



## Offaly Bike Week 2021

Offaly Sports Partnership on behalf of Offaly County Council supported delivery of a range of cycling activities funded by the National Transport Authority

As a result of ongoing Covid19 health restrictions and the September dates notified for Bike Week, Offaly Sports Partnership took a decision to defer all mass participation cycling events typically organised by the sports partnership for Bike Week; and instead opted to support schools and organisations to deliver bike week events within their local communities

A grant scheme was notified and five schools applied for funding to deliver a range of events within their school communities. Events delivered included: -

Grand Canal Greenway cycles from Tullamore to Ballycommon; Tullamore to Boora; and Tullamore to Croghan Hill. 170 lads from Coláiste Choilm; and 40 students from Killina Presentation Secondary School took part in these greenway cycles.



Bike the Blooms; and Mountain Biking in Portumna Forest Park – 100 students from St Mary’s Secondary School Edenderry; and 100 students from St Brendan’s Secondary School took part in these events respectively



The feedback from participating schools was very positive: -

Killina Presentation Secondary School

*“... grateful for the opportunity to participate in our first Bike Week event ...”*

St Brendan’s Secondary School

*“... little opportunity for cycling at home as roads are too dangerous; ... the experience has opened up the possibility of participating in a new past time; ... the forest was so quiet and calm; ...the activity was really enjoyable”*

St Mary’s Secondary School

*“... the students had a truly great time and even though it did rain on Friday it did not dampen the enjoyment; ... the bikes were in perfect working order, the guides were well trained and had good control of the groups. We had access to electric bikes for the small number of students who needed extra help”*

**Offaly Sports Partnership** also ran a social media campaign on Facebook/OffalySportsPartnership highlighting family cycling opportunities in Offaly and its surrounds. Among the locations promoted were: -

- i. Grand Canal Greenway
- ii. Lough Boora Parklands
- iii. Mount Lucas Windfarm
- iv. Old Rail Trail, Westmeath
- v. Slieve Bloom Mountains

Offaly County Council would like to thank the National Transport Authority for their support of our Bike Week activities in 2021, and we look forward to working with the Authority in the future.