road on going.

New inlet pumping station and balancing tank at the waste water treatment plant on going.

#### **Upgrade works to Ballaghadereen Waste Water Treatment Plant:**

The Ballaghadereen WWTP has been included under the 2017-2021 Investment Plan for assessment of its primary and secondary treatment processes. The current plant is at risk in terms of UWWTD compliance, overloading and failure to provide adequate capacity for growth. The project has moved to a new delivery mechanism and will now be progressed under the ECI (Early Contractor Involvement) Contract. The National ECI contracts are divided into two regions with Roscommon County in the Northern Region. The successful Contractor within this region is Veolia who has now taken over the project since January 2020.

The main items of work to be delivered as part of the ECI project are:

- Upgrade the terminal Pumping Station with increasing capacity of the tank on site as well as associated site works
- Upgrade the site Boundaries by separation of the entrance currently used as a common shared entrance to both Irish Water and Roscommon County Council
- Upgrade the Secondary Treatment process in order to improve capacity of the existing process
- Associated ancillary site works including upgrade of the SCADA System

Land to the north of the pumping station are required. Finalise the revised storm water tank design. Design at the WWTP is complete and is as per the design presented at the Hazop and ALM. Workshop 4 took place in November.

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME PORTFOLIO:**

### **Inlet Works, Sludge & Storm Programme (IWSS):**

Upgrade to the Inlet, Storm and sludge process at Termonbarry Waste Water Treatment Plant has been 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.

A task instruction which was issued to Conway Engineering for Termonbarry WWTP under contract 17/170\_007 Wastewater Treatments Plants Contract 2. Works commenced in December.

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

RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed and are currently gathering data for site assessment and site options report for 15no. sites in County Roscommon. The assessment is based on the impact the asset has on the environment rather than plant condition. Lecarrow, Croghan, Bellanagare, Cloonfad & Ballintober WWTP are identified as high impact sites. Roscommon County Council staff have engaged with RPS and have provided detailed information on each of the plants that have been examined under this programme. A draft site assessment report on each of the above locations was reviewed in Q2 2019 and commented on by Roscommon County Council Operations engineers.

RPS are in the process of preparing technical options reports for each of the sites based on the recommendations contained in the site assessment reports. A technical options reports were circulated in Q3 2020.

There is currently no Roscommon WWTP approved for NCAP capital funding.

### **Water Treatment Programme.**

A Regional Water Treatment programme is underway in the North and West Region. There are 12no. sites in the North West Region included in the programme. Mount Talbot – Four Roads Water Treatment Plant is included in the programme. EPS Ltd have been awarded the regional contract with a total value of €8million. Advance works are completed at Mount Talbot WTP. Raw water data gathering is ongoing. This data will assist in the final scope for the plant upgrade.

Final design drawing on the source protection to be forwarded for review. Following a site meeting this site will be put forward for ground water investigations.

### **Reservoir Refurbishment Programme.**

Refurbishment Works are planned for Fairymount and Derrinacantha Reservoirs. However, unlikely works will proceed this year.

### **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.

Works were completed in Monksland WWTP in Q1 and further works planned at Boyle WWTP later this year. No further works in this quarter.

### **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 to be issued. No progress in this quarter.

### **Waste Water Pumping Stations and Rising Mains Capital Maintenance Programme.**

Jacobs have been appointed by IW to deliver this regional programme. Ballyfarnan WWPS has been prioritised under this programme.

Jacobs completed the concept design so this WWPS. The report is with Asset Planning who maintain A register of PS's nationally and recommend which ones are prioritised for further works. No progress in this quarter.

### **WWBG Pump Station Growth Programme**

Bellanamullia PS (Monksland) and Daneshill PS (Monksland) included in this programme. GMC Utilities have been appointed to upgrade the pump stations.

More details have been sought from IW in relation to this programme. No progress in this quarter. Workshop due to take place early 2023.

### **Waste Water Below Ground Telemetry Programme.**

The WWBG Telemetry programme provides for installation of telemetry outstations at WW pumping station sites in order to allow early warning in case of spills to sensitive waters and to obtain data for future upgrades, connection requests, etc. All sites covered under this programme will be connected to interim National Telemetry System (iNTS). Each local authority will have a full access to data from sites in their county.

The programme has been running since 2018 with the priority sites being WWPSs that are located close to **shellfish, bathing and sensitive waters**. We are at a stage now where all these WWPSs are in hand/complete and there was capacity in the programme to add a limited number of pumping stations. The following pumping stations are identified for inclusion in the programme.

1. BALLYLEAGUE - CLOONTUSKERT PS (BALLYLEAGUE)
2. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - BOYLE BRIDGE PS
3. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - FELTON ROAD PS
4. BOYLE WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - WOODEN BRIDGE PS
5. CASTLEREA - ARM PS (CASTLEREA)
6. CASTLEREA - WILLIAMSTOWN ROAD PS (CASTLEREA)
7. MONKSLAND - BELLANAMULLIA PS (MONKSLAND)
8. MONKSLAND - CUSHLEA PS (MONKSLAND)
9. ROOSKY - MOHER ED ROOSKY PS, COUNTY LEIRIM (ROOSKEY)
10. ROSCOMMON - ARDSALLAGH PS (ROSCOMMON)
11. ROSCOMMON - CASTLEREA ROAD PS (ROSCOMMON)
12. STROKESTOWN WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS - LISROYNE PS

Surveys have commenced on the above sites. Awaiting survey reports.

### **Reservoir Cleaning Programme.**

All reservoirs and clear water tanks are cleaned up to date. North Roscommon clear water tanks 1&2, Fairymount reservoir, Granlahan reservoir old and new were cleaned in March 2022. No further works in this quarter.

### **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.

CCTVs have been carried out at the following locations last week, Ballyleague, Ballinlough, Roscommon Town, Boyle & Knockcroghery.

The CCTV reports will determine extents of works required.

### **Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.**

It is proposed that there will be a Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme which will support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF (e.g. development of a new rural settlement investment approach under National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF). The Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme is intended to provide WWTP and WTP growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the Investment Plan.

Lecarrow WWTP has been selected for upgrade works. Workshop -1 held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Site visits carried out in Q4 2022.

Ballinameen WWTP has also been included in the programme. Work shop 0 held on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Project now handed over to Asset Delivery to deliver.

### **Energy Efficiencies – Heating & Lighting Programme.**

A list of sites has been issued to IW for inclusion in this programme.

Castlerea WTP, Mount Talbot WTP, Ballaghaderreen WWTP, Monksland WWTP are included in this programme. No progress in this quarter.

### **ESB Upgrade Programme.**

North Roscommon WTP has been included in this programme. The following is a brief outline of the works proposed.

Full electrical upgrade to included replacement of 7 electrical panels

- Main Incomer Panel
- Sludge dewatering Building old Panel
- R/W building – bandscreen panel and pump control panel are corroded in raw water pumphouse. These should be replaced.
- Replace high lift pumphouse - washwater pump panels 1 and 2
- Replace old panel in coagulation room

As well as the above list of outputs it is planned to bring the plant from an LV supply to an MV supply. Appropriate assessments are being carried out for submission with a planning permission for the proposed works. No progress in this quarter.

### **Supply Demand Deficits Programme:**

Workshop held on Longford Springs. Further workshops planned. Documentation uploaded to Irish Water.

### **National Telemetry System.**

IW are proposing to install WITS (Worldwide Industrial Telemetry Standards) outstation panels at Longford Springs WTP, Cloonlaughnan WTP and Lough Gara WTP. In advance of this the system integrator, Cully Automation, has requested a site visit to Cloonlaughnan WTP to inform their pricing.

Cloonlaughnan WTP & Lough Gara WTP have been excluded from the programme. Works will proceed in Longford Springs WTP. No progress in this quarter.

### **National Water Resources Plan.**

A submission on the Regional Water Resources Plan was submitted to IW on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The southern Water Resources Plan was published for consultation, however there are no Roscommon supplies impacted.

Irish Water has adopted the Regional Water Resources Plan – Eastern and Midlands (RWRP-EM), which will safeguard public health, support growth and meet the challenges of climate change across the Eastern and Midlands region over the next 25 years.

Uisce Éireann began a three-month public consultation on the draft Regional Water Resource Plan – North West (RWRP-NW) in November 2022. **As part of the ongoing consultation, public webinars will commence next week, during which communities across the region can hear about Uisce Éireann’s plans to supply water to their area over the next 25 years.**

The RWRP-NW sets out options for providing a more secure, reliable and sustainable water supply for 732,700 customers in the North West region over the next 25 years. The plan includes counties Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Sligo and parts of Clare, Longford, Louth, Meath and Roscommon. Eight islands off the coast of Ireland are also included in the region.

Uisce Éireann’s National Water Resources Plan will be the first resources plan for the entire public water supply in Ireland. The National Plan will identify the needs across our existing supplies and the challenges and opportunities that we face over the coming years including legislation, climate change, the environment, growth and economic development. The National Plan will allow us to understand the actions and activities required to transform our water supplies and provide a safe, secure, reliable, and sustainable water supply for our current and future customers. The National Framework Plan will also provide a transparent roadmap on how Irish Water will plan for its water assets to align with national policy.

A 13-week statutory public consultation will run until 21 February 2023.

### **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.

Note the following rehab works to proceed in Roscommon for 2022 are as follows:

- Roscommon Central WSS: 509m of new mains in Lisnamult. Works completed.

- North Roscommon WSS: 3050m of new trunk main to supply south Sligo. Approx 75% completed.
- North Roscommon WSS. 5no. back yard services replaced.
- North East Regional WSS: 1,100m of new main in Elphin. Works completed.
- Ballinlough/Loughlynn WSS: 531m of new mains at Granlahan. Approved to design only.
- North Roscommon WSS: Convent Road approved for design & construction.
- South Roscommon (Killeglan) WSS: Ardmore approved for design & construction.
- North East Regional WSS: Tulsk Road approved for design & Construction.

#### **Direct Labour Works:**

None planned at present but attendance will be required on the above rehab schemes.

#### **Pressure Management**

A review of all PRVs have commenced. A pressure management programme has been prepared and will be rolled out during 2022. Works has commenced in the North District.

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

The Find & Fix scheme involves leak detection crews undertaking surveys to prove the extent of the supply area, 'Step testing' to focus areas with leakage and using sounding and logging equipment on footpaths and other public areas to find the leaks. Once the leaks are found a repair crew then completes the repair. In Q4 of 2022 Farrans Construction Ltd (The Regional Contractor for Irish Water) has focussed on a number of District Metering Areas (DMA's) in the Lisbrock and Killeglan Water Supply Zones (WSZ), in Roscommon South Water Area where unaccounted for water levels are high. 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 North Roscommon WSZ in Roscommon North Water Area. 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 <1M<sup>3</sup>/day. Farrans Construction will undertake the find and fix for customers who wish to avail of the scheme.

#### **Non-Domestic Meter Replacement**

Farrans commenced exchanging meters in Roscommon. They have commenced replacing DN15 concentric meters. We have a list of just under 2000 concentric meters for Roscommon. These are matched Non Domestic meters which have no reads.

#### **Acoustic Logger Trial.**

An acoustic logger trial was carried out in Frenchpark DMA. The trail has been extended to Clonown Road DMA.

## **ASSET TRANSFER:**

The following assets are being progressed for taking in charge by Irish Water.

1. BALLYCLARE COURT WASTE WATER PUMPING STATION
2. BLACKSTICK ROAD/CREEVY WASTE WATER PUMPING STATION BOYLE WWTW
3. CORREAL BOOSTER PUMP
4. CUSHLA – MONKSLAND PUMPING STATION
5. DANESHILL – MONKSLAND PUMPING STATION
6. DERRINACARTA RESERVOIR
7. GALLOWSTOWN BOOSTER'
8. GOLF LINKS ROAD WASTE WATER PUMPING STATION
9. MOUNT TALBOT RWSS
10. ROOSKEY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
11. SCRINE BOOSTER PUMP
12. STONE PARK WASTE WATER PUMPING STATION
13. SUMMERHILL – MONKSLAND PUMPING STATION

## **MULTI-ANNUAL RURAL WATER PROGRAMME 2019-2021**

The Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021 is a scheme specific or project based approach to funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The Department has agreed that works continue under this programme until the new 2022-2024 funding programme is available later this year.

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

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

Approval of the schemes/projects under the MARWP 2019-2021 and the grant funding allocations were received from the Department in Circular letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.- €2,861,263.

### **The eight funding measures are:**

- **Measure 1 - Source Protection (Group Water Scheme Sector- Funding approved for the GWS Pilot Project at Peak Mantua, Polecat Springs, Corracreigh, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber & Castlestrange GWS and additional works at Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange GWS' -total available €351,150 for the period 2019-2021.**

Roscommon County Council are working in partnership with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other stakeholders on a Source Protection Pilot Project developing full source protection plans including specific actions to improve the safety and security of Group Water Schemes drinking

water. The work commenced in 2018 and continued in Q4 2022. A steering group and operational working group have been set up to progress the development of the source protection plans.

Works undertaken to date at a cost of €437,683.33 were 100% recoupable from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

A campaign to raise public awareness on source protection and incorporating Biodiversity was developed to coincide with Rural Water Week on 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 with many initiatives. Mitigation measures for swallow holes were developed and farmers encouraged to fence off vulnerable areas on their lands. Catchment walks were undertaken by GWS managers to identify further sources of pollution. Farmers and contractors were reminded of the importance of proper and effective nutrient management to help protect water sources from pollution. Promotional Video clips were also undertaken to raise awareness. Available on [www.roscommoncoco.ie](http://www.roscommoncoco.ie) under Water & Wastewater/Rural Water Programme.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z\\_DLI4Tuz7M7twQFjlbAPgyj/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BijH8U5Z_DLI4Tuz7M7twQFjlbAPgyj/view?usp=sharing)

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

Approximately 8,000 trees were distributed to all the primary schools in the County. This initiative was to encourage the community to go pesticide free in their gardens and to educate and create awareness in schools. Surveys undertaken suggest that most householders that currently use pesticides are prepared to rethink their use in order to protect the environment. Concerns at the damaging impacts of pesticides on water sources and biodiversity lie behind the initiative and was developed as part of this project in Roscommon County Council. A main objective is to educate the wider community on the damage that pesticides can do in their domestic gardens. This is an important part of the overall project, and is very much linked to the 'Let it Bee' initiative.

[I've Planted a Tree and My Garden is Pesticide Free](#)

The '**Let It Bee**' initiative- Farmers working together to protect their local water source and enhance biodiversity is another initiative of the Group Water Scheme Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon.

Bees, hives, equipment and mentoring were 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 placed on the wall outside their homes to highlight their involvement.

#### **'European Bee Award 2020' for Roscommon**

The Source Protection Pilot Project in Roscommon won the European Bee Award 2020 for its outstanding contribution to protect pollinators, promoted by the European Landowners' Organisation. The project was also shortlisted for the Cogeca European Award for Co-operative Innovation. The 'Let It Bee' initiative continued to be developed through this project into 2022.

- **Measure 2 - Public health compliance (Group Water Scheme Sector): Funding of €814,000 approved for the period 2019-2021.**

This measure is aimed at improving water quality in existing group water schemes, through upgrading their treatment facilities, so that the schemes can sustainably achieve compliance with the parameters of the Drinking Water Regulations on a consistent long-term basis. The Capital Replacement works are ongoing in accordance with a planned programme on the Design Build Operate Group Water Schemes. Works were undertaken to date on Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh GWS with 85% of costs €351,138 recoupable to the GWS'.

Works to upgrade the existing UV systems to validated UV systems on the Design Build Operate bundle, Mid Roscommon, Oran Ballintubber and Corracreigh Group Water Schemes were undertaken in 2020 at a cost of €248,186.34 to date.

Contractor for the upgrade of the existing UV systems to validated UV system on the Brusna GWS have been completed at the end of December 2022 and payment processed in January, 2023.

Upgrade on Gortnaganny has been completed –Awaiting Invoice & Completion Certificate.

- **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.

Funding of €1,133,238 has been paid to the Group Water Schemes at 85% of costs in Mid Roscommon, Oran/Ballintubber, Corracreigh, Polecat Springs, Brusna, Gorthaganny and Castlestrange.

In 2022 contracts works are ongoing/completed on the following projects totalling approx. 13 kilometers of watermains.

- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2020: - The contract provides for the installation of 319 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 1209 linear meters of 125mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 4 connections to existing water mains, installation of 1 Air Valve, 6 Sluice Valves, 1 No Elster 4000 Bulk water meter, 1 No Cla Val Pressure reducing valve with strainer, 3No. Domestic PRVs and 12 no connections to services in the Townlands of Cloonyquin and Killynagh-Completed.
- Gortaganny GWS Upgrade Contract 1(2019)- 785 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 2 No connection to existing water mains, installation of 1 Bulk water meter, installation of 1 scour valve, 4 Sluice Valves and 14no connections to new and existing service pipes in the Townlands of Gortaganny and Carrowbehy–Completed.
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 01(2020) Tulsk: – The contract provided for the installation of 415 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1509 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- Completed.
- Mid Roscommon-Contract02(2020) Kinnity: - The contract provides for the installation of 2052 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains - Completed.
- Mid Roscommon -Contract 03(2020) Bushfield: - The contract provides for the installation of 2852 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 1913 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains -Completed.
- Oran Ballintubber-Contract No.1(2020): -The contract provides for the installation of 1965 meters of 90mm water main with 10 service connections- Completed Q1 2022
- Polecat Springs -Contract 01(2020): - The contract provides for the installation of 1746 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- extra works necessary have been completed -Completed.
- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2020 Extras: The contract provides for the installation of approx 400 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17, a number of connections to services in the Townland of Cloonequin- Completed.
- Corracreigh – Contract No.1 2022: The contract provides for the installation of approx 1,000 linear meters of 90mm OD PE100 SDR17, a number of connections to services in the Townland of Annaghmore. Contractor appointed, works delayed due to other contract commitments – FVDL expect start Q1 2023.
- Gortnaganny GWS-Contract No.1 Extra (2021): - The contract provided for the installation of 785 linear meters of 90mmOD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains, installation of 2 No connection to existing water mains, installation of 1 Bulk water meter, installation of 1 scour valve, 4 Sluice Valves and 14no connections to new and existing service pipes in the Townlands of Gortaganny and Carrowbehy. Completed for these works.

An additional 1000 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 was added to the contract (at a cost of €20,000 + VAT). Due to major Road Works being proposed on local road L-5697-16, a section of water main along this road was identified with high leakage rates and following discussion with the Senior Engineer, it was considered prudent to carry out replacement of this section whilst contractor was on site. Application for additional funding to carry out these works, is being prepared for the Department.

- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 1 Ballinderry-Carrowbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 meters of 90mm water main water and 1350 meters of 63mm water main water, with various fittings laid in the public road at two locations. Contractor has completed Carrowbaun section. Works in Ballinderry to be completed in Q1 2023.
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 2 Carrowduff-Tonbaun: – The contract provides for the installation of 1400 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 & 950 linear meters of 63mm OD PE100 SDR17 HPPE Water mains- Completed.
- Mid Roscommon – 2021 Contract 3 Coggalbeg: – The contract provides for 4100 meters of 90mm water main water with various fittings laid in the public road – Completed.
- Oran Ballintubber-Contract No.1(2022): -The contract provides for the installation of 800 meters of 75mm water main with 5 service connections- Contractor appointed, works commenced in Q4 2022.
- Corracreigh / Peake Mantua Amalgamation -Contract 01(2022): - A Special General Meeting of Peake Mantua held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June approved a motion for a “transfer of engagements” (Amalgamation) with Corracreigh GWS. This clears the way to proceed with the process of design of the interconnector.  
The contract will provide for approximately 3,600 meters of 125 mm water main and approx. 1000 meters of 75 mm water main with various fittings laid in the public road.  
Survey, Design & contract documentation is currently being produced for this contract. Awaiting Final design details from Consultants (TJ O Connors). Contract will go to tender Q1 2023.

Group Water Scheme Managers have been advised to identify works/upgrades necessary on their schemes in preparation of the next programme of funding.

- **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 were held with 2 Group Water Schemes to progress to taking in charge by Irish Water. At the end of 2022 Projects totalling 3.5 kilometers of watermains at a cost to date of €203,857.40 were completed.

- Works are completed on the Drumheriff /Derrinasoo GWS. December 2020  
Drumherriff: 1480m of 63mm watermains with 10 connections.
- Works are completed on the Lisagallon GWS -June 2021  
Lisagallon: 1928m of 125mm watermains with 46 connections. The taking in charge by Irish Water was completed in November, 2022.
- Discussions are ongoing with Woodbrook GWS Q4-2022  
Contract documents were being prepared, however a complete survey is necessary for production of these. Consultation with group is proving difficult, poor knowledge of scheme.
- A request was received from Caramunia GWS, Rahara to be taking in charge in June 2022 – additional surveys required.

- A report being prepared on Semi Private (Orphan) schemes which will be considered for taking in charge by IW.
- **Measure 6 –A Community Water Connection**  
Works at Crosshill, Arigna were undertaken in 2019 costing €22,314. Completed.
- **Measure 8 - PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY- Grants for the improvement of a private water supply to a house**

The 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).

### **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.

To the end of Q4 2022 a total of 18 applications for the upgrade of Private Water Supplies have been received. Grants have been paid on 13 completed applications at a cost of €38,424,25.

### **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.

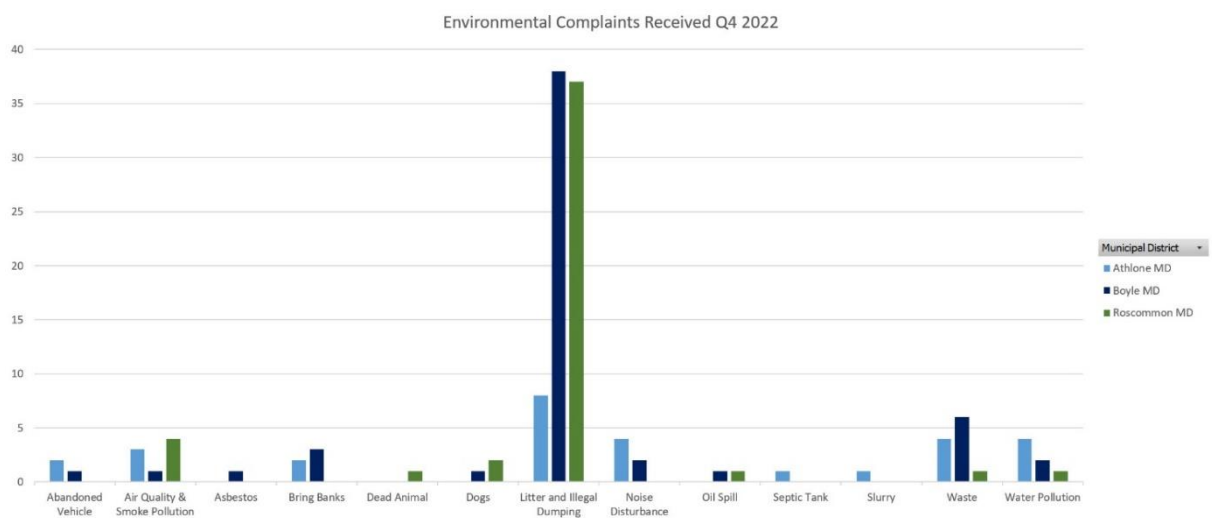
- **Annual Subsidy** - - An annual subsidy per house is available to group schemes for the operational cost of providing domestic water. Annual subsidies in the sum of €465,878 have been paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q4 2022.
- **Operational and Maintenance Subsidy** – This subsidy is payable 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 €691,135 to Group Water Schemes to the end of Q2 2022.

Total Subsidies paid to Group Water Schemes to end of Q4 2022 is €1,157,013.

# ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE UNIT

## Complaints

The Environment Unit continues to investigate litter and pollution complaints on a daily basis. All complaints are recorded, assigned and investigated using a newly developed database. Monthly reporting to the LGMA has also moved to a **new online portal called NEMIS**; the ability to generate quarterly reports from NEMIS is currently being investigated by RCC/Environment with a view to providing suitable information in future management reports.



## Environmental Awareness

The Environmental Awareness Officer position has been filled in Q4 2022.

## Media Campaigns

A number of Social Media/Awareness Campaigns were organised during this period including:

- Launch of National Clean Air Week
- Online Green Schools Seminars with An Taisce
- Online Litter Management Workshop organised for Tidy Towns Groups/Community Groups
- Social Media Campaign for National Re-Use Month
- Competitions organised for National Schools with an Anti Litter Theme
- Social Media & newspaper Campaigns around recycling at Christmas time
- Bring Bank Audio and VMA Displays Installed for Christmas/New Year

## Waste Collection and Civic Amenity Sites

Roscommon County Council operates four Civic Amenity Sites which are open to the public three days a week. Waste collected at all four sites is reflected in the National Waste Survey which is submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. Waste collected at Roscommon and Ballaghaderreen is also reflected in the Annual Environmental Report (AER) and the Annual Environmental Performance Reporting (EPR) landfill returns.

## Water, Wastewater, Air and Noise Pollution

1. RCC continues to engage with Lough Forbes Pesticides Action group. This group looks at mechanisms to address **pesticides exceedances** within catchment area. RCC attended a meeting in December with this Group.
2. Water quality – protect and restore water bodies, (rivers, lakes etc.) to at least good status remains a function of local authorities and it is highlighted as key area for Ireland to achieve objectives under the Water Framework Directive. Catchment investigations and inspections are ongoing in the Derryhippo River catchment area (Creggs/Dunamon area) and these were concluded in Q4 of this year. A number of minor issues have been recorded on farms and these are being addressed and resolved by the farmers involved. A report will be compiled in Q1 2023.
3. Western ROC (regional operation committee) Water Framework Directive committee continue to meet and coordinate a number of national agencies in relation to implementation/progressing of water quality issues within the Western Region. Meetings held with LAWPRO Regional Co-ordinators, Community Water Officer and Catchment Scientist in Q4 to facilitate the introduction of new staff within these offices.
4. National Inspection plan for DWWTs – Roscommon County Council has had ongoing engagement with the EPA in relation to the number of outstanding advisory notices open within the county. A programme of measures had been devised and submitted to the EPA. This programme will require new inspections of premises not engaging with the local authority and where necessary legal proceedings will be instigated. A number of households are engaging with the local authority and it is expected that the required works will be completed in a timely manner. Regular updates will be provided to the EPA in relation to open files with a view to reducing the number of open notices by the end of year. The EPA have given until the end of January 2023 to submit an updated report. EPA report highlighted that Roscommon is among the counties with the highest inspection failure rates and had the highest number of open advisory notices at the end of 2021. This area will require additional staffing resources and recruitment within this Section is ongoing with additional staff expected to commence in H1 2023.
5. Air Quality at monitoring station in Roscommon Town (adjacent to Aras an Chontae) remained at good quality for Q4. The monitor in the period has had a number of errors which were rectified by Environment Department staff.
6. A number of staff members from this Department attended an EPA workshop on the new solid fuel regulations in Q4, and these regulations were signed into law in October. The Roscommon Co website has been updated to give an overview of these new regulations. The primary focus of these regulations is on improving air quality and improving people's health chances and outcomes, by restricting the retail, online and commercial sale of smoky fuels, including smoky coal, turf and wet wood.
7. Water For Life Programme was launched earlier in 2022, following on from which a public meeting was held in Q3, attended by RCC staff, to introduce the Water for Life Programme to the community.
8. A number of staff members from this Department attended webinars/information sessions relating to the new Nitrates Action Programme which determines future focus areas and Inspection Programme required for the next 5 years.
9. A member of staff is sitting on the Agricultural Inspections Working Group with a view to developing a new framework for Local Authority inspections at a national level. This working group was initiated in Q3 with a further meeting held in Q4.
10. A number of staff attended training/information session relating to enforcement of the Mercury Regulations. RCC continues to engage with dentists operating in the County in relation to these regulations

### **Closed Landfill Sites**

These landfill facilities have ceased accepting waste for landfill disposal but Waste Licences still remain in place for Ballaghaderreen and Roscommon Landfills and as per the conditions set out in the Licences, Roscommon County Council is obliged to continuously monitor environmental risks associated with the closed facilities (e.g., landfill gas, groundwater quality, surface water quality). Regular maintenance and servicing continues to take place. Department funding is available for the remediation of non-licensed landfills, known as historic landfills, and some of this was drawn down for Castlerea Landfill in Q4. Further funding for 2023 will be applied for again in Q1 and Certificate of Authorisation works at Castlerea historic landfill will be prioritised. Contracts for the prescribed works will need to be prepared when the additional staffing resources are filled. Lands cannot be transferred back to original owner until all RCC's site restoration obligations have been met, with the possible exception of monitoring. Access to lands will be required post transfer to facilitate any future monitoring requirements.

RCC continues to sample leachate, surface water and ground waste from these closed landfill sites.

### **Laboratory Services**

The laboratory provides both a technical/analytical and sampling service and is accredited to ISO 17025 (one of only 6 Local Authority testing laboratories accredited to this standard). The laboratory provides a shared service to Local Authority's and LAWPRO in three provinces and continues to expand its customer base. Maintaining output is a primary concern. This year's accreditation audit by the Irish National Accreditation Board took place in Q4, 2022 on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **Casual Trading**

The Roscommon County Council Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2022 were adopted in November 2022 and come into effect on 01/01/2023.

### **Anti-Dumping Initiative 2022**

In Q2 of this year following submission to CUWERA of a number of proposed projects, RCC was advised of a grant in the amount of €97,174 for the above initiative.

The following projects were completed in Q4

- Clean up of Roadside Campaign
- Clean up of Coolaghtane, Ballaghaderreen
- Removal of tyres
- Press release regarding projects prepared & submitted to local newspaper

Claim submitted and recouped from the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications in the amount of €79,773.31.

## 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 were procured in 2019. Land and property acquisition continues. Various works and services contracts were procured in advance of the main construction contract. Fencing, Archaeological site works, topographical surveys, geotechnical investigations and advance diversions of some Authority & Utility apparatus were completed during 2019 and 2020. Technical consultants were appointed to assist in progressing the project through the tender and construction stages. The main construction contract tender documents were issued to all pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2020 and the closing date for receipt of tenders was set for Tuesday 22 December 2020. The tenders received on or before the specified closing date were assessed. In accordance with the Public Spending Code, the updated Final Business Case together with a request to award the main construction contract was submitted to the Department of Transport on 14 April 2021. On 11 June 2021, the Department of Transport advised that Government approval as required under the Public Spending Code was given on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and granted approval to award the main construction contract under the direction of TII. TII approval to award of the main construction contract was received on 14 June 2021. The Main Construction Contract was awarded to Roadbridge Ltd. on 16 June 2021 and the Contract was formally executed on 06 October 2021. A receiver was appointed over certain assets of Roadbridge Ltd. on 11 March 2022 and all work under the contract ceased. Roadbridge Ltd.'s contract was terminated on 04 April 2022. A contract notice to re-procure the main construction contract was published on eTenders on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and on the OJEU on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Pre-qualification submissions were received by the latest time and date for receipt of submissions (16.00 hrs on 27 May 2022) and all Applicants were subsequently deemed to pass the suitability assessment. The main construction contract tender documents were issued to all pre-qualified candidates on 22 July 2022 and tender process is ongoing. Receipt of tenders is anticipated late Q1 2023. A number of minor advance contracts procured during Q2 2022 are complete.

**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. Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in December 2018. Throughout 2019, 2020 & into 2021 ROD-A progressed the project through the constraints and option selection phases. Route Corridor C-3 was confirmed as the preferred route corridor with the publication of the Option Selection Report in August 2021. RCC sought approval from TII to proceed to Phase 3 Design & Environmental Evaluation in September 2021. TII responded to this request in December 2021, stating that due to funding availability the Authority was not in a position to give approval to proceed to Phase 3 at present. Some funding was allocated in 2022 under the TII Minors programme to develop an overall strategy to address the safety and related issues on the section of N61 between Roscommon town and Athlone pending the implementation of long-term solution(s). ROD-A were appointed in August 2022 to undertake this study. To date the background information has been collated and reviewed, a detailed assessment of the existing route has been undertaken in terms of geometry, traffic analysis and road safety. The preparation of the Improvement Strategy Report is currently ongoing.

### **N61 Tulsk to Clashaganny Road Project:**

Involves the realignment of approximately 4km of the N61 National Secondary route from Tulsk village to Clashaganny. Phases 0 to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the TII Project Phases are complete and in October 2022 RCC received approval from TII to proceed to Phase 4 (Statutory Processes). A planning application in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations was published in October 2022 and a number of submissions in respect of the proposed road development were received by the closing date of the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. It is anticipated that the Chief Executive's report in respect of the Proposed Road Development will be submitted to the elected members for their consideration at the Plenary meeting of the Council scheduled for February 2023.

### **N61 Tulsk to Gortnacranagh Road Project:**

Involves the realignment and improvement of approximately 5.6km of the N61 National Secondary Road between Tulsk village and the new N5 crossing of the N61 at Gortnacranagh Townland. TII approved the appointment of Lead Technical Consultants and independent specialists to progress the project through the planning phases. Roughan & O' Donovan-AECOM Alliance (ROD-A) was appointed as Lead Engineering Consultants in July 2022 following a procurement process using TII's Framework Agreement for Consultancy Services. Phases 0 and 1 have been completed and work has commenced on Phase 2 (Options Selection). It is anticipated that a preferred route corridor will be identified in Q2 2023. In addition, a detailed topographical survey has been completed and a ground investigation contract is due for completion in January 2023.

### **National Road Pavement Projects:**

Design and Contract documentation are being prepared for the pavement overlay projects included in the 2022 TII National Road Allocations. Contract documentation for Athlone North (Phase 2) and the N61 Shankill to Cladagh pavement projects were completed in June 2022 and September 2022 respectively.

### **N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Project:**

Involves the provision of a transport solution, which may include a new crossing of the River Shannon, to relieve the significant traffic congestion on the N4 through Carrick on Shannon / Cortober. The extents of the project include a 21km section of the N4 national primary route extending from Drumharrow townland in County Roscommon to Faulties townland in County Leitrim. A Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act is in place between Roscommon County Council and Leitrim County Council. Under the Section 85 Agreement Leitrim County Council is the Lead Authority. Leitrim County Council appointed Ove Arup & Partners Ireland Ltd. (ARUP) to progress the project through the planning process in March 2020. ARUP completed Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) in July 2020. As part of Phase 2 (Option Selection), a Constraints Public Consultation was held in October 2020 by means of a virtual public consultation accessible through the dedicated project website, to inform the public of the project and invite submissions. Over forty submissions were received during this consultation. Preliminary ground investigation works to inform the option selection process commenced in April 2021 and were completed in July 2021. Public Consultation No. 2 (Alternatives and Options) was held between the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 and the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2021. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a face-to-face event was not feasible considering public health advice and associated public health risks. A virtual public consultation accessible through the project website was held which included the facility to book online meetings with the project team. Over 2,300 submissions were received and a total of one hundred and eighty-nine (189) virtual online meetings were undertaken as part of the consultation. Acknowledgements and responses were issued by Leitrim County Council

following a review of the submissions by the Project Team. Work continued on the assessment of the various Alternatives and Options throughout 2021 and culminated in Q1 2022. Public Display No 3 – Preferred Transportation Solution took place in the Landmark Hotel in Carrick on Shannon on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Phase 2 deliverables were issued to TII in Q3 2022 together with a request seeking formal approval to proceed to Phase 3 (Design & Environmental Evaluation) of the project development. The procurement of Environmental Survey and Topographical data necessary to progress the project development is ongoing.

## **GREENWAY PROJECTS**

### **Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway Project**

Involves the provision of a greenway, with an approx. indicative length ranging from 45 to 60km. This Greenway links into proposed Galway to Athlone cycleway scheme in the Athlone area. RPS has been appointed to progress project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report has been submitted to TII for approval.

### **Mid Shannon Greenway Project**

Mid Shannon Greenway is the adopted name for proposed greenway project between Ballyleague/Lanesborough and Tarmonbarry/Strokestown/Roosky. The Mid Shannon greenway has an approx. indicative length ranging from 30 to 45km. This Greenway links into Athlone to Ballyleague/Lanesborough Greenway scheme. Ryan Hanley has been appointed to progress project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). A public consultation was held on 09/06/2022 at Strokestown Community Centre. Phase 0 Strategic Assessment Report has been submitted to TII for approval.

### **Lough Key to Carrick on Shannon Greenway Project**

Involves the provision of a greenway with an approx. indicative length ranging from 15 to 20km. Following a tender process, Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the project through Phase 0 Scope and Pre-Appraisal & Phase 1 Concept and Feasibility (TII Project Managers Manual for Greenway Projects). The contract is scheduled to commence in Q1 2023.

## Road Programme and Road Schemes - Outputs 2022

The total estimated outturn expenditure for the Roads and Transportation Department at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022 is €xxx. The categories of expenditure and the funding sources/departments are detailed in the table below. The finalised figures for 2022 will be published in the AFS. The 2023 allocation from the Department of Transport for Regional and Local Roads is expected in January 2023.

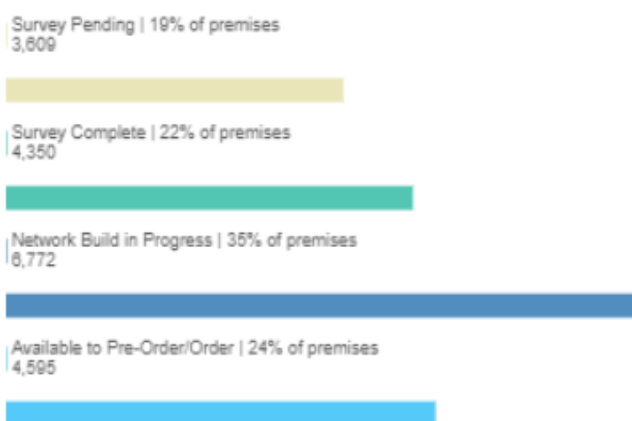
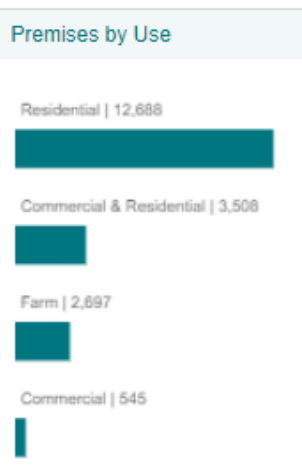
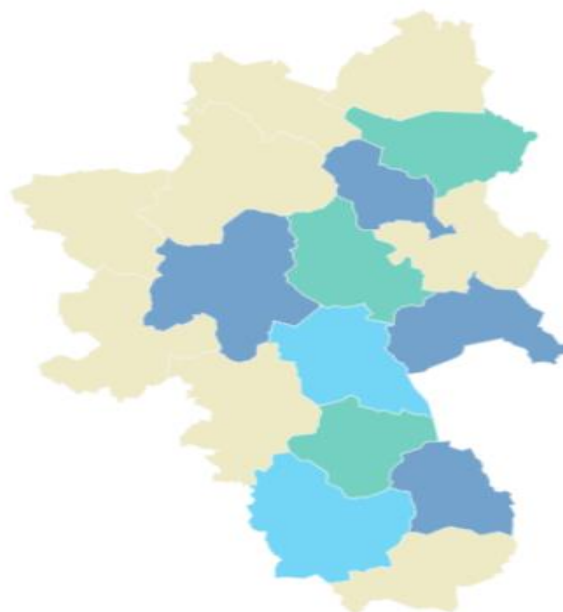
Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outturn 2022 €
<b>National Primary Improvement/Maintenance Works</b>		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€ 68,382.05
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€ 21,444.12
Winter Maintenance	TII	€ 120,406.78
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€ 124,109.91
<b>National Primary Totals</b>		<b>€ 334,342.86</b>
<b>National Secondary Improvement/Maintenance Works</b>		
Pavement & Minor Improvement Works	TII	€ 2,341,857.45
Skid Resistance HD 28 Pavement Renewals	TII	€ 50,279.93
Winter Maintenance	TII	€ 127,508.74
Ordinary Maintenance	TII	€ 324,981.77
<b>National Secondary Totals</b>		<b>€ 2,844,627.89</b>
<b>Other NP &amp; NS Allocations</b>	TII	
Athlone to Galway Greenway	TII	€ 110,204.51
LA Support Maintenance & Engineering	TII	€ 245,712.00
<b>Other NP &amp; NS Allocations</b>		<b>€ 355,916.51</b>
<b>Totals National Roads - Improvement/Maintenance Works</b>		<b>€ 3,534,887.26</b>

Road Classification	Funding Source	Total Outturn 2022 €
<b>Regional and Local Roads Expenditure</b>		
Restoration Improvement	Department of Transport	€ 10,804,837.22
Restoration Maintenance	Department of Transport	€ 2,969,613.83
Discretionary Maintenance	Department of Transport	€ 3,133,763.61
Bridge Rehabilitation	Department of Transport	€ 301,702.44
Safety Improvement Works	Department of Transport	€ 362,497.25
Former National Roads	Department of Transport	€ 410,063.76
Department of Transport Training Grant	Department of Transport	€ 69,000.00
Community Involvement Scheme	Department of Transport /Local Contribution	€ 123,166.99
Drainage Works	Department of Transport	€ 801,449.85
Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works	Department of Transport	€ 634,244.89
Active Travel Measures	Department of Transport	€ 25,636.28
Active Travel Investment Programme	National Transport Authority	€ 1,557,617.18
<b>Total Regional and Local Roads</b>		<b>€ 21,193,593.30</b>
<b>Other Roads Projects</b>		
Local Improvement Schemes	Department of Rural and Community Development /Local Contribution	€ 645,456.90
Local Roads Ordinary Maintenance	RCC	€ 1,411,603.74
Amenities & Burial Grounds Maintenance/Street Cleaning/Tidy Towns	RCC	€ 635,204.03
Arterial Drainage	RCC	€ 143,912.83
Cemetery Improvement Grant	RCC	€ 65,000.00
<b>Totals Other Roads Projects</b>		<b>€ 2,901,177.50</b>
<b>Overall Total Expenditure for 2022</b>		<b>€ 27,629,658.06</b>

### Broadband

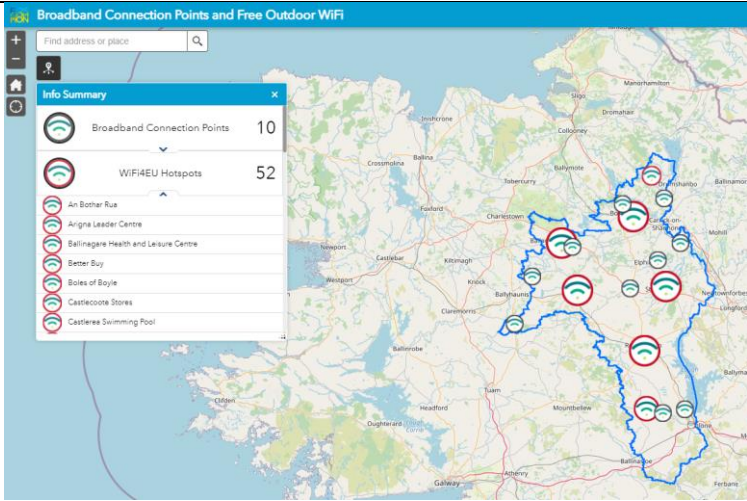
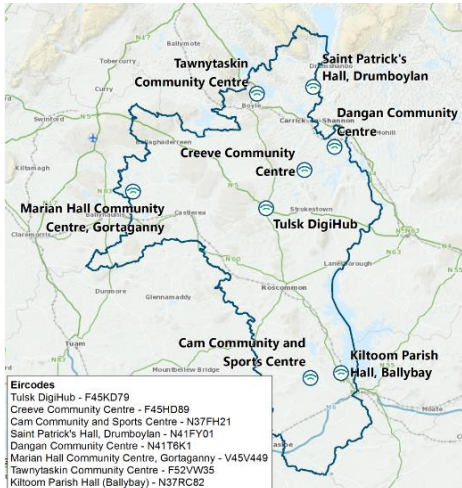

#### NBI

Work continues with NBI staff regarding build designs and S254 planning applications across the network. Ballinasloe and Roscommon deployment areas are taking orders currently for new connections and properties are now live on the network in both areas. So far it appears that customers are getting connected in a timely fashion. Approximately 900 new pole applications have been processed to date in the county and NBI are satisfied with the way applications are progressed through Roscommon. Below is an update of the progress so far in County Roscommon. Out of the 19000 premises in Roscommon to be passed over 4000 have already been passed by NBI, this would be well above the national average at this stage.



#### WiFi4EU

WiFi4EU was a project that received EU funding to provide free Wi-Fi hotspots around the county. The project was completed in Q1 2022 and 52 access points are now live in towns and villages in Roscommon. This project is bringing free Wi-Fi hotspots to towns and villages all over the county and is being widely used in most locations.

	 <p>A link to the above map showing all locations has been created on our GIS homepage.</p>
<p><b>Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)</b></p>	<p>Roscommon County Council was awarded <b>€17,7444.65</b> under the 2021 Connected Hubs fund. This was targeted at improving the locations that had been set up as BCP sites. The bulk of the work was completed as programmed in 2021. RCC broadband office assisted the BCP sites to make applications for the 2022 Connected Hubs fund and <b>€65,000</b> has been received from DRCD for the 2022 program of works. The works are almost complete and funding was processed through Roscommon County Council for works on Tisrara Community Centre, Kilmurray Community Centre, Tawnytaskin BCP, Cam BCP &amp; Creeve BCP. Online booking is available for all BCP sites through the RCC website.</p>  <p>Eircodes  Tusk DigiHub - F45KD79  Creeve Community Centre - F45HD88  Cam Community and Sports Centre - N37FH21  Saint Patrick's Hall, Drumboylan - N41FY01  Dangan Community Centre - N41T9K1  Marian Hall Community Centre, Gortaganny - V45V449  Tawnytaskin Community Centre - F52VW35  Kiltoom Parish Hall (Ballybay) - N37RC82</p>
<p><b>Eduroam</b></p>	 <p>Eduroam is an international roaming service for users in research, higher education and further education. Eduroam allows roaming research and educational users to more easily obtain Internet access via the Wi-Fi service at participating sites. When attaching to Eduroam Wi-Fi users are authenticated via their home institution. If authentication succeeds the user is granted wireless network access. Eduroam access is currently available in Boyle and Castlerea Libraries and will be available in all Roscommon County Libraries by early 2023.</p>
<p><b>Website</b></p>	<p>The Digital and Broadband tab was updated recently on our website. It is much improved and easier for the public to find on our homepage. Regular updates are posted here with regard to broadband in the County.</p>

	<p>The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Roscommon Council website with links for Home, Notices, Events, Your Council, and Job Vacancies. Below this is a blue banner with six service icons: Digital &amp; Broadband, Water &amp; Waste Water, Covid-19 Current Service Updates, Business and Enterprise, Community, Arts &amp; Heritage, and Housing. A 'See All Our Services' button is located at the bottom of the banner.</p>
<b>Digital Strategy</b>	The Roscommon Digital Strategy 2022-2026 was launched on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022. Presentations on the Strategy were made to the December 2022 meeting of the Roads and Transportation and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee and to the December 2022 Plenary Meeting.
<b>Siro</b>	Siro have commenced works in Roscommon Town in January and should have many housing estates in the town connected to high speed fibre in the next year or so.

### Local Improvement Scheme

The Local Improvement Scheme 2023 was advertised in December 2022. Applications may be submitted via **My Online Services** at: <https://roscommon-self.achieveservice.com> no later than 5pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.

### Community Involvement Schemes

The Department of Transport provides grant assistance which must be matched by a minimum 10% from the community for eligible works including general maintenance, drainage works, pavement works and footpaths on public roads. Three projects were completed under the 2022 Scheme

### Lough Funshinagh Interim Flood Relief Work

The OPW have completed the remediation plan as per the instruction of the High Court within some minor fencing works to be completed by the Local authority. Offers of compensation to landowners have been issued and are accepted in the majority of cases. The OPW are providing new pumps to site that can be used in the case of emergencies. Roscommon County Council is prohibited from carrying out any further works in this area following a judicial review by Friends of the Irish Environment.

### CFRAM Carrick on Shannon (and Cortober) Flood Relief Scheme

Ryan Hanley has been appointed by Leitrim County Council as Design Consultants. Roscommon County Council is on the Steering Group Committee. Site investigation, environmental surveys and fieldworks are substantially complete. The consultants are now working on refining the flood model for the study area and options are now being drafted for the scheme.

### CFRAM Bogganfin Athlone

In May 2021, the Council received an offer of funding from the Office of Public Works in the amount of €350,000 for the project at Bogganfin. The design brief is now complete and will be put on e-tenders in late October. The draft Tender is with the Office of Public Works for review.

### Active Travel Programme

The Programme for Government published in June 2020 included significant and ambitious targets for the development of walking and cycling schemes. In 2021 the National Transport Authority announced €72.8 million in funding to 19 local authorities for active travel in rural areas. It was the first ever active travel investment programme for rural Ireland.

Roscommon County Council received an allocation of €2,397,000 in 2021 and €3,264,798 in 2022. The funding for 2021 and 2022 are Year 1 and 2 of a 5-year Active Travel Investment Programme, which will

be transformative in the area of green sustainable transport options to those outside of the large urban centres. The development of high quality walking and cycling facilities will encourage more people to switch to active travel and will contribute to tackling climate change. Connecting communities and making walking and cycling attractive, safe and accessible to everyone is what this funding will help to accomplish.

In 2021 the Active travel team completed schemes at locations across the six engineering areas i.e. Creagh, Ballaghaderreen, Cortober, Cootehall, Elphin, Castlerea and Roscommon.

In 2022 the Active travel team completed a further eight schemes throughout the county including Knockcroghery, Rooskey, Boyle, Croghan, Athleague, Loughlynn, Dysart and Roscommon Town. Construction work is continuing on a further three schemes i.e. Lecarrow, Cloonfad and Ballinlough. Consultants have been appointed and are working on the design of a further six projects in 2023.

### **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). The Roads Department processes the licences for County Roscommon from this portal and attaches conditions and fees to the licence. The number of new applications for Q4 2022 is 102.

### **Abnormal Load Permits**

Roscommon County Council operate a permit system for abnormal loads on all or part of journeys where specific weight and height conditions apply. The Roads Department issued 26 Abnormal Load Permits to the end of Q4 2022.

### **Galway to Athlone Cycleway**

This project is being delivered by the Westmeath, Galway and Roscommon local authorities. Design consultants, RPS from Galway, were appointed in 2020 to identify a project study area and constraints. The Galway to Athlone Cycleway will complete the over 300km car-free corridor between Galway and Dublin for cyclists and walkers. A dedicated Project Office was established in Ballinasloe where people can liaise with the project team by appointment by contacting (091) 509267 or [info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com](mailto:info@galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).

The first of four focused periods of public consultation commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The second public consultation took place in January 2021, showing the route corridor options. The third consultation commenced on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 showing the emerging preferred route corridor option.

There has been ongoing of face to face meetings and calls with landowners over the past two years. It was announced in December 2021, that the preferred route corridor is No 5. It is expected from discussions and face to face meetings with landowners, that in a vast majority of cases, a route along a farm boundary can be chosen, and severance of farms avoided. The preferred route both maximise the use of public Bord na Móna lands, following its demise in recent years. The greenway has also the full support of Bord na Móna for this route corridor selection. Maps have been drawn up outlining the preferred route on landowner's properties, which was in principal agreed with the Project Liaison Officers (PLOs) and the landowners previously. There are approximately 350 potentially impacted private landowners had been identified along the emerging preferred route. It starts near Ballyloughane Beach in Renmore, passing through Oranmore, Rinville, Clarinbridge, Kilcolgan, Kinvara, Gort, Woodford, Portumna, Meelick, Clonfert, Ballinasloe, Shannonbridge, and finishing at Athlone Castle before linking with the cycleway to Dublin. The project website is [www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com](http://www.galwaytoathlonecycleway.com).