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**Note:** This Annual Report can be made available in Accessible Format. Please contact Corporate Affairs Section on 049 437 8600



**Our County**

Cavan is the beautiful land of lakes in the middle of our island. A place away from it all; but not that far away. Quietly gaining a reputation as a food county, our restaurants rank among the best in the country and our love of music is known to continue into the early hours.

“An Cabhan” is an old Irish word meaning “The Hollow”: and in a simple way that says a lot about County Cavan. People, food, lakes, mountains and a certain serenity are here in spades and the County has a marvellous series of calming and mysterious waterways.

Cavan is known as fishing country, and rightly so its wellstocked waters have been attracting German, French and English anglers for decades, but there is, of course, more to Cavan than that. Many visitors note that once you get here, the pace of things seems to slow down a bit. Whatever the reason for this change of pace, visitors are always surprised by just how many great attractions and activities we have to fill all that wonderfully slowed-down Cavan time. [**www.thisiscavan.ie**](http://www.thisiscavan.ie/)

County Cavan has a population of 73,183. It is predominantly a rural county although in recent years there have been significant population increases in its main urban centres. The County is characterised by drumlin countryside dotted with many lakes and small hills.

The North West of the County is sparsely populated and mountainous with many areas of high scenic landscape. It is also home to a number of international tourism attractions including the Shannon Erne WaterWay and the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark.

The opening of the M3 has improved access to our County with the County Boundary south of Virginia now less than an hour from Dublin. Cavan Town is also strategically located and is acknowledged as a gateway to and from Northern Ireland. Cavan Town was designated as a Hub Town in the National Spatial Strategy.

As part of Local Government Reform the Electoral Areas changed; to three Municipal District Areas of Bailieborough-Cootehill, Cavan-Belturbet and Ballyjamesduff, all town councils were abolished. Elected representatives were reduced from 52 (including Town and County Councillors) to 18 representatives.



### Cathaoirleach’s Address



It is my privilege as Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council to introduce our Annual Report. This report provides detailed information of the range of services provided by Cavan County Council, projects and initiatives commenced or completed; and measures our progress in implementing the corporate objectives of the Council.

The abolition of three Town Councils and subsequent move towards municipal district structures represents a fundamental change in the delivery of local services.

The establishment of the Local Enterprise Office and the creation of the Local Community Development Committee to replace the County Enterprise Board and County Development Board respectively were both important in terms of expanding the role and remit of local authorities. While such changes are still at an early stage of advancement, in time they will pave the way for an enhanced relationship between the Council and the wider community.

To my council colleagues who were re-elected or elected for the first time during the Local Elections, I congratulate you on your success. I also want to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the outgoing members of the County and Town Councils who either opted not to stand or who were unsuccessful in the elections. Your contribution to political and community life in Cavan is worthy of recognition.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of our former County Manager, Jack Keyes who retired in 2014 and also extend this to all staff who retired during the year.

There are many highlights to look back on: The Taste of Cavan; the official opening of the World War I Trench at the County Museum; World Responsible Tourism Award 2014 for “Best for People with Disabilities”; Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Award for Sustainable Development for the Citizen Engagement Strategy for the Domestic Wastewater Assessments are notable highlights.

Work commenced in 2014 on the €21 million Cavan Town Water and Sewerage Upgrade which is vital for the future economic growth of our County Town and the County as a whole.

The announcement of the extension of the Erne River Navigation System to Castlesaunderson is also welcomed and this project will boost tourism and visitor numbers to Cavan and the wider region.

I want to extend my thanks to the elected members for your support and to our Chief Executive Ger Finn and his staff for all their hard work and dedication in delivering local services during the year.

**Councillor Shane P O’Reilly,** Cathaoirleach

### Chief Executive’s Address



This was both a successful and challenging year for Cavan County Council. It was a year where signs that the economic outlook is beginning to improve emerged. It was also a year when the greatest period of change and reform ever embarked within the local government sector took place.

With the reform of Local Government the town councils in Cavan,

Belturbet and Cootehill were abolished and the county was divided into

three Municipal Districts of Ballyjamesduff, Cavan-Belturbet and Bailieborough-Cootehill and with a decrease in representation to eighteen councillors. When combined with the establishment of Irish Water and the transition of operations to this new public utility, alignment of local development along with many other changes and increased citizens’ expectations significant challenges were posed to the organisation.

In the midst of these challenges, I am delighted to report that 2014 was still a year of high achievement for the Council when a large number of cuts had to be absorbed through reorganising services, increased efficiencies, work redesign and ongoing staff commitment.

In addition to providing quality services across our core areas to our communities, a number of key significant programmes were achieved, among them being:

* Completion of the Geopark Project including completion of significant works on the Burren in Blacklion and other Harnessing Natural Resources projects
* Implementation of the Sports Partnership Strategy and ongoing work in the area of disability and social inclusion including the establishment of Cavan as an “Age Friendly Business Town” in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce
* Completion of the Belturbet Library and Civic Centre and the Culture Ireland Project
* Alignment process including the establishment of Local Government Development Committees (LCDC’s) to oversee and plan for all community work in the county
* An expanded Taste of Cavan weekend, a great success with an excess of 40,000 visitors
* Hosting of History Seminar on World War 1 in Johnston Library with participants from all over Ireland
* Completion of the Development Plan
* Marketing of Cavan and it’s attractions including the “This is Cavan” brand
* Roll out of e-registration in our excellent library service
* Construction of the World War 1 trenches at the County Museum
* €61m Belturbet Bypass completed and opened to traffic

Once again excellence in service delivery has been recognised through the achievement of major national awards including:

* Cavan Town retained Irish Business Against Litter “Litter Free Status” and was placed 2nd in the Anti Litter League for the second consecutive year
* Cavan Town won a Bronze Medal in the National Tidy Town Competition
* Cavan Town was awarded the Council of Europe Flag of Honour
* Cavan Town won a gold award in the category “Best for People with Disabilities” at the World Responsible Tourism Awards
* Council of Europe Diploma of Honour, awarded for the town’s effort to promote the European Ideal and bringing together the peoples of Europe
* Chamber Ireland Awards Winner for Citizen Engagement Strategy for the Domestic Wastewater Assessments (DWWA)
* Engineers Ireland “CPD Accredited Employer” status was awarded for a further three year period.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our former County Manager, Jack Keyes who retired in May and to wish him well in the future. His vision, commitment and hard work for the betterment of our county and it’s citizens was exemplary.

I wish to thank our Cathaoirligh Councillors Val Smith and Shane P. O’Reilly, all our elected members former and current, for their input and support and to acknowledge their admirable work for our county.

To all staff, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for their co-operation, commitment and resilience in these times of change.

We look forward to the future with confidence and will continue to work together in the spirit of co-operation to provide crucial services and build on our success to make a major contribution to the quality of life in our County.

**Ger Finn,** Chief Executive Officer



### Electoral Areas and their Elected Representatives from June 2014

**Bailieborough - Cootehill Municipal Area**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| = | Carmel Brady | - Fine Gael |
| = | Fergal Curtin | - Fianna Fáil |
| = | Clifford Kelly | - Fianna Fáil |
| = | Paddy McDonald | - Sinn Féin |
| = | Val Smith | - Fine Gael |
| = | Niamh Smyth | - Fianna Fáil |

**Cavan - Belturbet Municipal Area**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| = | Madeleine Argue | - Fine Gael |
| = | Damian Brady | - Sinn Féin |
| = | John Paul Feeley | - Fianna Fáil |
| = | Eugene Greenan | - Sinn Féin |
| = | Peter McVitty | - Fine Gael |
| = | Sean Smith | - Fianna Fáil |

**Ballyjamesduff Municipal Area**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| = | Winston Bennett | - Fine Gael |
| = | Philip Brady | - Fianna Fáil |
| = | Noel Connell | - Sinn Féin |
| = | Paddy O’Reilly | - Fine Gael |
| = | Shane P O’Reilly | - Fianna Fáil |
| = | Paddy Smith | - Fine Gael |

## Meetings of Local Authority

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meeting** | **Number** |
| Monthly, Reconvened and Special | 13 |
| Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meeting | 4 |
| Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings | 5 |
| Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings | 4 |
| Annual General Meeting | 1 |
| Annual Budget Meetings | 2 |
| Corporate Policy Group Meetings | 14 |
| Housing and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee | 2 |
| Environment and Water Strategic Policy Committee | 2 |
| Roads and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee | 1 |
| Community and Social Strategic Policy Committee | 2 |
| Economic, Rural Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee | 2 |
| Joint Policing Committee | 3 |

**Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Representatives**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Conference**  **Seminar / Event** | **Location** | **Purpose** | **Date** | **Names of**  **Members** |
| TJK Conferences | Limerick | “Valuation Process for Rating Properties” | 17 to 19 January | 3 |
| TGR Seminars | Bunratty, Clare | “How Councillors can access Grant Aid for Communities” | 24 to 25 January | 1 |
| Celtic Conferences | Rosscarbery, West Cork | “Doing More with Less Managing Time and Productivity” | 24 to 26 January | 7 |
| Ace Management and Training | Carlingford, Louth | “Domestic Water Charges: Preparation and Practicalities” | 24 to 26 January | 2 |
| Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) | Monaghan | Spring Seminar | 31January to 1 February | 10 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Waterford County Local Authorities | Dungarvan, Waterford | Mental Health and Suicide Awareness | 31January to 1 February | 6 |
| Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland (AMAI) | Bundoran, Donegal | Spring Seminar | 14 to 15 February | 8 |
| Colmcille Heritage Trust | Letterkenny, Donegal | Winter School | 21 to 23 February | 2 |
| TJK Conferences Limited | Limerick | “Genealogy: Tracing Your Ancestors and Family Tree” | 21 to 22 February | 1 |
| Clare Tourism Ennistymon, | Clare | Tourism Conference | 21 to 22 February | 5 |
| Association of Irish Regions | Ballyfarnon, Roscommon | “Ireland’s Regions: Looking to the Future” | 28 February | 4 |
| Association of County and City Councils | Ballyconnell, Cavan | Annual Conference | 6 to 7 March | 12 |
| Seanchai Kerry Literary and Cultural Centre | Listowel, Kerry | “Social Inclusion for Older People EU National and  Local Policy” | 20 to 21 March | 1 |
| Ace Training and Management Limited | Carlingford, Louth | “Changes to the Construction Contracts Act 2013 for Local Authorities” | 21 to 23 March | 1 |
| TJK Conferences Limited | Limerick | “Role of the Ombudsman” | 21 to 23 March | 1 |
| Carlow Tourism | Carlow | Tourism | 3 to 5 April | 4 |
| MacGill Summer School | Glenties, Donegal | Summer School | 20 to 25 July | 1 |
| Local Authority Members’ Association | Buncrana, Donegal | Autumn Training Seminar | 17 to 18 October | 9 |
| Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | Cavan | Inaugural Annual Conference | 29 to 30 October | 10 |

### Training Availed of by Elected Members

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Title of Training** | **Body that Provided Training** | **Number who attended** |
| Induction Training | Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | 16 |
| Finance Training | Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | 10 |
| Housing Training | Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | 2 |
| Planning Training | Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | 9 |

**Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board | Shane P. O’Reilly, Niamh Smyth, Clifford Kelly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady, Patrick O’Reilly, Eugene Greenan |
| Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East | Philip Brady, Peter McVitty, Paddy McDonald |
| Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board | Philip Brady, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald |
| Border, Midland and Western Regional Authority | Sean Smith, Paddy Smith |
| Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) | Winston Bennett, Fergal Curtin |
| Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited | Val Smith |
| Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | Philip Brady, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady |
| Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) | Winston Bennett |
| Cavan Local Community Development | Philip Brady, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald |
| Border, Midland and Western Regional Authority | Sean Smith, Paddy Smith |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) | Winston Bennett, Fergal Curtin |
| Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited | Val Smith |
| Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) | Philip Brady, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady |
| Local Authority Members’ Association (LAMA) | Winston Bennett |
| Cavan Local Community Development Committee | Clifford Kelly, Patrick O’Reilly, Paddy McDonald |
| County Cavan Joint Policing Committee | Niamh Smyth, Shane P. O’Reilly, Clifford Kelly, Fergal Curtin, John Paul Feeley,  Winston Bennett, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Paddy Smith, Madeleine Argue,  Damien Brady, Noel Connell, Paddy McDonald |
| PEACE III Peace and Reconciliation Partnership | Clifford Kelly, Patrick O’Reilly, Damien Brady |
| North East Regional Drugs Task Force | Shane P. O’Reilly |
| Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee | John Paul Feeley, Paddy Smith, Eugene Greenan, Damien Brady |
| Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme) | Sean Smith, Winston Bennett, Damien Brady |
| County Cavan Heritage Forum | Niamh Smyth, Val Smith, Damien Brady |

**Payments to Members of Cavan County Council**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses e.g. postage) | €104,418.72 |
| Representational Payments | €341,982.56 |
| Cathaoirleach’s / Leas Cathaoirleach’s Allowances | €33,630.83 |
| Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees | €24,500.00 |
| Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars | €41,538.03 |

**Cathaoirleach’s Receptions held**

1. Aogan O’Fearghail, UachtarainTofa, Chumann Luthchleas Gael
2. Lord Mayor Thomas Ebert and delegation from the Christian Social Union Party, Germany
3. The Cavan Singers

### Strategic Policy Committees From June 2009 to June 2014

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Community and Social** | **Housing Development and Cultural** |
| Councillor (Cllr) Paddy O’Reilly, **Chair** | Cllr Madeleine Argue, **Chair** |
| Cllr Sean McKiernan | Cllr Grainne Brady |
| Cllr Val Smith | Cllr Andrew Boylan |
| Cllr Shane P O’Reilly | Cllr Patricia Walsh |
| Cllr Niamh Smyth | Cllr John Paul Feeley |
| Cllr Peggy Gray, Belturbet Town Council (TC) | Cllr Vincent McCaul, Cootehill TC |
| Stephen Shannon, Community and Voluntary | Bob Gilbert, Community and Voluntary |
| Jerry Fitzpatrick, Community and Voluntary | PJ Dunne, St Vincent de Paul |
| Agnieszka Adamska, Polish Community | Traveller Representative |
| Irish Congress Trade Unions | Billy Thompson, Lone Parents |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Environment and Water** | **Roads and Infrastructure** |
| Cllr Charlie Boylan, **Chair** | Cllr Peter McVitty, **Chair** |
| Cllr Maura Maguire-Lynch | Cllr Paddy Smith |
| Cllr Aidan Boyle | Cllr Paddy McDonald |
| Cllr Dessie Boylan | Cllr John O’Hare |
| Cllr Danny Brady | Cllr Sean Smith |
| Cllr John Scott, Belturbet TC | Cllr Paddy O’Reilly, Cavan TC |
| Winston Turner, Community and Voluntary | Kathleen Duffy, Community  and Voluntary |
| Dr Tina Aughney, Environmental Pillar |
| Colm Brady, National Federation Group  Water Schemes (NFGWS) | Michael McCarey, Business Pillar |
| Francis Smith, Construction Industry Fund |
| One Business Pillar nominee | Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association |
| **Economic/Rural Development and Planning** |  |
| Cllr Gerry Murray, **Chair** |  |
| Cllr Winston Bennett |
| Cllr David Blake |
| Cllr Damian Brady |
| Cllr Fergal Curtin |
| Cllr Des Cullen, Cavan TC |
| John Foy, Business Pillar |
| Thomas Cooney, Irish Farmers Association |
| Fintan McCabe, Environmental Pillar |
| Madeleine Ni Mhealoid,Community and  Voluntary |
| Mark Elliott, Construction Industry Fund |
|  |

**Strategic Policy Committees from June 2014 to June 2019**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Economic Development** | **Environmental and Planning** |
| Councillor (Cllr) John Paul Feeley, **Chair** | Cllr Damian Brady, **Chair** |
| Cllr Carmel Brady | Cllr Winston Bennett |
| Cllr Eugene Greenan | Cllr Fergal Curtin |
| Cllr Peter McVitty | Cllr Val Smith |
| Cllr Niamh Smyth | Cllr Madeleine Argue |
| Chris Kirk, Public Participation Network (PPN) | Fintan McCabe, Environmental |
| Thomas Rogers, Agriculture | Bernard Engle, PPN |
| Garry Allison | Thomas Cooney, Agriculture |
| Nikki McGoohan | Jimmi Jackson |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Housing, Social and Cultural** | **Environment, Water, Transportation and Infrastructure** |
| Cllr Madeleine Argue, **Chair** | Cllr Clifford Kelly, **Chair** |
| Cllr Noel Connell | Cllr Paddy McDonald |
| Cllr Clifford Kelly | Cllr Paddy Smith |
| Cllr Patrick O’Reilly | Cllr Sean Smith |
| Cllr Shane P O’Reilly | Cllr Philip Brady |
| Andrew Fannon, Irish Congress Trade Unions | Patricia O’Reilly, PPN |
| Annmarie Johnston, PPN | Philip Smith, Agriculture |
| Kate Ennals, PPN | Gary Meehan |
| Larry McCluskey, PPN | Pauline Flood |

**Corporate Plan**

**Mission Statement: “To be the best at what we do”**

Through our actions we will lead and promote the sustainable development of our county, build confidence in our future, improve quality of life for our citizens and promote a more just and inclusive society.

### Our Values

Developed through feedback from others and in consultation with our staff, the values of Cavan Local Authorities underpin all we do. We will endeavour to demonstrate these values in how we treat people, provide services and engage with the public and other organisations.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Honesty** | tell the truth |
| **Courteous** | polite and respectful |
| **Helpful** | willing to assist others |
| **Open-minded** | curious about new ideas |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Progressive** | up to date and innovative |
| **Responsible** | take our duty seriously |
| **Reliable** | can be counted on to do what we say |
| **Inclusive** | embracing diversity |

By living out these values in our language, behaviour, relationships and decision making Cavan Local Authorities will create a positive ethos for our staff, our stakeholders and everyone who is a recipient of the services we provide.

**Infrastructure**

**Cavan Local Authorities**

**Interaction**

**Stewardship**

**Economy**

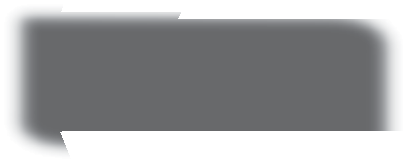
**Environment**

**Community**

##### Strengthening Cavan for whatever the future holds

**2010 2014**

**Management Team**



**Director of Service** Corporate/HR, Community and Enterprise, Cultural Affairs and Tourism

**Director of Service** Planning/Economic Development, Water Services, Waste and Environment

### Chief Executive Officer

**Director of Service** Infrastructure, Emergency Services, Fire and Housing

**Head of Finance** Finance, Information Services and Motor Taxation

Community Development, Social Inclusion, Recreation and Sports, Corporate Services, Services to Elected Members, Register of Electors, Customer Service, Training and Human Resources

Planning, Building Control, Heritage, Environmental Protection, Waste Management, Conservatory, Collection of Water Charges, Burial Grounds, and Dog Control

Road Design, Construction, Maintenance, Traffic management and Safety, Public Lighting, Energy Housing Maintenance, Construction, Social Housing Initiatives, Loans, Grants, Higher Education Grants, Rental Accommodation Scheme and Homeless/Traveller Accommodation.

Financial Management, Motor Taxation, Collection of Rates/NPPR, Housing Loans, Payment of Invoices, Payroll, Pensions and Information Technology

**Official Languages Scheme**

Under Section 11 of the Official Languages Act 2003, Cavan Local Authorities have produced a Irish Language Scheme and are committed to the ongoing implementation of this scheme.

## Corporate Affairs, Community and Enterprise, Cavan Town Council, Cultural Affairs and Tourism

### Corporate Affairs and Human Resources

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.

The ongoing moratorium on staff recruitment has resulted in staff numbers decreasing year on year. Filling of vacant posts must now receive sanction from Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. At year end 384 staff were employed by the Council. The numbers of core staff in each of the categories:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Staffing** | **Number** |
| Managerial | 4 |
| Clerical/Administrative | 172 |
| Professional/Technical | 61 |
| Outdoor | 135 |
| Contract Posts/Projects | 11 |
| Temporary/Seasonal | 1 |
| **Total** | **384** |

### 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

## Service Indicators

% of working days lost to sickness:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Certified Sick Leave** | **Uncertified Sick** |
| 2007 | 3.08% | 0.43% |
| 2008 | 3.75% | 0.39% |
| 2009 | 4.38% | 0.24% |
| 2010 | 4.19% | 0.34% |
| 2011 | 4.17% | 0.25% |
| 2012 | 3.14% | 0.39% |
| 2013 | 3.39% | 0.18% |
| 2014 | 3.01% | 0.18% |

### Register of Electors

With responsibility for the compilation of the Draft and Live Register of Electors and also for the compilation of the Supplement to the Register. The 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.

If a person changes residence, they may be included in the supplement to the Register at their new address provided they are not already registered as an elector at any other address or that they arrange for their name to be deleted from the Register at their other address. The total number of Electors in the County for the 2014/2015 Register of Electors was 55,446.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Local Electoral Area** | **Number of Electors** |
| Bailieborough-Cootehill | 19,400 |
| Ballyjamesduff | 18,881 |
| Cavan-Belturbet | 17,165 |
| **Total** | **55,446** |

### Training and Development

Our commitment to training and development of staff continued with the delivery of a broad range of training opportunities to assist staff develop, improve performance, overcome challenges and lead within the organisation.

The key drivers of training initiatives over the past 12 months included health and safety, information technology, professional and technical expertise, operational training, legislation, seminars, conferences, workshops, site visits and networking opportunities.

As part of our ongoing commitment to substantially investing in the career progression and personal development of all staff, support was provided to those wishing to pursue further education study programmes. Congratulations to all who achieved qualifications.

In November, Cavan County Council received the prestigious Engineers Ireland “CPD Accredited Employer” status for a further three year period. Training continued to be delivered to all our Elected Members.

### Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

The reinvigoration of PMDS is a key commitment by the Local Authority sector under the Public Service Agreement. The enhanced model of PMDS includes a number of key changes.

This system is the vehicle 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 Human Resources Section coordinates the

operation of Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) and is driven by the Senior Management Team.

### Freedom of Information (FOI)

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect on Tuesday, 21 April 1998. The following rights were conferred on members of the public:

* right of access to official records held by public bodies
* right to have personal information about them held by such bodies corrected or updated where necessary
* right to be given reasons for decisions taken by public bodies which affect them.

##### Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| = | Cases brought forward from 2013 | 0 |
| = | Number of applications received: | 5 |
| = | Number of applications granted: | 3 |
| = | Number of applications part granted: | 2 |
| = | Number of applications refused: | 0 |
| = | Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI: | 0 |
| = | Number live at 31 December 2014 | 0 |

**Student Grants Scheme**

A new online student grant application system was introduced for the 2012/2013 academic year. All new applications are to be made online to a single awarding authority, Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), a unit of City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee, through [**www.studentfinance.ie.**](http://www.studentfinance.ie/)

Since 2012, Cavan County Council is only responsible for processing Student Grant Renewal Applications. Only students who are currently in receipt of a student grant from this Council and are progressing to the next year of the same course can apply for a Student Grant from this Council.

The final number of Renewal Students Grants awarded by the Council last academic year 2013/2014 was 201. The number of applications received from Renewal Students for the current academic year 2014/2015 was 96. Of these:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Awarded a Grant** | **Refused** | **Cancelled/Withdrawn** | **Ongoing/Further Documentation Required** |
| 93 | 0 | 1 | 2 |

A Special Rate of Maintenance Grant is available to students who have a low household income and who meet a range of conditions. By end of December a total of 25 Top Up grants were awarded for the current academic year 2014/2015.

### Community and Enterprise

The Department of Community and Enterprise facilitates and supports economic development and social inclusion within the County. 2014 saw significant changes in terms of how Local Government, Local Enterprise Offices, other agencies and the wider community interact to prepare and implement integrated strategies and supports.

### Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

In June, a new interagency committee was formed in Cavan as part of a process of local government reform. The Local Community Development Committee, or LCDC, is a 17 member committee made up of both statutory and non statutory representatives.

It replaces the County Development Board which was in existence since the year 2000. Their main task is to develop and implement a 6 year economic and community plan for the County.

These plans will facilitate the emerging economic and local development role of Local Government. It will bring about better alignment of work of Local Development Companies and other providers of social, community and economic development, thereby achieving better returns for the communities they serve.

Public Consultations have taken place around the County and they will form the basis of the Local Economic and Community Plan which will be adopted in 2015.

### Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

Tenders were issued in October 2014 for the new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). This programme is the successor to the Local Community Development Programme which was rolled out previously by Breffni Integrated and Cavan/Monaghan Leader.

This new programme aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. A decision on the successful tender will be made early in 2015.

### Community Tourism Diaspora Project

This project is a partnership between Fáilte Ireland, Irish Public Bodies Insurance and Local Authorities; established as a follow on from the success of the Gathering for the benefit of local tourism. A total of €32,000 was allocated to 22 festivals in the County.

### Taste of Cavan

The Taste of Cavan took place in August and was officially opened by Minister Heather Humphreys. There were over 90 exhibition stands from all over the country and as far away as Cork and Belfast.There was a Craft Beer Section and lots of family entertainment.

Over 40,000 people attended the event, it was a wonderful opportunity for producers to showcase their products and gave members of the public the opportunity to taste the best produce available in the county.



Chefs Brian McDermott, Shane Smith oversee the Egg Omelette Challenge between Chef Rachel Allen and member of a udience.

### Dowra Courthouse Creative Space

Dowra Courthouse Creative Space was officially opened by our Cathaoirleach Councillor Shane P. O’Reilly . The Community and Enterprise Department managed and provided administrative and technical support on this refurbishment project which received European Union funding of €488,000.

Originally built in 1932, the Courthouse is a significant architectural structure in the village and has been rightfully restored. It now offers a workspace for the Arts and will act as a tourist information point. The building provides:

The building provides:

* six rentable spaces, a kiln room with an 8.1 cu. ft. kiln installed
* a fully fitted kitchen facility
* a lift to the rear of the building to allow for access to everyone
* an outdoor space
* an exhibition room for hosting events, meetings and classes
* Office administration and support.

The old courtroom has also been transformed into an exhibition room, an ideal location for hosting events, meetings and classes in a modern environment and is available for rent with an administration support on site. Contact [dowra@ccef.ie](mailto:dowra@ccef.ie)

### Jetty at Lough MacNean

Another project funded by Interreg through the Harnessing Natural Resources project was the provision of a new jetty at Lough MacNean, Blacklion. The project cost €68,000 and work was completed in September.

### Community Grants Scheme

This scheme aims to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects which will enhance the quality of life for local citizens. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not receive funding from other sources and is to a maximum of €1,000. Community grant funded projects enhances greater self sustainability in the local area. Grant funding of €20,000 was allocated to 45 community groups.

### Cathaoirleach’s Awards

These Awards gives due recognition to those in County Cavan who, through participating in unpaid Community and Voluntary activities, have had a significant impact on the quality of life of their communities. It is delivered by the Community and Enterprise in conjunction with the Community and Voluntary Forum. Over 230 people attended the Awards Night to celebrate with the 43 nominees . The recipients were:

* Sandra McIntyre, Templeport Foroige Youth
* Bailieborough Mental Health Association Social Inclusion
* Cavan Ladies Senior Football Team and Cavan
* Under 21 Football Team Sport (joint winners)
* Paddy McDermott, Cornafean Scor/Musical Group Community
* Carole Beattie, Cavan Alzheimers Society Active Age.

Cavan Ladies Senior Football Team took the overall winner’s prize winning €1000.



Winners of the individual categories with Chairman and Members of Cavan County Council, County Manager and staff

### Cavan Community and Voluntary Forum

The Forum represents the interests of the Community and Voluntary sector of County Cavan. They support the county’s community through networking, promotion, advice and representation and there are over 590 community groups registered with the Forum.

### Cavan Public Participation Network

Since July, the Community and Voluntary Forum has been replaced by the Cavan Public Participation Network (CPPN). A total of 36 community representatives were elected to speak and act on behalf of community in County Cavan. They will provide the public with an opportunity to have a voice in decision making processes through non-political means.

The representatives will meet with their mandating electorate twice per year to hear local issues to become more informed voices for the community and represent public views at a countywide level. The representatives are from the following sectors:

* Environment
* Social Inclusion
* Community and Voluntary
* Municipal Districts: Cavan/Belturbet, Bailieborough/Cootehill and Ballyjamesduff

The 36 representatives will engage in training to upskill community leaders to improve the effectiveness and abilities of local community capacity in County Cavan.

### Peace III

As lead partner the Council, completed the Peace III Programme in December. Since the commencement of the Programme in 2009, much has been accomplished and Cavan Peace Partnership is proud of what has been delivered. The benefit this work has brought to local communities in Cavan can be clearly seen.

The Programme was implemented by the following Partnership deliveries:

* Networking: Cavan Council Council
* Good Relations: Cavan Council Council
* Heritage: Cavan Council Council
* Youth: Cavan Council Council
* Youth Outreach: Cavan/Monaghan Education Training Board
* Mediation and Conflict Resolution: Cavan Family Resource Centre.

### Crom Cot Project

One of the projects funded by Cavan Peace III Partnership in 2014 was the Crom Cot Project. A group of men from Tar Isteach - Cavan Men’s Shed and South East Fermanagh Foundation came together to work in a neutral environment at Crom Castle to build a boat Skills were shared and learned and there was a real sense that friendships were built. It is hoped that further work will be carried out in the next round of the Peace Programme.



Crom Cot project

### Commemorating the Centenary of World War 1

There was an official Commemoration Ceremony at the Faugh a Ballagh Statue, Con Smith Park in August to remember the 652 Cavan men who died in World War 1. The Ceremony was attended by Minister Heather Humphreys, members of the Irish Defence Forces and other dignitaries and members of the public.

### Cavan World War 1 Trench Experience

The World War 1 Trench experience is the first of its kind in Ireland. It has been built to the exact specifications of the Irish Guard’s manual which they used to build trenches in the early stages of the war. The trench allows visitors to experience first hand the conditions these men fought under, particularly in Western Europe, France and Belgium. Funding for the Trench was provided by Cavan County Council and Cavan Peace III Partnership. We are awaiting Guidelines to be issued by the Special EU Programmes Body so an Action Plan to deliver the Peace IV Programme from 2015 to 2020 can be submitted for funding.

### The Bridge Street, Centre

Service users who are based in the building are Cavan Traveller Movement, Breffni Community Employment, Tearmann, Monaghan Supported Employment and the Youth Advocate Programme.

The Centre continued to develop and further establish itself as a vital resource for local community and voluntary organisations, residents associations, youth and family support groups. It offers a safe, secure and neutral environment to meet in and the Centre is now the base for a diverse and ever increasing number of service users.

### Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit continued to support various Age Friendly Initiatives some of these included:

* Cavan Town has received recognition as an Age Friendly Town. The initiative involved the production of a detailed Action Plan involving many partners all working towards the one goal of making Cavan Town a great place for older people to visit, shop or live within
* Age Friendly Town Business Recognition Scheme was coordinated with the Cavan Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Officer
* Support and coordination of the Cavan Older Persons Forum.



Cavan Chamber of Commerce Members who participated in the Age Friendly Business Scheme

Other work carried out by the unit included:

* Traveller Interagency Group coordinated the annual Traveller Pride Week within County Cavan including the Traveller Pride Awards Ceremony
* Funding was received through Peace III to co-ordinate and deliver on an Anti-Racism Seminar in June
* Support in the delivery of the Congolese Re-settlement Programme was a key area of focus
* The unit coordinated 2 internal projects: Equality Mainstreaming Project produced “Diversity in the Workplace DVD” and Literacy Friendly Audit Report and Action Plan. This plan was produced with the support of the National Adult Learning Agency.

### County Cavan Joint Policing Committee

The function of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority’s administrative area.

Following the issuing of new guidelines from the Department of Justice in October a new committee was formed and its first meeting held in December. The County JPC have agreed its immediate areas of focus will be on community policy and traffic safety measures.

### Cavan Sports Partnership

The aim of the sports partnership is to increase participation in sports and physical activity for all people in Cavan. The sports partnership currently works with over 400 clubs, groups and organisations within Cavan on current local and national training programmes and sporting events that may be of interest to them.

Funding of €104,750 was awarded to Cavan Sports Partnership from the Irish Sports Council for its operational and programme deliveries. Key initiatives where:

* Run with Catherina: 2nd year of this successful 5km Cavan Town event honouring international athlete Catherina McKiernan. Over 800 people took part on the day
* Cavan Walking Festival: expansion of festival to include over 32 walks which took place over 10 days in all areas of Cavan. Over 1,000 people took part in the walk, including visitors from other countries
* National Bike Week: over 900 children and adults took part in 8 organised activities as part of National Bike Week
* Sports Club Grant Scheme: Cavan Sports Partnership allocated €10,000 in grants to sports clubs and communities throughout the county. The grant funded both mass participation events and club development applications.
* Sports Inclusion Disability Officer (SIDO): Programmes were delivered to over 300 older adults and 200 people with a disability in 2014. These initiatives were delivered through day care services and clubs/communities.
* Games 4 All: An inclusive and practical training programme to enable clubs to become more inclusive to people with a disability was devised and launched by Cavan Sports Partnerships SIDO programme.

### Comhairle nÓg

Funding of €20,000 was received from the Department of Children and Youth to support the activities of the Comhairle na nÓg. Comhairle na nÓg held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November in the Castlesaunderson Scout Centre with 240 young people attending. This was a very lively and fun event and saw 20 new members being elected, which now brings the Comhairle na nOg membership to 35. The first edition of the Comhairle na nOg newsletter being printed and made available to all young people in County Cavan. Other activities Comhairle members participated in:

* Residential in Bundoran where they went surfing and kayaking
* Some members went on a trip to Berlin with other Comhairle members from Monaghan and Louth
* Attended the National Comhairle AGM in Croke Park

### Strategic Policy Committee

The Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) members are listed on pages 12 to 14. There were two meetings of the SPC during the year.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Service Indicators** | **2013** | **2014** |
| Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme | 65.51% | 7.62\*% |
| Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum | 592 | 597 |
| Number of Playgrounds directly provided by the Local Authority | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Playgrounds facilitated by the Local Authority | 0 | 0 |

\*There are 108 youth groups in County Cavan and 10 secondary schools, 9 of the Secondary Schools take part in Comhairle na nOg

## Cavan Town Council

### Dissolution of Cavan Town Council

Cavan Town Council was abolished after the 2014 Local Elections; Local Government Reform Programme was given legal effect under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The last meeting of Cavan Town Council was held in May.

Cavan Town Council was responsible for development and promotion of Cavan Town; protecting and developing the Town’s infrastructure, protecting and developing the social and cultural environment. Some of the highlights include:

* Official naming of the “Garden of Friendship” on Railway Road to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Town Twinning Agreement with Jaunay Clan, France in April



* Renaming of the Council Chamber after the last meeting of Town Council “Cullen Suite” in honor of the Cullen Family and their services to Cavan Town
* Commissioning of new public art sculpture to commemorate the Town Council
* Hosting the last Annual General Meeting of the Association of Town Clerk
* Cavan Town was awarded the Council of Europe Flag of Honour in March
* Mayoral Receptions for Rith 2014 and Cavan Equestrian Centre
* Cavan Town Estate Enhancement Grant and Awards 2014
* Retained Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) Cleaner than European Norms and placed 2nd in the IBAL Anti Litter League
* Successful amalgamation with Cavan County Council in June

## Cultural Affairs

### A progressive year for Cavan’s Public Library Service

The highlight for the service was the reopening of Belturbet Library in May in the refurbished Town Hall. The development is a partnership initiative between Cavan County Council and Belturbet Community Development Association. The new library and civic centre will be the fulcrum around which cultural life in Belturbet revolves. The people of Belturbet have embraced the new facilities and membership stands at almost 600 at year end. Belturbet Erne Radio broadcast from the library on the first Tuesday of each month which encourages links with the local community.



Shay McDonald, son of Justin and Marianne McDonald, was our youngest and first new member of Belturbet library with Branch Librarians Mary Prior and Jacqueline Magennis.

### Information Technology

Our continuing commitment to computerising services continued in Arva and Ballyjamesduff branch libraries. From October all members received a library card giving them full access to the online catalogue for the first time.



Arva Borrower Gavin Reilly receiving his new Library Card from Róisín Fegan, Branch Librarian.

Our digitisation programme continued with our key focus being to make our image collection available to the public for the first time. The Online Gallery was launched in November when we also took the opportunity to formally accept PJ Dunne’s generous donation of his entire post card collection to the library service. On the evening of the launch PJ and local historian Michael Swords delivered a talk around some of the collection entitled ‘An illustrated tour of County Cavan’. Johnston Library was packed for the occasion and proved to be one of the high points for the year. The presence of the Online Gallery on our library website has sparked enormous interest and has dramatically increased website traffic.

Library Reading Groups continued to flourish in Cavan town, Bailieborough and Cootehill and in April members of the groups visited Enniskillen library to hear Brian McGilloway discuss his work with readers from a number of counties as part of the ‘Dialogues through Literature’ project. Author Oona Frawley launched the 10th Summer Reading list in May in Johnston Central library and also read from her new novel ‘Flight’.

### Library Events

The decade of commemoration 1913-1923 starting with the Great War commenced in April in Bailieborough library where Philip Orr spoke on ‘Irish Voices from the Great War’ and Hugh O’Brien delivered a series of talks on the impact of the War on Cootehill in the local library.

The ‘Taste of Cavan’ two day food festival proved a major attraction for the county in August and in conjunction with this we held our commemorative Great War conference in August. Dr Brendan Scott, Dr Tim Bowman, Dr Myles Dungan, Dr Ciaran Wallace, Nicholas Perry, John O’Keeffe and Turtle Bunbury delivered entertaining and informative lectures and Sebastian Barry enthralled a packed audience with his dramatic reading from his Great War novel’ A Long Long Way’. A high point for many was the Thursday evening

performance in the Town Hall, Cavan of music and songs with the Brook Singers, Brendan McQuaile, Sadbh Fitzgerald and Jonathan Creasy.



Author Sebastian Barry during our Great War Conference in August

Our strong commitment to the Irish language continues and links with Glor Breifne and Cavan’s Primary and Secondary schools continue to grow. Weekly conversation classes are held and an Irish Language Reading group meet monthly in the Johnston library.

The Children’s Book Festival in October was bigger and better than ever with storytellers, readings by authors, national and county wide competitions, all of which spread festival fun throughout the month. The star attractions were Willie Drennan, Simone Schuemmelfeder, Sheena Wilkinson, Dolores Keaveney, Patrick Ryan, and Gerald Siggins. They met with children in Johnston Central, Bailieborough, Cootehill and for the first time in Belturbet branch.

Our monthly newsletter ‘The Bookmark’ available in print and electronic format continues to be widely used and keeps the public informed of all library events. It is important to create and encourage relationships in delivering cultural services relevant to the general public including Seachtain na Gaelige, World Book Day, Culture Night, Bealtaine, Heritage Week and Taste of Cavan.

### Local Studies

This service continues to be well used and among the items added to stock was a collection of legal material from The Hamilton estate which was purchased at auction and a copy of ‘The Genealogy of the House of O’Reilly’. This valuable book was produced from a rare manuscript purchased in Munich in 2008 and loaned to the Linenhall Library, Belfast. John Killen, Librarian in the Linenhall Library edited the manuscript which resulted in a limited run of 225 copies of the book being produced which is of national significance.

Cavan Library service worked closely with Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne and three lectures were jointly organised during the year. Professor Salvador Ryan delivered the Annual Bishop MacKiernan lecture in February on Sacred relics and their thefts, Dr Jonathan Cherry spoke on ‘The Structure, demise and legacy of Landlordism in Cavan’ in May and Professor Elizabeth Fitzpatrick delivered a lecture on the Shantemon Hill monuments in October.

### Lithuanian Educational Programme

A special event occurred in November when the Lithuanian Ambassador to Ireland Rasa Adomaitiene visited Johnston Central Library to officially open the dedicated library section for Lithuanian language books.

Pupils being taught in the Lithuanian school in Bridge Street Cavan can avail of the service. A highlight of the evening was the singing of traditional Lithuanian songs and an exhibition of dancing. A selection of Lithuanian food was provided by the Lithuanian community in Cavan which added greatly to the occasion.



The Lithuanian Ambassador to Ireland Rasa Adomaitiene, Donata Simonaitiene (Gintarelis Lithuanian School, Cavan) and Ger Finn Chief Executive during the Lithuanian Culture evening in November.

### Library Event Highlights:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Library Events Programme: Full-time Libraries** | **2013** |
| Lectures | 13 |
| Exhibitions | 19 |
| Writer and Storyteller Visits | 30 |
| Book Displays and Book Launches | 48 |
| Music, Dance, Drama, Workshops | 53 |
| Class Visits | 485 |
| Community Group Meetings and Events | 287 |
| **Meetings:** Reading Group / Irish Language/ Craft Group/  Mother and Toddler Group | 154 |
| **Events:** Cavan County Council (Other Sections) and  Outside State Agencies | 182 |
| Outreach Work | 22 |
| **Total** | **1293** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Performance Indicators** | **2012** | **2014** | **%** |
| ChangeVisitor Levels: Full Time Libraries only | - | 175,495.5\* | n/a |
| Website: Pageviews | 130,168 | 159,441 | +22% |
| Website: Visits | 49,426 | 62,307 | +26% |
| Actual Opening Hours | 9,470.40 | 9,732.20 | +2% |
| Membership | 11,234 | 10,616 | -5.5% |
| Internet Public Access | 30,980.50 | 33,967.00 | +9.6% |
| Average Opening Hours:Full Time Libraries | 40.51 | 40.92 | +1% |
| Average Opening Hours:Part Time Libraries | 10.10 | 10.73 | +6.2% |
| Stock Borrowed | 169,465 | 162,212 | -4.3% |

\*From 1 January 2014, the figures reported on Visitor Levels are “actual readings”. Previous reports included estimated levels.

### Cavan County Museum

2014 has seen major developments at the County Museum which have added significantly to the cultural and heritage experience of visitors to the museum and County Cavan. In the early part of the year the opening of The Clogh Oughter Castle exhibition for the first time allowed visitors a unique insight into this major piece of Cavan’s heritage.

The Clogh Oughter Castle exhibition gives a stunning insight into one of Cavan’s finest example of Medieval architecture. The exhibition, which occupies the entire top floor of the museum, is the first time that the numerous artefact found at the castle have been on public display. It tells some of the story of the plantation of County Cavan and the lives of major figures; Hugh de Lacy, Bishop William Bedell, Oliver Cromwell and Owen Roe O’Neill. There is also an interactive element in the form of recreated voices from texts of the time and a 5 metre high recreation of the castle itself.



In August the opening of the 350 metre long Trench Experience and accompanying World War 1 (WWI) exhibition raised the profile of the county nationally and attracted significant numbers of visitors from across the Island and beyond.

Since September, the Trench Education Programme has worked with dozens of local primary schools as well as primary schools from; Roscommon, Monaghan, Dublin, Meath, Leitrim and Longford. The education programme has seen a marked increase in the number of secondary schools travelling to Cavan with schools coming from as far away as Castlebar, Drogheda and Coolmine. The Trench has attracted a school from Paris that were spending five days in Dublin.

The Trench Experience has added to the outreach of the Museum in terms of the loaning of the WWI exhibition and talks to schools generating thousands of outreach interactions with the Museum and the county.

In terms of adult groups the Trench has attracted groups from across the island. There has been marked increase in visitors from Northern Ireland with groups like the Friends of the Somme, The Shankhill Area Social History (Group) and The Somme Association all taking part in the education programme.



Alongside these two major developments the Museum continued to host its long running and highly successful lecture series as well as a number of other Art Exhibitions in its Eden Gallery.

The year ended with an event to commemorate the centenary of the Christmas Truce of 1914. The nighttime event included a lecture on the Truce as well as a recital by the Crosserlough Choral Society, and a reenactment of the truce in the trench. The event rounded of the year with one of the largest ever attendances at the museum.

### Arts Office

1. 41 Arts and Professional Development Awards were made in 2014. The monentary awards ranged from €200 to €1,500 and were funded by Cavan County Council. Organisations that were supported included Cavan Singers, Café Sessions, Ciaran O’Neill, musician, Drumlin House and At the Edge, Kate Ennals.
2. Sally O’ Dowd received the Tyrone Guthrie Award

### Ark 1x1

This project was initiated by The Ark, The National Cultural Children’s Centre in Dublin toured to 12 national schools in County Cavan over the academic year 2013/2014.

Eimear Crowe was the artist facilitator on this project and 12 artist visits took place. In total 824 boys and 1088 girls participated. The project culminated with an exhibition of both artists and participating children’s work at Johnston Central Library.

### Culture Night

Cavan Culture Night was attended by 1,515 people and 21 venues participated. Among the highlights was;

* performance by Ballyhaise songstress Lisa O’Neill at Cavan County Museum
* NYAH musicians at Wesleyan Chapel Arts and Cultural Centre Bailieborough
* 61 College Street with trans art and Gonzo celebrated the life of Dermot Healy who passed away in 2014. Friends and fellow artists remembered Dermot’s contribution to the arts in Cavan and nationally, the event was attended by members of Dermot’s family.

Minster Heather Humphreys visited a number of the events. A grant of €6,500 was received from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the remainder of the funding for this event was provided by Cavan County Council with support from communities and artists.

### Bealtaine

29 events took place at 17 venues in County Cavan during the month of May as part of the celebration of creativity in older people. This event was organised by Cavan County Council Social Inclusion Unit and the Cultural Sector.

### Response to Beauty

Project curated by Heather Brett involved 26 artists and a series of professionals in the field of archaeology, architecture and geology. Artists from a range of disciplines took part in this project over six months with talks, presentations and site visits to the Cavan Burren which was the inspiration for the project. An exhibition of work created as a result of the project was exhibited in Cavan, seven schools visited and received artist talks. This was a joint initiative from the arts and heritage offices and was funded by their budgets.

### Developing Creative Practice Across Borders

33 artists took part in placements at six host partners as part of this project to develop arts practice by participating in a European experience. The host partners were: Feile an Phobáil, Belfast, Trykimuuseum, Tartu, MokS, Estonia, Tartu Centre for Creative Practice, Arvon, UK and Coatbridge College, Scotland. The artists spent two weeks immersed in their own practice at the host organisation and they found this a rewarding experience. This project was funded by a grant of €84,000 from Léargas through the Leonardo da Vinci People in the Labour Market Strand.

### Cavan Theatre Festival

The inaugural Cavan Theatre Festival was an outstanding success and a small hard working committee included Kieron Smith, Director, Karina Charles, Noelle Slacke, Aaron Monaghan, Marian Smith and Catriona O’Reilly. It received funding from Cavan County Council, Community and Enterprise and the Peace lll project.



Kim Mc Cafferty and Ray Fitzsimons rehearsing Frank Pig Says Hello by Pat Mc Cabe, directed by Kieron Smith.

### Cavan County Choir

Séan Doherty, composer was commissioned to produce a new piece of choral music for the Choir with poetry from Heather Brett and the piece was entitled “Testament”. This was performed at the Burren Solstice Event at Cavan Burren Park in June. The 33 members in the Choir were directed by Blanaid Murphy.



Cavan County Choir at Cavan Burren Park Solstice Event.

### Building Peace through the Arts

This project a joint initiative of Cavan County Council arts and social inclusion office was funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Building Peace through the Arts projects were established in Redhills, Bailieborough, Ballyconnell and Cootehill. Each individual committee worked with an artist to engage in the themes of the project and use the arts as a means to building strong resilient communities. In total four artists were employed in stage 1, 35 workshops took place, 418 people were consulted with and 26 people attended the Public Art Viewing Day in Belfast. A grant of €16,000 was received for this project.

### Public Art

Following on from an open competition in 2013, Cavan artist Yvonne Cullivan was selected to produce the public art commission as a result of the Belturbet By-Pass. In the current a series of eight short films documenting an artistic response to the history and environs of Belturbet was launch at Belturbet Library and Civic Space. The films are available on APP format and are accompanied by a long poem by Tom Conaty inspired by the artistic process.

### The Arts Council

The Arts Council provided funding of €45,400 to Cavan County Council to support the 2014 arts development programme.

Nine e-bulletins were issued and we have 894 subscribers on our database. 43,298 page views on [**www.cavanarts.ie**](http://www.cavanarts.ie/) with 68% new sessions. On the busiest individual day we had 186 people on the website.

### Awards

Cavan County Council arts office was the overall winner of Providing Services to the Arts 2014, from the Public Sector Magazine.



Cavan Arts office was the overall winner of Providing Services to the Arts

### Ramor Theatre

A great start to the year with the annual Panto “Jack and the Beanstalk” presented by Ramor Young Players.



Two Brothers Vladimir in Concert.

This was followed by an in house production by the theatre of “A Night in November” by Marie Jones featuring Padraic McIntyre in the lead role which went onto tour to a number of venues around the country to great reviews and acclaim.



Padraic McIntyre in A Night in November by Marie Jones.

The story of the Fire in the Cavan Orphanage of 1943 featured in a Ramor Players production of “The Stolen Child” which was staged in May. This is a very powerful and moving story based around a mother and her daughter as they struggle to find each other. Much the same sentiment which featured in the film “Philomena” which was shown in April and had two sell out nights. The ever popular Gay Byrne also sold out his show on his nationwide tour in May and again was a great hit with audiences.

Local drama groups presented a number of comedies including “Easy Money” and “Lend me a Tenor”.

Music events during the year included Johnny McEvoy, Don Baker, Cavan Big Band, Sean Keane and Robert Mizell, but no doubt the musical highlight was Vladimir in concert in our Autumn programme. A programme that also included Dig by Seamus O’Rourke, Sloane by London Classic, Defender of the Faith by Decadent Theatre and the ever popular The Night Joe Dolan’s Car Broke Down on its final leg In November which sold out for four nights.

The Film Club and Book Club continue to grow and go from strength to strength and Culture Night in September has become an annual event where the community comes together. To celebrate and enjoy all art forms and admission is free. It is part of a National night of arts celebration.

The theatre also sees its role in the community of vital importance and was delighted to host and assist Virginia College in staging its musical Back to the 80’s.

The year was brought to a close by a lovely Christmas programme that included Liam Lawton, Abba Tribute, The Far Off Hills and Crooning at Christmas. The programme also had the delightful children’s show Cuckoo Connollys Curious Clock Shop which went down a treat.

### Tourism

2014 was a good year for tourism in Cavan showing an increase in visitor numbers, particularly for the hotel sector. The most important source markets for County Cavan accommodation providers are from the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The prevalence of the brand This is Cavan! was increased and received much positive feedback. Events such as the Taste of Cavan and the Cavan Walking Festival contributed to the overall positioning of County Cavan as an up and coming destination.

### Angling

Twelve angling festivals took place in County Cavan attracting large numbers of anglers into the county. Cavan Angling Working (CAW) Group (established in 2013) met quarterly throughout 2014 and began to implement a working plan which included prioritisation of angling projects, further promotion of angling in the county and attendance at angling and tourism shows to promote angling in County Cavan.

Members of the CAW are: Eamonn Gray, Breffni Arms Hotel, Arvagh; Kieran McCormack, Angling Guide; Fergus Smith, Ballinagh; Maura Hughes, Church View B&B, Belturbet; CJ Fay, Cootehill; Ted Sweeney, Inland Fisheries Ireland; Dermot Broghan, Inland Fisheries Ireland; Joanne Hayes, Cavan Tourism Officer.

In addition the tourism officer was successful in securing €4000 in funding from Failte Ireland to promote angling in the County and to support angling festivals in the county.

### Cavan Walking Festival

Cavan Tourism continued to play an important role in the Cavan Walking Festival which took place in May. Drawing down extra funding and PR via the Harnessing Natural Resources (HNR) which resulted in the attendance of a travel writer (Eoghan Corry, Travel Extra) and journalist (Barry Egan, Sunday Independent) attending the festival and reporting on it afterwards.

### Taste of Cavan

Cavan Tourism continued to play a role in the promotion of the Taste of Cavan Food Festival drawing down €4000 in marketing supports from Failte Ireland and assisting in the promotion of the event on and off line. In addition, This is Cavan! was represented at the event and distributed information on visiting the County at the festival.

### Tourism Trade

Based on a survey undertaken of the Tourism trade in the County, 60% of the trade reported occupancy rates of over 40%. Angling was still the most important market for the tourism trade in Cavan with the domestic market, Northern Ireland, Great Britain, France and Germany (in that order) the most important source markets. Finally 46% of respondents said that 2014 was ‘better’ than 2013 with 44% reporting that it was ‘the same’ as 2013.

Cavan Tourism hosted a networking event for the trade in April in the Cavan Crystal Hotel. 50 members of the trade attended and the purpose of the event was to increase knowledge of tourism product throughout the county and to create linkages and partnerships within the trade. The event was very successful in this regard.



Cavan Tourism trade doing business at the Trade Networking Event

### Promotion of This is Cavan!

This is Cavan! brand continues to go from strength to strength and was represented at variety of trade and consumer shows including the Taste of Cavan, The Virginia Show, The Tullamore Show, the National Ploughing Championships, Meitheal (Meet the Buyer) Tour Operator show and The World Travel Market.

The brand is present online on three platforms: Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest as well as the website [**www.thisiscavan.ie.**](http://www.thisiscavan.ie/) Facebook ‘fans’ increased from 2000 to 5999. The website attracts 10,000 unique hits per month and 3,500 people are signed up to receive This is Cavan! newsletters which are circulated three times per year. Advertising for County Cavan took place in Angling Times (UK), across all the regional papers for the Cavan Walking Festival and Taste of Cavan, in Waterways Ireland and Failte Ireland publications throughout the year.

### Brochures

Brochures produced by This is Cavan! and widely distributed included This is Cavan! tourism guide; This is Cavan! leaflet; tourism map; Cavan Burren Park leaflet.

### Cavan Burren Park

Cavan Tourism was very involved in the completion of the Cavan Burren Park project, obtaining funding to develop an App for visitors, holding a branding workshop to agree marketing messages, producing brochures, posters and online material. A event to celebrate the opening of the Park was held on June in Cavan Burren which saw 1000 attend a day’s music, walks and activities in Cavan Burren. Cavan Burren was officially opened by Phil Hogan T.D. in June.

Leo Varadkar T.D. Minister for Tourism visited Cavan Burren Park in May as part of a visit to Lough Erne resort in County Fermanagh for the launch of a publication produced by the Border Regional Authority.



Minister for Tourism T.D. Minister for Tourism with local man Jim Nolan at Cavan Burren Park

30 members of Cavan Tourism Trade visited Cavan Burren Park on a familiarisation trip in June.

The tourism officer continued to support Cavan Access Association in their efforts to make Cavan more accessible for visitors with disabilities. For its part, Cavan County Council continued to support accessibility by investing in DisabledGo - an online access audit for the county whereby information on over 500 public spaces throughout the county is available [**www.disabledgo.com.**](http://www.disabledgo.com/) DisabledGo visited County Cavan in October and audited new buildings including the World War 1 Trench Experience at Cavan County Museum, Cavan Burren Park, Belturbet Library and Cavan Burren Park.

A new ‘Accessible Tourism Guide to County Cavan was produced which includes design of new map of accessible tourism attractions in the county. Cavan County Council was also the recipient of a World Responsible Tourism Award at the World Travel Market in London, October for works undertaken in making Cavan accessible.



Joanne Hayes receiving the World Responsible Tourism award in London on behalf of Cavan County Council.

### European Destination of Excellence (EDEN)

Cavan continues to be a member of the EDEN (European Destination of Excellence) network in partnership with four other Irish destinations and several European destinations. A meeting of the Eden network is held in Brussels annually, which the tourism officer attended in October. Cavan became a member of EDEN upon winning the EDEN in 2013.



# Infrastructure, Housing Accommodation, Emergency Services and Fire

### Roads Infrastructure

Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of all National, Regional and Local roads within the County.

The National Roads Authority (NRA) provides funding for National Roads. The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) provides funding for the Regional and Local Road Network. Technical and administrative backup for this funding is by the NRA. Cavan County Council provides a substantial annual allocation from own resources towards the upkeep of the Local and Regional Road Network. Funding for road improvement works comes mainly from Central Government through a number of agencies.

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 of 779 road bridges (span greater than 2 metres) in the county.

Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.380m from its own resources to be specifically used for Non National Road Maintenance. The principle maintenance operations include drainage and surface repair work. In total, Cavan County Council is responsible for the maintenance of almost 3,000km (1,880 miles) of public road annually.

### Annual Road Works Programme

The total budget on road improvement and maintenance was €15.5 million, broken down as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| National Primary Roads | € 3,522,594 |
| Regional, Local and Urban Roads | € 8,975,850 |
| National Secondary Roads | € 784,294 |
| Council Own Resources | € 2,170,000 |
| **Total** | **€ 15,452,738** |

### Local Contributions

The Council provided €2.17 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 road network.



### Winter Maintenance

€250,000 was allocated to Winter Maintenance on Local and Regional Roads in the County.

### Implementation of Regulatory Responsibilities

Parking Bye-Laws are in force in Bailieborough, Ballyconnell, Belturbet, Cootehill and Virginia. With the exception of those for Ballyconnell the Bye-Laws set time limits for parking in the commercial centre of each town in order to facilitate commercial activity.

### Roads Projects

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.

### N3 Butlersbridge to Belturbet Improvement scheme

This scheme was substantially completed in 2013. Works are still on-going in relation to accommodation works for landowners. The repair of the existing road network damaged during construction works has been completed. In addition, the existing approaches into

Staghall Roundabout were re-surfaced at the end of last year. The scheme had a total expenditure of €1.234m.



Extrados Bridge

### Pavement Overlay Schemes

Two major pavement overlay schemes were funded, the N3 and N16. N3 Belturbet to Aghalane Scheme was 2,550 metres in length and the Correvan to Kiltomulty Scheme was 3,200 in length. The works consisted of the repair of failed areas of existing carriageway where necessary, strengthening and overlay works and associated traffic signs and road markings for a design life of 20 years. The total cost of these two projects was

€1,487,787.

Funding in the amount of €221,679 was received under the National Roads Authority's "Pavement Minor Improvement" schemes for works on the National Road Approaches (N3 and N87) to Staghall Roundabout, Belturbet. This included resurfacing of a 260m stretch of the N87 immediately west of Staghall Roundabout.

### National Secondary

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.

### N55 Dundavan Mullaghoran Realignment

This scheme was substantially completed last year. Works are still on-going in relation to minor accommodation works for landowners and some additional road safety improvement works. The scheme had a total expenditure of €88,898 during 2014.



Official Opening of The N55 Dundevan Mullahoran Realignment

### N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon

Route Selection and Part 8 Planning was completed on Phase 1 (Garrymore to Potahee) and Phase 2 (Corduff to Ballytrust) and a submission was made to the NRA seeking approval to proceed to Compulsory Purchase Order on these Phases. During the year the scheme had a total expenditure of €27,100.

### Smarter Travel: Active Travel Towns 2014-2016

€500,000 in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) funding was granted for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure improvements in Cavan Town. Planning and Design work has commenced on this project with construction due to begin in 2015 with the Cootehill Road being the main focus.

### Bridges

Surveys of 164 Regional and Local Road Bridges were completed in 2013/2014. Category 4 and 5 bridges requiring urgent works have been prioritised to date. Works completed this year:

* Sallaghan Bridge remediation works
* Corroneary Bridge reconstruction and the road is re-opened
* Drumcannon Bridge remediation works
* Laurel Hill Bridge and River Wall remediation works
* Shantully Bridge remediation works
* Creighan Bridge remediation works
* Re-construction of the L6097 Killytee Bridge

153 out of the 164 bridges surveyed to date still require remedial works estimated to cost in the region of €1.85 million. There are approximately 600 local road bridges yet to be surveyed.

### Regional and Local Roads

A significant part of the regional road network has been restored under the 10 year road restoration programme. These improvement works have generally consisted of a macadam overlay followed by surface dressing. The delineation and lining of the roads has also been prioritised.

Regional and Local Road allocation was €8,975,850. With this level of funding the Council’s Roads Department achieved a high level of Maintenance and Improvement.

€100,000 was allocated for a Strategic Non-National Road Scheme (schemes that facilitate the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy) by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to complete the preliminary design phase of the Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme.



Cavan Town Eastern Access Road

€4,399,955 was allocated for Maintenance Works. €1,648,150 was used for surface dressing.€3,378,000 was allocated for improvement works. The Restoration Improvement Grant was used to prioritise works to maintain the network in a reasonable condition.

€260,000 was allocated for Specific Improvement Grants which are for individual road or bridge improvement projects which are important for employment and economic activity.

€100,000 was allocated for a Strategic Non-National Road Scheme (schemes that facilitate the implementation of the National Spatial Strategy). €100,000 was received from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport to progress the preliminary design phase of the Cavan to Dundalk Strategic Route Improvement Scheme.

### Road Safety

There continues to be an increased focus on safety for road users and pedestrians. Locations that have been identified as particular accident black spots are addressed through Low-Cost Safety Schemes.

We aim to reduce road collisions based on Education, Enforcement measures and Engineering. These are carried out in line with the National Road Safety Authority (NRA) Strategy.



1. **Education:** Road Safety Officer Promotes Road Safety to the General Public, as well as providing Road Safety Awareness in Schools
2. **Enforcement:** Collision Prevention Programme: Road Engineers work alongside the Gardai. Traffic Bye-Laws are enforced by our Traffic Wardens.
3. **Engineering:** (Our Road Engineering team design Low Cost Safety Schemes and Traffic Calming Measures)

**National Road HD 15 High Collision Location Remedial Schemes** Funding of €140,500 was received from the NRA for schemes at the N55 Garrymore Bend, N55 Lacken Bend and N87 Cranaghan Bends. Design and land acquisition was progressed for the N3 Virginia Main Street Scheme. In addition, remedial work to some existing road safety barriers at various locations along the national road network was completed to the value of €32,915.

### Regional and Local Road Low Cost Safety Schemes

Funding of €198,300 was received from for five Low Cost Safety Schemes; R165 Stradone Village, R165 Lavey Kingscourt, R188 Cavan Cootehill, R194 Virginia Finea and R205 Ballyconnell Ballinamore.

### Implementation of Regulatory Responsibilities

Parking Bye-Laws are in force in Bailieborough, Ballyconnell, Belturbet, Cootehill and Virginia. With the exception of those for Ballyconnell the Bye-Laws set time limits for parking in the commercial centre of each town in order to facilitate commercial activity.

Temporary Speed Limits are put in place at various locations to accommodate the roadworks programme. This is to ensure road safety for the duration of the works.

### Partnership with the Community

The Roads and Transport Department continues to focus on Community Involvement in the improvement of non-national roads (Local and Regional Roads) and private laneways.

### Community Involvement Schemes

Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) allows for the carrying out of works on local public roads in the county. The scheme requires local communities to contribute 20% of the cost of the strengthening and repair works of a road, which would otherwise be unlikely to be refurbished in the foreseeable future. All works will be carried out by Cavan County Council. 37 schemes were completed at a total cost of €996,000, made up of a grant of

€797,000, with the remaining 20% €199,000 provided by the local community.

### Local Improvement Schemes

€260,000 from the Local Authorities Discretionary Maintenance grant was set aside for Local Improvement Schemes in 2014, resulting in 4 schemes being completed in that period.

### Performance Indicators

The maximum use of resources is of major importance to the Road and Transportation Department. Objective assessment of trends can be made through the use of Service Indicators. The Service Indicators for Non National Roads for 2013 are detailed below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum** | **km** |
| **Local Roads** | 217.80 |
| **Regional Roads** | 39.77 |
| **Total** | 257.58 |
| **Number of kilometres (km) of local and regional roads constructed under the Specific Improvement**  **Grants Scheme per ann** |  |
| **Local Roads (km) \*** | 0.00 |
| **Regional Roads (km)\*\*** | 2.42 |
| **Total (km)** | 2.42 |

Note: \*No funding was allocated to local roads.

\*\* Works under this scheme consisted of design works and land acquisition.

### Strategic Policy Committees

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on pages 12 - 14. Three meetings took place, the following topics were discussed:

1. Road works Programme
2. Severe Weather
3. Funding
4. Household Charge
5. Commercial Vehicle Roadworthiness Reform
6. Road Safety
7. Public Lighting
8. Parking Bye-Laws
9. Speed limits
10. Tourism Infrastructure
11. Hedge Cutting
12. Community Involvement Schemes and Local Improvement Schemes.

### Housing

The policy of the Housing Department is to ensure that every household can obtain an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment, at a price or rent it can afford.

* Provides Housing for those with a long term housing need
* Manages and maintains Housing provided by the Council and encourages tenant involvement
* Helps persons to secure their own housing through the provision of loans
* Provides housing for Travellers
* Processes applications for Grants for Housing Aid for Older People and those with a Disability
* Meets the long term accommodation needs of long term rent supplement recipients through the Rental Accommodation Scheme

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** |
| Number of House Lettings | 142 | 115 | 160 |
| Number of Extensions Completed | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Number completed under Scheme of Improvements | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Sales completed | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Number of Applications to purchase dwellings under  Tenant Purchase Scheme | 22 | 1 | 1 |

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on pages 20 to 22. Two meetings took place in 2014.

### Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Under Section 21 and 22 of the 1998 Act, Cavan County Council established the Cavan Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee to facilitate consultation between the Housing Authorities and Travellers and to advise on all aspects of accommodation for Travellers.

A new Traveller Consultative Committee was formed after the Local Elections in May. Two meetings were held the following topics were discussed:

* Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018
* Housing Allocation Scheme
* Guidelines for Operation of Local Traveller Accommodation Committee
* Traveller Problems accessing private rented accommodation
* Erection of barriers at Traveller estates at Townparks, Cavan.

### Membership of the committee:

**Elected Members:** Councillor (Cllr) Eugene Greenan (Chairperson), Cllr Damien Brady, Cllr John Paul Feeley and Cllr Paddy Smith.

**Traveller Representatives:** Teresa Mongan, Thomas Maughan, Bernard Joyce , Michael McDonagh and Mary Stokes.

**Council Officials:** Joe McLoughlin, Director of Service, Philip Coleman, Senior Engineer Orla Brady Administrative Officer, and Emer Coveney, Community and Enterprise.

### Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

Consultations took place with various agencies, Cavan Traveller Movement and traveller representatives regarding the preparation of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018. The draft programme was discussed at meetings of the Local Traveller Accommodation Committee and the Traveller Interagency Group.The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 was adopted at the County Council meeting held in April.

### Housing Grants

* Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme: this assists with the provision/adaptation of accommodation to meet the needs of people with a disability
* Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme: assists with adaptations to address mobility problems primarily associated with ageing
* Housing Aid for Older People Scheme: provides targeted support to improve conditions in the existing housing of older people.

Expenditure was €1,304,688:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grant** | **Number** | **Amount** |
| Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability | 34 | € 454,994 |
| Housing Aid for Older People Scheme | 80 | € 610,335 |
| Mobility Aids Grant Scheme | 47 | € 239,359 |

### Housing Estate Management

The Housing Department works in partnership with its tenants, through its Housing Liaison Officer (HLO). Residents of local authority estates are encouraged to play an active role in community life, by working together with neighbours, by joining their residents association.

There are now 105 formally registered active estate groups in Cavan County Council estates. They work in partnership with the council, in order to care for and maintain public spaces and they work as volunteers to improve the appearance of their locality.

We provide grant support to all of these residents’ groups and invites them to enter an annual Estate Awards Competition.



Doonbeg, Ballyconnell

An Awards Night for residents groups was held in December and the Cathaoirleach Shane

P. O’Reilly, made presentations to prize winners. A number of Estate Groups also presented poster displays. This was in order to show the improvement works they had carried out during the year and to demonstrate how their work had included youth and neighbours.

The prize categories were: Best Estate, Best Individual House and Garden, Best Youth Group and Best Special Feature.

##### Housing Estate Awards:

**Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Prize Winners Best Estate Category A**

* 1st Prize Sean Lee Drive, Belturbet
* 2nd Prize Doonbeg, Ballyconnell

##### Best Estate Category B

* 1st Prize Cloneary, Templeport
* 2nd Prize Portaliffe, Killeshandra

##### Best Estate Special Feature

* Winner: Cloneary ‘Lake View’

##### Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Prize Winners: Best Estate Category A

* 1st Prize Dromore, Cootehill
* 2nd Prize Twin Oaks, Bailieborough

##### Best Estate Category B

* 1st Prize: Bothar an Portaigh, Ballyhaise
* 2nd Prize: Fairymount, Kingscourt

##### Best Estate Special Feature

* Winner: Drumnaveil, Cootehill ‘Drumlin View’

##### Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Prize Winners Best Estate Category A



* 1st Prize: Kilmore, Ballyjamesduff
* 2nd Prize: Rathdrum, Virginia

##### Best Estate Category B

* 1st Prize: Corstruce, Ballinagh
* 2nd Prize: Marian Row, Ballinagh

##### Best Estate Special Feature

* Winner: Ardkill, Ballinagh ‘Entrance Railings’

Kilmore Estate

### Overall Winners

**Best Individual House and Garden Winner:** Michael and Pauline McDonagh, Doonbeg, Ballyconnell

**Best Youth Group Winner:** Rathdrum, Virginia ‘Ghost Tepee’ photo 2 annual report.png

### Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

RAS provides housing for long-term rent supplement recipients (18 months plus) through the sourcing by the housing authority of accommodation from the private rented market or through other social housing measures.

The council leases the property directly from the landlord and the tenants pay their rent contribution to the Council. The scheme makes provision for the recoupment of the Rent Supplement from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government. By year end there were 53 RAS tenants accommodated in voluntary housing and 471 in private rented accommodation.

### Social Leasing Initiatives

This initiative represents an expansion of the options available to Local Authorities for the delivery of social housing. Properties are leased from the private sector and used to accommodate households from Local Authority waiting lists. Leased properties are allocated to tenants in accordance with the Local Authorities allocations schemes. In addition to the RAS this initiative facilitates the housing options for Local Authority applicants. By the year end there were 12 Lease tenants accommodated in private rented accommodation.

### Housing Construction

The Capital Allocation for Housing Construction was €2,415,397. Allocated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| (i) | Housing Construction/Acquisition Programme | €1,334,962 | |
| (ii) | Voluntary Capital Loan Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) and |
|  | Capital Assistance Scheme (CAS) | € | 97,500 |
| (iii) | Energy Retrofit Programme | € | 850,318 |
| (iv) | Voids Programme | € | 349,000 |
| (v) | Disabled Persons Grants/Extensions | € | 152,122 |

##### Total €2,415,397

**Social Housing**

The following works were carried out under the Social Housing Improvement Programme:

* Construction of 5 units at Derrylurgan, Ballyjamesduff
* 9 units were purchased at various locations
* Tenders received for 6 units at Mullagh

### Energy Retrofit Programme

The energy upgrade works were completed on 534 units at various locations throughout the county under this scheme. The scheme included for the following works:

* Attic and Wall Insulation
* Draught Proofing
* Building Energy Rating Certification

### Voids

Works have been completed on 17 units under the Voids Programme.

### Voluntary Housing

Under the Voluntary Housing Programme 2 units were purchased at Castlemanor, Cavan by Tuath Housing Association. This brings to 19 the total number of units purchased at Castlemanor under this scheme.

**Fire Service**

Cavan County Council currently employs 80 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County. Three Firefighters retired from the Fire Service and no new personnel were recruited. The Council is striving towards bringing the full compliment to 94 and have advertised all vacancies in the 10 stations with the intention of filling them in early 2015.

The Fire Service had 486 responses to 416 incidents and attended one Fatality as a result of fire and one fatality as a result of a road traffic collision. The average time taken to mobilise the fire brigades in the County was 5.17 minutes to fires and 6.25 minutes to other type incidents. The fire service received €138,531 in fire service fees.



Road Traffic Management Training

### Capital Programme

No allocation was made by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government for Fire Appliances or Fire Stations from the Capital Programme. Sites are available to accommodate new stations in Ballyjamesduff and Virginia with approval in principal from the Department. Contract documents for Virginia new Fire Station are with the Department awaiting approval to go to tender. Discussions have also taken place with the Department regarding Ballyjamesduff Fire Station and agreement was reached on the same plans being used for both stations with minor alterations for site layout.

### Fire Service Call Outs

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Type of Call** | **Number Calls** | | | | | |
| **Callouts** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** |
| Chimney fires in Houses | 54 | 61 | 51 | 49 | 64 | 40 |
| Other Domestic Bldg Fires | 54 | 43 | 25 | 37 | 36 | 40 |
| Other fires | 63 | 61 | 43 | 24 | 37 | 35 |
| Bog/Forest Fires | 21 | 112 | 63 | 16 | 38 | 12 |
| Motor Vehicle Fires | 42 | 34 | 28 | 18 | 23 | 25 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | 88 | 85 | 62 | 57 | 55 | 82 |
| Flooding | 22 | 20 | 22 | 15 | 8 | 15 |
| Chemical Incidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Services | 181 | 154 | 199 | 191 | 194 | 147 |
| False Alarm (Good Intent) | 78 | 59 | 33 | 33 | 20 | 19 |
| False Alarm (Malicious) | 11 | 9 | 3 | 16 | 4 | 1 |
| Total Calls | 614 | 638 | 529 | 456 | 479 | 416 |

**Major Emergency Planning**

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Coordination Centre in the event of a major emergency in the county. The communications equipment was tested and the centre was used for Regional Major Emergency Steering Group and Working Group meetings during the year.

### National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management

In 2009 the National Directorate began development of national Standard Operational Guidance (SOG) documents. It is proposed to develop SOGs for over 50 incident types. These SOGs have to be customised and adopted to reflect local operational needs. To date 47 SOGs were issued nationally, all of which have been completed by Cavan County Fire Service. The National Directorate intend to develop and issue the remaining SOGs in 2015.

National Directorate published the “Keeping Communities Safe” which outlines the Directorate’s mandate to develop consistent, quality and value for money fire services and will deliver a number of key actions set out in the National Development Framework 2010- 2015. Keeping Communities Safe outlines key issues including reform of structures, the role of fire services in society, setting strategies and standards for effectiveness and quality assurance processes. It sets out the approach, standards and expectations for fire service delivery by local authorities and it will set challenging outcome targets to be achieved by the end of the implementation period in December 2015.

### Training

Training courses were provided in compartment fire behaviour, advanced driving, first aid (CPR), emergency traffic management, breathing apparatus refresher, manual handling, road traffic collision, brigade instructions, safety at work, chainsaws, working at heights, breathing apparatus maintenance, CISM peer support, CISM pre-incident awareness and compressed air foam system instructor.

Each brigade also trained for three nights every month for 2.25 hours duration. Some junior officers attended National Directorate Unit 1, Unit 2, Instructor and Hazardous Materials Courses and the Senior Officers attended National Directorate engineering and operational courses. Health and Safety and the introduction of Standard Operational Guidance has put a greater demand on the Fire Service to provide resources for equipment, further training and familiarisation for Firefighters.



Working at Heights Training

### Fire Prevention

Hotels, public houses, restaurants, community halls, clubs and petrol stations were inspected 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.

Fire prevention campaigns were carried out to improve fire safety throughout the County as the education of the public in fire prevention is essential for their safety. The fire service endeavours to visit third class in every primary school in the county each year. Almost 80 schools were visited and safety packs were given out to every student in the classes visited on the day.

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 55 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received with fees of €65,900.

### Health and Safety

The fire service took the decision, to implement an OHSAS 18001 occupational health and safety management system and commenced work on a new Safety Manual to replace the existing health and safety statement and new policies and risk assessments.

### Cavan County Civil Defence

The Local Authority is responsible for delivering Civil Defence services at a local level through the Civil Defence Officer and the Assistant Civil Defence Officer. The Department of Defence contributes 70% of approved non-capital expenditure and the Local Authority funds the remaining 30%. Civil Defence is a volunteer based organisation that supports the front line emergency services and assists the local communities. Members join a national Civil Defence organisation but they serve in their local community.

Civil Defence had another busy year with over 130 events covered. Some of the events covered included all types of community events, Slane Concert , Giro d’Italia, Taste of Cavan, the Fleadh Cheoil in Sligo, and the NFL, Championship qualifiers and County finals in Breffini Park.

The Civil Defence Instructors provided the Cardiac First Response training for the Firefighters and also ran 12 casualty classes, an Auxiliary Fire Service class and a Boat class every week during the year except for the Summer period for its Volunteers. They also attended one search, provided casualties for the Dublin Airport Authority major exercise at Fairyhouse, held a large exercise at Killykeen to test all its services and a training day at its headquarters in Rathcorrick in Cavan.



Killykeen exercise

In November, Paul Kehoe T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Defence presented new long service medals to 13 Civil Defence Volunteers in recognition of 30, 40 and 50 years service.



# Planning/Economic Development, Water Services, Waste and Environment

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 covers four main areas:

* Forward Planning
* Development Management
* Heritage
* Development Compliance/Enforcement and Building Control

**Forward Planning:** The Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 was adopted at a County Council meeting held on Monday, 12 May and came into effect 4 weeks later on Monday, 9 June 2014. The Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 was adopted at a meeting of the, now disbanded, Cavan Town Council held on Monday, 21 May and came into effect 4 weeks later.

Over the following six years the policies and objectives of these plans will be implemented by the Forward Planning Section. This will include, but is not limited to:

* the preparation of a Retail Strategy
* a Flood Risk Assessment
* a Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) and programmes will monitor and assess the operation of the Core Strategy of the Development Plan and Rural Housing Policies.

**Planning Applications:** 351 planning applications were received in 2014; an increase of 25% on the previous year. The majority of applications related to smaller developments such as: single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There were a number of applications for the upgrading and extending to existing commercial; light industrial and retail developments within the County. There were 99 planning applications processed for Extension of Duration of Time with additional 81 new applications received.

**Derelict Sites Register:** 40 derelict sites were identified.

**Taking In Charge:** To date, 12 number housing developments have being taken in charge. An additional 13 developments have being brought up to a standard acceptable for taking in charge. No estates were taken in charge in 2014.



**Unfinished Housing Estates:** The number of unfinished estates in Cavan decreased from 68 to 60, a reduction of 8 in 2014. The Development Compliance team continues to work closely with various stakeholders including the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure that these estates are brought up to an acceptable standard for Taking In Charge.

**Development Contribution Scheme:** The contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A total of €775,866.52 (net) was collected in development contributions during 2014.

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.

Development Compliance, Enforcement and Building Control: The Planning Section, Building Compliance, Enforcement and Building Control Section continue to regularly monitor and inspect developments to ensure that buildings are constructed in accordance with the relevant Planning Conditions and Building Regulations.

The Enforcement Section dealt with 57 cases which were subject to complaints in 2014. 7 of these cases were resolved through negotiations. 28 enforcement procedures were taken through the issuing of warning letters and 4 enforcement procedures were taken through the issuing of an Enforcement Notice. Many cases have been or are in the process of applying for retention planning permission. No Prosecutions were taken in 2014. The Enforcement Section inspected all 57 complaints within the statutory six week period.

### Cavan County Heritage

The Heritage Office continues to promote and develop the heritage of County Cavan through the development and implementation of heritage policies and the initiation of heritage projects which promote awareness throughout the county. The Heritage Office continues to project lead specific heritage plan projects funded by the Heritage Council on an annual basis. In addition, we continue to work at an inter-sectoral level to progress heritage awareness throughout the county e.g. Cavan Walking Festival, Culture Night etc.

A grant for €25,000 was received from the Heritage Council for the implementation of Heritage Plan Projects. A short synopsis of each of these projects will be provided below:

### Clogh Oughter Castle: A Witness to Centuries of Irish History

In 1987 Con Manning, Senior Archaeologist with the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht (DAHG) undertook excavations on the Clogh Oughter site. In 2014, these findings were compiled and published in a book. To coincide with its publication, the Heritage Office in partnership with Cavan County Museum developed an educational and interactive exhibition to be permanently housed at the Museum. This exhibition captures the imagination by allowing the visitor to experience and feel how the castle would have looked and meet the characters associated with the castle’s history e.g. Owen Roe O’Neill, Bishop Bedell, Cromwell etc.



At the Launch of Clogh Oughter Castle, County Cavan: A Witness to Centuries of Irish History

### Cavan Golden Way

In 2013, funding was received from the Heritage Council to evaluate and review the Golden Mile Competition. Based on the outcomes what was the Golden Mile has now become Cavan Golden Way. The Golden Way aims to work with local groups in identifying outstanding country roadscapes and walks. It promotes best practice in the recording and management of the rural heritage features of country roadscapes and recognises and rewards the efforts made by local communities in conserving the heritage of those roadscapes and walks.



Castle Lake Golden Way, Bailieborough

### Black Pigs Dyke (BPD) Regional Project: Phase 1

A joint County Heritage Plan Project between Cavan, Longford, Roscommon, and Monaghan Heritage Offices. Overall objective of this project was to take a regional approach to understanding and promoting the Black Pigs Dyke (BPD) through the collation of all existing information and research undertaken on the BPD to date. To determine and map the possible extent of the BPD and associated earthworks, to identify research gaps and prioritise recommendations for future research and fieldwork areas. A successful project which has led to a continued phase two of the project in 2015.

### National Heritage Week in County Cavan

National Heritage Week took place from Saturday, 23 until Sunday, 31 August. Heritage Week provides an opportunity to create awareness about our heritage and encourages local communities to look with pride at their local areas and all aspects of heritage within. Across the county of Cavan a number of events took place from Cavan County Museum to Cavan Burren Park and various locations in between.

### Summer Solstice Event at Cavan Burren Park

To celebrate the opening of Cavan Burren Park, Cavan Heritage Office along with a number of other sections in Cavan County Council played a pivotal role in organising a major event to celebrate its opening. A true celebration of heritage and a family event; saw all aspects of heritage in the park embraced with over 1,000 people visiting the park on the day.

**‘Culture Night’ Heritage Event Jampa Ling, Buddhist Centre, Bawnboy** As part of Culture Night (Friday, 19 September), the Heritage Office hosted an event in Jampa Ling, Buddhist Centre. Local artists produced various pieces of art which were influenced and shaped by the landscape of West Cavan. In addition local poets Heather Brett and Noel Monahan recited poetry based on the landscape of the area. The night truly encapsulated a feeling of place and a sense of belonging.



Culture Night, Jampa Ling Buddhist Centre, Bawnboy

### ‘Response to Beauty’: Joint Heritage Office and Arts Office Project

A joint project between Cavan Heritage and Cavan Arts Office. Overall aim of the project was to reconnect us to our landscape through the celebration of art and words of the amazing heritage of the Geopark in West Cavan. This project culminated in an art exhibition based on the artists response to the beauty of the landscape in November. There were workshops open to a number of local primary and secondary schools where the artists met with students.



Minister Heather Humphreys attends the launch of ‘Response to Beauty’ exhibition

### Cavan Walking Festival

Cavan Walking Festival has grown from strength to strength. The festival prides itself on having a schedule of walks with something for everybody. The Heritage Office continued to play a pivotal role in the festival last year and number of heritage themed walks were organised including a dusk chorus and a family woodland walk.

### Heritage Council Grants Programme

The Heritage Council awarded funding to two projects. Under the heritage management grants scheme, funding awarded towards the preparation of conservation reports for Trinity Abbey, Killeshandra, County Cavan and Gallon Abbey, Kilinkere, County Cavan.

### Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme

The Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme encouraged the investment of private capital in a number of small-scale, labour intensive projects. To repair and conserve historic structures and supported the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craft workers and trades people. There was 11 protected structures received funding under this scheme amounting €94,000.

### Planning Strategic Policy Committee:

There were three meetings held and the following issues were discussed:

1. Presentation on new Building Control Regulations
2. Draft County Development Plan 2014 – 2020 and draft Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan 2014-2020
3. An introduction to Planning
4. Cavan Age Friendly Programme as part of the Age Friendly Towns Initiative
5. Taking in Charge and Unfinished Estates

The Strategic Policy Committee members are listed on pages 12 - 14.

### Water Services

The transition to Irish Water has been rapid with unprecedented changes to water services in 2014. Cavan County Council Water Services Section has risen to the challenges of our new operating environment. Cavan is to the forefront of shaping and delivering an operating framework to ensure a modern efficient infrastructure is in place to avail of any opportunities presented by an economic upturn.

From January delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water. There is a 12 year Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place for the delivery of the services in 2014 and beyond.

An extensive training programme, involving Cavan County Council Water Services staff, which commenced in 2013 continued into 2014. This training involved a vast number of Irish Water protocols together with new IT systems.

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 are to:

* + provide an adequate water supply of sustainable quality for domestic, industrial, agricultural and other users
  + 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 17 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

Testing of all Public Water supplies and effluent discharges from wastewater plants is undertaken by the Council’s own accredited laboratory. Performance indicators for the section relate to compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations 2007.

The following are the compliance percentage figures for the Public Schemes:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| Compliance | 98.8 | 97.8 | 98.4 | 98.8 | 99.1 | 98.4 | 98.5 | 99.1 |

### Capital Delivery

By working in partnership with Irish Water Cavan County Council continued to deliver the Capital Programme as well as continuing to identify necessary upgrading of the Water Services Infrastructure to ensure we continue to deliver an efficient and effective service.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Contracts to Start 2015**  Kingscourt Water Supply Scheme Contract 2 Rising Mains | €1,200,000 |
| Kingscourt New Treatment Plant and Reservoir | €2,400,000 |
| **Contracts at Construction 2014**  Cavan Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade | €11,000,000 |
| Cavan Sewerage Contract A | €7,000,000 |
| **Contracts Completed 2014**  Cavan Sewerage Contract B | €550,000 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kingscourt Water Supply Scheme Contract 1 Borewells | €350,000 |
| Cavan Regional Water Supply Scheme | €2,100,000 |
| Ballyconnell Water Treatment Plant | €2,000,000 |
| Water Conservation (Ballinagh, Kilnaleck, Ballyconnell) | €1,200,000 |

By working in partnership with Irish Water, we are hoping to ensure that Cootehill Water Supply Scheme will progress to tender and construction phase in 2016.

### Reactive Works

There was a programme of works carried out throughout Cavan with a value of

€1,360,000. Unaccounted for Water (UFW) is currently under 35%.

### Group Water Schemes

Cavan County Council is responsible for administration of grants for Group Water and Sewerage Schemes under the Rural Water Programme in Cavan. In Cavan **€90m** has been expended under the programme up to year end since administration was devolved to Local Authorities in 1997. The strides in recent years in the Rural Water Programme continued to grow apace with an initial allocated budget of **€450,000.00**. The spirit of partnership between the various stakeholders in Rural Water which had been fostered under the stewardship of Cavan County Council continued to reap dividends.

### Water Conservation/Upgrades

The Rural Water Programme in Cavan continued to extend the network in order to maximise the numbers of people obtaining a water supply to European Union drinking regulations in 2014. The overall spend on this measure was **€550,000.00**. The Group Water Schemes funded in this category were Clifferna, Erne Valley, Kildallan, Glangevlin, Mountainlodge, Dernakesh, Bunnoe, Barraghy/Farmoyle, Corlough, Drumkeery, Doobally, CMM, Crosserlough, Poles, Gowlan, Kilsherdany and Dhuish. The works involved a mixture of bulk meter replacements allied to upgrade of telemetry systems to assist in Water Conservation measures. Towards the end of November, Cavan County Council received an extra allocation of **€100,000.00** under this measure and the funding was fully utilised for the schemes that required it.

### Capital Replacement Works

In October 2011 Cavan County Council submitted a detailed report to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government setting out the estimated cost of Capital Replacement for all of the qualified schemes in Cavan over the 20 year relevant period.

Most of the schemes in the three Design Build and Operate are entering their 8th year or more of operation and therefore Capital Replacement works commenced in 2014 on a number of those schemes. All of the qualifying works will be grant aided at 85%.

### Source Protection Funding

A total of 12 Group Water Schemes were identified as being eligible for grant aid towards completion of the first phase of their source protection planning process. To date this Council has approved 10 schemes which have successfully completed the studies required under the programme and have received the requisite grant aid for those works.

The schemes that received grant aid of €25,500.00 in total from the council were as follows: Erne Valley, Glangevlin, Dernakesh, Barraghy/Farmoyle, Gowlan, Annagh, Billis/Lavey, Crossdoney, Doobally and Milltown group water schemes. The remaining two schemes will be completing their studies in 2015.

### Revised Subsidy Arrangements

Two types of subsidy set out as follows. Subsidy A relates to the general operational and management costs incurred in the operation of a group scheme. Subsidy B relates to the Operation and Maintenance costs associated with the “bona fide” Design/Build/Operate contracts for schemes that have their own treatment plants. There are amendments to the processing of advance payments set out in the explanatory memorandum distributed to the group schemes.

The improved rates again demonstrate the commitment of the Department to the Rural Water Programme and to the work that is ongoing throughout the country and is a direct result of the partnership approach taken by the group schemes, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, the Local Authorities and the Department in the delivery of potable water. €3.3 million has been paid in subsidies to group schemes.

### Grant for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house

Under this scheme a grant of 75% of the cost of the work (subject to a maximum of

€2,031.58) is available to qualifying applicants to improve their water supply. The main qualifying criteria are that the dwelling is over 7 years old, is the permanent residence of the applicant and is not in a position to be supplied from a Group Water Scheme or a Public Scheme. A total of €35,186 in grant aid has been paid out this year.

**Environment and Waste Management**

Environment and Waste Management Section is responsible for all matters related to the environment in the county.

Given that we are a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is no surprise that the issue of water quality demands our greatest attention. These rivers and lakes are a recourse both the population of the county and as a Tourist attractions.

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. We play a vital role in source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. We deal with other environmental issues, including noise and air pollution, planning applications and bye- laws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan.

### Water Quality

Our work in relation to water quality falls into two categories:

* + Protection and improvement of all our natural waters:rivers, lakes and groundwaters.
  + Monitoring the quality of the drinking water.

### Natural Waters

Cavan is a county of lakes and rivers, these are one of the greatest resources for the County. They are sources of drinking water for the population and agriculture. They are also an essential part of the attractiveness of the county for residents and visitors alike. By maintaining good quality waters we reduce the cost of treating drinking waters and we also make our county more attractive both for the people of Cavan and visitors.



**Map of River Basins**

The Water Framework Directive divided the waters of the country on a river basin basis. County Cavan is in four of these River Basins, therefore there are four River Basin Plans in place in the county. Every water body has been given a quality status. We are obliged to protect all waters that are either good or high status and those waters that are below good status must be improved. These River Basin Plans set target dates for achieving all our quality goals. In order to meet these targets we have a range of actions that we carry out throughout the year that target the main sources of pollution. These include monitoring industrial discharges, some farming activities, sewage treatment plants and wastewater systems for one-off housing.

Much of the work we do to improve water quality is not readily apparent. It can take a long time for the water quality in lakes in particular to show improvement. However, given the systems we have in place, we expect to be able to show steady continuous improvement in the coming years until we achieve good status for all our waters.

The expected intensification of agricultural practices following the removal of the removal of the milk quotas in 2015 will lead to significant challenges in maintaining this progress.

### Water Supply

All drinking water from public schemes and nearly all of the group schemes is sampled and analysed for a range of parameters. This is done to ensure that the schemes are producing water that meets the highest standards with regard to public health, and complies with the relevant regulations.

### Public Engagement

The Environment staff meets with members of the public on a day to day basis. They use these opportunities to educate the public in relation to, improving water quality, maintaining good water quality by protecting our rivers, lakes as well as our drinking water supply sources.

On a more formal basis we carry out school visits to spread this message to the younger members of our community by giving presentations on water quality in the locality of the school as well as across the County.

These presentations also include advice on water conservation. We have provided information sessions in local library branches and community centres. We regularly use social media and local media Northern Sound and The Anglo Celt to educate and inform the public in relation to seasonal issues. The Environment Section works in an integrated way with other Council departments including:

* + pre planning meetings, planning application referrals and responding to issues/queries from Planning with water quality, air or noise elements
  + assisting Waste Management with green school assessment visits and awareness presentations
  + advising Housing on site suitability for demountable rural housing
  + dealing with queries and referrals from Municipal Districts, Area Offices and Roads in relation to water quality, protection and rivers
  + assessing waste permit applications in terms of water quality and protection issues and liaising with the Waste Management
  + Resolving “unfinished estates” and taking in charge of estates

### Environmental Laboratory

The laboratory is the cornerstone of our work both in relation to the ”Natural Waters” and drinking waters. This is located on the Ballyhaise Road at Cullies. Here we carry out an extensive programme of analysis. This includes all our analysis, except for a small amount of specialised analysis which is outsourced.

We also do sampling and testing on an agency basis for a number of clients, both private and public. However the main function of the Laboratory is testing on behalf of Cavan County Council and Irish Water. We are the only local authority laboratory outside of Dublin, Cork and Limerick which is accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB). We took 1,332 samples and carried out over 15,000 tests:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Breakdown of Samples Tested** | | |
| Water supplies | Group Schemes | 191 |
| Cavan County Council | 173 |
| Sewage Treatment discharges | Cavan County Council | 211 |
| Private | 32 |
| Natural Waters | Rivers | 441 |
| Lakes | 191 |
| Third party |  | 75 |
| Miscellaneous |  | 18 |
| **Total** |  | **1332** |

### Energy Management

Across the entire organisation the Council’s Energy Manager is responsible for the following;

* + Improving energy efficiency
  + Introducing sustainable energy practices
  + Raising energy awareness
  + Reporting on Council’s Energy Reduction Targets
  + Ensuring Council’s energy supply complies with the Office of Government Procurement national contracts
  + Establishing procedures to monitor energy consumption
  + Providing guidance and advice on energy regulations and statutory requirements.

Our target is a 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. Based on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) scorecard, we have made a 20% saving by 2013. This figure is based on the data reported to the SEAI on annual energy consumption and related data.

All electricity consumed by the Council is procured in accordance with the National Procurement Service tender. A new contract was awarded to Airtricity via the Office of Government Procurement with Airtricity now supplying approximately 50 sites operated by the Council.

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. We operate approximately 50 individual sites supplied with electricity which include Office Buildings, Libraries, Laboratory, Waste Management facilities, Recreational facilities, Museum, Theatre, etc. The most significant user of energy within the Council is the provision of public lighting.

Some of the buildings and sites operated are listed below:

1. Cavan Courthouse
2. Johnston Library Building
3. Bailieborough Civic Amenity Site
4. Ballyconnell Civic Amenity Site
5. Corranure Landfill Cavan
6. All Fire Stations
7. All Libraries
8. Various buildings and depots utilised by Area Offices/Municipal Districts
9. The Pound (large animal and dog)
10. County Museum
    * electricity consumption was 4,973,189 kWh.
    * gas consumption was 23,897 kWh.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Energy Type Energy** | **Consumption** | | |
|  | kWh | MWh | GWH |
| Electricity | 4,949,301 | 4,949 | 4.95 |
| Fossil Fuels | 3,235,042 | 3,235 | 3.24 |
| Total Energy Consumed | 8,184,343 | 8,184.34 | 8.18 |

### 2014 Actions Undertaken

* + Upgrading of some Council Housing Stock
  + Raising awareness within the Council regarding specification and purchasing of goods from the Triple E Register
  + Raising awareness within the Council regarding the purchase/lease of buildings or portions of a building rated at B3 from 2012 or A3 from 2015
  + In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, we are required to have a Display Energy Certificate (DEC) for any building in excess of 500m² which is frequently visited by the public. Commencement of tendering process for this statutory requirement in accordance with National Procurement Procedures
  + Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online
  + Compilation of data regarding energy consumption for monitoring and reporting
  + Establish procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
  + Re-establish Energy Team
  + Review of energy connections and utility charges of vacant or derelict properties with consideration given to achieving possible savings
  + Establish procedure for frequent meter readings.

### 2015 Planned Actions

* + Preparation and submission of a lighting project for inclusion on the Better Energy Communities Programme 2015 in conjunction with Cavan Chamber of Commerce
  + Roll out of an Energy Awareness Programme
  + Re-enactment of the Energy Policy
  + Re-enactment of the Energy Charter
  + Re-establish register of opportunities
  + Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage
  + Maintain procedure for frequent meter readings
  + Liaise with all Sections in the Council to raise awareness via Team Meetings
  + Audits of Top 5 Usage Sites
  + Complete SEAI Monitoring and Reporting in accordance with deadlines imposed
  + Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders
  + Liaise with Irish Water in accordance with the Service Level Agreement and Protocols
  + Complete Energy MAP training for all Energy Team members
  + In accordance with the requirements of European Union (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, completion of the assessment process to generate Display Energy Certificates (DEC) for all Council buildings in excess of 500m² which are frequently visited by the public.

### 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 Feb 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.

Four Environment staff had been trained and had commenced inspections of wastewater treatment systems in 2013. We carried out 48 inspections in 2014. The vast majority of these took place in areas identified as high risk.

We won a “2014 Excellence in Local Government Awards” award in the category “Sustainable Environment” for its “Citizen Engagement Strategy for Domestic Wastewater Assessments” in relation to the rollout of this programme.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Breakdown of Certification, Enforcement and Licensing activities** | |
| Number of Section 4 Discharge Licenses | 56 |
| Number of Section 16 Discharge Licenses | 16 |
| Number of Air Pollution Licenses | 1 |
| Number of Solvent Regulation Registered Sites | 6 |
| Number of Decorative Paints Registered Sites | 20 |
| Number of Petroleum Vapour Regulations Registrations | 30 |
| Number of Farm Inspections | 67 |
| Number of complaints received and investigated | 132 |
| Number of cross reports to the Department of Agriculture,  Food and the Marine | 10 |
| Number of Section 12 Notices served in accordance with the  Water Pollution Acts | 6 |
| Number of legal actions initiated | 5 |

## Waste Management

Waste Management section has responsibility within the County for Waste Management, Litter Management and Environmental Awareness and Education. It also manages the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service, Maintenance of vested burial grounds and Casual Trading Bye-laws.

Our remit extends from Waste Management Policy and Planning to Managing the Waste Infrastructure and Enforcement of the Waste Regulations.

### Waste Management Policy and Planning

Cavan is one of 13 Counties that form part of the new Connaught Ulster Waste Management Planning Region which became operational during 2014. The Lead Authority is Mayo County Council.

The draft Connaught Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 public consultation stage was launched in November in Galway. We have published copies of the draft plan for public review on the Council Website and it was discussed at the inaugural meeting of the Environment and Planning Strategic Policy Committee in December.

### Waste Infrastructure: Landfills

Corranure Landfill facility is currently closed for the intake of household and commercial waste and is licenced by the Environmental Protection Agency. Ongoing monitoring is taking place at the Landfill to ensure compliance with the terms of the license.

The County has three other landfills licensed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Belturbet. These three sites are closed and restoration remediation works have been completed on them. We continue to monitor them to ensure they cause no adverse environmental effects and are in compliance with EPA licensing.

There are 14 historic landfills within the County which come under the remit of the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal and Recovery Activity) Regulations 2008. The risk assessment of these historic landfills is ongoing with a view to remediation and licensing by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Council was successful in securing funding for the remediation of the former town dump in Kingscourt and initial preparatory works began in December.

### Recycling Centres and Bring Centres

A recycling centre is a facility provided for the householder where they can dispose of their household waste and recyclable material for a fee. The Bring Centre provides a free to use community service where people in local areas can recycle materials such as clothing, plastic bottles, glass bottles and food and drink cans. The County is well served with a full range of recycling infrastructure. With three fully operational Recycling Centres and 30 Bring Sites, we continue to provide householders with a local and convenient way to recycle all their household recyclables.



### Waste Regulations and Enforcement

All local authorities are required to prepare annual environmental inspection plans in accordance with a European Parliament and Council recommendation which provided for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in EU member states. We are also required to report on inspection and enforcement activities and carry out regular reviews of their respective plans so as to ensure that the plans are being implemented effectively.

Inspections carried out by the Waste Management Section can be divided into two categories:

* + Routine Inspections (which include businesses/facilities permitted by Cavan County Council) these can be planned in advance as is the purpose of the Annual Inspection Plan
  + Non-Routine Inspections typically involve those inspections associated with the investigation of Waste Complaints.

Environmental Inspections carried out by the Waste Management include inspections under a wide range of Waste Regulations. Non-Routine Inspections that are carried out are normally associated with complaints received by members of the public, or from within the Cavan Local Authorities or outside agencies and organisations. Typical inspections that are carried out include inspections of unauthorised waste disposal or recovery sites, inspections of fly-tipping sites and inspections relating to general unauthorised waste activities (illegal burning and illegal movement of wastes for example). The table below shows the number of waste complaints received over the past three years.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 90 | 109 | 122 |

Priorities for Enforcement include:

* + Implementation and Enforcement of Food Waste Regulations
  + Regularisation or closure and remediation of all unauthorised End-of Life Vehicle sites
  + Implementation of Historic Landfill Regulations
  + Enforcement: Illegal dumping and fly-tipping sites

### Food Waste Regulations

The European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-waste) Regulations, 2013 (SI Number 71 of 2013) are designed to promote the segregation and recovery of household food waste and divert biodegradable waste from landfills. Waste collectors must provide a separate collection service for household food waste. Householders that produce food waste must segregate such waste and keep it separate from other non-biodegradable waste and make it available for separate collection. These regulations became effective in Cavan Town in July. The following actions were undertaken by staff to promote awareness of these regulations:

* + Meetings were held with the authorised household waste collectors to advise them of their obligations
  + Advertisements were placed on local radio, with features in Council page in the Anglo Celt
  + Presentations were made to schools, community groups and local events
  + Information leaflets were also placed in libraries, dentist and medical practices

### End-of-Life Vehicle facilities

The main regulations dealing with end-of-life vehicles are the Waste Management (End-of- Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2006 (SI Number 282 of 2006). These regulations introduced higher environmental standards to ensure that specified vehicles and their components are recovered and disposed of appropriately so as to ensure no adverse environmental effects arise with this activity. The regulations set new minimum technical requirements for the collection, storage and treatment of End-of-Life Vehicles.

The new higher standards applied from 2007 and required that in order for facilities to be recognised as “Authorised Treatment Facilities” they must be operated under a valid waste facility permit in the first instance and secondly the facility should meet the standards as set out in the Second Schedule of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006.

It is an offence under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended to operate a waste disposal or recovery business (eg car dismantling) without a waste license. Also failure to comply with the provisions of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations 2006 is also an offence.

### Farm Hazardous Waste Bring Centre

Cavan County Council in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency, Teagasc, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine operated a bring centre at Ballyjamesduff Mart in November for the collection of farm hazardous waste. This was one of 10 such bring centres operated by Local Authorities as part of a national pilot scheme to give farmers the opportunity to dispose of their hazardous wastes in a manner that protects human health, livestock and the environment. 120 farmers brought farm hazardous waste to the bring centre, with a total of 10,012 kgs of farm hazardous waste being collected.

A further 218 farmers deposited 12,449 kg of electrical items and batteries.

### Litter Management and Enforcement

We are required to implement a litter management plan in respect of our functional area. The current plan indicates the key objectives which are used by the Local Authority to prevent and control litter in the county. These objectives are twin track concentrating both on the raising of public awareness and on enforcement.

We provide an enforcement and educational function in the areas of litter management, control and prevention. 223 on-the-spot fines were issued for offences committed under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended. The penalty for an on-the-spot fine is €150. A larger fine may be issued if court proceedings are initiated. The maximum fine in this case is €4,000.

##### 2013 2014

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Total Number of Full Time Wardens | 2 | 2 |
| Total number of parttime litter wardens | 4 | 4 |
| Total number of litter wardens (both full and part-time) | 6 | 6 |
| Number of onthe spot fines | 211 | 223 |
| **Number of Complaints Received** | **375** | **390** |

**Environmental Awareness and Education**

National Spring Clean runs throughout Ireland in April. In support of this campaign, we encouraged School’s, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout County to become involved in cleanup projects in their area. Bags, gloves, litter pickers and high-vis vests were among the items provided to groups to assist in their clean ups. Groups from all over the county participated in the campaign and 1,900 bags of roadside litter were collected.



Gum Litter Campaign

A national campaign aimed at highlighting the need to dispose of chewing gum into the bin and to inform the public about the problems caused by gum litter. As part of our local campaign a launch day was held in Virginia in June. Cathaoirleach Shane P. O’Reilly was present on the day with representatives of Virginia Development Association and members of staff from Waste Management.

### Adopt a Road Litter Programme

This programme relates to the collection of litter from roadside verges by businesses or community groups who participate in the scheme. The groups and businesses manage and supervise the scheme themselves. We publically acknowledge the involvement of

community groups etc through the provision of signage in each area. Over 144 km of roads form part of this scheme.

### County Cavan Litter League

We worked with local communities to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our towns, villages and countryside. The Council uses similar inspections and scoring criteria employed by Irish Business Against Litter for Cavan Town, the County Cavan Litter League is based on regular inspections of 26 towns and villages within the County. All selected towns and villages are surveyed by Litter Enforcement staff.

The development of the County Litter League has improved cleanliness levels in towns and villages throughout Cavan immeasurably over the past number of years. This is due to the increased level of activity from businesses and local communities and individuals which has resulted in a reduction in litter levels in the County.

### Tidy Towns Committees

We have strong links with 20 Tidy Towns Committees across the County. They play a key role in litter prevention and assisting the Local Authority in implementing its current Litter Management Plan. All of the Tidy Towns Committees play a major part in enhancing and maintaining their local green spaces and natural environs and protecting natural amenities and keeping them free from litter. Cavan County Council held a number of information meetings with representatives from Tidy Towns Committees in their Municipal Districts throughout the year.

### Green-Schools Programme

We are delighted to work in partnership with Green Schools, An Taisce and all of the schools throughout County Cavan to promote the Green Schools programme. It is a testament to all who are involved at every level of the process. In May, at the Green Schools Awards ceremony in the Helix, Dublin County Cavan had:

* + seven schools receiving their first green flag for the litter and waste theme
  + five schools receiving their second green flag for the energy theme
  + four schools receiving their third green flag for the water theme
  + three schools receiving their fourth green flag for the travel theme and
  + finally one school receiving their fifth green flag for the biodiversity theme.

Pupils and Green Schools Coordinator from Ballinamoney National School with their Green Flag at the Green Schools National Awards Ceremony, Helix.



Some of the programmes in which we have liaised with schools throughout the past academic year include; the teachers seminar in our Council Chamber, co-ordinating visits to our local public and privately operated civic amenity sites, attendance by Council staff at some schools highlighting litter, waste, water and energy matters as well as local issues and also spreading the word of all the great work being carried out by our students, teachers and parents in the local newspaper and local radio.

The Green Schools programme throughout County Cavan uncovers and highlights so many enthusiastic, hard working, ingenious and environmentally conscious students, teachers and parents working tirelessly throughout our schools promoting the Green Schools themes.

The following schools were awarded green flags in May:

### Litter and Waste

1. Ballyconnell Central School, Ballyconnell
2. Laragh National School Number 2, Muff, Kingscourt
3. Milltown National School, Milltown, Belturbet
4. The Royal School, College Street, Cavan
5. St. Felim’s National School, Farnham Street, Cavan
6. St Michael’s National School, Clifferna, Stradone
7. St Patrick’s College, Cullies, Cavan

### Energy

1. Ballinamoney National School, Bailieborough
2. Brefine College, Cootehill Road, Cavan
3. Farnham National School, Drumelis, Cavan
4. St. Felim’s National School, Leitir, Bailieborough
5. St. Mary’s National School, Ballyhaise

### Water

1. Carrigabruise National School, Virginia
2. Convent of Mercy National School, Belturbet
3. St Mary’s National School, Arvagh
4. St Michael’s National School, Cootehill

### Travel

1. Belturbet Boys National School, Belturbet
2. Kill National School, Kill, Cootehill
3. St. Patrick’s National School, Shercock

### Biodiversity

1. St. Killian’s National School, Mullagh

### Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund

This fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small scale, non-profit environmental projects at a local level. The funding is provided by the Department of Environment and Local Authorities. Projects and schemes such as community gardens, allotments and compost schemes and educational initiatives can be funded.

A total of 25 applications were received under the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund. 15 Projects were subsequently awarded funding. Projects involved range from community based (five tidy towns committees were approved funding) to work being undertaken by the schools. Work is ongoing with the projects involved in the Local Agenda 21 Programme. 85 pupils attending 4 primary schools in Cavan Town participated in a school environmental project with the assistance of Cavan Town Tidy Towns.

A universally accessible environmental walkway was completed at the Cavan Centre, Ballyjamesduff which will benefit 4,000 young people. A total of 500 pupils from 8 schools participated in the biodiversity schools programme This programme will assist these pupils in the future as they progress towards their biodiversity green schools flag.

The Implementation of the Control of Dogs Act 1992-1996 requires the Local Authority to employ a full time Dog Warden. The Dog Warden provides an effective and efficient service, dealing with the control and management of stray dogs, unwanted dogs and anti- social behaviour by dogs. The Dog Warden also manages the issuing of dog licences and 6,798 licences were issued.

### Veterinary Services

We employ one full time Veterinary Officer who is assisted by five part time veterinary inspectors. The Veterinary Officer inspects/licences and audits slaughter-houses and small meat plants within the county.

In the region of 130 audits/hygiene inspections were carried out along with over 1,400 pre and post slaughter, animal/meat examinations, during the slaughter of 11,339 sheep, 34,306 pigs, 5,893 cattle, and over 10,000 turkeys at local authority regulated slaughter- houses.

Throughout the year, random samples of meat are submitted to The Department of Agriculture and Foods Central Meat lab in Kildare for testing for residues of antibiotics and other chemicals residues. During the course of the year a total of 71 such samples were submitted for analysis. Also three new premises were registered by the Veterinary section under the Dog Breeding.

**Water Services and Environment Strategic Policy Committee** Membership of Strategic Policy Committee are on Pages 12-14. Presentations were given on:

* + Report on Septic Tank Inspections
  + EU Household Food waste and Bio Waste Regulations
  + Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund 2013
  + Development of County Cavan Tidy Towns Committees.

## Finance, Information Services

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 authorities’ 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

As a Council we have 198 loan accounts, which generated mortgage repayments of

€488,577.56. Over 67% of all loans for 2014 were collected in that year. We have proactively engaged with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions. This has empowered customers to address their arrears by way of the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP Process) and the Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

### Payroll

This service involves the processing and payment of wages and salaries for all staff including deduction of PAYE and PRSI and other statutory and non-statutory deductions and completion of all relevant returns. In December 2014 MyPay assumed responsibility for processing all payroll payments on behalf of Cavan County Council. There are approximately 510 employees on Cavan County Council’s payroll, spread across the following pay groups:

Wages: 145 (fortnightly)

Salaries: 261(fortnightly)

Firefighters: 86 (Quarterly)

Councillors: 18 (4 weekly)

In addition the payroll section also processes payments for 290 pensioners.

### Non Principal Private Residence (NPPR) Charge

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Charges) Act, 2009 as amended a Non Principal Private Residence charge applies to all residential properties in the state that are not occupied as the owner’s Principal Residence. Examples of chargeable properties include Rented Properties, Holiday Homes and Vacant Properties.

Administration and collection of the charges is operated nationally, on a shared services basis, by the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB). The LGCSB have developed a website (**www.nppr.ie**) which includes information on the charge as well as a system for registration of properties and payment of the NPPR

charge online. An amount of €1,761,875 (net of LGCSB collection costs) was collected in NPPR charges and late penalties. In addition an amount of €109,010 has been received from customers that have entered payment plans with Cavan County Council.

### Household Charge

Annual charge introduced by the Local Government (Household Charges) Act 2011 and is payable by owners of residential property. The collection of the Household Charge is now a function of the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. The Household Charge has been replaced by the Local Property Tax.

### Rates

A total of 2,122 Rate Demands were issued for the year which resulted in a total levy of

€11,398,793.57. The Annual Rate on Valuation fixed by the Council for the year was

€56.85.

### Internal Audit

Is an independent, objective, assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organisation’s operations. It helps the Council achieve its corporate objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

It is our policy to maintain and support a quality Internal Audit function in accordance with the Internal Audit Charter 2014-2015. All Council’s activities fall within the remit of Internal Audit. Main objectives are to discharge its responsibilities by critically and objectively examining on a risk management basis:

* + reliability and integrity of internal controls to ensure that risks are managed effectively and that the Council’s assets and interests are properly accounted for and safeguarded from losses, including fraud
  + reliability of management information systems, both manual and electronic
  + degree of compliance with the Council’s objectives, policies, plans and procedures
  + degree of compliance with external legislation and regulations
  + achievement of value for money across all activities, by appraising the economic, efficient and effective use of resources
  + assessment of relevant issues identified under the external audit process.

The Annual Internal Audit Plan set out the work programme for the year. In preparing the plan due consideration was given to the Council’s Risk Register, consultation with the Senior Management Team/Directors of Service, the Audit Committee, issues addressed by Local Government Auditor and availability of staff resources. Audit work undertaken incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Ramor Theatre, the County Museum, Civic Landfill Sites, Cashier Offices and the Civil Defence. Specific audit areas included Fixed Assets/Property Register, Refundable Deposits and Security Bonds, the GRN Purchase Order System as operated by the Road Area Offices and Receipt of Local Government Grants in 2013.

Internal Audit also processed various requests from the Local Government Auditor, with maximum audit coverage ensued. The effectiveness of Internal Audit is a key factor in the Local Government Auditor’s assessment of the controlled environment of the Local Authority and the related risks.

Additional Internal Audit training was undertaken that included IPA seminars on audit procedures within the Public Sector and on the relevant changes under the Local Government Reform Act of 2014. Internal Audit is part of the Council’s Corporate Governance structure. It reports directly to the Chief Executive and the Audit Committee on a quarterly basis.

Internal Audits acknowledges that Cavan County Council has effectively managed many difficult challenges in recent years that ensured quality services were maintained regardless of ongoing budget constraints and staffing embargos. In doing so accountability and transparency of its operation was also extremely important.

### Audit Committee

Section 59 of 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 act ensured the establishment of audit committees by all local authorities within a specific timeframe and confers specific responsibilities on audit committees in relation to the auditor’s report and the audited financial statement.

The committee was established by resolution of the Council upon nomination by the Corporate Policy Group and consultation with the Chief Executive. The term of the committee is concurrent with that of the current Council which commenced in June and will terminate at end of May 2019. It 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 the Council. It operates under an Audit Committee Charter as directed by the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations 2014 and the related guidance as issued in June.

Committee comprises of five members; two Elected Members and three External Members. An External Member retains the role of Chairperson of the Committee.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Former Committee Ceased May** | **New Committee June 2014 - May 2019** |
| **Con Dolan (Chair)** | Con Dolan, Chair External Member |
| Jim Lalor | Jim Lalor, External Member |
| PJ Dunne | PJ Dunne, External Member |
| Councillor (Cllr) Madeleine Argue | Cllr Madeleine Argue |
| Cllr Gerry Murray | Cllr Clifford Kelly |
| Eoin Doyle (Director of Service) / Brian Hora (Secretary)  Corporate Services | |

In reviewing the best practices and risk management procedures of the organisation the committee had regular consultations with Senior Management and the Internal Auditor. They also met with the Local Government Auditor in regard to the Annual Auditor’s Report and issued a report to the council in regard to their audit opinion. The former committee held 2 meetings between January and May and the first meeting of the new committee was in December 2014.

## Motor Taxation

Motor Tax Section is responsible for:

* + Issue of vehicle licences
  + 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
  + Issuing of and recording statutory off road declarations (SORD’s)
  + Processing changes of particulars for motor vehicles.

There was a consolidation of services within Motor Tax. This was as a result of changes to Motor Tax policy in 2013. The full effect of these changes were evident as it resulted in a fall off in footfall to the office as more customers are availing of online services. This allowed for more capacity within the section. One member of staff was redeployed to the new customer service desk in May. Additional duties were also assigned to the section, it is now responsible for all lodgements for the organisation.

There were changes in Department policy in March which allowed for the conversion of certain types of private vehicles (M1) to commercial (N1) while retaining 5 seats. This change generated and continues to generate a significant number of applications.

The demise of windows xp as an operating system for the NVDF applications resulted in the decision been taken at Department level to change the operating system. This resulted in the purchase of new PC’s for the section to facilitate the migration to Citrix. This process will be rolled out in early 2015.

### Breakdown of income and transactions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total** | **Total Income Transactions** |
| Vehicle Licences | 44,152 | €8,939,751 |
| Road Worthiness Certificates | 257 | €1,879 |
| Trade Licences | 73 | €25,416 |
| Miscellaneous Receipts | 3,947 | €15,778 |
| **Total** | **48,429** | **€8,982,828** |

**Motor Tax Online**

52,155 taxes were processed online and amounted to 47.39 % of total motor tax transactions for County Cavan. The Motor tax online service is available to owners of private cars; commercial vehicles (with renewal pin) motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles and motor caravans for renewal and first time taxations. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto [**www.motortax.ie**](http://www.motortax.ie/)

### Service Indicators

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **M.1 Number and Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions** | **2014** |
| Number which are dealt with over the counter | 38,642 |
| Number which are dealt with by post | 6,734 |
| % which are dealt with over the counter | 85.16% |
| % which are dealt with by post | 14.84% |
| **M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications** |  |
| Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application | 4,395 |
| Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application | 1,535 |
| Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application | 278 |
| Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application | 526 |
| % which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application | 65.27% |
| % which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application | 22.79% |
| % which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application | 4.13% |
| % which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application | 7.81% |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications** |  |
| Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application | 5,279 |
| Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application | 1,078 |
| **M.4 Public opening hours** |  |
| Average number of opening hours per week | 30.3 |

**Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

In this increasingly technological age the role of the ICT Department is seen as pivotal in the delivery of services by all Departments within the Council. Our mission is to provide the organisation with the highest quality computing services available. We strive to create an efficient and secure working environment for our staff.

Our work involves the provision of and support for multiple servers (both physical and virtual), PC’s and multifunction devices together with a large Local Area (LAN) and Wide Area (WAN) network infrastructure. We also provide the support for both the fixed and mobile communications platforms. We continued to support a large, diverse network of almost 1,000 physical devices including PCs, Laptops, Servers, MFDs and printers, Communications and Network Infrastructure.

At the opening of Belturbet Library access to the Corporate network was achieved by installing a new wireless link from the library building to the existing wireless WAN radio on Belturbet Water reservoir. We also provided network access to branch libraries in Arva and Ballyjamesduff through a secure Virtual Private Network. This allows staff in both libraries full access to the Library Information Management System, Staff Intranet and email.

As part of the unification of the Town and County Councils we provided all technical assistance required for the amalgamation of Cavan Town and County Council IT systems. We also provided an IT solution for the integration of the Local Enterprise Office into the local authority ICT infrastructure.

We support the Franchise team in the preparations for the Local elections and uploaded real-time count data to our website and to social media on the days of the Count. We have upgraded the broadband connection for public internet access in Cavan Library to the latest eFibre solution from Eircom to ensure the availability of high speed connectivity. Other applications which we manage include:

* + iDocs: Document Management System
  + Agresso FMS (Financial Management System)
  + In house databases
  + iPlan: Planning Administration System
  + iReg: Register of Electors
  + eHeg: Higher Education Grants
  + iHouse and RAS: Housing Administration Systems
  + Spatial Intranet Browser and other GIS Services
  + LabInfo: Water Quality Monitoring
  + SMS: Bulk Messaging
  + Social Media
  + Website Development and Content Management
  + Mobile App Development
  + Print Management
  + Audio/Video Installations.

## Summary of Expenditure and Income Revenue Account 2014

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2014**  **€000** | **2013**  **€000** |
| Expenditure (A) | 62,935 | 61,713 |
| Receipts |  |  |
| State Grants | 21,615 | 21,375 |
| Good and Services | 18,165 | 11,819 |
| Commercial Rates | 13,337 | 11,162 |
| Other Local Authorities | 338 | 732 |
| Pension Levy | 1,022 | 1,115 |
| County Charge | 0 | 1,386 |
| Local Government Fund | 8,458 | 14,124 |
| **Total Income (B)** | **62,935** | **61,713** |
| (Deficit) / Surplus (BA=C) | 0 | 0 |
| Opening Revenue |  |  |
| Balance 1st January (D) | 1,743 | 1,663 |
| Closing Revenue |  |  |
| Balance at 31st December (C+D+E) | 1,743 | 1,663 |
| **Revenue Expenditure 2014** |  |  |
|  | **€M** | **%** |
| Housing and Building | 6.74 | 10.71 |
| Road Transport and Safety | 18.90 | 30.03 |
| Water Supply and Sewerage | 8.70 | 13.82 |
| Development Incentives and Control | 4.28 | 6.80 |
| Environment Protection | 6.79 | 10.79 |
| Recreation and Amenity | 3.67 | 5.83 |
| Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture | 1.51 | 2.40 |
| Miscellaneous | 8.85 | 14.06 |
| Transfer to Capital | 3.50 | 5.56 |
| Total | 62.94 | 100 |

## Expenditure and Income on Capital Account 2014

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Expenditure**  **2014**  **€000** | **Income**  **2013**  **€000** |
| **Programme Group** |  |  |
| Housing and Building | 5,092 | 3,982 |
| Road Transport and Safety | 2,554 | 1,856 |
| Water Supply and Sewerage | 2,725 | 7,230 |
| Development Incentives and Control | 4,116 | 1,601 |
| Environment Protection | 916 | 1,037 |
| Recreation and Amenity | 878 | 398 |
| Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture | 0 | 0 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,291 | 843 |
| **Total** | **17,572** | **16,947** |
|  |  |  |
| **Revenue Income 2014** |  |  |
|  | **€M** | **%** |
| Housing and Building | 7.75 | 12.31 |
| Road Transport and Safety | 12.84 | 20.40 |
| Water Supply and Sewerage | 8.53 | 13.55 |
| Development Incentives and Control | 2.05 | 3.26 |
| Environment Protection | 1.35 | 2.14 |
| Recreation and Amenity | 0.71 | 1.13 |
| Health Welfare, Education and Agriculture | 1.21 | 1.92 |
| Miscellaneous | 5.68 | 9.02 |
| Rates | 13.34 | 21.19 |
| Local Government Fund | 8.46 | 13.44 |
| County Charge | 0 | 0 |
| Pension Levy | 1.02 | 1.62 |
| **Total** | **62.94** | **100** |

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