March

Chief Executive Monthly Management Report

Monthly Report

Leitrim County Council

for the period 1st – 31st March 2020

Prepared in accordance with Section 136 (2) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 51 of the Local Government Act, 2014
FINANCE, WATER SERVICES, ENVIRONMENT & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Revenue Account

March 2020 - Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Summary by Service Division

(PRELIMINARY March, 2020 - FIGURES)

### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Expenditure £</th>
<th>Adopted Full Year Budget £</th>
<th>% Budget Spent</th>
<th>Budget Remaining £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Housing &amp; Building</td>
<td>984,167</td>
<td>5,407,116</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>4,423,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Road Transport &amp; Safety</td>
<td>2,696,395</td>
<td>13,819,551</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>11,123,156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Water Services</td>
<td>781,259</td>
<td>3,288,397</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2,507,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Development Management</td>
<td>982,310</td>
<td>5,756,899</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>4,774,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Environmental Services</td>
<td>1,061,628</td>
<td>4,512,660</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>3,451,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Recreation &amp; Amenity</td>
<td>693,381</td>
<td>3,527,383</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2,834,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>124,042</td>
<td>467,591</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>373,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>749,447</td>
<td>2,814,750</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>2,074,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG Local Government Fund / GPG</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Rates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** £5,063,620 £39,634,347 20% 31,570,717

### INCOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Income £</th>
<th>Adopted Full Year Budget £</th>
<th>% Budget Raised</th>
<th>Budget outstanding £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Housing &amp; Building</td>
<td>862,178</td>
<td>5,074,108</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>4,211,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Road Transport &amp; Safety</td>
<td>1,858,428</td>
<td>10,232,772</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8,374,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Water Services</td>
<td>767,910</td>
<td>3,155,485</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2,387,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Development Management</td>
<td>259,142</td>
<td>1,777,813</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1,518,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Environmental Services</td>
<td>63,433</td>
<td>1,050,438</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>996,005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Recreation &amp; Amenity</td>
<td>166,116</td>
<td>1,648,16</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(1,482)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>38,444</td>
<td>248,083</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>209,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>348,435</td>
<td>2,234,023</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>1,885,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG Local Government Fund / GPG</td>
<td>2,719,308</td>
<td>9,277,230</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6,557,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Rates</td>
<td>296,492</td>
<td>6,414,626</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6,114,137</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** £7,379,885 £59,634,347 19% 32,256,462

### NET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Actual Overall Surplus/ (Deficit) £</th>
<th>Fav/(Unfav) £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Housing &amp; Building</td>
<td>(121,989)</td>
<td>211,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B Road Transport &amp; Safety</td>
<td>(637,967)</td>
<td>2,748,812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Water Services</td>
<td>(13,349)</td>
<td>129,613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D Development Management</td>
<td>(233,169)</td>
<td>3,255,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E Environmental Services</td>
<td>(998,196)</td>
<td>2,455,026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Recreation &amp; Amenity</td>
<td>(527,265)</td>
<td>2,835,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G Agriculture, Education, Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>(85,598)</td>
<td>163,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>7,968</td>
<td>586,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG Local Government Fund / GPG</td>
<td>2,319,308</td>
<td>(6,957,923)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA Rates</td>
<td>296,492</td>
<td>(6,114,137)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** £683,745 £683,745

Expenditure V Income
MAIN POINTS AS AT END OF March, 2020

Water Expenditure in line with income.
The Deadline for the 2019 APS has been deferred to 30 June 2020 as a result of COVID19.
Rates collection is down considerably vs 2019 as a direct impact of COVID19. As advised at government level, a letter issued to all rates payers during March.
The Government has now agreed with local authorities to defer rates payments due from the most immediately impacted businesses, primarily in some sections of retail, the hospitality, leisure and childcare sectors, until after May 31st 2020

Recourse to Overdraft

March 2020 - Recourse to Overdraft

| No. of Days in Overdraft during March 2020 | 0 | Interest incurred | €0 |

Rates, Rents and Loans

March 2020 - Collection Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>€ Mar-20</th>
<th>€ Mar-19</th>
<th>€ FY 2019</th>
<th>% Mar-20</th>
<th>% Mar-19</th>
<th>% FY 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing rents</td>
<td>€592,699</td>
<td>€563,301</td>
<td>€2,571,076</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Rate</td>
<td>€297,348</td>
<td>€652,262</td>
<td>€2,264,301</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Loans</td>
<td>€43,652</td>
<td>€40,907</td>
<td>€249,570</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

March 2020 - Aged Debt Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATES</th>
<th>30 Days</th>
<th>60 Days</th>
<th>90 Days</th>
<th>180 Days</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>&gt; 2 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RENTS</th>
<th>30 Days</th>
<th>60 Days</th>
<th>90 Days</th>
<th>180 Days</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>&gt; 2 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€108,987</td>
<td>€2,162,976</td>
<td>€3,450,750</td>
<td>€5,111,783</td>
<td>€454,031</td>
<td>€1,411,636</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOANS</th>
<th>30 Days</th>
<th>60 Days</th>
<th>90 Days</th>
<th>180 Days</th>
<th>1 Year</th>
<th>2 Years</th>
<th>&gt; 2 Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>€15,144</td>
<td>€8,452</td>
<td>€3,624</td>
<td>€10,172</td>
<td>€6,744</td>
<td>€200</td>
<td>€41,341</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMENTARY

Rents collection is up both in monetary and % terms vs 2019.
Rates collection for 2020 is down €350k in monetary terms or 7% vs 2019. This reflects the impact of COVID-19.
Loans collection is up both in monetary and % terms vs 2019.
Water Services Department

Maximo: Asset Management

There were a total of 257 No. Work Orders for the month of March 2020. Breakdown as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Orders</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LA Complaints</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned Leak Detection</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Connections Water</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Connections (Waste Water)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Fix Repairs</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Fix Surveys</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Work Orders</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking Water RM</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Water RM</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractor Related Work Orders</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unaccounted for Water
UFW is now 48.12% or 6463 m³

Capital Works – Water Services

Manorhamilton & Mohill Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project - €4.0 million
Completed plants included Mohill, Manorhamilton, Ballinamore, Carrigallen, Leitrim Village and Drumshanbo WWTP's. Snagging works remain outstanding. Coffey Water are operating the Mohill and Manorhamilton plants for the 12 months service period up to September 2020 when the plant will be handed over to SLA for continued operation.

Irish Water Capital Programmes and Projects

Water Networks Portfolio Programme Frameworks (Farrans Construction Ltd)

Pipeline Rehabilitations:
St George's Terrace: 242m of cast iron watermain upgrade and service connections replaced. Works on site are progressing well and on programme at approx 85% complete. Works however are now placed on hold due to restrictions of Covid-19. Remaining works should be complete within two weeks of contractor returning to site.

Trunk Main Upgrades: Irish Water confirmed all other pipeline replacements in Co Leitrim were put on hold due to budget restraints. LCC Water Capital office continue to push for rehabilitation works on the Keshcarrigan to Foxfield AC trunk main and the Gortfada to Sratissaun AC trunk main. Irish Water to review budgets in mid 2020 to see if the above schemes could be progressed.

Newtownmanor: Previously approved upgrade works to Newtownmanor watermain are now placed on hold by Irish Water

Find & Fix
Farrans are nearing completion in Drumshanbo DMA with Find and Fix/Pressure Management & DMA Establishment works. The minimum night flow has been agreed for Drumshanbo and gains have been made towards achieving the target but more works are required. In late March Farrans leak detection crew also mobilized in Mohill DMA. Works in both towns are now placed on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

LCC Direct Labour Find and Fix crew
The LCC direct labour crew have made good gains in leak detection and repair in the Corraleehan DMA and repaired a number or large leaks. Works however are now placed on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.
Back Yard Services
- Back yard services works on 9 nr service connections at Cooladonnell due to commence in early April are now placed on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Back Yard services to be progressed in Lahard, Ballinamore in 2020.
- Irish Water has confirmed that Mc Dermott Terrace, Manorhamilton and Rockwell Park, Drumshanbo will now not proceed in 2020 due to budget restraints.

Energy Efficiency Carrick on Shannon Water Treatment Plant - EPS Ltd Contractors
Significant electrical upgrade works to Carrick WTP aimed at reducing electricity costs has now been complete.

Disinfection Programme - Veolia Contractors
Design & Build upgrade works to the disinfection process is ongoing at Carrick on Shannon & Glenade WTP’s. Works were due to ramp up at both sites in early April but are now placed on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.
Drumshanbo WWTP: Significant upgrade carried out to Drumshanbo WwTP. Additional Civil works are being completed as variations to this contract. Snagging works also remain outstanding.
IWSS (Inlet Works, Storm & Sludge) Programme: Ballinamore and Leitrim Village WWTP have been approved for upgrades to their inlet works and tendering has been progressed. Irish water to advise on timeline for these works.
Tullaghan WWTP: Upgrade works to pump effluent from Tullaghan WwTP to West End pump station near Bundoran has been tendered by Irish Water with works expected to commence on site in mid 2020. (1.8km of rising main has already been installed along the N15 to West End PS as part of a previous contract)

Capital Investment Plan

Upgrade of Drumshanbo Waste Water Treatment Plant – Pumping Station - Atkins Consulting Engineers
This project is included in Irish Waters Capital investment Plan for 2017-2021 and is bundled with 5 similar WWTP’s in County Cavan. These works are to be delivered in the period of this CIP 2021 – 2025.

Carrick on Shannon Water Treatment Plant – Future planning
Irish Water is developing a “National Water Resource Plan” which will consider provision for future demand. We continue to meet with Irish Water to highlight the future for Carrick on Shannon water treatment plant to ensure it is extended to meet the growing future demand in the South Leitrim Regional Water Supply Scheme.

ENVIRONMENT

RMCEI Plan
The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in emergency call out inspections to be completed only in the Lock down period.

National Inspection Program (DWWTS)
The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in emergency call out inspections to be completed only in the Lock down period.

Ongoing sampling in the Lough Forbes Catchment which includes Lough Rinn and surrounding catchment is to continue in 2020 and is included in the ALPHA monitoring programme. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th March 2020.

The 3rd Cycle (2022-2027) of the River Basin Management Plan is currently on track with a Public Consultation document “Significant Water Management Issues” – Consultation currently out for a 6 month period for Public Consultation. The Consultation period runs from 21st December 2019 to 26th June 2020. A link to this document is as follows: https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/water-framework-directive/public-consultation-significant-water-management. Submission can be made to the Department at rbmp@housing.gov.ie and must be submitted by Friday 26th June 2020. Template questionnaires are available from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government or online survey completed at www.surveymonkey.com/r/3HGB3HZ
All RBMF workshops are now cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Environment Department has submitted proposed Priority Areas of Action for Leitrim under the new proposed 2021-2027 RBMP.

VETERINARY SERVICES

Slaughter Returns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Premises Inspections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Premises Inspections</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Samples</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Swabs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Samples</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Residue Samples</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcass Swabs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dog Warden Service Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stray Dogs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrendered Dogs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Re-Homed</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Re-Claimed by Owner</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Deaths</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Euthanized</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Requests</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog Licence Inspections</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Neutered</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutering Vouchers Issued</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogs Micro-Chipped and Registered</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines Issued - Dogs</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Requests</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIRE SERVICE

Capital Programme

Fire Stations
Manorhamilton FS
Approval was received from the Department to appoint the design consultants for the project. We are doing the preliminary background checks including insurances and health and safety before appointing the design consultants.

Replacement HP
Approval was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for capital funding in the amount of €60,000 to replace our existing Hydraulic Platform. The vehicle was imported from the UK and delivered to Leitrim Fire Service. We are working at re-registering the vehicle. We will not be putting the vehicle into operational use until familiarisation training has been provided to the crews.

Fire Service Training
All training courses and drills have been suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic
Building Control activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Granted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Notices</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Safety Certificates</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regularisation Certificates</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Access Certificates</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion Certificates</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Safety Act / Planning Inspections</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Control Inspections</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major Emergency Management – Covid 19

Protocols and procedures have been prepared and issued to all HQ staff and crews in stations in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. A number of meetings were held to prepare these.

Erasmus+ ‘BFireSafe@School’ project

The next Transnational Project meeting was held in Germany. The content of the 10 training modules for the programme was discussed. Work on updating the content is nearing completion before sending it to the project partners for translation into 9 other languages. Work on the production of the augmented reality app for the project is ongoing and should be available in the app store soon. The Interim Report for the project was prepared and submitted to the National Agency in Dublin. The third stage partner payments were also processed.

Section 26 Plan

Work on updating the new Section 26 plan is ongoing - for submission to the next meeting of the SPC.

Gartan Online Payment system

Work was undertaken on piloting the new online quarterly payment system for fire fighters for the first time. The pilot was successful. All fire fighters to be trained on the system.

Fire Service Annual Report

This was prepared and completed for 2019.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Flooding

On 03rd March an elderly resident from the Rinnacurreen area impacted by recent flooding was transported from her home for a medical appointment.

Tony Mc Gowan Run

Safety Boat and First Aid assistance was provided during the annual Tony Mc Gowan Run in Drumshanbo on 08 March.

Covid 19

Extensive preparations have taken place over the last number of weeks by Volunteers in anticipation of possible requests for assistance as a result of the Corona 19 issue. Additional training has taken place as a result of guidance issued by Civil Defence H.Q.
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO)

Enterprise Week
Local Enterprise Week took place from 2nd to 6th March 2020. The high profile events of Student Enterprise Awards County Final and National Enterprise Awards County Final took place during Enterprise Week.

The winning teams from the Leitrim Student Enterprise Programme County Final will represent Co. Leitrim at the National Final of the Student Enterprise Programme in Croke Park at a later date.

The County Final of National Enterprise Awards overall winner was Dromod Boxy who will represent Co. Leitrim in the National Final later in the year.

Training
Training went online during March and there has been a fantastic uptake in training in areas such as SEO optimisation, Remote Working Tools to Market Your Business and Creating Video content.

Mentoring
The demand for one to one mentoring continues to be strong. The new Business Continuity Voucher introduced in March is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Outreach Office – Manorhamilton
The Outreach Office continues to run on the first Tuesday of the month in Manorhamilton.

Networking
Women in Enterprise Networking event took place during March in conjunction with Leitrim, Longford and Westmeath LEO’s, the event was hosted in Mullingar.

The Leitrim Business Network also held their quarterly meeting virtually during March and has started to operate a weekly virtual network to share best practice and innovative ideas since the lockdown.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LCDC
A meeting of the LCDC took place on March 25th, with updates on the various programmes, 6 expressions of interest for funding were outlined as having been received since the last meeting, two projects were approved by the LAG at this meeting totaling €13,903.

Carrick on Shannon Chamber
A meeting with the chamber took place on March 3rd, the main focus of which was progress on the economic development plan for Carrick on Shannon, other agenda items included the town centre health check with Queens in Belfast, the Retail Support Programme and the Marketing and Promotion campaign for Carrick on Shannon while the Urban regeneration works are progressing.

A conference call was held with Chamber reps on March 26th to touch base with them following the Covid-19 developments and offer any support possible. Key items for discussions included supports for businesses now and when crisis is over, Purple Flag renewal for Carrick on Shannon and making contact with businesses in relation to the economic development plan during the current Covid-19 situation.

Marketing and Promotion Campaign – Carrick on Shannon
Tenders were evaluated on March 26th by conference call and manager’s order signed for same. Contract will be issued.

REDZ Town Team Manorhamilton
There was no meeting of Manorhamilton Town Team in March 2020.
Manorhamilton Chamber
A conference call was held with chamber representatives on March 27th to touch base with them following the Covid-19 developments and offer any support possible. Key items for discussion included access to Zoom for online meetings with members, supports for businesses now and after the crisis, the RRDF plans in relation to works commencing in the town as well as the support for businesses in the Town Centre while works are ongoing.

Clar/ORIS/ Town and Village Projects 2017 -2019
Ongoing follow up with Town and Village projects from 2017, 2018 and 2019 to check progress and offer support in submitting claims along with processing of claims for payment.

2020 Funding Schemes & Potential Applications
Meetings and discussions around potential projects for 2020 funding schemes, ORIS, Town and Village & Clar, Coillte, Town Teams, and ongoing follow up on projects that didn’t progress in 2019.

National Broadband Plan
Site visits for a number of the Broadband Connection Points took place around the County. A number scheduled for March were postponed due to Covid-19 developments.

WIFI 4 EU
Tender awarded

URDF
The Urban Regeneration Development Fund is currently open and Leitrim County Council are working on a phase 2 application for Carrick on Shannon Town Centre that will further enhance the planned phase 1 work and increase town centre footfall and tourism visitors. Due to Covid-19 developments, the closing date for this application was extended to May 29th. Work is ongoing in relation to the scheme design, the application form and business case.

TOURISM

Destination Marketing
Ongoing work is taking place on Glenfarne Ballroom of Romance Project, the Canal Promotions project and the Sliabh an larainn Visitor Centre Project.

ORIS Walking project
Work is ongoing on the ORIS Walking project. Work has started on the upgrade to the Leitrim Tourism website www.enjoyleitrim.com

Slow Adventure
Continued work on the Slow Adventure Website under the Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands web improvement plan.

Tourist Information
We continue to support the Tourist Office in Ballinamore and Tourist information points at Glencar Waterfall and Sliabh an larainn Visitor Centre

Support
Weekly newsletter is being sent to all of the trade/tourism providers in the county where they are being kept up to date on tourism matters both county wide and nationally

Digital Marketing
Updates were carried out on the Leitrim Tourism Website.
Updates were carried out on the Slow Adventure Ireland website.
Continued presence on all Social media platforms maintained.
Taking in Charge

Work is continuing with Irish Water in relation to the 37 estates which were taking in charge last year. Work is also underway to procure contractors to undertake works in additional 10 - 12 no. estates which would allow the next tranche of estates to be advertised for taking in charge.

Pre Planning

6 no. pre planning enquiries were received during the month of March in addition to numerous enquiries received and replied to through e-mail.

Development Management

18 no. valid planning applications were received in March. Of the applications lodged, 4 no. applications seek the retention of planning permission. In addition, a further 7 no. applications submitted were deemed invalid and returned to the applicants, one application been invalidated on two occasions. 4 no. of the previous invalid applications have been resubmitted and are now valid.

13 no. final decisions on planning applications were made during March, all except one receiving a grant of planning permission with the other refused planning permission. Of the 12 no. applications which received planning permission, 3 no. related to an application seeking retention of planning permission. A request for Further Information issued with respect to a further 12 no. applications and 4 no. submissions of Further Information were received during March.

Forward Planning

Work has begun with the impending review of the County Development Plan 2015-2021 which was due to commence during the month of April 2020. This follows the adoption by the Northern and Western Regional Assembly of the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy at a meeting on Friday 24th January 2020 in Ballaghaderreen. The Strategic Issues Papers is being prepared at present.

Heritage

The public consultation phase of the draft Heritage Plan took place between 15th January - 12th February 2020. The Plan was adopted at the March Council meeting. The adopted Heritage Plan is presently being translated and will be published in early April.

The Heritage Officer has been approved funding for 2 projects through the Heritage Council funding programme – Undertake a Geological Survey of Co. Leitrim and a Public Awareness Programme of Heritage Events. The Heritage Officer has submitted applications for funding under the National Biodiversity Action Plan – Undertake a swift survey in Co. Leitrim and Undertake a bat survey of all Council owned properties (excluding houses). Finally, the Heritage Officer has submitted an application for funding through Creative Ireland Programme – Mumming in Co. Leitrim.

ROADS

- Road Crews continuing to carry out routine maintenance works.

- Road Crews carrying out Winter Maintenance Works as necessary.

- Annual Area Programme 2020 & Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020
  The Annual Area Programme 2020 has now been approved and preparations to commence works included in this programme have commenced.

- COVID-19 Crisis
  The restrictions imposed due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis will undoubtedly delay the commencement of works included in the 2020 Road Works Programme. Like all other Departments of Leitrim County Council, the Roads Department have had to change our work practices in order to comply with the restrictions in place in
terms of physical distancing and other measures necessary to slow down the spread of COVID-19. Essential Services will continue to be provided (such as Gritting of Roads where necessary, Street Cleaning, Emptying of street litter bins etc.) and any emergency works. Staff is working from home where it is practical for them to carry out their duties remotely. The position will be kept under ongoing review by Leitrim County Council.

- **Carrick on Shannon By-Pass**
  A Consultant Team has now been appointed by Leitrim County Council for Stages 1 – 4 of the Design of this By Pass Scheme and has commenced working on this Project.

- **Pavement Overlays**
  **N4 Pavement Overlay - Jamestown to Masonite Junction**
  A Contractor has been appointed for the Pavement Overlay on the N4 from Jamestown to the Masonite Junction. Survey Works commenced in mid March and Pavement Construction Works had been expected to also commence in mid March 2020, however, due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, these works have been postponed until mid April at which point the position will be reviewed further.

- **N16 Pavement Overlay – Tomrad to Tawneymoyle**
  The procurement process for the appointment of Consultants for this Pavement Scheme has been completed and Leitrim County Council are in the process of appointing them, subject to TII Approval.

- **Re-alignment of N16**
  **Realignment of the N16 at Drummahon –** Works on the detailed Design and Tenders for the Construction of this Realignment Scheme are currently in progress.
  **Realignment of the N16 at Munakill –** A Consultant for this Scheme has been appointed. Consultants are currently working on Phase 1 – Concept & Feasibility. However, the COVID-19 crisis could impact upon the Ecology Geographical Surveys, however, Desktop Studies are in progress.

- **Bridges on Non National Roads**
  **North Leitrim**
  **Beagh Bridge (2019 Road Works Programme)** – Works on Beagh Bridge have commenced. However, due to the increased COVID-19 restrictions imposed with effect from 28th March, 2020, the site has now closed and has been made safe. Works will recommence when the COVID-19 Restrictions are lifted.
  **Meenagraun Bridge** - This Bridge remains closed. A Consultant is preparing a design for a new deck and repairs to the abutments. Leitrim County Council is planning to undertake the works themselves and replace the bridge using box culverts or similar units. It is planned these works will be completed in Summer 2020.
  **Aghnahaha Bridge** – This Bridge is now closed due to structural damage caused by the recent flood waters. A Contractor has been appointed to carry out emergency repairs to this bridge. A Derogation Licence has been granted by the Inland Fisheries to undertake the works. However, the works cannot yet commence in light of the current COVID-19 restrictions.
  **Leckenaarainey Bridge & Aghaderrad East Bridge** – Construction drawings and detailed tender documents are currently being prepared by the Consultants for works on these two bridges. Construction is expected to commence in the early summer, and be carried out under a single contract.
  **Gortnacorkoge Bridge** – This Bridge is currently closed and it is expected that works on this Bridge will be completed in Summer 2020. It is planned that Leitrim County Council will undertake the works themselves and replace this structure with a box culvert.

**South Leitrim**
The following Bridges in South Leitrim have been approved for Funding in 2020 –
**Battle Bridge** – A Consultant has been appointed to carry out design works and contract documents for works required to this Bridge, the Project is currently out to Tender with a view works to commence Summer 2020.
**Drumdarkin Bridge, Drumloughan School Bridge, Annaghveagh Bridge Toomans, Drumboher Bridge, Millpark Bridge and Kilbracken Bridge** has all been approved for Funding in 2020. These bridges have been surveyed and Tender Documents are currently being prepared. It is planned to go to Tender on these projects for Tender in the coming weeks.
Please note that the timeframe for the construction works on all of the above projections may change in light of the current COVID-19 crisis.

- **CLAR Programme 2019**
  The following Schemes have been approved for funding under the CLAR Programme 2019:
  - **McDermotts Terrace Residents Association** – Upgrade of existing footpaths – Works are now complete
  - **Dromod Road, Mohill** – Extension of Footpaths & Public Lighting – Works are 90% complete.
  - **Fatima NS Cloone** – Pedestrian crossing and upgrade of road markings – Works are 90% complete.
  - **Carrigallen Vocational School** – Construction of a pedestrian crossing at Carrigallen Vocational School – Works have commenced and are 90% complete
  - **Leitrim Village** – Upgrade of footpaths and public lighting – Works have commenced and are 90% complete.
  - **Shannonside Community Childcare Centre** – Pedestrian crossing, Road Markings and Signage – Works to commence later in 2020.
  - **Kiltyclogher Sensory Garden** – The North Leitrim District Engineers Office are working with the Community Department and the Kiltyclogher Community Group to successfully deliver this project. A contractor has been engaged to undertake all civil engineering preparatory work for this project and works have commenced and are approx. 50% complete. However, these works are now delayed due to the current restrictions on construction works. Following completion of the preparatory works the garden will then be planted with shrubs, raised beds etc. finishing this project for the local community.

**Local Improvement Schemes (LIS)**
There are now 124 No. applicants on the LIS Waiting List. In March 2020, Leitrim County Council received its 2020 LIS Funding Allocation of €250,000. We will be communicating with the next applicants on the LIS Waiting List in due course, having regard to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

**Community Involvement Schemes (CIS)**
The Grant Allocation for 2020 for Community Involvement Schemes is €641,500. We are currently reviewing our CIS List with a view towards finalising our CIS Programme for 2020 in the coming weeks. This Scheme remains open to new applicants - applicants may apply by completing and submitting the CIS Application Form which is available from the Leitrim County Council Website, [www.leitrincoco.ie](http://www.leitrincoco.ie).

**RURAL WATER PROGRAMME**

**Guidance to Group Water Schemes during the COVID-19 Crisis**
The Rural Water Department of Leitrim County Council circulated 2 No. Advice Notes prepared by the National Federation for Group Water Schemes, to all Group Water Schemes in Co. Leitrim. These Advice Notes contained information on preventing community transmission, contingency planning, protecting your water supply from the threat of COVID-19 and general safety advice for GWS’s during the current crisis.

**Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 - 2021**
Leitrim County Council is working with the various Group Water Schemes and Group Sewerage Schemes approved for Funding under the Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019 – 2021.

**Capital Works - Measure 3 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021**
- Cloonsarn GWS have appointed a contractor to carry out network upgrade works on their scheme. However, the commencement of these works will be delayed due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.
- Carrigallen GWS have appointed a Contractor to carry out upgrade works on this scheme. However, the commencement of these works will be delayed due to the current COVID-19 restrictions.

**Subsidy Payments to GWS’s**
6 No. GWS’s were paid Subsidy Payments in March 2020 in respect of the Operational Costs of running the respective GWS. To date a total of 8 GWS’s have received Subsidy Payments in 2020.
New Community Water & Waste Water Connections - Measure 6 Multi Annual Rural Water Programme 2019-2021

1. **Proposed Deerpark GWS** - Irish Water is currently processing the full application and this office is awaiting the cost estimate from Irish Water.

2. **Proposed Gowlan GWS** - This GWS have submitted their Pre-Connection Enquiry to Irish Water and are awaiting a letter of feasibility from Irish Water.

3. **Proposed Tully GSS** - This GSS have submitted their Pre-Connection Enquiry to Irish Water and are awaiting a letter of feasibility from Irish Water.

Carrigeencor GWS, Ballynamony GSS and Edenvilla GSS are currently working on their Pre-Connection Enquiry Forms for submission to Irish Water.

**Hartley-Cartown Group Sewerage Scheme (GSS)**

Leitrim County Council is currently in consultation with the Department regarding the future of this GSS. The matter is currently with the Department as to whether the Scheme can proceed based on estimated Costings submitted in 2019.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICE**

**Carrick on Shannon Flood Relief Scheme**

Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers have been appointed design consultant for this project. Design works have commenced. Full programme details will be advised later.

**Leitrim Village Flood Relief Scheme**

Contract documents have been prepared for the procurement of a consulting engineer to commence the design on the project and are with the OPW for approval.

**Mohill Flood Relief Scheme**

The OPW have decided to update flood maps for Mohill which will then allow us to decide on location of defenses.

**Carrick on Shannon Public Regeneration Scheme**

Architect and Consulting Engineer carrying out detailed design of the project. Four construction contracts will be undertaken

- Reconstruction of Footpaths and Roads Main Street/St George’s Terrace
- Construction of Car Park at Flynn’s Field
- Construction of Boardwalk along river edge
- Lighting of N4 Bridge and Boardwalk at Linear Park

Letter of Acceptance has been issued for the Car Park, Boardwalk and Streets contracts. Contractors were due to commence work in March but all construction works currently suspended.

**Manorhamilton Public Realm Scheme**

Dhb Architects have been appointed as design team for this project. Design work has commenced.

**The Junction Project Ballinamore**

Tenders have been received for the appointment of a Design Consultant for this project and are currently being assessed. Steering group involving local community groups has been set up for this project.

**SLNCR Greenway – Sligo to Enniskillen**

Leitrim County Council has made an application for funding from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport to bring this project through the Planning Process, Detailed Design and get the project ready for construction.

**SLNCR – Manorhamilton to Boggaun**

Construction contract 90% complete. Construction works currently suspended.

**SLNCR – Dromahaire Demonstration Stretch**

This project is complete. Outstanding snags will be completed when construction works are allowed to recommence.
Cavan Leitrim Greenway – Ballinamore to Corgar
Construction commenced in March. Construction works currently suspended.

Leitrim Way
Final lanc agreements have been signed for the bridge construction project. We are in discussion with contractor regarding commencement of bridge construction project.

Carrick on Shannon Destination Towns
Funding of €500,000 has been received from Fáilte Ireland for this project. Total budget is €760,000. Design team has been appointed for this project. We are currently working on options. Once agreed we will proceed to Part 8 Planning approval.

Carrick on Shannon to Battlebridge Blueway
Leitrim County Council has submitted an application for funding under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund to bring this project through the planning process and up to detailed design to get it ready for construction.

Hartley Bridge
Planning application to An Bord Pleanála required for the construction of this bridge due to the requirement to produce a Natura Impact Statement for the construction of the bridge. We are currently in discussion with the design consultant to agree fee proposal for this planning application.

OPW Minor Flood Schemes
Application has been made to the OPW for funding for a scheme at Ardakip More, Dromahaire involving increased capacity for an existing culvert/bridge.
Application is currently being prepared for a minor flood schemes on the Glenaniff River at Rossinver involving clearing vegetation for the river.
HOUSING, CORPORATE SERVICES, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

HOUSING

Housing Allocations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offers issued to 31 March 2020</th>
<th>Offers accepted</th>
<th>Acceptance Rate</th>
<th>Offers refused</th>
<th>Refusal Rate</th>
<th>Awaiting Reply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Existing tenants transferred to alternative accommodation to 31st March 2020</th>
<th>New Tenants (1st time allocation)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>2019/2024 Targets</th>
<th>Outputs achieved at 31st March 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Housing Scheme – Existing</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Block – Existing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority Standard Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rental Accommodation Scheme (incl. renewals)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 (3 No. Renewals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Term Leasing (incl. renewals)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing provided by Approved Housing Body under CAS Scheme</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment (incl new family formations)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Private Rented Inspection Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overall target for delivery in 2020</th>
<th>No of inspections completed to 31st March 2020</th>
<th>% Complete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target - 331</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>27.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total – 91</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**HOUSING GRANTS**

NOTE: HGD = Housing Adaptation Grant; MAG = Mobility Aids Grant; HOP = Housing Aid for Older People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>01/01/2020 – 31/03/2020</th>
<th>GRANT</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAID 2020</strong></td>
<td>HGD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>€9,118.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MAG</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>€17,550.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HOP</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€38,129.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>€64,797.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approved not paid**

|                   | HGD   | 7  | €111,682.50 |
|                   | MAG   | 4  | €12,046.00  |
|                   | HOP   | 22 | €99,575.05  |
| **TOTAL**         |       | 33 | €223,303.55 |

**Applications Rec’d Not Yet Approved** *(Averaged @ €2,000 / Grant)*

|                   | HGD  | 6   | €12,000.00 |
|                   | MAG  | 6   | €12,000.00 |
|                   | HOP  | 7   | €14,000.00 |
| **TOTAL**         |      | 19  | €38,000.00 |

Available Balance: €4,412.90

---

**HOUSING CAPITAL**

- **LA Construction Project**
  *Autumn View, Summerhill, Carrick on Shannon*
  Soil stabilization works ongoing on site to expedite earthworks and deliver project by the programmed completion date of December 2020. Project suspended on 30th March 2020 to comply with HSE guidelines due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

- **LA Projects at Planning/Design Stage**
  Discussions ongoing with Wynne Gormley Gilsenan Architects & Surveyors Ltd. throughout March in relation to potential projects in Manorhamilton (5 Units), Ballinamore (10 Units) & Carrick on Shannon (12 Units) with revised layouts and plans produced.

---

1. 65% of 2019 Allocation of 508,483.00
2. Includes applications approved in 2019, not yet paid
3. Includes applications received in 2019, not yet approved
Single Stage Approval project
Wynne Gormley Gilsenan Architects & Surveyors Ltd. was appointed for a single stage approval project at St. Patricks Park, Carrick on Shannon to deliver 2-3 No. 1 bedroom units.

LA Turnkey Projects
Ballinamore
Earthworks ongoing and foundations poured on a number of units as part of 9 No. 2 bedroom units at Church Lane, Ballinamore under a Turnkey project with a budget of €1.75 million and a completion date of December 2020. Works suspended on 30th March 2020 to comply with HSE guidelines due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Turnkey Expressions of Interest
Housing Capital assessed expressions of interest from 16 Developers/Contractors to deliver turnkey social housing projects on 26 Sites throughout Co. Leitrim during 2020 -2022. Three Capital Funding Applications for Turnkey projects were submitted to DHPLG on 20th March. The applications sought funding approval for 5 No. Units at Oakgrove, Kinlough with 2 No. Units at Newtowngore and 5 Units at Carraig Breac, Drumshanbo.

Acquisitions
The Housing Capital Delivery Unit was successful in acquiring 1 additional property during March bringing to 6 the total of sale agreed/sale closed during 2020.

Refurbishment Works
There are currently 2 property acquired in 2019 out to tender for refurbishment works.

Vacant Homes
Latest vacant Home Survey Totals for Carrick on Shannon, Ballinamore, Manorhamilton & Mohill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Vacant</th>
<th>563</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Known Ownership</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not registered</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters issued to Owners</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collaboration with Approved Housing Bodies
The preparation of an Opportunities Register will provide details on potential projects for collaboration with AHB's commenced in March. Currently AHB's are examining 2 no. apartment and townhouse blocks with the potential to deliver 24 units in 2021.

Long Term Leasing
Housing Capital has commenced discussions with the Housing Agency regarding 1 No. Long Term Lease.

COMMUNITY

PEACE IV
Claims are ongoing. Claim 9, 10, 11 still need to be processed and we are awaiting payments on claim 8.

Shared Spaces
- Extension to Mohill Library for Peace Room: Works Ongoing and were due for completion for Main Library by Easter 2020. This works is all on hold now.
- Manorhamilton: Refurbishment and Extension to Sexton House: Clyhore Construction appointed as Contractor and works were due to be completed by end June 2020, however works are now on hold.

An extension has been sought from SEUPB until Dec 2020. SEUPB has been granted for a further 3 month extension until end of June 2020 in the short term but this will need to be extended.

Healthy Ireland
All Healthy Ireland Activity is currently on hold.
Love Where You Live

Love Where You Live was launched in Leitrim Observer and on social media in March. The application process is currently open and we are encouraging groups to apply.

Playgrounds
Mohill Playground: Refurbishment works commenced but not completed yet as we were waiting for the dry weather. Plans to upgrade and paint the surface of the playground and re-oil all the equipment will be completed as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Application has been made to DCYA for funding to refurbish the Junior Playground at Acres Lake, Drumshanbo.

Mohill Astro Turf Pitch
Mohill Astro Turf Pitch has been fully upgraded with new surface, fencing and security system installed. The Pitch has been promoted for use by sporting organizations and community groups by pre-booking with Mohill Community College.

PPN
The campaign to attract further registrations to the PPN is on-going and numbers continue to increase. As of March, the total number of groups registered is 286. The aim is to reach 300.

Communications
Twitter: 577 followers with 9.11K impressions.
Facebook: 729 followers with a reach of 13,055 in March.
Website: 35 articles, 9 events. 9975 users over 12,251 sessions.

PPN and Community Response Forum
The Secretariat confirmed that PPN Support Worker Michael Moran and Secretariat member Philip Rooney would represent the PPN on the Community Response Forum.

Love Where You Live
The PPN continues to promote the Love Where You Live Leitrim 2020 awards.

ARTS

Covid-19
The Arts Office has reconfigured its programme to respond to the needs of communities in the context of the current crisis. This is happening primarily in an expansion or acceleration to the type of project work carried out through the Creative Ireland Programme. In tandem with that we have reconfigured the professional development programme, Creative Frame, as an entirely on-line programme. Right now the focus of the Creative Frame programme is to rapidly upskill artists in the use of on-line technologies for the delivery of community arts projects and events.

Creative Ireland
In February an open call for submissions for the 2020 Creative Ireland programme resulted in 14 of 29 applications being approved to proceed straight away. Nine of these project are now been redesigned to be delivered on-line. These include the following
We also have a new call out for artists to develop further projects, ideally with communities they already have links with, or indeed their own immediate neighbourhoods. Aside from the mental stimulation of being involved in a creative project, the programme is designed to maintain connections between members of groups and communities that ordinarily met on a daily or weekly basis. We are currently developing a further six projects in this regard and together they will hopefully serve as prompt and examples of how we can work with communities to develop creative projects that will keep them connected.

Airc Damhsa

We are working with dancer Edwina Guckian and the national Creative Ireland programme to develop a short film involving dancers from Leitrim and the wider region and including dancers from New York participating in different locations in the same dance. This is nearing completion and will broadcast nationwide in the run-up to Cruinniú na nÓg.

Creative Frame

Creative Frame held its first on-line networking event last week, which was very successful. The next training event will include those artists who are now developing on-line projects for the Creative Ireland programme. As well as sharing ideas of how to go about developing these projects, we will be inviting experts in on-line delivery to demonstrate different technologies and techniques. We will move on to hosting project development meetings with groups of artists and group leaders together to progress our approach and methodologies for this new work. Creative Frame is also planning the on-line delivery of its conventional training programme.

Other Programmes:

Youth Theatre - Term one 2020 started with 2 groups in Manorhamilton, 3 in Carrick on Shannon and 4 in Carrigallen with a total of 140 participants. While Term 1 was cut short for some members, we will look to develop a contingency plan for on-line delivery in September, should that be necessary.


2020 Festivals - Covid-19 applicants asked to provide an acceptable outline of alternatives e.g. live streaming events, postponement, or new and different activities under the circumstances.

Iron Mountain - A call out for submissions for the John McGahern award has been issued and submissions are starting to be received. Programming is ongoing with both real and virtual contingencies.

Spark - Artist Fiona Mulholland work with Merenda in Manorhamilton on the Spark Programme is suspended and will recommence when circumstances allow. Small Sparks 2020 will be held at the same time.

Culture Night – Planning for Culture Night continues and may like Cruinniú na nÓg, be an on-line event.
Film – Awaiting formal communication of REDF project funding in order to appoint film business development manager, panel of trainers and purchase of editing suites and film and audio recording equipment for Leitrim Sculpture Centre and Glens Centre. Most of this can continue to be implemented in the current circumstances.

Condolences
We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of two of Leitrim leading lights in traditional music – fiddle player Ben Lennon from Kiltyclogher and singer Mary McPartlan from Drumkeeran both of whom died recently.

LIBRARY SERVICES

Following government advice, all public library services in the country had to close their doors to the public on Thursday March 12th in an effort to address the spread of the Covid 19 Virus.

As a result of this announcement, library staff were busy both promoting the range of online services and assisting members in terms of accessing them. While physical borrowings for the month totalled just under 6,000 which understandably was half of what it would usually be, the number of e-books issued almost doubled in terms of the previous month. The number of active users of e-books also doubled from that of the previous month.

There has also been a marked increase in engagement on social media in terms of services such as press reader and RBdigital which facilitates access to a wide range of online newspapers and magazines.

Prior to the shutdown of the libraries, a number of libraries celebrated ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ by holding a number of events and activities as gaeilge for children attending schools across the county. All events were well attended with the emphasis on fun and the enjoyment of our native language.

World Book Day was marked in a number of libraries on Thursday March 5th with rhyme time and storytime events held. These events proved extremely popular and resulted in quite a number of new library memberships.

A Healthy Ireland at your Library event took place in Carrick-on-Shannon library where there was a good attendance at a talk on Diabetes on Advanced Nurse Practitioner Ruth Morrow.

The series of visits to second level schools in the county by the local studies librarian continued with presentations being given in 3 schools, Carrigallen Vocational School, Drumshanbo Vocational School and Carrick-on-Shannon Community School. The visits also incorporated a presentation of a copy of ‘Leitrim History and Society’ to each of the school libraries. A special note of gratitude to the elected members who took time out of their busy schedule to attend these presentations, it is very much appreciated by both the schools and the staff of Leitrim library service.

SIGNED BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Signed: ___________________________
Lar Power, Chief Executive

Date: 14/4/2020