



**Chambers
Ireland**
Advancing business together

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2022



Supported by



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors for their involvement in the 2022 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage





Fiona Candon
President
Chambers Ireland

Welcome to the 2022 Local Government Awards

Our return to an in-person Excellence in Local Government awards is hugely welcome, after two long years of struggling with the impact of Covid-19.

In Chambers Ireland we have always highlighted the importance of Local Government to people and to businesses. Local Government shapes the world around us, where we live, how we travel, what services we have access to; it has always been the most impactful part of Government. Covid-19 demonstrated this importance to everyone as Local Authorities were to the fore in helping our society and our economy adapt to social distancing and other mitigation efforts.

Local Authorities will be just as important when it comes to facilitating the changes that are needed if we are to mitigate the impacts of climate change. We see your role in delivering on the Town Centre First Policy as being crucial for both our society and our economy.

Decarbonising our transport systems will be one of the hardest challenges that we will face in the 2020s and to do it we need to make sure that clean transport alternatives are available. Local Authorities are vital to delivering active transport, public transport and eCharging infrastructure.

The shift to 15-minute cities and 10-minute towns will also bring enormous economic benefits as people's disposable income only gets spent close to home when retail, recreation and experiential offerings are available. Knitting these strands of our economy and society together is essential if our cities and towns are to flourish.

Thriving local economies are a core aim for our chambers. Each of our chambers is at the heart of their local town or county business community and wants to see their cities and urban areas become attractive places for people to live and work.

Our chambers look forward to working with you over the coming years to guarantee our continued prosperity.



Ian Talbot
Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland

Judges Quotes

DR. MARK CALLANAN

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



The enthusiasm and innovation underpinning different initiatives submitted to these awards continues to impress. This year's projects demonstrate the passion and drive of both elected members and local

government staff to make real improvements to the local community they serve. As part of the judging panel it was a real challenge to identify winners of different categories, such as the quality of the projects shortlisted. Huge credit and congratulations are due to the winners, but also to all those shortlisted.

KATHERINE FITZPATRICK

CONSULTANT / FORMER DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CORK CHAMBER



It was a pleasure to be involved in the Chambers Ireland judging panel this year. Due to the pandemic restrictions in 2021, many of this year's applications were focused on celebrating the outdoors – our nature, and our

vibrant towns and cityscapes – around the country. I hope that lots of these projects continue into the future, as local authorities continue to find creative ways of encouraging citizens and visitors to engage with their local communities.

MARK MACAULAY

ASSET PLANNING MANAGER, IRISH WATER



It was fantastic to see the variety, innovation and national scalability potential of the projects in this year's entries. The entries showcased the impact Local Authorities have by creating and sustaining

community engagement to deliver real benefits to lives, businesses and the environment.

TOMMY MOYLAN

DIRECTOR, ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT



It was a privilege to be part of the judging panel for this year's Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. The awards give our local authorities the opportunity to showcase the many innovative projects that

they are delivering to the communities that they serve, on a daily basis. Great credit must go to all local authority management, staff and Elected Member for their hard work. The hardest part for the judges is picking the winners!

HANNAH MUIRHEAD

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS, LGIU



It was a privilege to be involved in judging these awards, it really is local government at its best. I was particularly impressed with the innovation shown by each entrant and the huge diversity of projects within each category. It

was also great to see so much community engagement from the councils involved.

DIARMUID O'LEARY

PRINCIPAL OFFICER, LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOVERNANCE AND ELECTED MEMBERS



The Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards showcase the varied, vital, incredibly innovative and sometimes unheralded work that local authorities are doing in supporting communities all

over the country. I commend Chambers Ireland for supporting these awards and warmly congratulate all of the local authorities who participated in the process.

DR. SEÁN O’RIORDÁIN

CHAIRMAN,
PUBLIC POLICY ADVISORS NETWORK



The Local Government Awards, promoted by Chambers Ireland, provide a great platform for demonstrating that the local authorities across Ireland can be real leaders of their communities, delivering

exceptional services that are so important to our quality of life. The Awards highlight that when local authorities are good they are very good and are comparable to their counterparts across the OECD, indeed providing examples of best practice that other local authorities can learn from, not just here in Ireland but across the OECD

LOUISE PURCELL

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING,
PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Yet again this year, it is clearly evident how responsive and agile our local authorities are throughout the country. The quality of applications received must be commended. It is clearly evident that regardless of

unforeseen and certain circumstances taking priority, local authorities have continued to serve their local communities to the highest standard.

DR. BRÍD QUINN

CONSULTANT (FORMERLY,
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS & PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF
LIMERICK)



It is a honour to be involved in the ELG Awards which showcase the innovations and improvements implemented by our local authorities despite the constraints under which they work. The range of projects

submitted, the responsiveness and the community involvement are impressive. I urge the teams to increase citizens’ awareness of these remarkable projects. Tréaslaím leis na hiomaitheoirí agus le Chambers Ireland.

KAREN SMYTH

HEAD OF POLICY & GOVERNANCE,
NILGA



I really value the opportunity to participate as a judge in the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards. They give me an excellent snapshot of the good practice and innovative projects

underway in Ireland, enabling me to share ideas with councils in Northern Ireland and further afield. I frequently use this information when designing NI Local Government conferences, so judging is a win-win for me.

MARTIN TOBIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
EUROPEAN RECYCLING PLATFORM



I am delighted to be part of the Chambers Ireland ELG judging process again this year. I am always impressed by the innovative and dedicated manner in which local authorities create and support

social, cultural and sustainable projects that enhance local communities and their environment. I would like to wish the best of luck to all entrants.”

Contents

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Cork City Council	7
Limerick City & County Council	7
Longford County Council	8
Monaghan County Council	8
South Dublin County Council	9

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Cork City Council	10
Dublin City Council	10
Leitrim County Council	11
Longford County Council	11
Monaghan County Council	12
South Dublin County Council	12
Waterford City and County Council	13

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	14
Longford County Council	14
Mayo County Council	15
South Dublin County Council	15
Waterford City and County Council	16
Wicklow County Council	16

SUPPORTING TOURISM

Carlow County Council	17
Limerick City & County Council	17
Louth County Council	18
Mayo County Council	18
Wicklow County Council	19

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Clare County Council	20
Dublin City Council	20
Fingal County Council	21
Limerick City & County Council	21
Sligo County Council	22
South Dublin County Council	22

LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

Dublin City Council	23
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	23
Fingal County Council	24
Galway County Council	24
Leitrim County Council	25
South Dublin County Council	25
Wexford County Council	26
Wicklow County Council	26

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Cork City Council	27
Fingal County Council	27
South Dublin County Council	28

COMMUNICATIONS

Donegal County Council	29
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	29
Fingal County Council	30
Kildare County Council	30
Limerick City & County Council	31

CLIMATE CHANGE

Clare County Council	32
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	32
Kerry County Council	33
Mayo County Council	33
South Dublin County Council	34
Wicklow County Council	34

SUSTAINING THE ARTS

Clare County Council	35
Fingal County Council	35
Kerry County Council	36
Monaghan County Council	36
South Dublin County Council	37

FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Clare County Council	38
Cork City Council	38
Monaghan County Council	39
Waterford City and County Council	39
Wexford County Council	40

INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Carlow County Council	41
Clare County Council	41
Longford County Council	42
Wicklow County Council	42

ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Clare County Council	43
Cork City Council	43
Limerick City & County Council	44
Meath County Council	44

HERITAGE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Donegal County Council	45
Galway County Council	45
Monaghan County Council	46
Waterford City and County Council	46
Wexford County Council	47
Wicklow County Council	47

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

Clare County Council	48
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	48
Fingal County Council	49
Waterford City and County Council	49
Wexford County Council	50

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 50





SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



CORK CITY COUNCIL Community Response Area Teams



Cork City Community Response Forum and Area Response Teams provide a co-ordinated structure that brings together cross-sectoral partners in a Bottom Up, Top Down, and Middle Out approach. Leadership groups respond to the needs of vulnerable people at both local levels and city-wide. Since 2020 the Community Response Forum, chaired by the Cork City Council Chief Executive Ann Doherty, has brought together over 40 members representing organisations across the public sector, who work with community, voluntary and advocacy groups. The Forum is a space to share information, ensure added value and avoid duplication. The 16 Area Response Teams are made up of 106 members representing local group leaders working in partnership with agencies and organisations that can provide a bespoke flexible and agile response to local needs.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme - 100% State funded market discount homes for low-income households



Limerick City and County Council has piloted two new schemes at Newcastle West (19 homes) and Caherdavin, Limerick city (16 homes) for the New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme which will allow people to buy new-build A-rated starter homes at a discounted price.

The Scheme is targeted at working households currently in private rented accommodation who may be on HAP, RAS or social leasing. Where an increasing number of valid notice to quits are issued by landlords as they exit the market, the Scheme offers a sustainable choice for a new build home, day one as a private tenure-type.

A new build home can be purchased at 40 - 60% discount from the all-in construction price, depending on the income band of the applicant.

HIGHLIGHTS

New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme

HIGHLIGHTS

New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme

"I went directly to just find that scheme papers and verify eligible to apply. Due to Covid and process was slow once I received it I realized, okay, it's quite close. I will actually delight in good in good spot."

"It is going to be a new community to me. I used to work in Caherdavin but I never lived there. I lived in Parteen, city-centre and Caherleary. This will be new for me and for my children."

"I already did my research so I know that there is plenty of Primary Schools and then Secondary Schools for my children. There is a small little local shop, just around the corner. There is a bus-stop. So it should be nice."

HIGHLIGHTS

New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme

HIGHLIGHTS

New Build Incremental Purchase Scheme

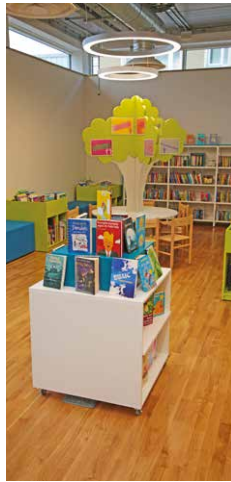
"Definitely, the scheme needs to be made available for families with low-income or for single parents. As I am, it is the only opportunity to be able to actually buy a new house, a 3-bedroom house in the Limerick area."

"I tried to apply to buy another house but you see, I wouldn't be able to get them on the Auctioneers, so it is really hard for me. To get that discount, it is amazing, really amazing. So I am delighted to get a good house for that price."

"I actually was squeezed into that amount because I can only borrow a certain amount of money due to my income and due to my children."

"So yeah, that is a really good opportunity for other families with low-income to get an affordable house."

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES



LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

New Community Library in Edgeworthstown



The new Community Library is an example of a partnership between the local community and the local authority. The Edgeworthstown District Development Association acquired a site for a new library and handed it over to Longford County Council. The community and the local authority worked together with a common goal to deliver an inspiring, innovative and creative building space with no barriers to access where people can come to connect, to learn, to reflect and explore all the wonderful things that this “community living room” has to offer. The local authority was also successful in acquiring rural regeneration funding to provide a new car park and public realm works in the plaza alongside the new library. The new library has also acted as a catalyst for the regeneration of Edgeworthstown and will have a transformative effect on the lives of the community into the future.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Capacity Building through Community Planning



Monaghan County Council, upon noticing that several areas in the county were not benefiting from the many funding streams available to communities, developed a community planning process which enables Council staff to reach out to local community leaders and work alongside them to develop comprehensive community plans. This provides a clear blueprint for the community to improve the quality of life for local people over the next five to ten years. The planning process involves direct engagement with local people, and enables the Council to build the capacity of local groups as the Plan is built, so that the knowledge and skills needed to drive progress are built up in the community during the engagement process. Areas which have benefited from going through this process are seeing increased funding into their communities, backed by stronger community activity and increased engagement with Council and other stakeholders.





SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Clondalkin Community Bicycle Hub



Transport accounts for approximately 20% of Ireland’s greenhouse gas emissions. To support active travel initiatives, South Dublin County Council is developing over 260km of high quality cycleway network. The South Dublin Sports Partnership has developed a hub for the provision of up-cycled bicycles and cycle training to marginalised and economically disadvantaged groups within the local North Clondalkin community.

Located beside Collinstown Park Community College, the Bike Hub will provide a centralised base welcoming and engaging the local community in a broad range of sustainable cycling initiatives.

Programmes will be facilitated by local leaders trained to deliver programmes for young people 5-13 years of age, teenager BMX/Trail programmes, primary school cycle safety training, adults community bike rides and more.

The first programme delivered in the hub was Cycling Ireland’s Trail-Cycling for Transition Years. This 6-week certified programme taught 19 students all of the skills required to mountain bike on trails.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Trailblazing Women with Cork City Council's Women's Caucus



In March 2021 International Women's Day marked a historical day in the political history of Cork City Council with the formal launch of its cross-party women's caucus, established to increase women's engagement and representation in local politics.

The Lord Mayor of Cork launched the Council's new Women's Caucus in a social media video campaign which ran throughout International Women's Day. A suite of photomontage-style videos, expertly created which explored what inspired our female City Councillors to enter politics, the challenges they face as female representatives and what changes they believe must be taken to ensure local democracy is more representative, inclusive and diverse.

These efforts by the Caucus have since evolved with many successful impacts being achieved through a range of evidence-based methodologies, including education and awareness raising events such as its inaugural webinar event 'Women in local politics - Be The She Change' on November 17th 2021.



ACADEMY OF THE NEAR FUTURE

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE CITY

CONNECT

Comhairle Cathartha Shillea Aha Cliath Dublin City Council

SMART DOCKLANDS

Science for Innovation Ireland

Virgin Business

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Academy of the Near Future



Academy of the Near Future (ANF) is a smart cities education programme for students and local authority professionals developed by Smart Docklands, Dublin City Council (DCC) and CONNECT.

Using interactive workshops and hands-on activities, the programme brought citizens into the conversation about how technology shapes the places we live. During the academic year 21/22, ANF delivered workshops to over 1000 students nationally.

The workshops gave participants an understanding of technologies behind smart cities and how communities can engage with cities and local authorities on issues that matter.

The programme has a mission to reach underserved communities and areas with low educational attainment, ensuring at least 50% of workshop participants are female, and 50% are from DEIS schools to broaden their inclusion in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) outreach initiatives.

These audiences are recognised to have lower science capital and lower trust in smart city technology.



LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Sense-Ability



Sense-Ability was an innovative Library Service that offered positive library experiences for people with sensory needs including those on the Autism Spectrum, those with Developmental Coordination Issues/Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Disorder, Dyslexia, and others with additional needs.

It developed sensory friendly, accessible library services for Sligo, Leitrim and Roscommon people. It provides a sense of belonging, space, welcome, and support to individuals of all abilities, their families and caregivers. Through consultation with relevant professionals, extensive staff training, a programme of events and the development of new and exciting spaces and services, Sense-Ability gives everyone the ability to use library services in an inclusive, safe, non-judgmental way.

Sense-Ability is delivered by the library services in Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon and is supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund through the Department of Rural and Community Development.



LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Urban Horse Project



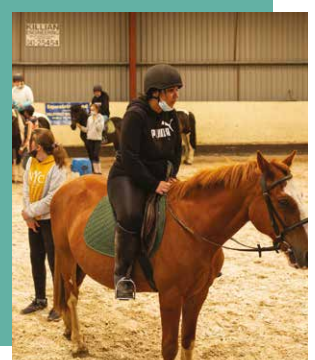
The urban horse and summer horse-riding project started as a control of horse project. It broadened to include those from disadvantaged communities and to promote animal welfare.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) initiated this central government policy, offering funding which supported the project.

The interagency approach, involving the Local Authority Veterinary Service (LAVS), Longford Sports Partnership (LSP) and Longford Community Resource Limited (LCRL), was instrumental to the success of the project.

On the ground, the LAVS collaboration, with their drive to fulfil community service initiatives for under privileged groups combined the horse warden’s ambition for horse welfare were foundational.

While the professional management, oversight, and vast experience in programming from the LSP, LRCL engagement with hard-to-reach young people and, and strong support from senior management within Longford County Council and DAFM were all key to the project’s success.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Sensory Stories



The Sensory Stories Programme at Monaghan County Libraries was in response to Covid19 and how best engagement and support can be provided to children and young people with additional needs and their caregivers in Co Monaghan during restrictions.

The programme is multifaceted collaborating with local agencies, schools and broader educational sector, parenting groups, creative sector, and other supporting groups.

The programme has provided new opportunities for networking bringing people together who never engaged, and the consultancy piece has allowed them to now strategically develop the key services and resources needed, which will complement each service provider.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Women in Local Government



South Dublin County Council's Women in Politics campaign is an initiative designed to build awareness of local government and participation in local decision-making structures, among minority and diverse communities in South Dublin.

The initiative takes a multi-pronged approach to provide support and information to; women at community level, through the Public Participation Network (PPN) and a communications campaign at a local political level, and through supporting the establishment of the Women's Caucus.

Initiatives to date include: The provision of free sanitary products in public bathrooms in recognition of Period Poverty, Development of a dedicated webpage, Safety and inclusivity study around sexual violence towards women in public spaces, Support for the establishment of the Women's Caucus, Research to identify measures to support women and minority candidates in upcoming elections, Public engagement, through social inclusion networks in South Dublin and the PPN.



WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Dyslexia Support Services Waterford Libraries



Waterford City & County Library Service continuously strives to promote reading and writing skills: with literacy promotion in all its forms being a fundamental role of the library service.

Through close interactions with families, the need to develop a dedicated Dyslexia Committee for the people of Waterford was identified.

There was both empirical and anecdotal evidence from children, parents, and educators that there was a lack of knowledge and stigma attached to dyslexia. Parents were aware of the effects of dyslexia (or other learning disabilities) on their child but often they did not have the means or easy understanding on how to find resources or access supports.

The library was a key driver in establishing Waterford Dyslexia, a committee designed to work with and for people affected by dyslexia by providing information, offering appropriate support services, engaging in advocacy, and raising awareness of dyslexia.



HEALTH & WELLBEING



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Stirring Memories - Stories of Yesterday, a collaborative wellbeing project & exhibition



Stirring Memories - Stories of Yesterday, is a collaborative Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown wellbeing arts initiative and social oral history exhibition with participation by Day Care Centre members, Libraries, Age-Friendly Programme, storyteller and singer Helena Byrne & local musicians, funded by Creative Ireland.

Participants from 5 Day Centres took part in the project and 80+ older people contributed to the wellbeing, arts, and oral history project. Almost 60 participants met with Helena Byrne while 30 written stories and accounts were submitted to the project.

The resulting audio-visual and online exhibition was launched on the 24th of February 2022 in the LexIcon Library, Dun Laoghaire, receiving much national and local attention. Over 45,000 people have visited the venue and many more members of the public will enjoy the exhibition as it tours around Libraries, Day Care Centres and Nursing Homes in dlr over the coming months and online at <https://helenabyrne.com/stirringmemories/>



LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

LIFT Programme



The LIFT Programme is an initiative which involves placing QR Codes on each of the outdoor exercise machines in the parks of Longford, these QR codes are then linked to a video which explains how to use the equipment with Irish Sign Language (ISL) and captions included in these videos. This initiative was led by Longford Sports Partnership (LSP) in partnership with The National Charity of Deafness and Hearing Loss (CHIME) who provided the ISL instructor.



Quite simply each outdoor exercise machine has a unique QR Code sticker on it. Using a smart phone camera, the person hovers the phone over the QR code which brings up a video of that exercise in Irish Sign Language / spoken language/ subtitles (closed captions) etc making this equipment more user friendly. Permission was sought from Longford County Council and Outfit, the company who supply the equipment.



HEALTH & WELLBEING



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Activator Walking with Poles / Fitstick Trail Project



Mayo Sports Partnership invited older adults living in County Mayo to participate in a unique project to evaluate the benefits of ACTIVATOR walking with poles. ACTIVATORS are particularly suitable for older adults with low fitness levels, balance concerns or mobility issues, conditions such as arthritis, Parkinson’s Disease, multiple sclerosis, and recovering from hip/knee surgery or breast cancer.



The Mayo Activator Walking with Poles project invited applicants to register for the project where the use of the poles would be monitored and record the benefits of using the poles.



Mayo County Council is to develop a series of Fit Sticks trails across the county to assist local and visiting people to engage in this developing activity.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Cycle South Dublin

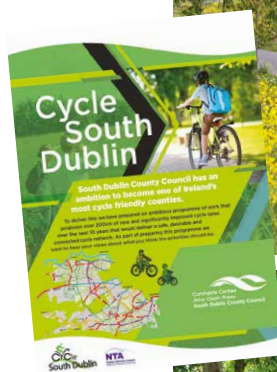


The vision is for South Dublin to become one of Ireland’s most cycle friendly counties.

The Cycle South Dublin programme will provide people of all ages and abilities with a well-connected, well designed, and safe cycle network that offers people a credible alternative to the private car.

To achieve this the Cycle South Dublin programme proposes a set of cycle infrastructure projects to be provided across four stages of delivery: Now (in the next 4 years), Soon (4 to 8 years) and Later (8+ years).

This approach will play an important role in addressing the traffic and environmental challenges we face but will also offer people healthier lifestyles and can bring real benefits to our local economies.



HEALTH & WELLBEING



WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Ireland's First Outdoor Learn to Cycle Track opens in Dungarvan



Ireland's first outdoor Learn to Cycle track gives young children the opportunity to learn to cycle on a real life road structure with lines, signs and pedestrian crossing without the traffic. The amenity at Fairlane adds to existing play facilities at the Linear Park, which include slides, swings and climbing frames, along with water fountains with bird feeding points which are a firm favourite with young and old.



Dungarvan is a 'Smarter Travel' town, which means that Waterford City and County Council in promoting the safe use of cycling, the facility enables children to learn a life skill which will encourage the use of sustainable transport methods and move from over reliance on cars as their only method of transport which will benefit the climate and the environment.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Healthy Blessington



"A Healthy Blessington" is a Healthy Ireland funded project coordinated by Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership. The project's aim was to focus numerous agencies and activities on one community to build capacity and have a sustainable impact. Healthy Blessington brought local stakeholders and countywide agencies together with a common focus: Improving Health and Wellbeing.

Activities included the first outdoor recreation camps for children and teenagers with a disability in Blessington, online new mums fitness classes, healthy eating courses in primary schools, recliner to 2K, Health & Wellbeing talks in the library covering health/nutrition/fitness, Cycle to Zen activities during Bike Week, Health and Wellbeing activities with the Women's Sheds & activities in schools and Hope/Courage/Love&Faith signage throughout the town. The diversity of activities and inclusive nature of the programme has led to this initiative being rolled out in more towns in Wicklow.





SUPPORTING TOURISM

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Taste in Carlow



Taste In Carlow is a joint initiative between Carlow County Council, Carlow Tourism, Carlow Chamber and the food and drinks industry within Carlow. Its purpose is to promote Carlow as a destination for quality food and drink, develop capacity within the industry and diversify the range of food/drinks products and offerings within Carlow.

Taste in Carlow was based on the Carlow Food & Drink Strategy published by Carlow County Council in 2021.

Subsequent actions have included the development of a Taste in Carlow brand identity, the publication of a Taste in Carlow map in the national media, the launch of a Carlow food and drinks website www.TasteInCarlow.ie and the establishment of a Carlow food & drinks industry forum.

A project manager has been engaged to deliver a range of activities over the coming year.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

The Limerick Greenway



The Limerick Greenway is a newly renovated 40km scenic off-road walking and cycling route along the former Limerick to Tralee Railway line, which was resurfaced to European Greenway standard and re-opened in July 2021. It winds its way through the lush open countryside of West Limerick. The Limerick Greenway is a transformative tourism project and an asset for the entire Mid-West region. This €10 million visionary project was the biggest outdoor tourism amenity project ever undertaken in Limerick, by Limerick City and County Council (LCCC). The Greenway will connect Limerick from the Kerry border to Listowel by mid-2022, with plans for further future expansions. The redevelopment provides a first-class attraction for communities within Limerick City, County and beyond and will support and bring new energy and footfall to the market towns of Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale and the villages of Ardagh, Templeglantine and a new Hub at Barnagh.

SUPPORTING TOURISM



LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Sea Louth



The Sea Louth Scenic Seafood Trail captures what is best about County Louth's 70km+ coastline; the stunning scenery and of course the finest local seafood.

The trail allows people to explore the roads less travelled, meet local characters, breathe the salty sea air, see where local seafood producers land their catch, eat fresh local dishes by the coast, admire the spectacular views and create memories that will last a lifetime.



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Clew Bay Bike Trail



The Clew Bay Bike Trail is a new 105km bike and ferry route looping magical Clew Bay, curving around the coastline, incorporating both Clare Island and Achill Island.

The trail primarily utilises the existing Great Western Greenway, along with a section of segregated cycle path and some sections of local road. The trail offers a new and different way to experience Clew Bay from every angle. New ferry sailings now connect segments of the trail on Clare Island and Achill Island.



SUPPORTING TOURISM

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow Passport



The Wicklow Passport was designed to inspire visitors to drive, cycle or walk the length and breadth of Wicklow. There are currently 23 stamps to collect, featuring the various towns and villages around Wicklow. The Wicklow Passport is available to purchase for €2 through the visitwicklow.ie website or through a network of resellers. During its initial launch the Wicklow Passport was also extensively distributed free or charge at more than 130 participating stamping locations spread around the county. Participants that collect 15 or more stamps are given a Wicklow Ambassador Certificate.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Tech Disrupt 4.0



The Tech Disrupt 4.0 was a pilot project devised by the Local Enterprise Offices of Clare and Limerick. Through a competitive structure, the project encouraged technology, innovation and software development among early stage enterprises in Clare and Limerick aligned with the principles of Industry 4.0.

Industry 4.0 describes the trend towards automation and data exchange. It helps businesses make better decisions, automate manual tasks and reduce overheads. Solutions aligned to Industry 4.0 include, Big Data and Data Analysis, 3D Printing, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Robotics and Automation, FinTech, Life Sciences, Virtual and Augmented Reality.

Clare and Limerick already host some of the world's leading Industry 4.0 driven companies, including Dell, Intel, Jaguar Landrover, Analog Devices, Johnson & Johnson and EI Electronics.



DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

ENFUSE



ENFUSE matches local enterprises/social enterprises with teams of MSc. level university/college students. During semester two, as part of a module, students work in teams typically of 4-6 members with selected enterprises. The students help provide insights, propose solutions and ultimately present a bespoke and tangible plan that sets out how the enterprise can innovate, address challenges and develop opportunities. Student teams present the plan to the enterprise to implement and to their module lecturer to assess. In addition, shortlisted student teams compete at the annual ENFUSE finals. The teams represent their university and compete by pitching to industry / expert judges on the plan they created for their assigned enterprise.

It began in 2019, when 13 enterprises were matched with 60 TUD students. In 2020 DCU, and in 2021 NCI participated. Each year since, the programme and impact have increased as more enterprises, students and project partners have participated and benefited.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Implementation of Fingal Skills Strategy



The Fingal Skills Strategy is the first cross-sector skills strategy led by a local authority in Ireland. The Fingal Skills Strategy Group, comprising stakeholders from education/training, industry and local government, has worked collaboratively to identify existing and future skills gaps in the County and agree recommendations for implementation to ensure that Fingal is well-positioned to capitalise on future vacancies.

Two sectoral sub-groups have been established to date in Transport & Logistics and Construction, with further sub-groups planned in other key sectors. The sub-groups have analysed the current skills needs in those sectors and created feedback loops to education/training providers to provide solutions to known skills gaps. The Group identified the difficulties of navigating all the skills information available which has led to the Council and key stakeholders creating a one-stop-shop Skills Hub on the Council's website www.fingal.ie/business/skills-hub to make it easier for employers/employees to find the skills information they need.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Engine Hubs Network



Engine Hubs, the first collaborative cluster of business hubs spanning the Mid-West and North Kerry has been launched by Innovate Limerick. Engine Hubs provides a hybrid working infrastructure for remote workers and business owners, as well as full landing pad services to multinationals looking to set up or expand their operations in the region. CEO of Innovate Limerick, Mike Cantwell explains the rationale for the Engine Hubs: “How and where we work is changing and our goal in Innovate Limerick is to facilitate this change. Our members realise that there is more to life than a long commute and living somewhere they don’t enjoy. Engine Hubs will help people to create a better work-life balance, by providing high-quality co-working facilities in the Mid-West and North Kerry. We are challenging traditional urban-rural divides and offering flexible work locations in cities, towns, and villages.”



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Development of An Chroi Digital Hub



An Chroi Digital Hub in Tubbercurry is a cutting edge, modern digital hub.

The recently completed project includes dedicated 500mb fibre broadband, smart heating and lighting, 24 hr Smart access to the building, smart camera and security system, smart digital technology for the boardroom, cutting edge podcast and video content creation studio, virtual reality capability, ultra-modern remote working facilities and meeting rooms, fully refurbished bathrooms and reception area, and construction work and painting across the building.

The project was supported by a number of government agencies, primarily RRDF Digiwest, a fund administered by Sligo County Council. The project also received support from Connected Hubs, AEC and Enterprise Ireland. Sligo Co Council provided significant support on the project in many key roles including: fund administration, procurement, project management and board advice.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Grange Castle Business Park



The development of Grange Castle Business Park in the Dublin region created up to 20,000 jobs, with an overall investment envelope of €8bn from the public and private sector. Having developed the business park, South Dublin County council rolled out the development of 500 acres, which has seen large FDI companies such as Google, Microsoft, Amazon and Pfizer occupy the park. 6,500 jobs were created following an investment of €3.5bn. SDCC recently started to expand the business park westwards into a new 500 acre phase. A €15m strategic utility corridor has been developed, which creates a platform for continued private sector investment. The first client for the western business parklands has now been secured. A new €125m media park will be developed, which will generate 1,500 jobs during the construction phase. The media park will provide 1,800 direct jobs and a further 1,800 ancillary roles.





LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Dublin City Council supporting telecoms and future connectivity



Dublin City Council (DCC) is the first local authority in Ireland to launch a dedicated Telecoms Unit to accelerate the rollout of digital infrastructure and 5G deployments across the city. The new business unit offers a ‘one stop shop’ service to support the delivery of telecoms, both underground (ducting) and over ground (supporting mobile and wireless services).

With 5G services expected to facilitate a new wave of innovation and economic growth, DCC is making sure Dublin is not left behind. The telecoms unit has reduced the time it takes to deploy telecoms and 5G, increasing private telecoms investment in Dublin. The establishment of this unit is the culmination of a number of years work with leading academic and industry partners in the telecoms sector who were engaged as part of the City Council’s Smart Dublin initiative.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

dlr Quiz Nights



As part of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown’s Covid response, they explored new ways of engaging online with audiences during lockdowns, when Library spaces and other public buildings were closed and there was an underlying feeling of fear and social isolation.

The idea was put forward to purchase Crowdpurr software to run online quizzes for the public during this time, in order to keep people connected, engaged and entertained.

Initial training was rolled out to staff, a Quiz timetable was prepared and dlr Quiz Nights were born. Starting as a general knowledge type speed quiz, it has adapted to the needs of the service and the community. Now, they host local history, geography, pop culture, book-themed quizzes on an ongoing basis, and everyone is welcome.

LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingalmaker and maker space



The Fingalmaker project involved the establishment of a community makerspace at Blanchardstown library, and the design and delivery of a creative programme of activities for the community. This is a community space, designed for creativity through maker activities designed by a maker in residence, who is an expert practitioner in the area of making and creativity.

The maker space itself is fully equipped, including a laser cutter, vinyl cutter, 3d printers and lots more.

The maker in residence leads diverse and community-informed workshops and open evenings, both in the space and beyond in other libraries in County Fingal.

Entering a new age of product design with innovative, exciting outputs to use (3D printers, Laser Cutters), the draw for people of all ages and backgrounds in the community is growing. It's a great way for people in their community to work together on new and challenging projects.



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

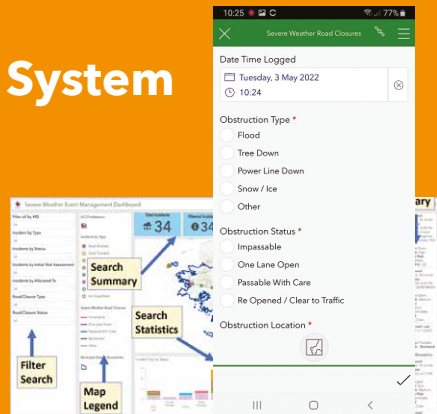
Severe Weather Event Management System



As part of the drafting of its Severe Weather Management Plan, Galway County Council's Major Emergency Development Committee (MEDC) initiated a review of how spatial technology could be better utilised in the management of, and response to, severe weather events.

The Council's Fire Service and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) section were assigned the task of designing and developing a Severe Weather Event Management System (SWEMS), with the overall aims of capturing, analysing, and disseminating information on severe weather events for the purposes of aiding accurate real-time evidence-based decision making, ultimately reducing risk to citizens.

The project outcome has been the successful implementation of SWEMS, which has been used in several weather events. The success of the project has generated interest from other Fire Services and the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM). Funding for a shared service based inter-county trial has now been provided by the NDFEM.





LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION



LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

BFireSafeatSchool project



BFireSafe@School is a new fire safety education programme consisting of ten modules suitable for various age groups from 12-18. At the end of each module, students complete short online assessments and certificates of completion are available. BFireSafe@School is available online in a user-friendly Learning Management System (www.bfiresafeatschool.eu). It uses innovative digital technologies to supplement the delivery of the programme. These include an Augmented Reality app called FireSmartAR (available from the App store), a Virtual Reality app called Fire at Home, an online gaming app called Rescue Heroes, use of robots, science experiments, videos on fire science, a school evacuation video and information on careers in fire. The programme has been translated into ten European languages - English, Irish, French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Basque, Finnish, Danish and Lithuanian. A Teachers' Handbook with additional resources was also produced. Local authority fire personnel help teachers to deliver the programme in schools.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Think Big Space in partnership with AWS



Think Big Space is a partnership between South Dublin County Council and Amazon Web Services. The space provides a place beyond the standard classroom for students to explore and cultivate an interest in STEAM and STEAM related careers. The dedicated physical space aims to provide students, educators and the local community with access to resources for learning about cloud computing and technology. Students and learners will have access to technology, such as interactive screens, tablets and VR headsets to encourage a hands-on approach where students think big to solve real-world problems. The space supports technology curricula; student tech programs; adult education, reskilling, and upskilling programs; for children and adults in communities closest to where AWS builds and maintains data centres. An AWS Think Big Space also gives adult learners opportunities to learn more about cloud computing technology, workforce development, internships and career programs, Data Technician Training, and AWS Cloud Certification.



LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION



WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Risk Remediation Programme



Wexford County Council’s Insurance Risk Management Unit has developed a Risk Remediation Programme to address areas of highest risk to the public, specifically targeting footpaths and walkways which have been identified as needing urgent high risk improvement works and also identifying and implementing preventative measures/development. A five year Programme commenced in 2018 focusing on surface upgrades in areas such as accident black spots, repeat claim locations, areas with high levels of reported incidents and patterns of high footfall in the risk area and the severity/risk rating of surface condition. Since late 2018, this proactive programme has replaced over 12km of defective pedestrianised surfaces county-wide. These works were carried out in urban and rural village locations, hugely improving the safety and comfort of the public, enhancing the public realm and pedestrian infrastructure, while significantly reducing the number of slip, trip and falls reported incidents/claims made against the local authority.

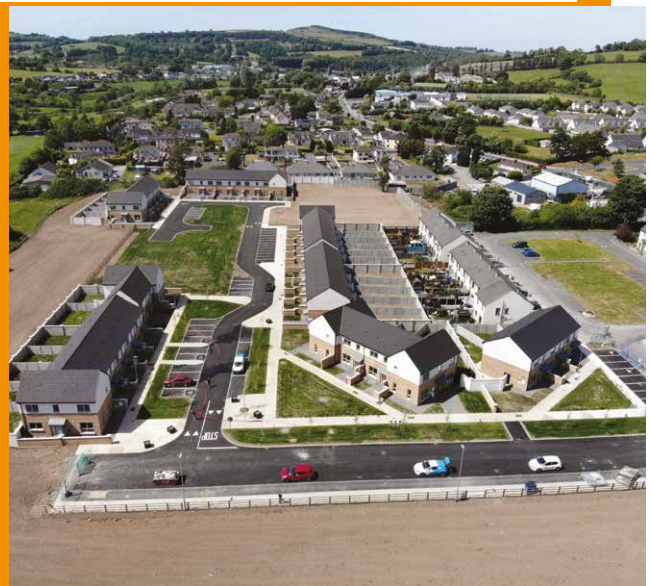


WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Social Housing Design & Build - 34 Houses Baltinglass, Co Wicklow



Wicklow County Council Housing Department was the lead for preparing and implementing significant change and reform. They developed a new approach that was considered at the time to be a complete sea change for the Local Authority, as historically the council had traditionally gone down the route of Designed by the Employer projects, whereby an outside design team would design all housing projects, from planning approval through to completed houses on site. This change was embraced by Wicklow County Council’s Management Team in 2018 via a presentation from the housing capital team as it had the potential to deliver houses in an accelerated fashion and provide value for money. This approach was one of many tools incorporated and adopted by Wicklow County Council’s Management Team to help reduce the social housing waiting list and deliver A-rated sustainable housing at the same time.





A Landbell Group Company

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork City Council Air Quality Strategy



In August 2021, Cork City Council became the first local authority in Ireland to launch an Air Quality Strategy.

The strategy outlines the actions that Cork City Council will undertake between 2021 and 2026 to reduce the concentration of air pollutants in the city area; thereby positively impacting the health and quality of life of residents and visitors.

There are 69 actions set out to deliver the strategy and these have been separated into 7 themes, Health & Wellbeing, Air Quality Monitoring, Travel, Electric Vehicle & Charging Infrastructure, Regulation & Enforcement, Green Infrastructure, Research & Innovation.

This is a very innovative and timely development for Cork City Council. The issue of air quality is becoming an important environmental factor in terms of environmental health and wellbeing. It is also timely as the National Clean Air Strategy is now in its consultation phase.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Wildfire Management Strategy Howth Head



Wildfires are a regular occurrence in Howth, and the risk to property from wild fires is extremely high. Fingal County Council worked together with international wildfire experts, Dublin Fire Brigade and local community groups to prepare a proactive wildfire management strategy for Howth. Strategic wildfire breaks near residential properties have been created to reduce the immediate risk to houses.

Last summer, the Council initiated a goat grazing project to graze the wildfire breaks. The use of the goats with a herder is more sustainable and effective within this EU designated nature conservation area compared to using herbicides or heavy machinery. The grazing project has also reinstated a traditional use of the heathland, which has been popular with locals and tourists alike. The Council is also working with the Fire Brigade to develop an operational fire fighting plan, and is setting up a wildfire group with the local community in Howth.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



A Landbell Group Company

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL Sustainable Drainage Guidance Project



South Dublin County Council’s (SDCC) Sustainable Drainage Explanatory, Design and Evaluation Guide (SuDS Guide) was developed to explain and promote best practice in SuDS design and implementation. The Guide is aimed at architects, engineers, developers, and local authority stakeholders involved in SuDS Design. It is an ‘easy to read’ document with diagrams and images of typical SuDS features.

SDCC’s new County Development Plan also includes objectives requiring developers to comply with the new requirements, ensuring new developments incorporate a sustainable approach.

SDCC developed and published a Householder’s guide to SuDs. This shows examples of how to apply SuDS at a domestic level such as installing Water butts. This will assist in managing surface water runoff within the curtilage of private properties. In conjunction with developing the guidance, SuDS training and workshops were provided to internal council staff as well as external stakeholders.





COMMUNICATIONS

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Trails Communication



Trail Gazers Project worked to stimulate rural economic development sustainably by linking walking and recreational infrastructure investments made by local authorities to small towns and villages, encouraging footfall, and sustaining local businesses and communities. Trail Gazers is an EU Project, led by Donegal County Council with 10 partners from Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, France, Spain, Portugal and Canaries.

A strong Communication Plan coordinated with materials prepared and events held. There was a significant emphasis on the virtual materials and digital marketing across the partnership, and project project communications were integrated through internal and external communication channels.

A digital communications strategy was implemented and delivered, with key metrics gathered and impact assessed.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Embedding a culture of plain English communications in a Housing Department



The Council's Housing Department worked with the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) to use of plain English in the department.

The goal was to embed a culture of plain English when writing and presenting information.

As the first Local Authority Housing Department project to work with NALA's plain English service, the project helped the Programme for Government's commitment to Plain Language.

Inside the Council, the Housing Department were leaders in using plain English. This made the quality of customer service better. Communication improved for tenants and staff across the council.

COMMUNICATIONS



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Firefighting Goats in Howth



The Communications Plan developed and implemented by Fingal County Council for a conservation project at Howth Head in the Dublin Bay UNESCO Biosphere Reserve generated local, national and international interest. The Council’s Communications Unit made full use of the different news angles within their story to generate widespread interest in the project.

They promoted the use of goats to control the accumulation of gorse on Howth Head and reduce the danger posed by wildfires in a traditional and sustainable way. They highlighted the work of the Old Irish Goat Society in protecting an endangered species and returning the breed to Howth Head after a long absence. They also raised the profile of the Council’s Biodiversity Officer and the Council’s work to restore the heathland on Howth Head and reduce the risk of wildfires as well as highlighting the use, for the first time in Ireland, of the “No Fence” system.



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Understanding Kildare’s County Development Plan



In early 2022, Kildare County Council undertook a communications campaign titled “understanding Kildare’s County Development Plan” aimed at providing a better understanding of the County Development Plan (CDP), the process involved in its development, and why citizens and businesses should engage with it.

When public consultation phase commenced in March 2022, citizens, communities and business were encouraged to have their say on the development of their County. The Council worked with the Forward Planning team to undertake a coordinated communications campaign which included a podcast series, media engagement, a social media strategy, stakeholder engagement, and internal communications.

The campaign explored many aspects of the CDP, what it is, what it’s not, how it informs the development of the County, and how Kildare people could have their say.





COMMUNICATIONS

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL Double Your Summer



The “Double Your Summer” campaign was a mission to make the summer of 2021 count. It was an initiative by Limerick City and County Council supported by Fáilte Ireland to promote Limerick’s status as a destinations for value, welcome and excitement. People were encouraged to do more, try more and get more out of their summer break.

The campaign provided incentives and reasons for visitors to come to Limerick, and then to extend their holiday in the city and county. “Double Your Summer” was hubbed on Limerick.ie, which gave details of the campaign, listed offers and promotions by category, and included details on the limited edition offers and competitions. It was promoted across Limerick.ie’s social media channels Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and traditional media.



CLIMATE CHANGE



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Renewal of site protection & conservation infrastructure at Fanore Beach



A long-term investment in dune restoration and protection at Fanore Blue Flag Beach in County Clare.

Dr. Amanda Browne highlighted the erosive effects of visitor pedestrian pressure on the dune system in 2003 leading to access, fencing and sand trap alterations being implemented by Clare County Council.

In 2007, further conservation works were introduced at Fanore Beach in conjunction with the County Council’s Environment Section, Local Area Office, and Heritage Office, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). In 2021, following the success of the fencing programme and increase in beach front dune stability, the old fencing was replaced with new open rope fencing and despite the high number of visitors the dune system has been successfully stabilised. A 2021 ecological report highlights the success of the initiative to date. Ongoing monitoring continues.

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Dublin Climate Action Week 2021



The first Dublin Climate Action Week, took place from 13-19 September 2021.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (Steering Group Chair), Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council, Codema , Dublin’s Energy Agency and the Dublin Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) partnered with a range of external stakeholders. The week-long initiative delivered 80+ online and in-person events including online talks and workshops, guided walks, cycles, outdoor film screenings and family events.

Over 3,400 people participated in these events, addressing the themes of Energy and Buildings, Transport, Flood Resilience, Nature Based Solutions, and Resource Management. DCAW21 was launched by Minister Eamon Ryan TD and was promoted and supported by the Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the Mayors of Fingal and South Dublin County Councils and the Lord Mayor of Dublin City Council.





KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Supplygov.ie - Dynamic Purchasing System for Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Works



Home Forms Terms & Conditions About Us FAQ Contact Us



The LGOPC under the auspices of Kerry County Council established the Supplygov.ie Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Works in 2021 on behalf of local authorities and other public service bodies.

Energy Retrofitting is a key component of the Climate Action Plan 2019 and the Programme for Government. The DPS delivers an effective, wholly electronic and truncated procurement process that is fit for purpose.

The DPS was created to support the multi-annual Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, to increase small/micro business engagement with public procurement, and demystify the procurement while minimising administrative burden.

The project is an on-going opportunity for micro & small businesses who can apply for admission to the DPS at any time, remaining accessible to new market entrants or previously unsuccessful applicants throughout the lifetime of the DPS.

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Mayo Decarbonising Communities Network



In February 2021, Local Authorities were requested to choose a Decarbonising Zone.

Mayo County Council took the approach of inviting communities to apply to become Mayo's first Decarbonising Zone. Communities attended workshops led by experts in various fields and ten communities, representing 30% of the population of Mayo, applied to become Mayo's initial decarbonising zone.



Mulranny was chosen as the Decarbonising Zone, but the ten communities with the support of Mayo County Council have formed a network, to learn from, support and inspire each other to reduce their emissions by 50% by 2030.

These communities have presented their visions for their low carbon future to their Municipal Districts and have received funding from Mayo County Council to further their decarbonising initiatives. This has already opened doors to other funding streams and successful collaborations in the time since the programme was established.

CLIMATE CHANGE



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Tallaght District-heating Network



Space heating accounts for almost 40% of carbon generated annually in Ireland. District-heating offers a technology-neutral platform which can combine waste-heat, renewable energy sources and co-generation with smart, flexible energy-systems into a low carbon, low cost solution for urban neighbourhoods.

As a significant step towards a low carbon economy , SDCC committed to overcoming financial, regulatory and organisational barriers and delivering a district-heating network. SDCC negotiated the supply of 10 Mws of waste-recyclable heat from a large data-centre developed by Amazon Data-services Ireland Ltd in Tallaght town-centre.

The District Heating scheme required the formation of a publicly-owned heat-utility company, a customer-base , sufficient developmental grant-aid , procurement of an experienced energy-supply company, and a suite of innovative contracts not available hitherto in Ireland. Construction of the Energy-centre and pipe-network will be completed end Q2 2022 and the system will be in operation by end Q3 2022.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Wicklow County Council Solar Car Park



A detailed energy audit took place at Wicklow County Council’s Head Offices, which recommended the installation of a 300kWp Solar PV array, sized to 40% of the building’s electricity load.

Part 8 Planning permission was received in 2019 for the installation of the solar car park.

WCC used an open procedure to award this contract for a local energy supply agreement through the provision of a solar PV system.

E-Tender for the project was completed, the successful tenderer Enerpower, financed, installed and will maintain the panels with Wicklow County Council purchasing all energy supplied for a 20 year period at a fixed rate.

August 2021, the installation commenced of 300kWp of solar panel capacity for Wicklow County Council, the works were completed in January 2022. This project is one of the first and the largest solar car port project in Ireland covering 107 car park spaces and circa 1600m².





SUSTAINING THE ARTS



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSE! An open air aerial spectacle



HOUSE! was a fun-filled spectacle with circus, theatre and drive-in bingo. This show was commissioned by Clare County Council in partnership with Galway County Council and Limerick City and County Council. Renowned international aerial dance company Fidget Feet were commissioned to develop an outdoor show, during COVID, which was suitable for anyone from 6 to 96. The local authorities devised an opportunity whereby people could attend an outdoor event, while socially distant in their cars, could participate in the show, and where community groups were integrated in the performance in a safe but creative manner. Local groups performing included pipe band, local orchestras, hip - hop dancers, set dancers and cheerleaders.



From drive-in bingo to dancers flying from cranes there was something for everyone and the project brought both young and old together with an integral focus on the arts, wellbeing, mental and physical health.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Seanchaí Micro Forest



Fingal County Council in partnership with Superprojects is delivering an art and ecology programme to students and teachers of Blakestown Community School, titled 'Seanchaí Micro Forest' - a micro forest planted on the school grounds by artist Gareth Kennedy and the TY art class along with their teacher Mary Quinn and woodworker Eoin Donnelly. The programme consists of artist-led activities to teach young people about contemporary art practices. Students and artists erected tents and lit fires, and used the circular space of the micro forest as a location for learning about art and our environment. They also learned old techniques such as wood splitting and turning, digging and tree planting and mulching. 450 native trees now exist on the school grounds. The project bridges the gap between art, nature and daily life. The programme has evolved to include artists Eileen Hutton and Michael Fortune.



SUSTAINING THE ARTS



KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Advance Youth Arts Programme



The Advancing Youth Arts Programme is a strategic partnership which allows access to, participation in, appreciation of, and audiences for, performing arts in Kerry. A vibrant living culture enhances quality of life, and young people are actively targeted to ensure the advancement and support of a strong, vibrant, living culture that is valued and supported by the leaders of tomorrow. The initiative is a strategic collaboration between Kerry County Council (KCC) and Kerry ETB, and more specifically an active programme partnership between KCC Arts Service and Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership (KLCYP) (which is strategically linked to Youth Theatre Ireland) and Music Generation Kerry (MGK), that has resulted in the development of a quality youth arts programme, which provides greater access to arts education and quality programming (specifically youth theatre & music) to young people living across Kerry.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Elsewhere the Opera



Elsewhere is a new opera led by Monaghan composer Michael Gallen, based on the true story of the ‘world’s first Soviet outside the USSR’ in the lunatic asylum of a small Irish town (Monaghan), established fleetingly in 1919.

The idea to create an opera around this story grew from a single preoccupation. How must it have felt to have been a resident at the Asylum during those astonishing events of 1919 - to have been given a momentary sense of worth and inclusion - and to subsequently endure decades of anonymity and repression in institutional care?



Dealing with themes of utopia, fantasy and madness, Elsewhere explores the other worlds that exist at the frontiers of imagination. The events that inspired this new work took place at a time much like our present, when new and old lines (both ideological and geographic) were being drawn on the political landscape in Ireland and abroad.



SUSTAINING THE ARTS

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

NOISE Music



NOISE Music is a brand new creative music programme for young people delivered in partnership between CONTACT Studio and Music Generation South Dublin C/O South Dublin Arts Office. It offers young people the opportunity to create new music in the genres of rap/hip hop/pop/DJ'ing and to connect with artists who are active in the music industry today. It is delivered across youth services and post-primary schools by a team of music artists who have been specially recruited to connect and collaborate with young people, meeting them where they're at along with their youth workers and teachers.

NOISE Music is a brand new youth music programme that was developed collaboratively to meet the needs of young people who are interested in music, are creative but haven't had access to musical opportunities. The programme explores the art of music-making using technology and equipment outside the norms of vocal and instrumental tuition.



FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ennis Mela



Ennis Mela was a new initiative by Clare Arts Office to encourage the performance and sharing by culturally diverse groups in the town of Ennis. Curated and produced by Fidget Feet, Aerial Dance Company, local musicians gathered with performers from Belfast Mela to put on a free day of activity, food, and fun.



The day featured performances from India, Nepal, Spain, South America, and Pakistan and was compered by Rapper WillZee from the travelling community.

The Market Building in Ennis was transformed with staging, backdrops and flags to host the open-air event which attracted large crowds and a very receptive audience.

Whilst groups had performed individually previously in the town for St. Patrick's Day and Culture Night, this curated and professionally produced coming together has assisted in developing an impetus for the further development of the festival.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork Carnival of Science



The Cork Carnival of Science is an unmissable science extravaganza packed with fun and exciting ways to enjoy science that is all around us.

Organised by Cork City Council and supported by Science Foundation Ireland, festival highlights include a packed line-up of live demonstrations, Big Top seated shows, hands on workshops and family-friendly experiments. Those attending on the day can try their hand at battery making, explore mechanics and engineering through Lego, journey into space, meet live zoo animals, check out the inner workings of robots, fly kites and extract DNA, just to name a few.

The festival not only helps to stimulate an interest in science from an early age, but the carnival atmosphere makes it one of the most exciting family events on Cork's social calendar. It is the perfect blend of science education and entertainment.





FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Clones Film Festival



Clones Film Festival aims to bring cultural and independent cinema to a region of Ireland otherwise lacking in access to this type of artform. They support up-and-coming filmmakers in providing opportunities for them to showcase their work. They strive to engage proactively with their diverse audiences.

Known as Ireland’s Biggest Little Film Festival it takes place over the October Bank Holiday weekend using a variety of screening locations around the town of Clones, such as the local Courthouse, the old Post Office.

They run a short season of Film Club screenings during the winter months, drive-in movies and outdoor summer screenings which included last year’s emotional highlight, the screening of the Irish Premiere of *Wildfire* starring the late Dannika McGuigan.

Over the past 19 years CFF have co-produced over 50 short films many of which have gone on to have success at other national and international festivals.



WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Waterford Winter Firedance Solstice 2021



The Waterford Winter Firedance featured six specially curated concerts and exhibitions spread across the County, culminating with a spectacular Sky Firedance fireworks display on December 21st, 2021.

At 9pm sharp the sky across the County exploded in a massive coordinated display of fireworks.

Funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Media & Sport and produced by the Arts Service of Waterford City and County Council, the ‘Winter Firedance’ combined the skills of professional curators, community groups, professional musicians, artists, senior event managers and technicians to bring together one of the most spread-out and varied programmes one evening.

The Waterford Winter Firedance was funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Media & Sport under the Local Live Performance Programming Scheme 2 (LLPPS2).



FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR



WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Kennedy Summer School



The Kennedy Summer School began in 2012 and is designed as a programme of activities to commemorate the historic legacy of the Kennedy family and their association with the New Ross area. The festival aims to boost economic and tourism activity in New Ross.

The unique focus of the event is to deliver a variety of quality activities including a weekend symposium focusing on Irish and American politics, alongside history, sport, musical and cultural entertainment. There are 30 to 40 diverse speakers at the symposium each year, including Kerry Kennedy, Micheál Martin, Leo Varadkar, Ivana Bacik, Bertie Ahern, Ian Paisley Jnr, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Caitríona Perry, Professor Luke O’Neill, Donie O’Sullivan and US speakers from Boston College, Notre Dame etc.

Events additional to the symposium include the Dunganstown Tea Party which commemorates JFK’s visit to his family homestead and sporting and cultural events.



INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Ru:Rban - Urbact



Ru:Rban is an Urbact Project by Carlow Municipal District, delivered by a partnership between Carlow County Council Executive and elected members, businesses, community groups and NGOs working in the area of Community Gardens and Allotments.

The project builds upon the “Management Model of Urban Gardens in Rome”. The project is based on shared good practice across the project partners of Rome (Lead Partner: Italy) / Split (Croatia) / Alexandroupolis (Greece) / Algeciras (Spain) and Carlow Town (County Carlow). In order to complete this transfer of best practice, the geographically distant partners share experiences to enhance the capacities of each others local governance.

Transfer efforts are given to three distinct, interlinked, thematic components/elements that the good practice is divided into:

- Capacity building in organizing urban gardens
- Inspiring and training people to manage urban gardens (Gardeners)
- Urban gardens governance and regulations.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Shannon In Bloom



The ‘Shannon in Bloom’ bulb planting initiative across 11 communities in Shannon Municipal District is built on the existing collaborative relationships between the MD Councillors/ team serving Shannon MD and the local communities.

This project involved the planting of 60,000 pollinator friendly daffodils and tulips and aimed to increase the visual amenity of settlements while generating a sense of common purpose and increasing community awareness of biodiversity and the natural environment.

The project roll-out followed an earlier series of online community focussed biodiversity webinars, supported by the Heritage Officer and Rural Development Officer in early 2021, and complements Shannon MD’s commitment to green infrastructure - Shannon Town has a ‘Green Infrastructure Plan’ and a newly developed Shannon Town Park was awarded a ‘Green Flag’ for the first time in 2021.

INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS



LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Longford Text Alert



Longford County Council recently launched the new ‘Longford Text Alert’ which is an app and accompanying website that brings together crime prevention text alerts and community notices in County Longford. Longford Text Alert is a collaborative project between Longford Local Community Safety Partnership, Longford County Council, local text alert groups and An Garda Síochána.

Unlike other alert systems, Longford Text Alert allows LCC to issue alerts/notices to all community group administrators within one or more Municipal District (MD) through a simple web form. Each group is mapped and tagged to their MD. This means alerts are geographically focused and subscribers/citizens within an MD will only receive alerts and messages that impact them.

An Garda Síochána can issue crime prevention notices directly to all subscribers/citizens.

Citizens can receive alerts by SMS text messages, email, or in-app. The app is free which will reduce SMS outgoings for the local text alert groups.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Blessington Town Centre Public Realm Regeneration Project



A positive space that recognises the value of a high quality public realm in stimulating economic activity while also creating a public space that promotes health and wellbeing. The overall vision and core strategy of the development was to strengthen and consolidate Blessington Town as the main town in Baltinglass Municipal District, while also ensuring the town remains the economic and social hub of the community. The open public space has increased activity in the area and improved the user experience for the community and tourist alike.



ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Ennis Public Realm Enhancement - Parnell Street, Laneways & Bow-ways



Ennis Public Realm Enhancement - Parnell Street, Laneways & Bow-ways. This project which was funded under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and through Clare County Council, involved the regeneration and revitalisation of various streets and laneways in Ennis Town Centre.

The project created an enhanced streetscape, significantly improving accessibility for pedestrians, and together with future planned projects has the overall aim of making the Town Centre experience more appealing and conducive for both retail and social purposes. The key features of the projects included shared surface treatment, widened footpaths, high-quality surface materials with improved street furniture, lighting and signage, street trees.

The project also involved close co-ordination with various utilities and extensive consultation with various stakeholders including business, residents, and community groups. The project outcomes are, increased pedestrian footfall, street activity, property values, longer dwell-times and an enhanced community pride and sense of place.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Community Gardens in Public Parks



Community Gardens within public parks has been a great success in bringing together the local community groups, residents and other interested parties for a common goal of learning.

Currently a variety of 8 community gardens are in operation with more to follow in the coming months. This community project is contributing to both the physical and mental wellbeing of every participant.



ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

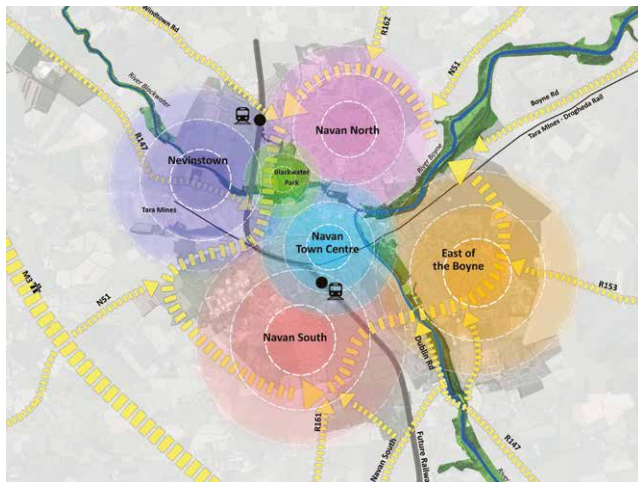
Castletroy Urban Greenway



The Castletroy Urban Greenway is a high-quality, attractive, and accessible greenway in the heart of suburban Limerick connecting people’s homes with local schools, shops, playgrounds and amenities. It provides an enhanced pedestrian and cycling experience for residents, school children and commuters in the area.

The main north-south spine extends to approximately 820m and provides connectivity between two schools. There are two secondary spines, one to the east linking to a new residential development (approx. 175m in length) and one to the west linking up with the local shopping centre (approx. 280m in length). Additional access points have been included to allow for future developments in the area.

The greenway, which opened in Q3 2021, consists of a 3.5m wide cycleway alongside a 2.5m wide footpath. It is enclosed by a grass verge and includes tree and shrub planting areas that add to the enjoyment of the local environment.



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Navan 2050 Vision



Meath County Council engaged with the National Transport Authority (NTA) on the potential delivery of a rail line to Navan. The NTA considered the journeys of the future population of Navan and the region. To assist this, the Planning Authority prepared a long-term 2050 Vision for Navan to outline aspirations for Navan to match the key pieces of infrastructure.

This document provides a long-term vision for the town informing the relevant statutory plans for Navan as well as informing the NTA’s work. This document was prepared internally by the forward planning staff in consultation with other sections within the Council, as well as external consultants. The Vision highlights Navan’s potential based on its key strengths and advantages compared to other towns of its size. This document outlines that Navan can transform to become an environmentally sustainable and compact Key Town in the region through progressive forward planning and appropriate investment.





HERITAGE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Single large-scale heritage-led urban regeneration project in Ramelton, County Donegal



Ramelton is one of the finest preserved historic towns in Ireland’s Northwest, but its historic fabric experienced significant decline in recent years. In response, a single large-scale urban regeneration project was designed, firmly based on the Ramelton Action Plan, Heritage-led actions. Fourteen historic buildings (eight highlighted as “At Risk”) located around the site of the Market Cross, were chosen to achieve the greatest transformative visual streetscape impact.

A Grade 1 Conservation Architect prepared a prioritised schedule of external repairs for each building including repairs to roofs; chimneys; rainwater goods; reinstatement of external lime renders where missing; repairing historic windows & new historically referenced pattern timber windows reinstated; repairing timber shopfronts; renewing missing shopfronts & painting using a palette of historical informed colours. This transformative regeneration project demonstrates the potential for positive streetscape impact through modest conservation & repair work at an urban scale to address regeneration inclusively, sustainably & cost-effectively.

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL

Galway Community Archaeology Project



Galway Community Archaeology Project promotes awareness, knowledge and understanding of their diverse archaeological resource among individuals and community groups & promote heritage best practice in relation to researching and undertaking works relating to archaeological heritage. Galway Community Archaeology Facebook Page drives traffic from the social media page to the Galway Community Archaeology Website. Community outreach projects include promotion of archaeological best practice for Community, Heritage, and Tidy Towns Groups. Advice and assistance is given with regards to Community Monuments Fund applications and projects. Consultation is ongoing with the National Monuments Service and various heritage groups on numerous community projects. Advice and guidance is given to individuals on a daily basis through telephone conversations, e-mails and on-line portals. Short videos produced targeted at Tidy Towns Groups and Community Groups to advise on archaeological heritage matters. Partnerships between individuals, communities, academic institutions, CHG, NGOs, farming organisations and the local authority.



HERITAGE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

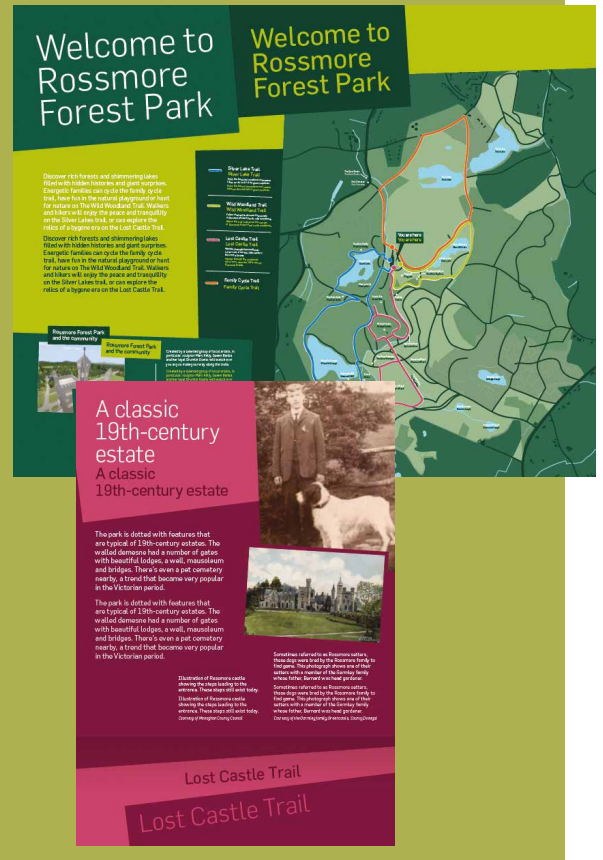


MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Rossmore Forest Park - Interpretation & Conservation Management Project



Rossmore Park has a long history that dates back over six thousand years and a wealth of heritage features including hill-top raths and court tombs from ancient times to built heritage from the former Rossmore Estate. These include castle ruins, a walled garden, mausoleum and a hydraulic ram and other remnants of a hydro-electric system. Funding was secured under the LEADER programme and a signage and interpretation project was undertaken to promote public interest in and knowledge and appreciation of these sites of historical significance in the park. Three trails were developed - the Lost Castle, Silver Lakes and Woodland Trails - with information panels at key sites. In addition, a Conservation Management Plan for the heritage sites in Rossmore has been completed. This will assist MCC and Coillte in identifying priority projects which require conservation and/or access improvement for which funding can be sourced over the next 5-10 years.



WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

Waterford Treasures, 5 Museums in the Viking Triangle



The multi-award-winning Waterford Treasures Museums in the Viking Triangle opened two new museums in 2021 - the National Museum of Time, only horological museum on the entire island - and the Irish Silver Museum, the only new museum worldwide to open post-pandemic. Waterford Treasures now offers a museum service to locals and visitors (attracting 89,000 visitors pre-pandemic) - 5 museums, a guided walking tour and a Viking Virtual Reality Adventure in a reproduction Waterford Viking house.

1000 years of history in 1000 paces from the Vikings to the Victorians in the only museum quarter in Ireland, the regenerated historic core of Ireland's oldest city and Irish Times Best Place to Live. Providing fun learning opportunities for all in national monuments, protected structures and onstreet. The Freedom of Waterford ticket allows you access to all attractions as you traverse the historic streets and beautiful public spaces; children under 12 go free.



HERITAGE AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT

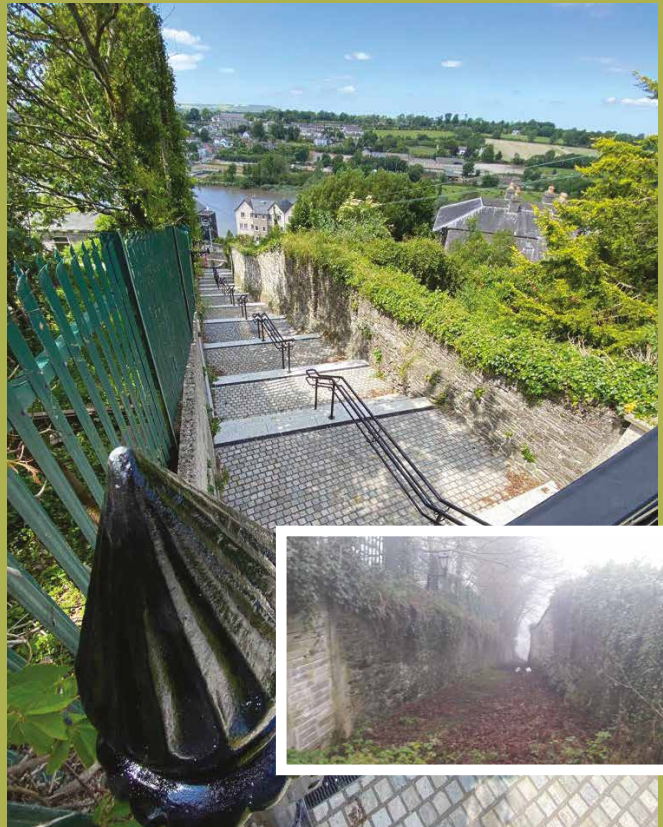
WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

The regeneration of Goat Hill



Goat Hill is an important pedestrian and historic route connecting the north east to the north west. It is the longest remaining section of the 13th century Town Wall. It closed to the public in 2009 due to an unsafe walkway and unstable sections of the Town Wall. The closure of this lane reduced foot fall on John Street and concealed the Town Wall and the view of the River Barrow.

In 2015, funding of €20,000 from the ITWN restored the unsafe sections of the wall. A grant in excess of €200,000 was received under the Active Travel programme to regenerate Goat Hill. This work allowed access to the public again. It was the final piece in the jigsaw with the six remaining sections of the Town Wall linked over its entire length with 50 brass plaques placed along the line of the original wall, creating the Town Wall Trail.



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

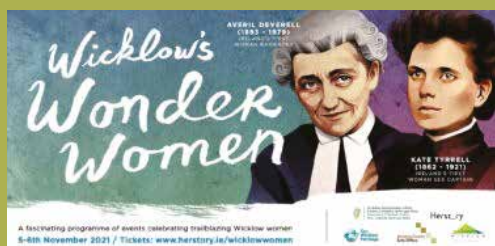
Celebrating Wicklow's Wonder Women



The legacies of two Wicklow trailblazing women and their connections with their local towns were remembered in a unique series of events in 2021. The 'Wicklow's Wonder Women' programme featured a spectacular light show, historical talk, experiential Brehon Law Court workshop and a fascinating "salon" event.

Based upon information compiled by the Heritage Office and Archives Service of Wicklow County Council as a contribution to ICAN's "Our Irish Women" project, this follow-on initiative in 2021 focussed on two remarkable women and their local towns.

Averil Deverell (1893 - 1979) from Greystones was the first Irish woman barrister called to the Bar in 1921 and Kate Tyrell (1862 - 1921) from Arklow was the first woman ship sea captain in Ireland. At a time when only men were allowed to be employed in these roles, each woman trailblazed the way for future generations and made their mark on their hometowns.



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The accreditation of Ennis as an Age-Friendly town



Successful Age Friendly Towns aim to create communities in which older people live independent and valued lives. The Ennis Age Friendly Town strategy was developed in consultation with stakeholders both statutory and voluntary including the Older Persons Council, Clare County Council, An Garda Síochána and the HSE. A number of walkability audits were conducted with the Older Persons Council and wheelchair users and persons with limited abilities to assess the existing streetscape and access to services from a safety and accessibility perspective. Arising from these audits a strategy was devised then broken down into a series of objectives and the implementation plan was formulated with a series of actions, with a lead agency assigned. Measures introduced to date include enhanced shared surface public realm, drop kerbs, additional pedestrian crossings, age-friendly seating, age-friendly parking, accessibility enhancements to recreational areas, age-friendly business accreditation and physical activity programmes for older persons.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

dlr Digital Inclusion Acorn Project



During the Covid 19 pandemic, a cross-departmental team was established in dlr to respond to the Community Call to provide supports to older and vulnerable citizens. Services pivoted remotely assisting isolated citizens in accessing online supports and staying in touch with their networks. Those who did not have access to devices, or the necessary skills, became increasingly marginalised during the pandemic. Research by Southside Partnership’s Dr Louise Kinlen identified the need to address digital literacy and digital poverty in the County. In response dlr Digital Inclusion Working Group composing of staff from Libraries, Community, IT & Communications was established, to examine best practice in addressing digital exclusion. The Age Friendly Alliance and Older Persons Council identified target groups, which allowed the Acorn Project to deliver devices & training to people in developing the skills & confidence needed to access services and stay connected online.



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Fingal Age Friendly Guide



The COVID-19 pandemic impacted everyone in every country leading to big shifts in behaviour including remote working, social distancing, face-masks, hand-sanitising and “cocooning”. Mental health and wellbeing also needed to be prioritised, especially among older adults and vulnerable people. For them

“cocooning” required restriction of movement and the loss of independence. Covid was a time of separation, isolation, loneliness and fear. Fingal County Council recognised that “cocooning” had a detrimental effect on our older population and produced an Age Friendly guide with information on the relevant services, supports and activities with uplifting stories and bright colourful images to support mental health and wellbeing for our older citizens during that difficult period in their lives.



WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

“The People We Grow Up to Be”, an Intergenerational Music Project



Through “The People We Grow Up to Be” Waterford Libraries, Waterford Music Generation, a poet, and traditional musician/educator came together to create an intergenerational music project involving the Bealtaine Choir and pupils at Kilmacthomas National School, Waterford.

With over 60 members the Bealtaine Choir was founded in the Waterford Central Library and has performed in venues across the country. Funded by Creative Ireland, this project had choir members share their memories and stories with the children who responded.

Anne Woodworth the Choir Director, Aileen Lambert a Storyteller/ Singer and Fiona Flavin a Musician Educator worked with the Music Generation Waterford Team (Shauna McCullough and Aine McGinley) to bring songs, stories and fun to the project, making it a joy to be part of. The friendships created were genuine, the stories heartfelt, and the music fantastic.



AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Wexford Telehealth Project



Wexford County Council funded a partnership with Wexford General Hospital to undertake a telehealth pilot project in 2021 in cooperation with Tunstall Emergency Response, Age Friendly Ireland and the HSE. The project provided a telehealth service with remote clinical triage to 50 older patients with chronic illnesses including Chronic Heart Failure, Diabetes and COPD. Telehealth involves the use of technology to support healthcare remotely allowing older people to self-manage their health conditions within their own homes. Equipment was provided to these patients for a 12-week period resulting in a reduction in unnecessary appointments, reducing time spent in waiting rooms and travelling. It helped people manage their conditions and clinical oversight gave them the confidence needed to exercise more.



UN Sustainable Development Goals





**Chambers
Ireland**
Advancing business together

**@ChambersIreland
#ELGAwards**

www.chambers.ie