

Asado tradition continues with food, music and dancing in Abbeyshrule



At last year's Longford Westmeath Argentina Society Asado, held at The Rustic Inn in Abbeyshrule, were at back from left: Tom Ganly, Tullamore, John Casey, Mullingar, Joe Masterson, Castlepollard, Eilís Ryan, Ballymore, Mary Egan, Ferbane, and in front: chairperson Una Byrne, Longford and Michael Newman, Kibbegan.

The Longford Westmeath Argentine Society is preparing to host one of its most anticipated annual social events later this month, with its traditional Asado taking place on Saturday, July 25, at the Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule.

The popular gathering, which has been a fixture on the society's calendar for decades, promises an evening of authentic Argentine cuisine, music and dancing. Entertainment will be provided by renowned trumpeter Johnny Carroll, while food will be served from 8.30pm.

Tickets cost €60 and are available through the Longford Westmeath Argentine Society Facebook page, from Eilish Ryan, Mullingar (086 2627410), or Oona Byrne, Longford (087 2938937).

The annual Asado has earned a strong reputation for the quality and authenticity of its food. Organisers go to considerable lengths to recreate the traditional Argentine barbecue experience, with succulent steaks cooked over the grill alongside specially prepared chorizo sausages.

The sausages are commissioned from a local butcher, who produces them using a traditional Argentine recipe to ensure the flavours remain as authentic as possible.

The event also serves as a celebration of the enduring historical links between Longford, Westmeath and Argentina. Those connections date back to the nineteenth century,

when thousands of people from the Midlands emigrated to South America, with further migration continuing into the early decades of the twentieth century.

Many descendants of those emigrants remain in contact with relatives in Ireland despite the passing of generations, the vast geographical distance and, increasingly, language differences. While English was once widely spoken among Irish-Argentine families, often retaining distinctive Irish accents, younger generations today are more likely to learn the language through formal education.

Traditionally, the Argentine Ambassador to Ireland attends the annual Asado, underlining the importance of the long-standing relationship between the two countries and the role played by the Longford Westmeath Argentine Society in preserving that shared heritage.

The rich cultural ties are also reflected in The Southern Cross, the Irish community newspaper in Argentina, which celebrated its 150th anniversary last year. Although now published exclusively online, the newspaper continues to report on Irish-Argentine affairs, with many familiar Longford and Westmeath surnames still appearing regularly in its pages, illustrating the lasting legacy of the Midlands families who made Argentina their home.

Warm June now five times more likely than in 1960s, climate data shows

By Thomas Lawrence

The chance of a warm June in Westmeath has risen fivefold since the 1960s and now sits at one-in-two, CSO climate data shows.

Figures from CSO table MTM09 cover 64 Junes in the county from 1961 to 2024. A June recording a mean temperature of 14°C or above occurred in just three of the 30 years between 1961 and 1990, a rate of 10%.

Between 2011 and 2024, seven of the 14 years on record crossed that threshold, a rate of 50%.

The county's average June temperature has risen at approximately 0.22°C per decade since 1961, amounting to an overall increase of around 1.4°C over the full period.

Night-time temperatures are rising more sharply than daytime highs. Overnight

and early morning lows have increased at a rate of 0.26°C per decade since 1961, compared to 0.17°C per decade for afternoon maximums, a rate 53% faster.

June 2023 was the warmest on record at 16.2°C. The following June fell back to 13.1°C, close to the long-term historical average.

June rainfall has also become considerably less predictable. Since 2000, monthly totals have ranged from 18.5mm in 2021 to 204.8mm in 2012, a more than eleven-fold difference between the driest and wettest June in those 24 years.

The long-term average June rainfall for the county is 70mm. June 2012's 204.8mm was almost three times that figure; 1975, the driest on record across the full 64 years, recorded just 15.7mm.

The figures are from CSO table MTM09 and cover Westmeath Junes from 1961 to 2024.

PLANNING NOTICES

e-mail to: info@topic.ie

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as Amended)

Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in Respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development, County Westmeath (Westmeath County Council)

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, Red Admiral DC Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application for a ten-year planning approval to An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to the following proposed development in the townlands of Kiltotan & Collinstown, Oldtown and Farthingstown, County Westmeath.

The proposed development for which approval under Section 182B is being sought constitutes a 220kV Independent Power Producer (IPP) Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation, associated high voltage lines (HV), electric plant, and ancillary site development works. The Proposed Development adjoins a proposed Data Centre facility and Decentralised Energy Resource (DER) (Westmeath County Council (WCC) Planning Application Number 25/60344). The proposed development will connect to the existing and adjacent electricity transmission system (Castlelost 220kV GIS substation) and the aforementioned Data Centre facility and DER. The proposed development will include: (i) a new two-storey IPP 220kV GIS substation building containing battery room, WC, messroom, workshop, generator room, stair cores, cable pits, storeroom, and switchgear rooms within a palisade fenced compound; (ii) all HV circuits which will connect the proposed IPP 220kV GIS substation to the existing Castlelost 220kV GIS substation and to Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) compounds and electric plant associated with the Decentralised Energy Resource (DER) (WCC Planning Application Number 25/60344); including a solar farm, battery energy storage system (BESS) and a solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC); (iii) a 36.0m high communications tower; (iv) temporary construction compounds; (v) a main entrance connecting to the R446 public road, (vi) demolition and removal of existing derelict dwellings, outhouses and agricultural sheds; (vii) all ancillary development including new internal roads, security fencing and gates, car parking, lighting, utilities, lightning protection masts, underground services, landscaping and associated engineering works to provide for the connection of site services and foul and surface water management and drainage. This application is seeking a ten-year approval. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared and accompanies this planning application. The planning application, including the planning drawings, EIAR and supporting reports may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such a copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing on the 03 July 2026 at the following locations:

- The offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.
- The offices of Westmeath County Council, Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, N91 FH4N.

The application may also be viewed/downloaded on the following stand-alone website: www.redadmiralgis.com

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to:

- the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development if carried out, and
- the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Coimisiún Pleanála not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 21 August 2026. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- The subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full (Article 217 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, refers).

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by An Coimisiún Pleanála.

An Coimisiún Pleanála may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on An Coimisiún Pleanála's website www.pleanala.ie).

An Coimisiún Pleanála may in respect of an application for approval decide to:

- (i) grant the approval, or
- (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
- (iii) grant approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind),

and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or

- (b) refuse to grant the approval.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01-8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision by An Coimisiún Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No.15 of 1986, as amended), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Information on cases / Weekly lists - Judicial review of planning decisions on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie