



Chief Executive's Report for Elected Members

Monthly Management Report

May 2024

This Monthly Management Report is prepared in accordance with Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, and provided to the Elected Members for consideration and information.

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Introduction by the Chief Executive

To Members,

This Monthly Management Report gives an overview of the on-going governance of Meath County Council and is being provided for your information and consideration.

The report covers the following:

Directorate for Corporate Affairs and Governance, Climate Action and Emergency Services

Corporate Affairs and Governance

Climate Action and Environment

Directorate for Housing, Community and Cultural Development

Housing Services

Community Development

Library Services

Directorate for Infrastructure, Project Management, People Management and Development

Transportation

Directorate for Planning, Economic and Tourism Development

Planning and Development

Economic Development

Tourism

Directorate for Finance, Information Systems and Water Services

Finance Services

Thank You,

Kieran Kehoe

Chief Executive

Corporate Affairs and Governance



Save
the Date

Boyne Valley to Lakelands Greenway Launch
12 May 2024 at 3.00pm

~

Kilmainhamwood Community Centre Opening
12 May 2024 at 4.00pm

~

Economic Development Action Plan Launch
30 May 2024 at 8.30am

~

Dunboyne Pitch Opening (Rooske Road)
31 May 2024 at 2.00pm

Dates are subject to change

Corporate Affairs

Scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta

D'fhógair Comhairle Chontae na Mí sonraí faoina scéim scoláireachtaí Gaeltachta don bhliain 2024 ar an 8 Aibreán ar na meáin shóisialta na Comhairle, an súiomh gréasain agus sna nuachtáin , an Meath

Chronicle, Drogheda Leader agus Meath Herald. Tá an scéim seo oscailte do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar meánscoileanna sa Chontae.

Tá fiche a ceathair deontas Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh ar a bhfuil luach €150.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna dara leibhéal sa chontae. Tá ocht deontas eile Máthair Columba Gibbons, ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann, ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal; agus sé deontas eile Máire Ni Raghallaigh ar a bhfuil luach €300.00 an ceann ar fáil do dhaltaí atá ag freastal ar scoileanna DEIS dara leibhéal fosta. Is féidir na deontais a fhorchúiteamh in aghaidh táillí a íoctar do choláistí samhraidh cónaithe atá aitheanta i rith an tsamhraidh 2024.

Tá an Scéim Scoláireachta Gaeltachta á tacú ag Comhairle Contae na Mí, cláir Ghaeilge agus Éire Chruthaitheach.

Gaeltacht Scholarships

Meath County Council announced details of its Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme for the 2024 year on the 8th April on Council social media, the website and in the Meath Chronicle, Meath Herald and Drogheda Leader newspapers. This scheme is open to pupils attending secondary schools in the County.

Twenty-four Máire Nic Shiubhlaigh grants of €150.00 each will be made available to students attending second level schools in the county. Eight Mother Columba Gibbons grants of €300.00 each will be made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools; and a further 6 Máire Ní Raghallaigh grants of €300.00 each will also be made available to students attending DEIS second-level schools. The grants will be recoupable against fees paid at recognised residential Irish colleges during the summer of 2024.

The Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme is supported by the Meath County Council, Irish Language and Creative Ireland programmes.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation (SICAP) 2024-2028 programme

The new Social Inclusion and Community Activation (SICAP) 2024-2028 programme was signed at Meath County Council Headquarters in Navan. The programme provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion through local engagement and partnerships between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies. It will see an investment of over €3million (€3,260,111) in Meath. Meath County Council and Meath Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) will be working with Meath Partnership in the delivery of SICAP over the next 5 years.



Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030

Over the last number of weeks a campaign ran on social media and local radio to encourage people to have their say on the Meath Biodiversity Action Plan. More details can be found on meath.ie.



Free Drop Off Days

A promotional campaign ran throughout April to promote Free Drop Off days for mattresses which were held in recycling centres and in Ashbourne.

Free Drop Off Days 2024

Navan, Trim, Kells, & Thorntons Dunboyne Recycling Centres

Mattresses



Navan Recycling - C15NX24 - Thursday, 18th April 2024

Trim Recycling - C15FN73 - Friday, 19th April 2024

Thornton's Dunboyne - A86X446 - Friday, 19th April 2024

Kells Recycling - A82VK23 - Saturday, 20th April 2024

Gate Fee of €2 per vehicle per visit
Householders Only - No Commercial customers
Thorntons, Dunboyne is closed on Monday
and at 1pm on Saturday

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Rás Tailteann Countdown

Meath County Council has launched a promotional campaign on our digital channels counting down to the arrival of Ras Tailteann to Meath for the end of the final stage. Please feel free to share our content with your followers.



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meath county council



Arrival of new Electric Vehicle

In an effort to become more sustainable and reduce our carbon emissions as an organisation, Meath County Council has recently purchased a new electric van for our environmental section. The fully electric van, kitted out with 4 dog cages and cabin air conditioning, replaces the previous diesel van used by our dog warden. It has a large 75kWh battery with a range of 330km.

The electric van was purchased with funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Check The Register Campaign

A Register to Vote! Campaign is currently running across Meath County Council digital channels.

Closing date for applications to the register of electors for the Local & EU elections is Monday, May 20. Closing date for receipt of postal vote applications is Saturday, May 11.

Ordinary applications can be applied for online at www.checktheregister.ie with a PPSN, etc. but postal vote applications must be submitted on a completed form as additional verification is required. Forms can be posted or emailed.

All registered electors can vote in the Local elections regardless of citizenship. Only EU registered electors can vote in the EU elections.



Corporate Governance

Meath County Council as a public body is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, which allows for access to certain records held by the local authority subject to a number of exemptions.

The following are the number of requests received in Q1 2024:

FOI	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OIC
Q1 - 2024	38	1	0

The link to the Council's FOI Disclosure Log is: <https://www.meath.ie/council/your-council/your-data-and-access-to-information/freedom-of-information>

The following are the Q1 2024 statistics relating to Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests:

AIE	Requests	Internal Reviews	Appeals to OCEI
Q1 - 2024	7	1	1

The Council's Data Protection Unit (DPU) continues to carry out significant work across the organisation to ensure compliance with the GDPR and Data Protection Acts. The following are the Q1 2024 statistics relating to Data Subject Access Requests - DSAR's:

Subject Access Requests	SAR's
Q1 - 2024	11

Climate Action and Environment



Sustainable Energy Communities

Congratulations to Louth East Meath Sustainable Energy Community who recently completed an Energy Management Plan through the SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities Programme. The Sustainable Energy Community Programme engages and enables energy citizens with over 800 communities who are working together to achieve their energy goals. Meath County Council work in collaboration with the SEAI on the SEC programme.



URBACT In4Green

Meath County Council continues to participate in the URBACT In4Green Project. A local committee called the URBACT Local Group (ULG) has been formed and is chaired by Cllr. Edward Fennessy. This group is made up of representatives from local Industry, local communities and representatives from Meath County Council. The 3rd meeting of the ULG was held on the 29th of April. The ULG discussed potential testing actions for Navan. Guest speaker Philip McCormack, County Meath SEAI Sustainable Energy Community Mentor discussed the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) Programme and the benefits of joining. Aoife Fegan Enterprise Development Officer, Meath County Council gave a presentation on the Green for Micro Programme administered by the Local Enterprise Office for small businesses.



Community Climate Action Programme Fund

Empowering communities to shape and build low carbon communities and supporting innovative solutions to build climate resilience, energy efficiency and emission reduction. The allocation to Meath County Council for this fund is €811,000.

This Community Climate Action Programme Fund closed on the 28.02.2024 with 64 funding applications submitted. 24 Small Scale Projects, 24 Medium scale projects and 16 Large Scale projects were received, totalling a value of €2.6 million. 48 Projects covered Community Energy, 16 covered Travel, 11 covered Food and Waste, 3 covered shopping and recycling and 19 covered Local Climate & Environmental action.

Evaluation took place in April with the qualifying projects sent to DECC on 24.04.2024, for the DECC allocated amount of €811,000. 11 Small scale projects, 10 medium scale projects and 4 large scale projects met the criteria and scoring for funding. DECC will now review those projects and announce the successful projects on 17.7.2024.



New Dog Warden Electric Vehicle

In an effort to become more sustainable and reduce our carbon emissions as an organisation, Meath County Council have recently purchased a new electric van for our environmental section. The fully electric van, kitted out with 4 dog cages and cabin air conditioning, replaces the previous diesel van used by our dog warden. It has a large 75kWh battery with a range of 330km. The electric van was purchased from funding by the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Environment

Anti-dumping initiative



The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is making funding of €3m available through the Waste Enforcement Regional Lead Authorities (WEARLAs) to support the 2024 Anti-Dumping Initiative.

Since the launch of this initiative in 2017 over 1700 projects have been successfully delivered across the 31 Local Authority area and aimed at encouraging a collaborative approach between local

authorities, communities, and other State Agencies to tackle the problem of localised illegal dumping. Over the 7 years of the scheme Meath County Council have drawn down over €600k and involving some 53 different projects.

The 2024 scheme focuses on 4 key areas and namely prevention, abatement, education and enforcement, while strong encouragement is also given to Circular Economy type projects which recognise waste as a resource and with particular reference being made to furniture, bicycles , paints for re-use , and textiles.

2024 Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti Awareness Grant Scheme

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is making funding of €750,00 from the Environment Fund available to local authorities under this scheme. The maximum grant allocated per project may be up on 70% of the overall costs with the balance being met by way of local contribution. The scheme promotes in particular the development of projects aimed at increasing awareness of responsible do ownership in relation to dog fouling issues. Grant funding of €25,000 is being allocated to Meath County Council under the 2024 scheme.

Bulky Waste Collections

The Recycling Centres at Navan, Trim, Kells and Dunboyne received 1,182 mattresses for recovery and disposal in March, together with 30 tonnes of couches.

There will be further free events throughout the coming months for garden equipment, lawnmowers, trampolines, toys, nursery equipment etc.



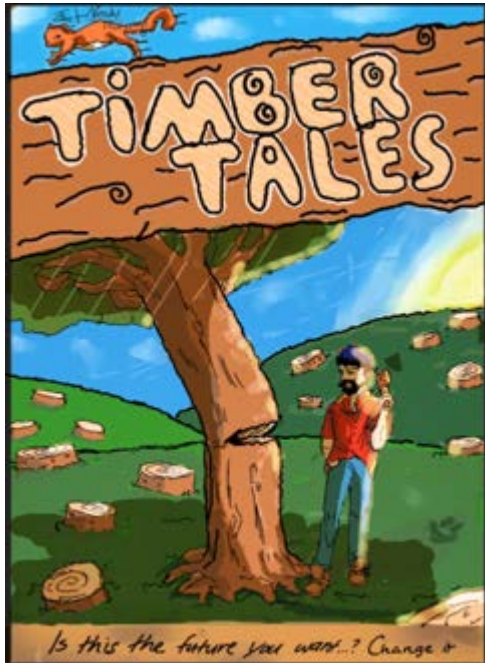
The Rubbish Film Festival

Fourteen Meath secondary schools participated in the Rubbish Film Festival 24024.

O Carolan College in Nobber were rewarded with Best Film by Cathaoirleach Tommy Reilly and Cllr Paul McCabe at an awards ceremony in Solstice Arts Centre on April 30th.

The entry from O'Carolan College 'Timber Tales' focused on Deforestation. Runners up included Loreto Navan, Colaiste na Mi, Beaufort College and Athboy Community School.

Movies examined a range of themes – Fast Fashion, Pollution, Litter and Waste, Climate Change, Consumerism, Environmental Cost of Business.



Provision of Columbarium Walls and Urn Plots

The Council initiated a tender process for the procurement of suitably qualified Contractors for the development of Columbarium Walls and Urn Plots in The Good Shepard Cemetery Duleek,, St Declan's Ashbourne, St Finian's Navan, Derrockstown Dunshaughlin and Rooske Cemetery Dunboyne. A contract has now been signed in respect of these works and it is expected the contractor will commence the works, starting in Duleek around the second week of May .

The Columbarium Walls in each Cemetery will be developed to accommodate 80 niches over two blocks- one block has already been developed as part of the extension to Rooke Cemetery. The development of the plots in the four cemeteries will accommodate circa 900 urn burials .

Housing Services



Capital Programme

Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PRELIMINARY DESIGN PHASE			
Archers Glen, Ashbourne	79	Q3 2024	Q2 2026
Abbeylands, Navan	6	Q2 2024	Q1 2025
Church Street, Kells	3	Q1 2025	Q1 2026
Total	88		
SECTION 179A PLANNING PROCESS & DETAILED DESIGN			
Nangle Close, Navan	12	Q4 2024	Q4 2025
Church View, Rathmolyon	22	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Haggard Street, Trim	4	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarney	2	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Kells, Archdeaconry*	22	Q4 2024	Q1 2026
Carrick Street Regeneration, Kells*	47	Q4 2024	Q2 2026
COMBINED PLANNING STAGE & DETAILED DESIGN TOTAL	109		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION			
Ratholdren Court, Navan	27	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Newtown, Drumconrath	1	Q3 2024	Q3 2025
Connaught Grove	47	Q2 2024	Q4 2025
Total	75		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE			
Gort na Glaise, Farganstown	84	Q1 2023	Q3 2024

Castle Street, Ashbourne	74	Q4 2022	Q3 2024
Yellow Ford, Convent Lands, Kildalkey Road, Athboy	28	Q2 2023	Q3 2024
St. Francis Park, Navan	10	Q4 2022	Q2 2024
Brews Hill, Navan	12	Q1 2024	Q2 2025
Pitcher Lane, Kells	5	Q2 2024	Q2 2025
Swan Lane, Navan	6	Q4 2023	Q4 2024
Total	219		
OVERALL TOTAL	491		

***Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells**

An application for the construction of 22 new residential units comprising 6 no. two-bed, single storey units, 6 no. two-bed, two-storey houses & 10 no. three-bed, two-storey houses at Archdeaconry Glebe, Kells, was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 22nd of November 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 1st of February 2024.

The matter is now subject to Judicial Review brought by Kells Anglers Association and Ciaran O’Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála and Uisce Éireann, and Meath County Council (Notice Party) High Court No 2024 440 JR. The matter is listed for mention in the High Court in the Planning and Environment List on Monday 13 May 2024.

***Carrick Street, Kells**

An application for the construction of 36 new residential units, and refurbishment of 9 existing derelict units to provide 11 new units, giving a total of 47 residential units in Carrick Street in Kells was lodged with An Bord Pleanála on the 29th of July 2022 and was approved by the Bord on the 12th of February 2024.

The matter is now subject to Judicial Review brought by Kells Anglers Association and Ciaran O’Kelly -v- An Bord Pleanála and Uisce Éireann, and Meath County Council (Notice Party) High Court No 2024 484 JR. The matter is listed for mention in the High Court in the Planning and Environment List on Monday 13 May 2024.

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey up to 23rd April 2024

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Ashbourne	Part V	9
Athboy	Part V	7
Bettystown	Part V	9
Carlanstown	Part V	2
Clonee	Part V	7
Donacarney	Part V	2
Drogheda	Part V	8
Dunboyne	Part V	3

Dunshaughlin	Part V	37
Enfield	Part V	21
Julianstown	Part V	2
Kells	Part V	8
Kilbride	Part V	2
Kilmessan	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	40
Rathmolyon	Part V	1
Ratoath	Part V	4
Slane	Part V	4
Stamullen	Part V	2
Bettystown	Turnkey	76
Clonee	Turnkey	66
Donacarney	Turnkey	11
Drogheda	Turnkey	30
Navan	Turnkey	14
Navan	CAS	12
Trim	CAS	2
Oldcastle	CAS	5
Total		372

Meath County Council Approved Capital Assistance Scheme, Part V & Turnkey – Delivered as at the 23rd of April 2024.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS
Athboy	Part V	1
Dunshaughlin	Part V	4
Enfield	Part V	4
Kells	Part V	3
Kilmessan	Part V	3
Longwood	Part V	3
Slane	Part V	2
Navan	Part V	1
Navan	Turnkey	4
Total		25

Affordable Housing

The 2023 allocation of 70 houses for Affordable Housing Delivery are all finalised. This consisted of 10 no. 2-bed houses, 57 no. 3-bed houses, and 3 no. 4-bed houses – giving a total of 203 bedrooms to date housing 179 people in 70 confirmed purchased properties. All the units were constructed to an “A” energy rating. The Housing Department are working with Developers to identify Affordable turnkey units for purchase or rent for 2024.

Expressions of Interest

The Housing Department continue to collaborate with Developers and Landowners to purchase land and or properties for the provision of social and Affordable Housing.

Refurbishment Projects

St. Francis Park Scheme

The site consists of 10nr. residential units. Scheme is progressing well but has experienced a delay in the programme. The Scheme is now estimated for completion at the end of Q2 2024.

Alverno Court Refurbishment:

- Phase 4 was fully completed on 30th Jan 2024.
- The final Phase 5 (6nr. units) is in process, with expected completion at the end of Jun 2024.

Local Authority Adaptive Work Scheme (LAWWS)

- LAAWS grant funding of €563,533 including VAT submitted for approval to DHLGH for 2024 covering 51nr. properties.
- To date for 2024, 10nr. LAAWS are complete and another 33nr. LAAWS are appointed to Contractors.
- An additional 7nr LAAWS have been issued recently for pricing.

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability on the 28/03/2024

- To date 351 applications approved to the value of €2,339,055.11

Local Authority Vacant Units Currently Unavailable for Allocation

Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as of 30th April 2024. For the period from

20th March 2024 to 30th April 2024, works were completed on 4 vacant units, while 12 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not yet with Contractors
Ashbourne	1	0	0	0	1
Kells	4	4	2	6	4
Laytown/Bettystown	4	1	0	3	2
Navan	12	1	2	4	11
Ratoath	4	2	0	4	2
Trim	10	1	0	0	11
TOTALS	35	9	4**	17	31

**Note: All four of these pre-let properties are major refurb which includes energy upgrades to bring the property to B2 BER rating or better.

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects (Including Part V)

Project Name	No. of Units	AHB	Estimated Completion
Swanbrook, Navan	7	Tuath	Q2 2024
Dunville House, Metges Road*	45	Tuath	Q2 2024
Cluain Adain Clonmagaddan Navan	36	Cluid	Q2 2024
Mine View, Athboy Road, Navan	29	Respond	Q2 2024
Woodstream, Bailis, Navan	39	Cluid	Q4 2024
Oldcastle	5	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q4 2024
Tailteann, Navan	12	Meath Women's Refuge - CAS	Q3 2024
St. Loman Street, Trim	2	Saint Vincent de Paul - CAS	Q1 2025
Total Number of Approved Units	175		

*Delivery Method had moved from Leasing to CALF

Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects Delivered in 2024 Year to date:

None delivered so far in 2024

Leasing - (including Part V)

The previous Leasing Projects Aylesbury Clonee & Dunville Navan are now Turnkey and CALF projects respectively.

Cost Rental

59 Cost rental units due to be delivered in Woodstream, Bailis, Navan, Co. Meath by Q4 2024.

Homelessness March 2024

	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements at 29th of February (Previous Reported Figure)	166 (178 Adults)	66 (116 Adults 106 Children)	232
Placements at 31st of March	169 (181 Adults)	67 (117 Adults 100 Children)	236

Of the households with children, 58 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention and 9 Families in PMVT Family Hubs.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is family breakdown; relationship breakdown; unable to find a property to rent; Notice to Quit; domestic violence; overcrowding; couch surfing; addiction; mental health; house fire; unsuitable accommodation; rough sleeping.

Age profile of clients in emergency accommodation on 31.03.2024

Age profile	Clients	0-4	04-11	11-18	18-25	25-40	40-65	Over 65
Families	117	-	-	-	38	40	38	1
Couples	24	-	-	-	5	5	11	3
Singles	157	-	-	-	19	47	79	12
Children	100	31	35	34	-	-	-	-
Total	398	31	35	34	62	92	128	16

Families – 25 adult children

Adult children range from 18 - 23

Place finder 01/03/2024-31/03/2024

Total	8
Exit from Emergency Accommodation	6
Homeless Prevention	2

Tenant Liaison Team March 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation	Complaints	Cases
Frequent serious disturbances	36	19
Occupancy of Dwelling	41	37
Garden upkeep/Maintenance	33	30
Dog/Horse/ Pet Control	2	2
Total Received 01/03/2024-31/03/2024	112	88

Standards in Rented Accommodation

1,417 Inspections were carried out on rented properties in Meath up to the end of April 2024. Of this figure, 724 were first inspections, 34 properties passed after their first inspection. Subsequent follow up inspections will be carried out to ensure compliance. Meath County Council's target for 2024 is 1,850 first inspections, the number of first inspections to meet the annual target of 25% is circa 463 per quarter.

Social Housing Supports

- 459 social housing applications were received for the period 1st January to 31st March 2024.
- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period 1st January 2024 to 31st March 2024

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	74
Transfers	5
Approved Housing Bodies	94
Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)	0
Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)	28
Long Term Leasing	0
Mortgage To Rent (Approved Housing Bodies)	0
Approved Housing Bodies (AHB) CALF Acquisition	0
TOTAL	

Choice Based Lettings Advertised March 2024

No. of Bed rooms	Ashbourne MD No. of properties	Laytown/ Bettystown MD No. of properties	Kells MD No. of properties	Navan MD No. of properties	Ratoath MD No. of properties	Trim MD No. of properties
1	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	2	37	1	5
3	0	0	4	8	0	3
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	6	0	1	8

Community Development



Healthy Ireland / Healthy Meath

Healthy Meath launched the 'County Meath Chronic Disease Risk Management Programme Pilot Report' in the Ardbyone Hotel on the 18th April, attendees included those from the Irish Heart Foundation, The HSE, the Irish Pharmacy Union, Meath Council Council and members of the public.

6 new organisations have been recruited to participated in the period poverty scheme including Kells Family Resource Centre, Meath Travellers Workshop and Enfield Library.

The Healthy Ireland Coordinator attended the Irish Healthy Cities and Counties National Network Meeting in the Department of Health on the 9th of April.

The Meath LCDC Health and Wellbeing Subgroup meeting took place on the 16th of April. The Healthy Meath Microfund grant scheme was launched on the 8th of April and will close on the 7th of May, groups can apply for a minimum grant of €500 up to a maximum grant of €2000. The April/May edition of the Healthy Meath Newsletter was published and is available to view [here](#).

Grants and Funding.

The Community Recognition Fund 2024

Meath County Council sought expressions of interest for project proposals from community groups under the Department of Rural and Community Development Community Recognition Fund 2024. The Fund aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries. The allocation for Co. Meath is €1,188,066

CLÁR

The CLÁR Scheme 2024 was launched on 12th April. Expressions of Interest are being sought for Measure 1 under the theme, "Developing Community Facilities & Amenities." Closing date for Measure 1 is 17th May 2024. Application forms for Measures 2 and 3 can be submitted directly to the Department of Rural and Community Development. For further information, please [click here](#).

ORIS

€55,800.00 has been approved in respect of 2 the following projects under Measure 1 of the 2023 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

Project Reference	Project Name	Funding Approved
OR123MH01	Balrath Woods Entrance Upgrade	€27,000.00
OR123MH02	Accessibility Upgrade for Kilmainhamwood River Walk	€28,800.00

Community Centre Investment Funding

Funding of €1,915,000 was announced under the Department of Rural and Community Development Community Centre Investment Funding for Kilcloon Community Centre, Co. Meath –€1,915,000.

Laytown Park

Laytown Park has been approved by An Bord Pleanála for planning.

Meath Age Friendly

Meath Age Friendly held a walkability audit on 22nd of April in Ratoath. The next Age Friendly Alliance Meeting will be held on 30th May 2024.

Comhairle na nÓg

Quarter 1 meeting for the Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee took place on Tuesday, 26th March, 2024. The Comhairle na nÓg programme for 2024 was presented to the Steering Committee.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next LCDC meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th April 2024.

LEADER Programme 2023 - 2027

The next LAG meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 26th April 2024.

Joint Policing Committee

The next meeting of the Joint Policing Committee is scheduled for 20th May 2024.

Carranstown Environmental Projects Grant Scheme

Meetings of the ICLC were held on 13th March & 4th April to assess the 39 applications received under the Carranstown Environment Projects Grant Scheme 2023 and funding recommendations €298,050 were approved by Laytown-Bettystown MD Members and by Full Council at their April meetings.

Knockharley Community Grant Scheme

A meeting of the Knockharley Community Liaison Committee is scheduled for 24th April, 2024.

Public Participation Network

An online session for linkage group development was held on the evening of April 11th with 24 people in attendance.

Staff attended Slane and District Men's Shed open morning on March 15th, promoting grants and training opportunities through the PPN.

Staff and Secretariat began planning the May Plenary which will be held in Dunshaughlin on May 14th. Staff continue to liaise with DRCD in hosting the National PPN staff retreat, which is being held in Trim on April 25th & 26th, with a focus on the celebration and promotion of PPNs 10th anniversary. 661 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

Meath Digital Strategy Public Consultation

The Public Consultation has received 47 responses so far from members of the public. The majority of the responses have been from Trim (9) and Navan (11) but very low responses from the remaining areas. Councillors and all members of the public are encouraged to complete the survey. The consultation can be completed at <https://www.meath.ie/county-meath-local-digital-strategy>.



National Broadband Plan

The latest update from NBI shows that there are an additional 731 premises who are ready for service in the county, particularly in Ratoath MD and Trim MD with the delivery of works in the Donboyne and Donadea deployment areas. Kells also gained with the delivery of Kilnaleck. Work continues across the County with Navan, Carnaross, Kingscourt, Dunboyne, Trim and Hill of Down all under construction.

	AMD	KMD	LBMD	NMD	RMD	TMD	#N/A	Grand Total
AVAILABLE_TO_PRE_ORDER		2				269		271
DA_NOT_ASSIGNED	41	132	26	13	48	66	57	383
MOVED_INTO_IA	2	1	16		72		5	96
NETWORK_BUILD_IN_PROGRESS	827	5363	624	959	656	3338	1	11768
READY_FOR_SERVICE	865	716	2043		287	261		4172
Active	300	179	648		53	33		1213
Ceased	7	1	5			2		15
Pending Connection	25	37	18		23	60		163
(blank)	533	499	1372		211	166		2781
SURVEY_COMPLETE	941	264	585		1972	1		3763
SURVEY_PENDING	12	3	12		28	1		56
SURVEY_PLANNED	9	8	6			1		24
SURVEY_UNDERWAY						236		236
Grand Total	2697	6489	3312	972	3063	4173	63	20769

BCP/Coding Initiatives

The Bective Future Coders were entered for .IE Digital Town Awards 2024 and have been short listed for the finals which will be held in May 2024 in Athlone. They will be joined by the Climate Action team who delivered the Trim Air Quality Monitoring Project who have also been short listed for the second time. More details on the projects and the awards is available at <https://www.weare.ie/digital-town-awards-finalists-2024/>.

Local Authority Integration Team

The newly created Local Authority Integration Team links new arrivals (International Protection (IP) applicants, Programme Refugees and Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP)) with mainstream support services to enable them to live in the community.

Integration Support Workers provide information, advice, and guidance to individuals; linking individuals with mainstream and NGO services; and identifying gaps in supports or services.

Actions - January to date:

- 20 introductory meetings with accommodation providers.
- 19 clinics held in 15 accommodation centers.
- 261 Cases logged.
 - 6 in progress.
 - 255 resolved.
- 13 stakeholder engagements.

Libraries Services and Arts Office



Archives

Meath Archives will be taking on an additional project archivist through Arcline this summer. The archivist will work two days a week for three months from May.

Roisín Murphy is a qualified archivist who will be working with both Archives and the Heritage Office on the Kells Print works paper collection. The Kells Print works paper collection comprises of c30 boxes of business papers, samples, and private correspondence.

When completed the collection will form part of the Kells Print Works collection which includes restored posters from 1920s to 1980s, wooden furniture and woodblock to complete a heritage collection. The collection will give visitors a complete understanding of the Print Works throughout the 20th century.

eServices: Change to eNewspapers and eMagazine services

From May 1st, 2024, BorrowBox will offer library members access to newspapers and magazines as well as eBooks and audiobooks. The Libby and PressReader services will no longer be available to library members.

This follows a tender process to put in place national eResource services. Following that tender:

- Borrowbox will provide audiobooks, eBooks, newspaper, and magazines.
- Universal Class will continue to provide online courses.
- Transparent Languages will continue to provide language learning.

Communicating Europe Initiative 2024

The Library Service successfully applied for funding under the Local Authority led EU50 Events. The grant of €6,280 will fund a Post Primary Schools EU Debate in the Autumn 2024 plus a series of events to mark Europe Day on May 9th. Events for Europe Day to include 'My little album of Europe' workshops with author Juliette Saumande and illustrator Tarsila Krüse, a creative competition for young people and a table quiz for primary schools students.

Bealtaine

Meath County Council Library Service has arranged a wide variety of events to celebrate the Bealtaine Festival this year. The Bealtaine Festival is a national festival held in May every year and celebrates creativity among older adults.

Events include:

- 'Musical Memories' from the County Council Choir
- 'A few bars more' with Teresa Carley and guests
- The Ashbourne Choir Ensemble
- The annual 'Big Book Quiz
- Chair yoga
- Pilates workshops
- Line dancing
- A night of poetry with award winning poet Jim McElroy
- An evening with author Belinda McKeon
- Art workshops with artist John Carpenter

The Bealtine festival programme complements the wide variety of events for adults programmed in libraries throughout the year. Regular events include book clubs, chess clubs, film clubs, language conversation groups, knitting and craft groups and more.

Ríocht na Midhe

Volume XXXV of *Ríocht na Midhe* was launched At the Ardboyne Hotel on Wednesday 27 March by Meath Archaeological & Historical Society. A record attendance enjoyed the formalities of the launch, performed this year by patron Thomas Pakenham of Tullynally Castle, and the lecture by Clare Tuffy on her 40 years working for the OPW at Newgrange and other sites in the Boyne Valley. Meath County Council directly supports the publication of the journal every year, and branches of the County Council library network are venues for the Society's lectures throughout the year. *Ríocht na Midhe* is widely regarded as one of the best local history journals in the country and has been published since 1955.

Meath County Council Arts Office Arts Act Funding 2024.

Five Schemes successfully updated and moved to online application platform Submit. Schemes opened April 26th, closing date 1pm Thursday May 30th. These schemes have been strengthened by additional funding received from the Arts Council of Ireland and Creative Ireland. Further info and forms can be found online at <https://meathcocoarts.submit.com/>

➤ **Annual Arts Grants Scheme**

This award is intended to support organisations, groups or individuals in the provision of local arts activities which enhance long-term development and sustainability of the arts in County Meath.

Community Arts Grant

This award is intended to support community groups and schools in the provision of community arts projects which promote engagement and enhance long-term partnerships with professional artists.

Festival Grant Scheme

This award is intended to support arts festivals taking place in County Meath which show a commitment to quality artistic programming.

Drama League of Ireland Bursary

This bursary is intended to fund a week-long residential stay at the Drama League of Ireland Summer School at the University of Limerick. The residency is open to directors, designers and actors working in theatre, living in County Meath.

Professional Artist Development Fund

This award is intended to support Meath based professional arts practitioners in the development of their artistic practice and/or the development of new work.



CCI Paris Residency Award winner announced:

Continuing our partnership with Centre cultural Irlandais Paris, the winner of the 2024 Artists Residency Award has been announced as Wayne Jordan, Theatre Director & Writer.

Theatre Forum

Two new Artist's bursaries introduced in partnership with Theatre Forum in 2024 to enable artists/creators attend the Theatre Forum Gathering in Sligo May 2024.



Creative Ireland Live Music in Residential Healthcare Settings Scheme 2024

Application submitted in partnership with Louth County Council Arts Office and Music & Health Ireland. Full amount of €30,000 awarded to continue the highly successful *Tea, Chats & Tunes* programme in Meath and to extend to Louth facilitated by Music & Health Ireland.

Cruinniú na nÓg

Working with libraries and Culture Team in delivery of Cruinniú na nÓg 2024 – a national day of free creativity for children and young people, Saturday, June 15th.

Bealtine Festival 2024

Working with Age & Opportunity and county library Services in delivery of Bealtine 2024 events and opportunities.

Kells Creative Placemaking

Festivals: Working with Hinterland Festival of Art & Literature (June 27th – 30th) and Type Trail Festival (June 27th – August 31st) re programming, hosting and supporting events in 2024.

Kells Courthouse Tourism & Cultural Hub Associate Artist programme currently being finalised.

Toradh Gallery 2 *Hoor, an Exhibition of poetry and illustration*, featuring the work of Belfast poet Jim McElroy, winner of the MCC Cultural Services Francis Ledwidge Poetry Award 2020 and of the International Book & Pamphlet award 2021, and Kells born, Berlin based illustrator Ann Kiernan, Moira Gemmill Illustrator of the Year 2020 and AI40 selected winner 2021.

HOOR



Image by Ann Kiernan 'The Day I left for the City'

An exhibition
of poetry
& illustration
by Jim McElroy
& Ann Kiernan

6th March - 31st May 2024

“..When I left for the city, autumn’s thresher was gulping wheat sheafs. I watched him grimace as he kneed obese seed bags up to the trailer; through the belt slew, thrum, he yelled *mind yourself - to watch out for all them cute hoors...*”

An excerpt from 'Hoor' by Jim McElroy

toradh gallery 2 Kells Courthouse, Tourism and Cultural Hub, Headfort Road, Kells, Co Meath

arts council cultural education funding visual arts

meath county council ARTS office samhailte dhiontae na mí meath county council

Transportation Services



1. National Roads 2024 - Funding from TII - Grant Allocation €18,254,967 (including Greenways €3,140,000)

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor accommodation works finalised.
N2 Slane Bypass & Public Realm Enhancement Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses on the public submissions were sent back to the An Bord Pleanála on the 2nd of April. There was a total of 56 submissions 39 relating to the EIAR and 17 relating to the CPO. • Dedicated website available https://www.n2slanebypass.ie detailing the project.
N52 Grange to Clontail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral hearing took place on the 9th April for the CPO. • Awaiting on An Bord Pleanála’s Decision.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding received from TII. The route corridor will be finalised during 2024.
National Road Resurfacing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N51 Slane to County Boundary resurfacing – work is progressing and scheduled to be complete before the end of June 2024 • N51, N52, N2 and M2 Ballybin Road Overbridge – pavement and bridge joint repair works contract, this is substantially complete. • N52 Woodtown to County Boundary Pavement Scheme – tenders currently being assessed.

2. Non- National Roads 2024 - Funding from DoT – Grant Allocation €25,143,640

2. (a) Restoration Improvement & Restoration Maintenance (Surface Dressing)

Road Works Programme
Works completed on the following:
Works at R-156-133 Summerhill and L-4024-0 Dunderry.

Phase 1 (Recycle, Overlay & Surface Dressing)
Contract issued for tender, and submissions assessed.

Phase 2 (Surface Dressing)
Contract issued for tender, and submissions assessed.

Phase 3 (Structural Overlay & Surface Dressing)
Contracts issued for tender.

Phase 4 (Wearing Course)
Contracts issued for tender.

Community Involvement Scheme Contract issued for tender, and submissions assessed.

2.(b) Strategic Regional & Local Roads & Specific Improvement Grant

R162 Kilberry Phase 2B:

New drainage complete. New Kerbing 80% complete. Footpath works progressing. Road reconstruction currently expected to commence in May subject to suitable weather conditions.

L6210 Newtownmoyaghy:

Consultants have been appointed for this scheme for phases 1 to 4, which will bring the scheme up to completion of the planning stage. The Consultants are currently in the final stages of the optioneering process for the scheme and the project team have commenced liaising with potentially directly affected landowners. Draft flooding and environmental reports being reviewed.

R156 Mullagh Cross:

Transportation Department have been meeting potentially directly affected landowners to discuss the emerging preferred option. Once an emerging preferred option has been identified and subject to approval, we will proceed to the Planning phase where statutory public consultation is expected as part of a Part VIII Planning process.

2.(c) Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads –Allocation for 2024 schemes - €362,500

2024 Schemes Road

2023 scheme (rolled over into 2024)

L4007 Shambo X – works substantially complete.

2024 schemes

R149 – Stirling – design and preparation of tender documents progressing.

R132 – Keenoge - options currently being considered.

R163/L7141 Junction Gibbstown – preliminary design progressing.

L4010 – Bective Junction – design and preparation of tender documents progressing.

L1006 Cabinhill Crossroads - options currently being considered.

2.(d) Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads - Allocation for 2024 schemes - €672,500

2024 DoT Schemes	
Kilcarn Bridge (R147)	Remedial Works substantially complete, remaining footpath works expected to commence in the coming weeks.
Bridge Roadworks Programme 2024	De-vegetation advance works complete. Required repair works being assessed.
Obelisk Bridge, Oldbridge	Works ongoing, contract being administered by Louth Co Co.
L6219 Moyglare Culvert No 2 replacement works	Works complete.
Bridge Consultants Framework	Tender process currently being concluded.
R154 Addanstown Bridge	Tender process currently being concluded.
Minor Bridge Works 2024	Tender Documents being prepared.

2.(e) Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works – Allocation for 2024 schemes - €545,500 – 11 schemes funded:

R-125 Greenoge Retaining Wall	Not started
L10021 Timoole, Ashbourne MD	Not started.
L3414 Commons Road, Navan	Not started.
L68221 Robinstown	Not started.
L34036 Kearnstown Drumconrath Flood alleviation works	Not started.
L7403 Carrickleck, Kingscourt Flood Alleviation	Not started.
L2803 Cormeen Flood Alleviation	Not started.
R148 Enfield Flood Alleviation	Not started.
L40224 Griffin Park, Trim	Not started.
L4003 Derrylangan, Trim MD	Completed 25/4/2024.
L8031 Stonyford, Trim MD	Not started.

3.Active Travel Grants 2024 from NTA – €14,000,000

Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030) –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract 3 snagging and close out works ongoing. Contract 5 – Tender documents published on E-Tenders and OEJU. Kennedy Road Kiosk Building detailed design work underway.
Navan GDA Cycle Network: Athlumney to Trim Road Cycle and Pedestrian Scheme – Phase 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ducting, drainage, kerb, and footpath construction on eastern side of section from Flowerfield School to Lidl junction completed.

<p>Works from Solstice to Beechmount.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage and ducting works on section from Dan Shaw Road junction to Beechmount Avenue (western side of carriageway) underway. • 2nd phase of road surfacing works in 2 locations; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Level Crossing XK020 to Woodlands and b) Flowerfield School to Lidl Junction, were completed. • Temporary Traffic Management plan and diversion route continues to be in place on Trim Road from Carriage Road to Dan Shaw Road. • Consultant/Designers continuing with detailed design of cycle and pedestrian scheme of Phase 2 from Solstice roundabout to R147 (Circular Road) junction to link (via the R147) with the Athlumney Road (R153 – Cantilevered Bridge). • Consultant/Designers are continuing with preliminary design process for cycle and pedestrian scheme of Phase 3 of Athlumney to Trim Road Scheme (NA7) from Beechmount Avenue to Balreask Manor.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Fairgreen to Johnstown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non -Statutory Public Consultation event for part of NA3 route from Convent Road to Metges Road complete and submissions are being collated for review and consideration. • Consultant/Designers shall then complete the route option selection process and commence with Phase 3 preliminary design process shortly thereafter.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network NA1: R147 Martha’s Bridge to Circular Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants/Designer are continuing with the detailed design process. • Elements/sections of the tender package are currently being reviewed by the Project Team. • Engagement with affected landowners is continuing.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network - NA1: R147/N51 Poolboy Bridge to Kells Road Roundabout</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultant is currently sourcing contractors to conduct various surveys crucial for detailed design, such as ground investigation surveys, CCTV surveys, and pavement surveys. • Phase 5 detailed design is anticipated to be completed this year, with the procurement of a contractor to carry out the proposed works to follow.
<p>Navan GDA Cycle Network: Flowerhill Cycle & Pedestrian Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Consultant has prepared a draft emerging preferred option for Flowerhill and the N51 • Initial engagement meeting held with TII. Scheduled discussions to address potential deviations from TII standards, ensuring alignment before proceeding to phase 3 preliminary design and phase 4 statutory processes.

Navan Public Realm: Trimgate Street Pedestrianisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designer progressing with final design, aiming to produce deliverables for NTA approval of progression to Part VIII application, anticipated to commence Q3 2024.
Convent Road to Metges Road & Trim Road; Beechmount to Balreask Manor Active Travel Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants/Designer continuing with Phase 3 preliminary design process for the section of Trim Road from Beechmount Estate to Balreask Manor. • Non-statutory public consultation for the section from Athlumney Castle (Convent Road) to Metges Road on the emerging preferred option completed and submissions are under review.
Pathfinder Scheme – R161, Navan to Trim Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging preferred route option has been identified and Consultants/Designer has completed the draft option selection report. • Meeting held with TII to discuss M3 overbridge.
Ratoath Pedestrian & Cycling Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender process for contract 1 on going. Closing date for submissions Friday 3rd May. Contract 1 includes works on R155 Fairyhouse Road, Woodland Road, R125 Dunshaughlin Road, R125 Main Street and the Super Valu Junction. • Walkability audit undertaken with Meath County Council Age Friendly Group and Elected Members. • Design works continuing remainder of the scheme, including the urban greenway along the Broadmeadow.
Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and Cycle Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emerging preferred route was presented to the elected members prior to the non-statutory public consultation process commencing. • Non-statutory public consultation for the Dunboyne to Clonee Pedestrian and cycle scheme commenced on Monday 29th April. It is open for four weeks closing on the 24th of May. • Meetings continuing with landowners and stakeholders directly impacted by the emerging preferred route. • Public information day to be held in Dunboyne Castle on the 15th May 2024.
Eastham Road Cycle Facilities, Bettystown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Design has been approved and final preparations of the Part VIII Planning application.
Newtown Road Trim Walking Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VIII Planning granted, detailed design in progress.
Greenogue Bus Stop (on R125)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part VIII Planning granted. Detailed design and procurement to progress with a view to construction in 2025.
R132 Active Travel Scheme (south of Drogheda to Colpe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design in progress, this is taking on board recent public consultation representations and Iarnród Éireann discussions. This project is a joint Meath County Council/Louth County Council project with Louth leading under a Section 85 agreement.

4. Roads & Sustainable Transport Schemes 2024 - Funding other than primarily DoT & NTA

<p>Ashbourne R135 Cycle Network Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic signals are now operational at Castle Street junction. Traffic controller for St. Johns Wood currently being finalised. • Works from Dunnes Stores to Ashbourne Fire Station substantially complete, surfacing completed. • Works are schedule to commence at Ballybin junction next month.
<p>Boyne Valley to Lakelands County Greenway</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The greenway is now substantially complete, and the last section will be opened to the public following completion of traffic calming works at Poles Cross. This will provide 30km of continuous greenway from Navan to Kingscourt. • The official opening of the greenway will take place in May 2024 at Kilmainhamwood Station. • Link between the Greenway and Blackwater Park, Ratholdren Road, Navan. The delivery of a 4-metre shared surface along the Ratholdren Road between the New LDR4 junction and the Greenway will be completed in May. The LDR4 contractor will deliver the remaining section between the LDR4 junction and Blackwater Park. These two packages of work will effectively link the Greenway and the Blackwater Park. • Kilberry to Greenway Footpath & Gibbstown Car Park. A Part VIII application will be submitted by the end of April. • Nobber Car Park Kilbeg Road. Tender documents are currently being finalised for the above scheme which is scheduled to go to tender this month. • Poles Cross Car Park and Footpath Link to Gyproc and Ballinaclose. A Part VIII application for the above scheme is currently being finalised and negotiations are ongoing to acquire suitable lands for the car park. • Traffic Calming at Gibbstown and Poles Cross Greenway Crossings. Following the completion of a non-statutory Section 38 process, traffic calming schemes will be implemented at both Gibbstown and Poles Cross Greenway crossings to improve safety where the Greenway crosses the R162 & R163.

Boyne Greenway & Navigation Restoration Scheme (Navan - Oldbridge)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft options and feasibility report including Preferred Route is complete and for review by Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
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5. Other Actions/ Projects

Oldcastle Public Realm Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening determination referred to An Bord Pleanála. • Part VIII process stalled as a result and further information submitted to ABP.
LDR4 Abbeylands Navan – New Road from Kells road to Ratholdren Road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of old OPW building on Kells Road completed. Site fencing and site compound set up completed. Topsoil strip with Archaeological oversight commenced and piling for southern bridge abutment expected to commence May 2024.
Trim Millennium Pedestrian Bridge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft planning reports reviewed and OPW Section 50 consent awaited in advance of formal Natura Impact Statement application to An Bord Pleanála.
Footpath Rehabilitation Programme & small works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently works ongoing in Kells, Trim, Ratoath Laytown-Bettystown Municipal Districts. Further works being designed and procured for all Municipal Districts for the remainder of 2024.
Traffic Signals Upgrade and new junctions added.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades of existing sites: 20 pedestrian crossing upgrades, 1 junction small upgrade. • New sites commissioned: 3 new junction, 1 junction reversal, 1 new zebra crossings and 4 new pedestrian crossings. • In Construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel: 7 in construction • Developer led: 3 in construction
Duleek Main Street x Station Road Junction Signalisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Statutory public consultation completed. • Design completed and tender to be issued end of April.

Planning and Development



1. Planning Applications (Section 34)

437 planning applications were lodged in the period 01.01.2024 to 19.04.2024. This is compared to 439 in the same period in 2023.

2. Commencement Notices

417 valid commencement notices were received in the period 01/01/2024 to 19/04/2024. This is compared to 161 in the same period in the previous year.

The commencement notices can be broken down as follows:

Development Type	Number
One-Off House	238
Multi-Units	1230** (units)
Extensions	41
Other*	9

* Agricultural, Commercial, Recreational etc

**This includes a resubmission of a commencement notice where the initial valid commencement notice had since been withered.

No commencement notices have been lodged in relation to solar farms for the period 01.01.2024 to 19.04.2024.

Development Contributions (Section 48)

Development Contribution receipts up to 19th April 2024 show a collection of €4,088,879. This is compared to €2,642,816 collected in the Jan- April period in 2023. (Figures are inclusive of Irish Water receipts and development contributions already recouped from the DHLGH under the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Scheme).

Temporary Waiver Scheme

In addition to the above, development contributions covered by the Temporary Time-Limited Waiver Circular for April 2024 (€ 862,771 to date) will be recouped from the Department during May. *Please note: MCC can only recoup the waived contribution on receipt of a signed and witnessed undertaking from each applicant.*

The Department has contacted the Local Authorities to confirm that the Government has approved an extension of the current arrangements for the waiving of local authority development

contributions to 31st December 2024 and the refunding of Uisce Éireann water and waste water connection charges to 30 September 2024, Circular PL 02/2024 applies.

3. Planning Enforcement (Sections 152,154 and 160)

73 planning enforcement cases were opened to 19.04.2024

New Cases to be Investigated	15
Warning Letter	30
Enforcement Notice	5
Referred for Legal Proceedings	1
Closed	22

*please note these figures relate to cases opened in 2024 only

4. Planning, Heritage & Conservation Projects

Project	Update
Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 - 2030	Development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan for Meath has begun - Biodiversity Working Group established consisting of a broad range of sectoral interest groups. Pre-draft public consultation running from 15th April until 27th May 2024 with various public events and presentation to SPC on Wed 1 st May

5. Forward Planning

Project	Update
Residential Zoned Land Tax	First Annual Review which consists of a revised map for public consultation was on public display from 1 st February to 1 st April 2024 and remains open for landowners only until 31 st May 2024. A total of 14 submissions were received in the first phase of the consultation up to 1 st April 2024.
Joint Drogheda Local Area Plan	Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper published on 31 st January 2024 & period for submissions/ observations extended to 27 th March 2024 – A total of 153 submissions (4 subsequently withdrawn) were received during this consultation. These are now being assessed with a report to follow
Joint Maynooth Local Area Plan	Chapters for the Draft LAP being prepared with envisaged publishing date of June 2024.
Navan Local Area Plan	Work commenced on Social Infrastructure Audit & Settlement Capacity Audit. Consultant appointed to commence preparation of Local Transport Plan (LPT).

Economic Development



Grants Approved and Training

Grant Approved/Mentoring Sessions/Training	Number
Trading Online Voucher Approval	7
Mentoring Assignments Approved	13
Attended Online Training Courses	128
Attended Digital Marketing Clinics	3
Attended Website Health Check Clinics	5
Attended Financial Advice Clinics	6
LEO Grants	3
LEAN for Micro Applications	2
GREEN for Micro Applications	4
Digital For Business Applications	3

The Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) is co-ordinated by the Local Enterprise Offices nationwide and involves approximately 28,000 students from just under 500 secondary schools every year.

SEP runs from September to May and 2023/2024 National Final takes place on 9th May 2024 in Mullingar.

An estimated 1200 students from 16 Meath schools took part in the 2023/2024 programme, and the county final was held on 5th March 2024 at Knightsbrook Hotel Trim.

The Overall Winners at County Final in 4 categories will represent Meath at the National Final in May.

Junior	Cian Healy and Seán Hughes “CS Hurls” St. Patrick’s Classical School Navan
Intermediate	Annable Kavanagh and Bláithín Doonan “M.E.N.D.” Coláiste Ríoga Dunshaughlin
Senior	Seán Finnegan “High Lift/Finnegan Fabrication” St. Patrick’s Classical School Navan
My Entrepreneurial Journey	Maria McGowan O’Carolan College Nobber

Work on a Business Support Pack is ongoing, for businesses of all sizes operating, or considering operating within Meath. This will then be developed further for potential foreign investors.

The Meath County Council Economic Development Strategic Action Plan has been finalised, following consultation with a number of stakeholder, and will be launched later in the month. Actions and deliverables have been agreed with the SPC and will be progressed over the short to medium term (2 to 5 years).

Food Development

Centre of Food Culture

- The Transition Year Young Cooks Regional Finals took place on Wednesday 24th April with the Boyne Valley region represented by teams from Mercy, Navan and Sacred Heart, Drogheda. Congratulations to all of those who took part.
- Website development for the Centre of Food Culture is being finalised and work on graphic design for the project is getting underway.
- The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley has been invited to attend the annual Careers Fair for the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy at the end of May. This will include the interviewing of students for potential internships with the Centre of Food Culture and on behalf of producers in the region.

Tourism



Rás Tailteann - Final Stage Sunday May 26th 2024 at Bective

This May you can cheer on and support some of the finest cyclists from around the world, as **the winner of this year's Rás Tailteann will be determined right in the Boyne Valley**. The Final Stage takes place in Meath, supported by Meath County Council. **Bective Stud, Apartments and Tearooms**, sponsors of the Yellow Jersey, **will be the finishing point for the 69th edition of the Rás Tailteann**, which will take place on Sunday, May 26th.

On Sunday 26th May, spectators will line the streets of towns and villages throughout County Meath to see the Rás make its way from through Dunboyne, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Stamullen, Julianstown and onto the coast at Laytown, before swinging back inland via Donore, Garlow Cross and finishing at Bective Stud on the banks of the River Boyne from 1pm.

Spire of Lloyd open to the public for tours

Meath County Council opened the Spire of Lloyd for public tours on 15th March just ahead of St. Patrick's Day following completion of Health and Safety works by the Facilities Team. The Spire is open each Friday for 3 tours where visitors get to climb the 164 steps to the top of Ireland's only inland lighthouse to take in the spectacular views of the North Meath countryside.

Local Businesses Come Together to Prepare for the Summer Season

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a **Speed Networking Event** for its members in Monasterboice Inn on Tuesday, 12th March to prepare for the start of the busy tourist season.

Over 40 tourism businesses took part in the networking event to create packages and generate ideas with the aim of boosting tourism to the region in the months ahead.

The event opened with a welcome address from Cllr. Aisling Dempsey, Chairperson of Boyne Valley Tourism, a presentation from Social Media Specialist Helen Leddy, Back Office Marketing, an overview from Michele Whelan, Tourism Officer. This was followed by industry sharing their knowledge and highlighting their businesses on a 1:1 basis



Irish Golf Show at Ballyboy Airfield, Athboy

Boyne Valley Tourism hosted a stand on Friday 5th April at **The Irish Golf Show, Ballyboy Airfield in Athboy**, our newest member. With golf and flying enthusiasts attending, the event proved to be a great event for the Boyne Valley.

Ballyboy Airfield is one of the largest and best recognised airfields in Ireland with IAA licensed parallel 600 metre hard and grass runways. They are focused on general and vintage aviation and home to the Irish Historic Flight Foundation.

Finance



Housing Loans:

RIHL/LAHL Data 1 st January 2024 to 30 th April 2024		
Fully Completed Applications Received	17	
Awaiting Recommendation from Housing Agency (Underwriters)	1	Relates to 2024 application
Awaiting Further Information from applicants	0	
Approved by Credit Committee	13	3 relate to 2023 and 10 relate to 2024 applications
Refused by Credit Committee	4	1 relates to 2023 and 3 relate to 2024 applications
Awaiting Decision by Credit Committee	3	2024 applications
Active Approvals	31.60	18.60 relate to 2023, 13 relate to 2024
Expired	13	13 relate to 2023
Drawdown by Customer	7.40	7.40 relate to 2023 applications

Figures above related to activity from 1st January 2024 to 30th April 2024 and in some cases relate to applications from 2023. Previously expired loans may be extended in some cases.

Other Information:

Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant Scheme

The closing date for registration for the Increased Cost of Business (ICOB) Grant Scheme was midnight on Wednesday 1st May. A total of 2307 declarations have been made representing 61% of eligible customers.

Grant declarations will be assessed to ensure eligibility with the scheme criteria set out by the Department of Trade and Enterprise and grant payments will commence in May 2024.