



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil
Annual Report

2020

Mission

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

Vision

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

CONTENTS PAGE	
Our County	4
Cathaoirleach's Address	5
Chief Executive's Address	8
Electoral Areas and their Elected Representatives	17
Meeting of Local Authority	19
Civic/Cathaoirleach Receptions and Conferences Attended by Elected Representatives	19
Training Availed of by Elected Representatives	20
Public Authorities and other Bodies Elected Representatives are on	20
Payments to Elected Representatives	21
Strategic Policy Committee	22
Political Donations	23
Corporate Plan	23
Management Team	25
Housing, Libraries & Cultural Services, Human Resources & Corporate Services	
Human Resources & Corporate Affairs	26
Housing	31
Libraries	40
Arts	48
Museum	55
Ramor Theatre	61

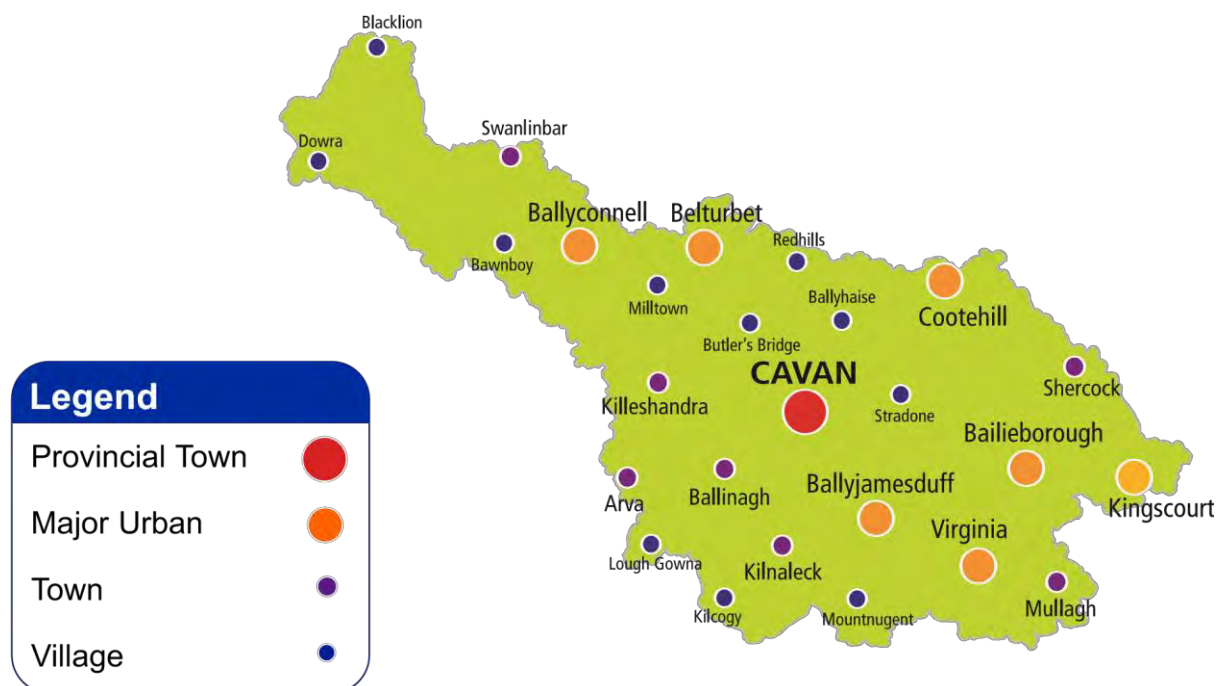
Transportation, Climate Change, Environment, Waste Management and Water Services	
Transportation	69
Environment	96
Waste Management	111
Water Services	132
Planning Community and Economic Development	
Planning	139
Community Enterprise and Tourism	153
UNESCO Global Geopark	184
Local Enterprise Office	190
Finance and Information Services	
Finance	198
Motor Tax	206
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	208
Emergency Services	211
Summary of Accounts	225

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

Our County

County Cavan has a population of 76,092. 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 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.



Cathaoirleach's Address

Mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin tá sé de phribhléid agam fáilte a chur roimh fhoilsiú Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2020.

As Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2020 Annual Report.



To wear the chain of Cathaoirleach in any year is a great privilege, but to have taken office during the worst international crisis in generations has been an even greater honour, as it has afforded me the opportunity to witness at first hand the extraordinary resilience of our council's staff and our county's people.

It has been, to say the least, an unusual experience. As local representatives, we thrive on personal interaction, and the role of Cathaoirleach usually entails a great number of events, and plenty of handshaking – something which was second nature just a few short months ago but is now almost unthinkable!

Though I, like all of you, long for a return to more face-to-face interaction and the chance to enjoy the company of my family, friends and my community, I have nonetheless taken great satisfaction in carrying out the radically-altered role of Cathaoirleach during a pandemic. To have had the opportunity to show leadership and represent my county in the hour of its greatest need has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life.

As this report details, the work of Cavan County Council continued throughout 2020, even as the coronavirus brought most aspects of our society to a standstill. I have been lucky through my role as a councillor and as Cathaoirleach to have seen up-close the extraordinary efforts of our staff to keep delivering services to their communities amid the fear and uncertainty of a global pandemic.

The staff of the local authority are drawn from our communities and their dedication is reflective of the commitment of each and every person in this county to come together for each other and in particular to protect the most vulnerable in our society. 2020 extracted a heavy toll on our county and its people. And yet, we know it could have been much, much worse. That our health system did not become overrun is testament to the incredible solidarity and strength that we as a community showed in the face of global catastrophe.

One of the most heartening events of 2020 was the inaugural Cavan Day, which I was delighted to launch. This diaspora engagement initiative brought Cavan people and friends of Cavan across the globe together in a spirit of celebration and appreciation of our great county and the many achievements of its people. At a time of great loneliness, anxiety, and isolation for many people, this initiative provided a wonderful sense of togetherness for many people worldwide. With over 10 million impressions on social media, we managed to create a wave of positivity which I have no doubt provided solace for many people.

While online initiatives played a huge role in our pandemic response, the actions of staff and volunteers on the ground were also hugely important, particularly with regard to protecting those who had to “cocoon” to protect themselves from Covid-19. As Cathaoirleach, I sat on a number of meetings of the Cavan Covid-19 Community Forum and the can-do attitude and spirit of collaboration and cooperation on display by the state, community, sporting, religious, and voluntary organisations who spearheaded the pandemic response was truly awe-inspiring.

In every town and village in County Cavan, people are alive thanks to the efforts of those dedicated men and women who came together to ensure that food, medicine, household supplies and even books found their way to the most vulnerable in society. I want to thank each and every one of those who helped, whether on the front lines, or in the background, for making a difference when it counted.

I also want to pay tribute to the people of Cavan, young and old, for the resolve they have shown throughout this pandemic. The restrictions that have been imposed throughout, while necessary, have taken their toll on all of us, and the selflessness

and solidarity displayed across the board has been little short of inspirational.

I want to thank Chief Executive Tommy Ryan, the senior management team, and all of the staff of Cavan County Council for their endeavours throughout 2020 and indeed every year. I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and for their continued efforts on behalf of the people of Cavan. Though we may disagree on individual issues on occasion, I know that we are bound by a common love for our county and a desire to improve the lot of all who live here.

Every time I wear the chain of office, I am reminded of those that wore it before me, and I am grateful that I, too, have had the opportunity to serve my county as first citizen. Just two years ago, only one woman had served as Cathaoirleach, and now there have been three women Cathaoirligh, so I am hopeful that myself, Cllr Madeleine Argue, and the late Cllr Veronica Sharkey have helped increase the visibility of women in local politics and that we will continue to see that number grow!

When the pandemic first took hold of the nation in March 2020, many of us hoped things would return to normal by the end of the year. That did not happen, and as you read this report, the fight against Covid-19 is ongoing, but science has given us hope in the form of vaccines, and with each passing day we inch closer to a future free of the isolation, separation, and caution that is so alien to our nature as Irish people.

I, for one, take great solace in the thought that when we finally emerge from this pandemic, we do so safe in the knowledge that together - as a county, as a nation - we can overcome any challenge.

Councillor Sarah O' Reilly, Cathaoirleach

Chief Executive's Address

Tá an-áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Chomhairle Contae an Chabháin do 2020 a chur i láthair.

I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report of Cavan County Council for 2020.

At the outset, few of us could have imagined the extent to which our lives would be transformed during the year and against the backdrop of a global pandemic - it is no exaggeration to say that 2020 was the most challenging year in recent memory for the local authority sector.

Nonetheless, I am proud that - as this report outlines - Cavan County Council's staff quickly adapted to the myriad challenges presented by Covid-19 and continued to deliver a wide range services to the citizens of our county in very trying circumstances.

Not only did this council continue to keep vital services such as planning, housing, water, environment and the fire brigade operational, but our staff also took on the significant challenge of co-ordinating an unparalleled community response to the pandemic raging through our society.

From the staff who operated the 'Community Call' helpline and provided a friendly ear to our most vulnerable, to our Community and Enterprise and Library staff who delivered the 'Keep Well' programme of initiatives, and of course the many dedicated Civil Defence volunteers who assisted with everything from food deliveries to medical transport and assistance with Covid testing, our people rose to the challenge when their county and their nation faced this once-in-a-lifetime peril.

The progress outlined in this report is testament to the commitment of staff and



management, the ongoing support and engagement of our elected members, and the co-operation and collaboration with partner agencies, the community and voluntary sector, and the public. The detailed and exhaustive strategic framework that underpins our work proved a crucial tool in keeping core services on-stream throughout. That so much was achieved in the face of such adversity is truly remarkable.

Among your local authority's many achievements in 2020 are:

- The Abbeylands Masterplan, funded as a Category B project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) in 2018, was nearing completion by the end of 2020, following extensive community, landowner and business consultation. This Plan will identify a series of high value and transformational interventions, supported by key partners, devised to stimulate social, cultural, economic and amenity regeneration in this key location of historical significance in the centre of town. Cavan County Council applied for Capital funding of €14,493,750 in 2020 with a decision on such call expected in 2021.
- A Ballyjamesduff Regeneration Strategy was prepared, supported by Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF). The strategy outlines a blueprint for future development projects in the town.
- In 2020, significant progress was made on the landmark new Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre in Virginia. The detailed design phase was completed, and tenders were subsequently invited for the construction stage.
- The first non-statutory public consultation on the scheme study area, initial constraints and route options for the N3 Virginia Bypass was completed in March. A second, non-statutory, public consultation on the shortlisted route options commenced online on the 11th of November 2020.
- Section B of the N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon scheme, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, progressed well during 2020. RPS

Consulting Engineers were appointed in February 2020 for the provision of Consultancy Services for Phases 5, 6 & 7 of the TII's Project Management Guidelines.

- The Geopark Team oversaw the submission a €6.6m application to Fáilte Ireland under the '*Platforms for Growth*' capital grants scheme to further develop Cavan Burren Park and the Shannon Pot. This proposed visitor experience consists of a flagship tourism attraction located The Shannon Pot and the enhancement of existing facilities at Cavan Burren Park to include an elevated viewing platform.
- The Geopark completed works on its new hub in Blacklion. The site includes offices, an educational space, site maintenance hub and meeting rooms and will be the operational and strategic home of the Geopark moving forward.
- Cootehill Enterprise Park, an initiative of Cavan County Council, successfully completed the first phase of development, providing a new access road and services to the park. PQE Engineering Ltd, the first company from Cootehill, have commenced groundworks with a view to completing construction of their new industrial building on a five acre site in late 2021/early 2022.
- Cavan Digital Hub, an initiative of Cavan County Council, entered into a joint venture with IDA Ireland and Cavan County Council to acquire an advance planning permit on a selected site in Killygarry Business Park for the development of an Advanced Technology Building. This will form part of Cavan County Council's corporate strategic plan to facilitate sustainable economic growth and attract inward investment into the County.
- Following a challenging year for small businesses, the National Local Enterprise Office 'Look for Local' campaign was launched on 27th November 2020 to encourage shoppers to shop locally during Christmas 2020.

- 100 council houses were let during the year with a further 24 houses let by Approved Housing Bodies, giving a total of 124 permanent units of accommodation let to persons in need.
- Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers completed 662 taskings during 2020 and were one of the most active units in Ireland. Duties included medicine deliveries, patient transfer, and delivery of food and other shopping through the 'Community Call' helpline.
- Our IT department co-ordinated the unprecedented mass-migration to working-from-home, ensuring that our staff could safely and efficiently continue to deliver services to the people of Cavan.
- On 26th February 2020, the members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District approved the Part VIII planning permission for a new Fire Station. During the second half of 2020, tenders were sought and assessed for the construction phase. A detailed report was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to commence construction.
- In 2020, 11 new build social housing units were completed by Cavan County Council: seven at Ashgrove, Ballyjamesduff, two at Clones Road, Butlersbridge, and two at Swellan, Cavan.
- During 2020 the Rates Section delivered the Restart Grant, Restart Plus Grants and Restart Top Up Grants on behalf of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The grant was a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers during the Covid pandemic. A total of €9,851,417 in Restart Grants were paid to 1,068 businesses.
- The acquisition of 25 vacant houses was successfully completed and added to the Council's housing stock in 2020. In total, 72 vacant houses were returned to use in 2020.

- Cavan County Library Service earned the Public Library of the Year Award for 2020 by The Public Sector Magazine.
- 2020 saw significant progress in the development of Cavan County Museum's plans for Ireland's Storytelling Centre. Preliminary architectural drawings for the build were completed, Part 8 planning permission was approved, and branding was commissioned to develop the name and logos associated with the Ireland's Storytelling Centre
- In December 2020 Cavan County Museum took delivery of the National Library's World War I exhibition on loan. This was a major coup for the county and the Museum as it will be the first venue outside of Dublin that this exhibition has gone on display. When mounted in 2021 this large-scale exhibition will be the focus of a series of collaborations between Cavan County Museum and the National Library.
- The first-ever 'Cavan Day', where the people, diaspora, and friends of Cavan come together to celebrate their county, was hosted virtually on Saturday, 26 September 2020. On social media, there were 9 million impressions on Twitter and Instagram and at least 1 million impressions on Facebook for #CavanDay hashtag – meaning the #CavanDay hashtag was viewed over 10 million times on social media during September, with approximately 3.5 million of these comprising unique views.
- Cavan Calling Christmas followed the footsteps of 'Cavan Day' by reaching out to the global Cavan family and asking them to share Christmas greetings with friends and family across the world.
- Part VIII Planning for the Virginia Traffic Calming and Pavement Scheme was approved by the councillors in the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District in 2020 and the scheme was tendered on 20th November 2020.

- Christmas Video 2020 - In this collaborative project, Cavan County Museum & Cavan Heritage Office produced a short video filmed on location at Cavan County Museum, that reflected on the experiences of the community during 2020, the resilience they had shown and the hope that lay ahead for 2021. The heart-warming and moving piece had an online reach of over 27,000 people.
- 2020 was the fifth year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan County Council and Monaghan County Council again joined forces, hosting a range of events during November 2020. Due to Covid19 restrictions the events were held virtually, and participants could access these events online. Over 13,000 children participated in school streamed events and over 1,000 adults streamed a science event.
- Belturbet Zero Waste project won the award for Best Waste Management Programme at the All-Ireland Community & Council Awards 2020.
- The Water Main Rehabilitation in Cavan Town - Main Street Project was carried out as part of Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.
- Shercock Watermain Project was fully completed in Quarter 4 of 2020. This involved the replacement of 400 metres of problematic old cast iron water mains on Bailieborough Road, Shercock.
- Cavan County Council was awarded €837,000 in January 2020 towards the development of a multi-purpose sports facility.
- Hundreds of unsung heroes from across the island of Ireland took part in the virtual 2020 IPB Insurance Pride of Place Awards on Saturday 21st November 2020. Three groups from County Cavan were nominated in 2020:
 - Cavan County Local Development Food Emergency Response Food Emergency Response – Wellbeing Initiative

- Turbet Island Dreamscape Trail - Project Belturbet– Creative Place Initiative
 - Drumgoon Graveyard Initiative – Community Tourism Initiative
 - Cavan County Local Development Food Emergency Response, which was set up in Belturbet to help distribute food during the Covid emergency was awarded a major prize at the All-Ireland Pride of Place.
- As a once-off scheme for Christmas 2020, funding was made available to towns and villages in Cavan to meet some of the costs of the provision of Christmas Lights. 34 Towns and Villages received approval for Grants from €500 to €2,250 and illuminated the county for Christmas.
 - Cavan Sports Partnership successfully delivered 135 programmes in 2020, incorporating online platforms in response to COVID 19 which enabled the LSP to increase the opportunities to participate in Sport and Physical Activity for everyone in the county.
 - A new Paint Scheme initiative launched in March 2020 provided grant aid for premises in Cavan Town who wished to paint their facades, kindly supported by Fleetwood Paints. This scheme is a great example of local business, the Town Team and the Local Authority coming together to bring about positive changes within our community and resulted in over 40 freshly painted, brightly coloured shop fronts in the town core.
 - An internal cross-departmental working group was established in 2020 to oversee implementation of the Town & Village Revitalisation Plans and to co-ordinate efforts across the local authority in revitalizing towns and villages across the county, mainly by maximizing funding under the RRDF, Town and Village and other schemes for projects that seek to improve and bring life and activity.
 - In February 2020, 'Created in Cavan' a new compelling brand identity for the development and promotion of the Cavan food movement was launched by

Chef Neven Maguire. A brand toolkit has been provided which is guiding the brand usage across all marketing communications platforms. The first edition of the Cavan food and drink producer directory was also published which showcases the great variety of top class produce that is available in County Cavan.

- Works were completed in 2020 on the 12km 'Killykeen Way' walking and cycle trail linking Killeshandra with Killykeen Forest Park. Works were also completed on a new 7km walking trail linking the town of Kingscourt with Dun a Ri Forest Park.
- The new 1.25km Cavan Town Urban Greenway was completed, linking Cavan General Hospital grounds with Carrickane in Cavan Town.
- The Community Call, a major initiative that links local and national government with the community and voluntary sectors, was announced by Government in late March 2020. The Community Call is an unprecedented mobilisation of both state and voluntary resources to combat the effects of COVID-19. The purpose of the Community Call was to coordinate community activity, direct community assistance to where it is needed, and marshal the volunteering energy of the country.
- Cavan was one of the first counties in the country to offer commercial connections under the National Broadband Plan fibre rollout.
- Cavan County Fire Service crews maintained a full response to all incidents throughout 2020. Response plans for Covid-19 were developed and the members of each crew were divided into small units to attend the fire stations to sterilise all equipment and buildings and ensure full operational readiness.
- Cavan County Council activated its Crisis Management Team (CMT) to ensure a coherent and efficient organisational response to the Covid-19

pandemic. The frequency of CMT meeting varied depending on local, regional, and national requirements.

- The review of the Cavan County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028 commenced in June 2020.
- To alleviate the impact of Covid 19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 9-month rates waiver scheme. A total waiver amounting to € 5,927,211 was processed by the Rates Department for eligible businesses in Co. Cavan.
- Covid 19 and the restrictions imposed along with it proved to be extremely challenging for the Planning Department in 2020, Despite the restrictions and limitations the section received 587 planning applications in 2020, an increase of 14% on the number of applications received in 2019.

Once again, I would like to thank the men and women of Cavan County Council for the dedication, bravery, compassion, and creativity they displayed on a daily basis during 2020. Adversity often brings out the best in people, and when their county needed them, our staff were not found wanting.

I would like to also acknowledge all those who have supported and complemented the work of our employees, especially our Cathaoirligh during 2019, Councillors Shane P O'Reilly and Sarah O'Reilly, their fellow elected members, and the members of our various committees, who quickly adapted to the world of virtual meetings and performed their functions with their customary dedication and commitment.

Our shared achievements have been a ray of light in an otherwise dark year, and together we have planted the seeds of hope for a brighter future.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Tommy Ryan,
Chief Executive

Municipal Districts and their Elected Representatives

Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District



Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (FF)



Cllr Carmel Brady (FG)



Cllr Clifford Kelly (FF)



Cllr Paddy Mc Donald (SF)



Cllr Sarah O'Reilly (Aontú)



Cllr Val Smith (FG)

Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District



Cllr John Paul Feeley (FF)



Cllr Madeleine Argue (FG)



Cllr Patricia Walsh (FF)



Cllr Peter Mc Vitty (FG)



Cllr Sean Smith (FF)



Cllr Brendan Fay (Ind)

Ballyjamesduff Municipal District



Cllr Craig Lovett (FF)



Cllr Philip Brady (FF)



Cllr Shane P O'Reilly (Ind)



Cllr TP O'Reilly (FG)



Cllr Trevor Smith (FG)



Cllr Winston Bennett (FG)

Meetings of Local Authority

Meeting	Number of meetings held in 2020
Monthly, Reconvened and Special Meetings of the Plenary Council	9
Ballyjamesduff Municipal District Meetings	7
Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District Meetings	6
Cavan-Belturbet Municipal District Meetings	8
Annual General Meeting	1
Annual Budget Meeting	1
Corporate Policy Group Meetings	12
Housing, Community, Social Inclusion and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee	3
Economic, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee	3
Roads & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee	1
Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment Strategic Policy Committee	2
Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee	2
Joint Policing Committee	3
Audit Committee	4

Conferences, Seminars, Events Attended by Elected Members

Conference / Seminar / Event	Location	Purpose	Number Attended
Celtic Conferences	Clonakilty, Co. Cork	Tackling Carbon Emissions & Fuel Poverty	6
Colmcille Heritage Trust	Gartan, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal	The Contribution of Irish Christianity to Irish, European & World Civilisation	4

Training Availed of by Elected Members

Title of Training	Body that Provided Training	Location	Number who attended
The Development Plan Making Process	Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	Cavan Waterford	5 7
Annual Conference	Association of Irish Local Government	Longford	12
Moorhead Report	Association of Irish Local Government	Cork Athlone Tipperary Wexford	5 3 4 2

Public Authorities and Other Bodies Elected Members are represented on.

Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board	Clifford Kelly, Sean Smith, Patricia Walsh, Brendan Fay, Sarah O'Reilly, Madeleine Argue, Carmel Brady
Health Service Executive Regional Health Forum, Dublin North East	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Craig Lovett, Trevor Smith
Cavan Local Sports Partnership Board	Brendan Fay, Paddy McDonald, Craig Lovett, Patricia Walsh, Madeleine Argue
Northern & Western Regional Authority	Sean Smith, Craig Lovett
Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN)	Patricia Walsh, Clifford Kelly, Winston Bennett
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Limited	Paddy McDonald
Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)	John Paul Feeley, Shane P O'Reilly, Peter McVitty
Local Authority Members' Association (LAMA)	Clifford Kelly
Cavan Local Community Development Committee	Clifford Kelly, Aiden Fitzpatrick, T.P. O'Reilly
County Cavan Joint Policing	Sarah O'Reilly, Shane P. O'Reilly, Clifford

Committee	Kelly, John Paul Feeley, Carmel Brady, Peter McVitty, Madeleine Argue, Paddy McDonald, Patricia Walsh, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Philip Brady, Craig Lovett, Brendan Fay, Trevor Smith, T.P. O'Reilly
North East Regional Drugs Task Force	Aiden Fitzpatrick, Carmel Brady
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	John Paul Feeley, Patricia Walsh, Trevor Smith, Madeleine Argue
Age Friendly Alliance	Brendan Fay, Carmel Brady
Local Monitoring Committee (Rural Water Programme)	John Paul Feeley, Sean Smith, Winston Bennett
County Cavan Heritage Forum	Brendan Fay, Aiden Fitzpatrick, Shane P. O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly
HSE Cavan/Monaghan Suicide Prevention Steering Group and Community Implementation Group	Sarah O'Reilly, T.P. O'Reilly

Payments to Members of Cavan County Council in 2020

Annual Expenses Allowance (travel, subsistence and miscellaneous expenses)	€91,886.34
Representational Payments	€ 312,829.56
Cathaoirleach / Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances (including Municipal Authorities)	€41,185.87
Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€30,000.00
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Conferences, Seminars	€ 4,463.22
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at Training Events	€11,159.01
Travel, Subsistence for attendance at events abroad	€374.89

Strategic Policy Committees

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

Political Donations

The Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations & Expenditure) Act, 1999 (as amended) requires that Elected Members of Local Authorities furnish donation statements to their Local Authority by 31st January each year giving details of donations received by them in the preceding twelve-month period. No political donations were declared by the elected members for the period 1st January 2020 to the 31st of December 2020 as per donations statements submitted by each elected member by the 31st of January 2021.

The Corporate Plan 2019 -2024

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

Our Values

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

The following core values will inform and underpin our decisions:

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

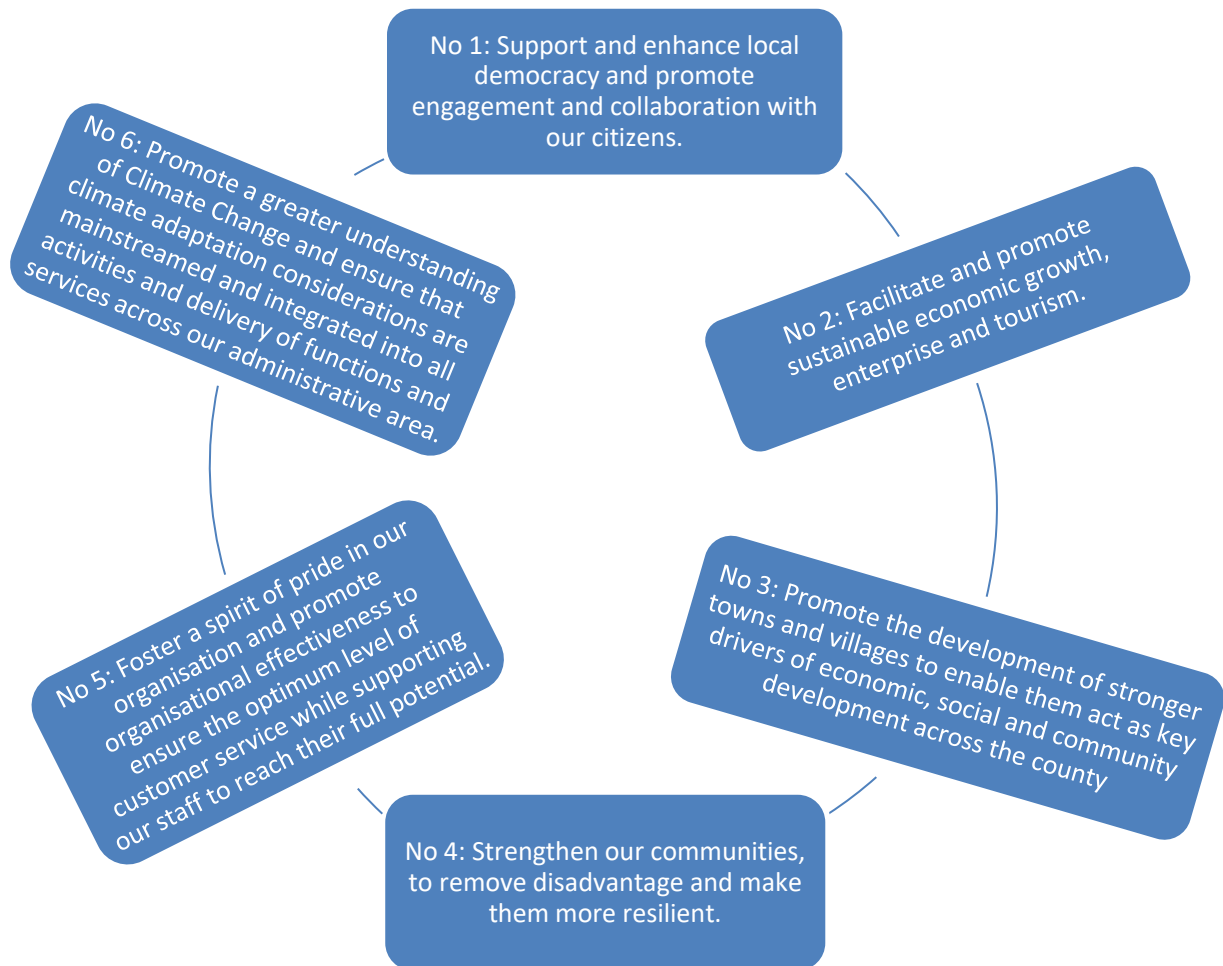


2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

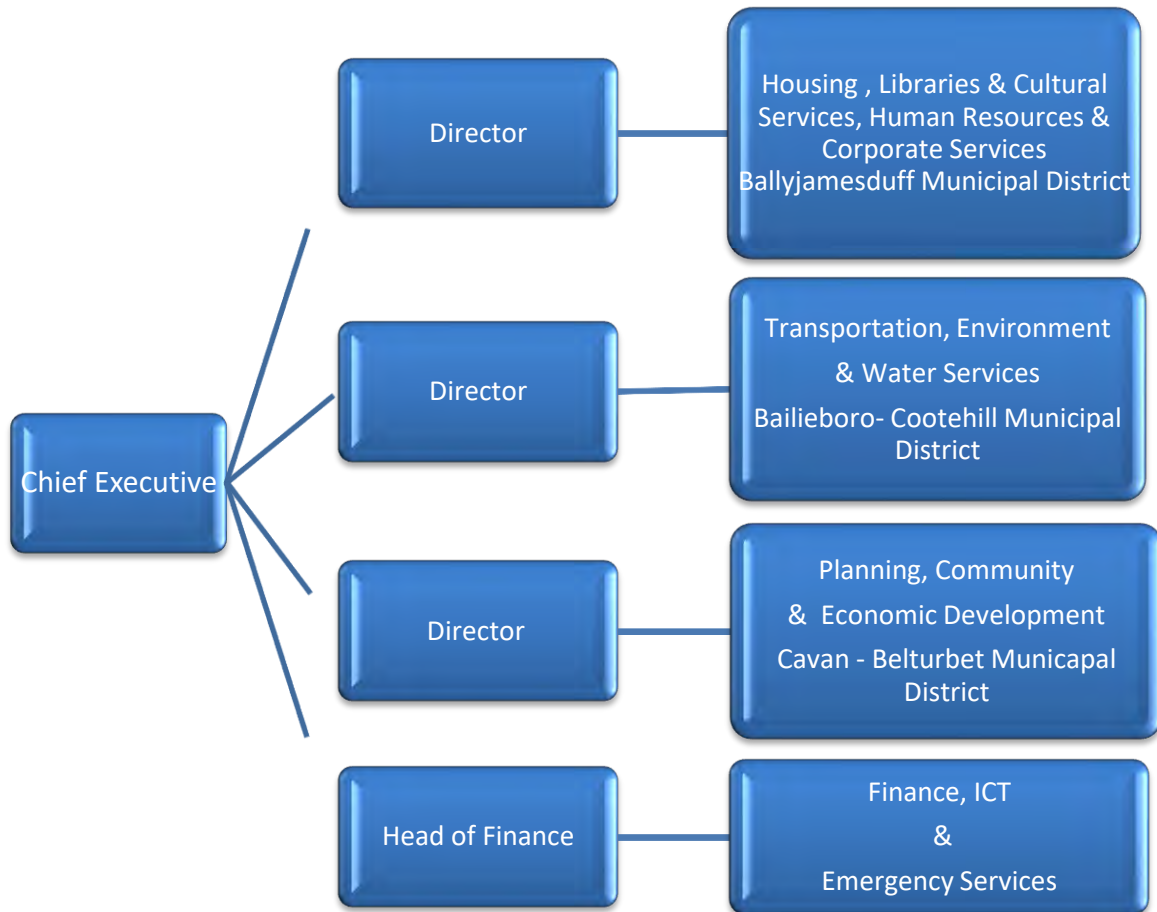
The Strategic Objectives identified in the Corporate Plan are as follows:



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



Management Team



Eoin Doyle
Director of Services



Paddy Connaughton
Director of Services



Brendan Jennings
Director of Services



Margaret McNally
A/Head of Finance



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

Human Resources and Corporate Affairs 2020

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

On 31st December 2020 509 staff were employed by the Council. The numbers of core staff in each of the categories are as follows:

Staffing	Number
Managerial	4
Clerical/Administrative	187
Professional/Technical	75
Outdoor	125
Contract Posts/Projects	15
Temporary/Seasonal	11
Total	417
Retained Firefighters	92

Recruitment

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic recruitment was suspended for a period in 2020 and there was therefore a reduction in the number of competitions on previous years. During 2020 the Human Resources Department organised 22 separate competitions for various posts within the Council. These competitions attracted 264 applicants and to date 21 staff have been appointed as a result. These appointments include staff joining the organisation and existing staff attaining promotion.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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.

Learning & Development

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, a comprehensive Training Programme was delivered in 2020 to enable staff carry out their role in a confident, competent manner and contribute effectively to the overall vision of the organisation and the accomplishment of its goals and objectives. Staff training was delivered with specific emphasis on health & safety and mandatory organisational training needs. Cumulatively, training was provided to 577 indoor staff and 476 outdoor staff. Support continued to be provided to staff wishing to pursue further education study programmes.

Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)

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

NOAC Performance Indicators

Human Resources is required to complete performance indicators in respect of sick leave. Statistics for 2020 are as follows:

% of working days lost to sickness		
	Certified Sick Leave	Uncertified Sick
2020	2.26%	0.14%



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Freedom of Information (FOI)

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

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

Freedom of Information (FOI) Statistics 2020:

Cases brought forward from 2019:	5
Number of applications received:	64
Number of applications granted:	41
Number of applications part granted:	6
Number of applications refused:	17
Withdrawn/Dealt with outside FOI:	3

Data Protection

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

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

- the right to be informed.
- the right of access.
- the right to rectification.
- the right to erasure.
- the right to restrict processing.
- the right to data portability.
- the right to object.
- rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

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

Data Protection Statistics 2020: Subject Access Requests 6

Protected Disclosures

The Protected Disclosures Act 2014 became operational on the 15th of July 2014, which puts an obligation on the Council to report on the number of protected disclosures made to the Council in the preceding year.

In accordance with Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014, Cavan County Council reports that it did not receive any protected disclosures in the 12-month period ending on 30th June 2020.

Council Meetings and Elected Members

Corporate Services has responsibility for the administration of plenary Council meetings and provides support to the Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members in carrying out their functions and duties.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Register of Electors

Corporate Services has responsibility for the compilation of the Draft and Live Register of Electors and also for the compilation of the Supplement to the Register. The Register is published every year on the 1st of 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 of September of the year before the Register comes into force.

The total number of Electors in the County for the 2020/2021 Register of Electors is 56,639.

Local Electoral Area	Number of Electors
Bailieborough-Cootehill	20,364
Ballyjamesduff	20,252
Cavan-Biotarget	17,985
Total	58,601



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

HOUSING

The core objective for Housing is to ensure that all out citizens enjoy an adequate standard of housing accommodation appropriate to their needs, and as far as possible, in a location and tenure of their choice and to provide a responsive and supportive housing service for those in need of assistance. There was a continued large demand for services and increased delivery activity in the area of Housing and Social Support in 2020.

Need for Social Housing Support

The annual Housing Needs Assessment was undertaken months of September, October, and November 2020. On assessment day i.e., 30th November a total of 1070 households qualified for social housing support. 495 of these were already in receipt of some form support and had applied for a transfer leaving the total nett need for social housing support in the county at 585.

In 2020 a total of 284 households were supported through the various social housing options available as outlined below.

Allocation of Council Houses

100 council houses were let during the year with a further 24 houses let by Approved Housing Bodies. This means that a total of 124 permanent units of accommodation were let to persons in need. It should be noted that over 20% of all offers of accommodation were refused during the year.

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

The HAP scheme is a form of social housing support whereby the Council provides financial assistance to people who are qualified renting in the private rented sector. There was a total of 427 active tenancies by 31st December 2020. All HAP properties must be inspected within 8 months of the time the first payment is made to the Landlord. However, inspections were limited during 2020 due to the restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

The RAS Scheme continued to operate successfully in 2020 with a lot of activity despite challenges posed by the reduction in the availability of suitable properties in some towns and villages. One of the other challenges in 2020 was assisting RAS tenants who had received Notices to Quit terminating their tenancies. The total active tenancies - 527 (incl. Approved Housing Body).

Leasing of Property

A total of 118 active lease agreements are in place with both private landlords and Approved Housing Bodies under the social housing leasing scheme. All of these are rented by the Council to qualified applicants on its waiting list.

Mortgage to Rent Scheme

At 31 December 18 homeowners were successfully housed in the scheme which is almost double of 2019 figures. Activity in this area continues to increase which is beneficial for homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and becoming homeless.

Self-Isolation Units

The Council made provisions for homeless clients and members of the Traveller Community who reside in caravans/mobile homes who may have been required to self-isolate. Persons in these categories identified by the Social Inclusion Unit of the HSE CH01 either suspected of having Covid 19, who were awaiting test results or had received confirmation of a positive result were required to self-isolate if directed to. 5 units were earmarked and fully kitted out by the Council for this purpose and were assigned as required in consultation with the HSE.

Loans and Tenant Purchase

The Council continued to offer loans to first time buyers under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. At end of 2020, 5 loans were paid out with a further 4 finally



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

approved and 8 approved in principle. 1 tenant households had purchased their houses under the Tenant (Incremental) Purchase Scheme.

Private House Grants

There are three types of grants provided by the council: Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability Scheme, the Mobility Aids Housing Grant Scheme and the Housing Aid for Older People Scheme. The schemes are designed to help people remain living in their homes when they are no longer suited to meet their needs. The pandemic posed significant challenges in this area of activity in 2020 due to the restrictions on works being carried out at different stages during the year and in some cases, applicants found it most difficult to get contractors to undertake works before the year end. Despite this a total of €701,987 was spent on grants in 2020 as follows with a total amount of €1,478,288 committed expenditure at the end of the year:

Grant	Number	Amount
Housing Adaptation Grant for people with a Disability	31	€465,988
Housing Aid for Older People Scheme	26	€146,091
Mobility Aids Grant Scheme	16	€ 89,908
Total	73	€701,987

Traveller Accommodation Programme

The Council continued to address the targets agreed as adopted in the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) 2019 – 2024. At the end of 2020, a total of 144 traveller households were in receipt of social housing support.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

20 households were assigned to the County under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. Funding up to a maximum of €249,698 was provided to the Council, as



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

coordinator of the Resettlement Project from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Following a formal tendering process, the Council appointed Breffni Integrated as Programme Implementer. Breffni Integrated have employed a Resettlement Support Worker and an Intercultural Worker whose job it is to assist the Refugees to ensure that the Refugees can settle into the community, can access services appropriately and build lasting relationships with the local community. A total of 6 no. households were settled into the County in 2020 bringing the total number to 19.

Estate Management

The Council continued providing support and working in partnership with residents across the county to improve the appearance and living environment of public areas. To this end, the Council has assisted with the establishment of a network of residents' association, otherwise known as Estate Management Teams, in social housing areas. In 2020 while activity was curtailed there continued to be 83 Estate Management Teams (EMTs) active and formally registered with the Council.

Estate Grant and Awards Scheme

Funding was again provided under the annual Estate Grant and Awards Scheme. A total of 78 Local Authority Estates participated in 2020. Each participating estate group was awarded a grant and entered into an awards scheme. The purpose of the scheme is to recognise and support outstanding efforts made by groups or individuals dedicated to improving the appearance or amenity value of public areas.

Prizes were awarded in the following categories: Best Individual House and Garden, Best Youth Group, Best Up cycling Award and Best Special Feature. Litter Free Awards were also allocated to a number of estates.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council





2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Housing Delivery

Funding for the construction of new social housing schemes and the acquisition of existing vacant houses for use as council owned social housing comes from the Social Housing Investment Programme. The 2020 Capital Funding Allocations received under the Programme were as follows:

(i) Housing Construction Programme	€ 3,390,950
(ii) Housing Acquisition Programme	€ 4,218,958
(iii) Voluntary Housing Bodies - CAS & CALF Funding	€ 1,612,924
(iv) Voids Programme	€ <u>707,746</u>
Total	€ 9,930,578

New Build Construction Programme

In 2020, 11 new build social housing units were completed by Cavan County Council: 7 at Ashgrove, Ballyjamesduff, 2 at Clones Road, Butlersbridge and 2 at Swellan, Cavan.



New Housing at Ashgrove, Ballyjamesduff



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



New Housing at Clones Road, Butlersbridge

In addition, Approved Housing Bodies delivered a further 12 new build social housing units at the Gallops, Cavan.

In 2020, significant progress was also made on other projects which are at various stages of approval with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government as outlined below:

36 units were at the Construction Stage

- 4 units at Corstruce, Ballinagh
- 4 units at Ashgrove, Ballyjamesduff
- 19 units at Main Street, Mullagh
- 6 units at Main Street, Butlersbridge
- 3 units at Cluain Dara, Kingscourt

15 units were at Stage 3 approval to proceed with the Tender Process

- 15 units at Cavan Road, Ballinagh

16 units were at Stage 2 approval to proceed with the Part 8 Planning Process

- 13 units at Elm Grove, Cavan
- 3 units at Fairymount Close, Kingscourt



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

56 units were at Stage 1 approval to proceed with Preliminary Design

- 47 units at Eastboro, Bailieborough
- 9 units at St. Brigids Terrace, Cavan

75 turnkey units had received Approval in Principle

- 32 units at Woodlands, Ballyjamesduff
- 43 units at Mullaghduff, Ballyconnell

Social Housing Acquisition Programme

The acquisition of 25 vacant houses was successfully completed and added to the Council's housing stock in 2020.

Programme of Works to Void Housing Units

Funding of €707,746 was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for the completion of improvement works on vacant houses. In addition, €210,000 of Own Resources were allocated to vacant houses in the Council Budget 2020. In total, 72No. vacant houses were returned to use in 2020, which is 43 more than 2019 and 29 more than 2018.

Housing Response Maintenance Programme

The total housing stock in Cavan is 2094 and it is the Council's responsibility to ensure they are regularly maintained, and any repairs needed are carried out. Funding for this purpose is provided in the annual Budget and comes from the Council's own resources.

A total of €741,568 was expended in 2020 on response maintenance, which covers the day-to-day problems in our stock such as heating and plumbing issues, electrical faults, window repairs, door repairs, stove repairs, repairs to wastewater treatment system etc.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Corporate Building Projects

In addition to the maintenance of the Council's stock of 2094 houses and the construction of new houses, the Housing Section is also responsible for the Project Management of key Corporate Building Projects.

In 2020, significant progress was made on the new Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre in Virginia. The detailed design phase was completed, and tenders were subsequently invited for the construction stage. It is anticipated that construction will begin in Q2' 2021.



CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024

The work in the Housing Section directly supports the Strategic Objectives and Strategic Actions of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Libraries and Cultural Affairs

Cavan Library Service

Cavan Library Service embarked on 2020 with a comprehensive programme to develop existing services and to introduce new and innovative elements which would enhance the experience of library users across the county. This included the development of sensory library facilities and equipment with funding assistance from the Department of Rural and Community Development. Cavan Library Service participated in “*Take A Closer Look*”, a national publicity campaign across January and February which highlighted the range of services and facilities offered by the Irish public library system. This campaign culminated with a National Open Day held on Saturday 29th February, with libraries showcasing library spaces, resources and equipment, along with a vibrant schedule of activities for all ages.

Cavan Library Service in a Covid-19 environment

With library buildings closed to the public from 12th March, as a result of the pandemic, Cavan Library Service rapidly adapted its services to meet the demands of the changing environment, introducing a range of measures including the delivery of reading material to vulnerable members of the community who are cocooning.

Book Delivery Service

The book delivery initiative commenced in April, and continued on a monthly basis, with the support of Cavan County Council’s Roads and Water Services Departments along with Cavan Civil Defence. This service represents a lifeline, supporting the mental wellbeing of individuals during very challenging times. With the re-introduction of strict lockdown measures in October, Cavan Library Service seen a new surge in requests for the service and reaffirmed its commitment to meeting this demand during the difficult winter months.



Library Book Delivery Service From left Eoin Doyle, Director of Service, Cavan County Council; Cathaoirleach Sarah O'Reilly; Darragh Pakenham, Cavan Civil Defence & Emma Clancy, Cavan County Librarian. Photo: Lorraine Teevan

Online Library Services

A promotional campaign highlighting the range of online services freely available through the library service, led to a sharp increase in usage of e-books and e-audiobooks, online newspapers, magazines and language and other training courses. A range of online events including storytime, poetry readings and lectures was delivered throughout the year, achieving phenomenal viewing figures.

Key local and national festivals such as Culture Night in September and Cavan Monaghan Science Festival in November were celebrated in an online setting.

Cavan County Library Service continually engages with borrowers and followers on various social media platforms, providing a balance of authoritative Covid-19 information, cultural offerings such as virtual gallery and museum tours, and light entertainment.

Library personnel

The Library Service responded to the call to provide staff to local authority frontline



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

areas such as the Housing Dept, the Community Helpline and to the Government's Temporary Assignments Scheme during 2020. Library Staff were released from the Community Helpline towards the end of May in order to facilitate preparations for the reopening of library services.

To meet the challenge of moving services online, Library staff engaged in various training programmes including social media, video editing and hosting events online. Staff also participated in Autism Awareness Training provided by AsIAM.

Reopening of Cavan Libraries

With all necessary public health measures in place, Johnston Central Library reopened its doors on Monday, 8 June, offering a Contact and Collect service to its readers. Following a further easing of restrictions, Johnston Central Library extended this service to include limited browsing and computer and printing access from Monday, 29 June. Other Branch libraries reopened over the summer months, offering a browsing service until the return of tighter restrictions in October, resulting in libraries closing once more.



Cavan Library Team at Reopening of Cavan Library on 8 June 2020. Photo: Cavan Library Service



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Ongoing Library Initiatives

Cavan Library Service continued to roll out national initiatives such as *Right to Read*, *Healthy Ireland at your Library* and *Work Matters at the Library*, with an online presence, given this year's restrictions. '*Right to Read*' supports the development of literacy, and Cavan Libraries continued to engage with parents and young adults via social media to support home schooling/study and reading for pleasure with online activities to support *Spring into Storytime* and *Summer Stars* and *Children's Book Festival*. Cavan Library Service engaged in a Council-led initiative to support shared reading with children from St. Felim's National School during the 2019/2020 academic year, which came to a premature end in March 2020. Cavan County Library Service was presented with a Right to Read Champion Award by the Department of Rural and Community Development, in recognition of our ongoing efforts to support literacy development through the library service. The Library Service provided trusted health information as part of our *Healthy Ireland at your Library* programme.

Cavan Library Service is committed to developing and promoting access for all citizens to its range of facilities and services. In 2020, new sensory equipment and software was acquired including a Sensory Pod, a self-service tablet kiosk and a Magic table designed to assist people with dementia and autism. This investment in emerging technologies was made possible through funding received from the Dormant Accounts Fund, Department of Rural and Community Development and Creative Ireland.



Sensory Pod installed in Johnston Central Library. Photo: Cavan Library Service

Working in Partnership

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

Cavan Library Service plays an integral role in the coordination of the Creative Ireland programme for the county and 2020 highlights include *Cruinniú na nÓg* in June and *Culture Night* in September. *Cruinniú na nÓg*, a national day to celebrate creativity among children and young people, took place Saturday 13th June with a host of online fun, interactive activities coordinated by Cavan County Library Service, Cavan Arts Office, Ramor Theatre, and Cavan County Museum. Cavan County Council collaborated with Monaghan County Council on a very exciting initiative developing content for the newly created Cavan Monaghan Creative Youth YouTube channel. This channel continues to showcase content across multiple art forms by young people across Cavan and Monaghan.

Cavan Library Service prides itself in delivering a quality series of history lectures on



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

matters of local and national interest. The library offering was further enhanced through the allocation of Decade of Centenaries funding which supported a very successful Centenary Lecture Series which was delivered online in 2020.

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

Plans for a new library and cultural civic centre in Virginia were progressed with Stage 3 approval granted by the Department of Rural and Community Development in 2020.

Cavan County Library Service provides a vital service in the heart of each community it serves with each branch serving as civic spaces, open and welcoming to all. The quality of our offering was justly recognised when it earned the *Public Library of the Year Award* for 2020 by The Public Sector Magazine.



Public Library of the Year Award 2020 From left: Eoin Doyle, Director of Service, Cavan County Council; Emma Clancy, Cavan County Librarian, Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council.
Photo: Lorraine Teevan



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan Diaspora Engagement Strategy 2017 – 2021 and Cavan Calling 2020

As part of Cavan County Council's Diaspora Engagement Strategy, Cavan County Council had initiated plans to host Cavan Calling 2020, a major gathering of the global Cavan family in August 2020 with an inaugural Cavan Day scheduled to take place on August 22nd 2020. A cross-sectoral committee was established to plan the event and a newsletter detailing the Cavan Calling Festival issued to many thousands at home and abroad in December. A very positive Open Evening took place in the Hotel Kilmore in January 2020, which generated much enthusiasm for the Festival. The difficult decision to postpone the event was taken in April in light of the global pandemic and attention switched swiftly to an online celebration of Cavan people at home and abroad. September 26th was designated as Cavan Day, and a specially commissioned show was produced and broadcast on Cavan TV and on the organisation's social media channels.

It was a huge success, with the #CavanDay hashtag going 'viral' for two days. The Cavan Calling committee, co-ordinated by County Librarian Emma Clancy, worked throughout the summer to pull together an ambitious, high-quality, magazine-style broadcast, backed by a broad-reaching, engaging social media and legacy media advertising campaign.

Film-maker Alan Bradley and local Tv presenter Louise O'Reilly were engaged to record a special live broadcast, recorded at Town Hall Cavan and facilitated by Theatre Manager Padraic McIntyre. Filming took place over three days in late August, with additional on-location shots. Footage was also supplied by committee members in the Museum, Tourism Office, Arts Office, Heritage Office, and Local Enterprise Office.

The event was widely publicised and both on social media and in traditional media. Radio coverage included an ad campaign, interviews, and live broadcast on Northern Sound, an interview on Today FM (this would have been a live broadcast from Cavan but for additional Covid restrictions in Dublin) as well as interviews with Irish Radio in New York and in London, and mentions on Newstalk, Ryan Tubridy Show on RTE Radio, iRadio, and plugs from Paul McCloone and Máiréad Ronan on Today FM. The Anglo-Celt editorial proclaimed the event "a great showcase for [the]



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

county”. The online broadcast was well received and has had in excess of 24,000 views to date, with this figure rising steadily.

On social media, there were 9 million impressions on Twitter and Instagram and at least 1 million impressions on Facebook for #CavanDay hashtag – that means the #CavanDay hashtag was viewed over 10 million times on social media during September, with approx. 3.5 million of these unique viewers. The campaign was managed by the Communications Officer, with assistance from the Tourism Office. #CavanDay was Trending at No. 1 in Ireland by 10am Saturday morning, still trending top 10 Sunday afternoon. This means it was the most talked-about topic on Twitter in Ireland on Saturday.

The event was tweeted about by high-profile individuals and accounts such as Simon Harris, Seamus O’Rourke, Rory’s Stories, RTE Countrywide, Neale Richmond TD, Heather Humphreys, Mary Lou McDonald, RTÉ newsreader Ray Kennedy, Brian F O’Byrne, Leona Maguire, Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, and Marty Morrissey.

The Cavan Day sign also featured in Breffni Park on the televised build-up to the coverage of the Senior Football County Final on RTÉ2. Marty Morrissey posed with the #CavanDay sign for a photo published online and in the following issue of the Anglo Celt.

A viral ‘Cavan Cola’ advert, made by Gowona filmmaker Pádraig Conaty, supported by Cavan County Council through Creative Ireland, was launched online in advance of #CavanDay and received over half a million impressions on social media.

Local businesses also got on board with the #CavanDay initiative, with many offering special #CavanDay discounts, while others such as the Slieve Russell Hotel lit up their premises blue for the occasion.

Cavan Courthouse was also lit up blue for the occasion.



Arts

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

Cavan County Council arts office is guided by **Inclusivity and Ambition – A Strategy for Cavan Arts 2018 – 2023**, the arts office reports on request to **Housing, Corporate and Cultural Affairs Special Policy Committee**.

The primary funding source for arts development is Cavan County Council with programme support from the Arts Council of €65,000.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Mission

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

The priorities are:

- Artistic
- Audience Development
- Diversity
- Infrastructure

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

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

Arts Awards and Bursaries

The Members of Cavan County Council provide a budget for **Arts Development Awards** under the Arts Act 2003 to support community arts.

Professional Artists Awards were provided to support artists and a new **Emerging Artist Award** for early-stage career artists.

The Tyrone Guthrie Bursary was awarded to Aaron Monaghan, theatre and Gráinne Brady, music.

2020 Funding Breakdown

Arts Awards and Bursaries	Received	Awarded	Total Value
Professional Artists	28	14	€17,072
Development Awards	46	33	€20,300
The Tyrone Guthrie Bursary	17	2	€1,120
Emerging Artists	4	4	€5,460



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Covid 19 and the Arts

The Covid 19 Pandemic and the Government guidelines saw the closure of arts venues and the cancellation of arts events. This had a very negative social and economic effect on our cultural sector and the many artists, industry professionals and sole traders who are part of this industry. In Cavan the negative effect saw the cancellation of festival, community events as well as the closing of our cultural venues. Artists and the sector addressed this with a blended approach to work. Despite this arts content was consumed in great quantities as evidenced in book sales, Facebook events, live streaming, zooming, YouTube and across various media platforms.

Reaching Out

15 E-Bulletins were disseminated in 2020 to our database with regular updates on Facebook/Twitter and www.cavanarts.ie. In 2020 the emphasis was on reaching out to artists and communities to promote opportunities, combat isolation, create and share work.





2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

(The Hug -by Sculptor Marie Smith photograph by Pádraig Conaty)

Bronntanas – The Gift

A series of 17 videos profiling artists and arts practice were produced and released on Cavan Arts YouTube for Christmas. These inspirational videos celebrated the work that Cavan artists and communities created.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly was among the contributors with a short script recalling memories of times past in her native Bailieborough. Contributors included Noel Monahan and Padraig Lynch long time collaborators with their Christmas poem and painting, St Patrick's College Orchestra with a special arrangement of Silent Night by Ciarán Tackney, The Duffy Brothers with Sean Nós, Paul Flynn's new composition The Old Man, Kim McCafferty and Con Horgan with Amistat, a stop motion video, Miriam Fitzgerald Juskova with her paper art creations, Assemblage Art from Thomaz Grzesik, Festival in a Van visiting nursing homes with Niamh McCormack and Claire Crehan on vocals and piano, Oh Glint by Heather Brett with accompaniment by Ellen O'Brien. Rebecca O Connor and Will Govan, The Moth Magazine editors on experiences of life among the Cavan lakes. Members of the original Breffni Boys Band and St Felim's Band with NYAH traditional musicians. Drumalee Film and Photographic Club, Jane McCormick with a quirky take on curating in the 'Corracanvy Hoard' and an extract from Fragments, a contemporary dance work by Jessie Keenan. The national broadcaster RTE subsequently interviewed Marie Smith, sculptor and creator of The Hug on her iconic artwork that symbolised so much of what we missed during 2020. TG4 are dedicating a programme to Cavan's Lilter, Seamus Fay as he celebrates her 88 year and a lifetime of service to the art of liltering.

The videographers included Pádraig Conaty, award winning film maker, Jago Studios and Paul Farnan and locations included Townhall Cavan and venues throughout the county.

http://www.cavanarts.ie/Default.aspx?StructureID_str=6&guid=191



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Arts Programme

Lost Landmarks an anthology of writing from members of the Older Peoples Council, edited by Anthony J Quinn was launched in October and presented as a gift in association with the Social Inclusion Unit's welfare packs to older people.

Culture Night 2020

Culture Night 2020 was very different with uncertainty around the pandemic resulting in a number of programme approaches being prepared. The resulting programme was a mix of online and physical events, theatrical performances, literature events, visual art exhibitions and music. Events were scheduled on the Cavan Arts YouTube Channel and the Cavan Monaghan Creative YouTube Channel in partnership with our colleagues in Co. Monaghan.

The programme included a site-specific play by John Mc Manus entitled The Barber of Belcoo directed by Padraic McIntyre with Bríd Ní Neachtain and an original score by Daragh Slacke performed at The Calf House Dolmen, Cavan Burren Park funded through the Creative Ireland Programme. Submerged filmed on location at Lough Oughter was a collaboration between the dancer Jessie Keenan and Kim McCafferty, circus and spectacle artist and the film maker Padraig Conaty and was screened at Cavan County Museum.

The Whispering Chair a new play by Tara Maria Lovett received a rehearsed reading by Aaron Monaghan and Clare Monnelly. The heritage office and Bear Essentials presented a night of music and food with Sinead Mullally. Fidel Hogan Walsh and Julie Corcoran launched 'Time' a collaborative poetry and photographic project created during Lockdown. The libraries provided a series of online events and physical exhibitions.

Impact Promotions presented a night of music at the Lough Bawn with Strings and Things and the evening concluded with Killeshandra Comhaltas.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



(Tommy Ryan, CE, John McManus playwright, Bríd Ní Neachtain, actor, Padraic McIntyre, director and Cllr Sarah O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach at the Barber of Belcoo photo credit Adrian Donohoe)

Music Generation

Music Generation provided performance music education through the Early Years, Primary Vocal Programme and Trad Pilot in addition to special events including Festival in A Van performances and Musician Educator video presentations, and A Christmas Childhood a new arrangement by Cavan musician Claire Crehan recorded at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre, Co Monaghan.

Redemption of a Rogue

The feature length film Redemption of A Rogue written and directed by Philip Doherty and produced by Pale Rebel supported by the Public Art budget was premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh 2020 and won Best Irish First Feature and Best Irish Film. The film was shot on location in Swanlinbar and the environs of Cavan town, featured a cast of local extras and musicians and Aaron Monaghan in the lead role.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

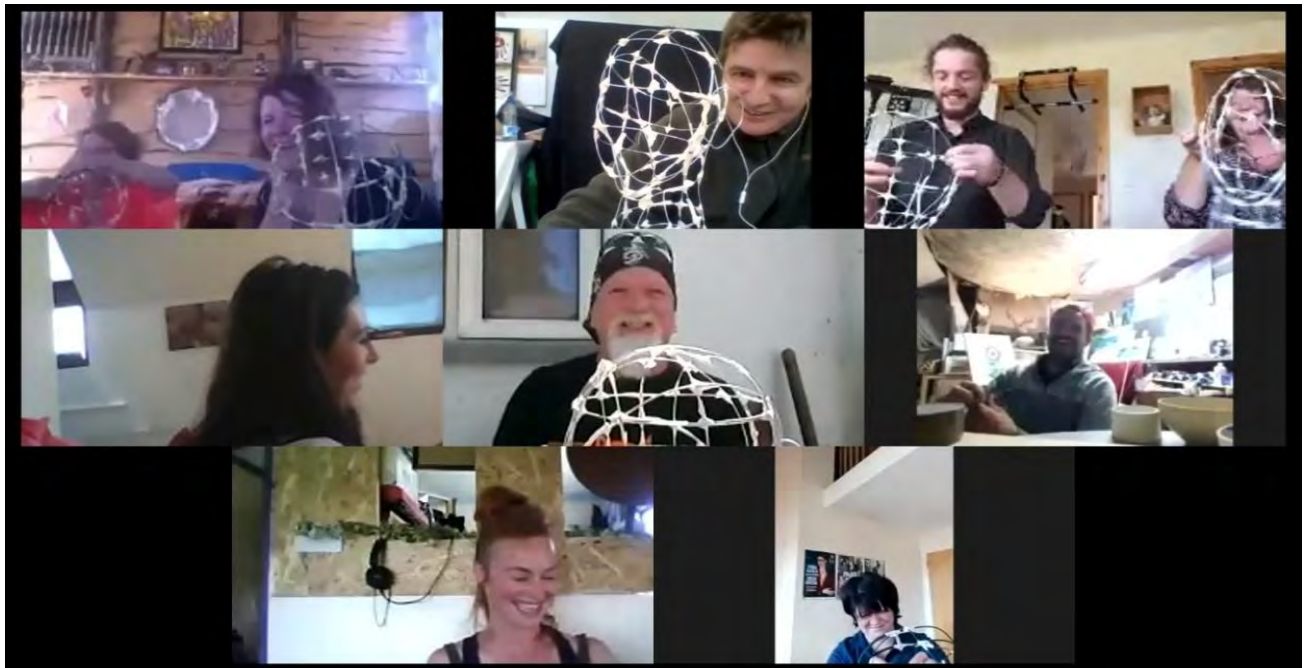
Lights of Hope

A series of short videos by Tom Meskell featuring his children were commissioned to support families with small children with simple arts workshop with household materials and recyclables.

Tom Meskell also provided a series of CPD zoom calls with Cavan artists on spectacle lantern making.

Arts and Health

In 2020 the Cavan Monaghan Arts and Health Forum including members: Tusla, Cavan Monaghan Mental Health Services, (CAMHS), Cavan Monaghan Local Arts and Education Partnership (LAEP), Cavan Monaghan Music Generation, the arts office and social inclusion sections of Cavan County Council provided Continuing Professional Development with arts and health specialists, Julie Aldridge, artist and lecturer, Louise Gartland, Artonomy independent trainer and Bernadette Kenny, Blue Box. The Peer Network provided a series of peer learning experiences. An extensive programme for young people, their parents in association with specialist staff from CAMHS was delivered by Kim Doherty and Heather Brett.



Cavan Artists participating in a zoom training session on spectacle making with Tom Meskell photo credit Tom Meskell

Museum

Despite two enforced periods of closure due to Covid restrictions the County Museum still managed to deliver a series of major exhibition developments over the course of 2020. The Museum also delivered a range of online events, videos, lectures and workshops. The following are a number of the highlights:-

War of Independence:



A major exhibition on the War of Independence in Ireland and in County Cavan was developed on the top floor gallery of the Museum. The exhibition was the culmination of over a year of research and as well as telling the story of the war it includes a large-scale recreation of the gates of Kilmainham Gaol as well as a life-size exhibit on

Ballykinlar internment camp. The experience is enhanced with three large scale projections of original film footage from the time as well as an oral recording of Captain Peter Moynagh from Mountnugent. The exhibition also has a room dedicated to the War of independence in County Cavan and among a wide variety of artefacts such as guns grenades letters uniform and documents it included the Tricolour that was flown over Cavan barracks after the departure of the British military and RIC.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Share your Story Cavan 2020

This project saw Cavan County Museum collect stories and pictures from the public reflecting their experiences of living in Cavan during the difficult time of COVID-19 in 2020. These stories provided the inspiration for Cavan County Museum and Cavan Heritage Office Christmas Video 2020. The stories, images and experiences of COVID-19 also became a part of Cavan County Museum’s archives and ensure memories from this time are preserved for future record.



Ireland’s Storytelling Centre



2020 significantly advanced Cavan County Museum's progress in developing Ireland’s Storytelling Centre. Preliminary Architectural Drawing for the build were completed, Part 8 Planning permission was approved and Marketing Branding

was commissioned to include the name and logos associated with the Ireland’s Storytelling Centre. A number of renowned National and International Storytellers have offered their unique personal collections to the Centre’s Archive for future preservation.





The Nun's Walk:



The 1 km walk around the perimeter of the Museum site was drained and tarred with funding through Community and Enterprise and the Outdoor Recreational Initiative Scheme. The development also included information

panels on local flora and fauna. It has provided a new amenity for the local community and contributes to the visitor numbers of Cavan County Museum as an outdoor exhibition.

Famine Gallery:

With assistance from Creative Ireland's Job Stimulus Fund a major structural redevelopment of the Museum's Famine gallery was undertaken. A new entrance was opened to create more space for visitors, redesigned information panels along with a large-scale wall mural depicting the journey across the sea made by so many Irish people. The Museum commissioned a stunningly detailed scaled model of a famine ship which is on display in the gallery.

Emigration Exhibition:

The Museum's Emigration exhibition was redesigned and updated to include a newly constructed 'Train Station Waiting Room'. A major element of this exhibition charts the development of the railway in County Cavan.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



National Library collaboration:

In December 2020 Cavan County Museum took delivery of the National Library's World War I exhibition on loan. This was a major coup for the county and the Museum as it will be the first venue outside of Dublin that this exhibition has gone on display. When mounted in 2021 this large-scale exhibition will be the focus of a series of collaborations between Cavan County Museum and the National Library.

Publications

In response to numerous requests from patrons the Museum produced three publications: *'First we make our choices' Ireland and the First World War – 'And soon would reap' The 1916 Easter Rising - 'United under the flag' The War of Independence 1919-1921*. These publications will be distributed to visiting schools, adult, and community groups. Over Christmas 2020 they were distributed by the Age Friendly Cavan to senior citizens in the County.

Culture Night

To celebrate Culture Night 2020, Cavan County Museum hosted two fantastic performances – 'Submerged' and 'The Whispering Chair'.

'Submerged' a short film by Jessie Keenan, local dancer & choreographer, Kim Mc Cafferty, local actor & physical performer, and local filmmaker Pdraig Conaty. This collaborative work was inspired by the iconic heritage site of Clogh Oughter Island and premiered at Cavan County Museum as part of Culture Night with a series of showings.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

‘The Whispering Chair’ saw a rehearsed reading of a new play by Tara Maria Lovett, performed by Clare Monnelly and Aonghus Óg McAnally. The play is set against the backdrop of the War of Independence in Cavan and explores the struggle for both identity and survival in Ireland over one hundred years.



**The Whispering Chair by
Tara Maria Lovett**

Clare Monnelly and Aaron
Monaghan

National Heritage Week 2020



For National Heritage Week Cavan County Museum and Cavan County Council’s Heritage Office worked with Alan Bradley, Cavan filmmaker, to create and produce a brilliant video celebrating the famous 1947 All Ireland Football win for Cavan in New York City. Filmed at Cavan County Museum, the moving video shares the memories of Betty and Paddy who were children at the time of the 1947 All Ireland Final and



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

provides a reminder of the great importance of the GAA in Irish society. This video was simultaneously launched at Cavan County Museum and online. A large online reaction has led to the film being viewed over 32,000 times with a reach of 85,000.

Christmas Video 2020

In this collaborative project, Cavan County Museum & Cavan Heritage Office produced a short video filmed on location at Cavan County Museum, that reflected on the experiences of the community during 2020, the resilience they had shown and the hope that lay ahead for 2021. The video was launched online before Christmas 2020 and featured Michael Harding, Deirdre Shannon, Harry Long and a host of local children & grown-ups. The heartwarming and moving piece had an online reach of over 27,000 people.

Cruinniú na nÓg 2020

Cavan County Museum, as part of Cruinniú na nÓg, an initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme, encouraged Children to send in artwork inspired by County Cavan. This work provided the inspiration and illustrations for a new story created by Cavan County Museum and Storyteller Liz Weir. This video was launched on Cavan County Museum's social media.

Bringing History to Life

To ensure continued engagement with the public while doors were closed Cavan County Museum commissioned the production of two short films bringing history to life, funded by Creative



Ireland. Both productions were written and directed by Alan Bradley and used a professional team of creatives. "A Letter from The Trenches" is a harrowing and



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

moving piece that focuses on the experience of an Irish soldier in the trenches of WW1. It was filmed on site at the Museum's WW1 replica trench exhibition. "The Messenger" focuses on the often-overlooked role of women in the period of time around the 1916 Easter Rising. It was filmed on site in exhibition spaces at the Museum. Both pieces were launched online for free to the public and have had a combined reach of 15,000 people.

WW1 Trench Exhibition Improvements

Cavan County Museum carried out extensive work on the renowned replica World War One Trench exhibition on site at the Museum. A professional team were engaged to improve on the pre-existing sound design present in the trench space. A new state of the art sound system was installed alongside a specially designed sound scape to enhance visitors experience and really bring the trench to life. The new design will allow for visitors to experience life in the trenches independently or as part of a guided tour.

RAMOR THEATRE

Background to The Ramor Theatre

Ramor Theatre's mission is to encourage, nurture and develop an interest and participation in the arts in County Cavan. Ramor Theatre aims to achieve this mission by presenting a varied programme of performances by professional artists in all the art-forms. This will be done in tandem with encouraging, facilitating and developing the work of new and emerging professional artists, through a number of partnerships. It is also achieved by developing youth arts and working with community based arts groups and individuals to develop projects and showcase them in the venue.

Ramor Theatre celebrated 22 years open to the public in 2020 having opened its doors in September 1999 and since then it has been the central hub of the cultural and artistic life in County Cavan. The Ramor Theatre is home to Livin Dred Theatre



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

Ramor was the instigator and remains one of driving forces behind the NOMAD Theatre Network. The Theatre is actively involved with numerous community arts groups and is home to POD Youth Theatre. Ramor Theatre also produces Inhouse Productions working with both professional theatre practitioners and with community-based individuals.

The Theatre is run by the Local Authority with significant financial support from the Arts Council of Ireland.



The Ramor Theatre, Main St. Virginia, Co. Cavan

Ramor Staff



Nuala McCabe



Frances Brady



Paddy Farrelly



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Theatre Manager Padraic McIntyre

Technical Manager Paddy Farrelly

Administrator Nuala McCabe

Box Office Frances Brady

Front of House/Coffee Bar Helen Foy

A Brief Review of Activities at The Ramor Theatre in 2020

2020 was gearing up to be another extremely busy year at The Ramor Theatre with performances due to take place at the theatre across all artforms including Theatre, Film, Workshops, Popular Music, Children's Theatre, Comedy, Children's Film, Classical Music, Youth Drama, In-house Productions, Special Needs Drama and Community. ***A lot of these plans all had to be put on hold because of Covid 19.***

Income from Box office for 2020 is expected to be in the region of €50,000 due to only operating for the first 3 months of the year due to theatre closures across the country due to Covid-19 restrictions. There was a further income from The Arts Council of Ireland grant of €63,000. There was in the region of, 4000 paying customers passing through the door in the 3 months of trading in 2020. These figures confirm The Ramor's commitment to the Strategic Objectives laid out in The Cavan County Council Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024 through Community Development, Participation, Quality of Life and Inclusion by bringing and promoting Arts and Culture to the citizens of Cavan. The Ramor's Box office Income is in keeping with Sustainable Economic Activity and the loss of customers coming to Virginia for our events because of Covid closure this inevitably meant loss of support for local businesses. Visitors coming from beyond the County would normally mean the development of tourism which promotes a positive image of Ramor Theatre, Cavan County Council and indeed the County of Cavan as a whole, but again because of closure this didn't happen in 2020 to any great extent.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Going forward with the welcome development of the new Library and Cultural space which will enhance the Ramor Theatre greatly giving it a new bar, box office, dressing rooms and rehearsal space. This may have an effect on programming, but this will be kept to a minimum with some productions moving off-site during this time.

Public Engagement

Public engagement with our local community is hugely important to us at The Ramor Theatre. We are constantly engaging with the general public in order to attract them to shows we are presenting as well as encouraging them to participate in arts activities.

We are constantly reaching out through community organisations to attract as diverse a demographic from our locale as possible.

In 2020 due to Covid-19 events had to be moved on-line and outdoors in order to serve our customers.

Support for Artists

Together with other cultural sectors of Cavan County Council, Cavan Arts Office, Cavan County Museum and the libraries we work to ensure that the arts is integrated as a core function of Cavan County Council and our ambition is to place the artist together with the audience at the centre of this.

Some of the artists supported in 2020:

JIMMY MURPHY: In 2020 as part of the commissions award announced by The Arts Council Ramor applied with award winning playwright Jimmy Murphy to write a new full length play for The Ramor. This play would then be workshopped with actors to test the work culminating in a public reading in 2021.

JOHN MCMANUS: To celebrate Culture Night Ramor Theatre's produced John McManus' new play Barber of Belcoo at the Cavan Burren Geopark in September 2020. This was also streamed online across numerous social media platforms.

LIVIN DRED: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens was filmed at The Ramor Theatre in December 2020. This film of the production was then rolled out to



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

National schools across Cavan and Monaghan free of charge so children could experience a Christmas theatre experience without leaving their classroom.

It is our ambition that The Ramor Theatre will be seen by artists as a place where their work and careers can be nurtured and grow through an inclusive, diversive and creative arts programme.



Livin Dred's A Christmas Carol filmed at Ramor Theatre (November 2020)

Professional Theatre



A Holy Show by Janet Moran at The Ramor (February 2020)

Four performances of Professional Theatre were hosted at The Ramor Theatre in 2020. This was due to closure due to Covid-19 from March 2020.

Highlights: Trad, A Holy Show, Take Off Your Cornflakes and Tintown.



Children's Theatre



Bosco at The Ramor (January 2020)

Three performances of Children's Theatre were hosted at The Ramor Theatre in 2020. This was due to closure due to Covid-19 from March 2020.

Performances hosted which included: Lambert Puppet Theatre (Bosco), The Woman Who Swallowed A Fly, Disappearing Gun by Ger Carey Live and A Christmas Carol which was streamed live to National Schools in December 2020.

Film



Rocketman at The Ramor (September 2020)

Eight Screenings in association with Access Cinema took place in the Ramor Theatre in 2020 including Irish, International, Foreign Language and Documentary films.



Music

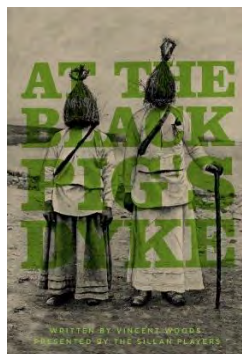


Sharon Shannon at The Ramor (February 2020)

Music continued to be a major part of Ramor Theatre's programme in 2020 with performances by music artists.

Highlights included The Fureys, Startling Blue, Sharon Shannon, Vienna Strauss Gala, Rock and Roll Years and Dance Hall Days and Kieran Goss & Annie Kinsella

Community Arts





2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Sillan Players Production of At The Black Pigs Dyke at The Ramor (February 2020)

Our Community Arts Programme continues to be an integral part of the programme here at The Ramor Theatre. We had 4 performances in 2020 all of them local amateur drama groups in the area but also some from a music background.

Groups we hosted included: The Virginians, Sillan Players, The Black Pigs Dyke Theatre Company and A Celebration of the life of Louise Arnold.

Youth Drama



POD Youth Theatre runs at The Ramor with an emphasis in developing participants skills and the advancement of the artistic, personal and social development of young people through drama as well as enhancing young people's understanding of theatre as an art form. There are 55 members. These classes continued online during lockdown.

DRAMA FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: Ramor Theatre runs 6 week block courses aimed at bringing Drama to Young People with Special Needs. These workshops use drama as a medium for learning and as a means of expression for children with special needs. This will be done through dramatic explorations and playfulness through both group and individual work. There is 23 participants.



Transportation, Climate Change, Environment and Water Services

Roads & Transportation

Covid-19

The introduction of Covid-19 restrictions and the first lockdown in March 2020 resulted in the suspension of the annual roadworks programme in April and May. During this period of time only essential services were delivered by roads operational staff including essential road maintenance, street cleaning, maintenance of public areas and cleaning of illegal dumping sites. The restrictions also necessitated the majority of staff to deliver design and support functions remotely during the year. Despite the disruptions caused by Covid 19, the roads section successfully completed its annual works programme and maintained the delivery of all its services throughout 2020.

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

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

Cavan Road Network Classification

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

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

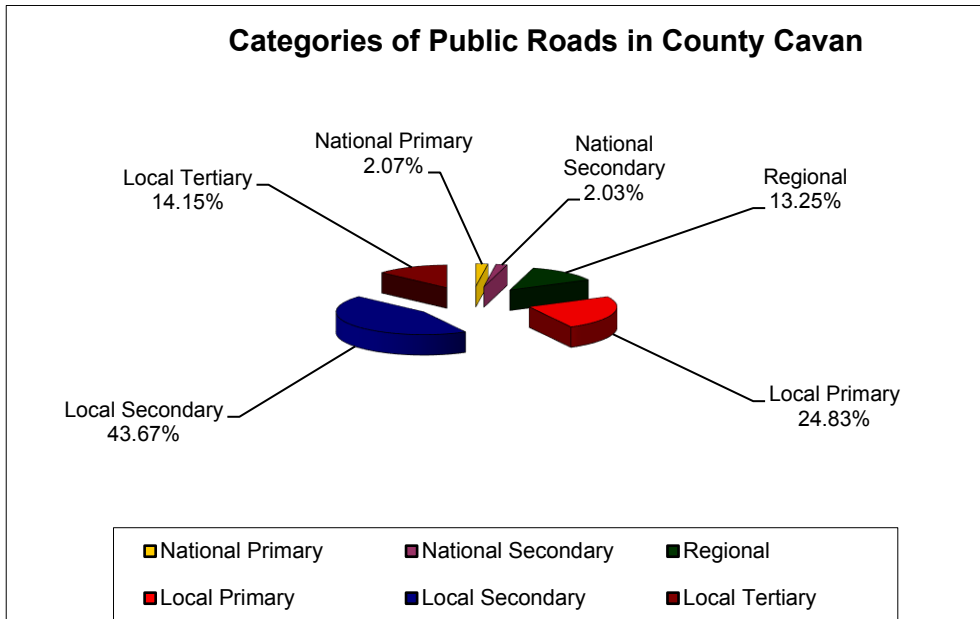
The total length of public roadway in County Cavan is 3,011km.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Funding

Funding for the improvement and maintenance of public roads in Cavan comes primarily from three sources. Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provides funding for National Roads with the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) providing funding for the Regional and Local Road Network. Technical and administrative backup for this funding is provided by the TII as required. Cavan County Council provides a substantial annual allocation from own resources towards the upkeep of the Local and Regional Road Network.

2020 Funding Allocations

The table below shows the funding allocated by each funding source at the start of 2020.

Road Category	Funding Source	Initial Allocation



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report

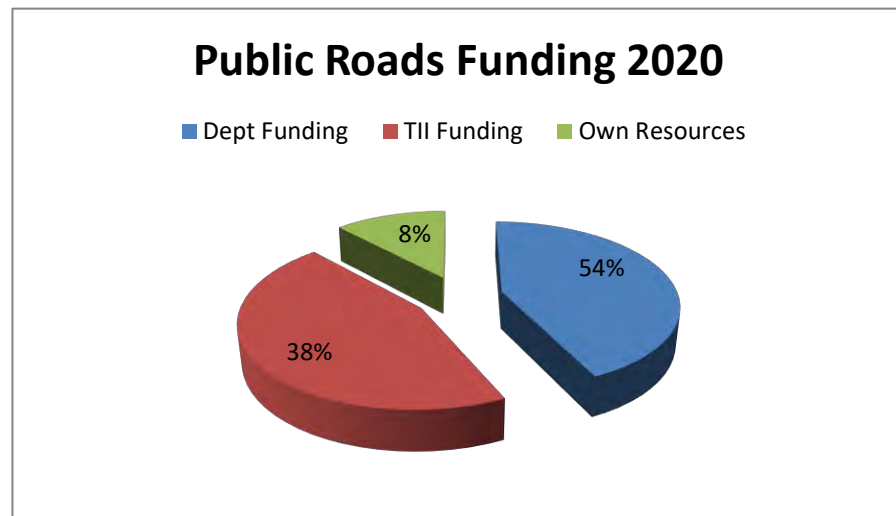


Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

National Roads	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	€10,863,534
Non-National Roads	Dept. of Transport, Tourism & Sport (DTTAS)	€ 15,136,048
Non-National Roads	Cavan County Council	€ 2,326,379
		€28,325,961

Cavan County Council Contributions

At the start of 2020, Cavan County Council provided €2.32 million of its own resources towards the Maintenance and Improvement of the Non-National Roads Network (Local and Regional Roads). This demonstrated the Council’s ongoing commitment to maintaining its roads network.



Additional Allocations

During 2020 Cavan County Council was able to avail of additional DTTAS funding under the Governments July stimulus package including €1,070,000 for Active Travel Measures and €464,000 for Climate Change Adaption Works. In addition, the authority secured OPW minor works funding of €84,000 and €135,000 from the TII for minor defect works on the National Road Network.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

National Roads

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

National Road Major & Minor Schemes

N3 Virginia Bypass

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



Above: Congestion in Virginia Town



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

In 2020 an allocation of €600,000 was made available by the TII to progress the planning and design of the scheme in accordance with the Project Management Guidelines for National Road schemes. To date, the scheme has progressed through Phase 1 (Concept and Feasibility) of the Project Management Guidelines and is currently at Phase 2 Options Selection.

The 1st non-statutory public consultation on the scheme study area, initial constraints and route options was completed in March 2020 after which an assessment of the feedback received and the initial options was carried out. A second non-statutory public consultation on the shortlisted route options was held (online/virtually) from the 11th of November 2020 until the 15th January 2021. The feedback provided by the public, amongst other criteria, is currently being assessed and will be used to inform the selection process for the Emerging Preferred Option, which we envisage will be advertised in Summer 2021.

Minor Improvement Schemes

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section A

Section A, which involved a 3.2km realignment of the N55 at two distinct locations to the south of Ballinagh, reached substantial completion in late 2018. The Contract is currently in the Close Out Phase and the council are waiting on the submission of the contractor's final paperwork for the scheme.



Above: An aerial view of the realigned N55 at Garrymore, and the new junction with the L-6552, complete with dedicated right turning lane.

N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon, Section B

Section B, between the townlands of Ballytrust and Mullahoran, involves a 3.7km realignment of the N55 immediately south of Section A. The Scheme has progressed well during 2020. RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed in February 2020 for the provision of Consultancy Services for Phases 5, 6 & 7 of the TII's Project Management Guidelines. The Scheme is currently being progressed through Phase 5 (Enabling & Procurement) which includes completion of the detailed design and preparation of the Tender Documents for the Main Construction Contract.

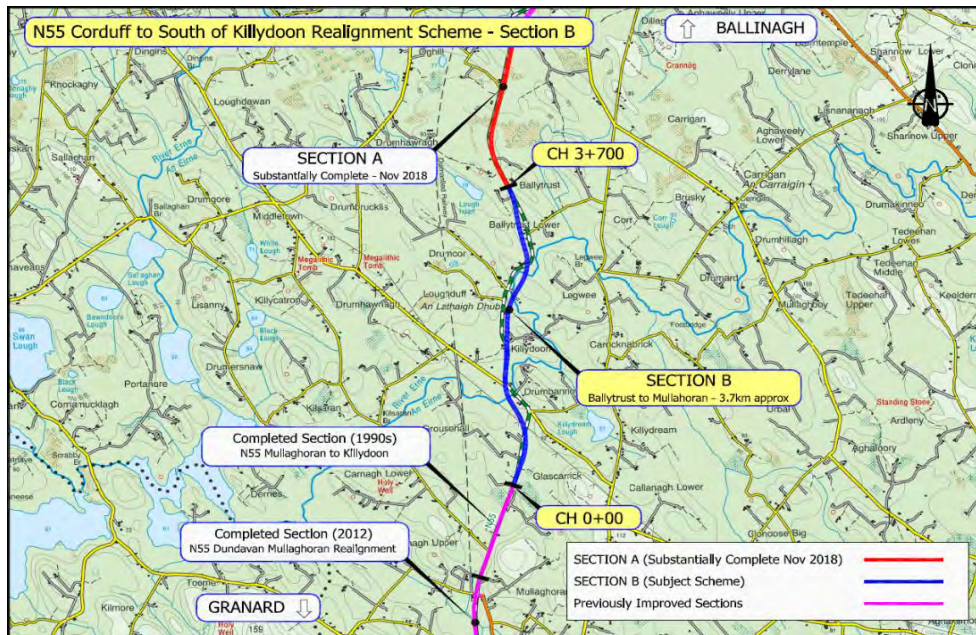
Cavan County Council took possession of the CPO lands during the year, following issue of Notice of Entry on affected landowners in August 2020. The associated land and property acquisition processes have progressed during the year, with offers of compensation made to all affected landowners. Negotiations are ongoing and settlement terms have been agreed in a number of cases to date with further settlements anticipated in 2021.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



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

In preparation for a Main Construction Contract, a number of Enabling Works Contracts were advanced during 2020 including a boundary fencing contract to fence off the acquired CPO lands which reached substantial completion in December 2020. In addition, Supplementary Topographical Surveys and Ground Contracts were also substantially completed in 2020 while an Archaeological Services Contract was awarded towards the end of the year with fieldwork commencing in January 2021. It is the authority's intention to seek approval from the TII to go to tender for the scheme before the end of 2021.

The Tender for Archaeological Consultancy Services was awarded to Archaeological Consultancy Services Unit (ACSU). ACSU encountered delays in the preparation of method statements and acquisition of required licencing owing to Covid-19 restrictions. These issues have been resolved and a pre-commencement meeting is provisionally scheduled for early 2021.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Aerial views of the boundary fencing works on the N55 Corduff to South of Killydoon Realignment, Section B at Ballytrust

N3 Dublin Road Roundabout:

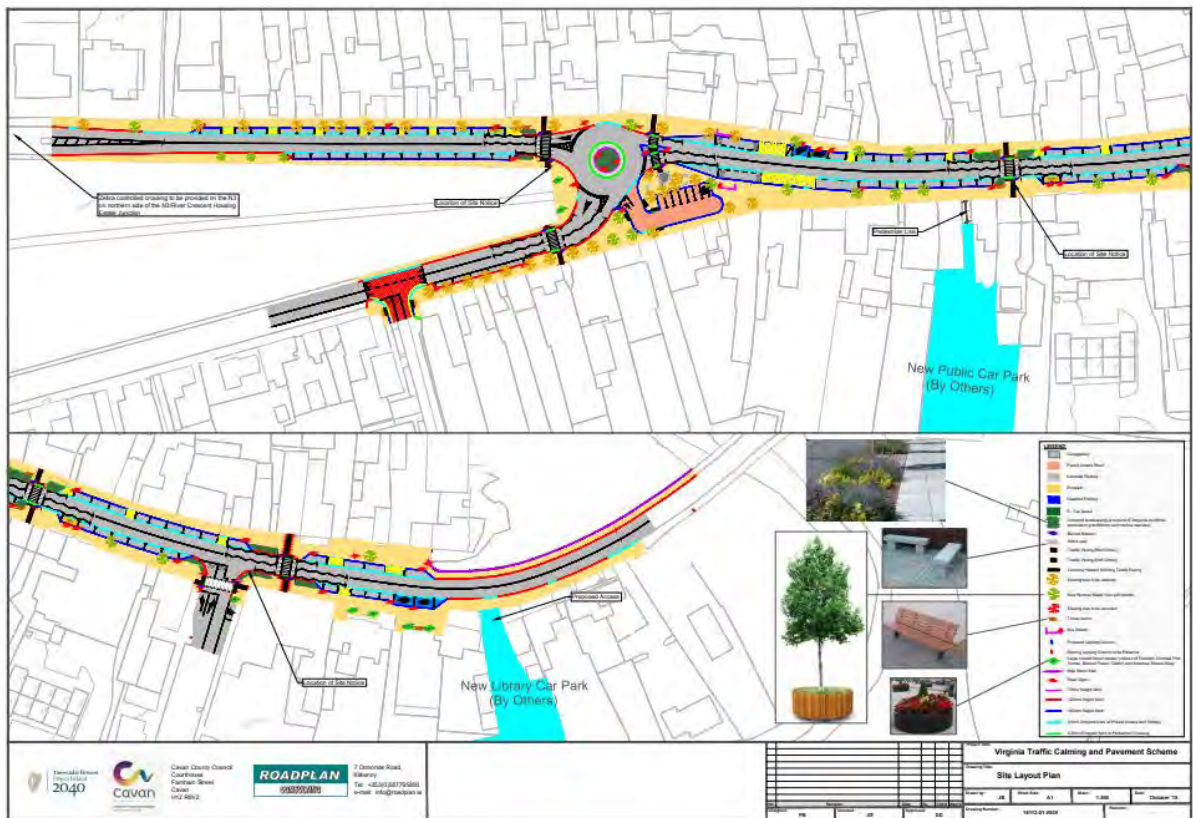
RPS Consulting Engineers have been appointed to progress the N3 Dublin Road Roundabout Scheme through phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Project Management Guidelines. The Primary aim of this scheme is to address the congestion and safety issues at the roundabout. RPS are currently working on phase 2, option Selection.



National Road Safety Schemes

N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 HCL Scheme:

A Preliminary Design for Phase 2 of the N3 Virginia Main Street HD15 Scheme was completed in late 2018 following consultations with Municipal District Councillors, the Town Team, the Development Association and the public. In 2019 approval was received from the TII to appoint Roadplan Consulting Engineers to the scheme to progress it through Part 8 Planning, Detailed Design, Tendering and Construction



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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

This scheme incorporates the installation of new footpaths, raised Cycle Lanes, New Bus bays and safety improvement works that would benefit both pedestrians and motorists from the Cavan Crystal Hotel – the Kilmore Hotel. RPS consultants developed the scheme through Phase 2 of the Project Management Guidelines in 2020 and a report was forwarded to the TII in early 2021 seeking funding for the full design and tendering of the scheme in 2021.

N87 Ballyconnell Town HD15 HCL Scheme:

This safety scheme involves the undergrounding of all ESB infrastructure in the vicinity of the bridge and the N87/R205 junction in Ballyconnell town and the upgrading of street lighting and pedestrian facilities. Cavan County Council worked in conjunction with the ESB during 2020 for the undergrounding of all its overhead lines and works are 95% complete at present.

N3 Virginia to Carrakeelty More (Maghera)

In 2020 Cavan County Council received approval from TII to appoint RPS Consulting Engineers to develop an options and feasibility report in relation to potential works for an online improvement for this NRA HD 15 Network Safety Ranking scheme. A draft concept and feasibility report was submitted to TII in early 2021 seeking funding for the full design and tendering of the scheme in 2021.

National Road Pavement Overlays Schemes

Funding was obtained from the TII in 2020 to progress three overlay schemes on the National Road Network. They included;



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- The N16 Blacklion West Pavement Overlay - works were substantially completed in the summer of 2020 and the scheme is currently in the defects period.



Above: Resurfacing works on the N16 Blacklion West Scheme June 2020

- N55 Ballinagh Town Pavement Scheme Cavan County Council was substantially completed in late December 2020 with snagging works to be completed in 2021.
- N87 Gartaquill to Mullaghduff - The initial works for the scheme commenced in November 2020 of this year with scheme completion anticipated in the summer of 2021.

NP/NS Safety Barrier Minor Improvements 2020

The TII allocated €50,000 for repair and replacement works of Safety Barrier along the National Primary and Secondary routes which was completed in October 2020.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

NP/NS Retrofit Fencing 2020

TII allocated €50,000 for retrofitting of existing concrete/timber rail fencing along national routes with a revised fence type of a tensioned wire mesh restraining system. These systems are recommended for along clear zones on sections of the national road network where the 100 km/h speed limit applies. A section of the N3 at Lisnananagh, north of Lavey, was identified as a suitable location to retro fit approximately 1,455 meters of this new fencing system which was completed in November 2020.

Capital Maintenance Schemes

Cavan County Council secured funding under the Category B maintenance fund from the TII to complete surfacing works to the following locations on the National Road network in 2020;

- N03 – Virginia (Rahardrum)
- N03 Billis
- N55 Tullygullin

Regional & Local Roads

2020 Road Works Programme

A grant of € 15,138,068 was allocated to Cavan County Council during 2020 for the improvement and maintenance of Regional and Local roads, Bridge Rehabilitation, Speed Limits in Housing Estates and Low-Cost Safety Improvement Schemes. Works generally consisted of drainage improvement, strengthening with granular and macadam materials and surface dressing. The 2020 RWP was delivered through the three Municipal Districts with 54Km of pavement restoration works and 87Km of surface dressing being completed across the county in 2020.



Regional & Local Road Safety Schemes

Cavan County Council received €342,500 in DOT Grant Allocations for 11 No. Low-Cost Safety Schemes in 2020.

The schemes include the completion of improved chevron signage at bends on Regional Roads, R165 Lavey to Bailieborough, R191 Bailieborough to Cootehill and R178 Bailieborough to Virginia, vegetation clearance and improved high friction grip surfacing on the R165 at Corrygarry Hill in Kingscourt.

In addition, new footpath extensions including public lighting were completed at two locations in Ballyjamesduff, on the L3013 leading towards the Liffey Meats factory and on the R196 New Inns Road, leading towards the Box factory. These footpaths provide safe passage for pedestrians who previously had to walk on the carriageway at particularly dangerous pinch-points. Other works included improvements to road marking, public lighting and sight-lines at the Rasan Road / Cavan Road Junction (L-3016/L-3029) including traffic calming measures on the Cavan Road approach to Ballyjamesduff.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Footpath & Public Lighting on L3013 in Ballyjamesduff

The third and final phase of a Traffic Calming scheme on the Cavan Road approach to Cootehill Town was also complete in 2020. Previous phases included the provision of a pedestrian crossing near the fire station and traffic calming measures in advance of the industrial parks. This phase saw the extension of the footpath and public lighting to the Errigal Country House Hotel entrance.

A footpath extension and traffic calming measures were provided on the R178 Virginia Road approach to Bailieborough Town extending from the end of last year's scheme at Lisgrey Gardens to Lisnalee, a popular pedestrian route. Other Schemes completed in 2020 were additional warning signage and road markings at Aughnaskerry drive in Cavan Town and the provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing on the Dublin Road R212 near the junction with Connolly Street.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Footpath & Public Lighting on R188 approach to Cootehill

Regional & Local Road Bridge Projects:

Cavan County Council received €640,400 in DTTAS Grant Allocations for the rehabilitation of 16 bridges on Regional and Local Roads in 2020. The bridges that benefited from this allocation included L6532 Cloggy Bridge, R162 Drumpeak Clapper Culvert Replacement, R200 Bellavalley Lower Bridge, L6012 Claragh Bridge, L2026 Larah Bridge, L7516 Tunnyduff Bridge, L1512 Paddock Bridge, L3539 Parkers Bridge No. 2, L5061 Clontygrigny Bridge, L7081 Dalys Bridge, L2000 Cornacarrow Bridge, L5553 Derrygara Bridge, L1518 One Tree Cross Bridge and a contract for the removal of vegetation from some forty-four other bridges.

The remaining two scheduled rehabilitation bridges on the programme cross over the Annalee River, namely, Knappagh Bridge on the R192 Shercock to Cootehill road and Drumgoon Bridge on the R191 Cootehill to Bailieboro Road. Survey works during initial design stage discovered a large number of freshwater pearl mussels at both these bridges. The freshwater pearl mussel is listed as an endangered species and is protected under the Wildlife Act and the EU Habitats Directive. Cavan County Council applied for a translocation licence to relocate the mussels away from the bridges works area. This licence application was refused by National Parks and Wildlife Service on the basis that they require a more comprehensive survey of the Annalee river catchment area. The



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

funding necessary to execute such an extensive survey was not available to Cavan County Council in 2020 and so these two bridge projects have been postponed until such funding can be secured and the scope of the survey works required, agreed with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Department of Transport Tourism & Sport permitted the substitution of two additional bridges to replace Drumgoon and Knappagh and so emergency works to L1520 Derrindrehid Bridge were completed and the R165 Corrycholman Clapper bridge were included on the 2020 programme.



Before

After



Above: L1520 Derrindrehid Bridge

During the course of the year Cavan County Council's Bridge Engineers became aware of two bridges that were in very poor condition and required immediate extensive intervention, they were the R212 Narracks Bridge and L3024 Nine eyed bridge at Stramatt Maghera. The works required to both bridges were completed in 2020 in addition to the planned bridge programme.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Specific Improvement Grant – R194 Dunancory Bridge Project

A Specific Improvement Grant of €600,000 was allocated in 2020 to Cavan County Council to allow for the provision of enhanced facilities for pedestrians and vehicular traffic at Dunancory Bridge on the R194 near Virginia. The scheme involved widening the northeast side of the bridge to cater for 2 lanes of traffic and footpaths on both sides of the carriageway.

Cavan County Council's Engineers together with Malachy Walsh & Partners who were retained to provide consultancy services advanced this scheme through planning and the procurement process in 2019 and early 2020. McCabe Masonry Ltd. were awarded the contractor for the scheme in August 2020 and works were substantially completed in November 2020.

The completion of the project has removed a bottleneck on the R194 Regional Road between the towns of Ballyjamesduff and Virginia and has increased operating capacity, improved journey times and journey time reliability on this strategic route corridor.



*Above: Dunancory Bridge Before
and After*



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Community Involvement Schemes

Cavan County Council's Roads and Transportation section continues to support Community involvement in the improvement of Local Roads. In 2020, 5 Community Involvement Schemes were funded from DTTAS, with the applicants providing 20% of the cost of the works.

Active Travel Measures Allocations 2020

Cavan County Council received an allocation of €1,070,000 from the Department of Transport in August for a number of projects across the county as part of the July Stimulus Active Travel Measures funding. The funding allowed for the completion of 18 projects across the county including the upgrading/provision of widened footpaths/cycle lanes and improved crossing facilities in towns and villages including zebra crossings and signalised crossings.



Above: Widening of Drumlark Bridge to accommodate new footpath



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Completed Active Travel Works on the Cathedral Road, Cavan Town

Climate Change

Cavan County Council received funding of €464,000 in August under the Climate Adaptation Fund for 8 projects across the county. The projects were in areas with historical recurring flooding issues and works involved the raising of road levels and upgrading of road crossings. The 8 projects completed in 2020 were;

- L5539 Quivvy/Corleggy, Belturbet
- L55321 Drumard, Kilmore
- L3006 Stramaquerty
- L10301 Derrymoney Bawnboy
- L5548 Derryola, Cloverhill
- L2503 Laken, Ballinagh to Arva
- L6510 Glasdrumman, Poles
- R165 Carrickacroman/Seefin



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Completed Climate Adaptation Works on the L55321 Drumard/Kilmore

Road Maintenance

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

Road Category	Kms	Maintenance Costs 2020
National Primary	62	795,287
National Secondary	61	429,297
Regional	399	1,101,587
Local	2489	5,251,413
Total	3011	7,577,584

National Road Maintenance

During 2020 Cavan County Council has received €1,224,584 in funding for maintenance of the national primary and secondary network in Cavan under the Winter Maintenance, Route Lighting, Ordinary Maintenance and Route Defects programmes.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Additional maintenance funding has been provided by TII for other specific maintenance works.

Regional & Local Road Maintenance

In 2020 DTTAS provided an allocation of €2.46m in the form of a Discretionary Grant specifically for the maintenance of the Regional & Local Road network. Cavan County Council provided an additional €1.53m from its own resources for the same purpose. The principal maintenance operations included drainage and surface repair work.

Winter Maintenance

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

Public Lighting

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

53% of Cavan County Councils public lighting stock has been updated with LED fittings as of the end of 2020. The authority secured €42,000 for upgrade works in 2020 from the TII to complete the upgrade of all lights on our National Primary and National Secondary Roads. Cavan County Council is currently working in partnership with the RMO on a regional basis to achieve a full LED retrofit programme which it anticipates will be rolled out in 2021. SSE Airtricity Utility Solutions Ltd is the Council's



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Maintenance Contractor for public lighting and Energia provide the supply of unmetered electricity.

Greenways

Cavan Leitrim Railway Greenway

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

Ballyconnell to Bellaheady

Cavan County Council in partnership with Waterways Ireland were awarded funding under Measure 3 of the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme 2017. The development of a 5.5km recreational cycling and walking trail from the town of Ballyconnell, to Bellaheady Bridge, primarily along the Shannon-Erne Waterway on the banks of the Woodford River was substantially completed in 2020.



Above: Completed section of the Ballyconnell to Bellaheady recreational trail

Belturbet to Corraquill (Lock 1)

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

Jennings O' Donovan Consulting Engineers were appointed to provide consultancy services and they ran a procurement competition in late 2019. Appointment of the successful contractor will be made when a number of landowner issues along the Woodford canal section of the route are resolved by Waterways Ireland. It is envisaged that construction will commence in 2021.

Cavan to Butlersbridge Greenway – Cavan Town Urban Greenway

Cavan County Council successfully obtained funding for a section of Greenway along the obsolete Railway line from Loreto Road connecting to the back of Cavan General Hospital. The scheme involved the construction of a three meter wide surfaced



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Greenway along the existing disused railway line and a section of green land on Cavan General Hospital Grounds, a distance of some 640m. Works were completed in August.

Part VIII Planning was approved in July 2019 and following a procurement competition, construction commenced in June 2020. The project was substantially completed in August with public lighting installed in December 2020.



Above: Completed Cavan Town Urban Greenway

Cavan Railway Greenway

In July 2020, Cavan County Council successfully obtained funding of €175,000 for the Cavan Railway Greenway, which will connect Cavan Town to the proposed Ulster Canal Greenway in Monaghan and to the proposed Cavan Leitrim Greenway at Belturbet. This funding will be used to progress this project through Phase 0(Scope and Pre-Appraisal), Phase 1(Feasibility) and Phase 2(Option Selection). Tenders for Consultants were issued in December 2020 with the contract to be awarded in 2021.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Road Safety

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

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

The objectives of the Action Plan are: -

- To make the road network in Cavan safe for all road users.
- To apply the principles of the National Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020, in particular to focus on the four main elements of road safety, namely Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Evaluation.
- To promote a collective sense of responsibility towards road safety.
- To address the key behaviours which have been identified within the National Road Safety Strategy as requiring to be changed.
- To address any particular behaviours applicable to County Cavan and to develop strategies to address these behaviours.
- To continue and strengthen cross border linkages and cooperation, particularly in the area of education and enforcement.

The Plan will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis and the hope and expectation is that the Cavan Road Safety Action Plan 2017-2020 will significantly contribute towards improving road safety in County Cavan.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan County Council received Virtual Headsets and training from Aviva which should help in our education programme for secondary schools unfortunately due to Covid this could not go ahead.

Strategic Policy Committees

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

Strategic Policy Committee for Roads and Transportation;

1 Meeting took place during 2020 and the following topics were discussed and progressed: 2020 Roadworks Programme, Public Lighting, CIS, LIS, Greenways, Virginia Bypass, Winter Maintenance, Hedges

The Strategic Policy Committee members for Roads and Transportation are:

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Climate Change, Environment and Waste Management

The Climate Change, Environment and Waste Management Section is the section responsible for all matters related to environment within the county. It also manages the Dog Warden Service, Veterinary Service, Maintenance of Vested Burial Grounds, Casual Trading byelaws and Energy Management.

Environment

Cavan is a predominantly rural county with numerous rivers and lakes it is therefore no surprise that the issue of water quality demands significant attention. Water quality can be impacted by industrial and commercial discharges, farming practices, discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and wastewater treatment systems serving one-off housing. The Environment and Waste Section play a vital role in the source protection of our many drinking water supplies public, group and private across the County. The section also deals with other environmental issues, including on site wastewater treatment inspections, noise and air pollution, planning applications and environment specific byelaws. We monitor energy consumption and drive sustainable energy practices and reduced energy consumption within Cavan. Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities. Actions from the Cavan Climate Change Adaptation Strategy were undertaken in 2020 and this strategy will develop the process of adaptation planning in Cavan County Council. It is the first step in increasing knowledge and understanding of our changing climate, growing resilience, and enabling effective responses to the threats posed by climate change.

Natural Waters

It is said that Cavan has a lake for every day of the year and because of its unique geology Cavan is where two of Irelands biggest rivers the Shannon and the Erne rise. Our natural waters are an essential part of the attractiveness of the county for residents



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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. A safe and secure water supply is one of the key drivers of economic activity in County Cavan. The agriculture, food and beverage industries rely on having a clean water supply.

Water Framework Directive

The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000 seeks to protect and improve our natural waters, including rivers, lakes, groundwater, coastal water, and transitional waters. The Water Framework Directive objectives are implemented through a River Basin Management Plan which is the government's approach to improve and protect water quality across the country.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government issued the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, give effect to a new, three tier, governance framework and places new obligations on local authorities to co-ordinate the catchment management and public participation elements of the Water Framework Directive. 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.

River Basin Management Plan(RBMP)

Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries, and coastal waters) by 2027. Water quality in Ireland has deteriorated over the past two decades. The Plan provides a more coordinated framework for improving the quality of our waters — to protect public health, the environment, water amenities and to sustain water-intensive industries, including agri-food and tourism, particularly in rural Ireland.



The Local Authority Waters Programme- LAWPRO

The Local Authority Waters Programme is a shared service working with Local Authorities and state agencies to develop and implement River Basin Management Plans in Ireland, as required under the EU Water Framework Directive. The core focus of this work is to protect and improve water quality in rivers, lakes, and groundwater. Good water quality, and a healthy water environment, is vital for human health and a myriad of wildlife. It is also underpins the local economy and supports local jobs in sectors such as tourism, agriculture and manufacturing.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The three strategic aims of the programme are as follows:

- Support and coordinate public bodies and other stakeholders to achieve the objectives of the RBMP.
- Activate local communities to engage with river catchments in line with the integrated catchment management approach.
- Build a foundation and momentum for long-term improvements and inform the development and implementation of the 3rd Cycle RBMP.

River & Lake Monitoring

Over 200, river and lake samples were taken across County Cavan during 2020 by Environment Section field staff. These samples were undertaken in accordance with the Water Framework Directive National Monitoring Programme. The results of analysis from these samples, combined with other biology, ecology & hydromorphology data available to the EPA, is used to classify the water quality of the rivers and lakes for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive. There are a number of different types of pressures on water quality including, urban wastewater, agriculture and forestry. Pressures on water quality are diverse and most of the “at risk” waterbodies are subject to more than one pressure. 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 in place, we hope to be able to show steady continuous improvement in the coming years until we achieve good status for all our waters.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Environment staff have been trained and have undertaken inspections of wastewater treatment systems in accordance with the NIP. 16 inspections were carried out in 2020 in County Cavan.

Water Pollution

During 2020, staff from the Environment Section responded to over one hundred water related complaints. The investigations relating to these complaints resulted in various forms of enforcement action being initiated. In some cases, no further action was required upon investigation and the file was closed or referred to another Section of the Council for inspection. Where enforcement action was deemed necessary due to a discharge of polluting matter or a risk of pollution to waters taking place, the following actions may have been taken depending on the scenario encountered on site by the Inspector –

- Advisory letter
- Warning letter
- Section 12 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Section 3 Notice (Water Pollution Acts)
- Cross Report to the Department of Agriculture

Discharge Licences

Inspectors from the Environment Section monitored 57 discharge licenced facilities during 2020. This involved 85 investigations. These licences provide control over effluent discharges to ground and surface waters, which includes rivers & lakes. These licences place responsibility and accountability on the discharger/licence holder. Cavan County Council is responsible for controlling the discharge of effluent to waters through licensing. The licences include appropriate pollution control conditions as well as emission limit values on the discharge.

The Environment Section is also involved in the process of licensing discharges to the sewer network. This falls under the remit of Irish Water and the relevant Environment Section Inspectors carry out this work in accordance with the service



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

level agreement with Irish Water.

Air Pollution Acts & Regulations (Solvents/Decopaints/PVE/Smoky Coal)

During 2020, there was 1 active Air Licence operating in the County, Inspectors attended the site and are liaising with the operator in relation to their compliance with the licence requirements.

The Solvents Regulations deal primarily with emissions from dry cleaning establishments across County Cavan. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. They include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short and long-term adverse health effects. These regulations are in force to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the environment, especially through controlling, preventing and reducing emissions to air. This is because VOC releases can have negative impacts on human health and the environment. The operators have assessments carried out and if all is in order, they apply to Cavan County Council for Certification. The Certificates can be issued for up to 3 years if the operator is adhering to the regulations. Shorter time frames may be imposed if non compliances have to be resolved. There were 3 facilities with the required Certificates in place at the end of 2020.

The Decopaints Regulations, make it an offence to operate a vehicle refinishing or repair installation without a valid certificate of compliance. Motor factors and paints suppliers also need to comply with these regulations as it is an offence to place non-compliant vehicle refinishing products on the market. The procedure for Certification is similar to that of the Solvent Regulations. There were 10 facilities with the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2020.

Petrol Vapour Emission Regulations (PVE's) are relevant if a company deals with liquid and gas fuels, such as petrol stations, then there is a need to obtain a petroleum vapour emissions (PVE) certificate from Cavan County Council. An assessor undertakes an assessment when petrol is being delivered. The findings of



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report

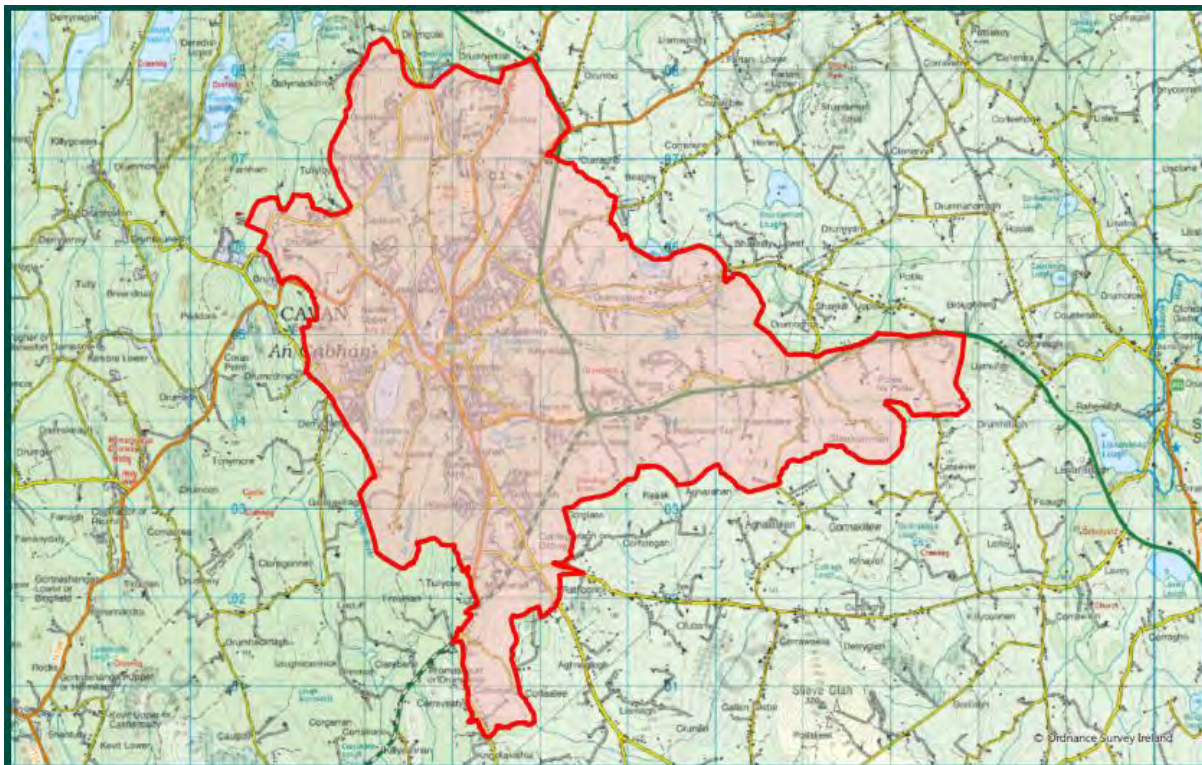


Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

same are submitted to Cavan County Council. If all is in order a Certificate can be issued. 28 facilities had the necessary Certificate in place at the end of 2020.

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

During 2020, investigations were ongoing across County Cavan on fuel supplied for sale in the County. Varying levels of compliance were encountered. Adherence to these regulations will ultimately improve air quality and public health, as well as helping to protect those who are vulnerable to respiratory problems.



Specified Area of Cavan

Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations

The legal boundaries for this Specified Area are described in the Regulations. It is prohibited to market, sell, distribute or burn smoky coal within this Specified Area.



Air monitoring station and data - An ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station was installed in 2020 located at the rear of Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan Town. The system measures and transmits the air monitoring data in real-time with



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

graphical results presented on the EPA website at:

<https://www.epa.ie/air/quality/data/cn/pm/>, the air monitoring data captured by the monitoring station will be used to evaluate the ban impact on air quality.

Farm Inspections and the Nitrates Regulations

Agriculture plays an important part in the economic and sustainable growth of County Cavan. In order for this to continue, the agricultural community has to ensure that various obligations regarding the law and the environment are applied. Cavan is predominantly a rural County; therefore, one of the potential sources of pollution to our rivers and lakes can be poor agricultural practices. The Nitrates Regulations or GAP (Good Agricultural Practice) Regulations are enforced in County Cavan. These Regulations provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources and include measures such as

- Periods when land application of fertiliser is prohibited
- Limits on the land application of fertilisers
- Storage requirements for livestock manure
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.

Public Drinking Water

Drinking water from public water supply schemes and major group water schemes are monitored. This is done to ensure that the schemes are producing water that meets the appropriate standards with regard to public health, and to ensure that drinking water complies with the relevant regulations. Environment Section staff undertake the public drinking water monitoring work on behalf of Irish Water under the existing service level agreement.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Public Engagement

The Environment section 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 school as well as across the County. We have provided information sessions in local library branches and community centres. Both of these engagement avenues were hindered significantly during 2020 due to Covid related restrictions. We regularly use social media and local media to educate and inform the public in relation to seasonal environmental issues.

The Environment Section participated in a dedicated citizen engagement strategy as part of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewaters during 2020.

The Environment Section implemented an effective awareness campaign to ensure a smooth introduction and implementation of the regulations and introduction of Cavan's Low Smoke Zone.

The Environment Section were involved as part of the National Pesticides and Drinking Water Action Group (NPDWAG) Cavan Catchment Focus Group.

Cavan Monaghan Science Festival

2020 was the fifth year of the Cavan Monaghan Science Festival. Cavan and Monaghan County Councils again joined forces hosting a range of events during November 2020. Due to Covid19 restrictions the events were held virtually, and participants could access these events online. The objective was to stimulate and sustain the interest of all in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) by producing an exciting and educational festival. Environmental staff from the council were involved in the roll out of the festival. The festival was a huge success. Over 13,000 children participated in school streamed events and over 1,000 adults streamed a science event.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Working across the organisation

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 with green school assessment visits and awareness presentations
- Advising Housing on site suitability for demountable rural housing
- Dealing with queries and referrals from Municipal District Offices, Community and Enterprise, Water Services/Irish Water, Waste Management and Roads in relation to water quality, protection, and restoration.

Certification, Enforcement and Licensing activities 2020	
Number of Section 4 Discharge Licenses	57
Number of Air Pollution Licenses	1
Number of Solvent Regulation Registered Sites	3
Number of Decorative Paints Registered Sites	10
Number of Petroleum Vapour Regulations Registrations	28
Number of complaints received (water/air/noise excluding waste)	105
Number of cross reports to the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine	3
Number of Section 12 Notices served in accordance with the Water Pollution Acts	5
Number of Domestic Waste Water Treatment System inspections	16



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Energy Management

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

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

Cavan County Council's target is a 33% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. Based on the PROVISIONAL Monitoring and Reporting submissions to SEAI for 2020, Cavan County Council has made a 27.8% improvement to energy efficiency since the baseline period of 2001-2005.

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

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

The Public Lighting electricity supply contract is also administered via the Office of Government Procurement under Cavan County Council's control. There are approximately 6600 public lights which have to be supplied with electricity (80% of energy cost) and have to be maintained (20% of energy cost). There is an existing



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

public lighting maintenance contract. Public lighting is the most significant user of energy within Cavan County Council making up circa 41% of energy consumed. Cavan County Councils energy consumption during 2020 which resulted in a spending of just under **€1.5 million** is detailed in the table below:

Energy Type		Energy Consumption (Total primary energy consumption)
		kWh
Electricity		8,937,957
Thermal		672,931
Transport		2,635,624
Total Energy Consumed		12,246,512

There was a reduction in electricity and thermal energy consumption during 2020 and an increase in transport energy consumption during 2020 based on a comparison with the 2019 data.

Some of the Significant Energy Actions during 2020 include

- Energy Monitoring and Reporting submitted in accordance with deadlines for 2019 energy consumed.
- National Energy Report issued in 2020 demonstrating Cavan County Council has achieved a provisional 27.8% improvement in energy efficiency from the baseline.
- Cavan County Council Energy Engagement Strategy implemented.
 1. Monthly meter readings for headquarter buildings ongoing.
 2. Seasonal messages to staff regarding energy efficiency implemented.
 3. Energy actions circulated to all Heads of Section for inclusion in all Annual Service Delivery Plans/Business Plans. Establish and improve on procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage.
 4. Energy Team meetings held and associated actions ongoing.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

5. Ongoing monitoring of bills and ongoing requests for meter readings within Cavan County Council. Liaising with relevant staff re. payments/approval system ongoing.
- Ongoing engagement with Cavan Sustainable Energy Group – launch of Cavan Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Energy Masterplan.



- Creation of further Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) across County Cavan. Belturbet SEC, East Cavan Energy Team, Kingscourt SEC and Cootehill SEC.
- Preliminary investigations at the swimming pool and leisure centre investigating potential for energy efficiency and savings at this site. Investigations also addressing potential business case for funding of necessary works.
- Energy upgrades by the Council's Housing Section on 90 of Cavan County Councils housing stock.
- Ongoing allocation of sites in accordance with the National Procurement Service winning tenders as new sites come online.
- 56% of public lighting stock upgraded to energy efficient LED lights.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- OPW Optimising People @ Work Programme launched in 2020.
- Inputted into the EU funded Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS) process. The main objective of this significant body of work is to inform the development and implementation of a comprehensive building upgrade programme for Ireland's public sector buildings, bringing them to a Building Energy Rating (BER) of "B" by end 2030.
- Funding allocation (30%) by SEAI from Communities grant scheme towards public lighting project. (Savings of 25,735kWh)
- Input to Local Economic and Community Plan regarding energy activities, focus on linkages with SEC's.
- Liaise with Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and the Climate Action Officer/Team. Regional Climate Action Local Authority Group (Monaghan, Cavan & Leitrim) established with climate/energy activities progressing from same.
- North East Energy Officer Network maintained in conjunction with SEAI appointed Public Sector Mentor.
- Contract with Bord Gais for gas supply adopted in accordance with OGP procurement procedures.

Actions Planned for 2021

- Complete SEAI Energy Efficiency Performance Monitoring and Reporting for 2020 in accordance with deadlines imposed.
- Report on energy efficiency progress to Senior Management Team
- Liaise with OPW regarding Optimising Power at Work programme issues relating to smart metering installed on site.
- Ongoing Implementation of the energy engagement strategy.
- Raise staff awareness and improve energy efficiency using seasonal messages.
- Out of hours audits
- Review of monthly bills, compare & disseminate information.
- Maintain procedure for monthly monitoring of energy usage.
- Maintain procedure for frequent meter reads.
- Maintain Energy Team Meetings & Actions.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Support Community & Enterprise Section by providing information on all types of funding available for communities/groups/individuals.
- Cavan Sustainable Energy Committees – input to committee actions where possible, investigate opportunities for community grants and establish linkages to Cavan County Council projects.
- Partner with roll out of climate action training to the SEC's including funding support.
- Liaise with SEAI and CARO to co-ordinate school events/workshops with primary & post primary schools in Cavan during Science Week.
- Public lighting upgrades – maintain progress with a target of 65% LED upgrades completed by year end 2021.
- Continue to allocate new sites in accordance with National Procurement Service winning tenders.
- Progress the swimming pool and leisure centre energy efficiency project.
- Progress energy projects for five sites identified in conjunction with regional local authority climate action sub-group.
- Investigate further regional opportunities for energy saving and energy efficiency projects in conjunction with neighbouring local authorities.

Climate Change

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

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



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

Many of the actions identified in the adaptation strategy were undertaken in 2020. This demonstrates that Cavan County Council is planning proactively, is taking action and will make the required adjustments to minimise or avoid the existing and anticipated impacts from climate change.

Waste Management

The Waste Management section of Cavan County Council 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. The Waste Management Sections remit extends from waste management policy and planning to managing the waste infrastructure and enforcement of the Waste Regulations.

Waste Management Policy and Planning

In September 2020 new National Waste Action Plan “***The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy***” was published. This Plan is a new roadmap for all Local authorities for waste planning and management and shifts focus away from waste disposal and looks instead to how we can preserve resources by creating a circular economy.

The Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy sets out a range of aims and targets for the State and the measures by which these will be achieved, including increased regulation and measures across various waste areas such as Circular Economy, Municipal Waste, Consumer Protection and Citizen Engagement, Plastics and Packaging, Construction and Demolition, Textiles, Green Public Procurement and Waste Enforcement. A number of these measures will be coming into force in the



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

coming years such as the Single Use Plastics Ban.

Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA)

Cavan is part of the Connaught Ulster Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority CU (WERLA) which is responsible for coordinating waste enforcement actions in the region. The Connaught-Ulster Regional Waste Management Plan was launched in 2015 and runs until 2021 and provides a framework for the prevention and management of waste in a sustainable manner for eight local authorities in the region. WERLA's 2020 work programme set out national priorities feeding into a programme of coordinated work for local authorities as follows.

National Waste Enforcement Priorities for 2020

Waste Enforcement worked with the CU Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority (WERLA) in tackling national waste enforcement priorities in 2020 and were incorporated in to the RMCEI plan for 2020. The national priorities for 2020 Waste included;

1. **Tackling significant illegal waste activity** (Illegal Dumping & Unauthorized Movement of Waste)
2. **Multi-Agency Sites of Interest** - Identification of Sites which may contain waste that has been deposited without authorisation requiring multi-agency responses, and notification to WERLAs.
3. **Construction and Demolition Waste Activity**- unauthorised disposal of C&D waste by C&D operators including management and movement and disposal of C&D waste
4. **End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive** - inspections of Authorised End of Life Vehicles sites / operators & identify unauthorised ELV operators in your area.
5. **Waste Collection - Household & Commercial**
6. **Tacking of Waste Flows** - detect and reduce misclassification of waste



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Waste Regulations and Enforcement

Each year as part of Cavan County Council's commitments and obligations under EU & State rules, an RMCEI Plan (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) is developed outlining Cavan County Council's inspection objectives. The RMCEI contains non-binding criteria for the planning, carrying out, following up and reporting on environmental inspections.

As part of the RMCEI Plan Cavan County Council Environment & Waste are required to report on inspection and enforcement activities and carry out regular reviews of their respective plans 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). Routine Inspections can be planned in advance as is the purpose of the Annual Inspection Plan.
- Non-Routine Inspections which typically involve those inspections associated with the investigation of Waste Complaints.

Environmental Inspections carried out by 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 and illegal dump sites and inspections relating to general unauthorised waste activities (illegal burning and illegal movement of wastes for example).



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Year 2020	
No. of open complaints as at 01/01/2020	56
No. of Waste/Litter Complaints Received	567
No. of complaints Closed	569
No. of open complaints as at 31/12/2020	54

County of Cavan (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-laws, 2019.

These Bye- Laws came into force on December 13th 2019 and place obligations on waste producers in households and commercial premises regarding storage, presentation, segregation of waste, contamination prevention and demonstration of proof that their waste is disposed of by an approved waste collector or brought by the waste producer to an authorised waste facility. These Bye-laws apply to all households, apartments and commercial premises. In order to manage waste correctly there must either be:

- Have a contract in place with an authorised door-to-door waste collector.
- Have a bin sharing agreement in place ensure that the account holder has provided you with proof of agreement.
- Demonstrate regular use of an authorised waste facility e.g., civic amenity site.

Details of the Bye-laws and General Household Waste Management were circulated in 2020 through the publication of the Waste Management Guidelines Information Booklet 2020.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Waste Management Guidelines Information Booklet

Funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and as part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative 2019, the Waste Management Section designed an information booklet “Household Waste Management Guide”. This 20-page booklet provides advice on how to appropriately manage household waste and includes measures on how to prevent and reduce waste at home. This booklet was distributed to the readers of the Anglo Celt as part of Celtic Media Groups “Green Future” production which was published in October 2020. The booklet will also be distributed to householders at workshops, trade shows and information days held/attended by the Council in the future.



Performance Indicators for 2020

Total No. of Serviced Households at 31/12/2020	17,841
Total No. of Serviced Households agg>500 31/12/2020	8,911
Total No. of households availing of a 3-Bin service at 31/12/2020.	3,291
% of households availing of a 3-Bin service	37%



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Litter/Waste Complaints

All Litter and Waste complaints reported to the Council are recorded and fully investigated. We endeavour to deal with these complaints in a prompt, efficient and effective manner.



Examples of fly tipping/illegal dumping investigated by our Enforcement Team

In 2020, the Waste Management Section received 567 complaints which related to littering, fly tipping, illegal dumping, hoarding of waste and backyard burning.

Complaint Type	No. of Complaints Received
Litter	37
Waste (Non C&D)	503
Waste (C&D)	27
Total	567

Litter and Waste Enforcement

A total of 69 on-the-spot Litter Fines (€150) were issued for offences committed under the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as amended. Four prosecution files have been referred to the Council's Law Agent to initiate legal proceedings under the above Act.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

A further 13 prosecution files have also been referred to the Council's Law Agent for offences under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. The maximum fine in these cases is €5,000. To date, the Waste Management Section has secured three successful prosecutions with the remaining cases to be heard by Cavan District Court in 2021.

Working across the organisation

Waste Management works in an integrated way with other Council departments including:

- Preplanning meetings and planning application referrals and responding to issues/queries from Planning with water quality, air or noise elements.
- Liaising with Housing Department in relation to waste management issues/complaints.
- Organising abatement measures of illegal dumping with the three Municipal Districts.
- Liaising with the Council's Communication Officer to communicate awareness and education initiatives in relation to litter and waste prevention.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

The aim of the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) is to tackle illegal dumping and provide local authorities with support to monitor and ensure the surveillance of dumping blackspots and develop an integrated approach to deal with this issue. As part of the 2020 Anti-Dumping Initiative, Cavan County Council completed seven projects which prioritised the key measures outlined in Circular WP03.20:

- Project 1 – Abatement Measures – Site clean-up at known illegal dumping blackspot at Tanderagee, Bailieborough.
- Project 2 – Enforcement Measures – Acquiring 4 No. Body Worn Cameras to assist Waste Enforcement staff in the line of duty.
- Project 3 – Enforcement Measures – Acquiring supplementary equipment to assist Drone related investigations.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Project 4 – Enforcement Measures – Installation of permanent CCTV Surveillance Equipment and Information Signage at a number of Bring Centre locations and the complete refurbishment of the Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre.
- Project 5 – Enforcement Measures – Installation of permanent CCTV Surveillance Equipment at 3 No. known dumping blackspots.
- Project 6 – Prevention Measures – A Bulky Waste Collection Day was held at Corranure Civic Amenity Centre in August 2020.
- Project 7 – Prevention Measures – A Mattress Recycling Day was held at Corranure Civic Amenity Centre in July 2020.

Project 1 – Abatement Measures – Site clean up at known illegal dumping blackspot at Tanderagee, Bailieborough

This site posed significant risks to the public health of local residents as a result of antisocial behaviour, dumping and burning of household waste and rodent infestation. This site is situated on Council owned lands adjacent to a historical landfill site and is in close proximity to a residential area, Bailieborough Community School and St. Anne's Church. The unsightly nature of this site was clearly visible from the main Virginia to Bailieborough Road (R178) and damaging the appearance of the town. Works included the removal and disposal of historical waste, repair and reinstatement of boundary fence to prevent repeat dumping and deployment of permanent CCTV equipment.

24.18 tonnes was removed from this site.





Project 2 – Enforcement Measures – Acquiring 4 No. Body Worn Cameras

Pilot scheme to roll out Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) to all Waste Enforcement Staff (2 No. Community Wardens & 2 No. Waste Enforcement Officers) commenced in July 2020. BWCs will be donned only when undertaking investigative/enforcement activities. BWCs will not be worn during routine activities and enforcement staff will only activate them if they encounter a hostile situation or site.

The principle purpose of BWCs is to deter and prevent violent and aggressive behaviour towards Waste Enforcement Staff. The majority of enforcement actions taken by our enforcement team relate to litter, flytipping, illegal dumping (small & large scale), backyard burning, infill sites, illegal waste collection and abandoned/end of life vehicles.

This project will be rolled out to other enforcement departments within the local authority with our Roads Department currently making preparations to roll out a similar initiative to assist their Traffic Wardens in enforcing the Council's parking bye laws in all major towns.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Project 3 – Enforcement Measures – Acquiring supplementary equipment to assist Drone related investigations.

The purchase of supplementary equipment will improve efficiency and extend the flight time of our drone acquired under the 2018 ADI which is currently used to detect flytipping, illegal dumping and burning of waste across the County.

The additional equipment will simplify many operations and extend the range of waste categories being investigated by the Waste Enforcement Team.

It will allow the enforcement team to monitor landfills providing overhead visuals allowing staff to see cross sections of certain cells or entire landfills.

The additional equipment will increase the capacity of our Waste Enforcement Team and allow them to investigate more illegal dumpsites, forested areas, wetlands and disused quarries which are difficult for staff to investigate on the ground.

It will also assist the Waste Enforcement Team in investigating Authorised Treatment Facilities and large planning applications. The continued use of this smart technology will ensure the health and safety of our staff, the public and the integrity of the drone itself. It will not only detect illegal dumping and burning but will assist in the security of Waste Enforcement Staff when gathering evidence. Better use of technology and more efficient evidence gathering will assist in issuing FPNs and pursuing prosecutions under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.

Project 4 – Enforcement Measures – Improvement works to our Bring Centre Network

Installation of permanent Overview HD cameras and Licence Plate Recognition cameras which will be used to identify the vehicle registrations of those who commit an offence. This evidence will be used to issue on the spot Litter Fines and/or court prosecutions.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Permanent CCTV Surveillance Equipment has been installed at the following locations	
--	--

Ballinagh Bring Centre	Cootehill Bring Centre
Ballyhaise Bring Centre	Kingscourt Bring Centre
Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre	Mullagh Bring Centre
Bawnboy Bring Centre	New Inns Bring Centre
Ballyconnell Bring Centre	Virginia Bring Centre

An additional camera was also deployed at the Belturbet Bring Centre complementing an existing camera.

This project also saw the installation of new permanent signage at Bring Centres which either had no previous signage or the existing signage needed upgrading. Signage at the following locations has been upgraded:

- Ballinagh Bring Centre
- Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre
- Bawnboy Bring Centre
- Ballyconnell Bring Centre
- Cootehill Bring Centre
- Kingscourt Bring Centre
- Mullagh Bring Centre
- New Inns Bring Centre

Remedial Works Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre

As part of 2020 ADI, Cavan County Council also undertook remedial works at the Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre to improve the visual impact of this Bring Centre and deter flytipping and illegal dumping. The following remedial works were completed:

- The removal of 1.36T of waste accumulated underneath and behind the recycling receptacles.
- Installation of concrete plinth and boundary fence to define the Bring Centre



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Location.

- Installation of new signage and CCTV surveillance.
- Power washing and cleaning of recycling receptacles.



Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre before

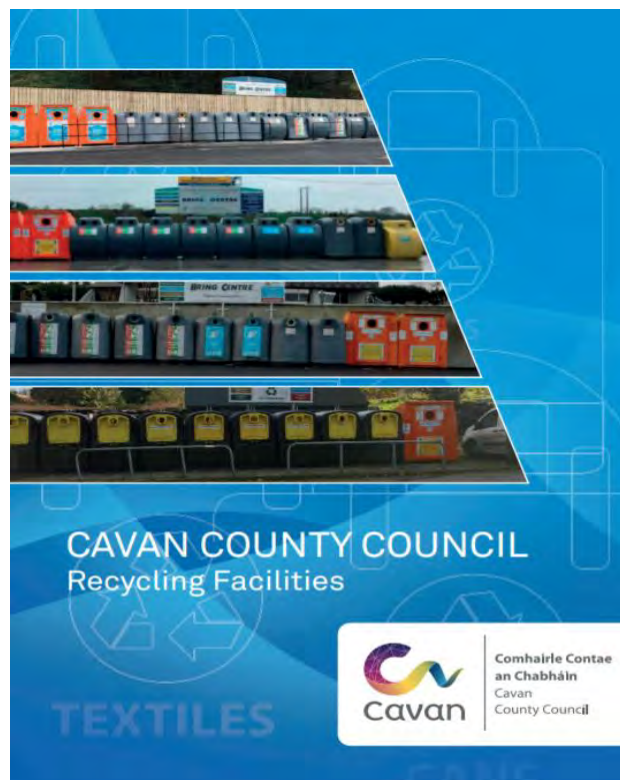


Ballyjamesduff Bring Centre after



Supplementary Awareness Project

The installation of permanent cameras and improved signage at Recycling Bring Centres has been supplemented by the production of an 8 page information booklet which will be used to generate greater environmental awareness and education and will be distributed through our Green Schools and Tidy Towns Networks.



Project 5 – Enforcement Measures – Installation of permanent CCTV Surveillance Equipment at 3 No. known dumping blackspots

To combat fly tipping and illegal dumping at known blackspots and to reduce the risk to public health and the surrounding environment Cavan County Council installed permanent overt CCTV equipment at 3 No. known dumping blackspots. 2 No. sites have been subject to abatement measures in previous Anti-Dumping Initiatives, however, dumping has become prevalent again. The third site identified is the location of our abatement measures undertaken as part of this years Anti-Dumping Initiative.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Project 6 – Prevention Measures – Bulky Waste Collection Day

A Bulky Waste Collection Day was held at Corranure Civic Amenity Centre on 15th August 2020. This collection was available to households and details of items collected are outlined below:

Item Collected	Quantity
Mattresses	188
3 pc Suites	145
Couches	120
Armchairs	169

Other items collected included: timber furniture i.e. chipboard, bedside lockers, wardrobes, chest of drawers, timber flooring, laminated flooring, timber fencing, shelving, dining tables and chairs, internal doors, carpet, underlay and lino, bed base's, headboards, duvets and pillows, fireplaces, office furniture i.e. office chairs, desks, filing cabinets, car seats, prams, cots and strollers. **30 tonnes of waste was collected on the day.**

**Cavan County Council Anti-Dumping Initiative 2020
Bulky Goods Collection**

Saturday, 15th August 2020, 8am – 12.30pm, Corranure Civic Amenity Centre, H12DK61



For further information please contact the Waste Management Section, Cavan County Council on 049 4378300 or waste@cavancoco.ie

To protect yourselves and others, customers are encouraged to adhere to current HSE guidelines and complete your disposal as safely and swiftly as possible.

**Collection Fee:
€5 per Van/Car and Trailer**

ONLY THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED:

- Upholstered Furniture (Couches, Armchairs, 3-Piece Suites)
- Bedroom Furniture: (Lockers, Wardrobes, Beds, etc.)
- Kitchen Furniture: (Dining Chairs & Tables, Sideboards, etc.)

This service is for domestic households only
Strictly no commercial use
Normal charges apply for all other waste items presented on the day



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council




Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Project 7 – Prevention Measures – Mattress Recycling Day held at Corranure Civic Amenity Centre



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

500 No. Mattresses were collected with 177 No. households utilising the service on the day.



Histori
Historic

osal



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

sites that were in operation between 1977 and 1996 in accordance with the Waste Management (Certification of Historic Unlicensed Waste Disposal & Recovery Activity Regulations, 2008). A number of high-risk sites were assessed and remediated in the period 2012-2015. Revised risk assessments have been under way on medium risk sites since 2017. During 2020, funding was sourced for risk assessments and licencing of three such sites, namely Gowna, Ballyconnell and Virginia. A Tier 2 risk assessment was completed for Gowna Landfill while a provisional works were undertaken on the Ballyconnell historical landfill. In addition to this, a consultant was engaged to complete the application for EPA certification of the Virginia historical landfill site which underwent risk assessment in 2018. This application will be finalised and submitted in quarter 2 2021.

Promotion of the Green Schools Programme

Cavan County Council continue to prioritise the Green Schools Programme and work in partnership with An Taisce. We encourage all schools to participate in the programme and have increased the number of schools participating in recent years. In May 2020, the following schools were awarded a Green Flag:

Litter & Waste Theme:

- Gaelscoil Bhreifne

Travel Theme:

- Corlurgan NS
- Milltown NS
- Scoil Mhuire, Lacken
- Scoil Naomh Padraig, Blacklion
- St. Anne's NS, Bailieborough
- St. Clare's NS, Ballyjamesduff
- St. Felim's NS, Leiter, Bailieborough
- St. Brigid's NS, Tunnyduff



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Global Citizenship Litter & Waste:

- Convent of Mercy NS, Belturbet
- St. Joseph's NS, Kingscourt

Water Refill Stations

In 2020, the Council provided water refill stations to St. Aidan's Comprehensive, Cootehill and Colaiste Dun an Ri, Kingscourt and supplied reusable water bottles to all students in these two schools.

National Spring Clean

Traditionally, the National Spring Clean Campaign runs throughout Ireland during the month of April and in recent years it has gone from strength to strength in County Cavan. In support of this campaign, we encouraged Schools, Tidy Towns Committees, Local Community Groups and Resident Associations throughout the County to become involved in clean-up 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 large amounts of roadside litter was collected. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, National Spring Clean was officially launched on 8th June. 71 No. groups registered with An Taisce with over 1,700 people involved in clean ups between March and July. The Council provided supplementary litter picking equipment and signage to groups who needed additional supplies and disposed of the waste collected.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

National Tree Week

Planting more trees is the most efficient way of removing carbon from the atmosphere and combatting climate change.

This annual campaign encourages people to plant more trees and get involved in local activities happening in their area.

Each year during the Litter Management Plan 2016 – 2019, the Council received 200 native trees from the Tree Council of Ireland and provided these trees to Green Schools, Tidy Towns Groups and community groups. In 2020, 400 native trees were supplied free of charge to community groups.



Belturbet Zero Waste (BZW)

BZW began as a local response to the global problem of unsustainable production and consumption. BZW is a community led intervention which encourages behavioural changes by identifying sustainable practices and policies aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of the Belturbet Community.



This 5-year waste prevention, awareness and communication project was launched in February 2019 and is led by Belturbet Tidy Towns in collaboration with the Council, the Connacht Ulster WERLA and the EPA. It has already won the 2019 Spark Change Award in the Communicator Category and the Best Waste Management Programme Award sponsored by REPAK at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Members from Belturbet Zero Waste collecting their “Best Waste Management Programme Award” at the All-Ireland Community and Council Awards 2020

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 Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Local Authorities. Projects and schemes such as community gardens, allotments and compost schemes and educational initiatives can be funded. Cavan County Council have supported a number of environmental projects under the Local Agenda 21 Environment Partnership Fund which played a very positive role in tackling litter pollution.

Dog Warden Service

The Implementation of the Control of Dogs Act 1986 as amended 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 and issuing of dog licences.

Veterinary Services

We employ one full time Veterinary Officer who is assisted by 5 part time veterinary inspectors. There is also a part time Veterinary inspector employed at the dog pound. The Veterinary Officer inspects/licences and audits slaughterhouses and small meat plants within the County. Throughout the year, random samples of meat are submitted



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

to The Dept of Agriculture and Foods Central Meat lab in Kildare for testing for residues of antibiotics and other chemicals residues.

Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment

Due to COVID-19 restrictions two SPC meetings were held in 2020. During the December 2020 meeting, the Litter Management Officer presented the objectives of the proposed Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2024 and the Environmental Awareness Officer provided an update on the recycling facilities provided by the local authority.

Membership of Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Climate and Biodiversity Action & Environment	
Chairperson	Cllr Philip Brady
Elected Members	Cllr Madeline Argue Cllr Winston Bennett Cllr TP O' Reilly Cllr Craig Lovett Cllr Shane P O' Reilly
Agriculture and Farming	Joseph Brady
Business & Commercial	Yet to be filled
Environment/Conservation	Fintan McCabe
Community/Voluntary	Barry Wilson

Impact of COVID-19 Restrictions

The Council are committed to supporting the community to navigate the COVID-19 situation. The Council will strive to ensure we maintain the same level of service to the community and we will do everything we can to offer assistance to isolated and/or vulnerable members of the community in County Cavan during the COVID-19 emergency.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

However, the outbreak of COVID-19 has had a severe impact on development and implementation of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2021 – 2024 including the following objectives:

Education Measures

- All Green Schools Visits planned after 12th March 2020 cancelled.
- Green Schools Awards ceremony cancelled.
- Tidy Schools Competition planned for Summer 2020 cancelled.
- Gum Litter Taskforce 2020 planned for June 2020 cancelled.

Awareness Measures

- National Spring Clean(NSC) planned for April 2020 suspended until July 2020.
- NSC clean ups scaled down to max 15 participants with social distancing restrictions in place.
- Litter Leagues Surveys planned for March and November 2020 cancelled.
- National Litter Pollution & Quantification Surveys suspended until October – December 2020.
- Update of Litter & Waste Activities for 2019 to Elected Members deferred until October 2020.

Enforcement Measures

- Litter & Waste Complaint Investigations & Enforcement curtailed during March – June 2020.
- Increased patrols and maintenance of Recycling Bring Centres required during that period.

Prevention Measures

- Bank ATM Litter Surveys planned for May 2020 cancelled.
- Free Electrical & Electronic Recycling Bring Day organised by the European Recycling Platform cancelled.
- Anti-Litter and Anti-Graffiti Grants for 2020 deferred to 2021.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Partnership with Communities and Businesses

- Increased maintenance of the Recycling Bring Centre Network.
- Essential services provided by the three Civic Amenity Centres maintained in compliance with HSE Guidelines.
- Interaction with local voluntary groups including Tidy Towns Groups reduced.
- CEAF funding applications for 2020 deferred until 2021.

Water Services

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

From 1st January 2014 delivery of water and wastewater services became the responsibility of Irish Water. The year 2020 marks year 7 of a 12-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water for the delivery of the services.

Water is considered a 'social good' and activities related to water services support the three aspects (economic, social, and environmental) of sustainable development.

The objectives of the section working on behalf of Irish Water is to:

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- deliver all of the above at the most economic cost and minimum charge to customers.

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

Performance Indicators

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

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

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

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

COVID 19 Pandemic – ‘Lockdown’

Water Services Operational Practices.

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Water Services Technical & Administrative Staff Practices.

The majority of administrative and technical staff were initially deployed to work remotely with full access to all required IT systems, both Cavan County Council and Irish Water. Work continued seamlessly in regard to Water Services function. A minimal staff presence was maintained at Water Services main office. As lockdown measures were eased staff reverted to working from main office or a mixture of office and remote based. However, the move to Level 5 has seen the return to working remotely for majority of Water Services staff. Complete customer service continues to be provided via phone and email.

Capital Works

Two significant capital projects were progressed during 2020 in conjunction with Irish Water:

- Cavan Town Water Main Rehabilitation
- Early Contractor Involvement, (ECI), Wastewater Treatment Plant, (WWTP), Projects

Cavan Town Water Main Rehabilitation

The Water Main Rehabilitation in Cavan Town - Main Street Project was carried out as part of Irish Water's National Leakage Reduction Programme.

The works involved the replacement of approximately 1,394 metres of problematic 8-inch, 6-inch, and 4-inch asbestos cement water mains with high density polyethylene, (plastic), pipes.

The new watermains was installed by open-cut in the carriageway on Main Street and Church Street. The works involved:

- Excavation of a trench,
- Laying a new 250mm HDPE pipe,
- Installation of connections and services,
- Backfilling and reinstating.

A parallel main was also being installed on Main Street and part of Church Street footpaths by Slip Lining which involved sliding a new 125mm HDPE pipe up inside the existing 8-inch asbestos main and transferring over the services to this main. While there were delays, due to emergence of COVID-19 and associated lockdown, the substantial works were completed by mid-November 2020. Some construction photos during the progress of the works are shown below.



Slip Lining 125mm pipe through 200mm Asbestos pipe on footpath near to post office footpath.



250mm pipe in trench threading under numerous Utility services



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

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

Cavan Sites currently included are:

- Virginia,
- Ballyjamesduff,
- Bailieborough,
- Kingscourt,
- Cootehill

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

An ECI contractor was appointed and they commenced work on progressing the work packages from this stage to completion having received project brief packages from the ECI team.

The Water Services Major Capital Section are working in collaborative partnership with Irish Water's Wastewater ECI team to progress design submissions in consultation with the ECI Contractor. Numerous Site visits and site surveys to facilitate data gathering requirements were conducted during 2020 with the first tranche of Requests for Information, (RFI), having been received from ECI Contractor which have been reviewed, responded to and closed out. Technical review meetings were held on a fortnightly basis to assist the Contractor in formulating and developing suitable Treatment process design solutions for consideration and approval purposes.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Other Capital projects which progressed in 2020 included:

- **Water Disinfection Project** works to upgrade all water treatment plants to current IW Drinking Water specifications. Plants included in project are Belturbet, Kingscourt, Ballyconnell, Swanlinbar, Bailieborough, Cavan, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill.
- **CFC, (Coagulation, Flocculation & Clarification), Project** works at Cootehill, Swanlinbar, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff and Belturbet.
- **Shercock Watermain Project** involving the replacement of 400 metres of old problematic cast iron water mains on Bailieborough Road, Shercock. Works fully completed in Quarter 4 of 2020.
- **Back Yard Services Project** works progressed during 2020 at various locations in Belturbet, Cavan, Kingscourt, Ballyjamesduff and Cootehill.

Cavan Rural Water Update

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

The total allocation for Cavan in relation to the 2019-2021 programme was €1,686,470. These allocations are both scheme and project specific. Allocations were received for 23 of these projects, (covering 17 schemes or scheme bundles). Further detail on the MARWP allocation for the 2019-2021 programme was delivered to a meeting of the County Rural Water Monitoring Committee on 5th November 2019. The next meeting of the Rural Water Monitoring Committee is scheduled for early 2021, it has been delayed due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

All schemes allocated funding under MARWP 2019-2021 are contacted every 6-8 weeks to ascertain an update on the various projects. A report is then prepared &



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

returned to the Department. It is noted that many of the projects were at a standstill or slowed down significantly as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eight schemes have completed projects under this programme and payments totalling €438,848.38 have been issued. The most recent claim to recoup this expenditure was prepared and submitted to the Department in December 2020.

GWS Subsidy – The deadline for submission of applications for the 2019 Final Subsidy and 2020 Advance Subsidy payments was June 30th. Schemes were asked to submit their Subsidy claims as early as possible. Processing of all subsidy applications is now complete for the 2019/2020 period. All schemes have received the Subsidy A Final 2019 and Advance 2020 payments. Finance are currently processing the Q4 Subsidy B Advance 2020 payments, these were issued to the schemes in early January, concluding the 2020 Advance payment process. All Subsidy streams recoupment claims have been forwarded to the Department.

Multi Annual Rural Water Programme – Measure 8 - Well Grants applications had slowed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but there has been an increase in interest due to the announcement of an updated well grant fund scheme at the beginning of June. All details and applications forms have been updated on the council's website to reflect these changes. Well grants totalling €27,493.03 have been issued to applicants during 2020. This amount has been recouped in full, from the Department.

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Planning Community and Economic Development

Planning

Introduction

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Forward Planning

Both the Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Cavan Town & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 came into effect in June 2014. The review of the plans, which will be a Cavan County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028, was delayed until the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Regional Assembly.

The review of the Cavan County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town 2022-2028 commenced in June 2020. This saw the release of a Strategic Issues Paper outlining the County's strategic issues. This was used to stimulate submissions and observations about the content of the proposed draft plan. A number of public consultations and engagements occurred in this period and included six number public consultation evening meetings to engage with public and community groups, an online video to outline the key issues of the county, up to date website and social media, radio and newspaper adverts and one to one telephone conversations or online meetings with a planner from the Forward Planning Team.

A Chief Executives Report was prepared for October 2020 and issued to Elected Members. This outlined the submissions received in relation to the development plan, indicated the Chief Executives opinion in relation to the submissions received and included a recommendation as to the content of the proposed draft development plan in relation to each submission.

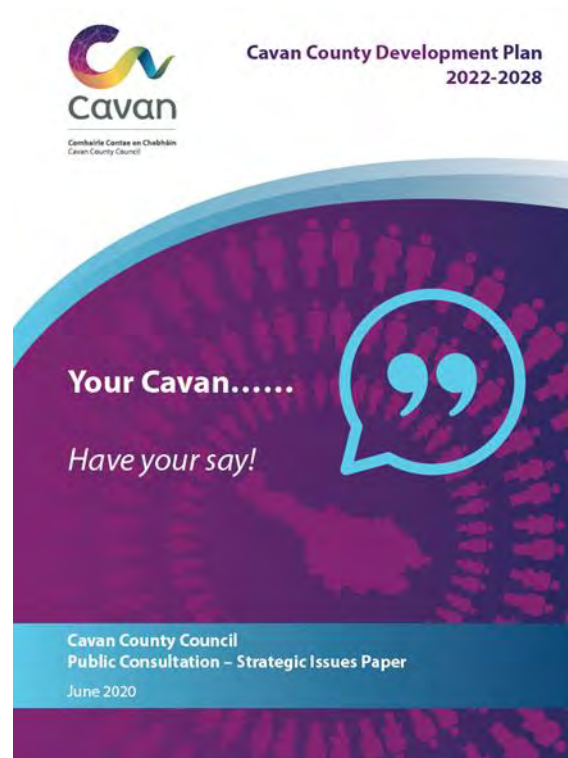
In December 2020, the Elected Members directed, having regard to the Chief Executives Report, that a draft Cavan County Development Plan, including a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town, should be prepared.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Architectural Conservation Areas

A comprehensive study of the county was carried out and completed in 2019 of the potential Architectural Conservation Areas and this resulted in a recommendation of a total of fifteen ACAs for the County. The outstanding ACA's were completed in 2020 with the intention to include in the draft Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028.

URDF Application for Abbeylands

The Abbeylands Masterplan, funded as a Category B project under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) in 2018, was nearing completion by the end of 2020, following extensive community, landowner and business consultation. This Plan will identify a series of high value and transformational interventions, supported by key partners, devised to stimulate social, cultural, economic and amenity regeneration in this key location of historical significance in the centre of town.

Cavan County Council applied for Capital funding of €14,493,750 in 2020 with a decision on such call expected in 2021.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Development Management and other Statutory Functions:

The Planning section received 587 planning applications in 2020, an increase of 14% on the number of applications received in 2019. The majority of applications related to developments such as industrial, rural enterprise, housing schemes, agricultural, commercial, single dwellings, extensions to existing dwellings, domestic garages and retention of existing works.

There were 14 decisions of the Planning Authority appealed to An Bord Pleanála with 8 (57%) of the determinations of An Bord Pleanála confirming the decision made by the Planning Authority.

There was also an increase in the number of applications for Extension of Duration of planning with 29 applications received in 2020 (an increase of 93% on the previous year).

Covid 19 and the restrictions imposed along with it proved to be extremely challenging for the Planning Department in 2020 and continue into 2021. Despite the restrictions and limitations, the Department had to maintain and deliver all essential planning services. Whilst an emergency order was issued to extend statutory timelines within the planning system, there was no hold put on the receipt/validation of planning applications and related activities such as referrals, weekly planning list, scanning of



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

applications for online viewing and accepting of submissions. This was at a time when the country was on hold and the majority of working people were told to stay home. Many procedures had to be altered and many more introduced at a time that was already challenging to the core. When the emergency order had been lifted, the immediate challenge was to have all decisions issued on time and in an orderly manner. The process still remains highly challenging with increased applications all round whilst still trying to adhere to Covid 19 Health and Safety Guidelines.

Derelict Sites and Dangerous Structures:

In December 2018 there were 5 partial registers for derelict sites in the county. These were updated and combined into one register. A draft policy was formed to ensure the process would be compliant with current legislation and map the way in 2020 towards reducing the number of derelict properties in the county. All sites which were on the previous registers have now been processed and the major towns will now be revisited to update the current register. In 2020 there were;

58 Section 8/2 warning letters issue

23 Section 8/7 letters issued.

23 properties paced on the derelict sites register.

A successful resolution has been achieved on 30 properties.

Taking in Charge:

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

There are currently 236 housing estates in the county. 57 of these estates have been taken in charge. 12 were adopted in 2012, 24 were adopted in 2017, 12 were adopted in December 2018, and a further 9 were adopted in December 2020. The remainder



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

are constructed in excess of 12 years. 5 estates have had their public lighting upgraded to LED. 7 applications for Taking in Charge have been received in 2020 and these are added to the 32 already on the list. It is intended to take estates in charge on a continuous basis as resources allow, until all historical estates are Taken in Charge.

Unfinished Housing Estates

In 2010 there were 156 estates in Cavan on the Departments Unfinished Estate Register. There are currently 5 estates remaining on the register and the proposal is to address these in 2021. This has exceeded the recommendation outlined in Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments, where it is proposed to annually reduce this by 25% min. 2016 saw the focus move toward bond drawdown and completion of smaller outstanding works in these estates by the council and this is still the focus going forward. The Team continues to monitor the status of all unfinished estates, and work with financial institutions and developers to resolve outstanding issues in these estates.

Market Surveillance

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

Article 40 of the CPR requires each Member State, to designate a notifying authority, that shall be responsible for setting up and carrying out the necessary procedures for the assessment, and notification of the bodies, to be authorised to carry out third-party tasks in the process of Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) for the purposes of the CPR, and for the monitoring of those notified bodies. In the case of Ireland, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is the designated notifying authority under the CPR. The Irish National Accreditation



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Board undertakes accreditation and monitoring of all notified bodies in Ireland. The notified bodies are the testing houses which have been awarded notification status by the notifying authority.

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

Development Contributions

This 2017 Development Contribution scheme came into effect on applications granted on or after 1st January 2017. This contribution is attached to applications granted in the County and in accordance with the adopted scheme. A number of exemptions and reductions are also available including a newly introduced 10% reduction where development contributions are paid in full within 6 months of lodgement of commencement notices exemptions apply). A total of €1,269,015 (€1,144,334 net of Irish Water deductions) was collected in development contributions.

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

Building Control

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Building Control Regions	Local Authorities
Greater Dublin Area /Eastern and Midland Region	Dublin City, Fingal, South Dublin, Dun-Laoghaire Rathdown, Meath, Louth, Kildare, Wicklow, Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Laois (12)
Northern and Western Region	Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Mayo, Roscommon, Galway City, Galway County (9)
Southern Region	Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wexford, Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Waterford City and County (10)

Each region has one representative on the BCMP project board. The Northern and Western Region continues to be represented by Cavan County Council (Senior Executive Engineer over Building Control).

The Building Control Department offer advice and guidance to agents and users of the system as well as conducting site inspections to ensure compliance and accuracy of information submitted. During 2020, Cavan County Councils Building Control Section processed 248 Notices and 56 Certificates of Compliance on Completion (CCC). This total is made up of:

- 31 invalidated Commencement Notices.
- 85 validated Commencement Notices (long form).
- 43 validated Commencement Notices (short form).
- 72 validated Commencement Notices (Opt Outs).
- 13 validated 7 Day Notices.

Of the 56 CCC's processed, 8 were invalidated.

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Development Compliance/Enforcement

The Enforcement Section opened 114 new cases which were subject to complaints for the 2020 calendar year. The Section closed 28 cases during the same period.

Of the closed files:

- 39% (or 11 cases) were resolved because these were 'statue barred', or were deemed to be 'Exempted development' and no Warning Letters were issued;
- A total of 0% of the files (or 0 cases) were closed as a result of negotiations with the Planning Authority.
- 61% (or 17 cases) were closed following the issue of Warning Letters or an Enforcement Notice.

There are 335 open cases being investigated and these include the preceding years.

Heritage

2020 marked another busy year for Cavan Heritage Office as it continues to ensure that the unique and diverse heritage of County Cavan is conserved, sustained, and, above all cherished and celebrated by the people of the county. Despite the Covid 19 restrictions, Cavan Heritage Office continued to implement a county-wide service and adjusted to public health restrictions accordingly. In 2020, the Heritage Office continued to implement European, National and Local heritage policies where applicable. In addition, to policy implementation, the Heritage Office promoted a range of projects and activities which enabled communities to actively engage and participate with our heritage such as the 'Where We Belong' campaign. During 2020 the heritage office witnessed a renewed interest in all aspects of heritage as people and communities adjusted to a new way of life during the pandemic.

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan Golden Ways

Another very successful year for the Cavan Golden Ways and with the number of communities participating in the Golden Ways. During 2020, the heritage office engaged two local artists to facilitate and work with local Golden Ways groups in the county. The aim of this project is to use the creatives to facilitate communities to respond to the heritage along their Golden Ways in an imaginative and creative manner. It is anticipated that this project will be developed further in 2021. Groups associated with Cavan Golden Ways engaged with National Heritage Week which for the most part was an online event. Many groups presented wonderful projects highlighting the rich heritage associated with their Golden Ways e.g., Deerpark Forest Golden Way presented a wonderful; presentation on the biodiversity of their local area and Jampa Ling Golden Way presenting a film on meditating in nature.

Historic Graveyards Network

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





Community Monuments Fund

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage established the Community Monuments Fund in 2020. The Community Monuments Fund invested capital in our valuable archaeological monuments to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of communities and the public.



Moybologue Historic Graveyard received Community Monument Funding in 2020 to undertake a program of conservation works.

'Lough Oughter – A Place Oughter Time'

Abarta Heritage developed a brand identity tool kit, interpretative plan and content for 6 interpretative panel.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



National Biodiversity Action Plan funding for Local Authorities

In 2020, the Heritage Office received biodiversity funding through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. This has enabled the Heritage Office to organize a series of biodiversity projects including a pollinator guidelines for Cavan County Council.

Heritage Week 2020

Heritage Week 2020, was very successful in Cavan and witnessed more people actively engaging with and participating in the weeklong activities. 2020 saw National Heritage Week move to online projects for the most part. Two projects in Cavan were recognized by the Heritage Council at a national level which included Cavan Historic Graveyards Network and Killeshandra bringing the 1911 Census to life. In 2020, many communities availed of the local heritage week grant scheme which enabled them to organize local projects to celebrate heritage. One successful event which did take place, following public health guidelines, was the unveiling of the artwork along 'The Line Golden Way, Templeport'.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC met (virtually) on three occasions in 2020. The SPC members are listed below.

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

Planning Performance Indicators:

P1: New Buildings Inspected	
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	225
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority in 2020 that were the subject of at least one on-site inspection during 2020	20 (9%)
P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by <i>An Bord Pleanála</i>	
Number of LA planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal in 2020	14
% of the determinations at A which confirmed decision made by the LA	8 (57%)
P3: % of Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved	
Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority investigated	114
Total number of cases that were closed during 2020	28



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

% of cases at B dismissed under section 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	11 (39%)
% of cases at B resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations	0%
% of cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	17 (61%)
Total number of planning cases being investigated at 31/12/2020	335
P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service	
The 2020 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2016 Census	Cost per capita 19.77

Community, Enterprise and Tourism

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

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

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

The functions of the Local Community Development Committee are set out under



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Section 128A of Local Government Reform Act 2014. They are as follows:

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

Despite the challenges faced, 2020 was a successful year for Cavan LCDC in terms of the significant adaptability shown through the SICAP programme in responding to Covid19, administering two rounds of Community Enhancement Funding and further advancement of the LEADER programme. An annual report on 2020 LCDC activity was prepared and submitted to the Department in accordance with Section 128(b) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014.

Cavan LCDC held 7 meetings in 2020. While there were a number of changes in membership of the LCDC during 2020 and a change to remote meetings, there continued to be excellent engagement at LCDC meetings by both statutory and non-statutory members.

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

- Addiction Services for Young People in Cavan/Monaghan by HSE/TUSLA/North Eastern Regional Drugs Task Force
- Community Response – Cavan Covid19 Community Call – information provided by Mr John Donohoe, Chief Officer



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Planet Youth Project by Andy Ogle (Coordinator, North East Drug & Alcohol Taskforce) & Maureen McIntyre (Youth Officer, CMETB)
- Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) by Mr Ste Corrigan, CYPSC Cavan Co-Ordinator, TUSLA - Child & Family Agency
- Cavan Sports Partnership by Nadine McCormilla, Co-Ordinator Cavan Sports Partnership

Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Cavan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) prepared a six-year local, economic and community plan (LECP) in 2016 which includes actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, develop community infrastructure and the promotion of economic development.

The Plan was reviewed twice during 2020 which illustrated good progress with almost every action in the plan. Highlights from 2020 include:

- All Leader funding available for projects was 100% committed as of the 31st of December 2020 in the amount of € 6.8 million. A total of € 3,461,210 has been paid out to promoters in full or phased payments for completed projects.
- Comhairle na nOg held their 2020 AGM virtually on the 13th of November 2020 with participation from all post primary schools in Co Cavan.
- Community Enhancement Programme Grants 2020 – Under round 1 of the CEP Scheme, a total of €57,000 was rolled out with grants for capital projects awarded to 38 local community groups. (€19,000 in each Municipal District Area). Under Round 2 €120,000 was awarded in grants to 26 Local Community Groups.
- Belturbet Zero Waste project won the award for Best Waste Management Programme at the All Ireland Community & Council Awards 2020.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Cavan Arts commissioned a Series of videos from artists and communities in Cavan to promote local arts entitled “The Gift/An Bronntanas” delivered online from 13 to 20 December 2020. (Video reach on Facebook 11,000 and post reach 26,000 by 8.1.2021 and 2,392 Facebook views.)
- Cavan County Council were awarded €837,000 in January 2020 towards the development of a multi-purpose sports facility. Consultants have been hired to assist with preparation of tender documentation to allow us to engage a multi-disciplinary team for the design stage for the development of a multipurpose sports facility.
- Quarterly meetings of the Age Friendly Alliance took place and a new Cavan Age Friendly Strategy 2021 to 2023 was developed and approved for the County.
- Quarterly meeting of the Drug and Alcohol Forum have been taking place. A new Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Communications Sub-group established – working on co-ordinating the sharing of information on services available, training and promotion of local and national campaigns.
- Cavan County Council’s Litter Management Unit continued support of National Spring Clean which commenced on 8th June and concluded on 8th July. 71 groups in Cavan registered with An Taisce with over 1,700 people involved in clean ups between March and July.
- Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board commissioned an Alternative Learning Programme study to support the development of an Alternative Learning Programme for young people under 16 years.
- A host of local environmental initiatives including reusable cup and reusable bottle initiatives, media campaign raising awareness against bogus waste collectors, tree planting, Local Agenda 21 scheme, Stop Food Waste



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Challenge, Tidy Towns supports & events, Green Flags in schools, collection of household hazardous waste, National Spring Clean, bulky waste and electrical goods recycling days held, roll out of Refill Ireland Business Initiative.

SICAP

The Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is a key intervention for harder to reach groups. Delivery is being overseen and managed by Cavan LCDC. SICAP aims to address poverty, long term unemployment and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. The SICAP Programme implementor is Cavan County Local Development Company (LDC).

The SICAP Annual plan sets out actions aimed at helping local community groups to build capacity, promote engagement, building stronger communities, and promote participation and collaboration. The LDC also supports individuals through provision of personal development and well-being supports, providing lifelong learning opportunities, supports for those seeking employment as well as and self-employment opportunities.

During 2020, the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic impacted greatly on the delivery of the SICAP plan for 2020. Notwithstanding this, the Local Development Company successfully adapted the SICAP services in response to the challenges faced by imposed restrictions and successfully provided services to meet the changed demand.

Despite the challenges faced the SICAP targets set for 2020 were achieved and surpassed.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

	Annual Target 2020	Revised Target (Taking account of impact of Covid)	Actuals Target achieved	Percentage achievement
Number of local community groups assisted under SICAP (KPI 2)	42	40	44	110%
Total number of disadvantaged individuals (15 years old & upwards) engaged under SICAP on a one-to-one basis (KPI 1)	520	470	492	105%
Achievement of % KPI2 from Disadvantaged areas	18%			25%

Total expenditure under the SICAP programme in County Cavan in 2020 was €761,627.17.

Throughout 2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) was extremely effective in targeting emergency response supports to the most marginalised and socially excluded in our communities. The Government, the Department of Rural & Community Development and Pobal provided for extra flexibility within the SICAP programme at an early stage of the Covid 19 crisis for LCDCs and Local Development Companies to respond to local needs outside the scope of their pre-approved SICAP annual plans.

Healthy Cavan

The primary aim of the Healthy Ireland Fund is to support innovative, cross-sectoral, evidence-based projects and initiatives that support the implementation of key national policies in areas such as obesity, smoking, alcohol, physical activity and sexual health. The allocation available to Cavan LCDC for the period 2019 to 2021 is €246,050.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

- Action 1 – Physical Activity Initiative
- Action 2 - Healthy Food Made Easy
- Action 3 – Holistic Health Initiatives
- Action 4 - Digital Health Conferences
- Action 5 – Community Engagement
- 'Community Mental Health Fund'
- Community Mental Health small grants scheme

Progress under the Cavan Healthy Ireland Fund in 2020 included:

- 'Community Mental Health Fund', Young Peoples Resilience Project - Healthy Cavan partnered with Cavan Children and Young Peoples Services Committee (CYPSC) Community Mental Health Fund to deliver this action. A resilience worker has been recruited through the ISPCC and continued to work remotely since the arrival of Covid19. This support is being provided in Cavan town, Kingscourt and Mullagh areas. It includes one to one therapeutic support work with young people and their families to develop resilience.
- Under Action 4 - Digital Health Conferences: Bounce Back Youth Service and Youth Work Ireland Cavan Monaghan in conjunction with Healthy Cavan, held a Digital Health Conference in March 2020 in the Hotel Kilmore. The conference was attended by over 1200 young people with 35 primary schools and 6 secondary schools from around the county in the attendance, helping to educate them on how to use the internet safely.
- This latest round of Healthy Ireland Funding provided for a small grants scheme. This funding was made available to local community, voluntary and sporting organisations to deliver actions or projects which are in line with the



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Mental Health theme of Round 3. This small grant scheme was rolled out in Cavan in 2020 with total funding of €30,000 available. 17 applications totalling just over €65,080 were received. 13 Community Groups were awarded grants ranging from €2,000 to €5,000.

- The Healthy Cavan Programme delivered initiatives to support local communities in response to Covid19. These included:
 - Promotion of health and wellbeing campaigns from Healthy Ireland, Health Service Executive (HSE), Mental Health Ireland MHI including the #InThisTogether and #HoldFirm campaigns.
 - Physical activity and mental health supports are promoted daily for both young people and older people on social media.
 - Care Box Initiative: Care boxes are filled with essential health and wellbeing items such as: thermometers, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, overnight bags, etc., They also include information leaflets on health and wellbeing. In collaboration with the HSE they will be delivered to vulnerable people in our community including those who are self-isolating and cocooning. There are 80 boxes available and individuals will be identified through the HSE.

In light of recent tragic deaths among young people in the county, a new health and wellbeing committee was set up by the Cavan GAA County board. The Healthy Cavan Coordinator represents the Healthy Cavan Programme on this committee.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Care Box Initiative



Digital Health Conference 2020



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

LEADER Programme

The Local Community Development Committee acts as the Local Action Group [LAG] for the LEADER Programme.

The LAG met a total of 9 times over the course of the year.

As of the 15th of December all funding received in the Leader Programme 14-20 had been allocated to projects which was a total of €6,844,368 million for projects in Cavan.

Up to 8th December a total of € 3,864,589 had been paid out to the project promoters for either completed or phased payments on their projects.

Transitional LEADER Programme

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced details of the Transitional LEADER Programme which will come into effect 1st April 2021.

In line with a commitment in the Programme for Government, the Transitional LEADER Programme will bridge a gap between the wind-up of the current 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the start of the next EU programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at EU level.

Local Action Groups can work on identifying and animating potential projects from 1st January 2021. A total of € 70million is being made available for the Programme with Cavan receiving an allocation of € 2,517,948.

A key focus of the Transitional Programme will be on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date.

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



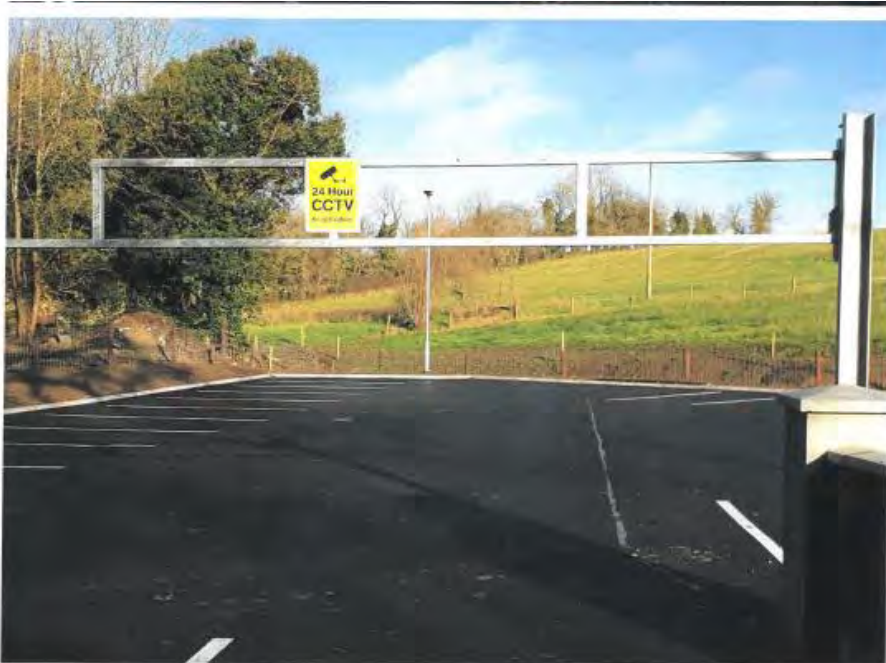
2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Above: Killinkere Community Hall funded under Leader Programme



New Carpark at
Laragh funded
under the 14-20
Leader Programme

CLÁR

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

The measures being funded under the 2020 CLÁR programme are:

Measure 1: Schools/Community Safety measures

Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas (new in 2020)

Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports, comprising:

- Meals on Wheels and linked services (new in 2020)
- Mobility and Cancer Care Transport



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

In 2020 Cavan County Council submitted 10 projects to the Department for approval and subsequently received an allocation of € 334,692 for 8 Projects under Measures 1 and 2.

Social Inclusion

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

Significant areas of social inclusion activity during 2020 included:

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

Age Friendly Programme

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

Notable age friendly activity in 2020 included:

- New Age Friendly Strategy 2021 to 2023 developed and approved during 2020.
- Cavan Older People's Council Drop-in sessions took place online weekly from May to November with a variety of guest speakers on topics, ranging from Mental health, nutrition, falls prevention, local link services to genealogy;
- Online simple exercise classes took place classes ran from May to December.
- First edition of the Cavan Older People's Council Newsletter published.
- Age Friendly Covid19 Information packs and Christmas gift packs were prepared and delivered in collaboration with all agencies represented on



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan Age Friendly Alliance – packs were delivered by the GAA, Gardai, and the LDC to vulnerable and isolated older people in County Cavan.

- The Age Friendly Programme, in partnership with Cavan Arts Office rolled out of ‘The Festival in a Van’ to 6 nursing homes, providing musical entertainment to residents and staff.
- Age Friendly Programme in partnership with Cavan Arts Office were awarded €10,000 under the Creative Ireland Positive Ageing and Creative Wellbeing Challenge Fund to develop an Arts Programme with residents a Nursing Home.

Traveller Interagency Group

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

Cavan County Council supports a community development service provided by Cavan Traveller Movement [CTM]. Some of the key areas of work during 2020 included:

- Monthly meetings of Cavan Traveller Interagency Group
- Sub-groups progressed work on the implementation of recommendations of the Traveller Youth Needs Assessment:
 - Education sub-group re-established and terms of reference agreed – Membership reviewed and additional members involved including Home School Liaison Officer, Home School Community Liaison teachers, Garda 365 Youth Diversion Project worker, Cavan County Childcare Committee and Youthreach. The group focusing on:
 - Traveller Youths needs in entering and successfully remaining within the education sector, from ages 2 to 24 years old.
 - Advocating for appropriate responses for Traveller retention within the education system at the local, regional and national level.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Identifying models of good practice in Traveller education retention and seeking funding to implement programmes locally.
- Promoting the use of ethnic Identifiers within the delivery of education and youth services.
- o Employment sub-group formed – this group is worked on researching and developing employment opportunities for travellers.
- o Health sub-group formed – membership includes HSE Social Inclusion, Extern, CTM – supporting traveller community coping with Covid19– planning on focusing on Traveller mental health initiatives over the next year and also supporting the traveller community deal with the impact of covid19.

Drug and Alcohol Forum

The Cavan Drug and Alcohol was established in 2016 as an action under the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan in response to a documented concern about substance misuse in the county. Since then, the multi-agency group has been meeting regularly which is committed to tackling the issue of drug and alcohol misuse at a local level. The Cavan Drug and Alcohol Forum provides networking opportunities for relevant services and implements a work plan. Approximately 25 organisations are represented ranging from HSE services, public sector agencies, drug and alcohol services, youth, community and family support services.

During 2020, quarterly meetings of the Drug and Alcohol Forum took place. A new Cavan and Monaghan Drug & Alcohol Communications Sub-group was established and is working on co-ordinating the sharing of information on services available, training and promotion of local and national campaigns. The Prevention and Education Sub-group met regularly, working on developing linkage with the planned Planet Youth Project. Funding was successfully secured and delivery of a Drug and Alcohol Peer support programme commenced in 10 secondary schools across the county.

County Cavan Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The function of the Joint Policing Committee is to serve as a forum for consultations,



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

discussion and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area. County Cavan Joint Policing Committee met three times over 2020. Property Marking Training under the Property Marking Initiative was delivered in March for 9 Community Alert Groups and 5 garda members.

Comhairle na nOg

The Comhairle na nOg AGM 2020 took place online on Friday 13th November 2020. The online AGM was very successful and all 11 Co Cavan post primary schools were represented. 25 new members were selected to join Comhairle na nOg 2021/22.

Comhairle na nOg national showcase took place online on Saturday 5th December. 10 Cavan Comhairle members participated in this event.

Comhairle na nOg's topics to progress for 2021 are:

- 52 reasons to visit Cavan (continued from 2020)
- Positive mental health
- Promote a greater awareness of LGBTQ+
- Address/identify lack of facilities for young people and promote issues associated with substance abuse.

PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME (2021-2027)

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

PEACE Plus Programme.

However, principally, the plans will be centred around three core themes:

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

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

Pride of Place 2020

This competition celebrates communities as hundreds of unsung heroes from across the Island of Ireland took part in the virtual 2020 IPB Insurance Pride of Place Awards on Saturday 21st November 2020. The awards, hosted by Marty Morrissey, took place online due to the Covid pandemic with 6,000 people logging in from across Ireland to see community groups pick up awards.

Three groups from County Cavan were nominated:

- Cavan County Local Development Food Emergency Response Food Emergency Response – Wellbeing Initiative
- Turbet Island Dreamscape Trail - Project Belturbet– Creative Place Initiative
- Drumgoon Graveyard Initiative – Community Tourism Initiative

Cavan County Local Development Food Emergency Response which was set up in Belturbet to help distribute food during the Covid emergency was awarded a major prize at the all-Ireland Pride of Place awards.

Community Grants Scheme

The Community Grants Schemes aim to encourage organisations and groups to implement projects in their local community which will help to improve the quality of



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

life for the local citizens and enhance the sense of community in the county. The purpose of the scheme is to provide low level support to projects which may not have received funding from other sources.

Grant funding of €214,400 was allocated to 83 community groups in 2020.

Christmas Lights Scheme

As a once off scheme for Christmas 2020, funding is being made available to towns and villages in Cavan to meet some of the costs of the provision of Christmas Lights. This was funded from the unused festival grant scheme which did not take place due to covid restrictions.

34 Towns and Villages received approval for Grants from € 500 to € 2,250 and lit Cavan for Christmas.

Community Enhancement Programme

In 2020 two Community Enhancement programmes were announced and funding was aimed at enhancing communities and addressing disadvantage as identified in the Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan.

Under the first programme Cavan County Council was awarded funding of €57,025

A total of 38 Community groups received grants. This money was for small to medium capital projects.

Under the second programme announced in the autumn Cavan County Council was awarded funding of €120,039 for the upgrade of Community Centres and Community Buildings.

26 Community groups benefitted from this programme.

NOAC Service Indicators	2019	2020
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Óg scheme	100%	100%
Number of organisations registered with the Public Participation Network	295	375



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan Public Participation Network (Cavan PPN)

Cavan Public Participation Network was established in July 2014 and now includes almost 200 registered groups as part of its network. There is a Committee of 24 community representatives from the Secretariat of the Cavan PPN, with representation being fulfilled on 19 boards and committees. These representations come from the three themed sectors of Environment, Social Inclusion and Community/Voluntary and three geographic sectors of Cavan-Belturbet, Ballyjamesduff and Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal Districts.

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

A full and comprehensive review of the governance of the PPN was commenced in 2020 and will be completed in 2021 and work will commence on the implementation of the review recommendations to strengthen the governance of the PPN.

Cavan Sports Partnership (CSP)

Cavan Sports Partnership successfully delivered 135 programmes in 2020, incorporating online platforms in response to COVID 19 which enabled the LSP to increase the opportunities to participate in Sport and Physical Activity for everyone in the county.

Cavan Sports Partnership allocated a total of €85,793 to clubs and community groups in the county, to support clubs return to activity safely. The funding was disseminated through 3 schemes, Sport Ireland Covid Club PPE Grant, CSP Return to Activity Club Grant (PPE) and CSP Return to Activity Club Grant (Participation). CSP worked in collaboration with Sport Ireland to keep people active during the restrictions through national campaigns such as “In This Together”, “Keep Well” and “Be Active”

National Bikeweek took place in September, 10 events were delivered across 7 different locations, which ensured a good geographical spread across the county, with all 166 participants receiving bike week goodies.

In response to the COVID 19 pandemic a primary schools ‘Explore Cavan



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Challenge' was developed with the aim of increasing physical activity amongst primary school children with 6 schools and a total of 3323 pupils completing the initiative.

The dormant accounts fund continued to support the work of the Kilnaleck and Belturbet activity hubs while also providing a new accessible pool hoist for Bailieborough leisure centre to encourage greater participation in swimming for people with mobility issues.

A 'Walk to Wellness' secondary schools programme targeting TY and first year students was developed by CSP in partnership with Mental Health Ireland and Bodywhys, to support teens in the area of physical activity, mental health and body image. The programme was delivered virtually to the participating schools. The pilot programme was delivered in St Mogue's and St. Bricin's with a total of 140 students completing the programme. The programme will be delivered county wide in 2021



Secondary School Walk to Wellness Programme



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Older Adult Outdoor Yoga at Cavan Town Abbey

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2020 was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development on 27th May, providing funding for projects that supports our rural towns and villages to be more attractive and sustainable. The 2020 scheme had 2 elements (1) the traditional Town & Village Renewal Scheme (2) A new Accelerated Measure.

The new accelerated measure was directed at the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to COVID-19. An allocation of €462,193 was secured for a total of 16 projects throughout the County under the new measure.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Cootehill.ie launched by Minister Heather Humphreys
on 16/3/2021

Tents purchased under the accelerated measure in use at Ballyjamesduff Christmas Market 2020



A new webportal for Cootehill was launched by Minister Heather Humphreys <https://www.cootehill.ie/>

Seven towns successfully secured funding in the sum of €704,705 under the main scheme; Belturbet was awarded €199,800, Bailieborough, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill and Virginia were awarded €100,000 each, whilst Arva was awarded €54,727 and Shercock secured €49,548. Works under the Town and Village renewal standard scheme will be completed in 2022.

Town Teams

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan Town Paint Scheme

A new initiative launched in March 2020 resulted in over 40 freshly painted, brightly coloured shop fronts in the town core. The Paint Scheme provided grant aid for premises in Cavan Town who wished to paint their facades, kindly supported by Fleetwood Paints. This scheme is a great example of local business, the Town Team and the Local Authority coming together to bring about positive changes within our community.



Cavan Town Team in association with Cavan County Council brings a splash of colour to Cavan Town in Summer 2020

Town & Village Revitalisation Plans

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

template for the revitalisation and development of each town.

Significant progress was made on the implementation of improvements contained in these plans throughout 2020.

An internal cross-departmental working group was established in 2020 to oversee implementation of the Town & Village Revitalisation Plans and to co-ordinate efforts across the local authority in revitalizing towns and villages across the county, mainly by maximizing funding under the RRDF, Town and Village and other schemes for projects that seek to improve and bring life and activity back into town centres.

Food Strategy

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

The External Working Group consisting of representatives from industry including chefs, producers and the educational sector together with staff members from Cavan County Council met throughout 2020 to progress actions that were identified as priorities of the Cavan Food Strategy – with the Covid-19 pandemic leading to meetings being moved online.

In February 2020 ‘Created in Cavan’ a new compelling brand identity for the development and promotion of the Cavan food movement was launched by Chef Neven Maguire. A brand toolkit has been provided which is guiding the brand usage across all marketing communications platforms. The first edition of the Cavan food and drink producer directory was also published which showcases the great variety of top class produce that is available in Co Cavan.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine under the Rural Innovation and



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Development Fund (RIDF) Agri-Food Tourism measures awarded funding to part finance initiatives in 2020 supported by Cavan County Council including:

- Digital Marketing Campaign to increase the social media reach of the new brand platforms Key messages of the campaign were to promote the local food industry and to further encourage consumers to support local businesses particularly as the sector has been so badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Promotional video and materials for ‘Created in Cavan’,
- Identification and development of potential food tourism offerings in Co. Cavan.
- A website www.createdincavan.ie was developed by Cavan County Council in partnership with Cavan Food Network, this website creates a comprehensive online information point for all things concerning Cavan food and drink and increases the consumer profile of Cavan food and beverage producers.

An online Cavan Food Network event titled “Cavan Food Sector - 2021 Sales Recovery Seminar” was held on Wednesday 18th November and attended by 25 food stakeholders.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Celebrity Chef Neven Maguire of MacNean House and Restaurant addresses guests at the launch of the new 'Created in Cavan' food and drink brand for County Cavan.

Photo by Lorraine Teevan



Tourism

Tourism Strategy

Cavan tourism continues to implement the Cavan Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021 which aims to increase things to do in the county and increase bednights and visitor spend. Tourism in Cavan supports 3200 jobs and generates €95M for the local economy.

Funding / Product Development

Works were completed in 2020 on the 12km '*Killykeen Way*' walking and cycle trail linking Killeshandra with Killykeen Forest Park. Works were also completed on a new 7km walking trail linking the town of Kingscourt with Dun a Ri Forest Park. In addition, the new 1.25m Cavan Town Urban Greenway was completed linking the hospital grounds in Cavan town with Carrickcane.



New 'Killykeen Way' cycle trail



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 (ORIS)

2020 resulted in positive funding announcements for Ballyconnell and Corraquil (Lock 1) Trail Options Assessment; Barnagrow Lake Amenity, Cootehill; Killykeen Forest Park parking and cycle trail upgrades and UNESCO Geopark Maintenance, across multiple sites. Funding for the above was achieved under Measure 1 of the *Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 (ORIS)* with each project receiving €20,000 approximately. Cavan County Council was successful in achieving €139,596 funding for upgrades to the Cavan Way and €200,000 for the Dromore Greenway. Both of these projects were funded under Measure 2 of ORIS 2020. An application for one Measure 3 project to upgrade the pedestrian bridge in Killykeen was successful in achieving €323,130 in funding from the same scheme.

Destination Towns

Work continued throughout 2020 on the delivery of the Destination Towns project in Cavan town. Cavan County Council received a grant of €404,389 from Fáilte Ireland. Combined with €139,129 match funding this creates a total investment of €540,518 in Cavan town in 2020 and into 2021.

Fáilte Ireland Platforms for Growth

Plans are in place to further develop Cavan Burren Park and the Shannon Pot and a multi-million euro application was made to Fáilte Ireland under the '*Platforms for Growth*' capital grants scheme. The project has proceeded to the third stage of evaluation in 2020 and is awaiting a decision.

Cavan Tourism continued to work closely with Coillte in 2020 in regard to the further development of strategically important forest parks and Coillte sites in the county such as Dun an Ri, Killykeen, Deerpark, Cavan Burren, Castle Saunderson and Castle Lake, Bailieborough;

LEADER Cooperation

A report recommending interventions at several heritage sites in East Cavan was commissioned by Cavan in partnership with Louth and Monaghan County Councils.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

On foot of the recommendations of the report, an application was submitted to LEADER for funding for a Masterplan for Dun an Ri Forest Park and conservation studies in Deerpark Forest, Virginia.

Guides

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



Some of the merchandise produced by This is Cavan!

A 'clean and safe' sticker for all Cavan businesses who are adhering to the HSE and Government guidelines was produced, distributed and displayed.



Decal produced for Cavan tourism businesses in 2020



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Advertising

Sarah Finucane, travel writer with UK Irish networking magazine *'The Craic is Back'* spent two days exploring the county and published an article on County Cavan and Cavan Calling in the March edition. A double page spread on County Cavan featured in the Jan/Feb edition of *'Ireland of the Welcomes'* magazine. A local radio campaign with Shannonside / Northern Sound took place encouraging people to support local tourism businesses. Cavan received national publicity in August with coverage on TV via Ireland AM, a feature on Extra.ie, a double page spread in the Irish Times travel section and social media coverage from 2FM DJ Jenny Greene who visited Cavan in August. The county received additional national publicity in September with coverage for Cavan Museum, Castle Saunderson, Lough Oughter, Cavan Adventure Centre and Rural Adventure Tours in Fáilte Ireland's magazine insert into the national papers. *This is Cavan!* had a double page spread advertorial in the Celtic Media group tourism supplement, included with three regional papers in September – The Anglo Celt, Meath Chronicle and Connaught Telegraph.

Cavan Calling

Cavan Tourism was involved in the communications and promotion of Cavan Calling - a new festival to attract the Cavan diaspora home due to take place in September 2020. A successful online competition took place to promote the event however it was postponed due to Covid 19.

Trade Shows

The Cavan Tourism Network attended the **Holidayworld Show** in the RDS in January 2020. Ten businesses from Cavan were in attendance including the Slieve Russell Hotel, Farnham Estate, Crover House Hotel, Cavan crystal Hotel, Breffni Arms Hotel, Cavan Adventure Centre, Outdoors & Dirty, Cavan County Museum, the Geopark and This is Cavan!. A newly designed and modular stand was used.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Members of the tourism trade from Cavan with Sarah McCarthy, Failte Ireland at the This is Cavan! tourism stand at the Holidayworld travel show in the RDS 2020

Digital Media

A Digital Media company was appointed to deliver social media campaigns to support the industry in re-opening and recovering from the impact of COVID 19. The Summer promotional campaign had a paid social media reach of 967,000 people. Two new promotional videos for use online were also produced and were viewed 85,000 times. Total value of this investment was €20,000. This is Cavan! ran a December photo competition which received over 450 entries, which were shared on This is Cavan!.

Tourism Steering Group

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

Failte Ireland

The first network meeting of the northern quarter of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands took place in 2020. Over 30 tourism businesses from West Cavan, Leitrim and Roscommon participated.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Shannon Masterplan

Cavan County Council participated in the process of delivering the Shannon Masterplan which was led by Fáilte Ireland and Waterways Ireland. The plan was completed in 2020.

Food Tourism

The tourism officer sits on the Food Strategy Working Group and supports the work of the food strategy coordinator in delivering food and drinks initiatives for local producers in Cavan and continued to work with Fáilte Ireland in developing food experiences in Cavan.

COVID-19 “The Community Call” in major nationwide volunteering effort

The Community Call, a major initiative that links local and national government with the community and voluntary sectors, was announced by Government in late March 2020. The Community Call is an unprecedented mobilisation of both state and voluntary resources to combat the effects of COVID-19.

The purpose of the Community Call was to coordinate community activity, direct community assistance to where it is needed, and marshal the volunteering energy of the country.

The immediate focus was on the elderly and the most vulnerable, and mobilising rapid response in every county to make sure everyone is looked after. As the pandemic continued throughout 2020 the focus expanded to broader the wellbeing of our society and how communities can work together to help the country through the COVID-19 crisis.



UNESCO Global Geopark

Geopark Development Plan

2020 saw the approval of the Geopark Development Plan 2020 – 2030 which is the strategic and operational road map for the Geopark outlining our Mission, Values, Vision based around the 6 pillars strategic framework (Governance, Stakeholder Engagement, Education, Tourism, Community, Conservation & Recreation). The associated Action Plan continues to be rolled out in line with Covid restrictions.

Governance Restructuring

Since 2019, the Geopark has undergone a thorough and systematic Governance and Management Review with the two governing Councils coming together to form a dedicated cross border Geopark team (presently 8 staff) and a centralised Geopark office in Blacklion, County Cavan under the management of a Geopark Manager.

As part of this restructuring 2020 saw the appointment of a new Tourism and Business Development Officer for the Geopark.

Investment in the community hub of MacNean Resource Centre in Blacklion saw the completion of an entire retrofit of the building to incorporate new offices and a home for the restructured Geopark team going forward. The site includes an educational space, site maintenance hub and meeting rooms.



Pictured at the handover of MacNean Resource Centre to the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, are (from right), Councillor John Paul, Feeley, Cathaoirleach, Cavan Belturbet Municipal District; Gráinne O'Connor, Manager, Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark; Andrew Elliott, Board of Education, Church of Ireland, Kilmore Diocese, and MacNean Resource Centre; Eileen Forde, Killinagh Community Council, and Michael McLoughlin, Killinagh Community Council. PHOTO: LORRAINE TEEVAN



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Geopark Re-brand/New Website

During 2020 consultants were appointed to undertake a rebranding exercise for the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark as well as examination of the existing boundary and its appropriateness. Parallel to this development began on a new website to reflect the rebrand of the Geopark. A wide range of stakeholders, the general public and the Geopark Committee were consulted as part of this review in November 2020.

Maintenance of Sites

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

RDP Co-operation Project – Cuilcagh Mountain Experience

The Geopark was successful in obtaining Rural Development Funding under the Co-Operation ‘Cuilcagh Mountain Experience’ Project. This is a collaborative €400,000 project between Cavan County Council and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council with the Geopark being the delivery mechanism for same. The project will, operate until September 2021 and will provide enhanced recreational and infrastructural amenities at the following Geopark sites Bellavalley (Cuilcagh Upland access point), Tullydermott Falls, Altacuillion Viewpoint as well as the development of a Cuilcagh Lowlands trail near Swanlinbar. In Fermanagh funding is centered on the creation of new car parking and interpretative centre at Killykeegan Nature Reserve. The Geopark Business Sustainability Programme, Geopark re-brand and website were also funded under this project.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2020 (ORIS)

The Geopark was again successful in obtaining Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund under both measures Measure 1 and 2. Under Measure 1 the Geopark received €20,000 for maintenance and enhanced interpretation across a number of sites including Ballyconnell Canal and Garvagh Lough.

The Geopark was also successful in achieving €139,596 funding for upgrades to the Cavan Way, an integral recreational offering and central to key strategic sites such as Cavan Burren Park and Shannon Pot.



Artist impression of the proposed Shannon Pot Discovery Centre Rooftop and Cavan Burren Park Viewing Platform

Failte Ireland Platforms for Growth

The Geopark Team oversaw the submission of a multi-million application to Fáilte Ireland under the 'Platforms for Growth' capital grants scheme to further develop Cavan Burren Park and the Shannon Pot. This proposed visitor experience is twofold consisting of a brand-new flagship tourism attraction located at the source of the River Shannon, The Shannon Pot, and the enhancement of the existing Cavan Burren Park to include an elevated viewing platform. Investment close to €6.6m in this new multi-faceted visitor attraction will seek €4.9m from Fáilte Ireland under the Platforms for Growth Programme with investment of €1.7m, in addition to operational support, from Cavan County Council.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The proposed project is now at the final stage of evaluation with a decision expected in early June 2021.

People Counter Data

The Geopark continues to monitor visitors to sites across the Geopark using both vehicular and pedestrian counters at sites such as Killykeen Forest Park, Cuilcagh Mountain, Cavan Burren Park, Castle Saunderson and Shannon Pot. Figures have grown substantially over the last number of years and 2020, despite Covid restrictions, saw over 371,017 visitors recorded at Geopark sites across Cavan and Fermanagh. The Geopark is currently working on monitoring additional sites such as Ballyconnell Canal, Tullydermott Falls and Turbet Island to give a more comprehensive analysis of visitor numbers and infrastructural needs.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Geopark continues to work with relevant stakeholders such as Coillte, Waterways Ireland and Fáilte Ireland to further develop projects across the Geopark.

UNESCO Revalidation

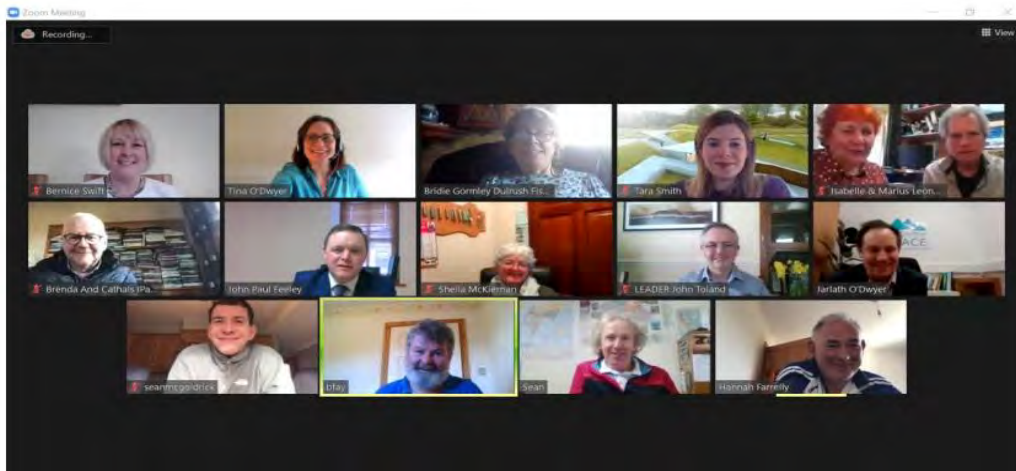
As part of Geopark accreditation, a revalidation process occurs every 4 years to ensure structures standards are being maintained as per UNESCO guidelines. The Geopark was scheduled to undergo revalidation assessment in July 2020 but this has been rescheduled due to Covid 19.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Online Graduation Ceremony – Business Sustainability Training Programme

Business Engagement Program

During 2020 the Geopark rolled out its pilot Business Engagement Programme as funded under the Rural Development Co-operation Project. In total 8 businesses completed the programme, from both Cavan and Fermanagh. The programme had 5 key training strands:

1. Sustainable Management of Resources Training (Waste, Water, Energy)
2. Geopark Code of Practice Training
3. Tailored One-to-One Training
4. Field Trip to best practice example.
5. Online sustainability resources

Overall outcomes arising from training include;

- A Sustainability Statement for each business.
- Management system for waste, water and energy.
- Geopark Business Case Study for each business.
- A suite of Geopark itineraries for use on the new Geopark website and in promotion by businesses.
- Material for press releases and media opportunities for each individual business.
- A library of images that can be used for future PR or marketing opportunities.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Geopark Ambassadors

A total of 12 new Geopark Ambassadors completed accredited training in 2020 under the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership funded project. Geopark Ambassadors continue to be highly active and have facilitated the development and delivery of a unique physical (guidelines permitting) and Virtual engagement programme during the Covid 19 pandemic. We continue to strengthen connections with our Geopark communities through various initiatives.

Promotion and Advertising

The Geopark attended the Holiday World Show in the RDS in January 2020 and continues to be promoted with coverage across multiple media outlets, both print and digital as well as a feature on the Shannon Pot appearing on the *World's Most Scenic River Journeys* on Channel 5.

The Community Call was overseen and managed locally by the Local Authorities, led by the county Chief Executives. In Cavan, Community Enterprise and Tourism were tasked with leading the response and co-ordinating the establishment of a dedicated Community Response Forum to coordinate and connect the wide range of services and supports that area available. The forum involves an extensive list of state and voluntary organisations in Cavan which mobilised very quickly to look after the most vulnerable in the county. Community, Enterprise and Tourism co-ordinated the establishment of the Community Response Forum and the Forum continued to meet on a fortnightly basis throughout 2020.

In addition a dedicated Community Response Helpline was established to ensure that everyone in Cavan had the help they needed during the Covid-19 crisis and to co-ordinate the extraordinary community response to assist those most in need. The Community Response Helpline was initially open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week and was staffed by Community, Enterprise and Tourism and other sections across Cavan County Council. At its peak, the helpline was dealing with an average of 40 calls a day. The Helpline continued in operation throughout 2020. The helpline brought together a wide range of local stakeholders and an



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

extraordinary community and voluntary effort which assisted vulnerable and/or isolated citizens with:

- Collection and delivery of food, essential household items, fuel, medication
- Transport to community testing centres, clinical assessment hubs, GP and hospital appointments,
- Social Isolation supports and engagement
- Meals and their delivery
- Other medical/health needs

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

To contribute to the support and enhancement of local democracy and promote engagement and collaboration with our citizens, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) ensures that the promotion and provision of its services and supports are accessible to all citizens within the community, providing equality of opportunity to all.

LEO Cavan, as a key section of Cavan County Council, plays an important role in facilitating and promoting sustainable economic growth, enterprise and tourism. The LEO aims to promote entrepreneurship, foster business start-ups and develop existing micro and small businesses to drive job creation and to provide accessible high-quality supports for new business ideas. It acts as a catalyst and advocate for the establishment of a best practice enterprise culture among start-ups and small business, promoting enterprise and self-employment as a viable career option among the wider population.

The LEO works collaboratively with key enterprise and strategic stakeholders, including business and community groups, in an effort to promote a strong enterprise focused environment contributing to the county achieving its economic potential.

Our focus for 2020 was to provide a high level of relevant supports and services that will encourage and foster new start-ups. We continue to prioritise assisting existing



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

businesses to expand and grow and face the challenges, they experience, including Brexit and the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, as they look to compete domestically and internationally. Our training and mentoring programmes, delivered virtually, have been a particularly important intervention to those impacted businesses during the lockdown in early 2020.

The LEO Network played a key role in the delivery of a number of COVID 19 Government Response supports and initiatives targeting impacted businesses as they faced many challenges as a result of the pandemic. LEO Cavan approved 368 Business Continuity Vouchers which enabled businesses to plan and adapt their existing business model in order to survive and re-open compliantly after the lockdown. We continue to provide supports to businesses as they look to diversify and align their business operations during what will be a difficult trading period up to the end of 2020 and into 2021.

The challenges of BREXIT still remain for all businesses and the LEOs are engaging proactively to support businesses to prepare for the new trading environment, particularly in relation to customs. This will be a priority focus for the LEOs in early 2021 as businesses try to adapt inwardly and outwardly to the regulatory changes from January 1st, 2021. Diversification and exploring new export opportunities remains key for our portfolio clients as a result of BREXIT and less reliance on the UK market. LEO Cavan, along with the LEOs in the Border counties are delivering a suite of BREXIT Stimulus Programmes during 2020 and into 2021 to support those businesses to trade internationally.

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Launch of Local Enterprise Week 2020

Tommy Ryan, Chief Executive, Cavan County Council, announcing the launch of Local Enterprise Week 2020 with Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise and Tara Smith, Business Advisor, LEO Cavan

Our collaborative approach to developing and strengthening joint partnerships with key agencies and stakeholders to deliver additional value-added programmes and/or interventions for our clients was a key part of our strategy for 2019 and 2020. The Co-Innovate Programme, a partnership led by InterTradeIreland and involving the six LEOs in the Border Region, continued to provide opportunities for innovative SMEs to access research and development supports. More than 50 Cavan businesses have been participating on this programme since its commencement in 2017.

LEO Cavan engages proactively on the Regional Enterprise Plan Committee and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with LEOs, County Enterprise Funds and other agencies in the Region, to identify and investigate possible leveraging of funds



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

under upcoming Competitive Calls to further enhance the region as a location for business investment.

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

Throughout 2020 LEO Cavan continued to promote the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) to facilitate linkages and potential business partnership and trading opportunities across the EU.

LEO Cavan continues to develop Cavan Digital Hub and the roll-out of its objectives. Cavan Digital Hub was established to encourage employment opportunities in the digital sector, where individuals and companies with a digital focus can network and grow within a community of support & creativity. The objectives are to promote the digital economy in Cavan & it's environs, to offer flexible work solutions to companies, to provide incubation space for digital start-ups to scale & grow, to facilitate co-working, peer to peer networking and collaboration. Since opening in June 2019 LEO Cavan has supported Cavan Digital Hub in securing a number of new tenant businesses as well as hosting numerous high-profile events for the region e.g. with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and with IDA.

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

promote the development of stronger towns and villages to enable them act as key drivers of economic, social and community development across the county.

Innovation, efficiency, value for money and a high standard of customer service are priorities for LEO Cavan. LEO staff are fully committed to the Local Enterprise Office Customer Service Charter which ensures quality service delivery at all times to the customer. LEO Cavan ranked very high in terms of overall satisfaction ratings when a customer care survey of clients was conducted across the LEO Network in 2020.

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

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Key Strategic Enterprise & Economic Project Activities in 2020:

- The sixth **Local Enterprise Week** took place from March 2nd to 6th 2020. Organised by the Local Enterprise Office Network nationwide, Local Enterprise Week in Cavan attracted 350 participants attending 9 enterprise events and training programmes throughout the week;
- During Local Enterprise Week 2020, Cootehill Precision Engineering were announced winners of **Cavan County Enterprise Awards** and were due to go forward to represent Cavan at the National Enterprise Awards in the Mansion House, Dublin in May 2020. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions the national judging and final awards ceremony were postponed. Judging took place in November 2020 with National winners announced in 2021;
- Under the **LEO Trading Online Voucher Scheme**, LEO Cavan approved a total of €325,304 for 163 local businesses in 2020. This scheme, funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment, offers small businesses an opportunity for financial support and expertise to develop their online presence;
- LEO Cavan approved €303,570 in Measure 1 financial assistance to thirteen businesses; facilitated the delivery of 58 enterprise **Training** programmes, events and seminars, attended by 722 participants; 136 **Mentoring** sessions approved for business owner/managers; 7 Cavan businesses availed of the **LEO Lean for Micro** programme which supported them in becoming more efficient, increasing their productivity, reducing waste and improving their cost effectiveness;
- On 14th October 2020 CBWC and LEO Cavan participated in a very successful online event to mark **National Women's Enterprise Day**, attended by 1,641 female entrepreneurs and women in business nationwide. An initiative of LEO Cavan, Cavan Business Women's Club was established in 2013 to promote



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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

- The **North East e-Commerce Cluster Programme**, a collaborative initiative which the LEOs in Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Meath were successful in securing funding for under the LEO Competitive Fund, commenced in 2020. The programme provides support and education for online retailers. To date, 10 Cavan businesses are being supported by this initiative in 2020;
- **Cootehill Enterprise Park**, an initiative of Cavan County Council under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund, successfully completed the first phase of development, providing a new access road and services to the park. PQE Engineering Ltd, the first company from Cootehill, have commenced groundworks with a view to completing construction of their new industrial building on a five acre site in late 2021/early 2022. Expressions of interest have been received from other local manufacturing businesses seeking to expand their operations from 2022 to 2024 which will support securing funding to progress to phase two of the site's development potential.



- **Cavan Digital Hub**, an initiative of Cavan County Council, funded by the Regional Enterprise Development Fund under the Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project in partnership with Leitrim and Longford County



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Councils, and the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Cavan Digital Hub is now fully COVID 19 compliant and as part of its future marketing strategy, in response to the pandemic and a post COVID social and economic environment, will seek to align its offering in light of the changing demands of a remote workforce. Fostering and building partnerships with key stakeholders across the North East region and beyond, to strengthen its position as the primary Digital Hub facility in our county, will be instrumental in providing a connected community of like-minded IT entrepreneurs and a pipeline of digital start-ups, supported and fostered by the Local Enterprise Office.



Cavan County Enterprise Awards 2020

Overall winners, Cootehill Precision Engineering; category winners Compliplus and Fire Safety Doors, pictured with Marcella Rudden, Head of Enterprise and Andrea Corrigan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Cavan



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Finance, ICT, Emergency Services

Finance

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

The primary objectives are to:

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

Loans

The Council had 169 loans, which resulted in mortgage payments of €417,000 during 2020. During 2020, Cavan County Council have continued to proactively engage with customers who have found themselves in unsustainable arrears positions.

Provision of Payroll Function

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

deductions and completion of all relevant returns. There are approximately 509 employees on Cavan County Council's payroll. In addition to this, the Payroll function processes payments for the Council's Pensioners and Elected Members. Total payroll costs were €27.69 m in 2020.

Rates

A total of 2,481 Rate Demands were issued for the year 2020 which resulted in a total levy of €16,504,484. The effective valuation in Co. Cavan consequent to the revaluation undertaken by the Valuation Office in 2019 was €82,111,862 and the multiplier set by the elected members for 2020 was 0.201. An amount of €10,699,860 was received in respect of commercial rates for the year ending 31st December 2020.

To alleviate the impact of Covid 19 on eligible businesses during 2020 the Government announced a 9-month rates waiver scheme. A total waiver amounting to € 5,927,211 was processed by the Rates Department for eligible businesses in Co. Cavan and this is reported in the figure above.

A number of rates customers, who were entitled and received a rates waiver, continued to pay their rates in 2020 which resulted in significant credit balances on their rates accounts. Due to timing issues, these rate payments were not refunded to customers. The application of Circular Fin 02/2021 - Accounting Treatment in relation to Rates Collection 2020 resulted in the application of an accounting treatment which deferred these receipts to 2021 and thus reduced the collection percentage of commercial rates in 2020 from 83% to 76%.

During 2020 the Rates Section delivered the Restart Grant, Restart Plus Grants and Restart Top Up Grants on behalf of Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The grant was a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers during the Covid pandemic. As at 31st December 2020, 1,056 businesses received the Restart Grants by the Rates Department amounting to €9,735,771. The balance of grant payments



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

were made in January and February 2021. A total of €9,851,417 in Restart Grants were paid to 1,068 businesses.

Procurement

Our Mission Statement

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

Procurement

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

2020 brought about a lot of challenges due to COVID - 19. Despite the various lockdowns and restrictions, the Procurement Officer and staff of the Central Tendering Administration Unit (**CTA Unit**), continued to implement Procurement protocols and provide management and staff with relevant procurement advice and support throughout.

The sourcing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was extremely difficult and a worldwide issue. The Procurement Officer, Health and Safety Officer and the Council’s Stores Department under the guidance of the SMT worked closely in procuring staff PPE to combat COVID - 19.

During 2020, staff were given continued procurement support and guidance from the Procurement Officer and the CTA Unit. Quotation and Tendering assistance were provided to all Departments and Sections throughout the Organisation e.g.,



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Community and Enterprise, Arts, Housing Construction, Roads, Environment, Planning, Fire Service, Library Services and Local Enterprise Office.

The Procurement Officer held meetings with Department Heads and provided a Refresher talk to staff in January 2020 to ensure proper roll out of the council's procurement protocols and strategy. Procurement Steering Group meetings were conducted online throughout the year.

The Procurement Officer and I.T launched the new electronic Quarterly Public Procurement Monitoring Report App. The app provides the Chief Executive (CE) with a quarterly oversight on the procurement compliance of all Departments within the organisation.

The Council's procurement function continued to evolve during 2020 and following further review of the Council's procurement structure and procurement function, by Senior Management and the Procurement Officer, a new Corporate Procurement Plan 2019 – 2022 - Version 2 and New Procurement Procedure Manual - Version 5 came into effect from the 21/12/2020.

Continued compliance with The Public Spending Code

In 2020 the Procurement Officer also co-ordinated, compiled and submitted the Council's Quality Assurance report for 2019 to the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as required under the Department of Public Expenditure and Reforms **Public Spending Code**.

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- An inventory list for 2019 (totalling **€695,498,043.40**) identified **112** Projects / Programmes (**33** Current Expenditure and **79** Capital Expenditure), whose expenditure/estimated lifetime cost exceeded €0.5m.
 - **112** Projects/programmes: -
 - **38** projects / programmes were being considered in 2019
 - **70** projects / programmes incurred expenditure in 2019
 - **4** projects / programmes ended in 2019
- A summary of all procurements above €10m
- A completed set of checklists (7 in total) for the whole organisation based on **18 samples** taken across the organisation, representing **46%** of the total relevant expenditure in the 2019 inventory list
- A summary of the Internal Auditors in-depth checks representing: -
 - **3%** of the total value of all Current (revenue) projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2019 and
 - **44%** of the total value of all Capital projects / programmes identified in the Inventory list for 2019

Internal Audit

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The core control areas examined include:

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

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

Value for Money

Local authorities including Cavan County Council operate in an environment that requires accountability and transparency of all management decisions taken. The Council must ensure that its services are operated in an economical, efficient and effective manner with an increased emphasis placed on achieving Value for Money and maximising performance levels throughout the organisation.

Annual Audit Plan 2020

The Annual Audit Plan for 2020 as approved by the executive of the Council set out specific audit reviews to be undertaken based on the availability of staff resources and the potential risks identified by the Directors of Service, the Audit Committee and the Local Government Auditor.

Internal Audit Work - 2020

During 2020 the audit work undertaken incorporated control inspections in the Motor Tax Office, the Ramor Theatre and the County Museum. Specific audits reviews covered the Veterinary Services Contract as managed by the Council, Cavan Town



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Car Parking Charges System, the LVPC Procedures, the Waste Management Enforcement Procedures, MARP (Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process), the Municipal Districts Discretionary Grants Allocation Scheme, the Governance Structure of Cavan PPN, the Annual Review of SICAP- the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme as managed by the Programme Implementor on behalf of the LCDC and the Regulatory Public Spending Code In-depth Reviews on 1) Proposed, N3 Virginia Bypass Roads Capital Project 2) Cavan Library & Archival Revenue Programme.

Internal Audit also undertook the necessary Article 48 Leader Funding Checking Procedures of the Council covering 34 project applications valued €2,399,404 including 30 expenditure claims amounting €1,301,382.

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

Audit Committee

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

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The (AC) Audit Committee members are as follows:

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

The Audit Committee met via Microsoft Teams on 4 occasion in 2020. They have a crucial role in the governance framework of Cavan County Council, particularly in the context of scarce resources, risk management, and public sector accountability.

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

Internal Audit Overview

Internal Audit is proactively working with management to provide assurance that the existing internal controls and processes are sufficient to optimise the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan. This annual report highlights some of the main activities performed by Internal Audit in 2020 that are key to identifying and addressing any significant risks facing the Council.

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

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Motor Taxation

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

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

The continuing decline in the numbers of the public attending the Motor Tax Office in 2020 to conduct their business was reflected in revenue of €2,972,730, reporting a decrease of €1,370,074 (31.55%) on 2019 (€4,342,804), mainly attributed to the continued increase in online Motor Tax transactions in 2020 and intermittent closure to the public during Covid-19.

Breakdown of income and transactions:

Category	Total Transactions	Total Income
Vehicle Licences	13,976	€2,692,301
Trade Licences	64	€22,592
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,754	€13,541
Arrears	2,827	€244,296
Total	18,621	€2,972,730

Motor Tax Online:

In addition, 71,169 transactions were processed online generating income of €9,784,299. The Motor Tax Online Service is available to owners of private cars, motorcycles, agricultural tractors, exempt vehicles, motor caravans and commercial vehicles for renewal. Customers are encouraged to avail of the online service by logging onto www.motortax.ie.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Service Indicators

M.1 Number & Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions	2020
Number which are dealt with over the counter	11,152
Number which are dealt with by post	6,574
% which are dealt with over the counter	62.91%
% which are dealt with by post	37.09%
M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications	
Number which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	5,574
Number which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of application	794
Number which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	57
Number which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	149
% which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	84.79%
% which are dealt with on the 2nd or 3rd day from receipt of the application	12.08%
% which are dealt with on the 4th or 5th day from receipt of the application	0.87%
% which are dealt with in over 5 days from receipt of the application	2.27%
M.4 Public opening hours	
Average number of opening hours per week	32.5



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

The ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Section reports to the Head of Finance & IT and is responsible for managing the organisations ICT infrastructure, websites, software applications, GIS systems and digital transformation initiatives. This includes local (LAN) and wide area (WAN) networks, combined of wired and wireless links which enable voice and data communications for the organisation. In addition to the regular activities such as data security, systems and communications infrastructure maintenance and upgrade and providing user and desktop support throughout 2020 the IT section also played a pivotal role in enabling remote working as part of the Council response to the Covid19 pandemic.

Geographic Information Systems.

The GIS section enable the development and use of GIS within the Council. This involves supporting the GIS requirements of each section with the delivery of GIS applications, platforms, training, and capability awareness. Additionally, the GIS section also liaises with external partners and participates in national and regional initiatives. Key projects in GIS during 2020 were:

- Development of help desk system for call logging on Covid Community Support unit.
- Production of Department return reports for Community helpline.
- Data cleansing of legacy data
- Procurement for Asset Management solution.
- Eircode update to iHouse so that 97% of live housing stock now have an associated Eircode.
- Production of datasets for Virginia bypass
- M.App GIS system
- Daily GIS activities included data capture, maintenance of third-party datasets and support to the business areas of the Council in GIS technologies.

Network Infrastructure.

The I.S. department is responsible for the Council's network infrastructure and ensuring the availability and security of ICT systems and services. Completion of exit



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

from LGMA National Forest and full hardware migration and replacement of legacy systems were the standout deliveries in 2020.

Projects in this area included:

- Full data centre upgrade including the replacement of core server infrastructure.
- Exit from LGMA national forest completed.
- SD-WAN tender completed, and new installs carried out to replace old infrastructure at two remote sites.
- IT refurb of Belturbet area office.
- IT infrastructure in place for GeoPark office in Blacklion.
- Upgrade to mail and file archiving solution.
- Wi-Fi network extended to Moynehall
- County Museum ICT Infrastructure refurbished
- Rapid roll out of cloud-based phone system for Covid helpdesk.

Digital Transformation Team

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

- Ongoing participation and support to NBI in supporting the local delivery of the NBP. Cavan were one of the first counties in the country to offer commercial connections under the NBP fibre rollout.
- Broadband Connection Point project (BCPs): 5 out of 12 BCPs in Cavan were live by NBI at the end of 2020 with a further 3 nearing completion.
- Final version of Digital Strategy for County Cavan completed.
- Roll out of WiFi4EU initiative, 15 Out of 60 free Wi-Fi access points are installed in the towns of Virginia and Ballyjamesduff.
- Development of Procurement app in O365.
- Participation in Microsoft sponsored Teams security programme.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

- Successful application for funding to enhance BCP infrastructure through T&V funding scheme.
- Delivery of online learning courses through LMS365 software.

ICT Security.

ICT security ensures the safety and security of our data and systems and is one of the most critically important functions of the IT Department. IT security includes the technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect networks, devices, programmes, and data from attack, damage, or unauthorised access. With the rapid deployment of remote working in 2020, data security needed to reflect this new environment.

- Multifactor authentication implemented on all remote connections.
- Installation of new end point management software to allow for remote support and updating of all systems.
- New offsite, cloud hosted backup & DR solution in place.
- Cyber security training included as part of new staff induction.

Operations.

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

- Training and roll out of MS Teams to staff and elected members.
- Rapid setup and deployment of remote working
- Over 120 laptops configured and rolled out to staff
- Implementation of ReStart grant website and software.
- Provision of tablet devices to local nursing homes.
- Main help desk seen an increase of over 28% in support calls from 3,288 in 2019 to 4227 in 2020.
- New staff learning portal *Tech4Staff* developed for staff.



Emergency Services



Members of Cavan County Fire Service & Cavan County Civil Defence join with their colleagues in the National Ambulance Service & An Garda Síochána to support Frontline Healthcare Staff during “Shine A Light” at Cavan General Hospital on 11th April 2020

Cavan County Fire Service

Cavan County Council employed 93 retained Firefighters in 10 fire stations located around the County at the end of 2020. During 2020, three Firefighters retired from the Fire Service and nine new Firefighters were recruited and completed initial training.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Service Indicators

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

Cost per Capita of the Fire Service €47.68

F2: Service Mobilisation

	Fire	Non-Fire
Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades	5:53	6:02

F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

	Fire		Non-Fire	
	%	No.	%	No.
First attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	24.28	42	30.49	111
First attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	56.07	97	48.08	175
First attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	19.65	34	21.43	78

Fire Service Call Outs

Type of Call / Number Callouts	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Chimney fires in Houses	64	40	45	47	32	35	36	37
Other Domestic Bldg Fires	36	40	60	33	41	44	30	34
Other fires	37	35	28	47	45	47	39	36
Bog/Forest Fires	38	12	17	17	39	18	9	34
Motor Vehicle Fires	23	25	28	19	20	21	16	10
Road Traffic Accidents	55	82	73	69	58	67	72	52
Flooding	8	15	16	4	14	11	28	28
Chemical Incidents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Services (Other)	194	147	218	244	338	377	261	335
False Alarm (Good Intent)	20	19	18	51	36	50	57	57
False Alarm (Malicious)	4	1	3	2	2	2	6	3
Total Calls	456	479	416	506	533	594	554	626



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The Fire Service had 693 responses to 626 incidents in 2020, which is very similar to the responses in 2019.



Arial firefighting support during a forest fire outside Ballyconnell in May 2020

Capital Programme

On 29th December 2020, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage approved a new Fire Appliance for Cavan County Fire Service in the Capital Programme 2021 – 2023. Design work for this new vehicle will commence in early 2021.

The Construction of a new Fire station at Ballyjamesduff was identified in the 2016 – 2020 Fire Service Capital Programme as one of 16 new priority projects. This commitment was reaffirmed by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in the Fire Services Capital Programme 2021 – 2025 announced on 29th December 2020. On 26th February 2020, the members of the Ballyjamesduff Municipal District approved the Part VIII planning permission for the new station. During the second half of 2020, tenders were sought and assessed for the construction phase. A detailed report was submitted to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking approval to commence construction.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Members of Ballyjamesduff Municipal District and Cavan County Council at the approval of Part VIII planning permission for the new Ballyjamesduff Fire Station.

COVID-19 Pandemic

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

All services remain fully operational with one senior officer being based in Headquarters each day and the remaining staff having full access to all systems while working remotely.

Major Emergency Planning

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



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

The Courthouse in Cavan is the Local Co-Ordination Centre in the event of a Major Emergency in the County. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic no Major Emergency Training was undertaken during 2020.

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

The National Interagency Group arranged for the distribution of PPE to Funeral Directors. Within Cavan this was facilitated through the Fire Service. All Funeral Directors within the county were contacted and any that required additional PPE were issued with a pack.

Fire Service Capacity Review

The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management undertook a half-day Capacity Review of the Fire Service on 29th July 2020. Their findings were included in an autonomised national report, entitled *Response, Resilience and Recovery – A Review of the Impact of Covid-19 on Irish Fire Services*.

Training

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic severely restricted the planned training activities for Cavan County Fire Service. All training, including on-station training (drill nights) was suspended for five months. In between suspensions, the following training was delivered: Compartment Fire Behaviour Training, Signing, Lighting & Guarding, Emergency Services Driving Standard, Effective Decision-Making for Fire Officers, Management of Serious Incidents, Breathing Apparatus Initial Wearers, Breathing Apparatus Refreshers, Pump Operator Instructor, Fire Safety Engineering Webinar,



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Covid-19 awareness.

A three-week QQI Accredited Fire Fighting Skills Course commenced in Virginia Fire Station on 9th November 2020. This course was delivered to nine Firefighters from Cavan and two from Monaghan.



QQI Accredited Fire Fighting Skills Course, November 2020

Back Row (L to R): John Flynn (S.O. Belturbet), John Lovett (S.O. Ballyjamesduff), Robert Dunne (A.C.F.O.), Patrick Farrelly (S.O. Virginia), Martin Kelly (S.O. Kingscourt),

Middle Row: Christian Fuglsang (Kingscourt), Daryll McNulty (Ballyconnell), Brendan McGovern (Dowra), Michael Clamp (Kingscourt), Colm O'Reilly (Killeshandra),

Front Row: Philip Morgan (Virginia), Patrick Duffy (Carrickmacross), Aaron Pickens (Cootehill), Conal Johnson (Ballyjamesduff), Rory McPartland (Dowra)

Fire Prevention

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

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Cavan County Fire Service's community fire safety, primary schools and smoke alarm programmes were suspended for 2020.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

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 51 Fire Safety Certificate Applications were received in 2020 with fees totalling €75,012.



Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly joined FF Conor Harrington, SO Joey McDonald & CFO Noel O'Reilly as the Courthouse was lit up red to mark Fire Safety Week

Health and Safety

The process of reviewing the competency and safety standards of the contractors and service providers to the Fire Service is ongoing. The County Council has an Occupational Health Scheme and the Firefighters undergo medical examination under the National Firefighters Agreement.

All vehicles are independently checked and tested to ensure that they are roadworthy.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Retirement of Fire Service Personnel

Patrick McGrail, Station Officer, Dowra Fire Brigade, Derek Crowe, Driver, Ballyconnell Fire Brigade and Gary Crosby, Firefighter, Kingscourt Fire Brigade, retired during 2020. Between them they had given 65 years of service and commitment to the Fire Service.

We thank Patrick, Derek and Gary for everything they did for Cavan County Fire Service.

Cavan County Civil Defence

2020 was like no other year in the history of Civil Defence as March saw the Covid 19 crisis hit and the challenge that this brought meant that this year turned out to be the busiest year for Civil Defence in Cavan since its founding in 1951.

Duties

Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers completed 662 taskings during 2020 and were one of the most active units in the whole of Ireland. 2020 started as any other year with duties including community events, football matches and searches. In February 22 Volunteers travelled to Dublin and took over the running of the Civil Defence homeless shelter on Wolf Tone Quay for 7 nights and later in the month flooding in the Lough Oughter area had Volunteers again working long days including weekends to transport stranded families in and out of their homes through flooded roads over an 11-day period.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



Transporting families through flooded roads in February/March

With the Start of the Covid restrictions and lockdown Cavan County Civil Defence, together with the Principal of St. Bricin's Secondary School in Belturbet and Cavan County Local Development, were instrumental in starting the Food Hub and up until August Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers collected, packed and delivered food parcels to hundreds of needy families across the county. Cavan County Civil Defence were also at the forefront of setting up the countywide Meals on Wheels and Volunteers delivered meals across the county for over six months. Both tasks were handed over to our partners in the project, Cavan County Local Development who were then able to provide paid staff to run these services. However, Cavan County Civil Defence continues to collect food every Tuesday from the Food Cloud in Dublin for the Cavan Food Hub.

Cavan County Civil Defence also assisted Cavan General Hospital in transporting Covid positive patients to and from the hospital for Dialysis and to Nursing Homes and Isolating Centres in order to keep beds free for the most seriously ill.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



The three Civil Defence ambulances outside Cavan General during transport of Covid patients

We were very careful with hygiene and PPE and have to thank Cavan County Fire Service and the Cavan County Council Stores for suppling us with top quality PPE. Cavan County Civil Defence also received a donation of PPE from Portwest. Thankfully, no Volunteers have contacted Covid-19 from their Civil Defence duties.



Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteer kitted out in full PPE ready for Covid facing duty

Cavan County Council set up a helpline to assist people in need (transport, shopping, etc.). Cavan County Civil Defence were involved from the start, initially doing all the taskings until the local Volunteers were trained and garda vetted and since then doing most of the transport tasks especially transport of vulnerable people to hospital appointments in Dublin, Drogheda, Navan and Sligo.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Cavan County Civil Defence also assisted the Blood Transfusion Service at their clinics throughout the county and the Library Service in delivering book parcels to isolated people.



Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteer assisting at the Blood Donation Clinic in Virginia



Presentation received from the IBTS in appreciation of the help provided by Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers throughout the year

Cavan County Civil Defence Volunteers also assisted the HSE Primary Care Team by transporting people to the Test Centre and to their Assessment Hub and by delivering medical items to elderly people and meals to people isolating because of Covid-19.

Over the year Cavan County Civil Defence also assisted Dublin Simon Outreach and Teach Oscail Cavan with transport, Cavan County Council with collection of PPE from Dublin, and The Irish Prison Service, who requested the delivery of bedding plants and flower planters to the elderly from their market garden at Loughan House.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



A Selection of the flowers and planters donated by the Prison Service to the elderly and distributed by Civil Defence

The SUA (Drone) team have assisted An Garda Síochána with searches in Monaghan and the Fire Service with a gorse fire near Virginia. They also assisted the Engineering Section, Cavan County Council, with aerial surveys during the flooding in February/March. The Boat Team assisted the Fire Service with river incidents in Belturbet and Ballyconnell.



Cavan County Civil Defence Drone images of a forest fire on 3rd June 2020.
(LHS: normal view, RHS: Infra-red view)

Training

Training was severely restricted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Three Volunteers complete a Personal Survival Techniques course in the Naval base in Ringaskiddy in Cork in January, 24 Volunteers requalified in their manual handling training in October



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

and six Volunteers passed their Emergency First Responder exams in November. The Drone pilots recertified at a training day in Gormanstown in September and our instructors completed four First Aid Responder courses for Council Staff. Boat training resumed during the Summer when restrictions eased on a scaled down basis but ceased again during the Winter period as the second lockdown came into effect.

Equipment

During the year Cavan County Civil Defence received a new Ford Ranger Jeep to replace an older vehicle, which was funded by the Civil Defence Branch through the Dormant Account Funds and a 131 Renault ambulance that requires just a “B” licence to drive and this has been a much-used vehicle throughout the year.

Cavan County Civil Defence also purchased a “fogging” machine to help sterilise vehicles and training rooms to ease the task of manual washing down between every task.

Towards the end of the year Cavan County Civil Defence acquired a premise in Pullamore to serve as a headquarters and training centre for the county. During 2021 the fit out of this building will be progressed. The advances on a new headquarters and central training facility gives Volunteers great hope for the future.

Staff/Volunteers

Due to the increased workload a temporary Assistant Civil Defence Officer was appointed for four months beginning in April and without her help Cavan County Civil Defence could not have sustained this level of activities.

Cavan County Civil Defence has almost 200 active Volunteers but understandably, because of personal circumstances not all could participate in Covid related duties and every effort has been made to keep these Volunteers informed and involved in on-line training where possible.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Over 60 Volunteers did participate in taskings throughout the year and took pride in assisting people in need throughout the county and we are very grateful to all Volunteers for their commitment and sterling efforts.

Cavan Civil Defence have made every effort to assist all those who requested our help and have played their part in assisting both the Principal Response Agencies and the People of the County in these challenging times.



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Cavan County Council – AFS 2020 Un-audited

SUMMARY OF REVENUE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2020

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Expenditure (A)	92,459	70,157
Receipts		
State Grants	49,646	30,651
Good & Services	16,679	15,967
Commercial Rates	16,481	13,884
Other Local Authorities	173	174
Local Government Fund	9,480	9,481
Total Income (B)	92,459	70,157
(Deficit)/Surplus (B-A=C)	0	0
Opening Revenue		
Balance as at 1st January (D)	1,743	1,743
Closing Revenue		
Closing Balance as at 31st December (C+D+E)	1,743	1,743

Revenue Expenditure 2020

	€'000	% of total Expenditure
Housing and Building	9,599	10.38%
Road, Transport and Safety	25,296	27.36%
Water Supply and Sewerage	9,177	9.93%
Development Incentives and Control	18,040	19.51%
Environmental Services	7,597	8.22%
Recreation and Amenity	5,351	5.79%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	681	0.74%
Miscellaneous	11,621	12.57%
Transfer to Capital	5,097	5.51%
Total	92,459	100.00%



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council

Revenue Income 2020

	€'000	% of total Income
Housing and Building	10,469	11.32%
Road, Transport and Safety	17,883	19.34%
Water Supply and Sewerage	9,040	9.78%
Development Incentives and Control	13,993	15.13%
Environmental Services	2,625	2.84%
Recreation and Amenity	1,322	1.43%
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	483	0.52%
Miscellaneous	10,684	11.55%
Rates	16,481	17.82%
Local Government Fund	9,480	10.25%
Total	92,459	100.00%

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT 2020

	2020 Expenditure €'000	2020 Income €'000
Programme Group		
Housing and Building	11,290	11,106
Road, Transport and Safety	5,384	5,153
Water Supply and Sewerage	1,041	1,041
Development Incentives and Control	3,340	3,838
Environmental Services	419	219
Recreation and Amenity	2,124	3,392
Agriculture, Education, Health and Welfare	0	0
Miscellaneous	1,823	396
Total	25,420	25,145

	2020 €'000
Opening Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 1st January	18,776
Expenditure	25,420
Income	25,145
Transfers to Revenue	698
Net Transfers from Revenue Account	3,615
Closing Balance (Debit)/Credit as at 31st December	21,417



2020 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Annual Report



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council