

# Annual Report

2008



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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Meath County Council adopted a new Corporate Plan in 2005.

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

The Meath County Council 2008 Operational Plan outlined in more detail the activities to be undertaken by different service areas to deliver on the objectives of the Corporate Plan.

This 2008 Annual Report, is based on the 2008 Operational Plan and reports on specific actions, which expand on the normal duties associated with the administration of the respective service areas within Meath County Council

## 2. FOREWORD

We are delighted to present to you Meath County Council's Annual Report for 2008.

The publication of this report presents an opportunity to illustrate and provide information on accomplishments and progress on the many and varied services provided by Meath Local Authorities. The progress made in advancing the various infrastructural projects including roads, water, sewerage, housing, environment are detailed within the various sections of this report.

During 2008, the challenges facing Meath County Council included meeting the needs of a growing and diverse population while at the same time responding to the changing economic climate.

Investment on capital projects, many of which were completed during the year, was in excess of €242m, with over €113m. spent on day to day operations. This ongoing investment in our physical and social infrastructure enables the delivery of a wide range of essential services and, as outlined in our Corporate Plan, drives the economic, social, cultural and environmental growth of Co. Meath.

The County Development Plan was adopted in March 2007 and, in accordance with this plan, a large number of Local Area Plans were prepared and adopted in 2008, providing an effective vehicle for the sustainable development of our County and its towns and villages.

Meath County Council continues to focus on economic development and the promotion of Co. Meath as a prime location for inward investment. During 2008, the new Economic Development Marketing Campaign for Meath – “ *whatever your business... Make it Meath*”, was launched. Attracting investment into Co. Meath is a priority and it is our objective to promote Meath not only as Ireland's Heritage Capital but as a premier conference location, an ideal tourist destination and a business location of choice for investors.

We continued to work in partnership with our communities to encourage participation in the development of cultural and environmental programmes and to promote social inclusion.





All the achievements outlined in this Annual Report could not have been accomplished without the collective input of the Councillors, Chairpersons and Members of the Strategic Policy Committees, Area Committees, Management Team and Staff, together with the support of the many voluntary and community organisations. The challenges that continue to face our County can and will be addressed with the continued commitment of all, and we look forward to meeting those challenges together in the coming year.

Liz McCormack  
Cathaoirleach

Tom Dowling  
County Manager

### 3. LOCAL DEMOCRACY

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#### **4. COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE, RECREATION, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

The Community, Enterprise, Recreation, Culture and Heritage Section has responsibility for:

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

Strategic objective:

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

##### **4.1. Meath Co. Development Board**

In 2008, Meath County Development Board met three times. The following presentations were delivered:

- Meath County Council Infrastructure Projects, Local Area Plans and Economic Development.
- Meath Interagency Strategy for the Traveller Community.
- Meath Play Policy
- Meath Volunteer Centre.
- Guidelines on the Governance of Integrated Local Development Companies & Urban Based Partnerships.
- Establishment and Operation of Joint Policing Committees in all Local Authority Areas.
- Migrants Research – ‘Engaging Difference – An opportunity for diversity in a changing Meath’.
- Navan Travellers’ Workshop Organisational Review.

In addition to the above, the CDB attended a two-day workshop designed to Review the workings of the board, review the Indecon Report (published on Strengthening /Developing the County/City Development Boards) and develop actions based on the reviews. The findings from this exercise will be used to help formulate the background in preparation for the CDB review of ‘Meath in Transition’ in early 2009. A priority for the CDB as a result of the workshop was the necessary formation of an Executive Committee to increase ownership and also to assist the Director of Community & Enterprise in facilitating and planning CDB meetings and initiatives. An Executive was formally appointed in December 2008.

The CDB continued to monitor the three-year Meath Interagency Strategy for the Traveller Community which was launched in April 2007. The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by the Interagency Steering Group and the actions documented in the Strategy are further developed through the Issue Working Groups – Health/Accommodation – Education /Youth/Childcare – Justice & Equality Issue Group – Employment/Training/Enterprise Issue Group.

In 2008 the Meath Traveller Employment Initiative was established as a result of funding from FAS, Pobal, HSE, DSFA, Meath County Council, Navan Travellers Workshop, & the VEC. A job coach has been appointed and the initiative has secured funding until June 2009. The project has been successful and is currently undergoing an evaluation.

##### **4.2. Community Development**

###### **4.2.1. Community and Voluntary Sector Database**

In 2008, community & voluntary groups were encouraged to register on its database. Over 1000 groups are registered and these groups are regularly contacted with details of projects and initiatives being run by Meath County Council, Meath Community Forum and other state agencies. Registered groups are also eligible to nominate and vote in the election of Community & Voluntary Sector Representatives.

#### 4.2.2. Community Fora

##### ***Meath County Community Forum & Electoral Area Community Fora***

The elected Community & Voluntary Sector representatives, along with Area Fora representatives, form a Steering Committee, which organizes events for the member groups of Meath Community Forum.

The Community & Voluntary Forum welcomed eight new members to the committee in 2008. The new members represent the Community & Voluntary sector on the newly formed Meath Partnership Company.

Each of the active Fora in the county received a small annual grant from the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, channelled by the Community & Enterprise Section, Meath County Council and for which they submitted a Work Programme and Activity Report.

#### 4.2.3. Community Information

The C & E Section of Meath County Council has endeavoured to facilitate information exchange with and between communities through a variety of media. A draw was held for the prize of a Computer for all registered groups on our Community & Voluntary Database. The winner in 2008 was the AMEN Group in Navan. The registered groups on the Community & Voluntary Database regularly receive correspondence and emails from the Community & Enterprise Section with information relevant to their interests.

In 2008, an issue of the community newsletter, '*Community Matters*' was produced and circulated to every household and business address in County Meath, with a total circulation of 65,000.

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

#### 4.2.4. Community IT Development

In 2008, the following progress was made:

##### **Communities Online Together**

To date over 500 community and voluntary groups have registered with the 'Communities Online Together' project. Over 350 individual groups have received training and, in many cases, several people from each group have been trained in how to maintain their website. The range and quality of features made available on the websites were continually improved upon in response to demand throughout 2008.

##### **Schools Online Together**

Over 65 schools and parents' associations have received training and are operating their websites, with many schools involving students in the maintenance of their websites.

##### **Education and Training Database**

Meath Education and Training website ([www.metd.ie](http://www.metd.ie)) in conjunction with the IT Department and Further and Higher Education Officer has continued to provide an invaluable resource for information about courses taking place in the county. Almost 600 courses taking place in Meath are currently listed on the website.

##### **Meath Care Portal**

Following the launch of the Meath Care Portal website ([www.meathcareportal.ie](http://www.meathcareportal.ie)) and project in December 2007. Basic internet and computer skills' training was delivered to relevant community groups across the County in 2008.

##### **Support Services Directory**

Meath Support Services Directory ([www.meathsupportservices.ie](http://www.meathsupportservices.ie)), an interagency project, launched in October 2007 in conjunction with the Health Service Executive and Meath Citizens Information Service has continued to be a success and a vital information source for the county. Over 250 local Support Services are listed on the website and CD Rom under various categories.

#### 4.2.5. Social Inclusion

##### 4.2.5.1. CDB – SIM Group

The SIM group supported the establishment of the Migrants' Research Project - a report on "Engaging Difference: The opportunity of diversity in a changing Meath". The report was published in 2008. The Group endorsed the RAPID plan for Navan, which included a number of objectives and actions in relation to social inclusion.

##### 4.2.5.2. Social Inclusion Unit

In 2008 the Social Inclusion Analyst was appointed to the new Social Inclusion Unit for Meath County Council. Funding was approved as a result of a submission to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in response to *Circular LG14/07 – Extension of Social Inclusion Unit Programme*.

##### 4.2.5.3. Youth

Further to the recommendations set by the National Children's Office, Meath County Development Board consulted with young people in the county through a local Comhairle na nÓg (13-17yrs) and Comhairle na bPáistí (7-12yrs). Both groups met throughout the year and carried out a number of activities. Comhairle na bPáistí performed a music act at the Meath Festival of Cultures whilst Comhairle na nÓg participated in the Young Social Innovators event. In February 2008, six young people from Meath were selected from Comhairle na nÓg to represent Meath at the 2008 Dáil na nÓg, which took place in Croke Park, Dublin.

##### 4.2.5.4. Smoke Alarms

This scheme was funded by the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government and in 2008, five hundred smoke alarms were issued to 250 households in Meath, nominated by Community Groups.

##### 4.2.5.5. Cohesion – Local Development and Community Proposals

The Community & Enterprise Department have, on foot of a request from the Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, worked closely with Meath LEADER and TIDE to facilitate the establishment of the new unified structure for the delivery of the rural development and social inclusion programmes in County Meath – Meath Partnership. In 2008, the Office of Community & Enterprise in conjunction with Meath Partnership facilitated the preparation of the voters' register for the election of Community & Voluntary representatives and representatives of issue networks to the Board of Meath Partnership. The election of eight new community & voluntary representatives was announced at the count centre in May 2008. Five representatives were elected to represent the five electoral areas of County Meath and three were elected to represent the social inclusion, rural & youth networks.

##### 4.2.5.6. Disability

Meath Local Authorities received funding under the National Disability Strategy in 2008 for Capital and Current expenditure addressed in circular letter LG 01/07. A total of €349,553 was secured for the following projects:

##### Current Expenditure

Training – Meath Sports Partnership	€ 29,957
Access Audits	€ 3,896
New Planning Building	€ 2,300
Libraries	€110,865
	<b>€ 147,018</b>

##### Capital Expenditure

County Hall Navan	€102,535
Kennedy Road Civic Space	€100,000
	<b>€202,535</b>

#### **4.3. Pride of Place Initiatives**

Meath County Council Pride of Place is primarily a competition to harness the resources of active community groups to address the demands of a high quality living environment and to foster a partnership with the Local Authority.

It is not possible for Meath County Council within its limited resources to meet these demands without involving the active participation of local communities. It is estimated that for every €1 invested by Meath County Council in this community development, €10 is invested by voluntary groups in terms of funding, voluntary labour, use of local suppliers and businesses.

The following competitions make up Pride of Place:

- The Royal Bloom Competition for towns and villages
- The Housing Estates Competition
- The Waterways Awards
- The Derelict Sites Improvement Projects
- The Village Paint Scheme
- The Church Floral Competition
- The Harvest Miles Competition

A Total of 150 groups participated in the Pride of Place Initiatives in 2008 and the annual Awards Ceremony took place in October 2008. Moynalty was the overall prize-winner with awards also going to many other groups in recognition of their excellent work in enhancing their areas, including Ballinlough, Castletown and Batterstown.

Meath was represented by 18 different centres in the National Tidy Towns competition in 2008, with Batterstown, Moynalty, Athboy and Trim topping the marks for Meath in their respective categories.

In 2008, 35 schools participated in Meath County Council's Pride of Place (POP) for Schools Competition

The categories in POP for Schools include:

- Productive or Sustainable Garden
- Biodiversity/Wildlife Garden
- Use of Art in School Setting
- Traditional Garden
- Innovative Garden
- Best Environmental Management System
- Best Whole School Action
- Overall Award for Best Garden

Meath County Council Pride of Place for Schools Awards Ceremony took place in Warrenstown College in June 2008.

Kilskyre scooped the overall award with many other schools getting awards for specific projects in relation to sustainability, use of art, community involvement.

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

##### February/May 2008:

- A one day practical workshop in the Botanic Gardens for participants in Pride of Place for Schools.
- A one day gardening workshop for community and voluntary groups, resident associations, individual community activists
- A seminar for Tidy Towns Groups
- Fifteen groups availed of horticulture consultations on location with a landscape architect and gardener.

#### **4.4. Anti-Litter League**

In 2008, seventy six groups participated in the Anti Litter League. Armed with appropriate equipment, the volunteers set out to eradicate litter in their housing estate, town or village. Over the period of the competition, which ran for the months of March and April, judges visited each participating area on a bi-weekly basis and marks were lost where litter occurred.

The Awards evening for the Anti Litter League took place in May 2008, at the Newgrange Hotel, Navan.

The most litter free place in Meath was awarded to Julianstown, with Castletown and Moynalty in runner up places.

Winners of the housing estate categories included Old Terrace Balbraddagh, Robinstown, Abbey View Slane and Fairway Lawns, Bettystown

#### **4.5. Amenity Levies Scheme**

The Meath County Council Amenity Levies Scheme was established in 2003 with the first grants awarded in 2004. This scheme provides financial assistance to the Council and community-based groups and voluntary organisations for projects and initiatives to develop sporting, recreational, environmental, amenity, heritage and cultural facilities within County Meath. Funding for community-based group projects and initiatives is administered under the sub scheme - Community Grants Scheme. The Amenity Levies Scheme is funded annually by the proceeds of amenity levies on new developments within the county.

The Council agreed funding of €5.98m. for Council projects and initiatives at County and Electoral Area level and Community Projects in July 2008.

A major funding allocation of €767,000 to community groups and voluntary organisations will benefit 44 countywide projects ranging from sporting facilities, community/resource centres, heritage projects, amenity and environmental improvements.

#### **4.6. Environmental Community Projects and Works Grant Scheme**

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

The grant scheme was launched in 2008, and nine community groups and voluntary organisations benefited from the €503,675 approved under the scheme.

#### **4.7. Arts Office**

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

The Arts Office developed an extensive participatory arts training and development programme that developed and enhanced the facilitation skills of artists interesting in working in participatory arts. From this programme a new group of artists specializing in community/participatory arts has been developed called AIM (Artists Interacting in Meath)

2008 saw the establishment of Meath Youth Theatre based in The Venue, Ratoath. This initiative is open young people from across the county between the ages of 12 – 18 and develops the acting, production, stage management and writing skills of the young people involved.

Festivals across County Meath were also supported thus bringing the arts to whole towns/communities.

Six Classical music events were staged between St. Mary's Church Of Ireland, Navan and in The Venue, Ratoath Community Centre.

Four exhibitions were held at the Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne and "Meet the Artist" workshops were held with active retirement groups, schools and youth group from across the county.

Two groups came together to explore their history, stories and where they are from through the Site to Sound Project with writer/dramatist Helen Blackhurst and sound artist Slavek Kwi. Over six months Nobber Friendship Club and St. Joseph's Secondary School Navan explored their environment and their history through sound and story telling.

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

Highlights of events programmed for the above groups were

- Consultation process of Arts Development Plan 2009 – 2013, initiated.
- Full comprehensive review of Meath Arts Development Plan 2205-2007, completed.
- Meath Youth Theatre was established.
- Bealtaine, consisting of various workshops including creative writing, painting, story telling and visual art mentorship with Robert Ballagh.
- Meet the Artists Programme at the Toradh Gallery.



- Youth Arts
- Site to Sound Project
- Cary Cultural Exchange developed with Duleek Camera Club and Navan Camera Club.
- Continuation of the Lit Lab Project in collaboration with Cavan Arts Office.
- Visual Art exhibitions in the Toradh Gallery, Ashbourne Civic Offices by Edel Campbell, Kitty Rogers and exhibition of the Meath County Council Art Collection.
- Classical music performances in partnership with Music Network.

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

Partners worked with in 2008 included:

- Solstice Arts Centre
- Ratoath Community Centre
- Alternative Entertainments Ltd.
- Moveable Feast Workshop Co.
- Music Network
- Meath Heritage Office

Partnerships further developed include:

- Age and Opportunity Ireland
- Access Cinema Foreign Film Festival
- Meath Youth Federation
- Meath County Council Library Service
- The National Gallery of Ireland
- Primary and Secondary Schools in the County
- 25 Active Retirement Centres in Meath
- Le Chéile Oldcastle Co. Meath
- Meath Harp Ensemble

#### **4.7.1. Bursaries and Awards 2008**

##### **4.7.1.1. Professional Artists Development Fund**

Emma Martin  
Laura Canavan Doyle  
Delphine Coudray

##### **4.7.1.2. Festival Grant Scheme**

Kells Summer Festival  
Navan Choral Festival  
Le Chéile Arts and Music Festival  
O'Carolan Harp, Cultural and Heritage Festival  
Navan Traveller Festival Week

##### **4.7.1.3. Bi-Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase 1**

Heritage Arts Group  
Boyne Writers Group  
Trim Musical Society  
Meath Arts Group  
Dunshaughlin Art Group  
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Trim  
Mosney Mobile Art Project

##### **4.7.1.4. Bi-Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase 11**

Meath Junior Writers' Group (Tommy Murray)  
Navan Silver Band



Donna Ansley  
Meath Youth Musical Society  
Blue Mood Theatre Company  
Navan Choral Festival

**4.7.1.5. School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme**

Scoil Naomh Eoin, Clonmagadden Valley  
Ballinlough National School  
Navan Educate Together  
Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh, Oldcastle  
Scoil Spioraid Naoimh, Laytown

**4.7.1.6. Going Solo**

Not awarded

**4.7.1.7. Community Arts Award**

Navan School Completion Programme  
St. Mary's Convent Primary School, Trim  
Carnaross NS Parents' Association  
Meath County Childcare Committee

**4.7.1.8. Tony Finnegan Memorial Award**

Emma Brady  
Ciara Taaffe

**Total Number awarded: 32 – Value: €26,000**

**4.8. Heritage Services**

The County Meath Heritage Forum was formally established in 2006, the Forum is a non statutory advisory group established by the Local Authority to advise on the preparation and implementation of the County Heritage Plan. Membership of the forum is drawn from the following sectors; local government, local development, state agencies, landowner representatives, community and voluntary sector, heritage groups and organisations and educational institutes.

In 2008 the Heritage Office implemented Year II of the County Meath Heritage Plan 2007-2011 and secured funding to implement Year III of the Heritage Plan in 2009.

Four meetings of the County Meath Heritage Forum were facilitated in 2008.

The following projects were completed in 2008:

- County Wetland and Coastal Habitat Survey to establish baseline ecological data on the location, extent, vegetation composition and management of coastal and wetland habitats.
- Public consultation of the draft Conservation & Management Plan for Trim Town Wall and Defences. The overall aim of this plan is to assist the various agencies and groups responsible for the conservation and management of Trim Town Walls in formulating, planning and implementing a successful conservation and management plan for this unique national monument.
- Worked in partnership with the Boyne Navigation Restoration Group in their phased restoration programme for the Boyne Navigation and Towpath.
- Preparation of the first County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2012.
- Audit of Industrial Heritage to compile a documentary inventory (paper survey) of industrial heritage sites in Meath based on the SMR, cartographic (OS maps) and historical sources.
- Invasive species survey and information seminars to identify the key species that are of serious threat in Meath and increase awareness and understanding of their impact and control.
- Field Monuments Advisory Scheme 2008. Field Monuments Advisor provided information and advice to landowners on the care and management of monuments.





- Member of a committee and working group to develop a *Research Framework for the Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site*.
- Member of the Balrath NeighbourWood Steering Committee to develop Balrath Wood as an outdoor education centre and amenity woodland.
- Phase II of the County Meath Graveyard Inventory which involves site visits and a photographic survey.
- Two information seminars on built heritage, attended by over 400 people, were held to provide advice and information to the owners of protected structures on planning, conservation grants and preventative conservation and maintenance.
- The heritage website was expanded and updated with various information added. ([www.meathheritage.ie](http://www.meathheritage.ie))
- Promoted the Heritage in Schools Scheme 2008.
- Member of the Trim Swift Festival Committee, which organised the inaugural *Trim Swift Festival* in June 2008 celebrating the life, works and legacy of Jonathan Swift.
- Organised a major conference in Trim, in partnership with CRDS Ltd, which focused on recent archeological excavation called *Uncovering Trim Town*.
- Under the Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme, the Heritage Office is a partner with UCD School of Geography, UCD School of Archaeology, Dundalk IT, University of Southampton and Talamh Ltd. on the Boyne Valley Landscape Project to develop an integrated comprehensive GIS model of landscape evolution and land use history in the River Boyne Valley and hence develop an environmentally contextualised understanding of a key element of Ireland's Archaeological Heritage. The output from this project will include developing a GIS tool utilising the existing Lidar data for the site which will inform future land use management of the area.
- Organised a nature walk along the Boyne to promote National Biodiversity Day 2008
- Coordinated the annual Heritage Week. Events were widely publicised and the office organised a number of events including exhibitions and a Family Nature Activity Day in Dalgan Park.
- Meath Heritage Office a partner in an INTERREG project called 'Action for Biodiversity' with 10 Local Authorities in the East Border Region
- Working with Kildare County Council and NUI Maynooth on a project to describe and survey *The Holy Wells of Meath and Kildare*.
- Promoted the Heritage Council Local Heritage Grant Scheme through local media, met and advised local community groups on applications as required.
- Meath County Council sponsored the Lismullin Institute Autumn Lecture Series.

#### 4.9. Library Services

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

##### Performance Indicators for 2008:

Average number of public opening hours per week	
Full-time Libraries	37.7
Part-time Libraries	14.50

Total number of visits to full-time libraries	
463,300	

Library Stock	
Annual Expenditure on stock	€275,000
Total number of books issued	363,207
Total number of other items issued	81,862

Total Number of internet sessions provided – 53,871	
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#### **4.9.1. Infrastructure and Opening Hours**

Design work was completed on the Ballivor, Bettystown and Duleek Library projects as funding was sourced to progress the projects.

A feasibility report was undertaken on Navan Library and H.Q in order to consider design options for extending and expanding the Navan branch and linking it to Solstice Arts Centre. The design of the Trim Library and Cultural Centre was advanced.

Opening hours at Athboy library were increased to 20 hours per week, as part of the commitment to better and longer opening hours. Funding was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for a replacement schools and branch library delivery van.

Upgrades in Broadband and the network across the county reflected an increase of public Library internet sessions to 53,000. The Public Library User Survey showed that 26.5% of users access the resources of the library via the Internet.

#### **4.9.2. Local Studies**

Improved access to the OSI Historical Mapping Archive brings the first ever large-scale survey of the entire county to users in the branch network. The branches now have access to Griffith's Valuation 1854 and digital access to large number of regional newspapers through the site [www.newsarchive.com](http://www.newsarchive.com)

The Local Studies Department hosted a number of readings and book launches during the year including visits by Paddy Meegan, Anthony Holten, Arnold Horner and Arlene Hogan. The service also worked on the preparation for publication of a selection from the articles on Meath Parish History and Folklore written by Mrs. Maighread Uí Conmhíde.

#### **4.9.3. Primary Schools' Service**

23,260 items were issued to schools in 2008. The schools' grant from the Department of Education was €4.52 per pupil giving a grant of €95,747.16 for the school year 2008. This grant enabled the purchase of 14,480 items for the schools service. The Department of Education subsequently withdrew funding for the Schools library service in the Autumn 2008 budget.

A particular feature of 2008 has been the extent to which the library service developed and delivered new services and events in partnership with a range of agencies such as the HSE, the EU Food and Veterinary Centre at Grange and Children's Books Ireland.

#### **4.9.4. Online Irish language Programme in Meath Libraries**

Meath Library Service in partnership with the Meath County Council's Economic Development and Innovation department and NUI Maynooth, piloted the free online Irish language programme in all library branches in March 2008. The course is based on the Leaving Certificate syllabus and includes a listing of prose and study notes. The programme has a facility to email queries about the Leaving Certificate Irish Syllabus directly to the Irish department in Maynooth. The pilot invited feedback from library users about the programme to improve the system and further meet the needs of its users.

#### **4.9.5. Seachtain na Gaeilge Events**

Many events were organised in Trim, Ashbourne, Navan, Dunboyne and Rathcairn Libraries to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. These included tráth na gceist sessions where local school children were invited to the various libraries to win the cup for the year. There was also Bingo as gaeilge and Celtic card crafts. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann were invited to Trim Library and the Ashbourne Music Appreciation club focused on Irish music for the month of March.

#### **4.9.6. Meath Healthy Reading Scheme**

The library service in partnership with the HSE Meath psychology department launched a new healthy reading scheme in April. The aim of the scheme is to make high quality self help books

more accessible to families and adults experiencing mild to moderate psychological, emotional or behavioural problems. The scheme involves GPs, public health nurses, psychiatrists, social workers and mental health nurses who recommend specific books to their clients. The books available in the libraries cover topics such as anger, behavioural problems, bereavement, bullying, self development, panic, stress, depression, assertiveness and relationship problems. The scheme allows patients to have easy access to this form of psychological treatment through their library service.



Executive Librarian Shauna Henry and Senior Clinical Psychologist at the launch of the Healthy Reading Scheme.

#### 4.9.7. EU Debate Competition

St. Patrick's Classical School Navan was this year's winner of the annual EU debate competition. Schools from all over the county were invited to enter the competition, which had a school prize of a laptop computer, projector and a screen for the winning team. The winning team also received the EU debate Challenge cup and all finalists received €40 vouchers as individual prizes. The Motion for the final was: 'Should the EU expand to include all those European states that wish to join? The opposing team was Athboy Community School.

The final was held at the European Food and Veterinary Centre at Grange on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. The judging panel was chaired by the Chairman of Meath County Council, Nick Killian, and included Ms. Anne Rauniomäki, European Commission, and Ms. Mary Killoran, from the European Parliament Office in Dublin. Both teams were also invited by Mary Killoran to visit the EU Parliament in Strasbourg as a special prize from the Parliament Office.



The winning team from St. Patrick's Classical School, Navan with the EU debate judging Panel and County Librarian Ciaran Mangan.

#### **4.9.8. Summer Programme**

There were over 200 events organised for the summer period and it was launched in July in all Meath Libraries with the 'Team Read' summer reading scheme. This is a reading scheme for 6 – 12 year olds where children agree to read six books during July and August and in return they get free reading folders, stickers, bookmarks, pens, and a certificate & medal of achievement when they have completed the scheme. Some of the larger libraries ran graduation parties for successful readers who completed the programme. Olympic medallist Darren Sutherland attended the Navan Celebration and presented the medals and certificates to children who completed the scheme. Up to 1,000 children took part in the scheme.

Highlights also included magic shows, summer arts and crafts, Horrid Henry workshops, dinosaur workshops, film clubs, games activity hours, parent and toddler stories and songs and Fit Kids sessions.

Ashbourne, Trim, and Navan Libraries also ran a Playstation 2 Challenge event for the 7– 12 year olds, this event was sponsored by Sony Entertainment. The winner of the challenge received a Playstation game as a prize. The August programme was partnered with the Council's Arts Office and activities included puppet shows, storytellers, drumming workshops, pet roadshows and Dr Who workshops.

#### **4.9.9. Readers' and Writers' Day**

Meath County Council Library Service celebrated its first 'Readers and writers day' on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Trim Castle Hotel. The event was free and open to all library users and the general public.

Authors attending included Anita Notaro, author of 'Take a Look at Me Now', Claire Allan author of the successful 'Rainy Days and Tuesdays', Chris Binchy author of 'The Lighthouse' and crime writer Laura Wilson whose works include 'A Thousand Lies'. Irish romance writer Trish Wylie was also in attendance. Local authors attending the event included crime writer K. McCaffrey and Noelle Harrison. A number of panels were set up to answer the many questions from the audience.



Ciarán Mangan and Mary Murphy with the participating authors at the Readers' and Writers' Day

#### 4.9.10. Children's Services

The Trim Library's children's book club was chosen to design a national poster for the Annual Children's book Festival in October. Members of the club worked with author Conor Kostic and illustrator Alan Barrett. The theme of the work was 'If kids made the reading rules' and produced 12 recommendations for teachers, Librarians, authors, publishers and illustrators. The initiative was launched at Trim Library by the Director of the Library Council, Norma McDermot and 30,000 posters were produced. The launch was filmed by RTE for a slot on the Den TV programme.



Launch of the National Poster in Trim Library



Children all over the county benefited from over 80 events organised by Meath County Council Libraries to celebrate Children's Book Festival in 2008.

Meath schools were contacted with invitations to visit their Local library and meet award winning authors such as Colin Bateman, Alan, Durant, Nick Ward, Niamh Sharkey, Alan Gibbons, Pat Ryan and Oisín McGann.

Other workshops included storytellers, rap workshops and open events for the general public. The Gaiety School of Acting also carried out interactive workshops on Celtic myth and legend.

There was also a county wide colouring competition for the under 5 age groups and the 6 – 9s sponsored by RTE's Tina Mation Art Academy. Prizes included an individual hamper pack and special school price of an interactive animation project.

Science week ran from the 9<sup>th</sup> November to the 16<sup>th</sup> November and Meath County Council Library Service organised many events countywide. School children were invited to Meath Libraries around the county for numerous events with a science theme. Ashbourne Library organised an exhibition on frogs, which looked at the habitats, population and distribution of frogs throughout Ireland.

Trim, Ashbourne and Dunboyne Libraries organised a planetarium dome to be erected in the libraries where Space Encounters and Oulala productions gave presentations and stories to school children about the night sky. There was also an open public event each day in each of these libraries.

Navan Library and Trim Libraries organised science workshops on forces of light for schools run by W5.

#### **4.9.11. Multicultural Activities**

The library service organised numerous events around the county to celebrate this annual event. Navan and Ashbourne Libraries hosted a screening of the French film 'The diving bell and the butterfly' and secondary students and the general public from both locations were invited to attend.

Dunboyne, Trim, Ashbourne and Navan libraries organised arts & crafts sessions with an African theme for school children who were invited from the local area.

Ashbourne Library organised an adult singing workshop based on the 'Sing Australia' method hosted by Paul O'Brien. There was also storytelling workshops organised in the larger libraries where school children were invited to hear stories from around the world.

## 5. CORPORATE SERVICES

### Strategic objective

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

The Corporate Services Section has responsibility for

- Communications / Publications / Corporate Identity
- Corporate Buildings & Surrounds
- Corporate Plan
- Customer Care
- Ethics Register (Staff & Members)
- Health & Safety
- Higher Education Grants
- Local Democracy
- Management Team Support
- Meeting Administration
- Official Languages Act 2003
- Members Support
- Register of Electors

### 5.1. Corporate Event Management

#### 5.1.1. Presentation to Past Cathaoirligh of Meath Co. Council

A presentation ceremony to honour past Cathaoirligh of Meath Co. Council was held in January 2008. The event took place in Tattersalls with 78 guests in attendance.



Recipients of presentations with Cllr. Nick Killian, Cathaoirleach Meath Co. Council, Minister Noel Dempsey, T.D. and Tom Dowling Co. Manager.

### 5.1.2. Special Olympics

Meath County Council hosted a very special event to mark the 30<sup>th</sup>. anniversary of Special Olympics in Ireland at the Solstice Arts Centre in July 2008.

Special Olympics Ireland was commemorating and thanking all communities for their support during the last three decades under the theme '30 Years Changing Lives'.

The large attendance included local Councillors and dignitaries, representatives from Special Olympics Ireland and An Garda Síochána, local volunteers, Special Olympians and their families and friends.

Sean Boylan was the celebrity guest speaker and other speakers included Cllr. Nicholas Killian, Cathaoirleach, Tom Dowling, Co. Manager, Local Volunteer: Camillus Perry, Special Olympian: Nuala-Ann Burns, and Frances Kavanagh Acting CEO, Special Olympics Ireland.

Meath County Council's Choir provided the entertainment.



Special Olympics Commemorative Event – July 2008

### 5.2. Higher Education Grants

In 2008, Meath County Council assisted students under the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 Higher Education Grants Schemes.

A total of 366 new applications and 454 renewal applications were received for the 2008/2009 academic year. The value of a full grant was €3,420. Overall expenditure in 2008 which related to the 2007/2008 academic year was in the region of €2.4m. This expenditure, with the exception of €14,045.55, is recoupable from the Department of Education and Science.

There are various categories of grant and these are listed below:

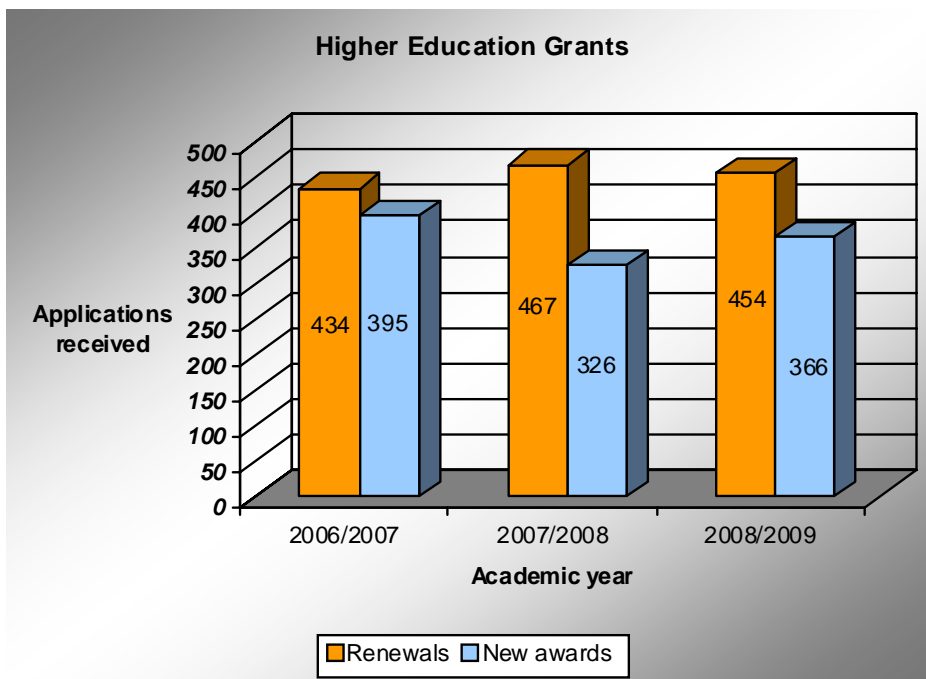
- Full Maintenance and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (75%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (50%) and Full Fees
- Part Maintenance (25%) and Full Fees



Part Tuition fees only

For the 2008/2009 academic year, Meath County Council paid the 'Special Rate of Maintenance Grant' (Top-Up Grant) to nearly 139 students.

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



### 5.3. Freedom of Information

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

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

The following are the 2008 statistics relating to Freedom of Information Requests:

Applications Received	35
Carried Forward from 2007	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>
No. of requests granted/part granted	18
No. of requests refused	5
Requests transferred	2
Withdrawn or dealt with outside FOI	4
Live cases at end of 2006	10
No of Internal Reviews	2
No. of Appeals to the Information Commissioner	0



#### **5.4. Official Languages Act 2003**

Meath Local Authorities introduced the language plan Scéim Údaráis Áitiúla na Mí in 2006. This current Scheme is due to run to 2009.

Among the main measures which have already progressed are:

- Improvements in the availability of application forms, information leaflets and other documents through Irish.
- An increase in the information available bilingually on the Local Authorities' website
- A specific email address to deal with enquiries through Irish
- Training courses for staff to improve their Irish language ability, thereby allowing an increase in the services available to the public.

#### **5.5. Health and Safety**

Increasing safety standards within Meath Local Authorities remained a priority throughout 2008. This was achieved by an increasing internal safety inspections and standardising safety documentation and updating the Corporate Safety Statement to reflect organisational change.

##### **5.5.1. Health & Safety Training**

In 2008 six safe pass training course were provided by external training providers for Meath Local Authorities' employees resulting in ninety-five people receiving training.

In- house health and safety training was extended to include Safe System of Work Plans (SSWPs) for working on roads and Construction Skills Certification Scheme training in Signing, Lighting and Guarding at Roadworks. This required five Meath Local Authorities employees to be trained as Signing, Lighting and Guarding Instructors.

##### **5.5.2. Health and Safety in Construction**

Policies and procedures for construction work were reviewed and streamlined in 2008. The aim was, to promote a safer working environment for both the organisation's employees, involved in construction, and construction workers contracted by Meath Local Authorities. Four Construction Safety Management Folders were developed as templates to be used on the four types of construction projects. The procedure for the appointment of duty holders was agreed at Safety Management Committee level.

Random inspections were carried out by the Safety Section on Road works throughout 2008. These included both sites where Meath Local Authorities were appointed as Project Supervisors and also where other organisations were appointed.

All Water Services sites throughout the county were inspected in 2008. Site inspections reports were used to develop site specific safety statements. A total of 170 safety statements were produced and delivered to the relevant areas to be distributed. The breakdown of Safety Statements by area is as follows:

- Dunshaughlin Area: 23
- Kells Town Council and Area: 26
- Navan Town Council and Area: Area 18
- O&M: 19
- Slane Area: 25
- Trim Area: Town Council and Area: 36



## 5.6. Workplace Partnership

### 5.6.1. Handling Significant Change Through Partnership

The Handling Significant Change through Partnership (HSCTP) group was initiated in 2008 comprising members from Senior Management, Unions and Full time Officials. The purpose of this group, which met three times during the year, is to:

- Share information regarding the challenges facing the organisation.
- Identify priority issues that Management want to progress
- Identify priority issues that the Unions want to progress.
- Identify the concerns of staff
- Agree how issues might best be handled i.e. through Partnership or Industrial Relations.

The group agreed the issues that would be addressed, either through Workplace Partnership or the IR forum and also agreed a local protocol on information and consultation with staff.

### 5.6.2. Performance Verification

The PVG Site Visit took place in April at the offices of Monaghan Co. Council. The delegation included the Co. Manager, members of Management Team, Union representatives from Partnership Committee and Facilitator.

### 5.6.3. Partnership Working Groups

During 2008, eleven partnership working groups engaged in various projects.

<b>CERCH Departmental Group</b>	Report on relocation of department to Ashbourne
<b>Depot Group</b>	Research on main depots, completion of report and recommendations.
<b>Equality Group</b>	To revise existing policy and procedures.
<b>Housing Departmental Group</b>	Change management projects
<b>Lone Working</b>	Develop policy and research emergency contact system. <b>(completed)</b>
<b>Newsletter Group</b>	ongoing information for staff
<b>Planning Departmental Group</b>	Change management project.
<b>Quality Customer Care</b>	Revise customer charter & code of conduct. <b>(completed)</b>
<b>Time and Attendance</b>	Develop Attendance Management Policy
<b>Flexi-time Group</b>	To revise existing policy
<b>Water Services Group</b>	Change management project.

### 5.6.4. Staff care, recognition and integration projects.

**Long Service Recognition Awards:** 39 staff received long service awards at a function in October.

**Retired Staff:** A function to recognize retired staff took place in November.

**Social Activities:** Workplace Partnership supported a number social club activities and the Meath County Council Choir. The Choir provided entertainment at seven Corporate events.

**Staff Welfare:** Workplace Partnership supported staff welfare activities such as bereavement support and health screening.

#### 5.6.5. Junior Achievement

During the academic year 2007/2008, six employees undertook training as business volunteers and taught Junior Achievement programmes to 150 students in three local primary schools. A further nine employees participated in an Interview Skills Workshop in Dunshaughlin Community College working with 82 students over a two-day programme.



2008 Junior Achievement Volunteers with Tom Dowling, Co.Manager and Della Clancy, Clodagh Dunleavy and Kim Doherty from Junior Achievement Ireland

## 6. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

### Strategic Objective

To encourage, facilitate and support the economic development of County Meath.

#### 6.1. Economic Development

Promote, facilitate & support economic development in Meath through marketing, project development, planning advice & assistance and partnership with other agencies.

Actions in 2008 included the following:

- Participated in the establishment of the Major Projects Team, which ensures that all major economic development projects are treated in an efficient and effective manner as they progress through the planning application process.
- Provided advice and support to companies and individuals with regard to locating / expanding their business in Meath.
- Participated in IDA company visits.
- Dealt with a diverse range of calls relating to economic development issues in Meath.
- Participated in the East Border Region Network, Louth/Meath Economic Development & Tourism Sub-Committee.
- Developed a brand for the Economic Development & Innovation Unit.
- Developed and launched the new Economic Development Marketing Campaign for Meath – “*whatever your business ...Make It Meath*”. This included the design and production of a billboard and poster campaign, exhibition materials, marketing materials and revised website.
- Marketed Meath to companies in Ireland and also at the Cary Business Expo in October 2008.
- Developed and launched the Meath Business Property Listing Service – an online search facility for available business properties in Meath ([www.meathbusinessproperty.ie](http://www.meathbusinessproperty.ie)). Developed in conjunction with the Community IT Section, this online facility involves a partnership approach with local and national estate agents, developers, etc. to ensure the population of the site with the relevant information. Those agents that attended a training session on the facility received CPD accreditation for the time involved.
- Commenced development of the Meath Business Directory, in conjunction with the IT Section.
- Commenced development of the Pride of Place Business Initiative, in conjunction with the Community & Enterprise Pride of Place Section.
- Commenced work on land acquisition and asset management.
- Introduced the “Adopt a Meath Company” Initiative to Transition Year Classes in secondary schools in Meath.
- Sponsored the Meath Marketing Awards on behalf of Meath County Council.
- Presented to Meath County Council, Planning & Economic Development SPC, Meath County Development Board and Oireachtas Committee on Enterprise, Trade & Employment.
- Progressed a number of studies including the Boyne Canal Navigation Feasibility Study, M1 Economic Corridor Study and the Motorway Interchanges Study.



At the launch of the new Economic Development Marketing Campaign for Meath – *"whatever your business ...Make It Meath"*: Deputy Damien English, T.D., Tom Dowling Co. Manager, Cllr. Liz McCormack, Cathaoirleach, Minister Mary Wallace T.D., Deputy Thomas Byrne, Kevin Stewart, Director of Services, Economic Development and Innovation, Deputy Shane McEntee.

## 6.2. Further and Higher Education

To promote lifelong learning to the citizens of Meath through marketing, local course provision, utilising flexible modes of learning and partnership with other agencies and institutions.

### 6.2.1. Online Irish Programme

Developed and promoted an online Irish language programme in partnership with NUI Maynooth. The programme was initially available through the library branches in Meath and based on the Leaving Certificate syllabus. In October rights to the programme were passed to Leitrim County Council. This Online Irish Language programme was awarded the 2008 e-government award for best Irish language initiative.



#### **6.2.2. Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning**

The graduation of the first class through the Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning with an NUI Maynooth Certificate in Economics & Finance took place in June 2008.

This course commenced again in September with another class due to graduate in 2009. The Office also managed the launch of a Certificate in English for Academic and Work Purposes with the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and Fáilte Ireland Local Tour Guide training programme.

Liaised with FÁS in relation to 'One Step Up' funding for MILL programmes.

#### **6.2.3. Meath Working Group on Further & Higher Education**

The group continued to work towards its mission of 'developing greater opportunities for learning within county Meath'. The group meet four times a year. Membership was expanded to include the University of Ulster and Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown.

#### **6.2.4. Meath Education and Training Database**

Ongoing development and updating of the [www.metd.ie](http://www.metd.ie) as an online information point for training and education throughout Meath. The office also dealt with queries and/or comments that came through the web feedback facility.

#### **6.2.5. Integration of Services Group**

Hosted two meetings of the 'Integration of Services' group which was established through the WELCOME project to encourage collaboration and sharing of information amongst agencies; members include Meath VEC, Navan Jobs Club, Meath Partnership, Library Service, Meath County Childcare



Certificate in Economics and Finance Graduates 2008

### **6.3. Tourism Development**

Strategy: Marketing County Meath as a high quality tourism destination through Meath Tourism whilst also seeking to encourage and assist tourism product development.

Themed promotions & advertising of County Meath took place at key holiday times during February and March in UK, Scottish and Northern Ireland markets. A marketing promotion was carried out in Northern Ireland to attract leisure visitors for the July 12<sup>th</sup> bank holiday which was a great success. Promotional shows attended included: Belfast Holiday Show (32,000 visitors), Balmoral Show (70,000 visitors), Tourist Office at Belfast, National Ploughing Championships (220,000 visitors), 'Ireland by the Sea' show in Holland, Reiseliv in Oslo (38,000 visitors), Brussels Holiday Fair (99,000 visitors), along with three angling shows in France and the US.

An ICT Training day was held for Meath Tourism members to help with online marketing training. Additions and upgrades were added to the Meath Tourism website and a number of ezines were emailed to our growing database of potential visitors to County Meath.

We distributed approximately 40,000 brochures during 2008 and developed two new touch-screens with Meath specific information and installed them at Brú na Bóinne and the Solstice Arts Centre.

The 2008 Heritage of Meath Photography Competition with the OPW was held with again an increase in entries now at 400. The standard of photography was commented on by the judges as being excellent and a 2009 Calendar was printed.

#### **6.3.1. Meet in Meath**

The Meet in Meath initiative went from strength to strength with a full plan carried out during 2008 in conjunction with the hotels of the County. A number of familiarization trips were carried out attracting large corporates to visit the Laytown races and Navan races as well as visiting our hotel product. A travel trade familiarisation trip was a great success with 10 of the biggest Irish tour operators visiting the County over two days. All of these familiarization trips resulted in new business to the County. The [meetinmeath.com](http://meetinmeath.com) website was remodeled and updated. A new function 'meetingsbooker' was added to allow online instant meeting room quotations to be generated.

#### **6.3.2. Town Development**

Town Trails: Meath Tourism worked with Meath County Council in the development of a new town trail for Navan which is now at an advanced stage. A successful application was submitted to Fáilte Ireland with Trim Town Council for funding towards an Historic Town Trail for Trim. Further applications have been made through this initiative.

#### **6.3.3. Networking**

Meath County Council and Meath Tourism attracted over 100 tourism providers to the Onwards and Upwards Conference held in May and opened by Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian. Speakers included Paul Mac Quillan, MD, Cusack Hotel Group, Peter Malone, Chairman NRA, Kevin Stewart, Director of Economic Development and Innovation, Rachel Doyle MD Arboretum Lifestyle Centre and John Quinlivan, Tourism Manager, Shannon Development.

Familiarisation trips were organized during the year again offering the opportunity for networking amongst the trade. Two of those trips were organized in association with the East Border Region and covered the main counties involved in EBR.

#### **6.3.4. Meath Marketing Awards**

The inaugural Meath Marketing Awards were launched early in 2008 and attracted significant interest from the tourist trade in County Meath. A shortlist was agreed by the judges and they went on to the Awards Ceremony held on November 6<sup>th</sup> at Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim. The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Liz McCormack and the Chairman, Meath Tourism Cllr. John V. Farrelly opened the evening. The winning entries were announced by Sharon Ní Bheoláin MC and RTE News Anchor. The event was a great success and showcased the excellent tourism products of the County.





**6.3.5. East Border Region**

Meath County Council worked with the East Border Region to develop the Multi Annual Plan which will see funding for the County in 2009. The representative Councillors on the Board of EBR, as well as the Director of Economic Development, worked on the EBR board to develop the plans towards Interreg IVa.

Via the East Border Region, we had the opportunity to become involved in a major GB Marketing project with access to a fund of £500,000. The project involved promoting special offers submitted by the Meath trade with a major marketing campaign carried out on TV, Radio and press featuring strong imagery of Newgrange under the theme of 'Ireland's Past'.

**6.3.6. NDP/Funding Walking Project**

The walking Project for Meath was completed and 3 way-marked walks now exist in County Meath. These three walks are the Trim Castle Heritage Walk, Navan Ramparts walking route and the Kells Girley Bog Eco Walk with funding from Fáilte Ireland and match-funded by Meath County Council.



## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### Strategic Objective

To protect, conserve and enhance a clean, safe and health environment in County Meath for present and future generations.

### Core Activities

- Implement the Waste Management Plan for the North-East Region.
- Manage waste in an integrated and sustainable manner in accordance with best practice.
- Implement the Council's Environmental Enforcement Plan.
- Implement a wide range of activities to curb and abate litter pollution.
- Improve water quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
- Minimise the impact of development on receiving waters by implementing a comprehensive monitoring regime, and identifying and eliminating potential pollution threats.
- Raise environmental awareness and encourage sustainable actions.
- Provide resources for on-going environmental awareness and action campaigns, targeting all sections of the community.
- Ensure compliance with environmental standards.

#### 7.1. *North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010*

Progress on the implementation of the above plan continues and the objective is to secure best environmental management of waste generated in the North East Region. This is dependent on a number of specific policies which are as follows:

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

#### 7.2. *Waste Complaints and Enforcement*

##### Waste Management Permits issued 2008 and Certificates of Registration

New legislation, namely Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007 as amended by the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, came into effect in June 2008. This new legislation brought about the introduction of Certificates of Registration.

Meath County Council acts as the nominated authority for the North East Region for processing waste collection permits. There are currently 454 active collection permits in the North East Region. Under the amended regulation, waste collectors can apply to a nominated authority for a multi-regional permit.

Statistics on same for the North East Region are as follows:

<i>Waste Management Permits</i>	<i>Certificates of Registration</i>
Applications received = 44	Applications received = 2
Granted = 30	Granted = 0
Refused = 7	Refused = 0
Withdrawn = 2	Withdrawn = 0
Complete = 0	Complete = 1
Incomplete = 1	Incomplete = 0
Under consideration = 4	Under consideration = 1

Waste Collection Permits issued 2008

New legislation came into effect namely Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations 2007 as amended by the Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, came into effect in June 2008. This legislation brought about the introduction of the Multi Region Waste Collection Permit.

In County Meath there are currently 112 permitted facilities under the Waste Management Act, 1996. In 2008, 190 inspections were carried out.

Statistics on same for the North East Region are as follows:

Applications received	7
Withdrawn	0
Refused	0
Revoked	19
Total no. Granted	33
Under Consideration	4
Reviews in year	11

**7.3. Litter Pollution**

In 2008 the Council continued its vigorous campaign in its effort to combat the scourge of illegal dumping.

The following is a breakdown of enforcement measures adopted during 2008:

No of reports investigated	1473
On the spot fines issued	483
On the spot fines paid	253
Total no of convictions 2008	13
Struck out	7

The Council has invested in a number of covert and overt CCTV systems to counteract unauthorised dumping. All offenders identified will be fined. Non-payment of litter fines will result in prosecution.

**7.4. Meath Civic Amenity Sites' – Trim, Navan and Kells**

Items that can be recycled:

- Batteries (car-lead acid and household)
- Books
- Cardboard & cardboard packaging
- Clothing, textiles (Clean) and footwear
- Drinks and food cans
- Electrical goods e.g. TVs, computers, videos
- Fluorescent tubes, lamps & light bulbs
- Garden waste – grass/hedge cuttings etc (no soil)
- Glass bottles (jars)
- Household Gas Cylinders (Calor/FloGas)
- Mixed paper (junk mail & envelopes)
- Mobile Phones/Phones
- Newsprint/magazines



- Phone books
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic Bags (Clean and Empty)
- Scrap Metal
- Tetra-Paks
- Timber (untreated only)
- Waste oils (cooking/car)
- White goods (Fridges/freezers/cookers and washing machines/dishwashers/vacuum cleaners/microwaves/kettles/toasters)
- Paint at all 3 facilities
- Polystyrene in Kells facility only

## 7.5. Water

### 7.5.1. EU Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive is now entering into the “programme of measures” phase and accordingly the Draft River Basin Management Plans were published on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2008.

There are 3 River Basin Management Plans relating to the functional area of Meath namely the Eastern, the Shannon and the Neagh Bann River Basin Management Plans.

The Plans have identified the significant water management issues within each specific catchment and the proposed solutions to these issues in the form of proposed measures. The objective of the plan is to restore all waters namely river, lake, groundwater, transitional and coastal waters to “good status” i.e., unpolluted by 2015.

The Council has already identified a number of catchments where it is believed that it will not achieve the water quality standards by 2015. The Council proposes to seek extension of timeframes/derogations for these catchments.

The River Basin Management Plans following public consultation shall be adopted in 2009.

### 7.5.2. River Monitoring

There are 108 designated Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring sites resulting in a total of 598 river samples collected and tested in 2008. In addition to this there are 15 designated salmonid sampling sites that were sampled on 12 occasions (180 samples). The river monitoring programme directs where investigative surveys, including farm surveys are carried out so as to ensure Meath County Council are maximising use of resources which is proving to be very effective.

In 2008 Meath County Council collected 523 investigative monitoring samples. The bulk of this sampling was carried out by the Eastern River Basin District Mobile Monitoring Unit. Investigative monitoring was largely carried out in catchments with poor water quality, namely the Upper Nanny, the Knights brook, the Monsey, the Delvin, the Fairyhouse and the Ward. All findings were highlighted in a number of reports which are been followed up by water enforcement personnel.

### 7.5.3. Bathing Water

Meath County Council samples two bathing water areas namely Bettystown and Mornington. Bettystown is a designated bathing water area and in 2008 achieved “blue flag” water quality status. This was a significant achievement considering the number of very heavy rainfall events recorded in 2008. Bathing water quality at Mornington was also found to be of a very high condition and Meath County Council has subsequently applied for the Green Coast Award. Results of this application will be delivered in early 2009.

### 7.5.4. Urban Wastewater

Meath County Council carried out 311 inspections of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants (MWWTP's) in 2008. All MWWTP's were sampled in accordance with the urban wastewater regulations and results submitted to the department in the form of an annual return. In accordance with previous EPA Wastewater Audit recommendations,

The environment section reports the results of any non-compliance to the area offices. The area office arranges for corrective action

*Trade Effluent Discharge Licences 2008:*



Section 4	Section 16
Applications received = 11	Application received = 4
Granted = 1	Granted = 2
Refused = 1	Under consideration = 2
Invalidated = 2	
Under consideration = 7	

#### 7.5.5. Farm Surveys

Meath County Council carried out 266 farm inspections in 2008. Farm inspections were carried out where there was a high risk of causing pollution to waters. All farm inspections are recorded on a farm inspections report form and mapped for re-inspections.

Of the 266 farms inspected approximately 79 farms were found to be causing or posing a high risk of pollution to waters. Meath County Council will follow up on all high risk farms and may direct measures where necessary to remove risk of pollution.

#### 7.5.6. Enforcement

In 2008 Meath County Council served 38 Section 12 water pollution notices. 15 of the pollution notices served related to pollution from agriculture, 10 notices served relate to septic tanks, 4 notices served relate to oil spills and 9 notices in relation to septic tanks. Meath County Council had 8 successful prosecutions heard in 2008.

#### 7.6. Control of Dogs

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

In December 2007 a new pound was officially opened at Rathmaiden, Slane. Details can be viewed at: <http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Environment/DogPound-Meath/>

All dog owners must have a licence for their dog. Dog Licences can be purchased at the local post office. A person with 10 dogs or more must hold a general dog licence which can be purchased from the GPO, Dublin. All dogs must be kept under proper control.

- No of licences issued: 8125
- No of General licence: 18 (10 dogs or more)
- No of fines issued: 318

#### 7.7. WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Material)

Regulations governing the above came into force in August 2005. These Regulations were subsequently amended by the Waste Management (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. The regulations are designed to promote the recovery of waste electrical and electronic equipment and facilitate the collection, treatment, recovery and disposal of waste electrical and electrical equipment in an environmentally friendly manner. The regulations apply to large and small household appliances. Those registered with Meath County Council have free access, with prior arrangement, to the civic amenity sites within the county for the disposal of WEEE products.

##### 7.7.1. Batteries and Accumulators

The Waste Management (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations (S.I. No 268 of 2008), as amended by the Waste Management (Batteries and Accumulators) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (SI No 556 of 2008) came into force on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008. These regulations provide for the free take back of all waste batteries and accumulators, otherwise known as rechargeable batteries, in-store and at designated locations. Since the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008:

- Members of the public are entitled to deposit waste batteries at retail outlets.
- Retailers will only be obligated to take back batteries of a type they supply, for instance, retailers will not have to take back a car battery if they only sell batteries suitable for a torch or remote control.
- Members of the public are not obliged to make a purchase when depositing waste batteries at a retail outlet.
- Members of the public are also be able to deposit waste portable batteries and waste car batteries from privately registered vehicles at local authority civic amenity facilities free of charge.

One registration application covers both the WEEE and the Batteries and Accumulators Regulations with renewals of registrations under the Regulations due on an annual basis on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year.

#### **7.7.2. End of Life Vehicles: Regulations 2006 – S.I.282 of 2006**

These regulations came into effect on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006. The purpose of the regulations is to regulate the disposal of end-of-life vehicles, which are defined in the regulations. The producers of vehicles will be responsible for ensuring that Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) for the discarding of end of life vehicles are in place. With current population figures in County Meath, each producer is obliged to list two ATF in their application forms and also in their 3 year Implementation Plans. There are, currently, four ATFs in County Meath. Under the regulations producers are defined as basically the importers of vehicles. The Council's role is to enforce the regulations pertaining to ATFs and also to ensure that the producers are meeting their responsibilities in relation to the regulations. The maximum penalty for breaches of the regulations is €15 million. Meath County Council keeps a register of all car producers. There is an annual renewal requirement by the 31<sup>st</sup> January of each year under the above regulations with the renewal fee based on the turnover of the producer(s).

Nominated Contractors:

- B.S Parts, Boolies, Duleek, Co Meath
- Oristown Auto Recyclers, Oristown, Kells, Co Meath
- T.D. Caldwell & Sons Ltd., Raneevogue, Crossakiel, Kells, Co Meath
- Maynooth Car Dismantlers, Killianey, Maynooth, Co Meath

#### **7.8. Packaging Regulations, 2007 – S.I. No. 798 of 2007**

Under the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations, 2007 all producers have important obligations for the recovery of packaging waste. These Regulations are designed to assist and promote the recycling of packaging waste in order to facilitate the achievement of the packaging waste recovery targets set for Ireland in EU Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste as amended EU Directive 2004/12/EC.

#### **7.9. Historic Landfills**

Meath County Council, in conjunction with the EPA and the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, compiled a register of historic landfills, both County Council and privately owned sites, as required under Section 22 (non-hazardous waste) and Section 26 (hazardous waste) of the Waste Management Act.

The Historic Landfills are divided into Privately Operated Sites and Local Authority Operated Sites. At present, there are 53 sites between the 2 categories with these subdivided into risk categories according to the risk assessment criteria set out by the EPA in their Code of Practice. For each of these sites, a title search, a desk-top risk assessment exercise and a thorough site visit has been carried out. The decision as to whether any further investigations are warranted at any of these sites will have to be taken on a case-by-case basis.

#### **7.10. Tyres and Waste Tyres: Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 664 of 2007):**

These Regulations are designed to promote the environmentally sound management of waste tyres. They facilitate management by providing a regulatory framework for comparing quantities of waste tyres arising with the quantities placed on the market and in tracking the movement of waste tyres from the time they are discarded until they either reused or processed for recycling and/or recovery.

The Regulations impose obligations on persons who supply tyres to the Irish market, whether as manufacturers, wholesalers, suppliers, traders, or retailers and on the collectors of waste tyres. An

exemption from these obligations is available to persons who participate in a collective compliance scheme (TRACS) operated by an approved body.

The Regulations also impose obligations on farmers who store waste tyres for the purposes of anchoring silage covering. An exemption from these obligations is available to farmers who accept waste tyres from an authorised waste collector who is participating in a collective compliance scheme operated by an approved body.

Producers, suppliers and authorised waste collectors who opt not to participate in a collective compliance scheme operated by an approved body are described as self compliers and are obliged to register as such with the Local Authority.

### **7.11. Landfill Levy Regulations - S.I. No. 199 of 2008**

The Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Order 2008 amends section 73(3) of the Waste Management Acts 1996 to 2008 to allow for the landfill levy to be increased from €15 per tonne to €20 per tonne for each tonne of waste disposed of at an authorised landfill facility. As of 1 July 2008, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, using the power available to him under the Waste Management Acts, increased the landfill levy to €20 per tonne for each tonne of waste disposed of at authorised landfill facilities. The landfill levy rate remains at €20 per tonne for each tonne of waste disposed of at unauthorised landfill facilities.

### **7.12. Solvent Regulations**

In accordance with the Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002 (S.I. No 543 of 2002), Local Authorities are required to ensure that all solvent users are in compliance with the regulations (of which there approximately 11 activities e.g. dry cleaners, steel fabrication, wood impregnation, coil coating etc).

The regulations stated that all solvent regulated operators must be in compliance with the regulations by the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2007.

In this regard the Council carried out **33** site inspections of solvent users in 2008 and has certified **12** operators (all dry cleaners) to be in compliance with the regulations.

### **7.13. Decorative Paints Directive**

The Limitation of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds due to the use of Organic Solvents in certain paints, varnishes and vehicle refinishing products regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 199 of 2007) also known as the Decorative Paints Regulations limit the total content of VOC's in certain paints and varnishes and vehicle refinishing products, in order to prevent or reduce air pollution resulting from the contribution of volatile organic compounds to the formation of troposphere ozone.

The local authorities are the competent bodies for the enforcement of the Regulations. This implies that local authorities will carry out the necessary inspections of products in stock in producers, wholesalers and major retail stores in their functional areas. Some product sampling and analysis may be necessary to verify product compliance. The LA is also required to set up and maintain a register of producers, wholesalers and major retailers of the decorating materials in their areas.

On and from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2008 it is an offence for a vehicle refinishing installation to operate without a Certificate of Approval as issued by Meath County Council.

In this regard the Council carried out 56 site inspections of potential users of VOC's. Currently the Council has 18 certified VOC users.

### **7.14. Air**

#### **7.14.1. Quarry Inspections**

Meath County Council carried out **310** site inspections of quarries in 2008. The majority of these inspections were carried out by the Planning Department and non-compliances reported to environment for licensing/enforcement.

#### **7.14.2. Air Licensing**

There are currently **10** air emission licence holders in County Meath. In 2008 Meath County Council granted **1** new air licence and reviewed an existing licence. Meath County Council carried out 8 audits on air emission licencee's in 2008

#### **7.14.3. Complaints**

The Council received **117** air related complaints in 2008 of which **102** were investigated. The majority of the complaints received related to back yard burning of domestic waste.

#### **7.15. Noise**

The Council received **19** complaints in relation to noise in 2008. The number of noise complaints is increasing substantially. The Council carried out **17** noise related complaints in 2008.

#### **7.16. Civil Defence**

Meath Co. Council's Civil Defence is a volunteer based humanitarian organisation dedicated to alleviating suffering in time of crisis. Civil Defence is administered by the Local Authority on behalf of the Government and is 70% grant aided by the Civil Defence Board. Volunteers also provide a back up to the emergency services and a community support role at local and national events.

Civil Defence operates eight centre based training units throughout the county. There are currently in excess of one hundred and fifty volunteer members actively involved in training and providing community service at these centres which are located at Ashbourne, Duleek, Dunboyne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Navan, Oldcastle and Trim.

Civil Defence has been accredited by the Pre-hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and by the Occupational First Aid Assessment Agent (OFAAA) who oversees the standards applicable to First Aid training and pre-hospital care of injured persons. Civil Defence is also in the process of attaining accreditation from FETAC for its training programmes.

Volunteers have been actively involved in upgrading their First Aid qualifications during the year as well as continuing with other training programmes in communications, rescue, welfare and fire-fighting skills. A team of six senior volunteers took part in the national training exercise held in Leitrim in April based on the new Major Emergency Framework.

The National Civil Defence Board provided a new fifteen seat mini-bus to Meath Civil Defence in November to replace an older unserviceable vehicle which will be of great benefit to the local organisation. During the year Civil Defence acquired a third emergency ambulance to help provide additional resources for the increasing number of requests for ambulance cover at events. As part of this development, one ambulance has been based in Dunshaughlin and one in Oldcastle to service both the North and South of the County.

#### **7.17. Fire and Rescue Service**

The Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service is responsible for the provision of a fire and emergency service for the administrative County of Meath, including the three town councils.

Fire Service Headquarters is based at the fire station on Abbey Road, Navan. There are six other stations located throughout the county, Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Nobber, Oldcastle and Trim. Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service provides a first line response to all types of emergencies across County Meath – including fires, road traffic accidents, flooding, river rescues and hazardous chemical incidents.

Fire Service operational training in Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service continued throughout 2008. Training on the new national Incident Command System as well as Fire Behaviour Training for all fire-fighters was introduced and this will be completed in 2009.

In addition to normal fire fighting activities, fire prevention measures include:

- Fire Safety Certificates - all developments other than private housing are obliged to apply for a fire safety certificate from the Fire Authority. A Commencement Notice must then be submitted to the Planning Department of Meath County Council prior to the commencement of the development. A register of Commencement Notices and Fire Safety Certificates are maintained by the Local Authority.
- Planning applications are assessed for fire safety requirements and reports are then submitted to the Council's Planning Department.





- A programme of fire safety inspections is followed and the emphasis is on the inspection of Licensed Premises, hotels, nursing homes and venues which attract large numbers of patrons such as the Slane Concerts and the Fairy-house Easter Meeting.
- Petroleum Licence Applications under the Dangerous Substances Act, 1979
- Community Fire Safety, including annual visits to all of the primary schools in Co. Meath under the national Fire Services Change programme, visits to community groups and national fire safety week (October each year).

A new Fire Appliance funded by the DoEHLG at a cost of approx €300,000 was delivered to Navan fire station in August 2008. This state-of-the-art fire appliance contains 1800 litres of water and a Compressed Air Foam (CAF) pump for fire-fighting operations as well as the latest fire brigade technology. The appliance has greatly assisted fire-fighting operations particularly in the Navan area.

Funding for new crash rescue equipment as well as for two more fire appliances was also approved by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and these are expected to be received in 2009/2010.

#### **Proposed new offices for Navan Fire Station**

Following the submission of an Appraisal & Preliminaries Plan to provide permanent administrative accommodation at Fire Brigade headquarters in Navan Fire Station, approval for funding of €1.8m was received from the DoEHLG. This will replace the current temporary portacabins in the fire station yard and provide essential accommodation & facilities for Fire Service staff. The project will be subject to funding from the DoEHLG.



Fire Statistics - 2008

	<u>Navan</u>	<u>Duns</u>	<u>Ashb</u>	<u>Trim</u>	<u>Kells</u>	<u>Oldc.</u>	<u>Nobber</u>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Domestic Buildings:</b>								
Chimney Fire In Houses	29	15	7	41	33	8	3	<b>136</b>
Other House Fires	39	20	16	10	11	2	1	<b>99</b>
Apartments, Flats and Bedsitters	5	0	3	2	0	0	0	<b>10</b>
Caravans/Mobile Homes	5	0	2	2	0	0	2	<b>11</b>
<b>Institutions:</b>								
Schools/hospitals/other.	3	2	0	1	4	1	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Industrial:</b>								
Factories	11	2	3	3	4	1	1	<b>25</b>
<b>Commercial:</b>								
Shops, Supermarkets	6	0	2	2	1	0	0	<b>11</b>
Restaurants	0							
Hotels Guesthouses/Boarding Houses	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Service:</b>								
Public Houses	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
Restaurants	1							<b>1</b>
Places of Public entertainemnt (discos/cinema's)			1					<b>1</b>
<b>Other:</b>								
Motor Vehicles	55	47	37	28	14	1	8	<b>190</b>
Petrol Stations & Garages	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Unoccupied Buildings	2	2	2	0	1	0	0	<b>7</b>
Agricultural Buildings	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	<b>9</b>
Forest/Bog/Grass, etc.	26	3	15	18	6	2	2	<b>72</b>
Outdoor Storage	6	4	6	5	5	1	0	<b>27</b>
Outdoor Rubbish	29	8	12	9	9	2	0	<b>69</b>
Miscellaneous	29	7	10	12	3	0	7	<b>68</b>
<b>False Alarm Incidents</b>								
1. Malicious	16	2	4	4	3	0	0	<b>29</b>
2. Good Intent	71	24	44	27	12	6	5	<b>189</b>
<b>Special Services</b>								
Road Traffic Accidents	42	35	54	23	22	10	7	<b>193</b>
Water Pumping Flooding	22	5	11	3	2	20	4	<b>67</b>
Hazardous Subs	6	0	0	4	1	1	2	<b>14</b>
Other Non-Fire Rescues	9	8	9	4	3	0	1	<b>34</b>
Miscellaneous:	21	26	12	15	5	6	3	<b>88</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1375</b>
Actual (AS PER REPORTS)	442	216	251	220	139	61	46	<b>1375</b>



## 8. HOUSING

The objective of Meath County Council's Housing Department is to provide appropriate housing accommodation and a responsive and supportive housing service for those in need of assistance. The department seeks to enable eligible households to have available an affordable dwelling of good quality, suited to its needs, in a good environment and as far as possible at the tenure of its choice.

The Council's Multi-Annual Construction Programme 2004-2008 includes the provision of Social Housing and the promotion of voluntary housing, affordable housing and the development of new models of provision under the Rental Accommodation Scheme.

Major progress was made in upgrading of the Housing stock with the objective to bring all older rented housing stock to modern building regulation standard. The housing stock now exceeds 2700 homes and with an asset value of €360 million.

Despite the deterioration in the economic climate substantial progress was made across various headings during 2008 and which can be summarised as follows:

- ❖ New houses allocated at Windtown (72) Dunboyne (16), Cortown (16), Nobber (22) Oldcastle (14), and Ballivor (7).
- ❖ Schemes commenced at Summerhill (29), Donore (11), & 21 new houses in Headford Grove Kells of which 8 are replacement houses as part of the Remedial Works Scheme.
- ❖ 26 further Social Houses to be delivered under Part V mechanism in 2008.
- ❖ Planning advanced on future projects on Local Authority owned lands at Bettystown, Duleek, Farganstown, Navan, Dunshaughlin, Dunboyne, Rathmolyon and Clonard.
- ❖ 5 Rural Cottages at various stages of planning & development.
- ❖ Discussions underway with a number of Voluntary bodies in terms of the provision of accommodation at various locations in the County.
- ❖ Approval from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government for the Development of a 400 sq square metre community facility Resource Centre at Windtown - at a cost of €1.15 million.
- ❖ Work completed on the development of a Mini Pitch at Windtown funded under the RAPID programme.
- ❖ Advancing the proposed Remedial Works Scheme for Townparks Estate Navan to Tender stage.
- ❖ The refurbishment of 43 houses in Blackthorn Close and Willie Black Crescent in Kells on behalf of Kells Town Council.
- ❖ Submissions made to the Department in response to requests for proposals for Remedial Works Schemes in Alverno Court, Laytown and St Brigid's Villas / St Ultan's Tce Navan.
- ❖ 14 Affordable Houses occupied at Windtown with a further 18 at an advanced stage of completion.
- ❖ 359 Affordable units the subject of agreements under Part V scheduled for delivery by the end of 2008.
- ❖ Completed the 3-yearly Housing Needs Assessment, which involved interviewing over 2000 Social Housing Applicants.
- ❖ Cleared a backlog of application of 857 applications under the Disabled Persons & Essential Repairs Grants Schemes and involving funding approvals of over €5.8 million.
- ❖ Work commenced on the preparation of a draft Traveller Accommodation Programme covering the period 2009 -2013.
- ❖ Remedial works for St Francis' Park Halting Site, Windtown & St Martin's Park Halting Site Trim at advanced stages of planning.
- ❖ Completed the installation of Central Heating in the Council's rented stock under the Department co-funded 3 year central heating programme.
- ❖ Commencement of a programme for the replacement of windows and doors in the Council rented stock on a priority basis.
- ❖ A record number of entries was received (58) under the Council's Housing Estate Awards & Grants Schemes and under which funding of €25,000 was made available.
- ❖ Work commenced on the development of an integrated housing management software package, IHouse to underpin all housing related activities.



### **8.1. Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)**

The Rental Accommodation Scheme is for people receiving rent supplement (usually over 18 months) and assessed by the Housing Authority as having a long term housing need. RAS provides Housing Authorities with an additional option for meeting the accommodation needs of such people. The Local Authority secures accommodation for the rent supplement recipients and makes arrangements with private landlords for long or short term leases.

It is considered that in the current economic climate, this scheme will play a major role going forward in addressing the housing accommodation needs of people and Meath County Council is actively promoting the scheme and with a particular focus on addressing the needs of single people currently living in poor quality private rented accommodation.

### **8.2. Incremental Purchase Scheme**

This scheme which was introduced on a pilot basis is intended to enable social housing tenants and households eligible for social housing to become early owners of newly built local authority housing. Provision for full implementation of the Scheme will be made following the enactment of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2008. Meath County Council is preparing demonstration projects for submission to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government under the terms of the scheme.

### **8.3. Private Rented Inspections**

Recent Government Policy documents including the partnership agreement "Towards 2016" and Building Homes Sustaining Communities place a strong emphasis on the need to address sub standard accommodation in the private market. New legal minimum standards for rental accommodation come into force from the 1st February 2009 and ensuring that each rented accommodation has its own sanitary facilities, along with modern standards for food storage, food preparation, refuse and laundry, ventilation lighting and fire safety.

Meath County Council is putting in place a programme of inspections of private rented accommodation with a view to improving standards in the County.

### **8.4. Homelessness**

Meath County Council provides a service for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Individuals and families with complex needs such as dual diagnosis disability/mental health diagnoses, drug addiction, alcohol dependence, paedophilia and other issues are all dealt with in conjunction with relevant HSE departments. The Council employs 2 Outreach /Resettlement workers to deal with incidences of Homelessness.

The provision of a Homeless Hostel in Navan has been advanced with the identification of a Service provider and steps are now being taken to find a suitable location for the Hostel.

In August 2008 the Government introduced a new Housing Strategy "The Way Home" to address Adult Homelessness in Ireland 2008 – 2013. The Strategy sets out a vision where the occurrence of homelessness is minimised and where it does arise nobody will have to sleep rough or remain longer than 6 months in emergency accommodation.

### **8.5. The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2008**

This Bill was published during 2008 and is expected to be enacted in mid 2009

The main provisions of the Bill which brings into one piece of legislation all previous Housing Acts are as follows

- The preparation of Housing Service Plans & Housing Actions Plans and which have to be adopted as a reserved function of the elected Members of the Council.
- Updating Assessment of Needs Process and Schemes of Letting Priorities
- Adoption of Anti-Social Behaviour Strategies



- New provisions to be included in Tenancy Agreements
- Revisions to Rent Schemes which have to be adopted by the elected Members.
- The provision of a Legislative basis for the Rental Accommodation Scheme
- The Introduction of a New Incremental Purchase Scheme

**8.6. Strategic Policy Committee - Housing Social Cultural & Community**

The Housing Social Cultural and Community Strategic Policy Committee comprises 9 Councillors and 4 representatives from the sectoral groups. The S.P.C. met 5 times in 2008 and discussed/agreed policies in the following areas:

- Housing Strategy & Affordable Housing Policy
- Estate Management Policy
- Social and Affordable Housing Action Plan
- DPG and ERG Scheme as revised.
- Internal Capital Receipts
- Housing Needs Assessment 2008
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Draft Tenants Handbook
- Meath Arts Plan
- Housing Action Plan 2007 – 2009
- Homeless
- Control of Dogs in Local Authority Estates
- Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Meath Bio Diversity Plan
- Sectoral Plan in accordance with Disability Act 2005
- Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS)

## 9. HUMAN RESOURCES

The main function of Human Resources (HR) is to plan and recruit our Workforce, while creating an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment which is positive and safe. In doing so the HR team aims to assist all Meath Local Authorities sections in the delivery of organisational objectives, while at the same time developing the potential of every staff member. All this must be achieved while taking account of the challenging economic climate in which we now operate.

The Local Government Management Services Board launched a HR Strategy Framework document, which is being customised to produce a HR Strategy & Implementation Project Plan which will further define the HR role within Meath Local Authorities and perhaps introduce some innovative ways in which to face the challenges ahead.

The HR function is broken down into the following core services:

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

### 9.1. Recruitment and Selection

Provision of this service in 2008 involved HR arranging and holding 60 competitions and processing approximately 1,174 application forms. Interviews for the majority of these competitions were held during the year as well as for 13 competitions advertised in 2007 with 81 interview days in total.

### 9.2. Staff Structure

The number of competitions mentioned resulted in 59 new employee contracts being issued in 2008, which consisted of both permanent staff and temporary staff commencing on fixed term contracts. 81 temporary contracts were extended during this period while 40 promotion contracts and 48 student contracts were also issued.

In July 2008, the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government wrote to Local Authorities requiring them to implement measures to achieve payroll savings, administrative and other efficiencies. Local Authorities were required to implement a 3% reduction in payroll costs on the basis of flexibility in the deployment of measures at local level including control of numbers. 15 temporary Fixed Term Contracts of employment were subsequently not renewed in 2008.

### 9.3. Staff Returns

Every quarter the HR Team compiles a 'return' of staff numbers which is submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government detailing overall figures of staff employed by the Council. HR also prepare a more comprehensive 'annual return' for submission to the DoEHLG each year. See Table 2 below for a breakdown of staff by sector as of December 2008.

**Table 2. Breakdown of staff by sector**

Sector	Number	WTE
Managerial	8	8
Administrative	307	273.5
Engineering / Technical	119	119
Operational / Outdoor	265	241.60
Contract	168	157.94
Fire-fighter	70	10.65
Non DoEHLG	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>812.69</b>

December 2008

#### 9.4. Superannuation

All staff members are entered into the Local Government Superannuation Scheme from the date of their commencement of employment with Meath Local Authorities. The following is a breakdown of superannuation activities dealt with in 2008:

**Table 4. Breakdown of superannuation activities**

Activity	Number in 2008
VEC – Lump sum and pension calculations	13
Meath Local Authorities retirements in 2007	13 (7 Officers, 6 Employees)
Gratuities for non-pensionable persons	3 (Retained Fire-fighters)
Preserved Benefits	3

The total of retirement lump sums paid in 2008 to Meath Local Authority staff was € 677,137 with a further € 745,948 in lumps sums being paid to retiring VEC staff.

#### 9.5. Staff Leave

In line with Work/Life Balance ethos, Meath Local Authorities processed & granted the following number of various leave applications in 2008:

**Table 3. Work-sharing and Term-time applications**

Leave Type	2005	2006	2007	2008
Term Time Applications	7	18	15	5
Work Share Applications	60	57	72	76

Sick Leave Indicator for 2008:

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Certified' – 2.48 %

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Uncertified' – 0.52 %

#### 9.6. National Payroll Project

2008 saw the continued involvement of the Meath County Council HR Project Team in the configuration and testing of the new National HR, Payroll & Superannuation system. Staff attended workshops on each of the modules to be included in the first Phase of the project i.e. Core Personnel, Payroll, Superannuation, Time & Attendance/Leave and Recruitment. Testing was also carried out for each of these modules. All Phase 1 modules will be implemented by the end of 2009. Preparation will also begin for the Phase 2 modules which include Training, PMDS, Security, Regulatory Compliance, Industrial Relations and Managers' Self Service.

#### 9.7. HR Policies & Procedures

Meath Local Authorities currently implement five national HR policies. These policies were agreed and signed off nationally by Union and Management Representatives and subsequently endorsed at local level by the Partnership Committee of Meath Local Authorities. The Attendance Management Policy was agreed through this process in 2008. The LGMSB and partners have been working on a new Dignity at Work Policy which will be circulated to all Local Authorities in 2009 for localisation and implementation.

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

### 9.8. Training and Development

#### Strategic Objective

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

With regard to the National Service Indicators C2, the following table shows performance in 2008 spend of total Payroll on Training & Development.

Requirement	Performance re All staff	Performance re Go & Related Grades
3 %	4.14 %	3.6 %

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

Meath County Council successfully retained the prestigious titled of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) Accredited Company from Engineers Ireland. The Council was first awarded a full three year accreditation in 2005, and following a successful audit of its lifelong learning practices for engineering professionals, has achieved the full award for a second term.

The successful retention of CPD accreditation for a further 3 years recognises Meath County Council as a company that promotes and encourages training, education and development amongst its workforce.



Presentation of CPD Accreditation – July 2008



## 10. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The mission of the Information Systems Department is to support and encourage the continuous improvement of Meath County Council's business processes through the appropriate and optimal use of internal and external information technology solutions.

2008 was a very busy and productive year for the Information Systems Department. As described below, there were a number of important projects to improve our infrastructure, implement new and improved business and spatial information systems, and increase the availability of online information and services. A key change in the services we provide was the successful first year of our business process improvement and innovation group which has worked with a number of council sections to identify opportunities for process improvement and helped those areas to maintain and improve services in the face of considerable resource pressures.

### 10.1. Networks

During 2008, we implemented high capacity wireless network links between County Hall and our offices in Dunshaughlin, Duleek, Trim and Farganstown. This was in addition to links already in place to Kells, the planning offices in Abbey Road and the Enterprise Centre. Improved broadband connections were also put in place to other locations including Ashbourne and most libraries. Within County Hall we completed a complete overhaul of the internal networks to provide greatly increased performance and stability.

### 10.2. Virtualisation

The implementation of virtualisation technology during 2008 has allowed us to achieve significant savings. By deploying new systems and extra capacity in a virtualised environment we were able to avoid over €100,000 expenditure that would otherwise have been required on new servers. This also allowed us to significantly reduce our electricity costs and CO2 emissions. We will continue to migrate systems to a virtualised environment during 2009 to achieve further savings. Virtualisation also provides us with a much more flexible environment with which to meet the council's growing and changing needs for system availability.

### 10.3. Business Systems

#### 10.3.1. Planning Administration

We completed implementation of a new planning administration system. We also introduced a new online planning query system – ePlan – amongst other improvements on [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie)

#### 10.3.2. Human Resources and Payroll

The first module of a fully integrated Human Resources and Payroll system was implemented, with extensive preparation completed for implementation of remaining modules during 2009. Meath is a pilot site for the national rollout of this system.

#### 10.3.3. Housing

A Housing Needs Assessment application was completed and used for departmental returns.

### 10.4. Spatial Services

#### 10.4.1. Navan Drainage Survey

A full asset inventory was completed for all drainage in the Navan Area. This will provide a well-maintained, accurate and trusted source of drainage information to support drainage planning and maintenance activities. The Asset Surveys will also be used to correct anomalies before Housing Estates are taken in charge.



**10.4.2. Public Lighting Database**

An extensive survey was completed to provide a Lighting Asset Database. This will allow for better management and reduction of electricity costs as well as forming the basis for a consistent Lighting Maintenance Program.

**10.4.3. Meath Housing Stock**

All Local Authority owned property was digitized and made available in mapping format. Data will be used in housing systems and will assist in the efficient and effective management of the Council's property.

**10.5. Service Metrics**

**10.5.1. IT Helpdesk**

The IT Helpdesk actioned 7224 service requests over the year, while 118 new PCs were deployed.

**10.5.2. Meath.ie Website**

Information and services available through [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) are constantly increasing allowing citizens and businesses to access information themselves, at a time convenient to them. A sample of the traffic volumes for the site during 2008 include:

Planning Section	237,807 page views
Tourism	268,230 page views
Housing (Affordable Housing Application form downloaded 3,231 times)	65,865 page views
Dog Pound	122,109 page views

**10.5.3. Google Maps**

Many aspects of the [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie) website now make use of Google Maps, including:

- Town Maps
- Green Schools Map
- Libraries Map
- Meath County Council Head Office, Town Councils and Local Area Offices Map
- Recycling Centres Map
- Sports Facilities Maps
- Road Closure Maps
- Winter Gritting Routes Map

**10.5.4. Economic Development**

Working with the Economic Development and Innovation Department, [www.meath.ie/Business](http://www.meath.ie/Business) was redesigned with the addition of several new services including Business Advice and Information, Business Property Listings, Corporate Venues and Activities, Tenders, and more. A searchable business directory that was developed in 2008 will be available free of charge to all Meath Businesses, and is due to go online in 2009.



## 11. INFRASTRUCTURE

### 11.1. Roads

#### 11.1.1. National Roads Traversing Co. Meath

- **Slane By Pass**  
Public consultation & revised alignment scheme completed.  
EIS and CPO to be reviewed and forwarded to NRA in 2009.
- **M3 Clonee / North of Kells Motorway**  
Under construction, expected completion date 2010
- **N51 Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2B (Kells Rd to Athboy Rd)**  
Works in progress with completion expected in April 2009
- **N2 Primatestown**  
Junction improvement ongoing
- **N51 Dunmoe Realignment**  
Tender Stage
- **Pavement and Improvement Works**
  - N2 Coolfore
  - N3 Baronstown
  - N3 Castlemartin
  - N3 Roestown
  - N51 Tullaghanstown

#### 11.1.2. Non- National Routes in Co. Meath

- **R158 Trim/Summerhill/Kilcock Phase 2 (Summerhill to Kilcock)**  
Works substantially completed
- **R150 Duleek/Julianstown Phase 2 (Kilsharvan to Julianstown)**  
Works completed
- **R161 Trim / Navan**  
Works substantially completed.
- **R154 Patrickstown Oldcastle**  
Section of road substantially complete
- **R162 Widening of Nobber Bridge**  
Works substantially completed
- **R125 Ratoath – Roundabout at Jamestown**  
Works substantially completed
- **Sheephouse/Donore**  
Works substantially completed



### 11.1.3. Road Schemes at Planning/Design Stage

- N3/R161 (Springfield Glen to Trim Road Navan)
- R160 Trim / Longwood Road
- R157 Maynooth / Dunboyne Rd (Moygaddy)
- Kentstown Road to Boyne Road
- R150 Duleek By-pass
- R156 Dunboyne Summerhill
- Kentstown Village Improvement
- R150 Julianstown/Laytown

## 11.2. Water Services

Meath County Council's Water Services Programme consists of:

- Major Capital Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme

### Strategies

- To implement the Water Services Investment Programme 2007-2009.
- To advance the Projects identified in the Assessment of Water Service Needs (2007-2013) as adopted by Meath County Council in July 2006 in future Water Services Investment Programmes.
- To investigate and seek to reduce our dependency on other Local Authorities for water and wastewater services.
- To upgrade existing water services facilities where deficient, in order to meet the Drinking Water Regulations and the Urban Wastewater Directives/Regulations.

### 11.2.1. Schemes Completed/Under Construction during 2008

- **Major Grouped Wastewater Scheme**  
Provision of treatment systems & collection networks for Duleek, Summerhill, Kilmainhamwood, Moynalty, Donore, Athboy, Rathcairn and Rathmolyon.  
Works ongoing in 2008. Cost of scheme is €35m.
- **Navan AC Mains Replacement**  
Replacement of old asbestos cement mains in the town.  
Works completed in 2008 at a cost of €6.5m.
- **Ashbourne/Ratoath/Kilbride Sewerage Schemes Phase 2**  
Upgrade and expansion of the existing wastewater system at these locations.  
Works ongoing in 2008 and will be completed in 2009 at a cost of €15.5m.
- **Kiltale Sewerage Scheme**  
Provision of new pumping station & network for the village.  
Works substantially completed in 2008 at a cost of €2m.
- **Kilcloon Sewerage Scheme**  
Provision of new pumping station & network for the village.  
Works ongoing in 2008 and will be completed in 2009 at a cost of €2m.
- **Dunshaughlin Water Supply Scheme**  
Provision of new water supply for Dunshaughlin to increase capacity from c1500m<sup>3</sup>/day to 3500m<sup>3</sup>/day .Works commenced in 2008 and will be complete in early 2010.Cost of scheme is €15m.



- **Navan & Mid Meath Water Supply Scheme**  
Provision of a new water supply to secure the future water supply and development needs of Navan and its environs with an overall project cost of €78.5m. Works commenced on four (of seven) contracts in 2008.
- **East Meath, South Louth & Drogheda Water Supply**  
Provision of a new water supply scheme to serve the areas East Meath, South Louth & Drogheda. Works commenced on a number of schemes in 2008. Overall project cost in the order of €170m.
- **County Wide Water Conservation Project**  
Expand the Conservation Programme to all Water Supply schemes in the County. Estimated cost €18m. Works ongoing.
- **Non Domestic Metering Project**  
Installation of meters on all non domestic premises in the county. Works ongoing in 2008 and will be completed in 2009. Cost of project is €5m.
- **East Meath /Drogheda Sewerage Scheme**  
Provision of second rising main from Drogheda Grammar school to Wastewater treatment works. Works substantially completed in 2008 at a cost of €0.5m.

#### 11.2.2. Schemes at Planning/Design Stage

- **Water Supply Schemes**
  - Dunboyne/Clonee Water Supply
  - Kells/Oldcastle Water Supply
- **Sewerage Schemes**
  - Oldcastle Sewerage Scheme
  - Sludge Management Plan
  - Kells Sewerage Scheme
  - Navan Sewerage Scheme(Network Rehabilitation)

#### 11.3. *Special Projects*

##### 11.3.1. **Review of Speed Limits**

This review of all existing speed limit bye-laws in the County was completed in mid 2008 and the new speed limits came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2008.



## 12. PLANNING

### Strategic Objective

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

#### 12.1. Core Activities

The Planning Department is responsible for implementing the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 –2008 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2007.

This involves:

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

#### 12.2. Organisational Change

The Planning Department completed a Change Management process in early 2008 which focused on identifying areas for process improvement and structural change in the delivery of planning services.

- This commenced with the recentralisation of planning services from all areas to Navan
- The introduction of lunch time opening hours.
- The roll out in early 2008 of a new IT system "Iplan2 ". The system facilitates additional functionality, integration of mapping with document imaging systems and provides an improved service to staff, customers and agents.
- A new document imaging IT system "IDoc's 2" was introduced during 2008. This will enable the public to view scanned documents through the web.
- A dedicated call centre is now in place to handle and streamline the 150 calls daily to the planning department.

#### 12.3. Development Management

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

Improved processes were implemented to assist with recentralisation . Validation backlogs have been cleared and 5 day validation has been achieved

The planning Department has noted a 30% reduction in the number of planning applications received in 2008. Applications for commercial development continued to be submitted and displayed a greater resilience to economic pressures than residential housing applications during 2008.

#### 12.4. Statistics

There were 2662 planning applications received by Meath County Council and Navan, Kells & Trim Town Councils.

The grant rate for all applications determined in 2008 was approximately 68% and on average 71% of all applications was determined within the statutory 8 weeks without the need for further information requests.

There were 936 planning applications for rural dwellings and 83 housing developments determined during 2008.

An Environmental Impact Statement accompanied a total of 21 planning applications.

In cases where the Planning Authority's decisions were appealed to An Bord Pleanála, the Bord confirmed the Councils decisions in 67% of cases, and reversed decisions in 33% of cases.



The planning offices remained open to the public on average 29 Hours per week in 2008.

Category	No. of applications determined	No. of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	No. of decisions in Column A which required the submission of Further Information	No. of Decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant under section 34(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000	Average length of time taken to determine an application where Further Information was sought (in days)	% of Grants	% of Refusals	% of Cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	% of Cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála
Housing Development	83	57	25	1	81	51%	49%	72.22%	27.77%
Individual House	936	618	313	5	79	55%	44%	64.28%	35.71%
OTHER: Not Requiring EIA	1622	1199	413	9	78	76%	24%	68.23%	31.76%
OTHER: Requiring EIA	21	16	6	0	119	71%	28%	40%	60%

Major Planning Applications received or determined during 2008 included:

- Donacarney 62 houses
- Duleek 143 houses
- 
- Bettystown 370 houses
- Slane 29 houses
- Concrete batching plant, Slane Area
- Carranstown 60MW power plant
- County Meath VEC temporary post primary school Laytown
- 2 quarries in the Trim area
- GAA spectator stand, Trim
- Trim, 150 residential units , crèche
- Nursing home development, Ardracran, Navan
- Redevelopment of Drummonds Grain Store & Garden Centre, Clonee
- Mixed use retail & office development, Railway Street, Navan
- Kells Backlands, Town Centre
- Carton House, Dunshaughlin area
- Moygaddy Park, Maynooth
- Clonmaggaden, Navan, mixed use development.



### **12.5. Strategic Infrastructure Developments**

Meath Co Council processed 2 applications under the Strategic Infrastructure Act  
**Iarnrod Eireann**, Rail Order approved in March 2008

**College Proteins**, An Oral hearing was held subsequent to Meath County Council's recommendation to An Bord Pleanála. The application was subsequently withdrawn.

The Council has also facilitated pre-planning consultations and information exchange sessions with other providers including, Eirgrid, Irish Cement and Greenstar.

### **12.6. Planning and Economic Development SPC**

Projects undertaken in 2008 included:

- The review of the Development Contribution Scheme has commenced and a report presented to the SPC in November 2008.
- The Planning & Development Guidance Note 1 was progressed by the SPC and adopted in March 2008.
- The Taking in Charge of housing estates policy was progressed by the SPC and adopted in September 2008.
- A workshop on environmental controls and their role in development management was facilitated for all Council members in November 2008.

### **12.7. Enforcement of Planning Control**

***To use the full rigours of the enforcement provisions of the Planning Act 2000-2008 in ensuring that the integrity of the planning system is maintained and to take appropriate enforcement action against people who carry out unauthorised development.***

Meath Local Authorities received 351 complaints in 2008. 207 warning letters and 101 enforcement notices were issued on foot of those complaints. The number of cases referred to the courts increased by 100% to 34.

The Planning Authority has sought injunctive relief to prevent unauthorized development in a number of high profile cases including action against 2 quarry operators, an unauthorised residential development and 1 Commercial airfield.

Monitoring and enforcement work continues in the quarry sector and in the inspection of housing estates prior to their taking in charge. A dedicated Clerk of Works has been employed to accelerate this process and some 60 estates have been inspected to date in 2008, 12 estates were taking in charge and enforcement action and or bond called in, in 4 estates.

### **12.8. Pre-planning and Advisory Services**

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

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

Protocols have been put in place to ensure a comprehensive corporate response to major developments which will benefit the economic development of the County. The Planning Authority and the Enterprise and Innovation Directorate work together in that regard.

Dedicated meeting rooms with the capacity for all sizes of delegations have been provided in the Planning Headquarters at Abbey Road.

Procedures for preplanning meetings were reviewed at the end of 2008 and a blitz of waiting lists was completed, thereby ensuring that planning meetings are now scheduled within one month of a request.





### **12.9. Conservation**

***It is the policy of Meath County Council to protect the rich architectural heritage of the County, and in particular to protect and preserve the character of structures, places and townscapes which have been identified as being of special interest as defined in the Local Government Planning & Development Act 2000 and designated as Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas in the County Development Plan and the Town Plans of Navan, Trim and Kells.***

A Conservation Officer has been employed to serve the County on a full time basis. The officer provides professional advice to the Council and the public on Conservation matters. Two Built Heritage information seminars were held for the owners of protected structures, with support from the Heritage Council, to raise awareness and provide advice on best conservation practice. These evenings created great interest and both venues were fully subscribed. A Conservation and Management plan for the Trim Town walls has been prepared by consultants and funding has been received from the Heritage Council for this project.

The Planning Authority also administers the National Conservation Grant Scheme, which provides assistance for appropriate conservation works to eligible structures. €215,360 was awarded in grant aid to 25 projects completed in 2008.

### **12.10. Building Regulations**

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

#### **Inspection of Buildings**

Meath County Council achieved an inspection rate of over 71 % of new buildings during 2008. This is significantly in excess of the recommended inspection rate 12-15% of buildings. Meath County Council continues to ensure that maximum efficiency of the Building Control and Planning Enforcement functions are achieved.

The remit of our Building Control inspectors has been extended to include inspections for Building Energy rating and in excess of 200 individual inspections have been undertaken in this area.

### **12.11. Forward Planning**

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

#### **12.11.1. Implementation of the Meath County Development Plan 2007 - 2013**

Significant progress was made in the preparation of Local Area Plans for towns and villages throughout the County.

#### **12.11.2. Local Area Plans**

In 2008 pre draft consultation commenced on the following Local Area Plans:-  
Kentstown , Slane, Duleek, Donore, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Kilcock, Maynooth, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, Dunboyne, Kildalkey, Clonard, Kilmessan, Rathmoylon, Athboy, Oldcastle, Crossakiel, Carnaross, Moynalty, Drumcondrath, Kilmainhamwood, Nobber, Carlanstown, Gibbstown and Rathcairn.

The Draft Local Area Plans for Ballivor, Enfield, Longwood, Summerhill and The Southern Environs of Drogheda Local Area Plan was published in 2008.

### 12.11.3. Development Plan Variations

The following Variations were made to the County Development Plan 2007 – 2013.

Variation No. 2 - Order of Priority 'for the release of residentially zoned lands', adopted on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2008.

Variation No. 4, relates to zoning additional lands to ensure the provision of adequate community and educational zoned lands to serve Longwood, adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.

Variation No. 5, relates to lands located in the townland of Milltown in Ashbourne town centre, adopted on 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2008.

Variation No. 6, relates to the Rural Housing Policy, adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2008

Variation No. 7, relates to two parcels of lands at Readstown and Johnstown, Dunshaughlin which was adopted 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2008.

### 12.11.4. Town Development Plans

Trim Development Plan review was completed.

Navan Development Plan review commenced and pre draft stage completed.

### 12.11.5. Other Projects

- Rural Design Guide, work ongoing.
- Tara Skryne Valley Landscape Conservation Area, project commenced.
- IFPLUT (integrated framework plan for land use & transport) - Dunboyne, Clonee and Pace, work ongoing.
- Review of Regional Planning Guidelines, work ongoing.
- Meath County Development Plan Implementation Progress Report, work commenced.
- Motorway Interchange Study, work commenced.
- Order of Priority Review, work ongoing.
- Graig Design Statement to commence.
- Greater Dublin Area Retail Strategy published in December, 2008.

Local Area Plans will be brought to completion in 2009.

Navan Development Plan review will be completed.



Official opening of Planning Offices, Abbey Road by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Nick Killian with Tom Dowling, Co. Manager, and Liam Henry, Director of Services, Planning.

## 13. TOWN COUNCILS

### 13.1. Kells

Kells Town Council is the Local Authority for the Urban District of Kells. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors.

Members of Kells Town Council are as follows: Councillors Brian Collins-Cathaoirleach, Brian Curran Leas Cathaoirleach, Peter Caffrey, Sean Drew, Conor Ferguson, Tommy Grimes, A.O. Farrrelly, Bryan Reilly, Oliver Sweeney.

#### 13.1.1. Core Activities

Kells Town council provides a wide range of services that are vital for the development and functioning of the town. These services include:

- Housing
- Planning control & development
- Urban Roads
- Water & Waste Water

#### 13.1.2. Kells Development Plan

The Kells Development Plan came into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 and it sets out the framework for the medium to long term development of the town. Legally the current plan will be in place up to 2013. The plan provides for the commercial and industrial development of the town into the future. Town centre expansion areas have been provided for in the Backlands and in land located between Bective Street/Suffolk Street and the Oldcastle Road. Sufficient industrial zoned land is now provided for in the Lloyd area stretching between Clavin's Bridge, the River Blackwater and the N52 By-Pass of Kells.

The full implementation of the town development plan will yield the donation of 32 acres of amenity land along the river Blackwater between the Carlanstown and Headfort roads including the Headfort Mausoleum. An additional 60 acres of recreational land is also feasible off the Navan and Moynalty roads.

#### 13.1.3. Housing

The Headfort Grove & Blackthorn Refurbishment projects are well underway & with the difficult decisions facing all Local Authorities, Kells Town Council is surely in a unique position in the provision of Housing. Twenty two new additional houses will be provided once the schemes are completed.

#### 13.1.4. M3 Motorway

The M3 and N52 by-pass of the town are substantially ahead of target & it is hoped that this will be completed well ahead of its summer 2010 target. The successful completion of this project will benefit the town greatly through the removal of very heavy traffic that continues to hinder business development and the quality of life of the towns' citizens. It will be essential for the Town Council in collaboration with Meath County Council to prepare a comprehensive traffic management plan for Kells in order to benefit from the situation after the completion of the by-pass. Widespread consultation through the proposed traffic forum will be central to this development.



### 13.1.5. Roadworks' Programme

During 2008 the roads and footpath were completed at:

Description of works	Location
Circular Road	Carriageway Reconstruction
Gooseberry Lane	Carriageway Reconstruction
O'Growney Tce	Drainage Works
Blackthorn Close	Provision of Ramps
Magdalene Court	Provision of Ramps
The Grove, Farrell Street	Provision of Ramps
Archdeaconry View	Provision of Ramps
Cross Carrick Street	Provision of Ramps
Stonebridge	Provision of Ramps
Fairgreen	Renewal of Footpaths
Gardenrath Road	Renewal of Footpaths
Willie Black Crescent	Renewal of Footpaths
Fr Mc Cullen Park	Renewal of Kerbing
St Colmcille Villas ( back lane)	Surface Dressing
Fr Mc Cullen Park ( back lane)	Works

### 13.1.6. Recreation and Amenity

Works were carried out to enhance the Fair Green

### 13.1.7. Collection Rates

Commercial Rates 96%

Rents 93%

### 13.1.8. Economic Development

Further expansions occurred in the Lloyd Business Park with the opening of Midland Construction in October 2008.

## 13.2. Navan

Navan Town Council is the Local Authority for the Urban District of Navan. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors.

Members of Navan Town Council are as follows: Councillors: Andy Brennan- Mayor, John Duffy, Anne Gibney, Jim Holloway, Christopher Reilly, Tommy Reilly, Shane Cassells, Padraig Fitzsimons.

### 13.2.1. Special Projects

#### **Kennedy Place**

Construction works on the Civic Space at Kennedy Road were completed in 2008 and the official opening took place on 11<sup>th</sup> June. This Civic Space is now known as Kennedy Place.

#### **Market Square/Watergate St Enhancement**

The detail design of the Market Square/Watergate St enhancement scheme is ongoing. The scheme is expected to go to tender in early 2009 with construction commencing later in 2009.

#### **Navan Town Park**

Work on the detailed design of the scheme was progressing with Phase 1 expected to go to tender in 2009.

#### **Solstice Arts Centre**

The Solstice Arts Centre which was opened in 2006 continues to host a wide and varied list of events for the residents of the Town and the county at large. Approx 38,000 people visited the Solstice Arts Centre in 2008.

#### **Alteration of Town Boundary**

Work on the proposal to extend the town boundary was advanced in 2008.

### 13.2.2. Roadworks' Programmes

<b>Description of works</b>	<b>Location</b>
Resurfaced Area to front of houses.	Connolly Avenue –
Replaced Footpath	Abbey Crescent
Upgraded Footpaths	Academy Street
Resurfaced through road and remarked ramps.	Emmett Terrace
Constructed footpaths between Abbey Mall & Post Office.	Abbey Road
Footpaths	Dean Cogan/O 'Growney Terrace
Surfacing at entrance to estate	Abbeylands Crescent –
Upgraded public lighting.	St. Finian's Terrace
Safety railing installed at laneway adjacent to Dean Cogan.	St. Patrick's Terrace
Resurfacing works and provision of additional parking areas.	Dean Cogan
Resurfaced Area to front of houses.	Connolly Avenue
Replaced Footpath	Abbey Crescent
Upgraded Footpaths	Academy Street
Resurfaced through road and remarked ramps.	Emmett Terrace



### **13.3. Trim**

Trim Town Council is the Local Authority for the Urban District of Trim. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors.

Members of Trim Town Council are as follows: Councillors Ray Butler - Cathaoirleach, Gerry Reilly Leas Cathaoirleach, Phil Cantwell, Cllr Trevor Golden, Vincent McHugh, Robbie Griffith, Margaret McGivern, Danny O' Brien, Jimmy Peppard.

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

Trim town is one of Ireland's most celebrated heritage towns and as its population is set to more than treble from 4,000 at the turn of the millennium to 15,000 by 2010. Its community has managed sustainable development that ensures that the town is a truly living community and will remain so into the future.

#### **13.3.1. Roadworks' Programme**

During 2008 the roads and footpath Reconstruction and Restoration Programme continued. Works were completed on High Street. Works continued on the O.P.W. new headquarters which encompassed a joint Trim Town Council and Meath County Council project of construction a new road to service this site.

#### **13.3.2. Trim sports and Leisure Complex**

The construction of the new Trim Sports and Leisure Centre was completed in 2008 and it is planned to open the centre to the public by the end of February 2009.

#### **13.3.3. Trim Town Development Plan**

Trim Town Development Plan was adopted which provides clear plans and guidelines for development in the town over the next five years.

#### **13.3.4. Twinning Projects**

The Town Council established a partnership with Stirling and Doune Councils which will focus on the heritage aspect of the three towns and promoting tourism and educational links.

#### **13.3.5. Tidy Towns**

Trim Town Council in conjunction with Trim Tidy Towns Committee achieved a high standard and were awarded a Bronze Medal in National Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony. Jarvey bye Laws were introduced to the town.

Trim retained its Litter Free Status in the IBAL Litter League.

#### **13.3.6. Conferences**

Trim Town Council hosted the spring Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland. Over 400 Town Council delegates converged in the Trim Castle Hotel for the two-day conference. The Town Council also participated along with Meath County Council in hosting the Local Authority Members Association Spring Conference at the end of March in Knightsbrook Hotel and Spa Complex.



#### 14. APPENDIX 1: SPC MEMBERS

Full Name	Address	Representative	Phone No.	Email
<b>Environmental SPC</b>				
Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher Chair	Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Slane Area	0416854487	<a href="mailto:Adillongallagher@members.meathcoco.ie">Adillongallagher@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Patsy O' Neill	Wilinstown, Slane, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Navan Area	0469054122	<a href="mailto:Poneill@members.meathcoco.ie">Poneill@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Eddie Downey	Monknewtown, Co. Meath	Pillar – Farming	0868044605	
Patrick O' Brien	East Commons, Station Road, Duleek, Co. Meath	Pillar – Community	0861662018	
Ms Penny Mc Gowan	Kells Chamber of Commerce, Castle Street, Kells, Co. Meath	Pillar – Business & Commercial		
Cllr Michael Lynch	4 Whitehall, Oldcastle, Co. Meath	Cllr Kells Area	0861080585	<a href="mailto:Mlynch@members.meathcoco.ie">Mlynch@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Peter Higgins	High Street, Trim, Co. Meath	Cllr Trim Area	0469431213	<a href="mailto:Phiggins@members.meathcoco.ie">Phiggins@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Liz Mc Cormack	3 Park View Athboy	Cllr Kells Area	087 6880710	<a href="mailto:Lmccormack@members.meathcoco.ie">Lmccormack@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Tom Kelly	Ui Máine, Laytown, Trim, Co. Meath	Cllr Slane Area	0419887955	<a href="mailto:Tkelly@members.meathcoco.ie">Tkelly@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Brian Collins	Cavan Road, Kells, Co. Meath	Cllr Kells Town Council	0876829205	<a href="mailto:Bcollins@members.kellstc.ie">Bcollins@members.kellstc.ie</a>
Cllr Joseph Bonner	Donaghmore, Ashbourne, Co. Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	0879749563	<a href="mailto:Jbonner@members.meathcoco.ie">Jbonner@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Thomas C. Burke	Castle House, Lagavooren, Drogeda	Community Rep	041 983 5584 087 274 0080	<a href="mailto:tcaburke@hotmail.com">tcaburke@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Infrastructural Development SPC</b>				
Cllr Shane Cassells Chair	8 Moatlands Drive, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Navan Area	01 8407107	<a href="mailto:Scassells@members.meathcoco.ie">Scassells@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Oliver Brooks –	Kileen Road, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	0872573765	<a href="mailto:Obrooks@members.meathcoco.ie">Obrooks@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Seamus Mc Gee	Mc Gees Cross, Crossakiel, Kells, Co. Meath	Farming – Pillar		
John Maguire	Irish Concrete Federation, 8 Newlands Park, Naas Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22	Business & Commercial – Pillar		
Miriam Mc Kenna	Unit 30-32 Navan Enterprise Centre, Trim Road, Navan	Community	0469074830	<a href="mailto:Meathtransport@eircom.net">Meathtransport@eircom.net</a>
Eamon Gavigan		Business & Commercial		
Cllr Noel Leonard	4 St Patrick's Park, Dunboyne, Co. Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	018251216	<a href="mailto:Nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie">Nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Jimmy Fegan	Clonfane, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr Trim Area	0469431146	<a href="mailto:Jfegan@members.meathcoco.ie">Jfegan@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Charles Bobbett	Kilbegnet, Fleenstown Lane, The Ward, Co. Dublin.	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	018353154	<a href="mailto:Cbobbett@members.meathcoco.ie">Cbobbett@members.meathcoco.ie</a>



Cllr William Carey	Newcastle, Enfield, Co. Meath.	Cllr Trim Area	0469541064	<a href="mailto:Wcarey@members.meathcoco.ie">Wcarey@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr. Phillip Brennan	41 Silverlawns, Navan	Cllr. Navan TC	(087)2660515	<a href="mailto:pbrennan@members.navantc.ie">pbrennan@members.navantc.ie</a>
Cllr Michael Gallagher	Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Kells Area	0416854498	<a href="mailto:Mgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie">Mgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
<b>Planning &amp; Economic Development SPC</b>				
Cllr Tommy Reilly Chair	Ardsallagh, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Navan Area	0469028875	<a href="mailto:treilly@eircom.net">treilly@eircom.net</a>
Cllr Eoin Holmes	Blackhill, Heathstown, Stanmullen	Cllr Slane Area	0879287646	<a href="mailto:eholmes@members.meathcoco.ie">eholmes@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Emer Dunne	Gilltown, Beauparc, Navan	Farming – Pillar	0419824830	
Oliver Reilly	Clegarrow, Enfield, Co. Meath.	Trade Union – Pillar		
Shaun Lynch	Newlanes House, Duleek, Co. Meath	Community	0419823315	
Sean Boyle	Tara House, 38 Trimgate Street, Navan	Business & Commerical	0469023797	
Cllr Bryan Reilly	Rockfield Road, Kells, Co. Meath.	Cllr Kells Area	0469240122	<a href="mailto:Breilly@members.meathcoco.ie">Breilly@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr John V Farrelly	Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath.	Cllr Kells Area	0469241290	<a href="mailto:Remaxroyallcounty@eircom.net">Remaxroyallcounty@eircom.net</a>
Cllr Jim Holloway	Farganstown, Boyne Road, Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr Navan Area	0469028661	<a href="mailto:Jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie">Jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Warrenstown, Kilcock, Co. Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	018251847	<a href="mailto:Bfitzgerald@members.meathcoco.ie">Bfitzgerald@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Patrick Boshell	Laytown Road, Julianstown,	Cllr Slane Area	0419829264 0877543537	<a href="mailto:Pboshell@members.meathcoco.ie">Pboshell@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Joe Reilly	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr Navan Area	0469028392	<a href="mailto:Jreilly@members.meathcoco.ie">Jreilly@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
<b>Social, Community &amp; Cultural Development SPC</b>				
Cllr James Mangan Chair	Rathfeigh, Tara	Cllr Navan Area	041 9825429	<a href="mailto:Jmangan@members.meathcoco.ie">Jmangan@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Nick Killian	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	018256700	<a href="mailto:Nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie">Nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Brendan Conway	54 Millbrook, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath	Trade Union – Pillar	018882183	
Maureen Kerrigan	Bohermeen ICA, Cortown, Kells, Co. Meath	Community	0469434136	<a href="mailto:Kerriganmn@yahoo.com">Kerriganmn@yahoo.com</a>
James Doorley	D.F.I., St Annes Community Centre, Railway Street, Navan, Co. Meath	Community	0469059488 0863834587	<a href="mailto:Jamesdoorley@disability-federation.ie">Jamesdoorley@disability-federation.ie</a>
Patricia Hehir	The Moate, Rathmoylon, Co. Meath.	Community	0469555589 0876216702	<a href="mailto:Patricia-hehir@hotmail.com">Patricia-hehir@hotmail.com</a>
Cllr Seamus Murray	Cullentra, Longwood, Co. Meath	Cllr Trim Area	0469555189	<a href="mailto:Smurray@members.meathcoco.ie">Smurray@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Jenny D'Arcy	Apt 1, 7 Trimgate Street, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr Navan Area	0872619695	<a href="mailto:Jdarcy@members.meathcoco.ie">Jdarcy@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Possetown, Nobber, Co. Meath.	Cllr Kells Area	0469052116	<a href="mailto:Ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie">Ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Trevor Golden	Church Lane, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr Trim Town Council	0868447420	<a href="mailto:Tgolden@members.trimtc.ie">Tgolden@members.trimtc.ie</a>
Cllr Phillip Cantwell	"Villa Maria", Manorland, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr Trim Area	0469431515	<a href="mailto:Pcantwell@members.meathcoco.ie">Pcantwell@members.meathcoco.ie</a>
Cllr Jimmy Cudden	23 St Cieran's Villas, Duleek, Co. Meath.	Cllr Slane Area	0419823353	<a href="mailto:Jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie">Jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie</a>





## 15. APPENDIX 2: SPS ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Strategic Policy Committees 2008		
Name	Meetings Held	Report on Activities
Environmental	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll out of Brown-Bin Service</li> <li>• Payment of Domestic Waste by Weight/Volume</li> <li>• Collection, Storage and Presentation of Waste Byelaws</li> <li>• Major Illegal Dumping Sites</li> <li>• Enforcement Policy on Unauthorised Waste Activities</li> <li>• Operation of Civic Amenity Sites</li> <li>• River Basin District Management Plans</li> <li>• Major Emergency Planning Framework</li> <li>• Provision of Burial Grounds</li> <li>• Operation of Fire Service</li> <li>• Water Framework Directive</li> <li>• Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>• End of Life Vehicles</li> <li>• Tyre &amp; Waste Tyre Regulations</li> </ul>
Infrastructural Development	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Speed Limit Bye Laws for Co Meath</li> <li>• Unauthorised sale of vehicles on Public Roads</li> <li>• Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study</li> <li>• Environmental Noise Regulations</li> <li>• Noise Action Plan</li> </ul>
Planning & Economic Development	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of Rural Design Guidelines</li> <li>• Review of Development Contribution Scheme</li> <li>• Workshop on Wastewater Treatment Systems</li> <li>• Taking in Charge Policy for Housing Estates review</li> <li>• Planning &amp; Development Guidance Note for a rural dwelling</li> <li>• Updates from Economic Development Unit</li> </ul>
Housing, Social, Cultural & Community	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Building Programme</li> <li>• Housing – proposed Capital Allocation 2008-2010</li> <li>• Housing work programme and Business Plan for 2008</li> <li>• Provision of Community &amp; Recreational facilities in Windtown Navan</li> <li>• Council's Land Bank</li> <li>• Council's Internal Capital Receipts</li> <li>• Up-date on Affordable Housing &amp; Part V</li> <li>• Disabled Persons Grant Scheme and the Essential Repairs Grants Schemes / New Schemes</li> <li>• Housing Needs Assessment 2008</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capital Allocation for 2008</li><li>• DPG's &amp; ERG's</li><li>• Homeless Shelter</li><li>• Staff in Housing Area</li><li>• Draft Meath Local Authorities Play Policy</li><li>• Proposed amendments to the Housing Strategy in view of changing economic circumstances for Social &amp; Affordable Housing Provision</li><li>• New Framework of Grants scheme which have replaced DPG's &amp; ERG's</li><li>• Revisions to the Schemes of Letting Priorities</li><li>• Issues relating to Anti-Social Behaviour</li><li>• Draft County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2012</li><li>• Draft Meath Homeless Action Plan 2007-2011</li><li>• Draft Disability Implementation Plan 2008-2015</li><li>• Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013</li><li>• Update on Affordable Housing</li></ul>
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### 16. APPENDIX 3: COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

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



	Cllr James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
Meath County Enterprise Board	Cllr Patrick Boshell	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
Integrated Local Development Co. Meath Partnership	Cllr. Patsy O' Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Liz Mc Cormack	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Michael Gallagher	<i>Sinn Féin</i>
Meath Local Sports Partnership Ltd. Council Chamber	Cllr Liz Mc Cormack	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
Mid East Regional Tourism Organisation Various	Cllr John V. Farrelly	<i>Fine Gael</i>
Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd.	Cllr Jim Holloway	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	Cllr Shane Cassells	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
Regional Advisory Council Teagasc	Cllr Seamus Murray	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
Rural Water Monitoring Committee	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	<i>Fine Gael</i>



	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	Cllr Michael Lynch	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Noel Leonard	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Seamus Murray	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
Tara Mines Environmental Monitoring		
	Cllr Jim Holloway	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	<i>Cllr Joe Reilly</i>	<i>Sinn Féin</i>
	<i>Cllr Patsy O'Neill</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	<i>Cllr Phillip Cantwell</i>	<i>Non Party</i>
	<i>Cllr. Shane Cassells</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr. Tommy Reilly</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
Meath Tourism Board	<i>Cllr Tommy Reilly</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr John V. Farrelly</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>
Meath VEC	<i>Cllr Bryan Reilly</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Patrick Boshell</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Tommy Reilly</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Seamus Murray</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Nick Killian</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Jenny D'Arcy</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	<i>Cllr Charles Bobbett</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>



	<i>Cllr. James Mangan</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Noel Leonard</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	<i>Cllr Joe Reilly</i>	<i>Sinn Féin</i>
	<i>Cllr W. Carey</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>
Meath Energy Management Agency	<i>Cllr Patsy O'Neill</i>	<i>Fine Gael</i>
	<i>Cllr Tom Kelly</i>	<i>Non-Party</i>
	<i>Cllr Michael Gallagher</i>	<i>Sinn Fein</i>
Library Advisory	<i>Cllr Patrick Boshell</i>	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Michael Lynch	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Peter Higgins	<i>Fine Gael</i>
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	Cllr Seamus Murray	<i>Fianna Fáil</i>
	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
Protocol Committee	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Patsy O' Neill	Fine Gael
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tom Kelly	Non Party
	Cllr James Mangan	Fianna Fail
	Cllr Jimmy Cudden	Non Party
CPG	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil



	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
Regional Health Forum Dublin & North East	Cllr Ann Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Joe Reilly	Sinn Fein
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Seamus Murray	Fianna Fáil
Heritage Forum	Cllr Tom Kelly	Green Party
Slane Forum	Cllr Ann Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
Eastern River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
Neagh Bann International River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fail
Shannon International River Basin District Advisory	Cllr Tom Kelly	Green Party
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
MCC Audit	Cllr. James Mangan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fianna Fáil
Delegation – RPG Implementation Group	Cllr Tom Kelly	
East Border Region	Cllr William Carey	
	Cllr John Farrelly	
	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	
	Cllr Michael Gallagher	
	Cllr Noel Leonard	
	Cllr James Mangan	



17. APPENDIX 4: CONFERENCES AT HOME

2008 Home Conferences attended by the Elected Members			
Title	Dates		Members Attended
Forty Shades of Green Tourism	01/02/2008 – 02/02/2008		Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr. William Carey
The Local Government Planning Services 2008	01/02/2008 – 03/02/2008		Cllr James Mangan
			Cllr Oliver Brooks
Planning for Renewable Energy	07/02/2008 – 08/02/2009		Cllr James Holloway
AMAI Spring Seminar 2008	15/02/2008 – 16/02/2008		Cllr James Mangan
			Cllr Liz McCormack
			Cllr William Carey
Irelands New Immigrants – Ensuring Participation in 2009 Elections	21/02/2008 – 23/02/2008		Cllr James Holloway
			Cllr Seamus Murray
Suicide Prevention – A Call to Action	22/02/2008 – 23/02/2008		Cllr Liz McCormack
19 <sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School 2008	29/02/2008 – 02/03/2008		Cllr James Holloway
			Cllr James Mangan
			Cllr Noel Leonard
			Cllr Patsy O Neill
			Cllr Seamus Murray
ACCC Annual Spring Conference 2008	06/03/2008 – 08/03/2008		Cllr William Carey
LAMA Annual Spring Seminar 2008	27/03/2008 – 28/03/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
			Cllr Eugene Cassidy
			Cllr Liz McCormack
			Cllr Michael Lynch
			Cllr Oliver Brooks
			Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr William Carey
Water The Challenges for Users	17/04/2008 – 18/04/2008		Cllr Seamus Murray
Local Economic & Social Development	21/04/2008 – 21/04/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
A shared future – shaping the fabric of our communities	24/04/2008 – 25/04/2008		Cllr James Holloway
Tipperary International Peace Conference 2008	25/04/2008 – 27/07/2008		Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Tommy Reilly
Planning Seminar for Councillors	25/04/2008 – 26/04/2008		Cllr Noel Leonard
			Cllr Seamus Murray
Dept of Environ Traveller Consultative Committee	27/05/2008 – 27/05/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
			Cllr Noel Leonard
Bru na Boinne World Heritage Site Research Framework Public Seminar	17/06/2008 – 17/06/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
Success on your Doorstep – Managing your local Environment for Tourism Growth	18/06/2008 – 20/06/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher





			Cllr Michael Lynch
			Cllr Noel Leonard
<b>From "Murder Machine" to Modern Education</b>	27/06/2008 – 29/06/2008		Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Tommy Reilly
<b>The Local Government Planning Service – Cork</b>	04/07/2008 – 06/07/2008		Cllr James Mangan
			Cllr Oliver Brooks
			Cllr William Carey
<b>Summer School &amp; Arts Week 2008</b>	12/07/2008 – 19/07/2008		Cllr Tommy Reilly
<b>The Role of Local Government in Sport</b>	30/07/2008 – 01/08/2009		Cllr Oliver Brooks
			Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr William Carey
<b>Merriman Summer School</b>	17/08/2008 – 23/08/2008		Cllr Tommy Reilly
<b>95<sup>th</sup> AMAI Annual Conference 2008</b>	10/09/2008 – 13/09/2008		Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr William Carey
<b>7th Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend</b>	12/09/2008 – 14/09/2008		Cllr Charles Bobbett
<b>Valuing our Waters</b>	18/09/2008 – 18/09/2008		Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Tom Kelly
<b>Heat Recovery and Energy Recycling for the Domestic Dwelling</b>	19/09/2008 – 21/09/2008		Cllr Charles Bobbett
			Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Noel Leonard
			Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr Seamus Murray
			Cllr Tommy Reilly
<b>Citizen First – Using Technology to include all Citizens</b>	25/09/2008 – 26/09/2008		Cllr Michael Lynch
<b>Irish Ports Conference 2008</b>	26/09/2008 – 26/09/2008		Cllr Tom Kelly
<b>Tipperary Remembrance Trust</b>	26/09/2008 – 28/09/2008		Cllr Charles Bobbett
<b>Addiction Proofing our Communities</b>	02/10/2008 – 03/10/2008		Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
			Cllr Jimmy Fegan
			Cllr Liz McCormack
			Cllr Michael Gallagher
			Cllr Seamus Murray
<b>Freedom of Information Seminar for Councillors</b>	10/10/2008 – 11/10/2008		Cllr Jimmy Cudden
			Cllr Noel Leonard
			Cllr Patsy O Neill
<b>A crisis brewing, the challenge for Councillors</b>	16/10/2008 – 18/10/2008		Cllr James Holloway
			Cllr Michael Lynch



<b>Lost in Translation – Douglas Hyde Conference</b>	17/10/2008 – 19/10/2008			Cllr William Carey
<b>The Good Friday Agreement – 10yrs on</b>	24/10/2008 – 25/10/2008			Cllr John V Farrelly
<b>Family Life Today – The Greatest Revolution</b>	04/11/2008 – 05/11/2008			Cllr Michael Lynch
<b>Aoife 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 2008</b>	06/11/2008 – 08/11/2008			Cllr James Mangan
				Cllr Jimmy Fegan
<b>2008 All Island Public Consultation Conference</b>	13/11/2008 – 13/11/2008			Cllr Nick Killian
<b>Public Relations and Communication Skills for Councillors</b>	14/11/2008 – 16/11/2008			Cllr Charles Bobbett
				Cllr James Mangan
				Cllr Oliver Brooks
				Cllr Philip Cantwell
<b>Information &amp; Communication Technology for Councillors</b>	21/11/2008 – 23/11/2008			Cllr Charles Bobbett
<b>LAMA – Annual Winter Seminar 2008</b>	26/11/2008 – 27/11/2008			Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher
				Cllr Jimmy Cudden
				Cllr Michael Gallagher
				Cllr Noel Leonard
				Cllr Oliver Brooks
				Cllr Tom Kelly
				Cllr Tommy Reilly
<b>Co-operation and Integration the Key to Successful Tourism</b>	27/11/2008 – 29/11/2008			Cllr Eugene Cassidy
				Cllr James Holloway
				Cllr Michael Lynch
				Cllr Patsy O Neill
				Cllr Philip Cantwell
<b>Meet the Planners Work</b>	03/12/2008 – 03/12/2008			Cllr Nick Killian
<b>Effective Communication for Councillors Winter 2008</b>	12/12/2008 – 14/12/2008			Cllr Charles Bobbett
				Cllr John V Farrelly
				Cllr Patsy O Neill





## 19. APPENDIX 5: MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL - 2008

Monthly Meetings	11
Special Meetings	13
Annual	1
Pre Budget and Budget	2
Protocol	11
CPG	11
SPC – Environment	3
SPC - Infrastructure	3
SPC – Social,Community & Culture	4
SPC – Planning & Economic	4
Area - Dunshaughlin	16
- Kells	12
- Navan	11
Slane	26
Trim	18



## 20. APPENDIX 6: ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2008		
Expenditure	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	12.756	40.444
Roads Transportation & Safety	28.314	83.837
Water & Sewerage	22.131	58.761
Development Incentives & Controls	12.610	28.452
Environmental Protection	13.879	2.463
Recreation & Amenity	7.127	22.464
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	6.670	0.035
Miscellaneous	9.667	6.104
<b>Total</b>	<b>113.154</b>	<b>242.560</b>
<b>Income</b> (See funding sources below)	59.327	198.495
Net Transfers		0.088
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from County	<b>(53.827)</b>	
Rates	21.520	
Local Government Fund	30.298	
Charges to Urbans	2.881	
Transfer from (to) Reserves	(0.689)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.183	(43.977)
Opening Balance (01/01/07)	(9.797)	91.053
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>(9.614)</b>	<b>47.076</b>
Funding Sources	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
State Grants & Subsidies	29.564	153.227
Borrowings		6.776
Other Receipts	3.730	38.492
Rents from Houses	5.660	
Housing Loans	1.044	
Commercial Water and Sewerage	3.481	
Planning Fees	1.855	
Recreation & Amenity Activities	0.442	
Fire Charges	0.754	
Pension Contributions	1.780	
Miscellaneous	11.017	
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.327</b>	<b>198.495</b>



**Members allowances and expenses for Conferences (€)**

Chairman's and SPC Chairs Allowance	€ 73,576
Councillors' Gratuities	0
Member's Expenses/Salaries	798,125
Attendance at Conferences abroad	29,621