



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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## *PPN Newsletter January 2022 (Part 3)*

### **FUNDING REMINDERS**



#### **Community Activities Fund (CAF) under the Community Enhancement Programme**

*Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites online applications for grants towards running costs, to carry out necessary repairs & improvements to their facilities or to purchase equipment under the Community Activities Fund.*

*Closing date for receipt of online application forms and uploaded supporting documentation is no later than **4pm on Wednesday 16 February 2022.***

*For Online Application Form, Terms & Conditions and Guidelines please see our webpage [LCDC Community Activities Fund](#)*

*Community Groups are advised to familiarise themselves with these well in advance of the closing date and to commence their online application as soon as possible.*



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

### **Community Peatlands initiatives to benefit from €500k scheme**

Community projects on bogs and peatlands all over the country are being encouraged to apply for up to half a million euro in community engagement funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This is a competitive scheme administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with a total fund of €500,000 available in 2022 - the largest allocation of funding to date, and double the allocation of 2021.

The scheme seeks to encourage local peatland communities, local groups, local schools and interested parties to engage in the conservation and revitalisation of raised and blanket bogs, particularly protected bogs, and fens and to promote public engagement with and awareness of our natural heritage and environment.

Applications are now invited for a diverse range of peatland initiatives with a community benefit from events, education programmes, conservation management plans, restoration measures, feasibility studies, public amenity and recreational projects to invasive species and fire control measures. Applicants with an interest in local history and awareness of the importance of peatlands are being encouraged to apply. It is also hoped that schools will apply for funding. Last year, an Offaly School received €20,000 to reinstate a boardwalk on a local raised bog. Further information [here](#)

## Press Release: €1.4m still available through Electric Ireland COVID-19 hardship fund



A €2 million COVID hardship fund is available to help people pay energy bills through a partnership between St Vincent de Paul and MABS - The Money Advice and Budgeting Service.

The fund was set up by Electric Ireland earlier this year to help their customers who were struggling to meet payments for their energy bills. More information [here](#)

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### **Built Heritage Conservation Grants**

For information and the application form for the the Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2022, please visit: <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/library/heritage/funding/built-heritage-investment-scheme/built-heritage-investment-scheme-2022/>

For information on and the application form for the Historic Structures Fund 2022 visit <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/library/heritage/funding/historic-structures-fund/historic-structures-fund-2022/>

We are also taking applications for the Community Heritage Grants Scheme 2022. Visit: <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/heritage/funding/community-monuments-fund/community-monuments-fund-2022/>

### **GLAS Traditional Farm Building Grant Scheme 2022**

The 2022 GLAS traditional farm building grant scheme is OPEN for applications.

**Interested GLAS participants must apply online for this grant scheme at [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie)** We will not provide or accept paper forms.

The closing date for receipt of completed online applications is **5pm Tuesday 22nd February 2022.**

### **Heritage Council Community Heritage Grants Scheme**

The Heritage Council also have their Community Heritage Grants Scheme open. For more information, please visit <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2022>

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## **WEBINARS/WORKSHOPS/TRAINING**

### **Consultation on draft Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment guidelines for transport infrastructure projects**

Following peer and stakeholder reviews, AMS is conducting a Public Consultation on behalf of TII on the new draft guidelines relating to Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA). The Guidance and Standards aim to regulate assessment of the impacts on the Cultural Heritage of projects funded by or carried out under the auspices of TII. These will particularly relate to the production and delivery of Cultural Heritage outputs for:

- Option Selection Reports
- Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR's), and/or
- Environmental Reports (ER's)

The purpose of these Guidances and Standards are to:

- Outline the application of CHIA during the planning, assessment, and design stages for proposed TII Projects.

- Outline the review process of the application and implementation of CHIA to ensure appropriate evaluation and analysis of the baseline (or receiving Cultural Heritage environment) within which a Project is being planned.
- Apply CHIA in a manner that is proportionate to the complexity and scale of a Project and the likely significance of its Cultural Heritage effects.
- Provide consistency to the consideration of CHIA during the planning, selection, design, assessment, and delivery phases of a Project as set out in TII's Project Management Guidelines (PMG), Project Manager's Manuals (PMM) and Project Appraisal Guidelines (PAG).
- Assist proposed Projects to achieve their Cultural Heritage objectives in line with legislative requirements and government policy, including enhancement of the Cultural Heritage environment and experience of the road user where possible.

To participate, please click on this link: [https://www.ams-consultancy.com/tii-public\\_survey/](https://www.ams-consultancy.com/tii-public_survey/)

The survey will be open for thirty days. All submissions must be received by **9am Monday 21st February**.

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## Peatlands Climate Action Scheme - Derraghan Bog

Bord na Móna is a climate solutions company building its renewable energy, recycling and carbon capture operations in the midlands and across Ireland.

In 2021 the company permanently ceased industrial peat production on all their peatlands. In line with Bord na Móna's accelerated decarbonization strategy, and the availability of government funding, the company has committed to ambitious enhanced peatland decommissioning and rehabilitation improvements, initially targeting over 30,000 hectares in over 80 Bord na Móna bogs. Under this Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS), enhanced rehabilitation has commenced on eighteen bogs in 2021 and additional bogs will be rehabilitated in 2022.

The enhanced rehabilitation scheme will deliver benefits across climate action by optimising carbon storage potential within the residual peat, reducing Green House Gas emissions and accelerating the development of carbon sequestration by promoting the development of Sphagnum-rich vegetation, where possible. This will also enrich the State's natural capital, increase eco-system services, strengthen biodiversity, improve water quality and storage attenuation as well as enabling the amenity potential of the peatlands. The measures proposed will set sites on an accelerated trajectory towards the development of a variety of habitats including developing natural peatland, wetland and woodland.

The rehabilitation measures will focus on optimising suitable hydrological conditions (water-levels) across the peatlands to maximise climate action benefits. The key target will be to bring water levels close to the peat surface to re-wet peat and accelerate the development of naturally functioning peatland habitats and the trajectory of sites to become reduced carbon sources and ultimately carbon sinks again.

Bord na Móna propose to carry out rehabilitation measures on **Derraghan Bog** under this scheme.

Bord na Mona's Derraghan Bog in County Longford is located circa 15km south-west of Longford town (Google location: <https://goo.gl/maps/gozzmD1y4uwXBH96> ). A site location map of the bog is attached for information purposes only. Derraghan Bog is part of the Bord na Móna Mountdillon Bog Group and the measures are part of the rehabilitation improvements being undertaken in this Bog Group.

Part of the improvements for bog rehabilitation work at **Derraghan Bog** is to finalise the rehabilitation plan, as required under the EPA licence, for this site. Bord na Móna operates under an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence issued and enforced by the EPA (IPC Ref. P0504-01). As part of Condition 10.2, a rehabilitation plan must be prepared for permanent rehabilitation of the boglands within the licensed area. Part of the process of developing a rehabilitation plan includes consultation with stakeholders and affected parties. This is part of that process.

This scheme is designed to enhance the ecosystem services of Derraghan Bog, in particular, optimising climate action benefits. The proposed interventions will mean that environmental stabilization is achieved (meaning IPC obligations are met) and, in addition, significant other ecosystem service benefits particularly for climate action will

be accrued. Bord na Móna have defined the key goal and outcome of rehabilitation at Derraghan Bog as environmental stabilisation, optimising residual peat re-wetting, and the development of embryonic raised bog on deep peat along with wetlands/Reed Swamp and fen on shallow more alkaline peat and other subsoils.

A Draft Rehabilitation Plan and associated Map Book for Derraghan Bog is now available on our website at the following location: <https://www.bnmpcas.ie/2022bogsrehabilitation/>

Bord na Mona invite you to make a submission or to comment on this Draft Rehabilitation Plan. Please make any such submissions to the email address ([pcasinfo@bnm.ie](mailto:pcasinfo@bnm.ie)) before 18th February 2022.

In addition, please contact us if you have any queries, require further information or wish to discuss the proposed rehabilitation in Derraghan Bog or the PCAS scheme in general.

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## **Local News and Services**

### **Edgeworthstown Library Sensory Hour – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February**

All are welcome to Edgeworthstown Library's Sensory Hour, which will take place on Saturday February 5th from 11am to 12pm.

During this time, the building will be a designated quiet space, and sensory items and toys will be available for Library customers to use.

Sensory Facilities available at Edgeworthstown Library:

📖 Touch and feel books, easy-reads

🧸 Sensory wall

🧩 "Magic" interactive games table

🌿 Sensory garden

🧸 Sensory toys.

Please contact the library if you have any queries or wish to offer feedback on the sensory hour.

You can call us on 043 334 3335 or email

[edgeworthstownlibrary@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:edgeworthstownlibrary@longfordcoco.ie)

[#Longford](#) [#Edgeworthstown](#) [#LibrariesIreland](#) [#Sensory](#)

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### **Growing Tourism in Longford - Share your views**

Click below and have an input into the new County Longford Tourism Strategy. This new strategy will set out the overall vision for tourism in County Longford from 2022 – 2027.

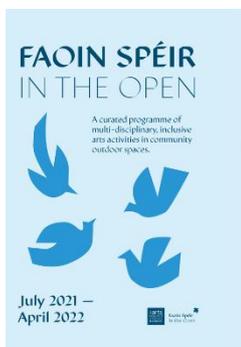
We would like to hear your views and thoughts on County Longford and the opportunities that you think may be possible. Many minds are better than one so we would like you to share and together we will make an excellent strategy to ensure Longford is an excellent Tourism Location.

The strategy will include an ambitious programme of work to be undertaken within the County to build and promote local products and services that appeal to the marketplace.

Download the current County Longford Tourism Strategy [CLICK HERE](#)

<https://www.longford.ie/en/visit/longford-tourism-strategy/longford-tourism-strategy.pdf>

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## Faoin Speir Longford - Seeking Children's Stories and Fairytales from around the world

" Faoin Speir Longfoirt (Open Skies Longford) is a program of public art events in 2021/22, based around Connolly Barracks that is a response to the pandemic. The program is funded by the Arts Council and Longford County Arts Office.

Our final event is an outdoor children's theatre event on Sat 23rd Apr. The play will be based on several famous children's stories / fairytales from around the world, recognising the cultural contributions of the new communities that have made county Longford their home.

The temporary working title of the event is "The Selfish Giant's Garden". The play will be performed by professional actors and directed by Andy Crook.

**We are seeking people from migrant communities living in Longford that will share with us, celebrated children's stories from their country.**

People can contact Shane Crossan on 087-4144082 or email him on [crossan.shane@gmail.com](mailto:crossan.shane@gmail.com) "



Granard Community Library are delighted to announce that we are working with Music Generation Longford and now have Musical Instruments to rent. For more information please call into us or contact us on 043 668 6164 or email [granardlibrary@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:granardlibrary@longfordcoco.ie).

**Childminding - Are you a childminder or thinking of becoming a childminder in your own home?** Longford County Childcare Committee have issued a brochure aimed at offering support to childminders in Longford. Contact LCCC <https://longfordchildcare.ie/> or (043) 3342505

- The **Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027** came into effect on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It is available to view on the internet via the following link [Longford County Development Plan 2021 -2027 - LongfordCoCo](#)
- **Longford County Council leads on rural working hubs [here](#)**
- **Explore new skills with free Skillshare online courses at your nearest Digital Hub (BCP) information [here](#)**
- ***New Courses at a BCP Point in Moydow or Mullinalaghta***  
Register your interest: Christine 087 6450530, Martina 087 7406705, Mary 087 6424316

## **JOB VACANCIES**

Longford County Council are now recruiting for the following position:

- **Fleet Manager**

Closing date for receipt of completed applications will be **4.00pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Full competition details including Application forms and Candidate Information Booklets can be accessed via [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

- **Clerical Officer**

**Expressions of interest** are invited from suitably qualified persons for inclusion on a panel from which both permanent and temporary vacancies may be filled in respect of the position.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications will be **4.00pm Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Full competition details including Application forms and Candidate Information Booklets can be accessed via [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

Longford County Council are now recruiting for the following position:

- **Assistants Arts Officer 3 Year Fixed Term Contract**

Closing date for receipt of completed applications will be **4.00pm Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Full competition details including Application forms and Candidate Information Booklets can be accessed via [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

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**CE Supervisor Vacancy - Dromard Development Association,  
Legga, Moyne, Co. Longford**

The role involves assisting in the recruitment of participants, their daily supervision, administration of accounts and budgets, reporting to sponsor group, working closely with the Board of Directors, and the implementation of individual learning plans for participants.

The key aspect is to maximise opportunities for participants through training & development towards long term employment.

It also involves preparation and presentation of reports, including up-to-date financial reports, to the Board of Directors at regular meetings.

CV, cover letter and copy of third level qualifications must be returned by 7th February 2022 to [teresa@dromarddevelopment.com](mailto:teresa@dromarddevelopment.com)

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**NATIONAL NEWS**

**REMINDER – JUST TRANSITION FUND SURVEY**



The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), in association with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA), launched the [public consultation](#) on the preparation of the EU draft Territorial Just Transition Plan Fund.

The online survey is currently open until midnight on the **14<sup>th</sup> February** and we invite you to complete and share the survey [online survey](#).

This consultation is a key step in the preparation of the EU JTF in Ireland and the conclusions of the survey and the workshops will inform the drafting of the Territorial Just Transition Plan, a document that will be the basis for the implementation of the EU JTF in Ireland.

The EU JTF is a new funding programme from the European Union for the period 2021-2027 that will address the social, economic, employment and environmental impacts of the transition to a carbon-neutral economy.

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Media Release

Friday, 04 February 2022

## Government launches first ever Town Centre First policy

- ***Major new strategy to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres***
- ***Network of Town Regeneration Officers to drive future development***
- ***Unprecedented investment to make our towns better places to live, work and raise a family***
- ***Suite of supports and tools to help businesses and local communities deliver on their unique vision for their area***
- ***New Policy to deliver on the objectives of ‘Housing for All’ and ‘Our Rural Future’***

The Government has today published *Town Centre First* – a major new policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres.

*Town Centre First* contains 33 unique actions which will give our towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, visit and run a business.

The policy is underpinned by multi-billion euro investment spread across major Government schemes such as the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF), the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), Croí Conaithe (Towns) Fund and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

For the first time, designated towns will gain their own dedicated Town Regeneration Officers, who will be crucial to driving future development.

The policy also contains a range of actions designed to achieve key objectives such as social and economic revival in towns, the provision of housing, as well as addressing challenges like vacancy and derelict buildings.

The actions also support the protection of our environment, as well as the heritage and culture of our towns.

*Town Centre First* was launched in Moate today by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, the Minister for Planning and Local Government, Peter Burke TD, and the Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

The policy was launched at Moate library, a former Courthouse building. The formerly derelict building, dating back to 1828, was converted by Westmeath County Council.

The library was officially opened in 2016 and is a vital resource for young and old, bringing people back into the town centre.

*Town Centre First*, which supports the objectives of *Housing for All* and *Our Rural Future*, is a commitment under the Programme for Government.

## **Funding streams that will assist with Town Centre First Plans implementation**

The Town Centre First Policy will help align various new and existing funding streams to support implementation of Town Centre First Plans. A core aim will be to ensure specific Town Centre First funding streams within funding programmes that help implement both the national Town Centre First policy and local plans.

Funds include:

- **Urban Regeneration and Development Fund** - supports urban regeneration/compact urban growth in cities/towns with a population of over 10,000, and enables a greater proportion of residential and mixed used development to be delivered within the existing built-up footprints of our cities and towns and make them more attractive and vibrant places. The fund has already approved €410 million in funding for projects in towns. These projects will be completed over the next few years. A funding call for new projects to local authorities will be made in summer 2022 which will be specifically aimed at Town Centre First Implementation as one of its key objectives
- **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** - supports the regeneration and development of rural towns, villages and outlying areas. The purpose is to support job creation in rural areas, address de-population of rural communities and support improvements in our towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000. The fund has already approved €197 million in funding for projects in towns. These projects will be completed over the next few years. The latest call for applications under the Fund, with a clear focus on revitalising our towns and villages as part of the Town Centre First policy, was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> December.
- Housing for All's forthcoming **Croí Cónaithe (Towns) Fund** – it will be aimed at servicing sites for new homes in regional towns and villages and to support refurbishment of vacant houses. Public infrastructure agencies, such as Irish Water, and local communities will work to provide serviced sites for housing. This will help attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages.
- Investment supports from the forthcoming **European Regional Development Fund 2021-27** programme will be directed to towns in conjunction with the Regional Assemblies. Tackling vacancy and dereliction in towns, in support of the Town Centre First approach, will be a particular emphasis for this future funding scheme which is currently being designed for launch later in 2022.
- The **Active Travel Fund** made allocations of over €289m to approximately 1,200 projects across the 31 local authorities for 2022 – including the provision and improvement of pedestrian and cycle facilities as well as the preparation of local transport research and bespoke transport plans. These funding supports are integrating into the wider regeneration and development plans for towns and their communities.
- **Town and Village Renewal Scheme** – the scheme provides funding of up to €500,000 per project to support the economic and social recovery of rural towns with a population of less than 10,000 people, and focuses on projects that have clear positive impacts on the town in terms of place-making, addressing vacancy, supporting remote working and town centre regeneration. It has also provided specific funding for streetscapes enhancements across 120 towns in 2021. The 2022 Scheme is expected to be opened shortly.
- **Climate adaptation/retrofitting** - The Climate Action and Retrofitting Initiatives sets a target of upgrading 500,000 homes to a Building Energy Rating of B2 / cost optimal equivalent or carbon equivalent by 2030. Local Authorities are funded in undertaking an ambitious programme of insulation retrofitting of the least energy efficient social homes. In 2022, the Energy Efficiency Retrofitting programme will see a significant increase in

funding support to local authorities, from €65 million in 2021 to €85 million, enabling approximately 2,400 homes nationally to be upgraded to a B2 or equivalent standard.

- **Built Heritage** supports such as the Historic Towns Initiative - which funds works to significant historic buildings, streetscape conservation and enhancement in heritage towns (€2m in 2022) and the Historic Structures Fund for works to heritage structures in both public and private ownership ranging from €15,000- €200,000 under various funding streams.

## Case Studies

- The Town Centre First policy document provides case studies of towns that have taken initial steps to regenerate themselves through a range of initiatives of varying scale and focus. Spokespeople for these projects are available upon request. The case studies include:
  - **Ramelton, County Donegal**, which worked with local property owners to conserve the historic built environment, reinforce civic pride, enhance attractiveness and promote the tourism potential of the historic core. One of the projects was the conservation and adaptation of three small houses (one of which was derelict), which were amalgamated to form a single family home. The initiative was funded by the Historic Towns Initiative
  - **Upper Bridge Street, Callan, County Kilkenny**, was chosen as a Town Centre Living Initiative pilot project. A 'health check' of the town informed a Local Area Plan that inspired a series of community/cultural projects. These provided a catalyst for small-scale but impactful regeneration projects. A series of positive developments - including public realm enhancement and residential developments from a previously vacant building - resulted. These interventions showed the impact of cross-community, local authority and non-profit housing sector collaboration.
  - **Boyle, County Roscommon**, was a pilot town for the Town Centre Living Initiative (TCLI) project. The project focused on the historic centre of the town, recognising in particular the need to support the maintenance of historic buildings that are key to creating a sense of place. Arising from a Boyle 2040 Masterplan and the TCLI Project, Boyle received RRDF funding for two projects: the Boyle Regeneration Project and a transformation project focusing on the King House Cultural Quarter.

In 2017, the owner of the former Roscommon Herald offices converted the vacant premises into a remote working hub. Today the building is thriving. Other businesses have opened in the building and many local businesses have benefitted from greater daily footfall in the town centre.
  - **Ennis, County Clare**'s Ennis 2040 Strategy benefited greatly from public consultation. It enabled the plan to reflect the needs of the communities, businesses and all the stakeholders.

Formal structures were established to include elected members of the council, the Ennis Chamber and community and businesses. Benefits from extensive public consultation included ensuring the development of a comprehensive spatial and economic strategy; early identification of trends and emerging challenges; facilitation of ownership of the strategy by all the stakeholder groups and the wider community; a town vision and strategic action plan. Clare County Council are currently undertaking a comprehensive multi-stage regeneration programme for Ennis Town Centre including the utilisation of a total of, circa €7.5 million in URDF funding.
  - **The Abbey Quarter Project, Kilkenny**, is a regeneration project on the site of the former Smithwick's Brewery. The central brownfield site is being transformed

through investment in new buildings and the re-use of old buildings. Underutilised sites are being converted into public spaces, integrating with the city's Medieval Mile. €11 million is being provided through the URDF to fund significant public realm works and community and cultural infrastructure projects

### **Towns selected for funding under the first phase of the Town Centre First Plan Initiative 2021**

- In December, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, announced €2.6 million in funding to deliver the first ever Town Centre First Plans. Twenty-six towns were selected. As part of the initiative, each local authority will be provided with €100,000 to support the development of its own unique Town Centre First Plan. Towns for this first phase were selected based on submissions received from the Local Authorities and further phases will be announced in due course.

<b>County</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Population</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	Tullow	4,673
<b>Cavan</b>	Bailieborough	2,683
<b>Clare</b>	Sixmilebridge	2,669
<b>Cork</b>	Skibbereen	2,778
<b>Donegal</b>	Milford	1,037
<b>Fingal</b>	Lusk	7,022
<b>Galway</b>	Gort	2,994
<b>Kerry</b>	Milltown	2,142
<b>Kildare</b>	Clane	7,280
<b>Kilkenny</b>	Urlingford	1,038
<b>Laois</b>	Rathdowney	1,271

<b>Leitrim</b>	Carrick On Shannon	4,062
<b>Limerick</b>	Abbeyfeale	2,023
<b>Longford</b>	Longford Town	10,008
<b>Louth</b>	Dunleer	1,822
<b>Mayo</b>	Killala	562
<b>Meath</b>	Enfield	3,239
<b>Monaghan</b>	Carrickmacross	5,032
<b>Offaly</b>	Clara	3,336
<b>Roscommon</b>	Strokestown	825
<b>Sligo</b>	Tubbercurry	1,986
<b>Tipperary</b>	Roscrea	5,446
<b>Waterford</b>	Portlaw	1,742
<b>Westmeath</b>	Moate	2,763
<b>Wexford</b>	New Ross	8,040
<b>Wicklow</b>	Blessington	5,520



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

**Ministers Humphreys and McConalogue  
highlight the responsibilities of dog owners  
this lambing season**

- ***Latest figures show 240 incidents of 'Livestock Worrying' recorded by local authorities***

- **Ministers announce start of awareness campaign ahead of upcoming lambing season**

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD, have today reminded dog owners of their responsibilities and the vulnerability of sheep to dog attacks, as lambing season approaches.

The two Ministers said the issue is one of grave concern to the farming community and that attacks on sheep are happening far too often in the rural countryside.

The latest figures compiled by local authorities show that there were 240 incidents of 'Livestock Worrying' in 2020 – with a similar number expected when the 2021 returns are completed.

Dog attacks cause serious injury or even death to sheep and can cause grave distress and financial loss for farm families.

Ministers Humphreys and McConalogue today visited a sheep farm in South West Dublin where they announced the start of an awareness campaign that will run over lambing season.

- The Control of Dogs Acts 1986, as amended, set out a range of requirements for all dog owners or any other person in charge of a dog.
- In particular, section 9 of the 1986 Act outlines specific requirements regarding keeping dogs under effectual control.
- Prosecution under Section 9 of the Act allows for a fine of up to €2,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or both. This is enforced by Local Authorities across the country.
- Separately, Section 21 of the Control of Dogs Act states that the owner of a dog shall be liable for damages associated with an attack by the dog on a person or livestock. This is a civil matter rather than something enforced by Local Authorities.
- Under the Control of Dogs Acts it is an offence for a dog owner to not have a dog licence.
- In total there were 182 prosecutions by Local Authorities in 2019, covering all aspects of the Control of Dogs Act.
- All dogs must also be microchipped and registered on an approved database in accordance with S.I. No. 63/2015 Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015, as introduced by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
- Animal Welfare Helpline:

call save: 0761 064408

phone: 01-607 2379

dedicated email address - [animalwelfare@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:animalwelfare@agriculture.gov.ie)

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**Keep Well Campaign:** Further details on Longford County Council website [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

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## **R.S.V.P. Campaign**

“R.S.V.P. is the new Government campaign that aims to empower people to assess the risk involved in different activities by providing practical information and guidance.

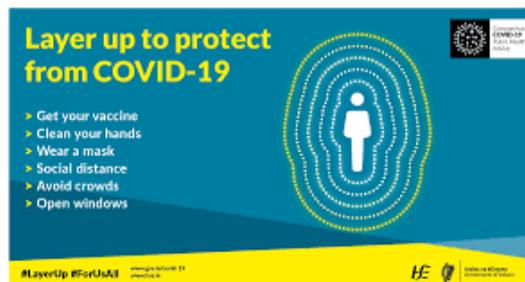
R.S.V.P. encourages people to be risk aware, to think before they meet others, and to ask themselves the right questions about Risk, Symptoms, Venue and People Questions such as:

Risk. What's the risk? Am I vaccinated? Have I received my booster?

Symptoms. Am I currently showing symptoms of COVID-19?

Venue. Are they following the guidelines? Will I be wearing a mask?

People. How many people am I meeting? How many households are coming together?



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The Government has updated the public health advice posters. **Layer Up** is a cross-Government campaign which encourages us to layer up on the behaviours to protect from Covid-19 by getting vaccinated, wearing face masks, washing/sanitising our hands frequently, keeping our distance, meet up outdoors where possible, and ensuring indoor spaces are well ventilated. A series of posters are available free to download at [gov.ie/LayerUp](https://gov.ie/LayerUp).

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