



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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[PPN Newsletter October 2020 \(Part 4\)](#)

Below Summary of Contents – scroll down for further information

[Funding News](#)

Club Development and Volunteer Support Grant Scheme 2020

<https://www.longfordsports.ie/what-we-do/latest-news/club-development-and-volunteer-support-grant-scheme.html>

The Community Foundation of Ireland grants hub further info at

<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants>

Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme 2020-2021

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-community-engagement-scheme-funding-2020-2021>

[LASTEST NEWS](#)

Longford County Council launches ‘Stronger Together - Local Action’ campaign

The Council has released a new video to remind people of the importance of adhering to public health advice, as we work together to address increasing COVID-19 numbers in County Longford.

Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paul Ross said “Unfortunately, COVID- 19 numbers are on the rise in County Longford. Much of this rise is attributed to social activities and sporting events. As we head into Level 5 Restrictions and the winter season, it is vital that we reduce numbers and protect the health of our families, friends and our community. I am asking all the people of Longford to step up to this challenge and I invite you to follow Longford County Council on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Youtube to see our new video and help us fight against the virus. Remember we are stronger together.”

Paddy Mahon, Chief Executive of Longford County Council, said “Longford County Council’s “Stronger Together – Local Action” social media initiative will raise awareness, especially among young people in County Longford. We need to be aware that taking personal responsibility for our actions will help protect our families and our communities. Through tough times, Longford people have always stood together. As a community we rely on each other - “Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine”. Please Stay Safe.”

New video will be available on the following Longford County Council's Social Media platforms and are also in various languages:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LongfordCountyCouncil/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/longfordcoco/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/longfordcoco>

Youtube: <https://bit.ly/2T4yoM6>

Please bring this to the attention of all your members and "Like" and "Share" to get the 'Stronger Together - Local Action' campaign message out to everyone in the community.

Longford County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

The County Development Plan is a statutory document prepared by the Planning Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). This webpage is designed to keep you up-to-date with the process of the preparation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 through each stage until the completion of the Plan. **Current Stage: Stage 3 Draft Plan - Public Consultation**

LCC Link below:

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/planning/preparation-of-longford-cdp-2021-2027/longford-county-development-plan-2021-2027.html>

Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill 2017 - currently before Dáil Éireann, Third Stage.

I would encourage you all to be active citizens and have your voice heard by reading the bill and asking your public representatives to support it. Attached is a template letter that you can email to your TD and local representatives to ensure this piece of legislation is not forgotten.

Sadly I think we all know someone through our work or our personal lives who has fallen victim to online abuse, intimidation, blackmail, domestic abuse and control, racism or other acts of harassment. We currently live in a world where mobile phones and social media play such a big role in our lives that is vital legislation is in place to deter this behaviour and protect from those who misuse/abuse it and threaten our mental and physical wellbeing.

Please bring this email to the attention of all your group members. To learn more about this important piece of legislation that still has not been passed please click on either link below:

This is the [link](#) to the webpage for the 'Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Bill 2017.

This is the [link](#) to the PDF of the bill.

Letter Template attached to this email.

Longford County Library - Decade of Centenaries November 2020

Commemorations that are taking place in November to mark major events in Longford a century ago. The first week of the month is dedicated to remembering the burning of Granard and the Battle of Ballinalee. Also, watch out for our major conference/webinar on Saturday, 14 November. Link below

<https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/library/events/decade-of-centenaries-november-2020.html>

MapAlerter – New Digital Communication Tool

FREE Service for Citizens

Longford County Council recognises the value of providing relevant and timely information to the citizens of Longford and we are delighted to officially launch a free citizen alert system called MapAlerter. The MapAlerter system is a free service for citizens who want to receive important service alerts from LCC by SMS/text message, email, social media. MapAlerter will also issue the alerts through the free smartphone app for Android and iPhone. This service has already been rolled out successfully in 17 other local authorities.

MapAlerter will streamline all alerts relating to LCC service disruptions e.g. road closures, floods, severe weather, water outages, planning and updates on National Broadband Ireland fibre rollout. Citizens can subscribe online to MapAlerter <https://www.mapalerter.ie/signup> or contact LCC at 043 3343508 and we will post out a form for you to complete.

During registration citizens will provide their Eircode or location so that alerts are only sent to affected citizens. You will only ever receive alerts for issues that affect you. The system has the functionality that allows you to register two locations; home and work. So, when LCC issues an alert for a given location MapAlerter checks to see who is affected. If you live within an affected area you will receive an alert from a range of channels such as SMS, Email, Social Media and smartphone app. If you are not within the alert area you won't receive an alert.

Ms. Christine Collins Broadband Officer and Ms. Marguerite Donohoe GIS Officer have worked with the developer of [MapAlerter.com](https://www.mapalerter.com) Mr. Brendan Cunningham to enhance the system further to incorporate National Broadband Ireland alerts in relation to their fibre rollout. This new National Broadband feature is now available to all 17 other local Authorities currently using MapAlerter.

Councillor Paul Ross, Cathaoirleach, Longford County Council has welcomed the introduction of the new communication system stating “MapAlerter will help us communicate better with our citizens. I would encourage all our citizens to register at <https://www.mapalerter.ie/signup>. This is a free service for the citizen that is provided by Longford County Council. This means that there are no registration costs and there are no charges to receive SMS or Emails”.

Longford Sports Partnership Funding and Courses

Longford Sports Partnership are pleased to announce their Club Development and Volunteer Support Grant Scheme for 2020. The aim of Longford Sports Partnership is to increase participation in sport and physical activity among all persons in County Longford. Longford Sports Partnership is looking to support sports and physical activity clubs in the Longford area who are working towards this aim. The deadline for receipt of applications is **5pm Tuesday 17th November 2020**.

For full details visit our website [here](#)

Terms and Conditions are [here](#)

Application Form is [here](#)

A gentle reminder that Safeguarding courses are now online and can be booked [here](#)

We also putting together a schedule of online activities, so keep an eye on our social media at the links below for more information.

A message from the Department of Rural and Community Development

Earlier this year, Pobal prepared a webpage containing guidance on how community and voluntary groups can apply the prevailing public health advice to their own activities. We would like to remind your member groups that this resource remains available and has been updated to reflect the continuance of public health measures:

<https://www.pobal.ie/reopeningyourservice/>

The page contains step-by-step guidance on how community and voluntary groups can prepare to manage any risks associated with their activities and premises (if applicable).

Given the varied nature of community/voluntary activities, each group will need to assess their own needs individually and ensure that their operations are in line with the various levels of measures laid out in the National Framework for living with Covid-19. This framework outlines restrictions that will apply to many of the activities and services offered by community/voluntary groups, e.g. indoor and outdoor events, sports facilities, childcare, cultural venues etc.

Further details of the levels in the framework can be found here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/resilience-recovery-2020-2021-plan-for-living-with-covid-19/> This page contains a link to an at-a-glance graphic guide to the levels as well as links to sub-pages concerning the restrictions and advice relevant to each level. These resources can help your member groups identify which restrictions apply to their own particular activities.

We hope that this information proves useful to you and your member groups, given the role that PPNs continue to play in serving as a key information hub for communities.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 – Third Round of Approved Projects

On 12 October 2020 the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys announced details of the projects that have been approved for funding under the third round of the enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 that supports towns and villages to respond and adapt to COVID-19. This funding will enable towns and villages to implement immediate measures that will encourage people into towns and villages to shop and socialise, while adhering to public health guidelines. The funding is facilitated through the Government’s July Stimulus package. This funding includes 38 large towns with populations in excess of 10,000 which have not previously been funded through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and we are delighted that Longford town has been awarded €40,000 as part of this funding.

Longford County Council Regeneration department are happy to announce that a total of €116,790 has been awarded to the county under round three of the Scheme for the following towns and villages. This follows on from €104,040 awarded on 3 August 2020 under round one and €86,843 awarded on 11 September 2020 under round two of the Towns & Villages Scheme 2020.

Town/Village	Project details	Grant funding approved
Tier 5 Villages	Provision of seating and cycle stands across various locations as follows: Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Aughnacliffe, Ballinamuck, Clondra, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes, Abbeyshrule, Ardagh, Aughnacliffe, Ballinamuck, Clondra, Drumlish, Keenagh, Legan, Newtownforbes	€40,000.00
Ballinalee	Provision of lighting & seating along newly developed forest walk	€25,000.00
Newtowncashel	Provision of outdoor seating, tables & planting	€11,790.00
Longford	The enhancement of Breadan’s Lane within Longford Town, including new lighting to make the area more usable for the traders and increase connectivity within the town	€40,000.00

Further information on Round 3 at <https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/regeneration/>

Town and Village Renewal Scheme Round 2 Accelerated Measure 2020

Heather Humphreys, Minister for Rural and Community Development has announced details of the projects that have been approved for funding under the second round of the enhanced Town and Village Renewal Scheme that supports towns and villages to respond and adapt to COVID-19. The focus of the funding is on measures and

interventions that help towns and villages to adapt to social distancing requirements and to provide safe environments that encourage people into towns and villages to shop and socialise. Longford County Council Regeneration department are happy to announce that the following towns and villages have received funding

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/news/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-round-2-accelerated-measure-2020.html>

Survey - Drumlish Community Association Committee and Drumlish Ballinamuck Town Team are working together to produce a plan to Refurbish, Regenerate and Repurpose the existing Community Centre. This plan envisages both the physical extension of the building and a significant increase to the facilities and services provided through the centre. Both Groups are seeking feedback by way of a short survey to help and guide us in the development our final plan. The following is a link to the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DrumRegen20>

Department of Rural and Community Development announce third tranche of COVID-19 Stability Funding. A full list of successful applicants under Tranche three is available [here](#).

Foróige are in urgent need of Adult Volunteers to assist in our work with young people throughout the county of Longford this year. Please [Register HERE to Express an Interest in Volunteering](#)

The Attic raffle for a garden modular pod worth 20k (Prize or Cash) : raffle tickets available (€20 each) online at <https://rafflecreator.com/pages/40663/win-a-garden-office-pod-worth-%E2%82%AC2000000> or you can purchase tickets at the Attic House reception.

The Nation Upcycle Challenge is being run by the Regional Waste Management Office in partnership with the EPA. Closing Date: **30th October 2020** Further info at <https://www.mywaste.ie/upcycle-challenge20/>

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) - County Longford – further info on <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a2932-broadband-connection-points/>



A message from Foróige

We are launching a campaign to recruit and train as many adult volunteers as possible this year to work with us in the Attic House (Longford) and around the County such as Edgeworthstown, Ballymahon, Granard, Dromard, Drumlish, Legan, Lanesboro, Newtowncashel, Keenagh, Abbeylara and anywhere a need arises.

Can you help?

Please [Register HERE to Express an Interest in Volunteering](#)

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

The Department of Rural and Community Development in partnership with local authority Broadband Officers (BBOs) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCA), has identified approximately 300 sites around the country to act as Broadband Connection Points (BCPs).

In advance of homes and businesses receiving future-proofed broadband directly to their door, a network of Broadband Connection Points will provide vital high-speed broadband access at locations within the amber area of the National Broadband plan.

Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) are public locations which have been selected to receive 150Mb high-speed broadband connectivity in the first year (2020) of the National Broadband Plan.

BCP locations at schools are for educational access only, all other BCP's will provide free public access for high-speed broadband connectivity. People living in the general area will then be able to access this broadband for their necessary requirements.

This project is well underway and NBI have surveyed all BCP locations in Longford. The first of these will open in Longford in the next month or two.

BCPs in Longford: (Schools identified as BCPs are for educational access only)

N39X838	Moyne Latin School
N39XD43	Mullinalaghta Community Center
N39YT78	Aughine Community Centre
N39N8K5	Abbeyshrule Airport
N39XT18	Corlea Heritage Center
N39Y392	Colmcille GAA
	Ballymore Shamrocks GAA
N39K729	Carrickedmond GAA
N39EX99	Fermoyle National School
N39KN92	Bunlahy National School

If you require any further information please contact Longford's Broadband Officer Ms. Christine Collins on 087-6450530 or email ccollins@longfordcoco.ie
