

LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

1 9 9 9



ANNUAL REPORT



CONTENTS

CATHAOIRLEACH'S ADDRESS

COUNTY MANAGER'S INTRODUCTION

COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

HOUSING AND BUILDING

ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROL

RECREATION & AMMENITY

PERSONNEL

OTHER SERVICES

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

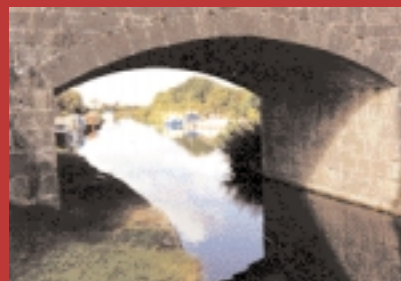
LOCAL ELECTIONS

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PORTLAOISE TOWN COMMISSION

MOUNTMELICK TOWN COMMISSION

GENERAL INFORMATION



CATHAOIRLEACH'S ADDRESS



MR JOE DUNNE M.C.C.

1999 was a significant year in the life of Laois County Council, integrating the old and new. It marked the Centenary of the establishment of Laois County Council in 1899 and the Local Elections were held in June 1999 bringing some new faces to the Council Chamber to lead the people of Laois into the next Millennium.

The opening of the Dunamase Theatre and Centre for the Arts by Ms. Síle De Valera, Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and The Islands, will introduce a new vibrancy to the cultural traditions and community in the County.

A major highlight in 1999 was the official opening of the Carlow Northern Relief Road, which was a joint project undertaken in conjunction with Carlow County Council.

I take this opportunity to thank those members who retired or who were unsuccessful in their re-election campaign for their co-operation and support during the early part of 1999. I also thank my colleagues on the newly elected Council for their support during my year as Cathaoirleach.

I express my thanks to the County Manager and staff of Laois County Council for their dedication and commitment over the past year.

Tá an áthas orm Tuarascáil Bhliantúil Comhairle Chontae Laoise do 1999 a chur in bhur láthar. Tá súil agam go mbainfidh sibh go léir taitneamh as an tuarascáil bhliantúil seo.

Joe Dunne
Cathaoirleach



*Cathaoirleach's
Address*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT



MR MICHAEL MALONE

I am delighted to present to you the Annual Report for Laois County Council in its Centenary Year, 1999.

The report reviews the main activities for the year and will provide an insight into the various services provided by the Council. It was a particularly busy year. The Council celebrated its Centenary in April 1999 and the Centenary Book "Laois County Council: The First Hundred Years" consolidates the history of the Council since its foundation.

The Council vigorously promoted local activities throughout the year in its continuing fight against litter and indeed waste management is one of the biggest issues facing us in the new Millennium.

The main highlights of 1999 include:

- *The official opening of the Arts Centre.*
- *A re-enactment of the 1st Meeting of Laois County Council 1899.*
- *The election of a new Council in June.*

I congratulate all members elected in June and I welcome our nine new members to Laois County Council and extend my commiserations to the outgoing members who were unsuccessful.

Approval was obtained to proceed with the planning of Portlaoise Main Drainage Scheme 2, Mountmellick Water Supply Improvement Scheme and Ballyroan Sewerage Scheme.

My sincere thanks to the Cathaoirleach and Members of Laois County Council for their support, encouragement and assistance over the past twelve months. I also wish to express my appreciation to all members of staff for the work, which has been carried out in all sections in the Council throughout the year on behalf of and in partnership with the community of County Laois.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le baill Chomhairle Chontae Laoise agus le foireann oibre as a dtacaíocht i rith na bliana.

Michael Malone
County Manager



County
Managers
Report

COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM

1999

AND SUPPORTING STAFF

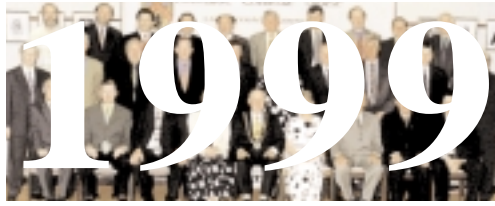


"COUNTY MANAGEMENT TEAM AND STAFF"

County
Management
Team



COUNCIL MEMBERS



"NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL - JUNE 1999"

*Council
Members*



HOUSING AND BUILDING



TITHÍOCHT AGUS FOIRGNEAMH

Is iad feidhmeanna na Comhairle sa chlarghrupa seo na bainistíocht agus solathar thithíoch rialtas aitiúil; cunamh a thabhairt do dhaoine ata ag saothru tithíochta doibh fein, no ag cur lei na dtithe ata acu; agus bheith istigh no loistin a chur ar fail do lucht siúil.

MANAGEMENT AND PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION

Laois County Council, through this Programme, aim to improve the overall standard of accommodation available to those in need. This objective is achieved in a number of ways.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION/ACQUISITION

Laois County Council were initially allocated 60 housing starts for 1999, however, we were successful in securing 14 extra housing starts during 1999 due to the advanced stage of our Construction Programme.

Forty-four (44) new houses were completed and eight (8) houses were purchased on the open market for allocation to persons on the Waiting List at the following locations:

Bay Road, Mountmellick	3	Purchases:
Oakglen, Stradbally	4	48, Kiln Lane, Mountrath
Hillside, Clonaslee	2	8, New Row, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise
Kirwan Park, Mountmellick	14	45, O'Moore Place, Portlaoise
Boley, Abbeylax	1	154, St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise
Trumera, Mountrath	1	5, Doonane Road, Crettyard
Crossneen, via Carlow	1	22, Dr. Murphy Place, Portlaoise
Triogue Court, Portlaoise	5	Tullamoy, Stradbally
Doonane Road, Crettyard	4	96, St. Brigid's Place,
Portlaoise		
Balladine Heights, Abbeylax	4	
Erkina Court, Rathdowney	4	
Garranbaun, Camross	1	



Five new demountable dwellings were purchased during 1999 while 98 houses were under construction at the end of 1999.

VOLUNTARY HOUSING SECTOR

It is recognised by Laois County Council that the Voluntary Housing Sector has a vital role to play in meeting the challenge of providing accommodation for those in need.

During 1999, Respond! completed 30 units under the Rental Subsidy Scheme at Birchgrove, Knockmay, Portlaoise. The successful tenants completed a 10 week Tenant Induction Course before taking up occupancy of their new houses. They also enjoy the luxury of a state-of-the-art Community Centre. Laois County Council provided the sites for the new houses and Community Centre.

Land purchases and preparatory layout and design work commenced during 1999 which will see Voluntary Housing Schemes constructed under the Rental Subsidy and Capital Assistance Schemes at the following locations:

Durrow, Abbeyleix, Portarlinton, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Rathdowney, Portlaoise, Castletown and Stradbally.

EXTENSIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

In the case of tenants where household size increases, leading to overcrowding, Laois County Council adopt a flexible approach and construct extensions where possible. Extensions to two houses were carried out in Portlaoise during 1999.

LAND IN COUNCIL OWNERSHIP

The Council have a policy of ensuring that an adequate land bank is in place to cater for a Five-Year Building Programme. Land has been acquired for housing developments at the following locations:

Abbeyleix, Arles, Ballinakill, Borris-in-Ossory, Clonaslee, Durrow, Emo, Errill, Mountmellick, Mountrath, Newtown/Doonane, Portarlinton, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Timahoe, Vicarstown, Rathdowney and Clonaslee.

HOUSING STOCK

The following is a breakdown of the total number of houses under the Council's control at the 31st December, 1999:-

1,000	- Rented
	Houses/Maisonettes/Demountable Dwellings
887	- Vested Houses/Tenant Purchase Scheme
1,887	- Total



*Housing
& Building*

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF RENTED HOUSES

Phase One of the special programme for Planned Maintenance which dealt with the pre-1975 housing stock was completed in 1999. One hundred and thirty eight houses in total were involved.

The process of surveying all rented houses constructed between 1975 and 1980 commenced in 1999. This survey will result in the following work being carried out on 286 rented houses.

- Fitting of new PVC windows and doors.
- Provision of new gutters, fascia and soffits.
- Check of all electrical wires in houses.

30 vacant houses were refurbished and re-let during 1999.

ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS HOUSING THEMSELVES OR IMPROVING THEIR HOUSES

Our objective is to ensure that those wishing to own or improve their own homes can do so.

LOANS & GRANTS

This Council provides a mortgage lending service for persons who have been unable to access mortgage funds through the normal market channels. In 1999, 4 house loans and 30 improvement loans totalling £200,520.00 were paid out.

A special grant is available towards the cost of improving housing to meet the accommodation needs of people with disabilities. Twenty-eight (28) households availed of the grant in 1999 and grants paid amounted to £144,871.70.

SHARED OWNERSHIP LOAN SCHEME

This system facilitates access to full ownership in two steps for those who cannot afford full ownership in the conventional manner. Ownership is initially shared between the occupier and the Council. In 1999, 11 Certificates of Provisional Approval and 5 Certificates of Final Approval were issued. At the end of 1999, 46 households had availed of this scheme.

MORTGAGE ALLOWANCE SCHEME

An allowance of up to £4,500 is payable to tenants or tenant purchasers of Local Authority houses who surrender their houses to the Council and purchase or build their own houses. The allowance varies from £1,400 in year one to £500 in year five and helps ease the transition to full mortgage repayments.

IMPROVEMENT WORKS IN LIEU OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

This scheme allows the Council to improve or extend privately owned accommodation occupied or intended to be occupied by an approved applicant for housing as an alternative to the provision of local authority accommodation. Improvement works on three dwellings were completed during 1999 in Cardtown, Portlaoise and Rosenallis and work is ongoing at another dwelling in Vicarstown.

1995 TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME

This Scheme allows the tenants of Council houses to apply to purchase their houses outright or by way of Shared Ownership. A total of 31 tenants purchased their houses in 1999. A further 30 applications were being considered at the 31st December, 1999.

SETTLEMENT OF TRAVELLERS

Refurbishment works, at a cost of approximately £500,000 to the Portlaoise Residential Caravan Park, were completed in 1999 and the site was officially re-opened on October 22nd, 1999 by the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Joseph Dunne, M.C.C. Serviced accommodation for 24 families is now available at the Portlaoise Residential Caravan Park.

The Community/Project Worker continues to run a homework and youth club at the site four afternoons a week. The Community Worker is ably assisted by one of the travellers employed on a FAS Scheme by Portlaoise Community Action Project.

For the first time in County Laois four travelling families were accommodated in voluntary housing at the Respond! Scheme at Birchgrove, Portlaoise.

In 1999, the Department of the Environment and Local Government introduced a Pilot Initiative Scheme for the purchase of Single Instance Housing for Travellers - Laois County Council purchased 2 such houses in 1999, one in Stradbally and one in Portlaoise. Four travelling families were also accommodated in standard local authority housing in the County in 1999.

In October 1999, Laois County Council's Draft Five Year Accommodation Programme for Travelling Families 2000 - 2004 was put on public display and submissions were



*Housing
& Building*

invited from interested parties.

It is envisaged that the Draft Plan would go before council at the January 2000 meeting for adoption. The plan proposes to provide 74 new units of accommodation in the County over the next five years to meet the existing and projected needs of the travelling community - the existing need of 38 and a projected need of 36 units. It is proposed to meet this need with the provision of standard local authority housing and rural housing.

This plan was prepared in consultation with the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee which has 17 members comprising 3 officials of Laois County Council, 8 Elected Members and 6 traveller representatives. This Committee was established in accordance with Section 21 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act, 1998 and has met on 9 occasions.

As we approach the 21st Century, Laois County Council recognises that the way forward to providing appropriate traveller specific accommodation is based on a partnership model, a model based on the mutual respect and understanding of all the participants and the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of each of the partners.

ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Housing Department of Laois County Council recognise the need to develop an estate focused management system within our local authority estates. We recognise that tenant participation is a key element in a customer orientated housing service, which is what we aim to provide. It is the best way of getting in touch with tenant's views and of making sure that services meet their needs. The importance of training for all tenants in Estate Management is recognised, as is the vast untapped training resources in the community, which should be released to provide good quality, accessible training for all tenants.

ACTIVITIES DURING 1999:

- We have identified residents representatives and social partners who each have a role to play in Estate Management.
- Through a series of meetings with the residents of the Local Authority Estates in Laois, we identified the various issues which the residents themselves feel need to be tackled most urgently.
- A series of follow up meetings were organised to meet with all the elected representatives of each Resident's Association and following these meetings we established a committee in each estate for the further development of the Estate Management Programme.

We, in the Housing Section, believe that the involvement of tenants in programmes of this nature will ultimately lead to improvements in the standards of an estate by helping to prevent the deterioration of these estates into problem areas. We feel that tenants know best the strengths, weakness' and problems of their estates.

During 1999, through the Estate Management and tenant participation process the County Council:

- Addressed issues of social exclusion in relation to housing and related issues.

- Promoted the common good and reached consensus in decision making whilst fostering a sense of community spirit within the estates.
- Promoted equality by ensuring that tenants were not discriminated against.
- Improved the co-ordination and delivery of all Council services to our tenants, improved communication between Laois County Council and its tenants and promoted the development of estates through involving tenants in the drawing up of development plans for their estates.
- Established Estate Management as an important part of the overall services provided by Laois County Council.

INTER-AGENCY APPROACH

As part of the Estate Management Programme community based projects have taken place in conjunction with the Midland Health Board, Gardai, Foróige, PCAP and M.D.A. because we acknowledge the value of the Inter-Agency approach.

An Estate Management Competition was organised for the first time in 1999. The Competition was split into two categories:

- Residents Associations established before the 1st January 1999
- Residents Associations established since the 1st January 1999

The Winners were as follows:

Residents Associations (Pre. 01/01/99)

- 1st Lakeglen, Portlaoise
- 2nd Kirwan Park, Mountmellick

Residents Associations (Post 01/01/99)

- 1st O'Moore Place, Portlaoise
- 2nd Pattison Estate, Mountmellick

BUILDING CONTROL

A Building Control Officer was appointed for the first time in 1999 with responsibility for the following:

- Inspection of private estates prior to taking in charge
- Inspection of new developments to ensure compliance with planning permission and site development standards
- Inspection of private rented accommodation to ensure compliance with Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations, 1993
- Inspection of buildings to ensure compliance with Building Regulations



*Housing
& Building*

HIGHLIGHTS 1999

- Approval by Elected Members of revised Scheme of Letting Priorities which incorporated a points system for the first time
- First Estate Management Competition
- Appointment of Building Control Officer



ROAD TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY



BÓTHAIR, IOMPAIR AGUS SÁBHÁILTEACHT

INTRODUCTION

Laois County Council is responsible for and maintains the 2,278.03 km (1417 miles) of roadway in the County.

Length of Roads by Classification

National Primary	86.40 km	54 miles
National Secondary	75.20 km	47 miles
Regional Roads	251.20 km	157 miles
County/Other Main Roads	1865.23 km	1159 miles
TOTAL	2278.03 km	1417 miles

In 1999, Laois County Council received a total allocation of £15,544,000 in respect of expenditure on National and Non-National Roads in Laois. Of this, £485,000 was financed from Rates, with the remainder coming from Central Government, the E.U., the Department of the Environment and the National Roads Authority.

The allocation for Portlaoise By-Pass accounted for approximately 30% of the entire allocation.

Allocations were received in respect of the following projects:-

NATIONAL ROADS

Portlaoise By-Pass
N7 Portlaoise to Mountrath By-Pass
N8 Portlaoise/Abbeyleix/Durrow
N7 Junction Improvements
N7 Ballaghmore
N7 Borris in Ossory/R435
N7 Traffic Route Lighting
N8 Bishopswood/Newtown
N8 Durrow
N7 Patrick Street Mountrath
N7 Mountrath
N7 Gandon Inn
N8 Abbeyleix Pavement



Road
Transportation
& Safety

N7 Ballybrittas Traffic Calming
 N8 Cullahill Traffic Calming
 N8 Abbeyleix Traffic Calming

N80 Carlow Northern Relief Road
 N78 Simmons & Newtown Crosses
 N78 Strengthening
 N80 Stradbally/J.F.L./Mountmellick Roads
 N80 Mountmellick Relief Road Design
 N80 Strengthening
 N77 Durrow
 N80 Mountmellick/Killeigh
 N80 Clonsaughey
 Mortorway TRL & Emergency Telephones
 National Primary Maintenance and Surface Dressing.
 National Secondary Maintenance and Surface Dressing

TOTAL **£10,381,000**

Non-National Roads

Discretionary Maintenance Grant
 Discretionary Improvement Grant
 Restoration Improvement Grant
 Restoration Maintenance Grant
 Restoration Grant for Local Tertiary Roads



TOTAL **£3,585,000**

E.U. CO-FINANCED SCHEMES

R419 Spa Bridge, Portarlinton
 R433/R435 Rathdowney
 Northgrove Bridge
 R433 Middlemount-Coolacurragh
 Rossmore/Crosneen/Killeslin Ring Road
 R420 Bracklone Street, Portarlinton

TOTAL **£1,093,000**

CARLOW NORTHERN RELIEF ROAD

A major highlight in 1999 was the official opening of the Carlow Northern Relief Road by Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., on the 30th August, 1999.

The opening ceremony was conducted on the new Bill Duggan Bridge, which crosses the River Barrow at Strawhall. A significant proportion of traffic entering the town as through traffic will now divert via the new bridge.

Laois County Council constructed the road and roundabouts linking the road from the Sleaty Road, the Portlaoise Road and the Castlecomer Road. Approach roads to the new Bridge from Athy Road in Carlow and Sleaty Road in Laois were constructed by Carlow County Council. Road surfacing in County Carlow was carried out by Dan Morrissey (Irl.) Ltd. Road construction and surfacing in County Laois was by GMB Construction Ltd.

The cost of roadworks and surfacing in County Laois was £3.7m. and further works on the approaches to Graiguecullen in Laois will cost £1m. The total cost of the project, when completed, will be almost £10m.

The completion of the relief road will reduce traffic congestion in Carlow town and make for safer and more efficient travel on the N80. It will also contribute to the business and commercial development of Carlow Town.

ABBEYLEIX MAIN STREET RESURFACING

The Contract for the Abbeyleix Streets Project was awarded to Coffey Construction Ltd., Athenry, Co. Galway. The signing of the Contract documentation took place on the 1st April, 1999.

The scheme involves the reconstruction and the resurfacing of the carriageway and footpaths in Abbeyleix on the section of the existing N8 between the speed limit signs. The total length of the scheme is approximately 1.7 km. The contract value is £1.8 m. and works are scheduled to be completed in March, 2000.

PORTLAOISE INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

The town of Portlaoise has undergone unprecedented development pressure in recent years. In January 1999, Laois County Council appointed McCarthy & Partners, Consulting Engineers to carry out traffic transportation and land-use studies to enable a comprehensive review of transportation and land use needs to be carried out for the town of Portlaoise. The Study involved the consideration of the long-term development strategy for Portlaoise and the development of strategic transportation measures, which need to be implemented over the Study period of 20 years.

The principal elements of the road network strategy will be the development of:

- (a) An orbital route connecting the main radial routes at the urban fringe
- (b) Upgrading of the M7 interchanges to provide for all movements at Mountrath Road and the provision of a new interchange at the Stradbally Road
- (c) The provision of a by pass of the town to the north east as part of the development of the orbital route which will allow N80 traffic to avoid the town.



*Road
Transportation
& Safety*

PUBLIC LIGHTING

A total of 2921 lights are maintained by the Council and in 1999 the cost was £226,020.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN ROADWORKS SCHEME

This scheme continued in 1999 and a total of 13 projects were successfully undertaken in conjunction with local communities.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

An allocation of £76,400 was received from the Department of the Environment in 1999 in respect of the above which financed 11 projects in the county.

TAXIS AND HACKNEYS

Since 1st September, 1995, a total of 54 new Hackney Licences have issued.

In addition, the total number of Taxi Licences which had issued at the 31st December, 1999 was 15.

LOCAL URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS

OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR URBAN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL

The Council continued with a 5 year programme and in 1999 a sum of £115,352.30 was received from the Department of the Environment to this Council for Towns and Villages in Laois.

The grant allocation was again supplemented by local contributions.

Works were undertaken in 1999 at the following locations:-

1. PORTLAOISE

The 1999 programme concentrated on the completion of environmental enhancement programme for Portlaoise Town Centre. This involved the transformation of the town centre into a pedestrian friendly environment and involved undergrounding of wirescape, newly paved areas, street furniture, landscaping, formation of new pedestrian squares and the development of an amenity area at Mill View. Works were completed on the upgrading of Bridge Street, Portlaoise.

2. ABBEYLEIX

Abbeyleix is a designated heritage town and works were carried out with a view to enhancing the character of the town centre by undergrounding the wirescape and developing a series of Heritage Trails and walks.

3. CAMROSS/COOLRAIN

Works in Camross encompassed village landscaping, stone walls, development of a village bog and herb garden at the Poet's Cottage and restorative work in the ruins of the old church.

In Coolrain, a programme of tree planting on approach roads and at strategic locations was undertaken. Shrub beds at Annatrim were developed. Street furniture and tourist signs were provided and a programme of stone wall construction and repair was undertaken.

4. ERRILL

Works included the provision of a new beech hedge on the Castlefleming Road, road verge treatment, stone flower beds and planters, post and rail fencing, stone wall and plaque at Errill Wayside Cross.

5. THE SWAN

Works carried out comprised of general landscaping in the village and approach roads, provision of street furniture, litter bins and signs, the development of a small picnic amenity area with a shelter for the public.

6. CLONAGHADOO

Works included general village landscaping, paths, stone wall improvements etc.

7. DONAGHMORE

Works primarily involved the development of the village Green into a visual asset for locals and visitors - random stone wall, flag stone kerbing, leisure areas for bowling, paths, picnic seats/tables landscaping. Further improvements to the community area at the Mill - paths, courtyard, pedestrian bridge, planting, stone walls etc.

8. BALLYFIN

A picnic/amenity area at the Deadmans was developed which comprised landscaping, shrubbery, tables, seats and a parking area. In addition, a tennis court for village use was provided adjacent to the Church/School.

9. VICARSTOWN

The intrinsic character and tourist potential of the village was enhanced by the removal of unsightly wirescape and lights and replacing same with traditional cast-iron lanterns, developing a common theme for canal villages.



*Road
Transportation
& Safety*

10. EMO

General landscaping and shrubbery on village approaches and at the picnic area. The long-term project for the village will involve the refurbishment of a derelict forest cottage into a small building for community/tourist purposes.

11. KILLESHIN

Works completed comprise of the development and expansion of an amenity area at Uisean Park, development of a multifunctional community/tourist building, environmental enhancement, creation of a village focus around the community centre and school and the provision of a community/tourist information board.

12. BALLINAKILL

General landscaping in the village, pointing stone walls and the development of the walk from Chapel Street to Castle Lane. Enhancement of the area around the open-air village swimming pool, grading, seeding, landscaping, seats and upgrading of the pool.

MOTOR TAXATION

Clárú Feithicile

Chuaigh líon na bhFeithicile i gCo Laoise i méid i rith 1999. Tugadh uimhir nua Laoise do 2,662 feithicil g Oifig ÁRTIÚIL Chlárú na bhFeithicil i rith na bliana. Tá sé sin inchurtha le 2,485 in 1998, 2,027 in 1997, 1,750 in 1996.

VEHICLE LICENSING

The total number of vehicle licensed (motor tax) amounted to 24,819 with 46,656 discs being issued. In 1998 23,320 vehicles were licensed, 22,230 in 1997 and 20,816 in 1996. Total receipts from vehicle licensing amounted to £5,426,589 compared to £4,754,000 in 1998.

DRIVING LICENCES

6,815 driving licences were issued in 1999, of which 3,945 were in the provisional category. This compares with 6,475 licences being issued in 1998 of which 3,955 were in the provisional category. The total number of driving licences current at the 31st December '99 was 34,671 compared to 29,965 in 1998 and 28,027 in 1997. Receipts from driving licences in the year amounted to £88,020.

Changes in driving licences were introduced during the year. The road traffic (Licencing of Drivers) Regulations 1999 - S.I. No. 352 of 1999 came into operation on 15th November 1999. The regulations give effect to E.U. requirements.

Details of the amendments were outlined by way of Press release.

Arrangements are in hand to expand our computer system to accommodate both the changes in

Regulations and also the increase in the number of applications.

VEHICLE TESTING

Certificates of Roadworthiness were issued in respect of 1,992 vehicles during the year. This compares with 1,885 in 1998 and 1,775 in 1997. Receipts from the issue of Certificates of Roadworthiness amounted to £19,260.

(a) Testing of private cars, including second-hand imports will be commencing on 4th January 2000. This will be known as the National Car Test (NCT).

Testing will be phased in over the period 2000 to 2002 as follows:-

	Year of Test
(1) Cars first registered before 1st January 1992	2000
(2) Cars registered between 1992 - 1996	2001
(3) Cars 4-year old and all liable older cars	2002

In the relevant year the NCT will be due on the anniversary of the first registration date. Subsequent tests will be due every 2 years.

TOTAL RECEIPTS

The total receipts from Motor and Driver Licencing and ancillary services was £5,756,522. This compares to £5,016,364 in 1998. £4,633,940 in 1997 and £4,309,313 in 1996. With effect from 1st July 1997 Motor Taxation became a dedicated source of funding for Local Government.

RATES OF DUTY

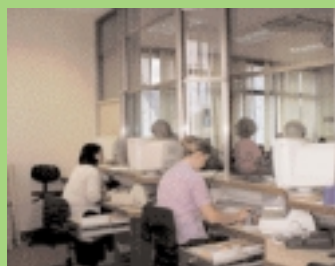
The rates of duty for vehicle licences (motor tax) were increased by 3% in January 1999. This increase applied nationally.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

The new computerised motor taxation system introduced in 1998 appears to be working well.

Credit card payments are accepted and the public have been made aware of this facility , both by public advertisement and by reminder at date of renewal of their licences. This will reduce “HARD CASH” element of daily takings and in time should help alleviate the security risk attached to cash transactions. It should also encourage more postal applications.

Hours of Opening: 9.00am - 3.30pm (including lunch time)
Monday - Friday



Road
Transportation
& Safety

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT



P O B A L A G U S T I M P E A L L A C H T

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

C O S A I N T A N C H O M H S H A O I L

In 1999 Laois County Council continued to develop its policy of increasing environmental awareness among the public and developing controls to protect the environment.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Laois County Council's Landfill Site is located at Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise. This site is now subject to the Waste Management (Licensing) Regulations, 1997 and accordingly an application for a waste licence was made to the Environmental Protection Agency in February 1998. The Environmental Protection Agency issued its Provisional Decision on the application at the end of December 1999. The Council intends to appeal certain aspects of the Provisional Decision.

Operation and management costs of the Landfill continue to increase substantially. Because of this it became necessary in 1999 to apply an increase in the charges to £25.00 per tonne. Further increases are proposed in these charges for 2000.

“LIFE” PARTNERSHIP

The Treatment of Landfill Leachate Using Peat is a pilot project between Laois County Council, Kerry County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency, which has been co-funded by the 1996 EU LIFE Programme. The project involves demonstrating the potential of peat as an innovative, low maintenance technology for landfill leachate treatment.

Leachate treatment facilities have been constructed at Kyletalisha Landfill in Co. Laois and at a closed Landfill in Dingle, Co. Kerry to demonstrate that that peat filtration can be utilised under a range of site conditions.

LITTER CONTROL

Conscious of the damage that litter does to the environment and the bad image that it creates for the county, and in line with the County Litter Management Plan a number of measures were undertaken in 1999 to promote anti-litter awareness:

- The Council actively promoted local activities during the National Spring Clean campaign in April.
- 36 on the spot fines were issued on a countywide basis under the terms of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997.

- 12 prosecutions were taken against offenders for breaches of the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997 with the largest fine imposed being £2,823.00.
- The Council organised an anti-litter competition. The prize for the winning school, St. Joseph's National School, Mountmellick, was the opportunity to produce an anti-litter film. Their film entitled "Stop the Drop" was premiered in the Dunamaise Theatre, Portlaoise on 17th December, 1999.
- A composting scheme is being run in connection with the Laois ICA Guild. This scheme will illustrate the amount of waste that is being sent to the Landfill but which could be composted.
- The Council continued to organise a Schools Debating Competition for junior and senior students. The finals took place in April and the competition was kindly sponsored by the Educational Building Society.

Laois County Council intends to recruit a second Litter Warden in 2000 and this will greatly enhance the Council's ability to further eliminate the practice of indiscriminate dumping which still exists.

Regulations published in December 1999 increased the amount of the on-the-spot fine from £25.00 to £50.00 with effect from the 1st January 2000.

RECYCLING

In keeping with the overall National Recycling Strategy, the Council continued its policy of promoting the use of the 8 Bring Sites located throughout the county.

FIRE SERVICES

Laois County Fire Service provides an overall total fire service to the community 24 hours a day every day of the year. The two areas of activity are:

- Fire/Emergency Operations
- Fire Prevention

The total cost of the service in 1999 was £1.14 million. This includes back money paid to firefighters under a new National Agreement.

It is the policy of Laois County Council to levy a Fire Service Call-out charge. The following scale of charges will apply from January 1st 2000.

Chimney Fire £85.00

Subject to a £25 discount if paid within 30 days

Non-Chimney Fires & Call Outs: Economic cost of call plus administration fee of 33 1/3 %



Community &
Environment

FIRE/EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Laois County Fire Service responded to 703 turnouts including 496 fires, 80 special service incidents (road traffic accidents, flooding incidents, etc.) and 127 false alarms. A number of these turnouts were to incidents in adjoining counties.

STAFF LEVELS

1 no. Chief Fire Officer, 2 no. Assistant Chief Fire Officers, 8 no. Station Officers, 8 no. Sub-Station Officers and 54 no. Firefighters.

VEHICLE FLEET

10 no. Class B Fire Appliances
1 no. Emergency Tender
8 no 4x4 Vehicles
1 no service van

TRAINING

It is the policy of the Service to ensure that all firefighters and officers receive the most up-to-date and comprehensive training to enable them to perform their duties in an effective, efficient and safe manner.

This training covers all aspects of their daily work. In addition firefighters also undergo specialised training.

FIRE PREVENTION

The Fire Services Act, 1981 assigns sole responsibility for fire safety in premises to the owner/occupiers of these premises. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Prevention):

- assesses planning applications and advises the Planning Authority (and thus the developer) of the current fire safety standards required.
- undertakes an inspection programme under the terms of the Fire Services Act, 1981 of places of public assembly and other selected fire risk buildings.
- inspection of premises and court appearances in relation to the Licensing Acts.
- inspections in relation to the Dangerous Substances Act, 1978.
- processes applications for Fire Safety Certificates. The Building Control Act, 1990 places a requirement on all developers to apply for a fire safety certificate for all buildings, other than dwelling houses prior to the commencement of construction. 62 applications were received in 1999.

VETERINARY CONTROL

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) was established under the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act, 1998. The FSAI is the statutory body charged with ensuring that food produced, marketed or distributed in Ireland meets the highest standard of food safety and hygiene. In order to fulfil this requirement the FSAI has entered into Service Contracts with the various agencies involved in food safety functions.

The Council entered into a Service Contract with the FSAI in July 1999 with regard to the functions the Council carries out in this area. The Council has three part-time Veterinary Inspectors who are responsible for the monitoring of meat processing in the county's abattoirs and ensuring adherence to relevant legislation.

Inspections carried out include ante and post-mortem examinations of all animals slaughtered in domestic abattoirs in keeping with the requirements of the Abattoirs Act, 1988 and the Regulations made under this Act.

To enhance this service further, the Council will be appointing a full-time Veterinary Inspector in 2000.

WATER POLLUTION LABORATORY

This Section is responsible for ensuring that the water supply is in pristine condition and suitable for human consumption. A large number of samples are taken annually and analysed for water quality.

The Council monitors 9 licenced industrial discharges both to waters and sewers from a fully equipped laboratory on the Mountrath Road.

Discharges from the Councils' own sewage treatment plants are also monitored in order to ensure that they are operating effectively.

Leachate and receiving waters are also monitored at Kyletalisha Landfill on a daily basis.

Other areas of environmental responsibility carried out by the staff of the Laboratory are:

- investigations of odour and smoke complaints
- environmental noise investigations.

CONTROL OF DOGS

In 1999, 3350 ordinary and 1 general dog licences were issued in the county. However, the Council believes that there are a significant number of owners in the county who do not possess a licence for their dog.

The dog warden service is provided in County Laois for the council by the ISPCA. They employ a full time dog warden and operate a pound at Ballacolla. The cost of providing the dog control service in 1999 was £50,591 and this service was partially funded from receipts from dog licences.

The Government increased the cost of a dog licence from £5.00 to £10.00 from the 1st February, 1999.



Community & Environment

LAOIS CIVIL DEFENCE

Laois Civil Defence Volunteers were involved in over 30 events within the County and at National level. 541 volunteers and 4328 hours were involved in responding to the many requests, which included search and recovery of missing persons, mountain and river rescue and many community events, St. Patrick Day parade in Portlaoise and Mountmellick, The Slieve Bloom Festival, Vicarstown Boating Festival, Budweiser Derby at the Curragh, Spraoi Laois Festival, Laois Hospice.

Exercise and training Camps were held with the F.C.A. at Heywood College, Fort Camdon, Crosshaven, Co. Cork, Lahinch, Co. Clare with Limerick City Civil Defence. National Exercises, "Euro '99" were held in Mallow Co. Cork.

Laois Civil Defence Mountain and River Rescue Unit were successful in taking awards for their skills and expertise in "Rescue from Heights" at a special exercise held at "Kilbride Army Training Camp" in November.

Mountain and River Rescue equipment was purchased with monies raised by the Volunteers and Local Sponsorship, which will be of great benefit to the Mountain and River Rescue Unit.

Training takes place at three Civil Defence Centres at Mountmellick (SubCo1), Stradbally (SubCo2) and Durrow (SubCo3). These centres are also equipped to cater for the needs of a response unit (30 Volunteers).

First Aid Courses are also given to FAS projects, schools, and community groups.

RURAL WATER PROGRAMME

Since the devolution of responsibility for the Rural Water Programme to Local Authorities this County has continued establishing the necessary technical and other structures required to ensure the effective administration of the programme.

The County Monitoring Committee meets on a regular basis to monitor progress and work is now underway in relation to preparation of the Laois Rural Water Strategic Plan and the establishment of a testing programme for Group Water Supply Scheme. Details of progress to date are as follows:-

	1998	1999
(a) Grants for the provision of necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house		
No of Applications received	150	143
Number paid	72	84
Amount Paid	£87,257.85	£103,557.21

	1998	1999
(b) Subsidies towards the operational costs of Group Water Schemes		
No of Applications received	14	14
Number paid	14	14
Amount paid	£53,166.77	£64,322.23

(1) Small Water/Sewerage Schemes (Under £250,000)

	1998		1999
Portlaoise Sewerage	£130,000	Ballylinan Sewerage	£54,000
Portlaoise Main Street	£31,000	Emo Sewerage	£25,500
Emo Sewerage	£37,500	Borris-In-ossory Water	£66,000
Seskin Sewerage	£93,750		
	£292,750		£145,500

(2) New Group Schemes/Upgrading Capital Grants

	1998		1999
Ballinatlea	£4,066	Parkbawn	£2,483
Rathmoyle	£3,482	Ballinacclough	£20,000
Knock No.2	£2,263	Upper Forest	£3,200
Rathmore No.1	£6,658	Clonard	£3,200
Derrylamogue	£4,400	Knockahonagh	£2,863
		Derrycarnew (U)	£823
		Attanagh (U)	£25,813
		The Heath (U)	£37,566
	£20,869		£95,948

(3) Taking-in-Charge Group Schemes

	1998		1999
Ratheniska	£53,226	Ratheniska	£42,520
Killenard	£40,000	Killenard	£67,400
	£93,226		£109,920

WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

The Council has 21 public water supply schemes and 17 public sewerage schemes in operation, which serve the towns and villages and their hinterlands throughout the county. In 1999 expenditure of £1,453,000 was incurred on the operation and maintenance of these schemes.



Community & Environment

Capital grants amounting to £1,206,000 were received in the year from the Department of the Environment and Local Government in respect of works undertaken, or being planned, on the improvement and extension of approved public water and sewerage schemes.

During the year, construction commenced on the provision of sludge dewatering facilities at Portlaoise Sewerage Treatment Plant and approval was obtained to proceed with the planning of Portlaoise Main Drainage Stage 2, Mountmellick Water Supply Improvement, Ballyroan Sewerage and the drilling and testing of wells for the augmentation of Portarlinton Water Supply. Under the Small Schemes Programme, the planning of improvement works to Ballylinan Sewerage, Emo Village Sewerage and Borris-in-Ossory Water Supply was also undertaken.

An Assessment of Needs for the provision of improved water and sewerage infrastructure for the period of the new National Development Plan 2000-2006 was prepared and adopted by the Council during the year. The estimated total capital cost of all projects on this assessment is £43 million.

A water conservation project was initiated and is continuing in Portlaoise where extensive new development is placing increasing demands on water resources.

WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE

Solathar Uisce agus Searachas

SERVICE CHARGES METERED WATER	£2.31 per 1,000 gallons
	£0.51 per 1,000 litres

METER RENTAL	£40.00 per year
---------------------	-----------------

WELL GRANTS

Under the scheme of grants for the provision or necessary improvement of an individual water supply to a house the table below sets out the number and value of grants paid in 1999.

No. of Grants paid	Total Value of Grants paid
84	£103,557.21

SWIMMING POOLS

The planning and preparation of proposals for the refurbishment of the swimming pools in Portarlinton and Portlaoise was undertaken during the year with a view to seeking grant-aid under the package for refurbishment of local authority swimming pools announced by the Department of

Tourism, Sport and Recreation.

A major refurbishment and redevelopment of the Portlaoise pool at Moneyballytyrell will include the provision of a modern sporting and leisure complex which will cater for numerous wet and dry sporting activities for the Laois region.

Extensive redevelopment is also proposed for Portarlinton pool to bring it up to modern day standards and provide more and better leisure facilities.

The Council approved grants for smaller improvements at Portlaoise, Portarlinton and Ballinakill Pools.

CEMETERIES

The Council proposes to provide extensions to Ballyfin, Clonaslee and Durrow cemeteries. The planning and preparations for the provision of these extensions was advanced during the year.



"ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE"

*Community &
Environment*

DERELICT SITES

A substantial number of inspections under the Derelict Sites Act 1990 were carried out during the year and, where appropriate, the necessary action was taken. 26 were entered on register; Local communities are taking a greater interest in the elimination of these eyesores as they work in partnership and consultation with the Council towards the improvement of their towns and villages.

TIDY TOWNS

19 entries in the National Competition. The level of participation illustrates the continued interest by all sections of the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

It is the council's policy to develop and foster environmental awareness throughout the county. In addition to clean up Laois, Tidy Towns, the Council has a School Environmental Awareness Programme. The Council's Environmental Programme has particular emphasis on active participation in the area of recycling. The aim of the Council is education, promotion and encouragement of community involvement in environmental issues.

URBAN AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Progress on the Council's programme for Urban and Village Improvement Schemes continued during the year. Work on 12 Towns/Villages was in progress at the end of the year. The Scheme involves the provision of grant assistance to Local Authorities to carry out environmental work and small infrastructural works in towns and villages.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Council is committed to assisting voluntary organisations in the provision of various amenities throughout the county. These contributions facilitate the provision of amenity areas, and landscaping works to enhance local areas - do grupaí le haghaidh feabhas na timpeallachta.

Over the past decade the population of the county has grown significantly with consequent development and expansion of services. The overall aim of the Community Department is to help people to help themselves. Work in close liaison with local groups to establish community based activities and facilities in communities throughout Laois.

CLEAN-UPS

Residents Associations were assisted with organised clean-ups in their areas and encouraged to become involved in creating a litter free environment.

SCHOOL DEBATES

The 1999 School Debating Competition was sponsored by Laois County Council/EBS Building Society. Six school teams took part in the Junior Competition and Seven School teams took part in the Senior Competition. The Final was held in the Dunamase Theatre on the 26th May 1999 and Heywood Community School won both categories.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS



SPREAGADH AGUS SRIANTA FORBARTHA

AIMS

To contribute to and support measures at Local and Regional level to secure an improvement in the quality of life, including attainment of economic growth, an acceptable standard of living and a satisfactory physical environment for living and working

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

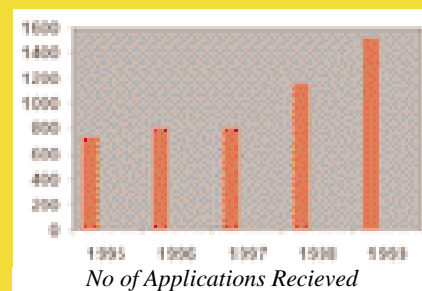
Unprecedented economic / demographic growth and pressures of housing supply have been reflected in the number of planning applications received by Laois County Council in 1999. The 1,515 applications received in 1999 exceeded the previous year's figure by 31% and is almost double the amount of applications received in 1998.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

A blueprint for the County which focuses on physical development to provide for the social and economic needs of the Community balanced against environmental protection.

The County Development Plan (1991) is under review. The new draft plan went on display for a 3 month period (to 15/12/97). Oral hearings were held in January 1998 and the Inspectors' report was furnished. The new draft plan (1998 Revision) is awaiting final approval by the members, but is on hold pending the outcome of a legal challenge in the Supreme Court.

It is hoped to have a new plan adopted and in place in 2000.



*Development Incentives
& Controls*

PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR 1999

No. of Planning Applications Received	1,515
Total Income received from Planning Application Fees	£494,345
Average decision time	7 weeks
Total received from Development Charges	£615,150
No. of Planning Appeals lodged with An Bord Pleanala	68
Number of cases finalised by An Bord Pleanala	57

Council's decision upheld in 76% of cases appealed.

URBAN RENEWAL

Laois County Council is the sponsoring Local Authority for the urban renewal process and is committed to the Urban Renewal motto "New Life for Your Town". The Urban Renewal programme also has the full support of Portlaoise Town Commissioners and Portlaoise Chamber of Commerce.

Five examples of Urban Renewal in Portlaoise are: Laois Shopping Centre, Library, Hynds Square, Lismard Court and Meehan Court.

INTEGRATED AREA PLAN

Four sites in Portlaoise have been designated as Urban Renewal areas within which tax incentive benefits will apply.

The Plan will focus on issues of economic and social progress along with the physical development and regeneration of run down areas.

TOWN RENEWAL PLANS

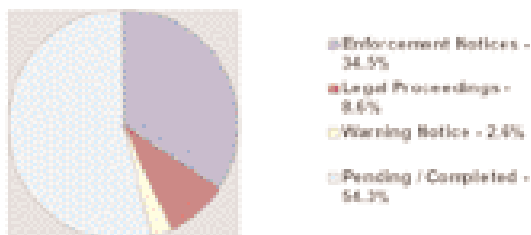
Town Renewal Plans were prepared for 4 towns; Portarlinton, Mountmellick, Mountrath and Rathdowney in 1999, which were subsequently submitted to the Department of Environment and Local Government for final approval in December 1999.

PLANNING BILL 1999

It is envisaged that a new Planning Act will be enacted in 1999. The Bill, when enacted, will extensively reform and consolidate Irish Planning Law.

ENFORCEMENT

The Planning Department have highlighted 81 cases for follow up and served 28 enforcement notices and 2 warning notices in pursuit of same in 1999. During the year legal proceedings were initiated in 7 cases.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS, 1994 - PART X

The Council passed 21 projects under these regulations during 1999.

SHOP FRONT GRANT SCHEME

The Council's Shop Front Scheme was again carried out in 1999. A grant of £500 was given to the successful applicants for the carrying out of works on their shop fronts. Four grants were awarded in 1999.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

PORTARLINGTON

Site development works were carried out at the Council's Industrial Estate at Canal Road, Portarlinton, which facilitated the marketing of sixteen sites. Approval was given by the Council to the sale, by way of 500 year lease, of eleven of these sites during 1999 and legal formalities are currently in train.

RATHDOWNEY

The Council continued marketing the advance Factory at Rathdowney. Agreement was given to the disposal of the factory to a Dublin based Company, but they subsequently withdrew from the deal in November 1999. The factory was advertised again in December 1999.

PORTLAOISE

CLONMINAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Two further sites were sold from the lands acquired from the I.D.A. to the following: Mr. Cathal Whelan, Portlaoise and Mr. Pat Booth, Killone, Stradbally.

Site development works commenced to open up other sites at Clonminam and these will be ready for marketing in early 2000.

I.D.A. BUSINESS PARK

The 22,000 sq.ft. advance factory on the park is completed and is being marketed by IDA Ireland. Ten industrial itineraries have visited this factory to-date.



*Development Incentives
& Controls*

MOUNTRATH

Site development works were carried out at the industrial estate in Mountrath acquired by the Council in 1998. Sites will be marketed for sale at this location in 2000.

LAOIS RURAL REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP

During 1999 the Rural Regeneration Partnership continued its work, which included:

- meeting with Mr. Noel Davern, T. D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture & Food, regarding submission made on the Government's White Paper on Rural Development,
- identifying urban and rural needs throughout County Laois for reference to the appropriate authorities,
- examining potential opportunities for County Laois arising from BMW Objective 1 Status and the National Development Plan.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Council's fourth annual conference, entitled "Planning for Community Development", was held in Áras an Chontae on 23rd and 24th September, 1999. The Conference was opened by Mr. Liam Hyland, M.E.P. and the following were the Speakers and topics:

**Ms. Laura Magahy, C.E.O.
Temple Bar Properties**

*"The Role of the Local Authority in the
Development and Promotion of Arts & Culture"*

**Mr. Michael Malone,
Laois County Manager**

"The Laois Experience"

**Mr. Colm O'Rourke, Sports
Personality & Journalist**

*"The Role of the Local Authority in the
Development of Sport"*

**Mr. Louis Brennan,
Laois County Secretary**

"The Laois Experience"

**Mr. Kieran Lynch, Director
of Rural Development,
Tipperary Rural Business
Development Institute**

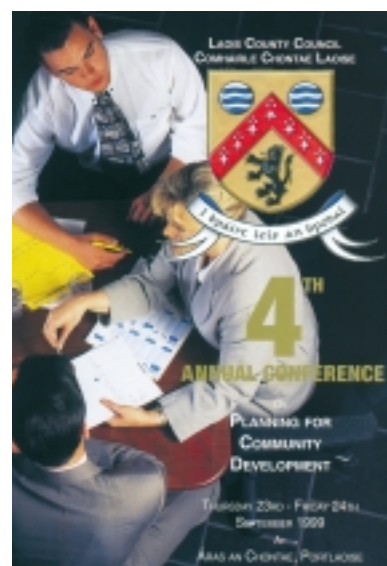
*"Community Planning &
Development"*

**Mr. Gerry McGlinchey,
Laois County Engineer**

"The Laois Experience"

**Mr. Sean O'Riordáin, Local
Authority Unit Manager,
Inst. of Public Administration**

"Beyond 2,000!"



The Conference was once again very successful and well attended.

DUNAMAISE THEATRE & CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

The Dunamaise Theatre and Centre for the Arts was officially opened by the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and The Islands, Ms. Síle de Valera, on 4th May, 1999. The official opening was followed by a Performance by the Laois Youth Theatre of a play by Portlaoise novelist and playwright, John Dunne, entitled "I'll Fly Away".



The Laois Arts Theatre Company Limited was established in 1999 to run the Centre. The original Directors of the Company are Councillors Thomas Jacob, James Daly, Cathy Honan, Ms. Catherine Scully, Ms. Muireann Ni Chonaill, Ms. Kathleen Gorman, Messrs. Michael Malone & Declan Byrne

Ms. Louise Donlon was appointed Manager in February 1999 to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Centre. A wide range of activities have taken place in the Centre since its opening, viz. Art Exhibitions, Drama Productions, Concerts, Ballet, Pantomime etc. The Centre is widely used both by National and local performers.

GRANTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF A PROTECTED STRUCTURE

A new scheme of grants for protected structures was put in place in 1999 by the Department of the Environment & Local Government. The purpose of the scheme is to assist the owner or occupier of a protected structure to undertake necessary works to secure the conservation of the structure or part of the structure. The council's allocation in 1999 under the Scheme was £72,000. Twenty-four applications were received for assistance under the Scheme, nineteen of which were offered grants.



NEW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

INTRODUCTION

June 1999 - the Local Appointments Commission recruited Directors of Community & Enterprise for each County and City. Mr. Declan Byrne was appointed to the position in Laois and his role will be to work with the new County Development Board in drawing up a ten year comprehensive strategy for the economic,



*Development Incentives
& Controls*

social and cultural development of Co. Laois and to oversee the implementation of this strategy.



MEMBERSHIP

The Board will operate under the auspices of Laois County Council and its membership will include representatives of the local authorities, local development bodies, community and voluntary sector, social partners and state agencies operating at local level. The Board will replace the Laois County Strategy Group which operated since 1996.

INTEGRATION

The County Development Board process will involve the development of an integrated local government and local development system, in the context of the ongoing programme of local government renewal. As part of this process, an interdepartmental task force was established which involved eleven government departments which was chaired by Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for the Environment & Local Government.

This task force published the following two sets of guidelines which outline the entire process:-
“Integration of Local Government and Local Development Systems”
and
“Preparing the Ground: Guidelines for the Progress from Strategy Groups to County/City Development Boards”.

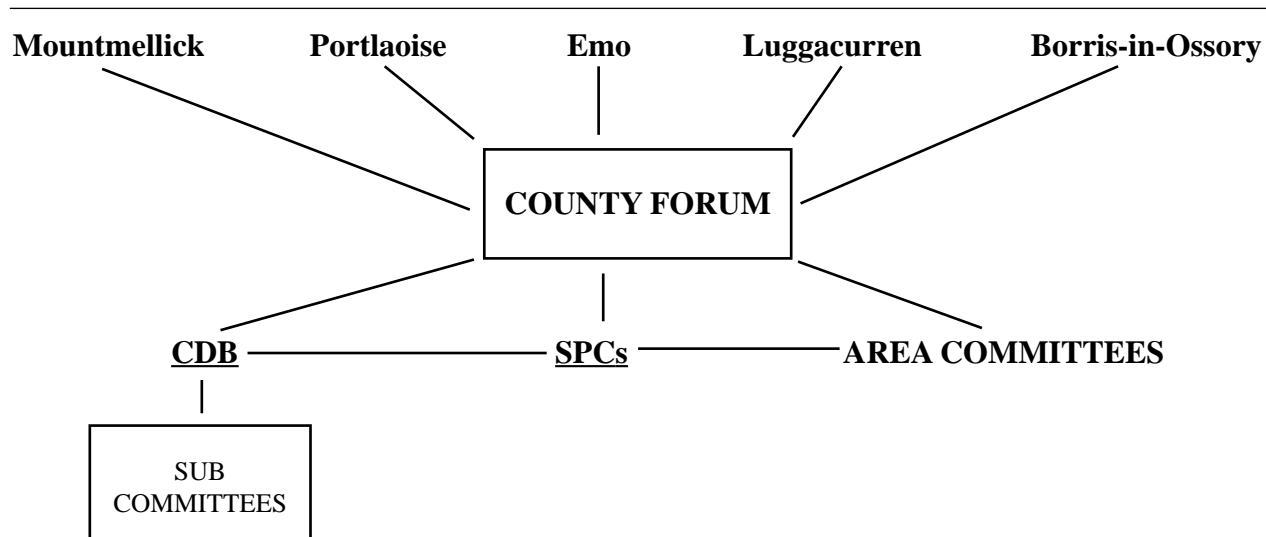
COMMUNITY FORUM

Since the Director’s appointment, he has been in communication with the various agencies seeking their nominees onto the Board and this work is at an advanced stage. There will be two members representing the community/voluntary sector and a selection process is currently being developed. This involves, all voluntary groups registering with particulars of their work/activities, etc, and the holding of information meetings on the County Development Board process in each Electoral Area.

The groups in each Electoral Area will then be invited to nominate representatives onto a County Forum (consisting of 18 people). From this Forum, the two CDB members and in due course, the voluntary sectors representatives for the SPCs and the Area Committees of the Council will be selected.

The diagram below illustrates the proposed county community forum and the linkages between the CDB, SPCs, Area Committees and sub-committees.

Community/Voluntary Groups at Electoral Area Level



Laois County Community Forum

KEY PRINCIPLES

The Board, in developing the strategy, will adhere to the following principles:

- Community Development.
- Social inclusion.
- Partnership/Participation.
- Democratic legitimacy.
- Voluntary effort to be harnessed.
- Simplicity and value for money.
- Flexibility/process.
- Thematic/area based approaches.
- Linkages.
- Feedback.
- Openness and commitment to change.
- Commitment by Central Government.

THE STRATEGY

All public sector policies would be expected to correspond with the strategy

“The statutory development plans ... should be adapted ... to take account of the economic and social strategy”

It will be a broadly based strategy and will be the result of an intensive research and consultation process.

*Development Incentives
& Controls*

TIMEFRAME

The proposed timeframe is to have the CDB up and running by March of next year and the strategy finalised by January, 2001 for implementation to year 2010.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP

The Local Government Membership in County Laois will include the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, the four Strategic Policy Committees Chairs, the County Manager and a representative from the Town Commissions.



RECREATION AND AMENITY



CAITHEAMHAIMSIRE AGUS TAITNEAMHNEAHT

LIBRARY SERVICE 1999



“The role of libraries continues to evolve. The library service now acts as an information and educational resource” Better Local Government - A Programme for Change.

While book issues may remain static or show a decline, the use of libraries continues to grow as more and more patrons now use the facility for information and as an educational resource, not alone through the traditional book but by the use of Information Technology.

11,563 readers were registered with the library service during the year, 4,682 adults and 6,881 juvenile. A further 6,814 juveniles in 70 primary schools were served through the Primary School Scheme in conjunction with the Department of Education.

REGISTERED READERS

	1999	
Adult	Juvenile	Total
4,682	6,881	11,563

BOOK ISSUES

1999

Fiction	55,665
Non-Fiction	34,055
Juvenile	74,984
Non Book Material	7,466
Total	172,170

(Excluding Primary School Scheme)



Recreation & Amenity

BOOKSTOCKS

	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995
Fiction	29,328	28,001	28,247	29,198	30,006
Non-Fiction	43,787	43,009	43,902	42,734	41,496
Juvenile	92,558	91,599	95,524	96,094	94,249
Total	165,673	162,609	167,673	168,026	165,751

TIMAHOE BRANCH LIBRARY

Timahoe Branch Library is housed in the old church beside the Round Tower. During the year the building was upgraded with a new roof, improved entrance and internal painting.

LEABHARLANN TIGH MOCHUA

Tá an leabharlann seo suite san sean séipéal in aice leis an cloigtheach ciorclach.

I rith na bliana cuireadh feabhas mor ar an foirgneamh, mar shampla díon nua, péint ar an taobh istigh, agus freisin cuireadh leasú mór ar an príomhbhealach.

RATHDOWNEY BRANCH LIBRARY

During 1999 the Branch Library, which is part of the Courthouse/Library Complex was upgraded with new entrance, windows and internal painting in conjunction with refurbishment of the Courthouse by the Department of Justice.

MOUNTRATH BRANCH LIBRARY

The entrances to the Courthouse and library were upgraded during 1999. This included provision of gates at Courthouse alcove, painting, new lettering and external lighting.

LEABHARLANN MAIGHEAN RATHA

Cuireadh feabhas mór ar an mbealach isteach go dtí teach na cúirte agus an leabharlann sa mbliain 1999. Cuireadh geataí suas in aice le teach na cúirte, litreacha nua, agus soilse taobh amuigh.

ARCHIVES

During the period October to December 1999, a number of projects were undertaken including a report on the requirements for the establishment of archives service in the County, a report on cemetery archives on cemeteries maintained by the Council and the transfer of Laois County Committee of Agriculture material from Teagasc.

Also surveyed were hospital archives at St. Vincent's Hospital Mountmellick, and the District Hospital in Abbeyleix, and a file survey of current record practices in the Local Authority was also initiated.

COMORADH LEABHAR NA bPÁISTÍ

Bhí comóradh bliantúil leabhar na bpáistí ar siúl on 18ú - 30 Deireadh Fomhair 1999. Chuir foireann Comhairle Leabharlanna Laoise Claracha éagsúla ar siul chun páistí do gach aois a spreagadh, agus chun taiti a thabhairt doibh na h-aiseanna agus na seirbhísi ata ar fail doibh a usaid.

San aireamh anseo bhi taispeantas foraois san Leabharlann Poibli I bPortlaoise. Chomh maith leis seo bhi cursai litríochta agus trath na gceist.

Thog a lan paisti pairteach ins na comortasai seo agus ag deireadh an chomoradh bhronn Cathaoirleach an Comhairle Contae an t-Uasal Seosamh O'Duinn na duaiseanna ar na paisti I seomra failtithe in Aras an Chontae.

Bhi imeachtaí eile freisin mar shampla, scealaíocht agus cluichi ar siul do phaisti oga agus do phaisti ciondargairdin ins na leabharlainn eile ar fud an Chontae. Bhi na h-imeachtaí seo ar siul I Mainistir Laoise, Cluain na Sli, Mointeach Milic, Cuil an t-Sudaire, Rath Domhnaigh, agus Tigh Mochua.

Ta an leabhar "Best Books 1999-2000" ata molla ag Cumann Leabharlann na h-Eireann le fail ar fud an Chontae.

Anois agus muid ag dul isteach san Milaois ta Comhairle Leabharlann Laoise ag siul go mor leis na h-imeachlaí seo ar fad a chuir chun cinn chun go mbeadh na buntaisti seo ar fad le fail do na daoine oga.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

A number of books by Local Authors and of local interest were published in 1999.

- (1) Portarlington The Inside Story by Ronnie Matthews
- (2) My Native Place by Graham Pearson
- (3) Laois County Council: The First Hundred Years
- (4) Sir Erasmus Dixon Borrows: The Huguenot Colony of Portarlington By John S. Powell
- (5) Your Humble Servant: Notes and Letters from Portarlington, 1692-1768 By John S. Powell
- (6) Cathar na Gcapall by John S. Powell
- (7) Mountmellick Memories Book 3 by Michael Scott
- (8) Ratheniska: Our Place & People
- (9) Duthai Ui Riagain: A History of the O'Dunnes by Seosamh MacCaba
- (10) A Short History of the Devoy Family compiled by Michael P. Flynn & Ann M Blunt
- (11) Laois G.A.A. Yearbook 1999



Recreation & Amenity

(12) History of Portlaoise by Michael Whelan (Video)

THE ARTS SERVICE

The Arts Service in Laois County Council is developing at a steady rate. A very varied programme was co-ordinate, and new additions included.



Concerts by national and international musicians took place including Augustin Maruri, The National Chamber Choir and Stefan Arnold.

Drama and art workshops were ever popular with the young and the Summer Workshops proved a huge success.

There was a growth in audiences for the Storytelling in the libraries. Murals, music and art workshops in the schools continued.

Nóirín Ní Riain took up the post of Artist-in-Residence, the first singer to be appointed by a Local Authority. Her duties include creation of an adult choir, singing workshops with Abbeylax Hospital, the prison, workshops in schools, concert series resulting in the compilation of County Laois music archive and subsequent C.D.

Rita Kelly completed her post as Laois Writer in Residence in September 1999. She conducted workshops with many groups countywide. The Third Anthology of Literature "From Here To The Horizon" was launched in September by Kathleen Watkins and it received very favorable reaction. Links were made with Portlaoise Prison on their Anthology launch "Prose and Cons".

Bealtaine 1999 was a very successful festival. Extensive readings took place by leading writers including Marsha Hunt, Anthony Cronin, Rita Kelly, Janet Sahafi, Katie Donovan, and Tony Curtis. Terry Prone gave an enlightening presentation entitled "Refining the Image" - publicity, publishing and politics. The Féasta Bealtaine took place in The Kitchen, Hynd's Square. This event included readings by local writers.

Music for the weekend was provided by Nóirín Ní Riain, Théotokas and Mrs Gilhooley's Folk Club.

The Laois Youth Theatre re-commenced workshops under the tutelage of Paula Dempsey.

Exhibitions in Áras an Chontae included "Cornucopia" by Maria Conroy and an exhibition by Portlaoise Art Workshop.

The Arts Office was involved in organizing the 2 day conference "Young Ireland Then and Now - John Keegan, James Fintan Lalor".

Undoubtedly the most exciting event in the arts calendar in 1999 was the opening of the Dunamais Theatre and Centre for the Arts. This state-of-the-art venue has heralded a new era for the arts in the county. This project was brought to fruition by Laois County Council and is under the umbrella of the County Council.

LAOIS ARTS FOUNDATION

Very significant inroads were made into the capital funding of the Dunamaise Theatre in the last year for which Laois Arts Foundation was formed, under the Chairmanship of former Ombudsman, Michael Mills.



A major effort was initiated through the Facilitator Mr Seamus O'Brien, with the Foundation, on the corporate and business sector to which there was an excellent response, and will continue into the Millennium year.

Fundraisers run for the Foundation included a Film Premiere of "On the Pigs Back", shot entirely in Laois, produced by a Portlaoise native, Jean Rice, and featuring an all Laois cast. A very successful Designer Fashion Show held in Heritage House, Abbeyleix with Ann Duncan and Micheline McCormack heading a splendid group of volunteers, and a performance of their award winning play "Eclipsed" by Ballyfin Drama Group. Other events staged specifically for the Arts Foundation were two concerts by Portlaoise Singers with the co-operation of musical director Brendan McNamara, a performance by the Garda Band staged with the assistance of Laois Gardaí and an evening in concert with Portlaoise man Seamus O'Reilly and friends from Tipperary.

The Laois Arts Dublin Support Group, conceived and formed by the facilitator in 1998, were very much to the fore in fundraising with a splendid nights theatre at Andrew's Lane of "Late Night Catechism" plus Fashion Shows and several social nights. In addition the group were the instigators of the Standing Order Scheme where individuals subscribed £100 spread over ten monthly payments, a scheme that was also promoted locally by the Foundation.

The completion of the capital funding of the Dunamaise Theatre will finish the task of Laois Arts Foundation, a group that can be proud of the very significant part they played in funding a magnificent facility for Laois and the Midlands.



RECREATION & SPORT

When Laois County Council commissioned a report in the mid nineties on recreation and sport within the County, the subsequent findings led to the creation of Laois Recreation & Sports Forum in 1997. Extensive representation from Clubs and Organisations throughout the County plus Council and other statutory bodies set up an organisation whose aims were to assess the needs in Laois for recreation and sport, service existing clubs and organisations and provide leadership and services where possible to meet identified needs.

During the past year a detailed Needs Analysis commissioned by the Forum, Laois County Council and Midland Health Board was carried out by professional bodies which entailed a series of public meetings



Recreation & Amenity

throughout the County, followed by further consultations with individual clubs, state bodies, youth groups, and representatives of the Irish Council of People with disabilities, amongst others. A presentation of the findings was made by Ms A M Maher, Sport & Leisure Officer, Laois County Council at the November Council Meeting.

The Sport & Leisure Officer and the Forum, both sited at Lower Main Street, Portlaoise offices, worked closely throughout the year on several projects including seminars on sport, capital sports grants, fitness testing, physiology in sport etc. while the staging of Spraoi Laois, a festival held to celebrate the year of the elderly was a big success and attracted visitors from all over Ireland for a weekend. From the official launch of the festival by R.T.E.'s Mick Dunne in May right through to its official opening in O'Moore Park by Michael O'Muircheartaigh and a splendid weekend's activities for the not so young, Spraoi Laois was a notable Laois success for 1999.

The Recreation & Sports Forum also continued to organise C.P.R. classes in conjunction with the Irish Heart Foundation which to date have been responsible for almost three hundred people taking part in the course, while fundraising, in the form of an enjoyable poker classic, brought in funds to help part fund the Needs Analysis.

The Forum plan in the coming year to reconstruct its formation and adapt to the needs identified within the Needs Analysis, taking into consideration the Irish Sports Council strategy due for publication early in 2000, while at the same time providing a continued service to clubs and organisations and the community at large with the support of the Sport & Recreation Officer.



LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL - GOLFING SOCIETY

As the Laois County Council Golfing Society heads towards its 20th year it can reflect on another very successful season with Captain for 1999, Brian Byrne.

The membership consisting of Staff, former staff, County Councillors and friends totalled 58 and it continues to be one of the most popular and best supported societies in the Midlands.

Nine outings took place during the year including the excellent "Away Trip" to Dungarvan, Co. Waterford from 23rd - 25th September.

The highlight of the year was the Captains Day in Mountrath where the top prizes were won by Donal Dunne (Staff Section) and John Fennell (Non Staff Section).

The hotly contested "Golfer of the Year" was won by Jim Scully.

The popular Golf Society / Social Club Golf Outing was held in Mountrath and over the years this enjoyable evening has led to many staff members taking up the game of golf and joining the society.

The elected officers for 1999 were as follows:

Captain

Brian Byrne

Vice-Captain	John Culleton
Secretary	Paddy Macken
Treasurer	Peter Scully

We look forward to continued success in the year 2000 under the Captaincy of John Culleton.

Táimid ag súil go mór le gach rath a bheith sa mbliain dhá mhíle faoi cheanas an Captaen Sean Ó Codlatáin.

SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS 1999

1999 proved to be another successful year for the Social Club with all events arranged well attended by the members. It is hoped to have a wider range of activities in the coming year and any suggestion from staff would be appreciated.

PANTOMINE

The Social Club organised a trip to the Olympia Theatre in Dublin to see Dustin and Twink in the pantomime “Rockin Hood & The Prince of Thieves” in February. A great time was had by all, with both adults and children enjoying the show immensely.

GOLF OUTING

The annual golf outing was held again by kind permission of the Mountrath Club at their course in Mountrath in June 1999. There was a great turnout and the weather was kind. Laois County Council Golfing Society provided sponsorship, and there was a large selection of prizes.

CHARITY

As in previous years, the Club collected money for various charities throughout the year by arranging raffles. These included a basket of daffodils for the Irish Cancer Association, and hampers for the Wheelchair Association at Easter and Christmas.

MASS FOR DECEASED MEMBERS AND STAFF OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

The annual mass for deceased members and staff of Laois County Council, organised by the Social Club was held on the 23rd November. Monsignor Coonan celebrated the Mass, and members



Recreation & Amenity

of staff did the readings and sang in the choir. Refreshments were provided in the canteen afterwards.

OLD FOLKS PARTY

The Social Club once again organised a party for the members of P.A.S.S. and this was held on 18th November in the Councils canteen. There was a large turnout once again, and Malcolm Smith's Band provided great entertainment as usual. A number of "Old Folk" were called upon to sing as well as a few of the old reliable Council staff who turned out to lend a hand. The Social Club laid on food and drink, and a great night was had by all.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party for the staff was held on Friday 17th December in the canteen. Tickets were £17. Music was provided by "The Culprits" and the meal was provided by Marie's Catering from Tullamore. The Social Club provided spot prizes and paid for wine for the table. The Social Club again sponsored two hampers.



P E R S O N N E L



APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made in 1999

Pauline Costelloe, Assistant Staff Officer	06/09/1999
Valerie O' Reilly, Clerical Officer	30/08/1999
Orla O' Neill, Clerical Officer	28/06/1999
Tim Callan, Revenue Collector	27/09/1999
Teresa Corcoran, Revenue Collector	17/05/1999
Evelyn Brownrigg	01/07/1999
Louise Coogan, Clerical Officer	28/01/1999
Edwina Duff, Clerical Officer	06/09/1999
Mary Griffin, Administrative Officer	12/07/1999
Mairead Greene, Assistant Staff Officer	09/08/1999
Lorna Gleeson, Clerical Officer	06/09/1999
Arlene Guilfoyle, Clerical Officer	26/02/1999
Geraldine Jones, Clerical Officer	05/07/1999
Andrew Murray, Executive Planner	04/12/1999
Michael Moroney, Staff Officer	08/11/1999



PROMOTIONS

The following staff were promoted in 1999

Declan Byrne, Director of Community & Enterprise	01/09/1999
Ann Carroll, Assistant Staff Officer	11/06/1999
Mary T. Delaney, Assistant Staff Officer	12/07/1999
Pauline Dunne, Assistant Staff Officer	24/05/1999
Geraldine Moore, Assistant Staff Officer	28/06/1999

RESIGNATIONS

The following staff resigned from the Council's Service during 1999

Denise Doyle, Clerical Officer	07/02/1999
Thomas Skehan, Administrative Officer	05/04/1999
Rosemary Moran, Clerical Officer	03/05/1999
Peter Dolan, Executive Planner	07/04/1999
Dominic Malone, Apprentice Plumber	08/06/1999
Frank Heslin, Executive Engineer	05/09/1999

RETIREMENTS

The following staff retired from the Council's service during 1999

Thomas Murphy, General Operative	09/04/1999
Thomas Whelan, Ganger	01/05/1999
Michael McGrath, Driver	23/03/1999
Tom Costelloe, Senior Staff Officer	02/11/1999
Peter Browne, Fireman	30/11/1999
Owen Deegan, Fireman	30/06/1999

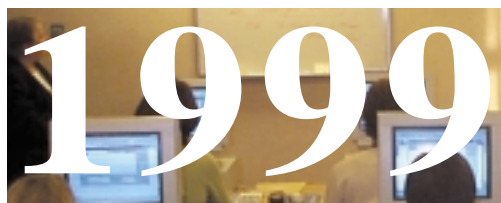
EMPLOYMENT

Laois Council Council is an equal opportunities employer



"STAFF OF THE CENTRAL AREA OFFICE"

O T H E R S E R V I C E S



S E I R B H I S Í E I L E

I.T. DEPARTMENT

The Laois County Council I.T. Department has a staff complement of six, two of whom job-share. The Staff of the department in 1999 were as follows:-

I.T. Officer	Mr. Christy Crawford
Technical Officer	Mr. John Smith
H.V.X. Escala Ops.	Ms. Marguerite Byrne
Data Entry	Ms. Lorreta McDonald
	Ms. Terri Fahey (job-sharing)
	Ms. Laura Halpenny (job-sharing)

The I.T. Department comprises of two distinct areas of operation as follows:

H.V.X. OPERATIONS

The staff in this area are responsible for the operation of the Council's financial systems including Staff Payroll and Pensions, Creditors Payments, Housing Loans, Rates, Water Charges etc., Provision of Enquiry Facilities on all the Systems to users in the various sections throughout County Hall. Other responsibilities include System Backups, Restores, Software Implementation, Data Entry & Record Keeping.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT

Laois County Council uses a variety of equipment and platforms to fulfil its I.T. requirements.

Network Management involves the Management of the Council's I.T. Resource and the development and implementation of the Council's Information Technology Strategy. This includes the following:

- (i) Evaluation, Procurement & Implementation of Information Technology Systems & Equipment.



Other Services

- (ii) Provision and management of Electronic Mail Scheduling Facilities.
- (iii) Management of Internet & Information Point Services.
- (iv) User Support and Training.
- (v) Security of Data & Equipment.
- (vi) Management of Council's I.T. equipment and facilities e.g. computer equipment, servers, software, data, communications equipment etc.

The following items will be of more general interest.

INTERNET SITE

In common with most Local Authorities, Laois County Council now has a presence on the World Wide Web. The Council's web-site originally went on-line in late 1997 and was considerably revamped in late 1999.

The site provides information on many of the Council's activities, as well as items of tourist and community interest. Users of the site can avail of the facility to e-mail County Hall with queries or comments. A member of the I.T. Staff regularly answers queries and provides information and assistance on topics such as tracing family histories, places of interest and general information in relation to County Laois, to internet users from as far away as U.S.A. and Canada.

PUBLIC INFORMATION POINTS

The Council's 5 Computerised Information Kiosks were in use throughout 1999. They provide a similar range of information to that available on the Council's web-site and are easy to use through a touch screen format.

The data available on the Information Point Computers is being revamped in line with the Internet Site and work on this project will be completed by early 2000.

MILLENNIUM BUG

The I.T. Officer and his staff devoted considerable time and energy throughout 1999 on ensuring that the Council's equipment, systems and facilities would not be adversely affected by the Millennium Bug or Y2K Problem. All the Council's computer equipment was tested for compliance and replaced or upgraded as required. Software was replaced or updated and measures were put in place so that in the event of any unexpected problem systems could be run manually until the problems were resolved. In addition to County Hall Systems, all equipment in the various areas of the Council's activities was tested for compliance including Waterworks, Sewerage Works, Fire Fighting, Communication Equipment and so on.

STAFF TRAINING

33 members of staff took part in the Training Course leading to the E.C.D.L. Qualification run by the I.T. Department in conjunction with the Institute of Public Administration. Training packs were issued to each of the students by the I.P.A. and additional tuition and examination facilities were provided by the I.T. Department.

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

As part of the Council's Centenary Celebrations the I.T. Department made a presentation to the Elected Members and invited guests in June of 1999. The presentation covered the services provided by the I.T. Department to the organisation and also covered the systems and machines in use in Laois County Council.

The highlight of the presentation was a video conferencing link, which enabled Elected Members and senior staff to converse with their opposite number in Offaly County Council. As Laois and Offaly Council's were jointed for Administrative purposes until the early 1980's. A video link between Members and Management of both Council's during Centenary Celebrations was particularly appropriate.

PROJECTION/PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT - COUNCIL CHAMBER

In April, 1999 the I.T. Officer arranged and supervised the installation of the most up-to-date presentation equipment in the Council Chamber. This equipment which can be controlled from a single purpose built podium provides facilities for video/T.V. projection, computer presentations and also has a document reader facility. It has been used to good effect on many occasions since its installation and makes the Council Chamber an ideal venue for Seminars, Conferences, presentations etc.



REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Laois County Council is responsible for the compilation of the Register of Electors, which comes into force on the 15th February each year.

The Council employs thirteen Enumerators on a part-time basis who carry out house to house investigations and compile the information for the preparation of the Register. The statistics for 1999/2000 Register of Electors are set out below:



Other Services

REGISTER OF ELECTORS 1999/2000

Dail Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dail Electors
Laois/Offaly	40,820	40,922
European Parliamentary Constituency	European Electors	New European Electors
Leinster	40,936	6
Local Electoral Areas	Local Government Electors	
Borris-in-Ossory	12,443	
Emo	6,552	
Luggacurren	6,131	<i>*487 electors transferred to Carlow for Local Elections purposes only</i>
Mountmellick	5,851	
Portlaoise	9,522	
Total	40,499	

Borough, Urban District of Town	Local Government Electors
Mountmellick Town Commission	2,187
Portlaoise Town Commission	6,275
Total	8,462

POSTAL AND SPECIAL VOTERS

Dail Constituency	Garda Siochana	Defence Forces	Diplomats	Physically Disabled etc.	Occupation	Special Voters
Laois/Offaly	14	115	1	37	12	20

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REGISTER OF ELECTORS 1999/2000

Number of Electors on the Supplement

Total number added to 1999/2000 Register by way of Supplement	1,431
Presidential Electors	1,382
Dail Electors	38

European Parliament Electors	7
Local Electors	4
Number of Electors on the Postal/Special Supplement	
Special	0
Postal - Gardai	12
Postal- Disabled	50
Postal - Occupational	4

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

In 1996, the Department of the Environment and Local Government issued a report “Better Local Government - A Programme for Change”.

This report introduced the concept of Strategic Policy Committees (S.P.C.’s) into Irish Local Authorities.

It was proposed that such S.P.C.s would comprise of both Council Members and representatives of sectoral interests.

In Laois, it was agreed that 4 such committees would be established as follows:-

- (A) Economic Development and Planning Policy Committee
- (B) Environmental and Community Policy Committee
- (C) Transportation and Infrastructural Policy Committee
- (D) Housing, Social and Cultural Policy Committee

While the remit of the S.P.C. will be anchored in the main Local Government services, it will also take account of the wider issues and the local needs and circumstances.

CIVIC RECEPTION FOR ANNE KEENAN BUCKLEY

On 16th December 1999 Laois County Council accorded a civic reception for Anne Keenan Buckley in honour of her distinguished career as an athlete both in Ireland and throughout the world.



Other Services

CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS IN 1999

CONFERENCE	VENUE	DATE
National Association of Councillors	Liverpool	12/14 February
Agenda 2000	Skibbereen	19 February
General Council of County Councils	Malahide	19/20 February
Seminar on Litter Management	Dungarvan	25/26 February
A.M.A.I.	Castlebar	26/27 February
Ardagh Tidy Towns	Ardagh	26/28 February
Colmcille Heritage Trust	Donegal	26/28 February
Changing Role of Community & State	Cork	5/6 March
Monaghan Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Monaghan	5/6 March
The Blackwater Seminar	Mallow	11 March
Institute of Directors in Ireland	Dublin	12 March
Ratoo Heritage Society	Listowel	18/20 March
Tourism & The Environment	Bundoran	19/20 March
Tourist Fair	Sweden	24/29 March
Library Association of Ireland	Newry	20/23 April
Tourism Conference	Bray	23 April
Mid-West Regional Authority	Ennis	22/23 April
Planning for the Future of our Towns and Villages	Westport	23/25 March
Island of Ireland Conference	Flandors	22-27 April
L.A.M.A. Conference	Waterford	8/9 April
Sherkin Island Marine Station	Sherkin Island	29/30 April
Association of Health Boards	Clontarf	30/1 May
Social Study Conference	Westport	6/8 May
Kilkee Community Group	Kilkee	14/15 May
Seminar and Workshop on Energy	Larne	21 May
Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference	Roscommon	16/18 July
Cloone Aughavas Community Partnership	Cloone	20/21 August
Assoc. of Municipal Authorities	Thurles	13/18 September
Dublin Regional Authority	Marino	16 September
Planning & Development Bill	Dublin	29 September
Planning Law	Dublin	30/1 October
Bord na Gaeilge	Dingle	1/2 October
Management of Government in the New Millennium	Cork	1/2 October
Greystones Town Commissioners	Greystones	1/3 October

Induction Course for Councillors	Portlaoise	8/9 October
LAMA Conference	Newcastle	8/10 October
Tralee Chamber of Commerce	Tralee	21/22 October
National Housing & Planning Conference	Scarborough	25/28 October
National Policy Conference on Social Housing	Dublin	28 October
Irish Assembly of Regional Authorities	Ennis	29/30 October
Waste Management Licensing	Dublin	2 November
Rural Resource Development	Ennis	3/5 November
Mid-West Regional Authority	Ballina	4/5 November
Co-Operation Ireland	Belfast	11/12 November
General Council of County Councils	Arklow	19/20 November
12th National Tourism Conference	Ennis	26/27 November
European Movement Ireland	Dublin	11 December

Tá córas ag an gComhairle chun Deontais Ardléinn a chur ar fáil do lucht léinn sa 3ú leibhéal. Faoinn scéim i 1999 d'eirigh le 144 iarratais nua. Nuair chuirfear sin leis na 297 athmuacháin atá tugtha ar aghaidh óna blianta roimhré, tá 44 i mic agus iníonacha léinn ag baint tairbhe as an scéim dheontais sin don bhliain 1999. Is ionann an caiteachas ar fad £816,436.07.

Íoctar na Seontais Ardléinn sea do lucht léinn atá gafa go lánaimseartha i gcursai iarchéimithe agus i gcursai céimithe a mhaireann ar a laghad ar feadh dhá bhliain i nOllscoil nó nInstitiúid Triú Leibhéal.



Other Services

CIVIC ACTIVITIES

1999

SPREAGADH AGUS SRIANTA FORBARTHA





OUR CENTENARY YEAR CELEBRATIONS



Since 1996 Laois County Council had been planning a programme of activities for its centenary celebrations and commemorations. In this regard a special sub-committee was established in that year comprising of Council Members, staff and retired staff.

On Monday 4th January 1999, Laois County Council unveiled its programme of events to commemorate the Centenary of the establishment of Laois County Council in 1899.

At a special ceremony in Aras an Chontae, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kieran Phelan addressed a special gathering of fellow Councillors, dignitaries, staff and invited guests and outlined the programme for the year 1999.

In addition the new coat of arms for Laois County Council was formally launched.

The chevronels or inverted V's, rising towards the top of the shield represent the Slieve Bloom Mountains and the Rock of Dunamase and are charged with seven ermine spots representing the seven lading families or 'tribes' of Laois. The heraldic fountains of white and blue represent the source and beginning of the rivers Nore and Barrow. The fountains area also a mark of the county, showing its colours of white and blue. The lion rampant in base is that of Ó Moradha, Kings of Laois. The background is gold, the colour of the Ó Mordha lion and stars



January '99 A century of Local Authority Housing in Laois

February '99 A century of road making in Laois with the theme
"Dancing at the Crossroads"

March '99 One hundred years of finance

April '99 Library Services and the Arts

May '99 Water and sewerage facilities and environmental issues in Laois over the last 100 years

June '99 Information Technology

July '99 Fire services in Laois



As is the policy of the Council, certain monthly meetings during the year were held in each of the five electoral areas.

In addition, special issues of “Our County “ were circulated to households in February and September.

On 22nd April 1999, Laois County Council celebrated 100 years of local government in County Laois.

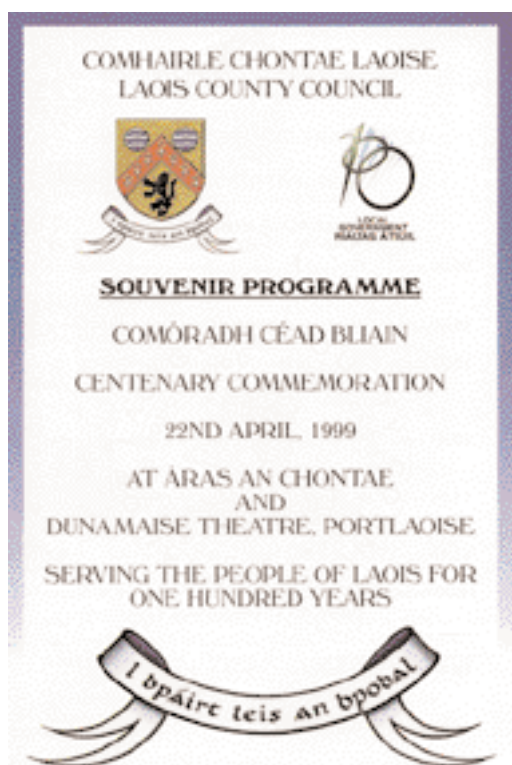
A full programme of events was held to mark the occasion.

At 10.00am on the day, Cllr. K Phelan , Cathaoirleach, unveiled a special commemorative plaque at Aras an Chontae. Proceedings then moved to the Dunamais Theatre and Arts Centre where the County Secretary, as Master of Ceremonies welcomed guests.

The first meeting of Queens County Council, as it was known then, was held in the Grand Jury Room, Courthouse, Maryborough on 22nd April 1899. This first meeting was dramatised by staff members and was a resounding success. This was then followed by a special meeting of the Council.

Six narrators gave a brief synopsis of the history of local government and the impact that national developments had on local issues.

At 12.00 noon, the Centenary Book, titled “Laois County Council - The First One Hundred Years” was officially launched by the Cathaoirleach and each member of the Council was presented with a copy, suitably inscribed.

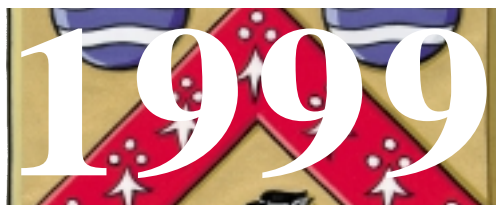


The Centenary Cake was then cut by Ms. Bridget Mc Mahon , daughter of one of the first members of Queens County Councill.



*Our Centenary Year
Celebrations*

LOCAL ELECTIONS



On 4th June 1999, Laois County Council held a Special Meeting of the Council at which each member was presented with tie pins, brooches and Certificates outlining the details of their service since first elected.

A further presentation of clocks were made to each of the following retiring members:-

Cllr. Thomas Keenan
Cllr. Fintan Phelan
Cllr. Eamonn Rafter
Cllr. Cathy Honan
Cllr. James Kelly
Cllr. William Mansfield



The six retiring members expressed their appreciation to their fellow members and to the management of Laois County Council for their co-operation and assistance.

County Manager, on behalf of the staff conveyed thanks and appreciation to all the members.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 1999

On Friday, June 11th 1999 a total of 270 polls were conducted in the Republic of Ireland to elect 1,627 Councillors and Town Commissioners to 114 local authorities in Ireland. A poll took place on this date also to elect 15 members to the European Parliament.

In County Laois there were five electoral areas - Emo, Mountmellick, Portlaoise, Luggacurren & Borris-in-Ossory. Laois County Council has a total membership of 25 while each of the Town Commissioners has a total membership of 9. The total electorate was 42,417 and there was a 60% turnout.

The following chart gives details of the candidates, seats, number of counts and valid poll.

Electoral Area	No. of Candidates	No. of Seats	No. of Counts	Total Poll	Total Spoilt Votes	Total	Valid Poll
Emo	10	4	6	3,959	68	3,891	
Mountmellick	7	4	6	4,146	66	4,080	
Portlaoise		15	6	10	5,613	49	5,564
Luggacurren	8	4	4	3,775	48	3,727	
Borris-in-Ossory	10	7	9	7,930	116	7,814	
Total	50	25	35	25,423		347	25,076

The counting of votes for the Emo, Portlaoise, Mountmellick, Luggacurren electoral area continued uninterrupted until a final declaration was made at various times during the 11th and 12th of June. The counts for the Portlaoise and Mountmellick Town Commissions took place in the same venue and both counts were concluded on the 11th and 12th of June.

In relation to the Borris-in-Ossory electoral area the count was adjourned after midnight on the 11th of June when a recount was called for. The recount and the rechecking of votes for this electoral area continued on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. A final declaration of the result was announced at approximately 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday evening.

In an unusual development in local government elections a petition was served on the Returning Officer in relation to the result for the Borris-in-Ossory electoral area. This petition was heard at a special sitting of the Circuit Court in Portlaoise on the 3rd of August 2000 and the determination of the Returning Officer in relation to the results for the Borris-in-Ossory electoral area were upheld.

The following Councillors were elected for the electoral areas concerned.

PORTLAOISE ELECTORAL AREA

Dunne, Joseph, Knockbrack, New Road, Portlaoise
Aird, William, Nutgrove, Portlaoise
Flanagan, Charles, T.D., Glenlahan, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise
Sweeney, nee Scully, Mary, Ballyroan, Portlaoise
Lodge, Jerry, Ridge Road, Portlaoise.
Fitzgerald, Catherine, 37, Beechlawn, Portlaoise.

BORRIS-IN-OSSORY ELECTORAL AREA

Phelan, Kieran, Raheen Upper, Donaghmore, Portlaoise.
Fleming, Sean, T.D., Castletown, Mountrath
Fennelly, John Joe, Ballymullen, Abbeylax
Lalor, Michael, Cardtown, Mountrath
Rohan, Martin, Raggetstown, Ballinakill
Phelan, Martin, Farren Eglis, Ballacolla, Portlaoise
Bonham, John, Ballinakill Road, Abbeylax

EMO ELECTORAL AREA

Deegan, James, Dysart, Stradbally
Cribbin, Ray, Main Street, Portarlinton
Turley, Michael, Vicarstown, Co. Laois
Costello, Michael, Bracklone Street, Portarlinton

LUGGACURREN ELECTORAL AREA

Rice, Michael, Monavea, Mayo, Crettyard
Moran, John, Ballinagar, Ballylinan
Daly, James, Garryglass, Timahoe
Wheatley, Mary, Doonane, Crettyard



*Local Government
Elections*

MOUNTMELICK ELELCTORAL AREA

Moloney, John, T.D., Gaelic Bar, Mountmellick

McDonald, Seamus, Drummond, Rosenalis

Goodwin, David, Tineel, Rosenallis

Digan Joseph, Coolagh, Clonaslee



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1999

REVENUE ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1999

		1998	1999
		£,000	£,000
Expenditure	(A)	£17,330	£19,525
Receipts			
State Grants		£10,681	£12,267
Goods & Services		£4,530	£4,687
Commercial Rates		£2,447	£2,674
Contributions - other authorities		<u>£104</u>	<u>£124</u>
Total Receipts	(B)	£17,762	£19,752
Deficit/Surplus	(B-A=C)	CR £432	CR £227
Opening Revenue			
Balance 1st January		DR £1,058	DR £626
Closing Revenue			
Balance 31st December		DR £626	DR £399

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Payments	1998	1999	Receipts	1998	1999
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	
Road Imp. Works	£7,234	£7,389	State Grants	£10,733	£14,890
Hsg. Const./Imp.	£2,181	£3,990	Loan Instalments	£1,037	£1,372
Shared Ownership	£51	£125	Proceeds of Hse. Sales	£756	£670
Voluntary Housing			Loan Redemptions	£1,381	£1,565
Rental Subsidy	£1,037	£292	Revenue Transfer	£593	£830
Loans etc.	£501	£397	Miscellaneous	£1,513	£1,832
Loan Redemptions	£1,367	£631			
Disabled Persons Grant	£101	£159			
Water Supp. & Sew. Sy.	£3,697	£1,690			
Development	£277	£693			
Environmental Serv.	£347	£344			
Recreation & Amenity	£1,366	£511			
Land Purchase	£533	£2,064			
Miscellaneous	£1,066	£898			
Total	£19,758	£19,183	Total	£16,013	£21,159
	1998	1999			
Opening Balance	DR	DR			
	£(1,270)	£(5,015)			
Closing Balance	DR	DR			
	£(5,015)	£(3,039)			

DEBTORS/CREDITORS
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1999

	1998	1999	Change
	£,000	£,000	£,000
Government Grants/Subsidies	£344	£455	£111
House Purchase etc. Loan	£260	£217	£(-43)
Housing Rents/Annuities	£166	£179	£13
Water Charges	£180	£179	£(-1)
Other foods and services	£298	£427	£129
Commercial Rates	<u>£344</u>	<u>£360</u>	<u>£16</u>
Total	£1,592	£1,817	£225
Creditors (unpaid bills)	£945	£1,150	£205

SUMMARY OF NET CASH POSITION
YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1999

	1998	1999	Change
	£,000	£,000	£,000
Net Bank Balance	DR £(4,642)	DR £(2,277)	£2,365
Cash invested/On hand	£55	£81	£26
Net Cash Position	DR £(4,587)	DR £(2,196)	£2,391
Capital Content included above	DR £(5,015)	DR £(3,039)	£1,976

PORTLAOISE TOWN COMMISSION



UDARÁS BAILE PORTLAOISE



As result of the Local Elections held in June 1999, the following were elected to Portlaoise Town Commission:

Thomas Jacob, Joseph Dunne, Jerry Lodge, Catherine Fitzgerald, Martin Dunne, William Aird, Kathleen O'Brien, Joseph McCormack and Brian Stanley.

Commissioner Thomas Jacob was elected Cathaoirleach at the Annual General Meeting held on 21st June, 1999. He replaced Commissioner P.J. Brennan as Cathaoirleach.

Commissioners P.J. Brennan and Liam Breen decided not to contest the Local Elections held in June 1999.

Service Certificates were presented to each outgoing Commissioner.

Mr. Declan Byrne resigned as Town Clerk for Portlaoise Town Commission on 26th September, 1999, on his appointment as Director of Community and Enterprise for County Laois, after 15 years of dedicated service to the Commission. He was succeeded as Town Clerk by Mr. Niall Morrissey.

REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

Commissioners Thomas Jacob and Jerry Lodge were nominated as delegates to attend the annual conference of The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

Commissioner Liam Breen was appointed delegate to attend the annual general meeting of Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

The Cathaoirleach, Mr. Thomas Jacob, represents the Commission on the Laois Recreation, Sports and Leisure Form and The Portlaoise Town Twinning Committee.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The first Tuesday of each month.

MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED

Housing, School Meals, School Warden Service, Community and Environmental Initiatives, Civic Receptions, Town Twinning and Provision of Christmas Lights.

BUDGET 1999 - £63,235

During the year the Commission provided support to the following:

1. Tourism Promotion
2. The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
3. Town Twinning
4. Portlaoise Tidy Towns Committee
5. Portlaoise Christmas Lights Committee
6. The Linear Park, Portlaoise
7. Ireland of Ireland Peace Park, Messines Ridge, Flanders
8. Presentation Convent Senior Basketball Team

HIGHLIGHTS DURING 1999

URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME

The Commissioners supported the application being made by Laois County Council for Urban Renewal status for a number of areas in Portlaoise. They noted that the proposed mix of uses would include education, training, employment, economic development, housing, social mix and community facilities, archaeology and conservation issues, traffic management and environmental improvement.

PORTLAOISE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE

During the year the members worked in partnership with Portlaoise Chamber of Commerce and Trade and the Cathaoirleach of the Town Commission is nominated as an ex-officio member.

HEALTH SERVICES IN PORTLAOISE

During the year the Commission supported the development and improvement of the health services in the area.

LAOIS G.A.A.

The Commission supported the application by Laois County Board to the



*Portlaoise Town
Commission*

Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation for development proposals at O'Moore Park, Portlaoise.

CENTENARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Commission supported and took part in the celebration of the Centenary of Local Government during 1999.

Gold Pins were presented to the Commission to commemorate the occasion.

PORTLAOISE INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION STUDY

The Commission supported and contributed to this extremely important Study which was compiled during 1999. The Study is required to assist in planning for the future development of Portlaoise. The objective is to ensure the development of Portlaoise. The objective is to ensure the development of Portlaoise as a self-sustaining settlement with a range of employment activities and services to meet the increasing demands and needs of the population of the town in the future.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

During the year the members and Cathaoirleach of Portlaoise Town Commission worked closely with the Christmas Lights Committee and Portlaoise Chamber of Commerce in organising major improvements to the Christmas lighting throughout Portlaoise. Commissioner Tom Jacob, Cathaoirleach formally switched on the lights in December 1999.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- The Commission's support and involvement with the Tidy Estates Competition
- Members continued involvement and representation with the Laois Recreation, Sports and Leisure Forum
- Portlaoise Town Commission continued the monitoring of traffic management in Portlaoise
- During the year the Commission supported and welcomed various developments in Portlaoise particularly:
 - (1) Public and private housing developments
 - (2) The provision of infrastructure
 - (3) The Dunamaise Theatre And Centre for the Arts
 - (4) The new Prison
 - (5) Linear Town Park
 - (6) The Courthouse Refurbishment
 - (7) Spraoi Laoise
 - (8) Health Services in the Area
 - (9) Visit of Young Musicians and Professors of Music to Portlaoise from Coulounieix Chamiers

CONFERENCES

The Commission supported and was represented at the following Conferences:

- The Annual Conference of The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
- Laois County Councils' EU Conference - Planning for Community Development
- The Annual Seminar of The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland held in Wexford
- I.P.A. Induction Course for newly Elected Members

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The Commission passed a note of congratulations in 1999 to the Irish Special Olympics Team and the Portlaoise U.16 Hurling Team on their achievements during the year.

*Portlaoise Town
Commission*

MOUNTMELICK TOWN COMMISSION



UDARAS BAILE MHOINTEACH MÍLIC



Maraon le Coimisinéirí Bhaile I gcoitinne, tá bunús na gCoimisinéirí Mhóinteach Mílic Ionnaithe sa 19ú hAois Dhéag. Is ón Acht Feabhas na mBailtí (Éireann) 1854 a thagann furmhór a gcumhacht reachtúil. Dá dheasca sin, is é Coimisiún Mhóinteach Mílic , cosúil leis an gCoimisiún bPortlaoise, an Rialtas Áitúil is ársa I gCo Laoise.

LOCAL ELECTIONS 1999

The elections for the commission were held on 11th June 1999. The following were elected.

John. A Moloney (FF), Gerard Doody (Non Party) , Mark Connolly (FF), Peter J. Bracken (FF), Helen Hanson (FF), David Conroy (FG), Denis O' Meara (FF), Michael Gormley (FF), Patrick Bowe (Non Party).

Cathaoirleach
Leas Cathaoirleach
Town Clerk

Peter J. Bracken
Helen Hanson
Pat Fitzpatrick

The following members of the 1994 - 1999 Commission did not seek re-election Thomas Culliton, Margaret Bradford, Ann Bacon, Oliver Conroy. There were 15 candidates for election.

FINANCES

The total expenditure of the Commissioners in 1999 was £22,700.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER BODIES

Commissioner Mark Connolly , Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.

Commissioners Michael Gormley and Patrick J Bracken are the Commission's representatives on the Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

Commissioner Patrick J. Bracken is a member of the National Executive of A.M.A.I. and he also represented the Commission on the strategic policy committee as part of better local government.

PRESENTATIONS

- Presentations were made to the Commission of the 1994 - 1999 Commission who retired and did not seek re-election. Thomas Culliton was made a special presentation from L.A.M.A.
- Ballyfin College basketball team were made a presentation in the form of Certificates of Merit.
- The manager Mr. Louis Brennan and Town Clerk Pat Fitzpatrick were also made presentations by the outgoing Commission.
- The manager also presented framed certificates of service to each Commissioner.

COAT OF ARMS

The new Coat of Arms of the Commission was unveiled by the Deputy Chief Herald and is now being used.

VISIT OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

The American Ambassador Mr. Sullivan was accorded a civic reception by the commission on the occasion of his visit to the town for the official opening of a new factory premises at the MDA Business Park.

INNER RELIEF ROAD

The commission played a big role in relation to consultations with Laois County Council and local interested groups.

1994 - 1999

The Commission had a very good record in achievements, Upgrading of the square, the sewerage works, upgrading of the streets, refurbished Council Chambers and big increase in housing allocations to town but to mention a few

MOUNTMELICK TOWN COMMISSION

- The Commission took an active role in the promotion of social housing schemes for Mountmellick, this activity ongoing.
- Undertaking a supportive role with Laois County Council in ensuring that Mountmellick courthouse was adequately funded for its future use.
- Taking an active and supportive role in securing Urban and Renewal Status for various parts of the town area.
- Sub-committee for the production of a town brochure and its environs still ongoing.
- Playing an active role to educate young people against the use of illicit drugs.

The commission meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Town Hall, Mountmellick.



*Mountmellick Town
Commission*

GENERAL INFORMATION



HEADQUARTERS

County Hall, Portlaoise

Telephone: (0502) 22044

Portlaoise

Fax: (0502) 22313

E-Mail: secretar@laoiscoco.ie

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Motor Tax Office

County Hall, Portlaoise

Telephone: (0502) 21184

Opening Hours

9am - 3pm

Portlaoise By-Pass

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise

Telephone: (0502)

20288/20291

Fax: (0502) 21513

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Laboratory

Mountrath Road, Portlaoise

Telephone: (0502) 21109

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Central Area

Mountrath Road,

Telephone: (0502) 21451

Fax: (0502) 60135

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Western Area

Courthouse,

Borris-in Ossory

Telephone: (0505) 41123

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

Eastern Area

Courthouse, Stradbally

Telephone: (0502) 25227

Opening Hours

9am - 1pm 2pm - 5pm

BRANCH LIBRARIES

Portlaoise

Branch Library

Dunamaise House, Portlaoise

Telephone: (0502) 22333

Opening Hours

Tues 10am - 5pm

Wed & Thurs 10am - 7pm

Fri 10am - 5pm

Sat 10am - 1pm

Abbeyleix

Branch Library

Main Street, Abbeyleix

Telephone: (0502) 30020

Opening Hours

Mon 3pm - 5.30pm

6.30pm - 8pm

Wed & Thurs 3pm - 5.30pm

Fri 3pm - 5.30pm, 6.30pm -

8pm

Sat 10am - 1pm

Mountrath

Branch Library

Shanon Street

Mountrath

Opening Hours

Mon 3pm - 5pm

Tues 6.30pm - 8pm

Thurs 3pm - 5pm

Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Telephone: (0502)

56046

Mountmellick

Branch Library

Irishtown, Mountmellick

Telephone: (0502) 24733

Opening Hours

Mon 2.00pm - 5.30pm

Tues & Thurs 2.00 - 5.30pm

6.30pm - 8pm

Fri 2pm - 5.30pm

Portarlington

Branch Library

(0502) 43751

Main Street, Portarlington

Opening Hours

Tues 2pm - 5.30pm

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Wed 2pm - 5.30pm

Thurs 2pm - 5.30pm, 6.30pm -

8.30pm

Fri 2pm - 5.30pm

Sat 10am - 1pm

Rathdowney

Branch Library

(0505) 46852

Rathdowney

Opening Hours

Mon 2.30pm - 5pm

7pm - 9pm

Wed 12.30pm - 1.30pm

2.30pm - 5pm

Thurs 7pm - 9pm

Fri 2.30pm - 5pm

Stradbally

Branch Library

Stradbally

Opening Hours

Mon 2.30pm - 4.30pm

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Thurs 2.30pm - 4.30pm

6.30pm - 8.30pm

NOTES

1999





LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE,
CO. LAOIS,
IRELAND.

TEL: (0502) 22044

FAX: (0502) 22313

E-MAIL: secretar@laoiscoco.ie

NOTES

1999

