

Offaly Bike Week 2022

1. Introduction

Offaly Sports Partnership on behalf of Offaly County Council supported delivery of a range of cycling activities funded by the National Transport Authority in support of Bike Week 2022.

We would like to thank the National Transport Authority for their support of our Bike Week activities in 2022; and we look forward to working with the National Transport Authority into the future.

2. Offaly Bike Week 2022 summary

At the time of application, there was ongoing uncertainty around the level of c19 health restrictions likely to be in situ at the time of Bike Week; therefore, 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. Five schools and one cycling club applied for funding to deliver a range of events with over 400 people participating in cycling activities across the week: -

- Family cycle on the Grand Canal Greenway hosted by Lynx Cycling Club
- School cycle days in Crinkill National School, Coláiste Choilm Tullamore, Ard Scoil Chiarán Naofa Clara, St Brendan's Boys Primary School Birr and St Cynoc's National School Ferbane
- Bike the Blooms event hosted by Lynx Cycling Club



Lynx Cycling Club
14 Beallaine ar a 21:48 · 📍

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A great start to Bike Week with a family spin from Pollagh to Boora and back. Fantastic to see so many- young, old, and those somewhere in the middle enjoying the sunshine. Thanks to the staff in the cafe in Boora for the refreshments and also to Pollagh Community shop for the ice creams after.



Crinkill National School



Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore



Ard Scoil Chiarán Naoifa, Clara



St Brendan's Boys National School, Birr



Lynx Cycling Club

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Today members of Lynx cycling club visited St. Cynoc's N.S. in Ferbane. The 6th class pupils, with teacher Laura and Principal Helena learned how to do a quick bike check before the cycle, some skills in the school yard and embarked on a spin to the canal. The students also participated in the age-old slow bike race before enjoying some well earned refreshments after.

Thanks to Offaly Sports Partnership for the support for this and other Bike Week activities and to the teachers and students for their enthusiasm. Hopefully the orange and black of Lynxx cc will have gained some future recruits. ❤️🧡

#bikeweek2022



Lynx Cycling Club

22 Beallaine ar a 20:56 · 🌐

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To finish out a great #bikeweek2022 some of the clubs members tried ebikes on the Kinnitty and Laois trails this morning. Such fun was had, it'll be hard to get used to pedalling up the hills again. Big shout out to Mid Ireland Adventure and Bloomeriders for the bikes. Lunch was enjoyed in Peavoy's in the village after. Mark and Lorna got to try out the new mtb gear from Verge Sport too, and unusually for some, finished with all the gear intact. 🤪 Thanks to everyone who helped out to make bike week such a success this year. ❤️🧡 Bloomeriders & Mid Ireland Adventure Tours



Feedback from the schools and clubs involved in Bike Week has been excellent: -

Lynx Cycling Club, Ferbane - *"We had a great week over bike week and were kept busy"*

Crinkle National School

"This Bike Week, our 5th and 6th classes participated in the final session of their three week Cycle Right training programme with Birr Outdoor Education Centre.

The children were able to bring in their own bikes or could avail of one of the Outdoor Centre's bikes. They learned how to use the roads safely showing knowledge of road rules and cycled with great independence and skill. They concluded their training with a cycle around Crinkill.

We would like to thank Birr Outdoor Education Centre for facilitating this fantastic opportunity, which was supported by Bike Week funding through Offaly Sports Partnership, as all the children without a doubt learned a lot about cycling safely which is an extremely important skill"

Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore

"During Bike week we took two separate groups along the Grand Canal greenway to Pullough...

... We then continued our journey to Lough Boora Parklands where both groups took part in a Treasure hunt around the different structures of the park. We then returned to school along the same route. In all we cycled over 50km.

Our first trip involved over 80 2nd Year students in the school and our second trip involved over 70 3rd Year students in the school. This is a fantastic day out and we hope to continue this in future years"

Ard Scoil Chiarain Naofa, Clara

"We travelled to Ballycommon by bus, where we rented bicycles and cycled to Kilbeggan...

Myself and my friend found it very difficult to finish the whole thing but at the start of the year I could not cycle a bike so that's progress... We stuck with it and got there in the end...

We had a great time and the weather was so nice. We are going to go on bikes this summer again with our friends."

St Brendan's Boys National School, Birr

"For bike week 2022, we were delighted to run a school event out in the amazing cycle park at Lough Boora Discovery in Offaly.

We decided to bring all boys from 3rd through to 6th class giving a total of 90 boys and 15 staff due to participate. Unfortunately, we could not deliver the planned bike maintenance workshop with Warren; nonetheless, 60 of the boys sourced roadworthy bikes and helmets for the event

We booked five buses from Andrew Walsh Coach Hire to take all the boys and staff. We were grateful to caretaker Michael Hansbury and teacher Michael Carroll who both drove trailers, and a horsebox loaded up with the 60 bikes.

On arrival, we split the cyclists into two groups and took off around the parklands trails stopping regularly to see the monuments and take photos. In total we covered 11.60km. The boys came back to the car park for crisps and drinks; and the staff enjoyed a well-earned coffee at the shop. We loaded up everything and headed back to school after a lovely bike week experience. Sincere thanks to Offaly Sports Partnership / County Council for their support."

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: -

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