

The Arts in County Meath

Through the appointment of a County Arts Officer and the development of a County Arts Development Plan, Meath County Council has affirmed its belief in the importance of the arts to individuals and communities. The Council also regards the support of the arts as an important aspect of local government service to the community. The Arts Sector in Meath is a vibrant one, which encompasses a broad range of people, places and activities. Artists of many disciplines live and work in Meath, and, together with professional arts organisations, amateur groups and community groups engaged in artistic activity, there is a considerable pool of artistic talent and enterprise in the County. The first County Arts Development Plan provided a strategic framework through which local arts developments in the County could be implemented. Its success has arisen from the provision of a structure and focus for progress and development of the arts in the County and thereby creating a viable and sustainable arts environment. The main actions included:

- the provision of a series of cultural events
- facilitation of arts-in-education and youth activities
- expansion of the nature of assistance to the arts and funding structures to local groups, organisations and individual artists
- an increase in awareness of the arts
- implementation of the Department of the Environment and Local Government Per Cent for Art Scheme
- introduction of '*Buvinda*' – the Arts Office quarterly arts information newsletter

In terms of infrastructure, a municipal arts facility is currently being developed for the Fairgreen site in Navan. This, along with other infrastructure developments, will provide much needed facilities for the performing arts, arts practitioners and audiences in the County.

This second County Arts Development Plan aims to facilitate further the advancement of the arts in the county over the period 2005 to 2007. Meath County Council has long recognised the pivotal role that the arts play in society, and, increasingly, their role in assisting Local Authorities achieve their developmental objectives.

This plan sets out measures to further formalise support structures and create opportunities for the Arts both within the Local Authority and the county, whilst continuing to recognise the importance of the arts in areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism.

This plan has taken into account national arts policies, current policy developments within the Arts Council, and the 2003 Arts Act.

Methodology

In compiling this, the county's second County Arts Development Plan, the Arts Office undertook a wide consultative and research process which involved a number of stages;

- Evaluation of the county's first County Arts Development Plan and exploration of issues arising during life of same.
- Collation of feedback and information received during the public consultation process and meetings regarding the then proposed Meath Arts Centre, Navan.
- Participation in and collation of information received from the workshop process undertaken by the Community and Enterprise section, Meath County Council, with regard to culture in the formulation of strategy for same in the Meath County Development Board '*Le Cheile – An Integrated Strategy for Meath to 2012*' programme.
- Analysis of, and consideration given, to feedback received from the Community & Enterprise, '*Meath Cultural Forum*' questionnaire, circulated to 551 organisations and individuals in the county as per the '*Le Cheile*' strategy.
- Written submissions; invitation to submit for this plan sent to thirty-five local music, dance and theatre groups; five professional companies based in the county; forty-seven individual artists, fifteen community and youth groups, nineteen active retirement groups, thirteen art groups, six festival committees, eleven Heritage/Historical societies, six local branches of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, one-hundred and four primary schools and twenty one secondary schools.
- Fifteen written submissions were received as follows; Bare Bodkin Theatre Company, Navan; Noggin Theatre Company, Oldcastle; Ledwidge Cottage Museum Committee; Jim O'Brien Heritage Art Group; Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Craobh Cill Dhéagláin; Ashbourne and District Senior Citizens Association; Summerhill Active Retirement Group; Kells Heritage Festival; Gaelscoil Éanna,

An Uaimh; Moynalvey National School, Summerhill; Trim Musical Society; Cliadhbh O Gibne, Boyne Currach Visitor Centre; John Grant, St Vincent De Paul Hall Committee Kells & Kells Theatre School; O'Carolan Harp Festival, Nobber; Meath Harp School, Nobber.

- Consultation with County Council Members, Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, Tom Dowling, County Manager, Area Managers, Directors of Services, County Librarian and the Town Clerks of Kells, Trim and Navan District Councils.
- Meetings also took place with the following local and national organisations or representatives; Mary Cloake, Director, the Arts Council (met as Development Director), Lorraine Comer, Education Officer, the Arts Council, the Ledwidge Cottage Museum Committee, Meath Tourism, Meath Vocational Educational Committee, Kells Theatre School, Bare Bodkin Theatre Company, Noggin Theatre Company, Ashbourne and Nobber Branches Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, and Comhaltas President the late Tony Finnegan, Kilmainhamwood.

The Arts Office wishes to thank all of those who made submissions and those who gave off their time in the development of this Plan.

General Policy Statement

1. Meath County Council will endeavor to provide a balanced cultural provision to the county with regard to music, film, theatre, dance, visual arts, literature and opera.
2. Meath County Council will endeavour to ensure that all sectors of the community have access to, and can participate in, as wide a range of art forms and events as possible.
3. Meath County Council will, in particular, support local artists and groups, particularly if the arts constitute their main source of personal income.
4. Meath County Council recognises the importance of the arts in the areas of personal development, community development, employment and tourism and shall endeavour to create opportunities in each of these areas.
5. Meath County Council will endeavour to provide information, practical advice and assistance to persons in the County who wish to carry out or initiate arts activities.
6. Meath County Council will provide financial Assistance to the Arts as set out in the Council - adopted Guidelines for the Assistance to the Arts Grants.
7. Meath County Council will endeavour to expand the nature of this assistance to the arts.
8. In the area of Public Art, Meath County Council will endeavour to explore all the options available within its development programme for the utilisation of public art monies.
9. Meath County Council will continue to work with national agencies, organisations and institutions e.g. The Arts Council and relevant Government Departments.

- 10.** Meath County Council will continue to work towards the realisation of the Meath Arts Centre Project, Navan.
- 11.** Meath County Council will, through its Planning Department, identify and assess the suitability of private development projects with regard to the provision of an art feature as part of the overall development. This provision will form part of the overall planning conditions for private development projects.

Objectives & Measures

The three tenets, which underpin this County Arts Development Plan, are to

- Increase **access** to the arts for all sectors of the community.
- Encourage and increase **awareness** and interest in the arts.
- Increase **participation** in the arts by all sectors of the community.

Priorities identified to achieve these objectives include;

- increased and strategically planned arts infrastructure;
- the recognition of, and planned development for, the economic, employment and cultural significance of the arts in the County
- strategic planning for development and expansion of the professional arts base in the County.

In line with the County's previous Arts Plan and from information collated through the consultation and research process for this plan, Meath County Council have identified the following key areas for development during the period 2005 – 2007.

- **Local Arts**
- **Festivals**
- **Arts and Communities**
- **Professional Artists practice**
- **Art Form Development**
- **Bursaries & Awards**
- **Infrastructure**

The measures outlined for implementation under each of the above headings will be delivered through the Meath County Council Arts Office. In doing so, the Arts Office shall endeavor to initiate and

provide models of best practice in planning for the arts and in the development of artistic programmes through each of the art forms.

All measures put forward in this Plan are subject to review in line with ongoing developments. They are also subject to the availability of funding.

Local Arts

Meath County Council acknowledges the valuable work undertaken by local arts groups in the County and their contribution to arts activities to date. In recognition of this, Meath County Council will continue to support the efforts of local groups by means of the following;

- Continue to provide access to financial assistance to eligible groups/organisations through the **Meath County Council Bi Annual Arts Grant Scheme**
- Support groups who may wish to work with professionals in areas of skills workshops and performance techniques.
- Support those groups or companies seeking to promote or utilise new works.
- Continue to provide an information and advice service through the Arts Office.
- Assist with the promotion of activities through 'Buvinda' the Arts Office arts events and information newsletter.
- Continue to work with local organisations such as branches of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in the development of partnership programmes and strategic planning for arts development in the area. For example, the continuation of partnership programmes with C.C.E. Ashbourne Branch such as the Oicheanta Airnean Concert Series and Music Network Promotions. The Oicheanta Airnean concert Series was devised by C.C.E. Ashbourne, supported and promoted by the Arts Office in conjunction with Udaras na Gaeltachta and Radio na Gaeltachta.
- Continue to assist local art groups through the identification of suitable exhibition spaces in the county.

- Commitment to host at least one open exhibition, similar to current Toradh Gallery 'Meitheal Brega' programme, in Council-run Galleries annually.
- Continue to work with Irish language organisations and Gaeltacht areas in the County in the development and implementation of arts programmes through the Irish language.

Festivals

There are a number of locally organised arts festivals taking place in County Meath annually. These include

- *Le Cheile Festival of Contemporary Arts, Oldcastle*
- *Kells Heritage Festival*
- *O'Carolan Harp and Cultural Festival, Nobber*
- *Feile Riona, Summerhill.*
- *Fleadh na Mí.*

Meath County Council will continue to support those festivals which demonstrate a commitment to quality arts programming. In previous years, the Arts Office has worked with many festival committees in the development of arts programmes and in the provision of specific events. Under this Arts Plan, Meath County Council intends to introduce a new system for Festival Funding. This is detailed in the Bursary and Awards Section.

Meath County Council Arts Office has for the past seven years organised the '**Annual Children's Arts Fest**'. This has taken place at a variety of venues across the County, rising from four venues in year one to eleven venues by 2004, with continued improvement in countywide geographical coverage. Participant numbers have also increased from 150 in year one to 350 in 2003 and 568 in 2004. Events programmed are for the main part free of charge to participants and are intended to stimulate an interest in the arts amongst young persons whilst providing access to quality and innovative events particularly those not normally available in the County. Events to date have included the National Gallery of Ireland Children's outreach programme, exhibitions and workshops from The Ark Children's Cultural Centre, the National Museum of Ireland outreach programme, story telling, puppet making and shows.

Further development of this festival will be continued as part of the Youth Arts Programme outlined further on in this Plan.

The establishment of a full time Community Arts Assistant position has also led to the opportunity of expansion and long term planning for the '**Bealtine**' arts festival for older persons. This takes place on a national basis and in which Meath County Council have been participating for the past number of years. This programme in Meath shall be developed as part of the three year Arts and Communities programme outlined further on.

Meath County Council shall also continue to identify gaps in arts festival provision in the county. The development and introduction of a new multi-discipline arts festival, complimentary to those already established, will be explored by the Arts Office.

Arts and Communities

The establishment of a full-time Community Arts Assistant position has demonstrated Meath County Council's commitment to the delivery of a quality Arts Service throughout the community. In doing so, the Council is committed to social, cultural, community and educational development through participatory arts initiatives. Specifically this relates to the promotion and facilitation of arts programmes in a wide variety of community contexts across the broad range of arts disciplines.

Community based arts initiatives have been developed across a wide range of media, and in consultation with a broad range of community organisations. Inclusivity and artistic quality were, and shall continue to be, integral to the design and implementation of these programmes.

This Arts Plan seeks both to continue and expand this activity and in doing so will achieve the following main objectives;

- To increase access to and participation in the arts
- To design arts programmes which are accessible and enjoyable for participants
- To identify gaps in art-form development in community based projects and to identify ways of addressing this to ensure a balanced spread of activity across all arts disciplines
- To develop an evaluation framework which is reflective of the contribution of key stakeholders and which measures the artistic and social impact of programmes
- To continue to advise and support groups and artists wishing to work in community contexts
- To continue to provide employment opportunities for Meath-based artists through community projects.

In order to achieve these objectives the following key areas have been identified;

Community based arts projects

Projects in the following areas will be prioritised for the duration of this plan

- Arts & disability
- Arts and older persons
- Multiculturalism and the arts

Arts in Education

A number of successful residencies and projects, initiated by the Arts Office, have taken place to date across a wide variety of arts disciplines. It is intended to develop new projects in consultation with education providers and sectoral interest groups. All programmes devised are intended to be complementary to the curricula laid down by the Department of Education and Science.

Youth Arts

The creation of long term initiatives with a view to sustainable development and creative diversity in arts practice within the youth arts sector in Meath will be integral to all work in this area.

It is intended that a model for **Youth Theatre** development in the County be devised. This shall be carried out in consultation with youth groups and organisations, local artists, facilitators, organisations and agencies, the National Association of Youth Drama, and the National Youth Arts Programme.

Implementation;

A three-year programme in respect of the above key areas will be developed. This programme will

- Create long term sustainable projects,
- Establish a database of facilitators and groups which undertake projects in a community based context
- Take account of national initiatives, policies and developments in the design and implementation of future programmes
- Increase the number of communities and schools availing of initiatives
- Further develop training and education opportunities for artists taking place within County Meath
- Develop a Youth Theatre Model for the County
- Continue with and develop further the annual *Children's ArtsFest*
- Plan for, and implement arts activities in the '*Bealtine*' Festival annually.

Professional Arts Practice

The Meath County Council Corporate Plan 2001 - 2005 states that

“ Meath County Council shall adopt a proactive approach towards the development and sustainability of professional arts practices and practitioners in the county taking into account the number of professionals now located in Meath”

Currently, there are three professional performance companies located in Meath; Bare Bodkin Theatre Company, Navan; Ballet Ireland, Summerhill and Noggin Theatre Company, Oldcastle. The number of professional arts practitioners in a variety of disciplines has increased significantly in recent years.

Meath County Council will endeavour to provide support to professional arts practitioners living and working in Meath by the following means:

- Provision of financial assistance through the Meath County Council Arts Grant Scheme i.e. the introduction of a new ‘Professional Arts Development Scheme’.
- Provision of information and advice service through the Arts Office.
- Provision of rehearsal, workshop, performance and exhibition space thereby providing practitioners with the opportunity to devise and exhibit their work.
- Support the creation of new work whether through commissions or the provision of training opportunities and skills workshop exchanges.
- Establishment of an arts database for the county
- Programming of work, where suitable, by Meath-based professional performance companies, artists and practitioners as part of the Meath County Council Arts Events Programme.

Art Form Development

Through its Arts Service, Meath County Council will endeavor to provide a balanced series of cultural events annually to include music, drama, dance, literature and where possible film and opera, particularly those events not normally found within the environs of Meath. Meath County Council shall also continue working partnerships with national and local organisations towards the advancement and development of the arts on a local level.

Meath County Council is committed to supporting all art forms, specific actions and supports for particular art forms are listed below;

- Visual Arts
- Public Art
- Music
- Literature

Visual Arts

The appointment of a Visual Arts Assistant to the Arts Office has demonstrated Meath County Councils commitment to the development of the visual arts in the County.

Work shall continue or begin in the following areas;

1. Continued development and expansion of the County Council Art Collection and accompanying education programme.
2. The Toradh Gallery exhibition and education programme.
3. Planned provision of exhibition spaces in new County Council Offices.
4. Development of a Meath Artists Network and database.
5. Provision of information, training and advice to artists in the County.

6. Provision of gallery and exhibition space for exhibiting artists in the Meath Arts Centre, Navan.

1. Continued development and expansion of the County Council Art Collection and accompanying education programme.

In October 2002, Meath County Council launched the Meath County Council Art Collection Catalogue 1955 – 2002. This Catalogue details for the first time, all of the art works in the ownership of Meath County Council. It is, and will be, a valuable reference for the future. Meath County Council will continue to add to this Collection, and shall, through its Arts Office, endeavor to purchase one art piece from each of those exhibitions programmed by the Arts Office.

A comprehensive education programme, using the actual works from the Collection is currently underway in the county with the participation of many primary and secondary schools.

This programme will be continued to include new works. An adult programme will also be developed, these programmes being implemented with the co-operation and assistance of the County Library Services.

2. The Toradh Gallery exhibition and education programme.

The Toradh Gallery, based at the County Council Offices in Duleek, is now a well-established art exhibition space within the County. The Toradh is the County's first publicly funded gallery, hosting exhibitions by local, national and international artists. The Toradh Gallery exhibition, education and workshop programme will continue to be developed during the life of this plan as will the 'Meithel Breaga' open exhibition programme. This programme provides artists in the county with the opportunity to participate in at least one professional show annually.

3. Planned provision of exhibition spaces in new County Council Offices.

With the success of the Toradh Gallery, Meath County Council plans to develop further exhibition spaces in new County Council buildings, specifically, the new Ashbourne Council Offices, the design of which is particularly suited to the exhibition of artwork in a variety of media. An exhibition space similar to the Toradh Gallery is to be established at this venue. Further, it is proposed to establish the County's first '**ArtMart**' – an outdoor visual arts market which will take place in the civic space adjacent to the Ashbourne Offices during the summer months.

4. Development of a Meath Artists Network and Database.

The Arts Office shall endeavor to assist with the establishment of a Meath Artists Network as proposed by professional artists living in the County. This Network will serve to act as an information point for artists, with regular meetings and discussions on subjects of common interest.

The Arts Office also proposes to establish a database of artists working and living in the County which will constitute part of the proposed County Arts Database.

5. Provision of information, training and advice to artists in the County.

The Arts Office currently provides an information and advice service to artists and has in the past devised and implemented a number of training programmes for artists which have included: Organizing an Exhibition, Effective Portfolio Presentation, Gallery & Artists Contracts, Commissioning Procedures, Tax Status and the Artist. It is proposed to continue this information and advice service and, in consultation with the yet to be established Meath Artists Network, develop further training programmes and opportunities.

Public Art

Since 1998, Meath County Council has commissioned eleven public art features bringing the total under the Councils care to seventeen. An information awareness programme regarding earlier commissioned features was initiated through the Arts Office Newsletter '*Buvinnda*', whereby details on the Per Cent for Arts Scheme was provided. It is intended to continue with this information programme on recent and future commissions.

In the future implementation of the Per Cent for Art Scheme, Meath County Council will endeavour to:

- Pro actively identify new schemes and projects.
- Establish an inter-departmental working group within the local authority to assist with the strategic planning for, and implementation of, future Per Cent for Art Schemes.
- Develop a maintenance programme for current and future features.
- Consider the educational aspects of Public Art as a major County Visual Arts Programme and in doing so develop a public information programme on current and future public art features.
- Consider, where relevant, those aspects and levels of community involvement in the commissioning of features, and the impact of those features on the local community.
- Consider the implementation of the scheme through art forms other than the visual arts.

In addition to the Department of the Environment and Local Government Per Cent for Art Scheme, it is now Meath County Councils' stated policy to identify those major private capital investment schemes which provide an opportunity to include a public art feature as an aspect of the overall development. As such, it is intended that the provision of an art feature through private development will contribute to the general quality of the living environment.

Music

Meath County Council shall continue to provide support to Musical Societies, music groups and organisations in the County through it's Bi Annual Arts Grant Scheme, the Arts Office information and advice service and '*Buvinda*', the quarterly arts newsletter.

In addition, the Council will also continue to develop its strong links and working partnerships with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Meath. Specifically, this will include future development of the Oicheanta Airnean Series of concerts and the development of a proposed traditional music workshop programme both in partnership with CCE Ashbourne.

Working relationships and partnerships with national music organisations such as Music Network, the National Concert Hall, and the National Chamber Choir, will also be developed.

The Council will also continue to support the Meath Harp School, based in Nobber, and will assist with the future development of the proposed 'Meath Harp Ensemble'. This project is being developed by the Arts Office and Meath Harp School with assistance from the Arts Council through its Musician in Residence programme.

The Council also intends to introduce a 'Harp School Bursary Award' during the life of this plan in consultation and partnership with the Meath Harp School Board.

Mobile Music Centre

The two principles underpinning the Mobile Music Centre initiative are access, and the importance of youth arts. The main objective of this initiative is to provide training and recording opportunities for young people, groups and musicians throughout the county, and, by the nature of the centre's mobility, enable a much wider audience to avail of the facilities.

This project is already up and running, a substantial amount of recording and rehearsal equipment having been bought in 2002 with assistance from the Arts Council. A number of successful youth music projects have already been completed including the Colaiste Pobail, RathCairn, Rap Music Project and the Navan Educational Enhancement Project CD recording.

The Mobile Music Centre programme shall be further developed during the life of this plan with special emphasis on training and quality music production.

Meath County Council has introduced a number of schools initiatives ensuring access to professional musicians and music practitioners. These include the *Meet the Composer*, *Meet the Conductor* and visiting musician schemes. These shall be continued during the life of this plan.

Literature

In 1999, Meath County Council purchased the cottage adjacent to the Ledwidge Cottage Museum, Slane. *Information Ireland*, a firm of arts consultants was appointed to carry out a feasibility study into the establishment of a Literary Centre at this site. Following their recommendations and further consultation carried out by the Arts Office, Meath County Council now intends to:

- Develop a literary exhibition at this cottage focussing on writers from, or bearing significance to, County Meath e.g. Mary Lavin, Jonathan Swift, the Bronte Family etc. It is intended that any exhibition developed at this site would compliment the current Ledwidge Cottage Museum exhibition and programme. Links have already been established with the Bronte Centre, Rathfriland, Co.

Down, the Bronte Family and the Bronte Centre in the Lake District England.

- It is proposed that this Centre be the starting point for a 'County Literary Map' to be developed during the life of this plan.
- This Centre would also provide the focus for literary activities taking place in the county and organised by the Arts Office

Meath County Council recognises the work and contribution to arts activity in the county undertaken by the Ledwidge Cottage Museum Committee. Partnership projects and programmes shall also be explored and, where appropriate, developed.

These activities shall be developed in consultation with and, where appropriate, in partnership with the County Library Services. The County Library Services provide an excellent resource and research facility through it's Local Studies Department and also have access to and guardianship of a wealth of original archival material.

It is also intended to work with the Library Services in the development of joint proposals for innovative Writer-in-Residence programmes for the County, with particular emphasis on creative writing for children and young persons.

Funding: Awards and Bursaries

Meath County Council currently operates the following schemes for supporting the arts;

- ***Meath County Council Bi Annual Arts Grants Scheme***

These awards are intended to support local arts activities and to enhance long-term development and sustainability of the arts in County Meath. Awards are made twice yearly. At present the maximum amount available under this scheme is €635; it is proposed to increase this to €1000 during the life of this plan.

- ***Meath County Council /Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award***

This award provides an artist with the opportunity to spend a two - week residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan, as a means to developing their work. The Tyrone Guthrie Centre is internationally renowned as a workplace for artists. The Bursary, valued at €635, is awarded through open competition. Applicants must be resident in County Meath.

- ***Schools Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme***

Introduced by Meath County Council in 2000, this scheme is intended to assist schools, both primary and secondary with the purchase of musical instruments which would then be made available to pupils in the school as a means of increasing access to and participation in music classes. It is intended to revise the nature and scope of this scheme during the life of this Plan.

- ***Going Solo***

This Visual Arts Award Scheme was introduced in 2001 as part of the Council's on-going policy of supporting the visual arts in the county particularly the work of young and emerging artists. Third level students studying art, living in or from Meath, are invited to submit proposals for their first 'solo' exhibition, to the Toradh Gallery in Duleek. The award is a three-week solo exhibition at the Toradh Gallery plus a bursary of €635 towards exhibition costs.

- ***Community Arts Award;***

Introduced in 2002, this Scheme is intended to assist community groups fund and develop long term, sustainable arts projects in their areas. Applications must demonstrate a knowledge of and commitment to, the delivery of such projects and must be drawn up in partnership with the facilitating artist. This Scheme is not intended to wholly fund projects. Applicants must be able to provide evidence of other funding received.

New Schemes

- ***Festival Grant Scheme***

Meath County Council shall continue to support those arts festivals taking place in County Meath which demonstrate a commitment to quality artistic programming. Funding shall be made available to those festivals through the introduction of a new Festival Grant Scheme. The criteria and application guidelines will be drawn up during the life of this plan, with the maximum amount available under this scheme being €5,000.

- ***Meath County Council/Meath Harp School Bursary***

This Bursary which will be introduced in partnership with the Meath Harp School, is intended to assist outstanding pupils at the Meath Harp School attend the 'Cáirde na Cruite Cúirt Chruitreachta Festival for Irish Harp' which takes place annually at the An Grianán Centre, Co Louth. This annual festival now ranks among the top international harp festivals and attracts students and teachers from all over the world. Criteria and application procedures will be drawn up during the course of this plan, value of bursary €650.

- ***Professional Arts Development Fund***

This scheme is intended to support professional arts practitioners in the delivery of their work and particularly in the development of new works. Criteria and application procedures will be drawn up during the life of this plan.

Infrastructure

Meath Arts Centre

Under the First County Arts Development Plan the issue of infrastructure for the arts in the County was examined. At that time, there was no facilitated arts centre or theatre in the County. Following extensive consultation, and, with this project being approached as a partnership project between Meath County Council, Navan Town Council and Navan Civic Trust, plans for a new arts centre in Navan were drawn up. This Arts Centre, currently at building stage is being developed as part of the Architectural Framework Plan for the Fair Green, Navan. Supported and part funded by the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism 'Arts and Cultural Capital Enhancement Support Scheme' (ACCESS), its completion will provide the county with a three hundred and twenty seat state of the art theatre, visual art exhibition space, studio and workshop space and café-bar facilities. This facility, with expected completion date of 2005, is intended to cater for the entire county and will compliment other facilities being developed by the Council including the Toradh Gallery, based at the Meath County Council Offices, Duleek, the planned exhibition facilities and 'ArtMart' at the Ashbourne Council Offices, the Meath County Council Mobile Music Centre and the planned development of a Literary Centre adjacent to the Ledwidge Cottage Museum, Slane.

The Arts Office will also work closely with the County Library Services in the planning for, and provision of, additional services with regard to arts activities in new Library buildings.

In addition to these facilities, Meath County Council intends to work with local agencies and community groups in exploring the development potential for facilities such as the Duleek Court House, St Vincent de Paul Hall, Kells, the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann proposed Music and Archive Centre at Kilmainhamwood, and other relevant projects which may arise during the life of this Plan.

Printed plan should include Arts Centre Plans following this section

