

C A R L O W  
C O U N T Y C O U N C I L

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



***ANNUAL REPORT 2017***  
***CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL***



# FOREWORD

Carlow County Council is a smart, vibrant County which is attractive, inclusive and accessible. The County Council is committed to providing the highest quality public services for local residents, for visitors and for new and existing companies, from multinationals to entrepreneurs and SMEs. Creating an environment for economic growth and driving quality of life for all is a priority for this Council.

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2017, which outlines the work of the Council in delivering important public services during the year, all of which contribute to making County Carlow an attractive place in which to work, live and do business.

2017 has seen the strengthening of the Council's role in economic development and community development and this is welcomed by all. It must be acknowledged that the changing economic climate both at national and local levels have made a defining influence on the extent to which our services are delivered. Despite the reduction in human and financial resources in recent years, Carlow County Council continues to deliver a high standard of service. The Council's policy is to "do more with less" and to achieve greater efficiencies where possible. Our staff, with the support and leadership of the elected members, continue to maintain and deliver quality services as referenced in our Corporate Plan 2014-2019, whilst also keeping the Council on a firm financial standing. Similar to all local authorities in the country, Carlow County Council relies heavily on government funding. It follows that a reduction in overall funding can profoundly impact on our capacity to deliver our services. The external and internal environments continue to shape and influence the allocation and provision of resources and the strategic direction of Carlow County Council.

We would like to pay tribute to the work being done at Municipal District level and at SPC level. These committees are invaluable in assisting the full Council in pursuing its objectives and getting through its business. The Commitment of the councillors and external members is evident from the activities outlined in the report. I express my appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the Elected Members, my colleagues on the management team and the staff of the Council. I am confident, given the abilities and spirit of cooperation that is consistently shown by the elected members and staff that we should be in a position to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We can look forward to a positive 2017.



***Cllr. William Paton  
Cathaoirleach  
Carlow County Council***



***Kathleen Holohan  
Chief Executive  
Carlow County Council***

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**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW**



*Cllr. Fergal Browne*

*Cllr. John Cassin*

*Cllr. Anrea Dalton*

*Cllr. Jim Deane*

*Cllr. Walter Lacey*



*Cllr. Ken Murnane*



*Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue*



*Cllr. William Paton*



*Cllr. John Pender*



*Cllr. Fintan Phelan*



**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG**



*Cllr. Michael Doran*



*Cllr. Denis Foley*



*Cllr. Andy Gladney*



*Cllr. Thomas Kinsella*



*Cllr. Arthur McDonald*



*Cllr. Charlie Murphy*



*Cllr. John Murphy*



*Cllr. William Quinn*

## Carlow County Council – Strategic Policy Committees at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017

### *Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Planning SPC*

Cllr. Michael Doran (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. William Paton	Elected Member
Cllr. John Murphy	Elected Member
Cllr. Denis Foley	Elected Member
Cllr. Charlie Murphy	Elected Member
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	Elected Member
Eileen Brophy	Business/Commercial
John Nolan	Trade Union
Alan Price	Environmental/Conservation
Cornelia McCarthy	Community/Voluntary
Paul Maher	Community/Voluntary

### *Transportation, Environmental & Infrastructural SPC*

Cllr. Thomas Kinsella (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. William Quinn	Elected Member
Cllr. Michael Doran	Elected Member
Cllr. Andy Gladney	Elected Member
Cllr. Ken Murphane	Elected Member
Cllr. John Murphy	Elected Member
Ashling Phelan	Development/Construction
John Tully	Environmental/Conservation
Jackie Meally (from May, 2016)	Community/Voluntary
Paddy Gardiner	Community/Voluntary
Patrick Kennedy	Agriculture/Farming

### *Community, Housing & Amenity SPC*

Cllr. John Pender (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. William Quinn	Elected Member
Cllr. Fergal Browne	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	Elected Member
Cllr. John Cassin	Elected Member
Cllr. Ken Murnane	Elected Member
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	Elected Member
Joe Butler	Social Inclusion
Lorraine Hynes	Community/Voluntary
Eileen O'Rourke	Community/Voluntary
Frank Comerford	Voluntary Housing

### *Cultural, Health & Agricultural SPC*

Cllr. Walter Lacey (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. Tommy Kinsella	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	Elected Member
Cllr. Jim Deane	Elected Member
Cllr. Andrea Dalton	Elected Member
Cllr. Denis Foley (HSE Rep)	Elected Member
Cllr. Arthur McDonald (HSE Rep)	Elected Member
Vacant	Elected Member
Eric Driver	Agriculture/Farming
Eileen Doyle	Social Inclusion
Vacant	Community/Voluntary
James Browne	Community/Voluntary
Derek Shannon	Business/Commercial

**Corporate and Human Resources,  
Planning, Economic Development and  
Health and Safety**

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## **CORPORATE SERVICES, HUMAN RESOURCES**

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The Corporate Services and Human Resources Section is responsible for the provision and management of a wide range of services which includes Council and Corporate Policy Group meetings, Register of Electors, Freedom of Information and a wide variety of ancillary services relating to the business of the Council.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

- Management of Council and Corporate Policy Group Meetings, Attendance of Councillors at Conferences, Payment of Councillors Allowances and Expenses, Civic Receptions, Linkage with National Bodies such as LAMA and ACCC, Joint Policing Committees.
- Register of Electors
- Local Elections
- Customer Service
- Corporate Communications – Press Releases
- Co-Ordination of Customer Service Performance Indicators
- Control of Dogs
- Coroners Court
- Management of Council Property
- Preparation of Annual Report
- Preparation of Corporate Plan
- Ethics Register
- Freedom of Information
- Ombudsman
- Data Protection
- Public Relations
- Irish Language Scheme
- Disability Plan
- Schools Business Programme Partnership
- Service Indicators co-ordination.
- Promotion of new Council initiatives such as Fix My Street, MapAlerter
- Major Emergency Management – Communications. Liaison with public, media and Councillors including during severe weather

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Employees:** 263 (WTE) as at 31/12/2017 (including 47 Retained Fire Fighters)

- Manpower Planning, Recruitment and Selection
- Deployment of staff to all service areas.
- Training, Learning and Development
- Performance Management (PMDS)
- Industrial Relations
- Staff Wellbeing and Employee Assistance Programme

- Equality & Diversity
- Work Life Balance
- Creating a Positive & Safe Working Environment
- Workplace Partnership
- Superannuation
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD)
- Implementation of Core HR/Payroll/Superannuation System
- Attendance Management
- HR Policy Development.

The Department also provides co-ordination and leads on the implementation of the Public Service Agreement under the Public Service Pay and Pensions Agreement of 2017. This includes actions required under the following categories:

- Restructuring
- Shared Services
- Procurement
- E – Government
- Redeployment

Carlow County Council has achieved several of the targets and aims of the plan including:

- The transfer of payroll, including the superannuation function to MyPay (operated by Laois County Council).
- Regional procurement of public lighting contract etc.
- Sharing of resources between Carlow Library, new County Museum and Tourist offices.
- Rationalisation of the revenue collection service.
- Preparation and implementation of an overarching workforce plan.
- The transition to a single local authority including Rationalisation of engineering area supervisory structures.

### **REGISTER OF ELECTORS**

The Register of Electors is produced annually and the Register of Electors for the period 2017/2018 issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. The total number of electors to vote on the Register is 41,110.

### **CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION**

The Constituency Commission Report was published in July and recommended that the part of the Carlow Constituency which is in Wicklow be transferred back to the Carlow-Kilkenny Constituency and on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 the President signed the Electoral Amendment (Dail Constituencies) Act, 2017 (No. 39 of 2017) into law. The entire county of Carlow and Kilkenny will now form a five-seater constituency of Carlow-Kilkenny. The new Register (with



East Carlow in the Carlow-Kilkenny constituency) will be used for any Referendum or Presidential election which may occur before the current Dail is dissolved.

### **OMBUDSMAN**

The Office of the Ombudsman was established to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with bodies such as Government Departments, Local Authorities, Health Service Executive etc. Carlow County Council received no complaints in 2017.

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

The Freedom of Information (FOI) Acts, 1997-2014 gives three legal rights to those seeking access to information held by public bodies covered by the Act:

- The right of access to official records created after 21<sup>st</sup> April 1998 which are held by Government Departments or other public bodies subject to the Act.
- The right to have personal details on official records corrected or updated when such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading and
- The right to be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect the requester.

A request for information under the Freedom of Information Act must be made, in writing, and should indicate that the information is being sought under the Freedom of Information Act. The number of requests received under the Freedom of Information Act in 2016 was as follows.

<b>Number of applications received</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Number of requests granted</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Number of requests refused</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Live cases at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Number of internal reviews</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Number of Appeals to Information Commissioner</b>	<b>1</b>

### **CONTROL OF DOGS**

Under the Control of Dogs Acts 1986 & 1992, all dogs except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardai, Defence Forces or the Custom & Excise Services. Section 2 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to keep a dog unless he/she holds a licence for the dog or a general licence covering any number of dogs at specified premises. Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council operate a joint Dog Warden Service with two Dog Wardens based at Paulstown. This joint service is currently being provided by the ISPCA until December 2016 with a possibility of a further extension.

**Licences issued: 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 = 1,256**  
**Income: €20,734**

## **DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 2010**

The Council has also developed protocols for risk assessments and inspection guidelines to act as a template for site assessments. The Council is now conducting at least two unannounced inspections on each registered Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) each year.

## **CIVIC FUNCTIONS**

Personnel in Corporate Services co-ordinates and hosts all civic functions which range from meeting visiting school groups, delegations, Ambassadors, Ministers through to recognition functions and full Civic Receptions . Civic Receptions are generally held in the Council Chamber or the theatre space in the former Town Hall.

During 2017 there were one civic reception held, one for Tullow Rugby Club. The awarding of a Civic Reception is a function carried out by the Council's Corporate Policy Group in committee. Civic Receptions are particularly well attended and are usually held on Friday evenings. A number of receptions were also hosted by the Municipal Districts of Carlow and Muinebheag



## **BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY**

The Council has been involved for several years now in an initiative with an organization called the 'Schools to Business Partnership', whereby the Council has a link with Carlow Vocational School. Under this initiative, the Council delivers a programme with transition year students who visit the Council and attend brief talks from different staff about their work for the Council ('a day in the life'). The student also has a site visit, to locations such as the Fire Station, Library etc. The final phase of the programme involves the Council's HR Department delivering CV and interview preparation advice, followed by a Council team attending at the school, conducting mock interviews and delivering feedback.

The annual assessments of the scheme have been very positive over the last number of years.

## **CORPORATE PROPERTY**

The Corporate Affairs Section is responsible for all Corporate Property and the maintenance and upkeep of same. It is also responsible for leases of property to and from other parties. Following the abolition of the Town Councils, the County Council is now also responsible for all former Carlow and Muinebheag Town Council properties and leases. There is a recent value for money study carried out by the Department of Housing, Community and Local Government on this subject which is currently under review, to ensure that corporate property management is in line with sector best practice.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVES MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

The Chief Executive prepares a report on the performance of each directorate/section during the month following the previous monthly report. This report is an agenda item at every monthly Council meeting and questions are taken from members on any aspect of the report. This report also serves as a mechanism through which members have oversight of the progress on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. A copy of the Chief Executive's monthly report is also forwarded to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government each month.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY (LGMA)**

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is a state agency of the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, established in 2012 to provide a range of services to the Local Government Sector. The Agency was created through the merger of the Local Government Computer Services Board, Local Government Management Services Board and An Comhairle Leabharlanna.

The LGMA is an agency of local authorities, primarily funded by local authorities and operates in the local government sector, reporting on performance as required to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The Agency aims to meet the needs of the local authorities and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPLG) in delivering on the public-sector reform agenda in the local government sector.

(particularly in terms of sectoral approaches to service delivery), researching emerging and identified issues, assisting local authorities in the implementation and measurement of change, and supporting, in general, enhanced performance by the local government sector.

The statutory remit of the Agency extends to include:

- Delivery of advisory services to local authorities to assist and co-ordinate the business of these local authorities.
- Delivery of such services as may be required by local authorities in the Industrial Relations (IR) and Human Resource Management (HR) domain.
- Delivery of such services as may be required by local authorities for co-ordinating and securing compatibility in, the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT).
- Provision of advice, assistance and services to Library Authorities in relation to the public library service.
- Provision of such other management services as may be required by Local Authorities.
- Provision of such services for meetings of Local Authorities Chief Executives and such support services required by the County and City Management Association (CCMA).
- Provision of such services as required as Registrar of Public Lending Remuneration.
- Provision of such advice, information and assistance required by the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

## CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2017

Date	Conference	Councillors Attending
13-15/01/2017	The Finance Act 2016 Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	A. Ahern
01/02/2017	Grants Information Seminar 2017 Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.	J. Deane
24/03/2017	NFLA Ireland Spring Seminar Newry, Mourne & Down Council Offices, Newry	J. Pender, K. Murnane, J. Deane, A. McDonald
05/04/2017	Cross border Tourism Conference 2017 Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth	J. Deane, A. McDonald, A. Gladney
26/04/2017	Sectarianism – Ghost of The Peace Process The Canada Rooms, Queens University, Belfast.	J. Pender
26-28/05/2017	National Planning Framework & The Councillor Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	J. Cassin
23-25/06/2017	What Does a Hard Brexit Mean for Ireland The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	D. Foley
20-22/10/2017	What Does a Hard Brexit Mean for Ireland The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.	F. Browne
3-5/11/2017	Rebuilding Ireland, Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth.	D. Foley
17/11/2017	The Big Picture Conference Druids Glen, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow.	K. Murnane, A. McDonald
30/11/2017	James White Lecture 2017 The Printworks Conference Centre, Dame St., Dublin	J. Pender
8-10/12/2017	Insolvency Services in Ireland Gold Coast Hotel, Ballinacourty, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.	T. Kinsella

# PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The overall objective of the planning department is to promote the development of the County in a manner which facilitates sustainable economic and social progress. The day-to-day operation of the planning department covers a number of separate areas namely development management, forward planning, planning enforcement, unfinished Estates and taking in charge of residential developments.

## **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

### **Planning Applications:**

Carlow County Council received a total of 373 planning applications during 2017. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2017 by Carlow County Council:

Number of valid applications received	277
Number of invalid applications received	96
Number of applications granted	261
Number of applications refused	11

### **Pre-planning consultations:**

During 2017 a total of 167 pre-planning consultations were held.

The procedure for dealing with pre-planning consultations is as follows:

1. The applicant submits a completed pre-planning application form along with relevant documentation
2. This application is referred to the relevant Planner who advises if there is any requirement for staff from other directorates to be involved in the pre-planning process
3. The Planner advises of a suitable date and time for the meeting and the applicant is written to with their appointment details. It is possible to hold a pre-planning consultation by telephone or e-mail if the applicant is unable to attend a formal meeting.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

The planning department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with. The planning department investigates all written complaints of unauthorised development where they appear to be well founded. Following an investigation of a bone fide complaint the commencement of the enforcement steps is initiated by the issue of a Warning Letter followed by the issue of an Enforcement Notice should the matter not be satisfactorily

resolved following the issue of a Warning Letter. In the event of non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice legal proceedings are initiated.

<b>2017</b>	<b>Carlow County Council</b>
<i>Complaints Received</i>	61
<i>Warning letters issued</i>	34
<i>Enforcement notices served</i>	12
<i>Legal proceedings initiated</i>	2

### **TAKING OF ESTATES IN CHARGE**

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requests to take estates in charge can be made by the Developer or the majority of the owners involved in the development. The Planning and Development Act 2010 allows the Local Authority to take part of an estate in charge.

The following housing developments were taken in charge during 2017:

<b>Name of Development</b>	<b>Address of Development</b>
Granite Court	Fenagh, Co. Carlow
The Granary	Grange, Co. Carlow
Rathfelim	Tullow Hill, Tullow, Co. Carlow
Loch Abhainn	Leighlin Rd., Carlow
Ballydarton Mews	Fenagh, Co. Carlow
The Meadows	Myshall, Co. Carlow
Academy Court	Montgomery St., Carlow
Rathsillan	Carlow Rd., Tullow, Co. Carlow

### **National Taking in Charge Initiative:**

Funding was made available in 2016 by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to carry out works to residential developments under the National Taking In Charge Initiative for Residential Estates.

Under the National Taking in Charge Initiative Carlow County Council carried out works to eight developments during 2017 as follows: Academy Court, Ballydarton Mews, Loch Abhainn, Moyacomb Meadows, Phelim Wood, Rathfelim, Rathsillan and The Meadows. Seven of these developments were taken in charge during 2017.

### **UNFINISHED ESTATES**

Following a review of the unfinished developments for the National Survey which took place in consultation with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government the number of unfinished housing developments in County Carlow identified in 2017 survey is 17.

## **DERELICT SITES AND DANGEROUS STRUCTURES**

In accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990 a total of 75 Derelict Sites Notices were issued during 2017. At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017 a total of 41 properties were listed on the Derelict Sites Register.

In accordance with the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 a total of 24 Notices were issued during 2017 requesting the owner of the property to carry out works to their properties.

## **FORWARD PLANNING**

### **National Planning Framework (NPF)**

The Government's National Planning Framework was published on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018, in tandem with the new ten-year National Development Plan, jointly named Project "Ireland 2040: Building Ireland's Future". The NPF sets a new course for planning and development in Ireland, to achieve a shared set of goals focused on National Strategic Outcomes. It now represents the overarching national planning policy document, of direct relevance to the planning functions of regional and local planning authorities.

Carlow County Council participated in the preparation of the National Planning Framework during 2017 and will continue to contribute to the preparation of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy which seeks to support the implementation of the NPF.

### **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy**

The Southern Regional Assembly has commenced the formal process for the formulation of a Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region as provided for under Section 21(1)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The objective of the RSES shall be to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term planning and economic framework which shall be consistent with the NPF and the economic policies or objectives of the Government.

In order to stimulate debate and encourage participation in the process an Issues Paper was prepared by the Southern Regional Assembly in 2017 which detailed the matters to be considered in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. Carlow County Council will make a submission to this process and will continue to engage and participate in the formulation of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region in 2018.

### **County Development Plan 2015-2021- Variations**

Two Variations to the Carlow County Development Plan were adopted during 2017 as follows:

- a) Variation no. 1(a) of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 which provides for the introduction of the vacant site levy and its implementation as part of the development planning process in the Local Area Plans/ Town and Village Plans in the County was adopted at the July 2017 Council meeting.



- b) Variation no. 1(b) of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 incorporating changes to Part V in the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2022 and the Housing Strategy was adopted at the July 2017 Council Meeting.

### **County Development Plan 2015-2021- Two Year Progress Report**

The Chief Executive's Two Year Progress Report on the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 under Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) was noted by the Elected Members at the Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2017.

### **Local Area Plans**

Two Local Area Plans were formally adopted by Carlow County Council in 2017 as follows:

- The Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was adopted on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- The Tullow Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was adopted on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017.

### **Carlow Environs Local Area Plan 2012 -2018 – Extend Life of the Local Area Plan**

At the Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the Members resolved to extend the life of the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 as contained in the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018), in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 – 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended). The life of the Local Area Plan was extended by a further 4 years (i.e. up to and including 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022).

### **Proposed Amendment No. 2 Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012 – 2018 incorporating the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended)**

The Planning Authority commenced the process to amend the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended) in November 2017. The Proposed Amendment No.2 facilitates consideration of an application for a single dwelling house within the lands zoned strategic reserve in exceptional circumstances only where an economic functionality / social requirement is clearly demonstrated by the applicant and where the development of the site would otherwise be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. In March 2018 the Elected Members will consider the Proposed Amendment, Chief Executive's Report, environmental reports and decide whether to make the Amendment of the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow and Graiguecullen Urban Area incorporating the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as extended) with all some or none of the material alterations.

### **VACANT SITE LEVY**

In accordance with the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 the Planning Department in 2017 continued to progress the establishment of a Vacant Site Register. To facilitate implementation of the levy the following was progressed:

- a. Variation no. 1(a) of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017, incorporates the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.
- b. The Muine Bheag/Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023 and the Tullow Local Area Plan 2017-2023 adopted in January and February 2017 respectively, both incorporate policies and objectives in relation to the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 and the development of vacant sites, including the identification of potential regeneration lands.

Throughout 2018 the assessment of potential vacant sites will progress comprising of site inspections, planning history and landownership searches, the drafting of site reports and template letters and notices, and referrals to internal departments for comments/observations. Vacant Site Levy Notices will be issued in 2018.

The Vacant Site Register is available to view online on the Council's website at [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie). Entries will be made on the Register in 2018 following the completion of site assessments and the issuing of notices pursuant to the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

# HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Carlow County Council has a clear commitment to provide a safe and healthy work environment for all its employees, service users and others who may be effected by Council activities. The county council also places a high value on the principles of openness and accountability, including monitoring the services it provides.
2. The objective of this annual health and safety report is to demonstrate Carlow County Council's commitment to:
  - the ongoing effective implementation of the County Council's health and safety policies, organisation and arrangements.
  - to endeavor to comply with all legal enactments relating to Safety, Health and Welfare in the workplace.
  - monitor and measure health and safety performance, with a view to highlighting areas where the County Council perform well and also areas for improvement.
  - Ensuring a safe and healthy environment for employees, service users and visitors to the County Council premises.
3. The County Council will aim to achieve all of the above by continuing to work in partnership with all our stakeholders, both internal and external.

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2017

There have been a number of major health and safety achievements and/or initiatives throughout the Local Authority since the previous annual report was prepared.

- Carlow County Fire and Rescue Service received an OHSAS 18001 re-certification audit in November by the NSAI and successfully retained their certification. They now have OHSAS 18001 certification five years.
- A new module of Core relating to Health and Safety auditing, inspection and incident reporting was rolled out nationally and is currently in test in the council. system commenced development.
- The Safety section continued to carry out 'spot' inspections of work vehicles belonging to the following sections in 2017:
  1. Library
  2. Environment
  3. Carlow Municipal District

4. Muine Bheag Municipal District
  5. Transportation
  6. Carlow Fire and Rescue Service
- Building Maintenance inspections were carried out throughout 2017 in the following buildings:
    1. Tullow Civic Office and Library
    2. McGrath Hall
    3. Carlow Town Hall
    4. Assembly rooms
    5. County Buildings
  - The following documents were updated/drafted in 2017:
    1. Policy and Procedures in Confined Spaces; Managing Serious Incidents where there is a Risk of criminal investigation; Biological agents; Working at heights and Display Screen equipment were agreed.
    2. Risk Assessments revised for Finance and Planning
  - Consultation with employees on health and safety issues is carried out at a number of levels:
    1. Safety Consultative Committee comprising of Departmental Safety Representatives and a member of the Safety Management Committee, and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met 2 times in 2017.
    2. Safety Management Committee comprising departmental management, chairperson of the Safety Consultative Committee and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met 3 times in 2017.
    3. As part of ongoing work in improving the Council's Safety Management System the SMS Implementation workgroup met 4 times and reviewed 3 policy documents for implementation. The group is made up of staff from all grades and directorates within the organisation. This ensures appropriate consultation takes place and that the policy documents approved are relevant to the work of the County Council and in line with legislative requirements.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING**

Carlow County Council provided an extensive programme of health and safety training courses during 2016. Statutory training is given priority and the following courses were provided by the Training Office in 2017:

- First Aid Refreshers for Library Staff in March 2017
- Managing Serious Incidents training provided by La Touche Training Summer 2017 to Senior Management.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

There were no scheduled inspections from the Health and Safety Authority in 2017.

## **ACCIDENT/INCIDENTS**

There were three reportable incidents to the HSA involving Staff recorded in 2017.

## **LEGISLATION CHANGES**

- In 2017 the HSA published a Summary of Key Duties under the Procurement, Design and Site Management Requirements of the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 2013, which replaces the older version.
- Testing regime for portable fire extinguishers & hose reels, automatic door releases, smoke control systems and ventilation & air conditioning ductwork was updated by BS 9999:2017 Code of practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings. In the case of ventilation & air conditioning ductwork arrangements should be made for all fire dampers to be tested by a competent person on completion of the installation and at least annually, instead of every two years, which was the previous requirement.
- The Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) Guidance on Safe Operating Procedures (HSA0468) was published.
- The Safety Representatives Resource Book has been revised and updated by the HSA. The previous version was published in April 2015.
- The Code of Practice for Working in Confined Spaces came into operation on 1 May 2017. It amends the Code of Practice issued by the HSA in 2010.
- The European Union (Pressure Equipment) Regulations 2017 (SI No. 233 of 2017) transpose the provisions of Directive 2014/68/EU and revoke and replace the European Communities (Pressure Equipment) Regulations (SI No. 400 of 1999).
- The European Union (Lifts and Safety Components for Lifts) Regulations 2017 (SI No. 232 of 2017) transpose the provisions of Directive 2014/33/EU and revoke and replace the European Communities (Lifts) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 246 of 1998) as amended.
- The European Communities (Electromagnetic Compatibility) Regulations 2017 (SI No. 69 of 2017) give further legal effect to Directive 2014/30/EU on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility (recast).
- The Road Traffic Act 2016 (Commencement) Order 2017 (SI No. 129 of 2017) brings into effect certain provisions of the Road Traffic Act 2016 (No. 21 of 2016) relating to drug driving offences and preliminary drug testing of drivers.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Local Enterprise Office is charged with the provision of business support and economic development of County Carlow with a variety of stakeholders as defined under the Local Enterprise Development Plan, Action Plan for Jobs and other strategy documents. The office operates under a Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland and covers 4 main functions:

- Business Information & Advisory Services
- Enterprise Support Services
- Entrepreneurship Support Services
- Local Enterprise Development Services

The Local Enterprise Development Plan was approved by the SPC during 2017 for a 3 years period and funding has been provided by Enterprise Ireland to facilitate the delivery of the Enterprise Support Programme in line with the plan for 2018. Carlow County Council has made provisions in its budget to allow for the delivery of the Economic Development Programme and the executive on an ongoing basis pitch for competitive funding for the delivery of supports. The envisaged budget for Economic Development & Business Support operated by the LEO Offices will be in the Region of €3.1 million in 2018 with 21% being provided by Carlow County Council & 79% being provided from exchequer, EU sources and generated income.

The Economic Development programme attracted significant investment during 2017 in terms of Town & Village Projects, Rural Economic Development Zones, Food Tourism Funding, Diaspora Strategy Funding & Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme.

The programme staff compliment in line with the requirements of the Enterprise Ireland funding model are:

- Head of Enterprise
- Senior Enterprise Development Officer
- Business Advisor
- Administrator

An open competition is currently in progress in respect of the Senior Enterprise Development Officer (replacement post), European Project Officer & Economic Development Officer to work on a cross functional basis on a variety of economic development projects.

## **Summary 2017 Key Statistics**

- Investment Client Companies: 216
- Net Jobs Increase 2017: 95 Jobs
- Investments Approved: €449k

- 25 Project Approvals
- Approved average value €17,960
- 81 Training Courses & Networking Events
- 1589 Training Course & Networking Participants
- 1473 Students Engaged in Student Enterprise Programmes
- 309 One to One Business Advice Meetings
- 301 Specialised Mentoring Sessions
- 100% Town & Village Renewal Scheme Projects Delivered
- €884,000 investment achieved in Town & Village Renewal Scheme for 2018 Delivery
- Festival & Events Scheme Delivered
- Rural Economic Development Zones – Digital County Project Completed
- Support Provided for Christmas Lights & Programme
- Diaspora & Twinning Strategy Completed
- Delivery of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Scheme
- Delivery of LEO Investment & Innovation Fund
- Two EU Funding Applications Completed for Evaluation in 2018
- Focused Promotion & Development
- Delivery of Agri-Food Tourism Project
- Support to Carlow Tourism
- Support to Carlow Community Enterprise Centres Ltd
- Economic Development Programme Developed.

### **Business Information & Advisory Services**

- During the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 the Executive of the Local Enterprise Office facilitated 309 One to One Office & Site Meetings. These meetings give advice to start up and developing enterprises on a variety of issues including business planning, finance, state supports, marketing and procurement. This service also includes active engagement and signposting to a variety of National Protocol Partners where clients can access other Financial & Non-Financial supports from the State.

### **Entrepreneurship Support Services**

- **The Student Enterprise Programme** is designed to engage 4<sup>th</sup> year students in the development of Micro-Enterprise as part of a project based competitive aimed to encourage awareness of enterprise as a career choice. At present 10 out of 11 Schools participate in this programme.
- The LEO facilitated the **South East Regional National Women's** Enterprise Day Event which was hosted in Qtr. 4, 2017.
- The **Student Concept Competition** is designed to develop creativity among students and delivered in association with IT Carlow, Fairgreen Shopping Centre, AIB, Carlow Youth Services & VISUAL.

- **Enterprise Awards 2017:** During 2017, the Local Enterprise Office facilitated the Local Enterprise Awards 2017 which engaged 10 companies in Business Plan Development and evaluation. An awards lunch was hosted and attended by 50 people, Paul & Olivia McNally went forward to the National Finals in May 2017.
- **Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur is a National Programme designed to engage young people from 18-35** to develop their business ideas and enterprises to the next level. This includes an investment fund of €50,000 for each Local Authority Area. During Qtr. 4, 2017, the LEO Office rolled out this programme which was attended by 26 young entrepreneurs and 6 were selected for investment.
- **Enterprise Week 2017:** The Executive engaged in the delivery of the first Local Enterprise Week which contained 6 events focused on highlighting the different level of engagement by the LEO offices with clients.
- **Development of Clusters:** Clustering is seen as an effective methodology of the development of sector specific companies. During the year the Local Enterprise Office engaged in a variety of cluster activities in the area of Craft (FORM) and is currently in the process of developing a project in the Engineering space
- **Enterprise Promotion Activities:** The Local Enterprise Office engaged in a variety of enterprise promotion activities which included participation by Carlow companies in The Local Enterprise Village, National Ploughing Championships.

#### Enterprise Support Services

- The Local Enterprise Office provided **direct financial assistance** in the form of Innovation, Priming (Start Up), Business Expansion Grants. (See Summary Outputs)
- Delivery of a **Pre-Start Up Programme** with Carlow County Development Partnership under SICAP for people considering going on the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance.
- The Local Enterprise Office provided a variety of business support & **networking** activities during 2017. (See Summary Outputs)
- The Local Enterprise Office hosted "**The Business Picnic**" which was attended by 300 business people from across the South East in association with Netwatch and Arboretum.
- The Local Enterprise Office provided mentoring to start up and developing enterprises (See Summary Outputs)
- The Local Enterprise Office provided access to **Micro Finance**



- The Local Enterprise Office provided support for the **Development of Community Enterprise Centres & Incubation Centres** in County Carlow. Carlow County Council is currently engaged in a strategic review of Carlow Community Enterprise Centres T/A Enterprise House with a view to the development of a 3 year strategy.
- The Local Enterprise Office managed the **Bee Visible Signage Scheme** in Carlow Town & engaged in the development of a Lamp Post Banner Solution as part of the Town Centre Development Fund.
- The Local Enterprise Office actively engaged with Enterprise Ireland in respect of the development of LEO clients and **HPSU projects**.
- The Local Enterprise Office actively engaged with IT Carlow in respect of **product and service development projects**.
- The Local Enterprise Office are actively engaged in the **South East Skills Forum**
- The Local Enterprise Office is engaged in the delivery of the **Local Enterprise Village @ NPA** via management of a National Committee. The Village will feature 31 companies including 2 Carlow Companies.

#### **Local Enterprise Development Services**

- **First Stop Shop Services:** The executive provided a variety of information, advisory and facilitation services for potential economic projects over the course of the year.
- **Carlow Town Re-generation:** The executive supported and engaged in the work in respect of Carlow Town Centre in the delivery of the €150,000 economic development project. At the end of 2017, €50,000 of the project was delivered with the balance to be delivered in 2018 following an internal review of the appropriate mechanisms to strategically drive the project forward.
- **FORM Exhibition:** The executive facilitated in association with the Library Services the development of an exhibition for FORM as part of Carlow & Kilkenny Arts Festivals 2017.
- **South East Action Plan for Jobs:** The executive supported the South East Action Plans for Jobs.
- **Community Festivals, Events & Tourism Venues Scheme:** The executive coordinated the above fund which awarded €100k to 13 projects across County Carlow.
- **IDA & FDI Marketing:** The executive actively worked in respect of IDA & FDI Marketing by:
  - Facilitation of Site Visits with IDA

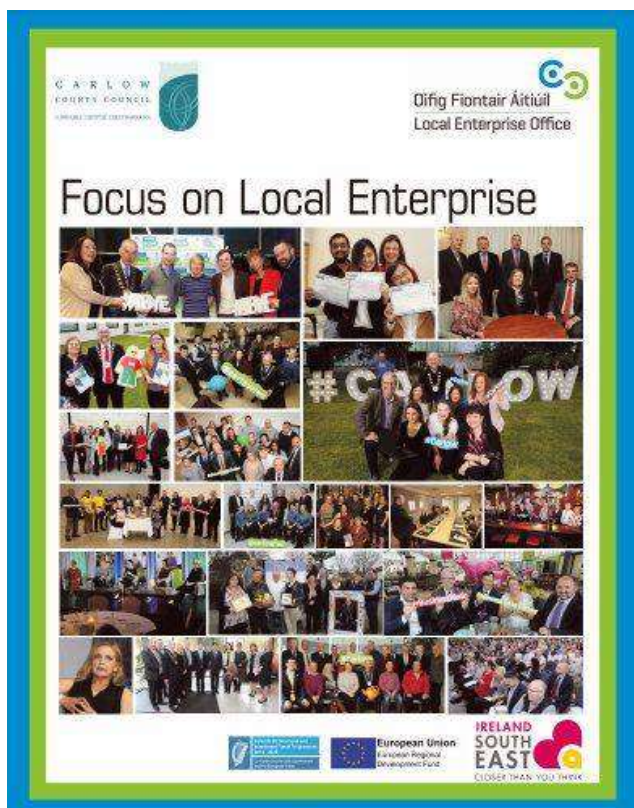
- Facilitation of Property Solutions Surveys
  - Facilitation of Property Selection Support for the Advanced Technology Building
  - Engagement with key property owners
- **Carlow Tourism:** The executive supported the work of Carlow Tourism including the provision of supports for Trade & Consumer Fairs.

**Representing Carlow County Council:** The LEO Staff currently represent Carlow County Council on the following project and programme groups:

- Carlow Local Community Development Committee
- Carlow County Development Partnership CLG
- Carlow Tourism CLG
- Carlow Community Enterprise Centres CLG
- Carlow Early Years Training Services CLG
- South East Skills Forum
- South East Action Plans for Jobs – Implementation Group
- South East Action Plan for Jobs – Action Monitoring Group
- Local Enterprise Office – National Network
- Local Enterprise Office – National Communications Group
- Local Enterprise Office – National Steering Group
- Local Enterprise Office – Exhibitions Committee

**Communications, Public Relations & Social Media:**

The executive as part of various projects engaged in nationally focused Media & PR activities. This included specific features in the Sunday Business Post.





Social Media Communications is delivered as part of the LEO National Communications Plan and is evaluated and measured. The LEO facilitated a variety of PR requests during the year including client launches, TV preparation for clients, interview preparation for clients, national media opportunities for clients, programme launches etc.

Metric	Carlow LEO	Carlow County Council	Total
<b>Facebook</b>			
Page Likes	3426		3426
Reach	1,299,215		1,299,215
Impressions	2,218,855		2,218,855
Engagement	34,765		34,765
<b>Twitter</b>			
Followers			
Impressions	1,236,600	808,700	2,045,300
Mentions	2295	2,275	4570
Profile Visits	35,975	22,689	58,664
Retweets	5636	2628	8264
Likes	6760	2695	9455
Link Clicks	2750	2031	4781
Replies	252	134	386

**WATER SERVICES AND  
ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

# WATER SERVICES

Carlow County Council continues to provide water and waste water services on behalf of Irish Water under a Service Level Agreement. This agreement, dating from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014 sets out in detail the working arrangements for the continued provision of quality water and waste water services to satisfy the needs of our customers in Carlow in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements and in an efficient manner.

## **Annual Service Plan (ASP)**

In 2017, Irish Water and Carlow County Council agreed to work under the terms of the SLA to provide efficient and quality water services to satisfy the needs of the customers in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. The ASP documents the agreed objectives and standards of performance and takes into account the IW Performance Assessment proposed by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) the requirements of the EPA and the objectives of the IW Business Plan. The ASP sets out Performance Target for the year to reflect the standards required in the delivery of the service by Carlow County Council in the context of the available funding, customer service, and regulatory requirements and the anticipated LA activities in the year. The Service Plan includes the Historic Performance for each performance measure where available together with the Performance Target.

The ASP includes:

- The budget and headcount agreed by IW and Carlow County Council.
- The status of the IW Capital Programme.
- The High Level Transformation Plan Roadmap for the year.
- The specific objectives and performance targets for the year.

In 2017 there are 62 specific objectives and performance targets measured, which include issues relating to drinking water quality, waste water discharge quality, customer services issues including responses to the local representatives queries, budget control, notifications of outages, leakage, reactive maintenance works such as leak repairs and the relieving of blockages on the sewer network.

The performance score for the Carlow ASP in 2017 exceeds 95%.

In 2017, a total of 52 staff from Carlow County Council worked in collaboration with Irish Water to deliver the Annual Service Plan operating to a budget of almost €7.0m in day to day operations in drinking water production, waste water treatment and network maintenance.





Water Services Staff, photograph taken at Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant

The Service Level Agreement includes for a Transformation Plan the objective of which is to transform the industry and assist in delivering a world class service within the funding, regulatory and revenue limits.

Other initiatives included in this transformation plan are: Standardisation of Operating Procedures, Planned Maintenance Programmes, Capital Delivery, Standardisation of New Connections, Customer Handbook, Waste Water Source Control and Licensing, National Laboratory Strategy, National Telemetry and Scada and the Water Industry Operating Framework (WIOF).

The stated purpose of the WIOF Programme is to plan, and implement a more effective and efficient water services delivery model for Ireland which meets the needs of a modern society and economy, while continuing as a State owned regulated public utility.

At present a representative number of Local Authority Staff and Irish Water Staff are working together on scoping how water services work can best be delivered, and how functions and teams could be organised to work together in the future.

## **WIOF (Water industry Operating Framework)**

IW have completed the design of their preferred Single Utility Model and negotiations are ongoing with CCMA, Unions and Department with regards the implementation of this and the transformation process involved.

Irish Water have clearly signalled their preference for transition to the single utility model before the termination of the SLA in 2025.

Carlow County Council has worked in collaboration with Irish Water in the delivery of Irish Water Capital Works. The projects completed in 2017 included:

- Upgrade of Wexford Road Pump Station
- Upgrade of Quinnagh Green Pump Station
- Find and Fix leakage detection in Bagenalstown and Tullow
- Lead replacement of service pipes was completed in Tullow



Wexford Road Pump Station

Numerous Minor Works upgrades to include Health and Safety Requirements, Process Optimisation and Improved Efficiency at Treatment Plants throughout the county to a value in excess of €600,000.

## **Health & Safety Tracker (HSQE)**

Improvement Works as part of the HSQE Tracker were completed at a number of locations which included the following: Pembroke Pump Station; Nurney Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP); Tinryland WWTP; Ballon Reservoir; Clonegal Reservoir; Philip Street Pump Station; Tullow Water Treatment Plant (WTP); St Mullins WWTP and Glynn WWTP.



New Gantry & Walkway at Nurney WWTP



Gantry & Lifting System at Tinryland WWTP

Carlow County Council has also collaborated with Irish Water to influence strategic investment in the County.

The Design Phase for a Major Capital Upgrade to Tullow Waste Water Treatment Plant and Network has commenced and both water main and waste water network improvements are to be undertaken in parallel.



Atkins Consultants were appointed by Irish Water to initiate the design phase for major capital upgrades to both Mortarstown and Bagenalstown Waste Water Treatment Plants in the County.

Coffee Northumberland (CNL) Ltd. were appointed as IW Water Network Programme Regional Contractor. CNL are to commence water main replacement at Royal Oak Rd Bagenalstown and at Tullow St Carlow as part of a multimillion euro investment in water main replacement in County Carlow.

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers have been appointed by Irish Water for the upgrade of Rathvilly WTP. This is part of an Irish Water Initiative titled, Project Evolve, whereby a number of larger water treatment plants in the southeast are being upgraded and project will represent a multi-million euro investment into water services production in County Carlow ensuring adequacy of supply to meet demand into the future.

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Irish Water and Carlow County Council officially opened the new Wastewater Treatment Plants in Rathvilly and Hacketstown, projects which represent an overall investment of €2.8 million in wastewater treatment in Co Carlow.

The new treatment plants in Rathvilly and Hacketstown will bring many benefits to the communities, including protection of the local waterways by ensuring that the wastewater is treated effectively before being returned to the environment. The development of these two treatment plants will also facilitate social and economic growth by providing the treatment capacity to for the current and future populations of the area.



James O'Toole, Irish Water; Cllr William Paton, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council  
Official Opening of Rathvilly & Hacketstown Waste Water Treatment Plants

James O'Toole, Irish Water; Cllr William Paton, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council;  
Kathleen Holohan, CEO, Carlow County Council; Deputy Pat Deering TD.  
Official Opening of Rathvilly & Hacketstown Waste Water Treatment Plants



## **Drinking Water Operations**

17,000m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water is produced each day in Carlow across 16 Water Treatment Plants. This serves approx. 44,000 people, industry, services, and agriculture. To date Carlow County Council have met all required targets set by Irish Water and the EPA and the HSE in respect of Drinking Water Compliance for Microbial, Chemical and Indicator parameters.

All customer contact is now coordinated through the IW call center and Carlow County Council continues to meet the targets set by IW in responding to these queries relating to issues such as no water, reporting leaks, low water pressure and water quality issues.

Carlow County Council continues to actively reduce leakage by the maintenance of the District Metering System, night time pressure reduction system and active management of the network. Two new staff have commenced work on the "Find and Fix" Programme in 2017 and night surveys are undertaken to minimise interruption to customers. Savings realized in 2017 amount to 1.1 million litres per day.

## **Waste Water Operations**

There are 24 Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) within Carlow County. Ranging in size from 39,000 Population Equivalent (P.E.) to 30 PE.

11 of the WWTP have a Discharge Licence and 13 of the WWTP have Certificates of Authorisation. The EPA dictate the requirements for sampling of the respective plants. Discharge Licence Plants are sampled monthly whereas Certificated Plants are Sampled Quarterly. There are 4 samples carried out at each WWTP namely upstream, downstream of discharge point, influent and effluent each sample has approximately 11 parameters checked.

Eight Water Treatment Plants have been audited by the EPA in 2017.

Process Optimisation for Sludge Pressing was carried out Bagenalstown, Tullow & Mortarstown by Veolia so as to maximise the throughput of the belt presses.

Changes have been made to the procurement process by Irish Water with the introduction of Frameworks for Chemicals, Sludge & Sampling. Local Authority Staff have implemented these changes seamlessly.

Irish Water have invested in treatment plant and pump station capital maintenance and have also invested in new vehicles and equipment for Carlow County Council staff allowing for increased efficiency in the delivery of waste water services to the public in County Carlow.

The National Cert of Authorisation Programme NCAP has been implemented within Carlow as requested by the EPA.

The following is a summary of (Maximo) Work Order Statistics for 2017:

<b>Work Order Type</b>	<b>No</b>
Investigate Work Orders	665
New Connections	81
Non Dom Queries	21



Pat Doyle, Operator - Waste Water Services New Jetting Van

## STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Transportation, Environmental and Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee discussed the following issues at meetings held during 2017 in respect of Environment & Water Services:

- Local Authority Water & Communities Office/Draft River Basin Management Plans for Ireland 2018-2021
- Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- Private Water Supplies
- Town Bus Service
- Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WERLAs)
- Carlow Town Centre Study
- Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2016-2018
- Flood Mitigation Measures
- Irish Water Councillor Clinics
- Invasive Species (Development of Advices Document for Web)
- Temporary Sign & Posters Policy
- Powerstown Community Fund Evaluation Committee
- GPP4 (Green Procurement Interreg)
- Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Network
- Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN) Update
- National Waste Enforcement Priorities
- Anti-Litter Initiative Grant

# ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

## ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION - 2017

Having a good road and rail network is integral to the economic prosperity of a county. It is essential to have good access to Dublin, the ports, and the large towns of the region. For local economic, social and recreational purposes it is also essential that the regional and local road asset base is maintained to the highest possible standards consistent with available funding.

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as financial resources permit. The administrative area of Carlow has a road network of 1,212 km comprising of:

Motorway	24 km
National Secondary	54 km
Regional	186 km
Local	948 km

Carlow County Council is committed to maintaining & improving the road network, including improving road safety. All of which is managed with a staff complement of 10 technical & 5 administrative staff utilizing a central office and 2 municipal district offices.

### **Motorway**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), formally the National Roads Authority manages and provides funding for all motorway schemes. Currently the TII have a contractor in place with responsibility for maintaining the 24km of the M9 motorway through Co Carlow.

### **National Secondary Roads**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for national roads. In 2017 an allocation of €1,519,455 was received, €1,344,580 was available for improvement works for bridges and carriageways on the county's national roads. The remaining balance of €174,875 was allocated to meet supervision costs of the council's technical staff, public lighting on the national road network and general maintenance costs of the national road network.

### **Pavement Overlay Works**

The Pavement Overlay scheme is a targeted programme of specific improvement projects based on a comprehensive survey of the national road network undertaken by Carlow County Council in conjunction with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Carlow County Council received an allocation of €480,000 enabling improvement works to be completed on the N80 at the Tullow Road, Carlow Town and the N81 Bunclody Road, Tullow.





*Night time works on the N80 project, Tullow Road, Carlow Town*

Forward planning for future pavement overlay works include:

- The Castlegrace section of the N81 will be issued for tender in Jan 2018 with the intention of works execution in 2018.
- Carlow Town Pavement Overlay Scheme. It is intended to resurface the Dr Cullen Road Roundabout to Deerpark roundabout. Following negotiations & discussions with the TII, this project is to be extended to incorporate both roundabouts & the majority of the O'Brian Road to tie into works previously undertaken.
- Design work has been initiated in respect of the resurfacing of the Kildavin Bypass, this project will address issues in relation to drainage remediation where required. In addition, where safety barriers have to be renewed to meet current standards and are required to be introduced where a need arises these works will also form part of the overall project. The works will be designed by the Kildare National Road Design Office.
- Consultant Engineers have been engaged to undertake the design and procurement of road improvement works at Carrigduff which will also include works to the Main Street of Bunclody. This project will go to construction in 2018.
- It is intended to resurface the Strawhall Roundabout and road section to the Bill Duggan Bridge, (including the bridge expansion joint). It is intended that this work will be undertaken in 2018.

### **HD17 Road Safety Inspections**

Carlow County Council in conjunction with consulting engineers engaged by TII undertook a comprehensive survey of the N80 and N81 through Carlow. The aim of the survey was to assess potential safety issues on these routes. The survey identified a series of interventions which will be undertaken by Carlow County Council during the course of 2018 to reduce the potential for traffic accidents occurring on the route.

### **HD28 Surfacing programme**

The HD28 scheme is a targeted programme of pavement repairs based on mechanical surveys undertaken on behalf of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). Carlow County Council received an allocation of €710,000 for the HD28 surfacing programme. This enabled retexturing and

resurfacing works. Projects completed include the Tullow Road Roundabout, The Hacketstown Road Roundabout, and a number of locations on the N80 & N81.



*Re-texturing in progress on the N80*

### **Public Lighting Project**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) initiated a scheme to improve public lighting on the National Road network. Carlow County Council applied to the scheme for the renewal of all public lighting and energy efficiency on the N80 around Carlow Town. Carlow County Council received an allocation of €100,000 for the design & procurement of the public lighting upgrade. The delivery and installation of the new LED lanterns will commence until Q1 2018. TII have confirmed that funding will remain in place to complete the scheme.

### **Additional Applications for Maintenance Funding**

During the course of the year, Carlow County Council undertake regular and comprehensive surveys of the N80 and N81 through Carlow. These surveys identify issues requiring urgent attention. Carlow County Council apply to the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) using an information technology surveying system (GeoApp) for funding to remedy the defects. (i.e. signage repairs, road marking repairs, damaged road & footpath surfaces and drainage issues, etc). Carlow County Council successfully submitted application for 9 locations receiving €178,000 additional funding for urgent remedial measures.

### **Winter Maintenance Services.**

Carlow County Council is constantly striving to improve its winter maintenance service. However, due to the length of road network in County Carlow, it is not feasible to treat all roads in the county during the winter season (October-April). Accordingly, a form of prioritisation is necessary and Carlow County Council developed a Winter Services Plan to identify routes on a priority basis with the aim, to keep these priority roads safe and as free as possible from wintry hazards. During the winter period 2016/2017, Carlow County Council



treated 54.5km of road network 47 times, with an additional 22 treatments on 180.5km of non-national roads, applying an overall quantity of 850 tons of salt.



*Council vehicles being loaded with salt for snow event in December*

### **Non-National Roads**

The Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport provides funding for Non-national roads. This programme targets much needed improvement works on regional and local roads in the county under the following:

### **Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance Projects.**

This programme targets improvements to the structural integrity & surfaces of regional and local roads in the county. Carlow County Council received an allocation of €2,666,579 enabling structural and resurfacing works to be undertaken at 44 locations throughout the county.



*Restoration Maintenance Operations (Surface Dressing)*

### **Discretionary Grant**

This programme includes maintenance works across the 1,134km of regional and local road networks throughout the county, including specific targeted improvements. These specific improvement projects include signage installations, road markings & repairs, footpath improvements and drainage improvements, etc). Carlow County Council received an allocation of €910,089 enabling general maintenance & specific improvement projects to be undertaken throughout the county.



*Discretionary Grant Drainage Improvement Project*

### **Low cost safety improvement schemes.**

Carlow County Council is committed to improving road safety on the roads of Carlow. In 2017 an allocation of €80,000 was received to carry out minor junction improvement works and improvement to signage in areas where there is an established accident history. Improvement works were carried out at the following locations:

Junction of R724 & R448,  
Junction of L1026, L1027 & L4016  
Section of R725 for 1.5km  
Section of R727

### **Bridge Rehabilitation Scheme.**

Carlow County Council undertake regular surveys of bridge conditions throughout the county. The results of these surveys facilitate a programme of maintenance works required to maintain



the structural integrity of the bridge network. This programme targets repairs to bridges on regional and local roads in the county. In 2017 Carlow County Council received an allocation of €160,000 enabling repairs to Bridges located at Spearpoint, Acaun & Grangeford.



*Excavation for structural assessment of Spearpoint Bridge, Ballymurphy*



*Completed Repairs to Spearpoint Bridge, Ballymurphy*

### **Speed Limit Scheme**

In 2017 Carlow County Council applied for funding to target specific signage improvements. An allocation of €3,400 was received for the installation of driver feedback signage to improve driver awareness. Locations where signage were installed include Newtown Village, Fenagh, Old Leighlin Village, Ballon & Carrigduff.

### **Local Improvement Scheme.**

In 2017 the Department of Rural & Community Development announced a scheme to undertake improvement to private rural roadways. Carlow County Council applied for and received an initial allocation of €250,000. Due to the success of the scheme a further allocation of €190,000 was received, totaling €440,000.

### **Performance Indicators**

The performance indicators which measure road condition by pavement surface condition rating (PSCI) for each of the road classes is a complex system which categorises the roads into different groupings depending on the maintenance intervention required.

The results from a national study identify roads in Carlow are better than the national average across each of the road classes.

### **SPC Policy Development for Transportation**

#### **Road safety strategy 2017 - 2020**

Carlow County Council undertook a road safety strategy in 2016 to cover the period from 2017 to 2020. The strategy was developed by Carlow County Council in concert with all the relevant stakeholders namely the RSA, TII, An Garda Síochána, HSE, and elected members of the Council.

The strategy is designed with an implementation element which will need to be executed by each of the agencies involved. It is intended that the committee involved will meet annually to audit progress on the implementation of the strategy.

The Road Transportation Special Policy Committee considered policy's in relation to:-

- Road Maintenance in particular the maintenance of Class III local roads.
- The committee developed a policy in relation to taking in charge of public lighting.
- The development of a Town Bus Service for Carlow Town was discussed. It is intended with assistance from the NTA that this service can be further developed & operational in 2018.
- Upgrading of existing public lighting to energy efficient lighting was discussed.

### **Specific Projects and Forward Planning**

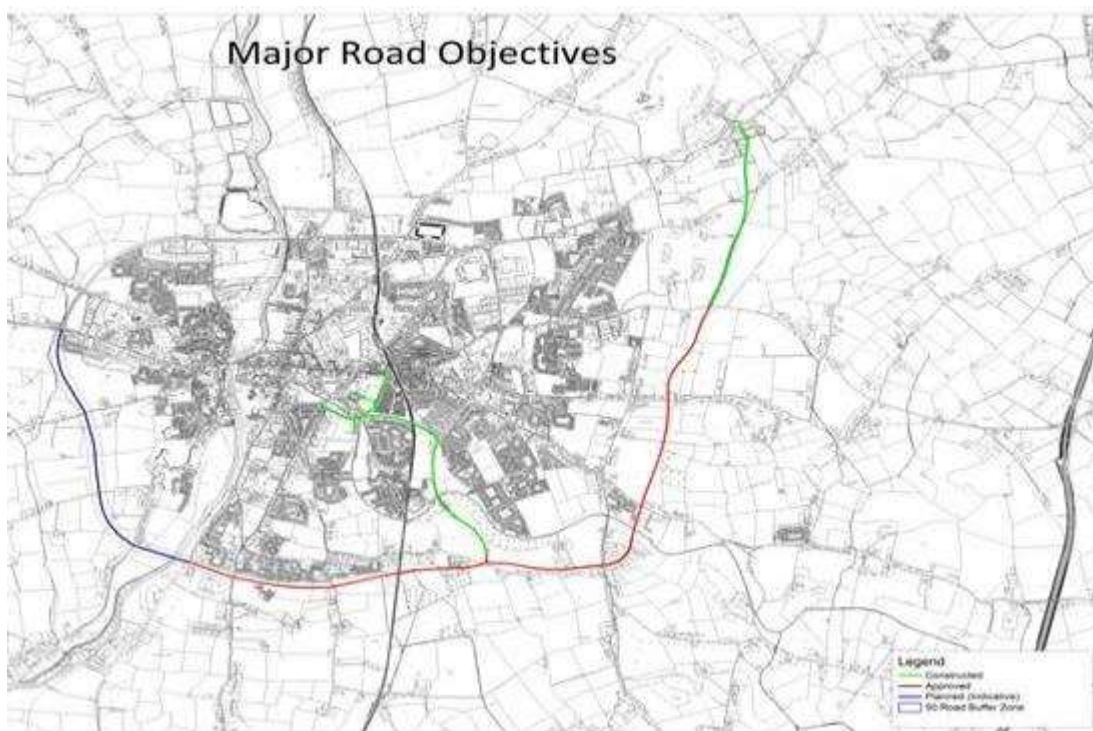
#### **Carlow Outer Relief Route**

The Southern Relief Road Scheme was advertised in accordance with the requirements of Local Government (Planning & Development) Acts 1963 -2000 and the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994 – 2001(As amended) (Part 8 Procedure), on the 7th February 2004. Plans and particulars of the proposed Scheme, including archaeological and environmental reports were on display and available for inspection and comment in the Council offices until 8th March 2004. The Scheme advertised comprised the construction of a road linking the N9 (now R448) Carlow to Kilkenny Road at Mortarstown with the R725 Carlow to Tullow Road at Chapelstown.

The preparation of the necessary plans by the Council's Consulting Engineers is at an advanced stage.

The scheme was considered and approved by Carlow County Council at its meeting held on 5th July 2004. Given the time period which has elapsed since 2004 and the introduction of new legislative provisions pertaining to appropriate assessment, environmental and ecological considerations in the intervening period, and given recent case history, it is considered that environmental reports comprising an Environmental Impact Statement Screening Report and determination regarding Appropriate Assessment are required. Such reports will assist in informing the requirement for either a new Part 8 or approval by An Bord Pleanála as maybe deemed appropriate.

Thereafter the CPO process will commence.



*Outline Plan of major road objectives for Carlow Town*

### **Carlow Town Bus Service**

The potential for an internal bus service was highlighted at the SPC meeting of December 2016. Since then this office has been in touch with the National Transport Authority (NTA) the body that commissions, licences, and manages internal bus services.

A number of towns of equivalent size to Carlow have services most notably Kilkenny and Sligo. The NTA see the provision of these services as a means to reduce car dependency and hence provide a more sustainable transport service.

The roads office has had a series of meetings with the NTA with a view to developing route options for a bus service for the town. As any bus service will incorporate a large portion of Graiguecullen, in the remit of Laois County Council we are also speaking with the engineering staff of Laois County Council to this end.

At a recent meeting with the NTA, proposed routes were discussed and further consideration is required to provide extensive and economical coverage of the town. Subject to funding and based on previous experience by the NTA this service may be in place late in 2018 or early 2019.

### **Carlow Noise Action Plan**

As outlined in correspondence received from Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Carlow County Council is currently undertaking a review of the 2013 Noise Mapping and Noise Action Plan. The draft review will be submitted to the EPA for comment prior to public display. It is intended that the draft review will be submitted to the EPA in Q2 of 2018.

### **N81 Tullow Footbridges Scheme & Associated Road Reconfiguration Works**

At the July 2016 meeting of Carlow County Council, members approved the commencement of the required Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council which would facilitate the design of the above scheme and works by the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). At the September 2017 meeting of Carlow County Council, members were informed of the commencement of the Part 8 public consultation process.

The Part 8 process subsequently commenced with plans and particulars of the proposed development being available for inspection with a closing date for receipt of submissions in December 2017. The proposed project has attracted much interested from the public of Tullow and a significant number of submissions were received. The TII National Roads Design Office have been considering all the submissions.

It is understood that members of the Carlow County Council wish to meet with representative from the NRDO to discuss the project further.

### **Speed Limit Bylaw Review**

Following a protracted period of consultation and approvals, at the November meeting the Council adopted the bylaw changes. Carlow County Council are proceeding to arrange with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland to relocate the signage as adopted on the national roads and by Direct labour to change locations of signage as adopted on the Non-national. When there is certainty about the date the signs will be relocated, an "Effective Date" will be issued and incorporated into the bylaws. It is expected to be in place in Q2 of 2018.



## **Retirement**

After 42 years of Public Service, almost 39 years of which was spent in the service of Carlow County Council, our colleague Liam Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer, Roads retired at the end of 2017. The Roads Department wish Liam a long and happy retirement.



*Presentation to Liam Fitzgerald on his retirement  
(Liam Fitzgerald, Pat Harrington, James Grogan, Ray Wickham & Noel Dillon)*

## **ENVIRONMENT**

The Environment Section is responsible for a range of statutory and non- statutory functions with County Carlow including: -

- Environmental Compliant Management
- Waste Management – Enforcement, Licencing & Powerstown
- Litter Prevention & Control
- Recycling Services
- Environmental Education & Awareness
- Water Pollution/Water Framework Directive
- Farm Inspection and Nutrient Management
- Environmental Planning
- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Burial Grounds
- Rural Water/Small Private Supplies
- Veterinary
- Miscellaneous Environmental Legislation/Energy

Each year as part of Carlow County Council's commitments and obligations under EU & State rules, an RMCEI Plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) is developed outlining Carlow County Council's inspection objectives. The RMCEI contains non-binding criteria for the planning, carrying out, following up and reporting on environmental inspections. Its objective is to strengthen compliance with EU environment law and to contribute to its more consistent implementation and enforcement in all Member States.

### ***National Waste Enforcement Priorities***

The National Waste Enforcement Priorities 2017 were as follows

- Illegal dumping including construction and demolition waste;
- Household waste management compliance including brown bin;
- End- of-life vehicles;
- Tyres - producer responsibility initiative (PRI)
- Packaging Regulations



### **Anti-Dumping Initiative**

The Environment Department has been successful in their application to WERLA under the National Anti-Dumping Initiative Scheme 2017.

A total of €22494.80 was secured in round one, with a further €19,331.50 secured in round 2.

Funding was granted under the following projects:

St. Killians Crescent Clean-up initiative:	€12,919.90
Old Leighlin Clean-up and Anti-Dumping initiative	€9,574.90
Bestfield / Lennon's Saw Mills Anti-Dumping Initiative	€7,226.50
Askea Bottle Bank CCTV	€6,948.00
Clean Rivers of Carlow initiative	€5,157.00

Projects include a mixture of area clean-up projects combined with temporary covert CCTV.



The initiative at St. Killians crescent commenced in September in Partnership with Irish Rail, Eir and local residents. Over 250 tonnes of waste was removed from the site.

### **Local Authority Environmental Enforcement 2014 – 2016 Performance Report**

The EPA has assessed the environmental performance of local authorities using 26 environmental indicators based on three years of inspection and enforcement data from 2014 to 2016.

Annually environmental inspection and enforcement activities undertaken by Carlow County Council are as follows: -

- 1,700 environmental inspections per year
- Over 200 enforcement actions
- handling of 1,100 environmental complaints per year, such as litter, illegal dumping, water pollution, air and noise complaints

Overall Carlow's result for 2014 – 2016 was rated as 'Above Target'. The focus for 2018 will be to address all areas that require improvement and systems are being reviewed/developed in this regard.

### ***Bring Banks/Civic Amenity Site***

Carlow County Council provide 25 free recycling facilities throughout the Town and County. These Civic sites take a wide range of clean dry recyclable materials including Glass, Cans and Tins. These sites are for domestic users only. The facilities are emptied by a regional contract with Kilkenny, Waterford, Tipperary and Wexford. The contract will be reviewed in 2018 to ensure that there is adequate frequency of collections. It is an offence to leave materials in any other place other than in the recycling units. If the units are full, another facility should be used or recyclables kept until the banks have been emptied.

856 tonnes of recycled materials were deposited at the 26 free civic amenity sites across the County in 2017.

- 826 tonnes of Glass
- 5 tonnes of Steel (food cans)
- 25 tonnes of Aluminium (Drink cans)

The Civic Amenity Site at Powerstown continues to offer a wide range of recycling options for items that can be placed in the domestic recycling bin or for additional items including: -

- Plastic (Uncontaminated – Bottles/ Fruit Trays)
- Plastic Wrapping (Uncontaminated)
- Tetra Pac (Milk/ Juice Cartons - Uncontaminated)
- Waste Oil (Engine & Cooking)
- Oil filters
- Batteries (Car & Household)
- Fluorescent Light Tubes & Bulbs
- Mobile Phones
- Printer /Toner Cartridges
- Scrap metal (Bikes/ Iron baths/ Gas Heaters)
- Clothes (Reusable Only)
- Oil based paint and varnishes only
- Polystyrene
- Small Aerosol Cans
- Domestic Food Waste
- Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

Green Waste, Timber, Flat Glass, Mattresses and Gypsum are also accepted at a charge to cover collection costs.

*Staff of the Environment Section being Interview for 'Eco Eye' at Kernanstown Recycling Centre*



### ***Domestic Waste Collections***

A number of changes have been introduced Nationally to Domestic Bin Collection Services. As part of the National Waste Priorities, Carlow County Council are conducting door to door survey and inspections of waste collectors. Joint Inspections were conducted with the Southern Waste Management Office (SWMO) and The Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities Office (WERLA). These inspections will continue to ensure that collectors are compliant with their obligations. The main changes that have been introduced are: -

- Food Waste - With effect from July 2017 collectors are obliged to roll out a Brown Bin Service to population centres with more than 500 residents. Very small population areas and small islands, where it is not practical to collect food waste separately, will not be covered
- 'All-in flat rate' charging for household waste to be phased out as customers renew or enter new service contracts. Collectors are required to introduce incentivised pricing options to their customers. These options include elements or combinations of standing charges, and per-lift, per-kilogramme, weight-bands, and weight allowance charges.
- Tag-a-bin systems are discontinued in Carlow from September 2017.
- A new list covers the items that can be recycled in the domestic recycling bin was launched on National Media. Customers are encouraged to have a copy of the list available to ensure that recycling bins aren't contaminated by non-recyclables.



### ***Tyres and Waste Tyre Regulations***

The new Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres) Regulations 2017 introduced new regulatory structures for the tyre sector with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. These regulations build on the allocation of €1million to clean up stockpiles of waste tyres, which are illegally dumped around the countryside, potentially causing toxic fire threats and damage to human health.

The new regulations for the tyre sector will introduce a full compliance scheme to be operated by Repak ELT with a registration and reporting role for the Producer Register Limited (PRL). The scheme will be based on the Producer Responsibility model that has worked successfully in this country for other waste streams such as packaging, batteries and waste electrical, electronic goods (WEEE). As part of the scheme it will be a requirement that all parties handling waste tyres are registered. Inspections in this area commenced in mid-October. 32 letters were sent to potential scheme participants at the beginning of October 2017 and inspections have commenced.



The new structures will be funded by a visible Environmental Management Cost (vEMC) of €2.80 per car tyre and €1.50 per motorcycle tyres. Further vEMCs will be introduced in due course for truck, construction and agricultural tyres.

### ***Packaging Regulations***

One of the National Waste Priorities in 2017 was to ensure compliance of major producers with the packaging regulations. In September, 2 joint site visits with WERLA took place to complete an audit. The Environment Section acknowledge the positive engagement of companies in the process. These sites are compliant with the regulations and are members of Repak.

### ***Green Schools***

Green Schools in Carlow were awarded their next Green Flag at the Regional Awards ceremony in Hotel Kilkenny 23rd May 2017.

14 Flags awarded were as follows:

<b>School</b>	<b>Flag Awarded</b>
Ballymurphy NS, Ballymurphy, Borris, Co. Carlow.	Litter & Waste
St. Michaels NS. Newtown, Borris	Energy
St. Marys NS. Bagenalstown.	Energy
Carlow Vocational School. Carlow Town	Water
Carrigduff NS. Bunclody.	Water
Newtown Dunleckney NS. Bagenalstown	Water
St. Brigid's NS. Bagenalstown	Travel
BEAM Services Centre	Biodiversity
Grange NS. Grange	Biodiversity
Ballon NS. Ballon	G.C. Litter & Waste
Holy Family BNS. Carlow Town	G.C Litter & Waste
St. Leo's College, Carlow Town	G.C. Litter & Waste
St Patricks NS. Rathvilly	G.C. Litter & Waste
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal. Carlow Town	G.C. Energy

The Green-Schools "Water School of the Year Awards

The Green-Schools “Water School of the Year Awards” recognises the dedication and innovation shown by schools that have been working on the Water theme and celebrates those that are receiving the internationally recognised Green Flag for Water this year. This year local school, Newtown Dunleckney NS was named as a Water School of the Year for the Eastern Midlands region.

St. Leos’ transition year student Emily Miller was named as one of the winners of the Green-Schools ‘Global Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation’ Poster Competition.



### ***National Tidy Towns 2017***

Congratulation to all participants in the Tidy Towns and to see Carlow continue as one of the top performers in the Country. Clonegal and Leighlinbridge maintained their gold medal status while Carlow Town received a silver medal and Clonmore a Bronze Medal. Borris won the Endeavour Award with a 9-point increase (highest % increase) on last year. There were 21 entrants in the competitions with many increasing their points reflecting the dedication and hard work of the Tidy Towns Committees and their volunteers. Individual Reports are available on [www.tidytowns.ie/reports.php](http://www.tidytowns.ie/reports.php).

### ***Carlow Town Centre Project (#cleancarlow)***

A clean up event of Carlow Town Centre took place Sat 16<sup>th</sup> September 1-7pm. The event was a great success with over 100 volunteers participated in the day. A mixture of Community Groups, Business, Agencies and families including: - All Carlow Town Schools, Carlow Tidy Towns, IT Carlow, All Sporting Organisations, Carlow County Development Partnership, Carlow Mental Health Association, Scouting Groups, Local Business, Tullow Road Development Association, Carlow Men’s shed, Carlow Graiguecullen Sub Aqua Club, Pop up shop in Potato Market courtesy of Niall Mcloughlin, Carlow County Council, (Environment Dept. & Local Enterprise Office), Carlow Chamber of Commerce (Love Carlow) and Carlow Volunteer Centre.





### *Materials Collected*

- 40 Bags of Waste (75% of this waste was recyclable for free)
- Cigarette Butts were the biggest offenders in the Town Centre, followed closely by disposable cups and plastic bottles
- Carlow Graigucullen Sub Carlow Graiguecullen sub aqua team got into the river Burrin and collected over 70 trollies and bikes!!!



- Oddities collected included Tables & Chairs, a 3 foot oxygen tanks and a lucky tenner.
- The issue of abuse of public bins by those in our society who use them to dispose of their own domestic waste was highlighted as was the issue of dog fouling.

The support of KCLR (Eimear Ni Bhrennan) and Carlow Nationalist for helping in the promotion of the event added to the success of the day.

### ***Litter Fines Issued 2017***

In 2017 a total of 160 litter fines were issued and there were 27 court appearances. The continued use of illegal waste collectors is identified as one of the main contributors in illegal dumping throughout the county. Carlow County Council will continue to be proactive in these investigations and will conduct door to door surveys to ensure that households and businesses are using authorised collectors.

### ***Environmental Inspections***

Carlow County Council under its annual inspection plan (RMCEI) conducted the following planned inspections in 2017: -

<b>Inspection Type</b>	<b>Total to date</b>
Planning Reports Agriculture	54
Other Planning inspections	64
Biosolids -NMP Review & Land inspection	46
Inspections under WFD National Monitoring Prog. & related WFD assessments	335
GAP Farm inspection	14
Source Protection Farmland Inspection	11
Domestic Waste inspections	99
National Inspection Plan for Septic Tanks	11
Discharge Licence inspections	16
Waste Tyres	7
Waste Permit/COR inspections	25
Quarry inspections	15
Bring Banks	75
Petroleum Vapour (garages)	24
Solvents (dry cleaners)	6
Commercial Food Waste Inspections	11
ELVs	23
Deco Paints	10

*Joint Garda/Revenue/Carlow County Council check point at Athy Road, Carlow*





### ***Complaints***

Much of the activity in the Environment Section centers around complaints received from the public with nearly 700 complaints being logged. The primary compliant type is litter and each compliant is investigated by enforcement officers. Complaints regularly end up with the issuing of a fine, notice or prosecution. The breakdown is presented below: -

<b>Compliant Type</b>	<b>Number Received</b>
Litter Complaints	554
Waste Complaints	18
Water Pollution	32
Noise Pollution	17
Air Pollution	33

### ***Powerstown Landfill***

A tender was completed to engage consultants to design the final capping and restoration plan for Powerstown. Design work will be completed for agreement with the EPA in early 2018 with a view to commencing works in 2018. Some intermediate measures were carried out on site before the end of 2017 to provide temporary and permanent capping which will create more effective and efficient conditions for the flare operations.

Preparations are being made to close landfilling operations in 2018 and commencing collecting residual waste for transfer off site. This will involve a reorganisation of the entry facilities at the site. It is anticipated that landfilling operations will cease for commercial and domestic operations by the end of April 2018.

Letters of offer in respect Phase 4, Powerstown Community Fund were issued in November 2017. Works will commence in 2018.

### ***Septic Tank Inspections***

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 also requires Local Authorities to complete septic tank inspections and report inspection to the Environmental Protection Agency. 15 inspections were carried out which exceeds Carlow minimum requirement for 2017.

### ***Draft River Basin Management Plan***

The draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for Ireland was published on 28<sup>th</sup> February. The draft plan outlines measures aimed at protecting and improving the water environment and working towards achieving the Water Framework Directive's (WFD) objectives. The Directive's overarching objective is to achieve good water quality in our rivers, lakes, estuaries and other coastal waters. This is to be achieved through catchment-based river basin management planning.

Among the draft plan's main measures are: -

- planned investment by Irish Water of approximately €1.7 billion in wastewater projects, programmes and improved asset management over the period to 2021 - delivering new or upgraded wastewater treatment plants in 105 agglomerations or urban areas and bringing Ireland into compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive;
- 353 risk assessments of drinking water sources by Irish Water by 2021;
- 50,000 farmers participating and implementing actions to improve the rural environment, including actions to improve water quality under the Rural Development Programme's (RDP) €1.4 billion GLAS Scheme (2014-2020). To support these actions, the National Dairy Sustainability Forum will establish a dairy co-op-led pilot knowledge transfer programme on better nutrient management and farm point source pollution management. This will be implemented for dairy farmers supplying cooperatives;
- a 'Blue Dot Catchments Programme', a programme to create awareness and promote best practice to protect our highest quality waters;
- improved RBMP governance and delivery structures and development of a strengthened evidence base upon which to make decisions;
- establishment of a national water forum to increase stakeholder and public engagement on all water issues, including WFD implementation – this will involve expanding the remit of the existing Public Water Forum, a consumer forum for Irish Water customers; and
- Establishment of a comprehensive database for water abstractions greater than 25 cubic meters per day.

The plan is subject to a 6-month consultation period, the closing date for submissions is August 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. Carlow County Council has submitted a submission on the draft plan.

The Waters and Communities Office held a series of public meetings to discuss the natural waters at three locations in Carlow in May/June. Ann Phelan, Community Waters Officer for Carlow, presented information on the latest draft River Basin Management Plan, with details of how people can make submissions to the plan. Discussion was held on local interests such as; water quality, angling, heritage, biodiversity, amenity use or issues affecting the local water environment.

In addition, regional workshops took place in order to agree on sub-catchment inspection priorities, draft priorities have been agreed and will be presented to the South-east Regional Water and Environmental management Committee for approval. For County Carlow these sub-catchments are:

Slaney 12-16: Slaney from Baltinglass to Tullow  
 Dereen 12-9: Dereen upper reaches  
 Slaney 12-10: Dereen lower reaches and Slaney

Barrow 14-13: Burren

Barrow 14-10: Mountain

A request was made to include Old Leighlin Stream in the Priority Action Areas. This request is now being considered in the context of the publication of the final plan.

### ***Rural Water Programme***

There are 4 No Group Water Schemes in the Carlow County Council functional area. These are:

- Ballinabrannagh Group Water Scheme
- Glynn St Mullins Group Water Scheme
- Ballyellen Group Water Scheme
- Ballyloughan Group Water Scheme

Carlow County Council monitor these Group Water Schemes for water quality and administer the payment of Subsidies to the Group Water Schemes. Carlow County Council also supervise and manage the allocation of Capital Grants on a yearly basis. The following Capital Grants were allocated to the Group Water Schemes in 2017.

Group Water Scheme Name	Grant	Purpose
Ballinabrannagh Group Water Scheme	€62,428.55	Upgrade to Networks & Water Conservation
Glynn St Mullins Group Water Scheme	€11,963.75	Water Conservation & Management

Carlow County Council also monitors, sample and supervise 34 Small Private Supplies around the County, mostly Schools and B&Bs on private wells. The HSE monitor and sample a further 67 Small Private Supplies for Carlow County Council.

### **Flood Relief Works**

Over the past number of years the Office of Public Works in consultation with the Local Authorities have been undertaking a Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Scheme (CFRAMS). Detailed flood modelling has taken place throughout County Carlow concentrating particularly on areas that have experienced fluvial flooding. These maps have been published on the Office of Public Works website. The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Scheme will guide future investment in Flood Protection Schemes and contribute to development decisions in the future.



*New wall at Tinnahinch*

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) Maps have gone through the final consultation process. Amendments and changes have been made to the flood maps following feedback received from the Consultation Process. The revised maps are available to view on the Office of Public Works website: [www.southeastcfamstudy.ie](http://www.southeastcfamstudy.ie).

Following on from ongoing work by the OPW on the CFRAM Project, Draft Flood Risk Management Plans have now been published for each River Catchment. The Flood Plans that affect Carlow are those for the River Barrow and the River Slaney. The Plans are being published to finalize the public consultation process on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.

The Flood Risk Management Plans will meet Ireland's obligations under the 2007 EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EU). The Plans set out the measures that the OPW are proposing to recommend for the area covered by each plan and for each Area for Further Assessment within that Catchment.

Carlow County Council applied to the OPW for funding under the Minor Works Projects for the following locations:

- Fonhill
- Gotham Bridge
- Tinnahinch Quay
- Lock House, Tinnahinch

Areas identified where flooding has taken place or areas at risk of flooding will be considered for flood mitigation measures and the Office of Public Works in association with Carlow County Council will evaluate areas at risk.

The following Schemes were carried out in 2017:

Name	Purpose
Tinnahinch Quay	Prevent properties flooding on Tinnahinch Quay
Fonthill	Prevent property flooding at Fonthill
Tinnahinch Lock House	Prevent property flooding at Tinnahinch Lock House
Gotham Bridge	Prevent property flooding at Gotham Bridge on River Lerr

### Individual Well Grants

Carlow County Council processes well grants for suitably qualified applicants. Grants are up to a maximum of €2,031.58 per application or 75% of the costs incurred.

January – December 2017	Number
No. of applications received	66
Total Number of grants paid	49
Total Amount Paid out	€86,874.95

# **HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

# HOUSING

It is the policy of the Housing Section of Carlow County Council

- To enable every household to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and as far as possible at a tenure of their choice.
- To promote home ownership and a thriving more diverse and well managed rented sector, both public and private.
- To maintain the living and construction standards of all properties to a high standard
- To liaise with our tenants and social partners to ensure that present and future requirements are expedited.

Carlow County Council's activities as a Housing Authority can be summarised under the following headings:

- The provision, management and maintenance of rented Social Housing
- The review and update of social housing demand
- The provision of self-help grants to enable tenants carry out improvements to their homes
- The promotion of home ownership by encouraging the housing procurement alternatives (mortgage allowance, home loans etc.)
- The improvement of accommodation, for both the elderly and disabled persons, by way of grant assistance under Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants.
- The provision and management of accommodation for vulnerable groups

- The facilitation of approved voluntary and non-profit housing organisations in the provision of housing and communal facilities.
- Operation of Rental Accommodation Scheme/Leasing schemes and the Housing Assistance Payment for social housing provision.
- Operation of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

### **Housing & Social Policy Strategic Policy Committee**

The Housing, Recreation, Amenity and Community Strategic Policy Committee held meetings in February, May and December in 2017. The issues considered at these meetings included the following:-

- Age Friendly Strategy
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Grants
- Housing Assistance Payment
- Housing Allocations Scheme
- Capital Projects 2015-2017
- Homelessness
- Housing Needs Assessment

### **Housing Activity in 2017**

The Council meets housing need in the county by the direct provision of accommodation or assisting individuals to provide their own accommodation. Improvement Works in Lieu of Re-housing, Housing Aid for Older People, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability also contributed to meeting housing need by adapting the existing homes to meet the needs of the occupants.

The following projects were completed in 2017:-

- 24 units Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown
- 4 units at Pound Lane, Borris
- 4 units at Mount Leinster Park, Carlow.
- 5 Apartments at Maryborough Street, Carlow.
- 10 units at Rathvilly, Co. Carlow
- 1 unit at Drummin, Co. Carlow.
- 14 units were purchased finalised in 2017.





Units at Mount Leinster Park.

The following projects were in progress and due to be completed in 2018:-

- 5 units at The Laurels, Carlow.
- 4 units at Myshall, Co. Carlow
- 63 units at Tullow Road, Carlow Turnkey Development
- 5 units at Castleoaks, Carlow

Schemes at proposal stage with Department were as follows:-

- 4 units at Myshall, Co. Carlow
- 16 units at Ard Na Gréine, Tullow
- 21 units at Dublin Road, Tullow
- 8 units at Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.
- 4 units at Hackettstown, Co. Carlow.

- 2 units at Bilboa, Co. Carlow.

#### Approved Housing Bodies

The following schemes were in progress in 2017:-

- 10 units at Barrett Street, Bagenalstown Tinteán
- 26 units at Sleaty Street, Carlow – Cluid
- 5 units at Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown

#### **RAS and Leasing**

The Housing Section has a total of 434 properties under the Rental Accommodation Scheme at the end of 2017, this includes 5 properties which were added in 2017. In 2017, 24 new units were taken on under the Social Housing Leasing initiative resulting in a total of 62 properties in this scheme.

#### **Housing Assistance Payment**

Carlow County Council continued to offer support through the HAP Scheme with a total of 588 active properties in 2017. We continue to meet our weekly target on acquiring properties.

#### **Traveller Accommodation**

The Housing Section continues to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014 – 2018. Targets under the Programme for the accommodation of Travellers are being achieved.

#### **Housing Loans**

67 housing loan applications were received in 2017, of which 13 were approved.

#### **Grants**

Three hundred and twelve applications for disabled and elderly grants were approved during 2017. Carlow County Council received an allocation of €2.18m, of which €436,000 was provided from own resources, for the payment of Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and Grants for People with a Disability.

#### **Schemes**

- Repair to Let Scheme – 34 expressions of interest received of which 4 applications were progressed.
- Buy and Renew Scheme – 15 properties were examined with sales finalised on 4 properties.

### **Energy Efficiency Programme**

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government continued to fund the improvement of social housing stock in 2017 with grant aid of €280,000 for energy efficiency works to housing stock.



# **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

## **Introduction.**

This report sets out a summary of the activities and performance of Carlow County Council's Fire Authority during 2017.

Here under lies a summary of the main areas of activity undertaken by the staff within the fire authority during the 12 month period and statistics provided where required. The areas summarised are as follows:

- Capital Investments
- Health & Safety Management
- Operational Activity & Training
- Training Centre Activity & Development
- Budgets
- Rescue Team Activity
- Major Emergency Management
- Fire Prevention
- Building Control

## **Capital Investments.**

### **Training Centre**

Capital approval of €440,000 was granted for construction of a new 2 – storey building to facilitate changing, shower, toilet, drying facilities and medical treatment at ground floor with 2 number training rooms at first floor at Hacketstown Training Centre. The contract was awarded to John Grey construction in September 2016. Construction of this phase was completed in November and officially opened by Minister Phelan in December 2017. The 980M<sup>2</sup> building is the foundation building for developing the centre and making provision to facilitate nationally accredited fire service courses. In addition to this a further €40,000 was approved for the replacement of 3 number Compartment Fire Behaviour Training units which are critical for providing training to visiting brigades. The next phase to be undertaken in 2018 is to provide a drill yard, training tower, static water storage, fencing and all associated site works.

### **Stations**

The refurbishment and development of Muinebheag Fire Station remains one of the priority Capital Projects for the service. In 2016 capital approval was agreed in principle by the department of Housing in the region of €450,000 for an upgrade to the station. The extent or scope still remains a matter between Carlow County Council and the NDFEM but it is hoped that approval to proceed to tender stage will be forthcoming during 2018.

### **Vehicles & Equipment**

Capital approval was granted for a new water tanker chassis to replace a water tanker stationed at Carlow which was lost at a road traffic incident in 2014. The tender for the build on this vehicle was awarded to HPMP in Tullow and delivery is anticipated April 2018. Capital approval of €84,000 to facilitate the replacement vehicle was granted for this vehicle.

Capital approval was given for new battery operated crash rescue equipment and a further €25,000 for Breathing Apparatus training equipment was also granted.

### **Total Capital Grant Approval 2017**

<b>Approval Type</b>	<b>Sum Approved €</b>
Water Tanker Chasis	€ 84,000
Compartment Fire Behaviour Units	€ 40,000
Training Centre Development	€ 440,000
Electric Crash Rescue Tools	€ 25,000
BA Training Equipment	€ 25,000
Bagenalstown (Pending)	€ 450,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 1,064,000</b>

### **Health & Safety Management**

In December 2017 Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service's Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSAS 1800:1) received re-accreditation from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). This was a particularly challenging process due to staff shortages, but implementation of Incident control room, tablets and electronic formatting should help reduce the work load in the future.

The system monitored and managed through 19 policy and procedure documents each accompanied by a large number of supporting documents. The system enables the Fire service to have greater control and management of vital areas such as External Contractors, Training, Maintenance of Fleet & Equipment, Statutory Requirements and First Aid.

### **Operational Activities**

#### **Fire Brigade Mobilisations**

The level of operational activity throughout the County for 2017 compared with operational activity for 2016 is set out hereunder.

<b>Station</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>	
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Carlow Fire Brigade	210	221
Bagenalstown Fire Brigade	90	110
Tullow Fire Brigade	88	85
Hacketstown Fire Brigade	26	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>
		<b>440</b>

- 53% of all mobilisations were fire calls in County Carlow, with a further 8% of fire calls in other County's
- Road Traffic Collisions constituted 21% of Fire Service mobilisations
- False Alarms – Good Intent (both equipment failures, and good intent fire calls) constituted 12% of Fire Service mobilisations
- Other fire calls, including miscellaneous call, malicious calls, and non-fire rescues constituted 6% of Fire Calls, during 2017.
- Forest/Bog/Grass fires comprise 21% of all mobilisations
- Chimney Fires represents 17% of mobilisations
- Domestic dwelling fires constitute 16% of mobilisations
- Vehicle fires constituted 12% of mobilisations

All combined, these 5 fire call types constitute 79% of all Fire Call Mobilisations of Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service.

### **Social Media and Community Connectivity**

Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service Facebook page has over 1,000 followers and it is anticipated that this platform will provide the Fire Service with the means and tools necessary to provide information to the public, in relation to incidents, Major Emergencies, Fire Safety, Building Control, Road Safety, and other critical information. The use of this platform will also coincide with National initiatives being created or developed to further enhance and promote safety and public awareness of the dangers of fire in the home and community such as national Carbon Monoxide awareness, home fire safety, Christmas safety, Community involvement and national fire prevention week.

### **Training and Development.**

The training and development of personnel across a wide range of disciplines was undertaken during the year in accordance with the brigade training programme for 2017. The annual training programme is developed each year following consultation at all levels across the service. This consultation ensures that the training provided at a significant cost to the Fire Authority is relevant, and meets the needs of the firefighters, officers, administrative and other technical and support personnel.

In 2017, training was provided to firefighters in the following areas:

- Breathing Apparatus
- Compartment Fire Behaviour
- CAFS
- Pumping Operations
- Fire-Fighter Development
- First Responder Training
- Hydraulic Platform
- Driver Training



- Emergency Traffic Management
- Water Awareness and Flood First Responder Courses

### **On Station Training.**

Weekly on Station Training in all brigades is undertaken in accordance with the Annual On-Station Training Programmes issued to each Station Officer and under the supervision of a Senior Officer. Attendance at weekly on-station training remains very high in all four brigades which is encouraging and confirms that the firefighters are committed to ensuring that their knowledge and skills are continually refreshed.



## **Expenditure 2017**

The table below sets out the total expenditure for the Fire Authority for the year 2017

	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Balance</b>
BUILDING CONTROL INSPECTION COSTS	63000	-520.36
BUILDING CONTROL ENFORCEMENT - STAFF COSTS	43800	9289.61
EMERGENCY PLANNING	45300	25861.11
ACFO REGIONAL	83300	32733.52
FIRE SERVICE PROVIDED BY OTHER LOCAL AUTH	30000	-12321.7
FIRE SERVICE HEALTH AND SAFETY	23300	5088.81
EAST REGION CONTROL CENTRE	61000	0
FIRE STATION CARLOW	675000	-75321.29
FIRE STATION TULLOW	311800	-36014.29
FIRE STATION BAGENALSTOWN	419800	20733.35
FIRE STATION HACKETSTOWN	234800	-31816.21
SICK PAY - RETAINED FIRE SERVICE	0	-41966.11
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING CARLOW	51000	14150.44
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING TULLOW	35000	14345.98
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BAGENALSTOWN	35000	14483.2
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING HACKETSTOWN	25000	-2738.38
OPERATION COSTS TRAINING FACILITY HACKETSTOWN	58800	-66690.43
FIRE SAFETY CONTROL CERT COSTS	74300	4777.53
FIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION	20500	7049.97
INSPECTION & MONITORING OF COMMERCIAL FACILITIES	39300	23.62
	2,330,000	-118,851

## **Carlow Extrication Team**

Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service has been at the forefront of vehicle extrication and patient care for numerous years, from its involvement in the first National Extrication Challenge back in 1992 through to the establishment of Rescue Organisation Ireland in 2008.

In 2017, Carlow won the National Rescue Organisation of Ireland's (ROI) challenge in Ashbourne, Co. Meath last May, winning all categories from the best officer, technical team and medical teams to winning the categories in all extrication evolutions and the overall prize. The team qualified to represent Ireland at the WRO event in Romania last September where they finished respectably within the top 10.



### **Hacketstown Training Centre**

The training centre based at Hacketstown Fire Station continues to provide essential Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour training to fire service personnel in County Carlow and also to personnel across the Country. The centre increased its level of activity in 2017, when compared with the use and operation of the centre in 2016.

The Training Centre has hosted training courses from Fire Services in Counties Wexford, Laois, Meath, Offaly, Donegal, Waterford, Tipperary, the National Directorate (NDFEM) and from the Defence Forces.

The Fire authority sees the training centre as a huge opportunity to further enhance and strengthen our links with local industry and with the community. It is planned to undertake a feasibility study to explore the possibility to further developing the provision of training to the public and private sectors and thereby generate income for the service. The Fire & Rescue Service has attained considerable expertise and experience through the development of in-house Instructors to operate and deliver high class training at the centre

### **Major Emergency Management**

In 2017, the Local Authority's of the South East Region continued to chair both the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group. Mr. Dan McNerney, Director of Services, Carlow County Council was the Chair of the Regional Steering Group and Mr. Niall Curtin, Chief Fire Officer, Waterford County and City Fire Service chaired the Regional Working Group.

A Severe Weather event – “Storm Ophelia” occurred in October and the severe weather protocols were exercised at local, regional and national level.

The Regional MEM Training programme was delivered through the work of the Training and Exercise MEM Sub-Group.

## **Fire Prevention, Community Fire Safety & Building Control**

### **Fire Safety Schools Programme**

The fire safety schools programme again saw local firefighters deliver the National Fire Safety programme to 3rd class children in primary schools across the County with great success. Much very positive feedback has been received from teachers and parents alike.

### **National Smoke Alarm Programme**

The National Smoke Alarm programme again saw local firefighters deliver and install smoke alarms to many vulnerable members of our community across the county. Smoke alarms have been given out to many people over the last number of years and this programme will again be implemented in 2018.

### **Fire Safety Inspections**

The Fire Authority carried out 108 inspections under the Fire Services & Building Control Acts, including During Performance Inspections of places of public assembly.

In addition, the Fire Authority served 2 Fire Safety Notice and 1 Closure Notice in 2017.

In response to the tragic fire at Grenfell last April, a number of assessments of buildings over 18M high and incorporating cladding facades was also undertaken in 2017.

### **Intoxicating Liquor Licenses**

The Fire Authority received and processed 86 License Applications for various premises throughout the county under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 in 2017.

### **Dangerous Substances License Applications**

The Fire Authority received and processed 3 License Applications for various premises throughout the county under the Dangerous Substances Act 1972 & 1979, in 2017.

### **Explosives Registration Applications**

The Fire Authority received and processed 0 Explosives Registration Notifications for various premises throughout the county under the Explosives Act 1875, during 2017.

### **Planning**

The Planning Authority forwarded a total of 247 Planning Application files to the Fire Authority in 2017, which were processed, reports generated, and returned.

## **Building Control**

### **Fire Safety Certificates**

The Building Control Authority received a total of 39 Fire Safety Certificate Applications in 2017, which is consistent with previous years. A number of complex regularisation certificate applications submitted in previous years were brought to conclusion in 2017.

### **Disability Access Certificates**

The Building Control Authority received and processed a total of 39 Disability Access Certificate applications in 2017. Again this year, the number of Disability Access Certificates equate with the number of Fire Safety Certificates processed.

### **Commencement Notices**

The Building Control Authority received 148 Commencement Notices in 2017 & a total of 175 Inspections were carried out. Emphasis was placed on the importance of compliance with the Building Regulations and the Building Control Authority was and continues to encourage and advise private businesses and members of the public in relation to same.

**COMMUNITY, RECREATION, AMENITY &  
SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

## **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

Carlow County Council continued to build on the strong working relationship it enjoys with all communities throughout County Carlow during 2017. With the Council's assistance, communities are continuing to enhance and develop their areas socially, culturally, environmentally and in a sustainable manner.

### **Tidy Towns**

In 2017 County Carlow maintained its strong and proud reputation for being a County proud of its beautifully presented villages and towns that strive to be litter free and environmentally friendly.

In the 2017 National Tidy Towns Competition Clonagal once again received the highest marks in County Carlow just 4 points behind the overall winner Birdhill, Co. Tipperary. Clonagal and Leighlinbridge retained their gold medals status, Carlow town retained its silver medal and Clonmore retaining its bronze medal. Borris won the Endeavour Award with an increase of 9 points on last year's results (highest % increase on last year's marks).



The majority of the 21 entrants from County Carlow increased their points reflecting the dedication and hard work of the Tidy Towns Groups and their volunteers. The high standard is achieved and maintained by the positive co-operation and partnerships that exists between the community groups, Carlow County Council and other agencies. Tidy Towns Groups throughout the county are supported by personnel in the Community Section.

### **Carlow's Pride of Place**

Carlow's Pride of Place continues to be a great success, in 2017 over 100 groups from across the county entered, with over 187 entries in the different categories from Tidy Towns Groups, Residents Associations, Community & Voluntary Agencies, Schools and Businesses. This initiative encourages all individuals and communities in the county to enhance the presentation of their town, village or estate; keep their area litter free, preserve local heritage; continue to build community spirit and reflect the pride generated by enhancing the environment in which one lives, which has both a social and an economic spin off.

The coveted Overall Winner in the Town and Villages Category was awarded to Leighlinbridge.



The awards were presented by Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr. William Paton, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow Cllr. Jim Deane and Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Cllr. Willie Quinn.



New Oak Estate, Carlow won the 2017 Overall Award for Estates.



Carlow County Council presented over 60 prizes to the value of €20,750 to community groups throughout the county under this initiative.

### **IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2017**

New Oak Estate was nominated to represent County Carlow in the IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2017. A Recognition Night to celebrate and acknowledge the work and commitment shown by the residents of New Oak Estate in representing the County in the competition was held in September in the Council Chamber County Buildings.



### **Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme 2017**

A total of 152 grants were awarded to Community Groups/Residents Associations and schools throughout the county. Qualifying works included landscaping and development of open-spaces; amenity development on river/stream banks; provision of picnic facilities; painting;

provision of litterbins/anti-litter initiatives, improvements in burial grounds and general enhancement of areas. Grant funding of €48,000 was awarded in 2017.

### **Community Development Grant Scheme 2017**

A total of 27 grants were awarded to Community Groups throughout the County under this scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support community and voluntary groups in County Carlow who undertake projects that will:

- Carry out a service or activity that makes a contribution to the quality of life in their local community.
- Increase voluntary activity.
- Target the social excluded and increase their opportunities for participation.
- Support the valuable contribution of community and voluntary organisations in County Carlow.

Grant funding of €11,200 was awarded in 2017

### **Discretionary Funding**

A total of 122 grants were awarded by Elected Members to Residents Associations, Tidy Towns Groups, Community Voluntary Organisations, Schools and Sporting Organisations from their Discretionary Funds to the value of €58,203.51

### **Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund**

Through funding from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and match funding from Carlow County Council, a total of €19,550 was allocated to 24 community groups in County Carlow. These groups have undertaken projects that contribute to increasing environmental awareness at local level or which promote building greener, more sustainable communities.

### **Other Grants**

The Community Section prepared applications, administered, oversaw the assessment of the following grants schemes: Anti Graffiti & Anti-Litter €19,000, Community Capital Facilities €64,500 and RAPID €64,500

### **CLÁR**

CLÁR funding of €178,760 was received for five project as follows:

- Ballymurphy Community Centre €30,000
- St Michael's N.S Newtown Borris €50,000
- Drumpeha N.S €30,000
- Newtown Hall €18,760
- Drumpeha Community Centre €50,000

This Programme is a key enabler in supporting rural communities through targeted investment for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that experience disadvantage.

### **Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and provides funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure and necessary maintenance, enhancement and promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland. Funding of €32, 500 was received for the following projects

Carlow Autumn Walking Festival, Bahana Forest, Wicklow Way and Cycle route development.

### **The Plots Community Garden & Allotment Project**

This continues to be a very successful working partnership with the communities of St Mary's Park and Rathnash, St Catherine's Community Services Centre and Carlow County Council.

The Steering Committee were successful in their application to the Community Facilities and RAPID grant schemes for funding to extend the area of the allotments. Raised beds will be built in the new area which will ensure greater access for older people and people with disabilities.

### **Carlow Traveller Interagency Group**

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) monitors the implementation of the actions contained in the Interagency Traveller Strategy. Once again a very successful Traveller Pride Week was organised in June by Carlow Traveller Network with support from St Catherine's Community Services Centre. Forward Steps Tullow and Tullow School Completion Programme hosted a morning of celebrating Traveller Culture.



A successful funding submission was made to the Department of Justice and Equality to employ a part -time Community Development Worker to develop and support Carlow Traveller Forum.

### **Famine Walk**

Each year Afri (Action from Ireland) in conjunction with IT Carlow, Gael Scoil Cheatharlach and Carlow County Council organise a Famine Walk to the Workhouse Plots Graveyard. An oak tree is planted each year. Mohammed Rafique from the Carlow Rhingyan Community spoke about the parallels between the Irish famine and the experience of the Rhingyan community in Burma.



### **Healthy Ireland**

The Community Section coordinated and supported the development of the successful Healthy Ireland Strand 1 submission for €100,000 on behalf of the Carlow Local Community Development Committee. Seven projects were funded: Development of a Healthy Ireland Carlow Strategic Plan; Great Outdoors Family Programme with a focus on social inclusion; an Inclusive Sports programme for People with Additional Needs, a Social Inclusion Community Fitness Programme, Youth Inclusive Activity programme for early school leavers and those at risk of early school leaving; Deliver a tobacco free programme in conjunction with four other Local Community Development Committee's led by Tipperary Local Community Development Committee and an LGBTI community engagement project in Carlow. The projects must be completed by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018.

### **Special Projects**

The Community Section initiated a project with IT Carlow and Borris Tidy Towns to conduct a heritage assessment of Borris. Fifteen second year students from the BA in Culture and Heritage Studies at IT Carlow conducted the heritage assessment of Borris in the 2016/17 college year. The study examined the heritage value of both the built and natural landscape. The research catalogued the extant and lost components of the estate settlement and also offered advice as to the preservation and enhancement of these elements going forward. A number of posters were produced by the students which encapsulated their research. These are on display in Borris Town Hall.





### **New Oak Community Centre**

Community staff continue to provide support for New Oak Community Centre Steering Committee. Probation & Welfare, Tusla and Carlow County Development Partnership use the centre as well as local residents' associations.

### **Supports to Other Groups**

The Community Section supports the Carlow St Patrick's Day Committee, the Joint Policing Committee Raise & Give Sub Group, Royal Oak Development Group in current projects.

### **Duckett's Grove and Walled Gardens**

A project Manager/Gardener is employed on this project since July 2017 and the user experience has been enhanced by the maintenance and upkeep of the Georgian Kitchen Gardens and grounds. Funding was received under the Towns and Villages programme for this project which will further enhance the visitor experience to the gardens.

### **Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

The LCDC is a committee of the Council but independent in the performance of its functions. The LCDC consists of 19 members both statutory and non-statutory including four elected members. The following members resigned from the committee in 2017, Brian Hand (Civic Society), Mary Walsh (Social Economic and Community Interests), Cllrs William Quinn and Arthur McDonald, Andrea Dalton and Josephine Tierney (Social Inclusion).

These members were replaced by Jules Michael (Civic Society), Karl Duffy (Social Economic and Community Interests), Cllr John Murphy, Cllr Andrea Dalton, Eileen Doyle and Ann Shortall (Social Inclusion) respectively.

Mr Eamonn Moore Chairperson and Mr Thomas Kelly Vice Chairperson resigned in accordance with the terms of the LCDC guidelines and regulations having served three years in their respective positions, at meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Mr Moore was replaced by Ms Andrea Dalton and Mr Kelly by Mr Noel Barry. Ms Dalton resigned as Chairperson due

to her co-option to the membership of Carlow County Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Mr Noel Barry who was elected Vice Chairperson acted as Chairperson until Ms Dalton successor, Mr John Brophy was elected at LCDC meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

**Carlow LCDC Members are:**

<b>Statutory Interests</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Members Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	Michael Doran Charlie Murphy John Murphy Andrea Dalton Kathleen Holohan Kieran Comerford	Members of Carlow County Council  Chief Executive Head of Enterprise
<b>State Agencies</b>	Noel Barry  Cynthia Deane  Anna Marie Lanigan	Department of Social Protection Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board Health Service Executive
<b>Non Statutory Interests</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Members Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Local &amp; Community Development</b>	Thomas Kelly  Mary Doyle  Ann Shortall  Eileen Doyle  Eamonn Moore	Drumpeha Cemetery Committee (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep) Hacketstown Community Group (Community and Voluntary PPN Rep) Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre(Social Inclusion PPN Rep) Cairdeas Centre Tullow (Social Inclusion PPN Rep) An Táisce (Environmental College PPN Rep)
<b>Social Economic and Community Interests</b>	Karl Duffy  John Brophy John Nolan Jules Michael  Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG. Carlow Chamber (Business Employer) Agricultural / Farming Arts & Culture - Civic Society Carlow Tourism

Twelve LCDC/LAG Meetings were held in 2017 as follows:

- 12<sup>h</sup> January 2017
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017
- 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017
- 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017

The LCDC/LAG has programme oversight and programme management in respect of the following activities:

- Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER).
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2015 -2017.
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

#### **Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (LEADER)**

Carlow was allocated €6,416,803.43m under the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014-2020. The LCDC has approved Carlow County Development Partnership CLG as Lead Implementing Partner. The LCDC/LAG approved 40 LEADER Expression of Interests to the value of €2,088,890 in respect of Rural Tourism, Tourism Accommodation, Festivals, Enterprise, Rural Towns, Social Inclusion and Environmental projects. 9 projects to the value of €810,556.72 were also approved.

The LCDC/LAG approved /considered the following matters:

- LEADER Procedures Manual.
- LEADER Evaluation Scoring Record.
- Establishment of LEADER Monitoring Group.
- Policy on Tourism Accommodation.
- Policy on Enterprises over 10 employees.
- LEADER Project Evaluation Form.
- Protocol between Carlow County Council, Carlow Local Community Development Committee and Carlow County Development Partnership regarding arrangements in respect of commercial enterprise support at local level between the Local Enterprise Office operated under a Service Level Agreement with Enterprise Ireland and LAG operation of the LEADER programme delivered by Carlow County Development Partnership.
- Standing Orders Amendments.
- Service Level Agreement between Carlow LCDC (Local Action Group), Carlow County Council (Financial Partner) and Carlow County Development Partnership CLG (Implementing Partner) in respect of the LEADER Programme.



- LEADER Financial Report.
- Adjustment to Economic Development Tourism Budget.
- LEADER Appeal Application.

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme. SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish Society.

#### **SICAP Vision**

To improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty and unemployment, through community development approaches, targeting supports and interagency collaboration where the values of inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

#### **SICAP Aim**

To reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

#### **SICAP has three goals:**

1. To support and resource disadvantaged communities and marginalised target groups to engage with relevant local and national stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues.
2. To support individuals and marginalised target groups experiencing educational disadvantage so they can participate fully, engage with and progress through life-long learning opportunities through the use of community development approaches.
3. To engage with marginalised target groups/individuals and residents of disadvantaged communities who are unemployed but who do not fall within mainstream employment service provision, or who are referred to SICAP, to move them closer to the labour market and improve work readiness, and support them in accessing employment and self-employment and creating social enterprise opportunities.

#### **SICAP Target Groups**

The target groups are:

- Children and Families from disadvantaged areas;
- Lone parents;
- New Communities (including Refugees/Asylum Seekers);
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities;
- People with Disabilities;
- Roma;
- The Unemployed (including those not on the live register);
- Low Income Workers/Households;
- Travellers;
- Young unemployed people from disadvantaged areas;
- NEETs-Young People aged 15-24 years who are not in employment, education or training.

SICAP funding of €536,428 was allocated to County Carlow for the year 2017. The LCDC is the contracting authority and Carlow County

Development Partnership is the Programme Implementer. County Carlow is one Lot for the purposes of this programme. This present SICAP programme has run for three years 2015 - 2017.

The LCDC reviewed the 2016 SICAP Annual Plan in January 2017 and approved the SICAP Annual Plan for 2017. The 2017 SICAP Annual Plan Mid Term review for the period January–June 2017 was reviewed by the members in 2017 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2017 will be considered in January 2018. A sub group of the LCDC committee comprising of Andrea Dalton and Noel Barry including Michael Brennan, Chief Officer and Margaret Moore, Community Section of Carlow County Council met on a number of occasions during 2017 to examine and review the implementation of the programme with Karl Duffy Carlow County Development Partnership, Programme Implementer. All headline targets in the SICAP Programme will be achieved by the Programme Implementer for 2017.

A new SICAP Programme for the period 2018-2022 was tendered during 2017 and the successful Programme Implementer is Carlow County Development Partnership CLG. The budget for 2018 will be €547,157 and over the period of the programme funding of €2,682,140 will be spent on the programme.

### **Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. This is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the *Action Programme for Effective Local Government – Putting People First* “local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development.”

Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the making of a six year integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The preparation of the Plan was the responsibility of the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Carlow County Council. The Community elements of the Plan were developed by the Local Community Development Committee and economic elements by Carlow

County Council through the strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Planning.

The purpose of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for County Carlow, was to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community development dimensions of the local authority area over the six year period 2016-2021 and in a manner that both reflects and supports the implementation of the existing Carlow County Development Plan, Joint Spatial Plan for Carlow and the Draft Guidelines and proposed Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), to be prepared by the Regional Assembly and the new National Planning Framework which will replace the National Spatial Strategy. In

preparing the LECP, it was necessary also to consider the proposed Rural Development Strategy for County Carlow 2014 to 2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Government's Action Plan for Jobs.

The role of the LCDC is to implement, oversee, coordinate, monitor and review the plan in partnership with Carlow County Council. The National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) and the LECP Advisory Steering Group will also have a monitoring role in the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan will be implemented in three cycles of two year periods through an Implementation plan and the Implementation Plan for the period 2016-2018. During

2017 the following LEAD Agencies reported to the LCDC by delivering a verbal/written progress report on the actions detailed in the Implementation Plan:

- Carlow Volunteer Centre.
- Carlow Public Participation Network.
- Southern Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force.
- Carlow Children & Young People Services Committee.
- Carlow Local Sports Partnership Committee.
- Carlow County Council – Environment Section.
- Carlow County Council – Library Service.
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.
- County Carlow Joint Policing Committee.
- Carlow Integration Forum.

The LCDC also approved/considered the following matters:

- LCDC, 2016 Annual Report.
- Role/Function of the LCDC.
- Presentation by Waterways Ireland – Barrow Blue way.
- Ireland 2040 – Our Plan – National Planning Framework (NPF).
- Action Plan for Rural Development “Realising Our Rural Potential”
- Co – Ordination of Service Delivery at Local Level.
- Community Facilities Capital Scheme 2017-Considered 95 applications and recommended 76 applications for funding to the Municipal Districts of Carlow and Muinebheag to the value of €64,500 for approval.
- CLAR 2017 Programme – 5 applications received and approved to the value of €178,760.
- Establishment of Social Inclusion Forum and agreed Terms of Reference.
- Pathfinder Programme – Pilot Programme for the Development of Local Community Development Committees.
- National Healthy Cities and Counties of Ireland.
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme.
- Presentation by St Luke's Hospital Kilkenny on Age Friendly Initiatives.
- RAPID Programme – Considered 15 applications and recommended 10 applications to the Municipal Districts of Carlow and Muinebheag to the value of €64,500 for approval.

- Healthy Ireland €100,000 funding received and programme prepared.
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy RSES for Southern Region- Consultation process.

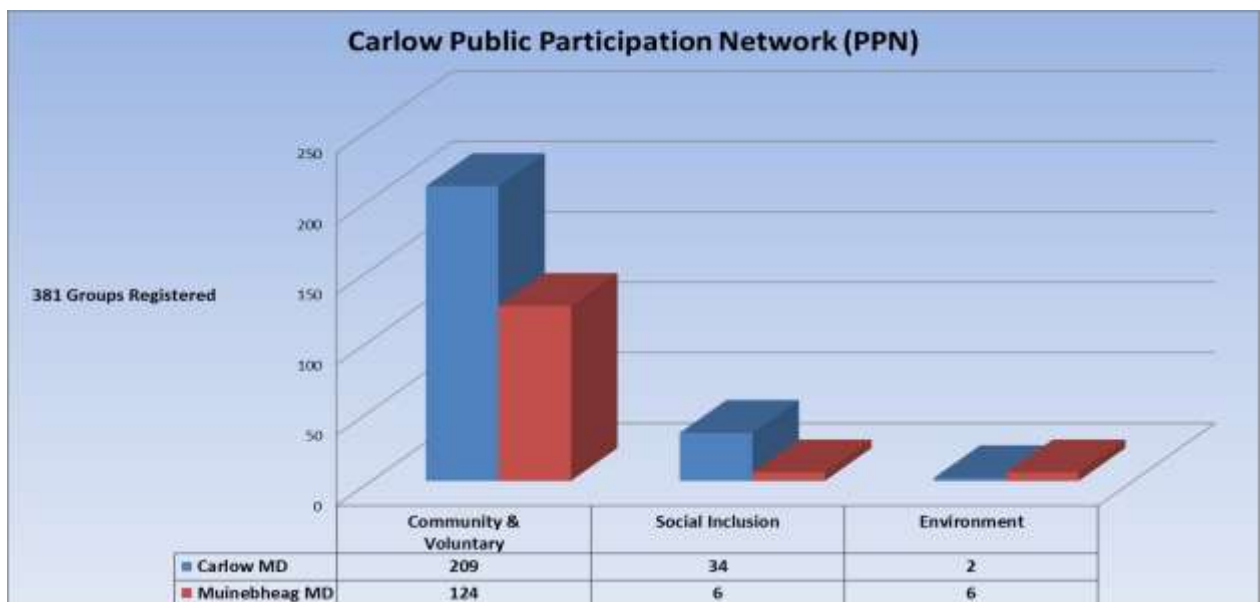
Training was organised at National Level by the Department of Community and Regional Development and Pobal for members of the LCDC in respect of:

- Operations of the LCDC
- SICAP
- LEADER

### **Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN)**

#### **Membership**

At the end of 2017 381 groups were registered with Carlow PPN.



#### **Training and Capacity Building**

- 2 Training Programmes for members took place in 2017.
- Training Programme for Secretariat members and Representatives took place. Focus for this training was 'how to influence policy'.
- Capacity building for Secretariat members and Co-ordinator took place throughout the year also.

## Plenary Meetings and Linkage Group Meeting

- 2 Plenary Meetings in 2017.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting focused on ‘participation’ and used the ‘Join In Festival’ as a good example of community engagement and participation. A workshop on participatory skills also took place which proved very effective and enjoyable.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting focused on ‘consultation’ and used ‘My Carlow’ and ‘The Tullow Road Take A Part’ project as good examples of community consultation in Carlow. The Wheel then presented on an upcoming Carlow PPN project ‘Consultation – Bridging the Gap’ where Carlow PPN will be consulting with their members and the community at large to find out how they would like to be consulted going forward.
- A meeting of all our Linkage Groups took place in May and focused on the workings of linkage groups. Second Linkage Group meeting cancelled due to amount of apologies.



***Caption: 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Meeting***



***Caption: 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Meeting***

***Linkage Group Meeting***

## Strategic Plan

- Work continued throughout the year on Carlow PPN’s Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021 which will be launched at our Plenary Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

### **Consultation Toolkit – ‘Consultation – Bridging the Gap’**

- Went out to tender for the above project. The Wheel, Ireland’s national association of community and voluntary organisations, won the tender and will facilitate this process and capture your ideas in a participative and creative way.

### **Carlow PPN Team**

- 2 15 hour part-time staff employed in October: -
  - Administrator
  - Outreach Worker
- Allocated office space in Carlow Town Hall

### **Other achievements**

1. Presented to LCDC as Lead Agency on 3 Local Economic and Community Plan Actions
2. Secured €32,400 under the Town & Village Scheme 2017 to create a Digital Strategy for the communities of County Carlow
3. Attended and presented at regional SJI meetings and attended national meetings
4. E-Bulletin distributed monthly
5. Completed a training survey from our members
6. Took part in county Roadshow where different events and locations were attended to raise the profile of the PPN
7. Animation on what the PPN is available on our Youtube page - @CarlowPPN and on our website – [www.carlowppn.ie](http://www.carlowppn.ie)
8. Salesforce – Client Relationship Management system up and running in October
9. Secretariat Sub-Groups now in place: -
  - Strategy and Support Sub-Group
  - Finance Sub-Group
  - Council Liaison Sub-Group

### **Carlow Children and Young Person’s Services Committee (CCYPSC)**

This Inter-agency Committee is responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery and ensures that professionals and agencies work together, 2017 was a busy year for this interagency committee

- Seed funding of €25,000 from DCYA accessed to support 4 actions through CCYPSC:
- Setting up website
- Training of facilitators by Carlow Regional Youth Services to deliver ‘Friends’ programmes to children in out-of-school settings
- Programmes to address the issue of domestic abuse in the county
- Publishing of leaflets to support children in care to participate more fully in their care planning
- A calendar of parenting courses and supports was published and distributed in each quarter of 2017

- The Healthy & Active subgroup has adapted a Referral Pathways poster for mental health services in the county
- The Safe & Protected subgroup has worked with Barnardos to put on training for Non-Violent Resistance, TLC Kidz (post-domestic abuse programme for children and their mothers) and an awareness raising workshop on domestic abuse and its prevalence in the county
- This subgroup has also set up an interagency Domestic Abuse Action Network to support the work against domestic abuse in the county
- Healthy Ireland funding was accessed to support the 'Healthy Streets' healthy nutrient and lifestyle pilot programme being delivered in the 2 Family Resource Centres and St. Catherine's and also a Sexual Health workshop to begin the conversation around a sexual health strategy for County Carlow
- Information sessions were provided on the launch of the new Children First legislation
- Parenting subgroup provided a series of Drop-in mornings on parent support in Hackettstown.



***Caption: A very well attended workshop on Domestic Violence delivered by Linda Finn for CCYPSC.***

### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairlí na nÓg/Youth Councils were established in response to the 10 year National Children Strategy launched in 2001 by the Department of Health and Children and was set up in 34 City and County Development Boards around the Country. Under the auspices of these City/County Development Boards, Comhairle na nÓg is the responsibility of the local authority in each area. In County Carlow, Comhairle na nÓg is managed by Carlow Regional Youth Services in conjunction with the Community Section of Carlow County Council. It is a forum for structured input into decision making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies that impact on young people's lives.



- In January the Community Section and the programme implementer Carlow Regional Youth Services reviewed 2016 action plan and prepared 2017 Plan and submitted both to the Department of Children and Youth Affairs.
- Received confirmation on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 that the review and 2017 plan submitted was successful in achieving the maximum grant of €20,000.
- On 26<sup>th</sup> October Carlow Comhairle na nÓg held their annual AGM with excellent participation from the Post-Primary Schools around the County. The AGM was opened with a specially recorded address from An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at the request of Comhairle na nÓg Advisory Committee member Cllr Brian O'Donoghue. The topic chosen for next year is in the area of mental health.



***Caption: Comhairle Members at their AGM and An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar delivering his specially recorded address to the AGM participants.***

### **Carlow Age Friendly County**

The Carlow Age Friendly Subgroup continued to support the delivery of actions of the County Age Friendly Strategy. The majority of the focus for 2017 of the Committee were as follows;

- The Age Friendly Interagency Committee has started forward planning for the development of the new 5 year strategy for the period 2017-2022. Debra O'Neill, Consultant was engaged to lead the development of this strategy which took place from December 2016 to February 2017. This was in the guise of individual surveys, interviews with the relevant stakeholders and two public meetings held in each Municipal district – Carlow in Carlow College on 6<sup>th</sup> February and Muinebheag in Leighlinbridge Parish Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> February.
- Presentations were made to the SPC on Community, Housing and Amenity in February and at the March meeting of Council in respect of the Age Friendly Strategy 2017-2022.
- The Carlow Age Friendly County Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 was launched on 13<sup>th</sup> September in Gairdin Beo by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Jim Daly.



***Caption: At the launch of the new Carlow Age Friendly County Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 is (L to R) Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr William Patton, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Jim Daly, Chairperson of the Carlow Age Friendly Committee Eileen Brophy, Chairperson of the Carlow Older Persons Forum Joe Butler, Pat Deering, T.D.***

### **Carlow Volunteer Centre**

Carlow Volunteer Centre had a very busy year, surpassing many of its main targets that were set and engaged in a range of activities that have effectively promoted and supported volunteering across the County of Carlow, activities such as the vital placement service, Volunteer Management Training, Garda Vetting, working with community and local development groups.

- Due to consistent significant cuts in budget over the last number of years, Carlow Volunteer Centre remained in accommodation provided by Carlow County Council.
- After the resignation of Regina Duane in late September, interviews were held on 13<sup>th</sup> October and a successful candidate was chosen – Helen Rothwell who commenced employment as the new Manager of Carlow Volunteer Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> October.
- The Carlow Volunteer Centre is a Lead Agency in the Carlow Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021
- Personnel in the Community Department continued to support the Volunteer Centre.

To give a flavour of their core work which is the Placement Service, their work with the Volunteer includes the following;

- Information on volunteering options
- Support and advice for those with extra support needs
- Placement & brokerage
- Recognition and appreciation events
- Text-message alerts
- Media profiles/Awareness raising
- Social media
- Schools Transition Year Volunteering
- 3rd Level Outreach Volunteering
- I.T Carlow Volunteering Award
- Corporate volunteering team days
- Presentations on specific volunteering themes – i.e. environmental, disability, unemployment

Their work with Voluntary Organisations includes the following;

- Advertising volunteer vacancies
- Advice and support
- Documentation templates – e.g. volunteer policies, role descriptions etc.
- Consultancy on specific issues
- Volunteer Management Training
- Garda Vetting access
- Seminars on relevant topics
- Recruitment events - Volunteer Expo, Carlow IT Volunteering Fair
- “Once-off/Event Volunteers” list
- Regular email updates
- Access to national volunteer recognition

# COMMUNITY, RECREATION & AMENITY

## Summary of 2017 Outputs



21 

Community Groups Participants  
NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS  
AWARDS

100 

Community Groups / Resident  
Associations Participants  
CARLOW'S PRIDE OF PLACE



152 Communities received a total of €48,000 in funding through the Environmental/Amenity Grants Scheme



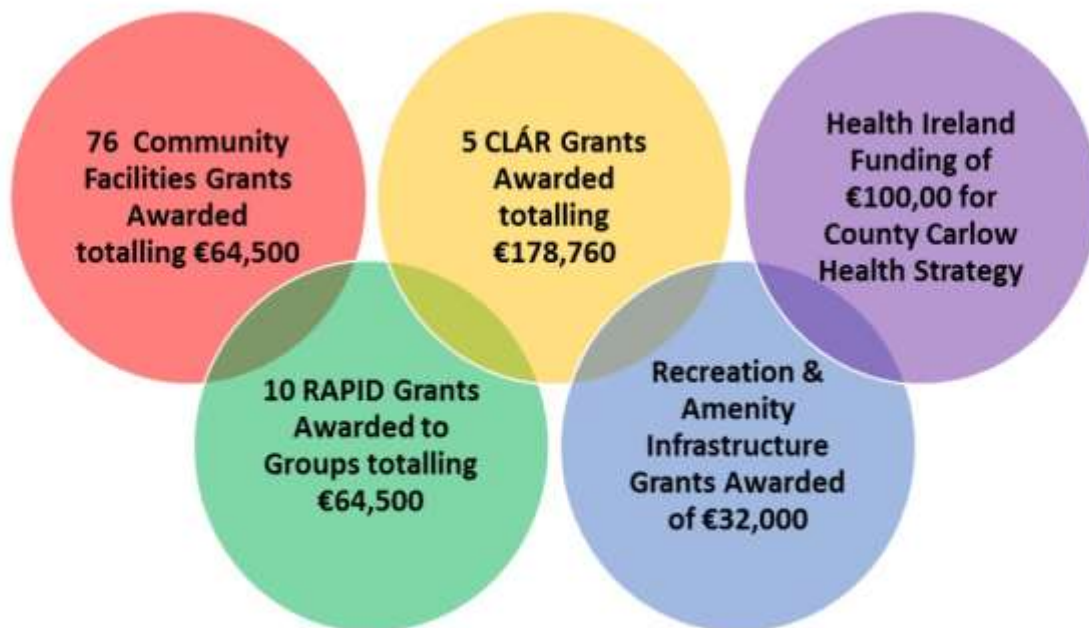
27 Communities received a total of €11,200 in funding through the Community Grants Scheme



122 Communities received a total of €58,203.51 in funding through Councillors Discretionary Funding



24 Communities received a total of €19,550 in funding through the Local Agenda 21 Grants Scheme



**11 LCDC & 12 LAG MEETINGS**

**LEADER FUNDING OF €6.4 MILLION**

40 LEADER EOI's APPROVED TOTTALLING €2,688,890

9 LEADER PROJECTS APPROVED TOTTALLING €810,556.72

SICAP FUNDING OF €536,428

LECP - 10 LEAD AGENCIES PRESENTED PROGRESS REPORTS TO THE LCDC

**381 GROUPS REGISTERED WITH CARLOW PPN**



## **COUNTY CARLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP**

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership (LSP) implements a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing participation rates in the local community. These actions are grouped within four outcome areas:

1. Working to increase participation levels, especially amongst specific target groups and collaborating with national governing bodies of sport, organisations, private facilities, schools, sports clubs and community groups to develop programmes to address barriers to participation;
2. Building sustainable local sporting infrastructure through support for NGBs, clubs, coaches and volunteers and supporting partnerships between local sports clubs, community based organisations and sector agencies;
3. Creating greater opportunities for access to training and education and developing the capacity of sports leaders in relation to sports and physical through quality training;
4. Providing a central information point about sport and physical activity to create awareness and access. Promoting the benefits of sport and the positive impact sport can have on obesity, social inclusion and mental health.

## **STAFFING & PERSONNEL**

The Local Sports Partnership is currently staffed by four full-time staff members:

- Coordinator: Martha Jane Duggan (permanent post funded by Sport Ireland).
- Administrator: Sandra Corrigan (permanent post funded by Sport Ireland).
- Community Sports Development Officer: Tomás Kinsella (1 year contract funded by Sport Ireland)
- Sports Inclusion Disability Officer: Teresa O'Meara (6 month contract funded by Sport Ireland, HSE & Carlow County Council)

Through the staff team the Local sports Partnership collaborates with local clubs, schools, development officers and physical activity tutors to deliver participation opportunities, upskill physical activity leaders and improve local sports infrastructure.

### Local Sports Partnership Management Committee Members 2017

The table below lists the current members who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge in physical activity, sports development, volunteer training and social inclusion.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY/GROUP/COMMUNITY</b>
Carmel Lynch (Chairperson)	Sporting Community Rep
Garry Coady	Sporting Community Rep
Olive Fanning	Health Service Executive
Tom Geoghegan	Sporting Community Rep
Kathryn Wall	Carlow Regional Youth Services
Donal McNally	Institute of Technology Carlow
Michael Brennan	Carlow County Council
Regina Duane	Carlow Volunteer Centre
Julie Doyle	Sporting Community Rep
John Hayden	Sporting Community Rep
Declan Doyle	Sporting Community Rep
Karl Duffy	County Carlow Development Partnership
Ronan Dempsey	Carlow GAA
Pat Bolger	Sporting Community Rep

### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS 2017

During 2017 County Carlow Local Sports Partnership secured total funding of €321,725 to increase participation in sport and physical activity. This included €29,500 to increase the number of opportunities for people with a disability to be physically active, €58,000 to increase participation levels of young people, families, and older adults, and €47,000 to develop an urban activity hub, collaborating with national governing bodies of sport, organisations, private facilities, schools, sports clubs and community groups to develop programmes to address barriers to participation and provide a wide range of opportunities for participation. Please see below for a brief summary of performance highlights for 2017:



- Funding Work - A total of €321,725 was secured by the LSP for sports development in County Carlow, with significant contributions from Sport Ireland, Healthy Ireland, Dormant Accounts, Carlow County Council & the HSE.
- Community Events - Over 4000 people took part in LSP community based programmes targeting youth, women, older adults, people with a disability, families and disadvantaged areas, e.g. Parkrun, Family Outdoor Adventure Activities, Operation Transformation, Play Day, Recreation Week, Generation Games etc. The Local Sports Partnership supported the establishment of 2 x parkruns in Carlow Town and Tullow
- Disability Programme –€25,500 was secured to deliver a programme of actions to address the needs of people with a disability in sport with participation opportunities provided for over 200 people;
- Capacity Building & Training – 267 local sports leaders, volunteers and coaches took part in Local Sports Partnership training courses with 65 local sports clubs represented;
- Schools - 16 primary local schools took part in Local Sports Partnership programmes to increase participation of young people in sport;
- Club Development Work – 84 local sports clubs were assisted with development issues, funding support and volunteer management;
- Water Sports Activity Hub - 389 people took waters sports and outdoor adventure activities through the establishment of the Carlow Town Park Outdoor Activity Hub;
- Fit Over 50 – 135 people took part in our 'Fit over 50' programme;
- Policy - The LSP participated in 5 local and regional committees, networks and forums to promote participation in sport and the message of the LSP;
- Information Provision – Over 3,800 individuals were supported with information support during 2017.

The performance highlights from 2017 demonstrate the wide range of sports and physical activity programmes delivered. In particular the Sports Inclusion Disability (SID) programme has been very successful with in excess of 300 participants. The SID programme addresses the imbalance of opportunities for people with physical, learning and sensory disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity. Actions are based on needs identified by people with a disability, their carers, parents and organizations.

The Multi-Sport Activity Club for young people aged 3years to 7years focusing on fundamental movement skills with IT Carlow has also been a significant development for the LSP, further expanding the relationship and maximizing local resources to address gaps in sports provision. Annual LSP events including: Bike Week, Recreation Week, Play Day, European Week of Sport, Generation Games & Operation Transformation continue to be popular with over 4,000 people attending these events during 2017. The pilot Carlow Town Park Outdoor Activity Hub was very successful in promoting watersports and outdoor activity with 389 participants in total over a four week period. This project was the basis of a funding submission to Sport Ireland and Dormant accounts with €47,000 secured for to develop this project further for 2018.

Central to the work of the Local Sports Partnership is the collaboration of local stakeholders and partners. It is important to acknowledge the key role that Carlow County Council has played in the development and ongoing support of the Local Sports Partnership. The HSE,

Carlow Regional Youth Services and IT Carlow, have also committed considerable resources and we would also like to acknowledge the huge contribution made by local schools, clubs and communities by opening up their facilities and providing coaches and sports leaders enabling the delivery of programmes.

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018**

Looking ahead to 2018 is vital that we continue to strengthen links with the national governing bodies of sport, schools, clubs and community groups to maximise opportunities for participation through our **Community Sports Development Officer Programme** and **Sports Inclusion Disability Programme**. The Local Sports Partnership has an important role in the delivery of the actions under the **National Physical Activity Plan** and the **Local Economic and Community Plan**. Carlow LSP is currently collaborating with key local stakeholders on the development and implementation of a **Healthy Ireland** strategic plan for the county. Carlow LSP will continue to increase participation in sport and physical activity by breaking down barriers and increasing both numbers of people **participating** and the extent of continued participation **throughout the life cycle**, and ensuring that local resources are used to best effects. Carlow LSP will support the development of a **physical activity for health culture** in County Carlow with a particular focus on walking, running, cycling and swimming, aligned with the National Physical Activity Plan and local development plans.



*BALLON NS PARTICIPANTS IN BIKE WEEK 2017*



# COUNTY CARLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

## SUMMARY OF 2017 OUTPUTS



**4,000+**



people took part in LSP community based programmes targeting youth, women, older adults, people with a disability, families and disadvantaged areas

**1,013**



people took part in the Generation Games NGB & club showcase event

**1,352**



people registered in 2 x new parkrun weekly events established by Carlow LSP in 2017

**1,200+**



people took part in Bike Week activities



**210**

LOCAL CLUBS WERE ASSISTED WITH PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT, POLICY, VOLUNTEER, PROGRAMME AND EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS

**321,725**

WAS INVESTED IN COUNTY CARLOW (secured by County Carlow Local Sports Partnership)



Carlow LSP planned and delivered **28** training and education courses, **267** local sports leaders, volunteers and coaches participated with **65** local clubs represented



**213** people completed 14 Safeguarding Courses



**389** participants took part in the Carlow Town Park Outdoor Activity Hub pilot programme to increase activity on the park and in the park in collaboration with NGBs and sports clubs



Funding directly from Sport Ireland accounted for **31%** of total Carlow LSP funding in 2017



Additional funding was also secured through the HSE, County Council, Dormant Accounts, Dept Transport Tourism and Sport and the Dept Community & Youth Affairs



**362** people participating in LSP adapted physical activity programmes for people with a disability



Funding secured to employ a Community Sports Development Officer and a Sports Inclusion Disability Officer to ensure the delivery of actions under the National Physical Activity Plan and the Local Economic & Community Plan. The Disability Officer and Community Sports Officer increase participation in sport and physical activity by addressing barriers and create opportunities through collaboration with NGBs, sports clubs, community and commercial groups developing a physical activity for health culture.

**CARLOW COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE**







#### Introduction:

Carlow County Council Library Service is a network of four libraries where people of all ages gather to freely pursue knowledge, information and enjoyment of life. Libraries in Carlow provide a popular and heavily used service for everyone, allowing unbiased and unparalleled access to knowledge, information, creativity and culture. Carlow County Library Service experienced high demand for services again in 2017.

Carlow County Library Service operates in the communities of Carlow Town, Borris, Tullow and Muinebheag. Opening hours for 2017 remained at 124 per week which include late nights and Saturday openings. The branch libraries are supported by the administrative functions of library headquarters from where the Local Studies and Genealogy service also operate. The Local Studies service is open to the public for 35 hours per week. A dedicated Genealogist is available by appointment two days a week, a partnership agreement with the Irish Family History Foundation.

Carlow Library Service works collaboratively with a range of local and national organisations which allows the library to promote itself as a valuable, accessible space actively engaging with the community. In 2017, the library service continued a collaborative approach to ensure the library is viewed as a social and versatile space for everyone.

#### The Library Collection:

The Library Collection currently stands at over 170,000 items with 8,464 new items added in 2017. Annual regular investment ensures the collection is current and relevant to user needs. 185,490 items were issued in 2017 reflecting how well the collection is used by the people of Carlow.

Investment in specialised collections is of great benefit to many people allowing the service to target certain segments of the population and encouraging increased

library usage. 2017 saw further investment in the Children's collection to support the *Right to*



*Read* programme and introduction of *Healthy Ireland* collections supported by Departmental funding. Purchase of Irish and locally published material continued throughout the year.

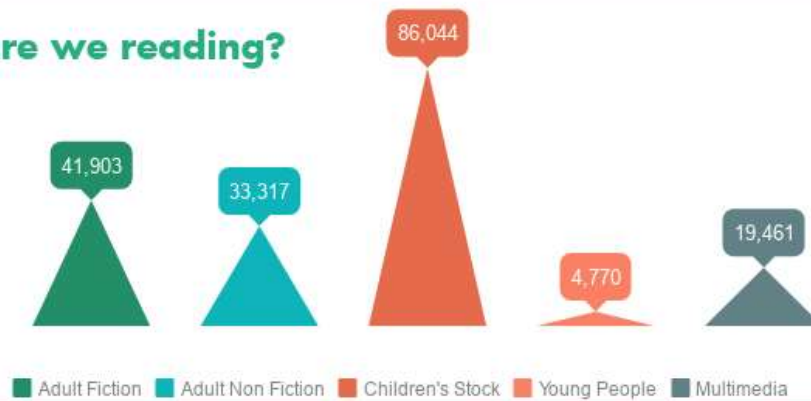
Facts and Figures:



**2017 in numbers**



**What are we reading?**



**38,815**

Public Computer Sessions



**33,027**

Visits to [www.carlowlibraries.ie](http://www.carlowlibraries.ie)



**896**

Visits to the Local Studies Department

National Initiatives:

**Right to Read** is a new programme for literacy support and development throughout Carlow Town and County. The Library Service is the lead agency, with the County Librarian and Programme Co-Ordinator working together on:



- Leading the programme and overseeing progress of the Literacy Action Plan in partnership with members of the Right to Read Local Network
- Delivering more systematic literacy support at local level
- Coordinating delivery of the programme
- Bringing together the knowledge and experience of skilled staff in Local Authority services and local agencies

The Right to Read Local Network was established in December 2017 and work commenced on formulation of the Action Plan. As the current focus is on children and families, relevant agencies are represented on this network with the aim of strengthening partnerships and ensuring provision of a structured plan for addressing literacy needs throughout the Local Authority area.

As the programme develops over the coming years the focus will change to incorporate other areas such as digital literacy, age-friendly, jobseekers etc. and the network membership will be reviewed to reflect this.

**Healthy Ireland** at your Library is a nationwide initiative which seeks to encourage people to make positive choices to improve their physical and mental health, while also providing support and information to help people make more healthy choices.



Carlow Library Service is involved in the initiative with a focus on providing enhanced health information with all library branches having books, eBooks, audio and eMagazines on various issues such as healthy eating, positive ageing, childhood health and wellbeing.



The service was launched in Carlow Library by Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council William Patton who attended one of the Healthy Ireland Events “Find Your Voice Workshop” with Ann Moylan, Choral Director and Music Therapist.

As well as being a valuable resource within the community for health information, there are free programme of events and talks running across the county library network in 2017 and 2018. Events that have already taken place include “Tips for a Happy Healthy Christmas” with Claire Healy, “Find your Voice Workshop” with Ann Moylan and “Be Well, Feel Well, Eat Well” with Evelyn Cronly, Nutrition and Exercise Practitioner.

Healthy Ireland at Your Library is being funded by the Department of Health through the Local Government Management Agency as part of their Healthy Ireland Framework for improved Health and Wellbeing 2013 – 2025.

Carlow County Library has participated in the **Work Matters** programme since 2015. Now a national programme, all public libraries in Ireland offer business and employment support services.

**Leabharlann Chontae Ceatharlach**  
Carlow County Library

Carlow Library Service supports business & employment, with staff available to point you in the right direction.

There is no charge for library membership – to register at your local library bring photo ID and proof of address. Our branches are located in:

Carlow Central Library: – (059) 9129701  
Tullow Library: (059) 9136299  
Muinebheag Library: (059) 9129703  
Borris Library: (059) 9771605

[library@carlowcoco.ie](mailto:library@carlowcoco.ie)  
[www.carlowlibraries.ie](http://www.carlowlibraries.ie)

Download our App

Ask at your local library or visit [www.librariesireland.ie](http://www.librariesireland.ie) for further information on business and employment support.

**Work Matters at the Library**  
SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS & EMPLOYMENT

The Work Matters Service includes:

- Free membership
- Direction and help with your research

- Business and employment books, journals, newspapers, reports, wirefeeds
- eBooks, eAudio and eMagazines
- PCs and Internet access
- Space for meetings, study and research
- Online learning and services with access to over 500 e-learning courses
- Printing, scanning and photocopying
- Workshops, presentations and networking opportunities
- Language learning

In 2017, Carlow was selected with two other counties to pilot the next stage of the programme involving collaboration and partnership with the local Citizens Information Services. A plan of action is in development for roll out in early 2018.

External Funding:

- Funding towards Healthy Ireland at the Library was secured through the Libraries Development Unit, LGMA. This new initiative was rolled out in all Carlow libraries in late 2017 with grant aid available to support the Mind Matters collection and some event programming.
- Grant aid of 50% and to the value of €987.08 to support the introduction of RFID to Borris Library was drawn down in October.
- Funding to support the introduction of the new National Library Strategy in 2018 was secured through the Libraries Development Unit, LGMA in November. Total grant aid being provided for Carlow is €67,000 with matched funding of almost €17,000 coming from Carlow County Council.

The grant aid enabled:

- the introduction of RFID to Borris Library
- the installation of security gates in Carlow, Tullow and Borris Libraries
- the installation of self-service print/copy/scan facilities in Carlow, Tullow and Borris Libraries
- books to support the Right to Read programme
- iPad Pros to support the Work Matters programme

## Events and Programming:

### Involvement in **National and County Event** Programmes:

- National Engineer's Week was held from the 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March and various events were held across the library branch network including:
  - The Engineer Show with Michael Moylan for primary school children in Carlow Central and Tullow Libraries attended by classes from Hacketstown, St. Columba's and Bishop Foley National Schools.
  - Tullow Library held a Storytelling Evening for kids narrated and performed by students from the Academy of Speech and Drama on Wednesday evening, March 9<sup>th</sup>.
- All Carlow library branches participated in the national story-time initiative, *Spring into Storytime* during the month of April. This initiative celebrated the importance of families reading together and sharing stories.
- Culture Night 2017 at Carlow Library was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017:
  - There was a Photography Exhibition by Jarlath Judge incorporating an Exhibition of Landscape, Built Heritage and Creative Digital Photography and this ran until the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017
  - Carlow Library Writers, under the guidance of Carlow Library Writer in Residence Mr. John McKenna, created prose and poetry about their favourite areas in County Carlow. In August, film maker John Loftus recorded and filmed their pieces at a variety of locations around the county. On Culture Night, the fruits of their labour hit the big screen at Carlow Library.
  - Carlow Storytellers invited Carlow Little Theatre Society to join them for a night celebrating Carlow's involvement in Art and Culture. Paying tribute to people such as Barry McKinley, the late Jim Nolan and others by performing samples of their work. The night also included an excerpt from the production "Sive".
- As part of the Féile an Fhómhair Festival and in partnership with Glór Ceatharlach, Áine Ní Ghlinn held a Storytelling Workshop with three local Schools on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Exhibitions** held in the George Bernard Shaw Room during the year included:

**January** - *A Sense of Freedom* by Elwira Bernaciak

**February** - *Growing up in Carlow* by Jean Robertson and local children

**March** - The Hook Head Photographic Exhibition

**April** - *The Whisperings of Nature* by Caroline Cunningham

**May** - *African Heritage* by Olaniyan Oladimeji

**June** - The FORM collective of craftspeople & *Art through the Eyes of Anxiety* by Damien Tallon

**July** - Exhibition of pottery by Lá Nua participants

**August** - Exhibition of *Old Carlow Photos* by Dermot O'Brien

**September** - Exhibition of conceptual art *Shapes of One* by Amy Guilfoyle & a photography exhibition on *Carlow's Built and Natural Heritage* by Jarlath Judge

**October** - *Autumn Leaves* by Caroline Cunningham

**November** - A *My Invention* and *Believe in Science* poster competition as part of the Eureka Science & Technology festival. *The Red Apple Arts Christmas Show*, an Exhibition by child and adult artists under the tutelage of Lorraine Fenton.

**December** - Designadelica's *Artisan Creations* made from rare woods. *Let it Snow*, a Christmas needlework in felt Exhibition by Carmel Flahavan. Barrow Valley Group of artists held their annual exhibition from December 7-13. Damian Tallon returned with an exhibition of new



work, *Art as Therapy for the Soul*.

### Collaborative Events:

- Carlow Mental Health Association held a drop-in clinic in the GB Shaw Room, Carlow Central Library every Thursday morning for the month of January.
- The Luck of Love, a reading by Carlow Library's new writers mentored by Writer in Residence, John MacKenna was held in the Shaw Room on Valentine's night, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Muinebheag Library collaborated with Graigue-managh Library to deliver the “One Book, One Community” initiative during the months of February and March culminating in an interactive quiz in both libraries simultaneously on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

- On the 7<sup>th</sup> December, Carlow Library Writers’ under the guidance of Writer in Residence, John McKenna held “Songs for a Winter Night” which featured poems, prose and memoirs from Christmas past and present interwoven with songs for the season.

- Carlow Libraries collaborated with VISUAL on the *Join in Festival* which was held over the first weekend of April. Initiatives included:

- Pop up poetry around Carlow town provided by Writer in Residence, John MacKenna and his creative writing students.

- *All Sorts Teen Creativity Camp* with Dave Lordan held in Carlow Central Library on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> and VISUAL on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- A reading of work by the creative writing group in VISUAL on Saturday evening, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Collaborative events held in Carlow Central Library for *Crinniú na Cásca* as part of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022 included:

- Story-time for children
- *The Whisperings of Nature* art exhibition by Caroline Cunningham
- *Old Carlow Photos* Exhibition by Dermot O’Brien

- The library service participated in the Pan Celtic Festival during the third week of April, hosting a number of different events celebrating culture. These included:

- Storytelling with Fran O’Boyle, Deirdre O’Byrne, Aideen McBride and Sarah Myres.
- A Song and Story night with Carlow Storytellers
- A talk on Irish dance and literature by Deirdre O’Byrne





- 'Come all ye boys and girls' - Aileen Lambert and The Pan Celtic Children's Singing Project presented a short concert of traditional songs in Irish and English on Saturday,



April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- A series of talks were held by Carlow Mental Health Association in Carlow Central Library over the month of April. These included:
  - *Getting to grips with Anxiety* with Darren Reid, Psychotherapist
  - *Positive Thinking* with Brenda O'Brien
  - *Letting Go* with Sylvia Shirley
- 'The Seeds Were Well Planted', a special edition DVD commissioned by Carlow Arts Office in collaboration with Carlow Library Service and produced by Michael Fortune, was launched in Ballymurphy National School on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The DVD containing sixteen traditional songs relating to this period in Irish history will be held for public access in all libraries and the Local Studies and Archives section.
- Mensana events during October in Carlow Central Library included:
  - *Food for Thought* by Conor Saunders
  - *Peace of Mind Moment by Moment* by Jack Byrne
  - *Coping with Technostress* by Dr Tim Dunne

- From 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, Carlow's first ever Science & Technology Festival, *Eureka* ([www.eurekafestival.ie](http://www.eurekafestival.ie)) took place. The festival in its inaugural year was a collaboration between Carlow I.T., Carlow Library and Carlow Museum. Collaborative elements of the festival included:
  - A "My Invention" and "Believe in Science" poster competition for schools which was on display in Carlow Central Library for the week with a prizegiving celebration held on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 attended by the Mayor Jim Deane.
  - Engineering & Robotics Lego making workshop held at Carlow Library on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> November and local schools were invited in to participate in same.
  - As part of the Festival, Carlow Library put forward a team for the S.T.E.M. table quiz held in the Woodford Dolmen on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> November and attended the fabulous fireworks display at the end of the festival.

#### Film, Performance and Musical Events:

- As part of the Carlow International Film Festival which took place over the first weekend in November, the Young Irish Film Makers facilitated a morning workshop with young people in Carlow Central Library. This was followed by the screening of a series of short films for the afternoon. Two feature films were shown that evening before a Q & A with the directors of one of the films screened, *JFK the Badgeman Conspiracy*.
- The annual Christmas Carols Concert by Tullow native, Regina Hanley and friends was held at Tullow Library on 13<sup>th</sup> December.
- A festive evening with the Carlow Storytellers was held on 20<sup>th</sup> December called "The Carlow Storytellers Christmas Rambling Night" where songs, stories and audience participation took place in Carlow Central Library.

#### Literary Events:

- On Friday evening, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Writer in Residence, John MacKenna's new book of short stories, 'Once We Sang Like Other Men' was launched by Gypsy Ray in Carlow Central Library. Published by New Island Press, it is John's eighteenth book and over 130 people attended the event.
- A Poetry Evening with the McHenry County College Heart Theatre Group & the Carlow Writers' Co-op was held in Carlow Central Library on the evening of June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- On the evening of June 21<sup>st</sup>, a new book of short stories by author Martin Malone and published by Doire Press was launched by author and librarian Niamh Boyce.



- Caroline Busher held creative writing workshops for children in Carlow, Tullow and Bagenalstown Libraries during October as part of Children’s Book Festival. She is Reader in Residence at Wexford Libraries.

*Spotlight:*

## PenFest 2017

- ◆ Part of Carlow’s Creative Ireland Programme
- ◆ Creative Writing Festival - 7th year
  - ◆ Culture Night
  - ◆ Carlow Library Writers
  - ◆ Poetry workshops
  - ◆ Writing Local History
  - ◆ Animation for children
  - ◆ Digital Storytelling for Teens
  - ◆ Panel discussion
  - ◆ Author Readings



The poster for Pen Fest 2017 has a dark green background. At the top, it says 'Pen Fest 2017' in white. A large black quill pen is the central image. To the right of the quill, it says 'Clár Éire Idirnách Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022', '22nd-24th September', and 'www.carlowlibraries.ie'. At the bottom, there are logos for Carlow College, VISUAL, and other partners.

- On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Carlow Central Library hosted a book launch “Prelude to the 1916 Rising in an Irish town – Carlow” by local historian Seamus Connellan.
- On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Carlow Writers Co-operative read with special guests, Fr. Michael McCarthy, St. Patrick’s College Writer in Residence and author Mark Roper who launched his new collection “Bindweed” in Carlow Central Library.

Information Technology:

Work on the new national Library Management System, **Sierra** was completed in February and all library branches went Live without issue on February 28th. The introduction of the Sierra system was the final step in a process which facilitated free membership for all, a change in the fines structure to €0.05 per item per day overdue, increased quota of items each member can borrow from 6 to 12 and the introduction of an inter-county lending system. Library members now have access, through a single shared online catalogue on [www.librariesireland.ie](http://www.librariesireland.ie). 18 million items can be requested and collected in a local branch in a timely manner.



Mr. Damien English, T.D. Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal launched 'Libraries Ireland: makes every library your local library service', in Navan Library on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Launching the scheme, the Minister said "the introduction of the service by public libraries across the country is an exciting and ground-breaking initiative, the first of its kind in the world. Every library in Ireland is effectively now your local library".

Other developments in information technology:

- Subscription to a new online service, The Irish Newspapers Archives commenced in August. It is the world's largest online database of Irish Newspapers from which it is possible to search, retrieve and view Ireland's past in the exact format in which it was originally published. With many of Ireland's most prominent regional, daily and out of print titles, membership allows access to the most comprehensive and complete Irish newspaper archive available. The full database of The Nationalist and Leinster Times from 1883 to the present day is available through the site.
- Funding to support the new library strategy 2018-2022 enabled the purchase of new RFID machines and security gates. Borris Library will be RFID enabled in early 2018 bringing it in line with Carlow, Tullow and Muinebheag libraries. iPad Pros to support the Work Matters programme were also part funded and will be used to support hot desking facilities in all libraries during 2018. Total grant aid being provided for Carlow is €67,000 with matched funding of almost €17,000 coming from Carlow County Council.
- Mobile phone training for older people, in partnership with Vodafone Carlow, took place on one morning a month in Carlow Central Library.

- As part of the Digital Skills programme, computer classes were held in October/November in Carlow Central Library. This was a partnership initiative with St Catherine’s Community

2,310 Followers  **Online**  2,275 Page Likes

[www.carlowlibraries.ie](http://www.carlowlibraries.ie) was visited by 17,369 people worldwide in 2017.



1,952 eMagazines downloaded



1,538 times Library App used



1,288 eAudiobooks downloaded



1,267 eBooks downloaded



482 eLanguage & 500 eLearning sessions

Centre.

County Archive, Local Studies and Genealogy:

The Carlow Library **Genealogy Service** was very busy for 2017 welcoming a variety of clients. The service is heavily used with the online resources [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie), Irish News Archives and Plotbox attracting a lot of interest. The aim of the Genealogy Service is to give clients a personal service and this need was met in 2017. People are happy to make an appointment to visit the genealogist, Bernie Walsh and there is particular interest in tracing family histories for those who emigrated from Ireland to Great Britain, USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia as well as a great local interest in genealogical research.



Many hours of research resulted in a great success story when a client was reunited with a wedding coin which was presented to the son of Onah and William Stanley. Every person who visits the genealogy service has a story, and our aim is to help them tell that to future generations.

This year **Heritage Week** was coordinated by Carlow County Library Service. The Library Service held the following events:

- A Photographic Exhibition featuring Old Carlow Photos which was collected and compiled from various local sources by Dermot O'Brien and featured in the books Old Carlow Photos I & II
- A *Growing Up in Carlow* Exhibition held in the Local Studies Department. Jean Butler, Local Artist held an illustration workshop for children in February and with the help of Carlow Library Writer In Residence, John MacKenna, these children produced books complete with beautiful illustrations of their stories.
- On the 19th August, Bernie Walsh, Genealogist was interviewed on KCLR Radio by Edward Hayden promoting Heritage Week and the Genealogy Service provided by Carlow Local Studies Department
- On the 19th August, Richie Kavanagh launched his CD of Carlow Songs in Carlow Library
- On the 22nd August, a *Tracing Your Family Tree* workshop was held in Carlow Library by Bernie Walsh, Genealogist demonstrating free resources available on the internet
- On 22nd August, a guided historical walk with Myles Kavanagh took place from Bagenalstown Library
- On 23rd August, Michael Moylan, Heritage Specialist with [www.irishhistorylive.com](http://www.irishhistorylive.com) performed a show in both Carlow and Bagenalstown Libraries. This show called "Ancient Ireland" covered the Stone and Bronze Ages using costumes and artefacts
- On 23rd August, a talk called *County Carlow's Rich Heritage* was given in the Shaw Room by Michael Conry, local author.



The Local Studies Department acquired many local publications of interest in 2017. In addition, 101 receipts from Carlow Jail dated 1877 were purchased at auction. All the receipts are signed by recipients, many with Inland Revenue stamp for payment of wages to Governor, Matron, Deputy Matron, Hospital Nurse, Head Warder, Turnkey, Messenger/Servant, Police for escort duty.

## Our People:



### Staff changes:

- Sandra Turner, Executive Librarian commenced work with Carlow County Library Service on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and finished on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 to take up a position with Kildare County Libraries.
- Patricia Nolan, Executive Librarian commenced work with Carlow County Library Service on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Jonathan Dunne, Library Assistant finished with Carlow County Library Service in April 2017 to take up a position with Carlow County Council and Christopher Power, Library Assistant commenced work on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Kevin Berney commenced employment with the library service on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### Staff training:

February -	Dealing with Change with Blaise Brosnan Sierra training and annual staff meeting
March -	Refresher First Aid Social Media Training
May -	Right to Read Workshop Bridging the Information Gap (NCBI) Advanced Genealogy McGrath Barrett Sierra Training ( Pearse St. Library )



June -	Pre-retirement course Manual Handling
September -	Research Skills for Librarians Science Foundation of Ireland Borrow Box Training Right to Read Co-Ordinator's Training
October -	LAI Annual Seminar, Cork Work Matters Training
November -	LAI Public Libraries Conference Engineer's Week Planning Meeting Healthy Ireland Train the Trainer
December -	Healthy Ireland Training (Frontline) Right to Read Co-Ordinator Training Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator's Training Work Matters Co-Ordinator's Training Right to Read Co-Ordinator's Workshop

**“If the public library did not exist would we invent it now?”**

- Anon

# **ARTS 2017**



## **Arts Council Funding 2017**

### **Arts Council Funding for local arts provision in 2017:**

The Arts Council of Ireland awarded €69,992 to Carlow Arts Office through its Annual Application Grant for 2017 Revenue Funding. In addition to this 4% increase, the Arts Council offered Local Authorities the opportunity to apply for an additional 4.4% funding in 2017.

In 2017 Carlow County Council's investment in the arts was **€748,500**.

Carlow County Council continues to invest significantly across a number of key strategic areas that includes VISUAL. We also invest in our artists and communities through professional development, bursaries, grants, advice and support and through key strategic youth arts initiatives such as Music Generation Carlow and County Carlow Youth Theatre. Additionally, the Arts Office supported a number of highlight initiatives such as leading and coordinating Culture Night and Arts Officer, Sinead Dowling was appointed to coordinate the Creative Ireland Carlow programme.

Alongside the Local Enterprise Office Carlow County Council Arts Office continues to invest in Festivals such as Carlow Arts Festival and The Festival of Writing and Ideas at Borris, County Carlow and a number of other countywide cultural festivals who continue to showcase the very best in Irish and International artists and attract significant cultural tourists to the county. In 2017 Carlow Arts Office continued to develop with Carlow Arts Festival a temporary site specific multi-disciplinary arts commission called Site Works which sees sites around Carlow town activated by artists interventions during the festival.

The Arts Council hosted a *Creative Places seminar* in Carlow on September 28<sup>th</sup>, as a direct result of local arts development in County Carlow and the initiative Take A Part Carlow. This seminar was part of a research phase of the new Creative Place program which is intended to be rolled out in 2018/2019. The program endeavors to enable more communities to choose, join in and generate remarkable arts experiences in the places where they live.

Carlow was one of just two venues chosen as a Creative Place alongside Dublin. The seminar was hosted at Askea Parish center and was well attended with many participants from Carlow as well as participants traveling from Galway, Clare, Cork etc. to attend.

### **Artlinks**

In February, The Artlinks partners of the Arts Offices of Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford local authorities, supported by the Arts Council, announced that over €50,000 in

bursaries has been awarded to artists from the South East by the Artlinks. These awards enable both emerging and established artists who are resident in the four partner counties in the South-East region to access professional development opportunities across all art forms. The following 5 artists were awarded grants from County Carlow: Dance: Sinead McCormack; Visual Arts: Mark Buckeridge, Tadhg O'Sullivan, Maree Hensey; Music: Nuala Dalton,

### **Artists and Community Grants**

In 2017, The Arts Office of Carlow County Council awarded a number of artists and community groups funding through the 2003 Arts Act Grant. The Grants permit a local authority to provide financial assistance for the purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practices of the arts, or improving standards in the arts. In this act, the expression "the arts" means creative or interpretative expression (traditional or contemporary) in whatever form and includes in particular visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture. These grants are set in two competitions, one for individual artists living in Carlow or who are from Carlow to enable them to pursue their practice and to develop within their chosen discipline.



*Carol Nelson recipient of Arts Act Grant 2017*

Total Budget 2017 Artist Grant allocation was €14,000. 30 applications were received with a total fund of €64,414.77 sought. Following assessment by an external panel 16 individual grant applications were awarded to artists from across the County.

The second available grant scheme is under organisations/community groups who wish to undertake an art related activity or project, 19 community organisations and groups received funding in 2017 that included: St Dymphna's Hospital; Presentation School Band; Equal Chances Polish School; Carlow Writers Co-Operative; Co. Carlow Womens Network; Barrow Valley Group of Painters; CIFE; Aspiro; Lá Nua, Bagenalstown; Blueprint Artists Network; Carlow Youth Orchestra; Oakley Wood Community Group; Carlow Choral Society; Extraordinary Bodies, CAF; Carlow's Active Retirement; Striking Productions; Between Your Love & Mine and Carlow Little Theatre.

A total of €46,677.55 was sought and a total budget of €22,000 in 2017 was available and awarded.

### **Carlow Writer in Residence Program**

Due to the successful nature of the Carlow Writer in Residence Program initiated by the Arts Office over the last 10 years as a long-term program for nurturing emerging writers from all corners of the county, Carlow Arts Office continued to support this project through 2017.

Over the year, Carlow County Council Arts Office in partnership with County Carlow Library Services worked with Playwright and Author John MacKenna on this exciting initiative with 28 new and emerging writers of all ages and backgrounds from across County Carlow as they continue their journey on the road to writing through regular workshops. Over 75 local people engaged with John MacKenna during the duration of the 2 year residency period.

Carlow Library Writers Group presented their first public reading of 2017 on 14<sup>th</sup> February last. The group expressed their views on love in prose and poetry at this free and lighthearted event in Carlow Central Library. Another successful reading took place in VISUAL during the pop-up festival where they read some of their new work to a full house. As part of Culture Night Carlow the group premiered a series of short films of their poetry readings. These short films were commissioned through Carlow Arts Office and can be viewed on line at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeBNeglkfgpibrzcXv\\_3Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeBNeglkfgpibrzcXv_3Q)

### **Music Generation Carlow**

Throughout 2017, Music Generation Carlow continued to support over 5,500 young people actively involved in the schools and communities' music program throughout the county. This represents the largest music education partnership in the country.



*Music Generation Carlow choral performance*

Led by Music Generation Carlow Co-ordinator Paula Phelan based in the Kilkenny Carlow Education Training Board, the lead partner of Music Generation Carlow and funded and supported by Carlow County Council.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Music @ Mount Leinster, Traditional Music Festival in Borris Vocational School was held in February 2017. With invited traditional groups coming from all over Ireland including Carlow, Laois, and Cork. The festival included two main concerts, workshops and sessions for young musicians from around the county.

During the week of the 9<sup>th</sup> April students from Carlow Vocational School and Carlow College of Music traveled to Cork city to attend CIT Cork School of Music as part of BRASS OFF! a Music Generation National Partnership Project. Members of Music Generation Carlow were lucky to work with the incredible Barrack Street Band and Foxford Brass and Reed Band representing Music Generation Cork City and Music Generation Mayo. This was a fantastic opportunity for young Carlow musician to showcase their talents on a national stage.

In 2017 Music Generation Carlow Gala Concerts took place on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre. The Gala Concerts allowed participants to showcase their talents over two magical nights of performance from young musical ambassadors throughout County Carlow.

Sing Carlow **Encore Vocal Performances!** was a fantastic weeklong event for schools involved in the Music Generation Carlow Vocal program. Six performances by over 1000 children from around County Carlow participated in this event running from May 15<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup> at venues in Borris, Bagenalstown, Tullow and Carlow.

Music Generation Carlow's traditional music ensembles ReelÓg and Reelig were privileged to feature on the Gig Rig stage at the All Ireland Fleadh in Ennis Co. Clare on the 17<sup>th</sup> August.



*ReelÓg traditional music ensemble member*

13 young musicians from [Music Generation Carlow](#) packed their instruments and jetted off to Sitges, Barcelona to perform alongside celebrated dance duo 'Velocity' on Saturday 28 October, as part of the [Creative Connexions](#) Festival of Irish and Catalan Culture. This is the [second successive year](#) that 'Reelig', performed in Sitges.

During December Music Generation Carlow's young musicians performed at a whole host of festive musical events including ReelOg junior traditional musicians performed at Ducketts Grove Christmas Food and Craft Fair and Carlow Music Hub performance at Scoil Mhuire.

[Reelig](#) young traditional musicians from County Carlow performed in Dublin Castle at the Creative Ireland Forum on December 13 to the Taoiseach, this showcase was an exemplar and a nationally recognised, it was a proud moment for County Carlow to be given this opportunity.

In November, Music Generation Carlow officially launched their Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021 and Carlow Arts Office greatly look forward to witnessing their next stage of growth.

### **Take A Part Carlow**



*Young people from Tullow Road, Carlow performing as part of Take A Part Carlow in 2017*

The first Take A Part Carlow Arts Action Group meeting took place on January 26th at John Sweeney House on the Tullow Road. This Arts Action Group is made up of residents, young people and local agencies from the Tullow Road area. The group acts as representatives of the Tullow Road community and act as advisors/participants in Take A Part Carlow as the project develops.

Take A Part Carlow aims to break down barriers of what art is and how it can act as a tool to transform local communities, creating opportunities for social exchanges, participation, access and involvement in decisions relating to their direct locale. This initiative was designed and led through the Arts Office in partnership with Take A Part UK based in Plymouth.

In May, Sile Penkert was appointed as Project Manager for Take A Part Carlow to work alongside the Tullow Road Arts Action Group to develop a program of events for the Tullow Road Community. A logo and branding for the project was developed further concretizing the groups identity.

Projects and events run through Take A Part Carlow during 2017 included:

- A site visit during February to Waterford Youth Arts and the Waterford Spraoi Festival in order to learn more about community arts initiatives already established in the South East. Over 10 local people from the Tullow Road area came on this visit.
- TAP Carlow was represented at the Family Fun Day on the Tullow Road on Sunday July 16th. This event featured Dublin Circus Project, have a BIG DOODLE, Make some artistic noise, and provided an opportunity to local communities to have some artistic fun, over 643 local people participated in this event.

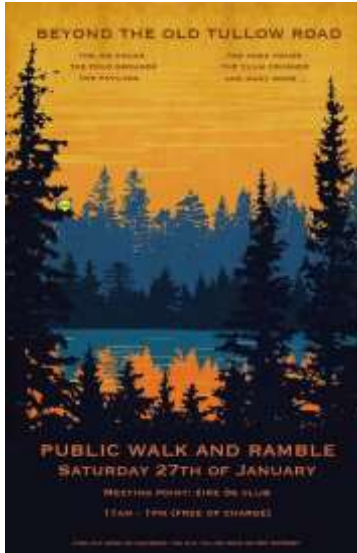
- Workshops for the Tullow Road Community with artists Spoken Word artist Sarah Clancy & Print Maker Kate O'Shea during the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September. The workshop was fully booked out and a highly successful event.
- Sile Penkert, Project Coordinator for Take A Part – Carlow attended an international conference entitled *Plymouth Art Weekender* hosted by take A Part UK.
- *Samhain Mask making*: Mask Making Workshop with artist Caitriona McGowan carried out two free workshops over Halloween providing the young people from the Tullow Road area a chance to keep themselves busy and in the Halloween spirit.



*Take A Part Carlow Mask Making workshop 2017*

- During December Sile Penkert, Take A Part Carlow coordinator began working collaboratively with the Arts Office of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council on developing ways of measuring the Social Impact of this community arts project in that area and how the arts can be used as a tool for social cohesion and inclusion, community development and well-being. A highlight of the Take A Part Carlow program so far is the commissioning of artist Michael Fortune. Michael was commissioned to work in the Tullow Road Area for eight months. Helping TAP Carlow to explore Carlow's culture and folklore, while working with the Tullow Road community.





*Michael Fortune residency with Take A Part Carlow in 2017*

### **County Carlow Youth Theatre**

County Carlow Youth Theatre, managed by Carlow Arts Office, are housed in VISUAL and meet weekly on Monday evening with the young people. There are currently 45 young people actively participating weekly.

On February 6<sup>th</sup> CCYT presented new project entitled *Resolution* that formed the basis of their artistic programming for 2017. Directed by YT leader Eimear Cheasty the CCYT members explored spoken word, performance poetry and verbatim theatre as a vehicle to explore their own stories. This project culminated in an evening of new written works and performance presented in VISUAL by the members of CCYT.

Having been awarded Arts Council Young Ensemble Scheme funding for the production of new work in 2017, County Carlow Youth Theatre worked with visual artist Yvonne McGuinness to create a new production entitled *You Can't Feel What You Feel* which was presented as part of Carlow Arts Festival in June in the Ground Floor Galleries of VISUAL.

During the summer CCYT ran its *Performing Arts Summer Camp* in the George Bernard Shaw Theatre from 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July with a great attendance and very positive feedback.

In the Autumn of 2017 a recruitment drive for younger people/members of CCYT began from the ages of 11-15, there is now as a result of that an established young group of 15 members who participate regularly and weekly in youth theatre.

### **The Pan Celtic Children's Traditional Singing Project**

During February 2017 Carlow County Council's Arts Office unveiled a new initiative in association with the 2017 Carlow International Pan Celtic Festival – a children's traditional singing project devised and delivered by traditional singer Aileen Lambert, who has a wealth of experience working on traditional song projects with various communities and is a specialist on traditional song with the Heritage-in-Schools scheme.



*Aileen Lambert at the Pan Celtic Children's Singing Project 2017*

The project which ran over six weeks in Ballon culminated in a performance at Carlow County Library on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> as part of this year's Pan Celtic Festival. The project reached its capacity quickly with ten children taking part in workshops. Over fifty people attended their one hour performance and it proved a great opportunity for the young people to show case their work.

### **Creative Ireland**

Enabling creativity in every community is a core pillar of the Creative Ireland Programme, an ambitious five-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, which will place our strongest assets – our culture and creative communities - at the centre of public policy.

Carlow County Council and the Creative Ireland national team welcomed over one hundred people to an open meeting which took place on 21<sup>ST</sup> March at Carlow Old Town Hall. This meeting was the first opportunity for the County Council to share details about the Creative Ireland Programme and to explore opportunities to increase access, engagement and collaboration in the local arts and creative industries in Carlow.

*Music Generations Reelig performing at the Creative Ireland Carlow open meeting in March 2017*



The Creative Ireland Carlow Culture Team then went on to host a program of events on Easter Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> April as part of Cruinniú na Casca a national Creative Ireland initiative. Cruinniú na Cásca, Carlow provided an opportunity for all to get involved in the Cultural institutions in Carlow as we opened the doors of Visual, Carlow County Museum and Carlow Library for a range of free, family friendly events and also welcomed the Pan Celtic Nations as they arrived in to Carlow for The Pan Celtic International Festival 2017.

Events included a guided one hour tour of Carlow County Museum by museum curator, Dermot Mulligan. Carlow County Library presented an exhibition of work by artist Caroline Cunningham, Old Carlow Photos exhibition by Dermot O'Brien and *Spring into Storytime* a family story time session for young children and parents. VISUAL provided a drop-in make and do area, for budding artists to try their hand at designing their own ideal play space while visiting the current exhibition, *The Playground Project*.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May saw the launch of 31 Local Authority Culture and Creativity Plans as part of the Creative Ireland Program. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD, and the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD, announced the roll out of [31 Local Authority Culture and Creativity Plans](#) for 2017, at a special event in Dublin Castle, which included a performance by Music Generation Carlow, an accomplished collective of young traditional Irish musicians. County Carlow's activation plan for 2017 saw over 92 promoted events from across the county.



*Members of the Creative Ireland Carlow Culture Team at the launch of Carlow's Culture and creativity Plan for 2017*

The national launch was then followed in June by the launch of the Creative Ireland Carlow Culture and Creativity Plan 2017 by the Arts Office of Carlow County Council which can be downloaded from [www.carlow.ie](http://www.carlow.ie) or <https://creativeireland.ie/en/local-plans/carlow>. The plan features a Calendar of Cultural Events in Carlow for 2017 further helping to spread the word about culture and creativity in Carlow. July 2017 saw the Creative Ireland Carlow Culture team launch a new round of funding for 2017 through the Creative Ireland Carlow fund.

Through this Carlow Arts Office were able to support a wide range of arts, crafts, music and cultural groups, communities, public spaces, schools and clubs from across the county who were interested in developing a creative Samhain (Halloween) Community Event, funded through a new Culture Ireland Grant Scheme.



## *Creative Ireland Carlow Samhain festival Trail*

In all 11 groups qualified for this grant and the festival ran from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 5<sup>th</sup> November with successful events running in Carlow, Myshall, Ballon, Tinryland and Hacketstown. Groups such as Aspiro, Take A Part Carlow, The Irish Wheelchair Association, Tinryland NS, Ballon Improvement Group, An Gairdin Beo and St. Johns Caring Centre all hosted their own Samhain celebration as part of the Festival with great attendance at all events in particular at the Family Celebration of Oiche Samhain at Ducketts Grove which proved to be a sellout success.

Carlow County Council Creative Ireland Culture Team, coordinated by Arts Officer, Sinead Dowling was tasked with the production and development of a Culture and Creativity Strategy Plan for County Carlow 2018-2022.

To successfully deliver a plan which engages local community and nurtures creativity in all Carlovians, the Culture Team held three workshops during November and December in both Municipal Districts welcoming stakeholder and public input through 'Open Engagement Workshops'. These workshops were highly interactive and collaborative in order to future proof cultural development in County Carlow as well as to listen and respond relevantly at local level and were well attended with wide spread public participation.

### **CREATIVE IRELAND CARLOW OPEN ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS**

Carlow Culture Team welcomes your input  
into the development of a  
Culture and Creativity Strategy Plan for Co.Carlow

<b>29th November</b>	<b>4th December</b>
<b>7pm - 9pm</b>	<b>7pm - 9pm</b>
<b>County Library, Tullow St</b>	<b>Muinebheag Library</b>

RSVP by 27th Nov to [kmooney@carlowccco.ie](mailto:kmooney@carlowccco.ie)



*An invitation to participate in open engagement workshops*

## **Carlow**

## **Arts**

## **Festival**

The Carlow Arts Festival 2017 program supported by Carlow Arts Office, was officially launched on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Carlow College, St. Patrick's. Carlow Arts Festival is a celebration of the many extraordinary riches the arts has to offer from national and international artists.





*Extraordinary Bodies, recipients of Arts Act Grant 2017, at Carlow Arts Festival*

This year the festival hand-picked world festival premières, award-winning shows, immersive visual arts projects, the best possible gigs for the **O'Haras Pavilion** and a whole host of family-friendly and free events with the **Festival HQ** on the beautiful grounds of Carlow College.



*Visitors to Carlow Arts Festival on the grounds of Carlow College.*

### **County Carlow Youth Arts Development Strategy**

Carlow Arts Office have been leading the development of a cohesive countywide approach to youth arts provision. 22 local stakeholder organisations have been consulted with and working closely with Kilkenny Carlow ETB and Carlow Regional Youth Services.

Carlow County Council adopted its Local Arts Development Plan in 2016. This plan sets out the Council’s ambition, vision and mission for arts development, together with its investment priorities for the five year period 2016-2021. Under its strategic theme: To Sustain; we will develop a Youth Arts Policy that looks at the long-term provision for Youth Arts in County Carlow.

Carlow County Council, through its Arts Office, will develop and implement a Youth Arts Policy over the coming three-years which will provide for a pilot -model for integrated Youth Arts provision. This will focus on the development of an inclusive model of arts and cultural provision targeting children and young people across the county. This is a result of a recently completed rigorous consultation process that involved twenty two stakeholders including national and local youth arts, community and education partners, as well as local arts organisations and the cultural team in the local authority.

The key activation proposal is a long-term embedded partnership that seeks to secure resources to implement this pilot initiative. Over the next three years’ leadership and governance for the totality of arts and cultural program developed and offered to children and young people would shift to a new structure, which will be the first in Ireland, County Carlow Youth Arts Development Partnership.

### Culture Night Carlow

Facilitated by Carlow County Council Arts Office Culture Night Carlow took place on **Friday 22nd September** from 3pm-10pm with **16+ free events** happening around County Carlow on the night. Culture Night created a real sense of belonging through a rich display of arts, heritage, entertainment and activities for all the family. And audiences responded in their hundreds to support and enjoy the night.



*Culture Night Carlow 2017 Program*



With everything from a multicultural celebration at Forward Steps Family Resource Centre, Tullow. Guided *Hands on* tours of Carlow County Museum, and the Institute of Technology. Not to forget open nights at St. Patrick's College Carlow, Carlow Library and Visual who hosted everything from pop up exhibitions, musical performances, film screenings, storytelling and art workshops throughout the evening.

A particular highlight on the night was the spectacular five-woman Fire Performance entitled *Firefly* on the grounds of St. Patrick's College Carlow which was **featured on the RTE Nine o'clock news!**



*Dublin Circus Project perform Fire Fly as part of Culture Night Carlow*

### **Visual**

In 2017, VISUAL achieved some significant milestones, with achievements and activities including:

- Publication of our Strategic Plan 2017 – 2021
- Increase of 7% in Theatre audiences
- Increase of 14% in VISUAL's percentage of Box Office income
- Increase of 11% in VISUAL Bar Sales
- Over €103,000 paid out to local performance groups during the year
- Retention of our 2016 Arts Council program funding increase of 19%
- Awarded €20,000 through the Arts Council Engaging with Architecture funding stream for the Town Planners 2018 project

- Funding of €10,000 from the Heritage Council to produce the My Carlow Town Narrative project
- Sustainability of 39 full-time and part-time jobs
- Spin-out economic effects, including approx. 350 local bed nights for visiting performers and crews
- Capital Funding allocation of €20,000 from Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaelteacht Affairs

Social inclusion was a key focus, with 35% of theatre ticket sales going to targeted social groups, and partnerships to develop inclusive access with the National Council for the Blind, Carlow Integration Forum and Equinox Theatre Company.

VISUAL continued to support practitioners through commissioning new work, through payment of fair artist's fees and through using our resources for the benefit of practitioners and groups in the region:

- Sinead McCormack – use of rehearsal room as part of Mermaid Art Centre Gap Day scheme
- John McKenna – rehearsal space for *Between your Love and Mine*
- Dance artist Emma Martin - supported with a week rehearsing in the theatre in advance of her new show in Dublin Theatre Festival as part of her residency in VISUAL
- Visual artist Rennie Buenting - supported her application to Culture Night to run print workshops
- VISUAL provided support for two Creative Ireland Samhain projects providing workshops for young people, by Carlow Youth Theatre and Aspiro Choir.
- Annabel Koenig – exhibition of poster as part of World Refugee Day project
- Carlow Photographic Society - supported through an exhibition of their images of Carlow as part of the 'My Carlow' town narrative project
- Irish Photography Federation - supported through an exhibition the work of the new members accepted into the IPF in 2017
- Visual artist Saidhbhin Gibson - supported through a solo exhibition in the upstairs Lobby Gallery as part of the Autumn exhibition season
- Local artist Gala Hutton held a pop up exhibition and launch in the bar in December.
- Monkeyshine Theatre Company - supported through programming into our Summer season as part of Penfest
- Hosted Drummin Bog pop up exhibition and art auction, organised by artists from the Nine Stones group in aid of the Drummin Bog in Carlow. Over 100 artists from the region participated.
- VISUAL engaged Carlow based artist Bridget Flannery as freelance schools and workshop facilitator
- Local productions and performances included Carlow Little Theatre's *Philadelphia Here I Come*, Striking Productions *A Christmas Carol* and a music night by Eric Butler, all of which were very well-attended and well-received.

- VISUAL continued to give local community organisations free rehearsal space when the theatre is available in the lead up to productions, and offer support and advice on aspects of stagecraft, lighting design and marketing.
- VISUAL supported Dennis McNulty and Michelle Browne in successful Project Funding applications to the Arts Council

VISUAL continued to build on developing engagement in the arts through programming. In 2017 notable engagement projects included:

- **Research project** on Carlow Town Centre with DIT School of Architecture
- **Research project** on Carlow Town Centre with IT Carlow designCORE
- **Graphic Design project** with Waterford IT
- **Carlow Town Narrative Project** proposal devised with designCORE ITC
- **Town Planners** - VISUAL were awarded funding of €20,000 from the Arts Council Engaging with Architecture scheme for our project, Town Planners, a co-production with Workhouse Union. VISUAL have been developing program plans and the program will start in Spring 2018 with the design and build of a civic plaza in the Studio Gallery by renowned Spanish design collective Todo Por La Praxis and a display of the outcomes of 2017's Carlow Town Narrative project.
- **Join In Festival** in partnership with Carlow Library, with activities including Play Day with Carlow Sports Partnership, teen and family activities. 1100 people attended events over the 4 days.
- **Playtime Symposium** –A day of talks and workshops on play, its relationship to culture and the arts and a child's right to play and access to the arts and culture. Speakers included Adrian Voce OBE, Gabriela Burkhalter, Kunsthalle Zurich, Debbie Clarke Dublin City Council, Dr. Tim Stott DIT. The day included a workshop by artists Rhona Byrne and Tom Watt.
- **This Thumping Heart:** Performance choreographed by Dance Artist in Residence Emma Martin with participants from Carlow Regional Youth Services and Carlow Youth Orchestra, co-produced with Carlow Arts Festival. This performance, which received a standing ovation and attracted an audience of 140, was the culmination of Dancehall Youth, initiated by VISUAL in 2015 in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services.
- **IFI Local Films for Local People** - an evening program of films about Carlow or by Carlow film makers, taken from the IFI archives, programmed in partnership with Carlow Arts Festival
- **You Can't Feel What You Feel:** Yvonne McGuinness working with Carlow Youth Theatre. 2 performances, programmed to take place during Carlow Arts Festival, which attracted audiences of approx. 250 people.
- **Sun Trap:** In response to the Spring and Summer themes, Tom Watt created a

gathering space on VISUAL's front steps which remained until Oct 2017.

- **Residencies** - VISUAL supported Emma Martin to continue her dance residency funded by the Arts Council
- **Materials Library** - Anthropologist Juliette Harvey was commissioned to research the work of Paul Mosse and develop the Materials Library in collaboration with VISUAL
- **HUDDLE** – VISUAL supported an artist's discussion and reading group devised and led by Saidhbhin Gibson
- **CIFET Partnership** - Visual art, design and communications students had talks and workshops with both Paul Mosse and Dennis McNulty during the Autumn season, and made work in response, which was displayed in the reception area of VISUAL.

VISUAL continued to work in local partnership in ways that develop social capital, creativity and innovation, including:

- VISUAL partnered with Cultivate, a national sustainability organisation, to host a local event as part of Convergence 2017, promoting sustainability, environmental awareness and community participation
- VISUAL supported new organisation Happy Carlow through provision of meeting space during the Summer
- VISUAL supported Carlow Women's Network in a creative writing project Oct - Dec 2017, culminating in a launch event to celebrate and share their writing.
- VISUAL developed a new Transition Year engagement program where students worked with us for a week and took on the responsibility of running an event.
- VISUAL hosted two Plenary Meetings of Carlow PPN
- VISUAL hosted a number of enterprise, including an innovation bootcamp for the audio-visual industry
- VISUAL continue to support creativity in young people through hosting Carlow Youth Theatre in permanent residence, through our weekly Parent and Toddler art classes and through our commitment to having a free drop-in art space for families throughout the year.
- VISUAL resourced Education planning and added new Senior Cycle workshops, a new TY work experience scheme and a communications system for schools. VISUAL saw a significant increase in school workshop bookings as a result.
- VISUAL partnered with the Local Enterprise Office in the delivery of Digital Carlow, with artist-led digital creativity programmes for primary and secondary schools. 10 primary schools and two secondary schools participated.

VISUAL continued to develop sustainability. County Council subvention of VISUAL is now 43% of their annual turnover; in 2013 it was 68%. In that time, VISUAL has increased the percentage of Arts Council funding by 3% and increased the percentage generated by VISUAL's activities by 22%.

VISUAL have continued to champion Carlow as a creative and innovative space, with numerous national press and radio features on different aspects of our activities. In total

there were 9 national press features, 2 TV features and three national radio features. VISUAL was called 'the coolest arts centre outside of Dublin' by Lizzie Fairrie in The Times. President Michael D Higgins attended a performance in VISUAL in 2017, the Arts Council chose VISUAL as the venue for the final event of their inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction, Anne Enright, and the Assistant Secretary for the Department of Arts, Heritage, Region, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs visited to see the space.

# **CARLOW COUNTY MUSEUM**



### **Celebrating St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg & His Carlow Connection**

During June 2017, the international celebrations for 'St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and his Co Carlow Connection' occurred in both Co Carlow and in Echternach, Luxembourg. The planning for these events began two and a half years ago and the project has been developed by the Museum in partnership between Carlow County Council; the Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society; the Carlow Cathedral Parish; the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin; the Diocese of Leighlin; St. Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin; the Department of History, National University of Ireland, Galway; the Willibrordus Bauverein (Willibrord Foundation), Echternach, Luxembourg and Tully's Travel, Carlow. The overall coordination from the Carlow side was provided by the Museum on behalf of Carlow County Council.



A photo of part of the Carlow pilgrimage to Echternach in the Town Square, Echternach with Bishops Burrows and Nulty and Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council

St Willibrord has appeal across the many Christian communities particularly for Roman Catholics, Anglican and Old Catholics. Through the mists of time his Carlow connection, for the most part had been forgotten, but through academic research by Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department of History, NUI Galway over the past thirty years this connection has been re-established.

In 2000, a group from Echternach last visited the county. In 2002 Henri, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg paid a state visit to Ireland and in 2009 President Mary McAleese as part of her state visit to Luxembourg visited Echternach and spoke of the connection. Since then an active relationship has developed between organisations in both Carlow and Echternach, in particular between the Willibrord Foundation and Carlow County Museum, operated by Carlow County Council. Carlow County Museum has opened a free year long exhibition about St. Willibrord, his time in Carlow, his mission, his present-day impact, a UNESCO World Heritage Status 'hopping procession' held annually in Echternach. A copy of

Willibrord's writing is on display in the exhibition along with samples of the beautiful manuscripts that were produced in Echternach. It is clear when looking at them that they are heavily influenced by the Irish manuscripts that these islands are famous for.



The Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg presenting the specially commissioned 'Relic of St. Willibrord', Patron Saint of Luxembourg, to the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

The Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg presented the specially commissioned 'Relic of St. Willibrord', Patron Saint of Luxembourg, to the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin on Monday June 5<sup>th</sup> to, in the Basilica of St. Willibrord to honour the historical links between the town of Echternach in Luxembourg and Co. Carlow. Both Bishop Nulty and the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin lead a joint ecumenical diocesan pilgrimage of nearly sixty people from Carlow to Echternach to not only accept the relic but to also partake in the UNESCO World Heritage Status annual 'hopping procession' in honour of St. Willibrord in Echternach.

The Monday night saw the Basilica of St. Willibrord host a prayer service led by Archbishop Augustine Kasujja, Papal Nuncio to Luxembourg. It was during this service that Archbishop Hollerich addressed the packed Basilica and explained the presence of the Carlow group and that he had given permission for a Relic of St. Willibrord to be presented to Carlow to thank Carlow and Ireland for training, ordaining and instilling in Willibrord his missionary zeal. A bronze statue of a young St. Willibrord is holding the Relic, a piece of his bone, which is contained in a model of the Basilica. Willibrord is standing on a piece of sandstone taken from the remains of his original abbey, which is in the crypt of the Basilica.

On Tuesday, after 8am Mass the assembled clergy lead the Relic of St. Willibrord out from the Basilica of St. Willibrord into the adjoining square of the secondary school where thousands have gathered. The procession began with a large group walking the route reciting the Litany of St. Willibrord. The Relic then followed being carried by local firemen

along the route. They in turn were followed by over 10,000 people hopping from their left to right foot in his honour. Each of the thirty-nine hopping groups are led by a marching band all playing the exact same tune.

The Carlow pilgrims are the first known Irish group to partake in this procession, which received UNESCO World Heritage Status in 2010. The Carlow group was wonderfully led by members of the Presentation School Band from Carlow town under the baton of Edwina Hayden, Music Teacher. The group, like all the groups, hopped in rows of five people joined together by white handkerchiefs. The procession, a physical pilgrimage, is known as the 'people who pray with their feet'. The Presentation Band and the hopping Carlow pilgrims received a warm welcome from the many thousands who lined the streets to watch the procession, being applauded on many occasions. The group then entered the Basilica, hopped down the side aisle, down into the crypt under the altar and past St. Willibrord's remains. Upon reemerging from the Basilica, the historic first hopping procession for the Carlow group ended, all who travelled enjoyed the experience and have a deeper understanding of St. Willibrord and an appreciation for how important he is to the people of Luxembourg.



The Presentation Band leading the Carlow pilgrimage during the annual 'hopping procession'.

Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council was joined on the pilgrimage by Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of Carlow County Museum; Martin Nevin, Board of Carlow County Museum; Pat Delaney, Director of Services and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator. H.E. Mr. Peadar Carpenter, Ambassador of Ireland to Luxembourg, welcomed the group to Luxembourg on Monday June 5<sup>th</sup>. Later that day the group received a special welcome to Echternach in the Town Hall from Mayor Yves Wengler and Members of Echternach Council.

The Relic of St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg, was brought to its permanent home in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow town on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Relic was walked over 13km from St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin (Church of Ireland) to the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow (Roman Catholic) via the beautiful Barrow Way, a national way marked way, along the banks of the river Barrow. The walk was make up of

nearly two hundred people from Ireland and Luxembourg and led by the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin and the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

Arriving on Thursday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, twenty-nine visitors travelled from Echternach to Carlow and spent four days here. The highlight was the 'Walk with Willibrord' which began at the Holy Well in Old Leighlin at 10am on the morning of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. The Service continued in the nearby St. Laserian's Cathedral, Carlow oldest working building. Shortly after 11am the relic was carefully placed in the back of the Carlow Civil Defence vehicle and with music from pipers from the Killeshin Pipe Band the two hundred people led by Bishops Burrows and Nulty began the walk to Carlow Cathedral. After a stop for refreshments in the Leighlinbridge Parish Centre the walk entered the Barrow Way and headed in the direction of Milford. At the stops along the walking route at Leighlinbridge, Milford, Clogrennan (Lanigan's Lock), St. Clare's Church Graiguecullen and St. Mary's Church both Bishops Burrows and Nulty led the group in prayers and reflection assisted by local clergy.



Friends from Echternach visiting the site at Rath Melsigi

In Carlow town the Relic was walked in procession from St. Clare's Church to St. Mary's Church and then onto the Cathedral of the Assumption. Members of the Carlow Fire Service carried the Relic through the streets of the town, mirroring the tradition in Echternach where their Fire Service carry the Relic at the head of their annual hopping procession. The procession in Carlow was led by the Presentation Band, who had been to Echternach earlier in the month, who played the hopping tune as they approached the Cathedral and the visitors from Echternach hopped to the front door of the Cathedral.

At a reception hosted by Carlow County Council, on Friday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the visitors were welcomed to Carlow by both Cllr. William Paton, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council and Cllr. Jim Deane, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow. To mark the joint visits and celebrations the group from Echternach were presented with a vellum manuscript commissioned by Carlow County Council, the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin and the Diocese of Leighlin. This book was made by Tim O'Neill, one of Ireland's foremost calligraphers. Through time and for a variety of reasons Echternach no longer has any original manuscripts and this was opportune for the people of Carlow to present a unique



hand-written book honouring the recent visits to both countries. The book, which will be displayed in Echternach, contains the words of St. Willibrord that he wrote in AD 728 in Echternach in a book he brought from Carlow. The rest of the book gives a brief outline of the historical connection and then lists the near sixty people who travelled from Carlow to Echternach and partook in the hopping procession and then lists the twenty-nine Echternach people who have travelled to Carlow and partook in the 'Walk with Willibrord'.

On the morning of Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>, the group had a private visit to Killogan/ Rath Melsigi, the site of the 7<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon settlement where Willibrord spent twelve years. This visit to this site was facilitated by the landowner. At the site the reflection was led by Bishop Michael Burrows, a speech by Pierre Kauthen, Willibrord Foundation, and a group hop by all present. The visit to the site was an integral part of the visit to the county. On Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>, the group visited the Museum and viewed the exhibition and expressed their satisfaction with it.



Presentation to Pierre Kauthen of a new book for Echternach.

(L to R) Bishop Burrows, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson; Cllr William Paton, Cathaoirleach; Pierre Kauthen, Cllr Jim Deane, Mayor and Jim Townsend.

The project was shortlisted in the Chambers Ireland "Excellence in Local Government 2017 Awards" in the "Commemorations & Centenaries" category. The Feast of St Willibrord was celebrated, for the second year, on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral of the Assumption at 7.30pm led by the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. The newly presented Relic of St Willibrord was displayed in front of the altar.



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>, November KCLR96FM Radio Station broadcast their one-hour radio documentary 'Carlow Hops to Luxembourg'. The documentary was made in association with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and Carlow County Council through Carlow County Museum. The documentary followed the historic Carlow pilgrimage to Echternach, Luxembourg and the 'Walk with Willibrord' when the Relic of St. Willibrord was installed in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow. The documentary was produced by Monica Hayes, KCLR96FM and the documentary can be found at: <http://kclr96fm.com>

There is an article by Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator, in "Carloviana 2018" about the events that took place in June while the front cover of the journal features a photograph by Alain Muller, Willibrord Foundation, of the Irish/ Carlow stained-glass window in the Basilica of St. Willibrord in Echternach. The Willibrord Foundation's newspaper "Feliciter" November edition featured several articles about the June events. They have also produced a "Credit Card" featuring an Irish blessing and a card about Irish spirituality with a photo of the Carlow Relic of St. Willibrord. They are forwarded a thousand cards for distribution at both Cathedrals and at the Museum.

***St Willibrord's Credit Card***  
**An Irish Blessing**

**In Dei nomine feliciter !**

*In Gottes Namen mit Glück voran !*

*Au nom de Dieu, bonne chance !*

*In the name of God, be happy !*

*Em Nome do Senhor, bon sucesso !*

*In de naam van de Heer, gelukkig vooruit !*



Thanks to the following individuals and organisations for their assistance:

The Amenity Trust, Carlow; Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson, the Board and staff of Carlow County Museum; the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin; Carlow Cathedral Parish Centre; Members and staff of Carlow County Council including Mr. Pat Delaney, Director of Services, the Carlow Civil Defence and the Carlow Fire Service; His Excellency Peadar Carpenter, Irish Ambassador to Luxembourg; Maria Cristina Pirvu, Bibliothèque Nationale de France; Very Rev. John Cummins, Administrator Carlow Cathedral; the Deacon Family, Garryhundon; Marc Diederich, Monsieur le Président, Willibrordus Bauverein and its members including Pierre Kauthen and Alain Muller; Louise Doyle, Tully's Travel; Fr John Dunphy, Parish of Graiguecullen & Killeleshin; His Excellency Patrick Engelberg, Luxembourg Ambassador to Ireland; Francis Erasmy, Monsieur le Recteur de la Basilique St-Willibrord; Garda Siochana, Carlow including Superintendent Gerry Redmond and Sergeant Michelle Byrne; the Very Revd. Tom Gordon, Dean of St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin; Dr Janet Gunning, Durham Cathedral Library; Monica Hayes, KCLR 96FM; the Most Reverend Jean-Claude Hollerich, Archbishop of Luxembourg; Fr Ed Hone, Luxembourg; Gary Hughes; the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs; the Killeleshin Pipe Band; Alex Langini, Abbey Museum, Echternach; Leighlinbridge Parish Centre; Rev Paul Maxwell, Avril Hogan, Carlow Methodist Church; Martin Nevin; the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin; Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department of History, National University of Ireland, Galway; Fr Conn Ó Maoldhomhnaigh, President of Carlow College; Tim O'Neill, calligrapher; Rajeenee Permale, Luxembourg Embassy, London; the Presentation School Band under the baton of Edwina Hayden, Music Teacher; Bryan Rose, Luxembourg; Sharon Sutton, Trinity College Library; Jim Townsend; Joe Tully, Tully's Travel; Waterways Ireland including Rosanna Nolan, Engineer & Jim Butler, Foreman; Monsieur le Maire, Yves Wengler, Echternach Council; Rev. David White, St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Carlow town and the near 60 people who travelled from Ireland to Echternach and the 29 people who travelled from Echternach to Ireland in June 2017.



### **St Willibrord - Art Competition**

In celebration of the Feast of St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and his Co Carlow connection the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Ossory, Cashel, Ferns, Lismore, Waterford and Leighlin along with the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin invited 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils in primary schools in Co. Carlow to take part in an art competition.



In May, the winners of the competition gathered in Carlow County Museum, with their parents and teachers to accept their plaques and a class arts supply voucher from Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of Board of Carlow County Museum and Bishops Burrows and Nulty. First place went to Hannah Kehoe 6th Class Borris N.S.; second place to Zach Cassells 6th Class, Carlow N. S. and joint third place to Kacper Gniedziejko 6<sup>th</sup> Class, Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin and Catelyn James Gibbons 6<sup>th</sup> Class, St Mary's N. S., Bagenalstown. Their pieces featured aspects of St Willibrord's life, the life of a monk, the illuminated manuscripts they produced and medieval religious settlements from Co. Carlow.

### **Dedication of a gallery in honour of the O'Hanrahan Family**

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March the Carlow County Museum temporary exhibition gallery was dedicated in honour of the O'Hanrahan Family/ Uí Annracháin for their contribution to Irish independence. They lived at 90 and 91 Tullow Street in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The dedication and plaque unveiling was performed by Pearse O'Hanrahan, great grandnephew of the Richard and Mary O'Hanrahan, and grandnephew of their children Harry, Micheál, Edward, Áine (Ciss), Máire and Eily. Richard was a member of the Fenian's and 2017 marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of their rebellion in 1867. Pearse was accompanied by his brother Harry and several other O'Hanrahan relations were present including Deirdre Lawlor a grand and great grandniece of the O'Hanrahan's being honoured.

Present at the unveiling were Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee and Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum.



(L to R) Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Harry and Pearse O’Hanrahan; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Mayor and Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee; Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum and Deirdre Lawlor.

Speaking at the dedication Pearse O’Hanrahan, who had travelled from Dundalk, said he was very pleased that the entire family were being honoured and he thank both Carlow County Council and the Museum Board for the gesture. To those present at the dedication it was clear that Pearse spoke from the heart when he mentioned all the family members and their roles. They were involved in the many organisations including the Irish Republican Brotherhood, The Irish Volunteers and Cumman na mBan. He gave special mention to the three sister Áine (Ciss), Máire and Eily who were all born in Carlow and that they had a proud and important role in the Rising. He focused on how the family home in Dublin was at the centre of the creation and storing of the arms that would be used in the Rising. Importantly, despite being raided by the British army no arms were ever found in the house and this was something the sisters were very proud of.

Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council said that the O’Hanrahan’s, ‘during both the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the 20<sup>th</sup> century, played their part in the struggle for independence. The O’Hanrahan name is still remembered in the town with O’Hanrahan’s GFC named in honour of Micheál.’ He thanked ‘the O’Hanrahan’s GFC for loaning the ‘O’Hanrahan Cup’ to the Museum for display. This cup was originally presented by the O’Hanrahan sisters to the club in memory of Micheál.’ He also mentioned that Harry and Micheál were founder members of The Workman’s Club, the last such club in the country.

Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow and Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee said ‘the O’Hanrahan family made a huge contribution to the 1916

Rising and to life here in Carlow. It is therefore very fitting that this gallery is dedicated in honour of them' and that they lived very close to where the Museum is located today.

Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum speaking as Gaeilge in honour of Micheál being a founder of the Carlow branch of Conradh na Gaeilge spoke on the importance of Irish culture to the family and the role they played in promoting this and especially the language.

This exhibition gallery, that has been dedicated to the O'Hanrahan family, displays the Museum's rotating and temporary exhibitions. Following the dedication Pearse along with his brother Harry unveiled the stone plaque confirming the dedication. This was followed by the presenting of a special Carlow County Council 1916 – 2016 medal to Pearse O'Hanrahan jointly by Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee and Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum.

### **Creative Ireland & Cruinniú na Cásca**

Following on from last year's successful one hundred anniversary of the 1916 Rising commemorations across the country and Co Carlow, 'Creative Ireland' has been established as the legacy programme of these commemorations. This programme will operate in all local authorities for the next five years. Carlow County Museum very successfully coordinated for just over two years the 'Carlow Ireland 1916' programme, which saw the county host over sixty events. The coordination for Creative Ireland is being undertaken by the Arts Office. On Easter Monday 2017, all local authorities were asked to organise free events for 'Cruinniú na Cásca', held nationwide on Easter Monday, the day the Rising began. The Museum, Library and Visual all participated. The Museum provided a free tour of the Museum at which up to thirty people attended.

### **Presentation of the 'Re-imagined Proclamations'**

As part of Ireland 2016, during the Centenary year each primary school in the county took the opportunity to voice their concerns and hopes for the future in writing a new 'Re-imagined Proclamation'. As part of the Carlow 1916 Programme, Carlow County Museum in association with the Carlow Arts Office invited primary schools across the county to submit their new Proclamations to be printed on an original printing press. The Museum teamed up with Jack and Paul Byrne, father and son, from Newark Printers, Clogrennane, who still have a working hand printing press which uses the same technique as used to print the original Proclamation in 1916.



Paul Byrne, Newark Printers working with the students to print their re-imagined Proclamations with Jack Byrne in the background.

The schools took part in 'printing press workshops' led by Newark Printing in Carlow County Museum which was thoroughly enjoyed by both students, parents and staff alike. The students were given the rare opportunity to help set up the letter press and assist with the printing of their new proclamation.

On 28<sup>th</sup> June, the participating students, their parents, Principals and teachers came together in Carlow Town Hall to receive their framed Re-Imagined Proclamations presented by Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of Carlow Ireland 2016 committee along with Jack and Paul Byrne, Newark Printers. One copy of the newly printed proclamations will be displayed in the Museum.



A group photo of the participating schools receiving their Re-Imagined Proclamations in the Town Hall from Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of Carlow Ireland 2016 committee along with Jack and Paul Byrne, Newark Printers.

The participating schools in this Carlow Ireland 2016 initiative were: Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Tullow; Bennekerry N.S.; Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin; Our Lady Queen of Universe N.S., Bagenalstown; Kildavin N.S.; Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Tullow and St Mary's N.S., Bagenalstown.

### **Ireland 2016**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October Heather Humphries, TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched the book 'Centenary' in the GPO, O'Connell Street, Dublin. The book is a summary of the many activities undertaken across the island to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1916 Rising. The Museum's stained-glass panel by Peadar Lamb is featured.

### **Lucinda Sly Anniversary:**

Carlow County Museum in association with Carlow Shopping Centre and John Mac Kenna, Carlow Library's Writer in Residence marked the 182<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the hanging of Lucinda Sly and John Dempsey at 2:30pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March at the Governor's house in the former Carlow Gaol (now Carlow Shopping Centre). There was a reading by John, assisted by Angela Keogh, from John's play about Lucinda Sly, followed by a minute's silence at the exact minute the public hanging of both John Dempsey and Lucinda Sly - the last woman hanged in Carlow Gaol.

### **Pan Celtic International Festival**

For the fourth time in the past six years Carlow town very successfully hosted the International Pan Celtic Festival over the course of Easter Week. The Museum organised several events as part of the programme such as guided tours of the Museum and one at Carlow Castle. The Museum, on behalf of the festival committee, hosted several open story telling sessions which saw several of the visiting delegations attend and perform.

### **Hillfort Study Group**

The 'Hillfort Study Group' based at the University of Oxford held their three-day annual outing in Ireland over the weekend of Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. They based themselves in Carlow town and hosted their meeting in the Cathedral Parish Centre followed by a visit to the Museum where they were welcomed by Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson and members of the Board of Carlow County Museum.





(L to R) Professor William O'Brien, Department of Archaeology, UCC; Noreen Whelan and Martin Nevin, Board of Carlow County Museum; Dr Eileen Wilkes, Chairperson of the Hillfort Study Group;  
Dr Wendy Morrison, Secretary of the Hillfort Study Group; Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum; Cllr. John Murphy, Chairperson (Cathaoirleach) of Carlow County Council  
and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator.

### **Heritage Week Lecture**

As part of Heritage Week 2017 the Museum, in partnership with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Tinryland Parish Hall, organised a lecture 'Roundabout Archaeology, discovering Ballinacarrig's ancient origins' on Monday August 21<sup>st</sup> last. Ms. Kate Taylor of archaeological company TVAS (Ireland) Ltd, who undertook the excavations, presented the lecture in the Tinryland Parish Hall. TII provided funding to Carlow County Council to construct a roundabout at the junction of the N80 and L1028 in Ballinacarrig, on the Wexford road opposite the Wexford Road Business Park, just outside Carlow town.





(L to R) Ms. Kate Taylor, TVAS (Ireland) Ltd, Cllr. Fergal Browne, Chairperson of Carlow County Museum and Cllr. Jim Deane, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow.

The excavation revealed the remains of several phases of human activity. In the late prehistoric era, about 2000 years ago, a circular ditch was dug to demarcate a place of burial. Deposits of cremated human bone were found in the ditch; small glass beads were found with some of the cremated bone. Some of the finds were displayed at the lecture with the permission of the National Museum of Ireland.

### **Eureka, Science Festival**

IT Carlow coordinated the 'Eureka, Science Festival' from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of November. The festival received funding from the Science Foundation of Ireland (SFI) and will focused on promoting STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and mathematics). The Museum along with the Library and the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS) were involved in different aspects of the festival events. It is hoped that it will become an annual event. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November IT Carlow hosted a seminar on William Dargan, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. The seminar was organised by the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society and supported by Carlow County Council, through the Museum, and IT Carlow. For one week, the Dargan centre in IT Carlow displayed, on loan, the bust of William Dargan which is displayed in the Museum.

### **National Museum of Ireland Loan**

The Museum has received on loan from the National Museum of Ireland the 'Ballybit Vessel'. This is an Early Bronze Age pottery vessel found on the estate of Col. Bunbury, Lisnavagh, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow. It was found in 1862 under a granite boulder weighing approximately 2 tonne.

The Bowl Tradition is a specific type of pottery dated to the Bronze Age. The whole exterior is almost always decorated with impressed and incised designs, the Ballybit Vessel is classed as a ribbed bowl. The Ballybit Vessel was found on the Lisnavagh estate, but not because of an archaeological excavation, so it is uncertain of the context of the find, but as it was found under a large granite boulder it may have been part of a cist burial. In an article published in the Journal of Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in 1862, the Ballybit Vessel was described 'as sound and fresh in its appearance (without a flaw) as it was when it left the hands of the ancient Celtic potter'. The vessel has been in the national collection since 1928.

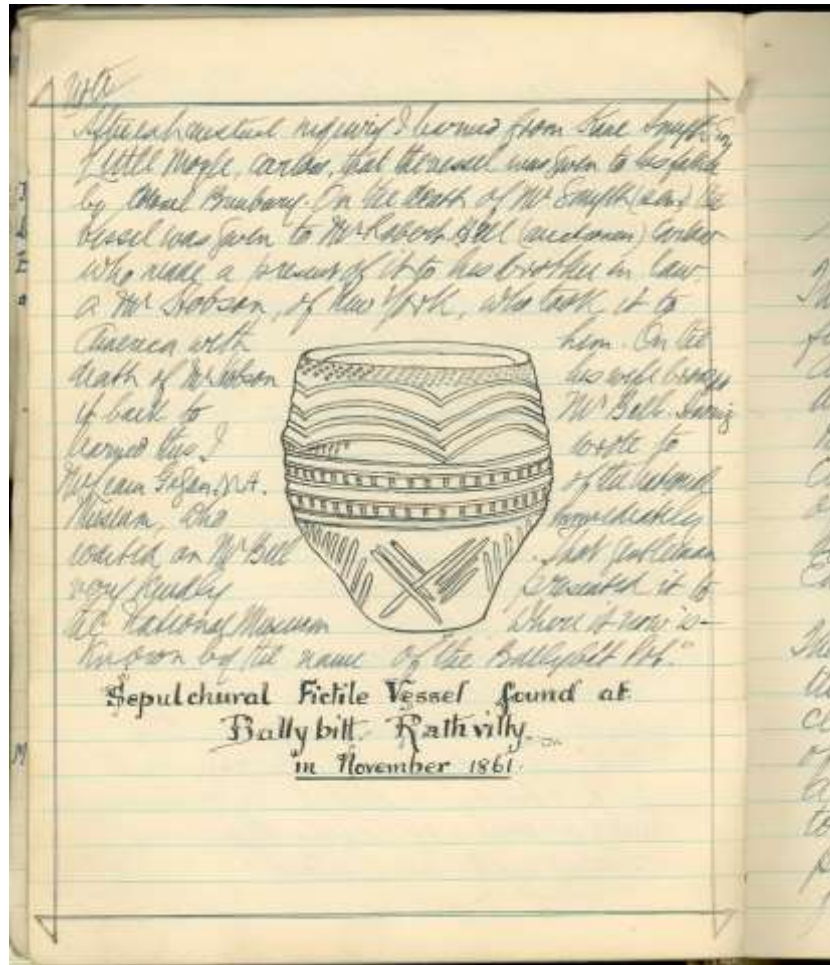
Some years ago, some of the personal papers of Mr. Edward O'Toole, school principal in Rathvilly was donated to the Museum by his granddaughter, Noreen O'Keeffe, who had published his memories 'Whist for your life, that's treason' in 2003.

While cataloguing these papers it was discovered in Edward O'Toole's own hand writing in the book on the History of Rathvilly he describes the extraordinary history of the vessels journey after it was discovered. This information was unknown to the National Museum.



Edward explains that the finder of the vessel, Mr. Lynch, presented the vessel to Col. Bunbury. It was then presented to Mr. Smyth of Little Moyle by Col. Bunbury. Upon the death of Mr. Smyth, the vessel was given to Robert Bell, an auctioneer in Carlow Town, who then presented it to his brother-in-law Mr. Hobson who lived in New York. Upon Mr. Hobson's death, the vessel was returned to Robert Bell from New York. Edward O'Toole, then wrote to the National Museum informing them of the artefact. The National Museum contacted Robert Bell who presented the Ballybit Vessel to them.

Carlow County Museum are one of twelve museums designated by the National Museum of Ireland to collect and display archaeological objects from their particular county. The return of the Ballybit Vessel has received much publicity. It was featured in the Carlow Nationalist, Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, November; it was the main story of the Carlow People, November 28<sup>th</sup>, and an interview on the KCLR Live programme on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November last. The KCLR96FM interview was given by Isabella Mulhall, National Museum of Ireland.



The handwritten page from Edward O'Toole's 'History of Rathvilly' detailing the history of the Ballybit Vessel after it was found and before it was handed over to the National Museum of Ireland in 1928. ccm 06-095 extract.

### **'The Winter Dress' play**

The Museum hosted the play 'The Winter Dress' on the night of Tuesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. While the Museum has previously hosted performance and reenactments this was the first time to host a full-length play. The play was written and performed by Angela Keogh along with John McKenna. The play was set in County Carlow and told the story of a dress maker and a monk who meet at Wells, Royal Oak deep in the winter of AD 1348 during the Black death. They share their stories to shorten the journey and discover that they have more in common than first imagined.

### **Volunteer Expo**

The Museum manned a stand at the Carlow Volunteer Centre's 'Volunteer Expo' in Fairgreen Shopping Centre on 14<sup>th</sup> September, to attract new volunteers and encourage new and returning visitors.

### **Culture Night**

Museum staff conducted a hands on guided tour as part of 'Culture Night 2017' which took place on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September last.

### **TripAdvisor 2017 'Certificate of Excellence 2017':**

The Museum received a [TripAdvisor](#) 'Certificate of Excellence 2017'. TripAdvisor, claims to be the largest travel site in the world, with more than 60 million members and over 170 million reviews and opinions of hotels, restaurants, attractions and other travel-related businesses. Its reviews are submitted by members of the public and based on these reviews a business receives a rating. This is the second time the Museum has been awarded their 'Certificate of Excellence'.

### **Carlow Chamber Awards**

Carlow County Museum was nominated in two categories in the Carlow Business Awards 2017, organised by the Carlow Chamber of Commerce. The awards were held in Visual on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The Museum was nominated in the 'Carlow's Hidden Gem' and the 'Carlow's Best Tourism Experience (Attractions and Activities)' categories. The Carlow's Hidden Gem category was won by the Wellwood Centre, Royal Oak while Rathwood Home and Garden won the Carlow's Best Tourism Experience category.

### **Penfest**

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the Museum hosted an afternoon talk as part of the County Library's 'Penfest' weekend. The topic was 'Writing Local History' presented Library staff member and self-published author of several books, Christopher Power.

### **JLK Plaque Unveiled**

Bishop Denis Nulty unveiled a plaque to commemorate JKL (Bishop James Doyle) in Carlow College on Tuesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The plaque was awarded to the College by the 'National Committee for Commemorative Plaques in Science and Technology' and commissioned by Carlow County Council through Carlow County Museum. The awarding of the plaque recognises JKL's key role in promoting a national education system, including the teaching of science. The unveiling was followed by a lecture, 'Bishop Doyle and Irish Education', by Dr Thomas McGrath, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar of Carlow College. Dr McGrath is a historian who has published three volumes on Bishop Doyle.

Doyle was an educational moderniser who was keen to see the primitive seasonal hedge schools with their ill trained and unregulated teachers replaced by all year-round schools staffed by teachers trained according to the latest thinking in elementary education. His evidence in Westminster was central to the decision to establish the national school's system and he supported multid denominational education.



Pictured at the unveiling of the plaque to James Doyle (JKL) (L to R): Dr Norman McMillan, Secretary National Committee for Commemorative Plaques in Science and Technology, Dr Tom McGrath, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Registrar, Carlow College; Cllr John Murphy, Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum, Mr. Pat Delaney, Director of Services, Carlow County Council, Cllr Jim Deane, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow, Senator Jennifer Murnane-O'Connor, Dr Brian Smyth, Chairman National Committee for Commemorative Plaques in Science and Technology and Monsignor Brendan Byrne.

### **Local Authority Museum's Network (LAMN)**

Dermot Mulligan has been elected the secretary of the Local Authority Museum's Network (LAMN) and has stepped down as secretary of the Designated Museums of Ireland Committee.

### **Museum Board**

Carlow County Museum is operated by Carlow County Council in association with the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (C.H.A.S.). The Board consists of seven members, three Members of Carlow County Council, three representatives of the CHAS and a Chief Executive's nominee. The Curator of Carlow County Museum acts as Secretary to the Board.

The Chairperson is chosen from the three Members of the County Council and the three CHAS representatives with the position of Chairperson alternating on an annual basis between the Members of the County Council and the CHAS representatives. At the 2016 AGM Cllr Fergal Browne was elected Chairperson for 2017.





The Board of Carlow County Museum viewing the newly displayed 'Ballybit Vessel', dating from the Bronze Age, in Carlow County Museum. Also present was Pat Deering TD who is from Ballybit where the vessel was found. (L to R): Noreen Whelan, Gary Hughes, Cllr Walter Lacey, Cllr Andrea Dalton, Dr Seamus Ó Murchú; Cllr Fergal Browne, Chairperson of the Museum Board; John Shortall, Acting County Librarian, Pat Deering TD, and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator.

### **Museum Staff & Volunteers**

The Museum has two full time staff, Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator and John McDarby, Staff Officer with Martin O'Rourke, Maintenance Superintendent, shared staff member with the Library Service. The Museum has access to one and a half position under the Tus Social Scheme which is coordinated by the Carlow County Development Partnership. This position is shared by three people across the week, Ms. Bridget Flannery, Gerald Moore and Mr. Thiru Thirukkumaran. Ms. Kelly Mooney, Graduate Intern recently completed her two years' contract at the Museum in June 2017 and has subsequently moved to the Arts Office. In December the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Museum Volunteer Party was held in the Delta Centre and it was attended by many of the Museums dedicated volunteers. The Museum is ever grateful to its many wonderful volunteers who assist all year round.



# **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Carlow County Council is committed to developing and advancing information systems to increase the efficiency and quality of service delivery to our customers. The Council's Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Department manage all information system requirements. 2017 was an extremely busy year in the ICT Department with many infrastructural projects delivered, significant work carried out on IT Security as well as cloud and software innovations.

### **Infrastructural Projects**

In June 2017, Carlow ICT embarked on a new logical network design to exit the LGMA's national network, which has been in existence for over 15 years. A decision was made in 2016 to disband the national network, in which over 25 local authorities are loosely linked in a logical network, known as a forest. There was significant work involved in the migration, as nearly 300 user accounts, computer accounts and over 40 servers had to be migrated manually. As part of the process, some servers were upgraded to the latest licensed Microsoft Servers, to add value and future-proof their functions. This work was carried out with minimum disruption to staff and Carlow ICT services. Carlow are the first local authority to exit the national forest.

### **Application and Software Services**

A significant amount of time was spent, as always, maintaining the council's key suite of business applications. This suite currently includes iPlan, iHouse, Agresso, ePayments, various websites, social media sites, platforms, Office 365, Dynamics CRM, Sugar CRM, iDocs and ArcGis. These applications are all extremely multifarious and without these applications the various sections within the Local Authority could not function.

Carlow County Libraries migrated to a new Library software system, Sierra, in early 2017. The staff in the ICT Department provided support and help during this complex transition.

### **National Broadband Plan**

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a state intervention that will provide high speed broadband to those parts of the country where there is no certainty that the commercial sector will invest. A Broadband Officer has been appointed from within the ICT Department of Carlow County Council. The Broadband Officer will liaise with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the successful bidder and the Local Authority, to aid in the network deployment in the county. The plan aims to deliver high speed broadband to all citizens and businesses of Ireland with access to speeds of at least 30Mbps. A mapping exercise was undertaken to show areas that were already covered, or would be covered soon, by commercial broadband operators and the parts of the county that will be covered by the National Broadband Plan. This exercise will feed into the procurement process where a bidder(s) will be selected. The date for awarding the contracts to the bidders was significantly delayed and the decision date was extended until 2018.

### **ICT Security and Monitoring**

IT Security is always a huge concern for the ICT Department with a significant amount of time and resources spent on ensuring that our network is protected from threats. This became even more relevant given the proliferation of ICT malware, viruses and ransomware. To this end, the ICT Department spends considerable time and effort implementing, upgrading, monitoring and managing the range of security measures on the network, email platform and devices, including mobile and tablet devices. A large proportion of the resources in IT are dedicated to providing an extensive range of support services to council staff, members and the public.

Windows Server Operating System and security patches were also installed throughout the year to ensure that Carlow County Council has taken all necessary IT security precautions. Servers hosting Carlow County Council's websites were also patched to the highest level. These patches will continue to be applied regularly during the coming years to defend against potential exploits including viruses, worms and ransomware attacks.

Multiple international ransomware attacks took place during 2017 including the WannaCry and Petya attacks. These were worldwide cyberattacks which targeted computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system. Ransomware takes the form of malicious software that cyber criminals use to hold your computer or computer files for ransom. It restricts access to the infected computer system and demands that the user pays a ransom to the cyber criminals to unlock the folders. Ransomware can come in the form of a request in an email to click on a website address or directly on a link from within a website. Once the user clicks on the address it then encrypts the local files on your computer and potentially network files and demands a 'ransom' to be paid.

The WannaCry attack infected more than 230,000 computers in over 150 countries in one day including parts of Britain's National Health Service (NHS), along with many other countries and companies worldwide. Petya, was released a number of months later leading to global chaos, particularly in the retail and pharmaceutical sectors.

Due to the seriousness of these attacks and others, the ICT Team in Carlow County Council worked tirelessly to ensure that all necessary precautions were taken to protect the County Councils data. Ransomware attacks are becoming more common and it is important that members and staff be vigilant.

### **Communications**

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform established a National Framework for the Supply of Fixed Voice and Voice over IP Services. Agreements were put in place with eight carriers. The major features of this framework are:

- Lowest price guarantee
- Simple and cost effective procurement process for customers
- Public Service Terms and Conditions
- Centralised contract management and monitoring of vendor performance

The ICT Department issued a RFQ under the Fixed Voice and VoIP Framework in 2017 and awarded the contract to Vodafone.

### **National Planning Application Database**

Carlow County Council participated in the National Planning Application Database Project during 2017. The aim was to take planning data from all Local Authorities in order to create and maintain a centralised national web service for planning application data. This web service is now available as part of myplan.ie and ensures planning application data for Carlow is available for general consumption.

### **Replacing Flex Applications**

The ESRI ArcGIS Viewer for Flex Builder has been successfully deployed to build many web based applications over the last three years in Carlow County Council. Examples of websites built are Planning GIS, Property Register Viewer and Sanitary Services viewer.

The Flex Builder utilises Adobe Flash Technology. Many potential security vulnerabilities have been identified when using this platform. Vulnerabilities include potential security and malware attacks. Experts in the security field are now advising against the use of Adobe Flash and indeed phasing out its use completely over time.

The process of migrating flex applications to a more secure platform that utilises HTML5 and JavaScript commenced during 2017. The WebApp Builder from ESRI will be used to replace all flex built applications, thereby minimising potential security risks.

# **MOTOR TAXATION**

Carlow County Council's Motor Tax Office delivers a high standard of service to members of the public. The collection of Vehicle License Fees remains its primary function.

The Motor Taxation Online service is available 24/7 - 365 days per year at [www.motortax.ie](http://www.motortax.ie)

#### **STATISTICAL DATA**

Over 40,000 transactions were completed in the Motor Tax Office in 2017. Almost 35,000 tax discs were issued.

Total monies collected in 2017 amounted to €6.3 million. There follows a breakdown of this in tabular form.

	€ million	%
<b>Private Vehicles</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>69.8</b>
<b>Goods Vehicles</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>20.6</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.3</b>	

In addition to the above 51,647 transactions to a total of €8,398,060 were processed online.



# **WATER SAFETY**

Funding was provided by the County Council in 2017 to ensure the provision of the Water Safety programme, including the employment of two teams of lifeguards on a daily basis at the very popular bathing areas located on the River Barrow at Bagenalstown and Clashganna Borris. Their two month period of employment commenced on 24<sup>th</sup> June. During their employment the lifeguarding service completed a rescue and performed risk management interventions which prevented accidental drowning's and potentially hazardous aquatic situations, involving all age groups, developing.

In 2017 Inland Waterways submitted a planning application for the development of the River Barrow towpath in the county to facilitate the increased public use of the Barrow towpath.

Clashganna and St. Mullins are serviced with suitable car parking and nearby refreshment facilities, are continuing to experience a very significant presence of camping, hiking and commercially orientated water based adventure activities training. Clashganna is an official venue for canoe/kayaking competitions and training events also organized by the Irish Canoe Union. The intensity of use by local and non local commercial interests at this location is increasing pressure on existing access and parking facilities. While the County does not yet have a significant 'dependent on water' business population the existence of passenger/leisure craft and marine infrastructure concurrent with upgraded restaurant/social venues in close proximity to the navigable River Barrow in the County makes the river an increasingly significant leisure/tourism activity asset, especially so during favourable weather conditions.

The Water Safety Development Officers annual conference was held in Waterford City in April. Issues discussed at the conference included Ringbuoy Inspections, Swimming Pool Risk Assessments, First Aid for Lifeguards, Inspection of Dunmore East beach bathing area and Inshore Rescue boats.

Efforts to minimise the risk of accidental drowning are by necessity, a team effort. During the year unusual climatic conditions occasionally transformed tranquil rivers in the county into torrents, representing a threat to life and property. It is during such events that the coordinated efforts of the Councils area offices, technical and outdoor staff and an appropriately equipped and trained Civil Defence unit are most effective. The Garda Authorities operate the Riverwatch Scheme in an effort to control the risk of anti-social behavior on or adjacent to the River Barrow in the county and the Councils lifeguarding service cooperates closely with the Gardai in this regard.

Aware that most drowning's occur in inland counties the Council will continue to implement Irish Water Safety policy on managing risk at its popular bathing areas. Complementary to these efforts the County Water Safety Committee will continue to deliver the water safety message through providing a self-financed programme of activities including a broad spectrum of specialist training and swimming/rescue skills development courses, for all age groups, during the current year.

# **CIVIL DEFENCE**

Carlow County Council, is the Civil Defence Authority for the administrative area of County Carlow. The 2003 Civil Defence Act sets out a number of roles for Civil Defence and these include providing a backup service to the Primary Emergency Services, Community Service, Training in Casualty, Radio Communications, Rescue, Welfare, Fire Fighting and Boating Skills (search and recovery).

Civil Defence also provide`s service to the Local Authority, HSE, and Gardai in the event of severe weather conditions such as flooding and snow.

Nationally since January 2013 The Civil Defence Board has been dissolved and Civil Defence is under the Department of Defence, Civil Defence Branch.

The new Major Emergency Management Framework document also sets out roles and responsibilities for Civil Defence, such as setting up Welfare Centres, Registration of Casualties, responsibility for casual volunteers and Secondary Line back up to the Primary Emergency Services. The members of Civil Defence are all volunteers with the exception of a part-time Civil Defence Officer employed by Carlow County Council. At present we have over 65 volunteer members ranging from locations such as Carlow town, Muinebheag, Borris and Rathanna. Weekly training on subjects such as First Aid to CPR level, First Aid Responder,( FAR), Emergency First Responders, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighting skills, Rescue techniques, Technical Rescue, Search Skills, Welfare etc., are taught and practised. On our training schedule at weekends the subjects taught are exercised and the skills resulting from this are pitched against other counties in competition at various venues.

Also our training at field days are used for searching in open country, AFS fire fighting events, and Search Skills training on land and with boats in the river Barrow and Slaney. The new Civil Defence building is fully operational since September 2009, this is making our operation more efficient and gives a much more effective and quicker response.

2014 also saw new Search Skills Training Course rolled out for our members and taught in the Garda College. Carlow members were one of the first to embrace this activity and we gained status to Instructor level. Since 2015 we also have Search Managers trained in this Field Skills course.

Since mid 2014 we also have Instructor level at Water Awareness and Swift Water Flood First Responder. We also Water and Search Management Training which was carried out in Wales.

Civil Defence Boat units provides back up assistance to the (PRAs) Fire service and Gardai in River Search and Recovery (RSR) situations.

Volunteers are trained in Boating skills, River and land search and recovery techniques for back up situations to Gardai.

Water awareness and Swift Water Flood Response courses are run throughout the year.

Civil Defence set up a Multi Agency Day and Night Searches on different sections of the River Barrow which included Gardai and Fire Service to test various skills which include River search techniques in hours of darkness, Lighting equipment, Access points to River edge, Control of Boating, Communications, and Body Recovery.

Civil Defence also Assist`s the HSE.

### Grants.

The Council obtained the following grants from the Department of Defence. Civil Defence Branch.

In 2017 we obtained grant of €10,000 towards the purchase of a New Boat to add to our fleet for severe weather work.

### ACTIVITIES COVERED BY CIVIL DEFENCE DURING 2017.

Date	Activity	Venue
06/01/2017	Operation Transformation Safety and First Aid	Rathwood, Tullow, County Carlow.
14/01/2017	Boat Training on Flooding incidents over the New Year period.	River Barrow, Tinnahinch and St. mullims.
22/01/2017	Training for Swiftwater First Responders.	River Barrow, Carlow Town.
31/01/2017	Start of Radio Course	Civil Defence HQ..
05/02/2017	Radio Course Part 2 and Swiftwater training	Milford Lock area.
18/02/2017	Sonar Camera Training	Muinebheag / Leighlinbridge River.
19/02/2017	Part 2. Sonar Training	Goresbridge /and Bagenstown weir.
05/02/2017	Search Skills	Mt. Leinster Area.
12/03/2017	Recruit Boat Training	County Carlow.
17/03/2017	Stewarding at St. Patrick's Day Parades	Carlow Town and Myshall, Muinebheag and Leighlinbridge
25/03/2017	Regional Competitions Wexford	Wexford County
02/04/2017	Sonar Camera Training Bank training	Bagenalstown area
11/04/2017 16/04/2017 18/04/2017	CDO training NECC center Dawn Mass Duty Community Event Pan- Celtic	NECC Centre, Dublin Mt. Leinster. Parade Event
23/04/2017	Community event Taste of Carlow	Carlow Town
07/05/2017	Boat and Swiftwater Training	Carlow town

14/05/2017 26/05/2017 28/05/2017 03/06/2017 04/06/2017	Trialathon Duty 2016 Medals presentations Community Event 5km Walk Carlow Regata, Duty Carlow Regata, Duty	River Barrow, Carlow. Croke Park, Dublin Bagenalstown Area. Carlow Carlow
11/06/2017 11/06/2017 24/06/2017 01/07/2017	Dragon Boats Safety Boat Duty Arts Festival events Duty fire Works display Community event Cancer Walk, Mt Leinster.	Duty on the River Various locations on the River Barrow. Oldleighlin Cathedral to Carlow Cathedral grounds. Myshall to Mt. Leinster.
06/07/2017 to 16/07/2017 30/07/2017 07/08/2017	Bagenalstown festival Festival Duties Boat Training Carlow Car Vintage Rally	Bagenalstown various locations Fenniscourt Lock / Weir Casualty duties.
15/08/2017	Borris Fair First aid and stewarding.	Borris.
20/08/2017	Tullow Show	Tullow, County Carlow
03/09/2017	Boat Training, Radio Training All Comms. GPS.	River Barrow.
10/09/2017	Search Skills Training	Mt. Leinster Area
17/09/2017	Search Skills Training Part 2.	Milford Lock.
08/10/2017	Day and Night Search Skills	Mount Leinster. Forrest area.
15/10/2017 16/10/2017	Operation storm prep. Storm	County Council HQ.
11 and 12/11/2017	Waterford City Harbour Water Boat training	Waterford City
03/12/2017	Community Christmas event Duckett`s Grove. Various Duties. Safety etc.	Carlow

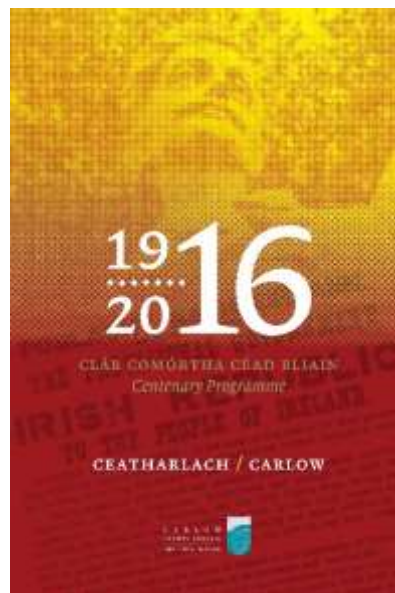
# **CARLOW 1916 SUMMARY REPORT**





## **“Carlow Ireland 2016” Commemorations, An Overview**

“Ireland 2016” was a year-long national programme to commemorate the events of the 1916 Rising, to reflect on our achievements as a democratic state over the last 100 years and to look towards Ireland’s future. The national programme, included seven strands: State Ceremonial; Historical Reflection; An Teanga Bheo/The Living Language; Youth and Imagination; Cultural Expression; Community Participation; Global and Diaspora. The Community Participation strand was led by all local authorities across the country. Ireland 2016, was a year of engagement for everyone on this island. It was a once-in-a-century invitation to people of all ages, at home and overseas, to shape and take part in a diverse range of historical, cultural and artistic activities, to nurture commemorate, celebrate and debate. This pivotal period in the history of Ireland has had an enormous impact on the development of our nation and our national identity, and it is fitting that we sought to commemorate the people and events in a thoughtful, respectful and consultative manner. The ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme’ saw the county host over sixty events to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the 1916 Rising. All the commemorations individually and collectively remembered key moments in the foundation of this State.



The commemoration of the 1916 Rising in County Carlow was led by the “Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee”, chaired by Cllr. Fintan Phelan, established by Carlow County Council in January 2015 and held its last meeting in January 2018. In drafting the 2016 Program the Committee, during February and March 2015, sought submissions from the public with suitable ideas and suggestions under the following headings (a) Remembering (the Rising),

(b) Reflecting (on the last 100 years) (c) Re - imagining (looking to the future). In June, based on this, the Committee hosted a public information session for the county in the Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge. The Committee outlined its findings and projects that it would undertake through Carlow County Council and its institutions, namely the Carlow Arts Office, Carlow Library Service and Carlow County Museum. That night the Committee launched the “Carlow 2016 Grants Scheme” for Community Led Projects. A total of € 25,000 was made available under this scheme, which over the course of the year funded twenty-nine groups and organisations from around the county to hold events. These community participation events allowed for real citizen engagement with “Ireland 2016”.

In October 2015, all county programmes were launched by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD; An Tánaiste Joan Burton TD; Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Alan Kelly TD, Minister of Environment, Community & Local Government at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin. The county Carlow launch was held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>, January 2016 in Carlow Central Library. The programme was launched by Ann Phelan, TD, Minister for State for Rural Economic Development and Social Enterprise. Commandant Stephen MacEoin, speaking on behalf of Ireland 2016, said that “over two thousand events will take place nationally and that the large crowd attending the Carlow launch is testament to the huge interest of people in this period and in the foundation of our country”.

Invited to speak at the launch, Dr Conor Kostick, biographer of Micheál O’Hanrahan, said that Carlow can be rightly proud of their connection to O’Hanrahan and that he was the second most recorded name in the Dublin police records of the time. His role prior to the Rising as Quartermaster was important and should not be under estimated.

**CLAR CHEATHARLACH ÉIRE 2016**  
 In Áine Ní Fhaola, T.D.  
 Aire Stáit do Forairtúis Áise-Gil  
 Fhóid agus Inneoinneach Tuartha

**CLAR CIMOIRTEA CESH BLAIN Centenary Programme**  
**CEATHARLACH / CARLOW**

**THE CARLOW IRELAND 2016 PROGRAMME**  
 to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising  
 by Ann Phelan, T.D.  
 Minister of State for Rural Economic Development  
 and Social Enterprise  
 at 7pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
 Carlow Central Library, 14/16k Street, Carlow Town

Also speaking will be  
 Dr. Conor Kostick, author of 'Michael O'Hanrahan (1870-1916)'  
 The support of the Ireland 2016 Programme and  
 the Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht  
 are gratefully acknowledged.

RSVP requests only to:  
 tel: 051 9137354, email: ireland2016@carlowcoco.ie

Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee, stated that ‘it is pleasing that so many communities and organisations around the county will undertake commemorations in their area. These will take the form of opening commemorative gardens, exhibitions, photographic displays, pieces of theatre and plays, unveiling of plaques

and art commissions, parades, lectures, art exhibitions, re-enactments, sporting competitions and reading of the Proclamation. I would like, on behalf of the Committee, to thank them for their interest and foresight in developing projects to mark such an important year.'

Some of the many highlights of the year include:

On Sunday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 the County Carlow 1916 Commemoration took place outside the Town Hall, Haymarket, Carlow Town. Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Mayor John Cassin, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow and Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee invited the people of the county to come and remember all the Carlow citizens who participated in the 1916 Easter Rising. This commemorative event included the reading of the Proclamation in both Irish and English by secondary school students Tommy Mac Diarmada and Ella Hyland respectively; the laying of a wreath by Cllr. Charlie Murphy on behalf of the citizens of the county; the raising of the national flag by Lieutenant Tom Bell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, James Stephens Barrack's, Kilkenny; the playing of a lament by Gerrie Dunne, Killeshin Pipe Band; a minutes silence followed by sounding the Last Post & Reveille by Christine Somers of the Kilkenny Brass & Reed Band; concluding with the playing of the national anthem by the Presentation Band. The members of the Carlow Organisation of National Ex-servicemen and the UN Veterans marched in formation.



To mark the one hundredth anniversary, Carlow County Council honoured eight Carlow citizens who are one hundred years of age or older. They were presented with a special 1916 – 2016 commemorative medal. The recipients were: Ms. Ethel Blair, Leighlinbridge; Mrs Anne Fitzgerald, Fenagh; Mr. Francis Kevin Garvey, Green Road; Fr. Tom Kennedy, Bagenalstown; Ms. Bernadette Kehoe, Craddockstown Nursing Home; Mrs. Annie Meaney, Old Leighlin; Mrs. May Morris, Hillview Nursing Home and Mrs. Mary 'Moll' Nolan, Bagenalstown.



The first to receive their 1916-2016 commemorative medal was Mary 'Moll' Nolan, known by friends and neighbours as 'Queen of the Green' from Fairgreen, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow who turned 101 this year.

She is pictured here with Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee.

Photo: Paul Curran, Carlow County Council.

Carlow College, Ireland's oldest third level Catholic college, held a 'Memorabilia Day' where members of the public brought along any items they have relating to the 1916 Rising, the War of Independence and the Civil War period so they could be photographed and record the stories associated with them.

The members of Carlow County Council commissioned two new pieces of public art, one for each Municipal District. These lasting legacies of the Carlow Ireland 2016 commemorations were commissioned by the Council through its Public Art Working Group, and coordinated through the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee. The project was managed through the Arts Office, in partnership with County Carlow Museum under the direction of Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, Information Systems and Culture of Carlow County Council.

The art commission for the Municipal District of Carlow is located in Carlow County Museum. This innovative and unique contemporary stained glass panel illustrates a Carlow narrative showing some key Carlow figures and the role they played in 1916. Cork City based artist Peadar Lamb, who won the commission, has magnificently crafted a large panel 2.5 meters wide by 1.5 meters high. This is an addition to the six 1930s stained glass windows already in the Museum thanks to the buildings original residents, the Presentation Sisters.





The panel respectfully marks and captures the narrative of some Carlow figures of 1916 as well as providing a legacy for future generations who will visit the County Museum. The panel is impactful on all visitors to the Museum and is now part of the Museum's permanent collection. Peadar Lamb, as an artist, works primarily in the medium of stained glass for over twenty years. Using hand-made glass, he employs a variety of techniques which have changed little over the centuries. He has shown extensively in his native Ireland and internationally, and his work is in public and private collections in Europe, the Middle East, the USA and Japan.



At the unveiling of the 1916 Commemorative Stained-Glass Panel by artist Peadar Lamb in Carlow County Museum on Thursday July 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 were Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Mayor of the Municipality of Carlow and the Chairperson of the 'Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee'; Gary Hughes, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum; Members of the Museum Board: Cllr Anne Ahern, Cllr Fergal Browne, Cllr. Walter Lacey, Martin Nevin and Noreen Whelan; Bernie O'Brien, Deputy Chief Executive; Pat Delaney Director of Services, artist Peadar Lamb, Catherine Marshall, art historian; Sinead Dowling and Aileen Nolan, Arts Officers and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator. Photo: Paul Curran, Carlow County Council.

The commission depicts:

Micheál O'Hanrahan, who grew up on Tullow Street, Carlow town, was executed for his role in 1916, and is representative of his family who were immersed in the republican tradition. Nurse Margaret Kehoe, from Leighlinbridge, lost her life on Easter Monday 1916 while tending to the wounded in the South Dublin Union. Father Albert Bibby OFM Cap., from Bagenalstown, ministered to many of the rebel prisoners in Kilmainham Gaol and was a link between them and their families. Thomas Traynor<sup>4</sup>, from Tullow, who fought in the 1916 Rising was executed in April 1921 during the War of Independence, is shown surrounded by his ten children.

The piece is rich in symbolism including an image of a large bullet and a bicycle. The bullet represents the power of the well-armed British Empire while the bicycle represents the ill-equipped Irish Revolutionaries, a David v Goliath situation. Peadar stated that "the content of this artwork is a microcosm of what was happening in the whole country during the period of 1916. As an artist, in the process of making this work I have to try to find what I am going to say and how to represent this Carlow narrative. I don't see historical dates I see things in pictures. I created a legacy piece that compositionally is not just about the past but also for the present and the future".

At the unveiling of the panel in July 2016, Catherine Marshall, a leading figure in Art History in Ireland, summarised the importance of stained glass as an artform. She said "it is always really great to see a brand-new artwork as the public see it for the first time. Historically as an art form stained glass was the medium used for commemorations. It is most fitting and the visionary work of Carlow County Council to commission contemporary stained glass artist Peadar Lamb. What strikes me in this artwork is the careful traditional leaded techniques and methods Peadar has applied, all done by hand, like the great cathedral windows across Europe. Like the great stained glass artists like Harry Clark, Peadar Lamb is an exceptional artist and has produced a beautiful artwork for Carlow".

The stained-glass panel was short listed in the Chambers Ireland "Excellence in Local Government Awards" in the "Commemorations Category". A photograph of the panel is featured in the official Ireland 2016 publication "Centenary, Ireland Remembers 1916" edited by Ronan McGreevy.

The art commission for the Municipal District of Muinebheag is located at Beachers Hill on the Leighlinbridge Road in Bagenalstown. It is a Carlow granite memorial honouring Fr.

Albert Bibby OFM Cap., Regent Street, Bagenalstown and Nurse Margaret Kehoe, Orchard, Leighlinbridge for their pastoral and medical care of those who fought in 1916.

The guest speaker for its unveiling on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April was Dr. Maurice Manning, Chair of Ireland 2016 Expert Advisory Group and a native of Bagenalstown. He said that “after the Rising, Fr. Bibby became a national figure. He attended the needs of Micheal O’Hanrahan, a fellow Carlow man and was present at his execution. He witnessed the last hours of Edward Daly, Willie Pearse, Joseph Mary Plunkett and four days later the executions of Michael Mallin, Con Colbert, Sean Houston and Eamonn Ceannt”. He said that Fr. Bibby was a good man, a saintly man and a man whose life was based on three main pillars – his deep faith, his loyalty to the great Capuchin order and the vows he took on his ordination and, perhaps most of all, his great sense of service, especially to the poor.

Dr Manning speaking on Nurse Margaret Kehoe said that ‘like Fr. Bibby she spent her life working with the poor, the destitute and the mentally disturbed. She was a highly trained and compassionate nurse. She has been described as the forgotten first victim of the Easter Rising. Margaret Kehoe was 49 years old and was a native of Orchard near Leighlinbridge. Her family was an old and respected family in the area. Her father Dr. Patrick Kehoe was Coroner for county Carlow.’

Cllr. Denis Foley, Chairperson of the Municipal District of Bagenalstown, thanked Declan Nolan and staff of the Carlow Stone Centre, Ballon for crafting the lovely memorial in Carlow Granite and features a carving of Fr. Bibby and Nurse Kehoe based on illustrations by Adam Curran, Carlow town. The Carlow Stone Centre worked closely with Carlow County Council’s Arts Office and Carlow County Museum on the project. After the unveiling the memorial was Blessed by Fr. Christopher Twomey OFM Cap., Guardian of the Carlow Capuchin Community.





The unveiling was preceded by a parade led by the Carlow Pipe Band along with members of the Muinebheag Organisation of National Ex-servicemen (ONE) and the Carlow UN Veterans Association. At the memorial, the Proclamation was read in Irish by Hamish Beaton, Principal of St Brigid's National School, Bagenalstown. Padraig Cahill County Carlow Civil Defence Officer and a native of Bagenalstown read the Proclamation in English. Cllr. Charlie Murphy laid a wreath in memory of Fr. Bibby and Nurse Kehoe. David Walsh a member of the Carlow Pipe Band played two laments as part of the ceremony. Corporal Fergal Foley from the Dept of Defence Head Quarters in the Curragh, a son of Cllr. Denis Foley raised the Irish flag while Christine Somers of the Kilkenny Brass & Reed Band sounded the Last Post & Reveille. The St Andrews Church Choir sang the National anthem assisted by the Carlow Pipe Band.



At the end of the ceremony Cllr. Charlie Murphy, presented three specially commissioned medals to

Fr. Christopher Twomey, Guardian of the Capuchin Community in Carlow; to Denise Kehoe, to honour the link with Nurse Kehoe and to guest speaker Dr Maurice Manning.

In March, Nurse Kehoe's relations, through the specially formed Margaret Kehoe (Leighlinbridge) Memorial Group, held a grave side service at her place of rest at St. Fintan's Church, Ballinabranagh and unveiled a family memorial to her in the Garden of Remembrance in Leighlinbridge. Nurse Kehoe's grandniece, Eleanor Cummins, through the Nurse Margaret Keogh Commemoration Group, wrote a play marking her role in 1916. Nationally on International Women's Day in March, Ireland 2016 launched a short video about Nurse Kehoe juxtaposed with a modern day female doctor.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jzuSoP7R\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jzuSoP7R_M)



Nurse Kehoe's grave at St. Fintan's Church, Ballinabranagh

On Regent Street, the Bagenalstown Improvement Group unveiled a plaque to Fr. Bibby OFM Cap. on the house in which he was born.

As a result of the national focus on 1916 many communities began to research potential connections in their area with more personal stories emerging. One such individual was Bridget (Brede) Connolly from Friarstown, County Carlow who would appear to be the only Carlow person present in the GPO in O'Connell Street during the Rising. She was a dispatch officer for Cumann na mBan. The "Grange 1916 Committee" unveiled a plaque at her grave in Grange. Another connection was James Connor, a prominent Carlovian and manager of the Clogrennane Lime Works, who was killed by rebels on Easter Monday on Stephen's Green for refusing to give up his motor car for a barricade. Dr. Shay Kinsella presented a lecture on his life and unveiled a plaque on the wall of Clody cemetery to commemorate Connor as his grave is unmarked.



(L to R) Bridget (Brede) Connolly from Friarstown, County Carlow and Fr. Bibby OFM Cap.

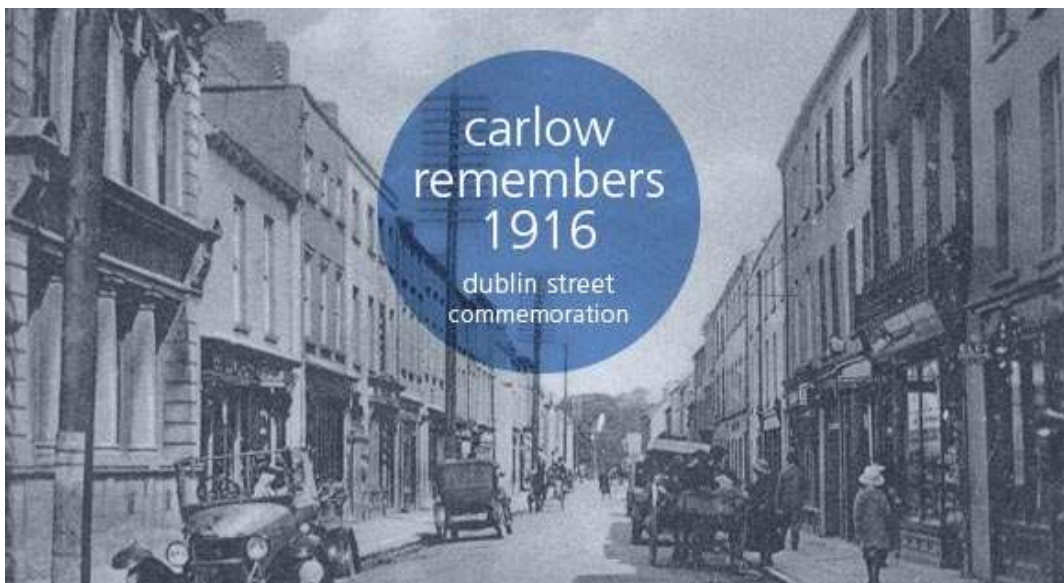
The Carlow Federation of the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) produced a wonderful large wall hanging depicting Ireland's Achievements from 1916 up to 2016. Various styles of stitching, quilting and embroidery from the twelve guilds of the Carlow Federation were involved in the making of this commemorative piece. The wall hanging is now on display in the County Museum.





(L to R) Plaque to James Connor, manager of the Clogrennane Lime Works and the Carlow Federation of the Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) large wall hanging. The Tullow 2016 Centenary Committee in April 2016, unveiled "The Flame of Liberty" as the community's response to remembering Volunteer Thomas Traynor, born in 1882 at Cannon's Quarter, Tullow. The piece was lovingly crafted in metal by locally based company Burnside Autocyl in early 2016 by skilled designers, craftsmen and apprentices. The "Flame of Liberty" colour scheme is taken from the National Flag, octagonal in shape, seven dedicated to the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation and the eight dedicated to Volunteer Thomas Traynor. Together the eight sides form a strong but safe resting place for "The Flame of Liberty" which was escorted from Thomas Traynor Road through the town to the Thomas Traynor Memorial by members of the Traynor family, local community groups and marching bands.

The first week of April 2016 saw Dublin Street, once the premier trading hub in Carlow Town, return to the busy commercial life of 1916. Shop owners on the street recreated their shop windows and displays reflecting the time and their present-day shop staff wore period dress. A number of no longer trading businesses were recreated such as a printing works, a carpentry workshop and a cobbler. The street was lined with veteran cars, a horse and cart and a steam engine.



The Carlow Library Service held several events throughout their branches including writing and poetry competitions. Through their Carlow Nationalist archive, they produced a series of leaflets that looked at Carlow life in 1916 under the headings of business, sport, farming, church, anniversaries, local interest, medical and the Rising.

ASPIRO Choir, under the direction of Mary Amond O'Brien commissioned composer Liam Lawton to write a Requiem 'Remembering the Child' as a living remembrance of children who died in the 1916 Rising and in memory of all children who have lost their lives or childhood through violence, war and oppression. As a symbol of hope for a future of peace and prosperity in Ireland and throughout the world, this new commission forms the centre piece of a specially selected programme of songs that reflect Leonard Bernstein's quote:

“This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully and more devotedly than ever before”. This November concert was hosted in Carlow Cathedral with special guest, Joe Duffy, RTE radio, in attendance as a narration from his book ‘Children of the Rising’ was read to the packed audience. The concert was also performed in Christ Church, Dublin on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Carlow GAA recreated the two County Finals from 1916 played between Tinryland and St Patricks Tullow in football and Bagenalstown and Graiguecullen in hurling. The two matches saw players, some of who were direct descendants from the 1916 teams, dressed in the replica sports jerseys along with workman boots and caps.

Both matches begun with the traditional throw in with all players lined up in the middle of the pitch. The Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, had the honour of throwing in the sliotar for the hurling game. These recreations made for great viewing for the crowd, many of whom also donned 1916 attire for the special occasion.



As part of Heritage Week 2016, the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society presented three mini-lectures. Ms. Róisín Bowling presented “Uniformity 16, celebrating Cumann na mBan and what they wore”; Mr. Paul Maguire, Curator of Carlow Military Museum, spoke about the uniforms and the arms of 1916 while Ms Imelda Byrne, presenter of television series ‘ICA Bootcamp’ discussed the food of 1916 in ‘The Way We Ate’.

The Recipients of the “Carlow 2016 Grants Scheme” for Community Led Projects were: An Gairdín Beo; ASPIRO; Bagenalstown Improvement Group; Ballon Improvement Group; Carlow Federation Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA); Carlow GAA; Carlow Golf Club; Carlow Tourism; Carlow Youthreach; Clonegal/Kildavin Veteran Players Group; County Carlow Youth Theatre; Delany Archive, Carlow College; Delta Centre; Equal Chances Polish School; Fenagh Improvement Group; Fenagh Juvenile GAA Club; Grange 1916 Committee; Ms. Janice de Bróithe; Myshall/Drumpeha Social History Group; The Margaret Kehoe (Leighlinbridge) Memorial Group; Nurse Margaret Keogh Commemoration Group;

O'Hanrahan's GFC; S.M.A.R.T Ltd., St. Mullins; Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál; Dr Shay Kinsella; St Joseph's NS; Tinryland Tidy Towns; Tullow 2016 Committee and the Workman's Club Carlow.

Right across the country a special emphasis was placed on involving schools and young people in the commemorations. Beginning in September 2015 members of the Irish Defence Forces visited all primary schools around Ireland and presented an Irish flag and a copy of the 1916 Proclamation. Secondary schools were invited to receive theirs at a special ceremony held in Croke Park, Dublin with President Michael D Higgins, President of Ireland in February 2016. All schools participated in "Proclamation Day" on March 15<sup>th</sup>, when the 1916 Proclamation was read and the Irish flag was raised. In advance of this day, schools were asked to understand the original Proclamation and take the opportunity to voice their concerns and hopes for the future in writing a new 'Re-imagined Proclamation'. Carlow County Museum in association with the Carlow Arts Office invited primary schools across Carlow to submit their new Proclamations to be printed on an original printing press. The Museum teamed up with Jack and Paul Byrne, father and son, from Newark Printers, Clogrennane, who still have a working hand printing letter press which uses the same technique as used to print the original 1916 Proclamation.

The students were given the rare opportunity to help set up the letter press and assist with the printing of their new Proclamation. Three Proclamations were printed, one for the student, one for the school and the third is on display in the Museum. The participating schools in this Carlow Ireland 2016 initiative were Scoil Phádraig Naofa, Tullow; Bennekerry N.S.; Scoil Molaise, Old Leighlin; Our Lady Queen of Universe N.S., Bagenalstown; Kildavin N.S.; Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Tullow and St Mary's N.S., Bagenalstown (see Carlow County Museum report for more information).



Adam Ó Murchú, Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc receiving his medal from Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council and Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 committee with Príomhoide Aingéal.



Nationally, through the Department of Education and Skills several history competitions were organised. Carlow had winners at both primary and secondary level. Adam Ó Murchú, Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc, Carlow town was the winner in the primary school 'The 1916 Rising' category with his submission "The Coltwood Incident". He recounted how his great grand uncle Paddy Ramsbottom fired the first shot in the 1916 Rising. In the post primary category "Ireland and the First World War", James Osborne and Oisín Morrín, students at Knockbeg College, were the overall winners with their project "An Historical Analysis of the 'Forgotten' POWs of Templemore During the Great War (1914-1918)". In recognising the success of all three they were presented with a specially commissioned Carlow Ireland 2016 medal by Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 committee and Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.



James Osborne and Oisín Morrín, Knockbeg College receiving their medals from Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 committee and Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

In March 2017, to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Fenian rebellion in 1867 and the 1916 Rising, the Carlow County Museum temporary exhibition gallery was dedicated in honour of the O'Hanrahan Family/ Uí Annracháin for their contribution to Irish independence. They lived at 90 and 91 Tullow Street in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The dedication and plaque unveiling was performed by Pearse O'Hanrahan, great grandnephew of Richard and Mary O'Hanrahan, and grandnephew of their children Harry, Micheál, Edward, Áine (Ciss), Máire and Eily. Richard was a member of the Fenian's. Pearse was accompanied by his brother Harry and several other O'Hanrahan relations were present including Deirdre Lawlor a grand and great grandniece of the O'Hanrahan's being honoured. Speaking at the dedication Pearse O'Hanrahan said he was very pleased that the entire family was being honoured and he thanked Carlow County Council and the Museum Board for the gesture. (see Carlow County Museum report for more information).

Following on from this successful year across the country and county Carlow, 'Creative Ireland' has been established as the legacy programme of these commemorations. This

programme will operate in all local authorities for the next five years. The coordination for Creative Ireland is being undertaken by the Arts Office.

The Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee:

Cllr Anne Ahern\*, Cllr John Cassin, Cllr. Andrea Dalton, Cllr Jim Deane, Cllr Denis Foley, Cllr Andy Gladney, Cllr Tommy Kinsella, Cllr Arthur McDonald, Cllr Jennifer Murnane O'Connor\*\*, Cllr Ken Murnane, Cllr Charlie Murphy, Cllr Brian O'Donoghue, Cllr William Paton, Cllr John Pender, Cllr Fintan Phelan, Chairperson and Cllr Willie Quinn.

\* Resigned from Carlow County Council, September 2017 and replaced by Cllr. Andrea Dalton;

\*\* Elected to the 25<sup>th</sup> Seanad in April 2016 and replaced by Cllr Ken Murnane.

The Carlow Ireland 2016 Implementation Group:

Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, Information Systems and Culture; Eoin Lyng, Head of Information Systems; Josephine Coyne, County Librarian/ replaced by John Shortall, Acting County Librarian in February 2016; Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer; Kelly Mooney, Graduate Recruit; Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator and Carlow Ireland 2016 Coordinator; Aileen Nolan, Carlow Arts Office.