Comhairle Chontae Laoise
Laois County Council

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil
Annual Report

2004

Cathaoirleach's Statement 2
Ráiteas an Cathaoirligh 2

County Manager's Foreword 3
Brollach an Bhainisteora Chontae 3

Mission Statement 4
Ráiteas Misin 4

Former Councillors 5
Ath-Chomhairleoirí 5

Council Members 6
Comhaltaí na Comhairle 6

Corporate Affairs, Human Resources, Information & Communications Technology 8
Gnóthaí Corparáideacha, Acmhainní Daonna, Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide 9

Housing, Social and Cultural Policy 20
Polasaí Títhíochta, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha 21

Economic Development & County Promotion Policy 38
Polasaí Forbartha Eacnamaíoch & Chur Chun Cinn an Chontae 39

Environment & Water Services Policy 42
Polasaí Comhshaoil & Seirbhísí Uisce 43

Planning and Transportation Policy 56
Polasaí Pleanála agus Iompair 57

Laois County Development Board 66
Bord Forbartha Contae Laoise 67

Financial Management 70
Bainistíocht Airgeadais 71

Portlaoise Town Council 74
Comhairle Baile Phort Laoise 75

Mountmellick Town Council 76
Comhairle Baile Mhóinteach Mílic 77

Other Activities 78
Gníomhaíochtaí Eile 79

Useful Directory 80
Eolaire Úsáideach 81

Cathaoirleach's Statement - Ráiteas an Cathaoirligh

I am pleased, as Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, to present this Annual Report which gives an overview of the many and varied activities of the Council in 2004. The Council continued to be at the forefront of social, economic and cultural development in the County.

The Local Elections were held in June and six new members were elected to the Council. I congratulate them on their success and I would also like to take this opportunity to wish those who retired or were unsuccessful good luck in the future.

Almost two hundred houses were completed during the year and an Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004-2008 was adopted. The M7/M8 Motorway was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala with modifications. A Masterplan was prepared for the Togher Interchange Development.

Work was progressed on the Review of the County Development Plan. The Corporate Plan for the five years to 2009 was also in course of preparation.

As Cathaoirleach, I have seen at close hand the importance of co-operation and partnership between Councillors, Management and Employees to ensure delivery of a quality service to our customers, the people of Laois.

I thank all concerned for their input in the provision of these services during 2004.

William Aird
Cathaoirleach

Táim an-sásta, mar Chathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae Laoise, an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil seo a thugann foramharc ar ilghníomhaíochtaí éagsúla na Comhairle i 2004 a chur i láthair. Lean an Chomhairle de bheith ag réamhthús forbartha sóisialta, eacnamaíoch agus cultúrtha an Chontae.

Tionóladh na Toghcháin Áitiúlá i Meitheamh agus toghadh sé chomhalta úra ar an gComhairle. Gabhaim comhghairdeas leo as éirí go maith agus ba mhaith liom an deis seo a ghlacadh chomh maith chun ádh mór sa todhchaí a ghabháil leis na daoine a scor nó nár éirigh leo.

Cuireadh beagnach dhá chéad theach i gcrích le linn an bliana agus glacadh leis an bPlean Gnímh do Thithíocht Sóisialta agus Inacmhainne 2004-2008. Dhearbhaigh An Bord Pleanála Mótarbhealach M7/M8 tar éis mionathraithe. Ullmhaíodh Máistirphlean Forbartha Idirmhalartaithe Togher.

Rinneadh obair a chur chun cinn ar Athbhreithniú an Phlean Forbartha Chontae. Bhíothas ag déanamh ullmhaithe ar an bPlean Corparáideach don chúig bliana go dtí 2009 chomh maith.

Mar Chathaoirleach, tá sé feicthe agam go díreach chomh tábhachtach agus atá comhoibriú agus comhpháiritíocht idir Chomhairlí, Bhainistíocht agus Fostaithe chun seachadadh seirbhíse ar ardchaighdeán a chinntiú dár gcustaiméirí go léir, pobal Laoise.

Tugaim buíochas do gach duine bainteach as a n-ionchur i soláthar na seirbhísí seo le linn 2004.

Ba mhaith liom comhbhrón a dhéanamh le bean chéile agus teaghlach Michael Turley, Leas-Chathaoirleach na Comhairle is brón mór a bhás in Eanáir 2005.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

William Aird
Cathaoirleach

It gives me great pleasure as County Manager to wel come the publication of the Laois County Council Annual Report for the year ending 31st of December 2004.

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to review the per formance of the Council and the quality of services provided over the past twelve months. The report also records the key achievements in relation to the provision of infrastructure and presents an opportunity to inform the public of the various activities and operations engaged in by the Council over the past year.

Laois County Council has played a central role in the improvement of the key infrastructure in the County. This continued in 2004 with the completion and advancement of major infrastructural developments. The M7 Heath Mayfield Motorway link to Dublin will be a key contributor to the development of the County over the coming years. The Motorway Order for the M7/M8 was also confirmed in 2004 and progress was also made on the planning for key projects such as the Portlaoise Main Drainage Scheme and the Group Towns Sewerage Scheme.

In terms of economic development, the Council has been very proactive in seeking to exploit the central location of the County and particularly the prime location of Portlaoise which has special status under the National Spatial Strategy. The development of the Togher Interchange site as a motorway services centre and inland port facility has been advanced and it is anticipated that activity will commence during 2005.

This development will result in major economic benefit for the County and is a key component of the Council's overall strategy. The Council is also optimising the environment for enterprise through the provision of enterprise units at various locations in the County and the sale of sites to facilitate the development of smaller indigenous industries. The Council will also be working closely with Enterprise Ireland and the I.D.A. to secure inward investment for the County. Progress was also made in 2004 in securing decentralisation projects for Portlaoise and Portarlington which will provide a major boost for the local economy. It is also encouraging to note the level of anticipated commercial development which will benefit the County and stem the flow of retail leakage to surrounding Counties.

Having been appointed County Manager early in 2005, I want to pay tribute to the Council's Management Team & Staff for the excellent work completed in 2004. I look forward to working with the staff and the elected members of the Council to deliver the objectives contained in the Council's Corporate Plan (2004 - 2009) and to complete the review of the County Development Plan in 2005. I also look forward to continuing our work on a partnership basis with the communities and other agencies in County Laois to develop the County's potential for economic, social and cultural growth.

Peter Carey
County Manager

Tugann sé an-phléisiúr dom mar Bhainisteoir Contae fáilte a chur roimh fhoilsiú Thuarascáil Bhliantúil Chomhairle Contae Laoise don bhliain dár chríoch 31 Nollaig 2004.

Soláthraíonn an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil deis chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíocht na Comhairle agus ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí a cuireadh ar fáil thar an dá mhí dhéag a chuaigh thart. Déanann an tuarascáil taifid de na príomh-ghnóthacháin i dtaca le foráil bhonneagair agus cuireann sé deis i láthair maidir leis an bpobal a chur ar an eolas faoi na gníomhaíochtaí agus na feidhmiúcháin éagsúla a bhí an Chomhairle bainteach iontu le linn na bliana seo caite.

Tá ról lárnach glactha ag Comhairle Contae Laoise i bhfeabhsú an phríomhbhonneagair sa Chontae. Lean seo ar aghaidh i 2004 le críoch agus cur ar aghaidh mórfhorbairtí bonneagracha. Beidh nasc Mhótarbhealach Heath-Gort na Bealtaine le Bhaile Átha Cliath mar phríomh-chuiditheoir d'fhorbairt an Chontae thar na blianta le teacht. Rinneadh an tOrdú um Mhótarbhealach don M7/M8 a dhearbhú i 2004 chomh maith agus rinneadh dul chun cinn ar phleanáil maidir le mórthionscadal cosúil le Scéim Phríomh-Dhreanála Phort Laoise agus Scéim Séarachais Grúpbhailte.

Maidir le forbairt eacnamaíoch, bhí an Chomhairle an-réamhghníomhach maidir le bheith ag lorg sochar a bhaint as suíomh lárnach an Chontae agus go háirithe príomhshuíomh Phort Laoise ag a bhfuil stádas speisialta faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Spásúlachta. Tá forbairt áithréain Mhór-Acomhail Togher mar lárionad seirbhísí mótarbhealaí agus saoráid chalafoirt intíre curtha chun cinn agus táthar ag súil go dtosóidh gníomhaíocht le linn 2005.

Mar thoradh ar an bhforbairt seo beidh mórbhuntáiste eacnamaíoch ag an gContae agus is príomh-chomhpháirt í maidir le straitéis fhoriomlán na Comhairle. Tá an Chomhairle ag barrfheashsú an chomhshaoil le haghaidh fiontraíochta trí sholáthar d'aonaid fiontraíochta ag suímh éagsúla sa Chontae agus díolacháin na láithreán chun forbhairt ar thionscail dúchasacha níos lú a éascú. Beidh an Chomhairle ag obair go dlúth le Fiontraíocht Éireann chomh maith agus an I.D.A chun infheistíocht isteach a dhaingniú. Rinneadh dul chun cinn i 2004 chomh maith maidir le tionscadail díláraithe a dhaingniú do Phort Laoise agus do Chúil an tSúdaire a sholáthraíonn mórspreagadh don gheilleagar áitiúil. Tá sé spreagúil a thabhairt faoi deara chomh maith an leibhéal forbhartha thráchtála réamh-mheasta a bhraith a rachaidh chun sochair don Chontae agus a chuirfidh srian ar shreabh sceite miondíolta chuig Contaetha timpeall air.

Agus mé ceaptha mar Bhainisteoir Contae go luath i 2005, ba mhaith liom moladh a thabhairt d'Fhoireann Bhainistíocht na Comhairle as an obair iontach atá curtha i gcrích acu i 2004. Tá mé ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair leis an bhfoireann agus comhaltaí tofa na Comhairle chun na cuspóirí i bPlean Corparáideach na Comhairle 2004- 2009) a bhaint amach agus athbhreithniú an Phlean Forbartha Chontae a chur i gcrích i 2005. Tá mé ag súil chomh maith le bheith ag leanúint dár n-oibrear bhonn chomhpháirtíochta leis na pobail agus gníomhaireachtaí eile gContae Laois chun acmhainneacht an Chontae maidir le fás eacnamaíoch, sóisialta agus cultúrtha a fhorbairt.

Peter Carey
Bainisteoir Contae

Ráiteas Misin

"Soláthróimid ceannsaíocht, déanaimid ár gContae a fhorbairt, a chur chun cinn, a chosaint agus a rialú agus seachadfaimid seirbhísí poiblí ar ardchaighdeán ionas go dtreiseofar cáilíocht bheatha an phobail'

Sainordú

Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise mar an Phríomh-Údarás Tofa go Daonlathach i gContae Laois.
Soláthraíonn Comhairle Contae Laoise raon leathan agus éagsúil de sheirbhísí a mbíonn tionchar acu ar ghníomhaíochtaí eacnamaíocha, sóisialta, comhshaoil, bonneagracha, turasóireachta, tionscalaíocha agus cultúrtha an Chontae. I measc na seirbhísí seo tá soláthar agus cothabháil tithe,
soláthar agus cothabháil bóithre soláthar agus cothabháil sholáthar uisce agus scéimeanna séarachais, seirbhísí pleanála agus forbartha, bainistíocht dramhaíola,cosaint an chomhshaoil, gníomhaíochtaí caitheamh aimsire, leabharlanna, forbairt cultúrtha agus pobail lena n-áirítear caitheamh aimsire agus spórt. Oibríonn líon mór oibrithe ar an gComhairle, lena n-áirítear an Bainisteoir Contae, fostaithe agus conraitheoirí gairmiúla, teicniúla,dlíthiúla, riaracháin, airgeadais agus lasmuigh.

Comhaltaí agus Cruinnithe Comhairle

Tá 25 Comhalta Tofa i gComhairle Contae Laoise ceithre chomhalta an duine ó Thoghcheantair Mhoointeach Milie, Ioma agus Log an Churraigh, sé chomhalta ó Thoghcheantar Phort Laoise agus seacht gcomhalta ó Thoghcheantar Bhuiríos Mór Osraí. Tionóladh Cruinnithe Comhairle 2004 ar an Luan deireanach de gach mí de ghnáth i Seomra na Comhairle ag Áras an Chontae. Ní raibh cruinniú ar bith i Lúnasa.

Grúpa Polasaí Corparáidigh (G.P.C.)

Tá an Grúpa Polasaí Corparáidigh deartha chun an sainordú daonlathach agus ról déanta polasaí na gcomhaltaí tofa a threisiú.Tá an G.P.C. tacaithe ag an mBainisteoir Contae agus cuimsíonn sé Cathaoirleach na Comhairle agus ceithre Chathair na gCoistí um Polasaithe Straitéiseacha. Is í príomhfheidhm G.P.C. ná obair na C.P.S difriúla a chomhordú agus fóram a sholáthar ina ndéantar cinntí polasaí a mbíonn tionchar acu ar an gComhairle go léir a chomhshocrú
le cur faoi bhráid na Comhairle iomláin ar mhaithe le cinneadh a dhéanamh. Tháinig an G.P.C. le chéile 12 uair i 2004.

Mandate

Laois County Council is the Primary Democratically Elected Authority in County Laois.
Laois County Council provides an extensive and diverse range of services which impact upon the County's economic, social, environmental, infrastructural, tourism, industrial and cultural activities. These services include the provision and maintenance of houses, the provision and maintenance of roads, the
provision and maintenance of water supplies and sewerage schemes, planning and development services, waste management, environmental protection, recreational activities, libraries, cultural and community development including recreation and sport. The Council is serviced by a large workforce, including the County Manager, professional, technical, legal, administrative, financial and outdoor employees and contractors.

Council Membership and Meetings

Laois County Council consists of 25 Elected Members - four members each from Mountmellick, Emo and Luggacurren Electoral Areas, six members from the Portlaoise Electoral Area and seven members from the Borris-in-Ossory Electoral Area. Council Meetings in 2004 were usually held on the last Monday of each month in the Council Chamber at Áras an Chontae. There was no meeting in August.

Corporate Policy Group (C.P.G.)

The Corporate Policy Group is designed to enhance the democratic mandate and policy making role of the elected members.The C.P.G. is supported by the County Manager and comprises the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the four Chairs of the Strategic Policy Committees. The main function of the C.P.G. is to co-ordinate the work of the different S.P.C.'s and provide a forum where policy decisions affecting the whole Council are agreed for submission to the full Council for decision.
The C.P.G. met on 12 occasions in 2004.

Mission Statement

"We will provide leadership, develop, promote, protect and regulate our County and deliver quality public services so as to enhance the quality of life for the community."

Former Councillors

Local Elections 2004

Local Elections were held for all local authorities on 11th June 2004. These elections brought changes to the Council with the following Members retiring from office or being unsuccessful -

An Comhairleoir Michael Costello

An Comhairleoir John Dunne

An Comhairleoir Martin Rohan

These Councillors gave many years of dedicated service to the people of Laois and we take this opportunity to wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Ath-Chomhairleoirí

Toghcháin Áitiúla 2004

Tionóladh Toghcháin Áitiúla do na húdaráis áitiúla uile ar 11 Meitheamh 2004. Rinneadh athruithe ar an gComhairle leis na toghcháin seo le scor na gComhaltaí a leanas ó oifig nó de bharr nár éirigh leo -

An Comhairleoir Joseph Digan

An Comhairleoir Charles Flanagan

An Comhairleoir Mary Wheatley

Thug na comhairleoirí seo a lán blianta de sheirbhís thiomanta do phobal Laoise agus glacaimid an deis seo gach rath a ghuí orthu sa todhchaí.

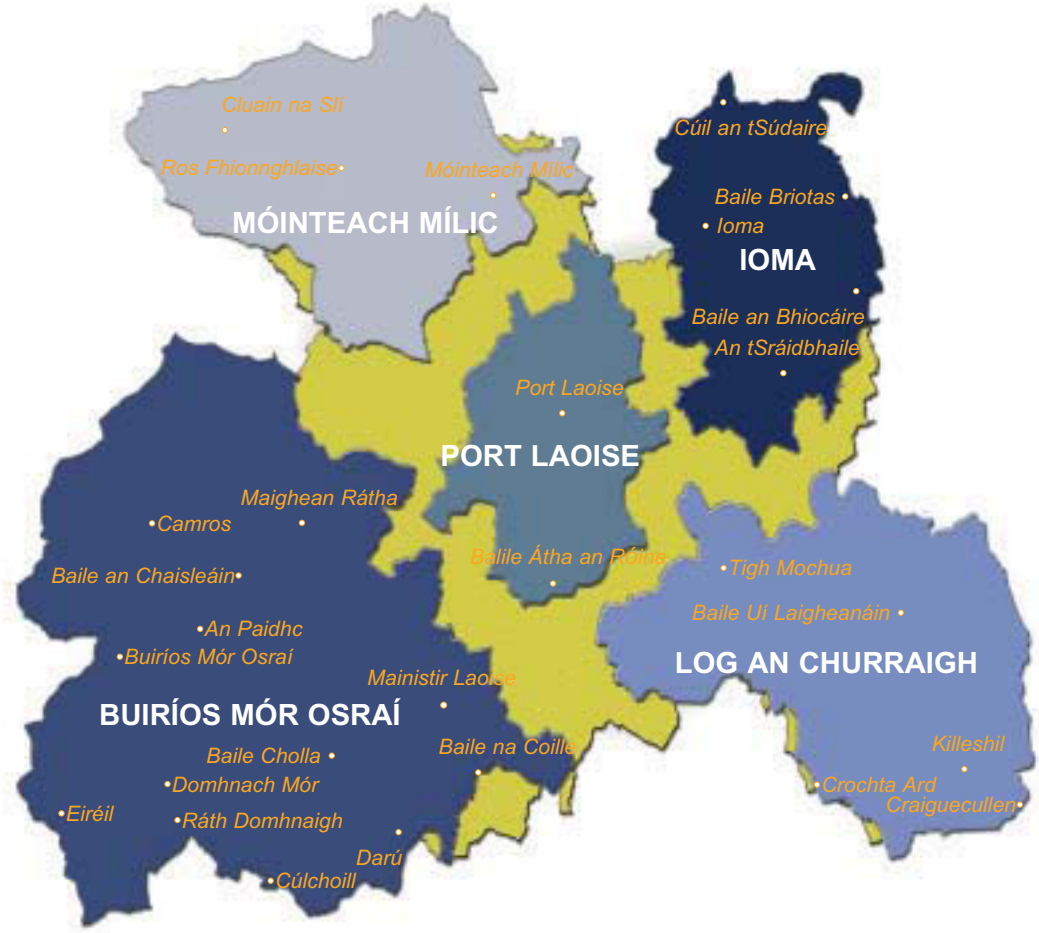
. : Mountmellick Electoral Area - Toghcheantar Móinteach Mílic: .

David **Goodwin** MCC

Michael **Moloney** MCC

Paddy **Bracken** MCC

Seamus **McDonald** MCC



. : Borris-In-Ossory Electoral Area - Toghcheantar Bhuiríos Mór Osraí : .

Bill **Delaney** MCC

Brendan **Phelan** MCC

John **Bonham** MCC

John Joe **Fennelly** MCC

Michael **Lalor** MCC

Larry **Kavanagh** MCC

Marty **Phelan** MCC

The Local Elections were held in June 2004 and this Council was returned for the period 2004 - 2009. Sadly, Cllr. Michael Turley passed away on the 30th January, 2005 - Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Tionóladh na Toghcháin Áitiúla i Meitheamh 2004 agus d'fhill an Chomhairle seo don tréimhse 2004 - 2009. Go brónach fuair an Comhairleoir Michael Turley
bás ar an 30 Eanáir, 2005 - Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

. : Emo Electoral Area - Toghcheantar Ioma : .

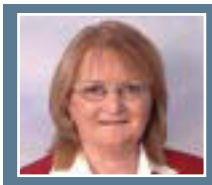
James **Deegan** MCC

Paul **Mitchell** MCC

Raymond **Cribbin** MCC

Michael **Turley** MCC

. : Portlaoise Electoral Area - Toghcheantar Phort Laoise : .



Mary **Sweeney** MCC

Jerry **Lodge** MCC

William **Aird** MCC

Catherine **Fitzgerald** MCC

Brian **Stanley** MCC

Tom **Jacob** MCC

. : Luggacurren Electoral Area - Toghcheantar Log an Churraigh : .

Dick **Miller** MCC

James **Daly** MCC

John **Moran** MCC

Michael **Rice** MCC

Corporate Affairs, Human Resources, Information & Communications Technology

Director of Services	Louis Brennan
Senior Exectutive Officer Corporate Affairs/Human Resources	Gerry Gillen
Head of Information Systems	Christy Crawford

Corporate Affairs

Corporate Plan 2004 – 2009

A new Corporate Plan was prepared and presented to the Members of the Council for their consideration in December 2004. The new plan has been informed by experience to date and reflects the themes of social inclusion and sustainability.

The Corporate Plan contains the following key objectives:

- Continue to co-ordinate and improve the organisation's performance.
- Optimise Human and Financial resources.
- Provide a high level of customer service.
- Promote and develop the County.
- Strengthen the leadership role of the Council in the integrated development of the County.
- Protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the County.
- Promote the development of the Arts, Play, Sports and Recreational activities and protect our heritage and traditions.

The Corporate Plan sets out detailed strategies for the achievement of the objectives listed above.

Given the multi-annual term of the Plan, an annual progress report will be prepared and submitted to the Elected Members and it is intended to consult periodically with our customers to elicit their opinions and views on the organisations performance.

Official Opening of Extension to Áras an Chontae

The extension to Áras an Chontae was officially opened by Mayor Councillor Joe Digan on the 2nd June 2004. One of the many features of this building is the seven stained glass panels located in the Link building. These panels depict an historical journey through 100 years of Laois County Council and our County. Each window is a picture in itself, giving the viewer a synopsis of the history and landscape of Laois.The feature entitled "Celebration" was designed in house and created by Stained Glass Artist Nora Duggan.

Higher Education Grants

Laois County Council awards Higher Education Grants under the Local Authorities (Higher Education Grants) Act 1968-1992 to eligible candidates. The Scheme is advertised annually and the closing date for receipt of completed applications is 31st August of each year. Details are usually available in July from the Higher Education Grants Section or on our Website at www.laois.ie/heg. In 2004, Laois County Council awarded 144 new grants and 310 grants were renewed. The maximum maintenance grant available was €2,945 and Registration fee was increased to €750. The total amount paid out in 2004 amounted to €1,969,862.28.

Local Elections

The Local Elections were held on 11th June 2004. 52 candidates were nominated for election in the five electoral areas. The total electorate was 48,643 with a total valid poll of 30,547. Counting commenced on Saturday morning and concluded late on Sunday evening with the final declaration of results by the local Returning Officer.

Highlights

26/02/04 - Unveiling of plaque in The Heritage Centre, Clonaslee to commemorate the late Mr. Mick Dunne, R.T.E.

26/02/04 - Welcome to Mr. Michel Barnier, E. U. Commissioner on the occasion of his meeting with the Members of the B.M.W. and S. & E. Regional Assemblies in Áras an Chonatae.

26/03/04 - Civic Reception in honour of the Laois Minor Football Team - All Ireland Champions 2003.

21/05/04 - Reception in honour of the Chamber of Commerce of Ireland on holding their Conference in Portlaoise.

28/05/04 - Civic Reception in honour of the I.C.A. on holding their National Annual General Meeting in Portlaoise.

14/07/04 - Attendance at ceremony at Aghaboe Abbey, to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the first pilgrimage from Salzburg, Austria to Aghaboe Abbey.

22/10/04 - Civic Reception in honour of the Laois Civil Defence Team 2004 - Winners of the National Exercise Challenge 2004.

24/11/04 - Reception in honour of The Comenius European Schools Project which included Scoil Bhride, National School, Rathdowney and representatives from schools in Spain, Romania and France.

Gnóthaí Corparáideacha, Acmhainní Daonna, Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide

Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí — Louis Brennan
Oifigeach Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin — Gerry Gillen
Gnóthaí Corparáideacha, Acmhainní Daonna
Ceannaire ar Chórais Faisnéise — Christy Crawford

Gnóthaí Corparáideacha

Plean Corparáideacha 2004 - 2009

Rinneadh Plean Corparáideach úr a ullmhú agus a chur i láthair do Chomhaltaí na Comhairle le cur faoina mbráid i Nollaig 2004. Fuair an plean úr eolas ó eispéireas suas chun dáta agus léiríonn sé na téamaí de chuimsiú sóisialta agus imbhuanaitheacht
Tá na príomhchuspóirí a leanas sa Phlean Corparáideacha:

- Leanúint d'fheidhmiú na heagraíochta chomhordú agus a fheabhsú.
- Acmhainní Daonna agus Airgeadais a bharrfheabhsú.
- Ardleibhéal de sheirbhís custaiméara a sholáthar.
- An Contae a chur chun cinn agus a fhorbairt.
- An ról ceannsaíochta sa Chomhairle i bhforbairt chomhtháite an Chontae a neartú.
- Timpeallacht nádúrtha agus tógtha an Chontae a chosaint agus a threisiú.
- Forbairt na nEalaíona, Dráma, Spóirt agus gníomhaíochtaí Caitheamh Aimsire a chur chun cinn agus ár n-oidhreacht agus traidisiúin a chosaint.

Leagan an Plean Corparáideach mionstraitéisí amach maidir leis na cuspóirí liostaithe thuas a bhaint amach. Siocar téarma ilbhliantúil an Phlean, ba chóir tuarascáil bhliantúil ar dhul chun cinn a ullmhú agus a chur isteach ag Comhaltaí Tofa agus tá sé ceaptha dul i gcomhchomhairle lenár gcustaiméirí go féiltiúil chun a dtuairmí agus dearcadh maidir le feidhmiú na heagraíochta a fháil amach.

An Oscailt Oifigiúil d'Fhorleathnú ar Áras an Chontae.

D'Oscail an Comhairleoir Méara Joe Digan an Forleathnú ar Áras an Chontae go hoifigiúil ar 2 Meitheamh 2004. Ceann de mhórchuid ghnéithe an fhoirgnimh seo ná na seacht bpainéal gloine dhaite atá suite sa Nasc fhoirgneamh.Taispeánann na painéil seo turas stairiúil trí 100 bliain de Chomhairle Contae Laoise agus ár gContae. Pictiúr ann féin is ea gach fuinneog, a thugann cnámh staire agus tírdhreacht Laoise don fhéachadóir. Dearadh an gné árb aimn "Celebration" sa teach agus ba í Nóra Duggan, Ealaíontóir na Gloine Daite a chruthaigh é.

Foireann deartha in-tí do Phainéil Ghloine Dhaite

Deontais Ardoideachais

Tugann Comhairle Contae Laoise Deontais Ardoideachais faoin Acht um Údaráis Áitiúla (Deontais Ardoideachais) 1968-1992 d'iarrthóirí incháilithe. Déantar an Scéim a fhógairt go bliantúil agus is é 31 Lúnasa de gach bliain an dáta deiridh d'iarratais líonta. De ghnáth bíonn na sonraí le fáil in Iúil ó Rannóg na nDeontas Ardoideachais nó ar ár láithreán Gréasáin ag www.laois.ie/heg. i 2004, thug Comhairle Contae Laoise 144 deontas úra agus rinneadh 310 deontas a athnuachan. Ba é an deontas cothaithe is mó a bhí ar fáil ná €2,945, agus rinneadh an táille Cláraithe a ardú go €750. Tagann an t-iomlánméid íoctha amach i 2004 go dtí €1,969,862.28.

Toghcháin Áitiúla

Tionóladh na Toghcháin Áitiúla ar 11 Meitheamh 2004. Ceapadh 52 iarrthóir do thoghcháin sna cúig thogcheantar. Ba é an toghthóireacht iomlán ná 48,643 le vótáil bhailí iomlán de 30,547. Thosaigh an cuntas ar maidin Dé Sathairn agus chríochnaigh sé go mall tráthnóna Dé Domhnaigh agus tháinig fógairt dheiridh na dtorthaí ón gCeann Chomhairimh áitiúil.

Buaicphointí

26/02/04 - Nochtadh na plaice sa Lárionad Oidhreachta, Cluain na Slí chun an tUasal Mick Dunne,R.T.E., nach maireann.
26/02/04 - Fáilte roimh an Uasal Michel Barnier, Coiminsinéir AE ar ocáid a chruinnithe le Comhaltaí B.M.W. agus S. & E Comhtionóil Réigiúnacha in Áras an Chontae
26/03/04 - Fáiltiú Cathartha le hurraim d'Fhoireann Peile Mionúr Laoise-Buaiteoirí Chraobh na hÉireann 2003.
21/05/04 - Fáiltiú le hurraim do chumann lucht tráchtála na hÉireann as a gComhdháil a thionól i bPort Laoise.
28/05/04 - Fáiltiú Cathartha le hurraim do I.C.A. as a gCruinniú Náisiúnta Bliantúil a thionól i bPort Laoise.
14/07/04 - Freastal ar shearmanas ag Mainistir Achadh Bhó, chun a 30ú Cothrom an Lae dá gcéad oilithreachta ó Salzburg, san Ostair go dtí Mainistir Achadh Bhó.
22/10/04 - Fáiltiú Cathartha le hurraim d'Fhoireann Chosanta Laoise - Buaiteoirí an Dúshláin Náisiúnta Gníomhaíochtaí.
24/11/04 - Fáiltiú le hurraim do Thionscadal Comenius Scoileanna na hEorpa Scoil Bhríde, Scoil Náisiúnta, Ráth Domhnaigh agus ionadaithe ó scoileanna sa Spáinn, an Rómáin agus an Fhrainc páirteach.

Partnership

The Work Place Partnership Committee continued their work during 2004. The members in 2004 were:

Management Nominees	Union Nominees
Gerry Maher (Joint Chair)	Kieran Kehoe (Joint Chair)
Declan Byrne	John Culleton
Martin Daly	Paddy Dowling
Denise Doyle	Dolores Murphy
Ian McCormack	Michael O'Loughlin

Facilitator: Josephine Kavanagh

PANG

The PANG Committee had a very successful year. Many events were held including the Health Focus Day which was a great success with over 140 employees attending and 26 stands were on show offering medical, physical and nutritional advice. The Cardicheck Mobile Unit was in attendance and over 25% of employees took the opportunity to use the Cardicheck. It is envisaged that the Cardicheck Mobile Unit will visit the area offices in early 2005.

Long Service Awards

For the second year running Workplace Partnership presented the Long Service Awards to former employees of the Council. The awards were made in the categories of 20 to 40 years service.

Recipients of Awards in respect of 30 years service

Greening Committee

In 2004 the committee dealt with a number of issues identified through green housekeeping measures. As a result of these efforts 13 bags of paper and 1 fi bales of cardboard are recycled each week. Financial savings have been achieved through these measures.

Return to Learning

This initiative is in its third year and is a joint venture between Laois County Council and Laois V.E.C.
8 participants took part during 2004.

Area Partnership Committee

Partnership Area Committees were established in 2004 which will result in each area partnership delivering positive and significant outcomes for all employees.

Freedom of Information (F.O.I.)

The Freedom of Information Act 1997 has applied to Local Authorities since October 21st 1998.

The following show the level of activity in relation to requests for 2004:

Applications received/processed in 2004	
Applications on hands at 31/12/2003	Nil
Applications received during 2004	29
Decisions taken during 2004	26
Applications on hands at 31/12/2004	3

Nature of Information Sought	
Personal (to applicant)	6
Non-personal	23

Appeals	
Appeals to Information Commissioner	3
Appeal to High Court	Nil

Source of Requests	
Journalists	2
Business	2
Oireachtas Members	1
Local Authority Members	1
Others/General Public	23

Participants in Health Focus Day

Comhpháirtíocht

Lean Coiste Chomhpháirtíochta an Ionaid Oibre dá gcuid oibre le linn 2004. Ba iad na comhaltaí i 2004:

Ainmnithigh Bainistíochta	Ainmnithigh Aontais
Gerry Maher (Comhchathaoir)	Kieran Kehoe (Comhchathaoir)
Declan Byrne	John Culleton
Martin Daly	Paddy Dowling
Denise Doyle	Dolores Murphy
Ian McCormack	Michael O'Loughlin

Éascaitheoir: Josephine Kavanagh

PANG

Bhí bliain an-rathúil ag an gCoiste PANG. Tionóladh a lán ócáidí agus ina measc bhí Lá Fócasaithe ar Shláinte ar éirigh go hiontach leis agus bhí os cionn 140 fostaí ansin agus bhí 26 seastán ar taispeáint a thairg comhairle leighis, fhisiceach agus chothaithe. Bhí an tAonad Taistil Cardicheck ansin agus ghlac os cionn 25% de fhostaithe an deis chun an Cardicheck a úsáid. Samhlaítear go dtabharfaidh an tAonad Taistil Cardicheck cuairt ar oifigí an cheantairgo luath i 2005.

Gradaim do Sheirbhís Fhada

Don dara bliain i ndiaidh a chéile chur Comhpáirtíocht an Ionaid oibre na Gradaim do Sheirbhís Fhada i láthair d'iarfhostaithe na Comhairle. Rinneadh na gradaim i gcatagóirí ó 20 go 40 bliain seirbhíse.

Faighteoirí Gradam maidir le 40 bliain de sheirbhís

An Chomhairle Ghlas

I 2004 dhéileáil an coiste le roinnt ceisteanna sainaitheanta trí bhearta fhearas tí glais. Mar thoradh na n-iarrachtaí seo rinneadh 13 mála de pháipéar agus 1 fi cornán de chairtchlár a athchúrsáil gach seachtain. Fuarthas coilgilteas airgeadais tríd na bearta seo.

Filleadh ar an bhFoghlaim

Tá an tionscnamh seo ina thríú bliain agus is comhfhiontar é idir Comhairle Contae Laoise agus G.O. Laoise. Ghlac 8 rannpháirtíocht páirt le linn 2004.

Coiste Comhpháirtíochta Ceantair

Bunaíodh Coistí Comhpháirtíochta Ceantair i 2004 agus is é an toradh a bheidh ar seo ná go seachadfaidh gach comhpháirtíocht cheantair torthaí dearfa agus suntasacha do gach fostaí.

Saoráil Faisnéise (S.F.)

Tá an tAcht um Shaoráil Faisnéise i bhfeidhm ar Údaráis Áitiúla ó 21 Deireadh Fómhair 1998.

Léiríonn an méid a leanas an leibhéal gníomhaíochta i dtaca le hiarratais do 2004:

Iarratais faighte/próiseáilte i 2004	
Iarratais ar láimh ag 31/12/2003	Náid
Iarratais a fuarthas le linn 2004	29
Cinntí a rinneadh le linn 2004	26
Iarratais ar láimh ag 31/12/2004	3
Cinéal d'Fháisnéis a Lorgaíodh	
Pearsanta (don iarrthóir)	6
Neamhphearsanta	23
Achomhairc	
Achomhairc chuig an gCoimisinéir Faisnéise	3
Achomharc chuig an Ard-Chúirt	Náid
Foinse na nIarratas	
Iriseoirí	2
Gnó	2
Comhaltaí an Oireachtais	1
Comhaltaí Údarás Áitiúil	1
Eile/An Pobal i gCoitinne	23

Register of Electors 2004/2005

Dáil Constituency	Presidential Electors	Dáil Electors
Laois - Offaly	46,775	47,000
Total:	46,775	47,000

European Parliament Constituency	European Electors	Potential European Electors
Leinster	47,040	15
Total:	47,040	15

Local Electoral Areas	Number of Electors
Borris-in-Ossory	13,523
Emo	7,752
Luggacurren	7,799
Mountmellick	6,635
Portlaoise	11,513
Total:	**47,222**

Town Council	Local Government Electors
Mountmellick Town Council	2,305
Portlaoise Town Council	6,791
Total:	**9,096**

Postal and Special Voters

Dáil Constituency	Gardaí	Defence Forces	Diplomats	Disabled Postal	Occupation	Disabled Special
Laois-Offaly	2	125	3	24	0	0

Guests at unveiling of plaque in The Heritage Centre, Clonaslee to commemorate the late Mr. Mick Dunne, R.T.E., a native of Clonaslee

Clár na dToghthóirí 2004/2005

Dáilcheantar	Toghthóirí Uachtaránachta	Toghthóirí na Dála
Laois - Uíbh Fhailí	46,775	47,000
Iomlán:	46,775	47,000

Dáilcheantar Pharlaimint na hEorpa	Toghthóirí na hEorpa	Acmhainneacht Toghthóirí na hEorpa
Laighin	47,040	15
Iomlán:	47,040	15

Toghcheantair Áitiúla	Líon na dToghthóirí
Buiríos Mór Osraí	13,523
Ioma	7,752
Log an Churraigh	7,799
Móinteach Mílic	6,635
Port Laoise	11,513
Iomlán:	47,222

Comhairle Baile	Toghthóirí Rialtais Áitiúla
Comhairle Baile Mhóinteach Mílic	2,305
Comhairle Baile Phort Laoise	6,791
Iomlán:	**9,096**

Vótáláithe Poist agus Vótáláithe Speisialta

Dáilcheantar	An Garda	Fórsaí Cosanta	Toscairí	Míchumas Poist	Saothar	Míchumas Speisialta
Laois-Uíbh Fhailí	2	125	3	24	0	0

Aíonna ag fáiltiú le hurraim do Thionscadal Comenius Scoileanna na hEorpa

The Council Members supported and attended the following Conferences in 2004:

Tourism Plans	Kildare	16th January 2004
Wicklow County Tourism	Newtownmountkennedy	22nd January 2004
Septic Tank Seminar	Ennis	29th - 30th January 2004
Cumann Merriman	Bunratty	30th January - 1st February 2004
Renewable Energy	Wexford	5th - 6th February 2004
Association of Municipal Authorities	Letterkenny	13th - 14th February 2004
Women Learning	Dublin	25th February 2004
Carlow Tourism	Carlow	26th - 27th February 2004
Clare Tourist Council & Antrim Borough Council	Antrim	27th - 29th February 2004
Colmcille Heritage Trust	Letterkenny	27th - 29th February 2004
Rattoo 13th Annual Environment Recognition Conference	Ballybunion	3rd - 6th March 2004
BMW Regional Assembly	Galway	4th March 2004
Duhallow Conference	Kanturk	4th - 7th March 2004
General Council of County Councils	Kilkenny	11th - 13th March 2004
Kilkee Waterworld	Kilkee	25th - 26th March 2004
Clonmel Borough Council	Clonmel	2nd - 3rd April 2004
Local Authority Members Association	Ennis	15th - 16th April 2004
Tipperary Peace Convention	Tipperary Town	16th - 18th April 2004
Barcelona Declaration Project	Kilmainham	19th April 2004
Protecting our Natural Heritage	Cork	22nd - 23rd April 2004
Europade Conference	Westport	22nd - 23rd April 2004
Kadenza Cousultancies - Local Government 1999-2004	Dungarvan	7th - 8th May 2004
DFI Seminar - Accommodation for people with Disabilities	Dublin	11th May 2004
Mid-West Regional Authority- The PRELUDE challenge	Ennis	13th - 14th May 2004
Sustainable N.I.	Belfast	21st June 2004
Confederation on European Charter	Dublin	29th - 30th June 2004
Dr. Douglas Hyde Conference	Roscommon	16th - 17th July 2004
International Humbert School	Ballina	20th - 25th July 2004
Parnell Summer School	Avondale	15th - 20th August 2004
Merriman Summer School	Ennistymon	21st -28th August 2004
Confederation of European Councillors	Athlone	4th September 2004
Freedom to Farm - Ireland's Opportunity	Waterford	9th - 10th September 2004
Home-Start/South Conference	Dundalk	15th September 2004
Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend	Omagh	18th - 19th September 2004
Association of Municipal Authorities	Listowel	16th - 18th September 2004
Getting a Grip 2004	Killarney	30th Sept. - 1st October 2004
La Touche Legacy Seminar	Greystones	1st - 3rd October 2004
Joining across the Water	Ballina	7th -8th October 2004
Local Political Leadership	Mallow	14th - 16th October 2004
Confederation of European Councillors	Gibraltar	14th - 17th October 2004
The Local Government Budget	Killarney	23rd October 2004
Managing Local Economic Development	Portlaoise	20th - 21st October 2004
Enterprise Kiltullagh Ltd	Ballinlough	28th October 2004
Policy-making in Local Government	Carrick-on-Suir	29th - 30th October 2004
Waste Management	Vienna	10th - 12th November 2004
L.A.M.A. Winter Seminar 2004	Dundalk	12th - 13th November 2004
Tourism - A Relationship Business	Ennistymon	23rd - 27th November 2004
Confederation of European Councillors	Ennikskillen	2nd - 3rd December 2004
Seminar for SMES	Waterford	7th December 2004
The Official Languages Act Seminar	Limerick	10th December 2004
I.P.A. Training	Portlaoise	11th December 2004

Thug na Comhaltaí Comhairle tacaíocht do agus d'fhreastail siad ar na Comhdhálacha seo a leanas i 2004:

Pleananna Turasóireachta	Chill Dara 1	6 Eanáir 2004
Turasóireacht Chontae Chill Mhantáin	Baile an Chinnéidigh	2 Eanáir 2004
Seimineár ar umair sheipteacha	Inis	29 - 30 Eanáir 2004
Cumann Merriman	Bunratty	30 Eanáir - 1 Feabhra 2004
Fuinneamh Inathnuaite	Loch Garman	5-6 Feabhra 2004
Cumann na mBardas	Leitir Ceanainn	13-14 Feabhra 2004
Mná ag Foghlaim	Baile Átha Cliath	25 Feabhra 2004
Turasóireacht Cheatharlaigh	Ceatharlach	26-27 Feabhra 2004
Comhairle Turasóireacht an Chláir agus Comhairle Buirge Aontroma	Aontroim	27-29 Feabhra 2004
Aontoabhas Oidhreachta Cholm Cille	Leitir Ceanainn	27-29 Feabhra 2004
13ú Chomhdháil Bhliantúil ar Aitheantas an Chomhshaoil Rattoo	Baile an Bhuinneánaigh	3-6 Márta 2004
Tionól Réigiúnacha BMW	Gaillimh	4 Márta 2004
Comhdháil Duhallow	Ceann Toirc	4-7 Márta 2004
Ardchomhairle na gComhairlí Contae	Chill Chainnigh	11-13 Márta 2004
Waterworld Chill Chaoi	Cill Chaoi	25-26 Márta 2004
Comhairle Buirge	Chluain Meala	2-3 Aibreán 2004
Cumann Chomhaltaí na nÚdarás Áitiúil	Inis	15-16 Aibreán 2004
Coinbinsiún do Shíocháin Thiobraid Árann	Baile Thiobraid Árann	16-18 Aibreán 2004
Tionscnamh Dearbhaithe Barcelona	Cill Maigheann	19 Aibreán 2004
Ag Cosaint ár nOidhreacht Nádúrtha	Corcaigh	22-23 Aibreán 2004
Comhdháil Europade,	Cathair na Mart	22-23 Aibreán 2004
Comhairleachtaí Kadenza - Rialtas Áitiúil 1999-2004	Dún Garbháin	7-8 Bealtaine 2004
Seimineár DFI - Cóiríocht do dhaoine faoi Mhichumais	Baile Átha Cliath	11 Bealtaine 2004
Údarás Réigiúnacha an Mheán Iarthair - An dúshlán PRELUDE	Inis	13-14 Bealtaine 2004
Inbhunaithe TÉ	Béal Feirste	21 Meitheamh 2004
Cónaidhm ar Chairt na hEorpa	Baile Átha Cliath	29-30 Meitheamh 2004
Comhdháil an Dochtúra Dubhghlas de hÍde	Ros Comáin	16-17 Iúil 2004
Scoile Idirnáisiúnta Humbert	Béal an Átha	20-25 Iúil 2004
Scoil Samhraigh Parnell	Avondale	15 -20 Lúnasa 2004
Scoil Samhraigh Merriman	Inis Diomáin	21-28 Lúnasa 2004
Cónaidhm na gComhairleoirí Eorpacha	Átha Luain	4 Meán Fómhair 2004
Saoirse chun Feirmeoireachta -Deis na hÉireann	Port Láirge	9-10 Meán Fómhair 2004
Comhdháil Home-Start/Deisceart	Dún Dealgain	15 Meán Fómhair 2004
Deireadh Seachtaine Litríochta Benedict Kiely	An Ómaigh	18-19 Meán Fómhair 2004
Cumann na mBardas	Lios Tuathail	16-18 Meán Fómhair 2004
Getting a Grip 2004	Cill Airne	30 Meán Fómhair - 1 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Seimineár Oidhreacht La Touche Legacy	Na Clocha Liatha	1-3 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Ag Nascadh thar an bhFarraige	Béal an Átha	7-8 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Ceannsaíocht Áitiúil Pholaitiúil	Mala	14 -16 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Cónaidhm na gComhairleoirí Eorpacha	Gibraltar	14 - 17 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Buiséad an Rialtais Áitiúil	Cill Airne	23 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Bainistiú na Forbartha Eacnamaíochta Áitiúla	Port Laoise	20 -21 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Fiontraíocht Chill Tulaigh Tte	Baile an Locha	28 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Déanamh Polasaithe i Rialtais Áitiúil	Carraig na Siúire	29- 30 Deireadh Fómhair 2004
Baisnistíocht Dramhaíola	Vienna	10 -12 Samhain 2004
Seimineár Geimhridh L.A.M.A. 2004	Dún Dealgain	12 -13 Samhain 2004
Turasóireacht - Gnó Caidrimh	Inis Diomáin	23-27 Samhain 2004
Cónaidhm na gComhairleoirí Eorpacha	Inis Ceithleann	2-3 Nollaig 2004
Seimineár do SMES	Port Láirge	7 Nollaig 2004
Seimineár Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla	Luimneach	10 Nollaig 2004
Oiliúint I.P.A.	Port Laoise	11 Nollaig 2004

Human Resources

Recruitment Statistics

A total of 415 (Whole-time Equivalent) people were employed by Laois County Council at 31st December, 2004.
During 2004 Laois County Council held 50 competitions, in relation to which the following statistics have been extracted:

Total Applications received 1208

	Male	Female
Applicants	479	729
Successful Applicants	138	77

Permanent Appointments/Promotions 2004:

Male	Female
31	8

Work Life Balance Initiatives

At year-end 11 employees were availing of the Career Break Scheme, 20 employees were availing of the job/work sharing scheme and 13 employees were availing of the Parental Leave Scheme.

Industrial Relations

Laois County Council is generally characterised by good industrial relations.

No days were lost due to industrial action in 2004.

Employee Training & Development

Laois County Council delivered a comprehensive training programme in 2004 based on the Training Needs Analysis carried out in January 2004.

Expenditure on training courses was approximately €205,000.

Training Courses provided in 2004 included:

Training	Trainer
Customer Care and Aggression Management	H. Training
Expert Witness	La Touch Bond Solon
Media Skills	Communique International
Literacy Awareness	National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)
Stress Management	PMS Ltd.
Basic Chainsaw	Coillte
General Services Supervisor Course	Educare
Manual Handling	OSTO Ltd.

9 employees completed the Certificate in Local Government Studies.

A number of employees are pursuing other 3rd level courses with assistance from Laois County Council.

Employees also attended Conferences and Seminars related to their area of work. Laois County Council is striving towards continuous improvement in its training function to enable employees to meet the changing nature of the challenges facing this Council.

Service Indicators

(1) The Council achieved the 3% National Performance Indicator for expenditure on training and development as a percentage of total payroll costs in 2004. The out-turn in Laois County Council was 3.33%.

(2) In relation to the number of working days lost to certified and uncertified illness the following statistics apply:-

- Certified 3.57%
- Uncertified 0.31%

Equality

Laois County Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to the introduction of a broad range of policies, practices and procedures which aim to recognise individual contribution and performance, develop each individual's capability and give everyone an equal opportunity to use his/her talent and realise his/her potential.

During 2004 the Equality Officer together with the Equality Action Team continued to raise awareness and provide advice in relation to equality issues.

The following policy documents were prepared by the Equality Action Team and adopted in 2004.

- Dignity at Work Policy
- Diversity Management Policy
- Handbook on Cultural Diversity - Members of the Travelling Community

Joe Whelan Overseer, (right) with friends and colleagues at his retirement function

Acmhainní Daonna

Staitisticí Earcaíochta

Bhí iomlán de 415 (Cóibhéis Lánaimseartha) duine fostaithe ag Comhairle Contae Laoise ag 31 Nollaig 2004.
Le linn 2004 bhí 50 comórtas ag Comhairle Contae Laoise óna bhfuarthas na staitisticí seo a leanas:

Iomlán na nIarratas faighte 1208

	Fireann	Baineann
Iarratais	479	729
Iarratais ar éirigh leo	138	77

Ceapacháin/Ardaithe Céime Buana 2004:

Fireann	Baineann
31	8

Tionscnaimh Oibre agus Maireachtála a Chothramú

Ag deireadh na bliana ghlac 11 fostaí páirt i Scéim an tSosa Ghairme, ghlac 20 fostaí páirt sa scéim poistroinnte/jabroinnte agus ghlac 13 fostaí páirt sa Scéim um Shaoire Tuismitheora.

Caidrimh Tionscalaíocha

Go ginearálta bíonn caidreamh tionscalaíoch maith mar ghné de chuid Chomhairle Contae Laoise.
Níor cailleadh lá oibre ar bith mar gheall ar ghníomh tionscalaíoch i 2004.

Léiriú do Peter Scully, an Ceannaire Airgeadais chun a scor as Comhairle Contae Laoise a cheiliúradh

Oiliúint agus Forbairt Fostaithe

Sheachaid Comhairle Contae Laoise clár cuimsitheach oiliún i 2004 bunaithe ar an Anailís ar Riachtanais Oiliúna a rinneadh in Eanáir 2004.

Bhí an caitheachas ar chúrsaí oiliúna thart ar €205,000.

Ba iad na Cúrsaí Oiliúna a cuireadh ar fáil ná:

Oiliúint	Oiliúntóir
Cúram Custaiméirí agus Bainistíocht Ionsaitheachta	Oiliúint
Finné Saineolaithe	La Touch Bond Solon
Scileanna na Meán	Communique International
Feasacht ar Litearthacht	Litearthacht Náisiúnta Aosach Gníomhaireacht (NALA)
Bainistíocht Struis	PMS Ltd.
Basic Chainsaw	Coillte
Seirbhísí Ginearálta Cúrsa Maoirseoireachta	Educare
Láimhséail Láimhe	OSTO Ltd.

Chuir 9 bhfostaí Teastas i Staidéar Rialtais Áitiúil i gcrích.

Bhí roinnt fostaithe ag déanamh cúrsaí 3ú leibhéil eile le cuidiú ó Chomhairle Contae Laoise.

D'fhreastail fostaithe ar Chomhdhálacha agus Seimineáir a bhain lena réimse oibre chomh maith. Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise ag iarraidh feabhas leanúnach a bhaint amach ina fheidhm oiliúna chun fostaithe a chur ar a gcumas dul i ngleic le dúshláin atá ag athrú agus a thagann os comhair na Comhairle seo.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

(1) Bhain an Chomhairle an 3% den Táscaire Feidhmiúcháin Náisiúnta amach do chaiteachas ar oiliúint agus fhorbairt mar chéadatán d'iomlánchostais párolla i 2004. Ba í an táirgeacht i gComhairle Contae Laoise ná 3.33%.

(2) Baineann na staisticí seo a leanas leis an méid de laethanta caillte mar gheall ar thinneas dearbhaithe nó neamhdhearbhaithe:-

- Dearbhaithe 3.57%
- Neamhdhearbhaithe 0.31%

Comhionannas

Fostóir comhdheiseanna is ea Comhairle Contae Laoise agus tá sé tiomanta do thabhairt isteach raon leathan de pholasaithe, chleachtais agus ghnáthaimh a bhfuil sé d'aidhm acu ionchur agus feidhmiúchán an duine aonair a aithint, cumas gach duine aonair a fhorbairt agus comhdheis a thabhairt do gach duine maidir le húsáid a éirime/a héirime agus a chumais/cumais is fearr a réadú.

Le linn 2004 lean an tOifigeach Comhionannais in éineacht leis an bhFoireann Gníomhaíochta Comhionannais chun feasacht a spreagadh agus comhairle a chur ar fáil i dtaca le ceisteanna comhionannais.

D'ullmhaigh an Fhoireann Gníomhaíochta Comhionannais na cáipéisí polasaí a leanas agus glactha leo i 2004.

- Polasaí Dínite san Ionad Oibre
- Polasaí Bainistíochta Éagsúlachta
- Lámhleabhar ar Éagsúlacht Cúltúr - Baill den Lucht Taistil

Information & Communications Technology Department

The year 2004 saw some major advances being made and projects undertaken in the I.C.T. area.

Network Administration

This area of the I.C.T. Department is responsible for the management of the Councils Computer Network infrastructure comprising: Communications Rooms, Network Servers, Workstations, Routers, Leased Lines, and Wireless Links.
During 2004 a number of upgrades to Operating Systems, Applications and Equipment were implemented, including Microsoft Exchange, Anti Virus Applications, Server Operating Systems, and System Backup Applications.
Midway through the year Laois became part of the Government Virtual Private Network (V.P.N.) System. This enabled much improved secure communication with the various Government Departments and other agencies.
New Network equipment was installed in the Training Room and the Council Chamber, which will considerably enhance the I.C.T. facilities in both these venues.
As part of the ongoing effort to improve Customer Service, Broadband Internet Access for the Library Users was provided at Portlaoise branch library. It is intended to make this facility available at other libraries as broadband becomes available at more locations.
Replacement of a number of PCs used for Internet access in Libraries is planned for early 2005 and this will result in a much improved service to the public.

CCI President Mark Staunton and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Dick Roche T. D., presenting Ray Bell, Laois County Council with an award at the CCI Excellence Awards Ceremony in Dublin.

Geographic Information Systems

GIS has now established itself as a core technology of the organisation. The latest Ordnance Survey of Ireland digital vector mapping is now available for the whole county, improving the accuracy of the GIS mapping and analysis operations. Significant performance improvements in the Intranet GIS system has enabled the organisation to view this system as a single portal into the full range of corporate datasets, facilitating dissemination of information and improved decision making. Desktop GIS technology has also improved significantly, with more robust and functional software now available in all the primary technical areas. GIS has made a considerable contribution to better customer service through the development of interactive map solutions embedded in Laois.ie. The GPlan system now enables the public to browse the planning applications in their area of interest and query the status of the application. The success of this system has meant development has begun on a number of similar Internet GIS solutions.

Software Development & Internet/Intranet

The Laois Electronic Parking Fines system was further developed by our software developers, and is being currently considered as a national system for all local authorities. Laois County Council was asked to attend an EU Quality Service conference in September to demonstrate this system to other European countries. This system also received an award from the Chamber of Commerce Ireland for Excellence in Public Service.

Dermot O'Loughlin at the "Excellence in Public Service Awards" Roadshow.

Other systems that were either developed or implemented by the IT section in 2004 include a system for document scanning, Contact Management System, Interactive GIS special solutions, environmental complaints and management reporting systems.

Laois County Council continues to improve communication through the organisation through the use of the corporate intranet. The intranet is now used by all staff in the organisation on a daily basis to share information and collaborate on projects.

Laois County Council continues to make all council information available through our council website and are working with the National Disability Authority to make our website fully accessible for people of all abilities.

In 2004 the facility for payment on-line for some of our services was provided and more services are being added. The planning process has been made more accessible for everyone through the Planning enquiry system at www.laois.ie/eplan.

Rannóg na Teicneolaíochta Faisnéise agus Cumarsáide

Rinneadh a lán dul chun cinn sa bhliain 2004 agus tugadh faoina lán tionscamh sa réimse TFC.

Riarachán Líonra

Tá an réimse seo de Roinn an T.F.C. freagrach as bainistíocht bhonneagar Líonra Ríomhaire na gComhairlí déanta suas de: Seomraí Cumarsáide, Freastalaithe Líonra, Staisiúin Oibre, Ródairí, Línte ar Léas, agus Naisc gan Sreang.
Le linn 2004 cuireadh roinnt uasghrádaithe ar Chórais Oibriúcháin, Feidhmiúcháin agus Trealamh i bhfeidhm, lena n-áirítear Microsoft Exchange, Feidhmchláir Frithvíris, Córais Oibriúcháin Freastalaithe, agus Feidhmchláir Chórais Chúltaca. Leathbhealaigh tríd an mbliain rinneadh Laois mar pháirt de Córas Líonra Príobháidigh Fhíorúil an Rialtais (V.P.N.). Chumasaigh seo cumarsáid i bhfad níos daingne leis na Ranna Rialtais éagsúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile. Cuireadh trealamh úr Líonra isteach sa Seomra Oiliúna agus i Seomra na Comhairle a threiseoidh na saoráidí TFC sa dá aonad seo araon. Mar pháirt den iarracht leanúnach maidir le feabhas a chur ar Sheirbhís don Chustaiméir, rinneadh Rochtain ar an Idirlíon Leathanbhanda d'Úsáideoirí na Leabharlainne a chur ar fáil i leabharlann bhrainse Phort Laoise. Tá sé ceaptha an tsaoráid seo a chur ar fáil i leabarlanna eile nuair a bheidh leathanbhanda ar fáil i níos mó áiteanna. Tá sé pleanáilte Ríomhairí a úsáidtear do rochtain ar an Idirlíon a athsholáthar go luath i 2005 agus siocar seo beidh feabhas mór ar an tseirbhís don phobal.

Córais Faisnéise Geografaí

Bhunaigh CFG é féin mar chroítheicneolaíocht na heagraíochta. Tá an léarscáilíocht veicteora méaraí Shuirbhéireacht Ordanáis na hÉireann is déanaí ar fáil anois don chontae uile, agus cuireann seo feabhas ar chruinneas léarscáilíochta CFG agus oibriúchán anailíse. Chuir feabhais shuntasacha feidhmiúchán i gCóras Inlín CFG ar chumas na heagraíochta breathnú ar an gcóras mar thairseach singil sa raon iomlán de thacair sonraí corparáideacha, a éascaíonn scaipeadh eolais agus cinnteoireachta níos fearr. Tá feabhas suntasach tagtha ar theicneolaíocht deisce ríomhaire an CFG chomh maith, le bogearraí níos acmhainní agus níos feidhmiúla ar fáil sna príomhréimsí teicniúla go léir.

Tá ionchur maith déanta ag an CFG chun seirbhís don chustaiméir a dhéanamh níos fearr trí fhorbairtí de réitigh idirghníomhacha léarscála leabaithe i Laois i.e. Cuireann córas an Gphlean ar chumas an phobail anois na iarratais phleanála a bhrabhsáil sna réimsí ina bhfuil suim acu agus ceisteanna a chur faoi staid aon iarratais faoi leith.

Dá bharr rath an chórais seo tosaíodh ar fhorbairt ar roinnt réiteach Idirlín CFG comhchosúil.

Forbairt Bogearraí & an Idirlíon/Inlíon

Rinneadh ár bhforbróirí bogearraí tuilleadh forbartha ar Chóras Fíneálacha Páircéala Laoise, agus faoi láthair breathnaítear air mar chóras náisiúnta do na húdaráis áitiúla eile. Iarradh ar Chomhairle Contae Laoise freastal ar chomhdháil ar Cháilíocht Seirbhíse AE i Meán Fómhair chun an córas seo a thaispeáint do thíortha Eorpacha eile. Tá gradam faighte ag an gcóras seo ó Chumann Lucht Tráchtála na hÉireann do Bharrfheabhas sa tSeirbhís Poiblí.

I measc na gcóras eile a rinneadh forbairt orthu nó a cuireadh i bhfeidhm ag an rannóg TF i 2004 tá córas do scanadh cáipéisí, Córas Bainistíochta Teagmhála, Réitigh Speisialta Idirgníomhacha CFG, gearáin chomhshaoil agus córais tuairiscithe bainistíochta.

Leanann Comhairle Contae Laoise de chumarsáid a fheabhsú san eagraíocht trí úsáid a bhaint as an inlín chorparáidigh. Úsáideann an fhoireann go léir san eagraíocht an Inlíon anois ar bhonn laethúil chun eolas a roinnt agus chun comhoibriú ar thionscadail.

Leanann Comhairle Contae Laoise ag cur eolas na comhairle ar fad ar fáil trínár láithreán Gréasáin Comhairle agus tá siad ag obair leis an Údárás Náisiúnta Míchumais chun rochtain iomlán ar ár láithreán Gréasáin a chur ar fáil do dhaoine de gach cineál cumais.

I 2004 soláthraíodh saoráid maidir le híoc ar líne do chuid dár seirbhísí agus tá tuilleadh seirbhísí á gcur leis. Tá rochtain níos fearr tagtha ar an bpróiseas pleanála do gach duine tríd an gcóras fiosraithe Pleanála ag www.laois.ie/eplan.

Faighteoirí gradam ag Barrfheabhas i Searmanas Seirbhíse Poiblí leis an Taoiseach, An tUas.Bertie Ahern T.D.

Housing, Social and Cultural Policy

Chair: Brian Stanley MCC

Members:
William Aird, M.C.C.
Larry Kavanagh, M.C.C.
Paddy Bracken, M.C.C.
Seamus McDonald, M.C.C.
Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C.
Marc Connolly, T.C.

Sectoral:
Mary Wheatley
Pat Culleton
John Grace
Mick Dowling

Director Of Services: Declan Byrne
Senior Executive Officer: A.M. Delaney
A/Senior Executive Engineer: Sean Ryan
Senior Social Worker: Fionnuala Daly
County Librarian: Gerry Maher

Report on Strategic Policy Committee

During 2004 the Housing, Social and Cultural S.P.C. met in March, May and December. Reports and recommendations were considered from the Arts, Heritage, Sports & Leisure and Library Sections. The meeting held in May was a special meeting arranged to brief the members on the Multi-Annual Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan 2004-2008 which was agreed by the Members.

The meeting in December 2004 was the first meeting of the newly elected S.P.C. and a programme of work for the forthcoming year was discussed and agreed. The S.P.C. is working satisfactorily.

Housing Services

Laois County Council's key objective is to maximise the availability of accommodation to meet different categories of need and to promote the full range of housing options.

Highlights during 2004

- The completion of a 60-house loan and subsidy scheme project by Cluid Voluntary Housing Association in Ballycullenbeg, Mountmellick.
- Adoption of Action Plan for Social & Affordable Housing 2004-2008
- The successful acquisition of the first group of houses under Part V – Housing Strategy – four houses in Kilminchy, Portlaoise and the commencement of 18 social and 18 affordable houses under Part V in Graiguecullen.

Housing - Ballymorris Manor, Portarlington

Housing Construction & Acquisition

During the year, 193 houses were completed under this Programme - see below for breakdown.

Borris in Ossory	10 units
Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix	10 units
Main Street, Mountrath	1 units
Cooltederry, Portarlington	46 units
Cork Road, Durrow	34 units
New Line Road, Mountrath	30 units
Arles	18 units
Colliers Lane, Portlaoise	40 units
Rural dwellings	4 units
Total	**193 units**

In addition, 30 houses were purchased on the open market for allocation to persons on the waiting list and 7 new demountable dwellings were also provided.

Summary Of Programme	
No. under construction at 01/01/04	198
No. commenced in 2004	137
No. completed in 2004	193
No. in progress at 31/12/04 (including 6 house purchases)	142

The 137 housing starts initiated includes extensions to local authority dwellings and improvement works in lieu to private houses.

Planned Maintenance Programme

Phase III of the Planned Maintenance Programme commenced in September 2004.

101 units were identified as requiring immediate repair. The remaining units will be included in future phases. Work will be carried out over a two-year period and the approximate cost of the overall works is in the region of €520,000.

Central Heating Initiative

In 2004, a new central heating programme was made available by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The funding available is €5,600 per dwelling or 80% of expenditure, whichever is the lesser.

Following a survey of its housing stock, the Council made a submission to the Department identifying 193 houses for immediate upgrading in 2004. As a result, the Department allocated €200,000 which is supplemented by expenditure from the Council's revenue resources. At year end, 36 units were completed at an overall cost of €226,417.

Maintenance of Local Authority Stock

At 31st December, 2004 the Council had 1,428 dwellings in its rented stock. Of this, a total of 53 vacant dwellings were referred to the Maintenance Section for repair prior to re-letting during the year.

Polasaí Tithíochta, Sóisialta agus Cúltúrtha

Cathaoir: Brian Stanley MCC

Comhaltaí:
William Aird, M.C.C.
Larry Kavanagh, M.C.C.
Paddy Bracken, M.C.C.
Seamus McDonald, M.C.C.
Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C.
Marc Connolly, T.C.

Earnálach:
Mary Wheatley
Pat Culleton
John Grace
Mick Dowling

Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí: Declan Byrne
Oifigeach Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin: A.M. Delaney
Innealtóir Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin: Sean Ryan
Oibrí Sinsearach Sóisialta: Fionnuala Daly
Leabharlannaí Contae: Gerry Maher

Tuarascáil ar Choiste an Pholasaí Straitéisigh

Le linn 2004 tháinig an CPS Tithíochta, Sóisialta agus Cúltúrtha le chéile i Márta, Bealtaine agus Nollaig. Pléadh tuarascálacha agus moltaí ó Rannóga na nEalaíona, Oidhreacha, Spóirt & Fóillíochta agus Leabharlainne. Cruinniú speisialta a bhí sa chruinniú a bhí ann i mBealtaine, a socraíodh chun miontheagasc a thabhairt do na comhaltaí maidir leis an bPlean Gnímh Ilbhliantúil arThithíocht Shóisialta agus Inacmhainne 2004-2008 ar chomhaontaigh na comhaltaí leis.

Bhí an cruinniú I mí na Nollag 2004 mar an gcéad chruinniú den CPS úrthofa agus rinneadh clár oibre don bliain le teacht a phlé agus a chomhaontú. Tá an CPS ag obair go sásúil.

Seirbhísí Tithíochta

Is é príomhchuspóir Chomhairle Contae Laoise ná infhaighteacht cóiríochta a dhéanamh chomh maith agus is féidir chun dul i ngleic le catagóirí difriúla riachtanas agus an raon iomlán de roghanna tithíochta a chur chun cinn.

Oscailt Oifigiúil ag Cúirt an Choiléirigh, Lána an Choiléirigh, Port Laoise

Buaicphointí le linn 2004

- Cuir i gcrích thionscadal scéim iasachta agu fóirdheontais 60-tí ag Cumann Tithíochta Deonaí Cluid i Ballycullenbeg, Moointeach Milie
- Glacadh le Plean Gnímh ar Thithíocht Shóisialta agus Inacmhainne 2004-2008
- Gnóthú rathúil an chéad ghrúpa de thithe faoi Páirt V - Straitéis Tithíochta - ceithre theach i Kilminchy, Port Laoise agus tosú ar 18 theach sóisialta agus 18 theach inacmhainne faoi Pháirt V i Craiguecullen.

Foirgníocht Tithíochta & Gnóthú

Le linn na bliana, cuireadh 193 teach i gcrích faoin gClár seo - féach thíos do mhiondealú.

Buiríos Mór Osraí	10 n-aonad
Rathmoyle, Mainistir Laoise	10 n-aonad
Príomh-Shráid, Maighean Rátha	1 aonad
Cúl Doire, Cúil an tSúdaire	46 aonad
Bóthar Chorcaí, Darú	34 aonad
Bóthar na Líne Nua, Maighean Rátha	30 aonad
Arles	18 aonad
Lána an Choiléirigh, Port Laoise	40 aonad
Áiteanna cónaithe tuaithe	4 aonad
Iomlán	**193 aonad**

Lena chois sin, rinneadh 30 teach a cheannach ar an margadh oscailte chun leithdháileadh ar dhaoine a bhí ar an liosta feithimh agus soláthraíodh 7 n-áit chónaithe úra chomh maith.

Achoimre an Chláir	
Líon á thógáil ag 01/01/04	198
Líon tosaithe i 2004	137
Líon curtha i gcrích 2004	193
Líon ar súil ag 31/12/04	142
(lena n-áirítear 6 ceannach tí)	

Áirítear leis na 137 tosú tithíochta forleathnaithe ar áiteanna cónaithe údarás áitiúil agus oibreacha feabhsaithein aonad tithe príobháideacha.

Clár Cothabhála Pleanáilte

Thosaigh céim III den Chlár Cothabhála Pleanáilte i Meán Fómhair 2004.

Sainaithníodh go raibh athchóiriú láithreach de dhíth ar 101 aonad. Áirífeor an chuid eile de na haonaid i gcéimeanna amach anseo. Déanfar an obair thar thréimhse dhá bhliain agus beidh costas na n-oibreacha iomlána thart ar €520,000.

Tionscnamh Téimh Lárnaigh

I 2004, chuir an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil clár téimh lárnaigh úir ar fáil. Is é an cistiú atá ar fáil ná €5,600 an áit chónaithe nó 80% caitheachas, cibé is lú. I ndiaidh suirbhé ar a stoc tithíochta, rinne an Chomhairle aighneacht chuig an Roinn a shainaithigh 193 teach a uasghrádú láithreach i 2004. Dá bharr seo, leithdháiligh an Rialtas €200,000 atá forlíonta ag caiteachas ó fhoinsí airgeadais na Comhairle. Ag deireadh na bliana, bhí 36 aonad curtha i gcrích ag iomlánchostas de € 226,417.

Cothabháil Stoic Údaráis Áitiúil

Ag 31 Nollaig, 2004 bhí 1,428 áit chónaithe ag an gComhairle ina stoic ar chíos. As seo, rinneadh iomlán de 53 áit chónaithe follmha a chur ar aghaidh chuig an Rannóg Cothabhála d'athchóiriú roimh iad a ligean ar chíos arís.

Turnkey Developments

Works are continuing on the Turnkey development at Acragar, Mountmellick (32 social and 32 affordable units). The Council regularly advertises to invite proposals from Building Contractors or Developers for the supply of Turnkey Housing Schemes in Co. Laois. All proposals are considered subject to local requirements.

Land in Council Ownership

In 2004, land was acquired for housing development in Camross, Co. Laois.

Part V- Housing Strategy

In accordance with Part V of the Housing Strategy, four housing units were acquired in Portlaoise in 2004. Thirty-six houses are in progress in Graiguecullen comprising of 18 social and 18 affordable units. In addition, a number of Agreements are in place for the provision of units in Portlaoise, Portarlington, Mountmellick and Abbeyleix. Negotiations are also ongoing, for the provision of additional units at a number of locations around the County.

Voluntary Housing Sector

The Voluntary Sector continues to play a vital role in assisting to meet the accommodation needs in Laois. In 2004, Cluid Housing Association completed 60 housing units in Ballycullenbeg, Mountmellick. Construction is also underway on 64 housing units by Respond! in Balladine, Abbeyleix. The Sisters of Charity of Jesus & Mary are constructing an 11-bed complex at The Green, Stradbally and this should be completed in early 2005.

Affordable Housing

A number of Affordable Housing Schemes commenced in 2004. Eight 3-bedroomed houses were completed in Arles. Four of these dwellings were sold in 2004 at a cost price of €104,900 each, which was at a significant discount from the market value of these houses. The remainining 4 dwellings will be sold early in 2005. Developments currently underway under this Scheme include:

- Abbeyleix (Balladine) - 12 units
- Borris-In-Ossory (St. Patrick's Terrace) - 4 units
- Castletown - 6 units
- Graiguecullen - 18 units
- Mountmellick (Davitt Road) - 32 units
- Portarlington (Ballymorris) - 2 units
- The Swan - 6 units

New Houses at Old Forge Crescent , Mountrath

Activity under Various Schemes

Extensions to Local Authority Dwellings:	
Commenced	15
Completed	7
Improvement Works in Lieu of Local Authority Housing:	
Commenced	10
Completed	5
Disabled Persons Grants:	
Applications Received	165
Total No. of Grants Paid (includes 2003 applications on hands)	191
(Totalling €2,101,076)	
Essential Repairs Grants:	
Applications Received	117
Total No. of Grants Paid	67
(Totalling €530,311)	
Tenant Purchase Scheme:	
Applications Received	93
Houses Sold	25
Shared Ownership Loans:	
Applications Received	63
Houses Purchased	26
Mortgage Allowance Scheme:	
Applications Received	10
House Purchase Loans Paid:	1
Reconstruction Loans Paid:	5

Housing Rents

The Council reviews its Differential Rent Scheme on an annual basis. The latest Scheme was implemented on 16th October 2004. The average weekly rent, under the 2004 Scheme, was €32.00. A total rental income of €1,876,247 was received.

Traveller Accommodation

The Five Year Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000-2004 reached its conclusion on 31st December 2004. During the lifetime of the Programme, 72 offers of housing and 32 offers of accommodation on residential caravan parks were accepted.

In October 2004, a Draft Four-Year Traveller Accommodation Programme for the period 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2008 was put on public display inviting submissions from interested parties. This Draft Programme is due for consideration at the April Monthly Meeting 2005 of Laois County Council.

Significant progress in relation to the accommodation of the Travelling Community has been made in County Laois with only four families remaining on the roadside.

Forbairtí Turnkey

Táthar ag leanúint le hoibreacha ar fhorbairt Turnkey ag Acragar, Moointeach Milie (32 aonad sóisialta agus 32 aonad inacmhainne). Déanann an Chomhairle fógraí go rialta maidir le moltaí a lorg ó Chonraitheoirí Foirgníochta nó Forbróirí do sholáthar Scéimeanna Tithíochta Turnkey i gCo. Laoise. Meastar na moltaí uile a bheith faoi réir riachtanas áitiúil.

Talamh in Úinéireacht Comhairle

I 2004, bhí talamh faighte d'fhorbairt tithíochta i gCamros, Co. Laois.

Páirt V- Straitéis Tithíochta

Dé réir Pháirt V den Straitéis Tithíochta, fuarthas ceithre aonad tithíochta i bPort Laoise i 2004. Táthar i mbun oibre ar thríocha a sé theach i Graiguecullen ina bhfuil 18 aonad sóisialta agus 18 aonad inacmhainne. Lena chois sin, tá roinnt Chomhaontuithe ann maidir le soláthar aonad i bPort Laoise, Cúil an tSúdaire, Moointeach Milie agus Mainistir Laoise. Tá idirbheartaíochtaí leanúnacha ann chomh maith, maidir le soláthar aonaid bhreise ag roinnt suíomh ar fud na Contae.

An Earnáil Tithíochta Deonaí

Leanann an Earnáil Dheonach le ról fíorthábhachtach a ghlacadh maidir le dul i ngleic le riachtanais chóiríochta i Laois. I 2004, chuir Cumann Tithíochta Cluid 60 aonad tithíochta i gcrích i Ballycullenbeg i Moointeach Milie. Thosaigh Respond! ar fhoirgníocht 64 aonad tithíochta i mBaile an Daighin, Mainistir Laoise. Tá na Siúracha Carthanacha Íosa & Muire ag tógáil aonad 11-leaba ag an bhFaiche, an tSráidbhaile agus ba cheart go mbeadh seo i gcrích go hiomlán go luath i 2005.

Oscailt Oifigiúil de Radharc Álainn, Ard Líos

Tithíocht Inacmhainne

Thosaigh roinnt Scéimeanna Tithíochta Inacmhainne i 2004. Cuireadh ocht dteach 3-sheomra i gcrích in Arles. Díoladh ceithre de na háiteanna cónaithe seo i 2004 ag costphraghas de €104,900 an ceann, a bhí ina lascaine shuntasach ar luach margaidh na dtithe seo. Díolfar na 4 háit chónaithe eile go luath i 2005. Áirítear iad seo a leanas leis na forbairtí atá ar bun faoi láthair faoin Scéim seo:

- Mainistir Laoise (Baile an Daighin) - 12 aonad
- Buiríos Mór Osraí (Ardán Naomh Pádraig) - 4 aonad
- Baile an Chaisleán - 6 aonad
- Graiguecullen - 18 aonad
- Moointeach Milie (Bóthar Davitt) - 32 aonad
- Cúil an tSúdaire (Ballymorris) - 2 aonad
- An Eala - 6 aonad

Gníomhaíocht faoi Scéimeanna Éagsúla.

Forleathnaithe ar Áiteanna Cónaithe Údarás Áitiúla:	
Tosaithe	15
Críochnaithe	7
Oibreacha Feabhsúcháin in Ionad Údarás Áitiúil Tithíocht:	
Tosaithe	10
Críochnaithe	5
Deontais do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas:	
Iarratais Faighte	165
Méid Iomlán de Dheontais Íoctha (iarratais ar láimh 2003 san áireamh) (Iomlán €2,101,076)	191
Deontais d'Athcóirithe Riachtanacha:	
Iarratais Faighte	117
Méid Iomlán de Dheontais Íoctha (Iomlán €530,311)	67
Scéim Cheannaigh do Thionóntaí:	
Iarratais Faighte	93
Tithe Díolta	25
Iasachtaí Comhúinéireachta:	
Iarratais Faighte	63
Tithe Ceannaithe	26
Scéim Liúntais Mhorgáiste:	
Iarratais Faighte	10
Iasachtaí Ceannach Tí Íoctha:	1
Iasachtaí Áthchruthaithe Íoctha:	5

Cíosanna Tí

Athbreathnaíonn an Chomhairle a Scéim Cíosa Difreálaí ar bhonn bliantúil. Cuireadh an Scéim is déanaí i bhfeidhm ar 16 Deireadh Fómhair 2004. Ba é an meánchíos seachtainúila bhí ann faoin scéim ná €32.00. Fuarthas ioncam iomláncíosa de €1,876,247.

Cóiríocht do Lucht Taistil

Tháinig críoch leis an gClár Cuig Bliana um Chóiríocht do Lucht Taistealaithe ar 31 Nollaig 2004. Le linn saolré an Chláir glacadh le 72 tairiscint tithíochta agus 32 tairiscint cóiríochta ar pháirceanna carbháin cónaithe.

I nDeireadh Fómhair 2004, cuireadh dréacht-Chlár Ceithre Bliana um Chóiríocht ar Lucht Taistil don tréimhse 1 Eanáir 2005 go 31 Nollaig 2008 ar taispeáint go poiblí ag lorg iarratas ó pháirtithe leasmhara.

Táthar le breathnú ar an dréachtchlár seo ag Cruinniú Míosúil Áibreáin Chomhairle Contae Laoise. Rinneadh cur chun cinn shuntasach maidir le cóiríocht do Lucht Taistil i gContae Laoise gan ach ceithre theaghlach fós ar thaobh an bhóthair.

Estate Management

The year 2004 saw the continued development of the Council's policy on resident participation in Estate Management addressing issues such as:

- Estate enhancement
- General Maintenance
- Traffic Calming Measures
- Anti-social behaviour

Pre-tenancy courses were provided for all new tenants.

Winners in Category A - Best Estate Competition - Clanmalire Crescent, Portarlington

Best Estate Competition 2004:

Category A

1st Place: Clanmalire Crescent, Portarlington

2nd Place: Lakeglen, Portlaoise

Category B

1st Place: Riverview Apartments, Portlaoise

Best Improved Estate
Winner: O'Moore Place, Portlaoise

Building Control

There were 255 inspections of buildings to ensure compliance with Building Regulations. Our level of monitoring is consistently meeting Department of the Environment Standards. 10 no. inspections of Private Rented Accommodation took place during the course of the year.

Service Indicators

Performance Indicator	Performance 2004
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock including 30 Bays	1428
Percentage of dwellings that are let	96.43%
Percentage of dwellings that are empty	3.57% (incl 21 no. of bays at halting site)
Percentage of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes	0%
Percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	73.58%
Percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	26.42%
Average time taken to relet dwellings available for letting (in weeks)	2.14
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid requests received	85%
Average time taken to inform applicants of local authority's decision on applications for:- • Shared Ownership Housing Scheme • Housing Loans Scheme • Local Authority Housing	 23 days 15 days 28 days
Total no. of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets in the Local Traveller Accomodation Programme.	173%
House Rent Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due Percentage of arrears: • 4-6 weeks old • 6-12 weeks old • More than 12 weeks old	 82.16% 28% 20.83% 50.54%

Bainistíocht Eastáit

Sa bhliain 2004, bhí forbairt leanúnach ar pholasaí na Comhairle rannpháirtíocht cónaitheoirí i mBainistíocht Eastáit maidir le dul i ngleic le ceisteanna cosúil le:

- Treisiú eastáit
- Cothabháil Ghinearálta
- Bearta Ceansaithe Tráchta
- Iompraíocht Neamhshóisialta

Buaiteoirí i gCatagóir B - Comórtas an Eastáit is Fearr - Árasáin Riverview Port Laoise

Cuireadh cúrsaí réamhthionónachta ar fáil do gach tionónta úr.

Comórtas an Eastáit is Fearr2004:

Catagóir A

1ú Áit: Corrán Chlann Mhaolúra, Cúil an tSúdaire

2ú Áit: Glen na Locha, Port Laoise

Catagóir B

1ú Áit: Árasáin Riverview,Port Laoise

An tEastát Feabhsaithe is Fearr

Buaiteoir: Plás Uí Mhórdha, Port Laoise

Rialú Foirgníochta.

Rinneadh 255 inúchadh ar fhoirgnimh lena chinntiú go raibh siad de réir na Rialachán Foirgníochta. Tá ár leibhéal monatóireachta ag baint Caighdeáin na Roinne Comhshaoil amach go seasmhach. Bhí 10 n-inúchadh de Chóiríocht ar Chíos go Príobháideach ann le linn na bliana.

Táscairí Seirbhíse	Feidhmiúchán Táscaire Feidhmiúcháin 2004
Líon iomlán d'áiteanna cónaithe i stoc údarás áitiúil lena n-áirítear 30 Bá	1428
Céadatán d'áiteanna cónaithe ar chíos	96.43%
Céadatán d'áiteanna cónaithe atá folamh	3.57% (lena n-áir. 21 líon. bá ag láithreán stágach)
Céadatán d'áiteanna cónaithe atá folamh agus faoi réir mórscéimeanna athshlachtaithe	0%
Céadatán d'áiteanna cónaithe atá folamh agus nach bhfuil ar fáil ar chíos	73.58%
Céadatán d'áiteanna cónaithe atá folamh agus ar fáil ar chíos	26.42%
Meántráth a ghlactar chun áiteanna cónaithe atá ar fáil le ligean ar chíos a ligean ar chíos arís (i seachtainí)	2.14
Líon athchóirithe a cuireadh i gcrích mar chéadatán líon na n-iarratasbailí a fuarthas	85%
Meántráth a ghlac sé chun iarrthóirí a chur ar an eolas maidir le cinneadh an údaráis áitiúil ar iarratais do:- •Scéim Tithíochta Comhroinnte •Scéim Iasachtaí Tithíochta •Tithíocht Údarás Áitiúil	 23 lá 15 lá 28 lá
Líon iomlán na dteaghlach taistil a fuair cóiríocht mar chéadatán na spriocanna i gClár Cóiríocht um an Lucht Táistil Áitiúil.	173%
Cíos Tí Méid bailithe ag deireadh na bliana mar chéadatán an mhéid dlite Céadatán riaráistí: • 4-6 seachtainí • 6-12 seachtainí • Níos mó na 12 seachtainí	 82.16% 28% 20.83% 50.54%

The Arts

Laois Youth Theatre

Laois Youth Theatre has groups in Portlaoise, Mountmellick and Rathdowney and a new group in Stradbally. During the year Portlaoise Youth Theatre presented two short plays in the Dunamaise Arts Centre "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations", and "All the World's a Stage". Mountmellick Youth Theatre presented two plays "A Midsummer Nightmare" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream "and collaborated with Dove House Drama Group to present a specially written play "Walk in Wisdom". Mountmellick Youth Theatre made a colourful addition to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Mountmellick. Stradbally Youth Theatre presented a wonderful Christmas show.

Summer Arts Programme - Art workshop in Mountmellick

Laois School of Music

Over 300 students avail of instrumental and vocal training in the Laois School of Music and over 900 Primary school children are involved through the School of Music's Outreach Programme. Some of Laois School of Music highlights in 2004 included:
Laois School of Music Outreach Celebration Concert, A Music Marathon, End Of Year Concert, Introduction of Jesters Stage Academy, Kindermusic Concerts, The Wizard is Ozzy Show, Royal Irish Academy of Music and Associated Board Exams, participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Mountrath and the introduction of a quarterly School of Music Newsletter.

Arts Act Grants 2004

Arts Act Grants were awarded to 23 arts organisations and 5 individuals at our annual awards event.

Writing Workshops in association with Poetry Ireland and Age and Opportunity

A series of 8 writing workshops with author Jean O'Brien was held for local writers and poets.

Exhibitions

- Mountmellick Embroidery work by Ann O'Brien.
- Adult and Children's Art Competition and exhibition entitled "Impressions of St. Peter's Church, Portlaoise"
- Assistance given to the organising of an Art Exhibition entitled "The Homecoming" by Seamus Morton
- International Lions Club Peace Poster Contest & Exhibition and prize giving.
- An Exhibition of paintings entitled "Works on Paper" by world-renowned artist John Keating.
- Exhibition of Craftwork by the Nagle Group Family Resource Centre, O'Moore Place, Portlaoise.

Public Art

Work was completed on the Percent for Art sculpture at Ballyroan Park, Ballyroan.
Work was also completed on the Percent for Art sculpture entitled "Doon" on the Portlaoise By-Pass.

Artists-in-Schools Scheme

Four professional artists took part in a 10-week residency including Mosaic Art, Pottery, Sculpture and Dance in Scoil Tighearnach, Cullohill, Rathdowney Church of Ireland N.S, Scoil Phadraig B.N.S., Mountmellick, and Killadooley N.S.

Architects-in-Schools Scheme

Two architects took part in a very successful 10-week residency in Laois Cosby National School, Stradbally, and Derrylamogue N.S., Rosenallis.

Summer Arts Workshops

A wonderful array of art workshops for children and young people took place in venues throughout Laois. These included; Pottery, Mosaic Art, Art & Craft, Art Portfolio Preparation, Drama, Dance, and Creative Writing.

Free Lunchtime Concerts

Held in the Dunamaise Arts Centre as follows:

- Edel McDonnell (Piano)
- Nigerian Cultural Showcase
- Agustin Maruri (classical guitar)
- Marianna Alaberdova and Tony Brychta (classical musicians)
- Music Outreach Concert from Scoil Bhride, Ballyroan, Ballyroan Boys N.S. and Scoil Mhuire, Abbeyleix.
- Music Outreach Concert from Maryborough N.S., Portlaoise; Scoil Aonghusa, Stradbally; St. Paul's N.S. Mountmellick and Clonenagh N.S.

Na hÉalaíona

Amharclann Óige Laoise

Tá grúpaí ag an Amharclann Óige i bPort Laoise, Moointeach Milie agus Ráth Domhnaigh agus grúpa úr i sa tSráidbhaile. Le linn na bliana léirigh Amharclann Óige Phort Laoise dhá dhráma gairide in Ionad Ealaíne Dunamaise "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations", agus "All the World's a Stage". Léirigh Amharclánn Óige Mhoointeach Milie "A Midsummer Nightmare" agus "A Midsummer Night's Dream " agus chomhoibrigh siad le hAmharclann Óige Dráma-Ghrúpa Theach Dove chun an dráma "Walk in Wisdom" a scríobhadh go speisialta a léiriú. Chuir Amharclánn Óige Mhoointeach Milie le Paráid Lá Féile Pádraig i Moointeach Milie ar i bhealach beoga. Léirigh Amharclann Óige na Sráidbhaile seó Nollag a bhí iontach.

Scoil Cheoil Laoise

Faigheann os ceann 300 mac léinn oiliúint ionstraimeach agus gutha i Scoil Cheoil Laoise agus tá os cionn 900 páiste Bunscoile bainteach trí Chlár For-Rochtana Scoil an Cheoil. I measc chuid de bhuaicphointí Scoil Cheoil Laoise i 2004 bhí:
Ceolchoirm Chomórtha For-Rochtana Scoil Cheoil Laoise Maratón Ceoil, Ceolchoirm Dheireadh na Bliana, Seoladh Acadamh Stáitse Jesters, Ceolchoirmeacha Kindermusic The Wizard is Ozzy Show, Ceol Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann agus an Bord Gaolmhara um Scruduithe, rannpháirtíocht i Paráid Lá Fhéile Pádraig, Maighean Rátha agus tabhairt isteach Nuachtlitir cheatrúnach Scoil an Cheoil.

Deontais Gnímh Ealaíne 2004

Bronnadh na Deontais Ghnímh Ealaíona ar 23 eagraíocht ealaíne agus 5 dhuine aonair ag ár n-ócáid bhliantúil gradam.

Ceardlanna Scríbhneoireachta i gcomhpháirtíocht le Filíocht Éireann agus Aois agus Deis.

Tionóladh sraith de 8 gceardlainn Scríbhneoireachta leis an údar Jean O'Brien do scríbhneoirí agus filí áitiúla.

Taispeántais

- Obair Bhróidnéireachta Mhoointeach Milic le Ann O'Brien.
- Comórtas Ealaíne Aosach agus Páistí agus taispeántas dar teideal "Impressions of St.Peter's Church Portlaoise"
- Cuidiú tugtha d'eagrú Thaispeántas Ealaíne dar teideal "The Homecoming" le Seamus Morton
- Comórtas Idirnáisiúnta Lions Club Peace Poster & Taispeántas agus bronnadh duaiseanna.
- Taispeántas pictiúr dar teideal "Works on Paper" leis an ealaíontóir a bhfuil cáil air ar fud an domhain John Keating.
- Taispeántas Ceardaíochta le Lárionad Acmhainní Teaghlaigh an Ghrúpa Nagle Plás Uí Mhórdha, Port Laoise.

Ealaín Phoiblí

Cuireadh obair i gcrích ar an dealbhóireacht Percent for Art i bPáirc Ballyroan, Ballyroan.
Cuireadh obair i gcrích chomh maith ar an dealbhóireacht Percent for Art dar teideal "Doon" ar sheachbhealach Phort Laoise.

An Scéim Ealaíontóirí-sna-Scoileanna

Ghlac ceathrar ealaíontóir gairmiúil páirt i gcónaitheachta 10 seachtainí lena n-áirítear Ealaín Mósáic, Criadóireacht, Dealbhóireacht agus Damhsa i Scoil Tighearnach, Cullohill, Eaglais na hÉireann, S.N. Rath Domhnaigh, Scoil Phádraig B.N.S., Moointeach Milie, agus S.N Killadooley.

An Scéim Ailtirí-sna-Scoileanna

Ghlac dhá ailtire páirt i gcónaitheacht 10 seachtainí a bhí an-rathúil i Scoil Náisiúnta Cosby, Laois, an tSráidbhaile, agus Scoil Náisiúnta Derrylamogue, Ros Fhionnghlaise.

An Clár Ailtirí-sna-Scoileanna 2004

Ceardlanna Ealaíona an tSamhraidh

Bhí mustar iontach de cheardlanna ealaíne do pháistí agus dhaoine óga in ionaid ar fud Laoise. Ina measc bhí; Criadóireacht, Ealaín Mósáic, Ealaín agus Ceardaíocht, Ullmhúchán Punainne Ealaíne, Dráma, Damhsa, agus Scríbhneoireacht Chruthaitheach.

Ceolcheoirmeacha Lóin Saor in Aisce

I Lárionad Ealaíne Dunamaise mar a leanas:

- Edel McDonnell (Pianó)
- Nigerian Cultural Showcase
- Agustin Maruri (giotár clasaiceach)
- Marianna Alaberdova and Tony Brychta (ceoltóirí clasaiceacha)
- Ceolchoirm For-Rochtana ó Scoil Bhride, Ballyroan, S.N Bhuachaillí Ballyroan. and Scoil Mhuire, Mainistir Laoise.
- Ceolchoirm For-Rochtana ó S.N. Maryborough Port Laoise; Scoil Aonghusa, an tSráidbhaile; S.N Naomh Pól, Moointeach Milie agus S.N Clonenagh. Clár Ealaíona an tSamhraidh - Ceardlainn Ealaíne i Móinteach Milic.

Artists in the Community

A very successful 5-week series of Art and Dance workshops for children took place in Knockmay Community and Family Resource Centre.

Summer Arts Programme - Pottery workshop in Abbeyleix

Other events included

Storytelling Skills Workshops with Liz Weir
Storytelling in Hospitals
Dance Workshops in Hospitals

Dunamaise Theatre

The Dunamaise Arts Centre continued its policy in 2004 of presenting the best work available by international, national and locally based companies and performers. Laois based performing groups included the ever popular outings by the Portlaoise Pantomime Group, the Portlaoise Musical Society and Open Door Drama from Abbeyleix. Another key part of the annual programme are the ever increasing number of performances by local stage schools, the Laois School of Music and several end-of-year performances by Laois based pre-schools and primary schools. The venue celebrated its 5th birthday in May with a week long extravaganza of music and theatre and welcomed its 125,000th customer earlier in the year.

BarnstormLittleVic - A scene from Little Victories, a show by Barnstorm Theatre Company, who specialise in children's theatre and who perform in the Dunamaise Arts Centre every year.

Service Indicators

Performance Indicators	Performance Standards		
	2002	**2003**	**2004**
(1) No. of Art Grants allocated	20	24	29
(2) Total Value of Arts Grants allocated per 1,000 population			€119.10
Laois Youth Theatre No. of members places available	40	60	80
Summer Art Workshops	6	8	8
No of places available	120	140	140
Drama Workshops	3	3	2
Number of places available	60	60	40
Laois School of Music No of Students	330	330	332

Ealaíontóirí sa Phobal

Bhí sraith 5 seachtainí an-rathúil de cheardlanna Ealaíne agus Damhsa do pháistí sa Lárionad Acmhainní Teaghlach agus Pobail Knockmay.

An Clár Ailtirí-sna-Scoileanna 2004

I measc ócáidí eile bhí:

Ceardlanna Scileanna Inste Scéil le Liz Weir
Insint Scéil in Ospidéil
Ceardlanna Damhsa in Ospidéil

Amharclann Dunamaise

Lean Larionad Ealaíona Dunamaise dá pholasaí i 2004 maidir leis an obair is fearr ó chuideachtaí agus thaibseoirí idirnáisiúnta, náisiúnta agus bunaithe go háitiúil a chur i láthair. I measc grúpaí léirithe Laoise bhí na léiriúcháin ar a bhfuil an-tóir le Grúpa Gearmaireachta Phort Laoise ó Mhainistir Laoise. Príomhpháirt eile den chlár bliantúil is ea an méid léiriúcháin a bhfuil méadú ag teacht orthú i gcónaí ó scoileanna stáitse áitiúla, Scoil Cheoil Laoise agus roinnt léiriúcháin dheireadh na bliana ó réamhscoileanna agus bunscoileanna bunaithe i Laois. Cheiliúir an t-ionad a 5úbreithlá i mBealtaine le seachtain iomlán de sheó ceoil agus amharclainne agus níos luaithe sa bhliain chuir sé fáilte roimh an 125,000úcustaiméir a bhí aige. Clár Ealaíona an tSamhraidh - Ceardlann Ciaidóireachta i Mainistir Laoise.

5ú cóisir bhreithlae Dunamaise

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Táscairí Feidhmiúchán	Caighdeáin Feidhmiúcháin		
	2002	2003	2004
(1) Líon na nDeontas Ealaíne leithdháilte	20	24	29
(2) Luach Iomlán na nDeontas Ealaíne leithdháilte sa 1,000 den daonra			€119.10
Amharclann Óige Laoise Líon áiteanna comhaltaí ar fáil	40	60	80
Ceardlanna Ealaíne Samhraidh	6	8	8
Líon áiteanna ar fáil	120	140	140
Ceardlanna Dráma	3	3	2
Líon áiteanna ar fáil	60	60	40
Scoil Cheoil Laoise Líon Mac Léinn	330	330	332

Sport & Leisure

Play Provision

School Playground Markings Initiative was launched in 2004 with 13 schools participating. Training was provided for teachers and children on games to play on their new markings.

Solas na Gréine – Portlaoise Playground was further developed in 2004 and continues to be very popular with children, families and visitors.

A new playground is being developed in Portarlington and will be officially opened in early 2005. The park was named by 3rd class in St. Patrick's Boys National School "Páirc Spraoi na hAbhann" – River Play Park.

Children's Activity Programme

Laois County Council organised and delivered a very successful Easter and Summer activity programme in 2004 with over 850 children attending.
Camp CoCo was run in Ballyroan and Vicarstown during the Easter holidays and Rathdowney, Portarlington, Ballyroan, Portlaoise and Vicarstown Camp CoCo's proved to be as popular as ever during the summer.
The Parks Tennis programme was run in four venues throughout Laois and Play Days in the Park was bigger and better in 2004 and enjoyed by many younger children.

Camp Co Co

Spraoi Laois Festival

Over 630 children attended from primary schools throughout Laois for the 2004 Spraoi Laois Festival. Activities included athletics, Gaelic football and hurling, tag Rugby, Soccer, Basketball and Swimming.

Walking Routes

Sli na Sláinte route in Portlaoise was opened in March 2004 and continues to be used extensively by local people and visitors. Essential repairs were carried out on the Sliabh Bloom Waymarked Way, following the annual route inspection by the Irish Sports Council. Laois County Council's walking group continue to meet regularly at different venues throughout the county.

Club Development

The Council's club development programme continued in 2004, promoting and supporting the development of new and minority sports in Co. Laois, through planning and delivering workshops for clubs, seminars for coaches and athletes and the provision of advice and assistance to clubs and communities applying for funding under the Sports Capital Grants programme. Nineteen clubs were successful with a total allocation of €786,000 for the county.

Children's Mini Marathon outside Áras an Chontae

Laois Sports Partnership

Laois Sports Partnership has completed its third year in operation. Highlights of 2004 included the GAA forum and the Summer Fun Run. 36 grants were awarded to schools, minority sports, community groups, residents associations and outreach programmes under its Sport & Physical Activity Grant Scheme. Four bursaries were awarded to talented sports people from Laois.

Laois Sports Partnership continues to implement its Strategic Plan rolling out the Buntús programme to primary school children in the County and providing Sport for All and Code of Ethics training. There were 19 leaders trained under the 'Go for Life' programme this year and over 60 attended the fun day packed with activities for the different Active Retirement Groups in Co. Laois.

Other Activities

A facilities audit of all sporting and leisure facilities within the county was completed in 2004 and details subsequently published. This was carried out in conjunction with Laois Sports Partnership.
In addition, a County Play Strategy is also being devised which will be the blue print for the future development of facilities in the county.

Spórt & Fóillíocht

Soláthar Súgartha

Lainseáladh Tionscnamh Mharcanna Chlós Súgartha na Scoile i 2004 agus ghlac 13 scoil páirt ann. Cuireadh oiliúint ar fáil do mhúinteoirí agus do pháistí ar chluichlí le himirt ar a gcuid marcanna úra.

Solas na Gréine - Rinneadh tuilleadh forbartha ar Chlós Súgartha Phort Laoise i 2004 agus tá an-tóir ag páistí, teaghlaigh agus cuairteoirí air fós.

Tá clós súgartha úr á fhorbairt i gCúil an tSúdaire agus déanfar é a oscailt go hoifigiúil go luath i 2005. Ba é an 3ú rang i Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Pádraig do Bhuachaillía d'ainmnigh an pháirc "Páirc Spraoi na hAbhann" - River Play Park.

Clár Gníomhaíochta do Pháistí

D'eagraigh agus sheachaid Comhairle Contae Laoise clár gníomhaíochta Cásca agus Samhraidh ar éirigh go maith leis i 2004 le breis agus 850 ag freastal air. Reáchtáladh Campa CoCo i Ballyroan agus Baile an Bhoicáire le linn saoire na Cásca agus mar is gnáth léirigh Campaí CoCo Ráth Domhnaigh, Cúil an tSúdaire, Ballyroan, Port Laoise, agus Baile an Bhoicáire go raibh an-tóir orthu le linn an tsamhraidh. Reáchtáladh an clár Parks Tennis i 4 ionad ar fud Laoise agus bhí Play Days in the Park níos mó agus níos fearr i 2004 agus bhain a lán de na páistí níos óige an-sult as.

Féile Spraoi Laois

D'fhreastail os cionn 630 páiste ó bhunscoileanna ar fud Laoise ar Fhéil Spraoi Laoise. I measc na ngníomhaíochtaí bhí luthchleasaíocht, Peil Ghaelach agus iománaíocht, Rugbaítag, Sacar, Cisphéil agus Snámh

Bealaí Siúil

Rinneadh bealach Shlí na Sláinte i bPort Laoise a oscail i Márta 2003 agus úsáideann daoine áitiúla agus cuairteoirí go mór é fós. Rinneadh athchóirithe riachtanacha ar Bhealach Treoirmharcáilte Shliabh Bloom, i ndiaidh an iniúchta bhliantúil ar bhealaí leis an gComhairle Náisiúnta Spórt. Leanann grúpa siúil Chontae Laoise le teacht le chéile go rialta ag ionaid éagsúla ar fud na tíre.

An Méara Joe Digan ag láinseáil Slí na Sláinte, Port Laoise

Forbairt Clubanna

Lean clár forbartha clubanna na Comhairle ar aghaidh i 2004, ag cur chun cinn agus ag tabhairt tacaíochta d'fhorbairt spórt úr agus mionlacha i gCo. Laoise, trí pheanáil agus sheachadadh ceardlanna do chlubanna, seimineáir d'oiliúnóirí agus lúthchleasaithe agus soláthar comhairle agus cuidithe do chlubanna agus cumainn ag cur isteach le haghaidh cistithe faoi chlár na nDeontas um Spóirt Chaipitil. D'éirigh le 9 gclub déag le leithdháileadh iomlán de €786,000 don chontae.

Compháirtíocht Spóirt Laoise

Tá an tríú bliain i bhfeidhm curtha i gcrích ag Compháirtíocht Spóirt Laoise. I measc na mbuaicphointí do 2004 bhí fóram an GAA agus Rith Spraoi an tSamhraidh. Bronnadh 36 deontas ar scoileanna, spórt mionlacha, grúpaí pobail, cumainn chónaitheoirí agus cláir fhor-rochtana faoina Scéim Deontas do Spórt agus Ghníomhaíocht Fhisiceach. Bronnadh ceithre sparánacht ar dhaoine le bua spóirt ó Laois.

Leanann Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Laoise dá Phlean Straitéise a chur i bhfeidhm a thugann clár Buntús isteach chuig páistí Bunscoile sa Chontae agus a sholáthraíonn oiliúint 'Spórt do Chách' agus an 'Cód Eitice'. Bhí 19 ceannaire oilte faoin gclár 'Go for Life' agus d'fhreastail 60 ar an lá spraoi ina raibh gníomhaíochtaí do na Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta difriúla Lucht Scoir i gCo. Laoise.

Gníomhaíochtaí Eile

Cuireadh inúchadh saoráidí do shaoráidí spóirt agus fóillíochta laistigh den chontae i gcrích i 2004 agus foilsíodh na mionsonraí ina dhiaidh sin. Rinneadh seo i gcónasc le Comhpháirtíocht Spóirt Laoise.
Lena chois sin, táthar ag ceapadh Straistéis Imeartha Contaea bheidh mar ghormchló d'fhorbairt shaoráidí sa Chontaeamach anseo.

Service Indicators

Service Indicators	2004
No. of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by LCC No. of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by LCC	0.017 0

Performance Indicators	Description 2004	Indicators Set	Indicators Achieved
Number of Training Courses Organised	1 National Governing Body Coaching course (SAQ) 1 Summer Camp Leader Training Course 3 Sports Development Seminars 4 Code of Ethics courses 5 Club Development courses	12	14
Number of Trained Leaders, Coaches & Admins.	Coaches Leaders to be trained at courses detailed above	100	185
Number of participating communities in Summer Camps & other programes	5 Camp Co Co - Portarlington, Vicarstown, Portlaoise, Rathdowney, Ballyroan, 2 Easter Camp Co Co Ballyroan & Vicarstown 4 Parks Tennis Programme - Portarlington, Abbeyleix, Rathdowney, Mountrath 1 Portlaoise Town Park Play Project	12	12
Number of children participating in programme	Children participated in the programme as detailed above	800	890
No of clubs/groups assisted with Sports Funding Applications	**Assistance included:** Attendance at Sports Capital Seminar, Site visits, Facilitating Club Development Plans, Completing Application Forms	35	37

Swimming Pools

Portlaoise Swimming Pool

Contract documents and plans for the refurbishment and extension to Portlaoise Swimming Pool were prepared during 2003 and sent to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism for approval.

Portarlington Swimming Pool

Plans for the refurbishment and extension to Portarlington Swimming Pool have been prepared and contract documents were submitted to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism in November 2002, for approval.

Deputation

A Deputation, consisting of Laois / Offaly Oireachtas Members, An Cathaoirleach and officials of Laois County Council and representatives from the two swimming pool committees in Portlaoise and Portarlington met with Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue, T.D. on Tuesday, 5th October 2004 to outline the urgent need for financial assistance in order to retain public swimming facilities in Laois and for the provision of additional recreational and leisure facilities.

Ballinakill Swimming Pool

Laois County Council continued to support this very worthwhile facility in Ballinakill.

Swimming Pool Committees

It is appropriate to acknowledge the work being undertaken by the three swimming pool committees in Portlaoise, Portarlington and Ballinakill.

Service Indicators	2004
No. of visitors to LCC facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population :	N/A

Táscairí Seirbhísí

Táscairí Seirbhísí	2004
Líon na gclós súgartha páistí sa 1,000 duine soláthartha go díreach ag CCL	0.017
Líon na gclós súgartha páistí sa 1,000 duine éascaithe ag CCL	0

Cur Síos ar Tháscairí	Feidhmiúcháin 2004	Táscairí Curtha Síos	Táscairí Gnóthaithe
Líon Chúrsaí Oiliúna	1 Coiste Rialaithe Náisiúnta Cúrsa Oiliúna Eagraithe (SAQ) 1 Cúrsaí Oiliúna do Cheannaire Campa Samhraidh 3 Seimineáir ar Fhorbairt Spóirt 4 Cúrsaí ar an gCód Eitice 5 Cúrsaí ar Fhorbairt Chlubanna	12	14
Líon na gCeannaire Oilte,	Oiliúnóirí & Riarthóir oilte ag na cúrsaí	100	185
Líon de Rannpháirtithe pobail sa Samhradh Campaí & cláir eile	5 Campa Co Co - Cúil an tSúdaire, Baile an Bhiocáire, Port Laoise, Ráth Domhnaigh, Ballyroan, 2 Campa Co Co Cásca Ballyroan & Baile an Bhiocáire 4 Chlár Parks Tennis - Cúil an tSúdaire, Mainistir Laoise, Ráth Domhnaigh, Maighean Rátha 1 Páirc Bhaile Phort Laoise Tionscadal Súgartha	12	12
Líon na bPáistí ag glacadh páirte sa chlár	Glac na páistí páirt sa chlár mar atá sonraithe thuas	800	890
Líon na gclubanna/grúpaí ar cuidíodh leo le Cistithe Spóirt d'Iarratais	**Cuidiú san Áireamh:** Freastal ag Seimineár Chaipitil Spóirt, Cuairteanna ar Láithreáin, Éascú Phleananna Forbartha Clubanna, Ag Líonadh Isteach Foirmeacha Iarratais	35	37

Linnte Snámha

Linn Snámha Phort Laoise

Ullmhaíodh cáipéisí conartha agus pleananna maidir le hathshlachtú agus síneadh Linn Snámha Phort Laoise le linn 2003 agus cuireadh chuig an Roinn Ealaíona, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta iad le faomhadh.

Linn Snámha Chúil an tSúdaire

Ullmhaíodh pleananna maidir le hathshlachtú agus síneadh Linn Snámha Chúil an tSúdaire, agus cuireadh isteach cáipéisí conartha chuig an Roinn Ealaíona, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta i Samhain 2002 Le faomhadh.

Toscaireacht

Bhuail an Toscaireacht, déanta suas de Chomhaltaí Oireachtais Laoise/Uíbh Fháilí, An Cathaoirleach agus oifigigh de Chomhairle Contae Laoise agus ionadaithe ón dá choiste linn snámha i bPort Laoise agus i gCúil an tSúdaire leis an Aire Ealaíona, Spóirt agus Turasóireachta, An tUasal JohnO'Donoghue, T.D., Dé Mairt, 5 Meán Fómhair 2004 chun an riachtanas práinneach atá ann maidir le cuidiú airgeadais a leagan síos d'fhonn saoráidí snámha don phobal a choinneáil i Laois agus do sholáthar tuilleadh saoráidí caitheamh aimsire agus fóillíochta.

Linn Snámha Bhaile na Coille

Lean Comhairle Contae Laoise le tacaíocht a thabhairt don tsaoráid an-fiúntach i Bhaile na Coille.

Coistí Linnte Snámha

Is iomcuí é aitheantas a thabhairt don obair atá á déanamh ag na trí choiste linn snámha i bPórt Laoise, i gCúil an tSúdaire agus i Bhaile na Coille.

Táscairí Snámha	2004
Líon na gcuairteoirí ar shaoráidí snámha éascaithe ag CCL sa 1,000 duine:	N/A

Heritage

Laois Heritage Office

The Laois County Council Heritage Office is staffed by a full-time Heritage Officer. The aim of the Heritage Office is to collect data, protect and conserve, raise awareness and promote pride and enjoyment in the built and natural heritage of County Laois. The Laois Heritage Officer works closely with the Heritage Forum in implementing the Laois Heritage Plan 2002 - 2006. The membership of the Forum reflects the wide range of groups with an interest in protecting and raising awareness of the heritage of Laois.

Laois Heritage Forum members

Laois Heritage Plan

The Laois Heritage Plan entered its third year of implementation in 2004. Projects undertaken by the Laois Heritage Forum in 2004 included:

1.Raising Awareness and Promoting Pride

Raising awareness of the rich built and natural heritage of County Laois is a key part of the activities of the Heritage Office. Projects undertaken in 2004 to increase awareness include:

- Laois Natural Heritage Posters - A poster detailing the rich wildlife and habitats of Laois was produced as a partner to the Monuments of Laois poster, with funding from Laois LEADER. This is available free of charge from the Heritage Office and has been distributed to schools and community centres throughout the County.
- "Know your County" Tour - Primary and Secondary school children were taken on a tour of Heritage Sites in Laois, with a local tour guide with a knowl edge of the heritage sites of the county. This was undertaken on a pilot basis in co-operation with Laois Leader.
- Dawn Chorus Day - National Dawn Chorus Day was celebrated in style in May 2004, with two groups getting up at 4am to walk out to greet the dawn and enjoy the birdsong in Clonaslee and Durrow.
- Laois Heritage Postcards - A postcard was pro duced showing the wide variety of heritage in County Laois . This is being used to raise aware ness of what heritage is in general, and how rich the heritage of Laois is in particular.

2.Collecting Data & Providing Training

- Laois Museums Study - A study was undertaken with the eight local small museums in Laois, to advise on medium and long-term planning and management and to make recommendations for the museums sector in Laois as a whole. This proj- ect was undertaken in co-operation with Laois Leader.
- Hedgerow Training Seminars - A series of semi nars were organised relating to hedgerow management, for community groups and for farmers. A farm walk was held, to look at practical aspects of hedgerow management. The aim was to raise awareness of the intrinsic value of hedgerows, the importance of appropriate management and what exactly constitutes this good management in practice.

Launch of the Laois Natural Heritage Poster

- "Celebrating Laois Heritage" Conference - A confer ence on the theme "Celebrating Laois Heritage" was held, as part of the celebration of National Heritage Week, bringing together a range of people with interest in the different aspects of heritage in Laois, to demonstrate the wide range of heritage to be found in the county, and to inform people about the work of the Laois Heritage Forum.
- Reminiscence Project - A series of training sesions was held to train a number of active groups in set ting up and running a reminiscence and oral history recording project. It is hoped to use the experi ences of these groups to develop best practice in the area of reminiscence and social history recording.
- Heritage Input to Laois Tidy Towns - To improve awareness of the importance of built and natural heritage in towns and villages among Tidy Towns groups, by improving the heritage focus of the County-based Tidy Towns Competition.

Oidhreacht

Oifig Oidhreachta Laoise

Tá Oifigeach Oidhreachta lánaimseartha ar fhoireann Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Contae Laoise. Ba í aidhm na hOifige Oidhreachta ná sonraí a bhailiú, cosaint agus caomhnú, feasacht a spreagadh agus bród agus taithneamh a chur chun cinn in oidhreacht tógtha agus nádúrtha Chontae Laoise. Oibríonn Oifig Oidhreachta Chomhairle Chontae Laoise go dlúth leis an bhFóram Oidhreachta maidir le Plean Oidhreachta Laoise 2002 - 2006 a chur i bhfeidhm. Léiríonn ballraíocht an Fhóraim an raon leathan de ghrúpaí a bhfuil suim acu an oidhreacht a chosaint agus feasacht a spreagadh fúithi.

Rannpháirtithe Churfá Bhreacadh an Lae, Cluain na Slí

Plean Oidhreachta Laoise

Chuaigh Plean Oidhreachta Laoise isteach sa tríú bliain de bheith i bhfeidhm i 2004. I measc na dtionscadal ar thug Fóram Oidhreachta Laoise fúthu i 2004 bhí:

1.Feasacht a Spreagadh agus Bród a Chur Chun Cinn

Tá spreagadh feasachta faoi oidhreacht iltógtha agus nádúrtha Chontae Laoise mar phríomhpháirt do ghníomhaíochtaí na hOifigeOidhreachta. Ba iad na tionscadail ar tugadh fúthui 2004 chun feasacht a spreagadh ná:

- Póstaeir ar Oidhreacht Nádúrtha Laoise - Rinneadh póstaer a shonraíonn fiabheatha shaibhir agus gnáthóga na Laoise mar chomhpháirtí do phóstaer Shéadchomharthaí na Laoise, le cistiú ón Laois LEADER. Tá sé seo le fáil saor in aisce ón Oifig Oidhreachta agus cuireadh thart ar na scoileanna agus ionaid phobail é ar fud an Chontae.
- An Turas "Know your County" - Tugadh páistí Bunscoile agus Iar-Bhunscsoile ar thuras Shuímh Oidhreachta i Laois, le treoraí turais áitiúil ag a raibh eolas ar shuímh oidhreachta an Chontae. Rinneadh seo ar bhun phíolótach i gcompháirtíocht le Laois LEADER.
- Lá Curfá Bhreacadh an Lae - Rinneadh Lá Náisiúnta Curfá Bhreacadh an Lae a cheiliúradh go huasal i mBealtaine 2004, agus dhá ghrúpa ag éirí ag 4am chun siúl amach ar an tsráid chun beannacht a thabhairt do bhreacadh an lae agus taitneamh a bhaint as cantain na n-éan i gCluain na Slí agus i nDarú.
- Postchartaí Oidhreachta Laoise -Rinneadh postcharta a thaispeán raon leathan oidhreachta i gContae Laoise. Úsáidtear seo chun feasacht a spreagadh faoi cad is oidhreacht ann go ginearálta, agus chomh saibhir agus atá oidhreacht na Laoise go háirithe.

2.Bailiú Sonraí agus Soláthar Oiliúna.

- Staideár ar Mhúsaeim na Laoise- Tugadh faoi staidéar le hocht músaem beaga áitiúla i Laois, chun comhairle a thabhairt ar phleanáil agus bhainistíocht mheántéarmach agus fhadtéarmach agus cun moltaí a dhéanamh d'earnáil na músaem i Laoise ina iomlán. Rinneadh an tionscadal seo i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Laois LEADER.
- Seimineáir Oiliúna Fhál Sceach - Rinneadh sraith de sheimineáir a bhaineann le bainistíocht fáil sceiche a eagrú do ghrúpaí pobail agus d'fheirmeoirí. Tionóladh siúl feirme, le hamharc ar na gnéithe praiticiúla de bhainistíocht fáil sceiche. Ba í an aidhm a bhí ann ná feasacht a spreagadh maidir le luach intreach an fháil sceiche, an tábhacht a bhaineann le bainistíocht chuí agus cad í go díreach an bhainistíocht mhaith seo i ngníomh.
- "Ag Céiliúradh Oidhreacht na Laoise"- Tionóladh comhdháil ar an téama "Ag Céiliúradh Oidhreacht na Laoise", mar pháirt de chéiliúradh na Seachtaine Náisiúta Oidhreachta, a thug raon daoine a raibh suim acu i ngnéithe difriúla d'oidhreacht i Laois, chun an raon leathan d'oidhreacht atá le fáil sa Chontae a thaispeáint, agus chun daoine a chur ar an eolas faoi Fhóram Oidhreachta Laoise.

Rannpháirtithe ag "Ag Ceiliúradh Oidhreachta Laoise"

- Tionscadal an Athchuimhne - Bhí sraith de sheisiúin oiliúna ann chun oiliúint a thabhairt do roinnt grúpaí gníomhacha maidir le tionscadal taifeadta athchuimhne agus staire béil a thosú agus a reáchtáil. Táthar ag súil le heispéireas na ngrúpaí seo a úsáid chun an cleachtas is fearr a fhor bairt sa réimse taifeadta athchuimhne agus staire sóisialta.

- Ionchur ar Bhailte Slachtmhara Laoise- Chun feabhas a chur ar fheasacht thábhacht na hoidhreachta tógtha agus nádúrtha i mbailte agus i sráidbhailte i measc grúpaí na mbaile slachtmhara, trí feabhas a chur ar fhócas oidhreachta de Chomórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara Contae-bhunaithe.

Library Services

The library service is delivered through a network of branch libraries located in the main centres of population in County Laois. The purpose of the public library is to provide and promote access to information, ideas and knowledge recorded in books and other forms of media. Internet access is available in most branch libraries: a total of 18 internet points are spread across the library network and these are widely availed of by the public.

Service to Schools

A library service to primary schools in the County is delivered from the library headquarters where teachers select books from a dedicated schools bookstock. The local authority received a grant of €23,905 from the Department of Education and Science in 2004 for purchase of bookstocks for primary schools.

Interactive Services

The public library in Portlaoise provides an interactive facility through the internet whereby a library user can search the library catalogue, request a particular book and check the status of items they have on loan.

Midlands Prison Library

Laois County Library continued it's involvement with the library. A grant of €7,000 was given to the Council by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform for library provision in 2004.

Bookfund

Laois County Council allocated €160,000 for purchase of bookstocks in 2004, an increase of €10,000 on the previous year. The Department of Education and Science contributed €23,905 for purchase of bookstocks for primary schools in the local authority area.

Comoradh Leabhar na bPaisti

Comoradh Leabhar na bPáistí took place from 14th to 31st October 2004. Various events were held in Portlaoise library to encourage children to use their local library.

Archives

Preservation

An archives programme is presently being implemented for County Laois in accordance with the Archives Development Plan. Emphasis is being placed on the preservation, storage and listing of the County Council's record material.

New Acquisitions

Significant collections of Archives relating to County Laois have been acquired.
These include material relating to:

- Perry's Brewery Rathdowney 1830-c 1930
- The Lough Family, Portlaoise c 1870-1920
- Hamilton Estate Mountrath 1904-1915
- Joe O Neill, Mountmellick Diaries 1964-1996
- Helen Roe Lantern Slides c1934-1937

Outreach and Schools

The Archivist has developed a participative archives workshop entitled "Archives are Forever": This is aimed at promoting awareness of archives amongst primary school children. It is now available to any primary school throughout the county and has already been delivered at Timahoe NS.

Statistics	Adult	Child	Total
Library Membership	3941	3544	7485
Items Issued	111,545	76,166	187,711

Service Indicators

Library Services	
Public Opening hours: - average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries - average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries	 35hrs 9.6hrs
Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population	12.7%
Number of items issued per head of population for: (a) Books (b) Other items	 2.948 0.248
Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public	77%
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	45
Book Fund per head of population	€2.72

	Standards	Actual2004
Membership	7,800	7,485
No. of Items Issued	180,000	187,711

Seirbhísí Leabharlainne

Déantar an tseirbhís leabharlainne a sheacadadh trí líonra de leabharlanna brainse atá suite sna príomhionaid daonra i gContae Laoise. Is é cuspóir na leabharlainne poiblí ná rochtain ar eolas, ideánna agus an t-eolas taifeadta i leabhair agus trí mheáin eile a sholáthar agus a chur chun cinn. Tá rochtain ar an idirlíon le fáil sa chuid is mó de na leabharlanna brainse: tá iomlán de 18 pointe idirlín ar fud líonra na leabharlainne agus tá siad seo ar fáil go forleathan don phobal.

Seirbhís do Scoileanna

Déantar seirbhís leabharlainne do bhunscoileanna sa Chontae a sheachadadh ó cheannáras na leabharlanna óna roghnaíonn múinteoirí leabhair ó leabharstoc dílis do scoileanna. Fuair an t-údarás áitiúil deontas de €23,905 ón Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta i 2004 do cheannach leabharstocdo bhunscoileanna.

Seirbhísí Idirghníomhacha

Soláthraíonn an leabharlann phoiblí i bPort Laoise saoráid idirghníomhach tríd an idirlíon ina dtig leis an úsáideoir an catalóg leabharlainne a chuardach, leabhar áirithe a iarraidh agus stádas na rudaí atá acu ar iasacht a sheiceáil.

Leabharlann Phríosún Lár na Tíre

Lean Comhairle Contae Laoise a bheith bainteach leis an Leabharlann. Thug an Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Comhionannais agus Athchóirithe Dlí deontas de €7,000 don Chomhairledo sholáthar leabharlainne i 2004.

Ciste Leabhar

Leithdháiligh Comhairle Contae Laoise €160,000 do cheannach leabharstoc i 2004, ardú de €10,000 ón mbliain roimhe. Thug an Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta €23,905 do cheannach stocleabhar do bhunscoileanna i limistéar an údaráis áitiúil.

Comóradh Leabhar na bPáistí

Bhí Comóradh Leabhar na bPáistí ann ó 14 go 31 DeireadhFómhair. Tionóladh ócáidí éagsúla i leabharlann Phort Laoise chun páistí a spreagadh leabharlanna áitiúla a úsáid.

Cartlanna

Caomhnú

Tá clár cartlanna á chur i bhfeidhm faoi láthair do Chontae Laoise de réir an Phlean Forbartha Chartlainne. Táthar ag cur béim ar chaomhnú, stóráil agus liostú ábhar taifeadta na Comhairle Contae.

Gnóthaithe Úra

Gnóthaíodh bailiúcháin shuntasach de Chartlanna a bhaineann le Contae Laoise.
Áirítear leo seo ábhar a bhaineann le:

- Grúdlann Perry Ráth Domhnaigh 1830-c 1930
- Teaghlach Locha Port Laoise c 1870-1920
- Eastát Hamilton Maighean Rátha 1904-1915
- Joe O Neill, Déirithe Mhoointeach Milie 1964-1996
- Sleamhnáin Laindéar Helen Roe c1934-1937

For-Rochtain agus Scoileanna

Tá ceardlann rannpháirteach cartlanna forbartha ag an gcartlannaí dar teideal "Archives are Forever": Is í an aidhm atá leis ná feasacht cartlanna i measc páistí bunscoile a chur chun cinn. Tá sé ar fáil anois do bhunscoil ar bith ar fud an chontae agus rinneadh é a sheachadadh cheana ag SN Thigh Mochua.

Staitisticí:	Aosach	Páiste	Iomlán
Ballraíocht Leabharlainne	3941	3544	7485
Míreanna Eisithe	111,545	76,166	187,711

Táscairí Seirbhísí

Seirbhísí Leabharlainne	
Uaireanta ar Oscailt don Phobal: - meánlíon uaireanta ar oscailt sa tseachtain do leabharlanna lánaimseartha - meánlíon uaireanta ar oscailt sa tseachtain do leabharlanna páirtaimseartha	 35u 9.6u
Líon na gcomhaltaí leabharlainne cláraithe mar chéadatán den phobal áitiúil	12.7%
Líon na míreanna eisithe do gach duine sa daonra do: **(a)** Leabhair **(b)** Míreanna Eile	 2.948 0.248
An céadatán de leabharlanna a chuireann rochtain Idirlín ar fáil don phobal	77%
Líon na seisiún Idirlín a chuirtear ar fáil sa 1,000 duine	45
Ciste Leabhar an duine sa daonra	€2.72

	Caighdeáin	Iarbhír**2004**
Ballraíocht	7,800	7,485
Líon na Míreanna Eisithe	180,000	187,711

Economic Development & County Promotion Policy

Chair: James Deegan, M.C.C.

Members:
John Bonham, M.C.C.
Martin Phelan, M.C.C.
Paul Mitchell, M.C.C.
Tom Jacob, M.C.C.
Michael Moloney, M.C.C.
Brendan Phelan, M.C.C.
Rotimi Adebari, T.C.

Sectoral:
John Finlay
Margaret Ryan
Eddie Phelan
William Moylan

Director Of Services: Louis Brennan
Senior Executive Officer: Ian McCormack

Economic Development

Laois County Council is actively involved in, and has a pivotal role to play in the economic development and promotion of the County. The Council is committed to attracting inward investment, fostering a climate of self sustaining development and it is eager to ensure that balanced development takes place throughout the County. The Council will continue to participate actively with all local and national development agencies to promote the social and economic development of the County.

Togher Interchange Development

The development of a 250 acre site at Togher Interchange seeks to exploit the economic development potential of the key transport corridor which runs through the County. The land at Togher was zoned for mixed development by way of a variation to the County Development Plan on the 24th. of November 2003. All land has been purchased. A Masterplan has been prepared (focused and measured approach to the consideration of this development opportunity) and the Council is presently considering its first planning application in relation to a part of this site. This Planning Application relates to the construction of a new distributor road which will form part of the overall road network of the industrial lands at Togher, Knockmay, Portlaoise. The application also provides for the construction of an industrial warehouse of 4,944 m2 and associated parking and site works. Further planning applications are imminent including a planning application for national motorway services.

The Togher Interchange Project is as a direct result of the National Spatial Strategy which puts Laois and Portlaoise at a distinct advantage in designating it as a Transport Node and Inland Port.

Enterprise Centres

The Council is presently developing an Enterprise Centre in partnership with the local community association and the private and public sectors in Portarlington at a cost of €1.3million. The Centre will contain approximately 14 incubation units and will open in 2005. This project when completed will provide high quality jobs and opportunities, give a great boost to Portarlington and act as a catalyst for economic growth throughout the County. This project involving public and private sectors is an excellent model for Portarlington. The Council is also committed to progressing the development of Enterprise Centres in Portlaoise and Durrow.

Broadband

Portlaoise:

Work on the Portlaoise Metropolitan Area Network has been completed and is operational. The construction of the Fibre Optic Metropolitan Area Network in Portlaoise will provide enabling economic infrastructure of long-term benefit to Portlaoise. The Network will be formally handed over to E-Net in 2005. E-Net are specialist contractors in the field of telecommunications, who will manage, maintain, market and develop the network on behalf of the Local Authority.

Mountmellick:

Laois County Council is also actively seeking approval from the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources to proceed with work on the Mountmellick Broadband Metropolitan Area Network.

Industrial Sites / Units

Laois County Council continues to maintain its direct role in facilitating economic development / job creation by the ongoing disposal of sites throughout the County. All available sites / commercial units at Kea-Lew Business Park have now been sold. Proposals for sites at Durrow and Rathdowney are actively being considered. The Council will continue to acquire land for industrial units / sites given the County's considerable potential for further development and capacity for new enterprise.

Mr. Brian Cowen T.D. Minister for Finance officially opening the Portlaoise Convention

Polasaí Forbartha Eacnamaíoch & Chur Chun Cinn an Chontae

Cathaoir: James Deegan, M.C.C.

Comhaltaí:
John Bonham, M.C.C.
Martin Phelan, M.C.C.
Paul Mitchell, M.C.C.
Tom Jacob, M.C.C.
Michael Moloney, M.C.C.
Brendan Phelan, M.C.C.
Rotimi Adebari, T.C.

Earnálach:
John Finlay
Margaret Ryan
Eddie Phelan
William Moylan

Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí: Louis Brennan
Oifigeach Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin: Ian McCormack

Forbairt Eacnamaíoch

Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise bainteach go gníomhach i, agus tá ról fíorthábhachtach aici i bhforbairt eacnamaíoch agus i gcur chun cinn an Chontae. Tá an Chomhairle tiomanta d'infheistíocht isteach a imtharraingt, a chothaíonn clíoma forbairt fhéin-inmharthanach agus ba mhian léi á chinntiú go mbeidh forbairt chothrom ar fud an Chontae.

Cainteoirí ag Comhdháil Phort Laoise

Forbairt Idirmhalartaithe Togher

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an bhforbairt láithreán 250 acra ag Idirmhalartú Togher sochar a bhaint as an bhféidearthacht forbartha eacnamaíoch ar an bpríomhbhealach iompair a théann tríd an gContae. Rinneadh an talamh ag Togher a dheighilt le haghaidh forbartha measctha trí athrú ar an bPlean Forbartha Contae ar 24 Samhain 2003. Ceannaíodh an talamh go léir. Ullmhaíodh Máistirphlean (cur chuige fócasaithe agus tomhaiste do chúrsaí na forbartha seo mar dheis) agus tá an Chomhairle ag breathnú faoi láthair ar a céad iarratas pleanála i dtaca leis an bpáirt seo den láithreán. Baineann an tIarratas Pleanála seo le tógáil bhóthar dáilte a dhéanfaidh suas páirt líonra foriomlán bóithre na dtailte ag Togher Knockmay, Port Laoise. Soláthraíonn an t-iarratas seo do thógáil trádstórais tionscalaíoch de 4,944 m2 agus oibreacha páircéala agus láithreán bainteach.Tá tuilleadh iarrastas forbartha le teacht lena n-áirítear iarratas do sheirbhísí mótarbhealaí náisiúnta.

Tá Tionscadal Idirmhalartaithe Togher mar thoradh díreach ar an Straitéis Náisúnta Spásúlachta a thugann do Laois agus Port Laoise buntáiste faoi leith trí iad a ainmniú mar Nód Iompair agus Calafort Intíre.

Ionaid Fiontraíochta

Tá an Chomhairle ag forbairt Ionad Fiontraíochta faoi láthair i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gcumann pobail áitiúil agus na hearnálacha príobháideacha agus poiblí i gCúil an tSúdaire ag costas de €1.3million. Beidh thart ar 14 aonad goir san Ionad agus oscalófar é i 2005. Nuair a chuirfear an tionscadal seo i gcrích déanfaidh sé poist agus deiseanna ar ardchaighdeán a sholáthar, spreagadh mór a thabhairt do Chúil an tSúdaire agus gníomhóidh sé mar chatalaíoch d'fhás eacnamaíoch ar fud an Chontae. Tá an tionscadal seo ina bhfuil na hearnálacha príobháideacha agus poiblí bainteach mar shamhail bharrfheabhais do Chúil an tSúdaire. Tá an Chomhairle tiomanta chomh maith do chur ar aghaidh forbartha na nIonad Fiontraíochta i bPort Laoise and Darú.

Leathanbhanda

Port Laoise:
Tá obair ar Líonra Achair Chathrach Phort Laoisecurtha i gcrích agus é i bhfeidhm. Soláthróidh tógáil Líonra Achair Chathrach Snáthoptaice i bPort Laoise cumasú de bhonneagar eacnamaíoch a bheidh ina bhuntáiste fadtéarmach do Phort Laoise Tabharfar an Líonra anonn go foirmiúil ag E-Net i 2005. Is conraitheoirí speisialta iad E-Net sa réimse teileacumarsáide, a dhéanfaidh bainistiú, cothabháil, margaíocht agus forbairt ar an líonra ar son an Údaráis Áitiúil.

Móinteach Mílic:
Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise ag lorg faofa go gníomhach ón Roinn Cumarsáide, Mara agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha chun dul ar aghaidh le hobair ar Líonra Achair Chathrach Leathanbhanda Móinteach Mílic.

Láithreáin/Aonaid Tionscalaíocha

Leanann Comhairle Contae Laoise dá ról díreach a choinneáil maidir le héascú fás eacnamaíoch/cruthúpoist trí dhiúscairt leanúnach láithreán ar fud an Chontae. Tá gach láithreán /aonad tráchtála a bhí ar fáil ag Páirc Ghnó Kea-Lew díolta anois. Táthar ag breathnú go gníomhach ar mholtaí le haghaidh láithreán do Dharú agus Ráth Domhnaigh. Leanfaidh an Chomhairle le talamh a fháil le haghaidh aonad tionscalaíocha/láithreán de thoisc féidearthacht an Chontaemaidir le tuilleadh forbartha agus acmhainne d'fhiontar úr.

Service Indicators

Service Indicators	2001	2002	2003	2004
No. of Developed Industrial Estates	4 Portlaoise Stage 1 Portlaoise Stage 2 Portarlington Doonane	4 Portlaoise Stage 2 Portarlington Doonane Mountrath	4 Portlaoise Stage 2 Portarlington Doonane Mountrath	5 Portlaoise Stage 2 Portarlington Doonane Mountrath Rathdowney
Enterprise Units: Laois County Council disposed of all commercial units in Kea-Lew Business Park in 2004. Work has also commenced on the construction of an Enterprise Centre in Portarlington in partnership with the local community development association, public and private sector.				

Tourism

The Tourism Strategic Group was set up by Laois County Council with the overall objective of promoting a clear and strong image for Laois. The Tourism Officer works closely with Laois Tourism Ltd. in implementing these strategies and in marketing Laois's excellent strategic location and to create an awareness of its strong qualities as the ultimate conference and activity base. A number of task groups were set up:

- The Hotel Task Group looks at co-operative ways of promoting hotels and conference facilities in Laois. The Hotel group has carried out some co-operative promotional shows and will continue to do so during the year.
- The Golf Group works together to promote the County as a Golf destination and has come together for the promotional Ryder Cup booklet.
- The Golf Group has created golf packages and sold them at Golf Trade shows attended by Laois Tourism.
- The Activity Group is presently working on an Activity Booklet which highlights the varied activities in Laois.
- The Event / Festival Task Group is involved in organising an event in Laois which will attract a large number of visitors into the County.
- The Heritage - Tourism Group works together to promote the heritage attractions in the County.

Some of the projects undertaken in 2004 were:

- The 'Passport to Laois' booklet was published July 2004 and already 20,000 copies have been distributed worldwide.
- The Laois Tourism website now has an online booking facility and is being marketed aggressively. The number of enquiries through the site has increased dramatically.
- Corporate Tourism / Business booklets have also been published and will be launched shortly.
- Preparation of signage and marketing material for Gordon Bennett Original Car Route.
- Attendance at Trade Shows in Ireland and abroad promoting Laois.
- Preparation of Golf Packages and material and attendance at golf promotions.
- Laois Rose of Tralee Organisation and administration.

Laois Rose 2004 - Ann Marie Hogan at a reception at Aras an Chontae

Táscairí Seirbhísí

Táscairí Seirbhísí	2001	2002	2003	2004
An Líon Forbartha Eastáit Tionscalaíocha	4 Port Laoise Céim 1 Port Laoise Céim 2 Cúil an tSúdaire Doonane	4 Port Laoise Céim 2 Cúil an tSúdaire Doonane Maighean Rátha	4 Port Laoise Céim2 Cúil an tSúdaire Doonane Maighean Rátha	5 Port Laoise Céim 2 Cúil an tSúdaire Doonane Maighean Rátha Ráth Domhnaigh
Aonaid Fiontraíocht: Dhiúscair Comhairle Contae Laoise gach aonad tráchtála i bPáirc Ghnó Kea-Lew i 2004. Tá obair tosaithe chomh maith ar thógáil Ionad Fiontraíochta i gCúil an tSúdaire i gcomhpháirtíocht le cumanna forbartha an phobail áitiúil, an earnáil phoiblí agus phríobháideach.				

Turasóireacht

Bhunaigh Comhairle Contae Laoise an Grúpa Straitéiseach Turasóireachta agus ba í an aidhm fhoriomlán a bhí aige ná íomhá shoiléir agus láidir a chur chun cinn do Laois. Oibríonn an tOifigeach Turasóireachta go dlúth le Turasóireacht Laoise Teo. chun na straitéisí seo a chur i bhfeidhm agus margaíocht a dhéanamh ar shuíomh mórthaibhseach straitéiseach Laoise agus chun feasacht a chruthú dá cáilíochtaí láidre mar an bunáit is fearr le haghaidh comhdhála agus ghníomhaíochta. Bunaíodh roinnt tascghrúpaí:

- Amharcann Tascghrúpa na nÓstán ar bhealaí comhoibritheacha chun óstáin agus saoráidí comhdhála a chur chun cinn i Laois. Tá roinnt seónna comhoibritheacha chur ar aghaidh déantaag Grúpa na nÓstán agus leanfaidh siad leis seo i rith na bliana.
- Oibríonn an Grúpa Gailf le chéile chun an Contae a chur chun cinn mar cheannphointe Gailf agus tá siad tagtha le chéile do leabhrán fógartha Chorn Ryder.
- Chruthaigh an Grúpa Gailf pacáistí gailf agus dhíol siad iad ag seónna Trádála Gailf ar a d'fhreastail Turasóireacht Laoise.
- Tá an Grúpa Gníomhaíochtaí ag obair ar Leabhrán Gníomhaíochta faoi láthair a thugann na gníomhaíochtaí éagsúla i Laois chun suntais.
- Tá an Tascghrúpa Ócáidí/Féiltí bainteach in eagrú ócáide i Laois a tharraingeoidh roinnt mhór de chuairteoirí isteach sa Chontae.
- Oibríonn an Grúpa Oidhreachta-Turasóireachta chun na nithe oidhreachta is díol spéise sa Chontae a chur chun cinn.

Cuid de na tionscadail i 2004 ná:

- Foilsíodh an leabhrán 'Passport to Laois' in Iúil 2004 agus tá 20,000 cóip de leithdháilte ar fud an domhain cheana.
- Tá saoráid áirithintí ar líne ag láithreán Gréasáin Laoise anois agus táthar ag déanamh margaíochta air go hionsaitheach. Tá méadú ollmhór tagtha ar líon na bhfiosraithe tríd an láithreán.
- Foilsíodh leabhráin Túrasóireachta/Ghnó Chorparáidigh chomh maith agus déanfar iad a lainseáil go luath.
- Ullmhúchán ábhar comharthaíochta agus margaíochta do Bhunbealach Gluaisteáin Gordon Bennett.
- Freastal ar Sheónna Trádála in Éirinn agus thar lear ag cur Laoise chun cinn.
- Ullmhúchán de Phacáistí agus ábhar Gailf agus freastal ar ócáidí fógartha gailf.
- Eagrú agus riarachan Rós Thrá Lí Laoise.

Carraig Dunamaise, Port Laoise

Environment & Water Services Policy

Chair: Mary Sweeney MCC

Members:
James Daly, M.C.C.
John Moran, M.C.C.
Ray Cribbin, M.C.C.
Bill Delaney, M.C.C.
Dick Miller, M.C.C.
Michael Gormley, T.C.

Sectoral:
Donald Scully
John Cummins
Ger Lynch
Christy Mooney

Director Of Services: John Daly
Senior Engineer - Water: Sean Mullins
Senior Engineer - Environment: Tom Shanahan

Report on Strategic Policy Committee

The Environment & Water Services S.P.C. met at regular intervals during 2004 to formulate and develop policy for presentation to the full membership of the Council for approval and implementation.

Environment

Environmental Awareness

Clean up Laois Week

Clean up Laois Week took place in April and bags, gloves and litter pickers were provided by Laois County Council. Local clean ups were organised and the Litter Wardens collected the resulting bags of rubbish at designated areas.

Environmental Protection

During the year the Environmental Protection Section completed the second implementation phase within the Phosphorous Regulations. The work involved taking 5,341 samples from 499 locations and the inspection of 600 farmyards.
A submission was prepared and submitted to the relevant Government departments in response to their request for information on the implementation of the Nitrates Directive and fieldwork has continued, in conjunction with the farming community, to identify the primary causes of nitrate variations in surface and groundwater.
Laois County Council is one of the lead authorities in implementing the Water Framework Directive for the southeast region, which requires a significant input to the steering, management and technical groups.
This Council was the first in Ireland to make water quality monitoring results available on our website, where further information and useful links to the websites of the various partners can be found.

Community Initiatives

In 2004, the Council provided financial assistance to raise awareness of environmental issues and litter management and 38 grants were paid to various groups throughout the county.

Tidy Towns

Castletown, Ballacolla, Clonaslee and Luggacurren achieved success at national level in Tidy Towns and O' Loughlins Medical Hall, Main Street, Portlaoise won the National Best Shop Front Award. Members of the Laois Federation of Tidy Towns received a grant of €27,000 from the Tidy Towns Grants Scheme.

Michael Morrissey, Chairperson Abbeyleix Tidy Towns receiving his award from Cllr. William Aird, Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council and Noreen Byrne, Chairperson of Laois Federation of Tidy Towns.

Environmental Partnership Fund

Five groups were assisted under the Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund which was organised in association with the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government. In addition the Community Project Fund was introduced in 2004 and provided grant aid to the community through applications made by their local elected members.

Waste Management.

Waste Management is a statutory function of the local authority. Responsibilities include education, waste permits, control of waste disposal and operation of the landfill site.

Landfill Site

During 2004 the landfill site continued to operate to the highest standards. The yearly licence waste limit is 47,100 tonnes and 41,613.09 tonnes was accepted at the site. This waste was deposited in Cell 12. Cell 13 is due to open in 2005. Development works are on-going at the site with the Green Waste Composting facility completed during the year and additional recycling facilities will be provided in 2005 when the Civic Amenity Site opens.
A summary of the total quantity of each type of waste accepted at the facility for the period 1st January 2004 to the 31st December 2004 is presented below.

Total Quantity of Each Waste Type Accepted:

Waste Type	Tonnes
Household	26911.38
Commercial	11041.4
Industrial Non-Hazardous Solids	1365.79
Construction & Demolition	240.06
Sludge	2054.46
Total	**41613.09**

Polasaí Comhshaoil & Seirbhísí Uisce

Cathaoir: Mary Sweeney MCC

Comhaltaí:
James Daly, M.C.C.
John Moran, M.C.C.
Ray Cribbin, M.C.C.
Bill Delaney, M.C.C.
Dick Miller, M.C.C.
Michael Gormley, T.C.

Earnálach:
Donald Scully
John Cummins
Ger Lynch
Christy Mooney

Stiúrthóir Seirbhísí: John Daly
Innealtóir Sinsearach - Uisce: Sean Mullins
Innealtóir Sinsearach - Comhshaol: Tom Shanahan

Tuarascáil ar Choiste an Pholasaí Straitéisigh

Tháinig an CPS Comhshaoil agus Seirbhísí Uisce le chéile ag agaí rialta le linn 2003 chun polasaí a dhéanamh agus a fhorbairt le cur i láthair bhallraíocht iomlán na Comhairle le faomhadh agus chur i bhfeidhm.

Comhshaol

Feasacht ar an gComhshaol

Seachtain Ghlanta suas Laoise

Bhí Seachtain Ghlanta suas Laoise ann in Aibreán agus chuir Comhairle Contae Laoise málaí, láimhíní agus bainteoirí bruscair ar fáil. Eagraíodh glanadh suas áitiúil agus bhailigh na maoir bhruscair na málaí bruscair ag deireadh ag ceantair ainmnithe.

Cosaint an Chomhshaoil

Le linn na bliana chuir Rannóg Cosanta an Chomhshaoil an dara céim feidhmiúcháin i gcrích laistigh de na Rialúcháin Fosfair. Bhain an obair le 5,341 sampla a ghlacadh ó 499 suíomh agus iniúchadh ar 600 clós feirme. Rinneadh aighneacht a ullmhú agus a chur isteach chuig na ranna rialtais bhainteacha mar fhreagairt ar a n-iarratas maidir le heolas faoi chur i bhfeidhm Threoir Níotráití agus leanadh le saothar allumuigh i gcónasc leis na bpobal feirmeoireachta, chun na príomhchúiseanna d'athruithe níotráití i ndromchla uisce agus uisce talún a shainaithint. Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise ar cheann de na ceann-údaráis i gcur i bhfeidhm Threoir an Chreata Uisce do réigiúin an oirdheiscirt, ag a bhfuil ionchur suntasach de dhíth maidir le stiúradh, bainistíocht agus grúpaí teicniúla.
Bhí an Chomhairle ar an gcéad cheann in Éirinn a chuir torthaí monatóireachta ar cháilíocht uisce ar fáil ar ár láithreán Gréasáin, ina bhfuil tuilleadh eolais agus naisc úsáideacha chuig láithreáin ghréasáin de na páirtithe éagsúla le fáil.

Tionscnaimh Phobail

I 2004, sholáthraigh an Chomhairle cuidiú airgeadais chun feasacht a spreagadh faoi cheisteanna comhshaoil agus bainistíocht bhruscair agus íocadh 38 deontas le grúpaí éagsúla ar fud an chontae.

Bailte Slachtmhara

D'éirigh go han-mhaith le Baile an Chaisleáin, Ballacolla, Cluain na Slí agus Log an Churraigh ag leibhéal náisiúnta sna Bailte Slachtmhara agus bhuaigh Halla Léighis Uí Lochláin, An Phríomh-Shráid, Port Laoise an Ghradam Náisiúnta don Éadan (front) Siopa is Fearr.
Fuair chomhaltaí de chuid Chónaidhm na mBailte Slachtmhara deontas de € 27,000 ó Scéim Deontas na mBailte Slachtmhara.

Catherine Burke, Cathaoirleach Bailte Slachtmhara Mhaighean Rátha ag fáil a gradaim ón gComhl.William Aird, Cathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae Laoise agus Noreen Byrne, Cathaoirleach ar Chomhdháil Bhailte Slachtmhara Laoise

Ciste Chomhpháirtithe an Chomhsaoil

Tugadh cuidiú do chuig ghrúpa faoi Chiste ChomhpháirtíochtaComhshaoil an Chláir Oibre Áitiúil 21 a eagraíodh i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil. Lena chois sin tugadh isteach an Ciste Tionscadal Pobal i 2004 agus cuireadh cuidiú deontais ar fáil don phobal trí iarratais arna dhéanamh ag a gcomhaltaí tofa áitiúla.

Bainistíochta Dramhaíola

Tá Bainistíocht Dramhaíola mar fheidhm reachtúil ag an údarás áitiúil. I measc na bhfreagrachtaí tá oideachas, ceadanna dramhaíola, rialú de dhiúscair dramhaíola agus feidhmiú an láithreáin líonta talún.

Láithreán Líonta Talún

Le linn 2004 lean an láithreán líonta talún d'fheidhmiú ar an gcaighdeán is fearr. Is 47,100 tona an teorann dramhaíola ceadúnais bhliantúil agus glacadh le 41,613.09 tona ag an láithreán. Cuireadh an dramhaíl isteach i gCill 12. Tá Cill 13 le hoscailt i 2005. Tá oibreacha forbartha ag dul ar aghaidh ag an láithreán ag saoráid Mhúirín de Dhramhaíl Ghlas a cuireadh i gcrích le linn na bliana agus cuirfear tuilleadh saoráidí athchúrsála ar fáil i 2005 nuair a oscalófar an Láthair Chonláiste Pobail. Tá achoimre déanta thíos ar an méid iomlán de gach cineál dramhaíola a ghlacadh ag an tsaoráid don tréimhse 1 Eanáir 2004 go dtí 31 Nollaig 2004.
Méid Iomlán de Gach Cineál Dramhaíola a Glacadh:

Cineál Dramhaíola	Tonaí
Teaghlach	26911.38
Tráchtáil	11041.4
Tionsclaíoch Neamh-Ghuaiseach Cruáin	1365.79
Foirgníocht & Leagan	240.06
Dríodar	2054.46
Iomlán	**41613.09**

Bring Banks

There are 37 Recycling Facilities in the County. All sites cater for glass and cans. See chart below for full details of facilities and 2004 usage.

Service Indicators - Recycling Facilities

Category Facilities	No. of Bring Banks	No. of Civic Amenity Sites	Total No. of Facilities	No. of Locations Per 5,000 of population	Tonnages Of waste collected for recycling per 5,000 of population
Glass	37	1	38	3.27	44.05
Cans	37	1	38	3.27	0.86
Textiles	9	1	10	0.86	6.16
Batteries	0	1	1	0.09	3.5
Oils	0	1	1	0.09	0.55
Others	0	1	1	0.09	71.93

Waste Collection

There are three waste collectors operating in Laois as Laois County Council is not involved in waste collection. The following indicators were provided by the collectors:

Service Indicators - Waste Management

Percentage of households provided with segregated waste collection	N/A
Percentage of household waste collected sent for recycling	14%
Percentage of household waste going to landfill	86%

Waste Enforcement

A dedicated waste enforcement team was established in July 2004 and have received 472 complaints all of which were investigated with 6 being dismissed.

Home Composting is the ideal way to reduce the amount of waste going into the kitchen bin which in turn will help reduce waste costs. Almost a third of waste can be composted and Laois County Council provide composters at a subsidised rate of €26.00. In 2004 303 composters were sold.

Litter Management

Litter

Enforcement of legislation is one of the key mechanisms in tackling the litter pollution problem in County Laois.
In 2004, extra staff were recruited with responsibility for tackling illegal dumping activities in the County.
The Council has three full-time Environmental Control Officers to deal with litter related activities, which include:

- Dealing with dumping/littering incidents in the County
- Issuing On The Spot Fines and dealing with court cases
- Liaising with local groups regarding clean-ups
- Carrying out street patrols in towns and villages.
- Ensuring recycling Bring Centres are properly maintained.
- Contact with businesses regarding responsibilities under the Litter Pollution Act and anti-litter measures.

The anti litter hotline 1800 32 32 30 continued in an effort to encourage the confidential reporting of illegal dumping.

Education

Environmental education is a vital step towards waste reduction and recycling and was delivered on an ongoing basis to schools and Community groups by the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer.
40 schools in Laois are registered with the **Green Schools Programme** (64% of Secondary and 46% of Primary) and 9 have been awarded the coveted Green Flag. In addition a very successful **Christmas Tree Decoration Competition** was arranged in association with the "Race Against Waste" campaign in an effort to encourage school children and their parents to think about how to reuse and recycle.

PAL

Portlaoise Against Litter, a community based initiative, continued to tackle the litter problem in Portlaoise in 2004. Its main objective is to create a pride of place attitude in Portlaoise town and develop a co-ordinated and supportive programme for litter control, to reduce the instance of litter and identify problem areas and litter black spots.

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service

Laois County Fire & Rescue Service employ 67 retained fire fighters who responded to 814 calls during 2004. 109 Fire Safety Certificate applications were received and 92 licensing applications under Section 24 of the Fire Service Act, 1981 & 2003 issued.

Pupil from Our Ladys Primary School in Durrow

Bainc Tabhair Leat

Tá 37 Saoráid Athchúrsála sa Chontae. Soláthraíonn na láithreáin go léir do ghloine agus cannaí. Féach an graf thíos do mhionsonraí iomlána na saoráidí agus úsáide i 2004.

Táscairí Seirbhísí - Saoráid Athchúrsála

Catagóir Saoráidí	Líon de Bainc Tabhair Leat	Líon de Láithreáin Chonláiste Chathartha	Líon Iomlán de Shaoráidí	Líon de shuímh sa 5,000 den Daonra	Tónáistí de dhrámháil bailathe d'athchúrsáil sa 5,000 den Daonra
Gloine	37	1	38	3.27	44.05
Cannaí	37	1	38	3.27	0.86
Teicstílí	9	1	10	0.86	6.16
Ceallraí	0	1	1	0.09	3.5
Olaí	0	1	1	0.09	0.55
Eile	0	1	1	0.09	71.93

Dramhaíl Bailithe

Tá trí bhailitheoirí dramhaíola ag obair i Laois mar nach bhfuil Comhairle Contae Laoise bainteach i mbailiú dramhaíola. Chuir na bailitheoirí na táscairí a leanas ar fáil:

Táscairí Seirbhíse - Bainistíocht Dramhaíola

Céadatán de líonta tí soláthartha le bailiú dramhaíola leithscartha	N/A
Céadatán de dhramhaíl theaghlaigh bailithe agus curtha le haghaidh athchúrsála	14%
Céadatán de dhramhaíl theaghlaigh ag dul chuig líonadh talún	86%

Forfheidhmiú Dramhaíola

Bunaíodh foireann thiomanta fhorfheidhmithe dramhaíola in Iúil 2004 agus tá 472 gearán faighte acu agus rinneadh iniúchadh orthu go léir agus rinneadh 6 cheann acu a chaitheamh amach.

Is bealach ideálach é Múirín Baile chun an méid dhramhaíola atá ag dul isteach in araid na cistine a laghdú agus cuideoidh seo leis na costais dramhaíola a laghdú. Tig múirín a dhéanamh de bheagnach trian de dhramhaíl agus soláthraíonn Comhairle Contae Laoise gléasanna déanta muirín ag ráta fóirdheontais de €26.00. I 2004 díoladh 303 gléasa déanta muirín.

Bainistíocht Bhruscair

Bruscar

Ceann de na príomhtheicnicí maidir le dul i ngleic le fadhb an truaillithe bruscair i Laoise is ea forfheidhmiú reachtaíochta. I 2004, rinneadh breis foirne a earcú agus bhí sé mar fhreagracht orthu dul i ngleic le gníomhaíochtaí dumpála neamhdhlíthiúla sa Chontae. Tá trí Oifigeach Rialaithe Comhshaoil lánaimseartha ag an gComhairle chun déileáil le gníomhaíochtaí bainteachle bruscar, lena n-áirítear:

- Déileáil le teagmhais dumpála/bruscair sa Chontae
- Fíneálacha Ar an bPointe a eisiúint agus déileáil le cásanna cúirte
- Idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le grúpaí áitiúla maidir le glanadh suas.
- Patróil sráide a dhéanamh i mbailte agus sráidbhailte.
- A chinntiú go ndéanfar Ionaid Tabhair Leat athchúrsála a chothabháil.
- Teaghmháil le gnóthaí maidir le freagrachtaí faoin Acht um Thruailliú Bruscair agus bearta frithbhruscair.

Lean beolíne 1800 32 32 30 an fhrithbhruscair d'iarracht a dhéanamh tuairisciú faoi rún maidir le dumpáil neamhdhlíthiúil a spreagadh.

Oideachas

Céim fhíorthábhachtach is ea oideachas ar an gcomhshaoil maidir le laghdú agus athchúrsáil dramhaíola agus rinne Oifigeach na Comhairle um Feasacht an Chomhshaoil é a sheachadadh ar bhonn leanúnach do scoileanna agus grúpaí Pobail.
Tá 40 scoil i Laois cláraithe le **Clár Glas na Scoile** (64% d'iar-Bhunscoileanna agus 46% de Bhunscoileanna). agus bronnadh 9 acu leis an mBratach Glas santaithe. Lena chois sin rinneadh **Comórtas Máisiúcháin Chrainn Nollag** ar éirigh go maith leis a eagrú i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an bhfeachtas "Rás i gCoinne Dramhaíola" mar iarracht páistí scoile agus a dtuismitheoirí a spreagadh le smaoineadh faoi athúsáid agus athchúrsáil.

PAL

Lean Port Laoise i gCoinne Bruscair, tionscnamh pobalbhunaithele dul i ngleic leis an bhfadhb bruscair i bPort Laoise i 2004. Is í a phríomhaidhm ná meon bróid áite a chruthú i mbaile Phort Laoise agus clár tacaíoch agus comhordaithe a fhorbairt maidir le rialú bruscair, cásanna bruscair a laghdú agus ceantair faidhbe agus baill dhubha bruscair a shainaithint.

Seirbhís Dóiteáin agus Tarrthála Chontae Laoise.

Fostaíonn Seirbhís Dóiteáin agus Tarrthála Chontae Laoise 67 Comhraiceoir coimeádta a d'fhreagair 814 glao le linn 2004. Fuarthas 109 iarratais do Theastais Sábháilteachta Dóiteáin agus eisíodh 92 iarratas do cheadúnais faoi Alt 24 den Acht Seirbhísí Dóiteáin, 1981 & 2003.

Fire Safety Week 2004

"FIRE - OUR COMMUNITY AT RISK" was the theme adopted by the National Safety Council of Ireland for Fire Safety Week 2004, which ran from Monday 4th to Sunday 10th October 2004.
During this week, Fire Officers from Laois County Fire & Rescue Service visited and gave Fire Safety Talks to various primary schools around Laois. In total over 1,300 primary school children and their teachers attended the talks. Other activities during the week included, schools visits to Fire Station, open-nights in Fire Stations and Fire Brigade visits to schools. Various fire safety leaflets and posters were also distributed around the towns of County Laois and advertising campaigns in local newspapers and on the local radio station were carried out.

Civil Defence

Laois Civil Defence operates as the reserve emergency service for County Laois. It also cooperates with the Radiological Protection Institute within the framework of the National Emergency Plan for dealing with emergencies.
In 2004, members were involved in many areas of community activity and assisted at such events as the Budweiser Derby, Mardi Gras Festival in Mountmellick, Stradbally Electric Picnic Rock Concert as well as many functions hosted by Laois County Council.
2004 was an excellent year for Laois Civil Defence in winning the National Exercise Challenge in Kerry. As a result of this achievement, they were honoured with a Civic Reception.

Veterinary Services

In the area of Food Safety the County Veterinary Inspector and the three Temporary Veterinary Inspectors ensured the highest standards in the operation of the 12 domestic abattoirs continued throughout 2004 and that all relevant legislation is adhered to.

Dog Control

The service is provided for Laois County Counil by the ISPCA. A Dog Warden is employed and a pound operated at Ballacolla. 3027 dog licences were isssued in 2004 and 114 fines issued.

Civic Reception for Laois Civil Defence Team 2004 - Winners of the National Exercise Challenge 2004

Seachtain Sábháilteachta Dóiteáin 2004

"DÓITEÁN - ÁR bPOBAL I mBAOL" seo an téama glacthaag an gComhairle Sábháilteachta Náisiúnta don tSeachtainSábháilteachta Dóiteáin 2004, a bhí ann ó Dé Luain 4 go dtí Dé Domhnaigh 10 Deireadh Fómhair 2004. I rith na seachtaine tháinig Oifigigh Dhóiteáin ó Sheirbhís Dóiteáin agus Tarrthála Laoise ar cuairt agus thug siad Cainteanna ar Shábháilteacht Dóiteáin do bhunscoileanna éagsúla ar fud Laoise. San iomlán d'fhreastail os cionn 1,300 páiste bunscoile agus a múinteoirí ar na cainteanna.
I measc gníomhaíochtaí eile le linn na seachtaine bhí, cuairteanna scoileanna ar an Stáisiún Dóiteáin, oícheanta oscailte i Stáisiúin Dóiteáin agus cuairteanna Bríogáidí Dóiteáin ar scoileanna. Rinneadh bileoga agus póstaeir éagsúla ar shábhailteacht dóiteáin a chur thart ar fud bhailte Chontae Laoise chomh maith agus bhí feachtais fógraíochta i bpáipéir nuachta aitiúla agus sna stáisiúin ráidio áitiúla ann.

Cosaint Shibhialta

Feidhmíonn Cosaint Shibialta Laoise mar sheirbhís éigeandálachúltaca do Chontae Laoise. Comhoibríonn sé leis an Institiúid um Chosaint Raideolaíoch chomh maith laistigh de chreat an Phlean Náisiúnta Éigeandála chun déileáil le héigeandálaí.

I 2004, bhí comhaltaí bainteach i roinnt mhaith réimsí de ghníomhaíocht phobail agus thug siad cuidiú ag ócáidí cosúil leis an Budweiser Derby, Féile Mardi Gras i Moointeach Milie, Ceolchoirm Rac Phicnic Leictreach na Sráidbhaile chomh maith lena lán ócáidí léirithe ag Comhairle Contae Laoise.
Bliain thar barr a bhí i 2004 do Chosaint Shibhialta Laoise as buachan an Dúshláin Náisiúnta Gníomhaíochta i gCiarraí. De bharr an ghnóthaithe seo, rinneadh iad a onórú le Fáiltiú Cathrach.

Seirbhísí Tréidliachta

Sa réimse Shábhailteacht Bia chinntigh Cigire Tréidliachtaan Chontae agus an trí Chigire Tréidliachta Sealadacha gur leanadh de na caighdeáin is airde maidir le cur i bhfeidhm an 12 seamlas baile i rith 2004 agus go gcloítear le gach reachtaíocht bhainteach.

Smacht ar Mhadraí

Tá an tseirbhís seo curtha ar fáil ag Comhairle Contae Laoise tríd an ISPCA. Tá Maor Madraí fostaithe agus tá póna i bhfeidhm i Ballacolla. Eisíodh 3027 ceadúnas madra i 2004 agus eisíodh 114 fíneáil.

Foireann Dóiteáin ag Stáisiún Dóiteáin Dharú i mBunscoil Mhuire, Darú

Service Indicators

Service Indicators - Fire Service	2004
Average time in minutes to mobilise fire brigades in	
part - time stations	5:15
full-time stations	N/A
Percentage of attendabce at scenes where:-	
First attendance at scene within 10 minutes	38%
First attendance at scene within 20minutes	49%
First attendance at scene after 20 minutes	13%
Fire Prevention	
Total number of fire safety certificate applications	
Received	109
Processed	92
Total number of personnel - retained	67
No. of calls attended to from station	795
No. of false alarms received in station	19

Service Indicators - Environment	2002	2003	2004
Schools Particpating in Environment Campaign			
Primary			46%
Secondary			64%
Waste Regulation & Enforcement			
No. of Waste Permits issued	1	6	5
No. of renewal waste permits issued	Nil	4	1
No. of Section 18 Notices issued	56	21	47
No. of Section 55 Notices issued	5	3	7
No. of Section 34 Notices issued			2
Litter Prevention and Environment Enforcement			
No. of Litter Fines issued	241	221	273
No. of prosecution cases taken because of non payment of fines	53	35	11
No. of prosecutions secured			7
No. of full-time litter wardens	2	2	3
No. of part-time litter wardens			0
No. of litter wardens per 5,000 population			0.26
Litter complaints (excl. complaints directly to Litter Wardens)			341
Percentage of Areas within the local authority that are:			
Unpolluted i.e. litter free			9%
Slightly polluted with litter			49%
Moderately polluted with litter			27%
Significantly polluted with litter			11%
Grossly polluted with litter			4%
Bring Facilities			
No. of sites	20	41	37
Batteries, oils etc.	1	1	1
Environmental Complaints & Enforcement.			
Total no. of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)			472
No.of complaints investigated			466
No.of complaints dismissed			6
Enforcement procedures taken			56

Táscairí Seirbhísí - Seirbhís Dóiteáin	2004
Meánfad ama i nóiméid chun briogáidí dóiteáin a ghluaiseacht i stáisiúin pháirtaimseartha	5:15
stáisiúin lánaimseartha	N/A
Céadatán láithreachta ag suímh ina raibh:-	
An chéad láithreacht ag an suíomh laistigh de 10 nóiméad	38%
An chéad láithreacht ag an suíomh laistigh de 20 nóiméad	49%
An chéad láithreacht ag an suíomh i ndiaidh 20 nóiméid	13%
Cosc Dóiteáin	
Líon iomlán d'iarratas do theastais sábháilteachta dóiteáin	
Faighte	109
Próiseáil	92
Líon iomlán pearsanra-coimeádta	67
Líon na nglaonna ar freastalaíodh orthu ón stáisiún	795
Líon na mbréagrabhadh faighte sa stáisiún	19

Táscairí Seirbhíse - Comhshaol	2002	2003	2004
Scoileanna ag Glacadh Páirte i bhFeachtas an Chomhshaoil			
Bunscoileanna			46%
Iar-Bhunscoileanna			64%
Rialú agus Forfheidhmiú Dramhaíola			
Líon na gCeadanna Dramhaíola eisithe	1	6	5
Líon na gceadanna dramhaíola athnuachana eisithe	Náid	4	1
Líon na bhFógraí in Alt 18 eisithe	56	21	47
Líon na bhFógraí in Alt 55 eisithe	5	3	7
Líon na bhFógraí in Alt 34 eisithe			2
Cosc Bruscair agus Forfheidhmiú an Chomhshaoil			
Líon na bhFíneálacha Bruscair eisithe	241	221	273
Líon na gcásanna ionchúisimh a rinneadh mar gheall ar neamhíoc fíneálacha	53	35	11
Líon na n-ionchúiseamh daingnithe			7
Líon na Maor Bruscair lánaimseartha	2	2	3
Líon na maor bruscair pháirtaimseartha			0
Líon na maor bruscair sa 5,000 den daonra			0.26
Gearáin bhruscair (gan gearán díreach ag na Maoir Bhruscair a áireamh)			341
Céadatán na gCeantar laistigh den údarás áitiúil atá:			
Neamhthruaillithe i.e saor ó bhruscar			9%
Beagán truaillithe le bruscar			49%
Truaillithe go measartha le bruscar			27%
Truaillithe go suntasach le bruscar			11%
Truaillithe go hollmhór le bruscar			4%
Saoráidí Tabhair Leat			
Líon na láithreán	20	41	37
Ceallraí, olaí etc.	1	1	1
Gearán agus Forfheidhmiú an Chomhshaoil.			
An líon iomlán de chásanna faoi réir gearán a bhaineann le truailliú an chomhshaoil (a bhaineann le dramhaíl, bruscar, truailliú uisce, truailliú torainn, truailliú aeir)			472
Líon na ngearán imscrúdaithe			466
Líon na ngearán caite amach			6
Gnáthaimh Fhorfheidhmithe glactha			56

Water Services

Portlaoise Main Drainage

Work continued on the advancement of Portlaoise Main Drainage in 2004. The contract documents and Polluter Pays Report for the DBO (Treatment Works) received DoEHLG conditioned approval in 2004 and will be forwarded to the short listed consortia in early 2005. Contract documents for the network were prepared and sent to DoEHLG for approval. Negotiations with landowners for wayleaves for the laying of the Sewer Network were ongoing.
Advance work at the Stradbally Road was completed and the laying of a surface water sewer commenced on the Timahoe Road.

Schemes in Planning in 2004

Portarlington Water Supply Augmentation

The tender documents for the Main Scheme Stage I to develop a ground water source, storage reservoir and distribution network were forwarded to DoEHLG for approval. Tenders were received for a production well drilling contract.

Portlaoise Water Supply & Mountmellick Water Supply

The Preliminary Report for this scheme received DoEHLG approval. Laois County Council advertised for consultants for the advancement of this scheme.

Grouped Towns and Villages Scheme

Laois County Council advertised for consultants to prepare Design Review and tender documents for the Grouped Towns - Stradbally, Mountrath, Rathdowney, Clonaslee, Durrow and Abbeyleix - and to prepare Preliminary Report for the Grouped Villages - Castletown, Borris in Ossory, Ballinakill, Newtown, Doonane and The Swan.

Emo, Ballybrittas, Killenard Village Sewerage Scheme

The Design Review and Polluter Pays report was forwarded to DoEHLG for approval. A brief for the appointment of consultants has been forwarded to the DoEHLG for approval.

Portarlington Sewerage

Laois County Council have forwarded brief to DoEHLG for the appointment of consultants for this Scheme.

Mountmellick Sewerage Extensions

Revised plans were forwarded to the DoEHLG for approval to commence preparation of tender documents.

Small Water and Sewerage Schemes

The Council received a Capital Allocation of €500,000 for small schemes in 2004. This money together with internal resources funded the following schemes - Borris in Ossory Water Supply, Castletown Water Supply Imp., Rushin Road-Castletown Water Main, Meelick to Ballyroan Water Main, Clonin/Drim Water Source, Rosenallis-Shanbeg Water Main, Portarlington STP Upgrade, Ballyadams Reservoir, Cappalug & Killimy STP, Sewer at Bank Place, Clonkeen and Ballybrophy G.W.S. rail crossings.

Serviced Land Initiative

The Council received approval for expenditure under the S.L.I. scheme for Killenard Sewerage. A new treatment plant to cater for 2000 p.e. was completed in Ballylinan. Application has been lodged with the DoEHLG for funding under the scheme for Graiguecullen Pumping Station and Cushina Sewerage and Water Infrastructure.

Water Conservation

A water conservation study for the County has commenced with the aim of reducing unaccounted for water to DoEHLG guideline levels.

Water Service Pricing Policy

Laois County Council have identified all our non-domestic customers and have issued tender documents for the supply of meters. All non-domestic customers will be metered in 2005. The true cost of harnessing treating and distributing drinking water and collecting and treating waste water has been calculated.

Public Convenience

In 2004 the Council spent €62,000 on the maintenance of public toilets at Mountrath, Portlaoise and Stradbally.

Burial Grounds

An extension to Killenard Burial Ground was completed to provide 240 new grave spaces. Paths and Plinths were provided in Mountrath and Ballacolla cemeteries. In addition, a total of €56,000 was allocated to Voluntary Groups for the upkeep of Burial Grounds throughout the County.

The Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland, A report for the year 2003

In the report for year 2003 overall compliance with the drinking water standards in public water supplies was above average at 99.2%. Compliance with the faecal coliform standard in public water supplies was excellent in Laois during 2003 and faecal coliforms were not detected in any of the public water supplies during the year. All public water supplies in Laois were also fully in compliance with the standards for ammonium, nitrate, nitrite. odour, pH and turbidity. In general, compliance with the remaining parameters was high.

Reservoir at Ratheniska

Seirbhísí Uisce

Tascshorcóir ag Baile Arnaí

Príomh-Shruthchóras Phort Laoise

Leanadh le hobair maidir le cur ar aghaidh Phríomh-Shruthchóras Phort Laoise i 2004.Fuair na cáipéisí conartha agus Tuairisc "Íoc Mar a Thruaillítear" don DBO (Obair Cóireála) faomhadh coinníollaithe DoEHLG agus cuirfear ar aghaidh iad ag an gcuibhreannas gearrliostaithe go luath i 2005. Ullmhaíodh cáipéisí conartha don líonra agus cuireadh chuig an DoEHLG iad le faomhadh. Bhí idirbheartaíochtaí le húinéirí talún do chead slí maidir le cur síos an Líonra Sruthchórais ag leanúint ar aghaidh. Cuireadh críoch le hobair chur ar aghaidh ag Bóthar an tSráidbhaile agus tosaíodh ar chur síos séarach dromchla uisce ar Bhóthar Thigh Mochua.

Scéimeanna i bPleanáil i 2004

Breisiú ar Sholáthar Uisce Chúil an tSúdaire

Cuireadh na cáipéisí tairiscinte do Chéim 1 den Phríomh Scéim maidir le foinse uisce talún, taiscshorcóir agus líonra leithdháilte ar aghaidh ag an DoEHLG d'fhaomhadh. Fuarthas tairiscintí do chonradh druilleála tobar táirgthe.

Soláthar Uisce Phort Laoise & Soláthar Uisce Mhoointeach Milie

Fuair Réamh-Thuarascáil na scéime seo faomhadh an DoEHLG. D'fhógair Comhairle Contae Laoise chun chomhairligh a fháil do chur ar aghaidh na scéime seo.

An Scéim Bailte agus Sráidbhailte Grúpáilte

D'fhógair Comhairle Contae Laoise chun chomhairligh a fháil d'ullmhú Athbhreithnithe Deartha agus cáipéisí tairiscinte do na Bailte Grúpáilte - An tSráidbhaile, Maighean Rátha, Ráth Domhnaigh, Cluain na Slí, Darú agus Mainistir Laoise - agus chun an Réamh-Thuarascáil a ullmhú do Shráidbhailte Grúpáilte - Baile an Chaisleáin, Buiríos Mór Osraí, Ballinakill, Baile Nua, Doonane agus an Eala.

Scéim Séaracháis Ioma, Bhaile Briotas, Sráidbhaile Killenard

Cuireadh an tAthbhreithniú Deartha agus an tuarascáil "Íoc mar a Thruaillítear" chuig an DoEHLG le faomhadh. Cuireadh mionteagasc maidir le ceapadh na gcomhairleach ar aghaidh chuig an DoEHLG le faomhadh.

Séarachas Chúil an tSúdaire

Chuir Comhairle Contae Laoise mionteagasc ar aghaidh chuig an DoEHLG do cheapadh na gcomhairleach don Scéim seo.

Forleathanaithe Séarachais Móinteach Mílic

Cuireadh pleananna athleasaithe ar aghaidh chuig an DoEHLG le faomhadh maidir le tosú na gcáipéisí tairiscinte a ullmhú.

Scéimeanna Beaga Uisce agus Séarachais.

Fuair an Chomhairle Leithdháileadh Caipitil de €500,000 do scéimeanna beaga i 2004. Rinne an t-airgead seo in éineacht le hacmhainní inmheánacha na scéimeanna seo a leanas a chistiú- Soláthar Uisce Bhuiríos Mór Osraí, Soláthar Uisce Imp. Chaisleán an Bhaile, Bóthar Rushin - Príomh-uisce Chaisleán an Bhaile, Meelick go Príomh-uisce Baile Átha an Róine, Foinse Uisce Clonin/Drim Príomh-uisce Ros Fhionnghlas-Shanbeg, STP Chúil an tSúdaire, Taiscshórcóir Bhaile Arnaí, STP Cappalug & Killimy , Séarachas ag Plás an Bhainc, Crosaire Traenach G.W.S. Clonkeen agus Baile Uí Bhróithe.

Tionscnamh Talún Cothaithe

Fuair an Chomhairle faomadh do chaiteachas faoin Scéim TTC do shéarachas Killenard. Cuireadh monarcha chóireála i gcrích do 2000 p.e i Ballylinan. Leagadh iarratas do chistiú don DoEHLG faoin scéim do Stáisiún caidéalúcháin agus Creat Séarachais agus Uisce Cushina.

Caomhnú Uisce

Cuireadh tús le staidéar ar chaomhnú uisce don Chontae agus is í an aidhm aige ná uisce gan mhíniú a laghdú go dtí leibhéil threoirlínte an DoEHLG.

Polasaí Praghasála Soláthair Uisce

Shainaithin Comhairle Contae Laoise ár gcustaiméirí neamh-intíre uile agus tá cáipéisí tairscinte eisithe acu do sholáthar méadar. Déanfar custaiméirí neamhbhaile uile a méadarthomhas i 2005. Rinneadh fíorchostas uisce óil a chur ar fáil, a chóireáil agus a imdháileadh agus bailiú agus cóireáil uisce dramhaíola a áireamh.

Caoithiúlacht Phoiblí

I 2004 chaith an Chomhairle €62,000 ar chothabháil na leithreas poiblí i Maighean Rátha, Port Laoise agus an tSráidbhaile.

Reiligí

Cuireadh síneadh ar Reilig Killenard i gcrích chun 240 spás d'uaigheanna úra a sholáthar. Soláthraíodh Cosáin agus Pliontaí i reiligí Mhaighean Rátha agus Bhaile Cholla. Lena chois sin rinneadh iomlán de €56,000 a leithdháileadh chuig Grúpaí Deonacha do chóiriú Reiligí ar fud an Chontae.

Cáilíocht an Uisce Óil in Éirinn, Tuarascáil don bhliain 2003

Sa tuarascáil don bhliain 2003 bhí an comhlíonadh iomlán le caighdeáin an uisce óil i solarthaí poiblí uisce os cionn an mheáin ag 99.2%. Bhí an comhlíonadh maidir leis an gcaighdeán bachaillín drólannaigh faecaigh i soláthairtí poiblí uisce ar bharrfheabhas i Laois le linn 2003 agus ní bhfuarthas bachaillíní drónlannacha i gceann ar bith de na soláthairtí poiblí uisce le linn na bliana. Bhí na soláthairtí poiblí uisce i Laois de réir na gcaighdeán maidir le amóiniam, níotráit, nítrít, tuth, pH agus moirtiúlacht. Go ginearálta, bhí an comhlíonadh ard maidir leis na paraiméadair eile.

Rural Water Programme

A new Rural Water Monitoring Committee, which reviews and monitors progress on the Rural Water Programme was formed during the year. The following members were nominated to the Committee by the respective organisations/bodies.
County Council: Clr. John Bonham, Dick Miller, Michael Turley.
County Development Board: Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael Bergin.
County Community Forum: Michael J. Cobbe
County Federation of Group Water Schemes: Jackie Keyes, Leo Keville, Jimmy Walsh.
Five meetings of the Committee were held during 2004.

Capital Allocations under Rural Water Programme in 2004

Category	2004 Allocation
New Schemes/Upgrade of Schemes	€450,000
Take-over Upgrades Programme	€400,000
Bundling/DBO - Water Treatment	€250,000
Connect to Public Main	€100,000
Small Water & Sewerage Schemes	€500,000
Total	**€1,700,000**

New Schemes/Upgrade of Schemes

The following schemes were grant aided in 2004:

New Scheme	Grant €
Garryhedder	11,786
Rushin	27,705
Coolgorragh	2,726
Ballybrophy	187,176
The Rock	41,902
Rahavannagh	10,562
Kyletalisha	62,837
Dunmore Demesne	15,389
Vicarstown (No.2)	57,689
Ballycarnan	96,392
Clonmore	37,279
Clonkeen	113,452
Garrintaggert (No.3)	12,382
Coolnaboul	20,724

Upgrade of existing Schemes	Grant €
Cullohill	38,787
Heath	224,085

Total grant aid of €960,873 paid to 16 schemes serving 714 consumers.

Service Indicators

Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to:

- public schemes 99.2%
- private schemes(where appropriate) 95.2%

Take-over Upgrades Programme

Expenditure incurred on take-over upgrades was as follows:

Ratheniska	€69,750
Killenard	€436,353
Bundle of 5 Schemes (Ralish, Upper Crubbin, Kyleclonhobert, Clonreher Castlecuffe)	€87,721

Expenditure of €593,824 incurred on the upgrade of 7 schemes serving 729 consumers.

Water Treatment - Bundling/DBO

Laois County Council has joined with Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow and Kildare County Councils to form the South Leinster DBO Bundle for the provision and operation of water treatment facilities. The following schemes in Laois are participating in the Bundle.

Ballacolla	507 Connections
Ballypickas	78 Connections
Donaghmore	46 Connections
The Swan	371 Connections
Total	**1002**

The planning of the South Leinster Bundle Project has reached tendering stage and construction is scheduled to commence in mid 2005.In 2004 expenditure of €105,502 was incurred on advance works on the participating schemes including exploratory well drilling, land acquisition, installation of loggers and bulk meters. The balance of the 2004 allocation was transferred to meet the additional expenditure incurred on the Takeover Upgrades Programme.

Connect to Public Main

In order to eliminate water quality deficiency in the Barrowhouse scheme which has 64 consumers, an upgrade of the scheme to include serving it off the Ballylinan Public Scheme commenced in 2004. A grant of €90,069 was paid to the group in 2004 and the upgrade will be completed in early 2005.

Small Water and Sewerage Schemes

Scheme	Expenditure €	Grant €
Ballyadams Reservoir	50,310	37,733
Portarlington S.T.P.	26,412	17,406
Clonin/Drim Water Source	5,012	3,759
Rosenallis to Shanbeg Watermain	51,627	38,720
Rahin Road, Ballylinan	11,500	8,625
Cappalug & Killimy STP	219,098	164,323
Castletown WS	23,590	17,692
Meelick to Ballyroan Water Main	490	367
Borris-in-Ossory Water Supply	200,322	150,242
Sewer at Bank Place, Portlaoise	18,331	13,748
Rushin Road to Castletown Water Main	48,179	36,134
Clonkeen Railway Crossing WM	15,000	11,250
Total	**669,871**	**500,000**

Clár Uisce Tuaithe

Bunaíodh Coiste úr ar Mhonatóireacht Uisce Tuaithe, le linn na bliana, a athbhreithníonn agus a dhéanann monatóireacht ar an gClár Uisce Tuaithe. D'ainmnigh na heagraíochtaí/comhlachtaí faoi seach na comhaltaí a leanas don Choiste.
Comhairle Contae: Comhl. John Bonham, Dick Miller, Michael Turley.
Bord Forbartha Contae: Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael Bergin.
Fóram Pobail an Chontae: Michael J. Cobbe
Cónaidhm an Chontae ar Ghrúp-Scéimeanna Uisce: Jackie Keyes, Leo Keville, Jimmy Walsh.
Tionóladh cúig chruinniú Coiste le linn 2004.

Leithdháiltí Caipitil faoin gClár Uisce Tuaithe i 2004

Catagóir	2004 Leithdháileadh
Scéimeanna Úra/Uasghrádú na Scéimeanna	€450,000
Clár Uasghrádaithe Táthcheangail	€400,000
Cuachadh/DBO - Cóireáil Uisce	€250,000
Nasc chuig an bPríomhsholáthar Uisce	€100,000
Scéimeanna Beaga Uisce agus Séarachais	€500,000
Iomlán	**€1,700,000**

Scéimeanna Úra/Uasghrádú na Scéimeanna

Tugadh cuidiú deontais do na céimeanna seo a leanas i 2004:

Deontais Scéime	úir €
Garryhedder	11,786
Rushin	27,705
Coolgorragh	2,726
Baile Uí Bhróithre	187,176
An Charraig	41,902
Rahavannagh	10,562
Kyletalisha	62,837
Dún Mór Demesne	15,389
Baile an Bhoicáire (No.2)	57,689
Baile Cearnainn	96,392
Cluain Mhór	37,279
Cluain Chaoin	113,452
Garrintaggert (Uimh.3)	12,382
Coolnaboul	20,724

Uasghrádú ar Deontais na Scéimeanna atá ann cheana	
An Chúlchoill	38,787
An Fraoch	224,085

Iomlán de chuidiú deontais €960,873 íoctha do 16 scéim a fhreastalaíonn ar 714 tomhaltóir.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Céadatán de thorthaí anailíse uisce óil de réir riachtanas reachtúil maidir le:

- scéimeanna poiblí 99.2%
- scéimeanna príobháideacha (nuair is gá) 95.2%

Clár Uasghrádaithe Táthcheangail

Caiteachas tabhaithe ar uasgrádaithe táthcheangail mar a leanas:

Ratheniska	€69,750
Killenard	€436,353
Cuachadh de 5 Scéim (Ráth Lis, Crúibín Uachtarach, Kyleclonhobert, Clonreher Castlecuffe)	€87,721

Caiteachas €593,824 tabhaithe ar uasghrádú de 7 scéim a fhreastalaíonn ar 729 tomhaltóir.

Cóireáil Uisce - Cuachadh/DBO

Chónaisc Comhairle Contae Laoise le Comhairlí Contae Cheathairligh, Chill Chainnigh, Loch Garman, Chill Mhantáin agus Chill Dara chun Cuachadh DBO Dheisceart Laighean a bhunú do sholáthar agus feidhmiúchán saoráidí cóireála uisce. Tá na scéimeanna a leanas i Laois rannpháirteach sa Chuachadh.

Baile Cholla	507 Nasc
Ballypickas	78 Nasc
Domhnach Mór	46 Nasc
An Eala	371 Nasc
Iomlán	**1002**

Tá pleanáil Thionscadal Cuachta Dheisceart Laighean ag an gcéim thairiscinte faoi láthair agus tá tógáil le tosú i lár 2005. 1 2004 bhí caiteachas de €105,502 ar oibreacha chur ar aghaidh ar na scéimeanna rannpháirteacha lena n-áirítear druileáil thaiscéalaíoch tobair, sealbhú talún, feistiú logálaithe agus bulcméadair. Aistríodh fuílleach 2004 chun íoc as an mbreischaiteachas ar an gClár Uasgrádaithe Táthcheangail.

Nasc don Phríomhsholáthar Uisce

D'fhonn easpa i gcáilíochta uisce a dhíothú i Scéim Barrowhouse ag a bhfuil 64 custaiméir, thosaigh uasghrádú ar an scéim lena n-áirítear freastal uirthi ó Scéim Phoiblí Baile Uí Laigheanáin i 2004. Íocadh deontas de €90,069 don ghrúpa i 2004 agus beidh an t-uasghrádú críochnaithe i 2005.

Scéimeanna Beaga Uisce agus Séarachais

Scéim	Caiteachas €	Deontas €
Taiscshorcóir Bhaile Arnaí	50,310	37,733
Cúil an tSúdaire S.T.P.	26,412	17,406
Foinse Uisce Clonin/Drim	5,012	3,759
Ros Fhionnghlas go ShanbegPríomhuisce	51,627	38,720
Bóthar an Ráithín, Baile Uí Laigheanáin	11,500	8,625
Cappalug & Killimy STP	219,098	164,323
Baile an Chaisleáin WS	23,590	17,692
Meelick go Ballyroan Príomhuisce	490	367
Buiríos Mór Osraí Soláthar Uisce	200,322	150,242
Séarach ag Plás an Bhainc,Port Laoise	18,331	13,748
Bóthar Rushin go Baile an ChaisleáinPríomhuisce	48,179	36,134
Crosaire Traenach WM Chluain Chaoin	15,000	11,250
Iomlán	**669,871**	**500,000**

Operation and Maintenance Subsidy

The following payments were made to schemes in 2004:

Scheme	€	Scheme	€
Upper Crubbin	260.36	Knockahonagh	200.25
Graiguenahown	406.36	Ironmills	197.87
Ralish	1,015.90	Donaghmore	2,387.48
Garrintaggert 2	134.81	Aghmacart	507.90
Moyadd 2 (02)	203.18	Killeaney 01-03	4,571.10
Barrowhouse	5,182.14	Errill	9,143.85
Knockardagur	235.14	Ballinaclough	660.27
The Heath	24,630.38	Moyadd 2 (03)	203.16
Ballacolla (02)	27,160.15	Aghafin	1,523.70
Ballypickas	7,720.84	Ratheniska	2,832.23
	Total:	**€89,177.07**	

Water Quality in Group Schemes

Priority in the Rural Water Programme in 2004 continued to be placed on bringing water quality in existing group schemes to the standard required by the current Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption Regulations. This objective is being approached through:

- Participation of schemes in the South Leinster (DBO) Bundle for the provision of water treatment.
- Connection of privately sourced schemes to the public main where feasible.
- Take-over of the scheme by the Council.
- Capital funding for upgrades of schemes which have water quality problems.
- Fitting of Ultra Violet Water Treatment appliances on small group schemes with quality problems.

Monitoring Water Quality in Group Schemes

In addition to its statutory functions with regard to the monitoring of drinking water supplies, as provided for in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000, the Council's Laboratory also conducted its own Management Monitoring of Group Water Schemes during the year.

Ballacolla GWS members on a DBO fact-finding visit to County Monaghan Group Water Schemes. Such visits have proved useful in informing group schemes of what they might expect when entering DBO bundle projects.

Scéim Fhóirdheontais Feidhmiúcháin agus Cothabhála

Scéim	€	Scéim	€
Crúibín Uachtarach	260.36	Knockahonagh	200.25
Graiguenahown	406.36	Ironmills	197.87
Ralish	1,015.90	Dún Mór	2,387.48
Garrintaggert	2 134.81	Aghmacart	507.90
Moyadd 2 (02)	203.18	Killeaney 01-03	4,571.10
Barrowhouse	5,182.14	Eiréil	9,143.85
Knockardagur	235.14	Ballinaclough	660.27
The Heath	24,630.38	Moyadd 2 (03)	203.16
Baile Cholla (02)	27,160.15	Aghafin	1,523.70
Ballypickas	7,720.84	Ratheniska	2,832.23

Iomlán: €89,177.07

Cáilíocht Uisce i nGrúp-Scéimeanna

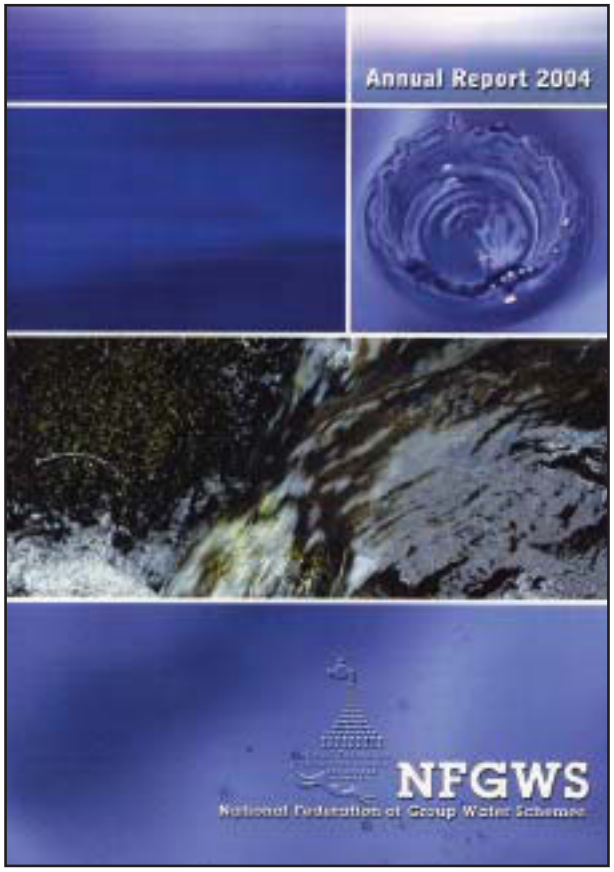
Lean an tosaíocht sa Chlár Uisce Tuaithe i 2004 de bheith ag iarraidh cáilíocht uisce i ngrúpscéimeanna a bhí ann cheana a thabhairt go dtí an caighdeán iarrtha faoina Rialúcháin um Cháilíocht Uisce Ceaptha d'Úsáid Daoine atá ann faoi láthair.

Táthar ag tabhairt faoin gcuspóir seo trí:

- Rannpháirtíocht scéimeanna i gCuachadh (DBO) Dheisceart Laighean do sholáthar cóireála uisce.
- Nasc de scéimeanna cistithe go príobháideach don phríomhsholáthar uisce nuair is féidir.
- Táthcheangal na scéime ag an gComhairle.
- Cistiú caipitil d'uasghrádaithe scéimeanna ag a bhfuil fadhbanna cáilíochta uisce.
- Féistiú fearais Chóiréala Uisce Ultraivialait ar ghrúpscéimeanna beaga le fadhbanna cáilíochta.

Ag Déanamh Monatóireachta ar Cháilíocht Uisce i nGrúp-Scéimeanna

Le cois a fheidhmithe reachtúla maidir le monatóireacha a dhéanamh ar sholáthairtí uisce óil, mar a sholáthraítear i Rialúchán (Uisce Óil) na gComhphobal Eorpach, 2000, rinne réadlann na Comhairle a Bainistíocht Monatóireachta féin ar Ghrúp-Scéimeanna Uisce le linn na bliana freisin.



2004 Tuarascáil Bhliantúil - Cónaidhm Náisiúnta ar Grúpscéimeanna Uisce

Planning and Transportation Policy

Chair: John Joe Fennelly MCC

Members:	Sectoral Interests:
David Goodwin, M.C.C.	Martin Keane
Michael Lalor, M.C.C.	John Keyes
Michael Turley, M.C.C.	Brian Bonham
Michael Rice, M.C.C.	John Kelly
Jerry Lodge, M.C.C.	
Jack Nolan, T.C.	

Director Of Services: Gerry Gibson
Senior Engineer, Roads: Mary White
Senior Planner: Peter Dolan
Senior Exectutive Officer: Martin Daly
A/Project Co-Ordinator: Mary Donohue

Report on Strategic Policy Committee

One meeting was held in March 04 and the following matters were examined:

- Draft Regional Planning Guidelines
- Policy on Industrial Sites
- Economic Strategy for Co. Laois
- Development of policy for provision of safe routes to schools
- Policy on development of orbital routes

Planning

The overall objective of the Planning Department is to implement the provisions of the Planning Acts and provide appropriate support measures in order to promote the physical, social and economical well being of the County so that living standards are protected and raised and work opportunities fostered and created having regard to the principles of sustainability. The Planning Department can be broken down into 3 separate areas (i) Control, (ii) Enforcement and (iii) Forward Planning.

Control

The number of planning applications received in 2004 was 1,641. However it should be noted that 363 of the total applications received were invalid and required the applicant to submit a new application. The following table gives a breakdown of **valid** planning applications received and decisions made during 2004 and the comparative figures for 2003.

	2003	2004
Number of valid applications received	1,206	1,279
Number of decisions made	1,080	1,286
Number of applications granted	978	1,135
Number of applications refused	102	151

2004 Performance

Invalid Applications returned to applicant	21.44%
Referrals to Area Office	14 working days

Customer Service Initiatives

The Planning Department is constantly endeavouring to improve the quality of their services to the public. A key part of this has been the introduction and upgrading of modern information systems to support staff dealing with the public. The first phase in this process commenced in January 2004 and involved the electronic scanning of planning applications which are linked to both the Internet and Intranet services of the County Council. This system enables both customers and staff alike to electronically view authorized planning information thereby improving the planning process.

The planning website has proved a very popular attraction with 465,138 planning page hits in 2004. The E-plan application which facilitates electronic viewing of planning applications has also become increasing popular as can be seen from the chart below.

Number of unique visits per month to E-Plan Website in 2004.

The E-plan site can be accessed through the main Council Website at www.laois.ie

Development Contribution Scheme

The Members of Laois County Council, in accordance with the provision of Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, approved the Development Contribution Scheme on the 8th of March 2004.

The approved scheme applies to the entire functional area of County Laois, has a 5 year duration and details of the scheme can be found on our website www.laois.ie

Polasaí Pleanála agus Iompair

Cathaoir: John Joe Fennelly MCC

Comhaltaí:
David Goodwin, M.C.C.
Michael Lalor, M.C.C.
Michael Turley, M.C.C.
Michael Rice, M.C.C.
Jerry Lodge, M.C.C.
Jack Nolan, T.C.

Earnálach:
Martin Keane
John Keyes
Brian Bonham
John Kelly

Stiúrthóir Seirbíse: Gerry Gibson
Innealtóir Sinsearach, Bóithre: Mary White
Pleanalaí Sinsearach: Peter Dolan
Oifigeach Sinsearach Feidhmiúcháin: Martin Daly
Comhordaitheoir A/Tionscadail: Mary Donohue

Tuarascáil ar Choiste an Pholasaí Straitéisigh

Tionóladh cruinniú amháin ar 4 Márta agus rinneadh scrúdú ar na ceisteanna a leanas:

- Dréacht-Treoirlínte ar Phleanáil Réigiúnach
- Polasaí ar Shuímh Thionscalaíocha
- Straistéis Eacnamaíoch do Chontae Laoise
- Forbairt ar pholasaí maidir le soláthar bhealaí sábháilte chuig scoileanna
- Polasaí ar Fhorbairt bhealaí fithiseacha

Pleanáil

Is í an aidhm fhoriomlán den Rannóg Pleanála ná fóralacha na nAchtanna Pleanála a chur i bhfeidhm agus bearta tacaíochta cuí a sholáthar d'fhonn folláine fhisciúil, shóisialta agus eacnamaíoch an Chontae a chur chun cinn sa dóigh is go ndéanfar caighdéain mhaireachtála a chosaint agus ardaithe agus deiseanna oibre a chothú agus a chruthú ag cur prionsabal inbhuanaitheachta san áireamh. Tig leis an Rannóg Pleanála a bhriseadh síos i 3 réimse aonair. (i) Rialú, (ii) Forfheidhmiú agus (iii) Rialú ar Chur ar Aghaidh Pleanála

Rialú

1,641 iarratas pleanála a fuarthas i 2004. Ba chóir á thabhairt faoi deara, áfach, go raibh 363 de na hiarratais a fuarthas neamhbhailí agus bhí ar an iarrthóir iarratas úr a chur isteach. Tugann an tábla thíos achoimre ar na hiarratais phleanála bailí a fuarthas agus cinntí a rinneadh le linn 2004 agus na figiúirí coibhneastado 2003.

	2003	2004
Líon na n-iarratas bailí a fuarthas	1,206	1,279
Líon na gcinntí a rinneadh	1,080	1,286
Líon na n-iarratas deonaithe	978	1,135
Líon na n-iarratas diúltaithe a	102	151

2004 Feidhmiúchán

Iarratais Neamhbhailí le cur ar ais ag an iarrthóir	21.44%
Atreoraithe go hOifig an Cheantair	14 lá oibre

Tionscnaimh Sheirbhíse do Chustaiméirí

Tá an Rannóg Pleanála de shíor ag déanamh a ndícheall caighdeáin a seirbhísí don phobal a fheabhsú. Bhí tabhairt isteach agus uasghrádú de chóras faisnéise nua-aimseartha chun cuidiú le foireann déileáil leis an bpobal mar phríomh-pháirt de seo. Thosaigh an chéad chéim sa phróiseas in Eanáir 2004 agus bhain sé le scanadh leictreonach d'iarratais phleanála atá nasctha le seirbhísí Idirlín agus Inlín araon na Comhairle Contae. Cuireann an córas Seoar chumas custaiméirí agus foireann araon amharc go leicreonach ar eolas pleanála údaraithe agus mar sin ag cur feabhas a chur ar an bpróiseas pleanála.

Tá an láithreán Gréasáin phleanála an-tarraingteach le 465,138 aimsithe de leathanaigh phleanála i 2004. Tá antóir tagtha ar iarratas E-plean chomh maith a éascaíonn amharc leictreonach ar iarratais phleanála mar atá le feicéail ón ngráf thíos.

Líon na gcuairteanna aonair sa mhí ar láithreán Gréasáin Eplean i 2004.

Is féidir teacht ar láithreán E-plean trí phríomh-láithreán Gréasáin na Comhairle ag www.laois.ie

An Scéim Rannaíocaíochta Forbartha.

Rinne Comhaltaí Chomhairle Contae Laoise, de réir fhoráil Ailt 28 den Acht um Pheanáil agus Fhorbairt 2000, an Scéim Ranníocaíochta Forbartha a fhaomhadh ar 8 Márta 2004. Baineann an scéim fhaofa le limistéar feidhme iomláin Chontae Laoise, tá fad 5 bliana aici agus is féidir mionsonraí na scéime a fháil ar ár láithreán Gréasáin www.laois.ie.

Service Indicators

Planning and Building Control

	Category			
	Individual Houses	Housing Development	Other: not requiring EIA	Other:requiring EIA
No. of appplications determined	581	126	571	8
% of complete applications determined within 8 weeks	88.63%	92.50%	95.53%	100%
Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)	73.1	81.66	75.42	76.33
% of grants	83.48%	80.16%	95.27%	62.50%
% of refusals	16.52%	19.84%	4.73%	37.50%
% of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	45.45%	36.84%	38.46%	0%
% of cases where the decision was varied by An Bord Pleanála	13.64%	42.11%	38.46%	0%
% of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	40.91%	21.05%	23.08%	0%

Enforcement

In December 2004 a stand alone Enforcement Section was established as a result of the financial resources secured in the annual Estimates. A number of complaints were received regarding unauthorised development and non-compliance with conditions attached to planning permission through the year and the following table gives a breakdown of the activities for 2004.

Service Indicators

Planning Enforcement	
• Total number of cases subject to complaints that are	
- investigated	79
- dismissed	0
• Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	41
• Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	18
• Number of Prosecutions	1
Public opening hours	
• Average number of opening hours per week	32.5
Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation	2.25 weeks

Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	12.88%

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Rialú Pleanála agus Foirgníochta

	Catagóir			
	Tithíocht Aonair	**Forbairt Tithe**	**Eile: EIA de dhíth**	**Eile: le EIA**
Líon na nlarratas a cinneadh	581	126	571	8
% na nlarratas líonta a chinneadh laistigh de 8 seachtainí	88.63%	92.50%	95.53%	100%
Meánfad ama a ghlacadh chun iarratas a chinneadh nuair a lorgaítear tuilleadh eolais (i laethanta)	73.1	81.66	75.42	76.33
% de dheontais	83.48%	80.16%	95.27%	62.50%
% de dhiúltaithe	16.52%	19.84%	4.73%	37.50%
% i gcásanna ina ndearbhaigh An Bord Pleanála an cinneadh	45.45%	36.84%	38.46%	0%
% i gcásanna ina ndearna An Bord Pleanála an cinneadh a éagsúlú	13.64%	42.11%	38.46%	0%
% i gcásanna ina ndearna An Bord Pleanála an cinneadh a aisiompair.	40.91%	21.05%	23.08%	0%

Forfheidhmiú

I mí na Nollag 2004, bunaíodh Rannóg Forfheidhmithe neamhspleách mar thoradh ar na hacmhainní airgeadais a dhaingníodh sna Meastacháin bhliantúla. Fuarthas roinnt gearán maidir le forbairt neamhúdaraithe agus déanann an tábla a leanas na gníomhaíochtaí do 2004 a bhriseadh síos.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Forfheidhmiú Pleanála • Líon iomlán na gcásanna faoi réir gearán atá - imscrúdaithe - caite amach • Líon na ngnáthamh forfheidhmithe glactha trí litreacha rabhaidh • Líon na ngnáthamh forfheidhmithe glactha trí fhógraí forfheidhmithe • Líon na nIonchúiseamh	 79 0 41 18 1
Uaireanta Oscailte don Phobal • Meánlíon d'uaireanta oscailte sa tseachtain	32.5
Meánfad ama ó iarratas chun dul i gcomhchomhairle le pleanalaí an údaráis áitiúil go dtí cruinniú forimiúil iarbhír do chomhchomhairle réamhphleanála	2.25 seachtainí

Foirgnimh iniúctha mar chéadatán foirgneamh úra curtha in iúl don údarás áitiúil	12.88%

Forward Planning

The Forward Planning Section is engaged in the formulation of planning policies to provide a framework for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Laois.

Consultations with public regarding Draft Development Plan

County Development Plan

The Current County Development Plan was adopted in 2000 and there were no variations to that Plan in 2004. In April 2004 work commenced on the review of the Development Plan and following intensive consultation with the public, various agencies and elected representatives a Draft County Development Plan was prepared and presented to the Members for their consideration in December 2004.

Urban and Village Renewal Programme 2000-2006

In 2004, Urban and Village Renewal projects were carried out in Portlaoise, Ballylinan, Ballyroan and Timahoe. The improvements to the towns and villages included development of amenity areas, planting of trees and shrubs and the development of focal points for local communities.

Town Renewal Scheme 2000

Properties within the towns of Mountrath, Mountmellick, Portarlington and Rathdowney have been designated for the purpose of Town Renewal Scheme.

Laois County Council continues to liaise with developers and property owners in order to achieve the maximum benefits from the Town Renewal Scheme.

Shop Front Grants Scheme

Grants were allocated to assist in carrying out works to enhance shop fronts.

Conservation Grants Scheme

During 2004, four Grants were allocated to property owners to assist in the conservation of protected structures.

Residential housing in Portarlington

Pleanáil ar Aghaidh

Tá Rannóg na Pleanála ar Aghaidh gafa i gceapadh polasaithe pleanála chun creat a chur ar fáil do phleanáil chuí agus forbhairt inbhuaineach Chontae Laoise.

An Plean Forbartha Contae

Glacadh leis an bPlean Forbartha Contae reatha i 2000 agus ní dhearnadh athruithe ar bith ar an bPlean sin i 2004. In Aibreán 2004 cuireadh tús le hobair ar athbhreithniú an Phlean Forbartha agus i ndiaidh comhcomhairle chuimsitheach leis an bpobal, gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla agus ionadaithe tofa ullmhaíodh Dréacht-Phlean Forbartha Contae a cuireadh i láthair do na Comhaltaí le cur faoina mbráid i Nollaig 2004.

Clár Athnuachan Cathracha agus Sráidbhailte 2000-2006

I 2004, rinneadh tionscadail Chlár Athnuachan Cathracha agus Sráidbhailte i bPort Laoise, Baile Laigheanáin, Ballyroan agus Tigh Mochua. Áiríodh leis na feabhsúcháin ar bhailte agus sráidbhailte forbairt ar láithreacha conláiste, cur plandaí agus róschrann agus forbairt ar phointí fócasacha don phobal.

Scéim Athnuachan Bailte 2000

Rinneadh maoine laistigh de bhailte Mhaighean Rátha, Mhoointeach Milie, Chúil an tSúdaire agus Ráth Domhnaigh a ainmniú do chuspóir na Scéime Athnuachana Bailte. Leanann Comhairle Contae Laoise d'idirchaidreamh a dhéanamh le forbróirí agus úinéirí maoine chun na buntáisí is fearr a fháil ón Scéim Athnuachan Bailte.

Scéim Deontas d'Eadain Siopaí

Rinneadh deontais a leithdháileadh chun cuidiú le hoibreacha a chur i ngníomh maidir le headain siopaí a threisiú.

Scéim Deontas Caomhnaithe

Le linn 2004, rinneadh ceithre Dheontas a leithdháileadh chuig úinéirí maoine chun cuidiú i gcaomhnú struchtúr cosanta.

Chónaitheacha i Móinteach Mílic

Roads

Laois County Council is responsible for and maintains the 2,278. km of roadway and 24km of motorway in the County.

In 2004, Laois County Council received a total allocation of €28,583,916 in respect of expenditure on National & Non-National roads in the County. Of this €1,373,816 was financed from the Council's own funds, with the remainder coming from the Department of the Environment Heritage & Local Government, and the National Roads Authority.

In line with previous years, Laois County Council carried out maintenance works on national, regional, and local roads in the County. These works include salting the roads during icy periods, drainage works, verge trimming, footpath repairs, erection and replacement of signs, relining, the provision of studs, bridge repairs and the replacement of safety barrier/fencing.

In 2004, under the Multi-Annual Roadworks Programme 2002-2005, strengthening and surface dressing works were carried out to Regional and County roads throughout the County. It is planned to review this multi-annual programme in 2005 to extend it for a further period.

New metric speed limits in Ballacolla

Projects

M7 Portlaoise to Castletown/M8 Portlaoise to Cullahill Motorway Scheme

The M7 Portlaoise to Castletown/M8 Portlaoise to Cullahill Motorway Scheme project is one of the five largest road projects in the country, consisting of 42km of motorway and requiring a total investment of €460 million. The M7/M8 scheme is one of eleven candidate Public Private Partnership (PPPs) schemes in the country.

Following an Oral Hearing, An Bord Pleanala confirmed, with modifications, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Motorway Order for the scheme in September 2004.

The contracts for Detailed Topographical Surveys and Detailed Ground Investigations were awarded in the latter end of the year.

Contracts will be awarded for the investigation in detail, of the archaeological potential along the route thus reducing the risk of potential delays during the construction period.

N7 Castletown to Nenagh

The N7 Castletown to Nenagh comprises of 36 km of high quality dual carriageway.
The scheme is currently at the Preliminary Design/Land Acquisition stage.
Site investigation works were carried out in 2004 and a final EIS report is due to be submitted to the NRA in early 2005.

M7 Heath Mayfield Motorway

The M7 Heath Mayfield Motorway was opened on Monday 8th November, 2004. The Motorway links the Kildare and Portlaoise bypasses. The opening of this key 17.5 km stretch of motorway is the final piece in the jigsaw that allows motorists to drive a continuous stretch of high quality dual carriageway and/or motorway all the way from Portlaoise to Dundalk. The project which cost €140 million was opened almost a year ahead of schedule and was made possible through partnership between Laois and Kildare County Councils. This motorway will improve road safety and will also facilitate the development of the National Transport Hub and Inland Port at Togher Portlaoise.

Portlaoise Northern Orbital Route (PNOR)

This road will connect the Mountmellick Road (N80) with the Dublin Road (R445) at its junction with the Carlow Road (R425), a total length of 5.3km. The County Manager's report recommending that the scheme proceed as proposed was accepted by the Council at it's January monthly meeting.

Portlaoise Western Circular Route (PWCR)

This road will connect the Mountmellick Road, N80 with the recently constructed roundabout at the junction of Fr. Browne Avenue and the Abbeyleix Road (R922). In 2004 the Clonminam Link between the Mountrath Road (R445) and Fr. Browne Avenue was started with the construction of a new roundabout off the Mountrath Road. Consultants were appointed to design and prepare contract documentation for the Clonminam Link scheme which includes the provision of a 22m. span skewed bridge crossing of the main Dublin-Limerick-Cork railway line.

Portlaoise

M7 Portlaoise Motorway Central Median Safety Barrier Retrofit Contract

In 2004, the National Roads Authority allocated €600,000 to provide a new central median safety barrier along the entire M7 Portlaoise By-Pass Motorway. The barrier was 80% completed in 2004.

Stradbally Road Resurfacing

The Stradbally Road (N80) from just beyond the entrance to the cemetery to the mini-roundabouts at St. Peter & Paul's church was completely resurfaced in 2004 and new footpaths and kerbs were provided.

New Roundabout

A Roundabout at the N80 Timahoe Road/Well Road/JFL Avenue was permanently installed at this busy location in 2004. The design and construction of this project was carried out by Laois County Council staff.

Bóithre

Tá Comhairle Contae Laoise freagrach as ach coimeádann sí caoi ar2,278 km de bhealaí agus 24 km de bhealaí sa Chontae.

I 2004, fuair Comhairle Contae Laoise leithdháileadh iomlán de € 28,583,916 i dtaca le caiteachas ar bhóithre Náisiúnta agus Neamh-náisiúnta. Den mhéid seo rinneadh €1,373,816 a mhaoiniú ó chiste na Comhairle í féin, agus tagann an fuílleach ón Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil, agus an tÚdarás um Bhoithre Náisiúnta. Ag teacht le blianta roimhe seo, rinne Comhairle Contae Laoise oibreacha cothabhála ar bhóithre náisiúnta, réigiúnacha, agus áitiúla sa Chontae. Áirítear leis na hoibreacha seo, salann a chur ar bhóithre ag tréimhsí oighreata, oibreacha draenála, maisiú bruacha, athchóirithe cósan, cur suas agus athsholáthar comharthaí, athlíneáil, soláthar stodaí, athchóirithe ar dhroichid agus athsholáthar de bhacainn/fálaithe sábháilteachta.

I 2004, faoin gClár Ilbhliantúil Oibreacha Bóithre 2002-2005, rinneadh oibreacha treisithe agus athleasaithe ar bhóithre Réigiúnacha agus Contae ar fud an Chontae. Tá sé pleanáilte athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an gClár Ilbhliantúil seo i 2005 chun é a shíneadh do thréimhse níos faide.

Tionscadail

M7 Port Laoise go Baile an Chaisleáin/M8 Port Laoise go Cúlchoille

Tá an Scéim Mótarbhealaigh M7 Port Laoise go Baile an Chaisleáin/M8 Port Laoise go dtí Chúlchoille ar cheann de na cúig thionscadal bóthair is mó sa tír, ina bhfuil 42km de bhealaí agus ar a bhfuil infheistiú iomlán de €460 billiún de dhíth. Tá scéim an M7/M8 ar cheann de na scéimeanna Comhpháirtíochta Príobháidí-Poiblí (CPP) d'aon cheann déag iarrthóra sa tír.

I ndiaidh Éisteacht Bhéil, dhearbhaigh An Bord Pleanála, le mionathruithe, an Ráiteas Tionchair Chomhshaoil agus an tOrdú um Mótarbhealaí don scéim i Meán Fómhair 2004.

Bronnadh na conarthaí do Shuirbhéanna Topagrafaíochta agus Bonn-Imscrúdaithe Mionsonraithe i bpáirt dheiridh na bliana.

Bronnfar conarthaí don imscrúdú mionsonraithe, faoin bhféidearthacht seandálaíochta ar an mbealach agus mar sin ag laghdú an baol maidir le féidearthacht moillithe le linn na tréimhse tógála.

N7 Baile an Chaisleáin go dtí an tAonach

Cuimsíonn N7 Baile an Chaisleáin go dtí an tAonach 36 km de dhébhealach ar ardchaighdeán.Tá an scéim ag céim Réamhdheartha/ Shealbhaithe Talún faoi láthair. Rinneadh oibreacha imscrúdaithe láithreán i 2004 agus tá tuarascáil EIS dheiridh le bheith curtha isteach ag an NRA go luath i 2005.

Mótarbhealach M7 Heath-Ghort na Bealtaine

Rinneadh Mótarbhealach M7 Heath - Ghort na Bealtaine a oscailt ar an Luan 8 Samhain, 2004. Nascann an Mótarbhealach seachbhealaí Chill Dara agus Phort Laoise. Tá oscailt an phríomhachair 17.5 km de mhótarbhealach seo ar an bpíosa deiridh de na hoibreacha a ligeann do ghluaisteánaithe tiomáint ar achar leanúnach de dhébhealach agus/nó mhótarbhealach ar ardchaighdeán i rith an bhealaighó Phort Laoise go Dún Dealgain. Rinneadh an tionscadal seo a chostas €140 milliún beagnach bliain chun tosaigh agus tharla sé mar gheall ar an gcomhpháirtíocht idir Chomhairlí Contae Laoise agus Chill Dara. Cuirfidh an mótarbhealach seo feabhas ar shábháilteacht bhóithre agus éascóidh sé forbairt an Lár-Iompair Náisiúnta agus an Chalafoirt Intíre ag Togher, Port Laoise.

Bealach Fithiseach Thuaidh Phort Laoise

Nascóidh an bóthar seo Bóthar Móinteach Mílic (N80) le Bóthar Átha Cliath (R445) ag a acomhal le Bóthar Cheatharlaigh (R425), achar iomlán de 5.3 km. Ghlac an Chomhairle tuarascáil an Bhainisteora Chontae a mhol go rachadh an scéim ar aghaidh mar a moladh ag a cruinniú míosúil in Eanáir.

Bealach Ciorclach Thiar Phort Laoise

Nascóidh an bóthar seo Bóthar Móinteach Mílic N80 leis an timpeallán ar tógadh le déanaí ag acomhal Ascaill An Athar de Brún agus Bóthar Mhainistir Laoise (R922). I 2004 cuireadh tús le Nasc Clonmimam idir Bhóthar Mhaighean Rátha (R445) agus Ascaill An Athar de Brún le tógáil timpealláin úir taobh le Bóthar Mhaighean Rátha. Ceapadh comhairligh chun na cáipéisí conartha a dhearadh agus a ullmhú do scéim Nasc Clonmimam lena n-áirítear soláthar droichid sceabha de réise 22m taobh le príomh-líne traenach Bhaile Átha Cliath-Luimnigh-Chorcaí.

Port Laoise

Sábháilteacht Lár-Airmheáin Mhótarbhealaigh Phort Laoise M7 Conradh Aisfheistithe Bacainní

I 2004, leithdháiligh an tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta €600,000 chun bacainn sábháilteachta lár-airmheáin úir a sholáthar ar Sheach-Mhótarbhealach Phort Laoise M7 go hiomlán. Bhí 80% den bhacainn i gcrích i 2004.

Athdheisiú Bhóthar na Sráidbhaile

Rinneadh Bóthar na Sráidbhaile (N80) thar bhealach isteach go dtí an reilig go dtí na miontimpealláin ag séipéal NaomhPeadar agus Pól a athdheisiú go hiomlán i 2004 agus soláthraíodh cosáin agus colbhaí úra.

Timpeallán Úr

Tógadh Timpeallán buan ag N80 Bóthar Tigh Mochua/Bóthar an Tobair/Ascaill JFL sa suíomh gnóthach seo i 2004. Ba í foireann Chomhairle Contae Laoise a rinne dearadh agus tógáil an tionscadail seo.

Timpeallán ag Bóthar Mhaighean Rátha, Port Laoise

Portarlington

Portarlington Land Use and Transportation Study

The final report of this study was presented to a joint Laois/Offaly Area Roads meeting in March 2004 at which it was accepted by the elected members of both Local Authorities. This study will now become the blueprint for development for the town of Portarlington.

Improvement Works

Significant Surfacing Improvement Works were carried out on various sections of the N7, N8, N80 and N78 throughout the County in 2004.
Specific Improvement Schemes were carried out at the following locations

- Pike of Rushall
- Kilmullen Bridge
- Western Circular (Clonminam Link), Portlaoise

Seven Low Cost Safety Improvement Work Schemes were carried out at various locations throughout the County. These schemes involve the provision of lighting, road markings and signs to improve road safety.

Public Lighting

A total of 3041 lights are maintained by the Council and in 2004 the cost was €438,905.00

Community Involvement in Roadworks Scheme

This scheme continued in 2004 and a total of 8 projects were successfully undertaken in conjunction with local communities.

Local Improvement Scheme

An allocation of €191,332 was received from the Department of the Environment in 2004 in respect of the above which financed 13 projects in the county.

Taxis and Hackneys

In 2004 Laois County Council has a total of 70 valid hackney licences and 7 limousines licences, and 57 taxi licences of which 10 are wheelchair accessible taxi licences.

Road Safety

School Wardens

Laois County Council has seven full time school wardens and one stand-by school warden which provide safe access to and from schools at busy locations throughout the County.

Safe Cycling Programme

In 2004, three National Schools took part in this programme, which ran over six weeks and provided 110 children with comprehensive training regarding all aspects of Cycling Safety.

Speed Limit Review

The speed limits were reviewed on a County-wide basis in 2004 and the new speed limit bye-laws were introduced in November 2004.

Casual Trading Bye-Laws

The introduction of Casual trading was examined in 2004. Meetings took place with elected members and submissions were sought from the public as to their views on the introduction of Casual trading into the County. Five submissions were received and it is planned to examine this issue further in 2005.

Portlaoise Parking Bye-Laws

Following both a public consultation process which commenced in 2003 and also, extensive meetings with elected members, the following changes to the existing bye-laws were introduced :

- Extension of pay & display parking to eight locations around the town and the provision of 13 additional Pay & Display machines
- Residents Permits now issued free of charge
- Abolition of fi hour free parking spaces
- Provision of additional Wheelchair Bay at Main Street.

The above changes came into effect on 1st September 2004.

Service Indicators

Local and Regional Roads Surface Dressed p.a.(m^2)	587,950m^2
% of local and Regional Road Surface dressed p.a.	5.9%

Cúil an tSúdaire

Staidéar ar Úsáid Talún agus Iompair i gCúil an tSúdaire

Cuireadh tuarascáil dheiridh an staidéir seo i láthair chuig comhchruinniú Bhóithre Limistéar Laoise/Uíbh Fhailí i Márta 2004 inar ghlac comhaltaí tofa an dá Údarás Áitiúil é. Beidh an staidéar anois mar ghormchló d'fhorbairt i mbaile Chúil an tSúdaire.

Oibreacha Feabhsúcháin

Rinneadh Oibreacha Feabhsúcháin Dromchlaí Suntasacha ar pháirteanna éagsúla den N7, N8, N80 agus N78 ar fud an Chontae i 2004.
Rinneadh Scéimeanna Feabhsúcháin Sainiúil sna suímh seo a leanas

- Pike of Rushall
- Droichead Kilmullen
- An Ciorclach Thiar (Nasc Clonminam), Port Laoise

Rinneadh seacht Scéimeanna Oibreacha d'Fheabhsúcháin Sábháilteachta a bhí íseal ó thaobh costais de ar fud an Chontae. Bhain na scéimeanna seo le soláthar soilsithe, marcanna agus comharthaí bóthair maidir le feabhas a chur ar shábháilteacht bhóithre.

Soilsiú Poiblí

Rinne an Chomhairle iomlán de 3041 solas a chothabháil i 2004 ar chostas €438,905.00.

Bainteacht an Phobail i Scéimeanna Oibreacha Bóthair

Leanadh den scéim seo i 2004 agus tugadh go rathúil faoi 8 dtionscadal i gcónasc le pobail áitiúla.

Scéim Feabhsúcháin Áitiúil

Fuarthas leithdáileadh €191,332 ón Roinn Comhshaoil i 2004 maidir leis an méid thuasluaite a mhaoinigh 13 tionscadal sa Chontae.

Tacsaithe agus Fruilcharranna

I 2004 bhí iomlán de 70 fruilcharr bailí ag Comhairle Contae Laoise agus 7 gceadúnas limisín, agus 57 ceadúnas tacsaí agus is ceadúnais tacsaí le rochtain chathaoireacha rothaí 10 gcinn acu.

Sábháilteacht ar Bhóithre

Maoir Scoile

Tá seacht maor scoile lánaimseartha ag Comhairle Contae Laoise agus maor scoile ar aire amháin a sholáthraíonn rochtain shábháilte chuig agus ó scoileanna ag suímh ghnóthacha ar fud an Chontae.

An Clár um Rothaíocht Shábhailte

I 2004, ghlac trí Scoil Náisiúnta páirt sa chlár seo, a bhí á reáchtáil ar feadh sé seachtainí agus a sholáthraigh oiliúint chuimsitheacha do 110 páiste maidir le gach cineál Sábháilteacht Rothaíochta

Athbhreithniú ar Luasteorainneacha

Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar luasteorainneacha ar fud an Chontae i 2004 agus tugadh na fodhlíthe luasteorainneacha úra isteach i Samhain 2004.

Fodhlíthe do Thrádáil Ócáideacha

Scrúdaíodh tabhairt isteach Trádáil Ócáidí i 2004. Bhí cruinnithe ann le comhaltaí tofa agus lorgaíodh aighneachtaí ón bpobal maidir lena dtuairmí ar thabhairt isteach Trádáil Ócáidí go dtí an Contae. Fuarthas 5 aighneacht agus táthar ag pleanáil tuilleadh scrúdaithe a dhéanamh ar an gceist seo a i 2005.

Fodhlíthe Páirceála Phort Laoise

I ndiaidh phróiseas comhairliúcháin phoiblí a thosaigh i 2003, agus cruinnithe cuimsitheacha le comhaltaí tofa chomh maith, tugadh na hathruithe a leanas isteach maidir le fodhlíthe a bhí ann cheana:

- Síneadh ar pháirceáil íoc agus taispeáin ag ocht suíomh thart ar an mbaile agus soláthar de 13 meaisín Íoc agus Taispeáin bhreise
- Ceadanna Cónaitheoirí eisithe saor in aisce anois
- Cealú spásanna páirceála fi uair saor in aisce
- Soláthar de Bhá Chathaoireacha Rothaí breise ag an bPríomhsráid.

Tháinig na hathruithe thuas i bhfeidhm ar 1 Meán Fómhair 2004.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Bóithre Aitiúla agus Réigiúnacha Dromchla Deisithe p.a.(m2)	587,950m2
% de Bhóithre Áitiúla agus Réigiúnacha Dromchla deisithe p.a.	5.9%

Laois County Development Board

Membership of the Board

A number of membership changes to the County Development Board took place in 2004. Its current membership is set out below:

Local Government

Ms. Mary Sweeney MCC, Laois County Council, Chair
Mr. Willie Aird MCC, Laois County Council
Mr. James Deegan MCC, Laois County Council
Mr. John Joe Fennelly MCC, Laois County Council
Mr. Brian Stanley MCC, Laois County Council.
Ms. Helen Hanson TC, Portlaoise and Mountmellick Town Councils
Mr. Gerry Gibson, County Manager

State Agencies

Mr. Nick Mernagh, Enterprise Ireland
Mr. Norman Black, MERTA
Chief Supt. Kevin Donohue, Garda Siochana
Mr. Con Feighery, Teagasc
Mr. Pat Campbell, FAS
Ms. Ann O'Keeffe, Laois VEC
Mr. Seamus Murray, Dept. of Education and Science
Ms. Bríd Moody, IDA Ireland
Mr. Denis Galvin, Dept. Social & Family Affairs
Mr. Aidan Waterstone, Midland Health Board

Local Development Agencies

Ms. Anne Goodwin, Laois LEADER Co.
Ms. Julia Booth, Laois LEADER Co.
Ms. Maria Callinan, Laois County Enterprise Bd.
Ms. Lena Ging, Laois County Enterprise Bd.
Ms. Diane Burke, Portlaoise Community Action Project
Mr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, Mountmellick Dev. Assoc.
Ms. Fionn Bardon, Laois County Childcare Cttee.

Social Partners

Mr. Eric Lewis, Community/Voluntary Sector
Mr. Brian Bonham, Community/Voluntary Sector
Mr. Michael Bergin, Farming & Agriculture
Mr. Teddy Fennelly, Employers & Business
Mr. William Moylan, Trade Unions

Director of Community and Enterprise Declan Byrne

During 2004, Laois County Development Board held six meetings. Work continued on overseeing the implementation of the Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy - Realising Our Potential and the Board published its Annual Report 2002 - 2003.
The County Development Board also endorsed the plans of Mountmellick Development Association S.I., Laois County Childcare Cttee, Portlaoise Community Action Project and Laois LEADER Co.
Presentations were made to the Board during the year by the following:

- Mr. Pat Keating, Midlands Regional Authority - Regional Planning Guidelines.
- Mr. Seamus Murray, Dept. of Education and Science - Midlands Regional Educational Office.
- Mr. Gerry Finn, Director, BMW Regional Assembly - National Development Plan - Regional Operational Programme.
- Ms. Marie Christie and Mr. Tom Everard, Teagasc - Anaerobic Digestive process.

In 2004, the Board made submissions on the Regional Planning Guidelines, Laois County Development Plan and the Mid Term Review of the Regional Drugs Strategy.

Task Groups of the Board

The partnership approach of the County Development Board process has been further enhanced by the establishment of a number of Task Groups, as follows:-

- Children's Task Group
- Safe Environment Task Group
- Education and Training Task Group
- Economic Development Task Group

Participants attending "Planning For Real" Training Seminar September 2004

Other areas of activity

During the year the Board continued to support the work of the Laois County Community Forum, Laois County Council Anti-Poverty Working Group, Laois Rural Regeneration Partnership, Laois TRIP, AEGIS, LABEL and other special project groups.

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIM)

The SIM Group is responsible for developing cohesion in the delivery of services to socially excluded groups. In 2004, a GIS mapped poverty profile of the county was developed. A Targeted and Integrated Plan for refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers was prepared, which was based on a survey of ethnic minorities in the county published by the Board in conjunction with the Midland Health Board and other agencies.

Bord Forbartha Chontae Laoise

Ballraíocht an Bhoird

Tharla roinnt athruithe ballraíochta ar an mBord Forbartha Chontae i 2004. Tá cur síos déanta ar an mballraíocht reatha thíos:

Rialtais Áitiúil

Mary Sweeney, Uas., MCC, Comhairle Contae Laoise, Chathaoir An tUas.
An tUas. Willie Aird MCC, Comhairle Contae Laoise
An tUas. James Deegan MCC, Comhairle Contae Laoise
An tUas. John Joe Fennelly MCC, Comhairle Contae Laoise
An tUas. Brian Stanley MCC, Comhairle Contae Laoise.
Helen Hanson Uas., TC, Port Laoise agus Móinteach Mílic Comhairlí Baile
An tUas. Gerry Gibson, Bainisteoir Contae

Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit

An tUas. Nick Mernagh, Fiontraíocht Éireann

An tUas. Norman Black, MERTA
Príomh-Maor. Kevin Donohue, Garda Síochána
An tUas. Con Feighery, Teagasc
An tUas. Pat Campbell, FAS
Ann O'Keeffe, Uas., GO Laoise
An tUas. Seamus Murray, Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta
Brid Moody, Uas., IDA Éireann
An tUas. Denis Galvin, Roinn Gnóthaí Sóisialta agus Teaghlaigh
An tUas. Aidan Waterstone, Bord Sláinte Lár na Tíre

Ghníomháireachtaí Forbartha Áitiúil

Anne Goodwin, Uas., Laois LEADER Co.
Julia Booth, Uas., Laois LEADER Co.
Maria Callinan, Uas., Bord Fiontraíochta Chontae Laoise.
Lena Ging, Uas., Bord Fiontraíochta Chontae Laoise.
Diane Burke, Uas., Tionscadal Gnímh Phobail Phort Laoise
An tUas. Patrick Fitzpatrick, Cumm.Forb.Móinteach Mílic
Fionn Bardon, Uas., Coiste Chúram Páistí Chontae Laoise

Páirtithe Sóisialta

An tUas. Eric Lewis, Earnáil Phobail/Dheonach
An tUas. Brian Bonham, Earnáil Phobail/Dheonach
An tUas. Michael Bergin, Feirmeoireacht & Talmhaíocht
An tUas. Teddy Fennelly, Fostóirí & Gnó
An tUas. William Moylan, Ceardchumainn

An Stiúrthóir Pobail agus Fiontraíochta Declan Byrne

Le linn 2004, bhí sé chruinniú ag Bord Forbartha Chontae Laoise. Leanadh d'obair mhaoirseachta ar chur i bhfeidhm na Straistéise Eacnamaíoch, Sóisialta agus Cultúrtha-Ag réadú Ár bhFéidearthachta agus d'fhoilsigh an Bord a Thuarascáil Bhliantúil 2002 - 2003.

D'fhormhuinigh an Bord Forbartha Contae pleananna Chumann Forbartha Móinteach Mílic chomh maith, Coiste Cúraim Pháistí S.I Laoise, Tionscadal Gnímh Phobail Phort Laoise agus Laois LEADER Co.
Rinne na daoine seo a leanas cur i láthair don Bhord le linn na bliana:

- An tUas. Pat Keating, Údarás Réigiúnach Lár na Tíre-Treoirlínte Pleanála Réigiúin.
- An tUas. Seamus Murray, An Roinn Oideachais agus Eolaíochta - Oifig Réigiúnach Oideachais Lár na Tíre
- An tUas. Gerry Finn, Stiúrthóir, BMW Tionól Réigiúnach - Plean Forbartha Náisiúnta -Clár Réigiúnach Oibriúcháin
- Marie Christie, Uas. agus An tUas. Tom Everard, Teagasc - Próiseas Dílea Anaeróbaigh

I 2004, rinne an Bord aighneachtaí ar Theoirlínte Pleanála Réigiúin, Plean Forbartha Contae Laoise agus Athbhreithniú Meántéarmach na Straitéise Réigiúnaí ar Dhrugaí.

Tascghrúpaí an Bhoird

Rinneadh tuilleadh treisithe ar chur chuige comhpháirtíochta phróiseas an Bhoird Forbartha Chontae trí bhunú roinnt Thascghrúpaí, mar seo a leanas:-

- Tascghrúpa na bPáistí
- Tascghrúpa ar Thimpeallacht Shábháilte
- Tascghrúpa Oideachais agus Oiliúna
- Tascghrúpa Forbartha Eacnamaíche

Réimsí eile Gníomhaíochtaí

Le linn na bliana lean an Bord le tacaíocht a thabhairt d'obair Fhóram Poiblí Chontae Laoise, Grúpa Oibre Frithbhochtaineachta Chomhairle ContaeLaoise, Compháirtíocht Athghiniúna Tuaithe, TRIP, AEGIS, LABEL Laoise agus grúpaí tionscadal speisialta eile.

Grúpa Oibre ar Bhearta Cuimsithe Sóisialta

Tá an Grúpa SIM freagrach as comhtháthú a fhorbairt maidir le seachadadh seirbhísí do ghrúpaí eisiata go sóisialta.I 2004, rinneadh próifíl bhochtaineachta mapáilte GIS a fhorbairt. Ullmhaíodh Plean Spriocaithe agus Comhtháthaithe do dhídeanaithe, lucht iarrtha tearmainn agus oibrithe imirceacha, a bhí bunaithe ar shuirbhé ar mhionlaigh eitneacha sa Chontae a d'fhoilsigh an Bord i gcónasc le Bord Sláinte Lár na Tíre agus gníomhaireachtaí eile.

Comhairle na nÓg

In 2004, two events were run for the under 12's (Comhairle na bPáisti) and the under 18's (Comhairle na nÓg) which included discussion groups on topics, activities, voting and a new webpage www.laois.ie/kidsword ! Some children were then chosen to represent Laois at national events. 1,000 children participated in an innovative childrens photo project "Childrens Lives in Laois"

Mayor Joe Digan and participants in Comhairle na nÓg in Clonaslee

Service Indicators

Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	42%

Laois Community Forum

Laois Community Forum began the year by distributing a 2004 information wallchart to every home in Laois. The County Community Forum Executive continued to meet monthly and nominated representatives to 17 organisations in Laois including the County Development Board. Elections were held in June and July and the new 18 member Forum was elected for a five year period. 336 community and voluntary groups were registered with the Forum in 2004.

The Forum organised the County Development Plan review process and the Triad Town Priority lists as well as making an input on 'Bridging the Gap'. Capacity building training was delivered to community groups including democracy training, committee skills and 'Planning for Real.' The Forum were active in developing the new group 'Laois Disability Action Group'. Two successful networking seminars were held with the VEC and the Arts Office to promote community education and lifelong learning.

Second Level Schools Programme

The third year of the educational initiative programme offered transition year classes the chance to attend a Council meeting, find out about how the Council works and see civic amenities such as the landfill site, water works and fire station. Classes also got an opportunity to visit the Dáil. A new programme, the 'Know Your County' tour was piloted to foster local pride.

Cathaoirleach William Aird and children from primary schools throughout the county at Comhairle na nÓg event held on 3rd Dec 2004.

Comhairle na nÓg

I 2004, reáchtáladh dhá ócáid do pháistí faoi 12 (Comhairle na bPáistí) aguslfaoi 18 (Comhairle na nÓg) ina raibh grúpaí plé topaicí, ghníomhaíochtaí, vótáil agus leathanach gréasáin úir www.laois.ie/kidsword ! Roghnaíodh roinnt páistí ansin chun seasamh do Laois ag ócáidí náisiúnta. Ghlac 1,000 páistí páirt i dtionscadal nuálaíocht griangráf páistí "Saolta Páistí i Laois"

Clár Scoileanna Dara Leibhéal

Thairg an 3ú bliain den chlár tionscnaimh oideachais ranganna na hidirbhliana an seans chun freastal ar chruinniú Comhairle, an dóigh ina n-oibríonn an Chomhairle a fháil amach agus conláistí cathracha a fheiceáil cosúil leis an láithreán líonta talún, oibreacha uisce agus stáisiún dóiteáin. Tugadh deis do ranganna cuairt a thabhairt ar an Dáil chomh maith. Rinneadh clár úr, turas 'Bíodh eolas agat ar do Chontae' a phíolótú chun bród na háite a chothú.

Cuairt na nÓige mar pháirt den Chomhpháirtíocht Oideachasúil

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Céadatán de scoileanna áitiúla bainteach iscéim na Comhairle Óige áitiúil Scéim Comhairle na nÓg	42%

Fóram Pobail Laoise

Thosaigh Fóram Pobail Laoise an bhliain trí chairtbhalla eolais 2004 a imdháileadh chuig gach baile i Laois. Lean Feidhmeannas Fóram Poiblí an Chontae ar theacht le chéile go míosúil agus d'ainmnigh siad ionadaithe do 17 eagraíocht i Laoise, an Bord Forbartha Contae ina measc. Bhí toghcháin ann i Meitheamh agus in Iúil agus toghadh an Fóram úr le 18 gcomhalta le haghaidh tréimhse cúig bliana.Cláraíodh 336 grúpa pobail agus deonacha leis an bhfóram i 2004.

D'eagraigh an Fóram próiseas athbhreithnithe an Phlean Forbartha Contae agus liostaí Tosaíochtaí na dTriadbhailte chomh maith le ionchur a dhéanamh ar 'Bridging the Gap' . Rinneadh oiliúint a sheachadadh do ghrúpaí pobail acmhainne-thógtha lena n-áirítear oiliúint daonlathais, scileanna coiste agus 'Ag Pleanáil go Réadach'. Bhí an Fóram gníomhach maidir le forbairt an ghrúpa úr 'Grúpa Gnímh Laoise do Dhaoine faoi Mhíchumas. Tionóladh dhá sheimineár líonraithe an-rathúil leis an GO agus Oifig na nEaloíona chun oideachas pobail agus foghlaim fhadsaoil a chur chun cinn.

Caint ar sheirbhísí dóiteáin le Comhairle

Financial Management

A/Head of Finance: Gerry Murphy

A/Financial/Management Accountant: Roisin Walsh

Rates

For the year 2004 the rate collection achieved was 92%. The Ratable Value Multiplier for 2004 was 54.1978 and in respect of Town Charges was:

Town	
Portlaoise:	1.7209
Mountmellick:	2.176

Water Charges

The total number of commercial users in 2004 was 1847 of which 1517 were metered and the remaining 330 were charged on the basis of rateable valuation.
The charge for metered water is €4.70 per 1000 gallons or €1.04 per 1000 litres. In addition a Meter Rental of €50.00 per year is payable.

Prompt Payments of Accounts

Following the introduction of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act as amended by the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002, commercial suppliers are entitled to payment of interest on amounts owed to them after

a) the date specified under the terms of a written contract or
b) 30 days from receipt of the invoice or delivery of goods, whichever is the later, where there is no written contract or if the contract does not specify a payment date

Laois County Council complies with the terms of the Prompt Payments Act as amended.
Laois County Council did not pay any late payment interest in 2004.

Service Indicators

Housing Loans	
(a) Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	92%
(b)Percentage of arrears:	
(i) 1 month old	16%
(ii) 2 - 3 months old	18%
(iii) more than 3 months old	66%
Commercial Rates	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	92%
Refuse Charges	
Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end	N/A
Non-Domestic Water Charges	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due	70%

Motor Taxation

General

The Motor Tax Department continues to provide a public service widely availed of by the public. The introduction of the NVDF (National Vehicle Driver File) system caters for all motor tax and driver licences.

Vehicle Licences

The total receipts for 2004 was €10,750,103.70 compared to €10,343,765.50 in 2003. The number of vehicle licences (discs) issued in 2004 was 52,509 compared to 53,296 in 2003.

Driving Licences

Receipts for year 2004 were €124,650 (including duplicates) compared with €150,750 for 2003. The number of driving licences issued in 2004 was 7,805 compared with 9,111 in 2003.
A Theory Test is mandatory for all first applicants for provisional licences. The telephone number to call for a test is 1890 606 106.

Vehicle Testing

Certificates of Roadworthiness for commercial/goods vehicles were issued in respect of 3076 vehicles during the year. From 1st June 2004, all Light Goods Vehicles require a D.o.E.H.L.G. test every year.

NCT Test (National Car Testing)

Testing of private vehicles is ongoing since January 2000. The Laois Centre is at Lismard Business Centre, Timahoe Road, Portlaoise. Initial test is after 4 years then every 2 years thereafter. Vintage cars are only exception to this test.

Customer Service

Use of the credit card facility is well established. Every effort is made at all times to minimise delays in processing data. The facility of on-line taxing will be a further step in simplifying renewal of taxation.
Hours of Opening: 9 am to 3.30 pm Monday to Friday including lunch time.

Service Indicators

Percentage of Motor Tax transactions which		
• are dealt with over the customer	66.79%	
• are dealt with by post	33.21%	
• are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	0	
Number of postal applications and % of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc / driver licence issued) from receipt of the application:		
(a) on the same day	10364	55.61%
(b) on the third day or less	1572	8.44%
(c) on the fifth day or less	4437	23.81%
(d) over 5 days	2263	12.14%
Number of public opening hours per week	32.5	

Bainistíocht Airgeadais

Ceannaire Airgeadais: Gerry Murphy

Cuntasóir Airgeadais/Bainistíochta: Roisin Walsh

Rátaí

Ba é an bailiúcháin rátaí a fuarthas don bhliain 2004 ná 92%.Ba é an tIolraitheoir Luacha Inrátáilte do 2004 ná 54.1978 agus maidir le Muirir Bhailte ná:

Baile

Port Laoise:	1.7209
Móinteach Mílic:	2.176

Muirir Uisce

Ba é an líon iomlán d'úsáideoirí tráchtála i 2004 ná 1847 a rinneadh 1517 acu a mhéadarthomhas agus rinneadh an 330 eile a ghearradh ar bhun luachála inrátáilte. Ba é an muirear d'uisce méadarthomhaiste ná €4.70 sa 1000 galún. Lena chos sin, tá Cíosú Méadair de €50.00 sa bhliain iníoctha.

Íocaíocht Pras ar Chuntais

I ndiaidh tabhairt isteach an Achta um Íocaíocht Pras ar Chuntais faoi arna leasú ag Rialúcháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Íocaíocht Dhéanaí i mBearta Tráchtála) 2002, tá soláthraithe tráchtála i dteideal íocaíochtaí úis ar mhéideanna dlite dóibh i ndiaidh

a) an dáta sonraithe faoi théarmaí conartha scríofa nó
b) 30 lá ón sonrasc a fháil nó ó sheachadadh na n-earraí, cibé ceann is déanaí, nuair nach bhfuil conradh scríofa ar bith nó mura sonraíonn an conradh dáta íocaíochta

Géilleann Comhairle Contae Laoise le téarmaí an Achta um Íocaíocht Pras ar Chuntais faoi mar a leasaíodh. Níor íoc Comhairle Contae Laoise ús íocaíochta déanaí ar bith i 2004.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Iasachtaí tithíochta

(a) Méid bailithe ag deireadh na bliana mar chéadatán den mhéid dlite	92%
(b) Céadatán riaráistí:	
(i) 1 mí d'aois	16%
(ii) 2 - 3 mhí d'aois	18%
(iii) níos mó ná 3 mhí d'aois	66%

Rátaí Tráchtála

(b) Méid bailithe ag deireadh na bliana mar chéadatán den mhéid dlite	92%

Muirir Bruscair

Céadatán na líonta tí ag íoc costais mhuirear ag deireadh na bliana N/A

Costais Uisce Neamh-Bhaile

(c) Méid bailithe ag deireadh na bliana mar chéadatán den mhéid dlite	70%

Cánachas Gluaisteán

Ginearálta

Leanann an Rannóg Cánachais Ghluaisteán le seirbhís phoiblí a úsáideann an pobal go forleathan a chur ar fáil. Freastalaíonn tabhairt isteach chóras an NVDF (Comhad Náisiúnta Tiománaithe Feithiclí) do mhótarcháin agus ceadúnais tiomána uile.

Ceadúnais Feithiclí

Ba é iomlán na n-adhmhálacha do 2004 ná €10,750,103.70 i gcomparáid le €10,343,765.50 i 2003. Ba é líon na gceadúnais feithiclí (dioscanna) eisithe i 2004 ná 52,509 i gcomparáid le 53,296 in 2003.

Ceadúnais Tiomána

Ba iad na hadhmhálacha don bhliain 2004 ná €124,650 (dúblaigh san áireamh) i gcomparáid le €150,750 do 2003. Ba é an lion na gceadúnais tiomána eisithe i 2004 ná 7,805 i gcomparáid le9,111 i 2003.
Tá Tástáil Teoirice sainordaitheach do gach céad iarrthóra le haghaidh ceadúnas sealadach. Is é an uimhir theileafóin chun glao le haghaidh tástála ná 1890 606 106.

Tástáil Feithiclí

Rinneadh Deimhnithe Ródacmhainneachta d'fheithiclí tráchtála/earraí a eisiúint maidir le 3076 feithicil le linn na bliana. Ó 1 Meitheamh 2004, ní mór tástáil D.o.E.H.L.G a bheith ag Feithiclí Earraí Éadroma gach bliain.

Tástáil Náisiúnta Carranna

Tá tástáil ar fheithiclí phríobháideacha ag dul ar aghaidh ó Eanáir 2002. Tá Ionad Laoise ag Ionad Gnó Lismard, Bóthar Thigh Mochua, Port Laoise. Tá an tústástáil i ndiaidh4 bliana agus ansin 2 bhliain ó sin amach. Tá carranna seanré mar eisceacht don tástáil seo.

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí

Tá úsáid saoráid na gcartaí creidmheasa bunaithe go maith. Tá gach iarracht á déanamh chun an méid is lú moille a bheith ann maidir le sonraí a phróiseáil. Beidh saoráid na cánach ar líne mar chéim eile chun athnuachan cánachais a shimpliú.
Uaireanta ar Oscailte: 9 am go 3.30 pm Luan go hAoine am lóin san áireamh.

Táscairí Seirbhíse

Céadatán bearta Mótarchánach

• a dhéileáiltear leo leis an gcustaiméir	66.79%
• a dhéileáiltear leo tríd an bpoist	33.21%
• a dhéileáiltear leo i mbealaí eile (e.g. ar líne, tríd an teileafón)	0

Líon an n-iarratas poist agus céadatán d'iarratais phoist san iomlán a dhéileáiltear leo le (ceadúnas diosc/tiománaí eisithe) ón iarratas a fháil:

(a) ar an lá céanna 10364 55.61%
(b) ar an tríú lá nó níos lú 1572 8.44%
(c) ar an cúigiú lá nó níos lú 4437 23.81%
(d) os cionn 5 lae 2263 12.14%

Líon uaireanta ar oscailt sa tseachtain 32.5

Annual Financial Statement

Revenue Account

Expenditure by Programme Group	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
Housing & Building	7,437,458	5,764,134	1,673,324
Road Transportation & Safety	15,497,193	9,211,173	6,286,020
Water Supply & Sewerage	5,667,389	1,979,831	3,687,558
Development Incentives & Controls	2,621,345	1,698,408	922,937
Environmental Protection	7,348,626	6,193,980	1,154,646
Recreation and Amenity	2,610,857	540,313	2,070,544
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	3,673,282	2,976,204	697,078
Miscellaneous Services	4,298,128	1,900,868	2,397,260
Total Expenditure/Receipts	49,154,278	30,264,911	

Net Cost of Programmes to be funded from County Rates and Local Government	18,889,367
Local Government Fund	14,627,815
County Rates	5,871,264
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year before Transfers	1,609,712
Transfers from / (to) Reserves	(972,739)
Overall Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	636,973
General Reserve at 1st January	1,286,477
General Reserve at 31st December	(650,504)

Capital Account

Expenditure by Programme Group	Expenditure	Income
Housing & Building	33,122,048	31,116,990
Road Transportation & Safety	14,363,449	15,323,110
Water Supply & Sewerage	5,262,796	8,257,959
Development Incentives and Controls	507,137	3,174,168
Environmental Protection	3,480,652	1,572,434
Recreation and Amenity	370,070	1,377,548
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare		
Miscellaneous Services	3,367,554	351,952
Total Expenditure/Receipts	60,473,706	61,174,161
Surplus / (Deficit) for Year	700,455	
Balance at 1st January	(3,262,045)	
Balance at 31st December	(2,561,590)	

Ráiteas Bliantúil Airgeadais

Cuntas Airgeadais

Caiteachas ag Grúpa Cláir	Caiteachas	Adhmhálacha	Glanchaiteachais
Tithíocht agus Foirgníocht	7,437,458	5,764,134	1,673,324
Iompar agus Sábháilteacht ar Bhóithre	15,497,193	9,211,173	6,286,020
Soláthar Uisce & Séarachas	5,667,389	1,979,831	3,687,558
Spreagthaí agus Rialúcháin Forbartha	2,621,345	1,698,408	922,937
Cosaint an Chomhshaoil	7,348,626	6,193,980	1,154,646
Caitheamh Aimsire agus Conláistí	2,610,857	540,313	2,070,544
Talamhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte & Leas	3,673,282	2,976,204	697,078
Seirbhísí Ilghéitheacha	4,298,128	1,900,868	2,397,260
Admhálacha/Caiteachas Iomlán	49,154,278	30,264,911	

Glanchostas Clár le cistiú ó Rátaí Contae agus Rialtas Áitiúil	18,889,367
Cistiú Rialtais Áitiúil	14,627,815
Rátaí Contae	5,871,264
Fuílleach/(Easnamh) don Bhliain roimh Aistrithe	1,609,712
Aistrithe ó/(go) Cúlchistí	(972,739)
Fuílleach/(Easnamh) san iomlán don Bhliain	636,973
Cúlchiste Ginearálta ag 1 Eanáir	1,286,477
Cúlchiste Ginearálta ag 31 Nollaig	(650,504)

Cuntas Caipitil

Caitheachas ag Grúpa Cláir	Adhmhálacha	Caiteachais
Tithíocht agus Foirgníocht	33,122,048	31,116,990
Iompar agus Sábháilteacht ar Bhóithre	14,363,449	15,323,110
Soláthar Uisce & Séarachas	5,262,796	8,257,959
Spreagthaí agus Rialúcháin Forbartha	507,137	3,174,168
Cosaint an Chomhshaoil	3,480,652	1,572,434
Caitheamh Aimsire agus Conláistí	370,070	1,377,548
Talmhaíocht, Oideachas, Sláinte & Leas		
Seirbhísí Ilghéitheacha	3,367,554	351,952
Admhálacha/Caiteachas Iomlán	60,473,706	61,174,161
Fuílleach / (Easnamh) don Bhliain	700,455	
Iarmhéid ag 1 Eanáir	(3,262,045)	
Iarmhéid ag 31 Nollaig	(2,561,590)	

Portlaoise Town Council

Manager: Gerry Murphy
Town Clerk: Fiona Purcell
Town Engineer: Tom O'Carroll

Elections June 2004

The Local Elections took place on Friday June 11th 2004. Three members of the outgoing Council decided not to seek re-election. Thirteen candidates in all contested the Election with the following members being elected, Cllrs: Brian Stanley, William Aird, Tom Jacob, Jerry Lodge, Kathleen O'Brien, Catherine Fitzgerald, Rotimi Adebari, Mary Sweeney (Née Scully) and Jack Nolan. Six of the outgoing Council were re-elected and three new Councillors elected.

Annual General Meeting

At the A.G.M. of Portlaoise Town Council, held on Tuesday 21st June, 2004, Councillor Kathleen O'Brien was elected as Mayor. Councillor Tom Jacob was elected as Vice Mayor.

Representation on Boards/Committees

County Development Board - Councillor Brian Stanley
Economic Development and County Promotion Strategic Policy Committee - Councillor Rotimi Adebari
Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee - Councillor Brian Stanley

Mermbers of Portlaoise Town Council with President Mary McAleese at bicentenary celebrations for St.Peters Church.

Monthly Meetings

The first Tuesday of each month.

Main Services Provided

Housing maintenance and repair, School Meals, School Warden Service, Community and Environmental Initiatives, Public Convenience, Civic Receptions and Town Twinning.

Budget 2004 - €96,017

In 2004 the Town Council provided support to the following:

- Portlaoise Tidy Towns
- The following groups under the Community/ Environmental Fund:
  St. Joseph's Accordian Band
  Portlaoise Tidy Towns Committee
  National Association for Parent Support
  St. Mary's C.B.S (Zambian Immersion Project Team)
  O'Moore Place Childcare
  St. John's Square Residents Association
  Computer Recycling Services
  Cherrygrove Residents Committee
  Rossvale Residents Assoc.
  Portlaoise Soccer Club
  Portlaoise Swimming Pool Committee
  "Active Age" Club

Highlights During 2004

Health and Education Services in Portlaoise
The Town Council continued to strongly support the development and improvement of the health and education services in the area.

Other Activities

- The IDA and Enterprise Ireland were lobbied for increased employment opportunities in Portlaoise.
- The Town Council supported the continuing efforts to attract investment in new industry in Portlaoise through regular correspondence to the Department of Enterprise and Employment.
- Co-operation with the Gardaí was strengthened through their attendance at Town Council Meetings.
- The Town Council supported and welcomed various developments in Portlaoise, particularly:
  (1)Public, Voluntary and Affordable Housing Developments
  (2)Road and footpath improvements throughout the town
  (3)Development of the Arts and a pageant, art com petition and exhibition for the bicentenary of St Peter's Church of Ireland.
  (4) Improvement of the service by Iarnrod Eireann to Portlaoise.

Conferences

The Town Council supported and was represented at the following conferences:

- The Annual Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland
- The Annual Seminar of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland.

Comhairle Baile Phort Laoise

Bainisteoir: Gerry Murphy
Cléireach Baile: Fiona Purcell
Innealtóir Baile: Tom O'Carroll

Toghcháin Meitheamh 2004

Bhí na toghcháin áitiúla ar an Aoine 11 Meitheamh 2004. Chinn trí chomhalta den Chomhairle amach nach raibh siad ag dul ag lorg atofa. Bhí 13 iarrthóir ar fad sa Toghcháin agus toghadh na comhairleoirí a leanas, Comhl: Brian Stanley, William Aird, Tom Jacob, Jerry Lodge, Kathleen O'Brien, Catherine Fitzgerald, Rotimi Adebari, Mary Sweeney (Née Scully) agus Jack Nolan. Athoghadh seisear den Chomhairle agus toghadh trí Chomhairleoir úra.

Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil

Ag A.G.M. Chomhairle Baile Phort Laoise, a tionóladh ar an Máirt 21 Meitheamh 2004, toghadh an Comhairleoir Kathleen O'Brien mar Mhéara. Toghadh an Comhairleoir Tom Jacob mar Leas-Mhéara.

Ionadaíocht ar Bhoird/Choistí

Bord Forbartha Contae - Comhairleoir Brian Stanley
Coiste Polasaí Straitéisigh ar Fhorbairt Eacnamaíoch agus Cur chun Cinn an ChontaeCoiste Polasaí - Comhairleoir Rotimi Adebari
Coiste Polasaí Straitéisigh ar Thithíocht Sóisialta agus Chultúrtha-Comhairleoir Brian Stanley

Cruinnithe Míosúla

An chéad Máirt de gach mí.

Príomhsheirbhísí Curtha ar Fáil

Cothabháil agus athchóiriú tithe, Béilí Scoile, Seirbhís Maoir Scoile, Tionscaimh Phobail agus Chomhshaoil, Caoithiúlacht Phoiblí, Fáiltithe Cathracha agus Cúpláil Bailte.

Buiséad 2004 - €96,017

I 2004 chur an Chomhairle Baile tacaíocht ar fáildóibh seo a leanas:

- Bailte Slachtmhara Phort Laoise
- Na grúpaí seo a leanas faoin gCiste Pobail/Comhshaoil:
  Banda Cairdín Naomh Seosamh
  Comórtas Bailte Slachtmhara Phort Laoise
  Cumann Náisiúnta um Thacaíocht Tuismitheora
  C.B.S Mhuire (Foireann Tumthionscadail Shaimbia)
  Cúram Leanaí Phlás Uí Mordha
  Cumann Cónaitheoirí Chearnóg Naomh Eoin
  Seirbhís Athchúrsála Ríomhairí
  Coiste Cónaitheoirí Gharrán na Siliní
  Cumann Cónaitheoirí Rossvale
  Club Sacair Phort Laoise
  Coiste Linn Snámha Phort Laoise
  Club "na hAoise Gníomhaí"

Mermbers of Portlaoise Town Council

Buaicphointí le linn 2004

Seirbhísí Sláinte agus Oideachais i bPort Laoise
Lean an Chomhairle Baile le tacaíocht láidir a thabhairt d'obair agus d'fheabhsú na seirbhísí Sláinte agus Oideachais sa cheantar.

Gníomhaíochtaí Eile

- Rinneadh brústocaireacht ar an IDA agus Fiontraíocht Éireann maidir le méadú ar dheiseanna fostaíochta i bPort Laoise.
- Thug an Chomhairle Baile tacaíocht d'iarrachtaí leanúnacha maidir le hinfheistiú a imtharraingt i dtionscal úr i bPort Laoise trí chomhfreagairt rialta leis an Roinn Fiontair agus Fostaíochta.
- Neartaíodh comhoibriú leis na Gardaí trína bhfreastal ag Cruinnithe na Comhairle Baile.
- Thug an Chomhairle Baile tacaíocht d'fhorbairtí éagsúla i bPort Laoise agus d'fháiltigh sí iad, go háirithe:
  (1) Forbairtí Poiblí, Deonacha agus Tithíochta Inacmhainne
  (2) Feabhsaithe bóthair agus cósain ar fud an bhaile
  (3) Forbairt na nEalaíona agus comórtas agus taispeántas tóstail ealaíne do lá Eaglais Naomh Peadar.
  (4) Feabhsú ar sheirbhís Iarnród Éireann i bPort Laoise.

Comhdhálacha

Thug an Chomhairle Baile tacaíocht agus rinne siad ionadaíocht ar na comhdhálacha seo a leanas:

- Chomhdháil Bhliantúil Chumann na mBardas in Éirinn.
- Seimineár Bliantúil Chumann na mBardas in Éirinn.

Mountmellick Town Council

Manager	Declan Byrne
Town Clerk	Dominic Reddin
Town Engineer	Trevor Hennessy

Annual General Meeting

At the A.G.M. of Mountmellick Town Council held on Monday 21st June 2004 Councillor Helen Hanson was elected Cathaoirleach and Councillor Michael Gormely was elected Leas Cathaoirleach.

Representations on Other Bodies

The Town Council was represented by Councillors Paddy Bracken and Michael Gormely at the Annual Conference and Annual Seminar of the association of Municipal athorities.
Mountmellick Town Council was represented by Councillor Marc Connolly on the I.P.BMI. Board.
The Town Council is represented by Councillor Helen Hanson on the County Development Board.

Strategic Policy Committees:

The Town council is represented on the Environment and Water Services S.P.C. by Councillor Michael Gormely, Councillor Marc Connolly represents the Town Council on the Housing Social and Cultural S.P.C.

Elections June 2004

The Local Elections took place on Friday June 11th 2004. Two members of the outgoing Council decided not to seek re-election. Fourteen candidates in all contested the Election with the following members being elected, Cllrs: Paddy Bracken, Pat Bowe, Michael Gormely, Marc Connolly, Rosemary Whelan, Helen Hanson, Dennis O' Mara, Joe Melia, Bobby Delaney. Six of the outgoing Council were re-elected and three new Councillors elected.

New Civic Offices:

On Friday 8th October 2004 the New Civic Offices at the Courthouse Mountmellick were officially opened by the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council and the Cathaoirleach of Mountmellick Town Council Ms. Helen Hanson. These offices are the new home for the Town Council where their business will be conducted in the Council Chamber on the 1st floor, and where the Meetings of Mountmellick Electoral Area are held. Situated on the ground floor are the Town Clerk's Office and the Office of the General Services Supervisor.

Ministers' Visits to Civic Offices:

On Monday October 11th 2004 Minister for Transport Martin Cullen T.D. met with Deputy John Moloney, the County Manager, Road Engineers, Mountmellick Electoral Area Members, and Members of the Town Council in relation to the proposed Relief Road for Mountmellick, at the New Civic Offices O' Moore Street, Mountmellick. A submission was made to the Minister for the necessary funding required to proceed with the Relief Road. On Monday November 8th 2004 Minister for Finance Mr. Brian Cowen T.D. met with the members of Mountmellick Town Council at their new Civic offices, where he acknowledged the work the Council was doing for the town of Mountmellick.

Business at Meetings:

As in previous years there was an exceptional attendance by Members at Meetings during which they made representations regarding key issues of concern. These included Environmental Works, Traffic Management, Roadwork's & Footpath repairs, Public Lighting, etc.
The members made further representations for the refurbishment of the Civil Defence Office at Mountmellick.

Mountmellick Area Councillors, Town Councillors, Council Staff, and invited guests at the official opening of Mountmellick Civic Offices October 8th 2004

Comhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic

Bainisteoir: Declan Byrne
Cléireach Baile: Dominic Reddin
Innealtóir Baile: Trevor Hennessy

Cruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil

Ag an gCruinniú Ginearálta Bliantúil Chomhairle Baile Mhoointeach Milie a tionóladh ar an Luan 21 Meitheamh 2004, toghadh an Comhairleoir Helen Hanson mar Chathaoirleach agus toghadh an Comhairleoir Michael Gormely mar Leas-Chathaoirleach.

Ionadaithe ar Chomhlachtaí eile

Bhí na comhairleoirí Paddy Bracken agus Michael Gormely mar ionadaithe don Chomhairle Baile ag Comhdháil Náisiúnta agus Seimineár Bliantúil den chumann Bardas. Bhí an Comhairleoir Marc Connolly ina ionadaí do Chomhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic ar Bhord I.P.BMI. Is í an Comhairleoir Helen Hanson ionadaí na Comhairle Baile ar an mBord Forbartha Contae.

Coistí Polasaí Straitéisigh:

Is é an Comhairleoir Michael Gormely atá mar ionadaí ar Sheirbhísí Uisce agus an Chomhshaoil, an Comhairleoir Marc Connolly mar ionadaí ar an gComhairle Baile um Thithíocht Sóisialta agus Chultúrtha TSC.

Toghcháin Meitheamh 2004

Bhí na Toghcháin Áitiúla ann ar an Aoine 11 Meitheamh 2004. Chinn dhá chomhalta den Chomhairle a bhí ag dul amach nach raibh siad ag dul ag lorg atofa. Rinne 14 iarrthóir ar fad an Toghchán a chonspóid agus toghadh na chomhaltaí a leanas, Comhl: Paddy Bracken, Pat Bowe, Michael Gormely, Marc Connolly, Rosemary Whelan, Helen Hanson, Dennis O' Mara, Joe Melia, Bobby Delaney.Rinneadh seisear den Chomhairle a athoghadh agus toghadh trí Chomhleoir úra.

Oifigí Cathracha

Ar an Aoine 8 Deireadh Fómhair 2004 d'oscail Comhairle Contae Laoise agus Cathaoirleach Chomhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic Helen Hanson na hOifigí Cathracha úra go hoifigiúil ag Teach Cúirte Móinteach Mílic. Tá na hoifigí seo anois mar Ionad nua don Comhairle Baile agus déanfar a ngnó i Seomra na Comhairle ar an 1ú urlár, agus beidh Cruinnithe Toghcheantair Móinteach Mílic ann. Suite ar an urlár talún tá Oifig an Chléirigh Bhaile agus Oifig Mhaoirseoir na Seirbhísí Ginearálta.

Cuairteanna na nAirí ar na hOifigí Cathartha:

Ar an Luain 11 Deireadh Fómhair bhuail an tAire Iompair Martin Cullen leis an Ionadaí John Moloney, an Bainisteoir Contae, Innealtóirí Bóthair, Comhaltaí Toghcheantair Mhoointeach Milie, agus Comhaltaí den Chomhairle Baile maidir leis an bhFaoiseamh Bóthair a moladh do Móinteach Mílic, ag na hOifigí Cathracha ag Sráid Uí Mhúraigh, Móinteach Mílic. Cuireadh aighneacht isteach chuig an Aire ar chistiú riachtanach a bhí de dhíth chun dul ar aghaidh leis an bhFaoiseamh Bóthair. Ar an Luan Samhain 2004 bhuail an tAire Airgeadais An Uas. Brian Cowen, le comhaltaí Chomhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic ag a n-oifigí úra, inár thug sé aitheantas don obair a bhí á déanamh ag an gComhairle do bhaile Móinteach Mílic.

Gnó ag Cruinnithe:

Mar a bhí sna blianta a chuaigh thart bhí freastal iontach de Chomhaltaí ag Cruinnithe ina ndearna siad ionadaíocht maidir le príomhcheisteanna a bhí ina n-ábhar buartha. Áiríodh leo seo Oibreacha Comhshaoil, Bainistíocht Tráchta, Oibreacha Bóthair agus athchóirithe Cosán, Soilsiú Poiblí srl. Rinne na comhaltaí tuilleadh léirithe ar athshlachtú na hOifige Cosanta Sibhialta ag Móinteach Mílic.

An tAire Tom Parlon, William Aird Cathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Contae Laoise, Helen Hanson, Cathaoirleach ar Chomhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic, Declan Byrne, Leas-Bhainisteoir, Comhairle Baile Móinteach Mílic, Ionadaí John Moloney, agus oifigigh ag oscailte Oifigí Cathracha Móinteach Mílic 8 Deireadh Fómhair 2004

Other Activities

Social Club 2004

Annual Report

2004 was yet another successful year for Laois County Council Social Club. The Social Club currently has a membership of 204 people, who contribute €1.00 per week. Numerous events were organised in 2004;

Annual Table Quiz

This was held on Monday 23rd February 2004 in Peigs, Portlaoise and over 30 staff attended. An amount of €140.00 was raised for St Vincent de Paul on the night.

Telethon People in Need

The Social Club held a sponsored Head Shave, Leg wax and beard and moustache shave in aid of Telethon, People in need on 18th May 2004 in The Outback, Delaney's, Portlaoise. Music on the night was provided by Brochan O'Reilly.
Six courageous men were chosen:
Michael Malone, Dom Reddin, David O'Hara, Sean Mullins, Christy Crawford and Paddy Macken. A total for €2,200 was raised for telethon.

Annual Golf Outing

Was held Monday 14th June 2004 in Mountrath Golf Club. There was a great turnout with plenty of prizes:
1st Teresa Kavanagh, John Kavanagh & Claire Sutton
2nd Johnny Culleton, Trevor Hennessy & Jen Barry
3rd John Bonham, Brian Sheppard & Anslem McGowan
4th Jim Lalor, Noel Kinsella & Ciaran Brennan
5th Des Byrne, Kieran Joyce, Aidan Doyle & Michael O'Loughlin
6th Brendan Foyle, Rosa Bray & Terry Gillespie
7th Declan Power, Damien Kenrick & Bernie Kilbride
8th Pat Farrell, Ken Farrell & Cathal Farrell

Summer Picnic

The Social club organised a summer picnic for the families of staff and members of Laois County Council in Togher Rugby Club the 19th June 2004. There was Bouncy Castles, Activity Centre & Ball Ponds for the kids and some adults!!!!

Annual Mass

The Annual mass for deceased members and staff of Laois County Council organised by the Social Club was held on Monday 29th November 2004 in the Council Chambers. Invitations were issued to all retired and present staff and to the members of Laois County Council. The mass was very well attended. Refreshments were provided in the canteen afterwards.

Card Night

The cards night was held Tuesday 7th December 2004. It was held in the Canteen.There were approx 35 players on the night and it was a great success.

Old Folks Party

The old folk's party provided by the Social Club for the members of PASS was held on Thursday 25th November 2004 in the PASS centre on the Timahoe road, this was the first year it was held outside of County Hall. Malcolm Smith and Liam Fennelly were called upon to provide the entertainment with able help from the party revellers. Plenty of Staff helped out on the night and as usual it was a great success.

Kiddies Christmas Party

The Kiddies Christmas party was held Saturday 11th December 2004 and was attended by over 130 children. Well known entertainers were present - Bob the builder, Bear in the big blue house, Fairy princess and of course Santa. This year Santa arrived on a fire engine to the back of the canteen.Disco music was provided by Sean Timmons. Plenty of help from PANG members on the day.

Kiddies Christmas Party

Christmas Party

Laois County Council's Annual Christmas party was held in the Heritage Hotel on Friday 17th December 2004 and was an enjoyable night. Over 100 staff and elected members enjoyed food, drink and wine galore. Music was provided by Angel, followed by a disco by Cecil Carter.

Golf Society

Martin Parkinson captained the Golf Society in 2004. His Captains day was held in the Heritage Golf and Country Club and was a huge success with John Fennell winning the major prize on the day. Pat Keogh won the Kennedy Cup at the staff outing which was held in Kilkenny Golf Club. The Golfer of the Year for 2004 was Pat Keenan.

Coiste Gaeilge

The Coiste Gaeilge held a number of meetings throughout the year and included in their activities were:

- Irish Table Quiz which was held during Seachtain na Gaeilge in March 2004 between The Midland Health Board and Comhairle Chontae Laoise. The quizmaster was Sean Ban Breathnach of TG4
- Irish Storytelling for children from Naionra Tir na nOg in Portlaoise Branch Library.
- A Traditional Night out with ceol agus craic was held in the Fishermans Inn in Vicarstown in December.

Gníomhaíochtaí Eile

An Club Sóisialta 2004
Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Bhí 2004 mar bhliain rathúil eile do Chlub Sóisialta Chomhairle Contae Laoise. Faoi láthair tá ballraíocht 204 duine ag an gClub Sóisialta, a íocann €1.00 sa tseachtain. Rinneadh a lán ócáidí a eagrú i 2004:

Tráth na gCeist Bliantúil

Bhí sé an ar an Luan 23 Feabhra 2004 i Peigs, Port Laoise agus bhí níos mó ná 30 foirne ann. Rinneadh €140.00 a bhailiú do San Uinseann de Paul ar an oíche.

Teileatón do Dhaoine Faoi Bhochtaineacht

Thionóil an Club Sóisialta Bearradh Cloigne, Ciaradh cosa agus bearradh croiméil urraithe chun cuidiú le Teileatón, Daoine faoi bhochtaineacht ar 18 Bealtaine 2004 san Outback, Delaney's, Port Laoise. Chuir Brochan O'Reilly an ceol ar fáil don oíche.
Roghnaíodh seisear fhear cróga:
Michael Malone, Dom Reddin, David O'Hara, Sean Mullins, Christy Crawford and Paddy Macken.
Rinneadh iomlán de € 2,200 do teileatón.

Lá Gailf Bliantúil

Bhí sé ar an Luan 14 Meitheamh 2004 i gClub Gailf Mhaigean Rátha. D'fhreastail slua iontach air agus bhí neart duaiseanna ann:
1ú Teresa Kavanagh, John Kavanagh & Claire Sutton
2ú Johnny Culleton, Trevor Hennessy & Jen Barry
3ú John Bonham, Brian Sheppard & Anslem McGowan
4ú Jim Lalor, Noel Kinsella & Ciaran Brennan
5ú Des Byrne, Kieran Joyce, Aidan Doyle & Michael O'Loughlin
6ú Brendan Foyle, Rosa Bray & Terry Gillespie
7ú Declan Power, Damien Kenrick & Bernie Kilbride
8ú Pat Farrell, Ken Farrell & Cathal Farrell

Picnic an tSamhraidh

D'eagraigh an Club Sóisialta roinnt phinicí do theaghlaigh foirne agus comhaltaí Chomhairle Contae Laoise i gClub Rugbaí Togher ar 19 Meitheamh 2004. Bhí Cáisleáin Léime ann, Ionad Gníomhaíochta agus Linnte Liathróide do na páistí agus roinnt aosach chomh maith!!!

Aifreann Bliantúil

Bhí Aifreann Bliantúil eagraithe ag an gClub Sóisialta ann do chomhaltaí agus d'fhoireann Chomhairle Contae Laoise nach maireann ar an Luan 29 Samhain 2004 i Seomra na Comhairle.
Seoladh cuirí amach do gach duine scortha nó reatha den fhoireann agus comhaltaí Chomhairle Contae Laoise. D'fhreastail a lán daoine ar an aifreann. Bhí sóláistí ar fáil sa cheaintín ina dhiaidh.

Oíche Chartaí

Bhí an oíche chartaí ann ar an Máirt 7 Nollaig 2004. Bhí sé ar bun sa Cheaintín. Bhí thart ar 33 imreoir i láthair ar an oíche agus d'éirigh go han-mhaith leis.

Cóisir Nollag na Seandaoine

Cóisir na Seandaoine

Bhí cóisir seandaoine soláthartha ag an gClub Sóisialta do chomhaltaí PASS ar an Déardaoin 25 Samhain 2004 san ionad PASS ar bhóthar Thig Mochua. Seo í an chéad bhliain ina raibh sé lasmuigh de Halla an Chontae. Iarradh ar Malcolm Smith agus Liam Fennelly an siamsaíocht a chur ar fáil le cuidiú ó phléaracaí eile na cóisire. Chuidigh neart ball den fhoireann ar an oíche agus mar is gnáth d'éirigh go han-mhaith leis.

Cóisir Nollag na bPáistí

Bhí cóisir Nollag na bPáistí ann ar an Satharn 11Nollag 2004 agus bhí os cionn 130 páistí ann. Bhí siamsóirí mór le rá i láthair – 'Bob the builder', 'Bear in the big blue house', 'Fairy princess' agus ár ndóigh Daidí na Nollag. Tháinig Daidí na Nollag arinneall Dóiteáin go dtí cúl an cheaintín i mbliana. Chuir Sean Timmons an ceol dioscó ar fáil. Bhí neart cuidithe ó chomhaltaí PANG ar an lá.

Cóisir na Nollag

Bhí cóisir bhliantúil na Nollag Chomhairle Contae Laoise in Óstán na hOidhreachta ar an Aoine 17 Nollaig 2004 agus bhí an oíche an-taitneamhach. Bhain os cionn 100 foirne agus comhaltaí tofa taitneamh as bia, deoch agus fíon go leor. Chuir Angel an ceol ar fáil, agus ina dhiaidh sin bhí dioscó le Cecil Carter.

An Cumann Gailf

Bhí Martin Parkinson mar chaptaen ar an gCumann Gailf i 2004. Bhí a lá Captaein i gClub na hOidhreachta Gailf agus Tuaithe agus d'éirigh go han-mhaith leis agus John Fennell ag buachan an mhórphraghais ar an lá. Bhuaigh Pat Keogh Corn Kennedy ag lá sóisialta na foirne a thionóladh i gClub Gailf Chill Chainnigh.Ba é Pat Keenan Galfaire na Bliana do 2004.

Coiste Gaeilge

Thionól an Coiste Gaeilge roinnt cruinnithe i rith na bliana agus i measc a ngníomhaíochtaí bhí:

- Tráth na gCeist Éireann a bhí ann le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge i Márta 2004 idir Bhord Sláinte Lár Tíre agus Chomhairle Contae Laoise. Ba é Seán Bán Breathnach ó TG4 a bhí mar fhear an tí.
- Insint Scéil as Éirinn do pháistí ó Naíonra Tír na nÓg i mBrainse Leabharlainne Phort Laoise.
- Oíche Thraidisiúnta Amuigh le ceol agus craic sa Fishermans Inn i mBaile an Bhiocáire i mí na Nollag.

Useful Directory

Aras an Chontae
Portlaoise
Opening Hrs: 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (incl. Lunch Hour)
Tel: (0502) 64000
Fax: (0502) 22313
E-Mail: corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie
Web: www.laois.ie

Cash Office
Block 2
Áras an Chontae
Opening Hrs: 9.00 am to 3.30 pm (incl. Lunch Hour)
Tel: (0502) 74308

Planning Office
Áras an Chontae
Opening Hrs: 9.30 am to 4.00 pm (incl. Lunch Hour)
Tel: (0502) 64039
Fax: (0502)22491

Motor Tax Office
Block 2
Áras an Chontae
Opening Hrs: 9.00 am to 3.30 pm (inch. Lunch Hour)
Tel: (0502) 64009
Fax: (0502) 21184

Sports & Leisure Office
Áras an Chontae
Tel: (0502) 64007
Fax: (0502) 22313

Arts Office
Block 2
Áras an Chontae
Tel: (0502) 74342
Fax: (0502) 74382

Library Headquarters
Block 2
Áras an Chontae
Tel: (0502) 74315
Fax: (0502) 74381

Western Area
Courthouse, Borris-in-Ossory
Tel: (0505) 41123
Fax: (0505) 41188

Eastern Area
Courthouse, Stradbally
Tel: (0502) 25227
Fax: (0502) 25227

Central Area
Mountrath Road, Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 64168
Fax: (0502) 60135

Housing Repairs
Mountrath Road, Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 22177
Fax: (0502) 60135

Road Design Office
Áras an Chontae
Tel: (0502) 64000
Fax: (0502) 22633

Laboratory
Mountrath Road, Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 64164
Fax: (0502) 63502

Machinery Yard
Clonboyne, Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 21148
Fax: (0502) 21148

National Roads Project Office
Clonboyne, Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 64850
Fax: (0502) 64858

Landfill Site, Kyletalesha
Portlaoise
Tel: (0502) 20653
Fax: (0502) 60858

Civil Defence HQ
Áras an Chontae
Tel: (0502) 64000
Fax: (0502) 25058

Eolaire Úsáideach

Aras an Chontae
Port Laoise
Uaireanta ar Oscailt: 9.00 am go 5.00 pm
(Am Lóin san air)
Teil: (0502) 64000
Facs: (0502) 22313
Rphoist: corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie
Láithrean Gréasáin: www.laois.ie

Oifig an Airgid
Bloc 2
Áras an Chontae
Uaireanta ar Oscailt: 9.00 am go 3.30 pm
(Am Lóin san air.)
Teil: (0502) 74308

An Oifig Pleanála
Áras an Chontae
Uaireanta ar Oscailt: 9.30 am go 4.00 pm
(Am Lóin san air.)
Teil: (0502) 64039
Facs: (0502)22491

Oifig Mhótarchánach
Bloc 2
Áras an Chontae
Uaireanta ar Oscailt: 9.00 am go 3.30 pm
(Am Lóin san air.)
Teil: (0502) 64009
Facs: (0502) 21184

An Oifig Spóirt agus Fóillíochta
Áras an Chontae
Teil: (0502) 64007
Facs: (0502) 22313

Oifig na nEalaíona
Bloc 2
Áras an Chontae
Teil: (0502) 74342
Facs: (0502) 74382

Ceannáras an Leabharlainne
Bloc 2
Áras an Chontae
Teil: (0502) 74315
Facs: (0502) 74381

An Limistéar Thiar
Teach an Cúirte, Buiríos Mór Osraí
Teil: (0505) 41123
Facs: (0505) 41188

An Limistéar Thoir
Teach na Cúirte, an tSráidbhaile
Teil: (0502) 25227
Facs: (0502) 25227

Limistéar Lárnach
Bóthar Mhaighean Rátha, Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 64168
Facs: (0502) 60135

Athcóirithe Tithe
Bóthar Mhaighean Rátha, Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 22177
Facs: (0502) 60135

An Oifig Deartha Bóithre
Áras an Chontae
Teil: (0502) 64000
Facs: (0502) 22633

Réadlann
Bóthar Mhaighean Rátha, Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 64164
Facs: (0502) 63502

An Clós Innealra
Clonboyne, Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 21148
Facs: (0502) 21148

Oifig an Tionscaimh um Bóithre Náisiúnta
Clonboyne, Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 64850
Facs: (0502) 64858

Láithreán Líonta Talún, Kyletalesha
Port Laoise
Teil: (0502) 20653
Facs: (0502) 60858

CC Cosanta Sibhialta
Áras an Chontae
Teil: (0502) 64000
Facs: (0502) 25058

Comhairle Chontae Laoise

Laois County Council

"I bpáirt leis an bpobal"

"In Partnership with the Community"

Comhairle Chontae Laoise
Áras an Chontae, Port Laoise, Co. Laois
Guthán: (0502) 64000
Faics: (0502) 22313
www.laois.ie
Riomhphoist: corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie

Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
Telephone: (0502) 64000
Fax: (0502) 22313
www.laois.ie
E-mail: corpaffairs@laoiscoco.ie