

ANNUAL REPORT 06



MEATH
COUNTY
COUNCIL



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ANNUAL
REPORT
2006

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Meath County Council adopted a new Corporate Plan in 2005. In accordance with the guidelines for preparation of Corporate Plans published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Meath County Council is obliged to prepare an annual operational plan for each year of the Corporate Plan's timeframe.

The Meath County Council 2006 Operational Plan outlined in more detail the activities to be undertaken by different service areas to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

This 2006 Annual Report is based on the 2006 Operational Plan and reports on specific actions, which expand on the normal duties associated with the administration of the respective service areas within Meath County Council.

We are delighted to present Meath County Council's Annual Report for 2006 to you.

Each year the Council compiles an Annual Report outlining its accomplishments and progress on projects undertaken throughout the year by the Council on behalf of the people of Meath. It includes specific activities undertaken by the Council and includes a progress report on the Corporate Plan 2004 - 2009.

During 2006 the Council continued to take on board the challenges facing the County, including that of meeting the needs of a growing population. We invested in excess of €183.8m on capital projects, many of which were completed during the year and others which are now at an advanced stage. Over €92.6m was spent on day-to-day operations delivering a wide range of essential services to our people. Progress was also made in improving service delivery and maintenance of essential services. The Council's capital programme delivered much needed improvements in our

physical and social infrastructure.

The review of the County Development Plan continued with a target date for adoption in early 2007. The new format for the plan will lead to the preparation of a large number of Local Area Plans which will provide an effective vehicle for the sustainable development of our County and all its towns and villages. The Council also continued a number of initiatives to promote the County as a centre for work and leisure.

All the achievements outlined in the Annual Report could not have been accomplished without collective input of the Elected Members, the Executive and the support of our growing population. The many challenges that continue to face our County can and will be addressed with the continued commitment of all. We look forward to meeting those challenges together in the coming year.

Cllr Jimmy Cudden
Cathaoirleach

Tom Dowling
County Manager

Electoral Areas

Dunhaughlin Electoral Area

Name	Cllr Charles Bobbett
Address	Kilbegnet, Fleenstown Lane, The Ward, Co. Meath
Political Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	01 8353154 / 087 1268135
Email	cbobbett@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Joseph Bonner
Address	Donaghmore, Ashbourne
Political Party	Non-Party
Phone No.	0879749563
Email	jbonner@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Nick Killian
Address	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	01 8256700 / 086 8109018
Email	nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Oliver Brooks
Address	Killeen Road, Dunshaughlin
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9025276 / 087 2573765
Email	obrooks@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald
Address	Warrenstown, Kilcock
Political Party	Non-Party
Phone No.	01 8251847 / 087 2508247
Email	briannfitzgerald@yahoo.com
Name	Cllr Noel Leonard
Address	4 St Patrick's Park, Dunboyne
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	01 8251216 / 087 2345186
Email	nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie

Kells Electoral Area

Name	Cllr Eugene Cassidy
Address	Possetown, Nobber
Political Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9052116 / 086 3717686
Email	ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr John V. Farrelly
Address	Hurdlestown, Kells
Political Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9241290 / 046 9073737 / 086 2585154
Email	remaxroyalcounty@eircom.net
Name	Cllr Michael Gallagher
Address	Drumconrath, Navan
Political Party	Sinn Fein
Phone No.	041 6854498 / 087 9478222
Email	mgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Michael Lynch
Address	4 White Hall, Oldcastle
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	049 8541704 / 086 1080585
Email	mlynch@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Liz Mc Cormack
Address	3 Park View Athboy
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9430135 / 087 6880710
Email	lmccormack@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Bryan Reilly
Address	Rockfield Road, Kells
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9240122 / 086 2599184
Email	bryan@bryanreillyauctioneers.com

Electoral Areas

Slane Electoral Area

Name	Cllr Patrick Boshell
Address	Laytown Rd, Julianstown
PolITICAL Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	041 9829264 / 041 9887438 / 087 7543537
Email	pboshell@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Jimmy Cudden
Address	23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek
PolITICAL Party	Non-Party
Phone No.	041 9823353 / 086 8246484
Email	jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher
Address	Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	041 6854487 / 086 8800866
Email	adgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Dominic Hannigan
Address	Burrows Hall, Golflinks Road, Bettystown, Co. Meath
PolITICAL Party	Labour
Phone No.	041 9886307 advice centre / 087 641 8960
Email	info@dominichannigan.com
Web Page	www.dominichannigan.com
Name	Cllr Tom Kelly
Address	Ui Maine, Laytown
PolITICAL Party	Green Party
Phone No.	041 9887944 fax 041 9887955 / 086 3817700
Email	tkelly@members.meathcoco.ie

NAVAN Electoral Area

Name	Cllr James Mangan
Address	Rathfeigh, Tara
PolITICAL Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	041 9825429 / 0868393043
Email	jmangan@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Shane Cassells
Address	52 Oakleigh, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	01 8407107 / 086 3399198
Email	scassells@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Jenny D'Arcy
Address	Apt 1, 7 Trimgate St., Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	087 2619695 / 046 9434187
Email	jdarcy@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Jim Holloway
Address	Farganstown, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9028661 / 086 2355236
Email	jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Patsy O' Neill
Address	Wilkinstown, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9054122
Email	poneill@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Joe Reilly
Address	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Sinn Fein
Phone No.	046 9028392 / 046 9021345 / 087 2478508
Email	joereilly@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Tommy Reilly
Address	Ardsallagh, Navan
PolITICAL Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9027588 / 087 278 6945
Email	tpreilly@eircom.net

Electoral Areas

Trim Electoral Area

Name	Cllr Phillip Cantwell
Address	Villa Maria, Manorland, Trim
Political Party	Non-Party
Phone No.	046 9431515 / 087 2880288
Email	pcantwell@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr William Carey
Address	Newcastle, Enfield
Political Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9541064 / 085 7135073
Email	wcarey@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Jimmy Fegan
Address	Commons, Trim
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9431146 / Fax 046 9436643
Email	jfegan@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Peter Higgins
Address	High Street, Trim
Political Party	Fine Gael
Phone No.	046 9431213 / 046 9431202 / 0872057176
Email	phiggins@members.meathcoco.ie
Name	Cllr Seamus Murray
Address	Cullentra, Longwood
Political Party	Fianna Fáil
Phone No.	046 9555189 / 046 9555238 / 086 2443499
Email	smurray@members.meathcoco.ie

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) were established in Local Authorities to focus on policy development in areas related to council services.

Meath County Council has four such committees as follows:

Environmental Strategic Policy Committee		
<p>Cllr Patsy O' Neill (Chair) Eddie Downey Patrick O' Brien Ms Penny Mc Gowan Thomas Burke Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr James Mangan Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Peter Higgins Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Brian Collins Cllr Joseph Bonner</p>	<p>Wilkestown, Navan, Co. Meath Monknewtown, Slane, Co. Meath East Commons, Station Road, Duleek, Co. Meath Kells Chamber of Commerce, Castle Street, Kells Castle House, Lagavooren, Drogheda 4 Whitehall, Oldcastle, Co. Meath Rathfeigh, Tara Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath High Street, Trim, Co. Meath Ui Máine, Laytown, Co. Meath Cavan Road, Kells, Co. Meath Donaghmore, Ashbourne, Co. Meath</p>	<p>Cllr Navan Area Pillar - Farming Pillar - Community Pillar - Business & Commercial Pillar - Community Cllr Kells Area Cllr Navan Area Cllr Slane Area Cllr Trim Area Cllr Slane Area Cllr Kells Town Council Cllr Dunshaughlin Area</p>
Infrastructural Development Strategic Policy Committee		
<p>Cllr Oliver Brooks (Chair) Seamus Mc Gee John Maguire</p> <p>Miriam Mc Kenna Eamon Gavigan Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Shane Cassells Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Charles Bobbett Cllr William Carey Cllr Andy Brennan Cllr Michael Gallagher</p>	<p>Kileen Road, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath Mc Gees Cross, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath Irish Concrete Federation, 8 Newlands Park, Naas Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 30-32 Navan Enterprise Centre, Trim Road, Navan Mason Gavigan, 19 Ludlow Street, Navan 4 St Patrick's Park, Dunboyne, Co. Meath 52 Oakleigh, Navan, Co. Meath Clonfane, Trim, Co. Meath Kilbagnet, Fleenstown Lane, The Ward, Co. Meath Newcastle, Enfield, Co. Meath 3 Parnell Park, Navan Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath</p>	<p>Cllr Dunshaughlin Area Farming - Pillar Business & Commercial Pillar Community Business & Commercial Cllr Dunshaughlin Area Cllr Navan Area Cllr Trim Area Cllr Dunshaughlin Area Cllr Trim Area Mayor Navan Town Council Cllr Kells Area</p>

Planning & Economic Development *Strategic Policy Committee*

Cllr Dominic Hannigan (Chair)
Emer Dunne
Oliver Reilly
Shaun Lynch
Sean Boyle
Cllr Bryan Reilly
Cllr Tommy Reilly
Cllr John V Farrelly
Cllr Jim Holloway
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald
Cllr Joe Reilly

68 Lagavooren Manor, Drogheda, Co. Meath
 Gilltown, Beuparc, Navan
 Clegarrow, Enfield, Co. Meath
 Newlanes House, Duleek, Co. Meath
 Tara House, 38 Trimgate Street, Navan
 Rockfield Road, Kells, Co. Meath
 Ardsallagh, Navan, Co. Meath
 Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath
 Farganstown, Boyne Road, Navan, Co. Meath
 Warrenstown, Kilcock, Co. Meath
 Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath

Cllr Slane Area
 Farming - Pillar
 Trade Union - Pillar
 Community
 Business & Commercial
 Cllr Kells Area
 Cllr Navan Area
 Cllr Kells Area
 Cllr Navan Area
 Cllr Dunshaughlin Area
 Cllr Navan Area

Social, Community & Cultural Development *Strategic Policy Committee*

Cllr Nick Killian (Chair)
Brendan Conway
Maureen Kerrigan
James Doorley

Patricia Hehir
Cllr Seamus Murray
Cllr Jenny D'Arcy
Cllr Eugene Cassidy
Cllr Trevor Golden
Cllr Phillip Cantwell
Cllr Jimmy Cudden
Cllr Liz Mc Cormack

Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
 54 Millbrook, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath
 Bohermeen ICA, Cortown, Kells, Co. Meath
 D.F.I., St Annes Community Centre, Railway Street,
 Navan, Co. Meath
 The Moate, Rathmoylon, Co. Meath
 Cullentra, Longwood, Co. Meath
 Apt 1, 7 Trimgate Street, Navan, Co. Meath
 Possextown, Nobber, Co. Meath
 Church Lane, Trim, Co. Meath
 "Villa Maria", Manorland, Trim, Co. Meath
 23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek, Co. Meath
 3 Park View, Athboy

Cllr Dunshaughlin Area
 Trade Union - Pillar
 Community
 Community
 Community
 Cllr Trim Area
 Cllr Navan Area
 Cllr Kells Area
 Cllr Trim Town Council
 Cllr Trim Area
 Cllr Slane Area
 Cllr Kells Area

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL WAS REPRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES DURING 2005:

Name of Committee	Name	Party
The Mid East Regional Authority	Cllr James Mangan Cllr Brian Fitzgerald Cllr Patsy O' Neill Cllr Jim Holloway Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil Non Party Fine Gael Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil
Mid East Regional Tourism Organisation	Cllr John Farrelly	Fine Gael
The Charlton Endowment Committee	Cllr Michael Lynch	Fianna Fáil
Keavney & Walsh Solrs Kells	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
The Dublin Transport Office Advisory	Cllr Charles Bobbett Cllr Oliver Brooks	Fine Gael Fianna Fáil
Association of County & City Councils	Cllr William Carey Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Seamus Murray	Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil
The Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd.	Cllr Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
The Local Authority Members Association	Cllr Jimmy Cudden	Non Party
The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative	Cllr Jenny D'Arcy Cllr James Mangan Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Noel Leonard	Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil

Name of Committee	Name	Party
Meath County Enterprise Board	Cllr Patrick Boshell Cllr James Mangan Cllr Eugene Cassidy Cllr Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Fianna Fáil
Meath Leader II	Cllr Patsy O'Neill Cllr Dominic Hannigan	Fine Gael Non Party
Meath Local Sports Partnership Ltd.	Cllr Liz Mc Cormack	Fianna Fáil
Mid East Regional Tourism Organisation	Cllr John V. Farrelly	Fine Gael
Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd.	Cllr Jim Holloway Cllr Shane Cassells Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil
Regional Advisory Council Teagasc	Cllr Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Eugene Cassidy Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Seamus Murray	Fine Gael Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil
Tara Mines Environmental Monitoring	Cllr Jim Holloway Cllr Joe Reilly Cllr Patsy O'Neill Cllr Phillip Cantwell Cllr Shane Cassells Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fine Gael Sinn Féin Fine Gael Non Party Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil

Name of Committee	Name	Party
Meath Tourism Board	Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr John V. Farrelly	Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael
Meath VEC	Cllr Bryan Reilly Cllr Patrick Boshell Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Jenny D'Arcy Cllr Charles Bobbett Cllr Dominic Hannigan Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Joe Reilly Cllr William Carey	Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Fine Gael Fine Gael Labour Fianna Fáil Sinn Fein Fine Gael
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Jim Holloway	Fianna Fáil Fine Gael
Protocol Committee	Cllr Bryan Reilly Cllr Brian Fitzgerald Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Patsy O' Neill Cllr William Carey Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr James Mangan Cllr Jimmy Cudden	Fianna Fáil Non Party Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Fine Gael Non Party Fianna Fáil Non Party
Heritage Forum	Cllr Tom Kelly	Green Party
Slane Forum	Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael

Name of Committee	Name	Party
Meath Energy Management Agency	Cllr Patsy O'Neill Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Michael Gallagher	Fine Gael Non-Party Sinn Féin
Library Advisory	Cllr Patrick Boshell Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr Peter Higgins	Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael
CPG	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald Cllr Oliver Brooks Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Patsy O' Neill Cllr Dominic Hannigan	Non Party Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Non Party
Regional Health Forum Dublin & North East	Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Joe Reilly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Eugene Cassidy Cllr Seamus Murray	Fine Gael Sinn Fein Fianna Fáil Fine Gael Fianna Fáil
Eastern River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Nick Killian	Green Party Fianna Fáil
Neagh Bann International River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Nick Killian	Green Party Fianna Fáil
Shannon International River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Nick Killian	Green Party Fianna Fáil

Name of Committee	Name	Party
<p>MCC Audit</p>	<p>Cllr John Farrelly Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Brian Fitzgerald Cllr Jim Hollaway Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Joe Reilly</p>	<p>Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Non Party Fine Gael Fianna Fáil Sinn Fein</p>
<p>Delagation - RPG Implementation Group</p>	<p>Cllr Tom Kelly</p>	<p>Green Party</p>
<p>East Border Region</p>	<p>Cllr John Farrelly Cllr Brian Fitzgerald Cllr Michael Gallagher Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr James Mangan Cllr William Carey</p>	<p>Fine Gael Non Party Sinn Féin Fianna Fáil Fianna Fáil Fine Gael</p>

CORE ACTIVITIES

THE COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURE AND HERITAGE SECTION HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

- Meath County Development Board
- Community & Enterprise Development
- Pride of Place Initiatives
- Community, Recreation, Leisure and Amenity
- Facilities/Community Grants Scheme
- Heritage
- Arts
- Library Service
- Rapid Programme
- Meath Local Sports Partnership

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

TO develop and promote a wide range of programmes and services that empower people to participate in community activity and development; and to work together within the Council, with communities and with stakeholders, to best effect to build confident sustainable communities.

MEATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

IN 2006, Meath County Development Board met five times, including a special meeting to consider the review of the County Development Plan 2007-2013. Presentations were delivered by the following agencies:

- An Garda Síochana
- Fáilte Ireland
- Health Services Executive
- Meath County Council - Community & Enterprise Development, Economic Development, Heritage, Infrastructure, Planning
- Meath Education & Training Forum
- Meath Partnership

During 2006, the Office of Community and Enterprise, Meath County Council, prepared a number of submissions on behalf of Meath CDB, including:

- Meath County Council County Development Plan Review
- Task Force on Active Citizenship

In December 2006, Meath County Development Board endorsed the three-year Meath Inter-Agency Strategy for the Traveller Community, as prepared by the Office of Community & Enterprise on behalf of the Board. This strategy was undertaken on foot of a request from the Departments of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government and Justice, Equality & Law Reform with the aim of improving co-operation amongst state agencies in the delivery of services and supports to the Traveller Community.

MEATH EDUCATION & TRAINING FORUM

Following on from the launch of the Meath Education & Training Audit, Meath Education & Training Forum, a sub-committee of Meath County Development Board, continued its work in 2006 with particular emphasis on the implementation of the Audit and progressing the implementation of the Meath Strategy for Higher Education.

Meath County Council appointed an Education Development Officer for Further & Higher Education in September 2006, the main aim of which was to progress the recommendations contained in the 2002 Meath Strategy for Higher Education. The Education Development Officer, based in Community & Enterprise, will work closely with the Forum and its member agencies in progressing education and training initiatives in County Meath.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR DATABASE

IN 2006, the Office of Community and Enterprise, Meath County Council, continued to encourage community & voluntary groups to register on its database. Over 800 groups are registered and these groups are regularly contacted with details of projects and initiatives being run by Meath County Council, Meath Community Forum and other state agencies, etc. Registered groups are also eligible to nominate and vote in the election of Community & Voluntary Sector Representatives.

TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

A training needs analysis was undertaken of all registered groups. Based on this analysis, provision of the identified training commenced in 2006. Training is being provided based on identified need and at a time and location best suited to participants. Training included a Safepass course for suitable groups.

COMMUNITY FORA

MEATH COUNTY COMMUNITY FORUM & ELECTORAL AREA COMMUNITY FORA

The elected Community & Voluntary Sector representatives, along with Area Fora representatives, form a Steering Committee, which organises events for the member groups of Meath Community Forum. In 2006, Community & Enterprise worked closely with this committee in terms of reviewing its operation and structures.

In October 2006, the Steering Committee, on behalf of Meath Community Forum, hosted a public meeting with the theme "Building Communities Together". The meeting was held in Ratoath and speakers included the regional Community Alert Officer.

In 2006, Navan Area Forum held or was involved in a number of events including an AGM, a multi-cultural day, a meet & greet event and an information evening on autism, with the aim of establishing a support group. South Meath (Trim) Forum also had a successful year with a number of information events held in various locations; themes included rural transport, community development, training and community alert schemes. Progress was also made in 2006 in re-activating Slane Electoral Area Forum with considerable support from a large number of local community groups.

Each of the active fora receives a small annual grant from the DoEHLG, channeled by the C & E Section, Meath County Council and for which they must submit a Work Programme and Activity Report.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

The C&E Section of Meath County Council has endeavoured to facilitate information exchange with and between communities through a variety of media. The initiatives undertaken have proven successful and it is intended to continue and where possible, extend efforts in this regard. Many of the initiatives below have been supported by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government through its grant aid for the support of community fora and development.

'COMMUNITY MATTERS'

In 2006, two issues of the community newsletter, 'Community Matters' was produced and circulated. Each of the County Development Board member organisations are invited to submit relevant articles for inclusion where these articles are of general community interest. Each issue is circulated to every household and business address in County Meath, with a total circulation of 50,000. This initiative is a very positive one with a wide range of information for different sectors of the community.

MEATH4FUNDING

This facility - available free of charge - continued to benefit all Meath community groups, businesses and social enterprises. Meath4Funding offers free access to an innovative service that provides information on grants and supports available. This comprehensive funding database is constantly updated and covers EU, national, regional and local grant and support information. This service is available on www.meath.ie.

PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY AWARDS

In 2006, C&E introduced the People in the Community Awards. This scheme is intended to recognise and reward the contribution made by individuals and groups in their community and is being run in conjunction with Meath Local Sports Partnership. The awards event will take place in early 2007.

COMMUNITY IT DEVELOPMENT

In August 2005, Meath County Council recruited a new Community IT Development Officer who is responsible for developing a number of initiatives including Communities Online Together (COT), the community section of meath.ie, the preparation of a Community IT Development Strategy, the schools online initiative etc.

In 2006, the following progress was made:

COMMUNITIES ONLINE TOGETHER

1. Review of status of existing websites.

All existing websites were assessed for their status in relation to:

- Quality of content and frequency of updates
- Existence of suitable branding (i.e. banner and colour scheme)
- Presence of link to an accessible version
- Search engine optimisation

2. A survey was conducted to gain feedback directly from groups to ascertain the effectiveness and suitability of the functionality provided and the perception of the usability of the existing system. The results of this survey were used to inform an upgrade to the system.

3. Website Content Management System upgraded.

- New user friendly interface prepared
- New features added as per suggestions received via survey
- Existing features secured through anti-spam measures
- New support material including manual and support website drafted

4. Training Sessions continued on a monthly basis. Currently over 270 community and voluntary groups have registered to participate with over 190 having received their training and/or are operating their own sites.

5. A customised version of the new Content Management System is to be developed for schools in 2006. This will be offered to all schools in the County in 2006, linking in with the Government's plans for broadband connectivity for schools.

COMMUNITY SECTION OF WWW.MEATH.IE

The Meath County Council website (www.meath.ie) includes a Community Section that contains information of general community interest including council community initiatives, initiatives being run by other organisations, local information and events, community representation etc. This links closely with the sites established under COT as events and other information are featured on both sites.

COMMUNITY IT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A draft Community IT Development Strategy for 2005/2006 was prepared.

MEATH CARE PORTAL PROPOSAL & SUBMISSION

A proposal for the development of a Care Portal website was drafted and submitted to funding sources. The proposal recommends the design and development of a single source of relevant information for disabled people, older people and vulnerable adults in order to:

- Make information and services more accessible to everyone
- Provide information and services for people in their own home at any time of the day or night
- Reduce isolation and social exclusion
- Help people to make informed decisions about their care and lives

To ensure maximum impact and benefit, the release of the website will be complimented by:

1. The provision of free and accessible PC workstations in key locations throughout the County
2. Training in the use of the service

SOCIAL INCLUSION

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD - SOCIAL INCLUSION MEASURES (SIM) GROUP

In October 2006, a meeting was organised to reactivate the SIM Group which is a sub group of Meath County Development Board. There was a positive response to the meeting and a further meeting was organised in December 2006 to identify membership, terms of reference and discuss priority areas for the group in 2007. A facilitated day will be organised to explore this further in early 2007.

The SIM group also supported the conference on Elder Abuse organised by Meath County Council (C&E) in partnership with the HSE; endorsed the Inter-agency Strategy for the Traveller Community; facilitated the roll out of Meath Care Portal; and made information available about Meath Partnerships Local Development Social Inclusion Programme.

YOUTH

COMHAIRLE NA NÓG/DÁIL NA NÓG

Comhairle na nÓg

Further to the recommendations set by the National Children's Office, Meath County Development Board consulted with young people in the County through a local Comhairle na nÓg (13-17yrs) and Comhairle na bPáisti (7-12yrs). Both groups held events separately and elected 12 representatives to form a steering group to represent their views at County level. These events were facilitated by the ISPCC.

Dáil na nÓg

In March 2006, five young people from Meath were selected from the Comhairle na nÓg process to represent Meath at the 2006 Dáil na nÓg which took place in Croke Park, Dublin.

DISABILITY

Funding was received under the National Disability Strategy in 2006 for Capital and Current expenditure. A total of €480,000 was secured for the following projects:

CURRENT EXPENDITURE

Training - General	€37,768
Libraries	€11,982
Meath Care Portal	€10,250
SPC - Access subcommittee	€20,000
	€80,000

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Libraries	€130,000
Meath Care Portal	€96,000
Alterations to Kells Swimming Pool	€174,000
	€400,000

Accessibility Audits for Meath County Council Buildings were also completed in 2006. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government published their 'Sectoral Plan under the Disability Act 2005' in December 2006. It requires Local Authorities within six months of the approval of the plan by the Oireachtas, to carry out an accessibility audit of all roads, streets, pavements, pedestrian crossings, public buildings, public parks, amenities and open spaces, heritage sites, public libraries and harbours within its control and draw up an implementation plan as a result.

OTHER INITIATIVES

MEATH INVESTMENT IN TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (MITE)

The Office of Community & Enterprise represents both Meath County Council and Meath County Development Board on the MITE Development Partnership. MITE is a programme funded under the EU EQUAL Initiative focusing on adaptability, training and employment. Meath County Council supports this programme through full participation on the DP and Management Committee.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTION NETWORK (SPAN)

The SPAN Project, funded under the EU Interreg IIIB Programme, focuses on two central themes: strategic territorial planning and multi-level governance across urban and rural settings. Meath County Development Board and Meath County Council are participating in one of two pilot territories in Ireland and this participation relates to the research on socio-economic trends in the County, conducted by NIRSA, and the implementation of the CDB strategy.

In November 2006, Meath County Council participated in the international SPAN conference held in Maynooth. Discussions are ongoing as to how Meath can benefit further from the SPAN Project.

COHESION - LOCAL DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY PROPOSALS

Community & Enterprise have, on foot of a request from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, worked closely with Meath LEADER and TIDE to facilitate the establishment of the new unified structure for the delivery of the rural development and social inclusion programmes in County Meath - Meath Partnership.

PRIDE OF PLACE INITIATIVES

Meath County Council Pride of Place is primarily a competition to harness the resources of active community groups to address the demands of a high quality living environment and to foster a partnership with the local authority. It asks each community to share in the responsibility for its area, not as an isolated body but with the advice and support of Meath County Council.

The Pride of Place programme is an efficient and effective use of the limited resources of Meath County Council. Citizens of County Meath as elsewhere have high expectations about the quality of their living spaces. Many families are moving from Dublin where fully fledged parks departments maintained the green spaces and play areas.

It is not possible for Meath County Council within its limited resources to meet these demands without involving the active participation of local communities. It is estimated that for every €1 invested by Meath County Council in this community development, €3 is invested by voluntary groups in terms of funding, voluntary labour, use of local suppliers and businesses.

THE FOLLOWING COMPETITIONS MAKE UP PRIDE OF PLACE:

- The Royal Bloom Competition for towns and villages
- Judging July 2006
- The Waterways Awards
- Judging July 2006
- The Derelict Sites Improvement Projects
- Judging July 2006
- The Village Paint Scheme
- Judging July 2006

- The Harvest Walks Competition
- Judging September 2006
- Meath County Council Pride of Place (POP) for Schools Competition - Judging May 2006

The judging criteria is given to all groups. Every group has an opportunity to meet the judges to explain the work they have been doing.

TRAINING

The Pride of Place Initiatives have a strong focus on training and active community groups get a chance to refresh their landscape management skills as follows:

FEBRUARY/MAY 2006:

- Two one day workshops for 200 school children and teachers in National Botanic Gardens
- Tidy Towns Groups Seminar
- 15 groups availed of Horticulture consultations on location with landscape architect and gardener
- 2 public workshops on tree planting and tree care in Balrath wood
- Group workshop in Kells on future landscape developments in town
- Workshop in conjunction with Heritage Officer Dunshaughlin Tidy Town Plan

AWARDS CEREMONIES

In 2006 the winners were announced at a special evening of community celebration as follows:

- Meath County Council Pride of Place for Schools Awards Ceremony
- 23rd June, in Simonstown GFC, Navan.
- Meath County Council Pride of Place Initiatives Awards Ceremony
- 24th November in Warrenstown College.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

Rathmoylon won the Meath Anti Litter League 2006. Moynalty won the overall prize in Meath County Council Pride of Place Awards 2006. Moynalty, Julianstown and Enfield represented Meath in Co-operation Ireland/Local Authorities Pride of Place 2006 and Moynalty came second in its category. It also was a gold medal winner in the National Tidy Towns Competition.

Summerhill Third Age Centre won first place for Third Age Provision in the Co-operation Ireland/Local Authorities Pride of Place 2006. Athboy won a Highly Commended Award while Trim won a Commended Award together with a Supervalu Endeavour Award 2006 in the National Tidy Towns Competition 2006.

Meath County Council Pride of Place Initiatives was short listed to final 43 projects in Public Service Excellence in Local Government Awards 2006.

URBAN TREE PLANTING SCHEME

A partnership project of Meath County Council and Coillte, (Tree Council of Ireland), enabled 12 tidy town centres to plant 20 broadleaf trees in 12 urban centres with €178,000 grant from Department of Environment Heritage & Local Government.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION LEVEL IN COUNTY MEATH

A total of 166 groups participated in the Pride of Place Initiatives in 2006 competitions. This included 32 primary schools in which pupils, teachers and parents created exciting school garden projects, e.g. a wild garden, an urban and a rural garden.

AMENITY LEVIES' SCHEME

The Amenity Levies' Scheme, which was established in 2003, is administered by the Department of Community, Enterprise, Recreation, Culture and Heritage. The scheme forms the basis of the implementation of the provision of county leisure and recreation facilities. It provides financial assistance to the Council and community-based groups and voluntary organisations for projects and initiatives to develop sporting, recreational, environmental, amenity, heritage and cultural facilities in the County. Funding for community-based group projects and initiatives is administered under the sub scheme - Community Grants Scheme. The Amenity Levies Scheme is funded annually by the proceeds of amenity levies on new developments in the county.

The Council agreed funding of €8.3m for Council projects and initiatives at County and Electoral Area level and Community Projects in July 2006.

A major funding allocation of €1.4m to community groups and voluntary organisations will benefit 56 County-wide projects ranging from sporting facilities, community/resource centres, heritage projects, amenity and environmental improvements. The Scheme will continue in 2007 and future years, with applications to be submitted for early April each year.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND WORKS GRANT SCHEME

This scheme was established by Meath County Council (the Council) and the Knockharley Landfill Community Liaison Committee. It provides financial assistance to the Council and local community-based clubs and voluntary organisations for the development of environmental community projects and works in the locality.

The scheme is being funded through the proceeds of the levy on the Knockharley Landfill facility. The levy is a contribution required under condition 5 attached to An Bord Pleanála planning permission reference PL-17.125891. It is referred to in the terms of a subsequent High Court Judicial Review settlement as a levy that is to be paid to the planning authority for the purpose of developing environmental community projects and works within the local area impacted upon by the landfill facility.

The overall assistance available will vary from year to year depending on the tonnage of waste deposited annually in the landfill facility. The funding allocations, for qualifying applicants, recommended by the Knockharley Landfill Community Liaison Committee for the approval of the Council, will be at least on an annual basis or other appropriate period as may be decided by the committee. In 2006 grants of Capital Assistance to the amount of €240,000 were offered to twelve community groups.

ARTS OFFICE

The Arts Office facilitates the further advancement of arts and culture in the County. It recognises the importance of the artist, the pivotal role that the artist has to play in promoting social inclusion, and their role in assisting Local Authorities achieve their objectives in areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism.

A balanced series of cultural events is provided annually across all disciplines in centres throughout County Meath. In 2006, the Arts Office provided participation opportunities in events as diverse as ballroom dancing, storytelling, jazz, classical music composition, circus and drama workshops, puppetry, visual arts and sculpture.

For the first time in 2006, events were held in conjunction with the Solstice Arts Centre, Navan during Bealtaine and the Children's Arts Festival. Links were developed with Ratoath Community Centre with the staging of 'Songs from Donegal' in December and arts workshops for the Children's ArtsFest in June.

Festivals across County Meath were also supported and classical music events were staged in Navan with continued and enthusiastic support from Rev. Clarke in St. Mary's Church.

The Arts office is expanding existing programmes of sustainable community projects in the key areas of: Arts and Disability, Arts and Older Persons, Multiculturalism and the Arts, Youth Drama/Dance, Arts In Education and Arts In Community Development.

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EXAMPLES INCLUDED:

- Foreign Film Festival in conjunction with Meath County Council Library Service
- Bealtaine
- The Children's ArtFest
- Multicultural Mask exhibition
- A host of events with Primary Schools throughout Meath
- Youth Arts
- Music recording and dance workshops with Youth Reach Centres
- Céilí dancing and visual art classes with active retirement groups
- Stagewise Stage School bursary

New partnerships have been developed and existing ones consolidated with local, national and international agencies to realise the above objective.

SOME NEW PARTNERS IN 2006 INCLUDED:

- Solstice Arts Centre
- Ratoath Community Centre
- Armagh County Museum
- University College Dublin, Department of Folklore
- Limerick School of Art and Design
- Millennium Court Arts Centre, Portadown, Northern Ireland
- The Ulster Museum
- Meath Heritage Office
- Ozanan House, Day Care Centre, Mornington, Co. Meath

PARTNERSHIPS FURTHER DEVELOPED INCLUDE:

- Age and Opportunity Ireland
- Access Cinema Foreign Film Festival
- Meath Youth Federation
- Meath County Council Library Service
- Diamond Cinema, Navan
- The National Gallery of Ireland
- National Chamber Choir
- Gael Linn
- Foras na Gaeilge
- Primary and Secondary Schools in the County
- 25 Active Retirement Centres in Meath
- Navan Silver Band
- Le Chéile, Oldcastle Co. Meath
- Five Youth Reach Centres in Co. Meath
- INF Brass Band
- Meath Harp Ensemble
- Kells Heritage Festival

The Arts Office continues to work with Irish language organisations and Gaeltacht areas in the development and implementation of artistic programmes through the Irish language.

Plans are at an advanced stage to bring a cross border Visual Arts exhibition in Irish to Rathcairn in 2007. A programme of education and outreach events are in development in conjunction with this exhibition. Partnerships have been forged with Comharchumann Rath Cairn Teoranta, Foras na Gaeilge and Gael Linn for this important event.

Bursaries & Awards 2006

PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Not awarded as none of the applications fully met the application criteria

FESTIVAL GRANT SCHEME

Fleadh Cheoil na Mí, Oldcastle, Co. Meath
O'Carolan Harp, Cultural & Heritage Festival, Nobber, Co. Meath

BI-ANNUAL ARTS GRANT SCHEME PHASE I

Meath Harp School
Kentstown & Seneschalstown Accordion Band
Duleek Drama Players
St. Michael's Set Dancing Club
Kells Active Retirement Group
Kells Heritage/ Summer Festival
Heritage Arts Group
INF Brass Band
Ratoath Foróige, Youth Club

SCHOOLS' MUSICAL INSTRUMENT PURCHASE SCHEME

Community College, Dunshaughlin
Kilbride National School
St. Patrick's National School, Stackallen

GOING SOLO

Not awarded as none of the applications fully met the application criteria

BI-ANNUAL ARTS GRANT SCHEME PHASE II

Irish National Foresters' Brass Band
Oliver Tennyson
Dunboyne Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
Boyne Writers' Group
Trim Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
John O'Rourke
Stackallen/ Rathkenny Musical Society
Loreto Day Care Centre, Navan

COMMUNITY ARTS AWARD

Darklight Festival

TYRONE GUTHRIE CENTRE AWARD

To be awarded early 2007

TONY FINNEGAN MEMORIAL AWARD

Shane Taaffe
Ciara Taaffe

DRAMA BURSARY

Gavin Duffy & Shane O'Neill

Total amount in Value	€ 21,240
Total Number of Bursaries Award in 2006:	27

HERITAGE SERVICES

The County Meath Heritage Forum was formally established in 2006. The Forum is a non statutory advisory group established by the Local Authority to advise on the preparation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan. Membership of the forum is drawn from the following sectors: local government, local development, state agencies, landowner representatives, community and voluntary sector, heritage groups and organisations and educational institutes. At its inaugural meeting in March, Mr. Seamus MacGabhann was elected as Chairperson. Following that meeting the heritage plan process was advertised and submissions were invited from interested bodies and individuals. The response was positive, with 129 written submissions received and 57 people attending five public meetings. The County Forum established three working groups: (1) Built Heritage, (2) Natural Heritage and Biodiversity and (3) Cultural Heritage and Education. Over the period June to August, 13 working group meetings were held which resulted in the publication of the Draft County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011. The plan set out 75 achievable and realistic actions to be implemented over a five year period. The draft plan was formally approved by Meath County Council at its September meeting and presented to Meath County Development Board, Trim, Navan, Kells Town Councils and the Social, Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee in the same month. In October, the 2007 County Meath Heritage Plan Work Programme was devised and funding was secured from the Heritage Council and Meath County Council for its implementation. In December, comments were sought on the Draft Plan which went on public display.

- The position of Field Monument Advisor in County Meath was established in September with Rosanne Meenan commencing employment. The scheme provides advice

and support to landowners in the care of archaeological monuments in their ownership.

- Phase I of County Graveyard Project was completed by Louise McKeever (Research Assistant) and Phase II (site visit and digital photographic survey) was initiated.
- The production of Five-Year Tidy Town Plans for two community groups was completed. This involved facilitated workshops focusing on the built and natural environment, litter, waste management and landscaping.
- The annual Tidy Towns Seminar was held in Moynalty with over 50 people attending. Presentations covered all aspects of the competition including a presentation by one of the national adjudicators.
- In 2006, the Heritage Office responded to in excess of 600 queries from the public on various aspects of heritage management and conservation.
- Balrath Neighbourhood Steering Committee met six times throughout 2006 and a successful application was made to the Heritage Council for an 'Ecological Management Plan for Balrath Wood'.
- Graveyard recording training piloted in 2005 and was extended in 2006 for community groups. The Meath and Kildare Heritage Officers worked in partnership with the Baconstown Old School Development Committee on the Baconstown Recording Project and provided on-going advice to the group.
- In partnership with the Pride of Place Office, the Heritage Officer advised community groups on hedgerow management as part of the Harvest Walks competition.

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The Heritage Service raises heritage awareness and facilitates the collection and dissemination of heritage information:

- The heritage website was expanded and updated with various information added (www.meath.ie/localauthorities/heritage)
- Promoted the Heritage in Schools Scheme 2006
- Advised and liaised with the Boyne Navigation Restoration Group and secured funding through the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government/Heritage Council for its phased restoration on the Boyne Navigation.
- Secured funding for a Lidar Survey of the World Heritage Site at Brú na Bóinne. Airborne Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging) measures the height of the ground surface and other features in large areas of landscape with a resolution and accuracy hitherto unavailable, except through labour-intensive field survey or photogrammetry. It provides, for the first time, highly detailed and accurate models of the land surface at metre and sub-metre resolution. Lidar operates by using a pulsed laser beam which is scanned from side to side as the aircraft flies over the survey area, measuring between 20,000 to 100,000 points per second to build an accurate, high resolution model of the ground and the features upon it.
- Organised an event to promote National Biodiversity Day 2006
- In May 2006, the Heritage Officer was invited by the Irish American Cultural Institute to deliver a lecture on 'The cultural heritage of Irish peatlands' at various locations around the United States

- Heritage Exhibitions held in 2006 included an exhibition on our ancient monuments entitled 'Stone Walls and Earthen Banks' and on our native hedgerows called 'Networks for Nature'
- Co-ordinated the annual Heritage Week celebrations held from August 26th to September 3rd. Events were widely publicised and the office organised six events throughout the County
- In March as part of National Tree Week 2006, 3,000 trees were distributed to community groups in Balrath Wood
- Biodiversity of the Ramparts Project - Phase I completed. This involved an ecological survey of the rampart from Navan to Stackallen bridge and design of nature walk and teachers pack
- The Heritage Office in partnership with Solstice Arts Centre held a launch of the 'Mounds of the Hostages' by Dr. Muiris O'Sullivan in Navan in October.
- Meath County Council is a partner in INTERREG project led by Fingal County Council to increase awareness of coastal habitats

The Heritage Service contributes to local authority policy formulation and decision-making

- Drafted heritage policy in the County Meath Development Plan 2007-2013 and supported Planning and other Departments when required throughout the year

NAVAN RAPID

The Navan RAPID Programme was launched in August 2002 and is part of the current National Development Plan 2006 - 2013. The RAPID Programme was established in order to advance three key areas:

- Increase investment in key local estates
- Improve service provision in the RAPID estates through better Service Integration
- Enhance community spirit through capacity building and increased engagement and participation

INVESTMENT

INVESTMENT HAS CONTINUED TO FLOW INTO THE NAVAN RAPID AREA IN 2006 WITH KEY INITIATIVES BEING FUNDED INCLUDING ENHANCEMENT TO ESTATES, ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, AND ADDITIONAL PLAY AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

- Funding has been secured for the development of a multi-use games area in Clogherboy Estate. The total cost of the project is €125,000 and funding comes from Meath County Council, Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and RAPID. The area includes a skateboard park.
- Funding of €65,000 has been secured for the development of a community playground in Reask Estate which was requested by local residents. Work is due to be completed during Summer 2007.
- An environment enhancement project worth €50,000 will be completed within 2007.
- The WINNER Project, an initiative spearheaded by County

Meath VEC was established for the RAPID estates in Navan, attracting investment of almost €200,000 over two years. The Project started in August 2005 and is already providing training and education opportunities for women who live in the RAPID estates. Funding comes from the Equality for Women Initiative which is operated by the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

- Under the Equality for Women Initiative, mentioned above, Navan RAPID in association with four other RAPID areas, were awarded €50,000 to establish the 'F.I.T. for Women' programme in Navan. This programme will conclude in 2007.

SERVICE CO-OPERATION

Local agencies and service providers have continued to work together in 2005 to provide enhanced support and services to the people of the Navan RAPID estates.

The Kids Klub was established in Clogherboy as a response to the needs identified in the Navan RAPID Needs Analysis published last year. This project is supported by the HSE and operates in close association with the community and other local service providers.

The Sunshine Summercamp, now in its fourth year, ran for one week in July and catered for 35 children from the RAPID estates. The camp is run by a joint committee that has representatives from RAPID, Meath Local Sports Partnership, Springboard, Navan Schools Completion Programme, Meath Youth Federation and the community.

The Smoking Cessation scheme which is centred in the RAPID estates continues to run this year with the support of the HSE.

COMMUNITY

- Community Training Programme continued with the support of the Community Support Budget. Capacity building was provided for members of the community.
- Meath Intercultural Family Festival - the fourth Navan culture festival was held in Claremont Stadium in August and was a huge success with the local community. MLSP, CIS, Cultur and RAPID worked together to manage the delivery of this project with funding of almost €40,000 from the Dormant Accounts Fund.
- Community relations continue to develop with the ongoing consultation workshops with community to work through issues such as estate enhancement, playground development and other important community issues.

MEATH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Meath Local Sports Partnership implements the Meath Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan and develops and delivers a range of quality programmes to increase the awareness of and the benefits of physical activity and sport. The following priority areas were identified:

1. YOUNG PEOPLE
2. ACTIVE LIVING
3. CLUB TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
4. FACILITIES & RESOURCES
5. MARKETING MEATH LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

1. YOUNG PEOPLE

BUNTUS TRAINING

113 primary schools - generic
108 schools - FAI Buntus
35 First Badminton
28 Buntus Golf
20 Childcare Providers - Buntus Start
3 Buntus Start Tutors trained

SUMMER CAMP

Leader Training provided
Information leaflet produced
Sunshine summer camp

2. ACTIVE LIVING

ADAPTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

16 Trained in Disability Helpers Swim
190 participants on All Ability summer camp
29 Disability Children`s Officers
€6,250 distributed Disability projects

OLDER PEOPLE

€1,500 received from Go For Life
115 Older people attended Vintage Dance Days
Grant Information workshop

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Questionnaire distributed to RAPID estates
€42,000 approved from Pobal

OTHER

150 participants Multi Cultural Day
Upgrade of Navan Slí Na Sláinte route

3. TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

COACH TRAINING

96 club representatives participated on SAQ courses
61 FAI Level 1 & 2
20 FUNdamentals Ladies Gaelic
12 Introduction Level Badminton
88 Sports First Aid
18 AED
247 Code of Ethics
43 Children Officers
17 Drug & Alcohol Policy

COACH DEVELOPMENT

250 Running League
13 Camogie Clubs Development Plan
15 Women in Motion project
€11,500 Bursary awards
€12,925 club grants
€1,500 club of year

4. FACILITIES

AUDIT

287 sporting & community facilities audited
3000 directories produced
Sub committee established

CAPITAL FUNDING

34 club representatives information evening
Assistance to clubs grant application

CLUB DATABASE

Update and maintenance

5. MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

WEBSITE

Maintain & update
New website developed

INFORMATION

19,500 supplements distributed
DVD produced & launched
Quarterly mailshots with course information sent to 3,000 contacts
211 meetings with club, community & agency representatives

STRATEGY

Sub committee established
Consultant appointed
Public consultation
Facilitated board training

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

BOARD MEMBERS

7 meetings with full board
1 AGM
8 executive meetings

FINANCIAL PLANNING

€168,007 secured in Core funding
€9,000 secured in Challenge funding
€46,148 secured under National Action Plan Against Racism
€6,250 approved under National Disability Strategy
€16,000 received from Meath Leader - facilities audit
€7,475 Women in Sport initiative
Comply with all Tax & Revenue

REPORTS

Annual report produced
Quarterly reports to Irish Sports Council
Workplan produced

MANAGEMENT

STAFF

FAS CE worker appointed
Training for staff
Staff appraisals
ISC Co-ordinator training

Illustrator Korky Paul in Duleek Library



Meath County Council Library Service

Continued commitment to the Library Development plan 2005-2009 has resulted in further progress in the areas of increased opening hours, branch improvements, reader development, multicultural services, local studies and events.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2006 INCLUDED

- Increased opening hours at Duleek and Dunshaughlin Libraries to include all day Saturday opening
- Major furniture upgrades at Duleek, Kells and Nobber Libraries
- Over 400 items a month now issued from the foreign languages collection
- Introduction of electronic overdues

READER DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL LAUNCHED IN MEATH LIBRARIES

Children all over the County benefited from the wide range of activities and author events organised by Meath County Council Libraries this year. The Service organised over 60 events countywide to celebrate this annual national event.

Children were invited to visit their local library and meet award-winning authors such as Alan Gibbons, Kevin Kiely, Joan O'Neill, Joe O'Brien and Joan Lingard, author of the well known Kevin and Sadie books such as 'The Twelfth of July' and 'Across the Barricades' set in the north of Ireland. There were also illustration workshops with well known illustrators such as Korky Paul, illustrator of the Winne the Witch series and illustrator Lucinda Jacob whose books are available in Irish and English.

The Library Service also organised a poetry competition for the 10 - 13 year age group.

READING MISSION A BIG HIT IN MEATH LIBRARIES

Meath County Council Library Service celebrated the success of their second summer reading scheme for children, held in all their libraries throughout the County in 2006.

Approximately 700 children countywide participated in the scheme, this year entitled 'The Reading Mission'. Children that signed up for the scheme agreed to read six books during July and August and in return they received a free mission pack to rate their books, stickers (one set for each book they read), fridge magnet, and a certificate of achievement when they completed the scheme.



Some of the larger libraries such as Navan, Trim and Ashbourne threw graduation parties for all the successful 'agents' who completed the Mission over the summer. Ashbourne Library had over 80 'agents' attending their graduation ceremony, where all successful children received their certificates of achievement.

NAVAN SCHOOLS MEET HORROR AUTHOR DARREN SHAN AT THE SOLSTICE ARTS CENTRE

Meath County Council Library Service organised a monster gathering of Navan school children to attend a presentation by author Darren Shan at the Solstice Arts Centre.

Over 320 pupils from 5th, 6th, first and second year classes from Navan attended the event. This was one of the largest author events ever organised by the library service. Pupils from St. Joseph's, St. Anne's, St. Patrick's, St. Oliver's, St. Stephen's and Flowerfield Schools attended.

Darren Shan, the author of the Darren Shan Vampire series and the latest Demonta demon series, invited some of the school children on stage to take part in chapter readings from both series and interview him on stage.

Some of the children that took part in the reading challenge at the graduation party at Ashbourne Library

Local Studies

GENEALOGY COURSES IN TRIM & OLDCASTLE LIBRARIES

In 2005 the department facilitated ten week genealogy courses in Ashbourne and Navan libraries. These were so popular the department organised two further courses at Trim & Oldcastle Libraries. Participants learned how to use resources such as census returns, parish records and valuations. The best websites for family research were demonstrated and advice given on how to gain the most value from repositories such as the National Library, the National Archives and the Local Studies department in Navan library. All participants were awarded certificates in basic genealogical skills.

Genealogy Course members at Trim Library



- Local Studies staff contributed to the piloting of the Primary Schools' Curriculum element of the Ask About Ireland website (www.askaboutireland.ie)
- Introduction of Ordnance Survey Historic Map Viewer Service at all locations
- A major collection of audio, film, photographic and paper archives relating to the social and business history of Kells was donated to the archive

Multicultural Events

LITHUANIAN ART EXHIBITION

In January over a hundred people attended the national launch of Lietuva - Airija Lithuania - Ireland art exhibition of paintings by Lithuanian artist, Ema Rimeikaite, in Oldcastle Library. A short film documenting the recent history of Lithuania and providing travellers insight into the country preceded the launch. The event was part of Meath County Council's Libraries and Cultural Diversity programme. The large Lithuanian community in Oldcastle was very well represented on the night as the breathtaking beauty of their homeland was put on display for everybody to enjoy.

FOREIGN FILMS FESTIVAL FOR MEATH LIBRARIES

Meath County Council Library Service and Meath County Council Arts Office hosted their first library foreign film festival in November 2006. This event took place as part of their multicultural library and arts events programme. The films shown were Polish, French and Russian, all of which had English subtitles and therefore viewing was open to both foreign national borrowers and Irish borrowers. The films were shown across the county in Navan, Ashbourne, Trim, Dunboyne and Oldcastle Libraries.

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BEALTAINÉ FESTIVAL

The Library service organised a wide variety of events for the 2006 Bealtaine Festival. The festival celebrates creativity in old age and was launched in Ashbourne Library with an exhibition of 40 paintings from the residents of Kilbrew and Ratoath nursing homes. The Cathaoirleach, Brian Fitzgerald, opened the event to family and friends of the nursing home residents.

Other events organised by the Library service in its other branches for Bealtaine included Colour Me Confident workshops, Silver Surfer Sessions where members of the public booked one to one Internet sessions with a librarian, wine tasting workshops and an antiques road show event at Trim Library. Other events included archivist talks on preserving family papers and a 12 week genealogy course at Trim Library.

Some of the participants at the film Festival at Navan Library



DID YOU KNOW ?

Ashbourne library was featured on the R.T.E Read Write Now Series.

A new Childcare Reference collection was established at County Library HQ in partnership with Meath County Childcare Committee.

NEW SERVICES FOR THE HOUSEBOUND

In February 2006 Dunboyne Library launched its pilot Housebound Service for people who cannot make the journey to the Library. Deliveries of books to local people who registered on the scheme began in early February and continued to be a success throughout the year.

One to one Internet training sessions by library staff for members of the public continue to attract bookings at Ashbourne, Navan and Trim libraries.

Antiques road show at Trim Library



COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURE & HERITAGE

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PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PUBLIC OPENING HOURS PER WEEK

Full-time Libraries	40.30
Part-time Libraries	18.53

Number of registered users as a % of the local population

13.37

Number of items issued per head of population

Books	2.13
Non-Book	0.23

% of Libraries that offer Internet access

13.37

Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population

435

% of Libraries that offer Internet access

100%



The Australian ambassador visited Oldcastle library to launch 'Kate's Journey' by Graham Wilson

Tourism Promotion and Development

MEATH TOURISM HIGHLIGHTS 2006

Meath County Council and Meath Tourism commissioned a tourism strategy to guide the manner in which development, inward investment and marketing for the County would be executed in the tourism sector over five years. The strategy is known as 'Ireland's Heritage Capital- Marketing Tourism in Meath 2005-2010'. Year two (2006) of the strategy was a successful year for tourism in Meath with a 22% increase in the number of overseas visitors. Seven new hotels opened in Meath, resulting in new facilities for the County including spas, state of the art leisure facilities, and the ability to host major conferences.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Meath Tourism teamed up with Meath County Council on the design of the new www.meathtourism.ie website. Significant research was commissioned by Meath County Council who engaged the services of usability specialists. New ezines were emailed to large targeted databases to promote Meath Golf and Meath Heritage. As 2006 was Ryder Cup year in the neighbouring County Kildare, Meath Tourism developed a new website www.rydercupaccommodationireland.ie to promote Meath Golf Clubs and encourage visitors to stay in Co. Meath.

FAMILIARISATION TRIPS

A significant two-day press visit of 12 journalists from Northern Ireland and their partners was organised in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland. The trip took place on the 4th and 5th Sept to coincide with the Laytown Races. Further smaller trips of journalists and tour operators also took place. Fáilte Ireland (East and Midlands Region)

organised a major trip of top golf journalists to the K Club featuring Meath golf courses.

A 'Get to Know Meath Heritage' familiarisation trip for Meath tourism providers took place in October 2006 and was a great success.

PROMOTIONS

Almost 20 Promotions & Fairs were attended by Meath Tourism during 2006.

MAJOR MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Two major media campaigns were implemented during 2006 to focus on the Northern Ireland market. Meath Tourism launched a significant advertising campaign in Northern Ireland 'Break for the Border...we're closer than you think'. This Northern Ireland Value Breaks Campaign commenced at the beginning of March and finished Mid April on the run up to Easter. The campaign included a major billboard campaign and radio advertising over 4 of the main radio stations in Northern Ireland directing listeners to www.meathtourism.ie or a callsave number to receive the special offers brochure.

Meath Tourism applied to the Fáilte Ireland Local Area Marketing Fund for part funding towards increased marketing efforts in Northern Ireland. Following the success of the application, Meath Tourism launched a new Special Offers Campaign in October with 165,000 A4 Special Offers Brochures with the theme 'Paradise Found ...Magical Short Breaks just a hop away!' A door to door maildrop of 160,000 brochures was carried out in Belfast and surrounding areas backed up by consumer promotions at Shopping Centres and at the Belfast Tourist Office.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURE & HERITAGE

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MEATH HOTELS INITIATIVE

With the major growth in the supply of hotel bedrooms during 2006, Meath Tourism set up the Meath Hotels Marketing Group to stimulate co-operative marketing activity from the Meath Hotels sector, with a large attendance of General Manager and Sales and Marketing Managers from new and existing hotels in County Meath. The group was addressed by Mr. Tom Dowling, County Manager, Meath County Council along with Chairman of Meath Tourism Cllr John V Farrelly.

GOLF INITIATIVE

The Meath Golf Marketing Group was set up and attendance has been very good again coordinated by Meath Tourism with Fáilte Ireland involved also. The meetings have produced the Royal Fairways 4 for 3 initiative launched in August to coincide with the Ryder Cup and to attract golfers to County Meath.

TOURIST INFORMATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The 2006 Meath Holiday Guide was produced with all members' details and descriptions and 30,000 of these were distributed at consumer shows, libraries and access points. Over 200 Dublin Hotels, along with tourist offices all over Ireland and Northern Ireland were regularly stocked with brochures. A further 50,000 brochures were distributed during the year on heritage, golf, crafts and the towns of Meath.

A brochure in French was produced to promote Meath at a number of Consumer shows attended by Meath Tourism, including the Salon de Tourism at Bordeaux and Brussels.

TOWNS AND AREA MARKETING

Meath Tourism and the Kells Chamber of Commerce held a second North Meath Tourism Talk Shop and invited the CEO of Fáilte Ireland East and Midlands Region to speak. Attendance at the event was excellent and offered members an opportunity to network.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Meath Tourism and the Economic Development Officer worked together on a number of projects including on site meetings with potential investors and meetings with new hotel developers.

HERITAGE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Meath Tourism and the OPW worked together on a project to raise awareness locally in schools and amongst adults of the vast heritage in Meath. This involved an Amateur Photography Competition 'The Heritage of Meath' which attracted a significant number of entries. Following this a 2007 Meath Heritage Calendar was produced.

MEATH HERITAGE BUS

Meath Tourism and Flexibus commenced a new venture together in transporting visitors around County Meath. The New Meath Heritage bus Service commenced during the Summer of 2006 with the objective of filling a gap, whereby, visitors to County Meath could visit our main sites in one day on Flexibus.

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Corporate Services

CORE ACTIVITIES

THE CORPORATE SERVICES SECTION HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR:

- Communications / Publications / Corporate Identity
- Corporate Buildings & Surrounds
- Corporate Plan
- Customer Care
- Ethics Register (Staff & Members)
- Health & Safety
- Higher Education Grants
- Local Democracy
- Management Team Support
- Meeting Administration
- Members Support
- Register of Electors

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To work within a framework of democratic principles, which facilitates optimum public participation, and the delivery of quality services for the benefit of our community.

Communications / Publications / Corporate Identity

STRATEGY To communicate effectively with our customers and community in order to increase awareness of the organisations services and operations

LOCAL RADIO, PRINT MEDIA

In 2006, Meath County Council continued to avail of local radio and print media to increase public awareness of Council activities and functions.

During the year a total of 25 Press Releases, 655 general media activities and in excess of 280 statutory and discretionary public notices was managed through Corporate Services, as well as the publication of the weekly statutory and discretionary advertisements and public notices for the organisation in the national and local media.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

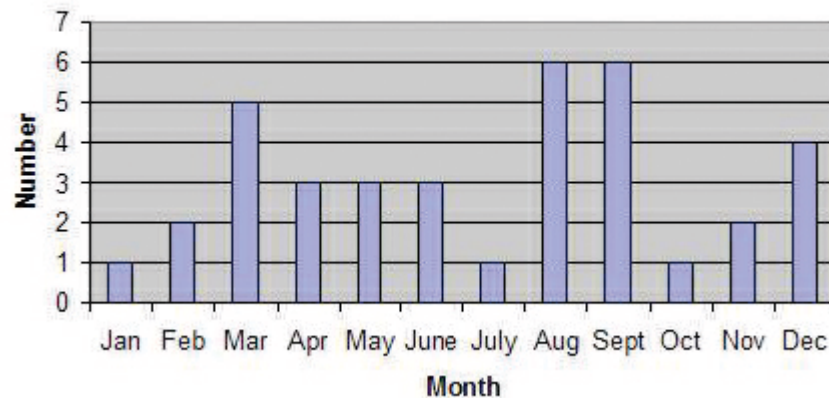
Meath County Council continues to ensure that anyone who has a proper interest in receiving information has access to that information through the Freedom of Information (FoI) Acts 1997 & 2003.

Records made available under FoI are those records not already available under alternative legislation and applies to all Local Authority records created after 21st October 1998.

The following are the 2006 statistics relating to Freedom of Information Requests:

Applications Received	37
Carried Forward from 2005	4
Total	41
No. of requests granted/part granted	31
No. of requests refused	5
Requests transferred	0
Withdrawn or dealt with outside FOI	0
Live cases at end of 2006	5
No of Internal Reviews	1
No. of Appeals to the Information Commissioner	0

Freedom of Information Requests - 2006



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT 2003

Following a request from the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs the Scheme (Language Plan) prepared under the Official Languages Act 2003 was confirmed in 2006.

The scheme became effective from the 1st September 2006 and will remain in force for a period of three years. The scheme sets out measures to be put in place to ensure that any services not provided by the Local Authorities through the medium of the Irish language will be so provided within an agreed timeframe.

Among the main measures included in the Meath Local Authorities' Scheme are:

- Improvements in the availability of application forms, information leaflets and other documents through Irish
- An increase in the information available bilingually on the Local Authorities' website
- A specific email address to deal with enquiries through Irish
- Press releases dealing with Gaeltacht issues to be made available bilingually
- Commitments given with regard to the office in Kells which serves the Gaeltacht communities of both Rath Cairn and Baile Ghib in relation to availability of counter services bilingually
- Training courses to be made available to staff in order to improve their Irish language ability, thereby allowing an increase in the services available to the public. An inhouse Language Development Plan is currently being prepared

Copies of the Meath Local Authorities Scheme are available from Corporate Services, County Hall, Navan, all Civic Offices and Libraries or alternatively the scheme can be accessed on www.meath.ie

Corporate Plan

STRATEGY To oversee the implementation, monitoring and review of the Corporate Plan

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN

In early 2006 the County Council completed and presented the first annual review of the Corporate Plan 2004-2009. This review followed a validation of the various departmental operational plans measured against the Corporate Plan. This review was followed by a subsequent review of priorities and the re-allocation of resources as required.

The Corporate Plan will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

Customer Care

STRATEGY To promote a culture of excellence in service provision, which is responsive to the needs and expectations of our customers and community.

During 2006, the Council continued to promote a culture of excellence in service provision which is responsive to the needs and expectations of our customers and community.

A comprehensive review of our customer service was initiated. This review focused on an analysis of both internal and external stakeholders regarding customer care service and best practice. Best practice reference sites were identified and visited and a series of consultation sessions with both internal and external customers were also held.

The review resulted in a Business Process Improvement Exercise with respect to change management in our customer service and in conjunction with the Workplace Partnership Quality Customer Care Group, work on the preparation of a formal Customer Complaints' Procedure was also well advanced.

A new complaints and redress procedure is expected to be officially launched in 2007, along with an enhanced customer service unit, supported by the Corporate Service Section.

Health & Safety

STRATEGY To ensure that health and safety is a priority in all aspects of our work.

SAFETY & HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Throughout 2006, the Council placed an increased emphasis on quality safety and health management, promotion of awareness of safety and health in the workplace and auditing of safety and health performance. A new Corporate Safety Statement was also approved.

TRAINING

Health & Safety training was provided on a range of topics including Abrasive wheels, Chainsaw, Chemical & Chlorine Awareness, Dumper, First Aid, Health & Safety for Construction Workers, Managing Safety for Construction, Mini Digger, RCP & Method Statement, Ride on Roller, Road Pavement, Safepass and Signing Lighting & Guarding.

MEETINGS

The Safety Management Committee (SMC) and the Safety Monitoring Group (SMG) continued to meet on a regular basis during 2006.

ACCESSIBILITY AUDITS

In line with the Council's objectives to provide safe, secure and functional buildings, a number of Disability Audits were carried out which examined buildings and approaches, facilities and services, against pre-determined criteria based on the principles of Universal Design and informed by best practice guidance to assess its ease of use by people of varying abilities.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Stronger communication links were established and members of the public were assisted in relation to Health & Safety queries.

Higher Education Grants

STRATEGY To administer the Department of Education & Science Higher Education Grant Scheme

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANTS

During 2006, Meath County Council assisted students under the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 Higher Education Grants Schemes.

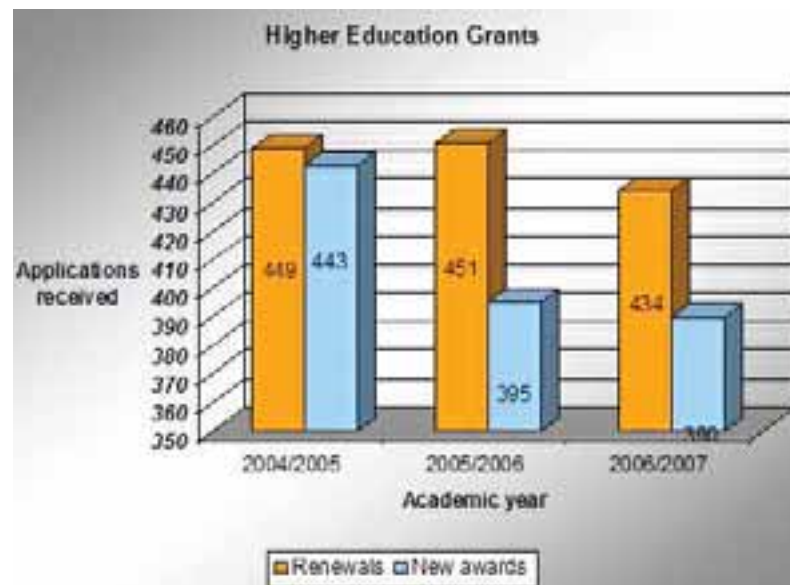
A total of 390 new applications and 434 renewal applications were received for the 2005/2006 academic year. The value of a full grant was €3,100 and overall expenditure in 2006 amounted to in excess of €2.3m. This expenditure, with the exception of €14,045.55, is recoupable from the Department of Education and Science.

There are various categories of grant awards as follows:

- Full Maintenance and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (75%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (50%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (25%) and Full Fees
- Part Tuition fees only

For the 2006/2007 academic year, Meath County Council paid the 'Special Rate of Maintenance Grant' (Top-Up Grant) to nearly 100 students.

Statistics on applications received for the last 3 years are as follows:



Members support

STRATEGY To support and enhance the role of the elected Councillor through the provision of information, training, advice and facilities as required, to carry out their role.

CONFERENCE DIARY & TRAINING

Corporate Services managed the 2006 Conference & Training Diary and all associated claims.
The Council was represented at the following Conferences during the year:

Title	Dates	Members Attended
The Local Government - Budget 2007	09/12/2006 - 09/12/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Charles Bobbett CIlr Tom Kelly
Agrivision 2015 - Action Plan	30/11/2006 - 02/12/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Charles Bobbett CIlr Seamus Murray
Clare Tourism Conference	24/11/2006 - 25/11/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Patsy O'Neill CIlr Michael Lynch
eTowns National Conference 2006	14/11/2006 - 15/11/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Oliver Brooks
LAMA - Winter Seminar 2006	10/11/2006 - 11/11/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Ann Dillon-Gallagher CIlr Charles Bobbett CIlr James Holloway CIlr Joe Reilly
Assoc of Irish Festival Events Annual Conference 2006	09/11/2006 - 11/11/2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIlr Patsy O'Neill CIlr James Mangan CIlr Michael Lynch CIlr Seamus Murray CIlr William Carey

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Title	Dates	Members Attended
Douglas Hyde Conference 2006 - Many Streams one broad river	20/10/2006 - 22/10/2006	Cllr James Mangan
Many Streams one broad river	20/10/2006 - 22/10/2006	Cllr James Mangan
Sustainable Energy - The Untapped Resource of Our Regions	06/10/2006 - 06/10/2006	Cllr Michael Lynch
Getting A grip 2006 - Alcohol & Substance Misuse	05/10/2006 - 06/10/2006	Cllr Patsy O'Neill Cllr Noel Leonard
All Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities Forum - Autumn Seminar	30/09/2006 - 30/09/2006	Cllr Tom Kelly Cllr Dominic Hannigan
11th Annual Conference - Women's Health & Suicide	29/09/2006 - 30/09/2006	Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Liz McCormack Cllr James Mangan
Annual Conference 2006 - AMAI	14/09/2006 - 16/09/2006	Cllr Michael Lynch
Sport & Leisure Development- The Role of the Local Authority	31/08/2006 - 01/09/2006	Cllr Jimmy Cudden Cllr Oliver Brooks Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr James Mangan Cllr Liz McCormack
Local Government & The Arts	24/08/2006 - 26/08/2006	Cllr Michael Gallagher
General Humbert Michael Davitt Summer School 06	17/08/2006 - 20/08/2006	Cllr Tommy Reilly
Macgill Summer School & Arts Week 2006	17/07/2006 - 22/07/2006	Cllr Joseph Bonner
The Local Government Planning Services as an Instrument for Rural/Urban Development	06/07/2006 - 08/07/2006	Cllr James Holloway
2nd Annual Regional Policy Forum	23/06/2006 - 23/06/2006	Cllr Liz McCormack

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Title	Dates	Members Attended
Local Government and the Planning System North & South	23/06/2006 - 23/06/2006	Cllr Nick Killian
Exercising your Mental Health	25/05/2006 - 26/05/2006	Cllr Phillip Cantwell
The Westport Experience Annual Conference 2006	18/05/2006 - 19/05/2006	Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Michael Gallagher Cllr William Carey Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Michael Lynch
Housing Services Local Government	28/04/2006 - 29/04/2006	Cllr Michael Gallagher
14th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference 2006	26/04/2006 - 29/04/2006	Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr Noel Leonard
Local Government - Delivering the Future Now	20/04/2006 - 21/04/2006	Cllr Oliver Brooks Cllr James Mangan Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Michael Lynch Cllr Jimmy Cudden Cllr Nick Killian
Workshop - Evaluation Process - Programmes and Projects	10/04/2006 - 10/04/2006	Cllr Tommy Reilly

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Title	Dates	Members Attended
The law of Defamation (libel & slander) as it affects cllrs	08/04/2006 - 08/04/2006	Cllr Liz McCormack
Death on our Roads - What Can We Do?	22/03/2006 - 24/03/2006	Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher
Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference 2006	09/03/2006 - 11/03/2006	Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr William Carey Cllr Nick Killian
Cork County Council's - Annual Mayor Conference 2006	02/03/2006 - 02/03/2006	Cllr James Holloway
17th Colmcille Winter School 2006	24/02/2006 - 26/02/2006	Cllr Seamus Murray Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr James Holloway
Mid-West Regional Authority-12th Annual Conference - The Region & The N.D.P. 2007-2013	6/02/2006 - 17/02/2006	Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Cllr Tommy Reilly
The Region & The N.D.P. 2007 - 2013 AMAI Spring Seminar	16/02/2006 - 17/02/2006 10/02/2006 - 11/02/2006	Cllr Tommy Reilly Cllr James Holloway
How To Make Tourism Work For You	03/02/2006 - 04/02/2006	Cllr William Carey

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PUBLIC REPRESENTATIONS

During 2006, Corporate Services managed 426 written public representations from Oireachtas Members and 59 from Council Members. This service is managed through our document management system (Idocs) and available directly to the elected representatives through the Meeting Administration / Members Portal system.

CORPORATE EVENT MANAGEMENT

Corporate Services was pleased to manage several Corporate Events and Civic Receptions in 2006 following formal resolution of the elected members.

Sean Boylan is the first recipient of the Honorary Freedom of the County of Meath.



Following an earlier resolution of the members, Sean Boylan (former Meath Senior Football Team Manager) was conferred with the Honorary Freedom of the County of Meath in respect and admiration for his accomplishments over the past 23 years on and off the field. The three strand ceremony took place on Sunday 23rd April 2006 commencing with the official signing of the register in County Hall, followed by an open air street party in Sean's native Dunboyne Village and concluded with a formal reception in Dunboyne Caste attended by over 400 guests.

Sr. Beata Gerrity from New York, with many relatives and friends in County Meath, was guest of honour at a civic reception in the Council Chamber to mark her outstanding work with the Meath Association in New York over the past number of years.



Register of Electors

Strategy To capture information and manage the quality control, publication and distribution of the Register of Electors, in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Register of Electors was published in February 2006 and showed a voting population as follows:

Dail Electors	122,962
Presidential Electors	121,478
European Electors	24,278
Local Electors	125,640
Postal Voters	366

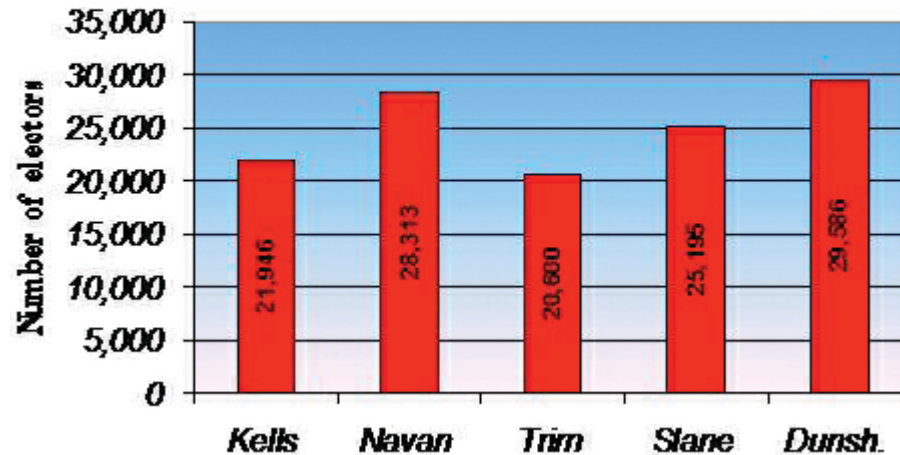
During 2006, officials from Meath County Council engaged in a national Business Process Improvement exercise on the Register of Electors.

The project was highly participative with involvement from Local Authority Franchise and Information Systems Staff, Revenue Collectors, and the Local Government Computer Services Board. This group also worked on a package of measures aimed at assisting registration authorities to secure significant improvements in the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the 2007/2008 Register, which were announced and implemented during the year.

For the first time, the Council opened all area offices on a Saturday to facilitate registration.

The chart below gives a breakdown of Local Electors by Electoral Area:

Register of Electors 2006/2007



Corporate Plan - Annual Progress Report 2006

HOUSING

The year 2006 saw a record output of house construction by Meath County Council with 243 Social Houses either completed or substantially completed at the end of the year. This figure accords with the multi-annual Housing Action Plan 2004 -2008 which seeks to co-ordinate and structure the operation of a complex housing function.

A review of this Action Plan was carried out during 2006 and while targets on social housing, disabled persons grants, essential repairs grants are being achieved, other areas such as Voluntary Housing Initiatives and the delivery of units under Part V are behind target.

In 2006 substantial progress was made in planning for major refurbishment Schemes for the Townparks estate in Navan and Headfort Grove in Kells. A major re-development of the St Patrick's Park Halt site in Navan was also substantially completed during 2006 and following extensive periods of consultation with the residents of the site. Planning for an upgrade of the Trim Halt site also commenced in 2006 and other provisions of the 2005 -2008 Traveller programme were found to be on target during the aforementioned review.

Major progress was made in upgrading of the Housing stock with the objective to bring all older rented housing stock to modern building regulation standard. Over €1 million being spent in 2006 under the Central Heating programme, windows and doors replacement programme and boiler maintenance programmes. These

improvements, together with allocations under the Disabled Persons Grant scheme and Essential Repairs Grant schemes, as well as the ordinary maintenance carried out at area level, has resulted in considerable improvements to the quality of the housing stock. Activity under the Extension Works scheme, the Improvement Works in Lieu scheme and the Void scheme intensified during 2006. A number of initiatives were undertaken during 2006 to enhance estate management in the County, including the appointment of a Housing Investigations Officer and a Community Development Officer. A new Tenants handbook was also published in 2006 and circulated to all rented tenants.

The year 2006 saw a substantial increase on the numbers on the Council's housing waiting list with over 2,200 applicants waiting on accommodation compared to a figure of just over 700 when the last Housing needs assessment was carried out in April 2005. The absence of an adequate land bank to cater for the medium to long term needs for the provision of Social Housing came to the fore in 2006 with serious deficiencies being identified in the greater population centres such as Navan, Ashbourne, Trim and Dunboyne.

The numbers on the Affordable Housing waiting list continued to grow during 2006 reflecting the ever increasing difficulty for young people to secure housing in the County. A total of 14 private sites were allocated during 2006.

The Rental Accommodation Scheme which sees the transfer of responsibility for persons in receipt of rent supplement from the Community Welfare Officers commenced in 2006 and resulted in 15 people transferring to Meath County Council.

ROADS/INFRASTRUCTURE

In May 2006 a total of 17kms of dual carriageway extending from the M50 to the north of Ashbourne was opened ahead of schedule and within budget. Following a positive decision from the courts , archaeology excavations were accelerated along the route of the proposed M3, land acquisition progressed according to plan in preparation for the signing of the PPP contract (February 2007). During 2006, contracts in excess of €30m were awarded for major realignment works on three strategic Regional Roads (R150, R158, R161). Meath County Council invested a total of €5.4m of own resources in the non-national road network in 2006.

A large Waste Water Treatment Plant for Dunshaughlin and surrounding areas was substantially completed in 2006. A detailed design for Phase 1 for the upgrade of sewerage works in Ashbourne and Ratoath were completed and approved by DoEHLG in late 2006. Significant progress in designing the Navan and Mid Meath Water supply scheme was also made this year.

A strategy for the provision of water services in East Meath and Drogheda Environs was prepared and formulated through the Infrastructure SPC. The first phase in providing Broadband services in Meath commenced in May, initially to the five towns of Navan, Trim, Dunshaughlin, Kells and Dunboyne/Clonee.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Work on the preparation and advancement of the County Development Plan continued throughout 2006. The draft plan was agreed by the Members and was on public display in mid year. The Managers report on the 543 submissions to the draft was presented to the members in December. At the end of 2006 members were

considering the Managers report and have submitted 103 proposed amendments to the Draft Plan. The Plan is on target to be adopted by 5th March 2007.

The Council processed 2,800 planning applications during the year. It was significant that while the number of planning applications for commercial and industrial development did not increase during the year there was a significant increase in the quantum of such development being applied for. This is reflective of the work done by the Council in promoting economic development in the County throughout the year.

Meath County Council continued to promote and support the re-opening of the Dublin / Navan rail line. Phase 1 of the scheme (Clonsilla - Pace) is at design stage. The Council has agreed to joint fund (with Iarnród Éireann) a scoping study in respect of Phase 2 of the project, Pace to Navan. Consultants Roughan O'Donovan - Faber Maunsell Alliance have been appointed to carry out the study which will take 6 months to complete. The Council has appointed senior staff to the Steering Committee established to oversee the project.

Work has commenced on the re-organisation and restructuring of the Planning Service. An assessment of the existing service has raised issues that need to be addressed in order to improve the service for applicants, agents, Councillors, the general public and staff. It is proposed to re-launch a centralised planning service in mid 2007.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2006 was an extremely successful year on the economic development front with Meath County Council being the lead player in bringing commitments of nearly 1,000 high quality jobs to the County e.g. Quinn Direct, PFPC, etc. In addition, a very successful Investment Showcase was held in Dublin resulting in significant publicity, positive comments about the county and a significant number of planning applications for sites for commercial/industrial development. The Council's 'Work in Meath' initiative was phenomenally successful with over 3,000 persons registered on the website prepared to work in Meath, even at a reduced salary.

Meath County Council Tourism Strategy is on target with many new initiatives and developments during the year e.g. tourism brochures, new tourist office in Navan, nearly 1,000 new hotel bedrooms etc.

It should be noted that Meath County Council also drove the development and completion of a new Enterprise Centre in Kells costing €3.5m.

ENVIRONMENT

A replacement Waste Management Plan was adopted on 16th May 2006 to cover the period 2005 to 2010 which will build on the strategy of the original plan to move progressively away from landfill and strive to implement a regional approach to waste management that is sustainable and based on national and EU policy and legislation. A further Civic Amenity Site was provided in Kells, bringing to three the number of such sites in the county which should significantly increase the volume of recycling in the county, thus reducing the need for reliance on landfill. This provision was also enhanced by the provision of a further 10 Bring Banks, again

increasing the amount of waste being recycled. In accordance with EU policy regarding the provision of the 3rd bin, i.e. compostible household waste, the Council held discussions with the main Waste Disposal Contractors operating in the region regarding the roll-out of the 3rd bin by January 2008 .

A replacement Litter Management Plan was put in place in December 2006, and all 1725 notified reports of litter occurrences were investigated by our Litter Warden staff.

COMMUNITY, ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURAL & HERITAGE DEPARTMENT

The key strategic objective of the Community, Enterprise, Recreation, Cultural and Heritage (CERCH) Department as contained in the Corporate Plan 2004-2009 was further progressed in 2006 by the implementation of the following supporting strategies:

A County Heritage Forum was established which resulted in the production of the Draft Meath Heritage Plan. The Heritage Forum ensured that extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders was an integral part of the Heritage Plan preparation process. The Forum will continue to function during the five-year life of the plan to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Plan. Extensive Heritage funding was also received during the year.

The Community & Enterprise section delivered an integrated strategy for interagency co-operation in the delivery of services and supports to the Traveller Community in line with DoEHLG requirements. The Strategy titled "Meath Integrated Strategy for the Traveller Community" was endorsed by the County Development Board in December 2006. The co-operation and commitment of the Traveller Community and the CDB represented agencies and other

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agencies/groups was very commendable with meaningful consultation with the Traveller Community. The entire process was viewed by all parties as a model as to how a strategy can be developed and produced without the aid of external consultants.

The implementation of the Council strategy for the delivery of sporting, recreation and leisure and community facilities continued in 2006 with the adoption of the annual Amenity Levies Scheme incorporating the Council Community Grants Scheme. A total of €8.314m was allocated to council projects and initiatives on a County wide basis with €1.5m being allocated to Community and Voluntary Groups. The main project, which benefited from the Scheme was Meath Arts Centre which opened in April 2006 at a cost of €13.5m.

The delivery of a modern Library and Information Service for the county progressed in 2006 with the implementation of the following:

The council secured DoEHLG approved Stage 1 for the development of a 600m² library for Bettystown Town Centre at a cost of €3m as part of the 5 year Library Development Programme.

Under the same programme upgrades of existing facilities at Duleek, Navan and Athboy, Trim, Kells and Nobber libraries was completed in 2006. The total cost of the upgrades amounted to €500,000.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Council commenced a fundamental review of service delivery options, which will lead to significant change within the organisation. Reports were prepared with respect to, (i) altering directorate functions and corresponding delegation orders for Director of Services, in the context of a review of operation of Area Management function and, (ii) rationalisation of Machinery Yard

function. These have been agreed at Management Team level. It is intended that both of these proposals will be significantly advanced in 2007, and it is intended to continue to use the Partnership Forum for initially raising issues of this type.

CORPORATE SERVICE

Corporate Services Section provided continuing support to all aspects of the organisation in the delivery of quality services to the community, and in addition, provided ongoing support to elected members to facilitate them carry out their role.

A new One Stop Shop was opened in Kells. A scheme to incrementally improve the level of service to be delivered as Gaeilge was prepared under the Official Languages Act 2003 was confirmed in 2006. In line with the Council's objectives to provide safe, secure and functional buildings, a number of Disability Audits were carried out which examined buildings and approaches, facilities and services. Meath County Council approved a new Corporate Safety Statement in 2006 and having regard to the requirements and implications of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, there was a huge emphasis on training with a number of various sessions and courses organised.

The Council continued to administer the Higher Education Grants scheme at local level and a total of 398 new applications and 423 renewal applications were processed during the year.

Meath County Council officials were involved in a national BPI Exercise on the compilation and publication of the Electoral Register. The project was highly participative with involvement from Local Authority Franchise and Information Systems Staff, Revenue Collectors, and the Local Government Computer Services Board. This group also worked on a package of measures aimed at assisting

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registration authorities to secure significant improvements in the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the 2007/2008 Register. During that process Meath County Council, for the first time, opened all area offices on a Saturday, to facilitate members of public who wished to be included in the register.

FINANCE

Apart from the delivery of high quality services and giving value for money, one of the main focuses of the Council was to ensure that Meath County Council stayed within its Revenue and Capital Budgets expenditure. Through rigorous and relentless cost efficiencies, frugal spending, and value for money reviews, Meath County Council will achieve its Budget for 2006. This will be the first time the Council has been within its budget since 1998 and is a significant achievement in an environment where service delivery was maintained and expanded in a county experiencing exponential population growth.

A review of the finances of Meath relative to other local authorities was also undertaken and it established that, on a per capita basis, Meath had the lowest per capita income from Rates and Local Government Funds, of any county in Ireland, based on the 2006 census information. The result of this review was presented to the

Oireachtas Members, the County Council and the Department of the Environment. A funding report for the Mid East Region was also undertaken. This demonstrated the relative disadvantage of the Region in terms of funding to other Regions within the Country. This was presented to the Mid Eastern Regional authority and the Department of the Environment, prior to the 2007 Local Government Fund allocations. During 2006 Agresso 5.4 service pack 2 was fully implemented across the 4 local authorities in Meath. The new "Home" system was tested and implemented. Also a BPI (business process improvement) program was implemented in the loans and payroll/payments area and will be extended to other areas in the Council for 2007.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Key initiatives in 2006 included the complete overhaul of our Internet and intranet sites based on a new Content Management System that provides business areas with control over their own content. We introduced Voice-Over Internet Protocol as the foundation for a converged communications strategy, and implemented a 50Mbps wireless network link between Navan and Kells, enabling a new generation of service delivery in area offices. 2006 also saw the implementation of numerous business systems, including HOME, RAS, Agresso 5.4 and further modules of online HR.

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Environmental Services

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To protect, conserve and enhance the Environment in County Meath

CORE ACTIVITIES

Meath County Council continues to invest substantial resources towards enhancing our environment.

WASTE PLAN NORTH EAST REGION WHICH COVERS THE COUNTIES OF LOUTH, MEATH, CAVAN & MONAGHAN WAS ADOPTED IN MAY 2006

The objective of the plan is to secure best environmental management of waste generated in the North East Region. This is dependent on a number of specific policies as follows:

- Public awareness and Education
- Prevention and Minimisation
- Waste Collection and Charging
- Waste Recovery and Recycling
- Waste Treatment/Final Disposal
- Priority Waste Streams
- Unauthorised Waste Activities
- Policy on Joint Management and Procurement

Some of the main objectives of the plan are:

1. A new focus on Bring Centres with the emphasis on quality of location, presentation and range of receptacles and materials accepted.
2. Provide an integrated waste facility incorporating thermal treatment and energy recovery during the life of the plan - 2005/2010.
3. Prepare a register and carry out an assessment of sites at which disposal and recovery activities have been carried out.

WASTE PERMITS ISSUED 2006

1. Applications received = 66
2. Granted = 15
3. Refused = 5

4. Withdrawn = 1
5. Complete = 9
6. Incomplete = 11
7. Under consideration = 25

WASTE COLLECTION PERMITS ISSUED 2006

1. Applications received = 550
2. Withdrawn = 54
3. Refused = 6
4. Revoked = 43
5. Total no. Granted = 447
6. Granted in year = 473
7. Refused in year = 6
8. Revoked in year = 30
9. Reviews in year = 203

LITTER POLLUTION

The Council will continue a vigorous campaign in its effort to combat the scourge of illegal dumping.

The following is a breakdown of enforcement measures adopted during 2006.

1. No of reports investigated = 1725
2. On the spot fines issued = 389
3. On the spot fines paid = 202
4. Total no of convictions during 2006 = 28
5. Struck out = 10
6. Adjourned = 2

Meath County Council has invested in a number of covert and overt CCTV systems to counteract unauthorised dumping. All offenders identified will be prosecuted.

MEATH RECYCLING CENTRES

ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED INCLUDE:

- Batteries (car-lead acid and household)
- Books
- Cardboard & cardboard packaging
- Clothing, textiles (clean) and footwear
- Drinks and food cans
- Electrical goods e.g. TVs, computers, videos
- Fluorescent tubes, lamps & light bulbs
- Garden waste - grass/hedge cuttings etc (no soil)
- Glass bottles (jars)
- Household Gas Cylinders (Calor/FloGas)
- Mixed paper (junk mail & envelopes)
- Mobile Phones/Phones
- Newsprint/magazines
- Phone books
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic Bags (Clean and Empty)
- Scrap Metal
- Tetra-Paks
- Timber (untreated only)
- Waste oils(cooking/car)
- White goods (Fridges/freezers/cookers and washing machines/dishwashers/vacuum cleaners/microwaves/kettles/toasters)
- Paint at the Kells facility

CONTROL OF DOGS

Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 and 1992, all dogs and Guard Dog Kennels must be licensed, except those used wholly for official duties by the Gardai, Defence Forces and Custom and Excise Service. Section 2 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to keep a dog unless s/he holds a licence for that dog or a general licence covering any number at a specified premises.

The provision of a dog pound is a core aim of Meath County Council has when a suitable site has been identified and the necessary finances become available.

No of licences issued:	9,872
No of General licence:	12 (10 dogs or more)
No of fines issued:	241

WEEE: (WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT)

Regulations governing the above came into force in August 2005. These regulations are designed to promote the recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment and facilitate the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of waste electrical and electrical equipment in an environmentally friendly manner. The regulations apply to large and small household appliances. Those registered with Meath County Council have free access, with prior arrangement, to the civic amenity sites within the County for the disposal of WEEE products. Renewals of registrations under WEEE are due on an annual basis on or before the 31st January of each year.

END OF LIFE VEHICLES - S.I. 282 OF 2006

These regulations came into effect on the 8th June 2006. The purpose of the regulations is to regulate the disposal of end-of-life vehicles, which are defined in the regulations. The producers of vehicles will be responsible for ensuring that Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) for the discarding of end of life vehicles are in place. With current population figures in County Meath, each producer is obliged to list two ATF's in their application forms and also in their 3 year Implementation Plans. There are, currently, four ATFs in County Meath. Under the regulations, producers are defined as basically the importers of vehicles. The Local Authorities role will be to enforce the regulations pertaining to ATFs and also to ensure that the producers are meeting their responsibilities in relation to the regulations. The maximum penalty for breaches of the regulations is €15 million. Meath County Council keeps a register of all car producers. There is an annual renewal of registrations under the above regulations with the renewal fee based on the turnover of the producer(s).

WASTE MANAGEMENT (PACKAGING) REGULATIONS, 2003 AS AMENDED - S.I 61 OF 2003

Under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2003 as amended by the Waste Management (Packaging)(Amendment) Regulations 2004 and 2006, all producers have important obligations for the recovery of packaging waste.

These Regulations were designed to assist and promote the recycling of packaging waste in order to facilitate the achievement of the packaging waste recovery targets set for Ireland in EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste.

The Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2003 and the Waste Management (Packaging)(amendment) Regulations 2004 and 2006, impose certain obligations on all 'producers' of packaging and additional obligations on 'major producers'.

'Producers' of packaging are people who in the course of business supply to others packaging material e.g. shops, pubs, supermarkets, fast-food outlets, wholesalers, manufactures, importers, exporters (both Repak and non-Repak members). All such are referred to as 'producers' of packaging.

'Major Producers' of packaging are suppliers who annually place more than 25 tonnes of packaging (other than packaging for reuse or export) on the Irish market and have an annual turnover of more than €1million ('Turnover' for the purpose of these Regulations means "the amounts derived from the provision (including exports) of goods and services falling within the producers ordinary activities after deduction of trade discounts and VAT".) Packaging includes the primary packaging on the product sold.

As licensed premises and restaurants now fall under the scope of the Regulations, they must be able to estimate the weight of packaging consumed on the premises.

All producers participating in the placing of packaging on the market must segregate the packaging waste arising on their own premises (back-door packaging waste) into specified waste streams e.g. waste glass, paper, aluminium, steel, fibreboard, wood and plastic sheeting. An exemption is provided for 'contaminated' waste. Packaging sold and consumed on a producer's premises also comes within the scope of the Regulations. Bottles sold and consumed in pubs, restaurants, clubs and hotels are now subject to the requirements of the Regulations.

A producer must arrange to have waste:

- taken back by a supplier, or
- recovered, or
- segregated and made available for recovery by an authorised waste recovery operator

It is an offence for a producer to dispose of such packaging waste without first making it available for recovery.

Major producers have two options available to them in order to meet their obligations under the regulations:

1. The company joins the national compliance scheme with Repak
2. The company applies to the Local Authority to self comply under the regulations

There is an annual renewal requirement by the 31st January of each year on the self compliers. The registration/renewal fees charged are €15 per tonne subject to a minimum fee of €500 and a maximum fee of €5000.

Note: There are new packaging regulations being introduced later on this year which will reduce the tonnage for a major producer down from 25 tonnes to 10 tonnes, with the annual turnover level remaining at €1,000,000 - this will probably have the effect of bring a lot of companies in under the threshold as major producers.

HISTORIC LANDFILLS - S22 & S26 REGISTERS

Meath County Council is currently in the process, in conjunction with the EPA and the Department of compiling a Section 22 and 26 register. Sites have been identified and have been placed on the register. Training has been provided in the Risk Assessment Process in relation to these sites, and currently is an ongoing procedure.



FIRE SERVICE

The Meath Fire Authority is responsible for the provision of a fire and emergency response service for the entire administrative County, including the three Town Councils.

FIRE FIGHTING

Meath County Council, as the fire authority, operates in accordance with the provisions of the 1981 Fire Services Act, the Building Control Acts and regulations dealing with crowd control at major events, such as the Slane concerts. Under an agreement, Drogheda fire authority provides a fire and emergency service in the East Meath area, from South of Drogheda to Whitecross, Julianstown, Southwest to Ardcah and the area of Meath north of this line and to the east of the N2 (Collon-Ashbourne) road. Meath County Council responds in a backup capacity to fire and emergency call-outs to adjoining counties, Dublin, Cavan, Kildare, Offaly and Westmeath. The arrangement is reciprocated by these counties in the event of emergencies arising in Meath.

CAMP (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project), which is Dublin located, operates on a regional basis and channels all emergency calls for the Meath area.

The central fire station is based in Abbey Road, Navan. There are six other stations located throughout the County, in Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Nobber, Oldcastle and Trim. As part of its Draft Development and Emergency Plan, 2007-2012, East Meath has been identified for a new fire station. Approval and funding will be sought from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government when specifications have been agreed.

The fire and emergency service is currently undergoing major changes. It has been moving from the traditional role of extinguishing fire and rescuing persons and property to preventing fires and when fires occur ensuring, by fire safety engineering, the reduction of deaths, injuries and loss of property. The fire service now has a central role in relation to fire safety standards in the design of new and improved buildings and changes of use and in relation to the fire safety aspects of the day to day use of buildings to which the public have access. The service is a first line response to all types of emergencies including Fires, Road Traffic Accidents, Flooding, Oils and Chemical Spillages and Fallen Trees. The Fire Service co-ordinates with other statutory services as part of the provision of the Major and Local Emergency Plans.

NEW EQUIPMENT

A new fire appliance at a cost of €280,000 was purchased and delivered to the Dunshaughlin Fire Station. The key turning ceremony was performed by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Jimmy Cudden on Tuesday the 5th of December 2006. The appliance is fitted with a special CAFS pump capable of providing special Compressed Air Foam for fire-fighting operations. The system uses less than a quarter the normal amount of water for fire-fighting operations, has a greater fire knockdown capability than water and is also environmentally friendly. Dunshaughlin is the second brigade in the county to have such a system, the other is Navan. Meath County Council is the only fire authority, nationally, to have such cutting-edge technology in two of its fire stations. This brings to six the number of new appliances purchased by the Meath fire service.

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO NAVAN FIRE STATION

Plans are being drawn up to provide permanent administrative accommodation at the above location.

Under the Fire Service change programme, it is proposed to bring the processing of Fire Safety Certificates and building control enforcement, currently under the control of planning, under the aegis of the Fire Service. The aim of the change programme is to further improve the quality of the fire and emergency service in order to meet today's requirements, and to maximise the value for money principle.

FIRE PREVENTION

The fire service plays a major role in Fire Prevention activities in addition to normal fire fighting activities. The measures in place include:

EDUCATION

visits to schools, the elderly and national fire safety week normally takes place in October.

INSPECTIONS

A planned programme of inspections is in place and the emphasis is on inspection of Apartments, Hotels, Hospitals, Discos/Dance Licensed Premises, Licensed Premises, Nursing Homes and venues, which attract large numbers of patrons such as Slane concerts and the Fairyhouse Easter Meeting. The fire department deals with applications under the Dangerous Substances Act, 1979 as amended and Petroleum Emission Regulations.

DURING PERFORMANCE INSPECTIONS

Regular spot checks take place at discos, licensed clubs and premises where large functions take place. The emphasis during these inspections is on over-crowding and fire safety. The Gardai are available to assist inspections when necessary.

FIRE SAFETY CERTIFICATES

Commercial developments are obliged to procure a fire safety certificate from the Local Authority. The legislation dealing with fire safety certificates are the 1990-1997 Building Control Acts. A Commencement Notice must be submitted to the Planning Authority not less than 14 days and more than 28 days prior to the commencement of the development. A register of Commencement Notices and Fire Safety Certificates is maintained by the Local Authority.

FIRE SERVICE RECORDS

Records in relation to activities in all seven fire stations are kept and maintained in the Fire Service office located at Abbey Road. Fire statistics returns are submitted to the Department of the Environment on a regular basis. An in-house fire service meeting takes place on a monthly basis to review service delivery.

Records are retained in relation to inspections, training, service agreements, fire attendance and all other connected activities.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

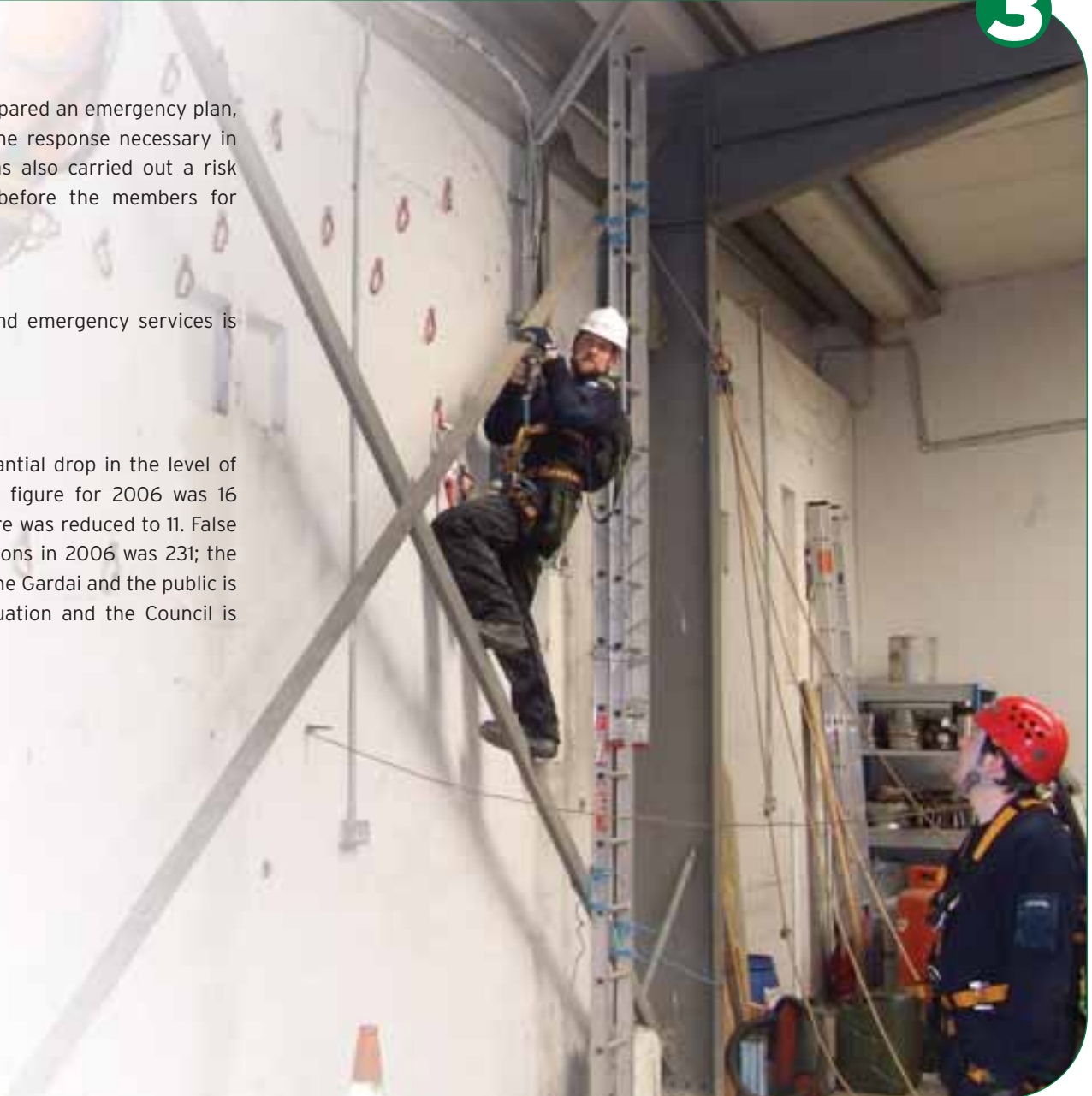
The fire and emergency services have prepared an emergency plan, which addresses potential hazards and the response necessary in the event of an emergency. The plan has also carried out a risk assessment. The plan will be brought before the members for approval in early 2007.

FIRE FIGHTING/SAFETY

The delivery and operation of the fire and emergency services is under the control of the Chief Fire Officer.

FALSE ALARMS

The Council is pleased to record a substantial drop in the level of false alarms call outs during 2006. The figure for 2006 was 16 malicious call outs while in 2005 the figure was reduced to 11. False alarms under the heading of good intentions in 2006 was 231; the figure for 2005 was 206. The support of the Gardai and the public is mainly responsible for this improved situation and the Council is grateful for this support.



Environmental Services



MONTHLY FIRE STATISTICS

JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2006

	Navan	Duns	Ashb	Trim	Kells	Oldc.	Nobber	Total
DOMESTIC BUILDINGS:								
Chimney Fire In Houses	24	9	3	54	19	8	5	122
Other House Fires	20	10	7	17	8	2	4	68
Apartments, Flats and Bedsitters	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Caravans/Mobile Homes	3	0	0	3	1	0	1	8
INSTITUTIONS:								
Hospitals	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Schools	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
INDUSTRIAL:								
Factories	0	4	3	1	0	2	0	10
Storage Buildings/Warehouses	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
COMMERCIAL:								
Shops, Supermarkets	1	3	3	2	0	0	0	9
Hotels/Guesthouses/Boarding Houses etc	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
SERVICE:								
Public Houses	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	4
OTHER:								
Petrol Stations/Garages	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Motor Vehicles	49	5	18	23	2	11	2	130
Unoccupied Buildings	11	1	1	6	2	0	0	21
Agricultural Buildings	10	8	7	6	2	2	4	39
Forest/Bog/Grass, etc.	24	5	12	14	12	11	1	79
Outdoor Storage	15	7	4	8	1	0	0	35
Outdoor Rubbish	17	15	8	10	7	0	0	57
Miscellaneous	29	9	13	5	5	3	2	66

Environmental Services

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MONTHLY FIRE STATISTICS JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2006

	Navan	Duns	Ashb	Trim	Kells	Oldc.	Nobber	Total
FALSE ALARM INCIDENTS								
1. Malicious	16	2	4	9	2	1	0	34
2. Good Intent	80	44	43	38	14	7	5	231
SPECIAL SERVICES								
Road Traffic Accidents	37	37	29	33	21	7	8	172
Water Pumping/Flooding	13	0	1	3	2	15	1	35
Other Non-Fire Rescues	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Haz. Subs. no fire (eg. Spillages)	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Miscellaneous	21	18	21	22	7	15	8	112
TOTALS	374	191	179	257	16	86	43	1246

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the function of Human Resources (HR) is to provide the necessary resources and expertise in order to strengthen the business partnership between Line Managers/Supervisors and the Human Resource Team. In doing so the team aims to assist all Meath Local Authorities sections in the delivery of organisational objectives, while at the same time developing the potential of every staff member.

THE HR FUNCTION IS BROKEN DOWN INTO THE FOLLOWING CORE SERVICES

- Staff Returns
- Recruitment & Selection
- Staff Structure
- Staff Leave
- HR Policies & Procedures
- Industrial Relations
- Superannuation
- Performance Management
- Workplace Partnership
- Training
- Performance Management Development System (PMDS)

HUMAN RESOURCES

STAFF RETURNS

Every quarter the HR Team compiles a 'return' of staff numbers which is submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. This provides overall figures of staff employed by the Council. A more comprehensive 'annual return' is also submitted to the DoEHLG in January of each year. See Table 2 below for a breakdown of staff by sector as of December 2006.

RECRUITMENT & SELECTION

Meath Local Authorities endeavour to recruit and retain competent staff members with the qualifications and experience necessary to provide an efficient and effective service to the community. In 2006, HR arranged and held 53 Competitions and processed over 1,700 application forms.

Table 1. Breakdown of competition by sector

Sector	Number of Competitions
Admin	24
Professional/Technical	19
Outdoor	8
Fire Service	2
Total	53

The chart in Appendix II highlights the good gender balance in terms of applications for positions with Meath Local Authorities. In 2006, the Council received 961 applications from males and 751 applications from females.

STAFF STRUCTURE

In 2006, 84 new staff members joined Meath Local Authorities. Of these 26 were permanent appointments and 58 were fixed-term contract appointments. The Council accepted 47 staff resignations in 2006 which included 17 Professional/Technical staff, 19 Administrative staff, 9 Outdoor staff, and 2 Information Technology staff. Staff turn-over in 2006 was 5.32% as per the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development formula ($47 \times 100 / 883$).

Table 2. Breakdown of staff by sector

Sector	Number	WTE
Managerial	7	7
Administrative	289	275.3
Engineering / Technical	111	110.5
Operational / Outdoor	245	233.7
Contract	160	132.27
Fire-fighter	69	10.88
Non DoEHLG	2	2
Total	883	771.65

December 2006

STAFF LEAVE

In line with Work/Life Balance ethos, Meath Local Authorities processed & granted the following number of various leave applications in 2006:

Table 3. Work-sharing and Term-time applications

Leave Type	2004	2005	2006
Term Time Applications	3	7	18
Work Share Applications	39	60	57

SICK LEAVE INDICATOR FOR 2006:

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Certified'	2.68%
Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Uncertified'	0.47%

HR POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Meath Local Authorities currently implement 5 national HR policies. These policies were agreed and signed off nationally by Union and Management Representatives and subsequently endorsed at local level by the Partnership Committee of Meath Local Authorities.

The Council also implements 8 local HR policies (specific to Meath Local Authorities). These were agreed and endorsed by local Union and Management Representatives at Partnership in Meath Local Authorities.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Meath Local Authorities continually work with all staff and their representative Trade Unions in order to resolve a wide variety of issues, which arise from time to time. It is the policy of the Council to actively promote staff and Union consultation in order to resolve any possible IR issues at the earliest possible stages.

SUPERANNUATION

All staff members are entered into the Local Government Superannuation Scheme from the date of their commencement of employment with Meath Local Authorities. The following is a breakdown of superannuation activities dealt with in 2006:

Table 4. Breakdown of superannuation activities

Activity	Number in 2006
VEC - Lump sum and pension calculations	5 (4 officers, 1 employee)
Meath Local Authorities retirements in 2006	19 (9 officers, 10 employees)
Gratuities for non-pensionable persons	2 (Retained Fire-fighters)
Preserved Benefits	0

The total amount of retirement lump sums paid in 2006 was €960,361.77 with €775,471.98 of this paid to Officers and €184,889.79 to employees, these figures include VEC payments.

NATIONAL HR, PAYROLL & SUPERANNUATION PROJECT

2006 saw the continued involvement of Meath County Council as one of the three pilot Local Authorities (the others are Donegal and Kerry County Councils) in the implementation of the national HR, Payroll & Superannuation project. The project is due for full pilot implementation in 2007.

Workplace Partnership

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

“To build on stable industrial relations, and to promote and develop Workplace Partnership as the way we work, to achieve organisational success”.

The partnership process involves management, unions and staff agreeing on common objectives and working together to ensure organisational success. Partnership is an ongoing process and requires the engagement of people across the organisation. It is the preferred way of doing business and is a vital approach for the introduction of change.

In 2006 the process focused on:

1. Strategic i.e. significant issues
2. Education and Development of Staff
3. Social/health issues

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The Committee agreed a revised Training Policy and a Child Protection Policy, which was developed by a working group.
- Development of departmental partnership.
- Agreement on a protocol for the Non-domestic Water Metering Project.

There are a number of Partnership Working Groups doing very valuable work e.g.

- Quality Customer Care
- Machinery Yard
- Water Services Group
- Child Protection Policy Group

Project funding totalling €27,000 was received from LANPAG. This funding was matched by Meath Local Authorities to implement a number of projects. Some of those projects included:

GREAT PLACES TO WORK INITIATIVE

Meath Co. Council has registered with the Great Places to Work Institute, as part of its continuing efforts to improve the working environment for staff. Every year the Institute works with FAS and the Irish Independent to conduct the Best Companies study, which is widely recognised as Ireland’s most comprehensive study of workplace culture.

The competition originates from a European Commission initiative aimed to raise workplace standards throughout Europe by encouraging healthy competition among organisations to be among Europe’s best workplaces. By participating in the study, the organisation has shown a sincere commitment to improve the quality of the workplace. The study also gives an insight into how employees view their workplace and can see, in detail, how their views compare with those of employees in other Irish organisations.

STAFF SUPPORT SERVICE

Meath Local Authorities, under the auspices of the Staff Support Service dedicated the year 2006 to supporting staff who are experiencing bereavement. A bereavement support day for all relevant staff took place on Monday 6th March 2006. Christy Kenneally, best-selling author, facilitated the day. He explored the cycle of grief and the concept of treating grief as a process by which we deal with major change in our lives.

The Service was entered in the 2006 National Partnership Awards for Excellence and, out of eighteen projects, was short-listed to the last six. In recognition of this achievement, Meath Co. Council was presented with a certificate at the National Partnership Conference in November.

LONG SERVICE RECOGNITION

Meath Local Authorities honoured 19 staff with 32+ years of Local Authority service at a function on the 29th November.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement is an organisation supported by over 150 businesses, which has programmes designed to give school students an appreciation of the value of work and enterprise.

Since 2004, Meath Local Authorities have been involved in the programme and, to date, 21 employees have delivered programmes in primary schools in Kells and Navan. Programme topics include: 'Our Community', 'Our Families' and 'Our Nation'.

In September, Della Clancy, National Director of Junior Achievement Ireland, presented our group of 'Business Volunteers' for 2006 with their certificates.

Training

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE "To systematically assess needs in conjunction with the Performance Management Development System, and provide the appropriate training, education and professional development, to empower a skilled, productive, flexible human resource, capable of meeting evolving organisational needs".

A revised training policy was agreed through Partnership in 2006. The need to revise the Training Policy was established by the requirements on the organisation to deliver real change in relation to staff development and training under Better Local Government, and the social partnership agreement 'Sustaining Progress' to include:

- The implementation of the Performance Management and Development System (PMDS)
- National Service Indicators (C2) Verification of 3% of total payroll spend on training and 3% of General Operative & related grades total payroll on training
- Developing local key performance indicators (KPI's)
- The requirement to present training activities to the Performance Verification Group

With regard to the National Service Indicators C2, the following table shows performance to date:

Spend of total Payroll on Training & Development		
Requirement	Performance re All staff	Performance re Go & Related Grades
3%	4.7%	3.26%

Congratulations to all our employees who achieved qualifications in a wide range of disciplines from Local Government Administration, Public Relations, IT, Health & Safety etc.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM (PMDS)

The implementation of Performance Management and Development Systems (PMDS) in Meath Local Authorities commenced in 2005. PMDS is a mechanism whereby the organisation through its staff can manage its performance, improve service delivery, and provide better customer service. Equally, it will ensure that the full potential of all staff is realised, resulting in improved job satisfaction and career development.

CORE ACTIVITIES

- Land Acquisition
- Implementation of Housing Construction Programme for Social/Affordable Schemes
- Negotiating with developers for the delivery of Social/Affordable units under & Part V of Planning Development Acts (2000 - 2002)
- Processing Affordable Applicants
- Sale of dwellings to Council tenants under the Tenant Purchase Scheme
- Processing of Disabled Person Grants and Essential Repairs Grants Applications
- Provision of Housing by Voluntary Schemes
- Operation of the Homeless Strategy
- Provision, allocation, maintenance and management of Traveller Accommodation
- Refurbishment and maintenance of its housing stock of 2,000 units
- Development of Estate Management/Residential Participation
- Administration/Customer Care

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure that all our citizens enjoy an adequate standard of housing accommodation appropriate to their needs and as far as possible, in a location and tenure of their choice and to provide a responsive and supportive housing service for those in need of assistance.

HOUSING SERVICES

HOUSING SERVICES

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Meath County Council's Housing Department continued to advance the construction and management of Social and Affordable Housing in the County during 2006. The Multi-Annual Construction Programme continued with a high level of activity throughout the County. The year 2006 saw a record output of house construction by Meath County Council with 243 Social Houses either completed or substantially completed at the end of the year. This figure accords with the multi-annual Housing Action Plan 2004-2008 which seeks to co-ordinate and structure the operation of a complex housing function.

A review of this Action Plan, carried out during 2006, demonstrated compliance with many targets including social housing provision. In 2006, substantial progress was made in planning for major refurbishment Schemes for the Townparks estate in Navan and Headfort Grove in Kells. Major progress was made in upgrading of the housing stock with the objective to bring all older rented housing stock to modern building regulation standard. Substantial sums of money were spent in 2006, which have considerably improved the quality of the housing stock including works on the central heating, windows and doors replacement and boiler maintenance programmes. These, together with activity under the Extension Works Scheme, the Improvement Works in Lieu Scheme and the Void Schemes as well as normal maintenance have enhanced the value of the houses as well as quality of life for the residents.

A number of initiatives was undertaken during 2006 to enhance Estate Management in the County including the appointment of a Housing Investigations Officer and a Community Development Officer. A new tenants' handbook published in 2006 and circulated to all rented tenants sets out policies, objectives and strategies in combating Anti-Social Behaviour. Participation in Meath County Council's Housing Estates Awards Scheme, which seeks to promote community development, tenant participation and good estate

management practices reached record levels in 2006. A cash prize was awarded to each of the 52 estates taking part. Other highlights in respect of activities of the Housing Section during 2006 included:

- 180 Disabled Persons Grants / Essential Repairs grants were approved
- At the end of 2006 over 80 affordable Housing Units were acquired under Part V of the Planning & Developments Acts
- A total of 14 private sites were allocated during 2006
- 73 units of accommodation being provided in association with Voluntary Bodies under the Capital Assistance & Loan Subsidy Schemes

In addition to the direct provision of Social and Affordable housing, the Council actively utilised the provisions of Part V of the Planning & Developments Acts in supplementing and complimenting the programme. The Housing Department was involved in the preparation of the draft Housing Strategy in estimating the existing and future need of both social and affordable housing during the lifetime of the new County Development Plan 2007-2013.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION SCHEME

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is an initiative, which seeks to provide a sustainable social housing option for those with a long-term housing need, specifically, those who have received rent supplement for 18 months or more and homeless individuals or families with a long term housing need. RAS involves Local Authorities taking a long term lease with a landlord, often with a number of units, giving the housing authority greater control over the quality of accommodation, security of tenure and cost. In addition RAS tenants pay rents relative to their means, which means they can work full time and so helps avoid the poverty trap.

HOUSING SERVICES

In 2006, Meath County Council recruited two staff to administer the scheme and 15 tenants were transferred to leased accommodation by the end of year.

HOMELESS SERVICE

Meath County Council provides a service for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Individuals and families with complex needs such as dual diagnosis disability/mental health diagnoses, drug addiction, alcohol dependence, paedophilia and other issues are all dealt with in conjunction with relevant HSE departments.

Emergency Accommodation is provided in situations of fire, flood, post-prison, post-addiction treatment, post-hospitalisation/institutionalisation and for those whose behaviour needs to be monitored and services accessed, in order to provide the appropriate route for progression to permanent housing. It is also provided when there are extenuating circumstances necessitating the need for a family to be accommodated in a high rent area, such as terminal illness with need for maintenance of existing support systems or other serious situations

Two Outreach /Resettlement workers were recruited during 2006 to deal with incidences of Homelessness.

ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME FOR TRAVELLER FAMILIES 2005 - 2008

Meath County Council's five year Traveller Accommodation programme provides for a comprehensive accommodation programme for Travellers involving a range of integrated measures to meet their accommodation needs.

The accommodation programme will include direct provision of standard Local Authority housing, Traveller specific accommodation, such as Group Housing, refurbishment of the permanent Caravan

Parks as required and loans for replacement of mobile homes.

Meath County Council delivered its first five year Traveller Accommodation Programme 2000-2004 with great success with the majority of aims and objectives being met within four years of the adoption of the programme.

The second programme running from 2005 to 2008 will be on target, subject to actions before the end of 2007 in the areas of allocations, transfers, house purchases and extensions. It should be noted that many additions have been achieved over and above the targets set out in the programmes including the securing of accommodation in privately rented accommodation.

The last annual count / census carried out in November 2006 showed there are 192 Travelling families living in County Meath. The majority of applicants seeking accommodation from the Council have identified standard housing as their main requirement.

A major re-development of the St Patrick's Park Travellers' Halt site in Navan was substantially completed during 2006, following extensive consultation with the residents. Planning for an upgrade of the Trim Halt site also commenced in 2006.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Meath County Council provides affordable homes through the Affordable Housing Scheme. Affordable housing was set up to help lower or middle-income households, who cannot afford to buy a home on the open market.

Under the scheme, new homes are sold at a discount which means prices are much lower than general property prices. If you sell the property within 20 years, you pay back a percentage of the sale price to the local authority, which is known as claw back. To qualify for an affordable home you should generally be a first time buyer and as a guide, earn between €25,000 and €58,000 if you are applying on your own, and up to €75,000 if you are applying as a couple.

INFRASTRUCTURAL SERVICES

CORE ACTIVITIES

The core activities of the Infrastructure Section relate to the roads services, sanitary water and wastewater services for Meath Local Authorities. This provision must comply with land use policies contained in the Development Plan and with current Environment Directives

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To maintain and further develop the Infrastructure of the County and to ensure that infrastructural investment facilitates the physical, economic social and cultural development of the County.

ROADS

NRA Programme for Primary Roads traversing Meath

N2 ASHBOURNE BYPASS/M50 JUNCTION

Dual Carriageway officially opened in May 2006.

N3 ARCH BAR JUNCTION, DUNSHAUGHLIN (N3 / R125)

Works in progress to carry out major junction improvements

M3 CLONEE / NORTH OF KELLS MOTORWAY

Archaeological programme continuing. Land acquisitions in progress. Eurolink to be appointed as PPP Contractor.

NAVAN INNER RELIEF ROAD PHASE 2A

Works underway to reconstruct 2-way traffic lanes

N51 NAVAN INNER RELIEF ROAD PHASE 2B (KELLS ROAD TO ATHBOY ROAD)

Construction of new alignment linking the N51 with the N3. Contractor appointed. Works in progress.

N3 QUALITY BUS CORRIDOR PHASES 1 & 2

Works substantially completed in 2006. Also in progress was signing and lining of new bus lane at Bracetown, Clonee.

Programme of works for Regional Routes

R153 NAVAN TO BALRATH (ATHLUMNEY)

Reconstruction of 700 meters of regional road. Contractor appointed and works in progress

R158 TRIM/SUMMERHILL/KILCOCK PHASE 2 (SUMMERHILL TO KILCOCK)

The realignment of approximately 10km of regional road. Contractor appointed and works in progress

R150 DULEEK/JULIANSTOWN PHASE 2- KILSHARVAN TO JULIANSTOWN

The realignment of approximately 4km of regional road. Contractor appointed and works in progress

R161 RATHNALLY TO BALREASK OLD PHASE 2 (1 KM COMPLETE)

The realignment of approximately 5km of regional road . Contractor appointed and works in progress

PAVEMENT & IMPROVEMENT WORKS

Pavement and Improvement Works were carried out at the following locations

- N1 Julianstown
- N2 Balrath Junction
- N2 Rath to Crickstown
- N3 Clowanstown
- N3 Ross Cross
- N3 John St/Castle St
- N3 Railway crossing to Newgate, Navan
- N52 Carlanstown

Major Schemes at Planning/Design Stage

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL HAD THE FOLLOWING ROAD SCHEMES AT THE PLANNING/DESIGN STAGE IN 2006

N2 SLANE BY-PASS

At Preliminary Design Stage & preparation of Environmental Impact Statement

N51 DUNMOE, NAVAN REALIGNMENT

OTHER ROADWORKS IN PROGRESS

- Sheephouse / Donore
- R154 Kells / Oldcastle (Patrickstown)

Infrastructure Special Projects

MAJOR SCHEMES IN PROGRESS 2006

KELLS CIVIC AMENITY SITE

CONTRACTOR - CLARKES QUARRIES LTD

Provision of a recycling Centre to accept a vast range of household materials for recycling and recovery. Works commenced in January 2006. Total cost of project is €1.2m. Facility to open in early 2007.

COUNTY MEATH REGIONAL BROADBAND

CONTRACTOR - GERRY McCLOSKEY CONTRACTS LTD

EST. COST €11M

Provision of Broadband Network in Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne/Clonee, Kells, Trim & Navan. Ensures 'always on' Internet connection that gives high speed access and downloads. Works commenced in August 2006. Expected completion is September 2007.

RIVER TOLKA FLOOD ALLEVIATION WORKS

Completion of Flood Alleviation Works at Loughsallagh Bridge and at the Old Navan Road Bridge, Dunboyne.

MEATH ARTS CENTRE

The new 320 seat Theatre, Arts Centre & Exhibition space was officially opened in April 2006 at a cost of approx. €13m.

Sanitary Services

Meath County Council's Sanitary Services Programme consists of:

- Major Capital Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme

STRATEGIES

- To implement the Water Services Investment Programme 2005 - 2007
- To advance the Projects identified in the assessment of Water Service Needs (2007-2013) as adopted by Meath County Council in July 2006 in future Water Services Investment Programmes
- To investigate and seeks to reduce our dependency on other Local Authorities for water and wastewater services
- To upgrade existing water services facilities where deficient, in order to meet the Drinking Water Regulations and the Urban Wastewater Directives/Regulations

Schemes Completed/Under Construction in 2006

BALLIVOR SEWERAGE SCHEME

Substantially completed in 2006 at an estimated cost of €7m

DUNSHAUGHLIN SEWERAGE SCHEME

Major Scheme to cater for Dunshaughlin, Drumree, Dunsany, Kilmessan, Killeen Castle, Dowdstown and Bellinter.

Substantially completed at an estimated cost of €40m

NAVAN AC MAINS REPLACEMENT PHASE 2

Works well advanced and due for completion in 2007 at an estimated cost of €3.7M

SUMMERHILL WATER SUPPLY

Upgrade of water supply to village.

Substantially completed at an estimated cost of €3.1m

KILTALE SEWERAGE SCHEME

Works in progress & expected to be completed in 2007

KILCLOON SEWERAGE SCHEME

Works in progress & expected to be completed in 2007

Schemes at Planning/Design Stage

The following Schemes are at various stages of planning:

WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES

- Dunshaughlin Major Water Supply Scheme
- East Meath, Drogheda and South Louth Water Supply Scheme
- Navan & Mid Meath Water Supply

COUNTY WIDE WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Estimated cost €16.5M. Expected completion date end 2007

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

- Oldcastle Sewerage Scheme
- Stamullen/Gormanstown Sewerage Scheme
- Duplication of rising main from Grammar School to the Drogheda WWTP

Major Grouped Wastewater Scheme - Treatment Systems for Duleek, Summerhill, Kilmainhamwood, Moynalty, Donore, Athboy, Rathcairn and Rathmolyon under the Design Build Operate procedure.

Rural Water Programme

STRATEGY To implement the measures under the Rural Water Programme in order to improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water supplies of rural dwellers.

In 2006 the Council received a grant allocation of €1.604m under the Rural Water Programme broken down as follows:

• Capital Grants (Group Schemes)	€625,000
• Takeover of Group Schemes	€40,000
• Small Water & Sewerage Schemes	€750,000
• Network Improvements (Kiltale GWS)	€189,000

SMALL WATER AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES

In 2006 the following Schemes were at various stages of progress:

- Drumconrath Water Supply
- Enfield Water Supply Upgrade
- Ballivor Water Supply
- Navan Water Interim Supply
- Kildalkey Sewerage Scheme Upgrade
- Blackcastle Pumping Stations (Navan)
- Trim Sewerage Improvements
- Kells Sewerage Treatment Plant Improvements
- Trim Water Supply Production Well
- Dunshaughlin Water Supply Interim Scheme
- Oldcastle Sewerage Treatment Plant Improvements
- Farganstown, Navan Borehole

GROUP SCHEMES

Works were in progress on the following Schemes:

- Kilcloon Group Water Scheme
- Rathmolyon Group Water Scheme
- Ardglassan, Crossakiel Group Water Scheme

THE FOLLOWING GROUP SCHEMES ARE AT THE PLANNING STAGE:

- Realtogue/Mooretown Water Scheme Phase 1
- Gilbertstown, Longwood Water Scheme
- Clonmagadden, Navan, Sewerage Scheme
- Old Road Smithstown, Julianstown Sewerage Scheme
- Laytown Road, Julianstown Sewerage Scheme

Consultants have been appointed to examine the existing distribution network of the Kiltale Group Water Scheme.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

“Use the talents of our staff and the skills of external organisations to provide information technology that will assist all council departments in accomplishing their objectives.”

Apply technology and best practices that make the delivery of our services efficient, accessible, and responsive to the staff and customers of Meath Local Authorities.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Upgrade and enhance our computing and telecommunication infrastructure to provide a reliable, responsive, highly available, secure, and scaleable IT environment for council business functions.

Information Systems Department

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Upgrade and enhance our computing and telecommunication infrastructure to provide a reliable, responsive, highly available, secure, and scalable IT environment for council business functions.

WIRELESS NETWORK

As part of the establishment of the new Civic Offices in Kells, we implemented a high capacity wireless network between Navan and Kells, enabling a new generation of service delivery. In a full technology refresh for Kells we also implemented Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephony which will provide the foundation for a new communications strategy.

E-MAIL

An email archiving system was implemented, allowing us to better manage the huge growth in this communications channel. The archival also paved the way for an upgrade of the e-mail system during 2007.

CITRIX

Our remote access environment was upgraded with additional resilience built in, providing a more reliable service to our remote users.

SERVER UPGRADES

Eight new servers were deployed in order to meet new performance requirements and to provide greater reliability of service.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Implement best practices in the areas of IT project management and service management to ensure high quality, cost-effective and secure IT system delivery, operations, and support.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

An asset management system implemented in early 2006 has provided us with a clear picture of all computing assets in the organisation, allowing us to resolve problems, define replacement strategies, and ensure licence compliance.

NETWORK MONITORING SYSTEM

We implemented a network monitoring system that gathers information on all network traffic throughout the organisation. This enables us to respond quickly to network outages and trace causes, but also to understand trends in network usage, the type of traffic and the applications that are generating the traffic.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

To promote best practice project management in our work we entered into a training contract with project management specialists. This allows for all of our staff to undertake various project management courses.

Information Technology

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GOALS AND ACTIONS

Research and, where justified, implement IT business applications for council departments that enable them to share information, deliver quality services and improve the cost-effectiveness of their operations.

Numerous business systems were implemented or enhanced during 2006. These included:

HOME

This system supports the processes for handling housing applications. The housing department also received a new system to manage rental accommodation.

AGRESSO 5.4

There was a significant upgrade to the Financial Management system.

ONLINE HR

Additional modules of our online HR management system were developed and implemented. Meanwhile we participated in the requirements definition for a National HR system which went to tender in late 2006.

MAPROAD

This system captures information on roads and kerbside assets to facilitate planning, prioritisation and operations.

NAVAN DRAINAGE SURVEY

We worked with Navan Town Council to create a map-based database of detailed drainage information.

ONLINE ROADWORKS CONTROL

This system was developed to manage and regularise the application for and processing of road opening licences.

We also provided strong support to the electoral register team, with the production of over 3,000 customised maps.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Proactively maintain and support existing production systems to minimize business workflow interruption to our customers.

As well as upgrades to servers, ongoing improvements were made to network components and links. A new Anti-Virus system was selected and implemented initially on all servers. This will be rolled out to all PCs during 2007.

The various sections within Information Systems handled 6,779 service requests over the year, while 194 new PCs were deployed.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

Continue to enhance and expand the availability of information and online services through Internet, intranet and extranet web sites.

2006 saw the complete overhaul of our Internet and intranet sites based on a Content Management System that provides business areas with control over their own content. We focussed on eInclusion on the totally renewed www.meath.ie, providing information and services, as well as making the website accessible. Users with disabilities can perform tasks that would otherwise be difficult, with attention given to the needs of users who are vision-impaired, with motor disabilities, with dyslexia, amongst others. The websites have picked up numerous awards, including Best Intranet at the Public Sector Times eGovernment awards. Our webmaster, Deirdre Sharrock, received the prestigious Innovator of the Year award at the Eircom Innovation Through Technology Awards.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To operate a system of physical planning within sustainable patterns of settlement which facilitates and provides the impetus for economic development in County Meath, whilst at all times fostering protection of the natural and built environment of the County.

CORE ACTIVITIES

The Planning Department is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 -2006 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2007.

This includes:

- The making of physical planning policy
- The preparation and review of the relevant Development Plans /Local Area Plans
- The consideration of applications for planning permission
- The control of development and the enforcement of planning legislation
- The giving of advice on planning matters to the public and to other Council Departments
- The promotion of industrial and other development in the County
- The promotion of economic and tourism activity

Planning Applications

STRATEGY To deliver a high quality, efficient & effective service through skilled and motivated staff, using the most up to date integrated Information Technology packages.

Our service fulfills a statutory duty to decide on all planning applications with adherence to strict statutory requirements and specified timescales, while at all times having regard to the principles of sustainable development and the proper planning & sustainable development of the area.

STATISTICS

In 2006 Meath County Council and the three town Councils of Navan, Kells & Trim received a total of 3,130 planning applications.

The grant rates for all applications determined in 2006 was approximately 72 % and on average 69 % of all applications were determined within the statutory eight weeks without the need for further information requests.

A total of 1,076 planning applications for rural one off houses in the countryside and 372 housing developments were determined during 2006.

An Environmental Impact Statement accompanied a total of 19 planning applications received in 2006.

In cases where the Planning Authority's decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanala, the Bord confirmed the Planning Authority's decisions in 69% of cases, and reversed decisions in 31 % of cases.

Planning offices in Navan, Dunshaughlin, Trim, Kells and Duleek remained open to the public on average 30.35 Hours per week.

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE

The planning department undertook a series of initiatives during 2006 aimed at facilitating better work processes, improving staff retention rates and providing a more streamlined service delivery.

THE INITIATIVES INCLUDED:

- Revision of the professional planners staff structure
- Redeployments to improve planners knowledge base by broadening their area's of responsibility
- Procurement of a dedicated Archive Service for historic planning files
- Preparations for transfer of the Building Control section to the remit of the Chief Fire Officer
- Identification and design of a new corporate Planning Head Quarters at Abbey Mall Navan
- Preparation of a Departmental plan to fulfill PMDS requirements

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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STATISTICS PROFILE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

Development Category	Applications received during 2005	Applications received during 2006	+ /- difference	Contributory factors
Agriculture	90	386	428%	Due to availability of Farm Waste Management Scheme
Commercial	427	353	17.5%	Reduction in new retail developments. Extractive
Extractive industry	68	19	-72%	increase in new developments during 2006 . (Quarry Registrations unique to 2005)
Industrial	64	72	+13%	Increase in Light industrial developments
Residential	2400	2582	+8%	Decrease in Apartments and increase in Housing estates
One off (included above)	(1249)	(1383)	(+10%)	Increased activity
Community	124	117	-5%	Maintained previous levels
Mixed use	127	117	-5%	Maintained previous levels
Event Licence	1	1	-	No change
Misc applications	90	93	+3%	Exemptions certificates etc Maintained previous levels
Total	3391	3740	+10%	Substantial increase in work load

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MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED OR DETERMINED DURING 2006 INCLUDED

- A Town Centre Development in Trim
- An extension/ expansion of Commercial operations in major quarry/ extractive industry
- A new OPW Facility in Trim
- A Visitor centre at the Battle of The Boyne site
- A large Business park at Kilbride
- Large Housing developments in Drogheda and Donacarney
- Mixed use development in Trim
- Waste Management facilities in Knockharley and Carranstown
- A large office/ warehousing campus at Pace Dunboyne

Development Plans

STRATEGY To review and prepare all Development Plans, Local Area Plans & Area Action Plans and other statutory documents in line with the principles of sustainable development.

REVIEW OF MEATH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Significant progress was made during 2006 in the preparation of the new County Development plan 2007-2013. Following publication of the Strategic Issues Paper in 2005 the members of Meath County Council approved the Draft County Development plan which was

published on 29th June 2006. By the end of the display period on 8th September 2006 541 submissions were received.

The Draft County Development Plan contained the strategic development objectives for the County and was accompanied by a Record of Protected Structures, proposals for the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas throughout the County, a Landscape Characterisation Assessment of the County and the Housing Strategy for the County. The existing Written Statement and Detailed Objectives for Towns and Villages inclusive of the accompanying book of maps contained in the 2001 County Development Plan remained in force pending the preparation and subsequent adoption of individual Local Area Plans for these centres.

The Manager's report on the submissions was presented to the elected members of Meath County Council on 4th December 2006 and a number of meetings were subsequently facilitated to consider that report and prior to publication of amendments to the original draft.

The Draft County Development Plan contained a settlement strategy for the County. The strategy assessed the extent of existing undeveloped zoned lands, regional and national policy, permitted developments and the future development needs of 39 settlement centres across the County. Local Area plans for each of these centres will be prepared within two years of the adoption of the County Development Plan and are the subject of a separate process.

Development Plans are in place for the town Councils of Navan (adopted November 2003) Kells (adopted October 2001) and Trim (Adopted March 2002). The review process for the Kells Plan commenced in 2005 with the publication of a consultation Strategic Issues Paper. Preparatory work on the draft Development plan for Kells was completed in late 2006 with a view to publishing in early 2007.

LOCAL AREA PLANS (LAPS)

A planning authority may prepare a Local Area Plan for any area within its functional area. Plans must be made for areas with a population of 2,000 and a Local Area Plan shall be consistent with the objectives of the Development Plan. It consists of a written statement and a plan of objectives. When making a planning decision, the Planning Authority and An Bord Pleanála shall have regard to the provisions of the LAP for that area.

Meath County Council adopted Local Area Plans for Lands east of the Rail Line in Dunboyne and an area known as the Kells Backlands during 2006. Progress was also made in preparing a number of LAP's for strategic areas within Navan, with a view to publication in 2007.

ENFORCEMENT OF PLANNING CONTROL

STRATEGY To use the full rigours of the enforcement provisions of the 2000 Planning Act in ensuring that the integrity of the planning system is maintained and to take appropriate enforcement action against people who carry out unauthorised development.

Demand for resources continues to grow in this area. Following the restructuring of the Planning Department, all professional planning staff now dedicate a percentage of their time to enforcement related issues. Work areas include certification of compliance with conditions of planning permission, investigation of unauthorised developments and advice to enforcement staff on general planning related enquiries. Progress was also made in the deployment of additional technical staff to this area. During 2006, Meath County

Council received a total of 392 complaints and following investigation a total of 242 warning letters were issued and 80 Enforcement Notices served. It was found necessary to initiate Court proceedings in respect of 6 cases during 2006.

PRE-PLANNING AND ADVISORY SERVICES

STRATEGY To give advice on planning matters to the public and to other bodies, including the continuation of pre-planning clinics at area level in respect of one off housing or domestic extensions.

This initiative serves to improve the quality of subsequent planning applications, avoids the necessity for seeking further information where possible and in some cases spares the costs of what is likely to prove an abortive application.

During 2006, officials conducted over 1,600 pre planning clinics in respect of proposed development including major residential, commercial, industrial and retail type developments.

The appointment of additional staff at Senior Planner and Senior Executive Planner grades during 2006 has significantly improved the capacity of the department to service pre-planning needs of the commercial and industrial sector. The Council facilitated some 700 one-off residential and 900 commercial / larger development preplanning meetings during 2006.

CONSERVATION

It is the policy of Meath County Council to protect the rich heritage of the County and to secure the protection of buildings and structures that are Protected Structures as defined in the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000.

The Conservation Officer, who is employed on a shared basis with Louth County Council, provides professional advice to owners of protected structures on conservation issues and administers the National Conservation Grant Scheme, which provides assistance for appropriate conservation works to eligible structures. The Council published its proposed scheme of priorities for determination of applications for grant aid under this scheme in December 2006. During 2006, 178,000 Euro was granted to 18 qualifying projects.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

STRATEGY To ensure strict implementation of the Building Regulations to ensure good practice in the design and construction of buildings in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of people who use buildings.

INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS

Meath County Council achieved an inspection rate of over 65 % of new buildings during 2006. Activity in this area, although lower than that achieved in 2005, is significantly in excess of the recommended inspection rate 12-15% of buildings. The Fire Service Change Programme prompted a reorganisation of Fire Service, Building Control and Civil Defence functions. Preparatory work has commenced on the transfer of the Building Control function to the remit of the Chief Fire Officer. This will allow better co-ordination of inspections and a more structured interaction between these similar regulatory functions.

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TRIM TOWN COUNCIL

Trim Town Council is the local authority for the urban district of Trim. It is composed of nine elected councillors who are elected for a period of five years. Members of Trim Town Council are as follows: Cllr Danny O'Brien - Cathaoirleach, Cllr Ray Butler - Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr, Philip Cantwell, Robbie Griffith, Trevor Golden, Vincent McHugh, Margaret McGivern, Danny O'Brien, Jimmy Peppard and Gerry Reilly. Trim Town Council is a key service provider in the expanding town of Trim while also providing a democratic and representational forum for the people of Trim.

Trim town is one of Ireland's most celebrated heritage towns. Its population is set to increase from approximately 4,000 at the turn of the millennium to an estimated 15,000 by 2010.

Trim has an extremely rich heritage of archaeological sites. Its natural amenities, its tranquil setting along the banks of the river Boyne makes Trim a much sought after location to live in. It is only in the latter part of the twentieth century that a deep appreciation of our heritage and of our natural amenities has emerged. Outstanding progress has been made in recent years in opening up the town's heritage to the people of Trim and visitors alike. Progress has been made in the enhancement of the landscape and the provision of amenities that are sensitive to the built and natural environment.

During 2006, the roads and footpath Reconstruction and Restoration Programme began. Works commenced on Castle Street and a new link road from Castle Street to Emmet Street. Other works are at an advanced stage of planning and design. This programme will continue into 2007.

Trim has continued to perform well in the national Tidy Towns' Competition and has received a "Litter Free Status" in the IBAL Anti- Litter League.

Plans are underway for a new walkway at the Porch Fields from the Millennium Bridge to the Yellow Steeple.

Plans are at an advanced stage for the construction of a Sports and Recreation Centre in mid 2007.

Further Plans were advanced during 2006 for a New Town Centre for Trim which will include the decentralisation of the O.P.W. Headquarters to Trim along with a new shopping centre and residential development.

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NAVAN TOWN COUNCIL

The town of Navan has enjoyed phenomenal growth over the past few years and faces a huge challenge in responding to the resulting demands. The future growth will be driven by the policies contained in the Navan Development Plan 2003-2009. The Economic Development of our town is critical to ensure that this growth is sustainable.

MAJOR PROJECTS

There are a number of major projects underway which when completed will contribute enormously to the development of the town and enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. The projects are at various stages of development and one of the Council's main objectives in 2007 will be to ensure these projects proceed to an advanced stage.

Tenders for the The Civic Space on Kennedy Road were advertised in 2006 and construction works are due to commence in 2007. Continuing with the enhancement of town centre locations, the Council's plan to redevelop Market Square will be advanced during the coming year and plans will be advertised under Part 8 of the Planning and Development Act. This project is of significant importance to maintaining and enhancing the role of the town centre as the dominant commercial and retailing area of Navan. Works to the structure of St Patrick's Classical School were carried out in 2006. It is a major challenge for this Council to deliver on the new 66 acre Town Park, it is vital that the Council maximise funding to ensure the delivery of this much needed amenity.

The Solstice Arts Centre was opened in 2006 and provides a wide and varied list of events to the residents of the Town and the County at large.

ROADS-WORKS PROGRAMME

This year has also seen the completion of a number of improvements throughout the town. Footpath and parking spaces at St Finian's Terrace, Pedestrian Crossing from St Anne's NS to Fairgreen, footpaths and ramp at Woodlands Housing Estate, ramps and one way traffic system at front of St Brigid's Villas, ramps at McDermott Villas/Parnell Park and St Benildus Villas, road surfacing at Carriage Road end of Connolly Avenue, Dean Cogan Place, Abbeylands Crescent and Flowerhill Crescent and restoration of back lane at Emmet Terrace have all contributed to the enhancement of the town.

Work on conversion of Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2A between Round O and Kells Road is ongoing and is due to be completed in 2007.

Work is ongoing on the construction of the Navan Inner Relief Road 2B between the Kells and Athboy Roads.

Phase 2 of the AC Water Main replacement scheme was completed in 2006. This included the replacement of AC Mains on Cannon Row, Railway Street, Kells Road, Trim Road, Carriage Road, Boyne Road and Athlumney Road.

The installation of Broadband was completed in 2006 and this will be of great benefit to existing businesses and residents of the town and also of great benefit in attracting future business and commercial enterprises to the town.

HOUSING

This year the Council has allocated 64 houses. Our Central Heating Programme is ongoing and was installed in over 20 houses during the year.

NAVAN TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL

Navan increased its points total by 10 points on the previous year in the Tidy Towns competition. 2006 saw landscaping works carried out at Pairc Tailteann and Leighsbrook Lane and the area along the Navan Inner Relief Road 2A between the Round O and Windtown Junction will be landscaped in 2007. It is also planned to landscape the area left of the Poolboy Bridge. The Council introduced a Floral Enhancement Scheme for businesses and residents on the streets of the town. This involved a grant towards the provision of window boxes and hanging baskets and twenty applications were approved. New hanging baskets and barrier boxes were erected at various locations within the town. An artistic feature was erected at the Garda Station Roundabout. Some other initiatives were a Paint Scheme for the town and the continuation of the successful Anti-Litter League.

The O'Growney Terrace Paint Scheme was completed in 2006 which has really transformed the terrace. A new railing has also been installed which has added to the character of the area. Many owners availed of the Paint your Town Grant Scheme towards the painting of their premises / shop front.

The Environmental Enforcement Officer has made a major contribution to the Council's fight against litter. This has resulted in 269 Litter Fines being issued in 2006. The gum cleansing programme was completed on Trimgate St and Watergate St. Progress has been made on preparing an Integrated Litter Management Plan which will aim at eradicating the scourge of litter on our streets and will improve the quality of life and living environment for all our citizens. Major

improvements will also be made in relation to reforming Derelict Sites throughout the Town.

During the year the Mayor of Broccostella visited Navan. A civic reception was held by the Mayor of Navan, Shane Cassells and both towns signed the official twinning documents. It is expected that further links with the town of Broccostella will be forged during the coming year.

Work is nearing completion on the proposal to alter the boundary for Navan Town. Meath County Council is at present finalising its consideration of the proposal and the members of that Council will shortly be considering a draft statement of response to Navan Town Council's proposal.

The Council's collection rates were as follows

COMMERCIAL RATES	85%
RENTS	83%
WATER	59%

KELLS Town Council

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KELLS TOWN COUNCIL

STRUCTURE & SERVICES

Kells Town Council is the local authority for the urban district of Kells. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors who are elected for a period of 5 years.

CORE ACTIVITIES

The council provides a wide range of services that are vital for the development and functioning of the town.

These services include:

- Housing
- Planning control, development planning,
- Sanitary services (in conjunction with Meath County Council), urban roads and environment

In addition the Council contributes financially to Meath County Council to support a number of Countywide services including fire service, swimming pools and libraries.

The Council's current budget stands at €2.8million, a significant portion of which is spent directly in the town with €7.5million in 2006 on capital projects.

Kells Town Council is a key service provider in the expanding town of Kells while also providing a democratic and representational forum for the people of Kells.

KELLS ONE-STOP-SHOP

Kells Town Hall was originally designed as a bank by William Caldebeck in 1853 and became the Town Hall in 1974. In 2005, work began on an extensive development of the building to secure its future as the administrative centre for the Local Authority in the town and electoral area. The original building has been fully renovated and extended from c.3,000 sq. ft. to c.9,500 sq. ft. at a cost of €5 million. This brings the investment by the Town and County Council in listed buildings in the town to €7.5m since 2000.

Work has commenced on a major refurbishment in Headfort Place between the Town Hall and St John's cemetery. This work is to be completed by the early 2007 and is included in the funding of the Town Hall project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KELLS

KELLS ENTERPRISE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

Kells Town Council is delighted to announce the launch of Kells Enterprise & Technology Centre (KETC). Located in Kells Business Park the centre provides all modern facilities to support the expansion of existing business and the creation of new ventures in the town. The primary role of the holding company is to provide incubation / workspace units for the Manufacturing and High Technology service sector at economic rent to assist the growth of small businesses and to alleviate the initial start-up costs.

The Centre is a two-storey building, covers a total floor area of 2280m² and comprises units varying in size from 20m² to 750m². The centre is fully accessible. The design features cater for an advanced IT infrastructure, meeting rooms, training room and video conferencing facility. The administrative centre will supply reception / secretarial services, meeting and conference facilities along with business advice mentoring.

KETC is supported by Kells Town Council, Enterprise Ireland and Meath County Enterprise Board. The project received funding under the National Development Plan 2000-2006, from the European Union and the Irish Government.

KELLS BUSINESS PARK

In late 2004, Kells Town Council purchased approximately 10 additional acres to continue the expansion of the Business Park.

Development is continuing with a total of 19 acres available. A number of projects are in the planning phase including one major manufacturing operation.

APPENDIX 1 • 2006 Annual Financial Statement

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2006

EXPENDITURE	REVENUE (€M)	CAPITAL (€M)
Housing & Building	7.450	30.713
Roads Transportation & Safety	32.084	96.457
Water & Sewerage	18.051	35.552
Development Incentives & Controls	7.315	6.824
Environmental Protection	11.590	2.158
Recreation & Amenity	5.044	7.929
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	5.675	0.233
Miscellaneous	5.421	3.903
Total	92.630	183.769
INCOME (SEE FUNDING SOURCES BELOW)	50.869	207.923
Net Transfers	1.259	
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from County	(41.761)	
Rates	16.521	
Local Government Fund	26.089	
Charges to Urbans	1.281	
Transfer from (to) Reserves	(1.725)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.405	25.413
Opening Balance (01/01/06)	(10.764)	27.479
Closing Balance	(10.359)	52.892
FUNDING SOURCES	REVENUE (€M)	CAPITAL (€M)
State Grants & Subsidies	26.523	139.590
Borrowings		9.788
Other Receipts	2.959	58.545
Rents from Houses	4.746	
Housing Loans	1.109	
Commercial Water and Sewerage	2.179	
Planning Fees	3.062	
Recreation & Amenity Activities	0.354	
Fire Charges	0.951	
Pension Contributions	1.385	
Miscellaneous	7.601	
Total	50.869	207.923
MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES FOR CONFERENCES	(€)	
Chairman's and SPC Chairs Allowance	29,511	
Councillors' Gratuities (<i>Provision made for future commitments</i>)	641,629	
Member's Expenses/Salaries	731,431	
Attendance at Conferences abroad	26,585	

APPENDIX II • Breakdown of Job Applications by Gender - 2006

