



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Your Offaly Update



John CLENDENNEN TD

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JULY 2026

€20 Million Allocated to Shannonbridge & Clonmacnoise

Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran visited Clonmacnoise to officially launch a €10 million investment in the visitor centre, and working together we have also secured €10 Million for a greenway connecting Shannonbridge and Athlone.

These projects will be truly transformational for both Clonmacnoise and Shannonbridge, and a major boost as Offaly continues to grow and strengthen its tourism offering.

Working with Minister Moran and Offaly County Council, I have also highlighted the need for further investment in road accessibility to the Clonmacnoise site. As visitor numbers increase, we must ensure that access is safe, efficient and fit for purpose for all road users.



Sod Turned on €15 Million Edenderry Library

The sod was officially turned for the new Edenderry Library by Minister Dara Calleary, a significant investment of €15 Million in the future of the town.

This exciting project will provide a modern, accessible and welcoming space for people of all ages to learn, read, study, connect and engage with local services. Libraries play a vital role at the heart of our communities, supporting education, lifelong learning and social inclusion.

Congratulations to Offaly County Council, the project team and everyone involved in bringing this important development to this stage. Cllr Noel Cribbin has led from the very start on this project, it's great to see his hard work paying off and I look forward to seeing the new library take shape in the months ahead.

SCHOOL BUS TICKETS

I know how worrying and frustrating the uncertainty around school transport can be for families, particularly at this time of year. If you have any queries or concerns regarding school bus services, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. My team and I will do everything we can to assist and support you in resolving your issue.



MEET ME Mondays

A dedicated time for you to raise issues, ask questions or simply have a conversation. No issue too small.

Mondays

Location:

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1st Floor, The Mall,
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#WorkingForOffaly
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BNM & Amazon

I've had several meetings with representatives from BNM and Amazon Web Services in recent months. Offaly has been leading Ireland's renewable energy transition for many years, and we are now on the cusp of an exciting new opportunity at the intersection of renewable energy and digital infrastructure. The level of interest and engagement we are seeing has the potential to create high-quality jobs, strengthen our local economy and establish an ecosystem that attracts further investment into the county.



Derrinlough Wind Farm was officially opened by Minister Darragh O'Brien, this €150 million investment by Bord na Móna and Amazon Web Services is about far more than wind turbines, it demonstrates the confidence major international investors have in Offaly and shows how our renewable energy resources can unlock future opportunities in areas such as digital infrastructure and data investment.

- ✓ More Irish renewable energy on the grid, reducing our reliance on expensive imported fossil fuels.
- ✓ Greater energy security to help stabilise electricity prices over time.
- ✓ A €12 million community benefit fund supporting local projects, facilities and services, including the Five Alley Solar Meitheal project.
- ✓ Significant commercial rates income for Offaly County Council, helping fund roads, local services and future investment.

No single project will reduce electricity bills overnight, but investments like this put downward pressure on energy costs over time while creating employment and ensuring more investment stays in Offaly. As your TD, I will continue working closely with stakeholders such as Bord na Móna and Amazon Web Services to remove barriers, drive progress and ensure Offaly remains at the forefront of Ireland's energy transition, digital economy and future investment, to drive progress, tackle challenges, and ensure we see delivery on the ground.

Minister Burke visits Banagher

Minister Peter Burke visited Banagher to officially open the new outdoor swimming pool and visit Banagher Precast Concrete.

It's brilliant to see the success of the pool, with efforts underway to secure a lifeguard for the summer months. Huge credit to everyone involved in delivering this fantastic facility, supported by Government under the Just Transition Fund and backed by impressive fundraising from the local community. Well worth a visit if you haven't been.

As we continue to ramp up infrastructure delivery, companies like Banagher Precast Concrete will play a vital role in turning national ambition into real, on-the-ground development across the country.



US Presidents Trail

A major opportunity for Moneygall and the wider Offaly tourism offering as Cabinet has approved plans proposed by Minister Patrick O'Donovan for an American Presidents Trail. Moneygall is uniquely placed to benefit, building on the legacy of Barack Obama's historic visit.



The visit in May 2011 put Moneygall on the global map and this new initiative can now build on that momentum, bringing more visitors, supporting local businesses, and further strengthening community pride.

With millions of Americans tracing their roots back to Ireland, we have a real chance to showcase places like Moneygall as part of a meaningful heritage journey. I recently welcomed Minister O'Donovan to Moneygall, and I'll be working to ensure Moneygall is front and centre as this trail is developed.



I attended Ireland's first dedicated Deer Management Forum in Kinnitty, which brought together farmers, landowners, foresters, licensed hunters and other stakeholders to discuss the growing challenges associated with managing deer populations. The event, organised by FRS, highlighted the importance of collaboration, knowledge sharing and best practice to support sustainable deer management. I look forward to seeing this initiative continue and will support efforts to ensure rural communities have the information and resources needed to address this important issue.



Investing in Offaly's Schools

Over the past three months, I have been delighted to announce significant progress on a number of school building projects across Offaly, including approvals for projects at Kinnitty National School, Gortnamona National School, St. Colman's National School, Mucklagh, Scoil Mhuire Bainrion, Dunkerrin, and Scoil Naomh Seosamh, Blueball. These investments will provide modern learning environments and enhanced special education facilities for students across the county, demonstrating the Government's continued commitment to investing in our schools.

While this progress is very welcome, there is more to do. I will continue to work closely with school communities, the Minister for Education and all stakeholders to progress important projects across Offaly, including Oaklands Community College in Edenderry, ensuring that every child has access to the high-quality educational facilities they deserve.



Birr Primary Care Centre

Securing the opening of the new Birr Primary Care Centre has remained one of my key priorities and it is now expected to open before the end of this year. I have continued to engage with the HSE and the Minister for Health to ensure the project progresses as quickly as possible and that the services planned for the centre are delivered without delay. Once fully operational, the centre will significantly enhance access to healthcare for people across the wider Birr area, providing modern, integrated primary care services closer to home. I will continue to work to ensure the facility opens and reaches its full potential for the benefit of the local community.

Fuel Costs Support Scheme

The Government has acted to reduce pressure on motorists and businesses by extending the temporary reductions in fuel excise duties, deferring the planned carbon tax increase and enhancing support for commercial transport operators.

Alongside these immediate measures, significant investment in renewable energy projects is helping to reduce Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuels, with the long-term goal of delivering greater energy security and more stable energy prices for households and businesses.



Minister Cummins visits Offaly

I was pleased to welcome Minister of State John Cummins to Offaly to discuss housing delivery and the future development of our county. Following our continued engagement over recent months, I was delighted to secure Government approval for all three of Offaly County Council's applications under the Housing Infrastructure and Investment Fund (HIIF). These strategic projects in Birr and Tullamore will provide the essential infrastructure needed to unlock land for housing and have the potential to facilitate the delivery of more than 2,000 new homes. This is a significant investment in Offaly's future, and I will continue working closely with Minister Cummins, Government and Offaly County Council to deliver the housing and infrastructure our communities need.

FINE GAE OFFALY GOLF CLASSIC

The inaugural Fine Gael Offaly Golf Classic was a fantastic success, bringing together local businesses and supporters from across Offaly and beyond for a great day at Birr Golf Club. The event provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen local connections while showcasing the importance of community engagement and business networking. A sincere thank you to everyone who took part, volunteers and Birr Golf Club for making the day such a success.



€186,553.48 Local Enhancement Programme Funding For Offaly

Delighted to see €186,553.48 awarded through the Local Enhancement Programme to 73 clubs, committees and community groups across Offaly. These grants will make a real difference by supporting volunteers, improving local facilities and helping community organisations continue the fantastic work they do every day. Congratulations to all of the successful groups and thank you to everyone who gives their time to strengthen our towns, villages and communities.

Accessible Counselling Tullamore - €6,000.43	Ferbane Scouts 9th Offaly - €1,000.00	Offaly Search and Recovery CLG - €2,500.00
Acquired Brain Injury Ireland - €4,000.00	Ferbane Tidy Towns - €2,000.00	Pullough Residents Development Association (Pullough Tidy Towns) - €500.00
Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre - €2,603.00	Geashill Community Playground - €1,950.00	Rahan Community Hall - €4,000.00
Banagher Billiard & Snooker Club - €900.00	Immigrants Training and Advice Services - €800.00	Rahan Men's Shed - €2,500.00
Banagher Rural Text Alert - €800.00	Kilcolman Parish Social Club - €4,000.00	Rhode Athletics Club - €1,000.00
Banagher Tidy Towns - €4,000.00	Kilcormac Community Childcare - €6,000.00	Rhode Community Preschool CLG - €3,000.00
BHM Community Development Grp - €1,500.00	Killeigh Residents Dev Assoc (Killeegh Tidy Towns) - €2,000.00	Rhode Parish Enterprise Association - €1,000.00
Birr Boxing Club - €3,500.00	Killeigh School Boys Girls Soccer Club CLG - €2,000.00	Shannonbridge Meals on Wheels - €2,000.00
Birr K1 Kickboxing Self Defence Club - €2,500.00	Killougey Community Centre - €4,000.00	Shannonbridge Playground Committee - €6,000.00
Birr Men Together - €2,000.00	Killurin Community Alert & Dev Grp - €1,000.00	Shinrone Development Designated Activity Company - €4,500.00
BLC Developments CLG - €1,800.00	Killyon Village Renewal Committee - €500.00	Shinrone Tidy Towns - €800.00
Cadamstown Community Association - €1,000.00	Kinnitty Athletics Club - €2,000.00	Shinrone Womens Group - €650.00
Clara Athletics Club - €1,000.00	Kinnitty Camogie Club - €1,000.00	St Brigid's Boxing Club - €2,000.00
Clara Musical Society - €5,000.00	Kinnitty Community Playground - €6,000.00	St Manchans Ladies FC - €1,000.00
Clara Playground Group - €750.00	Kinnitty Development Group - €3,000.00	St Mary's Youth & Community Centre - €4,000.00
Clara Tidy Towns - €3,000.00	Laois Youth Services CLG (re. Midlands LGBT+ Project) - €3,500.00	St Rynagh's Ladies Football Club - €1,000.00
Cloghan Community Development Association - €2,000.00	Lios Dearg Development Group - €2,000.00	Trustees of Aghanon Community Hall - €500.00
Crinkill Tidy Villages & Development Association - €3,000.00	Lusmagh Camogie Club - €1,000.00	Tullamore Active Retirement Association - €1,000.00
Crinkle Sports & Recreation Centre - €2,000.00	Midlands Regional Youth Service CLG (Fusion YDP) - €2,000.00	Tullamore Cricket Club - €2,000.00
Daingean Canoe Club - €5,000.00	Molesworth Bridge Playground - €3,000.00	Tullamore Indian Association - €500.00
Daingean Community Development CLG - €3,000.00	Moneygall Community Hall Committee - €4,000.00	Tullamore Women's Shed - €5,000.00
Edenderry Athletics Club - €1,000.00	Mucklagh Schoolboys/Girls Community Soccer Club - €4,000.00	Youthwork Ireland Midlands_Acorn Project - €5,000.00
Edenderry Community First Responders - €2,000.00	Offaly Scouts_2nd Offaly Scout Grp - €4,000.00	
Edenderry Community Garden - €6,000.00	Offaly Scouts_Tullamore_1st 10th - €4,000.00	
Edenderry Pitch & Putt - €1,000.00		
Edenderry Women's Shed - €2,000.00		

VAT Rate for reduction for Hospitality

The Government has permanently reduced the VAT rate to 9% for the hospitality and hairdressing sectors, effective from 1st July 2026. This measure is something I have advocated for and supported for a number of years, even before being elected as a TD. It was a recommendation in a report I produced last summer, entitled Backing Business; A Budget Blueprint for SMEs.

Having visited a number of local businesses across Offaly the week it came into effect to hear what it means for them, this measure can be the difference between a profit or a loss for the small businesses keeping our towns and villages alive. Over 99% of businesses in these sectors are SMEs and this permanent measure is one way we can support them in keeping their doors open, supporting local enterprise and local jobs.



Out & About Across Offaly

From top, left to right...

- Welcoming the FTD Brothers to Tullamore.
- Regular appearances on national television and radio discussing issues affecting Offaly and the wider Midlands.
- Official opening of Bóthar na Laochra, Birr.
- Official opening of the new CLAR-funded astroturf pitch at Roscomroe National School.
- Welcoming members of the Dunkerrin Parish Historical Society to Dáil Éireann.
- Attending the Daingean Sundew Festival.
- Visiting St. Philomena's National School, Tullamore, with Nina Carberry MEP.
- Official sod turning for the new Ballyskenach-Killavilla GAA community development, supported through the Sports Capital Programme.
- Officially opening the Tullamore & District Chamber Offaly Jobs Fair.
- Welcoming Ferbane's award-winning debaters to Dáil Éireann.
- Official opening of the new astroturf pitch at Ballinagar GAA.
- Visiting Killina Presentation Secondary School



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Cllr. Eleanor
CLENDENNEN



Cllr. Noel
CRIBBIN



Cllr. Hugh
EGAN



Cllr. Neil
FEIGHERY



Cllr. Liam
QUINN



Nina
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