



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**

Cavan
County Council

Annual Report 2021

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2021



2021 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



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County Council

Mission

*A Council that leads and collaborates with all to drive
and shape a better future for our County*

Vision

*A progressive, vibrant county which is smart,
connected, innovative, inclusive and sustainable*



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Note: This Annual Report can be made available in Accessible Format. Please contact Corporate Affairs Section on 049 437 8300



Cathaoirleach's Address

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin tá sé de phribhléid agam fáilte a chur roimh fhoilsiú Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2021.

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2021 Annual Report.



It has been my great honour to once again don the chain of office of Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council and to represent the people of this great county.

Taking office in the summer of 2021, I have had the privilege of watching as our society gradually emerged from restrictions and witnessing first-hand the joy people have taken in each other's company.

As a naturally social people, we perhaps took for granted the great sense of community we have traditionally enjoyed in this country and in this county, but during the trials and tribulations of the past few years we have shown the best of ourselves and the efforts of so many to protect the vulnerable and isolated has been heart-warming.

In my role as Cathaoirleach, I have had the opportunity to witness at close quarters the remarkable manner in which the staff of Cavan County Council have adapted to the challenges presented not only by Covid-19, but also the ongoing uncertainty over Brexit and the global supply chain crisis.

Despite these myriad challenges, Cavan County Council has continued to deliver tangible results on behalf of its people.

At the beginning of my term of office, I was delighted to welcome Minister for Rural and Community Affairs, Heather Humphreys TD to Cavan where she officially opened



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amenities such as the Dun an Rí Forest Park recreational trail in Kingscourt, and surveyed progress on the Virginia Civic Centre project, a landmark library, cultural and civic centre which is being funded through the Rural Regeneration Development Fund and through Cavan County Council's own resources.

Just as 2021 was a year that will go down in history, it marked the centenary of one of the most significant years in Irish history. I was honoured to join with Chief Executive Tommy Ryan and members of the council's Culture Team in laying a wreath at Cavan County Museum to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the War of Independence drawing to a conclusion, paying respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of Irish independence.

The role of Cathaoirleach entails representing Cavan County Council and the people of Cavan at home and abroad. I was, therefore, with great pride that I officially introduced Cavan Day 2021.

The second annual celebration of Cavan and its Diaspora took place on Saturday, 25th September and once again saw the global Cavan family take to social media to celebrate the Breffni County, its people, culture, landscapes, and heritage. It was extremely gratifying to see thousands of people, young and old, across the globe express their pride in this great county, which has contributed so much to the world over the years.

I particularly enjoyed partaking in the 'Cavan Day Live' cultural showcase, an event which will no doubt whet the collective appetite for the 'Cavan Calling' homecoming festival, set to take place in September 2023.

Given the increasingly important role digital media plays in our lives, and the lifeline that social media and video-calling apps represented over the past two years, it is fitting that 2021 saw Cavan County Council launch 'Connected Cavan': A Digital Strategy for County Cavan: 2021 – 2024. The strategy aims to encourage and support citizens, businesses, and visitors to harness the potential of a digitally enabled society



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through digital adoption and innovation.

After delays due to Covid-19 restrictions, Cavan County Council's housing construction programme quickly rebounded and 15 new-build social housing units were completed, with a further 83 units receiving Stage 4 approval and progressing to construction. I had the pleasure of visiting the site of a new development in Ballinagh and inspecting progress restoring vacant properties in Cavan Town, and I am pleased to see that Cavan County Council is engaging local contractors to carry out much of this work, supporting local jobs in addition to providing welcome social housing.

I want to thank Chief Executive Tommy Ryan, Directors of Service Eoin Doyle, Paddy Connaughton, Brendan Jennings, and Margaret McNally, and all of the staff of Cavan County Council for the hard work and flexibility they have shown throughout 2021 and indeed every year. Despite the many challenges presented by Covid-19, Cavan County Council staff consistently displayed the dedication, fortitude, and creativity to ensure that vital services were delivered in the community.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, who carried out the role of Cathaoirleach with great distinction during the first half of 2021 and who, as only the third woman to hold this office, is a trailblazer for increased gender balance in politics. My thanks, too, go to all of my fellow councillors, who carry out the business of the council with dignity and respect, never letting political differences detract from the greater good.

It is my fervent hope that the achievements of this council, as detailed in this thorough and painstaking report, will mark the end of this difficult period in our history, and see our great county and its indomitable people go on to accomplish even greater things, buoyed by a renewed spirit of togetherness and unity.

Councillor Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach



Chief Executive's Address

Tá an-áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin do 2021 a chur i láthair.

I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report of Cavan County Council for 2021.



2021 was, once again, a very challenging year for the local authority in terms of service provision, as the Covid-19 pandemic continued to rage across the globe. Nonetheless, thanks to the state's swift rollout of the vaccine, the dedication and flexibility of our local authority staff, the co-operation of our elected members and strong partnerships with business, community, and public sector stakeholders, Cavan County Council was able to continue to deliver high quality services on behalf of the people of Cavan.

In tumultuous times such as these, when much is uncertain, the direction and structure that comes with having a robust strategic framework in place underpinning our work has been invaluable. Strategic documents such as our Corporate Plan and the Local Economic Community Plan (LECP) help ensure that priority capital projects as well as important day-to-day tasks have continued to progress throughout the pandemic.

Few plans or strategies, however, could have predicted the level of societal change and in particular the mass alteration of workforce patterns that has taken place over the past two years, in particular the migration away from, and the gradual return to, the office.

As such, as we gradually return to some semblance of normality, I want to acknowledge the efforts of our staff, whose co-operation as we have navigated this turbulent period, has been crucial in meeting the many challenges the organisation has faced.



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Among the many achievements Cavan County Council has delivered on behalf of the people of Cavan in 2021 are:

The Abbeylands Regeneration Masterplan, funded as a Category B project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) in 2018, was completed and approved in November 2021.

The Abbeylands Masterplan was instrumental in Cavan County Council's successful application for additional URDF funding of €14.493 million towards the delivery of the capital works associated with the redevelopment of the Abbeylands. The landmark €19.3million Abbeylands regeneration announced in March 2021, will stimulate the social, cultural, economic, and amenity regeneration in this historic area of Cavan Town, creating 4,500m² of new, pedestrianised public spaces.

The second annual 'Cavan Day' celebration took place on Saturday, 25th September, building further on the success of last year's inaugural event. Once again taking place entirely online, the event brought together Cavan people and friends of Cavan at home and abroad in a spirit of shared heritage and deep connection. The celebration saw the global Cavan family take to social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to share their pride in their county.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development on 3rd May, providing funding for projects that supports our rural towns and villages to be more attractive and sustainable.

Seven towns successfully secured funding in the sum of €1,066,187.

A new Streetscape Enhancement Measure was announced on 4th August by the Department of Rural & Community Development. The aim of the scheme is to support the upgrade and enhancement of street facades and shopfronts. Designated zones in Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet and Cootehill were included in the scheme, wherein 108 properties are approved for grant funding totalling €285,798.

A continuation of the initiative launched in March 2020 by Cavan Town Team in conjunction with Cavan County Council resulted in over 70 freshly painted, brightly



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coloured shop fronts in the town core.

In May 2021 construction work commenced on the transformative, €5.3 million integrated civic services centre incorporating a new library, civic space, and additional theatre space in Virginia. The project is being funded through the €3,963,525 in funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, with a further €1.3 million in funding to be provided from Cavan County Council's own resources.

In December 2021, Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding to deliver the first ever Town Centre First Plans, which will be key to tackling dereliction and revitalising town centres. Bailieborough has been selected for funding under the Masterplan Initiative 2021.

Cavan County Council working in conjunction with Cavan Digital Hub and the IDA have secured planning for an Advance Technology building at the IDA park in Killygarry.

In June 2021, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Catherine Martin announced that Cavan County Council had successfully secured €4.8m in funding from Fáilte Ireland to deliver a transformational project at Shannon Pot and Cavan Burren Park under the 'Platforms for Growth' capital grants scheme. The total cost of this project is €6.5 million with Cavan County Council providing matching funding of €1.7 million.

Eighty-nine applications were approved under a Fáilte Ireland scheme which provided a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating.

Upgrades to the 12km 'Killykeen Way' walking and cycle trail linking Killeshandra with Killykeen Forest Park took place in 2021.

Work continued throughout 2021 on the delivery of the Destination Towns project in



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Cavan Town. Cavan County Council received a grant of €404,389 from Fáilte Ireland. Combined with €139,129 match funding, this creates a total investment of €540,518 in Cavan town.

National Bike Week took place in September with a number of events being delivered across five locations in the county. It was encouraging to see people of all ages and abilities taking part, with 267 participants in total throughout the week.

In November, €784,524 announced in funding was announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD to develop outdoor adventure projects in County Cavan.

An inaugural 'Walking Month of June' was hosted to support Community Walking groups and organisations to return to physical activity in a safe way as restrictions allowed. Over the month, 17 events/programmes were delivered with a total of 264 participants participated in walks throughout this initiative.

Cavan County Council joined with our partners in Fermanagh and Omagh District Council to launch 'Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark', an exciting new brand for the former Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, with a renewed emphasis on communities, engagement, and tourism.

On the 22nd October 2021 Minister Stephen Donnelly TD, Minister for Health visited Kingspan Breffni to see the work carried out by Cavan County GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee, a collaboration between Cavan GAA and Healthy Cavan, which has led to the Cavan GAA headquarters being named the first sportsground in Ireland outside Croke Park to join the European 'Healthy Stadia' Network.

In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE, local authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide increased health and wellbeing service in our communities. Cavan was selected as one of the pilot areas for this new initiative and



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an application of funding for €250,000 was made under the Healthy Communities Enhancement Programme.

The book delivery initiative which commenced at the outset of the pandemic continued throughout 2021, providing an invaluable lifeline to many vulnerable members of our community during these extremely challenging times.

Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, launched the Council's Green Kilometre Scheme prior to the November Council meeting.

2021 was another busy year for Cavan County Council's Housing Service, 15 new-build social housing units were completed, and 83 Units received Stage 4 approval and progressed to construction, 16 units received Stage 3 approval and were put out to tender for construction, 67 units received Stage 1 approval and preparation commenced for Part 8 Planning. In addition, the Council completed the acquisition of 7 vacant houses in 2021. In 2021 a total of 297 households were supported through the various social housing options.

During the year the Government launched its 'Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland' which sets out its housing plan to 2030 to meet its overall objective 'that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes.

In February 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage granted approval to accept the tender of local firm Sandar Construction Ltd for construction of the new €1.5 million fire station in Ballyjamesduff. This state-of-the-art new building will complete the modernisation of the county's ten fire stations, and the Cathaoirleach 'turned the sod' on site in November 2021.

In 2021 an allocation of €1,000,000 was made available by the TII to progress the planning and design of the N3 Virginia By-Pass scheme.



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Construction of this new 77 space carparking Virginia, access road, public lighting, drainage, and other associated site works was completed in August.

With the allocation received in 2021 a total of 23 Local Improvement Schemes, providing Drainage, Surfacing, and associated civil works. This funding provides vital investment in the rural communities of County Cavan.

2021 Active Travel funding allowed for completion of several projects in the County including the upgrading/provision of widened footpaths/cycle lanes and improved crossing facilities in towns and villages including zebra crossings.

The Virginia, Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt, Bailieborough and Cootehill WWTP Capital Upgrade projects are confirmed as included in Irish Water's current investment plan.

In July, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Clifford Kelly launched the Connected Cavan Digital Strategy for 2021- 2024. This strategy, which was produced by Cavan County Council in collaboration with local and national stakeholders, sets out our vision and key focus areas for the county for the next three years.

Cavan County Civil Defence volunteers completed 878 taskings during 2021 and for the second year in succession were one of the most active units in the country

Cavan County Museum won the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for Commemorations & Centenaries. The Museum won for bringing history to life by commissioning two historical short films, 'A Letter from the Trenches' and 'The Messenger' and three complimentary publications.

2021 was the sixth year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council again joined forces hosting a range of events during November 2021. The festival attracted 18,000 attendees in 2021, from preschool children to adults. This rapid growth is a clear measure of the appetite for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) subjects across the two counties.

As is clear from the many worthy projects outlined above and, indeed, the in-depth analysis of the achievements of 2021 detailed throughout this document, great



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progress has been made in realising our corporate vision of achieving a “progressive, vibrant county which is smart, connected, innovative, inclusive and sustainable”.

In securing funding for the transformative Abbeylands Regeneration project, for an exciting new tourism project at Cavan Burren and the Shannon Pot, and in continuing to develop the landmark Virginia Civic Centre, Cavan County Council has progressed projects during 2021 which will continue to have a positive impact of those living, working, and visiting the county for many, many years to come.

I would like to once again like to thank our staff for their dedication and also acknowledge all those who have supported and complemented the work of our employees over the past year, especially our two Cathaoirligh during 2021, Councillors Sarah O'Reilly and Clifford Kelly, their fellow elected members, and the members of our various committees.

I would like to acknowledge, too, the people of Cavan, whose adherence to vital public health measures and embrace of the vaccination programme has allowed us to now enjoy many of the freedoms that were denied us during the darkest months of the pandemic. The sense of community, civic duty, and collective resilience shown throughout this crisis without doubt augers well for the future of County Cavan.

As we move forward together, we can do so in the confidence that, working together we can meet any challenge.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Tommy Ryan,
Chief Executive



Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives

Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District



Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (FF)



Cllr Carmel Brady (FG)



Cllr Clifford Kelly (FF)



Cllr Paddy Mc Donald (SF)



Cllr Sarah O'Reilly (Aontú)



Cllr Val Smith (FG)



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Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District



Cllr John Paul Feeley (FF)



Cllr Madeleine Argue (FG)



Cllr Patricia Walsh (FF)



Cllr Peter Mc Vitty (FG)



Cllr Sean Smith (FF)



Cllr Brendan Fay (Ind)



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Ballyjamesduff Municipal District



Cllr Craig Lovett (FF)



Cllr Philip Brady (FF)



Cllr Shane P O'Reilly (Ind)



Cllr TP O'Reilly (FG)



Cllr Trevor Smith (FG)



Cllr Winston Bennett (FG)



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Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number of meetings held in 2021
Monthly, Reconvened and Special Meetings of the Plenary Council	12
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	7
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	7
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	6
Annual General Meeting	1
Annual Budget Meeting	1
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	11
Housing, Social Inclusion and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee	3
Economic, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	4
Transportation, Infrastructure & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee	2
Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee	2
Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee	4
Joint Policing Committee	4
Audit Committee	4



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Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Number Attended
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Health & Safety in the Workplace	2
Celtic Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	A Practical Guide to Budget 2022	11
Celtic Conference	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Housing for All	1

Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number who attended
Module 1 - Government Decision on the Reform on Remuneration and Allowances Payable to Local Authority Elected Members / Update on Planning and Development Bill 2021 and other Planning Related Matters	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Sligo	1
		Ballinasloe	1
		Waterford	6
		Glendalough	3
Module 2 – Elected Members’ Mental Health & Well-Being and Briefing on the National Office for Suicide Prevention	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Galway	6
Autumn Training Seminar	Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA)	Sligo Park Hotel	11



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Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on

Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board	Clifford Kelly, Sean Smith, Patricia Walsh, Brendan Fay, Sarah O'Reilly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Craig Lovett, Trevor Smith
Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board	Brendan Fay, Paddy McDonald, Craig Lovett, Patricia Walsh, Madeleine Argue
Northern & Western Regional Authority	Sean Smith, Craig Lovett
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Patricia Walsh, Clifford Kelly, Winston Bennett
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	Paddy McDonald
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	John Paul Feeley, Shane P O'Reilly, Peter McVitty
Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Clifford Kelly
Cavan Local Community Development Committee	Clifford Kelly, Aiden Fitzpatrick, T.P. O'Reilly
County Cavan Joint Policing Committee	Sarah O'Reilly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Clifford Kelly, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald, Patricia Walsh, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Philip Brady, Craig Lovett, Brendan Fay, Trevor Smith, T.P. O'Reilly
North East Regional Drugs Task Force	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Carmel Brady
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	John Paul Feeley, Patricia Walsh, Trevor Smith, Madeleine Argue
Age Friendly Alliance	Brendan Fay, Carmel Brady
Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)	John Paul Feeley, Sean Smith, Winston Bennett
County Cavan Heritage Forum	Brendan Fay, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Shane P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly
HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group	Sarah O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly



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Payments to Members of Cavan County Council in 2021

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€91,868.64
Representational Payments	€388,803.78
Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€42,304.22
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€30,000.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars	€6,411.47
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€8,671.50
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€0.00



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Strategic Policy Committees

<p>Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning</p>	<p>Climate, Biodiversity Action & Environment</p>
<p>Cllr John Paul Feeley Chair Cllr Peter McVitty Cllr Sarah O'Reilly Cllr Winston Bennett Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick Cllr Carmel Brady Thomas Rogers (Agriculture & Farming) Jim McGaughran (Development & Construction) Tom Brady (Business & Commercial) Stanley Nwaneri (Community & Voluntary)</p>	<p>Cllr Philip Brady Chair Cllr Madeleine Argue Cllr Winston Bennett Cllr T.P. O'Reilly Cllr Shane P. O'Reilly Cllr Craig Lovett Fintan McCabe (Environment /Conservation) Barry Wilson (Community/ Voluntary) Joe Brady (Agriculture)</p>
<p>Housing, Social Inclusion and Corporate Affairs</p>	<p>Transportation, Infrastructure and Emergency Services</p>
<p>Cllr Val Smith Chair Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Clifford Kelly Cllr Patricia Walsh Cllr Trevor Smith Cllr Madeleine Argue Leanne Coyle (Community/Voluntary) Thomas Maughan (Social Inclusion) Paul Elliott (Development & Construction) Theresa Thompson (Trade Unions)</p>	<p>Cllr. Sean Smith Chair Cllr Peter McVitty Cllr Sarah O'Reilly Cllr Trevor Smith Cllr T.P. O' Reilly Cllr Brendan Fay Padraigh J Young (Agriculture & Farming) Eamon Mulcahy (Community / Voluntary)</p>
<p>Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport</p>	
<p>Cllr Clifford Kelly Chair Cllr Philip Brady Cllr Paddy McDonald Cllr Craig Lovett Cllr Val Smith Cllr Shane P O'Reilly Michelle Duffy Rudden (Business & Commercial) Evija Nwaneri (Environment / Conservation) Grainne McPhillips (Social Inclusion) Mary B Duffy (Community / Voluntary)</p>	



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Political Donations

The Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 (as amended) requires that Elected Members of Local Authorities furnish donation statements to their Local Authority by 31st January each year giving details of donations received by them in the preceding twelve-month period. No political donations were declared by the elected members for the period 1st January 2021 to the 31st of December 2021 as per donations statements submitted by each elected member by the 31st of January 2022.

The Corporate Plan 2019 -2024

The Corporate plan was adopted in February 2020 and outlines the Local Authority's strategic framework for activity during the lifetime of the Council. (It is adopted in accordance with section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 as inserted by section 49 of the Local Government Act 2014).

Our Values

The focus of Cavan County Council is to deliver a quality service to the citizens of Cavan in an efficient, accountable and transparent way.

The following core values will inform and underpin our decisions:

Local Democracy:	Promote and support greater community involvement while recognising and respecting the democratic mandate of the elected members and their role in providing representation and civic leadership in the county
Quality Customer Service	Commit to delivering a high-quality service which meets the changing needs of our customers
Integrity	Maintain proper standards of integrity in the performance of our duties
Progressive	Strive continuously for improvements in all that we do to promote an innovative and forward-thinking organisation
Sustainability	Deliver our services in accordance with the principles of sustainability, respecting our natural resources and safeguarding the environment for future generations.
Equality	Commit to improving equality of opportunity for everyone and to promoting a culture of wellbeing, inclusion and respect for all.

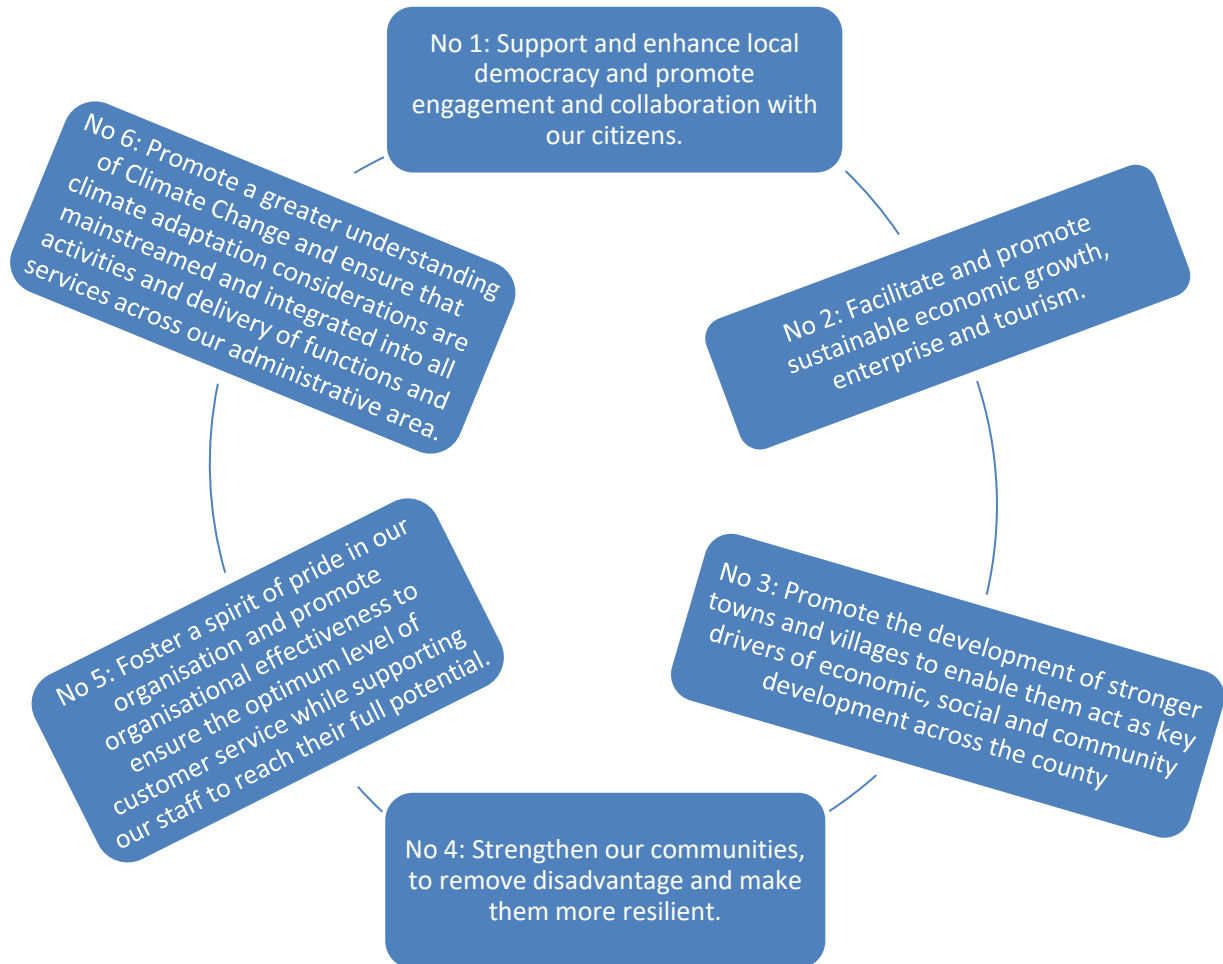


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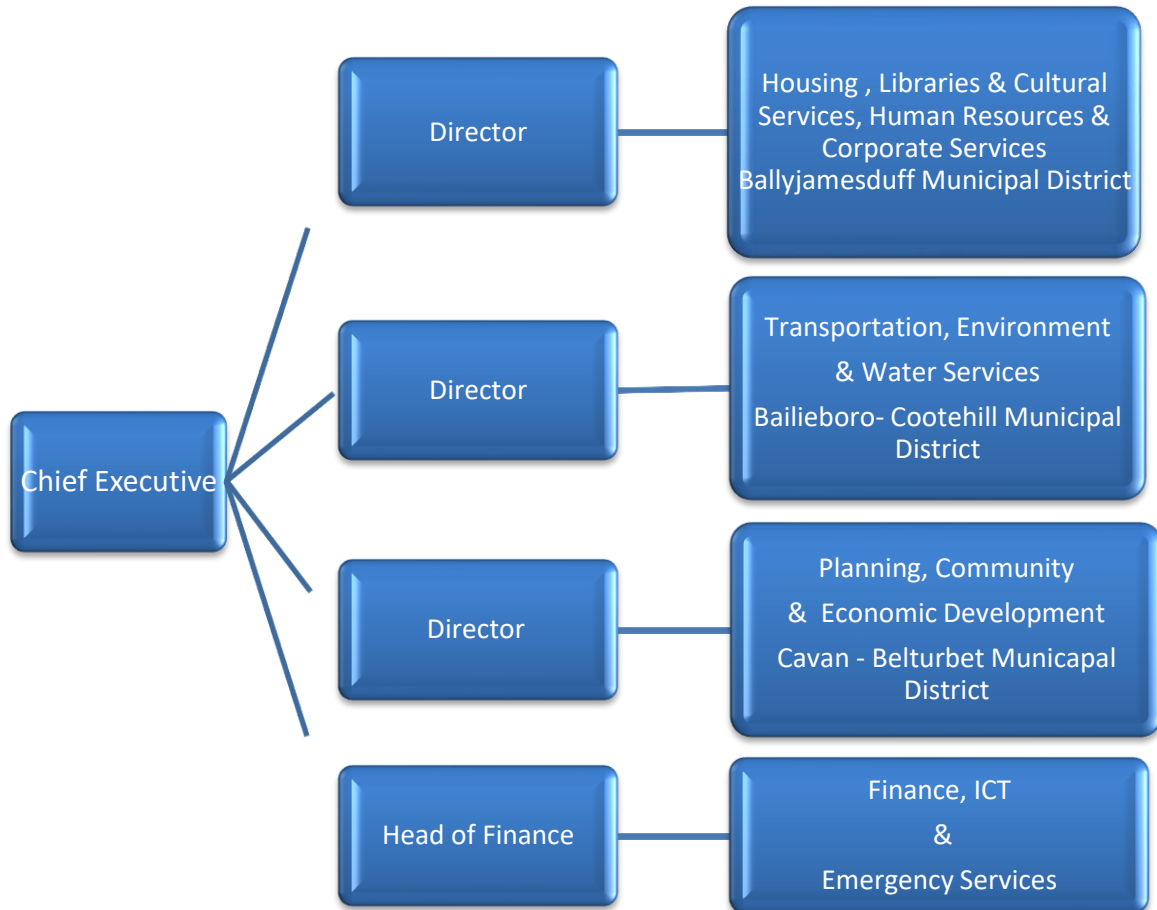
The Strategic Objectives identified in the Corporate Plan are as follows:



In accordance with section 134 (9) (a) of the local Government Act 2001 Cavan County Council is required to prepare an Annual Progress Report on the implementation of the Corporate Plan. This annual review was carried out and presented as part of the budget report submitted to the members at the time of the statutory budget meeting. The annual progress report included reports by the various departments and is supplemented by the Annual Service Delivery plan and the chief executives' monthly reports. The report highlighted progress made during 2020 and also sets out progress made in relation to commitments set down by the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2019-2022.



Management Team



Eoin Doyle
Director of Services



Paddy Connaughton
Director of Services



Brendan Jennings
Director of Services



Margaret McNally
A/Head of Finance



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Housing, Libraries & Cultural Services, Human Resources & Corporate Services

Human Resources and Corporate Affairs

Human Resources Department is responsible for the delivery of all aspects of the human resources function which includes the recruitment, selection, and organisation of staff, training and development, staff welfare, industrial relations, performance management and development, workplace partnership, equality and diversity and superannuation.

On 31st December 2021 424 staff and 92 retained firefighters were employed by the Council.

Recruitment

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic recruitment was suspended for a period in 2020 and there was therefore a reduction in the number of competitions on previous years. However, during 2021 the Human Resources Department organised 33 separate competitions for various posts within the Council. These competitions attracted 985 applicants and required 30 interview boards to be set up. A significant number of employees have been appointed as a result of these competitions, including new employees joining the organisation and, in many cases, existing employees attaining promotion.

Staff Welfare

We are conscious of the need for staff to balance their working and domestic lives. Employees have access to a wide range of schemes that aspire to assist employees achieve a proper work life balance. Schemes include parental leave, force majeure leave, work sharing, term time leave, shorter working year and career breaks.

In accordance with proposed legislation and national guidelines, blended working arrangements will also be introduced in 2022.

In 2021 we reintroduced a staff newsletter, providing information to staff on Council activities and also information on health and wellness issues, as well as updates on



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retirements, new staff joining the organisation etc. It is intended to continue this initiative on a regular basis in 2022.

The Council also initiated a Wellness Programme for staff and whilst activities were limited in 2021 and focused primarily on promoting the Council's employee assistance programme and Workplace Wellbeing Day, planned events for 2022 include mindfulness workshops, health promotion workshops, physical activities etc.

Learning & Development

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, a comprehensive Training Programme was delivered in 2021 to enable staff carry out their role in a confident, competent manner and contribute effectively to the overall vision of the organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives. Staff training was delivered via 73 online courses and 38 in-person courses, with specific emphasis on health & safety and mandatory organisational training needs. Cumulatively, training was provided to 755 indoor staff and 407 outdoor staff. Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) is the mechanism used to support and improve performance at individual, team and organisational levels and is a means of engaging, supporting and developing individual staff members. The competency framework, now embedded in the organisation for both Senior and Middle Managers, is an integral part of our PMDS process. Performance Management and Development System in Cavan County Council is driven by the Senior Management Team.

NOAC Performance Indicators

Human Resources is required to complete performance indicators in respect of sick leave. Statistics for 2021 are as follows:



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% of working days lost to sickness		
	Certified Sick Leave	Uncertified Sick
2021	1.94%	0.12%

Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on 21 April 1998. The current Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation was enacted and applied to local authorities in October 2014. The 2014 FOI Act provides that every person has the following legal rights to:

- access official records held by Government Departments or other public bodies as defined by the Act.
- have personal information held on them corrected or updated where such information is incomplete, incorrect or misleading.
- be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies that affect them.

Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics 2021:

Cases brought forward from 2020:	2
Number of applications received:	80
Number of applications granted:	41
Number of applications part granted:	13
Number of applications refused:	22
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	6

Data Protection

GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 came into effect in May 2018. GDPR has wider scope, standards and sanctions & is seen more fit for purpose in the digital age.

The following rights have been conferred on members of the public:

- the right to be informed;
- the right of access;
- the right to rectification;
- the right to erasure;
- the right to restrict processing;
- the right to data portability;



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- the right to object;
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.

As a Data Controller Cavan County Council is legally obliged under legislation to:

- Process it lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner;
- Collect it only for one or more specified, explicit and legitimate purposes, and do not otherwise use it in a way that is incompatible with those purposes;
- Ensure it is adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary for the purpose it is processed;
- Keep it accurate and up-to-date and erase or rectify any inaccurate data without delay;
- Where it is kept in a way that allows you to identify who the data is about, retain it for no longer than is necessary;
- Keep it secure by using appropriate technical and/or organisational security measures;
- Be able to demonstrate your compliance with the above principles; and
- Respond to requests by individuals seeking to exercise their data protection rights (for example the right of access).

Data Protection Statistics 2021: Subject Access Requests 9

Council Meetings and Elected Members

Corporate Services has responsibility for the administration of plenary Council meetings and provides support to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members in conducting their functions and duties. In 2021 Council meetings were held online initially and then moved to being in-person, with online facilities available for those who could not attend in-person.

Register of Electors

Corporate Services has responsibility for the compilation of the Draft and Live Register of Electors and also for the compilation of the Supplement to the Register. The



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Register is published every year on the 1st February and comes into effect on 15th February of that year.

The Register is comprised of the following categories of electors: Presidential, Dáil, European and Local Government electors. A person's citizenship will determine their category and the type of election at which they may vote as shown below.

Citizenship	Type of election at which eligible to vote
Irish Citizens	All Elections and Referenda
British Citizens	Dáil, European and Local Elections
Other EU Citizens	European and Local Elections
Non-EU Citizens	Local Government Elections only

To be eligible for registration as an elector, a person must be:

- 18 years or over on 15th February in the year in which the Register comes into force.
- Be normally resident in one of the three electoral areas on the 1st September of the year before the Register comes into force.

The total number of Electors in each Municipal District for the 2022/2023 Register of Electors is:

Local Electoral Area	Number of Electors
Bailieborough-Cootehill	20,421
Ballyjamesduff	20,056
Cavan-Belturbet	17,770
Total	58,247



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HOUSING SECTION

2021 was another busy year for Cavan County Council's Housing Service. The provision of good quality, affordable accommodation presents challenges, but also opportunities for the county and significant funding has been provided for the delivery of housing solutions for those in need.

During the year the Government launched its 'Housing for All – a New Housing Plan for Ireland' which sets out its housing plan to 2030 to meet its overall objective 'that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:

- to purchase or rent at an affordable price
- built to a high standard and in the right place
- offering a high quality of life'

Cavan County Council continues to work towards the actions contained in each of the four pathways set out to achieve the objective.

The principal work areas for the Housing Services in 2021 were:

- Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme 2016 – 2021
- Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2021
- Management of the Housing Assistance Programme (HAP), Rental Accommodation Scheme, Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme, Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme and Social Leasing Scheme
- Operation and management of the three Housing Grant Schemes
- Mortgage to Rent
- Housing, Social Inclusion & Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee – review and development Housing Policies
- Homelessness/Tenancy Sustainment and Housing First Initiative implementation
- Implementation of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024
- Management and Maintenance/Refurbishment of Housing Stock
- Corporate Building Projects



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Delivery of the Housing Capital Programme 2016 - 2021

Funding for the construction of new social housing schemes and the acquisition of existing vacant houses for use as council owned social housing comes from the Social Housing Investment Programme. The 2021 Capital Funding Allocations received under the Programme were as follows:

(i) Housing Construction Programme	€ 5,068,852
(ii) Housing Acquisition Programme	€ 1,733,981
(iii) Voluntary Housing Bodies - CAS & CALF Funding	€ 3,113,473
(iv) Voids Programme	€ <u>663,890</u>
Total	€ 10,580,196

In 2021, 15 new build social housing units were completed by Cavan County Council:

- 4 units at Ashgrove, Ballyjamesduff,
- 4 units at Corstruce, Ballinagh,
- 4 units at Abhainn Dubh, Mullagh and
- 3 units at Cluain Dara, Kingscourt.



New Housing at Corstruce, Ballinagh



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New Housing at Cluain Dara, Kingscourt

In 2021, significant progress was also made on several other schemes that are being project managed by Housing Construction Section.

These are at various stages of Department approval:

83 Units received Stage 4 approval and progressed to construction:

- 43 units at Mullaghduff, Ballyconnell.
- 19 units at Main Street, Mullagh.
- 15 units at Cavan Road, Ballinagh.
- 6 units at Main Street, Butlersbridge.

16 units received Stage 3 approval and were put out to tender for construction:

- 13 units at Elm Park, Cavan.
- 3 units at Fairymount Close, Kingscourt.

67 units received Stage 1 approval and preparation commenced for Part 8 Planning:

- 47 units at Eastboro, Bailieborough.



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- 20 units at St. Brigids Terrace, Cavan.



Contract Signing, 43 houses at Mullaghduff, Ballyconnell

In 2021, Approved Housing Bodies also delivered 22 new build social housing units - 16 units at Fairgreen Park, Mullagh and 6 units at Rampart View, Virginia.

In addition, the Council completed the acquisition of 7 vacant houses in 2021.

Funding of €663,890 was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the completion of improvement works on vacant houses. In addition, €415,750 of Own Resources were allocated to vacant houses in the Council Budget 2021. In total, 76No. vacant houses were returned to use in 2021.



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Restoration of a vacant housing unit at Fairgreen Hill, Cavan.

Summary of Social Housing Support 2021

The annual Summary of Social Housing Support was carried out on 17 November 2021. A total of 1044 households qualified for social housing support. 629 of these were already in receipt of support and were seeking a transfer from existing council or HAP tenancies leaving the total nett need for social housing support in the county at 415.

In 2021 a total of 297 households were supported through the various social housing options available.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP plays a vital role in the delivery of affordable housing to the residents in the County. It is a form of social housing support whereby the Council provides financial assistance to people who are qualified renting in the private rented sector. There was a total of 463 active tenancies on 31st December 2021.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The RAS Scheme continued to operate in a very challenging environment. Many



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landlords sought to terminate the tenancies as they wished to sell their properties and given the limited availability of alternative properties resources concentrate on the provision of alternative solutions for these tenants. Despite this the total active tenancies at year end were 512 (incl. Approved Housing Body).

Leasing of Property

A total of 154 active lease agreements are in place with both private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies under the social housing leasing scheme. All of these are rented by the Council to qualified applicants on its waiting list.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

On 31 December 26 homeowners were successfully housed in the scheme. Activity in this area continues to increase which is beneficial for homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and becoming homeless.

Loans and Tenant Purchase

The Council continued to offer loans to first time buyers under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. At the end of 2021, 3 loans were paid out with a further 5 finally approved and 4 approved in principle. This scheme is to be replaced by the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme in January 2022. Three tenant households purchased their houses under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme in 2021. 16 letters of offer were issued.

Private House Grants

There are three types of grants provided by the council: Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme, the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. The schemes are designed to help people remain living in their homes when they are no longer suited to meet their needs. Continued challenges were encountered in getting contractors to complete works in this area of activity in 2021 due to the pandemic despite this a total of €1,185,102 was



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spent on 118 grants in 2021 a 61% increase on 2020. The total committed expenditure at the end of the year was €2,756,121.

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	54	€804,968
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	45	€283,817
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	19	€ 96,917
Total	118	€1,185,702

Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Council continued to address the targets agreed as adopted in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019 – 2024. The targets set out in the Programme up to 2020 have been achieved. At the end of 2021, a total of 126 traveller households were in receipt of social housing support

Management and Maintenance/Refurbishment of Housing Stock

Since 2018, the number of houses added to our housing stock is 159 and the current total number of council owned housing units is 2099.

It is the responsibility of Housing Construction Section to ensure our housing stock is maintained and that essential repairs are carried out. Funding for this purpose is provided in the annual Budget and comes from the Council's own resources.

A total of €1,203,144 was expended in 2021 on response maintenance, which covers the day-to-day problems in our stock such as heating and plumbing issues, electrical faults, window repairs, door repairs, stove repairs, repairs to wastewater treatment systems etc.



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Adaptation Works for Disabled Persons

Funding of €99,907 was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the completion of adaptation work to 14 council houses for tenants with a disability.

Energy Retrofit Programme

This programme has been revised for 2021, the first year of a 10-year programme which is expected to grow to meet the Programme for Government commitment.

The focus will be on ensuring that the fabric of the home is upgraded, and an energy efficient heating system provided. The programme has moved from 'shallow' to 'deep retrofit' which involves significant upscaling of houses to a B2 Building Energy Rating (BER). In 2021, the Council has received a funding allocation of €649,652 for 24 properties and tenders were sought from Obligated Parties to assist the Council in the specialist technical aspects of the project. The successful tenderer is REIL (Retrofit Energy Ireland Limited).

Inspection of Private Rented Accommodation

The Section carries out inspections on private rented accommodation to assess compliance with the Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations 2019.

In 2021, 119 private rented dwellings were the subject of at least one inspection for compliance with the Regulations.

CORPORATE BUILDING PROJECTS

New Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre, Virginia

Housing Construction Section is providing Project Management services for this project which is currently under construction adjacent the Ramor Theatre.



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Proposed Front Elevation from the Main Street

The scheme comprises;

- An integrated civic services centre incorporating a new library, civic space, and additional theatre space.
- A new three storey building comprising a main library, meeting rooms and exhibition areas which can be used by the library and theatre, for tourism promotion and a range of other events. The complex has been designed to provide a high level of multifunctional and flexible space.

The ground floor of the new building will primarily consist of the main library space, which will contain the Juvenile and Young Adult Lending Library and other public library facilities.

The first floor of the new building will be the adult library area and a study area but it will also be versatile and capable of being converted into a multi-use space. In addition, there is a large meeting room which can be used by the community.

The lower ground floor of the new building will be a multipurpose exhibition and/or studio space which will be shared by the library and theatre but could also be used for community events. This space has large sliding doors opening out into a new civic plaza with a stepped terrace – an ideal outdoor events space.



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- The former Parochial House adjacent the theatre, will be transformed to provide a box office for the theatre, office space and a Digital Suite with interactive tourist information system.
- The existing Ramor Theatre will be upgraded and linked to the new theatre box office space and library, through the construction of a shared foyer which will provide access to the Civic Services Centre and will link the three elements. In addition, the customer facilities will be greatly enhanced by the construction of a “wrap around” upper foyer, new customer toilets and improvements to provided full accessibility to the upper foyer for people with disabilities.



Proposed Rear Elevation looking back from the riverbank.

The Project Architect is Cooney Architects/Keys and Monaghan JV.

The Main Contractor, DEMAC Construction Ltd, commenced construction of this scheme in May 2021 and it is due for completion in Q3'2022.



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After Contract Signing with DEMAC Construction Ltd.



Libraries and Cultural Affairs

Cavan Library Service

CAVAN LIBRARY SERVICE IN A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

Cavan Library Service closed its buildings to the public in December 2020 and remained closed until 10th May 2021 when they were able to re-open for lending services with no access to reader spaces/PCs. The next phase of re-opening came in September when branches re-introduced some services and a further easing of restrictions effective October 22nd. Throughout this time members were able to access online services and stock 24/7. The growth in use of digital resources continued an upward trajectory during 2021. Library services developed online and social media presence to respond to library users queries and to support the health and well-being response to the pandemic. The service also pivoted content online creating and promoting a huge variety of online content. Cavan Library Service has worked diligently since re-opening to provide safe spaces in our libraries for communities of users. The resilience of everyone and the need for agile responses made 2021 a challenging and unprecedented year. Cavan Library Service continued to deliver national and local initiatives during the pandemic – so while our buildings may have closed, our service never did.

BOOK DELIVERY SERVICE

The book delivery initiative which commenced at the outset of the pandemic continued throughout 2021, providing an invaluable lifeline to many vulnerable members of our community during these extremely challenging times. The service was delivered monthly, with the support of Cavan County Council's Roads and Water Services Departments along with Cavan Civil Defence.



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LIBRARY PERSONNEL

The Library Service responded to the call to provide staff to local authority frontline areas such as the Housing Dept. and the Customer Services Desk.

ONLINE EVENT PROGRAMMING

A range of online events including storytime, poetry readings and lectures were delivered throughout 2021, achieving phenomenal viewing figures. Key local and national festivals such as Culture Night in September and Cavan Monaghan Science Festival in November were celebrated in an online setting. Cavan County Library Service is continually engaging with our borrowers and followers on various social media platforms, providing a balance of authoritative Covid-19 information, cultural offerings such as virtual gallery and museum tours, and light entertainment.

Social media was also harnessed to highlight the range of online services freely available through the library service, which led to a sharp increase in usage of e-books and e-audiobooks, online newspapers, magazines and language and other training courses.

ONGOING LIBRARY INITIATIVES

Cavan Library Service continued to roll out national initiatives such as *Right to Read*, *Healthy Ireland at your Library* and *Work Matters at the Library*, with an online presence, given this year's restrictions. '*Right to Read*' supports the development of literacy, and Cavan Libraries continued to engage with parents and young adults via social media to support home schooling/study and reading for pleasure with online activities to support *Spring into Storytime* and *Summer Stars* and *Children's Book Festival*.

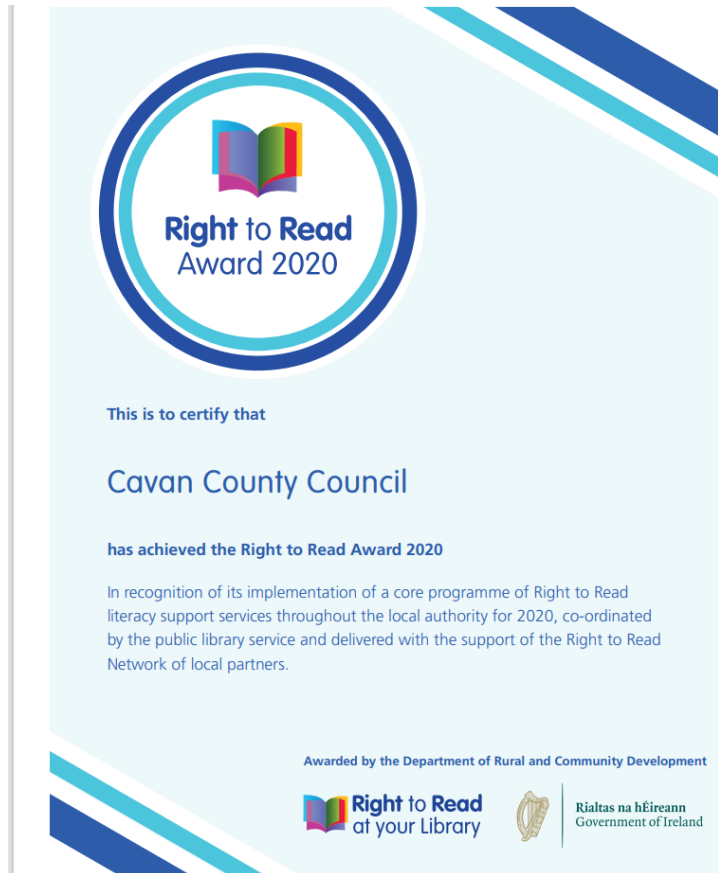
Cavan Library continues to work with other local organisations to ensure that our services continue to support and enhance existing local literacy programmes. We are committed to stocking wide ranging and varied book collections to support literacy projects, continuing to train staff to offer advice on reader development and book selection and to providing an events and activities programme suitable for children of all ages. Cavan County Council has achieved a national Right to Read Award for 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020.



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WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Cavan Library Service acknowledges the important role of the many partners we work with in delivering our annual programmes, including Cavan County Council's Community and Enterprise Section, Cultural Team, Cavan Sports Partnership, and external agencies such as Cavan/Monaghan ETB, the HSE and many more.

Cavan Library Service plays an integral role in the coordination of the Creative Ireland programme for the county and 2021 highlights include *Cruinniú na nÓg* in June and *Culture Night* in September. *Cruinniú na nÓg*, a national day to celebrate creativity among children and young people, took place Saturday 12th June with a host of online fun, interactive activities coordinated by Cavan County Library Service, Cavan Arts Office and Ramor Theatre, and a very special outdoor drumming event at Johnston Central Library. Cavan County Council continued to collaborate with Monaghan County Council on developing content for the newly created Cavan Monaghan Creative Youth YouTube channel. This channel continues to showcase content across



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multiple art forms by young people across Cavan and Monaghan. Cavan Library Service successfully applied for Dormant Account Funding to continue work with marginalized, socially excluded, and disadvantaged communities, including the creation of a mural by a community group in Ballyjamesduff.



Caption: Wall mural created by a community group in Ballyjamesduff, supported by Dormant Account Funding, coordinated by Cavan Library Service. Photo: Clare Willis

Cavan Library Service, working in partnership with the Cavan Culture and Creativity Team, coordinates the Decade of Centenaries programme on behalf of Cavan County Council. The library offering was further enhanced in 2021 through an increased allocation of Decade of Centenaries funding which has supported a variety of valuable initiatives including the engagement of a Historian in Residence, resulting in a strong programme of online activity with schools and the wider public.



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Caption: Pictured at Cavan County Museum during a wreath-laying ceremony to mark the signing of the truce which ended the War of Independence are (left to right) Cathaoirleach, Cllr Clifford Kelly; Savina Donohoe, Museum Curator; Dr Brendan Scott, Historian in Residence; Emma Clancy, County Librarian; Eoin Doyle, Director of Service, Cavan County Council; Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council.
Photo: Adrian Donohoe

As part of the Government's Keep Well campaign, Cavan Library Service coordinated the *Switching Off and Being Creative* stream, working with the County Museum, Heritage Office, and the Theatre, to deliver a varied programme to support individuals, families, and communities during a very difficult period in lockdown during Winter 2020 and Spring 2021. During February 2021, Cavan Library Service encouraged everyone to take part in 'Ireland Reads', a national reading campaign, aimed at promoting the power of reading for enjoyment and wellbeing. This was followed up by a Cavan Reads programme featuring Irish writer Anne Griffin and a Cavan Youth Reads initiative, featuring US writer Donna Freitas.

Our branch libraries play a central role in supporting local community activities by providing venues and promotion for events, such as Cootehill Library hosting an art demonstration and Bailieborough Library hosting a local photographic exhibition as part of Culture Night.



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Plans for a new library and cultural civic centre in Virginia made significant progress with contracts signed in May and work commencing in June 2021.

CAVAN DAY 2021

The second annual 'Cavan Day' celebration took place on Saturday, 25th September, building further on the success of last year's inaugural event. Once again taking place entirely online, the event brought together Cavan people and friends of Cavan at home and abroad in a spirit of shared heritage and deep connection.

The celebration saw the global Cavan family take to social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram to share their pride in their county, with many choosing to don their county jersey for a photo. Others shared a picture or memory of a favourite place in Cavan, while many participants shared a photo of a relative who left Cavan in the past to create a new life elsewhere.

Golf superstar Leona Maguire, Chef Neven Maguire, Paralympian Britney Arendse, 'Fair City' and 'The Snapper' star Tina Kelleher, Comedian Kevin McGahern, and US Tennis star and CNN commentator Patrick McEnroe were among those joining in the online celebration of the Breffni County.

Engagement with the event came from all corners of the globe: Ireland, the UK, the US, Canada, and Australia all featured prominently as expected, but participants also came from countries such as South Africa, India, Brazil, the Philippines, and Nicaragua.

The overall reach recorded during the campaign was 8.4 million, meaning over 8 million individual social media users viewed Cavan Day posts, an increase on the reach of 3.5 million recorded in 2020. These figures were recorded using the 'BrandMentions' media monitoring software.

The 'Cavan Day Live' online broadcast also made a return in 2021, with this year's programme showcasing the rich artistic talent on offer in the county. Filmed at Town Hall Theatre, Cavan, directed by gifted Virginia filmmaker Alan Bradley, and presented by Louise O'Reilly McGuinness of Cavan TV, the programme featured performances



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by acclaimed folk singer Lisa O'Neill, award-winning poet Noel Monahan, trad supremo Martin Donohoe, and local R'n'B talent Ady Saj among others. The broadcast also featured an address by Chief Executive Tommy Ryan, while Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Cllr Clifford Kelly was joined by local children for a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of all those who have lost their lives during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The event was co-ordinated by County Librarian Emma Clancy and delivered by an in-house team comprising Theatres Manager Padraic McIntyre, Conor Harrington and Eimear Conaty in the Communications Office, and Amy Smyth in Library HQ.



Caption: Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Cllr Clifford Kelly launches Cavan Day 2021 at the iconic 'Old Abbey' in Cavan Town.

Photo: Adrian Donohoe



*Caption: Director Alan Bradley and folk star Lisa O'Neill during filming of the 'Cavan Day Live' broadcast at Town Hall Cavan.
Photo: Alan Bradley*

Arts

In accordance with **Section 6** of the **Arts Act 2003** local authorities may provide financial assistance for the purpose of: (a) Stimulating public interest in the arts, (b) Promoting knowledge, appreciation and practice of the arts, or (c) Improving standards in the arts within its functional area.

Cavan County Council Arts Office is guided by **Inclusivity and Ambition – A Strategy for Cavan Arts 2018 – 2023** in line with the Local Economic and Community Plan and the Corporate Strategy.

Mission

Cavan County Council will, through our guiding principles of Inclusivity and Ambition, nurture and create the conditions in which great art can happen while at the same time ensuring that as many people as possible can engage and participate in high quality arts experiences.

The priorities are:

- Artistic
- Audience Development
- Diversity



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- Infrastructure

Framework Agreement Cavan County Council and the Arts Council 2019 to 2026 shared priorities.

1. Supporting Artists
2. Young People and the Arts
3. Reaching More People.

Funding Received

The primary funding source for arts development is **Cavan County Council** with annual revenue support from the **Arts Council**.

Cavan County Council secured funding under the **Specialist Staffing Scheme** from the Arts Council to employ an additional staff member on a three-year contract basis to commence in 2022.

Faoin Spéir In the Open

In 2021 working with Townhall Cavan and artists and curators an additional €90,000 was secured through the Arts Council Faoin Spéir – In the Open Initiative to support the arts sector and audiences to re-emerge after the Covid 19 Pandemic and restore confidence in the arts.



Horse and Foal, Lantern Sculptures at the Rose Garden, Farnham St, November 2021 as part of Gathering In for Faoin Spéir In The Open Project.



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Local Live Performance Programme Scheme Funding(LLPPS)

The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (TCAGSM) announced funding to Local Authorities under the Local Live Performance Programme Scheme to assist producers, promoters and venues to provide support for the industry to facilitate programming of outdoor live performances in summer 2021 animating town centres for local communities in line with public health considerations. Cavan County Council worked with 14 community and arts groups on a series of live events in the County. Additionally, Townhall, Cavan, the Arts Office and the Municipal District programmed the “Streets Ahead Cavan” initiative of live music in July and August at Abbeylands and the Market Square. 217 individuals including musicians, technical crew and support workers were engaged as part of this scheme in County Cavan.

Arts Awards and Bursaries provided by Cavan County Council

Awards Act Grant Applications 2021 and 2020 Comparison

2021			
	Received	Successful	Allocated
Arts Development Award	18	10	€ 12,578
Emerging Artist	9	6	€7,300
Professional Artist Awards	23 (24)	11	€ 21,759

2020			
	Received	Successful	Allocated
Arts Development Award	46	33	€ 20,300
Emerging Artist	4	4	€ 5,460
Professional Artist Awards	28	14	€ 17,072



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Awards under the Arts Act were approved by the Members of Cavan County Council. The decrease in applications from communities, and professional artists between 2020 and 2021 (see Comparison Tables above) indicates the negative affect of the Covid 19 Pandemic on artists, festivals and community arts organisations. The Arts Development Award which supports community and arts groups to make artwork and support audiences decreased by almost 60% in the applications received indicating the effect of Covid on confidence and concern for health and safety. Professional Artists Awards were provided to support artists and the Emerging Artist Award for early-stage career artists was also allocated.

Arts Programme

In 2021 the Programme focused on a blended approach in line with Government Guidelines, responsive to the various initiatives from the Department (TCAGSM) and the Arts Council to support the Arts and Cultural Sector and funding secured from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. A sample of work in three Programme Strands detailed below.

1. Public Art

As part of the Arts Council's Research Overview of Public Art in Local Government – The Per Cent for Art Scheme Cavan County Council's Public Art Programme was selected for development as one of three Case Studies in this research on the basis of the highest regional spend aligned to the three regional assembly areas:

- Northern & Western Regional Assembly Area
- Southern Regional Assembly Area
- Midland & Eastern Regional Assembly Area

The Case Study set out the vision, policy, management and commissioning model operated by each local authority, with reference to the Arts Council policy priorities of The Artist, Public Engagement and Spatial planning.



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Public Art expenditure during this period included:

Ray Fitzsimons – ‘The Journey’ €3,750

Completion funding for an arthouse documentary film exploring the art and origins of storytelling from the perspectives of Irish diaspora and other cultural traditions.

Michelle Harton – ‘Legends of Land’ €3,250

A direct purchase of an artwork in mixed media on canvas inspired by the mythologies of the landscapes of County Cavan for the County Collection.

Joey Burns – ‘Sinnan’ €6,631.89:

A direct purchase of a wood sculpture inspired by the legends of the River Shannon for the County Collection.

Maintenance of site-specific public artworks was initiated, including the decommissioning and removal of works unfit for restoration, the re-siting of ‘The Arch of Peace’ by Imogen Stuart and the restoration of sculptural works in wood by Joey Burns on the Dun a Ri art trail.

The Public Art Manager initiated a collaborative project with the School of Engineering at Purdue University, Indiana, USA and artist Joey Burns on reworking of the ‘Yellow Bittern’ harp sculpture, originally commissioned for Michael D. Higgins visit to Cavan during the Fleadh Ceoil, into an interactive sculpture. It is proposed as an innovative reworking of a traditional work through the application of custom designed technology to be located at the Virginia Library and Ramor Theatre Civic Space.

A three-week River Residency with artists Vicky Isley and Paul Smith known as boredomresearch, as part of the Museum of Mythological Waterbeasts a partnership project with lead partner Limerick Arts Office, Tipperary, and Clare Arts Office was hosted in Cavan in August/September 2021.



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2. Creative Ireland

The Creative Ireland Programme continued to support the arts to reach special communities of place and interest including nursing homes with the Shared Rituals Programme and Music for Nursing Homes.

Working with the Older People's Council Lost Landmarks and Thresholds a second anthology of writing was edited by Anthony J Quinn.

Dr Thomas Johnston and Ceol Connected provided a residency at the Holy Family School for children with profound needs as well as a mentorship for three of the Music Generation Music Educators.

Sparrowhawk, a new play by award winning Cavan playwright John McManus was premiered at Dun A Rí Forest Park, Kingscourt directed by Padraic McIntyre and produced by Townhall, Cavan.

Alan James Burns, a visual artist working in audio, video and performance was supported to develop his project the Waking Walls, a consideration of heritage buildings and their place in our environmental journey.

3. Arts and Health Programme

Cavan County Council Arts Office with CAMHS and Mental Health Ireland as part of the Cavan Monaghan Arts and Health Forum secured Public Sector Innovation Funding of €30,000 from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

The Project Aim - to support young people experiencing mental health challenges with tools to identify, manage and process their emotions through creative arts experiences.



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The Project Process

- Arts Office procured 3 artists, an art therapist, an evaluator, an animator and a graphic illustrator. Filmmaker Colm Mullen, Visual Artist Morag Donald, Creative Arts Facilitator Carolann Farrelly and Kim Doherty, Art Therapist and Arts and Health Manager.
- Mental Health Ireland championed co-production to deliver this project. Co-production is valuing the voice of everyone involved in the process – equality of experience.
- Project focused on young people and their circle of influence, parents, carers, peers, school, community.
- Parents, CAMHS staff and Teachers participated in workshops delivered by the 3 artists who brought CHIME to life using their artform.
- Young people immersed in arts in intensive experience in July and August.

Dissemination and shared learning of the project took place through online discussion and resource sharing, including posters, leaflets and an animation available on www.cavanarts.ie and Cavan Arts YouTube Channel http://www.cavanarts.ie/Default.aspx?StructureID_str=126&guid=199.

Reaching Out

10 E-Bulletins were disseminated in 2021 to our database with regular updates on Facebook/Twitter and www.cavanarts.ie.



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Illustration by Grace Haynes



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Cavan County Museum

Despite starting the year under pandemic restrictions which closed our doors to the public, Cavan County Museum and its staff continued to adapt and find innovative new ways of engaging with our audiences. The Museum was delighted to reopen to visitors in May.

Online Lectures and Online Storytelling Event

The museum organised and hosted a series of online lectures in February and March as part of our History Roadshow with these being made available to schools and the wider community. In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the museum hosted an online storytelling event which gathered great storytellers from all around the island of Ireland, which included live traditional singing and music. All these online lectures and events proved highly successful with capacity reached and attendance from both national and international audiences. Popularity led to summer storytelling workshops at Cavan County Museum. These projects were funded by the Creative Ireland Programme.

Experiencing Early Medieval Crafts

As restrictions eased and the museum reopened, Cavan County Museum delivered and hosted a series of workshops. The museum hosted a series of Bronze Age casting workshops with bronze sculptor Holger Lonze. These workshops for adults were funded by Creative Ireland Programme. Participants were given an introductory talk on the history of medieval Irish handbells, explored the museum's collection, the lost wax process, wax modelling and mould making with each creating a bell of their own design in wax. In another session, the bells were cast in the museum's garden using charcoal-fired pit furnaces, leather hand bellows and a smithing area, and was open to public viewing. This included demonstrations in folding iron bells and surface bronzing with each participant casting their mould in bronze. These workshops provided unique hands-on experience for participants and allowed them and the public to learn about a lost part of our history and heritage and experience a medieval metal workshop.



Bronze Age casting workshops at Cavan County Museum - charcoal-fired pit furnaces, leather hand bellows and a smithing area

Following on from this success, Transition year students at St. Clare's College, Ballyjamesduff later took part in similar workshops, creating moulds of Irish medieval handbells which were cast in Bronze. The finished bronze handbells were presented to the school, whilst one remained in the museum for display. These workshops were also funded under the Creative Ireland Programme.



Bronze Age handbell created by students during workshops at Cavan County Museum



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Building Refurbishment Works

Major refurbishment works took place on the exterior of the museum building. This work involved the maintenance and upkeep of the building's windows and roof including painting of the exterior walls. This was only the second time since the museum opened in 1996 that the exterior of the building had been painted. These works added greatly to the building's aesthetic providing a fresh inviting welcome to the museum, which was noticed and commented on by visitors.

Famine Exhibition

Staff at the museum continued updating its galleries and exhibitions. Our Famine Gallery, work included re-organising the gallery spaces and re-designing and producing new exhibition panels. Funded by Creative Ireland, this newly designed exhibition tells the story of County Cavan's experience of the famine within the context of Ireland's history and heritage. The re-design was a welcome addition to the museum's education programme and will continue the high standard of exhibits the museum has on display.

Museum of Broken Things

Other exhibition developments included *Museum of Broken Things*, a museum created within a museum by the visual artist and ceramicist Jane McCormick, Artist in Residence in Cavan County Museum from 2020 to 2021. Jane McCormick has always been a collector; in this exhibition, she lays out her collection as if it has just been discovered many years into the future, when the contents have completed their long journey from odds and ends to valued museum artefacts. She sees this process as a form of Contemporary Archaeology, inviting the visitor to apply archaeological thinking to the objects in her museum. You will also see McCormick's influence around the museum as you move between galleries, from the Covid-themed teapot with cup and saucer at the end of the first-floor corridor, to her visual diary of her Covid year as Artist Not Quite in Residence at the Cavan County Museum. This exhibition has been a fantastic addition the museums wide range of displays and galleries.



Museum of Broken Things by Artist in Residence Jane McCormick – located on top floor gallery at Cavan County Museum

Eden Gallery Exhibitions

Measured Against Nature – Cavan County Museum hosted and displayed *Measured Against Nature* Exhibition by local visual artist Eoin McEvoy. This exhibition attracted much attention from the public and museum visitors proving to be one of the more popular installations the museum has had in the Eden Gallery.

Lakes of Cavan Exhibition - Cavan County Museum also displayed Hu O'Reilly's photography exhibition *Lakes of Cavan*. Hu O'Reilly is a professional photographer originally from Crosserlough, Co. Cavan. *Lakes of Cavan* was a photography exhibition showing the beautiful lakes the county has to offer. This official launch of this exhibition included the launch of his accompanying book featuring a photo of a different lake for every day of the year. The display proved to be very popular with the public and museum visitors as the quality and diversity of his work showcased the beauty County Cavan has to offer.



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Photographic exhibition 'Lakes of Cavan' by Hu O'Reilly (Photo credit: Sonja Smith)

Culture Night 2021 and 'Under Cavan Skies'

For Culture Night 2021, *Under Cavan Skies* by Bailieborough Creative Hub, a community group that encourages artists and creative people to get involved in artistic projects, was officially launched by Cathaoirleach Cllr Clifford Kelly. Due to H&S guidelines, only a limited number of invited guests were able to attend the launch. The launch also saw a live performance by artist and musician Elena Duff. Additionally, the event featured as part of a segment for Culture Night on RTÉ one o'clock news and RTÉ six o'clock news. *Under Cavan Skies* was a selection of work created through the lockdowns, inspired by the artists and their local area.

Extension to Nuns' Walk path

Work was completed on the further enhancement and development of the Nuns' Walk path. This work extended the existing Nuns' Walk path towards the centre of Ballyjamesduff while also adding over 67 light lamps/poles to the over 1.5km walk. This work has made this fantastic local amenity more accessible to museum visitors and the wider community.

'A Letter from the Trenches'

The short film, *A Letter from the Trenches*, commissioned by Cavan County Museum and filmed on location at our WW1 replica trench exhibition, was selected to screen at four film festivals: Portobello Film Festival London, Still Voice Film Festival, Waterford Film Festival and Kerry International Film Festival. The production was written and



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directed by Alan Bradley and used a professional team of creatives. Telling the story of an Irish soldier fighting on the front line in WW1, this short film is a harrowing and moving piece in memory of the Irish men who fought in WW1 and was inspired by their real-life letters home.



'A Letter from the Trenches' selected to screen at four film festivals

Local Government Awards

Cavan County Museum were delighted to win the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for Commemorations & Centenaries. Cavan County Museum won for bringing history to life by commissioning two historical short films *A Letter from the Trenches* and *The Messenger* and three complimentary publications. The films and publications presented historical information in an innovative way creating a wide appeal.



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Cavan County Museum won Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2021 for Commemorations & Centenaries

Experiences of Border Minority Communities - Historical Perspectives

Cavan County Museum was delighted to join a panel discussion at a seminar hosted by Monaghan County Museum as part of the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2021 - *Experiences of border minority communities - historical perspectives*. Panel discussions included topics such as community perspectives on partition and commemorating the decade of centenaries from a museum perspective. This event was attended by a limited number of invited guests and was live streamed online and included an address from An Taoiseach Micheál Martin.



Experiences of Border Minority Communities - Historical Perspectives Conference (Photo credit: Rory Geary)



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Ramor Theatre, Virginia/ Cavan Town Hall

Mission Statement 2021

As direct functions of Cavan County Council, neither Townhall nor Ramor Theatres have their own Constitution or Articles of Association.

Both Arts Centres aim to encourage, nurture and develop an interest and participation in the arts in the county. This is done by presenting a varied program of performances by professional artists in all the art-forms together with encouraging and facilitating professional theatre companies, youth arts, community based amateur groups and individual artists to develop projects and showcase them both inside both venues aswell as off site performances.

Ramor Theatre opened its doors in September 1999 and since then it has been the central hub of the cultural and artistic life in County Cavan being the only professional performance space in the county. The recently refurbished Townhall Cavan was due to open to the public in March 2020 but due to Covid 19 it has only opened in September 2021. Townhall Cavan is located in the historic building in the heart of the principle county town with a population of 10,000. It is the vision of Cavan County Council that the two venues will work side by side under one management team to ensure an overall vision for the arts for the County of Cavan as a whole. It is envisaged that geographically Ramor Theatre will be a creative hub which will serve East Cavan and Townhall Cavan will serve Cavan Town and west of the county through the widespread network of smaller venues in this part of the county.

The Ramor Theatre is home to Livin Dred Theatre Company which over the past fifteen years has worked in partnership with the venue to incubate, develop and produce top quality professional theatre, which has then gone to tour both nationally and internationally.

Ramor Theatre is currently undergoing renovations, with the addition of a new state of the art library been build next door to the Ramor which will also see Arts Centre getting new bar, foyer, dressing rooms together with new studio/rehearsal space. All Ramors work will continue at Townhall Theatre, Cavan until this work is complete in September



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2022.

Following discussions with The Arts Council it was decided following advice from Head of Venues that 2022 application was the time for Ramor - Townhall Cavan to apply for funding under the one umbrella as it runs under same dictorate of Cavan County Council and has the same management team.

Ramor Theatre Virginia/Townhall Cavan Staff

Venues Manager Padraic McIntyre

Technical Manager Paddy Farrelly

Marketing Manager Lisa Gaffney

Box Office Frances Brady

Front of House/Coffee Bar Helen Foy

Caretaker/Cleaner Aisling Farrelly

Artistic Quality & Development of the Arts

The events we host are wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests. For example, following our own review in 2018 of our audience needs, we introduced special arts events for children with additional needs in the Ramor Theatre. This was a resounding success, and we hope to introduce this also to Townhall Cavan.

In Cavan Town there is a more multicultural population to be catered for and a larger student population to be targeted and we aim to have events that will appeal to these demographics. We aim to have arts events across all genres and artforms which will appeal to and attract different nationalities, age groups, religions and genders living in Cavan into our venues.

Although Townhall Cavan's doors have just opened in September, we were fully booked up to the end of 2021 and will have hosted 18 professional shows, Culture



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Night 2021 events such as Patricia McKenna's Visual Event "Recall", Screenings and a site specific production of "Sparrowhawk" by John McManus.

In 2021 a marketing and communications manager was appointed for both Ramor and Townhall Cavan a first for the organisation and will greatly enhance the provision of high quality artwork, events, activities and services.

Professional Development Opportunities

Townhall Cavan and Ramor Theatre continue to be committed to ensure high-quality professional development opportunities for practising artists and arts professionals. We feel we are now in a much stronger position to deliver on these commitments with a much better physical infrastructure in place across both buildings.

Townhall Cavan has three studio spaces on the top floor of the building which are ideal working locations for artists or arts professionals across a wide range of artforms. These studios are all serviced by a lift which means inclusivity of all artists. It is planned to run a number of residencies in two of these studios in 2022 with artists having the studio for 6 months together with a payment of €13000. The third studio is a Multimedia Suite, with capabilities for design, visual art, animation, video editing, sound/music recording and editing, radio broadcasting, 3D printing and laser cutting. The iMac Core Suite also has capabilities for XR (Extended Reality - AR,VR, etc.), design (3D, technical and graphics) and visual arts and can function with related software and technology such as Adobe Suite, Solid Works, VR headsets, 3D projection, etc. It also has Windows capabilities. Also the 3D printing and laser cutting technology can be moved around the building to accommodate group workshops. Townhall Cavan also has a large meeting/rehearsal/workshop room located on the second floor.

Ramor Theatre which is currently under renovation as part of the new Virginia Cultural and Civic space which sees a modern library building been build alongside the current theatre building. This will give huge opportunities for us to engage, work with and develop professional opportunities for artists and arts professionals which much more space and a purpose built studio.



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Key Goals For 2022

For both Townhall Cavan & Ramor Theatres, we have identified the following strategic priority areas and their related key goals, which we are committed to implementing (or achieving) over the next few years.

- Artistic Programming – Something for Everyone, our theatres are for you. The events that we will host will be wide and varied and should meet the interests of all genres, cultures, ages, and interests. We want our venues to be professional, collaborative, and yet a place where volunteers and amateurs alike all feel like they belong here.
- Diversification – Showcasing a wider variety of events which will lead to a more diverse audience
 - Partnerships and Collaboration
 - Sustainability – Customer Retention, Cross, Link & Up-selling.
 - Organisational Effectiveness

A major key goal for us is to expand our customer target market to reach those areas we are lacking in by focusing on culture, youth, and disadvantaged audiences

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION 2021

COMMERCIAL PROGRAMME

Our Commercial programme is events run by Townhall Cavan which are successful high-profile acts which attracts customers and raises the profile of the theatre nationally. Because of Covid-19 and only 3 months of full trading took place in 2021. Four commercial acts all music performed, Tommy Flemming, Jack L, Strings and Things, Pilgrim St, and ABBA.



COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMME

Community Arts has been and remains a huge part of what Townhall Cavan does in our local area. Ramor continued to collaborate with local music and drama groups and continue to create and develop relationship with both them and their audiences. Cavan One Act Drama Festival was hosted in Townhall Cavan over the first weekend in November.

Cavan Loves Drama!





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PROFESSIONAL THEATRE PROGRAMME

With the ongoing closure of theatres and Art Centres due to Covid-19 our Professional Theatre Programme was severely disrupted in 2021. However once we reopened in October we five top class touring productions by Arts Council funded companies including Decadent with Eden, Quintessence with The Stars of Chester Lane, Fight Night with Aonghus Og McAnally, and Pure mental from Riverbank Theatre.



LITERATURE PROGRAMME

In order to fill a void in Literature programming identified by Townhall Cavan management the venue has joined the Literature Audience Development Scheme, and the Live network to host a number of events during lockdown including the very popular 'Yours Sincerely' letter writing project with re-nouned International novelist Patrick DeWitt who also visited Townhall Cavan for an interview with Dani Gill. Other writers we collobarated with was Caileann Hogan and Donna Freitas.





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COMPANY IN RESIDENCE Fanzini Productions

Fanzini Productions, Con Horgan & Kim Mc Cafferty, are a critically acclaimed street arts company, a leading voice in Street Arts in Ireland, representative of their artform nationally & internationally. Building on the supportive partnership already seeded between Fanzini Productions & The Ramor Theatre through help-in-kind for development of our new work in 2019 & 2020, in last years application we applied and were delighted to receive €20000 for Fanzini to be company in residence. It was felt and indeed proved that an extended professional residency is what this company needed.

LIVIN DRED PARTNERSHIP

Townhall Cavan together with Ramor Theatre continued their working relationship with Livin Dred Theatre Company throughout 2021 giving them administrative and marketing assistance along with €4500 payment towards their production of Danti-Dan by Gina Moxley. This production was all teched and previewed and opened at Townhall Cavan,



CHILDRENS THEATRE PROGRAMME

Childrens Theatre was particularly hard to predict during the recent Covid-19 crisis because of the precarious nature of schools during the pandemic. However we feel there is now an appetite for such events with strong interest production of The Very Old man With Enormous Wings due which visited us in November 2021.



TEENAGE THEATRE PROGRAMME

The return of Ger Carey to Townhall Cavan in December with his show Psycho Spaghetti aimed at Transition Years has already sold out showing both the hunger and willingness of Secondary Schools to return to Arts Centres now that restrictions are easing.

VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMME

Townhall Cavan has a small but beautiful versatile art and exhibition space. Currently running is the exhibition. Recall By Patricia McKenna.



Patricia McKenna and her Townhall Cavan installation 'Recall'

Recall

An Installation by Patricia McKenna

This mixed media installation is a visual response to the art space in Cavan town hall including a structure by Shane Carroll.

The work uses Neon light, shadow, trees to create an atmospheric space.

It is a further development on the piece and the world goes on Which was



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shown in Palazzo Mora, European Cultural Centre, Venice, as a collateral show of the 57th Venice Biennale, 2017, this was also in conjunction with some other members of Sculpture Network a German based sculptors collective.

The work reflects on how the world keeps turning, stories are told, forgotten, remembered, lost, found, retold, ignored. Our own private and personal narratives shaping our lives and public narratives shaping the cultural imagination and identity.

The piece is essentially a space to take time to pause and absorb the visual atmosphere.

MUSIC BUSARY

Daragh Slacke is composer, writer and musician. He is currently writing music for Cavan's Faoin Spéir project 'Gathering In'. This project sees Slacke working with sculptor Tom Meskall and poet Noel Monahan to create a town wide outdoor sculpting installation accompanied by music \ spoken word triggered by site specific QR codes. The project celebrates Irish animals and our relationship with them.

Slacke would like to take material written for this project and further produce it into a full mixed and mastered album for release later next year under the moniker Dr. Slacke & The Palpitations...

Personnel involved in making this album would include;

Daragh Slacke Guitar \ Vox \ Producer

Pat McManus Fiddle

Barry Fitzgerald Drums

Josh McClorey Bass

Jamie Byrne Assistant Engineer

Martin Quinn Mix & Master Engineer

The Faoin Spéir project has brought together an eclectic and inspirational mix of art and artists. Slacke has a week in October In Annaghmakerrig to write material for the exhibition in late November and recording of the album in December 2020



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LOST HEARTS

The Ramor Theatre was happy to support LOST HEARTS' in Roundwood House, Mountrath to the tune of €1500.

This filming of the ghost story by M.R. James, dramatised by Michael James Ford and Stewart Roche, involved two writers, three actors, two musicians (a cellist and a violinist), an audio engineer, a film-maker and an A.D. It will be shot in Roundwood House in Mountrath, Co. Laois in May 2021.

London, 1903, and Stephen Elliot is rapidly descending into madness and opium addiction. In an attempt to arrest his decline, leading psychiatrist Doctor Olsen utilises hypnosis to delve deep into the young man's suppressed memories. What is revealed is a terrifying episode from Stephen's childhood, when, as a traumatised orphan, he was sent to live with his reclusive Uncle at the remote Aswarby Hall.

There he experiences increasingly disturbing incidents and is plagued by two spectral children, whose actions drive the story to its blood-curdling conclusion.

Lost Hearts is one of the darkest tales from M.R. James (1862 -1936), who is widely regarded as one of the foremost writers of supernatural fiction. This new adaptation for online streaming will be filmed in the magnificent setting of Roundwood House in May 2021 and promises a thrilling hour of gothic horror.



Transportation, Climate Change, Environment and Water Services

Roads & Transportation

Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of in excess of 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

As a land locked county with a reliance on the road infrastructure, the roads area is an integral part of delivering key strategic objectives contained within the Cavan County Council Corporate plan.

1. Supporting Communities
2. Stimulate Sustainable Economic Activity
3. Protect & Enhance Natural Environmental Resources
4. Plan and Develop Infrastructural Capacity
5. Promote a Positive Image of Cavan County Council and the County
6. Good Governance and Building Organisational Capacity

These objectives are contained within our Annual Service Plan and help shape our objectives for the year ahead.

Cavan Road Network Classification

The total estimated value of the road network in the County is over €1.1 billion, with the Regional and Local Road network accounting for €1 billion of this total. There are a total number of 779 road bridges (span greater than 2 metres) in the county.



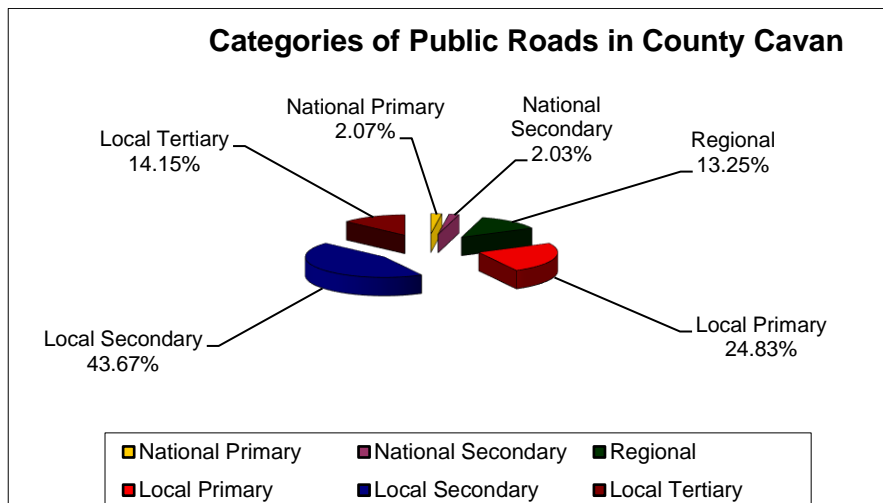
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Category	Road Type	Length (Kilometres)
National	National Primary	62.21
	National Secondary	61.07
Non – National	Regional	399.14
	Local Primary	747.83
	Local Secondary	1315.08
	Local Tertiary	426.03
Total		3011.36

The total length of public roadway in County Cavan is 3,011km.





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Funding

Funding for the improvement and maintenance of public roads in Cavan comes primarily from three sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for National Roads with the Department of Transport (DOT) providing funding for the Regional and Local Road Network. Technical and administrative backup for this funding is provided by the TII as required. Cavan County Council provides a substantial annual allocation from own resources towards the upkeep of the Local and Regional Road Network. Additionally, from 2021 onwards, the National Transport Authority (NTA) will be providing funding for Active Travel projects across the county within urban areas.

2021 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source at the start of 2021.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation
National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€ 10,053,250
Non National Roads	Department of Transport	€ 15,484,815
Non National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379
Active Travel	National Transport Authority	€ 2,310,000
Total		€ 30,174,444



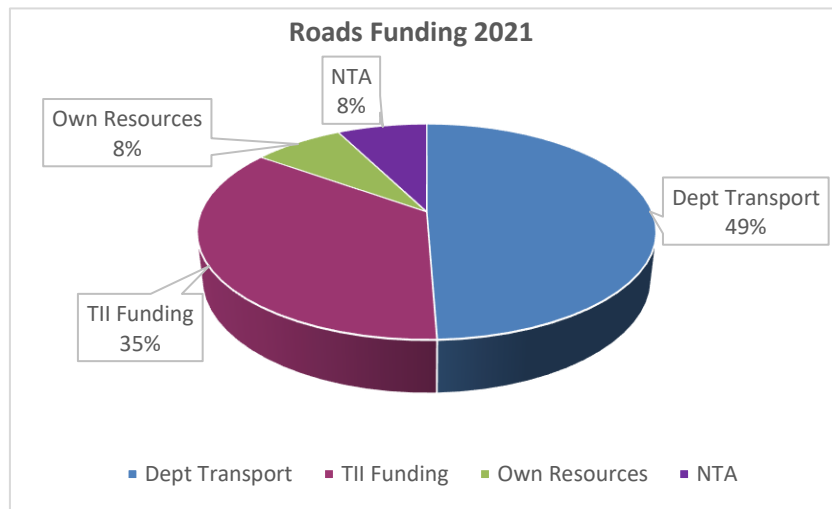
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Cavan County Council Contributions

At the start of 2021, Cavan County Council provided €2.32 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Non-National Roads Network (Local and Regional Roads). This demonstrated the Council's ongoing commitment to maintaining its roads network.



Additional Allocations

During 2021 Cavan County Council was able to avail of additional funding as follows

Source	Category	Allocation
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	National Road Maintenance Defects	€734,000
Department of Transport	Climate Change Adaptation Works	€522,500
National Transport Authority	Outdoor Dining Fund	€840,240
Dept. of Rural & Community Development	Local Improvement Schemes	€1,119,389
Total		€3,216,129



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National Roads

The National Primary Road network consists of the N3 and N16. The N3 is the Dublin/Enniskillen/ Ballyshannon Road; the N16 is the Sligo/Enniskillen Road. The National Secondary network consists of the N54 Cavan/Monaghan Road between Butlersbridge and the County Boundary at Leggykelly, the N55 Cavan/Athlone Road and the N87 from Staghall Roundabout, Belturbet to the Border at Swanlinbar.

National Road Major & Minor Schemes

N3 Virginia Bypass

Virginia is the last remaining town on the N3 National Route from Dublin to the NI Border without a bypass. It is also the only town on the national primary network within a 100km radius of Dublin not to be bypassed. Cavan County Council appointed JB Barry Transportation in 2019 as Technical Advisors to provide all engineering, environmental, economic and appraisal services required to deliver the project through the planning and design phases. The scheme will extend from the end of the existing N3 dual carriageway at the Cavan/Meath border to Lisgrea, North of Virginia Town.





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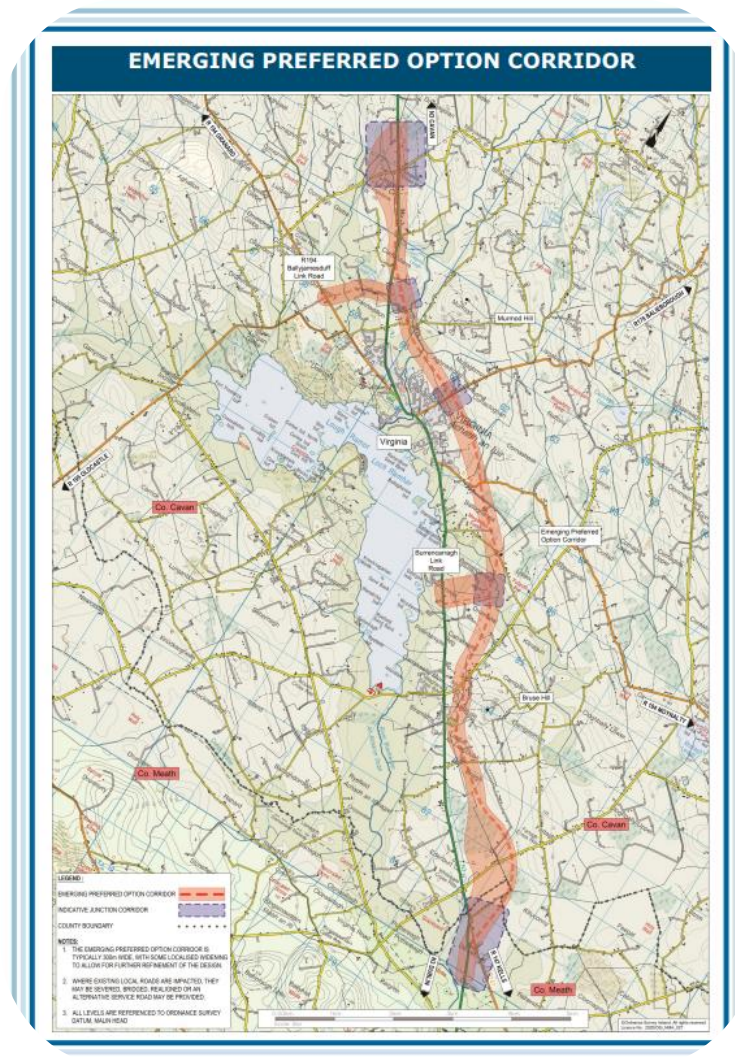


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In 2021 an allocation of €1,000,000 was made available by the TII to progress the planning and design of the scheme in accordance with the Project Management Guidelines for National Road schemes. To date, the scheme has progressed through Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) of the Project Management Guidelines and is currently nearing the end of Phase 2 Options Selection.

The first non-statutory public consultation on the scheme study area, initial constraints and route options was completed in March 2020 with a second non-statutory public consultation on the shortlisted route options completed (online/virtually) in January 2021. The third non-statutory public consultation advertising the Emerging Preferred Option Corridor was held (online/virtually) from the 19th August 2021 to the 13th September 2021 and was augmented with in person meetings with the project team, by appointment only, from the 19th August to the 03rd September 2021. The Preferred Option Corridor and the Option Selection Report are being finalised and it is intended to advertise these in Summer 2022.

After the Preferred Option Corridor and Option Selection Report have been finalised and advertised Cavan County Council can then commence Phase 3 of the Project Management Guidelines for National Road schemes, subject to relevant approvals. Phase 3 (Design and Environmental Evaluation) will involve further development of the scheme, including preliminary design of the road, junction design and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment. During this phase further engagement with landowners and interested parties will take place.



Minor Improvement Schemes

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A

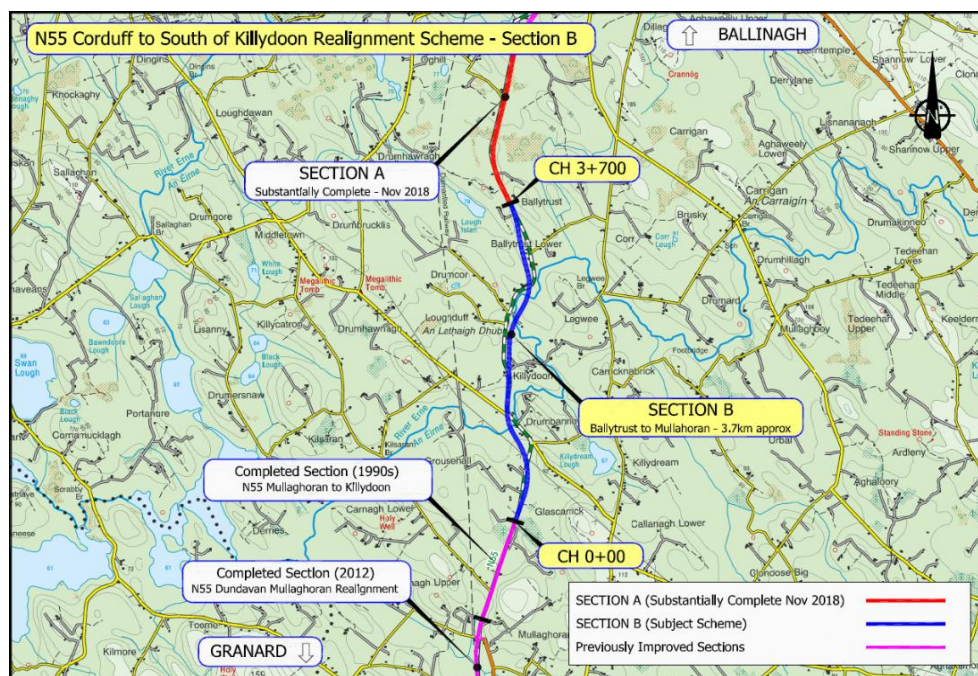
Section A, which involved a 3.2km realignment of the N55 at two distinct locations to the south of Ballinagh, reached substantial completion in late 2018. The Contract remains in the Handover Phase. The Contractor completed a number of snagging items during 2021. The Contractor's final paperwork for the scheme remains outstanding.

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section B

Section B, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, involves a 3.7km realignment of the N55 immediately south of Section A. The Scheme continued to progress during 2021. RPS Consulting Engineers are the Council's Technical Advisors on the Scheme, appointed in 2020 for the provision of Consultancy Services for Phases 5, 6 & 7 of the TII's Project Management Guidelines.

The Scheme is currently in the final stages of Phase 5 (Enabling & Procurement). During 2021 the Detailed Design was completed, and Tender Documentation finalised for the Main Construction Contract.

Cavan County Council took possession of the CPO lands during 2020 and during 2021 the associated land and property acquisition processes were progressed and by the end of the year negotiations had reached settlement terms in almost two thirds of all cases. Further settlements are anticipated in 2022.



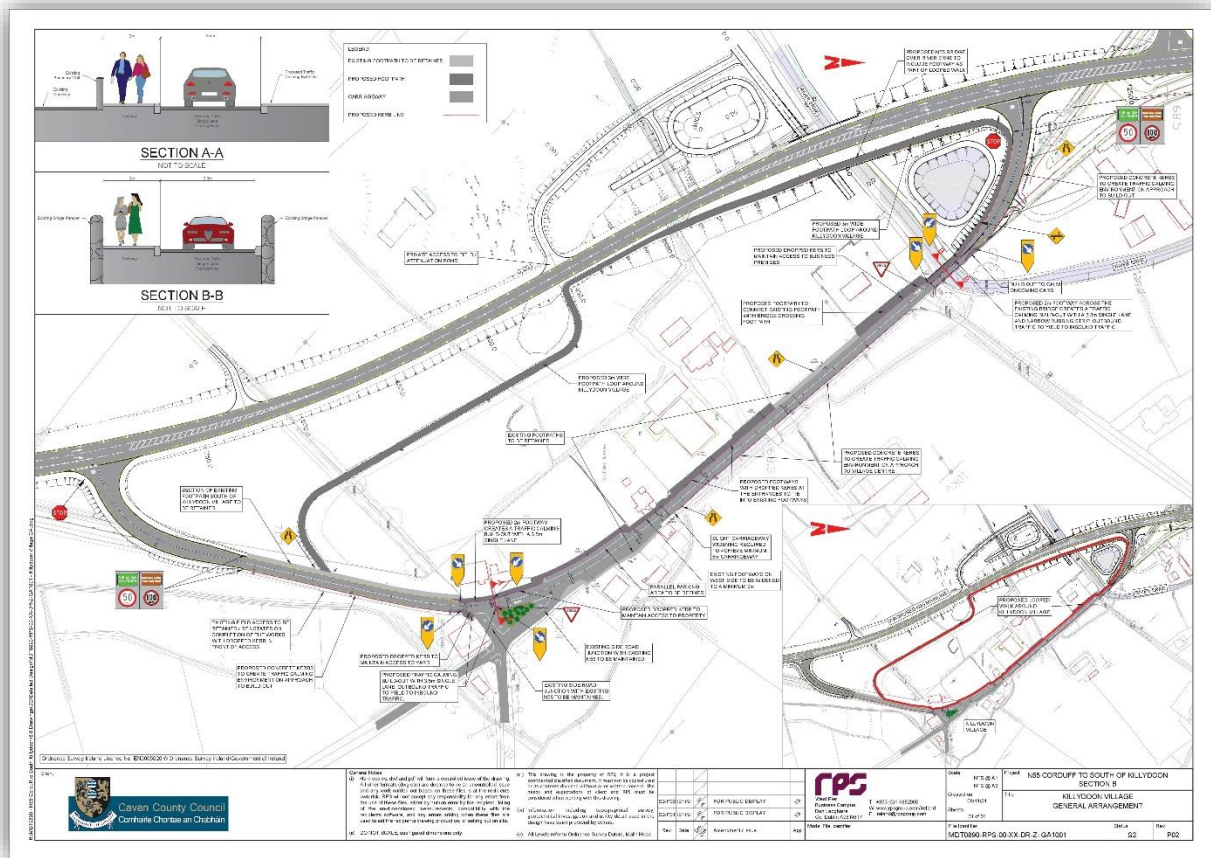
Above: Location Map of N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Realignment, Section B



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Above: Traffic calming and looped walk proposals for Killydoon village finalised in 2021

In preparation for the Main Construction Contract, Enabling Works Contracts were advanced and finalised during 2021.

The Boundary Fencing and Site Clearance Contract involved the construction of boundary fencing along the 3.7km corridor of the scheme as well as site clearance works, for the removal of hedgerows, trees and vegetation along the new alignment. Snagging and defects were addressed during 2021 as well as provision of additional fencing and gates required following landowner negotiations.



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Above: Aerial view of boundary fencing works on the N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon

The need for additional CCTV surveys was identified to determine the extent and condition of a number of existing surface water drains on the scheme. These surveys were procured and carried out in Q1 of 2021.

Agreements were reached with Service Providers (ESB and EIR) regarding required service diversion works to be carried out to facilitate the new road alignment. ESB completed the agreed service diversions during September 2021.

The Archaeological Services Contract awarded to Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU) in late 2020 commenced on site January 2021 with Stage (i) fieldwork (Geophysical Surveys, Test Excavations & Architectural Built Heritage Surveys). Stage ii and Stage iii fieldwork followed during the year, with site works reaching completion in late September 2021. Stage (iv) reporting will continue into 2022.



Above: Archaeological Contract: Pits and burnt stone spread at Killydoon (after excavation)

Cavan County Council submitted a request for TII approval to go to tender for the Main Construction Contract in 2021 and TII approval was granted on 29th October 2021. The Tender Action, Evaluation and Award process will continue into 2022 when it is anticipated that Cavan County Council will seek approval to award the Construction Contract.

N3 Dublin Road Roundabout:

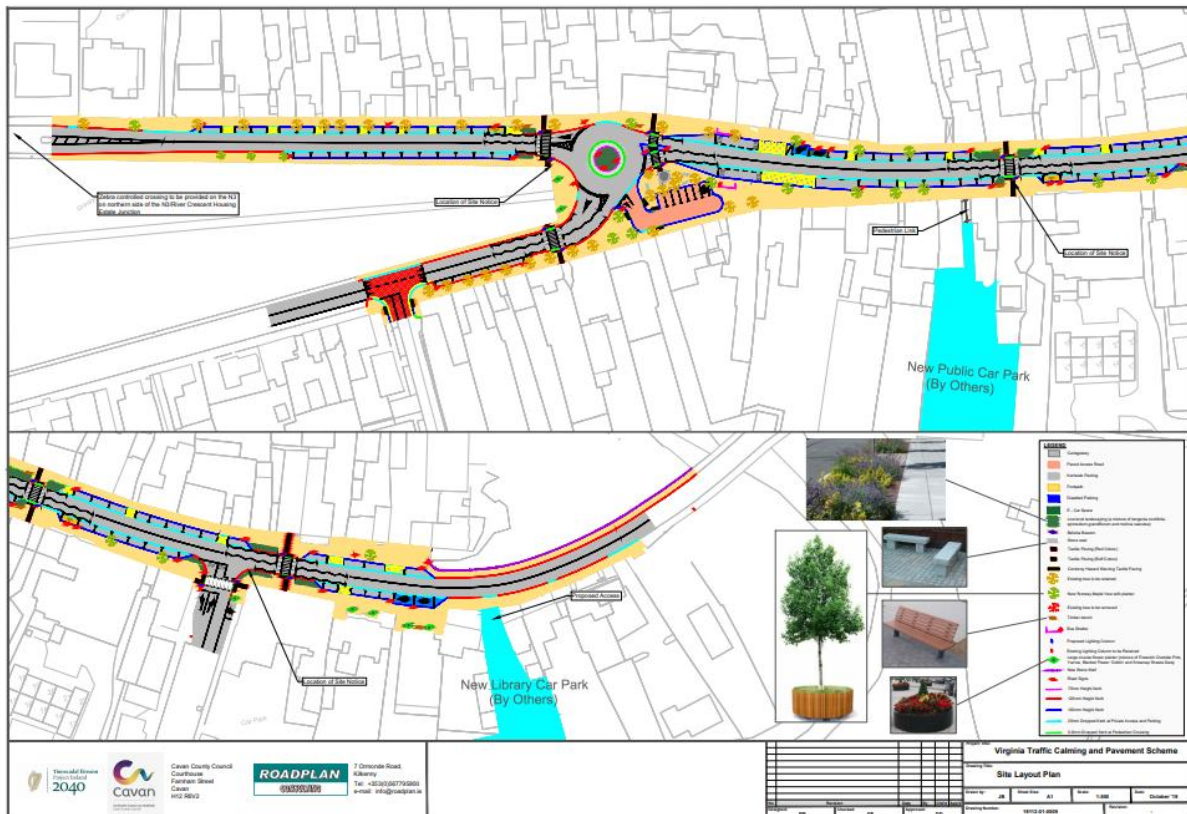
RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme through phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project Management Guidelines. The Primary aim of this scheme is to address the congestion and safety issues at the roundabout. RPS are currently working on phase 2, option Selection.

National Road Safety Schemes

N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 HCL Scheme:

A Preliminary Design for Phase 2 of the N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 Scheme was completed in late 2018 following consultations with Municipal District Councillors, the Town Team, the Development Association and the public. In 2019 approval was

received from the TII to appoint Roadplan Consulting Engineers to the scheme to progress it through Part 8 Planning, Detailed Design, Tendering and Construction



Part VIII Planning for the Virginia Traffic Calming and Pavement Scheme was approved by the councillors in the Ballyjamesduff Municipal district in 2020. The scheme was tendered on the 20th November 2020 with the contract being awarded in May 2021 with works commencing on the undergrounding of overhead services in August 2021.

Cavan Crystal Hotel (R212)– Kilmore Roundabout (N3) HD15 HCL Scheme:

This scheme incorporates the installation of new footpaths, raised cycle Lanes, bus bays and safety improvement works which will benefit both pedestrians and motorists from the Cavan Crystal Hotel – the Kilmore Hotel. RPS consultants developed the



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scheme through Phase 2 of the Project Management Guidelines in 2020 and a report was forwarded to the TII in early 2021 seeking funding for the full design.

Approval was received in 2021 from the TII to progress the scheme through Phases 3-7 and Clandillon Consulting Engineers were appointed in late 2021 to complete these phases. The consultants will prepare a part 8 planning submission for the scheme in 2022 with a view to going to tender later in the year subject to TII approval.

N3 Virginia to Carrakeelty More (Maghera)

In 2020 Cavan County Council received approval from TII to appoint RPS Consulting Engineers to develop an options and feasibility report in relation to potential works for an online improvement for this NRA HD 15 Network Safety Ranking scheme. The safety scheme will include online improvement works, junction improvements, verge widening and the widening of Ballaghanea bridge. A draft concept and feasibility report was submitted and approved by the TII in 2021 allowing for the commencement of Phases 3 –7 of the scheme. It is hoped to complete the design phase of the scheme in mid-2022 with tendering to commence in late 2022 subject to TII approval and funding being available.

Virginia Car Park

Construction of this new 77 space carpark, access road, public lighting, drainage, and other associated site works was completed by Cullivan Plant Hire in August 2021 and opened to the public.



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Above: New 77 space carpark in Virginia.

N55 Cashel Cross Safety Scheme

JB Barry consultants were appointed in 2021 to progress the design of a scheme at this location which will involve the alteration of two local road junctions and the introduction of two right turning lanes. It is envisaged that construction works would commence in 2022 subject to TII approval and funding being available.

N3 Drumsillagh Annagh and Drumcrow Safety Scheme

Roadplan consultants were appointed in 2021 to design a safety scheme at this location which will involve the introduction of right turning lanes. It is envisaged that construction works would commence in 2022 subject to TII approval and funding being available.

National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes

Funding was obtained from the TII in 2021 to progress overlay schemes on the National Road Network. They included;

- The N16 Blacklion Town Pavement Scheme - works were substantially completed in October 2021 and the scheme is currently in the defects period.



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- N87 Gartaquill to Mullaghduff (Ph 1) - The initial works for the scheme commenced in November 2020 with Substantial completion in August 2021. The Scheme is currently in the defects period.
- N3 Lisgrea Pavement Scheme – The works contract for this scheme was tendered in October 2021, with works due to commence on site in Spring 2022.



Above: Completed Pavement Works on N87

NP/NS Retrofit Fencing 2021

TII allocated €74,000 for retrofitting of existing concrete/timber rail fencing along national routes with a revised fence type of a tensioned wire mesh restraining system. These systems are recommended for along clear zones on sections of the national road network where the 100 km/h speed limit applies. Four sections of the N3 at Broughderg, Lismullig, Lavey and Putighan were identified as suitable locations to retro fit approximately 1,000 meters of this new fencing system which was completed in December 2021.



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Above: Completed Fencing Works on the N3 at Putighan

Capital Maintenance Schemes

Cavan County Council secured funding under the Category B maintenance fund from the TII to complete surfacing works to the following locations on the National Road network in 2021;

- Category B N55 Ballinagh/Gortachurk
- Category B N87 Bawnboy

Regional & Local Roads

2021 Road Works Programme

A grant of €15,484,815 was allocated to Cavan County Council during 2021 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads, Bridge Rehabilitation, Speed Limits in Housing Estates and Low Cost Safety Improvement Schemes. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2021 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts with 61Km of pavement restoration works and 117Km of surface dressing being completed across the county in 2021.



Regional & Local Road Safety Schemes

Cavan County Council received €285,000 in DOT Grant Allocations in 2021 for 7 No. Low-Cost Safety Schemes across the county. The schemes completed were;

- Corgarry Hill, Kingscourt – Phase 2 – providing additional warning signage, improved road surface and markings on this steep decline with severe bends. Drainage and hedge clearance works were also carried out.
- Munterconnaught, Virginia - Traffic Calming measures which included warning signage and road markings to reduce speed at a busy local intersection which is part of the N3 National Primary Road diversion route and will compliment a reduced speed limit that was implemented at this location.
- Drumlark, Cavan - Traffic Calming measures at a busy school and multiple housing estate locations, which included warning signage, road markings and a footpath extension.



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- Staghall Roundabout to Erne Bridge in Belturbet - Traffic calming measures which included speed cushions, improved signage, and road markings to reduce speed and improve safety for regional road users, local access traffic and pedestrians.
- Rooskey Crossroads on Canningstown to Shercock Road – created a 4-way stop junction to improve driver awareness and reduce the likelihood of a fatality by bringing all vehicles to a stop at this particularly blind intersection



Before



After

Above: Completed Works at Rooskey Crossroads

- One Tree Cross, Ballyhaise – Removal of tree/vegetation and minor road realignment to improve visibility in both directions.
- Kilnavaragh Lane, Cavan Town – Traffic Calming measures along a busy residential area which reduces speed and improve safety for local residents and vulnerable road users.



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Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects:

Cavan County Council received €612,500 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for Regional & Local Road Bridges in 2021. The following bridges were in house designed, procured, awarded to successful tenderer and rehabilitation works completed - R191 Nine Eye Bridge, L2523 Legawee Bridge, R165 Collops Bridge, L6008 Coppanagh Double Arch Bridge, L3544 Parkers Bridge, L5540 Quivvy Bridge, L6534 Drumcrow Bridge, L5584 Kevitt Bridge, R191 Latully Bridge, L7518 Tonyduff Bridge, Drumcrow Bridge, L6609 Urbal Bridge and L3511 Three Carvagh Bridge.



Above: L5540 Quivvy Bridge Before and After

R194 Derrylea Bridge (Granard to Ballyjamesduff Road)

Cavan County Council were allocated €50,000 in 2021, for preparation of design and contract documents for Derrylea Bridge widening and improvement works. Malachy Walsh and Partners were appointed as the consultants for the scheme to progress it through, planning design and construction. A topographical survey and ground investigation survey were completed in early 2021 with Part 8 planning being published in November.



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The proposal for this project is to widen the structure on the upstream side. This will allow for the provision of a two-way carriageway and one number footpath, catering for all vehicles and vulnerable road users at this location.

Assan Bridge

Malachy Walsh and Partners were appointed in 2021 as specialist bridge consultants for L3028 Assan Bridge to develop a scheme to improve the hydraulic capacity of the bridge in conjunction with safety improvements as part of the rehabilitation works. Assan Bridge is located on a staggered crossroads 6km NNE of Ballyjamesduff on the L3028 at its junction with the L3005 (going south) and the L3545 (going north). The width of the bridge and its layout make it particularly difficult for HGVs to manoeuvre safely through the existing junction leading to frequent bridge strikes. In addition, the location has a record of multiple single vehicle collisions.

During the development of the project, it became apparent that it would be difficult to affect the necessary improvements through rehabilitation works alone. Following discussions with the department, it was agreed to develop a specific improvement scheme for Assan Bridge which would involve the widening of the bridge and realignment of the staggered junction. Malachy Walsh and Partners are presently exploring the various options and an application has been made for funding in 2022 to progress the scheme through design, planning and tender stages.

Climate Adaption Grant

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €298,000 under the Climate Adaption Grant. Five bridges were allocated funding namely: L5535 Breandrum Culvert, L1059 Ardloughter Bridge, R162 Cornakill Bridge, R198 Ricehill Bridge and L3503 Carrickallen Bridge. Works on the L5535 Breandrum Culvert, L1059 Ardloughter Bridge, R162 Cornakill Bridge, and L3503 Carrickallen Bridge were all completed by the end of 2021.



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Before



After

L3503 Carrickallen Bridge

Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €617,000 for Community Involvement Schemes in 2021 with the applicants providing 15% of the overall cost of the works. A total of 7 schemes were completed across the county by the end of 2021. The DOT indicated in late 2021 that the local contribution for the 2022/2023 programme would be reduced to 10%.

Local Improvement Schemes

Cavan County Council applied for and secured two tranches of funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for Local Improvement Schemes in 2021.

- Allocation 1 – €289,000
- Allocation 2 – €830,000

With the allocation received in 2021 Cavan County Council completed a total of 23 lanes, providing Drainage, Surfacing, and associated civil works. This funding provides vital investment in the rural communities of County Cavan.



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Above: Completed LIS project

Road Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance of the road network is critical in maintaining the investment of improvement works of previous years. The table below shows the value of maintenance works carried out during the year on each road type.

Road Category	Kms	Maintenance Costs 2021
National Primary	62	267,787
National Secondary	61	737,697
Regional	399	1,150,000
Local	2489	5,290,000
Total	3011	7,445,484

National Road Maintenance

During 2021 Cavan County Council received €1,005,484 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting, Ordinary Maintenance and Route Defects programmes.



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Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2021 the DOT provided an allocation of €2.4m in the form of a Discretionary Grant and €2.3m in Surface Restoration Grants specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.74m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principal maintenance operations included drainage and surface repair work.

Winter Maintenance

Cavan County Council treats a designated 530km of the Road network as part of its Winter Maintenance Service which accounts for 18% of the entire network. A Winter Service Response Plan and maps of the salting routes are posted on the Council's Website for public viewing. The National Road Network is prioritised as it carries the greatest volume of traffic and caters for higher speeds. Winter Maintenance is carried out as a pre-treatment on the basis of forecast conditions.

Public Lighting

Cavan County Council provides and maintains Public Lighting to a total of 29 towns and villages. Throughout the year the Council upgraded sections of the lighting infrastructure within each of the three Municipal Districts, including the use of LED technology which reduces the energy and maintenance costs and decreases carbon emissions.

64% of Cavan County Councils public lighting stock has been updated with LED fittings as of the end of 2021. Cavan County Council is currently working in partnership with the RMO on a regional basis to achieve a full LED retrofit programme which we anticipate will be rolled out in quarter 3 of 2022. SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd is the Council's Maintenance Contractor for public lighting and Energia provide the supply of unmetered electricity.



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Active Travel

Background

Active Travel is generally defined as travelling with a purpose using your own energy such as walking or cycling to work, school or to shop. The importance of active travel is recognised in the National Planning Framework by its inclusion within National Strategic Outcome 1: Compact Growth, as well as National Policy Objective 27. In order to promote active travel in everyday life, the Government has committed €1.8bn towards its development over the next 5 years. The National Transport Authority (NTA) has been tasked with the implementation of the active travel programme and has developed a 5 year national walking and cycling infrastructure plan to underpin its delivery.

Active Travel Measures 2021

Cavan County Council spent €1,323,000 under the 2021 Active Travel Allocation. The funding allowed for completion of several projects in the County including the upgrading/provision of widened footpaths/cycle lanes and improved crossing facilities in towns and villages including zebra crossings.



Arvagh Pedestrian Crossing



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Loreto Road, Cavan Town



R165 Kingscourt Road, Baileborough

Outdoor Dining

Cavan County Council sought funding for infrastructural measure to facilitate outdoor dining from the National Transport Authority. The authority received grant funding of €840,240 on the 26th of May for 19 projects throughout the county. A number of temporary buildouts were installed across the county to facilitate outdoor dining in town centres as part of the reopening of businesses.



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Greenways

Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenway

Cavan and Leitrim Local authorities are working in partnership on the development of this 54km Greenway project that would utilise the old narrow gauge railway that ran from Belturbet in County Cavan through, Ballyconnell, Ballyheady, Templeport, Killyran, Garadice, Ballinamore, Fenagh, Mohill to Dromod in County Leitrim. This Greenway Project is being developed in conjunction with the local community groups and development associations along the proposed route. Cavan County Council engaged Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers to prepare a detailed Preliminary Design and to carry out AA Screening and EIA Screening for the project in 2016. Cavan County Council continue to seek funding to advance the project and the initial sections are described below.

Ballyconnell to Ballyheady

Cavan County Council in partnership with Waterways Ireland were awarded funding under Measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme in 2017. The project involved the development of a 5.5km recreational cycling and walking trail from the town of Ballyconnell, to Bellaheady Bridge, primarily along the Shannon-erne Waterway on the banks of the Woodford River. Works were completed to the final tie-in at Ballyconnell at the end of 2021 and scheme was officially opened in March 2022.

Belturbet to Corraquill (Lock 1)

In partnership with Waterways Ireland, Cavan County Council successfully obtained funding for a section of Greenway / Blue way from Belturbet Town to Lock 1 at Corraquill. The trail uses the existing road network and upgrades private access tracks on its way towards Aghalane Bridge. An upgraded footbridge across the Rag River is also incorporated in the design. From Aghalane the trail extends along the Woodford Canal to Lock 1.



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Jennings O' Donovan Consulting Engineers were appointed to provide consultancy services and they ran a procurement competition in late 2019. Deane Public Works were appointed as the successful contractor and construction commenced in August 2021 on the section to Kilcorby which was completed by end of 2021.



Above: Belturbet to Corraquill Recreational Trail

Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway

Leitrim County Council are the lead authority for the development of the 56Km Sligo Leitrim Northern Counties Railway (SLNCR) Greenway project from Sligo to Blacklion. An allocation of €500,000 was awarded to the project under the Carbon Tax Fund 2020 to enable the project to be brought through the required statutory process. Leitrim County Council completed the tender assessment for the appointment of consultants for the scheme in December and are waiting on TII approval for their appointment.

Cavan Greenway

Cavan County Council received funding of €175,000 under the Carbon Tax Fund 2020, to examine the feasibility, planning and options for the development of a greenway from Cavan Town northwards and westwards in two sections. Section one from Cavan to Drumully in County Monaghan where it will meet up with the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway and section two, from Cloverhill through Belturbet to connect



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with the proposed Cavan Leitrim Greenway at Ballyconnell. Consultants O Connor Sutton Cronin were appointed in May 2021 and are progressing the project through to Options Selection stage.



Above: Cavan Greenway Route Options

Road Safety

The Cavan Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2020 was launched in May 2017. The plan was prepared by the Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group, which is a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary group established in 2015 to ensure a co-ordinated, collaborative, and consistent approach to improving safety for all road users.

The Cavan Road Safety Working Together Group included representatives from Cavan County Council, The Fire Service, The RSA, The TII, An Garda Síochána, The HSE, The Ambulance Service and The Cavan Monaghan Education & Training Board.



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A new national Road Safety Strategy from 2021-2030 was published in December 2021 and will require the establishment of a new Road Safety Working Together Group in 2022 to commence the development of a new Road Safety Action Plan.

Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme

The Integrated Design Team led by Tobin Consulting Engineers were appointed in September 2021 to commence work on the Kingscourt Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.

The team consists of Urban Design and Planning Lead - Cunnane Stratton Reynolds, architectural concept design lead - Niall Smith Architects, Architectural Conservation Professionals to deal with structures with historical significance and Moore Group to deal with Archaeological and Environmental inputs.

Deliverables for Stage I - Project Inception & Development of Feasibility Options for the scheme include;

- Create design initiatives for the Market Square and Main St, between the Rocks Rd and Carrickmacross Rd roundabouts, that will provide an increase in the civic space available.
- Identify suitable properties for the provision of a new public building and a new off street carpark location - all easily accessible to the town centre.
- Complete all necessary site survey works and inspections
- Coordinate and complete site investigation works including slit trenches, trial pits, boreholes within the areas under consideration.
- Develop Proposals for the façade painting scheme which aims to address dereliction within the town



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A cultural heritage impact assessment of the proposed scheme was completed by Moore Group which outlines the Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts of the design initiatives which have been developed.

Also completed during stage I was an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment Report carried out by ACP Architectural Conservation Professionals. The report was prepared following a request by the client to undertake an Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment in conjunction with the proposed works for the regeneration scheme in Kingscourt Town Centre.

Further surveys, including parking and topographical, were completed during stage I which led to the creation of the draft development report for the scheme. This report outlined the options available for development and was presented to the County Council's Steering Group in the council chamber on 2nd Feb 2022 by members of the Integrated Design Team.

The next stages of this project will involve Public Consultation on the developed options, development of those preliminary designs, planning and detailed design.

Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme, the largest ever flood risk study carried out in the State, culminated with the launch in 2018 of 29 flood risk management plans which propose 118 new outline flood relief projects on top of 42 major projects already completed and 33 major schemes within the existing capital works programme of the Office of Public Works (OPW). A flood relief scheme for Cavan Town has been included in this initial phase of implementation.

Cavan County Council are acting as lead agency on the management and delivery of the proposed flood relief scheme for Cavan Town. A steering group, comprising of representatives from the Office of Public Works and Cavan County Council has been established to progress the Scheme. Potentially viable flood relief works for Cavan, to be implemented as appropriate after project-level assessment and planning, would include Fluvial Flood Defences comprising of walls and embankments. These



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measures have a preliminary Total Project Cost Estimate of €4.4m and would protect 110 properties.

On 5th March 2021 Cavan County Council, in partnership with the OPW, issued the tender documentation for the procurement of Engineering & Environmental Consultants from the OPW Framework of Consultants. Unfortunately, no tenders were received following the completion of the tender period. A review of the process was undertaken and it was decided by the steering group to publish a new tender competition using an open procedure. The new competition was published in July 2021 with the closing date for receipt of tender's 29th Oct 2021.

ByrneLooby Consulting Engineers were identified as having submitted the most economically advantageous tender and are set to be appointed in 2022 to commence work on Stage I of the project - Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme.

Strategic Policy Committees

One of the main objectives of Better Local Government was to enhance Local Democracy and as a result Strategic Policy Committees were set up. These provide a new forum for Elected Representatives of the Council and Representatives of Community and State Organisations to work together to develop new policies and review old ones. Each Committee is chaired by a Member of the Council and is serviced by a Director of Services.

The Strategic Policy Committee members for Roads and Transportation are:

Cllr Sean Smith	Chairperson, SPC
Cllr Peter Mc Vitty	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr Sarah O' Reilly	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr TP O' Reilly	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr Brendan Fay	Member of Cavan County Council
Cllr Trevor Smith	Member of Cavan County Council
Padraig J Young	Agri and Farming Representative
Eamon Mulcahy	Community Representative



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2 meetings took place during 2021, 15th November and 20th December, the issues discussed included the 2021 roads programme, Public Transport and Cavan Greenway.

Environment, Waste Management and Climate Change

Cavan is a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is therefore no surprise that the issue of water quality demands significant attention. Water quality can be impacted by industrial and commercial discharges, farming practices, discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and wastewater treatment systems serving one-off housing. The Environment and Waste section play a vital role in the source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. The section also deals with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, planning applications and environment specific bye-laws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan. Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities. Actions from the Cavan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy were undertaken in 2021 and this strategy will develop the process of adaptation planning in Cavan County Council. It is the first step in increasing knowledge and understanding of our changing climate, growing resilience, and enabling effective responses to the threats posed by climate change.

The Waste Management and Enforcement element is responsible for the prevention, management, and control of waste under Irish and EU legislation. It also manages Environmental Awareness and Education, the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service and maintenance of vested burial grounds.



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Service indicators 2021

E1: No./% of Households availing of a 3 bin service

A. The number of households, which are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2021.

4293

B. The % of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations > 500).

45%

Data obtained directly from the National Waste Collection Permit Office.

E2: No. of environmental pollution complaints closed

A	Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2021:	606
A	Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2021 to 31/12/2021:	563
A	Total number of cases on hands at 31/12/2021:	80
	The opening number of cases carried forward from the year end 2020:	99

E3: % of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

A1. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was unpolluted or litter free
A2. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was slightly polluted
A3. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was moderately polluted
A4. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was significantly polluted
A5. The % of the area within the LA that when surveyed in 2020 was grossly polluted



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The data will be submitted by Tobin Consulting Engineers directly to the LGMA from the data for the 2021 National Litter Pollution Monitoring System Report that should be ready for publication in mid- 2022.

E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status.

A. The % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31 December 2021	26.43%
Schools which attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2021	2
Schools which renewed their Green Flag in 2021	10
Schools which held a Green Flag from 2020 and therefore do not require renewal until 2022	11

Data is obtained from An Taisce:

E5: Energy Efficiency

A. The cumulative % of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2020 relative to baseline year (2009)

For 2020, the SEAI advised that the COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impacts on energy performance and that they will be completing a study on these impacts in the coming months. As such, data for this indicator will not be provided for this report.

E6: Public Lighting

A. Total billable wattage of the public lighting system,- 2,570.38 MWh

B. Average billable wattage of the Public Lighting system,- 85W

C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent.- 65%

Number of LED lights in the public lighting system; 4500

Number of SOX-SON lights in the public lighting system. 2200



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E7:Climate Change

New test indicator for 2021.

- Does the local Authority have a designated FTE climate action officer: No
- Does the Local Authority have a climate action team? Yes



Tullydermot Falls



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Environment

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

The Water Services (Amendment) Act was enacted in 2012, to protect ground and surface water quality (particularly drinking water sources) from the risks posed by malfunctioning domestic water treatment systems. All owners of premises connected to a domestic wastewater treatment system were required to register their systems by February 2013. A National Inspection Plan (NIP) set out the inspection requirements on a National basis and prioritises the inspection selection on the basis of pollution risk.

Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems in accordance with the NIP. 37 inspections were carried out in 2021 in County Cavan. This includes 3 referrals from the LAWPRO team.

Smoky Coal Regulations

Smoky Coal Regulations are also referred to as the Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 (as amended). There is a ban on the burning of smoky coal and certain other fuels in all Low Smoke Zones (LSZ's). From September 2020, Cavan town was included as a low smoke zone.

During 2021, investigations were ongoing across County Cavan on fuel supplied for sale in the County. Varying levels of compliance were encountered. Adherence to these regulations will ultimately improve air quality and public health, as well as helping to protect those who are vulnerable to respiratory problems.

Air monitoring station and data - An ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station was installed in 2020 located at the rear of Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan Town. 2021 was the first full year that the system operated. The system measures and transmits the air monitoring data in real-time with graphical results presented on the EPA website at: <https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/cn/pm/>, the air monitoring



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data captured by the monitoring station will be used to evaluate the ban impact on air quality.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

2021 was the sixth year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils again joined forces hosting a range of events during November 2021. Due to Covid19 restrictions some events were held virtually and some in person. The objective was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. One of the festival's key successes was developing in-house, curriculum-linked, STEAM workshops, including a 'CSI Water' workshop which explored water sampling and pollution investigation techniques, developed by Cavan County Council's Environment section.

This year a number of local businesses provided technical staff to demonstrate to second and third level institutes the studying, training, and career options available in STEAM sectors within Cavan and Monaghan.

In the festival's inaugural year approximately 9000 participants attended events across the two counties. The festival attracted 18,000 attendees in 2021, from preschool children to adults. This rapid growth is a clear measure of the appetite for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) subjects across the two counties.

Climate Change

The Cavan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was adopted in 2019. The local authority adaptation strategy aims, to ensure a proper comprehension of climate change, to bring forward the implementation of climate resilient actions, and to ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed and integrated into all functions of Cavan County Council.

In the face of climate change this adaptation will allow Cavan County Council improve effectiveness and maintain staff welfare and allow for the continuing delivery of services and functions across the administrative and geographical area of County



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Perhaps the most important elements of the Adaptation plan are the adaptation actions identified in order to enhance the capacity of Cavan County Council to adapt to climate change impacts and to address priority climate risks in the context of projected climate change.

Many of the actions identified in the adaptation strategy were undertaken in 2021. This demonstrates that Cavan County Council is planning proactively is taking action and will make the required adjustments to minimise or avoid the existing and anticipated impacts from climate change.

Climate, Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee

Members of Strategic Policy Committee

Cllr. Philip Brady, Cathaoirleach,

Cllr. Madeline Argue,

Cllr. Winston Bennett,

Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly,

Cllr. Shane P O'Reilly,

Cllr:Craig Lovett.

Fintan McCabe, Environment/Conservation.

Barry Wilson, Community/Voluntary.

Joseph Brady, Agriculture/farming Sector.



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Meetings Held

Two meetings were held during 2021. One of which was a joint meeting with the, Economic, Enterprise and Planning SPC on Monday 29th March, 2021, 4 p.m. – Held remotely on Microsoft Teams.

The other was held on Tuesday, 13th July 2021, 10.00am –remotely on Microsoft Teams.

Topics and issues discussed included

- Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study.
- Impact of Ammonia emissions.
- Updates on national working group on domestic WWTS.
- Decarbonizing zone (update)

Energy Management

Across the entire organisation the Council's Energy Manager undertakes the following

- Update and reporting on Cavan County Council's Energy Reduction Targets
- Ensuring Cavan County Council's energy supply complies with the Office of Government Procurement national contracts.
- Establishing and maintain procedures to monitor energy consumption
- Providing guidance and advice on energy regulations and statutory requirements.
- Raising awareness to improve energy efficiency
- Encourage sustainable energy practices
- Support energy efficiency improvement projects

Cavan County Council's target is a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. Based on the PROVISIONAL Monitoring and Reporting submissions to SEAI for 2021, Cavan County Council has made a 30.1% improvement to energy efficiency since the baseline period of 2001-2005.



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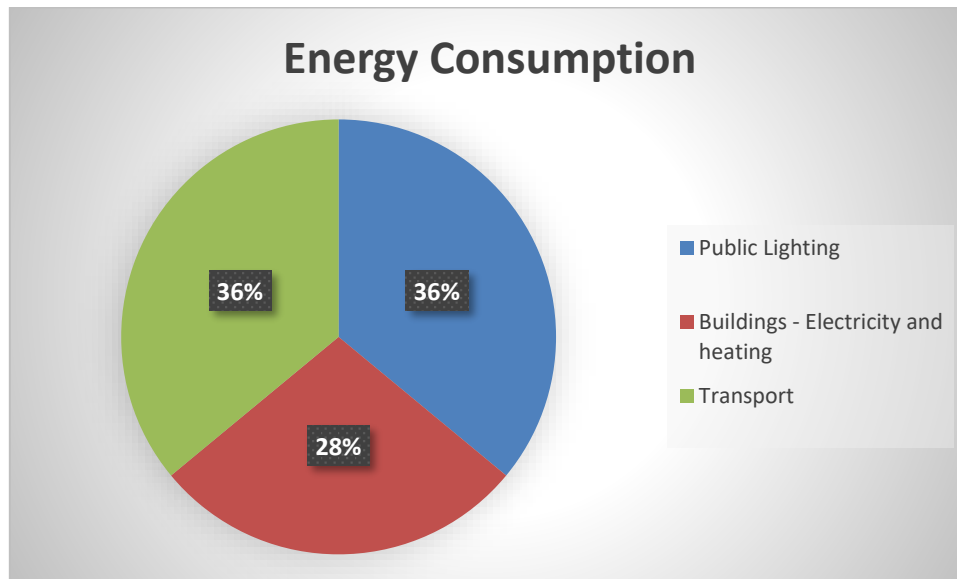
The Energy Manager reports the annual energy consumption and related data to the SEAI in accordance with deadlines imposed each year.

All electricity consumed by Cavan County Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender and this is administered by the Energy Manager. Since June 2019, the electricity contract for non-domestic buildings is with *Energia* who supply nearly 60 sites operated by Cavan County Council which include office buildings, libraries, waste management facilities, recreational facilities, fire stations, museum, theatres, etc.

The Public Lighting electricity supply contract is also administered via the Office of Government Procurement with *Energia* supplying the electricity to the public lights under Cavan County Council's control. There are nearly 7000 public lights which have to be supplied with electricity (80% of energy cost) and have to be maintained (20% of energy cost). There is an existing public lighting maintenance contract in place with Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd (AuS). Public lighting makes up 36% of energy consumed by Cavan County Council in 2021. The improvement in energy efficiency which occurred during 2021 is most significantly attributed to the replacement of public lighting across the County with energy efficient LED lights.

Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2021 which resulted in a spending of just under **€1.2 million** is detailed in the table below:

Energy Type		Energy Consumption
		kWh
Electricity		4,369,209
Thermal		678,122
Transport		2,874,907
Total Energy Consumed		7,922,238



Some of the Significant Energy Actions during 2021 include

- Energy Monitoring and Reporting submitted in accordance with deadlines for 2020 energy consumed.
- National Energy Report issued in 2021 demonstrating Cavan County Council has achieved a 27.8% improvement in energy efficiency from the baseline.
- Cavan County Council Energy Engagement Strategy implemented.
 1. Monthly meter readings for headquarter buildings ongoing.
 2. Seasonal messages to staff regarding energy efficiency implemented.
 3. Energy actions circulated to all Heads of Section for inclusion in all Annual Service Delivery Plans/Business Plans. Establish and improve on procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
 4. Energy Team meetings held and associated actions ongoing.
 5. Ongoing monitoring of bills and ongoing requests for meter readings within CCC. Liaising with relevant staff re. payments/approval system ongoing.
- Ongoing engagement with Cavan Sustainable Energy Groups.



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- Energy upgrades by the Council's Housing Section on 28 of Cavan County Councils housing stock.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.
- 65% of public lighting stock upgraded to energy efficient LED lights.
- OPW Optimising People @ Work Programme ongoing since 2018. The Cavan Courthouse building has improved energy efficiency by 32% against a benchmark nationally of 25% since the 2018 baseline year.
- Input to Local Economic and Community Plan regarding energy activities, focus on linkages with SEC's.
- Liaise with Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the Climate Action Officer/Team. Regional Climate Action Local Authority Group (Monaghan, Cavan & Leitrim) established with climate/energy activities progressing from same.

Actions Planned for 2022

- Complete SEAI Energy Efficiency Performance Monitoring and Reporting for 2021 in accordance with deadlines imposed.
- Compile data on total floor area for building register pilot for all Cavan County Council buildings.
- Complete building register as per SEAI requirements and deadline
- Additional requirements for Monitoring and Reporting to SEAI relating to staff travel to be captured and returned.
- Report on energy efficiency progress to Senior Management Team
- Energy Policy update & ratification by SMT, undertaken in 2021. Review in 2022 and circulate to all staff. Display at Customer Service Desk once review completed.
- Liaise with OPW regarding Optimising Power at Work programme.



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- Maintain the Energy Team.
- Support the Climate Action Team.
- Ongoing Implementation of the energy engagement strategy.
- Raise staff awareness and improve energy efficiency using seasonal messages.
- Out of hours audits
- Review of monthly bills, compare & disseminate info
- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads
- Maintain Energy Team Meetings & Actions.
- Annual Service Delivery Plans – include energy actions on each Sections Plans.
- Staff survey on energy webinar topics
- Support the various building operators in undertaking expert energy audits e.g. Museum.
- Support Community & Enterprise Section by providing information on all types of funding available for communities/groups/individuals.
- Cavan Sustainable Energy Committees – input to committee actions where possible, investigate opportunities for community grants and establish linkages to CCC projects
- Liaise with SEAI and CARO to co-ordinate school events/workshops with primary & post primary schools in Cavan during Science Week.
- Public lighting upgrades – maintain progress of LED upgrades.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders
- Progress the energy efficiency projects identified in the energy audits undertaken on the 5 sites in 2021 in conjunction with regional local authority climate action sub-group.
- Investigate further regional opportunities for energy saving and energy efficiency projects in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities.



Waste Management and Enforcement

Bring Centre Network

There are 30 Recycling Bring Centre locations throughout the County where plastic bottles, glass jars and bottles, aluminium and tin cans and textiles can be recycled. The Council have undertaken upgrade and improvement works at a number of locations over the last number of years. Improvement works have included the relocation of Recycling Bring Centres to areas with improved access, installation of improved signage and an increase of recycling receptacles to increase recycling capacity.

Extensive improvement works were undertaken at Tullacmongan in 2021.



Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Grants

Grant monies was paid to 13 No. Tidy Towns Groups amounting to €11,261.33 for projects completed in 2021 and was funded by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.



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Anti-Dumping Initiative

€98,822.75 was approved by the Dept of Environment Climate and Communications towards projects under the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2021. The projects focused on a number services provided by the local authority and include the continued upgrade of our Bring Centre Network, the provision of 3 Bulky Waste Drop Off days at Corranure Civic Amenity Centre, prevention measures in the Cavan Belturbet MD and supporting our Green Schools Programme through the Picker Pals Programme coordinated by VOICE Ireland.



Anti Dumping Preventative works carried out in Ardkeen, Cavan



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Solar Compacting Bins

Five Solar Powered Compacting Bins and one additional Smart Bin was installed in Cavan town which was funded by the Local Authority – Litter Infrastructure Support Grant Scheme and Outdoor Summer Scheme funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Department of Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government respectively. The compacter bins are equipped with built in software to alert staff when the bins are full to reduce littering around bins and optimise the management of litter bins in towns and villages.



Compacting bin installed outside Waste Management Office, Farnham Street, Cavan



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Local Authority Prevention Network (LAPN)

The Local Authority Prevention Network is a co-operative programme between the Environmental Protection Agency and the local authorities. LAPN aims to build capacity in local authorities for promoting waste prevention at a local and grassroots level for the benefit of their areas. In 2021, approval was received for the provision of 2 No. water refill stations in St. Clare's College, Ballyjamesduff and Virginia College.

Bicycle Repair Stations were installed at Breifne College, Cavan, St. Clare's NS, Ballyjamesduff and Ballinamoney NS as part of the 2020 LAPN project which was carried over into 2021 due to Covid 19 restrictions.



Green Kilometre Scheme

Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach Cavan County Council launched the Council's Green Kilometre Scheme prior to the November Council meeting. Details of the launch were published in the Anglo Celt and on social media. Participation forms are available to download from the Council's website.



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Cllr. Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach launching the Green Kilometre Scheme

Water Services

Cavan County Council Water Services Section continues to adapt to challenges of what is still a relatively new operating environment in collaboration with Irish Water. Cavan County Council Water Services Department is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure that we as a County and Nation are best positioned to avail of the opportunities presented by the changing circumstances.

From 1st January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water. The year 2021 marks year 8 of a 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water for the delivery of the services.

Water is considered a 'social good' and activities related to water services support the three aspects (economic, social, and environmental) of sustainable development. The objectives of the section working on behalf of Irish Water is to:

- provide an adequate water supply of sustainable quality for domestic, industrial, agricultural, and other users.



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- provide sewerage facilities for the safe and adequate disposal of sewage and other waterborne wastes.
- provide the infrastructure to support the above objectives.
- provide an efficient and responsive service to customers at all times.
- plan for future growth and development.
- deliver all of the above at the most economic cost and minimum charge to customers.

There are 16 Public Water Schemes in the County of which 8 are being supplied by private Group Water Schemes. There are 26 public wastewater treatment plants in the County.

Performance Indicators

Sampling and testing of all Public Water supplies and effluent discharges from wastewater plants is overseen by the Council's Environment Section utilising Irish Water's Laboratory Framework.

Performance indicators for the section relate to compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations 2014.

The following are the compliance figures for the Public Water Supply Schemes.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Compliance	99.3%	98.9%	98.9%	98.9%	99.4%	99.3%



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COVID 19 Pandemic – ‘Lockdown’

Water Services Operational Practices.

Plant & Network operational and maintenance duties were carried out in an excellent ‘business as usual’ approach as far as was feasible, by Water Services ‘Frontline’ staff. Current guidance and National advice relating to COVID 19 working protocol was strictly adhered to at all stages.

Water Services Technical & Administrative Staff Practices.

The majority of administrative and technical staff were initially deployed to work remotely with full access to all required IT systems, both Cavan County Council and Irish Water. Work continued seamlessly in regard to Water Services function. A minimal staff presence was maintained at Water Services main office, with remote working or a mixture of office and remote being the order of the day for majority of Water Services staff. Complete customer service continued to be provided via phone and email.

Capital Works

Below is a summary of the capital projects that were progressed during 2021 in conjunction with Irish Water:

Early Contractor Involvement, (ECI) - Wastewater Treatment Plant, (WWTP) Upgrade Projects

Under Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan 2017 – 2021 - 52 wastewater treatment plants were identified across the country for upgrade due to failings on discharge limits and hydraulic capacity.

Cavan Sites currently included are:

- Virginia
- Ballyjamesduff
- Bailieborough
- Kingscourt
- Cootehill



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Feasibility Study reports were completed for the above-named sites in Quarter 4 of 2019 and the five sites were progressed to address such areas as Planning, Design, EIA, EIS etc., in Quarter 1 of 2020.

An ECI contractor - Veolia Water Ireland (VWI) - was subsequently appointed and having received project brief packages from the ECI team commenced work on progressing the work packages from this stage to completion.

The Water Services Major Capital Section of Cavan County Council are working in collaborative partnership with Irish Water's Wastewater ECI team to progress design submissions in consultation with the ECI Contractor. Numerous site visits and site surveys to facilitate ongoing data gathering requirements have been conducted during 2021 with tranches of Requests for Information, (RFI), having been received from ECI Contractor which were subsequently reviewed, responded to, and closed out. Technical review meetings were held on a fortnightly basis to assist the Contractor in formulating and developing suitable Treatment process design solutions for consideration and approval purposes at each location.

The Virginia, Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt, Bailieborough and Cootehill WWTP Capital Upgrade projects are confirmed as included in IW's current investment plan.

The completion dates for delivery of these upgrade projects are currently scheduled for 2025.

IW intend to deliver these Capital Upgrade Projects through their ECI framework.

Cavan County Council and IW are continually progressing a high-level delivery plan with VEOLIA Water Ireland with the intention of delivering quality outcomes at each location.

The Virginia and Ballyjamesduff Projects are currently at Planning Permission application stage.



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Preliminary Design work is underway on the three remaining Projects.

Cavan County Council Water Services Capital Office continues to work in collaborative partnership with IW on all aspects of these Upgrade Projects and will strive to have these upgrades delivered at the earliest possible juncture.

Other Capital projects which progressed in 2021 included:

- **Water Disinfection Project** works to upgrade water treatment plants to current IW Drinking Water specifications. Plants where works were advanced in 2021 were Belturbet, Bailieborough, Cavan, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill.
- **CFC, (Coagulation, Flocculation & Clarification), Project** - Works progressed in 2021 at Cootehill and Bailieborough.
- **Shankill – Billis Mains Rehab Project** involving the replacement of old problematic cast iron water mains with new 125mm HDPE main.
- **Back Yard Services Project** works progressed during 2021 at various locations in Belturbet, Cavan and Cootehill.
- **Inlet Works, Storm & Sludge Project** – Works advanced at Mullagh, Blacklion, Kilnaleck, Ballyhaise and Shercock WWTPs in 2021.
- **NCAP (National Certificate of Authorisation Project)** – Program advanced during 2021 at Gowna, Kilcogy and Redhills WWTPs.



125mm HDPE pipe installation by directional drilling at Shankill Billis (left) and works on Back Yard Services in Belturbet (right).

Cavan Rural Water Update

The **Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021** was launched on February 8th, 2019. Submissions were made under 7 different Measures. Submissions were made for funding towards 51 specific projects on behalf of 27 Schemes or scheme bundles. An Expert Panel was established to review all submissions. Notification of allocations were issued by the Department on 14th October 2019.

The total allocation for Cavan in relation to the 2019-2021 programme was €1,686,470. These allocations are both scheme and project specific. Allocations were received for 23 of these projects, (covering 17 schemes or scheme bundles). Further detail on the MARWP allocation for the 2019-2021 programme was delivered to a meeting of the County Rural Water Monitoring Committee on 5th November 2019. There was no meeting of the Rural Water Monitoring Committee in 2021 due to the



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Covid-19 Pandemic.

All schemes allocated funding under MARWP 2019-2021 are contacted every 6-8 weeks to ascertain an update on the various projects. A report is then prepared & returned to the Department. It is noted that many of the projects were at a standstill or slowed down significantly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eight schemes have completed projects under this programme and payments totalling €534,554.68 have been issued. The most recent claim to recoup this expenditure was prepared and submitted to the Department in December 2021.

In August 2021, an additional €40,000 for source protection assessments was allocated to Crosserlough (€15,000) and Erne valley (€25,000). Both schemes are being offered guidance by the NFGWS in this regard. Work has commenced on these projects and submissions have been made to draw down the associated funding.

An online workshop was held on Thursday 18th February 2021 attended by 20 representatives from 15 group water schemes, NFGWS and council staff. The objective being to raise awareness with the schemes on the importance of making strong business cases/submissions for the next Multi Annual Rural Water Scheme & also the importance of submitting completed subsidy claims in advance of the deadline of June 30th. It is expected that details of this scheme will be announced later in 2021, however at this juncture there is no indication that the programme will be significantly different from the current programme. It has been agreed that Council Staff, the Schemes and NFGWS will come together again once the new programme has been announced to ensure that Cavan's schemes make the strongest cases possible for the next allocation process.

GWS Drinking Water Compliance - Cavan County Council launched a collaborative programme with the GWS's in Cavan in February to commence the installation of sampling kiosks throughout their networks. Some schemes already have these in situ.



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These kiosks will benefit both the schemes and the Council's drinking water sampling team and are especially relevant at the moment due to the pandemic. The cost of these kiosks is 100% recoupable under the subsidy funding stream.

A number of GWSs have been subject to Do Not Consume Notices during recent months due to elevated levels of Manganese. These schemes are advancing proposals for long term treatment solutions to deal with this issue in the future.

GWS Subsidy – It was highlighted to the Schemes during the online workshop that they should endeavour to ensure they submit their 2020 Final subsidy applications in a timely manner and should not wait until the June 30th deadline.

This is especially relevant due to the pandemic and the fact that staff for the most part are working remotely. Additional staff are being trained to assist with subsidy processing. Schemes were reminded to ensure they submit a completed form with relevant information to prevent delays in processing their applications.

Q3 & Q4 Advance Subsidy B and Advance Subsidy A payments for 2021, were issued to all applicable schemes in November. The option of making these payments electronically in the future is still being investigated.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme – Measure 8 - Well Grants applications continue to be submitted and there has been an increase in the number of applications since the announcement of an updated well grant fund scheme. Well grants totalling €46,451.92 have been issued to applicants during 2021. This amount has been recouped in full, from the Department.

All well grant applicants with a funding application at 'provisional' but not processed status under the old well grant scheme that was superseded by a new funding scheme in June 2020, were contacted in writing and advised that completed applications for funding must be submitted by mid-March to allow the Council to process and claim these payments from the Department. March 31st was the original submission deadline however the Department extended this to June 30th. 12 applications under the old scheme have been paid totalling €22,721.19 which has been recouped from



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The Department. This was the final payment under the old scheme.

Water Services are working closely with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes to ensure all schemes in Cavan receive regular support and guidance in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cavan County Council via the Monitoring Programme continue to work closely with Group Water Schemes to ensure drinking water remains of a high standard and compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations.



Planning Community and Economic Development

Introduction

The Planning Department is responsible for implementing the Planning and Development Acts 2000 as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended. The work of the Planning Department encompasses the following areas:

- Forward Planning
- Development Management and other Statutory Functions
- Derelict sites & Dangerous Structures
- Taking in Charge of Housing Estates
- Unfinished Estates
- Market Surveillance
- Development Contributions and Bonds
- Building Control
- Development Compliance/Enforcement:
- Heritage
- Planning & Environment Strategic Policy Committee
- Performance Indicators

Forward Planning:

Both the Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Cavan Town & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 came into effect in June 2014. The review of the plans, which will be a Cavan County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area



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Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028, was delayed until the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

The review of the Cavan County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028 commenced in June 2020. Phase 1 saw an extensive public consultation campaign with the release of a Strategic Issues Paper outlining the County's strategic issues. This was used to stimulate and focus public consultation.

A Chief Executives Draft County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town was issued to Elected Members in March 2021. This included a new draft Written Statement, Book of Maps and Environmental Reports comprising of a Natura Impact Statement, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. A total of 25 number Appendices also accompanied the Written Statement, which included a full and comprehensive review of the Record of Protected Structures for the County and 16 number new completed Architectural Conservation Areas. An Economic Strategy was also prepared for the County in addition to a Cavan Town Assets and Projects Overview.

The Chief Executives Draft Development Plan was adopted with modifications as the Draft Development Plan on the 14th May 2021. Extensive public consultation was held from 28th May 2021 until 6th August 2021. Six public consultations with extended hours, were held in June 2021 in the following towns and villages – Cavan Town, Ballyjamesduff, Ballyconnell, Gowna, Bailieborough and Cootehill. In addition to a local media and online campaign, a video was completed which all aided the delivery of a large volume of public, community and stakeholder engagement in the process. This resulted in a total of 142 written submissions being received in relation to the Draft Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Chief Executive Report on the submissions and observations received on the draft plan was submitted to the Elected Members in Autumn 2021 for their consideration. This completed Stage 2 of the Development Plan Process with Stage 3 to be commenced in 2022.



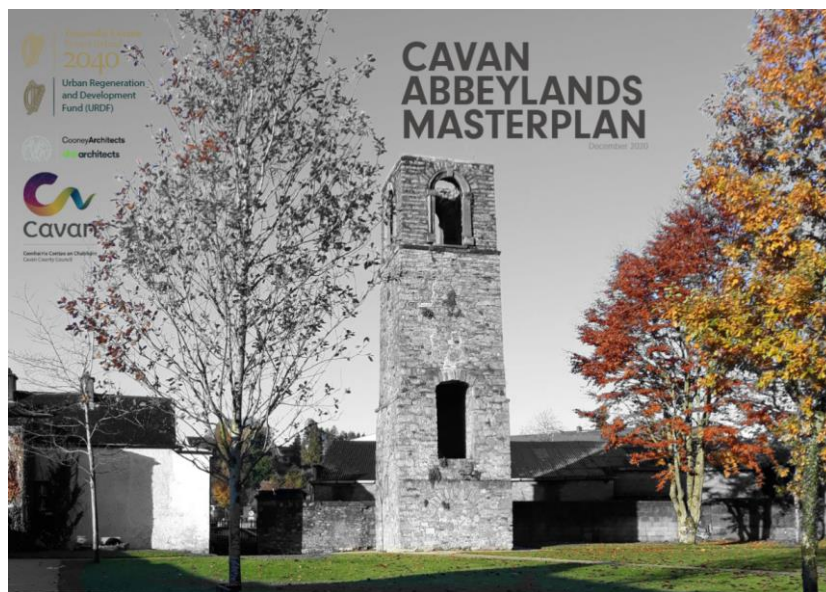
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URDF funding for Abbeylands

The Abbeylands Regeneration Masterplan, funded as a Category B project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) in 2018, was completed and approved in November 2021, following extensive community, landowner and business consultation. This Masterplan identifies a structured scheme of works to create a public and civic space in the town centre with the historical Abbeylands site as its core and create the first pedestrianised area in the town. It also presents opportunities to open up for redevelopment a significant area of backlands in the town core with the purpose of rejuvenating the town centre and stimulating social, cultural, economic and amenity regeneration in the heartland of Cavan Town.



This Masterplan was instrumental in Cavan County Council's successful application for additional URDF funding of €14.493m towards the delivery of the capital works associated with the redevelopment of the Abbeylands. The total value of the URDF proposal is estimated at €23.780m and the construction period anticipated is 3-4 years.

Phase 1 of the Masterplan provides for the construction of a Remote Working Centre (1483m²) and a Community Services Centre (939m²), both of which are to be framed



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around a new central civic space and linked pedestrian streets and we look forward to advancing this next phase of the project in 2022.

Development Management and other Statutory Functions:

The Planning section received 777 planning applications in 2021, an increase of 32% on the number of applications received in 2020. The majority of applications related to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There were 27 decisions of the Planning Authority appealed to An Bord Pleanála with 16 (59%) of the determinations of An Bord Pleanála confirming the decision made by the Planning Authority.

There were also 18 applications for Extension of Duration during the year.

Covid 19, and the restrictions imposed along with it, proved to be extremely challenging for the Planning Department in 2020 and continued right through 2021. Despite the restrictions and limitations, the Department had to maintain and deliver all essential planning services. This was at a time when the country was on hold and the majority of working people were still working from home. Many procedures had to be altered and many more introduced at a time that was already challenging to the core. The immediate challenge remained to have all decisions issued on time and in an orderly manner. The process still remains highly challenging with increased applications all round whilst still trying to adhere to Covid 19 Health and Safety Guidelines.

Derelict Sites:

In December 2018 there were 5 partial registers for derelict sites in the county. These were updated and combined into one register. A draft policy was formed to ensure the process would be compliant with current legislation and map the way in 2021 towards reducing the number of derelict properties in the county. All sites which were on the



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previous registers have now been processed and the major towns will now be revisited to update the current register.

In 2021 there were.

- Twenty-one properties on the Derelict sites Register
- Two properties removed from the register and three recommended for removal due to substantial improvements.
- Six section 8 (2) warning letters issued, five of these have been resolved.
- Twenty-one section 22 (3) notices (notice of intention to value) issued to owner occupiers.
- Surveys were completed in Cavan Town, Balljamesduff, Cootehill and Virginia to identify potential Derelict Sites.

Taking in Charge:

A Taking in Charge policy was written and adopted for Cavan in 2007 as directed by the Minister John Gormley. This policy was revised in 2016 and the revision adopted by the elected members. The revisions were for clarification and to create a more user-friendly document. This document was again revised in 2020 to reflect new legislation introduced in 2018.

There are currently 238 housing estates in the county. 57 of these estates have been taken in charge. 12 were adopted in 2012, 24 were adopted in 2017, 12 were adopted in December 2018, and 9 were adopted in December 2020. There are a further 9 ready for adoption in 2022. The remainder are constructed in excess of 12 years. 15 estates have had their public lighting upgraded to LED. 4 applications for Taking in Charge have been received in 2021 and these are added to the 48 already on the list. It is intended to take estates in charge on a continuous basis as resources allow, until all historical estates are Taken in Charge

Unfinished Housing Estates:



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In 2010 there were 156 estates in Cavan on the Departments Unfinished Estate Register. There are currently 2 estates remaining on the register and the proposal is to address these in 2022. This has exceeded the recommendation outlined in Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments, where it is proposed to annually reduce this by 25% min. 2016 saw the focus move toward bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council and this is still the focus going forward. The Team continues to monitor the status of all unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

Market Surveillance:

Any person or company, manufacturing an item for sale on the European market, including the Irish market, must comply with the Construction Products Regulations (CPR) 2013. This means the product must be tested and certified as fit for its intended purpose. It is then issued with a CE number and the manufacturer must attach a Declaration of Performance (DOP) for the purpose of ensuring consistency across all member states.

Article 40 of the CPR requires each Member State, to designate a notifying authority, that shall be responsible for setting up and carrying out the necessary procedures for the assessment, and notification of the bodies, to be authorised to carry out third-party tasks in the process of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) for the purposes of the CPR, and for the monitoring of those notified bodies.

In the case of Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is the designated notifying authority under the CPR. The Irish National Accreditation Board undertakes accreditation and monitoring of all notified bodies in Ireland. The notified bodies are the testing houses which have been awarded notification status by the notifying authority.

The market surveillance authority for building products is the Building Control Authority for the county where the product was manufactured, as set out in S.I.225/2013.



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Development Contributions:

This 2017 Development Contribution scheme came into effect on applications granted on or after 1st January 2017. This contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are also available including a newly introduced 10% reduction where development contributions are paid in full within 6 months of lodgement of commencement notices exemptions apply). A total of €1.483m (€1.347m net of Irish Water deductions) was collected in development contributions.

The Development Contribution Team continue to pursue outstanding development contributions by issuing invoices as commencement notices are lodged and following up on existing accounts to ensure payments are being made. Permissions granted since 2004 where no commencement notices have been lodged are also being checked to establish if development has taken place and payment of development contribution is being sought where appropriate.

Building Control:

May 2014 saw the introduction of the Building Control Management System or BCMS. This is an online system for registering and managing all building applications. The title BCMS was changed in 2017 to BCMP (Building Control Management Project). The CCMA set up 3 regional authorities, as follows:

Building Control Regions	Local Authorities
Greater Dublin Area /Eastern and Midland Region	Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown, Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois (12)
Northern and Western Region	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway City, Galway County (9)



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Southern Region	Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Waterford City and County (10)
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Each region has one representative on the BCMP project board. The Northern and Western Region continues to be represented by Cavan County Council (Senior Executive Engineer over Building Control).

The Building Control Department offer advice and guidance to agents and users of the system as well as conducting site inspections to ensure compliance and accuracy of information submitted. During 2021, Cavan County Councils Building Control Section processed 269 Notices and 54 Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC). This total is made up of:

- 34 invalidated Commencement Notices;
- 83 validated Commencement Notices with Documentation (long form);
- 61 validated Commencement Notices without Documentation (short form);
- 103 validated Commencement Notices (Opt Outs);
- 22 validated 7 Day Notices.

Of the 54 CCC's processed, 3 were invalidated.

The Planning Department continues to regularly monitor and inspect developments to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance with the relevant Planning Conditions and Building Regulations.

Development Compliance/Enforcement:

The Enforcement Section opened 130 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2021 calendar year. The Section closed 40 cases during the same period.

Of the closed files:



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- 62.5% (or 25 cases) were resolved because these were 'statue barred', or were deemed to be 'Exempted development' and no Warning Letters were issued;
- A total of 37.5% of the files (or 15 cases) were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 30% (12 cases) were closed following the issue of Warning Letters or an Enforcement Notice.

There are 425 open cases being investigated and these include the preceding years.

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Heritage

In 2021 the Heritage Office continued to implement a full and varied programme of work. The Heritage Office continues to ensure that the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained, and, above all cherished and celebrated by the people of the county. Despite the Covid 19 restrictions, Cavan Heritage Office continued to provide a county-wide service, adjusted to comply with public health restrictions, and continued to implement European, National and Local heritage policies where applicable. In addition to policy implementation, the Heritage Office promoted a range of projects and activities which enabled communities to actively engage and participate with our heritage. During 2021 the heritage office witnessed a continued interest in all aspects of heritage as people and communities adjusted to a new way of life during the pandemic where a love for heritage, nature and belonging was very apparent.

The Heritage Office receives an annual funding allocation from the Heritage Council. This funding allows the Heritage Office to target specific projects which fulfil actions contained within the Cavan County Heritage Plan and which have a long-term lasting impact on the heritage of the county.



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Cavan Golden Ways

Another very successful year for the Cavan Golden Ways and with the number of communities participating. During 2021, the heritage office engaged Neil Foulkes to undertake a number of Hedgegrow Surveys along Golden Ways.

County Cavan has approximately 2,400 km of primary, secondary and tertiary roads. Rural roads and lanes are part of the fabric of the countryside. As well as transport links these roads and their surroundings are home to a wealth of physical heritage in terms of their natural and vernacular features, such as Hedgerows, Walls and Gates. There is also a vast cultural heritage associated with the communities that live and have lived along these roads, in terms of place names, fieldnames, local characters, stories and traditions, giving each road its unique character. The Cavan Golden Way is an initiative of the Heritage Office of Cavan County Council to support and promote communities who have identified sections of rural road.

The main objectives were to produce 6 no. reports on the condition and extent of hedgerows along the Shruagh, Corlough, Cross, Skeagh, Brankill and Templeport Golden Ways: - to provide a baseline recording of the hedgerows along the Brankill Golden Way, identify hedgerows of Historical and / or Ecological significance, identify hedgerows in favourable condition, provide management recommendations aimed at maintaining hedgerows in or restoring them to, favourable condition.





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Historic Graveyards Network

The Historic Graveyard Network has grown in success since its inception in 2017. Expansion of the network has taken place with the number of Council-owned historic graveyards participating in the network increasing. The aim of the network is to improve access to these sites, help undertake essential repairs and provide directional and interpretive panels. Projects this year as part of the Graveyards Network included interpretative signage for historic graveyards vested in Cavan County Council and digitising of historic burial registers now available as a resource on Cavan Heritage website, preparation of site conservation plans, minor works and repairs, community monuments funding.

Community Monuments Fund

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage established the Community Monuments Fund in 2020. The Community Monuments Fund invests capital in our valuable archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public. In 2021 Cavan County Council was awarded €110,710 for 2 projects, Castlerahan Historic Graveyard and the church of the Rath, Killeshandra.



Church of the Rath Killeshandra



Castlerahan Historic Graveyard

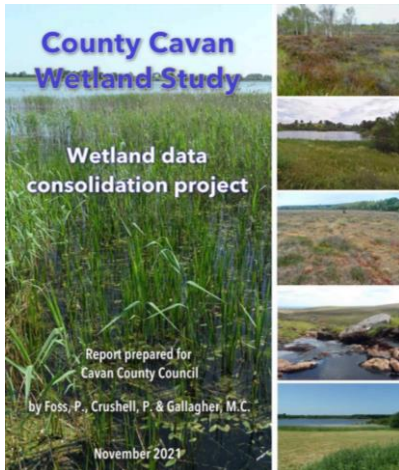


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Cavan Wetlands Survey



In 2021 Cavan Heritage Office accessed funding through the Heritage Council and the National Biodiversity Action Funding to undertake County Cavan Wetlands Study Phase I Data Consolidation Project.

Placing Heritage at the Heart of Communities

This project was funded by the Heritage Council as part of an awareness raising campaign to promote the heritage of County Cavan. One such element of the project was 'Where We Belong'. Following on from the success of the 'Where We Belong' initiative undertaken during the pandemic, the Heritage Office commissioned a podcast series to look at all aspects of Cavan's Heritage from ecology, Cavan County Museum, local artists, protected structures and local architects. The project was very successful and streaming globally meant that both locals and those far away could spend some quality time with Cavan through the world of sound.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/6qMnW0meuwxllsJbfcKMAU>



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National Biodiversity Action Plan funding for Local Authorities

In 2021, the Heritage Office received biodiversity funding through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This enabled the Heritage Office to organize a series of biodiversity projects including the pollinator friendly towns and villages within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark.



Heritage Week 2021

Heritage Week 2021 was successful with many groups throughout the county embracing their local heritage. 2021 saw a mix of online projects and heritage events.



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Built Heritage 2021

The Heritage Office continues to promote the conservation and management of our built heritage in County Cavan. In addition to reviewing and updating the record of protected structures and associated works, the heritage office provides advice and informs policy to the planning department. The general public are also assisted in management of Built Heritage. The Heritage Office of Cavan County Council successfully drew down €63,000 for built heritage conservation projects.



Essential conservation works to Loreto College and Knockatador Mill

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee:

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC met on four occasions in 2021. The SPC members are listed below.

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC	Nominating Pillar
Cllr John Paul Feeley	Chair
Cllr Peter McVitty	Cavan County Council
Cllr Sarah O'Reilly	Cavan County Council
Cllr Aidan Fitzpatrick	Cavan County Council
Cllr Winston Bennett	Cavan County Council
Cllr Carmel Brady	Cavan County Council
Thomas Rodgers	Agriculture & Farming
Jim McGaughran	Development & Construction



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Tom Brady	Business & Commercial
Stanley Nwaneri	Community / Voluntary

Planning Performance Indicators:

P1: New Buildings Inspected	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	324
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020	50 (15%)
P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	
Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal in 2020	27
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	16 (59%)
P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	130
Total number of cases that were closed during 2020	40
% of cases at B dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	20 (50%)
% of cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	5 (13%)
% of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	15 (37%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2020	425
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
The 2021 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	Cost per capita 23.15



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Community, Enterprise and Tourism

The Department of Community, Enterprise and Tourism is responsible for the Local Community Development Committee, Implementation and development of the Community element of the Local, Economic and Community Plan, LEADER, Town and Village Revitalisation, Rural Development Funding Programmes, Social Inclusion, Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum, Age Friendly County Programme, Peace IV Programme, Comhairle na nÓg (Junior Council), Community and Voluntary Grants, Cavan Sports Partnership, Healthy Cavan and Tourism. The Department supports and funds the Public Participation Network, an independent network of community and voluntary groups in County Cavan that has a remit for improving engagement with citizens. It is closely involved with the Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee and the Local Connecting for Life Suicide Prevention plan.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Cavan Local Community Development Committee was established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 for the purposes of developing, coordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

The functions of the Local Community Development Committee are set out under Section 128A of Local Government Reform Act 2014. They are as follows:

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.
- Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- Optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.



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2021 was a busy and productive year for Cavan LCDC and its subgroups. The Covid19 pandemic continued to bring challenges for the people of our communities as well as impacting on how work is delivered. Cavan LCDC's focus for 2021 was primarily on the delivery of the Community Plan of the LECP as well as the delivery of LEADER and SICAP, ensuring that targets were met and spend was progressing. The LCDC managed, implemented, and collaborated in relation to a number of public funded programmes under its remit including the Community Enhancement Programme and the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme. An annual report on 2021 LCDC activity was prepared and submitted to the Department in accordance with Section 128(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Cavan LCDC held 9 meetings in 2021. While there were several changes in membership of the LCDC during 2021 and remote meetings continued, there was excellent engagement at LCDC meetings by both statutory and non-statutory members.

LCDC members were provided with various presentations from members and external bodies to increase familiarity with sectors of work and improve opportunities for networking and service enhancement. Presentations included:

- Decarbonisation Zone –Colm O'Callaghan, Senior Engineer, Environment Section, Cavan County Council
- PEACEPLUS Programme Update –Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, Cavan County Council
- Youth Work Education – Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board - Maureen McIntyre (Youth Officer, CMETB)
- Local Authority PEACEPLUS Actions Plans –Alison Monteith & John O'Neill, Venture International.
- Preparation of the new Local Economic & Community Plan – John Donohoe, Chief Officer, Cavan County Council



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SICAP

- The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. The Department of Rural and Community Development have decided to extend SICAP funding agreements for a period of 12 months up to 31st December 2023 so the current programme covers the term 2018-2023. In Cavan the SICAP Programme implementor is Cavan County Local Development (LDC).
- Each year the SICAP Annual plan sets out actions aimed at helping local community groups to build capacity, promote engagement, building stronger communities, and promote participation and collaboration. The LDC also supports individuals through provision of personal development and well-being supports, providing lifelong learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.
- During 2021, the Covid 19 pandemic impacted greatly on the delivery of the SICAP plan. Notwithstanding this, the Local Development Company successfully adapted the SICAP services in response to the challenges faced by imposed restrictions and successfully provided services to meet the changed demand.
- Despite the challenges faced the SICAP targets set for 2021 were achieved and surpassed.



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	Annual Target 2021	Actuals Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 1)	40	42	105%

Healthy Cavan

2021 witnessed the roll out of further actions under phase three of the Healthy Ireland Programme. All programme activity was given an extension to 31st March 2022 to complete actions. The allocation available to Cavan LCDC for this round is €319,000.

Like previous rounds, this allocation aims to support the roll out of several initiatives and programmes by partner agencies of the LCDC. For the purposes of the Healthy Ireland Fund, these are defined as 'Actions' and those supported under this round are.

- Action 1 – Physical Activity Initiative
- Action 2 – Healthy Eating Programme
- Action 3 – Holistic Health Initiatives
- Action 4 - Digital Health Conference/School Workshops
- Action 5 – Community Engagement
- 'Community Mental Health Fund'
- Community Mental Health small grants scheme

Progress under Healthy Ireland in 2021 included

- Under the Physical activity element of the programme, the annual Healthy Cavan 5k took place in Killykeen Forest Park in November 2021 with 130 participants
- Youth Work Ireland are rolling out a healthy eating programme due to be completed by end of March 2022.
- Bike sheds have been installed in Kingspan Breffni and the launch took place with Minister Stephen Donnelly in October 2021. Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, TD, visited Kingspan Breffni on Friday, 22nd October to see the work



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carried out by Cavan County GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee, a collaboration between Cavan GAA and Healthy Cavan, which has led to the Cavan GAA headquarters being named the first sportsground in Ireland outside Croke Park to join the European 'Healthy Stadia' Network. Initiatives rolled out at Kingspan Breffni include the Healthy U Project, which has seen the delivery of physical activity classes and health and wellbeing seminars to people of all ages and of every ability throughout Cavan. The park has also become a smoke-free stadium as part of its drive to join the prestigious ranks of Europe's 'Healthy Stadia'.

- The Cycle against Suicide Schools Programme which was open to EOI's has been rolled out to the following schools: Colaiste Dún a Rí, St Aidan's Comprehensive, St Clare's Ballyjamesduff and St. Patricks College Cavan.
- The Sensory room in the Cavan Autism Education and Training Centre (CAETC) is complete and the staff training has taken place.
- The Keepwell Radio campaign in conjunction with Monaghan County Council continued into 2021.
- The Belturbet Youth Hub has secured €62,000 in funding from Standard Scheme of the 2020 Town and Village Renewal Scheme this will be used to carry out works on the old fire station in Belturbet to increase the space for use within the centre.
- Digital Health Workshops took place in the following schools: St Patrick's NS Blacklion, Curravagh NS Glangevlin, St Mary's Boys NS Belturbet, Fairgreen NS Belturbet, St Mogue's College Bawnboy, St Patrick's NS Corlough.
- Under the Community Mental Health Fund, Youth Work Ireland continued to expand the hours of counselling service available to young people throughout the county.
- The Healthy Ireland Small Grants scheme roll out continues until end March 2022.
- Healthy Ireland sponsored this year's 'Operation Transformation', filming started in Mullagh in December 2021 and the Healthy Cavan Coordinator



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liaised with the production team to promote Healthy Ireland and Healthy Cavan throughout the series.



Pictured at the unveiling of a new bike shed at Kingspan Breffni, funded as part of the Healthy Ireland programme are (left to right) Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD; Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, Cllr Clifford Kelly; Cavan County Council Healthy Cavan Coordinator, Sinéad Tormey. PHOTO: Adrian Donohoe.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme

- In 2021, Sláintecare Healthy Ireland in the Department of Health, working with the HSE and local authorities and community agencies, launched the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme to provide increased health and wellbeing services in 19 community areas across Ireland. Each of the respective local authorities will coordinate and support the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme with the Local Community Development Committees and their existing Healthy City and Healthy County plans as well as recruiting Healthy Community Local Development Officers to coordinate activity from a local authority perspective. The aim is to deliver a universal health service that offers the right care, in the right place, at the right time, at low or no cost.



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- Cavan was selected as one of the pilot areas for this new initiative and we applied for €250,000 under the Healthy Communities Enhancement Programme. This has now been approved. The breakdown of the €250,000 funding received is as follows:
 - Belturbet Community Playground, Morrissey Park – Groundworks and surfacing - €19,962.01
 - Cootehill Playground upgrade - €51,196.42
 - Ballyjamesduff Playground refurbishment works - €23,145.95
 - Bailieborough Town Lake – outdoor gym upgrade - €18,489.15
 - Cavan Town – Enhancement of Con Smith Park, including widening and raising of paths and facilities for the installation of low-level lighting, to make the Park a safer place - €137,803.35



Eager participants lining up for the Healthy Cavan 5K led out by Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council Clifford Kelly (Photo Adrian Donohoe)



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Social Inclusion

The role of social inclusion is to improve services for marginalised customers and to work on an interagency basis to address poverty and exclusion in the county.

Significant areas of social inclusion activity during 2021 included:

- Further development of the Cavan Age Friendly Programme
- Supports for Cavan Older People's Council
- Co-ordination of and support for Cavan Traveller Interagency Group and Cavan Drug & Alcohol Forum.
- Support for the Local Connecting for Life suicide prevention steering committee, led by the HSE
- Support for the Children and Young People's Services Committee, led by TUSLA

Age Friendly Programme

The Cavan Age Friendly County Programme is steered by Cavan Age Friendly Alliance which is made up of the main public sector agencies, older people's representatives and other organisations.

Notable age friendly activity in 2021 included:

- Cavan Older People's Council Drop-in sessions took place online weekly throughout the year with a variety of guest speakers on topics, ranging from Mental health, nutrition, falls prevention, local link services to genealogy and creative writing.
- Online Physiotherapy Exercise classes took place weekly facilitated by the HSE;
- A 'Getting Your House in Order' webinar was delivered in June 2021. The aim of the webinar was to help attendees plan for what would happen if they were unable to make decisions for themselves or make their wishes known to their families. Speakers included SAGE Advocacy, the HSE, the Irish Hospice Foundation and Murtagh Solicitors.
- Various online courses were delivered to members of the Cavan Older People's Council in conjunction with the ETB.



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- Mental Health Programme ‘5 Pathways to Wellbeing’ was delivered online to members of the Older People’s Council in collaboration with Mental Health Ireland.
- Healthy Ireland Funding was utilised to purchase Acorn Tablets (special user friendly tablets) for members of the Cavan Alzheimer’s Society.
- The Cavan Age Friendly Business Programme was rolled out in conjunction Virginia Development Association, the Local Enterprise Office, Cootehill and Cavan Chambers of Commerce. 38 businesses in Cavan Town, Virginia, and Cootehill and 3 businesses in other towns achieved the official ‘Age Friendly Business’ designation, bringing to 60 the total number of Age Friendly businesses in the county. Two training sessions were delivered in July 2021 by Age Friendly Ireland Consultant Orlaith Carmody to support these businesses in becoming Age Friendly.
- Age Friendly Programme supported the Arts Office in the delivery of Phase II of the Lost Landmarks Initiative, funded through Creative Ireland.
- Cavan Age Friendly worked with Neighbourhood Network to deliver the ‘Community Time Capsule’ Programme within the County.
- Annual edition of the Cavan Older People’s Council Newsletter published.
- Age Friendly Christmas Packs were prepared and delivered to all members of the Cavan Older People’s Council, in collaboration with agencies represented on Cavan Age Friendly Alliance.

Traveller Interagency Group

Community, Enterprise and Tourism co-ordinates the Cavan Traveller Interagency Group (TIG). This is a statutory group that provides an interagency response to social exclusion issues among the Traveller community.

Cavan County Council supports a community development service provided by Cavan Traveller Movement [CTM]. Some of the key areas of work during 2021 included:

- The Cavan Traveller Interagency Group met regularly during 2021. The (TIG) worked with consultant Niall Crowley on the review and strategy planning for Cavan Traveller Interagency Group - ‘Promoting New Models of Development



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within the Traveller Community'. This project is being funded by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth.

- Cavan County Council funded Virginia College's participation on the Irish Traveller Movements Yellow Flag Initiative. This is a practical programme that supports primary and secondary schools to become more inclusive of all cultures and ethnicities, celebrate diversity and challenge racism and discrimination
- Sub-groups progressed work on the implementation of recommendations of the Traveller Youth Needs Assessment:
 - Education sub-group continued to meet over 2021. The group focused on:
 - Traveller Youths needs in entering and successfully remaining within the education sector, from ages 2 to 24 years old.
 - Advocating for appropriate responses for Traveller retention within the education system at the local, regional and national level.
 - Identifying models of good practice in Traveller education retention and seeking funding to implement programmes locally.
 - Promoting the use of ethnic Identifiers within the delivery of education and youth services.
 - Employment sub-group formed – this group is working on researching and developing employment opportunities for travellers.
 - Health sub-group formed – membership includes HSE Social Inclusion, Extern, CTM – supporting traveller community coping with Covid19– planning on focusing on Traveller mental health initiatives over the next year and also supporting the traveller community in dealing with the impact of Covid19.

Drug and Alcohol Forum

The Cavan Drug and Alcohol was established in 2016 as an action under the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan in response to a documented concern about substance misuse in the county. Since then, the multi-agency group has been meeting regularly and is committed to tackling the issue of drug and alcohol misuse at a local



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level. The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approximately 25 organisations are represented ranging from HSE services, public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services.

During 2021, quarterly meetings of the Drug and Alcohol Forum took place. The Cavan and Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Communications Sub-group is working on co-ordinating the sharing of information on services available, training and promotion of local and national campaigns. The Prevention and Education Sub-group met regularly, working on developing linkage with the planned Planet Youth Project. The Drug and Alcohol Peer Support Programme was successfully delivered to 9 secondary schools across the county. A Teacher's Training Webinar took place in December 2021 with attendance from all secondary schools within the County and Youthreach Centres. The Services Directory previously published in 2018 on Drug & Alcohol Related Services within County Cavan was updated and re-printed for distribution.

County Cavan Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The function of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area. County Cavan Joint Policing Committee met online four times over 2021. The Property Marking Initiative continues to be rolled out within the County in collaboration with An Garda Síochana's Community Engagement Unit. 10 events took place over 2021 in conjunction with various community groups.

LEADER Programme

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme. The LAG met a total of 10 times over the course of the year with meetings held remotely due to COVID restrictions and all members embraced this technology and worked with the Implementing Partner Cavan County Local Development and Cavan County Council to ensure that the Leader Programme was kept on track.



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As of 31st December 2021 all funding under the 2014-2022 Programme had commitments amounting to a total of € 8,324,022 for projects across the three themes of the programme. The Transitional Programme of an additional €20 million extended the timeframe of the programme from 2020 to 2022. The key focus of that Transitional Programme was on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date.

The Transitional Programme aimed to support job creation, foster and encourage entrepreneurship, and support projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation and encourage rural communities to build on their existing strengths and assets.

Four examples of projects which was completed in 2021 which benefitted from funding across the programme are detailed below.

1. Mullahoran Area Community Centre

The community group applied for funding to refurbish their Community Centre. The overall aim was to provide a modern, safe and comfortable facility for their community. The proposed project consists of the replacement of asbestos roof, replacement of ceilings, insulation of all exterior walls, upgrade of heating/plumbing and electrical installations, upgrade of facilities to ensure ease of access for disabled users, upgrade of existing meeting rooms and upgrade of basement rooms.



Above : Mullahoran Community Centre funded under the Leader Programme



2014-2022

2.Ballyjamesduff Multi-use Games Area)

The community group applied for funding to re-instate the existing disused and derelict tennis court facility into a Multi-use Games Area (MUGA). The works included the reconstruction of the boundary wall, reinstall fencing on existing boundary areas, installation of a new surface area to allow for a range of sports such as handball, basketball, tennis and a much needed community space for the town.



Above : Ballyjamesduff Multi-Use Games Area funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

3.Shercock Sports and Recreational Facilities Ltd.

The community group applied for funding to build a new Regional Indoor Centre to accommodate the needs of Indoor athletics, Soccer, Basketball, Badminton, Bowls, other sports and community activities. The proposed new facility aimed to serve the needs of local GAA for training throughout the year. The centre is suitable for a wide range on non-sporting community activities and will be available to the local community. The centre can cater for exercise classes including the provision of changing or shower facilities.



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Above : Shercock Community Centre funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022

4. Butlersbridge Trout Anglers

The community group applied for funding to erect a new floating jetty / pontoon including gangway and all associated site works at the angling facility on Annagh Lake in Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan. The new jetty will allow for much safer access to boats by fishermen using the lake and will encourage and attract visiting anglers and locals to avail of the trout fishing in Annagh Lake.



Above : Disability friendly floating jetty on Annagh Lake, Butlersbridge, Co. Cavan funded under the Leader Programme 2014-2022



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CLÁR

CLÁR is a targeted investment Programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructure projects in area that experience disadvantage.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety measures

Measure 2: Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities

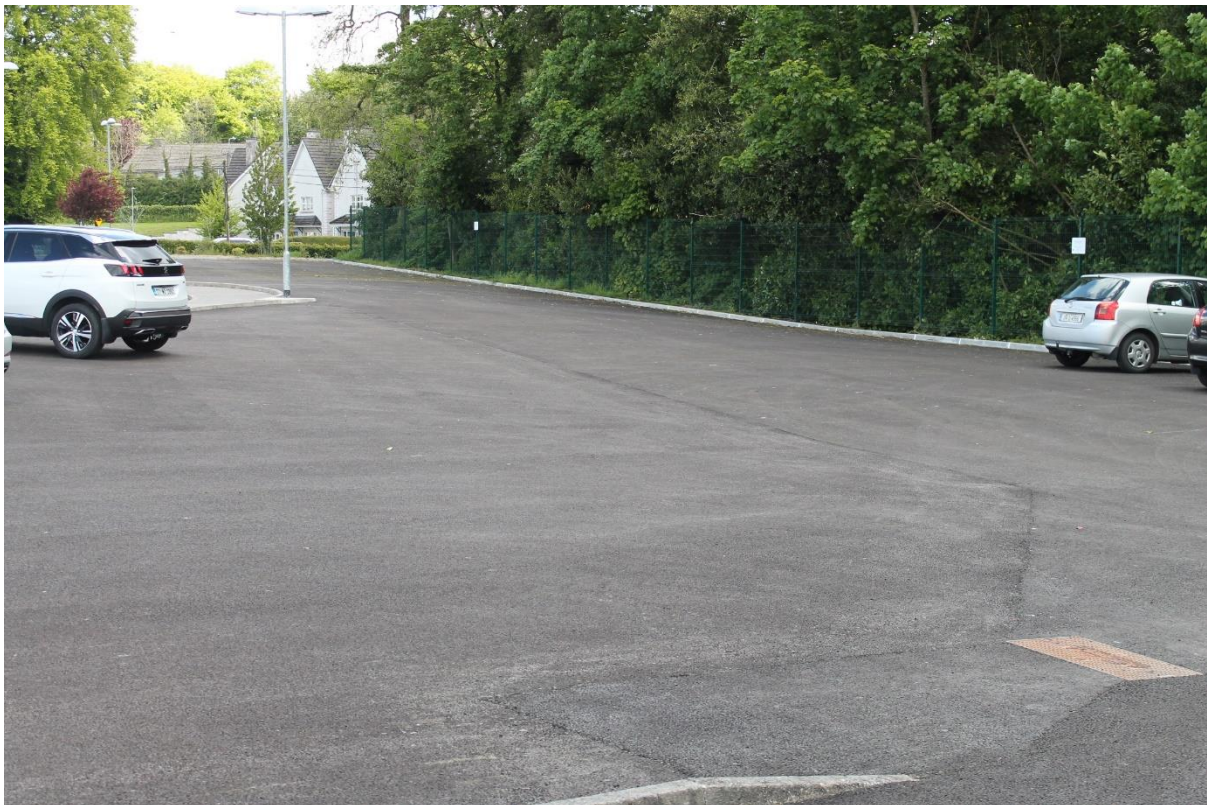
Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports:

(a) Community Gardens and Allotments

(b) - Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

In 2021 Cavan County Council submitted 11 projects to the Department for approval and subsequently received an allocation of € 364,499.64 for 8 Projects under Measures 1 2 and 3. These schemes are ongoing and due for completion in mid-2022.

Below is a photo of a car park in Bailieborough Community School completed under the Clár Programme in 2020.



Bailieborough Community School Car Park



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Comhairle na nOg

- The Comhairle AGM 2021 took place on 5th November virtually. 10 of the 11 post primary schools in Co Cavan participated.
- The delivery of Cavan Comhairle na nOg was advertised on eTenders in October 2021 and Cavan/Monaghan Youth Work Ireland were the successful bidders and have now secured a two-year contract 2022-2024 (with the potential to extend for an additional year) to deliver Cavan Comhairle na nOg and associated activities on behalf of Cavan Co Council.
- The Comhairle Topics for 2022 are:
 1. Sexual Consent
 2. Youth Mental Health
 3. Anti-Bullying

PEACEPLUS PROGRAMME (2021-2027)

Co-designed local Community PEACE Action Plans

PEACEPLUS is a new funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face.

Each Local Community Peace Partnership will develop a priority action plan for their individual area, which combined will form an overall PEACE Plus Action Plan for each of the 17 local authority areas in the region. Actions within the localised plans will span the range of social, environmental and economic interventions included within the PEACE Plus Programme.

However, principally, the Local Authority PEACEPLUS Co-designed action plans will be centred around three core themes:



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- **Community regeneration and transformation;**
- **Thriving and peaceful communities;** and
- **Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion.**

This **objective** will enable and empower local community partnerships to self-determine and deliver priority projects on a cross community basis; which will result in improved local services and facilities; and make a significant and lasting contribution to peace and reconciliation across the region.

- The consultants appointed by SEUPB have submitted the first draft of the feasibility study to SEUPB on the PEACE PLUS Local Authority Action Plan Model and are awaiting feedback.
- Following this, the consultants will move to the second stage of the co-design process with all local authorities. This will involve the agreement of the Model and the development of guidance on and support for the establishment of the PEACE PLUS Partnership in each area. A DRAFT Briefing paper on the proposed makeup of the PEACE PLUS Partnership has been prepared and is pending approval
- Alongside this, the consultants will also be working with SEUPB on the co-design and guidelines for the preparation of the action plans which will include guidance on consultation and engagement with community and other stakeholder buy-in.
- SEUPB is hopeful that calls for selected measures may start in the first half of 2022. (Subject to European Commission approval of the programme)
- Investment Area 1.1. (Local Authority Action Plans) will be one of the first Calls to open. This call will give local authorities 3 to 6 months to submit their Action Plans.
- Based on the above, the current indication is that the PEACE Programme will be open for application in Autumn 2022.



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There are a range of Investment Areas/Specific Objectives associated with each of these Thematic Areas below and will be open for application separate from the Local Authority PEACEPLUS Co-designed action plans.

Pride of Place Competition 2021

This competition celebrates communities as hundreds of unsung heroes from across the Island of Ireland. Pride of Place Awards night for 2021 takes place on Monday 16th May 2022 in the INEC Centre in Killarney.

Three groups entered the competition details as follows:

1. Cavan and Monaghan Arts and health forum (Cavan arts office) - Community Resilience Category
2. Cavan Autism Education and Training Centre (CAPS) – Community Wellbeing Category
3. One million stars project (Mental Health Ireland – Cavan) - Creative Category

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Schemes aim to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects in their local community which will help to improve the quality of life for the local citizens and enhance the sense of community in the county. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not have received funding from other sources.

Grant funding of € 258,350.00 was allocated to 74 community groups in 2021

Christmas Lights Scheme

The Christmas Lights Scheme was rolled out to Groups in Christmas 2021, funding is being made available to towns and villages in Cavan to meet some of the costs of the provision of Christmas Lights. This was funded from the unused festival grant scheme which did not take place due to covid restrictions.

34 Towns and Villages received approval for Grants from € 500 to € 2,250 totalling €32,000.



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Community Enhancement Programme

Community Enhancement Programme continued in 2021. The funding was aimed at enhancing communities and addressing disadvantage as identified in the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan. The 2021 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) will provide small grants designed to assist in the re-opening of facilities such as community centres, men's and women's sheds, parish halls and youth centres.

Cavan County Council received a total of €134,757.00 under this scheme and a total of 40 community groups was awarded funding.

Social Enterprise Grants

Cavan County Council has been awarded funding of €22,061.95 under the Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021 by the Department of Rural and Community Development under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland under the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Funding will be aimed at supporting social enterprises with small capital projects.

A total of 9 community groups received funding under this scheme.

NOAC Service Indicators	2020	2021
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	100%	100%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network	375	320

Cavan Public Participation Network (Cavan PPN)

Cavan Public Participation Network was established in July 2014 and now includes 326 registered groups as part of its network. There is a Committee of 12 community representatives who form the Secretariat of the Cavan PPN, with representation being fulfilled on 18 boards and committees. These representations come from the three themed sectors of Environment, Social Inclusion and Community/Voluntary and three geographic sectors of Cavan-Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Bailieborough-Cootehill



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Municipal Districts.

Cavan PPN assists in networking weekly community news and events with the publication of E-Newsletters and social media updates. The PPN also arranges training sessions and active representation on a variety of bodies.

A full and comprehensive internal audit and external review of the governance of the PPN was completed in 2021 and work has commenced on the implementation of the audit and review recommendations to strengthen the governance of the PPN.

Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP)

Cavan Sports Partnership successfully delivered a variety of programmes in 2021, using both online and physical platforms to comply with the COVID 19 restrictions on sport and activity. CSP welcomed the return to sport and activity towards the latter half of 2021.

Cavan Sports Partnership allocated a total of €45,315 to 85 clubs and community groups in the county through CSP Grant Scheme, to support the development of participation within our Clubs and Community Groups.

Over €629,976 of funding was secured for Cavan in 2021 including: €441,784 Sport Ireland funded initiatives, €112,951 Covid Community Support Funding to Support Clubs and Communities to Return Safely to Participation and €25,000 HSE participation programme funding. This included dormant accounts funding, which continued to support the work of the Kilnaleck and Belturbet activity hubs and also the launch of a new activity hub in Mullagh and a cycling hub in Cavan Town.

National Bike Week took place in September with a number of events being delivered across five locations in the county. It was encouraging to see people of all ages and abilities taking part, with 267 participants in total throughout the week.

An inaugural 'Walking Month of June' was hosted to support Community Walking groups and organisations to return to physical activity in a safe way as restrictions allowed. Over the month, 17 events/programmes were delivered including: activator programmes, community led walks, walks for wellbeing, family scavenger hunt, teen wellbeing waddle and woodlands for health. A total of 264 participants participated in walks throughout this initiative.

Cavan Sports Partnership supported Cavan County Council's workplace wellbeing



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challenge with a Virtual 'Tour de Cavan' step challenge. Participants walked, jogged or cycled to move along a virtual map beginning and ending at Cavan County Council offices to complete a distance of 100km, 200km or 253km around the County. Over the 4 weeks of activity 23,000 KM in 3,495 hours was covered.



Inclusive Outdoor Camp Group



Mullagh Activity Hub Launch



Walking Festival Teen Waddle

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development on 3rd May, providing funding for projects that supports our rural towns and villages to be more attractive and sustainable. The focus of the 2021 scheme is to renovate derelict and vacant buildings in our town centres and give them a new purpose – whether it is for remote working, cultural or community use.

Seven towns successfully secured funding in the sum of €1,066,187 under this scheme; Cavan Town was awarded €499,249 for the upgrade of Con Smith Park, funding awarded for streetscape enhancements in Bailieborough of €213,289, Swanlinbar of €90,000 and Virginia of €41,435. Kilnaleck was awarded €89,402 for the upgrade of the centre to remote working hub, whilst Redhills secured €87,812 for village enhancement and €45,000 for a project development measure in Blacklion. Works under the Town and Village renewal schemes will be completed in 2023.



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A new Streetscape Enhancement Measure was announced on 4th August by the Department of Rural & Community Development. The aim of the scheme is to support the upgrade and enhancement of street facades and shopfronts. Designated zones in Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet and Cootehill were included in the scheme, wherein 108 properties are approved for grant funding totalling €285,798.

Town Teams

Under Action 8.1a of the Local Economic Community Plan, Cavan Co Council, as Lead Partner, committed to establishing 'Town Teams' in a number of towns throughout the County. Town Teams are now in place in Cavan, Cootehill and Virginia and all are progressing with a number of actions. The needs, aspirations and vision of the local communities is at the core of the Town Plans.



Above: Official opening Of Lough Ramor Lakeshore Amenity by Minister Humphreys
Cavan Town Paint Scheme



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A continuation of the initiative launched in March 2020 by Cavan Town Team in conjunction with Cavan County Council resulted in over 70 freshly painted, brightly coloured shop fronts in the town core. The Paint Scheme provided grant aid for premises in Cavan Town who wished to paint their facades, kindly supported by Fleetwood Paints.



Town & Village



Revitalisation Plans

Cavan County Council commissioned Gaffney & Cullivan Architects in association with Tyréns, urban renewal specialists, to complete Town & Village Revitalisation Plans for twenty towns and villages in County Cavan. The aim of these plans was to propose improvements that can enhance the town or village as an attractive place in which to live and work. The towns and villages included are Cavan, Virginia, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Belturbet, Mullagh, Ballyconnell, Ballinagh, Ballyhaise, Shercock, Killeshandra, Arva, Kilnaleck, Swanlinbar, Butlersbridge, Blacklion, Gowna and Dowra. The plans will act as a catalyst to bring improvements to the towns of County Cavan and will provide a template for the revitalisation and development of each town.



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Significant progress was made on the implementation of improvements contained in these plans throughout 2021. An internal cross-departmental working group was established to oversee implementation of the Town & Village Revitalisation Plans and to co-ordinate efforts across the local authority in revitalising towns and villages across the county, mainly by maximizing funding under the RRDF, Town and Village and other schemes for projects that seek to improve and bring life and activity back into town centres.

Town Centre Masterplan Initiative

On the 9th December Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced funding to deliver the first ever Town Centre First Plans, which will be key to tackling dereliction and revitalising town centres.

Bailieborough has been selected for funding under the Masterplan Initiative 2021. Cavan County Council will be provided with €100,000 to support the development of this master plan.

Food Strategy

The 2017 – 2022 Cavan Food Strategy aims to promote a more coordinated and collaborative approach to the development of the ‘Cavan Food Product’. The implementation of the actions set out in the strategy are strengthening our current food initiatives, encouraging new activity and supporting all those involved in the food sector in Cavan.

The External Working Group consisting of representatives from industry including chefs, producers and the educational sector together with staff members from Cavan County Council met, remotely, throughout 2021 to progress actions that were identified as priorities of the Cavan Food Strategy.

In November 2021, members of the Cavan Food Network came together in the Hotel Kilmore for an evening focused on Cavan Food and Drink under the theme, ‘Creating a Successful Local Food Community’. Under the brand of ‘Created in Cavan’, the evening featured local producers sharing their stories as well as a guest appearance



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and talk from Darina Allen, founder of Ballymaloe Cookery School. This event was one of the first of its kind since the Covid 19 restrictions started to ease. Attendees were delighted to be back meeting face to face, networking with their peers and establishing new business relationships under the common theme of food and drinks development in Cavan.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and Development Fund (RIDF) Agri-Food Tourism measures awarded funding to part finance initiatives in 2021 supported by Cavan County Council including:

- Video Profiles for five producer members for social media and educational purposes.
- Suite of Photography for ten members covering a variety of foods and locations.
- Digital Marketing Campaign to increase the social media reach of the 'Created in Cavan' brand platforms, key messages of the campaign were to promote the local food industry and to further encourage consumers to support local businesses.



Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Patricia Smith, Food Strategy Co-ordinator, Norbert Neylon, Chairperson, Cavan Food Network, Ann Rudden, Áine Chocolate, Darina Allen, Ballymaloe Cookery School, Kristijan Kodric, Vanilla Bean Patisserie and James Burke, James Burke & Associates at the 'Creating a Successful Local Food Community' event. Photo by Sheila Rooney



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Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme

The Failte Ireland scheme was administered by the Local Authorities and provided a level of financial support to tourism and hospitality businesses, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. Cavan County Council received 101 applications of which 89 were approved and paid, totalling an amount of €261,282.64. The scheme provided for up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of eligible equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per eligible applicant.

Tourism

Tourism Strategy

Cavan Tourism continues to implement the Cavan Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2022 which aims to increase things to do in the county, length of stay and visitor spend. Tourism in Cavan supports 3200 jobs and generates €95M for the local economy.

Funding / Product Development

Upgrades to the 12km '*Killykeen Way*' walking and cycle trail linking Killeshandra with Killykeen Forest Park took place in 2021. Parking improvements took place on the Killeshandra side and resurfacing took place on the walking route. Funding was achieved to undertake a route analysis to make a loop of the trail.



Cyclists on the new Killykeen Way Greenway



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Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021 (ORIS)

2020 resulted in positive funding announcements for the amenity area at the Lough an Leagh, Kingscourt and infrastructure to support the inaugural Killeshandra Camino. In addition, funding was delivered to support the online and video marketing of the outdoor recreational offering in the county. Funding was also achieved for the delivery of a signage strategy relating to the outdoor recreation offering across the county. Funding for the above was achieved under Measure 1 of the *Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2021*(ORIS) with each project receiving €20,000 approximately. Cavan County Council was also successful in achieving €200,000 funding for the development of a river walk in Ballyhaise and €102,000 for upgrades to parking and amenities at the Castle Lake in Bailieborough. Both projects were funded under Measure 2 of ORIS 2021. An application for one Measure 3 project to deliver a natural play area in Dun an Rí Forest Park was also successful (€451,000). Minister Heather Humphreys officially opened tourism projects in Cavan in 2021 including the Killykeen Way greenway, the Urban Greenway in Cavan town and the new trail linking Kingscourt and Dun an Rí Forest Park.



Cllr Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach and Minister Heather Humphreys T.D., officially open the Killykeen Way Greenway in July 2021.



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Destination Towns

Work continued throughout 2021 on the delivery of the Destination Towns project in Cavan town. Cavan County Council received a grant of €404,389 from Failte Ireland. Combined with €139,129 match funding this creates a total investment of €540,518 in Cavan town.

Failte Ireland Platforms for Growth

A €4.8M application to Failte Ireland to deliver a transformational project at Shannon Pot / Cavan Burren Park was successful under the 'Platforms for Growth' capital grants scheme.

LEADER

Funding was achieved under LEADER COOPERATION for new directional and informational signage in Deerpark Forest, Virginia (€21,000) and the development of a Masterplan for Dun an Rí Forest Park (€30,000).

Cavan Tourism continued to work closely with Coillte in 2021 in regard to the delivery of a new pedestrian bridge in Killykeen Forest Park (funded in 2020).

Guides

Cavan Tourism continued to produce and distribute a range of maps and guides. These include a new Walking Guide; Angling Guide; visitor map; Guide to County Cavan and a new 'Three Days in Cavan' guide. In addition, merchandise such as tote bags, jackets, badges, mugs, keyrings, pens and pencils were produced.



Merchandise produced by This is Cavan!



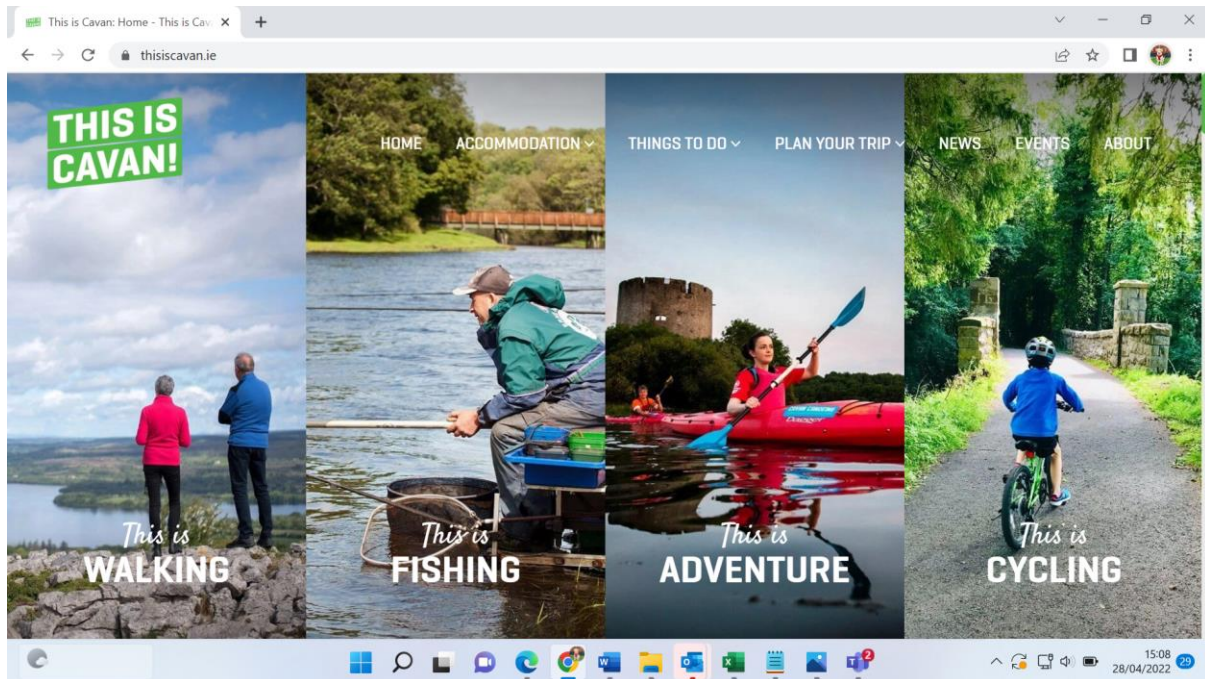
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Website

A new website for This is Cavan! went live in 2021.



Home page for new This is Cavan! website

Advertising

County Cavan featured in the following publications in 2021: Spirit of Ireland, Your Ireland Travel supplement, the Belfast Telegraph, Ulster Tatler, Irish Independent and Irish Times advertising features under Ireland's Ancient East. The county featured in an online video entitled 'A Real Taste of Ireland', a Sharon Shannon documentary, a weeklong radio promotion on Classic Hits FM, radio advertising with Q102. In addition, travel writers Thomas Breathnach, Nicola Brady and Mel Mullan, stayed in *Cabu by the Lakes* in Killykeen and publicised their experience online, in the Irish Examiner newspaper and on the RTE Radio 1 Ray Darcy show.

Digital Media

Octave Digital Media were appointed to deliver social media campaigns to support the tourism industry in re-opening and recovering from the impact of COVID 19. The Summer online campaigns had a paid Social Media Reach of 152,579 people.



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An Autumn / midterm promotional campaign took place with an online competitions and prizes for MacNean Restaurant and had a paid total Social Media Autumn Campaign Reach of 143,505 people.

Two new promotional videos for use online were also produced and were viewed 85,000 times. Total value of this investment was €20,000.

Trade

Tourism Steering Group

A steering group comprised of representatives of the tourism industry in Cavan was established in early 2020. This group met frequently throughout 2021 creating a valuable forum for the local authority and industry to network and engage throughout the pandemic.

Cavan Tourism supported and funded a social media training course for 12 tourism businesses which took place over six weeks.

A tourism business trade survey took place in in Autumn 2021. In summary the trade reported a very positive and successful summer and are generally optimistic and confident about the future.

Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark

Launch of new Geopark Name/Brand

July 2021 saw the launch of the newly named Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark. Previously called Marble Arch Caves Geopark the new name, logo and brand came about as a result of a rebranding exercise undertaken by independent consultants in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and communities within the Geopark. The name Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark was agreed as the preferred option and the official launch took place in July 2021.



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The Geopark Committee made up of Elected Representatives and Senior Management from both Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Cavan County Council launch the new Geopark Brand, Belcoo, July 2021.

Launch of Geopark Website/Brand Guidelines/Communications Plan

The Geopark launched its new website in July 2021. The website was created in conjunction with appointed consultants and reflects the important of conservation, stakeholder engagement, tourism, education and cross border collaboration in the Geopark message. The Geopark also launched its new Communications and Marketing Strategy 2021-2023 which focuses on key target markets for Geopark and roll out of new brand. These projects were funded under Rural Development Funding as part of the Co-Operation 'Cuilcagh Mountain Experience' Project, a collaborative cross border project between Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with the Geopark as the central delivery mechanism.



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RDP Co-operation Project – Cuilcagh Mountain Experience

Capital works for the Co-Operation ‘Cuilcagh Mountain Experience’ Project as funded under Rural Development Funding were completed. This project has provided enhanced recreational and infrastructural amenities at the following Geopark sites Bellavalley (Cuilcagh Upland access point), Tullydermott Falls, Althacullion Viewpoint as well as the development of a Cuilcagh Lowlands trail near Swanlinbar.



Green Flag Award for Cavan Burren Park

2021 saw the awarding of Green Flag Status to Cavan Burren Park. The awards announced by An Taisce Environmental Education are given out to Ireland’s top parks and best gardens. Accredited by teams of trained volunteer judges, 2020 saw Cavan Burren Park included for the first-time with revalidation again in 2021



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Recipients must comply with exceeding tough environmental standards in green space management and be deemed an excellence of visitor attractions. The Green Flag Award for Parks is the mark of a quality park or green space and is recognised as an international benchmarking standard.



UNESCO Revalidation

As part of maintaining our UNESCO status the Geopark underwent its 4-year revalidation exercise with two independent assessors from Spain and France over a four-day period in October 2021. There was considerable buy in from the community and business sectors with events in Tully Mill, Fermanagh as well as site visits to Dowra Courthouse, Cavan Canoe Centre, Cavan Burren Park, Market House Blacklion and Bear Essentials, Bawnboy.



UNESCO Inspections October 2021



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Cavan Way

Significant upgrade work was undertaken in 2021 on the Cavan Way. This 26km Sport Ireland accredited National Trail situated in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands stretches from the Erne Lakes in Fermanagh to the North Leitrim Glens. It links the Ulster Way at Blacklion with the Leitrim Way at Dowra and is part of the Beara-Breifne Way. It also links many of the sites within the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark. The Geopark continue to maintain this trail in conjunction with the Cavan Belturbet Municipal District office.



Maintenance of Sites

The Geopark team with the assistance of Cavan/Belturbet Municipal District continue to maintain over 25 Cavan sites across the Geopark including trail, interpretative and wayfinding maintenance as well as development works. Along with an additional 27 sites in County Fermanagh, which are maintained by Geopark Ranger team, we continue to offer amenities of a high recreational and interpretative standard for visitors and locals alike.

Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth Funding Announcement

In June 2021 it was announced that Cavan County Council and the Geopark had been successful in an application to Fáilte Ireland under their Platforms for Growth: A Programme for Tourism Investment (2019-2022) for PLATFORM 1: Immersive Heritage and Cultural Attractions for over €4.8million with a match contribution from Cavan County Council of €1.6m. This project will deliver a world class visitor experience in West Cavan in the northern region of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (IHH) at Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park. From over 200 applications



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nationwide, this project was one of only four projects successful at a national level. The funding announcement was made by Minister Catherine Ryan TD at Cavan Burren Park in June 2021. Procurement for same is currently being finalised.



Artist impression of the Cavan Burren Park Viewing Platform and Shannon Pot Trail



Minister Catherine Ryan, TD at announcement for Fáilte Ireland funding at Cavan Burren Park June 2021.

People Counter Data

The Geopark continues to monitor visitors to sites across the Geopark using both vehicular and pedestrian counters at sites such as Killykeen Forest Park, Cuilcagh Mountain, Cavan Burren Park, Castle Saunderson and Shannon Pot. Figures have grown substantially over the last number of years and 2021, saw a huge increase in numbers to just over 697,890 visitors recorded at Geopark sites across Cavan and Fermanagh.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Cootehill Enterprise Park

Cavan County Council, under the Rural Regeneration & Development Fund, were successful in completing the first phase of development of industrial lands, owned by Cavan County Council, in Cornacarrow, Cootehill. A new access road and services was completed and the first company, PQE Engineering Ltd, based in Cootehill, are at the advanced stages of completing construction. of their new industrial building on a five-acre site in early 2022.



Cootehill Enterprise Park – October 2021



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Expressions of interest have been received for a further four serviced sites from existing local industrial manufacturing companies with expansion plans spanning from 2021 to 2024. This will form part of the second development phase of the lands, requiring the construction of additional access roads and services, in order to maximise the potential of the park to facilitate four new business expansions over the next three years, and unlock a further two serviced sites for future development.



Damien English T.D. Minister of State for Business, Employment & Retail visiting Cavan Digital Hub and LEO clients on October 20th, 2021.

Pictured left to right: Leanne Connell, Cavan Digital Hub Manager; Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Community & Tourism; Damien English T.D. Minister of State for Business, Employment & Retail; Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council; Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise, LEO Cavan.



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Cavan Digital Hub

An initiative of Cavan County Council, funded by the Regional Enterprise Development Fund under the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project in partnership with Leitrim and Longford County Councils, and the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Cavan County Council, Cavan Digital Hub opened in June 2019.



Spanning five floors with a total floor space of 13,000 sq. ft., Cavan Digital Hub provides a range of hot desks, dedicated desks, private offices, and meeting rooms, as part of an overall work solution for digitally focused companies. Now housing 11 companies, Cavan Digital Hub is facilitating the employment of 75 people locally and continues to foster and support the digital sector in the County. The Hub also has several regular dedicated desk users, who utilise the space and facilities the Hub has to offer, for a dedicated period within the month or for a number of months.

Other supports and services available to clients of the Hub include strong links and connectivity to LEO Cavan, Guinness Enterprise Centre through Prosper Cavan and Co-Connect initiatives, and a range of networks and business activities promoted via the Digital Network formed with The Hive in Carrick on Shannon and a new Digital Hub in Edgeworthstown, which is due to open in April 2022.

Cavan Digital Hub is fully COVID 19 compliant and as part of its future marketing strategy will seek to align its offering in light of the changing demands of a remote workforce into the future, building partnerships with key stakeholders across the North East region and beyond to strengthen its position as the primary Digital Hub facility in our county, supporting both remote and hybrid working models providing optimum resource planning for employers and employees in the region.



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Advance Planning, IDA Park Killygarry

Cavan Digital Hub (DAC) Ltd, Cavan County Council and IDA Ireland have come together, in a collaborative effort, to provide a pathway to attract and retain investment in IDA Park, Killygarry and to prepare an application for an Advance Planning Permit on a selected site in Killygarry Park, for the development of an Advanced Technology Building (ATB). This application was successful and paves the way for future partnership opportunities in the future. Cavan County Council partners with a number of agencies, including the IDA, with the aim of creating opportunities for employment, expansion of existing business and making County Cavan an attractive place for inward investment.

To attract new FDI to the county along with other indigenous investment, there is a need for a sufficient supply of high-quality, marketable, serviced lands and premises. The availability of such sites and the future requirement for same, is key to the future economic development of the county and indigenous and foreign investors are a critical element requiring a collaborative, streamlined approach in sourcing and developing appropriate lands and premises.



LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

Local Enterprise Office Cavan (LEO Cavan) plays an important role in facilitating and promoting sustainable economic growth and enterprise. We aim to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups, and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high quality supports for new business ideas.

We contribute to the support and enhancement of local democracy and promote engagement and collaboration with our citizens, ensuring that the promotion and provision of our services and supports are accessible to all citizens within the community, providing equality of opportunity to all.



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The LEO works collaboratively with key enterprise and strategic stakeholders, including business and community groups, in an effort to promote a strong enterprise focused environment contributing to the county achieving its economic potential. As part of Cavan County Council, our role is expanded in terms of the broader economic development agenda, and in particular we play a significant role in economic activities of the Local Economic & Community Development Plan, County Development Plan, and the Economic & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee. Our involvement is important in the context of the local authority's ambitions to provide sustainable economic infrastructure and an appropriate enterprise focused environment for businesses to start and scale in the County.

LEO Cavan engages proactively on the new Project Delivery Team for the North East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with other stakeholders and agencies in the Region. This plan will have an emphasis on building a cohesive regional identity while acknowledging our diversity, leading the way in terms of our digital and decarbonisation transition, strengthening our SME ecosystem, and leveraging the potential of growth sectors across the region.

Our focus for 2021 was to provide a high level of relevant supports and services encouraging and fostering new start-ups. We continue to prioritise assisting existing businesses to expand and grow and face the challenges, they experience, including Brexit and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, as they look to compete domestically and internationally. Our training and mentoring programmes, delivered virtually, have been a particularly important intervention to those impacted businesses during the lockdown in early 2021 and it is hoped that a gradual return to in person training and mentoring will resume in 2022.

The challenges of BREXIT still remain for all businesses and the LEOs are engaging proactively to support businesses to prepare for the new trading environment, particularly in relation to customs. This was a priority focus for the LEOs in early 2021 as businesses adapted inwardly and outwardly to the regulatory changes from



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January 1st, 2021. Diversification and exploring new export opportunities remains key for our portfolio clients as a result of BREXIT and less reliance on the UK market. LEO Cavan, along with the LEOs in the Border counties delivered a suite of BREXIT Stimulus Programmes throughout 2021 to support those businesses to trade internationally.

Our collaborative approach to developing and strengthening joint partnerships with key agencies and stakeholders to deliver additional value-added programmes and/or interventions for our clients remains a key part of our strategy throughout the year. The Co-Innovate Programme, a partnership led by InterTradeIreland and involving the six LEOs in the Border Region, continued to provide opportunities for innovative SMEs to access research and development supports. More than 50 Cavan businesses have been participating on this programme since its commencement in 2017. This programme has been extended for a further year into 2022.

At a cross border and European level, the LEO is fully engaged in a number of activities aimed at stimulating and supporting enterprise and economic activity. LEO Cavan successfully partners and collaborates with other LEOs and Local Authorities in the region in the delivery and roll out of initiatives and programmes aimed at providing value added supports and services to its client base.

Throughout 2021 LEO Cavan continued to promote the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to facilitate linkages and potential business partnership and trading opportunities across the EU.

LEO Cavan continues to develop Cavan Digital Hub and the roll-out of its objectives. Cavan Digital Hub was established to encourage employment opportunities in the digital sector, where individuals and companies with a digital focus can network and grow within a community of support & creativity. The objectives are to promote the digital economy in Cavan & it's environs, to offer flexible work solutions to companies, to provide incubation space for digital start-ups to scale & grow, to facilitate co-working, peer to peer networking and collaboration. LEO Cavan continues to support Cavan Digital Hub in securing new tenant businesses as well as collaborating on joint



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events and programmes for the benefit of businesses located in the Hub.

LEO Cavan contributes to Cavan County Council's objective to maximise investment and improve the county's infrastructure to stimulate development opportunities for job creation and enhanced quality of life. The LEO collaborates with colleagues and stakeholders on the development of enterprise incubation space and planning for future enterprise and industrial developments that will encourage and support enterprise start-ups and expansion in the County. Developing initiatives such as Cavan Digital Hub is an example of LEO Cavan's contribution on the objective to promote the development of stronger towns and villages to enable them act as key drivers of economic, social and community development across the county.



Pictured at the October 2021 visit of Damien English T.D. Minister of State for Business, Employment & Retail to LEO Cavan and LEO client, Ann Rudden, Aines Chocolates in Stradone Village.

Left to right: Brendan Walsh Aines Chocolates; Brendan Smith T.D.; Andrea Corrigan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Cavan; Cllr. Clifford Kelly, An Cathaoirleach, Cavan County Council; Aidan McKenna, Regional Director, Enterprise Ireland; Damien English T.D. Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail; Cllr. Val Smith; Ann Rudden, Aine Chocolates; Cllr. Carmel Brady; Senator Joe O'Reilly; Cllr. Madeleine Argue; Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise, LEO Cavan; Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Economic Development & Planning; Cllr. John Paul Feeley, Chairperson, Economic & Enterprise SPC, Cavan County Council.



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Innovation, efficiency, value for money and a high standard of customer service are priorities for LEO Cavan. LEO staff are fully committed to the Local Enterprise Office Customer Service Charter which always ensures quality service delivery to the customer. LEO Cavan ranked very high in terms of overall satisfaction ratings when a customer care survey of clients was conducted across the LEO Network in 2021.

All LEO operations are governed by the LEO Procedures Manual which has been developed by the Enterprise Ireland Centre of Excellence in collaboration with the LEO Network. The Procedures Manual has been prepared to ensure consistent best practice in the delivery of LEO supports and will be reviewed annually. It is available for inspection by the level above the Body in the Financial Management and Control Cascade i.e., Certifying Authority, Managing Authority, the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Financial Control Units, the Internal Audit Units, the European Commission, or its agents.

The LEO strategy for communication ensures an inclusive, open, and accessible platform for communicating the services and activities of the LEO locally, regionally, and nationally thus promoting the County as a location for new business and economic activity.

The LEO Network has formal protocols in place with MicroFinance Ireland, Credit Review Office, Department of Social Protection, Revenue Commissioners, National Association of Community Enterprise Centres, Education & Training Boards and Failte Ireland, which govern dissemination of information, information signposting and inter-agency referrals. LEO Cavan has both formal and informal engagement with these agencies and works closely to assist and support job creation at county level.

Promoting and highlighting enterprise and entrepreneurship as widely as possible continues to be supported by national LEO initiatives such as Local Enterprise Week, Look for Local, National Women's Enterprise Day, the Student Enterprise Programme, and the National Enterprise Awards.

Providing supports and services under our core objectives for the next four years must now focus on preparing businesses for the low carbon economy, digitisation, export readiness, LEAN practices, and clustering for growth, in an effort to reset businesses'



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mindset to look forward with ambition and optimism.

The national launch in 2021 of the LEO Green for Micro offering is paving the way towards encouraging businesses to address their carbon footprint and look to adapting green practices within their operations.

Key Strategic LEO Enterprise Activities 2021

The following are key outputs in terms of activities for the LEO to-date in 2021:

- The seventh Local Enterprise Week took place from March 1st to 5th 2021. Organised by the Local Enterprise Office Network nationwide, Local Enterprise Week was held virtually with each LEO hosting virtual events alongside ten national spotlight events. There were over 11,000 bookings nationwide for all the events during the week. LEO Cavan hosted four virtual enterprise events alongside all the national events.
- Under the LEO Trading Online Voucher Scheme, LEO Cavan approved a total of €102,353 for 48 local businesses in 2021 to date. As of January 1st 2021, this scheme is now funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment.
- In 2021 to date, LEO Cavan has approved €431,392 in Measure 1 financial assistance to nineteen businesses;
- In 2021 to date, LEO Cavan has facilitated the delivery of 56 enterprise related training programmes, events, and seminars, attended by 698 participants;
- In 2021 to date, 91 mentoring sessions have been approved for business owner/managers in the county.
- In 2021 to date, 9 Cavan businesses have availed of the LEO Lean for Micro programme which supported them in becoming more efficient, increasing productivity, reducing waste, and improving their cost effectiveness.
- On October 7th, 2021, CBWC and LEO Cavan participated in a very successful virtual event to mark National Women's Enterprise Day, attended by 1,055 female entrepreneurs and women in business nationwide. An initiative of LEO Cavan, Cavan Business Women's Club was established in 2013 to promote



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and support female entrepreneurs in the County and has approximately 70 active members;

- The North East e-Commerce Cluster Programme, a collaborative initiative which the LEOs in Cavan, Monaghan, Louth, and Meath were successful in securing funding for under the LEO Competitive Fund, concluded in 2021. The programme provided support and training for online retailers. Seventeen Cavan businesses participated in 2020/2021.



LEO client, Vanilla Bean Patisserie, celebrating his Great Taste Award 2021 and new contract with Aldi for his new range of fruit curds. Left to right: Kristijan Kodric; Andrea Corrigan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO; Brendan Jennings, Director of Service, Economic Development, Planning, Community & Tourism



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Finance, ICT, Emergency Services

Finance

The provision of accurate and timely financial information in respect of all Council services and ensuring appropriate effective internal control procedures are in place. The Finance Department plays an important role in the support and delivery of services. It deals with the financial management and financing of the Authority's operations, both of a revenue and capital nature, across all Service Divisions.

The primary objectives are to:

- Achieve the financial objectives of the Council's Corporate Plan
- Provide and promote the best financial management and practices throughout the Council
- Manage the financial affairs of the Council
- Ensure that statutory and financial accounting principles which apply to all County Council financial transactions are complied with
- Ensure that adequate internal controls are in operation to safeguard the assets of the Organisation and ensure the accuracy and reliability of the accounting records
- Ensure that value for money is achieved throughout the Organisation

Loans

The Council had 160 loans, which resulted in mortgage payments of €560,000 during 2021. During 2021, Cavan County Council have continued to proactively engage with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions.

Provision of Payroll Function

This service involves the processing and payment of wages and salaries for all staff including deduction of P.A.Y.E., P.R.S.I., other statutory and non-statutory deductions



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and completion of all relevant returns. There are approximately 508 employees on Cavan County Council's payroll. In addition to this, the Payroll function processes payments for the Council's Pensioners and Elected Members. Total payroll costs were €28.4m in 2021.

Rates

A total of 2,486 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2021 which resulted in a total levy of €16,529,076. The effective valuation in Co. Cavan in 2021 was €82,234,209 and the multiplier set by the elected members for 2021 remained at 0.201. An amount of €10,699,860 was receipted in respect of commercial rates for the year ending 31st December 2021.

To alleviate the impact of Covid 19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 12-month rates waiver scheme. A total waiver amounting to € 3,998,266 was processed by the Rates Department for eligible businesses in Co. Cavan.

A number of rates customers, who were entitled and received a rates waiver, continued to pay their rates in 2021 which resulted in credit balances on their rates accounts. Due to timing issues, these rate payments were not refunded to customers. The application of Circular Fin 02/2022 - Accounting Treatment in relation to Rates Collection 2021 resulted in the application of an accounting treatment which deferred these receipts to 2021 and thus reduced the collection percentage of commercial rates in 2021 from 81% to 76%.

During 2021 the Rates Section delivered the Small Business Assistance Scheme for Covid (SBASC) on behalf of Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment. The **SBASC** was targeted at businesses which were not eligible for the government's COVID Restrictions Support Scheme (CRSS), the Fáilte Ireland Business Continuity grant or other direct sectoral grant schemes. This scheme aimed to help businesses with their fixed costs, for example, rent, utility bills, security. As of 31st December 2021,



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60 grant applications had been processed by the Rates Department with an amount of €181,000 in grant assistance being paid over to qualifying applicants.

Internal Audit

Internal Audit provides an independent appraisal function that is charged with conducting reviews on the policies, plans, procedures and performances of the organisation. Its prime objective is to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal controls within Cavan County Council. The role of Internal Audit contributes to the economic and efficient use of resources and is very much a core element of good corporate governance which is pivotal to achieving the main priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The core control areas examined include:

- Accounting and management systems
- Compliance with internal controls
- Adequacy and integrity of the financial data produced
- Compliance with laws and regulations
- Exposure to fraud and / or corruption
- Effective use and safeguarding of assets
- Economic, efficient and effective use of resources

It is the policy of Cavan County Council to maintain and support a quality Internal Audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter. All Council's activities and services fall within the remit of Internal Audit. The Internal Auditor reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

Value for Money

Local Authorities including Cavan County Council operate in an environment that requires accountability and transparency of all management decisions taken. The Council must ensure that its services are operated in an economical, efficient and



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effective manner with an increased emphasis placed on achieving Value for Money and maximising performance levels throughout the organisation.

Annual Audit Plan 2021

The Annual Audit Plan for 2021 as approved by the executive of the Council set out specific audit reviews to be undertaken based on the availability of staff resources and the potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee and the Local Government Auditor.

Internal Audit Work - 2021

During 2021 the audit work programme incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office and the Customer Service Desk. Specific audits reviews covered the Council's Ethics Register, Payments of Allowances and Expenses to Members, the Council Mobile and Landline Phone System, the Private Wells Grant Scheme, the Annual Review of SICAP- the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme as managed by the Programme Implementor on behalf of the LCDC and the Regulatory Public Spending Code In-depth Reviews on 1) The Proposed N55 Ballinagh Relief Road Roads Capital Project 2) Cavan Sports Campus Proposed Capital Project 3) The Economic Development & Promotion Revenue Expenditure Programme for 2020 inclusive of Restart Grant Schemes for Businesses Impacted by Covid 19.

Internal Audit also undertook the necessary Article 48 Leader Funding Checking Procedures of the Council covering 16 project applications valued at €1,494,906 including 53 expenditure claims amounting €1,828,377.

Various audit requests from the Local Government Auditors were processed with the effectiveness of Internal Audit considered as a key factor in the Local Government Auditor's assessment of the controlled environment of the Local Authority.



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Audit Committee

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provided statutory effect to the Action Programme for effective Local Government and re-stated the legislative provisions relating to audit committees.

The Audit Committee has an independent role in advising the Council on financial reporting processes, internal control, risk management and audit matters as part of the systematic review of the control environment and governance procedures of Cavan County Council.

The current Audit Committee was established by resolution upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group of the Local Authority and following consultation with the Chief Executive. Their term of office is concurrent with that of the elected Council which commenced on 1st June 2019 and will terminate on 31st May 2024.

The (AC) Audit Committee members are as follows:

<i>New AC June 2019 – May 2024</i>
• Sonia McEntee (Chairperson)
• Con Dolan
• Sean Corcoran
• Cllr Madeleine Argue
• Cllr Clifford Kelly

The Audit Committee met via Microsoft Teams on 4 occasions in 2021. They have a crucial role in the governance framework of Cavan County Council, particularly in the context of scarce resources, risk management, and public sector accountability.

During the year the committee met with the Chief Executive Mr Tommy Ryan and various line managers to discuss a broad range of issues. Areas of priority included the Annual Budgets and Financial Statements, the Internal Audit Charters, the Annual Internal Audit Work Programme and Council's Annual Performance Indicators.



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Internal Audit Overview

Internal Audit is proactively working with management to provide assurance that the existing internal controls and processes are sufficient to optimise the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. This annual report highlights some of main activities performed by Internal Audit in 2021 that are key to identifying and addressing any significant risks facing the Council.

As always Internal Audit is committed to responding to the changing demands of Cavan Local Authority and will endeavour to optimise its governance contribution to the organisation in accordance with the Strategic Audit Plan.

Based on the audit reviews undertaken reasonable assurance was provided to all relevant stakeholders that the operations and governance structures of the organisation incorporate best management practices, value for money principles, accountability and transparency that ensures maximum efficiencies are achieved.

Procurement

Our Mission Statement

“To ensure that Cavan County Council’s Procurement function is discharged with probity, transparency, and accountability, adheres to EU/National Law and National guidelines, and operates in the most efficient and effective way to support value for money purchasing while achieving the required standards to deliver quality services to the citizens of County Cavan”.

Procurement

The Council’s procurement function remains intrinsically linked to the principles and strategic objectives of the organisation’s Corporate Plan. Cavan County Council’s Corporate Procurement Plan puts in place the principles and proper foundation on which the Council’s procurement function operates.



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2021 brought about continued challenges due to COVID – 19, but despite the various lockdowns and restrictions, the Procurement Officer, and the Central Tendering Administration Unit (**CTA Unit**) staff, continued to champion procurement protocols and procedures and provided management and staff with the relevant procurement advice and support as and when required.

During the COVID – 19 restrictions, the Procurement Officer created 3 online Procurement information videos to facilitate staff awareness and training in respect of Cavan County Council's Corporate Procurement Plan and Procurement Procedure Manual. The Procurement Steering Group continued to hold their quarterly meetings online throughout the year.

The Procurement Officer managed Cavan County Council's new electronic Quarterly Public Procurement Monitoring Report App, which is used to provide the Chief Executive (CE) with a quarterly report on the procurement compliance of all Departments within the organisation.

2021 saw the difficulty in sourcing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) ease from the initial Challenges experienced in early to mid-2020. The Procurement Officer, Health and Safety Officer and the Council's Stores Department under the guidance of the Senior Management Team continued to work closely in procuring staff (PPE) to combat COVID – 19.

Procurement assistance was again provided to all Departments and Sections throughout the Organisation e.g., Community and Enterprise, Arts, Housing Construction, Roads, Environment, Planning, Fire Service, Corporate, Library Services and Local Enterprise Office. **195** Procurement Competitions were advertised by the CTA Unit. **102** of these were through the etenders portal (**51** Quotation Competitions and **51** Tender Competitions) and a further **93** Tender Competitions through the supplygov system.



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Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

In 2021 the Procurement Officer also coordinated, compiled and submitted the Cavan County Council's Quality Assurance report for 2020 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reforms **Public Spending Code**.

The report noted that the checklists completed by Cavan County Council showed a high level of compliance with the Public Spending Code and the in-depth checks carried out on a selection of projects / programmes revealed no major issues which would cast doubt on the Council's compliance with the Code.

Cavan County Council's report coordinated by the Procurement Officer contained: -

- An inventory list for 2020 (totalling **€804,258,265.81**) identified **114** Projects / Programmes (**34** Current Expenditure and **80** Capital Expenditure), whose expenditure / estimated lifetime cost exceeded €0.5m.
 - **114** Projects/programmes: -
 - **38** projects / programmes were being considered in 2020.
 - **68** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2020.
 - **8** projects / programmes ended in 2020.
- A summary of all procurements above €10m,
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **18 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **12%** of the total value of relevant expenditure in the 2020 inventory list.
- A summary of the Internal Auditors in-depth checks representing: -
 - **14%** of the total value of all Current (revenue) projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2020 and



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- 7% of the total value of all Capital projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2020.

Motor Taxation

Cavan County Council's Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

- Issue of Vehicle License
- Issue of duplicate Registration Books, Receipts and Trade Plates for motor traders
- Processing change of ownerships and refunds
- Issuing S103's and CT53's Certificates

The continuing decline in the numbers of the public attending the Motor Tax Office in 2021 to conduct their business was reflected in revenue of €2,568,006, reporting a decrease of €404,724 (13.61%) on 2020 (€2,972,730), mainly attributed to the continued increase in online Motor Tax transactions in 2021 and intermittent closure to the public during Covid-19.

Breakdown of income and transactions:

Category	Total Transactions	Total Income
Vehicle Licences	10,932	€2,280,077
Trade Licences	63	€22,239
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,727	€19,388
Arrears	2,689	€246,302
Total	15,411	€2,568,006

Motor Tax Online:

In addition, 72,129 transactions were processed online. The Motor Tax Online Service is available to owners of private cars, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles, motor caravans and commercial vehicles for renewal. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto www.motortax.ie.



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Service Indicators

M.1 Number & Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions	2021
Number which are dealt with over the counter	11,042
Number which are dealt with by post	9,062
% which are dealt with over the counter	54.92%
% which are dealt with by post	45.08%
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	273
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	453
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	2,990
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	5,346
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	3%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	5%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	33%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	59%
M.4 Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5



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Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Section reports to the Head of Finance & IT and is responsible for managing the organisations ICT infrastructure, websites, software applications, GIS systems and digital transformation initiatives. This includes local (LAN) and wide area (WAN) networks, combined of wired and wireless links which enable voice and data communications for the organisation.

During the past year the IT Dept continued our focus on infrastructure and systems upgrades and enhancements as we seek to keep the IT infrastructure and systems of Cavan County Council functioning effectively. We also continued to support a remote workforce because of the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic.

While we have seen an increased volume of calls to our helpdesk due to remote working; we continued developments in the areas of infrastructure, National Broadband Plan, ICT systems and upgrades to our software and operating environments.

Geographic Information Systems.

The Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) continued to play a fundamental role throughout all business areas in 2021, some notable projects and work completed during the past year included:

- Production of all mapping for County Development Plan.
- Production of Department return reports for Community helpline.
- Data cleansing of legacy data.
- The development and enhancement of GIS web applications for the business areas to facilitate spatial data collection and analysis that support more informed and strategic decision making.
- Production of fixed asset records for import into new software system.
- Map creation of GeoPark.
- Mapping of local improvement schemes.

Network Infrastructure.

The I.S. department is responsible for the Council's network infrastructure and ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Projects in this area



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included:

- Upgrade of CORE, iPlan, iHouse & iReg systems.
- Configuration and setup of Cavan Town Hall office including install of SD-WAN solution.
- Upgrade of main database server to SQL Server 2019.
- On-going proactive monitoring of and upgrades to wide area network sites and equipment.
- On-going migration, upgrades and decommissioning of legacy systems and servers
- Best practice assessment and remediation on main firewall.

Digital Transformation Team

The Digital Transformation area focuses on delivering the National Broadband Plan in Cavan, progressing the actions in the Digital Strategy and increasing mobility and digital awareness of council staff. Providing better services to the public and involving citizens in digital transformation is also a priority.

- Launch of Digital Strategy for County Cavan.
- 20 online learning courses implemented for Fire Service.
- Upgrades to Procurement Monitoring App.
- Online public registration for Derelict Sites
- €225,000 in funding secured to support BCP network.
- New website for Cavan Sports Partnership.
- WIFI4EU implementation rolled out in six towns and continued support to BCPs.
- Upgrade to online payments system for parking fines.

ICT Security.

ICT security ensures the safety and security of our data and systems and is one of the most critically important functions of the IT Department. IT security includes the technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programmes, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access.

- Penetration testing carried out on network.



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- CIS gap analysis report completed.
- New third-party access agreements and protocols put in place.
- Installation of new end point management software to allow for remote support and updating of all systems.
- New offsite, cloud hosted backup & DR solution in place.
- Cyber security training included as part of new staff induction.
- Tender completed for cyber security awareness training.

Operations.

The operational area of the IT Dept is responsible for the day-to-day technical support to all staff users and elected members of Cavan County Council.

- 4032 helpdesk calls/issues resolved.
- Ongoing support to blended working arrangements.
- Ongoing enhancement to staff learning portal *Tech4Staff*.
- New ICT Strategy adopted.
- Commencement of project to develop new Council and Library websites.
- Participation in national and regional security groups including the, HIS Group, Regional IT group and regional IT Project Leaders group.
- Over 60 new laptops configured.
- Support to hybrid meetings of the Council.
- Rates waiver software install and support.



Emergency Services



Firefighters from Cavan Town extinguish a Tractor Fire in April 2021

Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 93 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2021. During 2021, one Firefighter retired from the Fire Service and one new Firefighters was recruited and completed initial training.

Service Indicators

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

Cost per Capita of the Fire Service €57.26

F2: Service Mobilisation

	Fire	Non-Fire
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades	06:23	07:20



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F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

	Fire		Non-Fire	
	%	No.	%	No.
First attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	33.77	52	27.37	75
First attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	53.90	83	55.84	153
First attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	12.33	19	16.79	46

Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chimney fires in Houses	40	45	47	32	35	36	37	29
Other Domestic Building Fires	40	60	33	41	44	30	34	30
Other fires	35	28	47	45	47	39	36	32
Bog/Forest Fires	12	17	17	39	18	9	34	6
Motor Vehicle Fires	25	28	19	20	21	16	10	24
Road Traffic Accidents	82	73	69	58	67	72	52	61
Flooding	15	16	4	14	11	28	28	9
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Special Services (Other)	147	218	244	338	377	261	335	213
False Alarm (Good Intent)	19	18	51	36	50	57	57	68
False Alarm (Malicious)	1	3	2	2	2	6	3	5
Total Calls	479	416	506	533	594	554	626	482



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The Fire Service had 566 responses to 501 incidents in 2021, which is an 18% reduction compared to the responses in 2020.

Capital Programme

On 29th December 2020, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved a new Fire Appliance for Cavan County Fire Service in the Capital Programme 2021 – 2023. Construction of this vehicle commenced in 2021 and it intended for the vehicle to be operational during Quarter 3 of 2022.

The Construction of a new Fire station at Ballyjamesduff was identified in the 2016 – 2020 Fire Service Capital Programme as one of 16 new priority projects. This commitment was reaffirmed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the Fire Services Capital Programme 2021 – 2025 announced on 29th December 2020. On 18th February 2021, the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage granted approval to accept the tender of Sandar Construction Ltd., for construction of the new fire station. Contracts for the New Fire Station in Ballyjamesduff were signed on 14th June 2021 and the Contractor moved onto site on 22nd June 2021. It is hoped to have the building ready for use in Quarter 3 2022.



Signing of contracts for the new Fire Station in Ballyjamesduff.



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COVID-19 Pandemic

In line with guidance from the Government, the HSE and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, the response plans for Covid-19 that were developed for Cavan County Fire Service during 2020 were maintained during 2021. The members of each crew were divided into small units to attend the fire stations to ensure full operational readiness and to sterilise all equipment & buildings. A full response to all incidents always remained. While responding, additional measures are in place to improve physical distancing and reduce the risk of any potential exposure.

Major Emergency Planning

The first Cavan County Council Major Emergency Plan under the 2006 Framework for Emergency Planning was issued in September 2008 and the latest Plan was revised and issued at the start of 2016. The appendices to the plan were revised during 2019 to reflect staff changes.

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a Major Emergency in the County. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic no Major Emergency Training was undertaken during 2021.

Cavan County Council activated its Crisis Management Team (CMT) to ensure a coherent and efficient organisational response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The frequency of CMT meeting varied depending on local, regional and national requirements. CFO Noel O'Reilly and ACFO Robert Dunne were members of the CMT. Regular meetings of both the Regional Steering Group (RSG) and the Regional Working Group (RWG) were conducted virtually to co-ordinate the collective response of all the agencies



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In November 2021, members of Cavan County Fire Service and Cavan County Civil Defence attended a cross-border familiarisation event on Cuilcagh Mountain in preparation for the 2022 Wildfire season.

Training

In 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic continued to disrupt the planned training activities for Cavan County Fire Service. All training, including on-station training (drill nights) was suspended for a number of periods depending on the national and local levels of transmission within the community. In between suspensions, the following training was delivered: Compartment Fire Behaviour Training, Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Emergency Services Driving Standard, Effective Decision-Making for Fire Officers, Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers, Breathing Apparatus Refreshers, Pump Operator Instructor, Fire Safety Engineering.

Nine Firefighters from Cavan and two from Monaghan completed a QQI 2-week Initial Breathing Apparatus Wearers' course in Dundalk during June 2021. The course was run by Cavan County Fire Service with assistance from instructors from Monaghan and Louth. The nine Firefighters from Cavan County Fire Service advanced to complete a QQI 5-day Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Course in Ballinrobe in October 2021. Four Instructors from Cavan County Fire Service and one from Limerick Fire & Rescue delivered the course



Firefighters from Ballyconnell and Cavan Town attended a joint training exercise at an industrial facility in Ballyconnell.

Fire Prevention

Public houses, Hotels, restaurants, community halls, clubs and petrol stations are inspected each year in response to legislative requirements and the processing of applications for liquor licences, dance licences, club licences, dangerous substance licences and Gaming and Lottery Licences.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cavan County Fire Service's community fire safety, primary schools and smoke alarm programmes were suspended for 2021. Firefighters from Cootehill produced a fire safety video to deliver some of the fire safety messages in primary schools. This video was distributed to schools within their area during the final academic term of the 2020/21 school year.

Under the Building Control Regulations Fire Safety Certificates are required prior to the construction, extension or material alteration of most buildings excluding dwelling houses and agricultural buildings. A total of 67 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2021 with fees totalling €117,462.



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Health and Safety

An initial review of the Fire Service Safety Manual was conducted during 2021. Further amendments are required during 2022 to reflect Cavan County Council's Transitional Response Plan for Covid 19.

The County Council has an Occupational Health Scheme and the Firefighters undergo medical examination under the National Firefighters Agreement. All vehicles are independently checked and tested to ensure that they are roadworthy.

Retirement of Fire Service Personnel

Gavin Gorman, Driver/ Mechanic, Kingscourt Fire Brigade, resigned in April 2021, having given more than ten years of service and commitment to the Fire Service. We thank Gavin for everything he did for Cavan County Fire Service.



In May 2021, Firefighters from Virginia and Bailieborough dealt with an overturned milk tanker on the R178.



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Cavan County Civil Defence

2021 provided no respite from the Covid-19 Pandemic and Cavan County Civil Defence continued with the many tasks associated with it, such as Hospital and Dialysis transport, delivery of supplies to the Vulnerable and transport to medical appointments alongside our ordinary duties covering events and assisting the Principal Response Agencies (PRAs).



Two Volunteers transporting a gentleman for his first Covid-19 vaccine

Duties

Cavan County Civil Defence volunteers completed 878 taskings during 2021 and for the second year in succession were one of the most active units in the country

Throughout the early part of the year Covid restrictions were again in place and this caused a heavy demand for Cavan County Civil Defence services, with Dialysis and Cavan General Hospital seeking assistance with moving patients who were Covid-19 Positive. Volunteers never failed to respond and were among the first to receive vaccinations.



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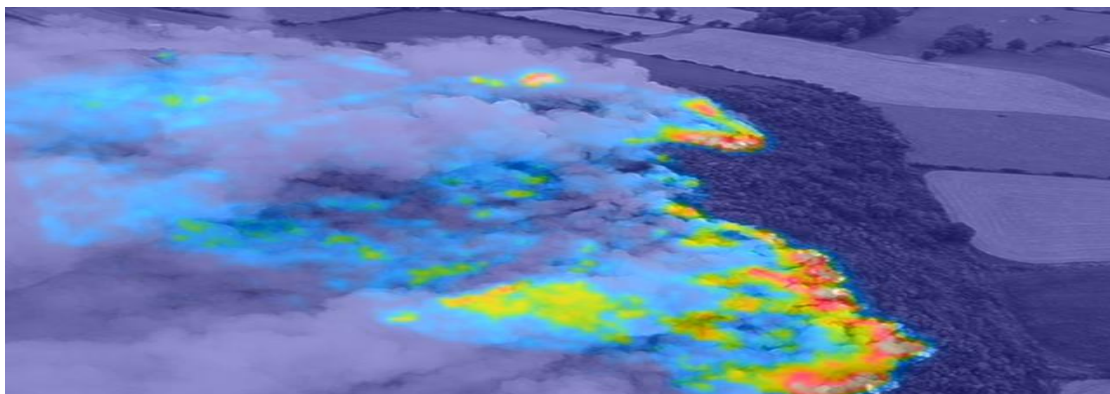
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The demand for assistance from the HSE to transport patients and the public for testing and vaccinations continued throughout the year, as did the assistance to the Blood Transfusion Service, Cavan County Library, the Local Authority Helpline, Cavan County Local Development, Social Workers and Local Doctor's Surgeries.

The Local Authority Helpline was stood down in November but many people who have no other transport contacted Cavan County Civil Defence directly and volunteers responded where there was a genuine need.

With the easing of restrictions, Cavan County Civil Defence also covered some community events during the summer months such as the Virginia Triathlon, the Three Province Challenge, Cycle races and GAA matches.

Cavan County Civil Defence assisted An Garda Síochána and/or the Fire Service at searches, wild fires and recovery incidents.



Cavan County Civil Defence Drone footage of gorse fire near Killydoon in July

Staffing

In March Cavan County Council appointed Carmel Prior to the post of Acting Assistant Civil Defence Officer. Carmel's experience as a volunteer and instructor has enabled Cavan County Civil Defence to continue to deliver the level of service these challenging times require.



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Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteer beside an ambulance awaiting a patient outside Blackrock Clinic

Training

Throughout the year the boat continued training when restrictions allowed, and the other services trained during the Summer and Autumn when restrictions eased.

During 2021, Cavan County Civil Defence recertified its Emergency First Responders and First Aid Responders and trained 40 Volunteers in Advanced Driving. Two manual handling courses were delivered, and all instructors were re-qualified instructors. Six volunteers commenced an Emergency Medical Technician course with the Civil Defence College, while one Volunteer completed stage one and two of a Swift Water Rescue Instructor Course in Galway and Wicklow with “Rescue 3”.

Volunteers from Cavan County Civil Defence were also involved in providing Heart Saver courses in St. Patricks College for 45 Transition Year Students.

Vehicles

Cavan County Civil Defence continue to keep all vehicles up to date with servicing and CVRT testing. An additional funding of almost €10,000 was received from the Department of Defence to cover the cost of fuel due to the extra duties related to Covid-19.



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The Department of Defence allocated a Mercedes Ambulance (2015 model) to replace the previous 2009 model, that had been giving mechanical trouble.

The Department of Defence also allocated a grant of €28,000 from the Dormant Funds Account, which was used to purchase an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). The ATV is a four seat John Deer, that will assist in launching boats in waterways where no road access exists and in search on rough terrain such as in the Geopark, where hill walking is becoming more popular.



*Cavan County Civil Defence ambulance outside the Rotunda
Hospital awaiting a patient*

Provision of County Headquarters

Cavan County Civil Defence appointed Malachi Cullen Consulting Engineers Ltd. for design services for the provision of new facilities for Cavan Civil Defence. Following the development of functional designs for a new Civil Defence Headquarters at Pullamore, an application for Part VIII planning permission was submitted. The application was granted at the September meeting of the Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District. Tender Documents are currently under development, and it is planned to commence works during 2022.



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Conclusion

Cavan County Civil Defence continue to assist the People of the County and the Principal Response Agencies. Volunteers continue to give freely of their time and expertise to deliver whatever assistance is required. There are no words to express the gratitude due to all the wonderful volunteers without whom this service could not continue.



A Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteer manning the front desk at an Irish Blood Transfusion Service clinic



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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cavan County Council - AFS2021 Un-audited

SUMMARY OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2021

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Expenditure (A)	84,016	92,459
Receipts		
State Grants	39,786	49,646
Good & Services	17,309	16,679
Commercial Rates	16,536	16,481
Other Local Authorities	224	173
Local Government Fund	10,161	9,480
Total Income (B)	84,016	92,459
(Deficit)/Surplus (B-A=C)	0	0
Opening Revenue		
Balance as at 1st January (D)	1,743	1,743
Closing Revenue		
Closing Balance as at 31st December (C+D+E)	1,743	1,743

Revenue Expenditure 2021

	€'000	% of total Expenditure
Housing and Building	10,118	12.04%
Road, Transport and Safety	26,158	31.13%
Water Supply and Sewerage	8,696	10.35%
Development Incentives and Control	9,055	10.78%
Environmental Services	8,108	9.65%
Recreation and Amenity	6,013	7.16%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	684	0.81%
Miscellaneous	9,179	10.93%
Transfer to Capital	6,006	7.15%
Total	84,016	100.00%



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Revenue Income 2021

	€'000	% of total Income
Housing and Building	11,506	13.69%
Road, Transport and Safety	18,724	22.29%
Water Supply and Sewerage	8,986	10.70%
Development Incentives and Control	5,146	6.12%
Environmental Services	1,871	2.23%
Recreation and Amenity	1,610	1.92%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	579	0.69%
Miscellaneous	8,898	10.59%
Rates	16,536	19.68%
Local Government Fund	10,161	12.09%
Total	84,016	100.00%

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2021

Programme Group	2021 Expenditure €'000	2021 Income €'000
Housing and Building	13,524	12,568
Road, Transport and Safety	7,077	6,437
Water Supply and Sewerage	724	231
Development Incentives and Control	2,865	3,778
Environmental Services	634	408
Recreation and Amenity	3,092	1,622
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	0	0
Miscellaneous	826	606
Total	28,742	25,651

	2021 €'000
Opening Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 1st January	21,417
Expenditure	28,742
Income	25,651
Transfers to Revenue	32
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	6,578
Closing Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 31st December	24,871



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