

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

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHEATHARLOCHA



ANNUAL REPORT 2016
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



FOREWORD

We are pleased to introduce the Carlow County Council Annual Report 2016, which outlines the work of the Council in delivering important public services during the year, all of which contribute to making County Carlow an attractive place in which to work, live and do business.

2016 has seen the strengthening of the Council's role in economic development and community development and this is welcomed by all. It must be acknowledged that the changing economic climate both at national and local levels have made a defining influence on the extent to which our services are delivered. Despite the reduction in human and financial resources in recent years, Carlow County Council continues to deliver a high standard of service. The Council's policy is to "do more with less" and to achieve greater efficiencies where possible. Our staff, with the support and leadership of the elected members, continue to maintain and deliver quality services as referenced in our Corporate Plan 2014-2019, whilst also keeping the Council on a firm financial standing. Similar to all local authorities in the country, Carlow County Council relies heavily on government funding. It follows that a reduction in overall funding can profoundly impact on our capacity to deliver our services. The external and internal environments continue to shape and influence the allocation and provision of resources and the strategic direction of Carlow County Council.

For our achievements to date and there have been many, we wish to thank the Elected Members for their support and all of the employees of the Council for their continuing dedicated work ethic. It is through this successful ongoing co-operation that we can endeavor to meet the challenges ahead and continue to deliver quality services to the citizens of the County in the best possible manner.



***Cllr. John Murphy
Cathaoirleach
Carlow County Council***



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

CONTENTS	
Foreword	
Elected Members	
Strategic Policy Committees	
Corporate & HR, Planning, and Health and Safety and Economic Development	
Environmental Services, Water and Road Transportation	
Housing and Emergency Services and Special Projects	
Community and Sports Partnership	
Arts, Library Service, Information Technology, Motor Tax, Water Safety, Civil Defence, Museum and Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme.	

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTED MEMBERS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2016

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARLOW



Cllr. Anne Ahern



Cllr. Fergal Browne



Cllr. John Cassin



Cllr. Jim Deane



Cllr. Walter Lacey



Cllr. Ken Murnane



Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue



Cllr. William Paton



Cllr. John Pender



Cllr. Fintan Phelan



MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MUINEBHEAG



Cllr. Michael Doran



Cllr. Denis Foley



Cllr. Andy Gladney



Cllr. Thomas Kinsella



Cllr. Arthur McDonald



Cllr. Charlie Murphy



Cllr. John Murphy



Cllr. William Quinn

Carlow County Council – Strategic Policy Committees

Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Planning SPC

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

Transportation, Environmental & Infrastructural SPC

Cllr. Thomas Kinsella (Chair)	Elected Member
Cllr. William Quinn	Elected Member
Cllr. Michael Doran	Elected Member
Cllr. Andy Gladney	Elected Member
Cllr. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor (resigned June, 2016/Cllr Ken Murnane (from June, 2016)	Elected Member
Cllr. John Murphy	Elected Member
Ashling Phelan	Development/Construction
John Tully	Environmental/Conservation
Jackie Meally (from May, 2016)	Community/Voluntary
Paddy Gardiner	Community/Voluntary
Michael Moloney (resigned November, 2016)/Patrick Kennedy (from December, 2016)	Agriculture/Farming

Community, Housing & Amenity SPC

Cllr. Jennifer Murnane O'Connor (Chair) resigned June, 2016/Cllr. John Pender (Chair) from June, 2016	Elected Member
Cllr. William Quinn	Elected Member
Cllr. Fergal Browne	Elected Member
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue	Elected Member
Cllr. John Cassin	Elected Member
Cllr. Arthur McDonald	Elected Member
Cllr. Fintan Phelan	Elected Member
Joe Butler	Social Inclusion
Lorraine Hynes	Community/Voluntary
Eileen O'Rourke	Community/Voluntary
Frank Comerford	Voluntary Housing

Cultural, Health & Agricultural SPC

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

**CORPORATE SERVICES/HUMAN RESOURCES,
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND
SAFETY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

CORPORATE SERVICE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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

CORPORATE SERVICES

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employees: 346 as at 31/12/2016 (including 46 Retained Fire Fighters)

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

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

The Department also provides coordination and leads on the implementation of the Public Service Agreement Local Sectoral Action plan on the Haddington Road and Lansdowne Road Agreements. This includes actions required under the following categories:

- Restructuring
- Shared Services
- Procurement
- E – Government
- Redeployment
- Productivity & Performance

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

- Rationalisation of engineering area supervisory structures to match the Municipal District areas
- Regional procurement of public lighting contract, etc.
- Sharing of resources between Carlow Library, new County Museum and Tourist offices
- Rationalisation of the revenue collection service
- Preparation of an overarching workforce plan
- Completion of the transition from multiple authorities to a single authority
- Successful operation of a service level agreement with Irish Water

GATEWAY LABOUR ACTIVATION SCHEME

During 2016 the Gateway Labour Activation Scheme expired in Tullow and Bagenalstown leaving 9 participants currently in the Carlow town area. Central Government is most unlikely to renew the Scheme in its existing format.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors is produced annually and the Register of Electors for the period 2016/2017 issued on the 1st February 2016. The total number registered to vote in the general election held in February, 2016 was 36,759 – with a further 3,416 registered to vote in the Carlow (Wicklow) section of the County Carlow Register of Electors.

OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Ombudsman was established to examine complaints from members of the public who feel they have been unfairly treated in their dealings with bodies such as Government Departments, Local Authorities, Health Service Executive etc. There was one complaint received by Carlow County Council in 2016.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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

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

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

Number of cases brought forward from 2015	1
Number of applications received	72
Number of requests granted	34
Number of requests refused	39
Live cases at 31st December, 2016	0
Number of internal reviews	2
Number of Appeals to Information Commissioner	0

SOURCES OF REQUESTS:

Private individuals	14
Media	33
Staff	2
Business	14
Other	9

CONTROL OF DOGS

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

based at Paulstown. This joint service is currently is being provided by the ISPCA until December 2016 with a possibility of a further extension.

Licences issued 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 = 2,195
Income €36,230.

DOG BREEDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT 2010

The Council has also developed protocols for risk assessments and inspection guidelines to act as a template for site assessments. It is now the Councils intention to conduct at least two unannounced inspections on each registered Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) each year. The Council is currently reviewing the procurement of veterinary services for the Food Safety Authority and dog control services.

CIVIC FUNCTIONS

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

During 2016 there were two civic receptions held, one for Orla Jackman and the second for Carlow Camogie Team. The awarding of a Civic Reception is a function carried out by the Council's Corporate Policy Group in committee. Civic Receptions are particularly well attended and are usually held on Friday evenings. A number of receptions were also hosted by the Municipal Districts of Carlow and Muinebheag



***Cathaoirleach's Reception - Orla Jackman, Tullow
In recognition of her amazing life story and extraordinary fundraising efforts
for children living with cancer***



*Cathaoirleach's Reception - Carlow County Junior Camogie Team
To honour the achievement of the team
On winning the 2016 Liberty Insurance All-Ireland Premier Junior Final*

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

CORPORATE PROPERTY

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

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

In June 2015, independent statutory committees were appointed to review the local government boundaries at Athlone, Carlow, Drogheda and Waterford. In each case, the committee was asked to carry out a review of the boundary between the respective local authorities and to make recommendations with respect to those boundaries and any consequential matters that they consider necessary in the interests of effective local government.

The Committee reviewing the boundary at Carlow consisted of Mr. David O'Connor (Chair), Mr. John Martin, and Mr. Ollie Killeen. Personnel in Corporate Services in Carlow and Laois County Councils have provided administrative support to the Committee on the process. A Public Notice was placed in the paper in late 2015 with a closing date of 5th February, 2016, inviting public submissions and advising the Minister for The Environment, Community & Local Government had established a statutory boundary committee to:

- carry out a review of the Boundary between County Carlow and County Laois
- make such recommendations with regard to that boundary, and any consequential recommendation with respect to the Municipal District of Carlow, that it considers to be necessary in the interests of effective and convenient local government *and*
- prepare and furnish to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government a report in writing of that review and its recommendations

The terms of reference, details of members of the committee, and other information were provided at www.carlowboundaryreview.ie

A total of 119 submissions were received and following review of the submissions, the committee has made recommendations with regard to the boundary and any consequential recommendation with respect to the Municipal District of Carlow considered necessary, in the interest of effective and convenient local government and have prepared and furnished to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, a report in writing of its recommendations. The Boundary Committee is independent in the performance of its functions.

PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CORPORATE PLAN 2015 - 2019

The Council has an overarching plan titled the "Corporate Plan 2015-2019", adopted in January, 2015, which sets out (inter alia) the Council's principal activities, strategic organisational objectives and strategic functional objectives. In turn, a number of other plans/reports are derived with reference to the Corporate Plan. These include the Annual Business/Services Delivery Plan for each Directorate. The Schedule of Municipal District Annual Service Delivery Plans, The Chief Executive's Monthly Progress Report and the Annual Report itself.

In addition to the above reports there are a number of other mechanisms by which progress on the objectives/targets of the Corporate Plan is reviewed. These include online reporting to LGMA and NOAC in relation to service indicators and the consideration and review of

service indicators by the Management Team, the Cross Functional Team and the Council. Service indicators are a highly transparent mechanism of reviewing progress against both previous performance and the performance of other local authorities of similar scale. Additionally, members of the Cross Functional Team are reminded at their meetings to review progress of their sections against the Corporate Plan. Certain elements of the Corporate Plan are also reviewed by Internal Audit and the Council's Audit Committee.

ANNUAL BUSINESS/SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS FOR EACH DIRECTORATE

During the currency of the Corporate Plan, each directorate develops an annual plan including strategies, actions and indicators designed to achieve the objectives of the Corporate Plan. These plans are developed early each year and are a tool to link strategies, actions and tasks from the Corporate Plan by detailing how, when and by whom, individual actions will be achieved. The Annual Business/Service Delivery Plans for 2016 were signed off in the first quarter of the year and will be reviewed as part of the Performance Management Development System (PMDS) for 2016.

SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLANS

These Plans involve a schedule of the proposed works of maintenance and repairs to be carried out during each year for each Municipal District. The adoption of the Schedule of Works is a reserved function of each Municipal District and review of progress on the Schedule of Municipal District works is also a mechanism for a review of progress on the implementation of the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT TO COUNCIL

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

SERVICE INDICATORS

The National Service Indicators have been refined over the years under the guidance of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) and the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA). The remit of NOAC in relation to indicators is to provide scrutiny of the performance of local government bodies against relevant indicators (including indicators relating to customer service) that the Commission considers it appropriate to refer to.

The aim of NOAC in this regard is to have a smaller set of performance focused indicators which have an emphasis on financial performance, customer service and which maintains comparability year on year.

The role of LGMA is to co-ordinate the collection of data, compilation of tables and commentary and presentation of data.

The Council is in the process of developing and refining targets in relation to the indicators and will present them to management team, elected members and the Audit Committee. The

target in the local government sector is to publish the data in Quarter 3 of 2017 (2016 indicators) in order that it be timely and relevant. The Council has briefed its Cross Functional Team who are tasked with populating the returns, which is now a significant annual task in each section to ensure accuracy and timely submission of returns. Corporate Affairs coordinates the data in Carlow for LGMA and NOAC.

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS IN 2016

Date	Conference	Councillors Attending
19-20/02/2016	Mental Health & Suicide Awareness	D. Foley
4-6/03/2016	The Finance Act 2015	J Murnane O'Connor, A. Aherne, W. Quinn
11-13/03/2016	The Value of Local Government	B. O'Donoghue
20/04/2016	Cross Border Tourism Conference	J. Deane, A. Gladney, J. Pender, A. McDonald
5-7/08/2016	BREXIT, The Economic Consequences	B. O'Donoghue, T. Kinsella
30/09-02/10/2016	Funding Local Government	T. Kinsella
25-27/11/2016	First Time Home Buyers	A. McDonald
2-4/12/2016	A Practical Guide to Budget 2017	J. Pender, K. Murnane
9-10/2016	Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing	D. Foley

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Carlow County Council received a total of 387 planning applications during 2016. The following is a breakdown of decisions made during 2016 by Carlow County Council:

Number of valid applications received	302
Number of invalid applications received	85
Number of applications granted	257
Number of applications refused	17

Pre-planning consultations:

During 2016 revised procedures for pre-planning consultations were introduced to provide a transparent and consistent approach to pre-planning consultations and to ensure that the process would be productive for the applicant. The revised procedures now result in the submission of a certain minimum level of documentation in advance of the pre-planning consultation.

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

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

During 2016 a total of 144 pre-planning consultations were held.

ENFORCEMENT

The planning department in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) seeks to ensure that planning permissions are complied with. The planning department investigates all written complaints of unauthorised development where they appear to be well founded. The Council at all times protects the identity of the complainant.

Following an investigation of a bone fide complaint the commencement of the enforcement steps is initiated by the issue of a Warning Letter followed by the issue of an Enforcement Notice should the matter not be satisfactorily resolved following the issue of a Warning Letter. In the event of non-compliance with the Enforcement Notice legal proceedings are initiated.

2016	Carlow County Council
Complaints Received	83
Warning letters issued	55
Enforcement notices served	14
Legal proceedings initiated	1

TAKING OF ESTATES IN CHARGE

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

The following Housing Developments were taken in charge during 2016:

Name of Development	Address of Development
Oakley Wood	Tullow, Co. Carlow
Ballyknockan Manor (phase 1)	Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
Feltham Hall	Blackbog Road, Carlow Town
The Millstream	Blackbog Road, Carlow Town

UNFINISHED ESTATES

Following a review of the unfinished developments for the National Survey which took place in consultation with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government the number of unfinished housing developments in County Carlow identified in 2016 survey is 28.

The following courses of action are being pursued to assist in resolving unfinished housing developments throughout the County:

- Continuous consultation with the various stakeholders involved
- The use of a range of existing legislative provisions available to the Local Authority
- Financial resources that maybe available to the Local Authority through the claiming of security bonds and/or any grants received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

National Taking in Charge Initiative:

Funding was made available in 2016 by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to carry out works to residential developments under the National Taking In Charge Initiative for Residential Estates. The National Taking In Charge Initiative is a pilot scheme with funding allocated of €10m intended to accelerate the taking in charge process of housing estates including estates with developer provided water services infrastructure.

An application for funding under the National Taking in Charge Initiative was submitted by Carlow County Council and funding was approved for works to be carried out in eight developments as follows: Academy Court, Ballydarton Mews, Loch Abhainn, Moyacomb Meadows, Phelim Wood, Rathfelim, Rathsillan and The Meadows. Where bond funding is available in respect of a development approved for funding under this initiative it must make up the balance to cover the cost of the works to the development. Works to the eight developments will be completed during 2017.

DERELICT SITES AND DANGEROUS STRUCTURES

In accordance with the Derelict Sites Act 1990 a total of 45 Derelict Sites Notices were issued during 2016. At 31st December, 2016 a total of 34 properties were listed on the Derelict Sites Register.

In accordance with the Local Government (Sanitary Services) Act 1964 a total of 39 Notices were issued during 2016 requesting the owner of the property to carry out works to their properties.

FORWARD PLANNING

Forward Planning plays a pivotal role in the physical, economic and social development of County Carlow. Its primary objective is to promote and support sustainable development within the county. It seeks to create vibrant communities, where cultural differences are valued and encouraged, where everyone can be actively involved in economic, social and cultural life, with adequate services and infrastructure to serve the community. The statutory planning functions have regard to national policy, ministerial guidelines and various statutory land use plans adopted at a local level.

Local Area Plans

Muine Bheag /Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023:

During 2016, work commenced and progressed on the Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023. Throughout the process various workshops and public consultation meetings were held including a graphic facilitation workshop in April, 2016 where attendance was by special invitation to varying local groups through the Public Participation Network (PPN) as well as a broad spectrum of local businesses, schools, church groups etc. The public display periods for the varying stages of the plan, pre-draft, draft local area plan and material amendments to the draft local area plan were held on the following dates respectively;

- Tuesday 9th February – Tuesday 1st March, 2016
- Wednesday 15th June to Wednesday 27th July, 2016
- Friday 21st October to Friday 18th November, 2016

The Chief Executive's report was issued to the Elected Members of the Council regarding the Material Amendments to the Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan in December, 2016 for their consideration at the Monthly Council Meeting in January 2017.

Tullow Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023:

During 2016, work commenced and progressed on the Tullow Local Area Plan 2017 – 2023. Throughout the process various workshops and public consultation meetings were held including a graphic facilitation workshop in May, 2016 where attendance was by special invitation to varying local groups through the Public Participation Network (PPN) as well as a broad spectrum of local businesses, schools, church groups etc. The public display periods for the varying stages of the plan, pre-draft, draft local area plan and material amendments to the draft local area plan were held on the following dates respectively;

- Tuesday 9th February – Tuesday 1st March, 2016
- Wednesday 27th July to Wednesday 7th September, 2016
- Friday 25th November to Friday 23rd December, 2016

The Chief Executive's report will issue to the Elected Members of the Council regarding the Material Amendments to the Tullow Local Area Plan in January, 2017, for their consideration at the Monthly Council Meeting in February, 2017.

Other Small Towns / Villages:

Preliminary work commenced in the last quarter of 2016 on a variation of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 to incorporate 6 no. small towns, namely, Ballon, Borris, Hacketstown, Leighlinbridge, Tinnahinch and Carrickduff into the County Development Plan. Policies and objectives and a land use zoning map for each of these towns and villages will inform the future development of these areas and will be further progressed during 2017.

The proposed addition of the Lime Kiln on the former Sugar Factory Site at Strawhall, Athy Road, Carlow:

At a Meeting of Carlow County Council in November 2016, a resolution was passed to commence the statutory procedure under Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, (as amended) to add the Lime Kiln on the former Sugar Factory Site at Strawhall, Athy Road, Carlow to the Record of Protected Structures contained within the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 as referenced in the Joint Spatial Plan for the Greater Carlow Griaguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018 (comprising of the Carlow Town Environs Local Area Plan).

This proposal was placed on public display from Friday 25th November, 2016 until 20th January 2017. Procedures in relation to this matter will continue in 2017.

Sothern Regional Assembly:

The planning authority will continue to contribute to the work of the Sothern Regional Assembly to ensure the interests of Carlow are represented at a regional level.

Development Contribution Scheme 2017 – 2021:

In accordance with Section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) a draft Development Contribution Scheme was prepared in 2016. The particulars of the proposed Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2016 – 2021 were placed on public display from Friday 25th November, 2016 to Friday 20th January, 2017. The particulars were available to view at various locations throughout the County and also on Carlow County Councils' website. Following the public consultation period, a Chief Executive's Report will be prepared for the consideration of the Elected Members at the February Council meeting to be held in February, 2017.

VACANT SITE LEVY

The commencement of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 on 1st September 2015 introduced a number of new statutory provisions aimed to encourage developers and landowners to develop land zoned for residential use and / or urban land identified by local authorities in need of regeneration. The primary mechanisms to achieve the above is the (i) Introduction of a vacant site levy and (ii) revision to Part V - Social and Affordable Housing and Development Contribution requirements.

During 2016 the Planning Authority identified potential areas within the Muine Bheag / Royal Oak Local Area Plan 2017-2023 and the Tullow Local Area Plan 2017-2023 where consideration of the application of the levy may apply. In order to comply with the provisions of the Act a variation of the Carlow County Development Plan 2015-2021 will commence in 2017.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN 2016

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

- Carlow County Fire and Rescue Service received an OHSAS 18001 re-certification audit in November by the NSAI and successfully retained their certification. They now have OHSAS 18001 certification four years.
- A new Health and Safety auditing system commenced development. The audit system comprises of the audit questionnaires in electronic format which can be filled in using a PDA. It is envisaged that the reports and actions part of the system will be completed in 2017.
- The Housing Section received the President Award at the NISO awards in October. This was a major achievement, winning a NISO Award demonstrates the positive and proactive culture of safety management that exists within the section.

- Carlow County Council were the lead on the review of the National Policy and Procedure Document on the Management of Violence and Aggression with involvement from Health and Safety Advisors from Wexford County Council and Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The document is due to be rolled out nationally in 2017.
- The County Council received an advisory report from the Road Safety Authority. Following from the report, a centralized system was set up to manage the fleet of 45, this includes keeping track of maintenance issues, weekly inspection sheets, and CVRT. The Safety section did 'spot' inspections of work vehicles belonging to the following sections in 2016:
 1. Library
 2. Environment
 3. Carlow Municipal District
 4. Muine Bheag Municipal District
- Building Maintenance inspections were carried out in the following buildings:
 1. Tullow Civic Office and Library
 2. McGrath Hall
 3. Carlow Town Hall
 4. Assembly rooms
 5. County Buildings
- The following documents were updated/drafted in 2016:
 1. New Safety Manual for the County Council (currently in draft).
 2. New Prelim Plan Template
 3. Risk Assessments completed for the Planning Section with training to take place in 2017.
 4. Risk Assessments revised for Carlow Town and County Civic Amenity Trust.
 5. New Visitors/Contractors induction Package for use at Council Premises.
- Irish Water HSQE continued their programme of carrying out safety inspections of the Treatment Plants and the associated network.
- Consultation with employees on health and safety issues is carried out at a number of levels:
 1. Safety Consultative Committee comprising of Departmental Safety Representatives and a member of the Safety Management Committee, and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met 3 times in 2016. The HSA updated the Safety Representatives and Safety Consultation Guidelines in 2016, which were originally published in 2006. The new guidelines were given to each safety rep.

- 2, Safety Management Committee comprising departmental management, chairperson of the Safety Consultative Committee and the Health and Safety Advisor. The committee met 3 times in 2016.

3. As part of ongoing work in improving the Council's Safety Management System the SMS Implementation workgroup met 3 times and reviewed 8 policy documents for implementation. The group is made up of staff from all grades and directorates within the organisation. This ensures appropriate consultation takes place and that the policy documents approved are relevant to the work of the County Council and in line with legislative requirements.

HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

The Local Authority provided an extensive programme of health and safety training courses during 2016. Statutory training is given priority and the following courses were provided by the Training Office in 2016:

- Management of Asbestos in Buildings
- Gas Networks Ireland Awareness
- CISM Network training
- Safe Pass
- Pesticide Training
- Induction Training (17 no. Staff)
- Legal Briefing with Michael Lanigan BCL.
- Safe Pass
- CSCS Locating underground services
- Safe use of pesticides and herbicides
- Working at height
- Driver CPC
- Chainsaw use
- Mobile Scaffold Tower
- Abrasive Wheels
- Managing the role of PSDP
- PSCS
- Handling Violence and Aggression

ENFORCEMENT

The Local Authority received two visits from the Health and Safety Authority in 2016. Both visits took place at Powerstown Landfill Site. One was a routine inspection and the other due to an incident involving a truck delivering waste to the site. One report of inspection was issued at the first visit.

ACCIDENT/INCIDENTS

16 incidents involving Council Staff were recorded in 2016. 4 no. were reported to the Health and Safety Authority compared to 11 no. in 2015. The majority of the incidents related to manual handling and slips, trips and falls.

LEGISLATION CHANGES

The Incident Reporting section of the Health and Safety page of the Staff Intranet was updated due a change in legislation - Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2016 (SI No. 370 of 2016).

Other legislation relevant to the County Council that was published in 2016 were the:

- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, Part 12 Abrasive Wheels – All new training on Abrasive wheels will take into account this new piece of legislation.
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Electromagnetic Fields) Regulations 2016
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) (Amendment) Regulations 2016, Part 11 Woodworking Machines

The following Codes of Practice were revised by the HSA in 2016 and circulated to staff:

1. Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services
2. Code of Practice for Safety in Roof work
3. Code of Practice for Chemical Agents

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

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

The Local Enterprise Development Plan was approved by the SPC during Quarter one, 2016 and funding has been provided by Enterprise Ireland in order to facilitate the delivery of the Enterprise Support Programme in line with the plan for 2016. Carlow County Council has made provisions in its budget to allow for the delivery of the Economic Development Programme. The Economic Development programme attracted significant investment during 2016 in terms of Town & Village Projects, Rural Economic Development Zones, Food Tourism Funding, Diaspora Strategy Funding & Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur Programme.

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

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

Following an open competition, Pauline Hoctor was appointed Business Advisor for the Local Enterprise Office during Qtr. 4, 2016. The LEO Offices will approve a 3 year plan during Qtr. 1 & 2, 2017 in line with the funding requirements of Enterprise Ireland. The LEO staff are supported by the staff of Carlow Tourism in the delivery of Tourism Supports and work on a cross functional basis on a variety of economic development projects.

South East - Regional Action Plan for Jobs

The aim of the National **Action Plan for Jobs** is to support enterprise growth and **job** creation in every **region** of the country. Carlow County Council is actively engaged in the delivery of the South East Action Plan for Jobs.

Recent analysis of the South East confirms that a significant gap exists between the economy of the region and the rest of the country. In particular:

- The south east has a higher level of unemployment (i.e. highest in the country at 12.5% compared to 8.4% nationally).
- 24,000 construction jobs and 10,500 industrial jobs were lost in the region between 2008 and 2012 - these 2 sectors account for the vast majority of the rise in unemployment; and
- The south east has lower levels of wealth (e.g. the Gross Value Added per person in the region is the 3rd lowest of the 8 regions in the country at c71% of the national average and disposable income at c93.5% of the national average is also 3rd lowest).

The most significant indicator of wealth is the quality of employment. While there has been significant employment growth since 2012, in particular a welcome number of high profile FDI announcements in the past 2 years, the bulk of the labour force in the region are employed in relatively lower quality jobs (e.g. only 25% of all manufacturing jobs are in high technology related areas), and there is still an over-reliance on traditional enterprises and low skilled service work and part-time employment (e.g. almost half of all jobs filled in the region in 2015 were part-time positions.)

Two of the main reasons cited for this are:

- low education profile and capacity in the region (i.e. lower third level education attainment; students leaving the region to be educated and not returning; and relative under investment in the existing third level education base); and
- Not enough new FDI providing the kind of jobs that are crucial to economic development and growth. While recent IDA supported announcements (e.g. Nypro Healthcare, West Pharma, Bausch & Lomb, Opko, etc.), will make a significant positive impact on reversing the trend, the scale of the unemployment challenge in the south east is such that a lot more of this kind of investment will be required in the short term if we are to close the gap faster.)

The South East Action Plan for Jobs aims to “Close the Gap” by the delivery of 194 Enterprise Support & Development Actions. In order to achieve this the Local Authorities in the South East in association with a variety of stakeholders have established a structure to allow for delivery of these actions:



Rachel Doyle has been appointed an enterprise ambassador for the Supporting Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Enablers group and admin and project support has been provided by Carlow County Council for same.

To date the following support has been provided by Carlow County Council for delivery of the plan:

- Supporting the recruitment of a Director for South East Action Plan for Jobs
- Supporting the recruitment of a Project Executive for South East Action Plan for Jobs
- Membership by Chief Executive & Head of Enterprise on Implementation Committee
- Membership of the Advisory Group by Head of Enterprise
- Facilitation of Sector Briefings and attendance by County Carlow companies and stakeholders
- Development of a implementation plan for the delivery of Local Authority & Local Enterprise Office Actions
- Provision of Administrative and project support to enterprise ambassador
- Development of Regional Department Report
- Cross Functional Support of Action & Working Groups

As part of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs, Carlow County Council will be submitting 2 applications for funding during Qtr. 1, 2017 in the area of business incubation and development. The Council are currently working with a variety of stakeholders in the development of these proposals.

Local Enterprise Office – Competitive Funding Projects

While the LEO Offices work directly on funded projects a variety of projects are delivered in a co-operative fashion with other entities which benefit the Business Community in County Carlow. During 2016, the following funding was achieved in a co-operative fashion:

LEO Wicklow, LEO Tipperary,
LEO Wexford, LEO Carlow, LEO
Kilkenny

Under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs a project was funded to consolidate a creative hub in the South Eastern region through an extensive networking and training programme for established SMEs and Start Ups servicing the creative industries.

This project is now in Phase 2 of delivery and 5 Carlow Companies are participating in same. The project is called the SE Creative Corridor

LEO Tipperary, LEO Waterford,
LEO Wexford, LEO Kilkenny, LEO
Carlow

Under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs a project was funded to develop a South East Artisan Food initiative to establish a cluster of fledgling food exporters across 5 counties and develop the export capability of a selection of artisan food clients

This project is now post procurement and design stage and will be launched during Qtr. 1, 2017. 5 company places for Carlow companies will be provided.

LEO Kilkenny, LEO Carlow, LEO
Wicklow

Under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs a project was funded called The EMBARK Programme which will proactively prepare small businesses, identified by the LEOs as having potential for growth and export, to exploit new export opportunities.

This project is now post project design and will be rolled out in Qtr. 1 , 2017

Supporting Carlow Town

The executive are acutely aware of the challenges facing Town Centre enterprises and are keen to engage in meaningful stakeholder engagement in respect of possible projects which will enhance the sustainability and development of enterprises in Carlow Town Centre. The executive have engaged in the following activities in respect of Carlow Town during the period 1st January 2016 – 31st December 2016:

- Start Up Advice Clinics & Business Advice Sessions in respect of Retail Premises
- Provision of Web Vouchers in respect of Retail Enterprise trading longer than 12 months
- Provision of funding to Carlow Chamber for PR Programme to encourage enterprises to “Talk Up Carlow”
- Promotion of Carlow Town Centre at REI Retail Retreat
- Development of Test Social Media Campaign to Promote Carlow Town for further development during Qtr. 3, 2016
- Development of Image Bank for Marketing of Carlow Town
- Development of Retail & Hospitality Case Studies
- Approval of funding to Carlow Tidy Towns in respect of Window Box & Hanging Basket Scheme
- Approval of funding in respect of Carlow Town Paint Scheme for 9 premises
- Approval of Start Up Grants under Retail Start Plus in the amount of €9,215
- Provision of funding for Festivals & Events for Carlow Town including Pan Celtic 2016
- Funding for Carlow Chamber – Christmas in Carlow Activities
- Funding for Carlow Tourism for Christmas in Carlow National Promotional Brochure.
- Confirmation of funding for Christmas Light Programme 2016

The executive is actively working on a cross functional basis with other Departments within Carlow County Council to ensure a collective response to the needs of Carlow Town enterprises but acknowledge that the challenges will require a multi-stakeholder approach. The executive is actively engaged with Carlow Chamber in respect of the proposed economic development fund for 2017.

Foreign Direct Investment

The executive is actively engaged with IDA in respect of marketing County Carlow as a location for Foreign Direct Investment. On an ongoing basis this work includes:

- Regular updates from IDA in respect of projects and potential projects
- Engagement with IDA and other stakeholders in respect of information and solution provision for potential FDI projects
- Maintenance of an active property database with up to date market information
- Engagement with IDA in respect of Carlow Advanced Technology Building to be delivered under the Action Plan for Jobs
- Development of Sector Specific Marketing Materials
- Engagement with Connect Ireland in respect of their programme of diaspora engagement

- Engagement with Private Landlords and their agents in respect of property solutions and

As the members are aware this work is undertaken on a confidential basis with the executive, IDA and interested parties and the executive has actively kept members up to date with any jobs expansions of our current FDI clients and developments.

During 2016, the executive development 2 information tools for marketing firstly “County Carlow –A Home for Business Excellence” and secondly “Form – Carlow’s Creative Story”. A final one which has a focus on Carlow Town was prepared in line with the design of the FDI materials.

Video Bank: Carlow County Council has completed a FDI Set of Marketing Video’s for County Council for roll out in Qtr. 1, 2017.

Information Leaflets: To accompany County Carlow: A Home for Business Excellence a series of fact sheets will be produced to market Carlow Strengths as a location for Investment. These will be completed by end Qtr. 1, 2017.

There was a marked increase in FDI visits during 2016, with 8 visits reported up until end September 2016 by IDA.

Enterprise Support & Development Programme

The following is a summary of the main elements of each of the 4 service elements facilitated by the Local Enterprise Office during 2016:

Training & Development & Networking

No Of Training Programmes & Networking Events	Total Participants	Male Participants	Female Participants
57	843	412	431

Mentoring

Total Participants	Male Participants	Female Participants	Mentors	Visits
147	83	64	18	135

Grants Approved:

No of Clients Approved	No Of Projects Approved	Approved Amount
25	25	€364,582.00

Grants Paid:

No of Clients Paid	No of Projects Paid	Paid Amount
24	24	€187,110.00

One to One Meetings:

Meetings

353

Student Enterprise Activity

Students

1250

Business Information & Advisory Services

- During the period 1st January 2016 – 31st December 2016 the Executive of the Local Enterprise Office provided 353 One to One Office & Site Meetings. These meetings advise start up and current enterprises on a variety of issues including business planning, finance, state supports, marketing, procurement. This service also includes active engagement and signposting to a variety of National Protocol Partners where clients can access other Financial & Non-Financial supports from the State.

Entrepreneurship Support Services

- **The Student Enterprise Programme** is designed to engage 4th year students in the development of Micro-Enterprise as part of a project based competitive aimed to encourage awareness of enterprise as a career choice. At present 10 out of 11 Schools participate in this programme. Following a County Final held in February 2016, Clodagh Brophy from St. Leo's represented County Carlow at the National Final and won the Overall Social Media Award at National Final Level in the Senior



Category.

Figure 1 Opening of Launch in Unum with IBYE Finalists Equi-Ratings 2016

- The LEO facilitated the **South East Regional National Women's Enterprise Day Event** which was hosted in Qtr. 4, 2017. The event featured Local Entrepreneur Rachel Doyle and was launched by Minister Mitchell O'Connor.
- The **Student Concept Competition** is designed to develop creativity among students and delivered in association with IT Carlow, Fairgreen Shopping Centre, AIB, and

Carlow Youth Services & Visual. During Qtr. 4, 2017 over 600 students entered the competition.

- **Enterprise Awards 2016:** During 2016, the Local Enterprise Office facilitated the Local Enterprise Awards 2016 which engaged 10 companies in Business Plan Development and evaluation. An awards lunch was hosted and attended by 50 people, Equi-Ratings was named the County Carlow – National Enterprise Awards Entry and went on to win the Regional Award at the National Finals held in May 2016.



Figure 2 Student Enterprise Show in Visual 2016

- **Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur is a National Programme designed to engage young people from 18-35 yrs.** to develop their business ideas and enterprises to the next level. This includes an investment fund of €50,000 for each Local Authority Area. During Qtr. 4, 2016, the LEO Offices rolled out this programme which was attended by 18 young entrepreneurs and 6 were selected for investment. 3 of these projects will go forward to the Regional Final of IBYE being held in Qtr. 1 , 2017
- **Enterprise Week 2016:** The Executive engaged in the delivery of the first Local Enterprise Week which contained 5 events including a KCLR showcase which highlighted the stories of 18 Carlow Companies.
- **Development of Clusters:** Clustering is seen as an effective methodology of the development of sector specific companies. During the year the Local Enterprise Office

engaged in a variety of cluster activities in the area of Craft (Form) and is currently in the process of developing a project in the Engineering space.

- **Enterprise Promotion Activities:** The Local Enterprise Office engaged in a variety of enterprise promotion activities which included participation by Carlow companies in The Local Enterprise Village.

Enterprise Support Services

- The Local Enterprise Office provided **direct financial assistance** in the form of Innovation, Priming (Start Up), Business Expansion Grants. (See Summary Outputs)
- Delivery of a **Pre-Start Up Programme** with Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd. under SICAP for people considering going on the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance.
- The Local Enterprise Office provided a variety of business support & **networking** activities during 2016. (See Summary Outputs)
- The Local Enterprise Office hosted “**The Business Picnic**” which was attended by 300 business people from across the South East in association with Unum, Connect Ireland and Arboretum.
- The Local Enterprise Office provided mentoring to start up and developing enterprises (See Summary Outputs)
- The Local Enterprise Office provided access to **Micro Finance**
- The Local Enterprise Office provided support for the Development of Community Enterprise Centres & **Incubation Centres** in County Carlow. Carlow County Council is currently engaged in a strategic review of Carlow Community Enterprise Centres t/a Enterprise House with a view to the development of a 3 year strategy.
- The Local Enterprise Office managed the **Bee Visible Signage Scheme** in Carlow Town.
- The Local Enterprise Office actively engaged with Enterprise Ireland in respect of the development of LEO clients and **HPSU projects**.
- The Local Enterprise Office actively engaged with IT Carlow in respect of **product and service development projects**.
- The Local Enterprise Office are actively engaged in the **South East Skills Forum**
- The Local Enterprise Office is engaged in the delivery of the **Local Enterprise Village @ NPA** via management of a National Committee. The Village featured 64 companies

including 2 Carlow Companies. The Village was launched by Minister Mitchell O'Connor during Qtr. 2, 2016.

Local Enterprise Development Services

- **First Stop Shops Services:** The executive provided a variety of information, advisory and facilitation services for potential economic projects over the course of the year.
- **Local Economic & Community Plan:** The executive of the Local Enterprise Office in association with their counterparts in Community Services developed the Local Economic & Community Plan which was launched during 2016.
- **Launchpad:** The executive facilitated the development of Launchpad in association with Unum. Launchpad is a free start up space for the development of HPSU technology type companies. The first tenant was the IBYE 2016 NationalFinalistsEqui-



Ratings.

Figure 3 Public Consultation for Town & Village Renewal Schemes

- **Form Exhibition:** The executive facilitated in association with the Library Services the development of an exhibition for Form as part of Carlow Arts Festivals 2016. This exhibition was launched by Minister Mitchell O'Connor during June 2016. Form engaged in 4 co-operative activities and collectively resulted in a 66% gross turnover return for group members.
- **South East Action Plan for Jobs:** See note on Action Plan for Jobs
- **Community Festivals, Events & Tourism Venues Scheme:** The executive co-ordinated the above fund which awarded €100k to 13 projects across County Carlow.
- **IDA & FDI Marketing:** See Foreign Direct Investment
- **Community Diaspora Funding:** The executive rolled out the Local Authorities/IPB/Fáilte Ireland Community Tourism Diaspora funding scheme. This

scheme was rolled out in partnership with Carlow Tourism and facilitates community groups to host events which attract overseas visitors.



Figure 4 The Business Picnic Networking Event 2016

- **Sister City Programme:** The executive engaged in the foundation of Economic Links with IT Carlow in respect of the Sister City Programme with Tempe, Arizona. This is a cross functional project with the community section.
- **Carlow Tourism:** The executive supported the work of Carlow Tourism including the provision of supports for Trade & Consumer Fairs.

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

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

Communications, Public Relations & Social Media:

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

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

Cross Functional Projects:

The following cross functional projects were facilitated by the Local Enterprise Office during 2016:

Rural Economic Development Zones: During 2016, the LEO following a consultation process developed 4 REDZ projects which attracted 200k worth of funding. These include, the redevelopment of the Garden Trail, development of the Big Houses & Festivals programme, development of an exploring the river project which will look at the feasibility and development of a community tourism barge and the development of Digital Towns. These programmes will be rolled out during 2017 and a framework plan for all projects will be in place by end Qtr. 1, 2017.

Diaspora & Twinning Strategy: During 2016, the LEO following an application was awarded funding for the development of a Diaspora & Twinning Strategy. This project involves 3 stages which are, strategy development, communication development and evaluation and product development evaluation. The process will be completed by end Qtr. 1, 2017 and presented to the CPG for approval. The project is being rolled out by the Library, Community, Economic and Museum sections of Carlow County Council, VISUAL & Carlow Tourism.

Towns & Village: During 2016, as part of a cross functional team, the LEO Co-ordinated the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. Funding was awarded to 7 areas in County Carlow and 59 projects were designed for delivery by end Qtr. 1, 2017.

Following completion of the projects an evaluation will be conducted and Town & Village Health Checks presented and consideration of future funding methods in line with feedback from all Departments.

Food Tourism Project: During 2016, the LEO secured funding as part of Rural Development Food Tourism Funding. This funding will be utilized to develop Taste of Carlow 2017 at Easter, Carlow Food Producers Cook Book and supported Carlow's Culinary Christmas 2016. The Food Producers Cook Book & Taste will be rolled out during 2017, in partnership with Carlow Tourism.



Figure 5 2016 Regional APJ Workshop & IT Carlow

Carlow Town Economic Development Fund: During Qtr. 1, 2017 the LEO will coordinate a cross functional team in partnership with Carlow Chamber to develop a Town Centre Economic Development Project for €150,000

European Funding Applications:

During 2016, Carlow County Council developed two applications under direct EU funding in the areas of creative industry, life sciences and food. A decision on same is expected in Qtr. 2, 2017. The projects are in partnership with the University of Wales.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
WATER AND ROAD
TRANSPORTATION**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The strategic objective of the Environment Section is to protect, conserve and enhance the Environment in County Carlow.

PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Green Schools

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme for schools. It is operated in partnership with Local Authorities and is supported by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; The Department of Arts, Heritage Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Irish Aid, National Transport Authority; National Parks and Wildlife Service, Irish Water and the Wrigley Company Limited.

14 flags were presented to schools in 2016.

School	Flag Awarded
Borris Mixed National School	Litter and Waste
Borris Vocational School	Litter and Waste
Carlow Educate Together N.S	Litter and Waste
Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach	Litter and Waste
Presentation De La Salle	Water
Scoil Naomh Moling	Water
St. Laserian's School	Travel
Bennekerry N.S.	Biodiversity
Clonegal N.S	Biodiversity
Kildavin N.S	Biodiversity
Leighlinbridge N.S.	Biodiversity
Queen of the Universe N.S.	Biodiversity
Rathoe National School	Biodiversity
S.N. Molaise	GC Energy



As part of her role, the Environmental Awareness Officer arranged tours of Powerstown recycling facility and assisted a number of schools and teachers in County Carlow.

The Environmental Awareness Officer worked with County Carlow Library service during National Science week when energy workshops were delivered to students throughout the Library network.

Teachers from those schools participating in the Green Schools programme attended the annual Green Schools seminar which was held in Carlow Town Library on Thursday 20th October 2016.

Working with Community Groups

The strong relationship between the community & voluntary groups in our County was continued during 2016. The Environmental Awareness officer and Environmental Patrol Officers continued to support the Community department of Carlow County Council as well as local community groups through delivering information workshops on various environmental concerns such as Sustainable Waste Management.

The Environmental Awareness Officer and Environmental Patrol officer continued to support Carlow's Pride of Place awards ceremony, held in October, by attending and offering information and advice on a wide range of environmental issues.

National Tree Week

Carlow County Council continues to promote the practice of developing green spaces and planting native Irish trees in urban areas through initiatives such as National Tree Week. These green spaces will support biodiversity and act as CO₂ sinks, thereby reducing CO₂ level. In 2016 300 native Irish saplings were given to residents' associations and Tidy Towns groups throughout the Town and County.

National Spring Clean

Residents associations, Tidy Towns and other voluntary organisations participated in National Spring Clean. This initiative promotes public awareness and participation in local litter clean ups and supports volunteers to clean up their area and support the local environment. Carlow County Council provided support to 35 groups throughout the County through the provision of black bags, gloves and litter pickers. Environment Patrol Officers disposed of all of the materials collected.

Biodiversity

In November 2016, Carlow County Council hosted a Biodiversity / Wildflower workshop in the Town Hall, Haymarket Carlow. The Workshop was facilitated by Sandro Cafolla, owner and Manager of Design by Nature and Wildflower.ie. and attended by over 80 attendees from a diverse range of backgrounds who received information on.

- Wildlife, Habitats and Natural Amenities
- Landscaping and Open Spaces
- Community Involvement & Planning



Waste

Prevention

In 2016 Carlow County Council continued to promote waste prevention.

In October 2016, a "Stop Food Waste" advertising programme was rolled out through the Omniplex Cinema in Carlow.

Cooking with leftovers in Clonegal

Over 100 attendees were shown how to make tasty and nutritious meals using everyday leftovers. Local Chief, Henry Stone prepared a variety of dishes for attendees to taste. Information in relation to food waste was circulated.



Repair Handbook

Carlow County Council, as part of the Southern Waste Management Plan, endeavours to encourage people to reduce consumer consumption by promoting the repair of household items rather than disposing of them, thereby reducing waste generation and associated environmental impacts. Waste Prevention is the main principles of the Southern Waste Management Plan. A list of repair services was collated by Carlow County Council with the assistance of Bagenalstown Improvement Group, Ballon Tidy Towns and Tullow Tidy Towns. The Repair handbook was launched by the Cathaoirleach John Murphy and distributed throughout the County.



National Reuse Month

2016 saw the introduction of National Reuse Month. The community of Carlow were invited to donate their unused children's Story Books to be rehomed. Drop off points included all libraries and civic buildings. Over 1200 books were received and donated to Carlow Regional Youth Services for use in their afterschool's programmes throughout the County.



Carlow County Council worked with communities during National Reuse Month to promote and deliver Reuse events with Tidy Towns groups in Myshall and Ballon.



The Environment Department continue to work with and are supported by the following organisations:

- LAPN - Local Authority Prevention Network
- SRWMO - Southern Region Waste Management Office
- WERLA - Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authority
- EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY REGULATORY ACTIVITY

The recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) 2016 was prepared in accordance with the recommendation of the European Parliament and the Council providing for minimum criteria for Environmental inspections in Member States. (2001/331/EC) (RMCEI) The plan related to the functional area of Carlow County Council within the calendar year 01/01/2016 until 31/12/2016

Routine scheduled environmental inspections are carried out by Carlow County Council in accordance with the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental. Un-scheduled inspections are also carried out in response to complaints received. Inspection activities are examined to determine the facilities which carry the greatest degree of environmental risk. Resources are allocated based on these risk assessments.

In addition to risk assessment there are also national priorities to be taken into account as follows:

Water	Waste	Air
WFD Monitoring Programme	Introduction of Pay by weight legislation	Air complaints
Water Complaints	Domestic Food Waste Regulations	Solvents Regulations
Farm Inspections. Sewage Sludge Regulations	End of Life Vehicles	Decorative Paints Regulations
	Waste Tyres	
	Illegal Dumping	

In 2016 scheduled inspections took place under these priority headings:

Water	Inspections
Discharges licenses to waters (Section 4)	12
Inspections under WFD National Monitoring Prog. & related WFD assessments	336
Farm Inspections under GAP Regulations	15
Farm Inspections/ Source Protection	16
Waste	Inspections
Food Waste Regulation inspections	101
Routine Litter Patrols/Investigations	778
Tyre outlet Inspections – ‘Waste Tyre Regulations’	15
Inspections in relation to unauthorised ELV facilities	21
Air	Inspections
Air Pollution Licences	1
Solvent Regulation Registered sites	2

In 2016 the following complaints were investigated:

Category	Number of Inspections
Litter	1039
Non-litter	39
Water/Wastewater	30
Air/Odour	23
Noise	12

Number of Litter Fines issued:

A total of 118 litter fines were issued in 2016. 34 summonses for non payment were issued of these 5 were cancelled, 12 cases are pending and 17 were successful. In many cases of illegal dumping evidence cannot be located. Where material has been found a large number of fines issued are returned as undelivered where the individual has left that address.

Warnings issued:

Type of Warning	Issued
Waste ‘warning letters’	2
Section 71 WMA (abandoned. cars)	21
Article 12 of the Commercial Food Waste Regulations 2009	17
Water pollution ‘warning letters’	5
Agri pollution ‘warning letters’	4
Noise ‘warning letters’	4

WASTE POLICY

The Southern Waste Management Plan was launched on the 14th May 2015 in the Limerick Institute of Technology in Tipperary.

The making of a Waste Management Plan is an executive function under Section 22(10), and in particular Section 22(10)(a) and (d), of the Waste Management Act 1996.

The 10 Chief Executives in the Southern Region signed an Order for the making of the Plan in June 2014.

The first annual report of the Southern Waste Region was launched in November 2016. The report outlines that very significant gains have been made but recognises that there's still much to be done to deliver on the objectives of the Southern Region Waste Management 2015-2021 plan, which is focussed on the safe and sustainable prevention and management of waste.

Among the key performance indicators in the report, which includes comparisons in waste management practices across the region between 2012 and 2014, is that the disposal rate of waste to landfill from households has dropped from 37% to 25% in that period.

Other positive results include that the recycling and recovery rate has improved from 63% in 2012 to 75% in 2014.

The report shows that the annual amount of household waste produced per person has increased from 295kgs to 299kgs from 2012 to 2014.

The report also revealed that the average amount of waste produced per household in 2014 was 807kg.

Other key findings include:

- Household waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) recovery in the region is now at almost twice the minimum EU target of 4kgs per inhabitant
- 67% of households have now signed up for a collection service
- 45% of households availing of a collection service have an organic bin

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Powerstown Landfill

In August 2012 planning approval was received under Section 175 (Strategic Infrastructure) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 for continued operation of Powerstown landfill site for a period of 6 years to 2018 or until the facility has reached capacity whichever is reached sooner.

The Powerstown Landfill Facility received a revised Licence from the Environmental Protection Agency in October 2015 which increased the annual intake from 40,000 tonne a year to 50,000 tonne a year.

The acceptance of waste from commercial operators was suspended in July, it continued to remain open for domestic customers. The Council is currently engaged with the EPA to agree the process for the temporary capping of cells, with work expected to commence in 2017, following the filling of remaining void space.

Community Fund

Applications were sought under Phase 3 of the Powerstown Landfill Community Fund from households located within the Powerstown Community Fund designated area and Groups & Associations serving the area for the funding of projects which will benefit the social & physical environment of the local community.

- In 2016 a total number of 55 Applications were approved and processed for grant payment:
 - 43 Individual Applications
 - 12 Community Groups

Powerstown Civic Amenity Site

The Powerstown Civic Amenity Site is operated in tandem with the Landfill and provides an excellent service to the public

Bottle and Paper Recycling Bank Network

In 2016 there were 27 bring sites and one civic amenity site in the county. Paper collection is provided at 5 sites (Kernanstown, Borris, Myshall, Powerstown and Tullow).

The South East Region service contract with Greenstar Ltd. and Glassco Ireland Ltd in respect of the collection/recovery of recyclables has proven successful and will continue.

ENERGY

Actions Undertaken in 2016

Better Energy Communities (BEC) is an Energy Efficiency Grant Scheme available through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). Funding through the scheme was secured by the Council towards the following projects.

- i. Photo Voltaic and lighting upgrades at County Hall, Athy Road, Carlow
- ii. Heating controls upgrade at McGrath Hall
- iii. Boiler upgrade at Town Hall, Carlow

Accordingly, 2016 saw the installation of the first renewable energy project at County Buildings. The project involved the installation of a guardrail around the edge of the roof before the installation of solar photovoltaic (solar PV) panels.



The solar PV system went live on the 25th of October 2016 and it has an installed capacity of 15kW. To date, the system has generated 231kWh. In a year, the system is expected to generate more than 12,000kWh of electricity.

The Covenant of Mayors

The Covenant of Mayors is a European movement to mobilise local and regional authorities to meet and exceed the European Union 20-20-20 targets:

- 20% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions below 1990 levels
- 20% reduction in primary energy use by improving energy efficiency
- 20% of European Union energy consumption to come from renewable resources

It is a voluntary commitment signed up to by the Mayor of a County or Municipality. The main aim of the Covenant of Mayors is to **improve quality of life for citizens in the local area, in this case County Carlow** by building a Local Community where the public sector, private sector, citizens & grass root organisations work together to target CO₂ emissions and implement energy efficiency and renewable strategies. This will provide the following benefits:

- Reducing energy consumption and energy bills.
- Better funding opportunities (European Union and National Grant Aid).
- Offering a stable environment for business & creating new jobs.
- Contributing to the global fight against human accelerated climate change.
- Demonstrating commitment to environmental protection.
- Improving local energy security.

In August 2015 Carlow County Council adopted a resolution to mandate the Cathaoirleach to sign the Covenant Adhesion Form.

A Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) Steering Committee was established in 2016, the first meeting of the group took place in February 2016 and the group continued to meet throughout the year. It is expected that the plan will be finalised in the first half of 2017.

Energy Map

The SEAI Partnership programme was signed by Carlow County Council in 2013 since then a range of energy efficiency measures and projects have been implemented. Energy Map is a programme set up by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). It has a structured programme of 5 pillars. Each pillar has its own individual steps that need to be completed in order to keep progressing.

The 5 pillars to energy map are:

- Commit
- Identify
- Plan
- Take Action
- Review

Carlow County Council has a legal requirement to achieve a 33% reduction in energy by 2020 based on their 2009 level of consumption. This is the objective of the SEAI Energy Map programme.

The current SEAI scorecard shows that Carlow County Council is showing a 16.8% improvement from the baseline year 2009.

The image below shows Carlow County Council's progress towards the mandatory targets and how it ranks against other similarly sized Local Authorities across the Country.



WATER SERVICES

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

In 2016, Carlow County Council agreed the Annual Service Plan as part of the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water. It set out agreed objectives and performance Targets and Budgets for Payroll, Goods and Services and Central Management. The Service Plan outlined specific objectives and standards of performance that took into account the Overall Performance Assessment proposed by the Commission for Energy Regulation, the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and the objectives of the Irish Water Business Plan. The Service Plan set out the Performance Targets in over 50 specific areas to reflect the standards required in the delivery of the services in the context of available funding, customer service and regulatory requirements.

In 2016, a total of 52 staff from Carlow County Council worked in collaboration with Irish Water to deliver the Annual Service Plan operating to a budget of almost €7.0m in day to day operations in drinking water production, waste water treatment and network maintenance.

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

In 2016, the operation of the non-domestic customers billing migrated to Irish Water as part of this transformation plan. Other initiatives included in this transformation plan are: Standardisation of Operating Procedures, Planned Maintenance Programmes, Capital Delivery, Standardisation of New Connections, Customer Handbook, Waste Water Source Control and Licensing, National Laboratory Strategy, National Telemetry and Scada and the Water Industry Operating Framework (WIOF).

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

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

Carlow County Council has worked in collaboration with Irish Water in the delivery of Irish Water Capital Works. The projects completed in 2016 included:

- Commissioning of Hacketstown Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Commissioning of Rathvilly Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Upgrade of Tullow Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Upgrade of Bagenalstown Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Replacement of old cast iron water mains in Borris

Completion of the Site Investigation for Carlow County, Water Main Rehabilitation Scheme.

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

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

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

Consultants will shortly be appointed to initiate the design phase for major capital upgrades to both Mortarstown and Bagenalstown Waste Water Treatment Plants in the County.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

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

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

Carlow County Council monitor these Group Water Schemes for water quality and administer the payment of Subsidies to the Group Water Schemes. Carlow County Council also supervise and manage the allocation of Capital Grants on a yearly basis. The following Capital Grants were allocated to the Group Water Schemes in 2016.

<u>Group Water Scheme Name</u>	Grant (85% of Cost)	Purpose
Ballinabrannagh Group Water Scheme	€34,628.38	Upgrade to Networks & Water Conservation
Glynn St Mullins Group Water Scheme	€18,978.30	Water Conservation & Management
<u>Group Sewerage Scheme Name</u>	Grant (75% of Cost)	Purpose
No Funding received	€00.00	

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

FLOOD RELIEF WORKS

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

The Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (CFRAMS) Maps have gone through the final consultation process. Amendments and changes have been made to the flood maps following feedback received from the Consultation Process.

The revised maps are available to view on the Office of Public Works website: www.southeastcframstudy.ie.

Public Consultation Days were held in Carlow Town and Leighlinbridge in February 2016 and in Tullow in March 2016.

Tinnahinch was included in the Graiguenamanagh Public Consultation Day in March 2016. The purpose of these days was to present optioneering options for these two locations that will alleviate potential flood risks.

Following on from ongoing work by the OPW on the CFRAM Project, Draft Flood Risk Management Plans have now been published for each River Catchment.

The Flood Plans that affect Carlow are those for the River Barrow and the River Slaney.

The Plans are being published to finalize the public consultation process on the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme.

The Flood Risk Management Plans will meet Ireland's obligations under the 2007 EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EU).

The Draft Plans set out the measures that the OPW are proposing to recommend for the area covered by each plan and for each Area for Further Assessment within that Catchment.

These Plans were available for inspection at the Local Authority Offices in Carlow, Muinebheag and Tullow up to Friday 28th October 2016 and submissions will be accepted up to 5pm on Friday 28th October 2016.

A Public Consultation Day was held in County Buildings by the OPW on Wed 28th September 2016 with OPW Technical Staff present to advise members of the Public on various queries pertaining to the Flood Plans.

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

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

Funding has now been granted and all projects are now in the procurement stage.

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

The following Schemes were carried out in 2016:

No	Name	Cost	Purpose
a.	Tinnahinch Quay	€47,700	Prevent properties flooding on Tinnahinch Quay
b.	Fonthill	€16,400	Prevent property flooding at Fonthill
c.	Tinnahinch Lock House	€19,200	Prevent property flooding at Tinnahinch Lock House
d.	Gotham Bridge	€6,700	Prevent property flooding at Gotham Bridge on River Lerr
Current Status: Works Ongoing			

INDIVIDUAL WELL GRANTS

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

Activity January – December 2016	Number
No. of applications received	73
Total Number of grants paid	55
Total Amount Paid out	€95,576.36

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC)

The Transportation, Environmental and Infrastructural Strategic Policy Committee discussed the following issues at meetings held during 2016 in respect of Environment & Water Services:

- Public Lighting - Renewal of South East Regional Public Lighting Contract
- Speed Limits Byelaws
- Review of Parking Byelaws Carlow Town
- Covenant of Mayors/SEAP – Sustainable Energy Action Plan
- Powerstown Landfill
- Introduction of New Charging Arrangements for Household Waste – Pay By Weight
- Environmental Projects – Tree Week, Spring Clean, Litter League
- Policy on Local Roads Class 3
- Road Safety Strategy
- Taking-In-Charge of Private Housing Developments
- Policy on Dealing with Dog Fouling
- Policy for the Erection of Election Posters
- Local Authority Water & Communities Office
- Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2016 - 2018
- Draft Flood Risk Management Plans
- Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN)
- Southern Region Waste Management Office
- Small Private Supplies

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

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

PROGRESS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Carlow Outer Relief Route

The Carlow Southern Relief Road forms part of an Outer Relief Road system for Carlow which will enhance traffic mobility around the town periphery and also provide a platform for future development at the town edge.

In 2016 the Ballinacarrig Roundabout which is the eastern terminus of this road was constructed. Detailed design was also undertaken on the section of the Southern Relief Road which will link the N80 from the aforementioned Ballinacarrig Roundabout to the roundabout at Eire Og.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Road safety strategy 2017 - 2020

Carlow County Council undertook a road safety strategy in 2016 to cover the period from 2017 to 2020.

The strategy was developed by Carlow County Council in concert with all the relevant stakeholders namely the RSA, TII, An Garda Síochána, HSE, and elected members of the Council.

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

No fatal accidents were recorded in Carlow for the year 2016.

ROAD MAINTENANCE

The policy of the Council is to maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as financial resources permit.

The administrative area of Carlow has a road network of 1,212 km comprising of:

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

The National Roads Authority provides funding for national roads, and in 2016 an allocation of €422,618 was received of which €379,889 was available for maintenance of bridges and carriageways on the county's national primary and secondary roads. The balance of € 42,729 was allocated to meet supervision costs of the Council's technical staff and also the costs associated with public lighting of the national road network.

Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance Projects.

This programme targets much needed surfacing and pavement improvements on regional and local roads in the county. The fund provided in 2013 enabled 64 km of regional and local roads to be resurfaced and overlaid.

Low cost safety schemes

Carlow County Council is committed to improving road safety on the roads of Carlow. In this regard Carlow County Council welcomes the opportunity provided by the low cost safety scheme funded by the NRA on national roads and the Department of Transport on non national roads to carry out minor junction improvement works and improvement to signage in areas where there is an established accident history.

In 2016 improvement works were carried out at the following locations using this funding mechanism namely:

L 2021/I 6042 Rathwade Cross,

L 1024 Rathoe to Catlemore x,

L 3044/L 3048 Knocknatubrid

The total funding allocated was €75,000.

Community Improvement Schemes

This scheme was designed to provide a mechanism to surface class 3 local roads. The Department of Transport provided € 49,156, additional funding to the value € 46,558 was secured from beneficiaries of the scheme who lived on the class 3 roads. The funding provided enabled works to be undertaken on 9 No schemes.

SEVERE WEATHER WORKS

The winter of 2015 2016 was one of the wettest on record and it had severe implications for the road network. Roads were flooded and the high water table manifested itself in numerous locations by the breaking of the road surface.

Funding applications were made to both the Department of the Environment, and the Department of Transport, and in total an allocation of € 1,190,000 was received. This enabled much remediation of drainage channels and the repairs of those roads badly impacted by the severe weather.

ROAD TRANSPORTATION SPC

The Road Transportation Special Policy Committee considered a policy in relation to Road Maintenance in particular the maintenance of class 3 local roads. The committee also developed a policy in relation to taking in charge of public lighting, in addition the road safety strategy was discussed as was the possibility of a town bus service for Carlow Town.

**HOUSING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
AND SPECIAL PROJECTS**

HOUSING

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

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

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

- The provision, management and maintenance of rented Social Housing
- The review and update of social housing demand
- The provision of self-help grants to enable tenants carry out improvements to their homes
- The promotion of home ownership by encouraging the housing procurement alternatives (mortgage allowance, home loans etc.)
- The improvement of accommodation, for both the elderly and disabled persons, by way of grant assistance under Housing Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, Mobility Aids Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants.
- The provision and management of accommodation for vulnerable groups
- The facilitation of approved voluntary and non-profit housing organisations in the provision of housing and communal facilities.
- Operation of Rental Accommodation Scheme/Leasing schemes and the Housing Assistance Payment for social housing provision.
- Operation of the Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

Housing & Social Policy Strategic Policy Committee

The Housing, Recreation, Amenity and Community Strategic Policy Committee continued to meet in 2016, and under the Chairmanship of Councillor John Pender discussed the strategic requirements in respect of housing provision and social development. Members were briefed on and considered the following:-

- Housing Assistance Payment
- National Housing Strategy 2020
- Capital Projects 2015-2017
- Homelessness
- Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme 2016
- Housing Needs Assessment
- Repair To Lease Scheme

Housing Activity in 2016

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

- Housing Capital Programme – construction was commenced and is currently being progressed on the following schemes:
 - 10 Houses at Rathvilly
 - 24 Houses at Muinebheag
 - 5 Houses at Maryborough Street, Carlow
 - 1 Rural Dwelling
- Purchases were completed on 13 units with a further 16 being progressed at year end at various locations throughout Carlow.
- 6 Units were also acquired in accordance with Part V requirements in Carlow Town.
- Currently there are 36 properties at various locations throughout the County leased by the Council under Long Term Leasing Scheme and allocated to social housing applicants.
- 492 properties rented throughout the County in order to provide accommodation under the Rental Accommodation Scheme.
- Currently there are 4 Local Authority properties and 5 AHB properties in the Mortgage to Rent scheme (9 in total).
- Loan activity in 2016 resulted in 37 applications received for house purchases. There were 20 final approvals with a number of applications currently being processed. Details of loan activity for 2016 is set out in the table below:

Loan Type	Apps Rec'd	Final Approvals	Value €
SDA	37	20	2,168,000
Shared Own.	0	0	Nil
Reconstruction	0	0	Nil
Affordable SDA	0	0	Nil
Total	37	20	2,168,000

- Carlow County Council provided total funding of €1,738,000 in respect of Housing Adaptation Grants, Mobility Aid Grants and Housing Aid for Older People Grants in 2016, which were paid to over 300 applicants and which assisted these households to cater for their housing need within their own homes.



Housing Capital Programme 2016

The National Housing Strategy 2020 was launched by the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government in 2014. The DOECLG published national targets for direct provision and leasing of social units. Carlow County Council on foot of proposals submitted to meet its targets, provisional approvals was issued to the Council in May, 2015 for the provision of 62 units at various locations throughout the County for the period 2015 – 2017. The table below sets out the housing capital funds received by the Council in 2016.

Carlow County Council	
Subhead	Funds Received 2016 €
LA Housing	4,527,232
CAS/ Voluntary	1,506,500
Void Properties	69,450
CALF (Voluntary)	84,600
Energy Efficiency	48,750
Total	6,236,532

Local Authority Housing

Project	No. of dwellings	Position at 31st December, 2016
Royal Oak Road, Bagenalstown	24	Work in progress
Rathvilly	10	Work in progress
5 Apartments at Sleaty St, Graiguecullen	5	Work in progress
Mount Leinster Park	4	At approval stage
Pound Lane, Borris	4	At approval stage
Rural Cottage @ Tullow	1	Work in progress
Purchases	16	In progress
St Patrick's Park, Tullow	14	At approval stage
Myshall	4	At approval stage
Hacketstown	4	Part 8 process on going

Energy Efficiency Programme

The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government continued to fund the improvement of social housing stock in 2016 with grant aid of €426,430 for energy efficiency works to housing stock.



Traveller Accommodation

Mid Term Review of The Traveller Accommodation Plan (2014 – 2018) was carried out in 2016 with accommodation future need estimated as detailed in the table hereunder.

Categories of Accommodation Need	No. of families
Rural single instance	18
Standard Local Authority Accommodation	52
Other/ Private rented	40
Total	109

During 2016 eleven families were accommodated in properties provided under the Rental Accommodation Scheme, Local Authority Standard Housing, Long Term Leasing and by Voluntary Housing Associations.

Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

A total of 18 new units were taken on to the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) by Carlow County Council in 2015 with 29 new tenants appointed to properties. With the introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment in June, 2015, new RAS tenancies will be phased out. Only in specific cases, i.e. to replace RAS properties leaving the scheme, that new properties will be taken on. The total RAS properties at 31st December 2016 was 492.

Housing Assistance Payment

The Housing Assistance Payment which came into operation in Carlow on 29th June, 2015. This Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a new form of social housing support which replaces rent supplement for households with a long-term housing need. All applications for HAP are made locally to the Council. The applicant for HAP sources own accommodation and pays a contribution to the Council based on the applicants income. The rent up to set

limits, dependent on household composition is paid directly to the landlord. There are a total of 472 HAP tenancies in place at present, with 365 of these being completed in 2016.

Housing Needs Assessment

The number of applicants included on the Carlow County Council Housing List at 31st December, 2016 is detailed below.

Authority	No. qualified on list 31st Dec 2016
Carlow County Council	1,228
Approx no. in receipt of rent supplement/HAP	942
Net need	286

Provision for the Homeless.

The St. Vincent De Paul Monastery Hostel continues to play an important role in meeting the need of those seeking emergency accommodation. Carlow County Council continued its financial support of the hostel during 2015. The tenancy sustainment service provided through the St. Vincent De Paul Monastery Hostel has been continued in 2015 and proved very beneficial. National Policy now focuses on a regional approach to the provision of homeless services. Waterford City Council is the lead authority for the South East supported by a Regional Forum and Management Group made up of members from regional local authorities, Health Service Executive and other agencies.

The focus of the National Policy is for the elimination of hostel type accommodation and a move to self catering accommodation with supports provided by the relevant agencies. The Homeless Action Teams within each county is tasked with ensuring that all homeless or those in danger of becoming homeless are provided with every available support in order to assist in sustaining tenancies. The Homeless Action team meet fortnightly in Carlow. In addition a drop-in clinic is held in the County Offices every Wednesday. Carlow has been very successful in implementing National policy in ensuring that individuals are assisted in moving on to private rented accommodation supported by the Tenant Sustainment Officer within the 6 month timeframe despite the difficulties in the private rented market.



Emergency Services

INTRODUCTION

This report sets out a summary of the activities and performance of Carlow County Council's Fire Authority during 2016.

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

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

Health & Safety Management

In December 2016 Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service underwent a full Re-Assessment and re-accreditation of our Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSAS 1800:1) from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). This was a particularly challenging process in 2016 due to staff shortages. Following 2 days of intensive auditing we were recommended for re-accreditation for a further 3 years.

The system was achieved by implementing 19 policy and procedure documents each accompanied by a large number of supporting documents. The system enables the Fire

service to have greater control and management of vital areas such as External Contractors, Training, Maintenance of Fleet & Equipment, Statutory Requirements and First Aid.

Capital Investments.

Stations

The refurbishment and development of Muinebheag Fire Station remains one of the priority Capital Projects for the service.

In May 2016 capital approval was agreed in principle by the department of Housing in the region of €450,000 for an upgrade to the station. The extent or scope still remains a matter between Carlow County Council and the NDFEM but it is hoped that approval to proceed to tender stage will be forthcoming during the early stages of 2017.



As part of the OSHAS 18001 Safety Management Audit it was identified that the electrical wiring in Muinebheag Fire Station was sub-standard, and unable to achieve test certification. It is proposed to completely re-wire the fire station, and to install an Emergency Lighting system, and a Fire Detection and Alarm System. This essential work will now be integrated into the capital programme subject to the extent of funding available.

Vehicles

Departmental approval was given in mid 2015 for the purchase of 1 number class B fire appliance. This was part of a joint procurement process involving Tipperary, Wexford, Limerick & Carlow, with Tipperary being the lead authority. The contract was won by Sidean Teo, from Spideal, Co. Galway, & by the end of 2016, the Carlow fire appliance build was well advanced & delivery of this vehicle is promised by end of March 2017. The total cost of this investment is €290,000

In April 2016 capital approval was granted for a new water tanker chassis to replace a water tanker stationed at Carlow which was lost at a road traffic incident in 2014. The tender for the build on this vehicle was awarded to HPMP in Tullow and delivery is promised April 2017. Capital approval of €84,000 was granted for this vehicle.

Capital approval of €36,000 was given for a new response vehicle for the senior officers in Carlow and a Ford Kuga four - wheel Drive was delivered June 2016.

Training Centre

Capital approval of €440,000 was granted for construction of a new 2 – storey building to facilitate changing, shower, toilet, drying facilities and medical treatment at ground floor with 2 number training rooms at first floor. The contract was awarded to John Grey construction in September and it is anticipated that the construction will be finished in July 2017.

Total Capital Grant Approval 2016

Approval Type	Sum Approved €
---------------	----------------

Class B Fire Appliance	€ 290,000
Water Tanker Chasis	€ 84,000
Senior Officer Vehicle	€ 36,000
Training Centre Development	€ 440,000
Bagenalstown (Pending)	€ 450,000
Total	€ 1,300,000

Operational Activities

Fire Brigade Mobilisations

The level of operational activity throughout the County for 2016 compared with operational activity for 2015 is set out hereunder.

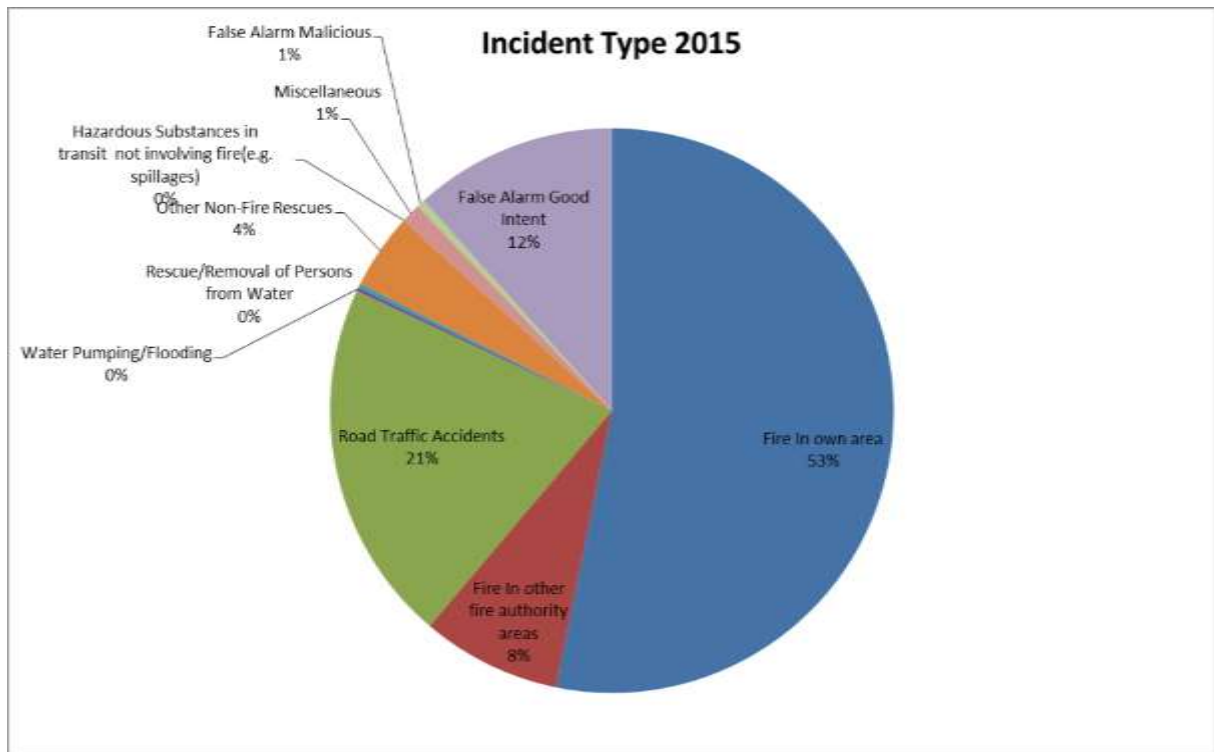
Station	Number of Incidents	
	2015	2016
Carlow Fire Brigade	209	210
Bagenalstown Fire Brigade	120	90
Tullow Fire Brigade	90	88
Hacketstown Fire Brigade	17	26
Total	436	414

53% of all mobilisations were fire calls in County Carlow, with a further 8% of fire calls in other County's

Road Traffic Collisions constituted 21% of Fire Service mobilisations

False Alarms – Good Intent (both equipment failures, and good intent fire calls) constituted 12% of Fire Service mobilisations

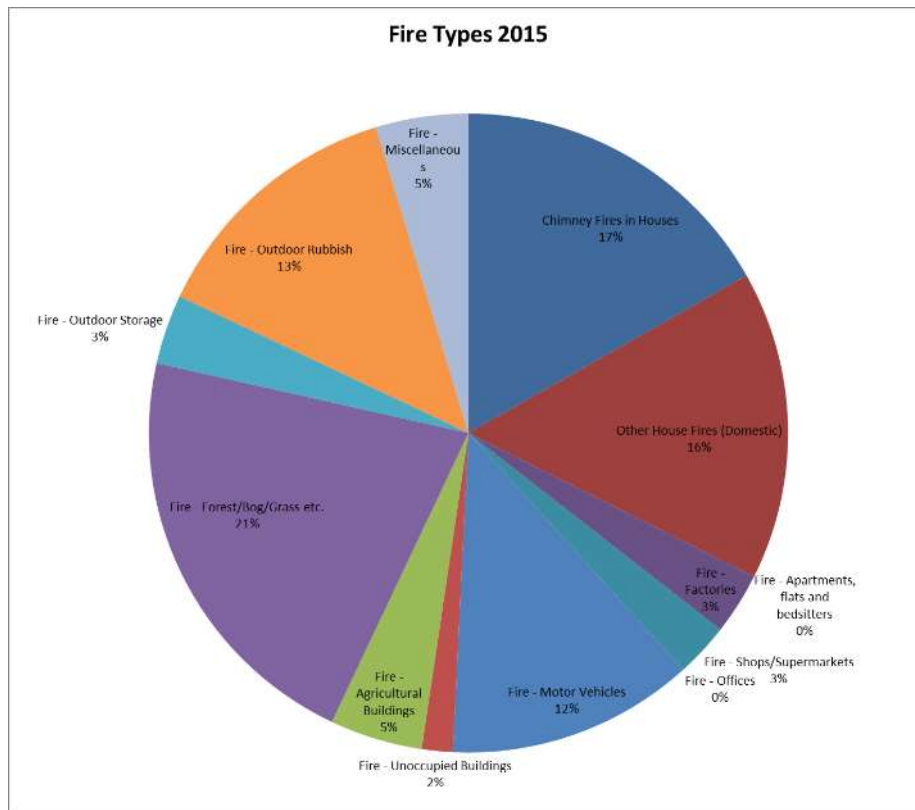
Other fire calls, including miscellaneous call, malicious calls, and non-fire rescues constituted 6% of Fire Calls, during 2016.



The chart below shows all Fires Calls by type for Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service attendances.

- Forest/Bog/Grass fires comprise 21% of all mobilisations
- Chimney Fires represents 17% of mobilisations
- Domestic dwelling fires constitute 16% of mobilisations
- Vehicle fires constituted 12% of mobilisations

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



Social Media and Community Connectivity

In June 2016, Carlow County Fire & Rescue Service launched a new Facebook page, it is anticipated that this platform will provide the Fire Service with the means and tools necessary to provide information to the public, in relation to incidents, Major Emergencies, Fire Safety, Building Control, Road Safety, and other critical information. The use of this platform will also coincide with National initiatives being created or developed to further enhance and promote safety and public awareness of the dangers of fire in the home and community.

Training and Development.

The training and development of personnel across a wide range of disciplines was undertaken during the year in accordance with the brigade training programme for 2016. The annual training programme is developed each year following consultation at all levels across the service. This consultation ensures that the training provided at a significant cost to the Fire Authority is relevant, and meets the needs of the firefighters, officers, administrative and other technical and support personnel.

In 2016, training was provided to firefighters in the following areas:

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

- Hydraulic Platform
- Driver Training



On Station Training.

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



Expenditure 2016

The table below sets out the total expenditure for the Fire Authority for the year 2016

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

Carlow Extrication Team

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

During this time Carlow have competed successfully on the world stage at the following events organised by the World Rescue Organisation.

- Capetown, South Africa 2006
- Barcelona, Spain 2007
- Cardiff, Wales 2008
- Frankfurt, Germany 2009
- Cork, Ireland 2010
- London, England 2012
- Clearwater, Florida 2013
- Morton on Marsh, England 2014
- Lisbon, Portugal 2015

In 2016, Carlow finished second overall in the National Rescue Organisation of Ireland's (ROI) challenge in Ashbourne, Co. Meath last May. We qualified to represent Ireland at the WRO event in Brazil last October but decided not to travel due to high costs and logistics of travel. The team will train and compete again in 2017 with the opportunity to travel to the WRO event in Romania in September.



Hacketstown Training Centre

The training centre based at Hacketstown Fire Station continues to provide essential Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour training to fire service personnel in County Carlow and also to personnel across the Country. The centre increased its level of activity in 2016, when compared with the use and operation of the centre in 2015.

The Training Centre has hosted training courses from Fire Services in Counties Wexford, Laois, Meath, Offally, Donegal, Waterford, and from the Defence Forces.

Capital development of the Training Centre commenced in 2016. A Part VIII planning application for the development of lands purchased adjacent to the Fire Station went before the March sitting of the County Council.

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



Major Emergency Management

In 2016, the Local Authority's of the South East Region continued to chair both the Regional Working Group and Regional Steering Group. Mr. Dan McInerney, Acting Chief Executive, Carlow County Council is currently the Chair of the Regional Steering Group and Mr. Niall Curtin, Chief Fire Officer, Waterford County and City Fire Service is currently the chair of the Regional Working Group.

A Severe Weather related Major Emergency Exercise was held in the South East Region during January 2016 in County Waterford.

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

The fit out of the Major Emergency Equipment Pod, and associated Prime Mover, located at Bagenalstown Fire Station was completed in the second quarter of 2016. It is now available to be mobilised across the South East Region and beyond to support of the functions of an On-Site Co-ordination Centre.

Fire Prevention, Community Fire Safety & Building Control

Fire Safety Schools Programme

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

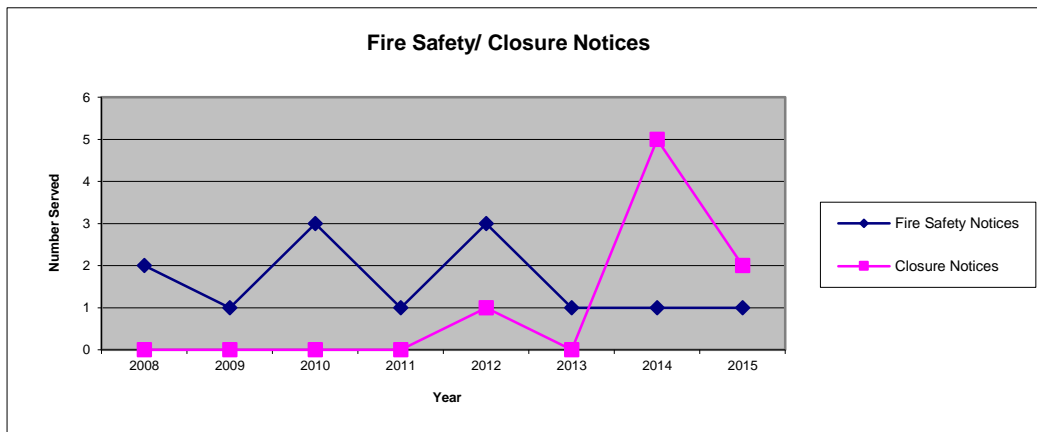
National Smoke Alarm Programme

The National Smoke Alarm programme again saw local firefighters deliver and install smoke alarms to many vulnerable members of our community across the county. Smoke alarms have been given out to many people over the last number of years and this programme will again be implemented in 2017.

Fire Safety Inspections

The Fire Authority has carried out 105 inspections under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, including During Performance Inspections of venues during an event, in a range of building purpose groups such as Residential Apartments, shops, offices, and Assembly and Recreation buildings 2016. This represents an increase of 23 inspections on the previous year.

In addition, the Fire Authority served 2 Fire Safety Notice and 2 Closure Notices in 2016.



Intoxicating Liquor Licenses

The Fire Authority received and processed 87 License Applications for various premises throughout the county under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 in 2015.

Dangerous Substances License Applications

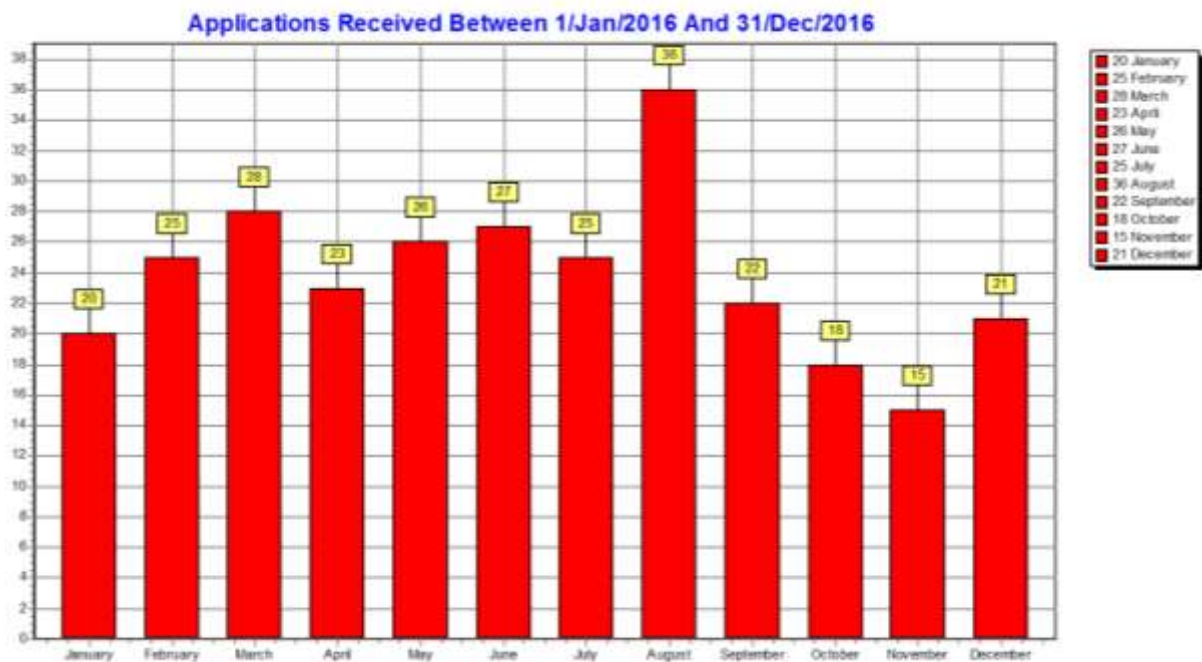
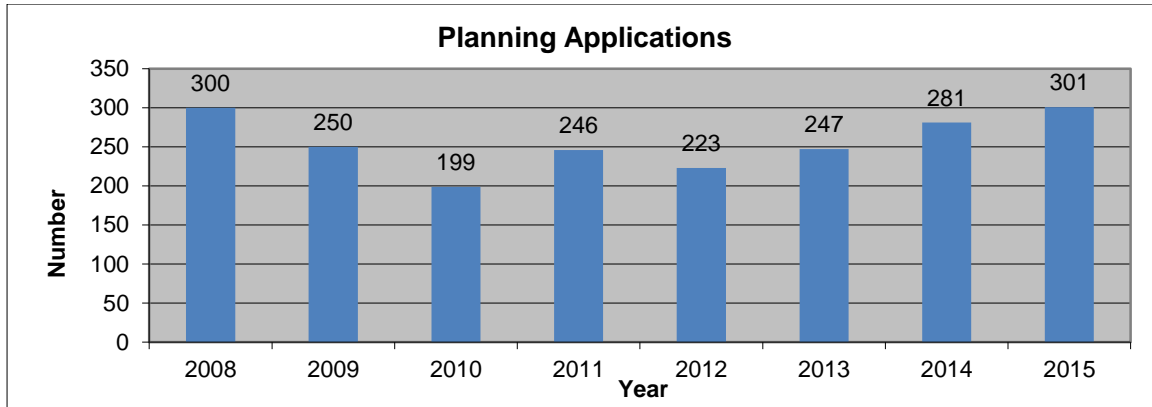
The Fire Authority received and processed 4 License Applications for various premises throughout the county under the Dangerous Substances Act 1972 & 1979, thus far in 2016.

Explosives Registration Applications

The Fire Authority received and processed 0 Explosives Registration Notifications for various premises throughout the county under the Explosives Act 1875, during 2016.

Planning

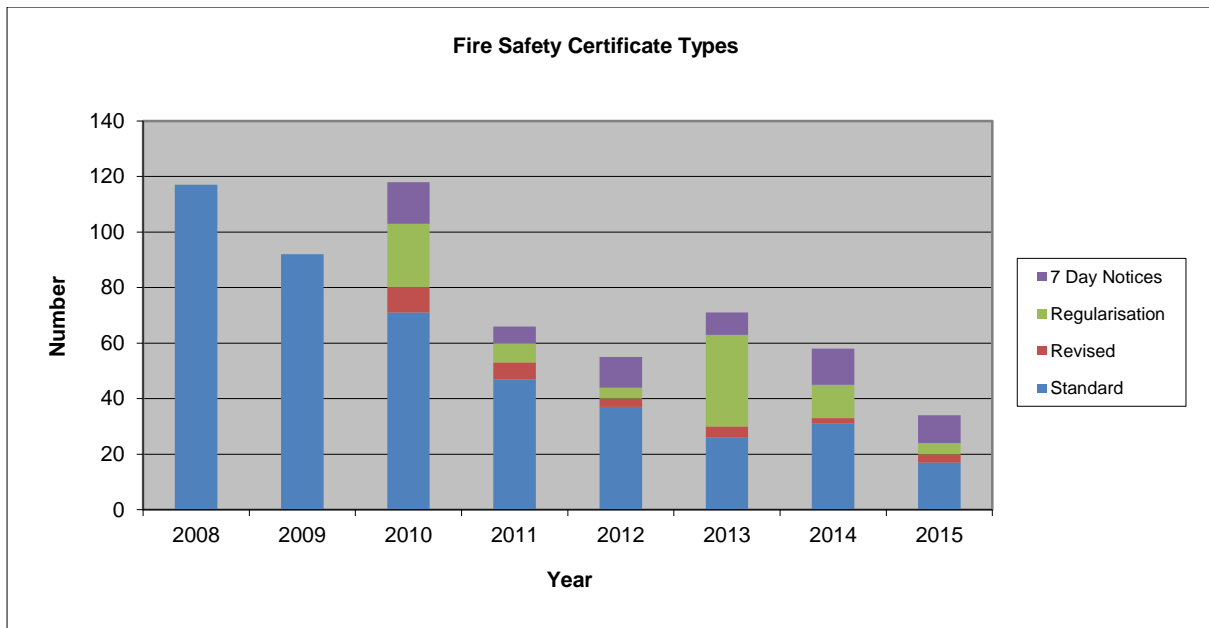
The Planning Authority forwarded a total of 286 Planning Application files to the Fire Authority in 2016, which were processed, reports generated, and returned.



Building Control

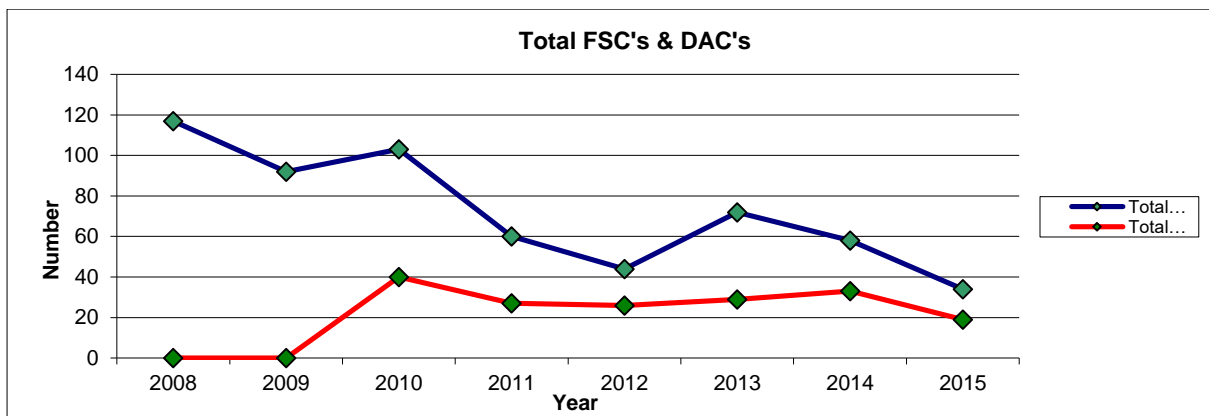
Fire Safety Certificates

The Building Control Authority received a total of 42 Fire Safety Certificate Applications in 2016, which represents an increase in the number of Fire Safety Certificates received, when compared with 2015. The level of activity noted in 2013 and 2014 was mainly due to the high level of inspections and enforcement being carried out by Building Control Inspectors. A number of complex regularisation certificate applications submitted in previous years were brought to conclusion in 2016.



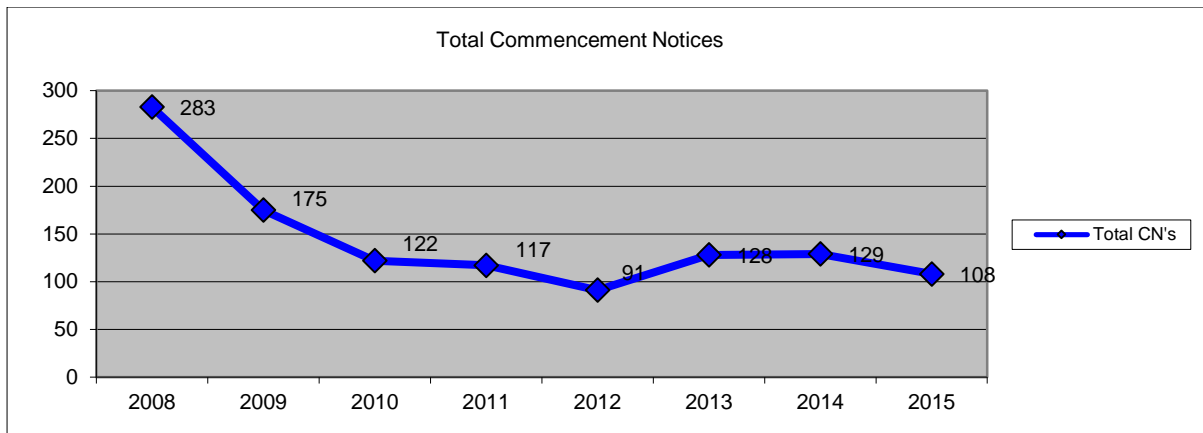
Disability Access Certificates

The Building Control Authority received and processed a total of 42 Disability Access Certificate applications in 2016, an increase of 23 on the 19 Disability Access Certificate applications received in 2015. This has been the largest number of Disability Access Certificates received by the Fire Authority in any given year. 2016 is also the first year that the number of Disability Access Certificates equate with the number of Fire Safety Certificates.



Commencement Notices

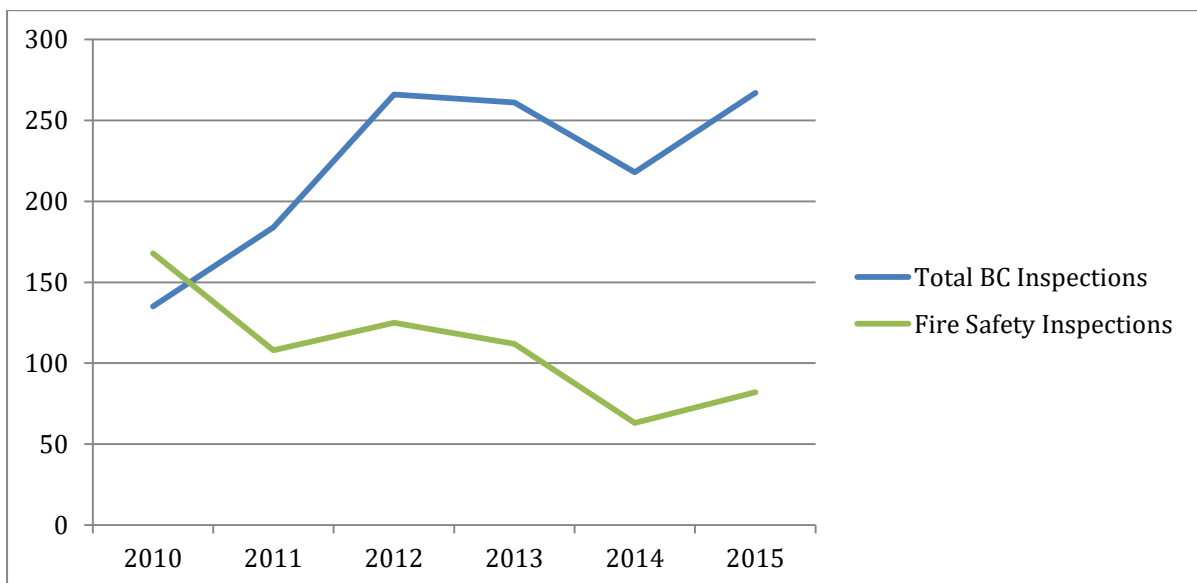
The Building Control Authority received 113 Commencement Notices in 2016. This is 5 more than 2015.



Building Control Inspections

A total of 143 Building Control Inspections have been undertaken throughout the County in 2016. Emphasis was placed on the importance of compliance with the Building Regulations and the Building Control Authority was and continues to encourage and advise private businesses and members of the public in relation to same.

In addition to the Building Control Inspections, 105 Fire Safety Inspections were also carried out during 2016.



SPECIAL PROJECTS

Ducketts Grove Castle and Walled Gardens

This amenity facilitated several events including Christmas and Easter Markets up to 2016. Unfortunately Carlow County Council did not permit a full programme of events in 2016.

The main buildings are of increasing interest to National and International Paranormal science groups. South East Radio and Beat FM have had several broadcasts relating to the supernatural dimensions of the Castle. The grounds are also the venue for the annual Irish Cancer Foundation's "Relay for Life", held in June. Renewal of the gardens – both herbaceous and floral sections, is now nearing completion. The project manager for this work is Mr. Pat Ryan of Emerald Forestry Co. Ltd. The recognition of the importance of Ducketts Grove with its unique architectural and horticultural features at International level is a tribute to the courage of the members of Carlow County Council, its agents and employees, for their rescue of this National treasure. Also, Eileen O'Rourke is congratulated on her hard work in promoting this facility. Madeleine Forrest is congratulated on the quality and welcoming service at the Tea Rooms.



Ducketts Grove Castle

Oak Park Forest Park

Oak Park Forest Park, on the outskirts of Carlow Town, remains very popular for quiet walks in a beautiful setting. During 2016, works were carried out on the surface of the paths. Oakpark Forest Park has won the National Community Woodlands award following a 32-county competition, adjudicated by the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) and The Forestry Service. Emerald Forestry Co. Ltd. continue the required forest renewal works in conjunction with Coillte and the Forestry Service. Carlow Delta Centre and local schools benefit from the universal facilities.



Oakpark Forest Park

Walking

Carlow Local Authorities, in conjunction with Carlow Tourism, Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd. and the Carlow Walks Sub-Committee has assessed the priority walks in the County. Established walkways combine mountain hiking with urban park land. Carlow is linked in to the Wicklow Way and the Slieve Margy Trail in Kilkenny/Laois and to the South Leinster Way i.e. linking South Tipperary/Waterford/Dublin. The Barrow and Slaney Valleys have some of the most attractive and well maintained river walks in Ireland. The longer hiking walks are continuously being developed in conjunction with Tullow Mountaineering Club and Blackstairs Ramblers. Thanks to Borris Tidy Towns Association and to Clare O'Shea of Carlow County Development Partnership, we have completed an important addition to walking facilities at Clashganny.

Tullow Town Park

Tullow Town Park operates successfully in providing an amenity to the people of Tullow. Activities have included use of the playground, exercise and training area and ordinary relaxation. At Tullow, the first Skateboard Park is now very popular. Great credit is due to the Members from the Tullow electoral area for their initiative in this proposal – and to the Develop Tullow Association for their great work in maintaining Tullow Town Park. Further proposals will enhance the Park's ecological diversity.

McGrath Park, Bagenalstown

The Trustees of McGrath Park are to be commended for such a marvellous facility used by hurling, football, soccer, pitch & putt, athletics and cricket clubs. Bagenalstown Improvement Group under the leadership of Paddy Gardiner is to be congratulated for their marvellous work throughout Bagenalstown, including the Town Park.

River Barrow

Carlow Local Authorities with Carlow Tourism and Carlow County Development Partnership will continue to source funding for the priorities of the Barrow Corridor Study. The benefit from the amenities and the facilities recently constructed by Waterways Ireland at Clashganny were highlighted. The improvement of access and parking facilities are now urgent priorities to be considered at Clashganny. Congratulations to Carlow County Development Partnership and to Borris Tidy Towns for their progress on a new walkway, proximate to the Lock area. Carlow County Council pursued the upgrading of tidal boating facility at St. Mullins in conjunction with Waterways Ireland. The navigation channel of the Barrow has become a matter of serious concern to boaters and fishing interests and those concerned with future flooding due to silting and overgrowth. It is impossible to progress any initiative at the Barrow without some remedial action in this respect. The continuous build-up of deposits on the river bed may well limit flood protection measures and negate those already in place. THE STONE MAD BARROW VALLEY MARATHON will commence at Carlow Town Hall on Saturday 17th June 2017. This event will attract National interest and enjoyment of the Barrows marvellous amenity.

SEAI Better Energy Communities 2016

Carlow County Council completed energy upgrades on over 200 houses in 2016. This included upgrading of the heating system, ventilation, windows and doors, lighting and high efficiency stoves. To date over 1,700 houses have received energy upgrades in County Carlow. These works have been very well received by householders – whose energy bills have more than halved and with much greater living quality.

It is disappointing that several communities in the County did not participate in spite of considerable funding being available and a high level of support forthcoming from Carlow County Council. Carlow County Council in conjunction with the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency has prepared a schedule of projects for possible grant aid in 2017.

Projects have been completed at New Oak Estate, Carlow Library, Civic Offices, Carlow Fire Station, New Oak Community Centre, Visual Centre for Contemporary Arts, Public Lighting at Various Locations, Carrigduff Swimming Pool, and C.Y.M.A.

COMMUNITY AND SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Carlow County Council continued to build on the strong working relationship it enjoys with all communities throughout County Carlow during 2016. With the Council's assistance the communities are continuing to enhance and develop their areas socially, culturally, environmentally and in a Sustainable manner. Projects which were promoted during 2016 included: Community & Environmental/ Amenity Grants, Local Agenda 21, Carlow Pride of Place and IPB Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place.

In 2016 County Carlow maintained its reputation for being a County proud of its beautifully presented villages and towns that strive to be litter free and environmentally friendly. This was confirmed in the results achieved in the National Tidy Towns Competition and in Carlow's Pride of Place Awards.

In the 2016 National Tidy Towns Competition Clonagal once again received the highest marks in County Carlow just 2 points behind the overall winner Skerries. Clonagal and Leighlinbridge retained their gold medals status with Carlow receiving a silver medal. Fenagh won the Endeavour Award for a second year in a row with an increase of 12 points on last year's results (highest % increase on last year's marks). Clonmore came first in their category receiving a County commended award for the first time.



The majority of the 19 entrants from County Carlow increased their points reflecting the dedication and hard work of the Tidy Towns Groups and their volunteers. The high standard is achieved and maintained by the positive co-operation and partnerships that exists between the community groups, Carlow County Council and other agencies. Tidy Towns Groups throughout the county are supported by personnel in the Community Section. This year the

Section organised a number of workshops for groups including Protection of Wildlife Habitats & Natural Amenities with IPCC and Tidy Towns Application Form – Practical Tips with Billy Flynn a Tidy Towns adjudicator. Clinics were held for one to one support sessions for groups wishing to avail of extra support with their applications.

Carlow's Pride of Place continues to be a great success, in 2016 over 100 groups from across the county entered, with over 187 entries in the different categories from Tidy Towns Groups, Residents Associations, Community & Voluntary Agencies, Schools and Businesses. This initiative encourages all individuals and communities in the county to enhance the presentation of their town, village or estate; keep their area litter free, preserve local heritage; continue to build community spirit and reflect the pride generated by enhancing the environment in which one lives, which has both a social and an economic spin off.

The success of this initiative would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of communities throughout County Carlow and the support of the elected members. The awards were presented by Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr. John Murphy, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow Cllr. Fintan Phelan and Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Muinebheag Cllr. Thomas Kinsella.



At the Awards Ceremony which was held on October 13th 2016 in the Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow, Rathanna was announced as the Overall Winner in the Town and Villages Category.

Hillbrook Estate, Tullow won the new Overall Award for Estates.



Carlow County Council presented over 60 prizes to the value of €20,750 to community groups throughout the County. Categories included Estates, Schools, Anti -Litter, Burial Grounds, Heritage and Environment as well as towns and villages. The Business Awards Category was sponsored by the County Carlow Chamber of Commerce. Carlow Public Participation Network sponsored the Individual Award winner.

The Community of Borris and Carlow Older Persons Forum were nominated to represent County Carlow in the IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition 2016. A Recognition Night to celebrate and acknowledge the work and commitment shown by both groups in representing the County in the competition was held in September in the Town Hall.



Borris won the top prize in their category at the annual IPB Co-operation Ireland Pride of Place Awards, which were announced in November at a gala event in Belfast.



Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme 2016

A total of 171 grants were awarded to Community Groups/Residents Associations and schools throughout the county. Qualifying works included landscaping and development of open-spaces; amenity development on river/stream banks; provision of picnic facilities; painting; provision of litterbins/anti-litter initiatives, improvements in burial grounds and general enhancement of areas. Grant funding of €58,000 was awarded in 2016.

Community Grant Scheme 2016

A total of 40 grants were awarded to Community Groups throughout the County under this scheme. The aim of the scheme is to support community and voluntary groups in County Carlow who undertake projects that will:

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

Grant funding of €15,000 was awarded in 2016.

Discretionary Funding

A total of 137 grants were awarded by Elected Members to Residents and Tidy Towns Groups, Community Voluntary Organisations, Schools and Sporting Organisations from their Discretionary Funds.

Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund

Through funding from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and match funding from Carlow County Council, a total of €17,000 was allocated to 17 community groups in County Carlow. These groups have undertaken projects that

contributed to increasing environmental awareness at local level or which promoted building greener, more sustainable communities.

The Plots Community Garden & Allotment Project

This continues to be a very successful working partnership with the communities of St Mary's Park and Rathnash, St Catherine's Community Services Centre and Carlow County Council. The composting area is now working well. In the past year turkeys were raised for Christmas dinner and the garden has continued to house 8 laying hens with the local community enjoying their free range eggs. It is also a learning opportunity for the children to raise their awareness about hens.

The main objectives of this initiative are to:

- Provide a space for individuals and groups to grow their own vegetables.
- Promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles through growing fresh food and availing of daily exercise.
- Promote community development, integration and pride through co-operative working with different sections of the community
- Enhance the local environment.
- Act as a training facility for people not in employment, education or training by providing a combination of horticultural training with literacy, numeracy, personal development and job preparation modules while supporting participants to address their barriers to progression.

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) monitors the implementation of the actions contained in the Interagency Traveller Strategy through their four Thematic Groups: Accommodation & Relationships (Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee); Education, Community Development & Arts; Employment, Training and Business Opportunities; Health & Lifestyle, which were established to oversee the implementation of the actions. In 2016 a mapping exercise was undertaken with funding support from Traveller Policy Division, the Department of Justice & Equality. Members participated in training on inter-culturalism which was given by the Primary Health Care Workers from St Catherine's Community Services Centre. A very successful Traveller Pride Week was organised in June by Carlow Traveller Network with support from St Catherine's.

An inter-agency grant application was successful in securing funding for a 1 day training for services providers working with the Roma Community in County Carlow.

New Oak Community Centre

Community staff continue to provide support for New Oak Community Centre Steering Committee

Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC is a committee of the Council but independent in the performance of its functions. Membership of the LCDC was increased from seventeen to nineteen during 2016 and consists of both statutory and non-statutory including four elected members. The following resigned from the committee in 2016, Cllr Jennifer Murnane O'Connor, Ann Shortall, Social Inclusion

PPN Representative, Fr Caoimhín O'Neill Civic Society. These members were replaced by Cllr Arthur McDonald, Josephine Tierney & Brian Hand. The two additional members are Eileen O'Rourke Carlow Tourism and Anna Marie Lanigan Health Service Executive. The LCDC is a committee of the Council but independent in the performance of its functions.

Carlow LCDC Members are:

Statutory Interests		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local Government	Michael Doran Charlie Murphy Arthur McDonald William Quinn Kathleen Holohan Kieran Comerford	Members of Carlow County Council Chief Executive Head of Enterprise
State Agencies	Noel Barry Cynthia Deane Anna-Marie Lanigan	Department of Social Protection Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board HSE
Non Statutory Interests		
Sector	Members Name	Organisation
Local & Community Development	Thomas Kelly Mary Doyle Josephine Tierney Andrea Dalton Eamon Moore	Drumpeha Cemetery Committee (PPN Community and Voluntary Rep) Hacketstown Community Group (PPN Community and Voluntary Rep) Bagenalstown Family Resource Centre(PPN Social Inclusion Rep) St Catherine's Community Services Centre(PPN Social Inclusion Rep) PPN Environmental Pillar Rep
Social Economic and Community Interests	Mary Walsh John Brophy John Nolan Brian Hand Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow County Development Partnership CLG Carlow Chamber (Business Employer) Agricultural / Farming Civic Society Carlow Tourism

Five LCDC/LAG Meetings were held in 2016 as follows:

- 27th January 2016
- 13th April 2016
- 6th July 2016
- 2nd September 2016
- 2nd December 2016

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

- Rural Development Programme (LEADER)
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

Carlow was allocated €6,416,803.43m under the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 -2020. The LCDC has approved Carlow County Development Partnership Ltd as Lead Implementing Partner for the Rural Development Programme. The Carlow County Local Development Strategy was submitted to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government on 15th January 2016 following consideration by members of the LCDC and sign off by the LCDC LEADER Sub Committee and Chairperson. The Strategy was prepared by Carlow County Development Partnership CLG through a “bottom –up” process facilitating participation by members of the rural community and taking full and comprehensive consideration of not just local needs but also local potential. The strategy is complementary to Carlow County Council’s strategic planning process which provides for a more integrated approach to community development at local level. The Strategy sets out how LEADER funding will be best used to support the sustainable development of County Carlow. The Strategy was approved by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in June 2016. And on 8th July 2016, the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs launched the LEADER Rural Development Programme in Virginia, Cavan on the where the Carlow LEADER Funding Agreement/Contract was signed by Minister Heather Humphries, Eamonn Moore, Chairperson of the LCDC, Margaret Moore, Financial Partner Carlow County Council and Clare O’Shea, Implementation Partner Carlow County Development Partnership CLG.

The LCDC/LAG approved LEADER Call for Proposals in respect of the following themes at its meeting held on 2nd September 2016 which are managed by Carlow County Development Partnership CLG, Implementing Partner

- Community Infrastructure Projects
- Community Tourism Festival Projects
- Enterprises in excess of 10 employees who serve the domestic market only
- Community projects in hard to reach communities
- Rural Enterprises with less than 10 employees and a turnover of €2m
- Tourism Project development

Eligibility Criteria for Call for Proposals in respect of the above were approved.

LEADER Call for Proposals were advertised in respect of Regeneration of Rural Towns/Villages and Festivals targeting a National Audience with closing dates respectively of the 18th October and 18th November 2016 for receipt of Expression of Interest’s. The LAG approved/rejected recommendations in respect of same at its meeting held on 2nd December 2016.

The LCDC/LAG has approved /considered the following:

- LEADER Evaluation Committee
- LEADER Financial Report for 2016
- LEADER Evaluation Committee Scoring Record
- Draft LEADER Procedures Manual

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

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

SICAP funding of €536,428 was allocated to County Carlow for the year 2016. The LCDC is the contracting authority and Carlow County Development Partnership is the Programme Implementer. The LCDC reviewed the 2015 SICAP Annual Plan in January 2016 and approved the SICAP Annual Plan 2016. The 2016 SICAP Annual Plan Mid Term review for the period January – June 2016 was reviewed by the members in 2016 and the SICAP Annual Plan for 2017 was considered in December 2016. A sub group of the LCDC committee comprising of Andrea Dalton and Noel Barry including Michael Brennan, Chief Officer and Margaret Moore, Community met on a numbers of occasions during 2016 to examine and review the implementation of the programme with Karl Duffy Carlow County Development Partnership, Programme Implementer. All headline targets in the SICAP Programme was achieved by the Programme Implementer for 2016.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)



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

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

The preparation of the Plan is the responsibility of the Carlow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Carlow County Council. The Community elements of the Plan were developed by the Local Community Development Committee and economic elements by Carlow County Council through the strategic Policy Committee (SPC) for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Planning.

The purpose of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) for County Carlow, is to identify and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community development dimensions of the local authority area over the six year period 2016-2021 and in a manner that both reflects and supports the implementation of the existing Carlow County Development Plan, Joint Spatial Plan for Carlow and the Draft Guidelines and proposed Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), to be prepared by the Regional Assembly and the new National Planning Framework which will replace the National Spatial Strategy. In preparing the LECP, it was necessary also to consider the proposed Rural Development Strategy for County Carlow 2014 to 2020, the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Government's Action Plan for Jobs.

The draft plan went out on public consultation on the 22nd December 2015 with a closing date for comments/observations on 22nd January 2016. The LCDC considered and approved the draft plan following the public consultation process at its meeting held on the 27th January 2016 with amendments. Carlow County adopted the draft Local Economic and Community Plan, "**County Carlow 2021 Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021**" at its meeting held on 8th February 2016. The role of the LCDC will be to implement, oversee, coordinate, monitor and review the plan in partnership with Carlow County Council. The National Oversight Audit Commission (NOAC) and the LECP Advisory Steering Group will also have a monitoring role in the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan will be implemented in three cycles of two year periods through an Implementation plan and the Implementation Plan for the period 2016-2018 has been considered and approved by the LCDC and Carlow County Council. During 2017 LEAD Agencies identified in the Plan will report to the LCDC by delivering a verbal/written progress report on the actions detailed in the Implementation Plan.

The Local Economic and Community Plan was launched by the Cathaoirleach Cllr Charlie Murphy in Carlow in July and by Minister Simon Coveney Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

The LCDC also adopted/considered the following:

- LCDC, 2015 Annual Report
- Amendments to Standing Orders
- Declaration of Interest –Conflict of Interest
- Town& Village Renewal Scheme
- Review of South Carlow REDZ Project
- Report from Carlow Public Participation Network
- Nomination of LCDC member Ms Josephine Tierney to Carlow Suicide Prevention Planning group
- Report from Edmond Connolly South East Regional Skills Forum Manager

Training was organised at National Level by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and Pobal for members of the LCDC in respect of:

- Operations of the LCDC
- SICAP
- LEADER
- Our Communities – A framework Policy for Local and Community Development in Ireland.

Carlow Children and Young Person's Services Committee

This Inter-agency Committee is responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery and ensures that professionals and agencies work together 2016 was a busy year for this interagency committee

- The new 3 year Action Plan was developed and finalised in the latter half of 2016.
- In November 2016 CCCYPSC were successful in their application to acquire seed funding to enable actions from the Action Plan to be carried out. They received the maximum of €25,000.

Comhairle na nÓg

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

- On 15th November Carlow Comhairle na nÓg held their annual AGM with excellent participation from the Post-Primary Schools around the County.
- Carlow Comhairle members participated in the National Comhairle Showcase Event on 24th November in Croke Park, Dublin with the Minister for Children and Young People, Katherine Zappone in attendance. Continuing to support the 2016 Comhairle Annual Plan which will be focused on transport issues for young people in County Carlow

Carlow Age Friendly County

The Carlow Age Friendly Subgroup continued to support the delivery of actions of the County Age Friendly Strategy, and to drive the implementation of the Carlow Town Plan actions and some highlights are as follows;

- The Age Friendly Interagency Committee has started forward planning for the development of the new 5 year strategy for the period 2017-2022. Debra O'Neill, Consultant has been engaged to lead the development of this strategy. This will be in the guise of individual surveys, interviews with the relevant stakeholders and two public meetings in each Municipal district.

- In October 2016 Eileen Brophy was appointed as the Chairperson of the Age Friendly Committee, replacing Mary White.

Carlow Volunteer Centre

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

- Due to consistent significant cuts in budget over the last number of years, Carlow Volunteer Centre remained in accommodation provided by Carlow County Council.
- Personnel in the Community Department continued to support the Volunteer Centre.

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

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

Their work with the Voluntary Organisations includes the following;

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

COUNTY CARLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Performance Highlights 2016

- **Funding Work** - A total of €225,120 was secured by the LSP for sports development in County Carlow;
- **Disability Programme** – €25,500 was secured to deliver a programme of actions to address the needs of people with a disability in sport with participation opportunities provided for approximately 216 people;
- **Community Events** - Over 2000 people took part in LSP community based programmes targeting youth and families, e.g. Get Outdoors, Operation Transformation, Play Day, Recreation Week, etc.;
- **Fit Over 50** – 135 people took part in our Older Adults Sports Hub activities in Carlow Town and Tullow;
- **Women in Sport Programmes** - 20 women took part in LSP Sports Activity Programmes;
- **Schools** - 16 primary local schools took part in LSP programmes to increase participation of young people in sport;
- **Club Development Work** – 26 local sports clubs were assisted with development issues;
- **Information Provision** – Over 1,200 individuals were supported with information provision during 2016;
- **Training** – 432 local sports leaders, volunteers and coaches took part in LSP training courses with 63 local clubs represented;
- **Policy** - The LSP participated in 5 local and regional committees, networks and forums to promote participation in sport and the message of the LSP.

COUNTY CARLOW LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Summary of Outputs 2016

BACKGROUND, RESOURCES & FUNDING

Background to County Carlow Local Sports Partnership

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership is part of a national network of 29 sports partnerships. Sport Ireland devised the Local Sports Partnership (LSP) concept as a means to coordinate and promote the development of sport at a local level. County Carlow Sports Partnership was initiated in 2006. The LSP is funded primarily through Sport Ireland and operates as a sub-committee of Carlow County Council. The LSP management committee meets approximately every 6 – 8 weeks. The remit of the management committee is to oversee the implementation of the yearly operational plan and support and guide the LSP staff.



County Carlow Local Sports Partnership Committee & Staff, Sept 2016.

Purpose of County Carlow Local Sports Partnership

The aim of the LSP is to increase participation in sport and physical activity regardless of age, ability or background through:

- Providing a central **information point** for sports development;
- Developing capacity of sports leaders through **quality training**;
- Collaborating with national governing bodies of sport, organisations, private facilities, schools, sports clubs and community groups to develop programmes to **address barriers to participation**.
- Promoting the benefits of sport and the positive impact sport can have on **obesity, social inclusion and mental health**.

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership Management Committee Members 2016

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

Name	Agency	Name	Agency
1.Carmel Lynch Chairperson	Sports Community Rep	8.Declan Doyle	Sports Community Rep
2.Tom Geoghegan	Sports Community Rep	9.Garry Coady	Sports Community Rep
3.Julie Doyle	Sports Community Rep	10.Michael Brennan	Carlow County Council
4.John Hayden	Sports Community Rep	11.Regina Duane	Carlow Volunteer Centre
5.Olive Fanning	Health Promotion, HSE	12.Kathryn Wall	Carlow Regional Youth Services
6.Donal McNally	Institute of Technology Carlow	13.Karl Duffy	County Carlow Development Partnership
7.Ronan Dempsey	Sports Community Rep	14.Pat Bolger	Sporting Community Rep

Staffing & Personnel

The LSP is currently **staffed** by three full-time staff members:

- Coordinator: Martha Jane Duggan
- Administrator: Sandra Corrigan,
- Community Sports Development Officer: Louise Barry,

Regular **tutors & programme facilitators** for LSP local and Sports Ireland National Programmes - County Carlow LSP collaborates with a number of highly skilled and experienced local sports leaders to deliver participation programmes:

- Joanne Wall (Sports Inclusion Disability Programme & Disability Inclusion Training);
- Teresa Meagher (Sports Inclusion Disability Programme);
- Ken Kavanagh (Code of Ethics & Basic Awareness & Children's Officer Training);
- Grainne Fleming (Code of Ethics Basic Awareness);
- Pulse Medical Brain Downes (Occupational First Aid, Sports First Aid, Defib Training);
- Sharon O'Byrne (Sportshall Athletics & Community Walking Programme)
- Lisa Kennedy (Sportshall Athletics & Community Walking Programme);
- Tomas Kinsella (Sportshall Athletics).

County Carlow Local Sports Partnership Funding Secured 2016

Core funding from Sport Ireland	EURO	€113,199
Programme and other funding from Sport Ireland	EURO	€6,400
Local Authority	EURO	€10,500
HSE	EURO	€8,500
Dormant Accounts Funding Community Coaching	EURO	€11,925
Sport Ire Community Sports Development Officer	EURO	€25,000
Youth leadership	Euro	€5,000
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	EURO	€5,000
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	EURO	€19,350
Leader/ Local Development Company	EURO	€4,000
Income Generated from Courses, Programmes, Events	EURO	€16,246
Total		€225,120

Funding Notes 2016

- **County Carlow Development Partnership**
The €4,000 from the Local Development Company was secured through a proposal made by the LSP in relation to the Carlow Sports Inclusion Programme;
- **Department of Transport Tourism & Sport**
The Department Transport Tourism & Sport funding breaks down as €5,000 secured through annual Bike Week grant fund.
- **Dormant Accounts Community Sports Development Officer Grant Scheme**
Sport Ireland awarded Carlow Local Sports Partnership €25,000 under this grant scheme based on the funding proposal submitted in May. This fund has been made available to support the National Physical Activity Plan action to 'Strengthen and enhance the capacity of the Local Sports Partnerships to further develop locally led plans and more long-term sustainable physical activity programmes'. Louise Barry was appointed following the recruitment process and the impact was that the post increased the capacity of the LSP to deliver opportunities for physical activity within that time-frame.
- **Dormant Accounts Youth Leadership Grant Scheme**
Secured €5,000 under this Sport Ireland administered grant scheme to deliver youth leadership training in partnership with local schools and youth organizations.

SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS 2016

As directed by Sport Ireland, LSPs undertake a wide range of actions with the aim of increasing participation rates in their local communities. These actions are grouped within four outcome areas:

1. Working to increase participation levels, especially amongst specific target groups;
2. Building sustainable local sporting infrastructure through support for NGBs, clubs, coaches and volunteers and supporting partnerships between local sports clubs, community based organisations and sector agencies;
3. Creating greater opportunities for access to training and education in relation to sports and physical activity provision;
4. Providing information about sport and physical activity to create awareness and access.

Objective 1: Increasing Levels of Participation

TARGET GROUP - PEOPLE

Programme Outline: The objective of this programme is to increase participation of people with a disability in sport and active recreation, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders. A detailed programme of activities was prepared based on the needs and barriers facing the target group. The Local Sports Partnership (LSP) worked closely with local stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the programme and detailed progress reports were presented to the Local Sports Partnership Committee at regular intervals. The project is funded by the HSE, County Carlow Development Partnership & Sport Ireland, managed by LSP Coordinator and delivered through a contract for services by programme facilitators Joanne Wall and Teresa Meagher.

Organisations/Services Involved: Some of the groups involved include: IWA; Regional Youth Services; St. Dymnys Hosp Occupational Therapy; HSE Mental Health Unit; BEAM Services; Rehabcare; Cairdeas Centre; Skillsbase NLN; Delta Centre; Carlow Autism Group; Special Olympics; Carlow Down Syndrome Group; NCBI; Visual Impairment Group; etc.

Adapted Physical Activity Participation Outputs 2016

The project addresses the imbalance of opportunities for people with physical, learning and sensory disabilities to participate in sport and physical activity in County Carlow. Projects are based on needs identified by people with a disability, carers, parents and organizations. The projects provide an important social outlet. The following table provides a summary of the disability actions and participant numbers:

ACTION		PARTICIPATION	DISABILITY TYPE	STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION
1.	Wheelchair Basketball	18	11 Physical disability 3 siblings, friends & family members	IWA Presentation Secondary School Local Basketball Clubs
2.	St Dymphna's Mental Health Group	6	11 Mental ill health	HSE
3.	Summer Adapted Physical Activity Camp	39 participants 16 leaders	18 Intellectual disability 2 Physical disability (20 with a disability)	IT Carlow, Carlow Regional Youth Services, & NGBs
4.	Inclusive Cycling	33	Intellectual disability	Private provider, Presentation School Askea Local apa network
5.	Inclusive Swimming	12	Intellectual Disability	Holy Angels & local disability organisations
6.	Trail Kids	9	Pan Disability	Trail Kids & local disability organisations
7.	Yoga	12 (2 groups J Wall & Eist)	Pan Disability	IWA Eist
8.	Horse Riding	59	Pan Disability	Doyles Carrigbeg
9.	Tae Kwon Do	12	Intellectual Disability	Tullow TKD Club & local disability organisations
TOTAL		216		

Adapted Physical Activity Training and Education Outputs

The LSP implemented a two pronged approach in order to: 1. Facilitate involvement of individuals/disability organizations; and 2. Support/upskill clubs, coaches and volunteers to adapt and include people with a disability.

	Training	Stakeholder Collaboration	Participation
1.	Disability Awareness Training	CARA, IT Carlow	16
2.	Disability Inclusion Training	CARA, IT Carlow	27
			43

Disability Programme Highlight - Inclusion Camp July 2016

Carlow LSP collaborated with IT Carlow to organise a summer camp for young people with a disability. The camp was open to siblings to attend also. 39 participants took part. 16 sports leaders were trained to support the delivery of the camp. The camp was open to boys and girls from 6 to 16 years. It ran from August 2nd - 5th, 10am to 2pm each day at IT Carlow.

The cost of the camp was €25 per child. Family discounts were available with each additional child charged at €20. The price included an optional trip to Avon Ri Lakeshore Adventure Centre. The programme was supported by IT Carlow, Sport Ireland, Carlow County Council, Carlow Regional Youth Services and County Carlow Development Partnership. Activities were tailored to the camp participants and included: Arts & Crafts; Sports; Games; Cycling; Computing; Trip to outdoor activity centre in Wicklow Avon Ri (optional). The camp was successful and feedback from participants and parents was very positive. The LSP received a number of emails and phone-calls from parents commenting on how happy they were with the camp leaders, the activities and the facilities on site.



Disability Programme Highlight – Horse-riding Programme for Children with Autism

'Hi Martha,

We've completed three of our four horse riding lessons now and I couldn't begin express how successful and what a powerful experience they have been for our group from the Queen of the Universe N.S. It has been awesome! Thank you so very much for enabling this to happen. I want to follow up on the finances because I was asked today how we will be processing it. I will collect the invoice from Carrigbeg next Friday so please let me know how we will be processing the finances.

Míle buíochas,

Tommy'

Email from Tommy Cox, teacher at Queen of the Universe NS, Bagenalstown with regard to the horse-riding programme they participated in organised by County Carlow LSP.

TARGET GROUP - OLDER ADULTS

Rationale: Sport Ireland identifies older adults as a key target group to promote physical activity due to low participation levels. Physical activity has a positive effect on general well-being, physical and mental health. This programme comes under the umbrella of Age Friendly Carlow - physical activity can be used as a powerful tool to combat loneliness, for social inclusion, to encourage engagement in the local community and can increase the potential for independent living. During 2016 County Carlow Local Sports Partnership continued to use

St. Laurence O’Toole’s AC (SLOT) and Tullow Parish Centre as ‘activity hubs’ for older adults. The LSP also used SLOT as the base for the Go for Life actions. Although we are targeting the older population, the activities are open to all to promote integration. The LSP organised activities in Tullow to provide an outreach to people residing in rural areas. In addition to the activities at SLOT the LSP worked in collaboration with the Supreme Fitness leisure centre at Eire Og to develop activities including Pilates and yoga. The programme was promoted through key older adult agencies and voluntary groups, email distribution, print media and social media. The following table provides a summary of the older adult activities organised by Carlow LSP in 2016:

	Older Adult Programmes	Duration	Location	Participation
1.	Zumba Gold Carlow (SLOT)	6 weeks	St. Laurence O’Tooles	31
2.	Zumba Gold Tullow	6 weeks	Parish Centre & Community Hall	14
3.	Yoga	6 weeks	St. Laurence O’Toole	10
4.	Pilates	6 weeks	St. Laurence O’Tooles & Eire Og Supreme Fitness	10
5.	Go for Life Games	19 th May – 9 th June	St. Laurence O’Tooles	25
6.	Go for Life Games	3 rd Nov – 1 st Dec	St. Laurence O’Tooles	25
7.	Graigucullen Walking Group	Ongoing	Graigucullen	15
8.	Ballon/Rathoe Walking Group	Ongoing	Ballon GAA Club	10
	<u>Total</u>			<u>135</u>

Older Adult Programme Highlight - Go for Life Games Regional Event

The Go for Life Games was held in I.T Carlow on December 2nd in conjunction with Sport Science 4th Year students, Waterford LSP and Kilkenny LSP. Over 70 people took part. One of the outcomes of this project is that a link has been also established with I.T. for the inclusion of community based projects on the course content to provide practical work experience.

Older Adult Programme Outcomes

In terms of the impact of the 2015 Fit over 50 programme the LSP can point to the following outcomes: Wider range of opportunities for older adults to engage in physical activity; Increased activity levels of the participants in the programme; Promotion of increased partner working between local agencies, clubs and community groups; Groups facilitated with information in relation to funding opportunities for physical activity.

TARGET GROUP - WOMEN

Funding dedicated to the Women in Sport programme is targeted towards programmes rolled out by both National Governing Bodies of Sport and Local Sports Partnerships as the delivery agents for sport and physical activity for the Irish Sports Council. During 2016, in partnership with County Carlow Women's Network, the LSP delivered the following one swimming programme in collaboration with the Talbot Hotel and one racket sports programme in collaboration with the Carlow Lawn Tennis Club. In addition to the above the LSP supported local volunteers to coordinate the 'Buggy Buddies Programme' with approximately 25 participants.

	Women In Sport Programmes	Location	Participants
1.	Racket Sports Programme	Carlow Lawn Tennis Club	12
2.	Swimming Programme	Talbot Hotel	8
			20

Comments and observations from the participants on the Women in Sport programmes:

'Would love programme to be longer'

'Almost able to swim at last'

'Very good trainer'

'Very grateful to have been given the opportunity in availing in the course'

'Tutor inspired confidence in all participants'

TARGET GROUP – MEN

Funded by Sport Ireland and organised by County Carlow Local Sports Partnership in collaboration with Joe Dunny of Fit2Go Bootcamp. The emphasis in the programme is to create awareness and understanding of the importance of physical activity and the health benefits not just of physical health but of mental health and well-being. 'Now Move' It is a physical activity programme that is aimed at adult men to get them active, have fun and improve fitness levels. It involved twice weekly fitness sessions over 6 weeks that are led by a qualified instructor to meet your needs; structured guidance through a programme designed to suit the participant.

TARGET SETTING – WORKPLACE

Workplace Physical Activity Programme

In response to requests from staff of Carlow County Council, the Local Sports Partnership team developed a Step Challenge to increase daily physical activity. 119 Carlow County Council staff members signed up to the 6 week challenge. The goal was for each person to aim to walk 10,000 steps per day. Participants are divided up into teams and there are 13 teams participating in the competition. The team with the highest average number of steps after the 6 week period won.

Comments from participants

‘Boost morale of staff’
‘Encouraged me to get out and walk and mostly out of the office at lunchtime’
‘Improved mental and physical health’
‘Team building, positive colleague interaction’

TARGET SETTING – COMMUNITY

RTE Operation Transformation 2016

Sport Ireland teamed up with the RTE Operation Transformation Programme in January 2016 to promote physical activity for all. Each Local Sports Partnership across the national network organised a community walk, which took place on in Carlow at Rathwood Home & Garden Centre. There was approximately 400 participants. The walk was 5km in length.

Bike Week 2016

Bike Week 2016 took place between the 11th and 19th June and in Carlow it was another huge success with over 1200 children and adults from around the county taking part in organised events. Bike week is organised by County Carlow Local Sports Partnership along with Carlow County Council and this year 5 Community groups and 10 schools ran events during the week. Fun Family Cycle Event held on Sunday 3rd July, 2016. Over 140 people attended this free event aimed at 2-10 year olds. Participants enjoyed off-road cycling, obstacle courses, a geocache treasure hunt, arts and crafts, games on the green and much more.



Carlow Autumn Walking Festival Events 2016

The LSP engaged with Carlow Tourism to develop and coordinate two 'C' walks/events for the Carlow Walking festival October, 2016:

- a. **CLASHGANNY TRAIL KIDS EVENT** - Organised a scavenger event with 'Trail Kids' which 12 people attended on Saturday 1st October in Clashganny.
- b. **OAK PARK FAMILY 'GET OUTDOORS' GEOCACHE TREASURE HUNT EVENT** - Organised a Geocache Treasure Hunt in Oak Park, which took place on Sunday 2nd October which approx. 400 people attended. This programme was funded by the HSE.

Parkrun Carlow

The Local Sports Partnership assisted Parkrun Ireland to establish a Parkrun in Tullow. Parkrun is a not for profit company that sets up free weekly timed 5K runs with any community that wants one. The runs are held every Saturday at 9.30 in local parks and are targeted at people who would not be confident enough to enter a traditional race. There is also always a social aspect to every event like a local café that 'parkrunners' are encouraged to attend post event. Every event is administered by volunteers recruited from the participants. There are now approximately 170 events globally running around 24,000 people weekly. See www.parkrun.com. A volunteer group has been recruited.

TARGET GROUP – YOUTH

DCYA Capital Grant Play & Recreation Youth Capital Funding

Carlow Local Sports Partnership secured €17,000 under the Department of Children and Youth Affairs 'Capital Funding Scheme for Play and Recreation 2016'. This funding scheme was introduced in 2013 to support new and existing play and recreation facilities for children and young people. The Local Sports Partnership secured funding to develop permanent orienteering sites, an inclusive balance bike programme for 2 – 6 year olds and a primary school golf programme.

Department of Community & Youth Affairs - Play Day & Recreation Week 2016

The DCYA administer a grant to support activities for National Recreation Week (3rd July - 9th July 2016) and National Play Day (Sunday 3rd July). The theme for was 'Remembering 1916'.

Applications that include some elements that focus on 1916.

- **Recreation Week – Carlow Regional Youth Services**

The LSP supported Carlow Regional Youth Services with funding to run the following activities for Recreation Week:

1.	Teenage Team Building Challenge: Go Quest	Young people travelled from Carlow to Dublin for the activity	€282 which included the activity and the bus	13 teenagers
2.	Teenage Water Activity to Bay Sports in Athlone	Young people travelled from Carlow to Athlone for the activity	€220 which included the activity and the bus	11 teenagers

- **Tullow Road Play Day Event Saturday 27th August – CCDP & LSP**

This 'Free Family Fun' event was funded by the Department of Community & Youth Affairs and Carlow County Council and organised jointly by County Carlow Local Sports Partnership, Carlow Regional Youth Services, and County Carlow Development Partnership. The attendance exceeded expectations with 409 signatures on the registration sheet. The objective of the project was to provide an opportunity for play and recreation for the residents of the Tullow Road and to generate community spirit and relationship building between the residents, local clubs, groups and community volunteers. County Carlow Development Partnership organised a clean-up of the estates in the lead up to the event and Carlow Regional Youth Services assisted in the promotion of the event and recruitment of volunteers. Local residents were involved in the planning and delivery. It is intended that this will become an annual event, subject to funding.



Photos from the Tullow Road Play Day Aug 2016 – over 400 people attended

Objective 2: More Sustainable Infrastructure

A key focus for LSPs is that there is a sustainable level of development within the local sports infrastructure. Across the network LSPs work with clubs and groups to ensure that structures are in place to enable participation for all community members in a wide range of sport or physical activity options. This sustainable environment is further facilitated through supporting volunteers and coaches in opportunities to enhance their skills and improve the quality of sports participation in their communities.

Community Sports Hubs

A **Community Sports Activity Hub (CSAH)** is a collective of progressive sports clubs and other local organisations/stakeholders that want to work together to improve the sport offered in their local community. Each club and organisation will be unique, however they are all meant to work to certain principles, namely grow participation, engage the local community, promote community leadership, offer a range of sporting opportunities and bring all appropriate (key) partners/ groups/people together. Community Partnership is an integral aspect of the project. Needs are to be identified and consultation will take place from the ground up. Strategic links will be established with key local agencies, sports clubs, commercial bodies, voluntary groups, in addition to local primary and secondary schools. This will include engaging with the local communities with the aim to gain local ‘buy-in’ and create a hub of sports and recreational activities. During 2016 the LSP worked on the development of two community sports hubs:

- a. Tullow Road Community Sports Hub
- b. Graiguecullen Watersports Hub

Intended Outcomes of the CSAH Initiative:

National Governing Bodies of Sport; Local Clubs; Local Businesses; etc. The sports hub is a collaboration of local stakeholders dedicated to using the power of sport and physical activity for specific outcomes:

Aim	Specifics Goals	Possible outcomes
Providing the pathway	<p>More opportunities to participate in sport and physical activity</p> <p>A home where a range of local sports clubs can work together</p> <p>A welcome and safe place to take part in sport and physical activity</p>	<p>Research into community profiles and needs assessment</p> <p>Marketing and promotion activities, including outreach by sports clubs</p>
Well-trained people	<p>Training and development of the people that make sport happen</p>	<p>Purchase capital equipment</p>
Strong sports groups/clubs	<p>Self-sustaining sports clubs / organisations</p> <p>An integrated approach from local partners</p> <p>A social environment that engages members of the community</p> <p>Better organised and connected local clubs</p>	<p>Development of joint initiatives between sports clubs and recreational physical activity groups</p> <p>Delivery of training and development courses for sports volunteers</p>

	Genuine community engagement and leadership	Rollout of joint club 'come and try'/taster sessions to increase membership
Quality facilities	Improved access for local people and sports clubs at affordable prices Integration with local facility planning and programming	Develop and pilot a range of inter-linked sporting opportunities

SPORTS CLUBS & NGB WORK

The LSP provides a range of supports to the providers of sport and physical activity across the County, as well as working with NGBs, sports clubs, communities and individuals to introduce new sports opportunities and pathways for participation in physical exercise. The list below represents a few examples of clubs and NGBs supported during 2016. The LSP assisted 26 sports clubs with development support actions of the course of the year.

ELITE ATHLETES

Sports Ambassador Bursary for Elite Athletes

The Carlow Ambassador Award is a joint initiative between Carlow County Council & County Carlow Local Sports Partnership to provide recognition and support to emerging local talent. The bursary itself is worth €1,500, however, this is a special award and it is not just about supporting the athlete financially. The recipient will act as an ambassador for sport in Carlow, promoting active lifestyles and providing inspiration to all through their own achievements. This is the second year of the award. Marcus Lawler was the recipient last year. All of the applications received were assessed carefully by a sub-committee of the County Council and these applicants represented a broad range of sports including: athletics, gaelic football, soccer, and karate to name but a few. The applications came from all corners of the County. A formal presentation was made to the 2016 recipient Molly Scott at an event held in the County Council Chamber on Monday 15th February 2016. The Chief Executive of Sport Ireland, John Treacy, was the guest speaker. Thanks to everyone who came in support. Feedback from John Treacy, Molly Scott and family was excellent.



Paul Scott, John Treacy, Chief Executive Carlow County Council Kathleen Holohan, Cllr. Walter Lacey & Molly Scott, along with invited guests.

TARGET GROUP – SCHOOLS

The LSP supports the Department of Education Active School initiative through the provision of opportunities for teachers to upskill, development of participation programmes targeting schools and by flagging opportunities available through the NGBs. The Active School Flag (ASF) is awarded to schools that strive to achieve a physically educated and physically active school community. The process aims to get more schools, more active, more often. Schools wishing to achieve the ASF begin the process by self-evaluating their current provision across 3 areas: Physical Education, Physical Activity and Partnerships. Schools must also organise an Active School Week programme and commit to having it as part of their annual school calendar. Schools that can say 'yes' to all of the ASF success criteria will be awarded with the active flag. The flag remains valid for a period of 3 years after which time schools will be invited to re-apply. ASF is a Department of Education and Skills initiative supported by Healthy Ireland. The following is a list of programmes the LSP offered to primary schools in 2016:

- a. **Sportshall Athletics** - This is a partnership programme between the LSP and Athletics Ireland which aims to introduce senior cycle children in primary schools to fundamental athletics and agility balance and coordination activities using indoor sport hall athletics. The key components of the programme includes teacher education workshops, delivery of coaching sessions within school sites, regional and national fun competitions. Athletics Association Ireland (AAI) have supported the recruitment of 2 tutors to deliver Sports Hall Athletics in primary schools in Carlow. A total of 305 children are engaged in a 6 week programme in 2016.
- b. **Primary Days Golf Programme** - Supported the Confederation of Golf in Ireland to plan and develop a pilot programme a pilot programme linked to Carlow Golf Club. The target group is 5th and 6th class pupils. The LSP will support the programme by

sourcing the equipment as advised by CGI. Programme delivered to pupils in Killeslin NS in 2016.

- c. **Step Challenge Programme** – Supported two primary schools with equipment and worksheets to organise a step challenge programme to encourage participants to be more active throughout the school day.
- d. **Balance Bike Programme** - Purchased 22 balance bikes with funding secured through the Department of Youth & Community Affairs – Youth Capital Grant Scheme. In the process of recruiting and upskilling tutors to enable the Local Sports Partnership to coordinate the delivery of a balance bike programme for pre-school and Junior Infant children across the County. This programme will be rolled in in collaboration with the County Childcare Committee.
- e. **Active School Week April 25th – 29th 2016** - Supported eight local primary schools in the delivery of their ‘Active School Week Programme’. Each school received one

	LSP Training Programme Delivered 2016	Number of Courses	Number of Participants
1.	Safeguarding 1 Child Welfare in Sport Awareness Course	17	253
2.	Safeguarding 2 Club Childrens Officer Course	1	12
3.	Sports First Aid	2	16
4.	Rec Level 3	1	8
5.	Disability Inclusion Training	2	43
6.	Community Coaching Course	2	27
7.	Youth Sports Leader	1	23
8.	Out to Play Seminar	1	50
	Total	27	432

day of Sportshall Athletics training at a cost of €200 per day per school to Carlow LSP.

OBJECTIVE 3: GREATER ACCESS TO TRAINING & EDUCATION

LSP Bi-annual Training Calendar

LSPs provide a range of important up-skilling and training opportunities at local level for volunteers, coached and administrators. Development and coordination of the Winter Training Calendar to upskill sports volunteers in collaboration with IT Carlow. Training opportunities include Safeguarding 1 Basic Awareness Workshop in Child Welfare & Protection, Safeguarding 2 Club Children’s Officer Workshop and Sports First Aid. The timetable is available from the Local Sports Partnership office.

Training & Education Highlight - Community Coaching Programme with IT Carlow

The programme is an initiative between Carlow Local Sports Partnership in conjunction with Institute of Technology Carlow and approved and supported by Sport Ireland, formally known as the Irish Sports Council. 27 people in total completed this course in 2016. The programme is funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund and IT Carlow. All of the coaching elements of the course are certified by the IRFU, GAA, FAI and Get Ireland Walking. Holders of the Level 6 Certificate in Community Sports Coaching may gain employment in the sports

sector as coaches, physical activity leaders or referees and the programme also provides a pathway to further education opportunities.

Youth Sports Leadership Training

The Local Sports Partnership secured funding from Sport Ireland and the Dormant Accounts Funds to organise and deliver 4 x Sports Leadership training courses for young people. The Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership provides the ideal starting point for learners aged 13 years and over who wish to develop their leadership skills, whilst under the direct supervision of their Tutor/Assessor or other suitably qualified adult. The syllabus is designed to develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. Currently planning the delivery of 4 youth leadership training courses, to take place in the 1st & 2nd quarter 2016 and working through the administration requirements from the coordinating body engaged by Sport Ireland – Sports Leaders UK. A total of €5,000 was secured by Carlow Local Sports Partnership for this programme. The programme was delivered to the Vocational School in 2016 and three schools are scheduled for delivery in 2017.

Out to Play & Physical Literacy Seminar

Approximately 50 early years practitioners attended the 'Out to Play' Seminar, which took place in Castlecomer Discovery Park on Saturday the 14th of May. The aim was to promote the use of the outdoors for learning and play with children aged 0-6 years. The conference was organized to achieve the joint goal of the partner agencies which is to help children lead active healthy lives. This was a joint initiative between Kilkenny & Carlow. The partner agencies were; Kilkenny Recreation and Sports Partnership, County Carlow Local Sports Partnership, Carlow & Kilkenny County Childcare Committee and HSE Health Promotion and Improvements.

OBJECTIVE 4: LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP AS AN INFORMATION HUB

Outputs for all aspects of Providing Information and Resources are summarised below.

Producing and Disseminating Resources

	2015
Number of physical booklets or information leaflets produced	20
Number of directories produced/ updated	3
Number of people/clubs/groups on email list	750
Number of press releases issued	10
Number of annual reports disseminated	1
Number of presentations delivered	24
Total	808

Use of Media (including Social Media)

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	2015
Number of articles in local press/radio					10
Facebook: Number of posts/updates					300
Facebook: Number of Followers					2,000
Twitter: Number of tweets					3
Twitter: Number of Followers					25
Twitter: Number Following					40
Total					2,378

Critical Incident Protocol for Sports Clubs

A sub-committee of the LSP collated and developed a draft critical incident protocol for sports clubs. This protocol will be made available on the new LSP website when it is established.

Audit of Sports Clubs

The LSP completed an audit of local sports clubs with a view to publishing a directory of sports clubs. 200 clubs responded to the audit. The updating of this information is crucial to effective communications.

Audit of Opportunities for People with a Disability

The LSP completed an audit of opportunities for people with a disability to engage in physical activity. This information will be used to promote those organisations providing activities and also to highlight the gaps.

Campaigns

The LSP supported and promoted the following campaigns

- Bike Week 2016
- European Week of Sport 2016
- Carlow Walking Festival 2016
- Pride of Place Borris 2016

Networking, Partnership, & Collaboration

The LSP is represented on the following local committees and networks:

- Age Friendly
- Social Inclusion Forum
- Carlow Volunteer Centre BOM
- Carlow County Council Walking Forum

The LSP is represented on the following regional and national networks:

- LSP National Network - National Sports Policy Submission
- Local Sports Partnership South East Network
- Local Authority Play & Recreation Network



Local Sports Partnership Team: Chairperson, Carmel Lynch; Coordinator, Martha Jane Duggan; Administrator, Sandra Corrigan; & Community Sports Development Officer, Louise Barry.

ARTS

In early 2016, Carlow County Council launched its vision for local arts development over the coming six years through its Local Arts Development Plan 2016 – 2021. Launched by The Arts Council of Ireland, Director, Orla McBride, the plan highlights the strategic priorities for local arts development over the coming six years. The plan clarifies Carlow County Council's priorities for its investment in the arts and it sets out clear and decisive strategies under three key objectives to lead, nurture and sustain the arts across County Carlow. Central to the plan is the articulation of the distinct and leading role the County Council has in local arts development through its Arts Service, now a mature service of 15years.

Throughout 2016 workshops were held in order to outline the key objectives and actions outlined in the plan, further information about the key objectives for 2016 can be found in the Local Arts Development Plan 2016 – 2021 which is available by contacting the Arts Service or downloading from www.carlow.ie.





Launch of Local Arts Development Plan February 2016

Arts Funding 2016

Arts Council Funding for local arts provision in 2016: The Arts Council of Ireland awarded €67,300 to Carlow County Council through its Annual Revenue Funding. In 2016 Carlow County Council's investment in the arts was **€852,269**.

Carlow County Council continues to invest significantly across a number of key strategic areas that include venues such as VISUAL, we invest in our artists and communities through

professional development, bursaries, grants, advice and support and through key strategic youth arts initiatives such as Music Generation Carlow and County Carlow Youth Theatre. Additionally the Arts Office supported a number of highlight initiatives such as leading and coordinating Culture Night and were also centrally involved in the important centenary celebrations as part of Carlow County Councils programme of art commissions during 2016.

Alongside the Local Enterprise Office Carlow County Council Arts Office continues to invest in Festivals such as Carlow Arts Festival, Pan Celtic International Festival, The Festival of Writing and Ideas at Borris, County Carlow and a number of other countywide cultural festivals who continue to showcase the very best in Irish and International artists and attract significant cultural tourists to the county.

1916 – 2016 Commemorations and Celebrations **Bagenalstown Commission**



In April 2016 the unveiling in Bagenalstown through the Muinebheag Municipal District 1916 memorial to commemorate Fr. Bibby and Nurse Kehoe took place. The event was well attended and included a procession from Market Square, Bagenalstown led by Carlow Pipe Band and an unveiling ceremony at the memorial site with guest speaker Dr. Maurice Manning. The Arts Office managed the process of commissioning Carlow Stone, Ballon.

Stained Glass Commission

Carlow County Council Arts Office managed the commissioning process of a stained glass mural for the 1916 commemorations that was installed in early May 2016 in the County Museum Carlow town by artist Peadar Lamb. This commission will act as a legacy piece that marks our history while looking to future generations to remember and reflect. The commission depicts the key Carlow figures: Michael O’Hanrahan executed in 1916, a figure of national significance in the uprising. O’Hanrahan is set against the Proclamation which extends over an image of Nurse Margaret Kehoe who lost her life at Easter 1916 while tending the wounded in the Dublin Union (*the first civilian killed*). To her right is Father Albert Bibby OFM CAP, Bagenalstown who ministered to rebel prisoners and their families and Thomas

Traynor from Tullow executed in 1921 is surrounded by his 10 children. In front of Traynor are 15 bullets each representing the 15 executed by firing squad in 1916.

This commission was shortlisted for a Chambers Ireland's Excellence in Local Government Awards 2016 under the category Centenaries and Commemorations and during Heritage Week of August 2016 Peadar Lamb was in conversation at a public event in Carlow with Ireland's leading Art Historian and Curator Catherine Marshall organised through the Carlow County Council Arts Office.



Unveiling of the stained glass commission in County Carlow Museum May 2016, by artist Peadar Lamb (Central figure bottom of stairs), along with Cathaoirleach Cllr John Murphy, Mayor of Carlow Municipal District Cllr Fintan Phelan staff of Carlow County Council, Board

and staff of County Carlow Museum and curator and leading Irish art historian Catherine Marshall.

Stories of 1916. 'The Seeds Were Well Planted' .



Commissioned through the County Council Arts Office this 1916 project was by artist Michael Fortune and was researched locally during the Centenary year and culminated in the final event that take place as a Concert, Seminar, Tour and Screening in Rathanna Hall, Rathanna, Co. Carlow on **31st of December 2016**. The New Years Eve event explored the lead up to and post 1916 Rising from a Carlow perspective and set about commemorating and celebrating the people, stories and songs from that period. The day long event featured public talks, readings, tours and screenings, followed by a concert of traditional music and song featuring singers from The 1916 Song Project and Children of the Revolution.

To view the detailed programme and research please visit www.storiesof1916.com or [facebook.com/1916StoriesfromCarlow](https://www.facebook.com/1916StoriesfromCarlow)

County Carlow Youth Live' Commission as part celebrations



Theatre 'How To of the centenary



A highlight of the County Carlow Youth Theatre calendar was the production of *How To Live* a play developed from conversations and workshops with the young people of Carlow, led by their own ideas and thoughts about trying to figure it all out in contemporary Ireland today. The play was written by Eimear Cheasty (youth theatre leader/tutor) and directed by Liam Halligan respected actor and director. The project was supported by Carlow County Council and The Arts Council of Ireland through the Young Ensembles Scheme and in partnership with VISUAL. The play premiered in September, 2016 and attracted an audience of over 300 people.

Artists and Community Grants

In 2016, The Arts Offices of Carlow County Council awarded a number of artists and community groups The 2003 Arts Act permits a local authority to provide financial assistance for the purposes of stimulating public interest in the arts, promoting the knowledge, appreciation and practices of the arts, or improving standards in the arts. In this act, the expression “the arts” means creative or interpretative expression (traditional or contemporary) in whatever form and includes in particular visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture. These grants are set in two competitions, one for individual artists living in Carlow or who are from Carlow to enable them to pursue their practice and to develop within their chosen discipline.

Total Budget 2016 Artist Grant allocation was €14,000. 17 applications were received with a total fund of €27,862.05 sought. Following assessment by an external panel 12 individual grant applications were awarded to artists from across the County.

The second available grant scheme is under organisations/community groups who wish to undertake an art related activity or project, 16 community organisations and groups received funding in 2016 that included: Aspiro; Barrow Valley Group of Painters; Blackstairs Film Society; Blueprint Artists Network, Borris Vocational School; Carlow College of Music; Carlow Little Theatre Society; Carlow Photographic Society; Carlow Pipe Band; Carlow Writers Co-operative; County Carlow Women’s Network; CRYS, Skits Group; Irish Wheelchair Association; Myshall Muintintir na Tire; Striking Productions; and Presentation School Band. A total of €40,827.50 was sought and a total budget of €22,000 in 2016 was available and awarded.



Carlow Pipe Band, one of the recipients of Arts Acts Grants, 2016

County Carlow Youth Theatre annual programme



County Carlow Youth Theatre is an initiative and managed through Carlow County Council Arts Office since 2000. During 2016 CCYT officially became resident in VISUAL so that young people in the county can access the youth theatre, with full access to the theatre, an office

and the artistic programme. CCYT is a long term youth arts development initiative and affiliated with Carlow Regional Youth Service.

Carlow Youth Theatre started the new year with a full schedule. Workshops took place which included a programme for 11-14 year-olds, and 15-19 year-olds. CCYT is open to all young people throughout the county and welcomes all young people regardless of background and/or experience. Sile Penkert and Eimear Cheaty are the facilitators.



Some members of Carlow Youth Theatre



Music Generation Carlow

The Music Generation Carlow continues to transform music education in Carlow and supports over 5,500 young people who are actively involved in the schools and communities music programme throughout the county **weekly** and they contract 32 musicians to work across the county. **This represents the largest music education partnership in the country.**

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

In early 2016 Ballinabrannagh National School became the first “Music Rich” School in Carlow with the unveiling of the Music Generations “Music Rich” School’s plaque in the school foyer followed by a rousing performance by the schools choir headed by Music Generations Aideen Byrne.

The Mount Leinster Traditional Music Festival in Borris Vocational School was held in February 2016. Groups travelled from all over Ireland, including Carlow, Laois, Wicklow, Sligo, May and Dublin. The festival included two main concerts, workshops and session for young musicians from around the country.

Music Generation Carlow organised its’ first children’s music festival- CURIOSO that took place in March and was sold out. CURIOSO featured 3 events aimed at Early Years age groups (3-5 years) and childcare settings and will take place in Tinryland GAA, Tinryland Parish Hall and Scoil Mhuire gan Smal NS.

Borris Vocational School pupils were involved in the largest Nations Voice commissioned choral works that took place at Colins Barracks Dublin as part of the centenary celebrations on Easter Sunday.

Music Generation has also launched a new initiative entitled Rock School for young people aged between 13-18 years and interested in learning more about song-writing, recording producing, band development and the music industry. This brilliant opportunity with MG Carlow at the Rock School @ The Vault, Burrin Street, Carlow in association with CRY5

During the summer months Music Generation Carlow hosted the Carlow Young Creatives project here in Carlow, facilitated by Wall2Wall Music, and it has certainly been an exciting program. Not only did one of the 5 bands perform their track live on local radio but an official release of all tracks and videos happened online and on social media forums.

Young ambassadors from Carlow perform with U2’s The Edge at the Sistine Chapel

A choir of seven Music Generation Young Ambassadors, including four young singers from Carlow, joined U2 guitarist The Edge in making history as they performed live at the Sistine Chapel, Rome, on Saturday, 30 April as part of a conference on regenerative medicine, *Cellular Horizons*. Abbie Kelly (age 13, Straboe), Cillian Dooley (age 16, Carlow), Katie Brennan (age

14, Pollerton) and Joe Jennings (age 16, Nurney) were joined by young singers from Mayo and Cork City for this momentous occasion – the first ever performance by a contemporary artist at the Vatican. Other Music Generation Carlow events included Recorder Week, Reelig Auditions, and 7 Vocal Concerts and also the Gala Concert which took place in May along with the Gala Concerts that allowed participants to showcase their talents over two magical nights of performance from young musical ambassadors throughout County Carlow.

Sing Carlow - Encore Vocal Performances!

A week long event for schools involved in the Music Generation Carlow Vocal programme. 1200 children from around Co. Carlow participated in this event that ran in May 2016.



Culture Night Carlow

Culture Night Carlow took place in September 2016. Led by Carlow County Council Arts Office, Culture Night Carlow hosted a Cultural Trail of highly accessible, free of charge, family friendly events devised by local artists, music and cultural groups, communities, public spaces, and clubs. The premise behind Culture Night is to offer people the opportunity to sample forms of culture they may not normally make time for. It is also a reminder of what we have all around us, often on our doorsteps, every day and night of the year.

Fourteen events were programmed for Culture Night Carlow 2016, which attracted 860 visitors to the eight venues involved including Carlow Library and County Museum, St. Patrick's College Carlow, Carlow Arts Festival, VISUAL, IT Carlow, Carlow Gymnastics Club and the Old Town Hall.

Culture Night is an annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the Arts. On Culture Night, arts and cultural organisations and venues of all shapes and sizes including the National Cultural Institutions, extend their opening hours to allow for increased access to the public. Special and unique events and workshops are specifically programmed at participating locations and everything is available free of charge.



The Dresser Project by artist Michael Fortune

As part of the Bealtaine Festival in May 2016, this project managed through the arts office, clearly captured the interest of the community. Initially, the work involved the counties of Carlow, Mayo, Waterford and Tipperary. Michael travelled each county documenting Irish Dressers through a combination of photography, film and story. A public call was put out in 2016 across the county. The artist visited a series of homes around the Tullow area of the county and discovered a style of dresser which seems to have been made in the town during the late 1920's. One particular dresser, from Carmel Brennan, was made by her late father in 1929 and features a blessing which reads, God Bless Our Home. Carmel told Michael "how the dresser is a family heirloom and how it plays a central role in the lives of her relatives and friends". The dresser, which was brought "home by ass and cart from Tullow", a distance of 4 miles, has remained in the house since. (see below). Over 10 dressers from county Carlow were presented as an event and exhibition in County Library Headquarters, Carlow.



For further information is also available at www.thedresserproject.ie





Framework for Collaboration a new partnership initiative between Local Authorities and The Arts Council of Ireland

In 2016 the Arts Council of Ireland invited local authorities to apply for a new scheme Invitation to Collaborate award. Nationally 19 applications were received by Arts Officers and Carlow County Council Arts Office was one of just 6 local authorities to secure €71,000 funding for a specific project centered in the Tullow Road area of Carlow. (Maximum awards available were €75,000 and Carlow received the highest award).

In September 2016, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr John Murphy along staff of the Arts Office and Community Section of Carlow County Council along with staff of Carlow County Development Partnership and Community Reps from the Tullow Road area and the Director of Take a Part UK went to the Arts Council of Ireland, in Dublin for the official announcement of the project idea **Take A Part Carlow** by Minister for Arts Heather Humphreys TD.



Take a Part Carlow, is a project initiated by the Arts Office to break down barriers of what art is and how it can act as a tool to transform local communities, creating opportunities for social exchanges, participation, access and involvement in decisions relating to their direct locale. Take a Part Carlow will over 18 months engage directly with Young and Older People in the Tullow Road area through agencies working there including Carlow Regional Youth Services and Carlow County Development Partnership.

Through work on the ground in late 2016 a local area Arts Action Group was formed to work specifically on this project made up primarily of community representatives, and local agencies. The aim of this group is to oversee the commissioning process of four key art commissions in this local area that are participatory and socially engaging.

Carlow Writer in Residence Programme



In 2016 Carlow County Council Arts Office in partnership with County Carlow Library Services initiated and supported this new Writer in Residence Programme. Following an open call writer John MacKenna successfully was awarded third multi annual residency. This initiative is free and open to all emerging writers across County Carlow who are interested in writing or interested in the idea of beginning to tell their stories.

In 2016 a series of workshops in Carlow, Bagenalstown, Borris and Tullow libraries took place. Throughout 2016 writers met on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays and three groups of up to 50 local people were established. The writers group in 2016 held public readings as a fringe event during Carlow Arts Festival - in June and participated in Penfest in September in Carlow Library, along with a number of other readings. Throughout 2016 each participating author was closing mentored by John MacKenna.

Artlinks

ArtLinks is a partnership of the four Local Authority Arts Offices in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford . It is supported by the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon. ArtLinks provides professional development opportunities and supports for established and emerging artists who are resident in the four partner local authority areas in the South East region. In 2016 14 local artists were supported and mentored across the county that included Enda Bowe, Rennie Beunting, Janice de Broithe, Joe Campbell, Deirdre Parkes, Caroline Cunningham, Gillian Daly, Pure Thinking Group, Municipal District of Carlow and Nuala Dalton, Orla Ryan, Emma Martin, Liam O’Neill, Helen Robbins, Angela Keogh, Municipal District of Bagenalstown.

Carlow Arts Festival in Partnership with Carlow County Council

Site Works

In the Local Arts Development Plan a key objective is to increase opportunities for artists and communities to participate in the Arts as well as increasing commissioning opportunities for artists.

Site Works is a new initiative between Carlow Arts Festival and Carlow County Council Arts Office that sees temporary site specific commissions in Carlow during the festival in June.

<http://carlowartsfestival.com/siteworks>

In 2016 three commissions were awarded to artists Steven Maher who presented Follow me up to Carlow at Carlow Castle, a temporary kinetic sculpture with a tractor and bag pipes! Angela Fulcher’s ‘Banner’ sited in the grounds of the hidden gardens of Carlow College and Lottering Theatre, who presented a temporary site specific work at the Carlow Browneshill Dolmen Truffauts Code, inspired by the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

VISUAL

In 2016 Carlow County Council invested €585,000 in VISUAL and continues to prioritise VISUAL Carlow as a significant cultural asset to Carlow and the region. VISUAL continues to nurture artistic excellence through its many programmes across both gallery and theatre spaces. VISUAL work in partnership with a wide sector including education, business, tourism

and champions its role in place making and shaping. VISUAL is a significant cultural hub within the southeast region. As well as showcasing artists of local, national and international significance. In 2016 VISUAL continued to grow its audience figures, began the process of strategic development with a view to publishing their first strategic plan in 2017 and developed an Engagement Policy which provides a framework for access and participation to VISUAL across a multitude of diverse audiences with the emphasis being on local engagement with communities of interest and place.

In 2016, visitor numbers to VISUAL have continued to rise. Gallery audience figures have increased by 7% on 2015. Corporate rental attendance added an additional 1675 to the 2016 theatre attendance figures, bringing the total theatre attendance to **28237**. When added to gallery visitors, this brings the total visitor numbers to **65,757** in 2016.

VISUAL continues to make a significant impact to the local economy, with the majority of funding received from the Local Authority remaining within the local economy via locally-sourced services, supplies and wages. In addition to this, Lennon's Restaurant provides employment for approximately 18 staff, also sourcing many supplies and services locally. Visiting performers, crews, artists, technicians and stage hands required an estimated 350 bed nights in Carlow throughout the year. VISUAL attracted an audience of almost 66,000 people in 2016, resulting in additional spend on goods, services and accommodation in the area.

Within our galleries audience survey, 41% of visitors were from Carlow town and county, 45% were from the rest of Leinster, 3% were from the rest of Ireland and 11% from overseas. Of those gallery visitors surveyed, 20% were staying overnight in Carlow, again generating additional spend.

For further information please see www.visualcarlow.ie





One of the many activities engaging participation in VISUAL in 2016.

Carlow County Library Service

Annual Report

2016



Leabharlann
Chontae Ceatharlach
Carlow County Library

What's new?



Free Membership



Business
&
Employment
Support



National Online Services

National Literacy
Pilot Projects
Right to Read



Writer in Residence

Introduction:

Carlow County Council Library Service is an essential place where people of all ages gather to freely pursue knowledge, information and enjoyment of life. Libraries in Carlow provide a popular and heavily used service for everyone, allowing unbiased and unparalleled access to knowledge, information, creativity and culture. Carlow County Library Service experienced high demand for services again in 2016.

Carlow County Library Service operates four branch libraries in the communities of Carlow Town, Borris, Tullow and Muinebheag. Opening hours for 2016 remained at 124 per week which include late nights and Saturday openings. The branch libraries are supported by the administrative functions of library headquarters from where the local studies and genealogy service also operates. The Local Studies service is open to the public for 35 hours per week. A dedicated Genealogist is available by appointment two days a week, a partnership agreement with the Irish Family History Foundation.

Carlow Library Service works collaboratively with a range of local and national organizations which allows the library to promote itself as a valuable community space actively engaging with the community. In 2016, the library service continued this collaborative approach to service delivery to ensure the library is viewed as a social and versatile space for everyone.

The Library Collection:

The Library Collection currently stands at over 170,000 items. Annual regular investment ensures the collection is current and relevant to user needs. 189,668 items were issued in 2016 reflecting how well the collection is used.

Investment in specialised collections are of great benefit to many people and allow the service to target certain segments of the population and encourage increased library usage. 2016 saw further investment in the *Work Matters* and *Mind Matters* collections as well as a dedicated stock purchase of Irish published material. Grant funding of €3,350.32 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government enabled the purchase a collection of books about the Easter Rising in 1916 as well as an Irish Life and Lore audio *Heritage Collection*.



Carlow County Library Service

Statistics Summary | **2016**

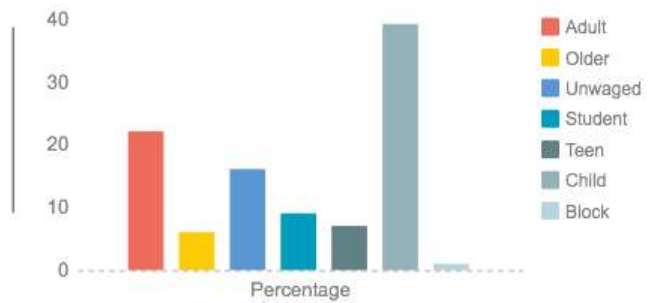
Membership

Total Membership:

13,829

28% increase on 2015

Membership



Visits & Loans



190,219 visits to our libraries

Carlow -	129,412
Tullow -	34,636
Muinebheag -	20,841
Borris -	4,779

189,668
Items Borrowed:

Events and Programming:

Annual Library and Literary Events:

- Harry Potter Day in February saw five events with 198 children and teens participating county wide.
- Hennessy Award winner Simon Lewis launched his debut collection of poetry *Jewtown* in Carlow Central Library on Friday night, May 27th.
- The Summer Stars Reading Challenge was held on a national level in 2016 with all libraries in the country participating. This year 872 children from around the county participated and over 17,000 children's books were borrowed over July and August.
- A series of craft workshops for children with Carmel Flahavan were held in Carlow Central Library during July with 46 participants over three days.
- Pen Fest '16 was held again in Carlow Central Library over weekend 9th-11th September. The creative writing festival aimed at beginners celebrated its sixth year in existence and a full programme for adults, young people and children. The weekend was launched with a special reading of work by the group of new writers who have been working since February with Writer in Residence, John MacKenna and preceded a weekend of workshops by acclaimed writers and facilitators Anthony Glavin, John MacKenna, Dave Lordan, Pauric Brennan and Caroline Busher. In total over 120 new writers took part in the festival all free of charge.
- A coffee morning was held in Tullow Library on Tuesday, October 18th and €460 was raised in aid of the Tullow Day Care Centre.
- The annual Christmas Carol Service was held in Tullow Library on Wednesday evening, December 14th with circa 60 attendees.



Regular Events throughout the year included:

- Children's story time was held on each Saturday morning of the month in Carlow Central Library.
- Writer in Residence Programme with John MacKenna in partnership with Carlow Arts Office continued with three separate groups of new writers throughout the year.
- The regular Popcorn Movie Club in Muinebheag and Borris libraries.

Participation in National and County events included:

- Events were held as part of the National Aontas Adult Learner's Festival during the last week of February.

- As part of Heritage Week 2016, Carlow Library Service held the following events:

- An Exhibition of Photography chronicling the History of the Fire Service in County Carlow in the Central, Tullow and Muine Bheag Libraries with a special lecture on the history of our Fire Service by Paul Curran on Tuesday, August 22nd.
- Old Streets of Carlow Exhibition by Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society was hosted in the GB Shaw Room, Carlow Central Library.
- A historical lecture on Tuesday, August 22nd in Muine Bheag Library by Martin Nevin entitled: *Walt Disney – The Carlow Connection*.
- A historical lecture on Wednesday, August 23rd in Tullow Library by John Murphy about Tullow Castle.
- A historical lecture on Thursday, August 24th by Paul McDonald entitled: *The Cold War between East and West 1945-1990*
- Three workshops with Genealogist, Bernie Walsh were held on tracing your family tree using free resources available on the Internet.



- Carlow Library Service took part in Culture Night this year with a special reading of work from the Banshee Writing Group. An exhibition of photography by Jarlath Judge, Carlow in Focus was open until 9pm on Culture Night and continued on display in the George Bernard Shaw Room for the following week.

- The Summer Stars Reading Challenge celebration night was held in the Seven Oaks hotel on Thursday, September 29th. This year 872 children from around the county participated and over 17,000 children's books were borrowed over July and August. All children were presented with a certificate of participation and a medal on the night. Niall de Búrca entertained the children on the night with three different sessions to accommodate the numbers attending.



- Children's Book Festival 2016 ran throughout the month of October and several events were held for Primary School children including author visits, the Popcorn Club, craft sessions and Storytime.
- A range of events supporting positive mental health were held across the library branch network as part of Mensana 2016 during week 10th-15th October.
- Carlow County Library Service participated in the national initiative Library Ireland Week 2016: empowering through online access during the last week of

November/first week of December spreading the word online of the services and value of public libraries online in today's Ireland.

1916 – 2016:

- 1916 Commemoration - Carlow County Library's exhibition reflecting the social, economic and cultural life of ordinary Carlow people, A Snapshot in Time was held in the George Bernard Shaw Room, Carlow Central Library for the first two weeks of September. The exhibition was officially launched by Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, John Murphy and Mayor of Carlow & Chair of the 1916 Committee, Cllr. Fintan Phelan on Wednesday, September 7th. Special guest speaker Imelda Byrne gave insight into the type and cost of food in 1916 comparable with the Ireland of today.
- *A Poem for Ireland* competition Library the 1916 celebrated ceremony Friday, May
- Fr. Albert Bibby Lecture by Myles Kavanagh in Muinebheag Library as part of County Carlow 1916 Commemoration.
- A 1916 Special Song & Story night with The Carlow Storytellers as part of the Pan Celtic Festival.



in partnership with the Development Unit as part of commemoration was with the national awards held in Dublin Castle on 6th. The Carlow finalist Lucy Ni Duighinn from Gaelcholáiste Ceatharlach came in 3rd place overall.

Collaborative events:

- Bishop Foley and Green Rd. National Schools participating in the Faraway Friends Literacy initiative with school links made in California, USA.
- International Women's Day full day of free events in Carlow Central Library in partnership with Carlow Women's Network.
- Filming of *Live from the Library* started in the last week of March with Young Irish Filmmaker's guiding the teenagers from Carlow Regional Youth Services in filming and editing technique in Carlow Central Library and The Vault.
- Spring Clean Your Life campaign in partnership with Carlow Mental Health Association. Series of workshops focused on healthy mind, body and spirit throughout the month of April.
- The Dresser Project launch and exhibition in partnership with the Arts Office. The project and exhibition were officially launched by Cathaoirleach Charlie Murphy on May 18th followed by a talk by artist Michael Fortune.

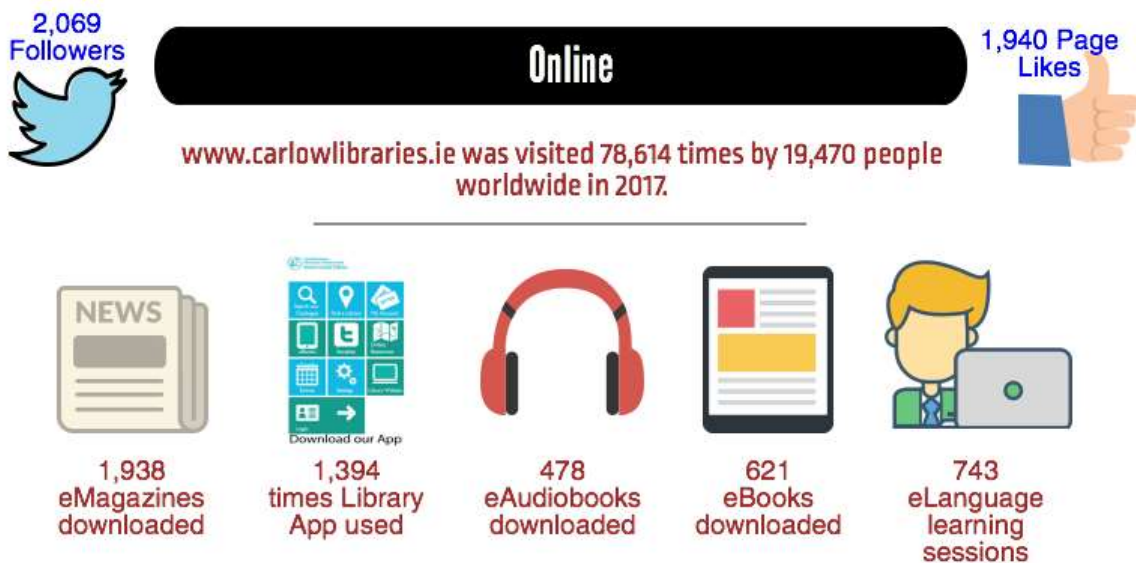
- Carlow Library staff got involved in the Hello Carlow Day on May 26th in partnership with Carlow Mental Health Association.
 - The Bealtaine Festival, celebrating creativity in older age ran for the month of May. A range of events happened across the library network.
 - On June 10th, The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D. visited Carlow Library to officially open the FORM - 'design made in Carlow - Craft Exhibition, launch their new directory and brochure, and to meet with local entrepreneurs and employers. The FORM launch and exhibition was a partnership between The Local Enterprise Office and Carlow Library Service.
- 
- A one day energy information event organised by the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency in partnership with Carlow County Library and Carlow County Council took place on Tuesday 28th June 2016 in Carlow Central Library. The aim of the day was to raise awareness of energy for home, school, work and business showing how small changes can make a big change to your pocket. This event was part of the EU project called Data4Action.
 - Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal, Damien English visited Carlow Central Library as part of his official trip to Carlow to meet with Pat Deering TD and Carlow County Council officials. The Minister took part in the Energy Awareness Day being held on June 26th.
- 
- A Christmas Miscellany with the Writer in Residence Group was held in Carlow Central Library on Thursday night, December 8th. The group read a selection of prose, poetry and drama to an audience of 50.
 - The annual Christmas Party for the children of County Council staff was held in Carlow Central Library on Sunday, December 11th with Santy arriving by Fire Engine and lots of fun.
 - Carlow Libraries in conjunction with VISUAL launched a new reading group in November. Facilitated in VISUAL the theme of the book group is conflict and will relate to current exhibitions in the centre.
 - Carlow Jobs Club visit the library each week for a tour & inductions to the library service
 - The Library Link service in partnership with CCDP Care and Repair Service.
 - Mobile phone training for older people in partnership with Vodafone Carlow.
 - Live from the Library project continued in earnest in partnership with Carlow Regional Youth Services.
 - Borris Library once again participated in the annual Borris Film Festival with a special screening of Happy Feet, the movie on Saturday, November 26th.

George Bernard Shaw Room Exhibitions:

- During April an art exhibition by local artist Anne Deere was held.
- The first FORM exhibition was held in Carlow Central Library as part of Carlow Arts Festival in June.
- Also as part of Carlow Arts Festival, an exhibition of work by three local artists, Pat Grassick, Lorraine Heydon and Mary Clare Nolan. 'A Passion Shared' was held in Carlow Central Library in a new space dedicated to showcasing the work of local talent.
- An Art Exhibition by Olaniyan Oladimeji was held in the GB Shaw Room in Carlow Central Library for the last week of July and the first week of August.
- Local artist Lorraine Fenlon held an exhibition of her work entitled A Brush with Summer in the GB Shaw Room for the first week of July and included an exhibition of her work with children within Carlow Library.
- An exhibition of work by local artist Caroline Cunningham entitled The Sacred Life of Trees was held in the Shaw Room during the third week of November.
- FORM, Carlow's craft cluster group exhibited their work in Carlow Central Library in the lead up to Christmas. The exhibition opened from 13th December to 23rd December and aimed to show the people of Carlow the magnificent craftsmanship that is coming from the County.
- An exhibition of work by local artists Pat Grassick, Lorraine Hayden and Mary Clare Nolan entitled *New Chapters* commenced in the Shaw Room on November 29th and ran until December 5th

Information technology:

ICT and online services are an integral part of library services. The library website www.carlowlibraries.ie acts as a digital service point which can be accessed outside opening hours. This fifth branch gives library members access to ebooks, emagazines, language learning, courses, encyclopaedia and



library collection catalogue. From August 1st library members have been able to read online and download E-Comics and E-graphic Novels. The collection features 7,000 titles, unlimited borrowing, offline reading, parental controls and great selection of children's titles.

Computer and WiFi access saw no fall off in demand in 2016 with almost 43,000 public access computer sessions and almost 7,000 WiFi connections throughout the year.

National Library Management System:

As part of a national initiative, Carlow Library Service will adopt a new Library Management System, Sierra in early 2017. Work in preparation for the new system began in earnest in late summer with an anticipated Go Live date at

Computer & Internet Access



6,765
WiFi
Sessions



the end of February. Free library membership was introduced at the beginning of 2016 in line with national policy and fines were increased to 5cent per day as was the quota of items each member can borrow from 6-12 to support the new LMS. For library members, this will mean they can use any library in the country with their Carlow Library card and have access to 18 million books in the national catalogue on www.librariesireland.ie

Other developments in information technology include an upgrade of the technological infrastructure in Muinebheag Library to support the introduction of My Open Library, a new service model proposed by the Department and the Local Government Management Agency. Grant funding of 75% and circa €30,000 was received from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government to facilitate upgrades to RFID self-service, CCTV,

loudspeaker system and building access. It is anticipated My Open Library service will commence some time in 2017.

The use of Social Media as a method of promotion of library services and communication with the people and organisations of County Carlow increased again in 2016 with users of Facebook reaching 1,940 and followers on Twitter reaching 2,069 by year end.

County Archive, Local Studies and Genealogy:

There were 1,406 visitors to the Local Studies Department during 2016. This was an increase of over 31% on the 2015 figure. A wide variety of queries and microfilm consultation were recorded. The Local Studies Department facilitated groups and researchers from a variety of organisations including primary, second level and third level students.

The policy of collecting all publications of local or Carlow interest was continued. Additions to Journals during 2016 included Carloviana, Knockbeg Journal and the Ballon-Rathoe Chronicle.

Local History and Archives Online:

With the imminent introduction of the new Library Management System, Sierra the Carlow Local Studies catalogue required preservation. The library service invested in an additional Local History database and catalogue in 2016. This will give access to the full local studies collection and allow increased user participation and communication with the library service worldwide. This service will be launched in 2017.

The preservation and dissemination of valuable local studies and archival material is priority for the library service. Omeka Carlow was developed in 2016 to highlight and make available some of the rich photographic collections held by the County Local History and Archive. The website will be made available in early 2017 through www.carlowlibraries.ie.

Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society digitised the entire catalogue of annual Carloviana journal in 2016 and donated a digital copy to the Library



Service. This valuable resource is fully searchable and available for consultation in the Local Studies and Archives Department.

Genealogy Service:

Carlow Library has been providing a Genealogy service within the Local History department of the Carlow Library Headquarters, since February 2015. This service has proven to be a great success with Family History question and answer talks during Bealtaine 2016, Start with Yourself lectures, each Monday in June 2016 and Genealogy Talks for Heritage Week during August 2016, drawing a lot of visitors to Local Studies. Local researchers or diaspora can either visit the Genealogist, by appointment and get assistance with researching their family tree or use the email service. There have been many tears shed, by clients, who after many years of their own research, have found their long-lost ancestors, by utilising this service. The Genealogy resource attracts people worldwide, making their visit to Carlow an emotional and worthwhile journey and some people have made great connections in Carlow. A high percentage of callers to the local studies have queries of a genealogical nature.

One visitor in 2016 was journalist, film maker and author Nic Dunlop, descendent of the Browne Clayton family who visited Carlow and our Local Studies for research purposes with a view to forming a lasting relationship with the Library Service.



Staff Developments:

- County Librarian, Josephine Coyne departed from Carlow County Council and returned to the library service in Kilkenny in January after four years with Carlow Library Service.
- Jannette O'Brien departed from the library service to take up the position of Environmental Awareness Officer at the end of August.
- Interviews were held over two days (October 27th & 28th) for the permanent filling of an Executive Librarian (Grade 6) post.
- John Patton was transferred temporarily to Carlow Central Library as Acting Librarian, Grade 5.
- Margaret Byrne was transferred temporarily to Tullow Library as Acting Senior Library Assistant, Grade 4.
- Ciara Cross Lunney joined the Library Service on a temporary contract as Library Assistant in Carlow Central Library from September to December.

- Sylvia Madyda joined the Library Service on a temporary contract as Library Assistant in Carlow Central Library in December.
- Fiona Foskin, Executive Librarian went on Maternity Leave in December.

Staff Training and Development:

- February 2016 - All frontline staff were trained on Dealing with Violent and Aggression in the Workplace.
- April 2016 - Margaret Byrne, Jean Broderick, Jannette O'Brien, and Monica Murphy attended a Library Staff workshop 'Activities for Children and Reading Development' in the LGMA, Dublin
- April 2016 - John Shortall attended the Library Association of Ireland/Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals(Ireland) Joint Conference and Exhibition in Killarney
- May 2016 - Deirdre Condrón attended 'Digital Resources and Tools for Local History' by McGrath Barrett & Associates
- May 2016 - SafeTALK Training was provided to Library staff by Regional Suicide Resource Office, HSE.
- May 2016 - Training was provided to staff on Agresso Milestone 4
- June 2016 - John Patton and Clodagh Kinsella attended 'Library Success Stories' hosted by the Youth Library Group in Ballyfermot Library

- June 2016 – Jannette O’Brien and Deirdre Condron attended ‘Mind your Mental Health’ Workshop hosted by Carlow Mental Health Association



- October 2016 - Acting County Librarian, John Shortall attended a two day autumn seminar for City & County Librarian’s in Tallaght
- November 2016 – Fiona O’Toole, Margaret Byrne and Jonathan Dunne attended the Library Association of Ireland annual conference in Faithlegg House, Waterford. John Shortall detailed the project Live from the Library in a presentation to conference attendees.
- November 2016 – Basic Circulation training on the new Library Management System, Sierra was provided to four staff in Pearse Street Library, Dublin
- December 2016 - Fiona Foskin attended a two training course on the new Library Management System, Sierra covering the areas of Systems Administration and Cataloguing
- December 2016 – Five staff members attended a ‘My Open Library Information Day’ in Tullamore which included a tour of My Open Library service in Tullamore Library

Next Year:

My Open Library

National Book Tender

National LMS

Deaf Community

Archives & Digitisation

Collection Development

Sharing OF Services & Resources

FUTURE



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Information Technology

Carlow County Council is committed to developing and advancing information systems to increase the efficiency and quality of service delivery to our customers. The Council's Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Department manage all information system requirements. 2016 was an extremely busy year in the ICT Department with many infrastructural projects delivered, significant work carried out on IT Security as well as cloud and software innovations.

Infrastructural Projects

Significant upgrade work was completed in key infrastructural areas of the Council's ICT architecture. Seven tenders were received for a replacement datacentre for Carlow County Council in March 2016. The winning tender, a Dell Nutanix Solution, was awarded in early April. Nutanix is hyper converged datacentre infrastructure. It is built using state of the art technology which converges compute, virtualisation and storage into a resilient, software-defined solution with rich machine intelligence. Already many of the world's most advanced enterprise datacentres rely on Nutanix technology to power their mission-critical workloads. Nutanix also contains cloud connect capabilities that will enable native hybrid cloud architectures by seamlessly integrating public cloud services, such as Amazon Web Services (AWS) or Microsoft Azure, with the new Carlow County Council datacentre. This new infrastructure will ensure that Carlow County Council has adequate hardware resources for the next 3 to 5 years. The migration project from the current infrastructure began in early May and continued until November 2016.

Carlow County Council have an extremely complex Wide Area Network (WAN). This network consists of many different elements ranging from Switches, Routers, Wireless Links and Fibre Optic Connections. As a result of this complexity, the network requires constant maintenance, monitoring and upgrading. A large number of new sites were added to the Wide Area Network including:-

- Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant
- Tullow Water Treatment Plant
- Sion Cross Water Treatment Plant
- Bagenalstown Water Treatment Plant
- Raheenleigh Water Treatment Plant
- Borris Water Treatment Plant
- Leighlinbridge Water Treatment Plant
- Ballinkillin Reservoir
- Rathoe Water Treatment Plant
- Mortarstown Water Treatment Plant
- Tullow Reservoir
- Borris Library

Application and Software Services

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

A number of critical business applications received significant updates or were changed to alternatives during 2016. Unit 4 Agresso - Milestone 4, an update to Carlow County Councils Financial Management System, was rolled out successfully by the Finance and ICT Department during 2016. This was a significant update in terms of both Finance and ICT requirements as well as bringing significant change across the organisation. Assistance was also provided in late 2016 to the Library Services Department. This was in preparation for the rollout, in early 2017, of the new national Sierra Library Management System, which again is a significant change.

A new mobile phone app was developed in conjunction with Carlow Tourism in June 2016. This app called "Carlow" was made available as a free download for both Android and IOS. The app provides many tours around Carlow including a Walking Tour of Carlow, the Saints Trails and Garden Tour of Carlow. Each Tour comprises a number of "stops" with text, audio and photos about the stop and in some cases video. The stops are linked to the devices GPS which will help to guide users to the next point on the tour. The app will be used by both tourists and locals alike. The app was launched on Thursday 7th of July in the Seven Oaks Hotel. A new Planning Enforcements system was developed in Dynamics CRM. Carlow County Council is responsible for handling complaints in relation to unauthorised developments in Carlow and these are tracked as enforcements. The enforcement process was maintained over the last 10 years in a Microsoft SQL Server database. This system, while adequate in its day, was no longer providing the necessary functionality required. In order to improve efficiency in the Enforcement process the ICT Department, in conjunction with the Planning Department, undertook the development of a new Enforcements System built on Microsoft Dynamics CRM during October 2016. Microsoft Dynamics CRM is a customer relationship management software package developed by Microsoft. While the product focuses mainly on Sales, Marketing and Service (help desk) sectors its proprietary (.NET based) framework allows customisation to meet almost any requirement. The new system maintains the records in the same way as the older system but also has additional functionality including mapping, automatic letter generation and automatic reminders (within specified time frames) to name but a few. The User Acceptance Testing was completed in October and the system went live in December 2016.

A new Customer Service Portal was completed in Dynamics CRM in 2016. This online portal will be incorporated in <http://carlow.ie> (Carlow County Council website) and will facilitate online public submissions in the future.

National Broadband Plan

The National Broadband Plan (NBP) is a state intervention that will provide high speed broadband to those parts of the country where there is no certainty that the commercial sector will invest. A Broadband Officer has been appointed from within the ICT Department

of Carlow County Council to liaise with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the successful bidder and the Local Authority, to aid in the network deployment in the county. The plan aims to deliver high speed broadband to all citizens and businesses of Ireland with access to speeds of at least 30Mbps. A mapping exercise was undertaken to show areas that were already covered, or would be covered soon, by commercial broadband operators and the parts of the county that will be covered by the National Broadband Plan and this exercise will feed into the procurement process where a bidder(s) will be selected in July 2017.

ICT Security and Monitoring

IT Security is always a huge concern for the ICT Department with a significant amount of time and resources spent on ensuring that our network is protected from threats. This became even more relevant given the proliferation of ICT malware, viruses and ransomware. To this end, the ICT Department spends considerable time and effort implementing, upgrading, monitoring and managing the range of security measures on the network, email platform and devices, including mobile and tablet devices. In 2015 the vast majority of all staff were given ICT security awareness training for work and for the home. A large proportion of the resources in IT are dedicated to providing an extensive range of support services to council staff, Members and the public.

During the month of December major works were carried out on Rossmore to repair damage caused by vandalism to the Council's mast. This vandalism had the potential to cause major disruption to Carlow County Council's WAN. This mast provides connectivity to 13 Offices around the county. The vandalism was spotted immediately due to network checks which were in place and luckily the repair works were carried out in a timely fashion preventing any serious outages.

Cemetery Project

Phase II of this Plotbox project came to an end in December 2016. Over 45 graveyards were surveyed during the project and records, photos and GPS coordinates were attached to each cemetery plot. The success of this project, which received great attention, was as a result of collaboration between the ICT Department, the Finance Department, the Environment Department and Plotbox staff. Other graveyards will be surveyed in the coming years.

National Property Register

The Government's Public Service Reform Plan 2011 sets out the requirement to create a National Property Register. All state bodies, including Local Authorities, are obliged to compile, maintain and update their own property portfolio as this forms the basis of the National Property Register. The Housing and ICT Department of Carlow County Council compiled a list of registered and unregistered properties during 2016 and as a result submitted a number of properties to the PRAI for first time registration. This portfolio formed the basis of a bulk upload of properties to the Office of Public Works as they manage and maintain the National Property Register.

Local Area Plans

The Local Area Plans for Tullow and Bagenalstown were reviewed during 2016. The ICT Department assisted in the production of a large number of digital maps for both Local Area

Plans. The Land Use Zoning maps for Tullow and Bagenalstown area are also used to update the national MyPlan Project. This ensures the public have access to planning data that is accurate and timely.

MOTOR TAXATION

Carlow County Councils Motor Tax Office delivers a high standard of service to members of the public. The collection of Vehicle License Fees remains its primary function. The Motor Taxation Online service is available 24/7 – 365 days per year at www.motortax.ie.

STATISTICAL DATA

Almost 43,000 transactions were completed in the Motor Tax Office in 2016. Over 36,500 tax discs were issued. Total monies collected in 2016 amounted to €6.8 million as follows.

	€ million	%
Private Vehicles	4.7	68.6
Goods Vehicles	1.7	25.8
Miscellaneous	0.5	05.6
Total	6.9	100%

In addition to the above 49,443 transactions to a value of €8,290,241 were processed online.

WATER SAFETY

Funding was provided by the County Council in 2016 to ensure the provision of the Water Safety programme, including the employment of two teams of lifeguards on a daily basis at the very popular bathing areas located on the River Barrow at Bagenalstown and Clashganna Borris. Their two month period of employment commenced on 25th June coincided with the start of a period of favourable weather conditions during which the lifeguarding service completed a rescue and performed risk management interventions which prevented accidental drowning's and potentially hazardous aquatic situations, involving all age groups, developing.

The quays at St. Mullins and Tinnahinch remain a popular centre for fishing, boat berthing and a variety of social and recreational activities. Access to the popular bathing areas is mostly on the riverside/canal towpath. During 2016 Inland Waterways developed a proposal for the development of part or whole of the River Barrow towpath as a cycling lane throughout the county. A planning application for such a proposal is due to be submitted to the local authority in 2017.

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

The Water Safety Development Officers annual conference was held in Kilkenny city in April 2016. Issues discussed at the conference included 'The science of Beach Lifeguarding', 'Waterways and heritage', storage and securing of emergency life saving equipment and the means of raising alarms when such equipment is disturbed.

Efforts to minimise the risk of accidental drowning are by necessity, a team effort. During the year unusual climatic conditions occasionally transformed tranquil rivers in the county into torrents, representing a threat to life and property. It is during such events that the co-ordinated efforts of the Councils area offices, technical and outdoor staff and an appropriately equipped and trained Civil Defence unit are most effective.

The Garda Authorities operate the Riverwatch Scheme in an effort to control the risk of anti-social behavior on or adjacent to the River Barrow in the county and the Councils lifeguarding service cooperates closely with the Gardai in this regard.

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

CIVIL DEFENCE

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

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

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

The new Major Emergency Management Framework document also sets out roles and responsibilities for Civil Defence, such as setting up Welfare Centres, Registration of Casualties, responsibility for casual volunteers and Secondary Line back up to the Primary Emergency Services. The members of Civil Defence are all volunteers with the exception of a part-time Civil Defence Officer employed by Carlow County Council. At present we have over 70 volunteer members ranging from locations such as Carlow town, Muinebheag, Borris and Rathanna. Weekly training on subjects such as First Aid to CPR level, Occupational First aid,(OFA), Emergency first Responders, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Fighting skills, Rescue techniques, Technical rescue, Search Skills, Welfare etc., are taught and practised. On our training schedule at weekends the subjects taught are exercised and the skills resulting from this are pitched against other counties in competition at various venues.

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

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

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

Civil Defence Boat units provides back up assistance to the Fire service and Gardai in River Search and Recovery (RSR) situations. Volunteers are trained in Boating skills, River and land search and recovery techniques for back up situations to Gardai.

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

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

Civil Defence Assisted PRA with flooding at the End of December.

GRANTS

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

- €25,000 towards the purchase of 4WD Toyota Hi-Lux to add to our fleet for severe weather work.
- a special Raft for Flooding at the value of €4,000.00

List of Civil Defence activities in 2016

Date	Activity	Venue
09/01/2016	Operation Transformation Safety and First Aid	Rathwood, Tullow, County Carlow.
19/01/2016	Debrief on Flooding incidents over the New Year period.	River Barrow, Tinnahinch and St. mullims.
24/01/2016	Training for Swiftwater First Responders.	River Barrow, Carlow Town.
31/01/2016	Swiftwater First Responder Course Part 2.	Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.
14/02/2016	Boat Operators Course.	Carlow Town Slip at graiguecullen
21/02/2016	5 Km Walk VEC First Aid and Traffic.	Muinebheag / Leighlinbridge
15/02/2016	Raft Training	Goresbridge /and Bagenstown weir.
28/02/2016	Rope and Casualty operators training Bagenstown Fire Station.	Bagenstown Fire Station
06/03/2016	Recruit Boat Training	County Carlow.
17/03/2016	Stewarding at St. Patrick's Day Parades.	Carlow Town and Myshall, Muinebheag and Leighlinbridge.
27/03/2016	Easter Parade and reading of the proclamation.	Bagenstown ONE plot.
31/03/2016	Boat Certification Course	Dublin
03/04/2016	Duty Cycle Race	Carlow Rugby Club.
09/04/2016	Recruit Boat Training by ISA Ireland	River Barrow

10/04/2016 same 17/04/2016	Unveiling Ceremony at Beecher`s Hill, Bagenalstown	Carlow Cork. For 1916 -2016 Commemoration Ceremony
24/04/2016	Rope Operatories Training Clashganny	Clashganny, Carlow
07/05/2016 08/05/2016 15/05/2016 22/05/2016 29/05/2016 04/06/2016 05/06/2016	Duty Darkness into Light walk Rope Operatory Training Unveiling of Plaque, Commemoration Swiftwater Training Rope operators Course. CFR Course Carlow Regata, Duty Carlow Regata, Duty	Carlow town Clashganny, Carlow. Regent Street, B.town. B.town Slipway Bagenalstown CD. HQ. Carlow Carlow
12/06/2016 14/06/2016 18/06/16 04/07/2016	Dragon Boats Safety Boat Duty Duties for Barges on the River Events Duty fire Works display Stewarding Cancer Charity Walk, Mt Leinster.	Duty on the River Various locations on the River Barrow. Carlow Cathedral grounds. Myshall to Mt. Leinster.
09/07/2016 to 12/07/2016 17/07/2016 31/07/2016 07/08/2016	Bagenalstown festival Boat Training Community Event Carlow Car Vintage Rally	Bagenalstown various locations Fenniscourt Lock / Weir Swim, River Barrow Casualty duties.
15/08/2016	Borris Fair First aid and stewarding.	Borris.
13/08/2016	RSA. Vehicle Inspection Course.	Bagenalstown HQ.
22/08/2016	Dawn Walk Cancer Fund raiser	Mt. leinster.
27/08/2016	Walk for Autism	Casualty Duties.
11/09/2016	Boat Training, Radio Training All Comms. GPS.	River Barrow.
25/09/2016	Leighlinbridge Race. Half Marathan	Casualty duties.
02/10/2016	Credit union Fun Run.	Bagenalstown
09/10/2016	Swiftwater Training	Milford Lock..
16/10/2016 And 23/10/2016	Day and Night search Skills,	Mount Leinster. Forrest area.
06/11/2016	Swift water Flood First Responder Course	Civil Defence HQ.

13/11/2016 27/11/2016	Tetra Radio Training National Radiation Exercise. Search Skills Course 2.	Phoenix Park, Dublin. Counties Laois & Carlow HQ and Mt. Leinster area.
11/12/2015	Mapping and Radio Comms.	Carlow.

Carlow County Museum

‘The Quiet Revolution’, the 70th Anniversary of Rural Electrification’ Exhibition:

On Tuesday August 23rd the Museum officially launched its new temporary exhibition ‘The Quiet Revolution, the 70th Anniversary of Rural Electrification’. The exhibition has been developed in collaboration with the ESB Archive and Heritage section and has been on display since early July. The exhibition forms part of the Carlow Ireland 2016 programme under the theme of ‘Reflecting on the last 100 Years’.

The Rural Electrification Scheme has been described as one of the greatest social and economic developments in twentieth-century Ireland. The first phase of the scheme was implemented between 1946 and 1965, with post development work continuing until the late 1970s. In order to roll out the scheme, Ireland was divided into 792 ‘rural areas’, 17 of which fell under Carlow county boundaries. This exhibition explores the bringing of the light to Carlow, from the first public lighting in 1891, to the implementation of rural electrification in the area (1947–1963). Those who worked on the scheme, including Paddy Dowling, “Carlow Person of the 20th Century”, became known as the ‘Rural Pioneers’. These men and women left a legacy not only to ESB but to the rural communities in which they operated and to the development of Irish society.

Carlow town had been to the fore of electricity generation since the late 19th century when on June 24th 1891 Milford Mills, Co. Carlow began generating electricity for Carlow Town using the power of the River Barrow on whose banks the mill is located. In the early 1890s the English based company Messrs. J. E. H. Gordon & Co. Ltd. entered an agreement with the Carlow Town Commission to supply electricity to Carlow town from the mill, owned by the Alexander Family.



Speaking at the launch Mr. Jerry O’Sullivan Deputy Chief Executive ESB stated “This exhibition sheds light not only on the history of ESB but also on the development of our country. Visitors to the exhibition can review both the story boards and examine the artefacts which cause us to reflect on what was undoubtedly one of the most important collaborative efforts of 20th Century Ireland. The work of the “Rural Pioneers” and all of those who played a role in delivering this great Scheme should not only be something that provides us with a

shared sense of pride but it should also give us the inspiration and belief to face future challenges with confidence.”



At the Rural Electrification Exhibition launch (L to R) Mr. Jerry O’Sullivan Deputy Chief Executive ESB; Cllr. Anne Ahern, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow; Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

As part of Heritage Week 2016 and the same evening as the launch in the Cathedral Parish Centre Brendan Delany, E.S.B. Archive & Heritage Manager delivered a lecture on ‘The Quiet Revolution’ with a focus on Co. Carlow and ESB engineer Paddy Dowling. Both the launch and the lecture were very well attended.

Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme:

Since January 2015 the Museum has been heavily involved in the coordination of the ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme’ with Dermot Mulligan appointed as the Carlow Ireland 2016 Coordinator. By the year end the county hosted over sixty events to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

On Friday 29th January 2016 last Ann Phelan, Minister for State for Rural Economic Development and Social Enterprise, along with Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council and Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Chairperson of the ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee’ launched the ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme’. Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council said at the launch that ‘all the commemorations will individually and collectively mark a key moment in the foundation of this State. 2016 is a time to reflect on the events of Easter 1916, the last one hundred years and to look to the future.’

Cllr. Fintan Phelan speaking as the Chairperson of the ‘Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee’ stated that ‘it is pleasing to see so many communities and organisations around the county undertaking commemorations in their area. These will take the form of opening commemorative gardens, exhibitions, photographic displays, pieces of theatre and plays, unveiling of plaques and art commissions, parades, lectures, art exhibitions, re-enactments, sporting competitions and reading of the Proclamation. I would like to on behalf of the Committee to thank them for their interest and foresight in developing projects to mark such an important year.’

Carlow County Council has commissioned two new pieces of public art, one for each Municipal District. The art commission for the Municipal District of Carlow is in Carlow County Museum. On Thursday 21st July the large ‘1916 Commemorative Stained Glass Mural’ by artist Peadar Lamb was unveiled in the museum. This lasting legacy of the Carlow Ireland 2016 commemorations was commissioned by Carlow County Council through its Public Art Working Group and coordinated through the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee. This innovative and unique contemporary stained glass mural illustrates a Carlow narrative depicting some of the key Carlow figures and the role they played in 1916.



Cork City based artist Peadar Lamb has magnificently crafted a large mural of 2.5 meters wide by 1.5 meters high and is an addition to the six 1930s stained glass windows already in the Museum thanks to the buildings original residents, the Presentation Sisters. Following a recommendation from the Carlow Public Art Working Group a process of engagement with the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee has been on-going, the Committee met with the artist Peadar Lamb at the inception of the commission to share ideas and opinions. Following this the artist researched the period with the assistance of Elaine Callinan of the History Department in Carlow College.

Peadar stated at the opening that “the content of this artwork is a microcosm of what was happening in the whole country during the period of 1916. As an artist, in the process of making this work I have to try to find, what I am going to say and how to represent this Carlow narrative. I don't see historical dates I see things in pictures. I created a legacy piece that compositionally is not just about the past but also for the present and the future”.



At the unveiling of the 1916 Commemorative Stained Glass Mural by artist Peadar Lamb in Carlow County Museum on Thursday July 21st 2016 were Cllr. John Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Cllr.

Fintan Phelan, Mayor of the Municipality of Carlow and the Chairperson of the 'Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee'; Gary Hughes, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum; Members of the Museum Board: Cllr Anne Ahern, Cllr Fergal Browne, Cllr. Walter Lacey, Martin Nevin and Noreen Whelan; Bernie O'Brien, Deputy Chief Executive; Pat Delaney Director of Services, artist Peadar Lamb, Catherine Marshall, art historian; Sinead Dowling and Aileen Nolan, Arts Officers and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator. Photo: Paul Curran, Carlow County Council.

Guest speaker on the night was Catherine Marshall, a leading figure in Art History in Ireland who summarised the importance of stained glass as an artform. She said "it is always really great to see a brand new artwork as the public see it for the first time. Historically as an art form stained glass was the medium used for commemorations.

It is most fitting and the visionary work of Carlow County Council to commission contemporary stained glass artist Peadar Lamb. What strikes me in this artwork is the careful traditional leaded techniques and methods Peadar has applied, all done by hand, like the great cathedral windows across Europe. Like the great stained glass artists like Harry Clark, Peadar Lamb is an exceptional artist and has produced a beautiful artwork for Carlow".

The project was managed through the Arts Office of Carlow County Council in partnership with County Carlow Museum under the direction of the Head of Finance, Information Systems and Culture, working with the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee and members of Carlow County Council. The project is part of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Programme funded

by Carlow County Council with assistance from the Ireland 2016 Office, The Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Department of the Environment Community and Local Government.

The mural is visually impactful on all visitors to the Museum and is now part of the Museum's permanent collection. Two panels, one each in English and Irish have been erected at the top of the stairs to provide the interpretation. A wall mounted television displays a video of Peadar making the piece. A brochure, in English and Irish, is also available.

The panel was short listed in the Chambers Ireland Local Government Awards 2016 Commemoration Category which was announced on Thursday 24th November. The category was won by Dublin City Council with Monaghan County Council receiving the commendation award for this category.



(L to R) Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator; Pat Delaney, Head of Finance, Information Systems and Culture; Cllr. Fintan Phelan, Mayor of the Municipal District of Carlow and Chairperson of the Carlow Ireland 2016 Committee; Mary Kennedy, MC; Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council; Damien English, TD, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Renewal; Peadar Lamb, artist; Sinead Dowling, Arts Officer and Kieran Comerford, Carlow Local Enterprise Office.

On May 1st last the O'Hanrahan GFC hosted their 1916 Commemoration at their grounds on the Dublin Road. This included the presenting of the O'Hanrahan Cup to Gary Hughes, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum. The Cup was originally presented by the O'Hanrahan family to the Club in 1966 as part of the fiftieth anniversary commemorations. On Saturday April 3rd Coiste Chontae Ceatharloch C.L.G held a re-enactment of the 1916 County hurling and football finals. They presented the Museum with four replica jerseys, one for each of the teams who completed along with the sliotar. On Friday May 6th the Carlow Federation of the Irish Country Women's Association (ICA) unveiled their commemorative wall hanging in Carlow College. In December, the Carlow Federation of the ICA formally presented their 1916 Wall Hanging to the Museum. It depicts many of Ireland's Achievements from 1916 up to 2016. Various styles of stitching, quilting and embroidering from the twelve guilds of the Carlow Federation were involved in the making of the commemorative piece.

St. Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg:

On Wednesday 27th January 2016 in the Parish Centre, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin and Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin launched the joint Diocesan pilgrimage to Echternach, Luxembourg which will take place in June 2017. Both Bishops will lead the pilgrimage which will partake in the annual 'Hopping Procession' in honour of St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg. St. Willibrord was trained and ordained in Clonmelsh, Garryhundon, Co. Carlow in the late 7th century. The century's old hopping procession has received UNESCO World Heritage Status. Both Bishops welcome the generous offer from the Parish of Echternach and the St. Willibrord Foundation to present Co. Carlow with a Relic of St Willibrord in 2017. The launch was followed by a lecture by Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator on the historical connection between Co. Carlow and Echternach. The Presentation School Band under the baton of music teacher Edwina Hayden played the hopping tune. This is the tune that pilgrims hop to through the streets of Echternach.



(L to R) Dermot Mulligan, Carlow County Museum; Joe Tully, Tully's Travel; Gary Hughes, Chairperson Board of Carlow County Museum; Bishop Michael Burrows, Bishop of Cashel, Waterford, Lismore, Ferns, Ossory and Leighlin and Bishop Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin; Rev Tom Gordon, Dean of St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin and Cllr. Charlie Murphy, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council.

Both Bishop Nulty and Bishop Burrows with clergy from Carlow Cathedral and St Laserian's Old Leighlin and the staff of Carlow County Museum have met to discuss plans for 2017. The highlights will include a pilgrimage of up to fifty people that will be led by both Bishops to Echternach where they will accept a Relic of St Willibrord for display in Co. Carlow and a special exhibition that will be hosted in Carlow County Museum. Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, School of History, National University Galway, whose research established the connection, is the academic advisor to the project. The pilgrimage bookings will be coordinated through Tully's Travel Agents, Carlow Town.



Executive of the 'Society of St Willibrord of Britain and Ireland' visiting the Museum in May

On Monday the 7th of November last the Feast of St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg and his Co Carlow connection was celebrated in both Carlow Cathedral and St Laserian's Cathedral. This is probably the first time in centuries that his Feast Day has been celebrated in Co. Carlow.

In the morning, all the senior classes in the primary schools within the Cathedral Parish were invited to the Cathedral for a service at 12 noon. That night at 7.00pm an ecumenical service in St Laserian's Cathedral was led by the Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Ossory, Cashel, Ferns, Lismore, Waterford and Leighlin along with the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. This was followed by a lecture by Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Department of History, NUI Galway on Clonmelsh, Willibrord, and Carlow's Contribution to the Anglo-Saxon mission on the continent in the 8th century. A large crowd of up to one hundred and eighty people were in attendance.



The Right Reverend Michael Burrows, Bishop of Leighlin and the Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin leading the service in St Laserian's Cathedral

GAA Congress:

In late February Coiste Chontae Ceatharlach C.L.G hosted the GAA National Congress in Mount Wolseley Hotel in Tullow. Delegates attended from every county across the island as well as from GAA associations abroad. On the first day of the Congress, Friday 26th February Aogán Ó Fearghaíl, President of the GAA unveiled a display case compiled by Carlow County Museum and the Carlow County GAA Board in the hotel lobby. The display case featured several the former county championship trophies including the Haughney and Fr. Lalor Cups which the Coiste Chontae Ceatharlach C.L.G. have previously presented to the Museum. Over the next while this display case will be remounted in the Museum and displayed as part of an enhanced GAA exhibition.



Pictured at the unveiling of the display case by Aogán Ó Fearghaíl, President of the GAA in Mount Wolseley Hotel including Gary Hughes, Chairperson of the Board of Carlow County Museum, Cllr. Charlie Murphy,

Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, Seán Campion, Chairperson of Coiste Chontae Ceatharloch C.L.G and Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator.

‘Lesser Spotted Journeys’, UTV:

On Tuesday 13th and Sunday 18th September UTV and UTV Ireland broadcast a one-hour episode of ‘Lesser Spotted Journeys’ which featured the Leighlinbridge and Bagenalstown areas of the county. In early 2016 the show’s producers contacted the Museum who suggested a number of potential speakers to be interviewed on different aspects of that areas heritage. Dermot Mulligan, Museum Curator was interviewed during the programme along with Martin Nevin in Leighlinbridge; Rev Tom Gordon in St Laserian’s Cathedral; Myles Kavanagh in Bagenalstown; Arthur Keppel on the River Barrow and Louise Doyle in Carlow and Edwina Hayden with the Presentation Band. Westway Film Productions produced the programme which was researched in January with the assistance of the Museum and was recorded over a number of days in February. Link to the UTV Player:

<http://player.utv.ie/programme/lesser-spotted-journeys/492114>

TripAdvisor 2016 ‘Certificate of Excellence 2016’:

The Museum has received a TripAdvisor ‘Certificate of Excellence 2016’. TripAdvisor, claims to be the largest travel site in the world, with more than 60 million members and over 170 million reviews and opinions of hotels, restaurants, attractions and other travel-related businesses. Its reviews are submitted by members of the public and based on these reviews a business receives a rating. This is the first time the Museum has been awarded their ‘Certificate of Excellence’.



International Pan Celtic Festival:

In April Carlow town hosted for the third time the International Pan Celtic Festival. The Museum hosted daily Storytelling Sessions, conducted Museum tours and a Lucinda Sly Walking tour.

‘Is Leor Beirt’ Ciorcal Gaeilge:

The Museum has been hosting the Glór Cheatharlach weekly sessions ‘Is Leoir Beirt’. This has been highly successful and brings in a variety of people on a weekly basis to speak conversational Irish. In early May, Feargal Ó Cuilinn from Glór Na nGael, Dublin presented Glór Cheatharlach with a Bonn Óir (Gold Medal) for Carlow at their weekly Irish conversation circle in the Museum. On Wednesday 12th October the session was broadcast live across the web as part of the ‘Comhrá16’, the annual initiative to keep an Irish language conversation ongoing around the world for 170 hours continuously.

CHAS School Projects:

On Wednesday June 15th the winners of this year’s Carlow Historical and Archaeological Society History Project Competition had their hard work and fantastic research recognised at a prize giving ceremony in Carlow County Museum. The history competition which is now in its tenth year was open to all Fifth and Sixth Class pupils who live or attend school in County Carlow. Scooping the top prize this year was Eoin Cummins from Ballinkillen National

School with his project on Dolmens in County Carlow. In second place was Katie Brooks from Ballon National School with her project on The Adelaide Memorial Church. Joint third place went to Dylan Cass from Ballinkillen National School with The Blackstairs Blitz and Hannah Curry from Ballon National School with her project on the Cranavane Well. The winning competition entries are on display in the Museum.



Bertie Watchorn, President of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society and Jim Shannon, competition judge with the winners of the 2016 Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society's History Project Competition.

Staff:

Alongside the Museum's two full time staff and shared staff member with the Library there is presently two Tus participants, Thomas Doyle and John Riordan. Kelly Mooney, Graduate Employment Scheme is working on Carlow Ireland 2016 and Heritage Week 2016. In December, the Museum organised the 5th annual Museum Volunteer Party, held in the Delta Centre, and it was attended by many of the Museums dedicated volunteers who assist the Museum on an ongoing basis.

Visitor Numbers 2016:

The Museum has recorded 20,929 visitors to the Museum and Tourist Office during 2016. This is the biggest ever annual visitor number recorded for the Museum. This does not include attendance figures at events that the Museum organised or were part of outside the Museum premises.

Seamus Murphy:

Founder member of the Museum and former member of the Museum Board Mr. Seamus Murphy died in September. He was an Honorary Member of the Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society (CHAS), a former President of CHAS, a founder member of the Museum, a member of the Museum Board from 2005 to 2012 and was part of the CHAS delegation who negotiated with the Town Council to take over the operations of the Museum.

Banners and Signage:

The Museum has updated its eight external banners on College Street with five Museum branded banners, two of them in Irish; two Tourist Office banners and a Fáilte Ireland new 'Ireland's Ancient East' branded banner. A new bilingual sign has been added over the front door of the building and improved internal signage to assist visitor flow through the Museum and Tourist Office.

Carlow Chamber Awards:

The Museum was short listed in the annual Carlow Chamber of Commerce awards in the 'Carlow Tourism Award (Attractions and Activities)' category which was held in the Shaw Theatre on Thursday 30th September. Congratulations to the Delta Sensory Gardens who were the winner of this category.

Museum Brochures Translated:

The Museum's main brochure has been translated into four European languages: French, Italian, German and Spanish. The brochure is already available in Irish.



Culture Night:

On Friday 16th September 'Culture Night' was celebrated across the country. Carlow's activities were coordinated through the Carlow Arts Office. The Museum hosted a concert by the Carlow Youth Orchestra conducted by Majella Swan. Twenty-five members of the orchestra performed in the Museum with over fifty people in attendance.



Carlow Youth Orchestra performing in the Museum under the baton of Majella Swan.

LAMN Exhibition:

On Wednesday 30th November last in the National Library of Ireland, Heather Humphries TD, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs launched the Local Authority Museums' Network (LAMN) exhibition '1916, Across the Country' along with the Irish Museums Associations 'Irish Museums Survey 2016'. The LAMN exhibition features all twelve local authority museums with a panel about a person or event from that particular county with a 1916 connection. The Carlow exhibition panel features Nurse Kehoe with a future panel in the Museum on Bridget Connolly.



The LAMN have also launched a short video on the LAMN and the benefits of the local authority museums. Filming for part of this video was undertaken in the Museum with three of the Museum staff featuring: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsmZwPA4CQo>

The UCD Library and Archives - Kevin Barry:

UCD Library and UCD Archives have digitised two collections of material relating to Kevin Barry. The Kevin Barry Papers, held in UCD Archives, contain material associated with his days at Belvedere College, his year as a medical student in UCD, and his brief time in custody at Mountjoy Gaol before execution. The majority of the collection is composed of material gathered after his death by Kathy Barry Maloney, Barry's sister. The papers of the Kevin Barry Memorial Committee, purchased at auction by the UCD Students' Centre and held in UCD Archives, comprise the papers and correspondence of the Kevin Barry Memorial Committee, who were formed to raise funds to create a memorial to Kevin Barry. The memorial was a large stained glass window by the famous Harry Clarke Studios was unveiled in 1935 in Earlsfort Terrace. In recent years it was moved to the new Health Sciences Centre at Belfield campus. Both collections are now publicly available in the UCD Digital library at:

http://www.ucd.ie/library/finding_information/digital/kevinbarry/ and

<http://www.ucd.ie/archives/collections/depositedcollections/items/collectionname.235235.en.html>

A travelling exhibition of four information panels about Kevin Barry and the digital collection is on display in Carlow College, St Patrick's, College Street, Carlow Town since the 25th October to the 28th November. The exhibition was organised in association with Carlow County Museum.

A public lecture on 'Kevin Barry and his world' took place in Cobden Hall in the College on Monday, 28 November from 1.45. The lecture was given by Professor Eunan O'Halpin, Professor of Contemporary Irish History at Trinity College Dublin. He is a grand nephew of Kevin Barry.

The four information panels on display in Carlow College were commissioned to accompany the release of the digital collection and contain a brief biography of Kevin Barry authored by Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter, Professor of Modern Irish History at UCD and a panel about the creation of the memorial stained glass window.