

Annual Report

2009



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1. FOREWORD

The publication of the Annual Report 2009 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.

The Local Elections 2009 resulted in the establishment of a new County Council and new Town Councils in Navan Trim and Kells. We congratulate and welcome our newly elected Councillors and we acknowledge the hard work and service of those Councillors who were unsuccessful and those who retired from office.

A new Corporate Plan was prepared for the period 2009 – 2014 in consultation with the citizens of the County, the elected Councillors, the County development Board and the Management and staff of Meath Local Authorities. The six organization-wide objectives outlined in the Corporate Plan are:

1. To promote a positive image of county Meath as a place to live, an ideal tourist destination and a business location of choice for investors.
2. To deliver efficient and effective services for our citizens.
3. To plan and develop the social and physical infrastructure of County Meath to strengthen our communities
4. To facilitate and stimulate sustainable economic growth and employment opportunities
5. To support and enhance community participation and local democracy.
6. To develop our towns as living, viable community and commercial centres.

During 2009, Meath County Council faced the challenges of the economic downturn and continued to deliver efficient and quality services with fewer staff and reduced income. Responding to an ever changing economic climate puts a strain on all our citizens and Meath County council is committed to supporting communities by working in partnership with them to encourage participation in the development of cultural and environmental programmes and to promote social inclusion.

Meath County Council continues to focus on economic development and the promotion of Co. Meath as a prime location for inward investment. 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.

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.

Willie Carey
Cathaoirleach

Tom Dowling
County Manager





2. LOCAL DEMOCRACY

	Electoral Area	Name	Address	Politicical	Phone No.	Email
	Dunshaughlin	Cllr. Regina Doherty	2 Glebe Park, Ratoath	Fine Gael	01 8257204 087 2680182	Regina.doherty@finegael.ie
		Cllr. Joseph Bonner	Donaghmore, Asbourne.	Non-Party	0879749563	Jbonner@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Niamh McGowan	3 Hunter's Lane, Ashbourne	Labour	086 2244666	Niamhformeach@gmail.com
		Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Warrenstown, Kilcock.	Non-Party	01 8251847 087 2508247	Briannfitzgerald@yahoo.com
		Cllr. Nick Killian	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne	Fianna Fáil	01 8256700 086 8109018	Nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Noel Leonard	4 St. Patrick's Park, Dunboyne	Fianna Fáil	01 8251216 087 2345186	Nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr Maria Murphy	3 The Close, Lutterell Hall, Dunboyne	Fine Gael	01 8252182 087 6579895	mariacmurphy@eircom.net

	Kells	Cllr. John V. Farrelly	Hurdlestown, Kells.	Fine Gael	046 9241290 046 9073737 086 2585154	Remaxroyalcounty@eircom.net
		Cllr. Catherine Yore	The Rock, Rathendrick, Carnaross, Kells	Fine Gael	046 9245047 086 3919003	catherineannyore@hotmail.com
		Cllr. Eugene Cassidy	Possextown, Nobber	Fine Gael	046 9052116 086 3717686	ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Oliver Fox	Cogan St, Oldcastle	Fianna Fáil	049 8542774 087 2795741	Johnoliverfox@gmail.com
		Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Rockfield Road, Kells	Fianna Fáil	046 9240122 086 2599184	brvan@brvanreillyauctioneers.com

	Navan	Cllr. Francis Deane	5 Blackwater Drive, Navan	Non-Party	046 9023696 046 9022587 086 1234856	fideanel@eircom.net
		Cllr. Shane Cassells Cllr. Shane Cassells	52 Oakleigh, Navan	Fianna Fáil	01 8407107 086 3399198	Scassells@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Flemington, Balrath, Navan	Fine Gael	041 9825567 087 7971297	suzjamal@hotmail.com
		Cllr. Jim Holloway	Farganstown, Navan	Fine Gael	046 9028661 086 2355236	Jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Jenny McHugh	Laracor, Trim	Labour	046 9431775 086 0414217	jenny.mchugh@gmail.com
		Cllr. Joe Reilly	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan	Sinn Fein	046 9028392 046 9021345 087 2478508	Joereilly@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Ardsallagh, Navan	Fianna Fáil	046 9027588 087 7450149	tommyreilly@members.meathcoco.ie

	Slane	Cllr. Sirena Campbell	Smithstown, Julianstown	Fine Gael	087 6444681	Sirena.campbell@ireland.com
		Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek	Non-Party	041 9823353 086 8246484	Jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Ann Dillon-Gallagher	Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan	Fine Gael	041 6854487 086 8800866	adgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Eoin Holmes	Blackhill, Heathstown, Stanmullen.	Labour	087 2242 765	eholmes@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Seamus O'Neill	Main St, Duleek	Non-Party	041 9823467 086 8548183	seamusoneill2@eircom.net
		Cllr. Wayne Harding	The Village Inn, Slane	Fianna Fáil	041 9824230 087 7446730	waynemharding@gmail.com

	Trim	Cllr. William Carey	Newcastle, Enfield	Fine Gael	046 9541064 085 7135073	Wcarey@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Clonfane, Trim	Fianna Fáil	046 9431146 087 8304646	Jfegan@members.meathcoco.ie
		Cllr. Ray Butler	7 Swift Court, Trim	Fine Gael	046 9437589 086 1012088	raybutlertrim@eircom.net
		Cllr. Tracy McElhinney	Ballivor	Labour	046 9567641 086 8781785	tracyloughlin@hotmail.com

3. 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

3.1. Meath Co. Development Board

In 2009, Meath County Development Board met four times. Following a review of the Board's Strategy document "Meath in Transition", the CDB prepared a document entitled "An Mhí Ag Obair Le Cheile Meath Working Together 2009 – 2012" a review of Le Cheile – An Integrated Strategy for Meath to 2012 and Meath in Transition 2005 – 2008.

The priorities and actions of the Strategy are:

- Training & Development
- Economic Development
- Sustainable Development
- Social Inclusion
- Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan

Following on from the recommendations set out in the Indecon review of CDB's, a Meath Economic Forum sub committee was established in March 2009. One of the key actions of the Forum is to prepare a Training and Skills Needs Analysis for County Meath. In June 2009 an interagency group was established to focus on the needs of employment seekers in Meath.

3.2. Community Development

3.2.1. Community and Voluntary Sector Database

In 2009, community & voluntary groups were encouraged to register on its database. Over 1000 groups are registered and 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.

3.2.2. Community Fora

Meath County Community Forum & Electoral Area Community Fora

Following the Local Government elections in 2009, it was necessary to hold elections for new community and voluntary representatives to various committees. This process took place in November 2009 with the election in December 2009.

These members together with representatives from the Area Fora form a Steering Committee, which formulates a work plan and assists in arranging events for the member groups of Meath Community Forum. The DOEHLG supports this process.

3.2.3. Community IT Development

Communities Online Together

To date almost 600 community and voluntary groups and 80 schools have registered with the website projects. Training continued apace and the range and quality of features made available on the websites were continually improved upon in response to demand.

Resource Websites

The Meath Education and Training Directory (www.metd.ie) Meath Care Portal (www.meathcareportal.ie), Meath Support Services Directory (www.meathsupportservices.ie), Meath4Funding (www.meath4funding.ie) and Meath Business Property listings (www.meathbusinessproperty.ie) websites continued to provide valuable resources and information to the community.

3.2.4. Social Inclusion

3.2.4.1. 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.

3.2.4.2. Social Inclusion Unit

In 2009 a Social Inclusion Officer joined the Social Inclusion Analyst in the new Social Inclusion Unit for Meath County Council. Part funding continued to be provided by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government in response to Circular LG14/07 – Extension of Social Inclusion Unit Programme.

3.2.4.3. Youth

Funding was secured from the Office of Foreign Affairs to create a DVD on the impact of the European Union on the lives of young people in County Meath. This DVD is called You're a Euro and has been shown to a number of groups throughout County Meath.

A part-time co-ordinator was allocated to Meath Comhairle na nÓg in August 2009. This role is for one day per week and is funded through the development fund issued by the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.



Comhairle na nÓg – Celebrating Europe Project

From L to R: Joe McKenna Song School, Emma Keane CNN, Peter Baxter Songschool, Michael Killeen, MCC, Elliot Grace CNN, Cathaoirleach Cllr William Carey, Mairead McGuinness MEP, David O'Neil, CNN, Rosemary Corr, MCC, Cathy Martin, MCC.

3.2.4.4. Disability

During 2009, preparation continued on the Draft Meath Local Authorities Disability Implementation Plan. In June 2009, Meath Local Authorities received funding under the National Disability Strategy Plan Funding Scheme for Capital and Current expenditure addressed in circular letter LG (p) 08/09. A total of €250,096 capital and €89,567 current expenditure was secured for the following projects:



Current Expenditure	€
Disability Awareness training	5,500
Staff info. booklet	3,383
Part-Payment of Access Officer Salary	11,700
Libraries	49,472
MLSP	11,350
I.T.	8,000
	89,405

Capital Expenditure	€
Kells Area	60,018
Navan Area	60,018
Slane Area	60,018
Dunshaughlin Area	60,018
Library services	10,000
	250,072

3.3. Pride of Place Initiatives

Over 100 Community and Voluntary groups, schools, youth groups took part in the Pride of Place Initiatives in 2009. A wide range of excellent projects were completed by participants with many positive benefits for the greater Meath Community. Two new categories were added to the competition to encourage participation from the business and hospitality sectors.

Meath was represented in the National Co-Operation Pride of Place Competition in 2009, with Broomfield and District winning the National Award at an Awards Ceremony in County Down in November

3.4. Anti-Litter League

Seventy groups participated in the Meath County Council Anti Litter League in early 2009. Tonnes of rubbish were removed from the streets, roads and rural areas throughout the County in advance of the summer season.

3.5. 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 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 2009 and four community groups and voluntary organisations benefited from the €38,200 with an additional €25,000 approved to householders living within close vicinity to the landfill facility under the newly launched 'Small Grant Scheme'.

3.6. 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. Partners worked with in 2009 included: Solstice Arts Centre, Ratoath Community Centre, Alternative Entertainments Ltd., Music Network, Meath Heritage Office, Age and Opportunity Ireland, 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, Meath Harp Ensemble.

Public consultations for next County Arts Development Plan took place in Dunboyne, Ashbourne, Kells, Navan, Bettystown, and Oldcastle.

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

3.6.1. Féach

FÉACH – furthering enterprise, arts culture & heritage, is an initiative introduced in 2009 which seeks to enhance the role of creativity and innovation to society and the economy.



FÉACH's inaugural event took place in October 2009 and was a collaboration between the Arts Office, Library Services and Economic Development and Innovation Department of Meath County Council with Solstice Arts Centre and the Arts Council.

The event looked at the importance of the creative industries to both the economy and society with particular emphasis on Meath and was officially addressed by Aine Brady, TD, Minister for State at the Dept for Health and Children. Mary Cloake, Director, the Arts Council introduced the event. Case study presentations were made by Meath based Shane Holland, Shane Holland Designs, Deirdre Rogers, Glass Designer and Tall Tale Theatre Company. These were followed by a panel discussion which was chaired by Myles Dungan, RTE Presenter, Historian and Author. The panel included Mary Cloake, Director the Arts Council, Michael Ludlow, CEO Meath Partnership, Shane Holland, Gerardette Bailey County Arts Officer and Cllr Eoin Holmes, Chair, Meath Arts Forum. Tom Dowling, County Manager also spoke on the night.

3.6.2. Pucas & Potions

Introduced in 2009, Pucas and Potions Children's Halloween Festival is based on the traditional idea of trick or treat with a full day of activities. Children were required to collect nine hazelnuts in order to receive their "treat" from the Old Hag. To get the hazelnuts children had to engage in the creative activities that make up Pucas and Potions. Theses included: Scabs and Scars workshops where children made their own realistic scars, cuts and bruises; Lantern Making workshops; Puca Puppet Making and Storytelling from around the world.

In addition to the workshops children interacted with spooky spectres from Meath Youth Theatre as they entertained children throughout the day. The Giant Head of Mogriagh told the story of Halloween and how it all began. Children could also seek their fortune using the fun filled and messy Giant Brack of Fortune.

Pucas and Potions Children's Arts Festival was full of fun and activities that lasted into the early evening. Many groups took part in the event such as Meath Rehab, Meath Youthreach, Meath Arts Group, and Athboy Tidy Towns. Eight primary schools took part in the workshops in the weeks leading up to the Festival with over 1,500 children taking part in the event itself.

3.6.3. Bealtaine Festival

Lady of Letters – 10 performances in 9 different venues around Meath

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day – Diamond Cinema Navan –

National Gallery of Ireland History of Art Talks – Dunboyne, Navan, Ashbourne, Trim and Oldcastle Libraries

Painting classes with Seamus Smyth – Ashbourne Active Retirement group and Beauparc Active Retirement Group.

3.6.4. Bursaries and Awards 2008

3.6.4.1. Professional Artists Development Fund

Majella Clancy
Helen Blackhurst
Noelle Harrison
Slavek Kwi

3.6.4.2. Festival Grant Scheme

Kells Summer Festival
Navan Choral Festival
Le Chéile Arts and Music Festival
O'Carolan Harp, Cultural and Heritage Festival
Cornmarket Arts Festival, Navan
Mickey McKenna Traditional Music Festival, Trim

3.6.4.3. Bi-Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase 1

Enda Donnellan
Ashbourne Church Choir
Finola McFadden
He's My Dad Project - Springboard Navan
Navan Choral Festival



Simon Fagan
Loose Robe Productions
Meath Harp School
Craobh Olibhéir Pluncéid, Comhaltas
INF Brass Band
Heritage Art Group
Francis Ledwidge Museum & War Memorial Centre Ltd
Stackallen/Rathkenny Musical Society

3.6.4.4. Bi- Annual Arts Grant Scheme Phase 11

Tony McGrath
John Ryan
John O'Rourke

3.6.4.5. School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme

Ratoath S.N.S
O'Carolan College, Nobber
Coláiste na hInse, Bettystown
St. Patrick's NS, Ughtyneill, Moynalty
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Navan
Scoil Mhuire, Moylagh, Oldcastle
Dunshaughlin Community College.
St. Peter's College, Dunboyne
Ratoath College, Jamestown, Ratoath

3.6.4.6. Going Solo

Carol O'Connor
Emily Bruton

3.6.4.7. Community Arts Award

Navan Community Development Project
Kells Blackwater FC
St Louis N.S. Rathkenny
Cultúr, Navan

3.7. Heritage Services

3.7.1. Public Archaeological Event

A new book entitled '*Uncovering Medieval Trim Archaeological excavations in and around Trim, Co. Meath*' was published in 2009 and officially launched by Minister Noel Dempsey, TD. An educational event, attended by over 200 people, to celebrate the launch of the book and to raise awareness of archaeology was held in Trim in November 2009.

3.7.2. Heritage Week 2009

A number of events took place during this week in partnership with Meath County Council including:
Exhibition: 150 Years of Bellewstown, its Fieldnames, Families and Dwellings

This event was organised by the Bellewstown Heritage Group in partnership with Meath County Council. The event included an exhibition of mapping local fieldnames, long-gone Bellewstown houses and families researched from census material, an oral history of the area and guided heritage walk of Bellewstown.

Talk on Historic Houses of the Julianstown area to include the mills and lime kilns.

This event was organised by the Julianstown Residents' Association in partnership with Meath County Council. Historian John Mc Cullen gave a most informative and entertaining lecture on the historic houses of the Julianstown area.

3.7.3. Biodiversity Training

This project was jointly funded by Meath County Council, Monaghan County Council and the Heritage Council through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan fund. The purpose of the project is to develop targeted training for both Local Authorities in order to better take account of biodiversity needs in the execution of Local Authority functions. The training combined accounts of previous knowledge and best practice in the area and was directed by the specific need of each Local Authority. Over 100 employees of Meath County Council received the training.

3.7.4. Trim Swift Festival

The Trim Swift Festival 2009 took place from the 2nd July – 5th July 2009. It celebrated the life, work and legacy of Jonathon Swift. It gave host to a number of events aimed at increasing knowledge and raising awareness about the cultural heritage of Trim.

3.7.5. Meath Landscape and People – One Day Heritage Seminar

Meath County Council Library Service and Meath Heritage Office joined together in presenting a one-day heritage seminar on the 11th July 2009. Between 90 and 100 people attended, who were very appreciative of the day and the speakers were highly praised for the content of their talks and for their excellent presentations.

3.7.6. Wild Things at School: A Book for Primary Teachers'

Counties Laois, Meath and Monaghan, supported by the Heritage Council came together to develop this book which is a well illustrated, exciting book to inform children, aid teachers and raise awareness of local habitats and biodiversity. Naturalist, author and broadcaster Éanna Ni Lamhna was chosen to write the book. A local Meath launch took place on Tuesday 1st December in the County Library in Navan.



Éanna Ni Lamhna reading to children who attended the launch.

3.8. 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 2009:

Average number of public opening hours per week	
Full-time Libraries	35.91
Part-time Libraries	13.93
Total number of visits to full-time libraries	
469,400	



Library Stock	
Total number of items issued	479,430

Total Number of internet sessions provided – 57,383

3.8.1. Reader Development

Internationally recognised authors including, Darren Shan and Michael Smith headlined the annual **Children's Book Festival** in October. 52 events were organised with nine authors and five storytellers visiting the county. Over 3,000 children attended events organised by library staff making this Meath's leading cultural event for children.

Over 1,000 children participated in the annual '**Summer Reading Mission**' to promote reading among children and young people-. The annual **Reader's and Writer's Day** took place for adult bookclubs and reading groups around the county in Navan.

3.8.2. Local Studies

Pre-publication promotion of the Local Studies and Archives Facsimile Pack for Primary Schools was organised. Oral history recordings took place with fifty people from around the county in advance of the launch in 2010.

3.8.3. Other Highlights 2009

- Total issues and membership increased by IT Service Improvements.
- Automated SMS Messaging for requested and overdue items introduced at all branches.
- Over 2,000 children attended the Meath County Council Library and Arts Service Summer Programme in July and August.
- Meath Business Information Centres Initiative launched-in partnership with MCC Economic and Development Unit. Centres established in Navan and Ashbourne and materials available online through any branch library.
- Online E-Learning training initiative in partnership with FAS.Centres established in branches at Navan, Dunboyne, Ashbourne and Trim. Navan centre identified as busiest site at national level.
- English language classes for Foreign nationals through the Fáilte Isteach project at Dunshaughlin library in partnership with Third Age Centre Summerhill.

4. CORPORATE SERVICES

4.1. Corporate Event Management

4.1.1. Visit of Nigerian Ambassador

The Nigerian Ambassador Her Excellency Dr. Chikwe paid a visit to Meath Co. Council in May 2009. A round table discussion took place with the Cathaoirleach, Town Council Cathaoirligh, Co. Manager and members of the Management Team. The Ambassador gave an overview of economic activity in Nigeria and was briefed on the current economic climate in Ireland and Co. Meath. She visited the County Library where she was entertained by a class from Scoil Mhuire Primary School.



Ambassador Dr. Kemafo N. Chikwe to Navan Library. Twin sisters Tola and Tayo Illori both pupils at Scoil Mhuire, Navan photographed making a presentation to Ambassador Kemafo N. Chikwe on the occasion of her visit to Navan Library

4.2. Higher Education Grants

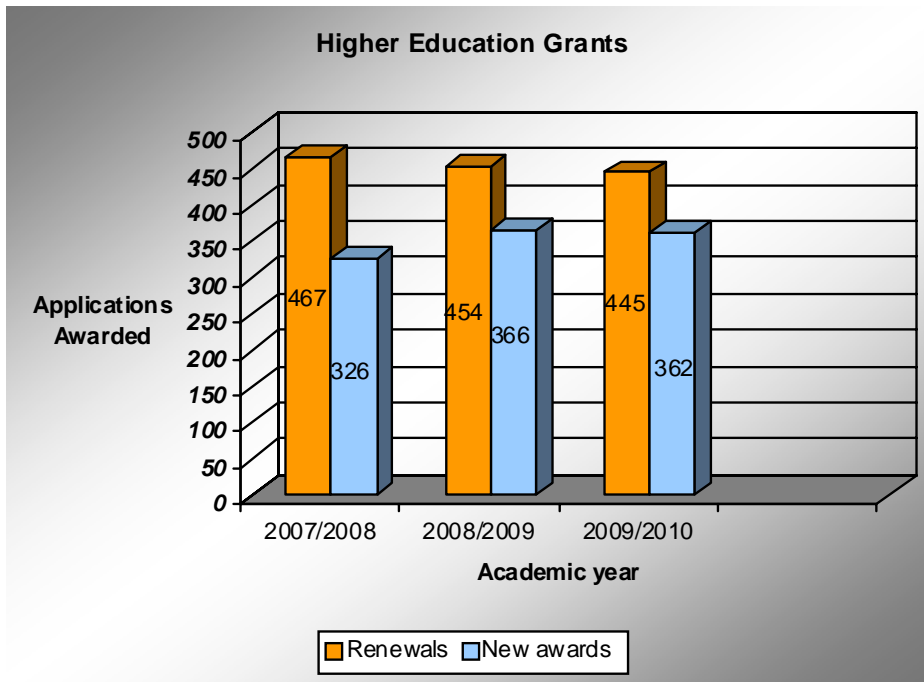
In 2009, Meath County Council assisted students under the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Higher Education Grants Schemes.

In excess of 1000 applications were submitted to the Council for Higher Education Grants in 2009 in respect of the 2009/2010 academic year. Following assessment in accordance with the terms of the 2009 Higher Education Grant Scheme, a total of 362 new applications and 445 renewal applications were approved. Meath County Council also paid the 'Special Rate of Maintenance Grant' (Top-Up Grant) to 169 students for the 2009/2010 academic year.

The value of a full grant under the 2009 Scheme was €3,420. Non tuition/Registration Fee covered under the Scheme was €1,500. Overall expenditure in 2009 relating to Higher Education grants totalled €3.6m approx. Only grants paid to students with the exception of a fixed contribution of €14,045.55, are recoupable from the Department of Education and Skills. 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

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



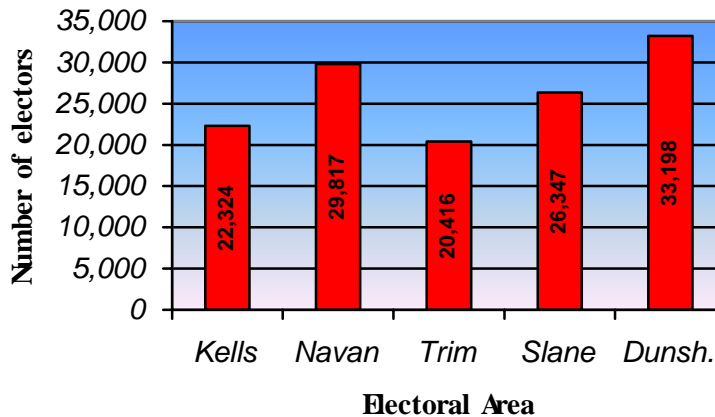
4.3. Register of Electors

The Register of Electors was published in February 2009 and showed a voting population as follows:

Dail Electors	129,001
Presidential Electors	127,454
European Electors	130,482
Local Electors	132,368
Postal Voters	405

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

Register of Electors 2009/2010



4.4. 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 2009 statistics relating to Freedom of Information Requests:

Applications Received	32
Carried Forward from 2008	11
Total	43
No. of requests granted/part granted	25
No. of requests refused	9
Requests transferred	1
Withdrawn or dealt with outside FOI	3
Live cases at end of 2009	5
No of Internal Reviews	1
No. of Appeals to the Information Commissioner	0

4.5. 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.

4.5.1. Health & Safety Training

In 2009, a Safety and Health training programme was delivered to employees and included courses in:

- Confined Spaces
- Contractor Safe Pass
- Fire Warden
- First Aid
- Health And Safety at Roadworks
- Location of Underground Services
- Lone Worker
- Managing Safely in Construction
- Manual Handling
- Safepass
- School Warden
- Safety Statements
- Signing Lighting and Guarding
- IOSH Supervisinf Safely
- Traffic Management Design



4.5.2. Lone Working

A lone worker panic alarm system was rolled out in 2009 for high risk lone workers. Seventy three devices were purchased. The panic alarm system operates via the mobile phone network, when an alarm is generated a message is sent to that lone workers group of responders.

4.5.3. European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2009

To mark European Week for Safety and Health at work range of initiatives to heighten Safety awareness was organised throughout the Organisation and included, High Visibility Safety Tours by Directors of Services, Poster Campaign, Distribution of First Aid Kits and Fire Extinguishers, Daily Email Alerts, Distribution of High-visibility Vests and various competitions.

4.5.4. Safety Documentation

Safety documentation was produced for use throughout the Organisation in order to comply with statutory requirements. The Corporate Safety Statement was reviewed and signed by the County Manager and the Directors of Service. Other documentation included Directorate and Area specific Safety statements, revised risk assessments and the publication of new risk assessments, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Maternity risk assessments, publication of lone working section / area specific procedures, contributions to Swine Flu working committee.

Visual Display Unit (VDU) Assessments were carried out with 280 employees in Meath Local Authorities.

The Safety Section undertook 528 No. contractor competency assessments during 2009.

Contractor	- 148
Designer	- 001
Non – Construction Contractor	- 064
PSDP	- 036
PSCS	- 151
PSDP and PSCS	- 128

4.6. *Workplace Partnership*

4.6.1. Staff care, recognition and integration projects.

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.

4.6.2. Junior Achievement

During the academic year 2008/2009, eleven employees undertook training as business volunteers and taught Junior Achievement programmes to 150 students in St. Oliver Plunkett N.s. Navan, Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan and Beaufort College. The volunteers brought their enthusiasm and professional into the classrooms encouraging and inspiring students about the kind of career they too can aspire to by setting goals and focusing on the future.



2009 Junior Achievement Volunteers with Tom Dowling, Co.Manager and Della Clancy, and Kim Doherty from Junior Achievement Ireland

5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

5.1. *Economic Development*

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

In 2009, the Economic Development & Innovation Unit undertook the following actions/initiatives:

- Prepared the Mid East Regional Authority Economic Development Strategy on behalf of Meath, Kildare & Wicklow Local Authorities between September - November. This strategy informed the preparation of the draft Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area and will be included as an Appendix in the final adopted Guidelines.
- Prepared the Supplementary Development Contributions Scheme for the Backlands in Kells which was adopted in November 2009 by Kells Town Council & Meath County Council.
- Dealt with a number of strategic planning applications across the county such as Academy Partnership (commercial mixed use development, Navan), Glashrooneen Ltd. (SMART Park, Carton Demesne, Maynooth), Kells Development Company Ltd. ("Backlands" Town Centre expansion, Kells), Shamrock Renewable Fuels Ltd. (Bio energy Plant producing wood and energy crop bio fuels and CHP Plant at Balrath, Kells) and Glass & A.L.U. Cad Ltd. (Industrial Manufacturing Unit at Lloyd Business Park, Kells).
- Involved in the steering of certain studies on behalf of the Local Authority such as the draft Development Capacity Study of Motorway Interchanges, Thematic Spatial Strategies for Industrial Development, the Boyne Canal Feasibility Study and the identification of suitable locations for the acquisition of a land bank for industrial development in Navan.
- Progressed initiatives including the Meath Business Property Listing Service and the Pride of Place for Business Parks (in conjunction with the Community & Enterprise Section).
- Piloted the 'Adopt a Meath Company' in secondary schools throughout the county.
- Introduced the Sponsored Learning Initiative for Small and Medium Enterprises, in conjunction with the Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning.
- Developed the Meath Business Directory in partnership with the IT Section.
- Worked with the Arts Office, Library Service, Solstice Arts Centre and the Arts Council in organizing Féach – Creative Enterprises in Meath in October.
- Launched the Meath Business Information Centres in conjunction with the Meath Library Service, and hosted Business Information Seminars in Navan Library on topics such as starting your own business and digital marketing for business.
- Continued the '*whatever your business... Make It Meath*' promotional campaign.
- Worked with the Community & Enterprise Section in developing the economic development and education/training actions for the CDB Strategy.
- Participated in the Meath Economic Forum including participation in the Meath County Council at the Meath Enterprise Day, October 2009 and co-funding of the Meath Training Needs Analysis.
- The Directorate undertook a series of company visits throughout the year.
- Dealt with a wide range of queries relating to existing and potential businesses.

5.2. Further and Higher Education

5.2.1. Meath Initiative for Lifelong Learning

Meath County Council has worked in partnership with third level institutes to provide higher education opportunities on a local basis. Four classes of students graduated from the following programmes:

Dundalk Institute of Technology

Certificate in Employment Law

Introduction to Human Resource Management

Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

Certificate in English Language for Academic and Work Purposes Level 1 & 2

5.2.2. Motivation and Empowerment Seminar

This seminar was planned by Lismullin Hospitality Training Centre with the purpose of empowering educators and guidance counsellors in their daily role Meath County Council sponsored the keynote speaker Dr. Brian McCraith President Designate of Dublin City University.

5.2.3. NUIM Subject Support Programmes

Meath County Council in partnership with NUI Maynooth achieved the 2009 e-government award for best new Irish language initiative. Following this an online maths support programme was developed to help students using the technology of windows media. This programme was also shortlisted at the e-government awards.

5.2.4. Meath Intercultural Network

Through membership of the Cultúr Meath Intercultural Network Meath County Council continues to support opportunities for non-national. The ITB FETAC Level 6 English Language programme was offered in conjunction with Cultúr.

5.2.5. Meath Adult Learners Festival

Meath VEC is the local link for the AONTAS national adult learners festival. Meath County Council have worked in partnership with the VEC to expand this festival on a county basis through the co-ordination of a series of free lectures workshops and seminars. All activities were conducted on a voluntary basis. In October 2009 Meath VEC and Meath County Council were invited by AONTAS to present their experience to members in Cavan as an example of best practice.

www.metd.ie

The Meath Office for Further and Higher Education have continued to promote local learning opportunities through liaising with training and educators throughout the county. The Meath Education and Training Database is an online central database of courses available, news items and events taking place.

5.3. 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.

Meath Heritage Trail Brochure and Meath County Brochure with 2010 listing of festivals and events were printed and distributed nationwide and abroad. Meath Tourism continues to answer daily tourist information enquiries from the Meath Tourist Information local number 1850 300 789. Work on a new redesigned Meet in Meath website was undertaken during 2009. The new site will be more vibrant and more flexible and will have a new Meet in Meath logo to complement it. Meet in Meath organized numerous travel trade and corporate familiarisation trips which attracted incoming tour operators and large companies on two day trips to Meath to see first hand the range and quality of tourism product on offer. Meet in Meath attended the ITOA workshops in Killiney Castle in March 09, Meitheal, the Irish Travel Trade Tourism Event and World Travel Market in London to meet the travel trade. With 30 leading DMC's in attendance, this was important in putting Meath on the map as a venue for lucrative conferences & incentive meetings.



5.3.1. Discover Meath Day

Meath Tourism joined forces with Fáilte Ireland to host the first ever 'Discover Meath & the Boyne Valley Day' at Fairyhouse Racecourse on Sunday 19th July. With 45 tourism businesses exhibiting at the event and 4,000 people attending the day, it proved to be a great success in promoting Meath as a tourism destination to surrounding counties.

5.3.2. Marketing

A greater need for tourism businesses to increase their marketing skills prompted an evening lecture series including two events covering e-marketing entitled 'Unraveling the Web' and a third event covering marketing on a shoe string. Meath Tourism continued its marketing efforts in Northern Ireland during 2009. A Meath Stand was taken at the Belfast Holiday Show (30,000 visitors), at the Balmoral Show (80,000) and at the Fáilte Ireland Tourist Office in Belfast. Meath Tourism launched a July 12th Campaign to promote to the Northern Ireland market during this bank holiday weekend.

5.3.3. Website

An increase of 49% in unique visitors was recorded to www.meathtourism.ie during 2009. Improvements and daily updates were made to the website, along with two new ezines sent to a large database, themed for St. Patrick's Day and the Halloween Spirits of Meath festival..

5.3.4. Events

A need for a signature festival was identified and the first ever Spirits of Meath Halloween Festival took place from October 23rd to 31st 2009. A programme of events was put together and it was promoted as a county wide festival. Significant marketing efforts yielded results including the front cover of the Irish Independent and Examiner and editorial in the Irishman's Diary (Irish Times).

5.3.5. Heritage of Meath Photography Competition

For the fourth year, Meath Tourism and the Office of Public Works collaborated to organise a successful amateur photography competition themed 'The Heritage of Meath' in order to showcase the vibrant heritage in County Meath. With over 250 entries this year, the judges were impressed with the level of skill, in particular from the children's categories. The photographs were on display at the Bru na Boinne Visitor Centre during May and June 2009.

5.3.6. Solheim Cup 2011

The Solheim Cup is a biennial golf tournament for professional lady golfers and is considered the premier event in the women's world of golf. With 7 countries placing a bid for the event, it is a fantastic achievement for County Meath to host the Solheim Cup at Killeen Castle in 2011. The Director of Economic Development and Innovation at Meath County Council is leading the project to ensure that all services and marketing of the event will be a success for County Meath. Under this remit, a draft marketing plan has been developed and will be finalised early January in consultation with Fáilte Ireland. This plan will be a coordinated approach to promoting the Solheim Cup in conjunction with the Economic Development Unit.

5.3.7. 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.

6. 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.

6.1. North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010

The requirements of the Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010 are being addressed by the North East Region Waste Management Steering Committee (Counties Meath, Louth, Monaghan & Cavan). Consultation in relation to the roll-out of the 'brown-bin' and 'use related charging' services commenced with all domestic waste collection operators in 2009. It is intended that both services will be rolled out in the North East Region by early/mid 2011. This will involve extensive awareness raising on the issue as well as local authority monitoring and enforcement. In early 2009, Greenstar Holdings Ltd proposed to increase waste acceptance at Knockharley landfill facility. At the An Bord Pleanála oral hearing the North East Waste Management Region submitted that the proposed intensification did not comply with the aims and objectives of the County Development Plans and the North East Regional Waste Management Plan 2005 – 2010. Greenstar's application for the intensification of waste acceptance at their landfill at Knockharley was subsequently refused by An Bord Pleanála. The Council continues to have an unfunded capital deficit in connection with the remediation of the former Basketstown landfill. Further capital expenditure will be required on the site such as in connection with the gas collection and flaring system. Ongoing annual revenue monitoring costs of €500,000 continue to be incurred in relation to compliance with the EPA licence on the former landfill.

6.2. Waste Complaints and Enforcement

Waste Management Permits issued 2009 and Certificates of Registration

In 2009 the following are the statistics for both Waste Management Permits and Certificates of Registration.

Waste Management Permits		Certificates of Registration	
Applications received	28	Applications received	2
Granted	12	Granted	1
Refused	2	Refused	0
Withdrawn	6	Withdrawn	0
Complete	0	Complete	0
Incomplete	3	Incomplete	1
Under consideration =	5	Under consideration	0

There are currently 47 Waste Management Permits in operation in Co. Meath.

Waste Collection Permits issued 2009

Meath County Council is the nominated authority for the North East Region (Counties Meath, Louth, Cavan & Monaghan). Part of its function as nominated authority is the processing waste collection permits. There are currently 542 active collection permits in the North East Region.

In 2009 the following statistics apply for *Waste Collection Permits*:

Applications received	27
Withdrawn	0
Refused	0
Revoked	0
Total no. Granted	40
Under Consideration	4
Reviews in year	0

6.3. Litter Pollution

In 2009 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 2009:

No of reports investigated	2267
On the spot fines issued	866
On the spot fines paid	490
Total no of convictions 2008	53

The Council has installed CCTV systems at a number of litter black-spot locations throughout the county. A large number of fines were issued during 2009 and a numerous prosecutions have been taken. This has proven very successful in combating litter pollution. The Council is now in the course of extending CCTV operations to other bring-banks and litter 'black-spots' in order to enforce compliance with the Litter Pollution Act.

6.4. Meath Civic Amenity Sites – Trim, Navan and Kells

The County's three civic amenity sites, supported by the countywide network of bring centres is contributing positively to recycling levels, though illegal dumping at some bring banks remains a concern. The search for a suitable site in the south-east of the county for an additional civic amenity site continued in 2009.

6.5. Water

6.5.1. EU Water Framework Directive

Most recent WFD interim report states that only 17% of water-bodies within functional area of Meath are compliant with WFD standards which must be achieved by 2015. In this regard there are three River Basin Management Plans relating to the functional area of Co. Meath namely the Eastern, the Shannon and the Neagh-Bann International River Basin District Management Plans.

The Plans have identified what significant water management issues are within each specific catchment area and details 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 adopted the 'Eastern River Basin District Plan' in October 2009 as well as the Neagh-Bann & Shannon International River Basin District Plans in April 2010. The plans, when implemented, will have a very positive effect on water bodies throughout the majority of Co. Meath.

6.5.2. River Monitoring

There are 108 designated Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring sites resulting in a total of 576 river samples collected and tested in 2009. The river monitoring programme directs where investigative



surveys, including farm surveys are carried out so as to ensure the Council can maximise use of resources. This is proving to be very effective.

In 2009 the Council collected 483 investigative monitoring samples. Investigative monitoring was largely carried out in catchments with poor water quality. All findings were highlighted in a number of reports which are been followed up by water enforcement personnel.

6.5.3. Bathing Water

The Council samples two bathing water areas namely Bettystown and Mornington. Bettystown is a designated bathing water area. Bathing water quality at Mornington was also found to be of a very high condition and the Council has subsequently received a Green Coast Award.

6.5.4. Urban Wastewater

The Council carried out 346 inspections of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants (MWWTP's) in 2009. All MWWTP's are sampled in accordance with the urban wastewater regulations and results submitted to the DoEHLG in the form of an annual return.

Trade Effluent Discharge Licences 2009:

There are currently 58 discharge licences for discharges to waters and 21 discharge licences for discharges to sewers. There are 16 discharge licences currently under review.

Section 4		Section 16	
Applications received	5	Application received	1
Granted	2	Granted	0
Refused	0	Under consideration	3
Invalidated	1		
Under consideration	10		

6.5.5. Farm Surveys

The Council carried out 147 farm inspections in 2009. Farm inspections were carried out where they were deemed to be of a high risk of causing pollution to waters. All farm inspections are recorded on a farm inspections report form and mapped for re-inspections.

6.5.6. Enforcement

In 2009 the Council served 32 'Section 12' water pollution notices. 21 of these pollution notices were served in relation to pollution from agriculture and 11 were mainly in relation to septic tanks.

6.6. 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 Garda Síochána, Defence Forces and Custom & Excise Service. All dog owners must have a licence for their dog. All dogs must be kept under proper control and dog owners are advised to clean up after their dogs.

The Meath County Council Dog Pound is located at Rathmaiden, Slane, Co. Meath. The Council's Dog Warden impounded 668 stray and unwanted dogs in 2009. 124 dogs were reunited with their owners and 488 were rehomed by the pound. Much of this success is due to the Dog Pound website which is updated daily with details of dogs brought to the pound for re-homing or reuniting with owners.

No of licences issued: 4246

No of general licences: 8 (10 dogs or more)

No of fines issued: 66

6.7. Major Illegal Dumping

The Council continued to pursue a number of historic illegal dumping sites throughout the county with two cases before the High Court in 2009. It must be noted that there is a possibility that the Council may have to incur significant expenditure through the legal system.

6.8. Derelict Sites

The Council is required by law to establish and maintain a Register of Derelict sites. All reports of dereliction are investigated and notices of intention to enter the site on the register are served on the owners/occupiers of the site in question

In brief - a derelict site means:

- Any land which may have buildings on it which are derelict or dangerous
- Any land which is in an unsightly, neglected or objectionable condition
- Any land with a deposit or collection of litter, rubbish, debris or waste on it, where there is no permit or right to have such a deposit or collection.

The following is a table showing the position regarding the Derelict Sites Register as at 31st December 2009.

Area	Total DS Files	Awaiting Assessment	Works/complete	Awaiting Review Inspection	Warn Letter Issued or await Report	S 11 Notice issued	S8(2)Notice Issued	Referred for Alt' Action	DS Levy
Kells TC	52	4	29	13	1	0	1	0	4
Kells Area	40	5	30	2	2	0	0	1	0
Navan TC	21	0	2	14	2	3	0	0	0
Navan Area	14	0	11	1	0	0	1	1	0
Trim Area	37	6	24	3	4	0	0	0	0
Slane Area	68	4	41	13	6	0	0	3	1
Dunshaughlin Area	30	7	14	2	6	0	0	0	1
Totals	262	26	151	48	21	3	2	5	6

6.9. Historic Landfills

The 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 7 sites subdivided into risk categories according to the risk assessment criteria as set out by the EPA in the Code of Practice. For each of these sites, a title search, a desk-top risk assessment exercise and a thorough site visit was carried out in 2009. 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.

6.10. Amenity Grants

The Council provides assistance to residents' associations and community groups in order to improve their local environment with a special emphasis on litter abatement. The Council issued 160 Amenity Grants in 2009.

6.11. Lawnmower and Strimmer Grants

The Council provides a contribution to residents' associations and community groups towards the purchase of a new lawnmower or strimmer to be used to maintain open spaces and green areas in their locality. Grants are issued on receipt of proof of purchase. 17 lawnmower/strimmer grants were issued in 2009.

6.12. General Monitoring and Enforcement

General ongoing monitoring and enforcement in relation to the following sets of regulations continued throughout 2009: Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyres), Regulations 2007; WEEE Regulations 2005; Waste

Management (Farm Plastics) Regulations 2001; Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2007; Waste Battery Regulations; and Display Energy Certificates. Notable activity in relation to same was as follows:

Solvent Regulations: the Council certified 13 operators (all dry cleaners) to be in compliance with the regulations.

Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Regulations 2008 – S.I. No. 199 of 2008: As of 31st December 2009, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government increased the landfill levy to €25 per tonne for each tonne of waste disposed of at authorised landfill facilities (Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Amendment Regulations 2009). This was subsequently amended by the Waste Management (Landfill Levy) Amendment Regulations 2010 which increased the landfill levy to €30 per tonne for each tonne of waste disposed of at authorised landfill levy sites. This increase came into effect on the 1st February 2010.

Deco Paints Directive: there are 23 certified VOC users registered with the Council.

6.13. Air

6.13.1. Air Licensing

There are currently **13** air emission licence holders in Co. Meath. In 2009 the Council granted 6 new air licences.

6.13.2. Complaints

The Council received 69 air related complaints in 2009 of which 45 were investigated and resolved. The majority of the complaints received related to back yard burning of domestic waste.

6.14. Noise

The Council received **40** complaints in relation to noise in 2009. The number of noise complaints is increasing substantially each year. Under Section 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, any person can take a case to the District Court for nuisance caused by noise pollution. This section was specifically set-out in order to allow an individual or family to gain quick access to the District Court in the event of them having difficulties with neighbours under the heading of noise and disturbance.

6.15. Civil Defence

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 seventy 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.

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 Drogheda based the roles of the organization outlined in the Major Emergency Framework in support of the Principal Response Agencies. Three volunteers attained instructor qualifications in First Aid during the year increasing the organizations training capacity in this area.

During the year Civil Defence acquired a modern second-hand class B fire appliance to upgrade its training and operational capability.

In the current economic climate there has been a noticeable increase in the number of volunteers applying to join the organisation with a substantial increase in membership in each of the training centres.

6.16. Fire and Rescue Service

Meath County Council as Fire Authority is responsible for the provision of a fire and emergency service for Co. Meath, including the three town councils – Navan, Trim & Kells. Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service operates primarily under the provisions of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003, as well as other legislation such as the Building Control Act 2007, the Building Control Regulations 1997 - 2009, the Building Regulations 1997 – 2009, the Dangerous Substances Regulations 1979, the Ease of Escape Regulations 1985, and the Licensing of Indoor Events Act 2003.



6.16.1. Fire Operations

Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters is based at the central fire station on Abbey Road, Navan. There are six other stations located throughout the county i.e. Ashbourne, Dunshaughlin, Kells, Nobber, Oldcastle and Trim. Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service provides a first line response to all types of emergencies across Co. Meath – this includes

- Fires in domestic/commercial/industrial/assembly premises
- Forestry/bog/grassland fires
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)
- Emergency ambulance assists
- Flooding
- River rescues
- Environmental hazard emergencies
- Hazardous chemical incidents.

Fire & Rescue Service operational training continued throughout 2009, this included the standard Fire-fighter training which takes place every week at station level. Breathing Apparatus Refresher training for Fire-fighters was also undertaken as well as Compartment Fire Behaviour Training which continued through 2009 and will be completed in 2010. Five new Fire-fighter recruits were successful in completing their Initial Recruits Course and Breathing Apparatus Wearers Course and joined the Service in 2009.

6.16.2. New Equipment

A new Fire Appliance funded by the DoEHLG at a cost of approx €300,000 was delivered to Trim Fire Station in 2009. This fire-fighting & rescue appliance conforms to the national standard specification for Class B Fire Appliances and is the main turnout appliance for the Trim area – Trim, Summerhill, Enfield, Ballivor, Athboy

Funding for new crash rescue equipment was also provided by the DoEHLG a cost of approx €75,000 and this was delivered to Navan and Oldcastle Fire Stations. This equipment will also greatly assist Fire & Rescue Service operations at Road Traffic Collisions.

Two more fire appliances for Meath County Council Fire & Rescue Service were also approved by the DoEHLG in their 2009 Capital Funding Programme and these are expected to be delivered by Summer 2010.

6.16.3. Proposed new Offices for Navan Fire Station

Following the submission of an Appraisal & Preliminaries Plan to provide permanent administrative accommodation at Fire Station 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 offices & facilities for Fire Service staff. The project will be subject to funding from the DoEHLG.



Fire Statistics – 2009

	<u>Navan</u>	<u>Duns</u>	<u>Ashb</u>	<u>Trim</u>	<u>Kells</u>	<u>Oldc.</u>	<u>Nobber</u>	Total
Domestic Buildings:								
Chimney Fire In Houses	24	4	8	38	31	8	6	119
Other House Fires	37	18	16	23	7	2	3	106
Apartments, Flats and Bedsitters	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Caravans/Mobile Homes	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Institutions:								0
Schools/hospitals/other.	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Industrial:								0
Factories	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	7
Commercial:								0
Shops, Supermarkets	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3
Restaurants	2							2
Hotels Guesthouses/Boarding Houses	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Service:								0
Public Houses	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Restaurants								0
Places of Public entertainemnt (discos/cinema's)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other:								0
Motor Vehicles	50	22	45	33	15	5	9	179
Petrol Stations & Garages	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Unoccupied Buildings	4	4	1	0	2	0	0	11
Agricultural Buildings	1	3	4	1	0	1	0	10
Forest/Bog/Grass, etc.	25	8	15	15	15	8	1	87
Outdoor Storage	8	0	4	4	1	0	0	17
Outdoor Rubbish	49	11	12	9	6	0	0	87
Miscellaneous	5	12	3	4	0	0	1	25
False Alarm Incidents								0
1. Malicious	18	3	6	3	1	0	0	31
2. Good Intent	65	28	45	31	22	11	6	208
Special Services								0
Road Traffic Accidents	33	26	34	19	13	9	12	146
Water Pumping Flooding	10	10	8	8	2	8	0	46
Hazardous Subs	8	2	4	9	4	0	0	27
Other Non-Fire Rescues	8	0	8	8	8	1	2	35
Miscellaneous:	14	9	6	7	3	5	4	48
TOTALS	414	181	195	196	118	64	45	1213



7. HOUSING

Despite the many challenges presented by the prevailing economic circumstances and including reduced allocations for Capital projects generally, the Housing Department of Meath County Council advanced a number projects in 2009 from an overall Capital allocation of just over €30 million.

The Housing Construction Capital Programme for 2009 was delivered as part of a rolling multi-annual programme covering the years 2008 – 2011. Because of the changed budgetary circumstances in 2009 the Social Housing Investment Programme began to take a new direction in order to ensure continuity of housing supply on a sustainable basis, and with the focus of future social housing supply lying with an expanded suite of non-construction supply options including Social Leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. The demands for housing services increased significantly in 2009 and with an increase of over 70% on the Councils housing waiting list over the 2008 Housing needs assessment figure. The numbers on the waiting list for affordable housing plummeted because of difficulties in securing mortgage approval and increases in unemployment. This situation also created difficulties for the Housing department in relation to unsold affordables in the Councils ownership however in accordance with a new Department of the Environment policy initiative these units were transferred to alternative uses including Leasing, Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and for Social use and to the extent that the Councils liabilities on Affordable Housing were reduced to a minimum by the end of 2009.

The Housing Department continued the programme of upgrading of the Housing stock in 2009 and endeavouring to bring its stock of 2800 houses up to modern building standards, including completion of the 3 year Central Heating programme, replacement of Windows and doors, and the carrying out of maintenance on gas boilers. The programme also involved the carrying out of works on vacant houses in need of substantial repair and with a view to having them available for quick re-letting.

From 1 January 2009, a Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate is required by law for all existing buildings, when they are offered for sale or rent. A Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate is an energy label for buildings (similar to that used currently in electrical appliances). It rates the building from A1 (most efficient) to G (least efficient). The Certificate details your energy usage and carbon emissions based on heat loss through your building fabric (floors, walls, roof and windows) and energy required for ventilation space heating, water heating and lighting. Five members of the Councils Housing Department were trained assessed and registered with Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) in 2009 as assessors under the terms of the BER rating scheme.

The following projects were completed or advanced by the Housing Department in 2009:

- New houses allocated 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.
- Three Rural Cottages were completed and two others were at an advance stage of development.
- Discussions underway with a number of Voluntary bodies in terms of the provision of accommodation at various locations in the County
- A contract was signed and works commenced on a 400 sq square metre Community facility Resource Centre Windtown - at a cost of €1.15 million.
- A contractor was selected for the Townparks Remedial Works Scheme in Navan.
- Submissions made to the Department in response to requests for proposals for Remedial Works Schemes in Alverno Court Laytown and St Brigid's Villas and St Ultan's Tce. Navan.
- 18 Affordable houses were completed on Council owned lands in Windtown under the 1999 Affordable Housing Scheme.
- 127 Affordable units were delivered in accordance with Agreements made under Part V Of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.
- Social Houses were delivered under the Part V mechanism.
- Over 500 Disabled persons /Essential Repairs /Mobility grants were processed and funding allocated to 81 applicants and involving expenditure of over one million Euros.
- A Traveller Accommodation Programme covering the period 2009 -2013 was adopted as statutorily required.
- Remedial works for St Francis' Park Halting Site Windtown & St Martin's Park Halting Site Trim at advanced stages of planning.

7.1. *Social Housing Leasing Initiative*

In 2009 the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DOELG) launched the Social Housing Leasing initiative. The introduction of leasing as a form of social housing provision represents a widening of the options for increasing the supply of social housing. Leasing introduces greater flexibility in the composition of the housing stock and provides the opportunity for housing authorities to benefit from market conditions to increase output and meet housing need in a cost effective manner. This initiative promotes the Delivering Homes

& Sustaining Communities policy of achieving mixed –income /mixed tenure communities at appropriate densities and occupancy rates and avoiding social concentrations. The initiative provides for three forms of Leasing:

- Local Authorities leasing properties from private property owners for periods of 10-20 years.
- Approved Housing Bodies leasing from property owners ,purchasing on the market or constructing properties and making them available for social housing provision through direct payment and availability Agreements with the DOEHLG.
- Local Authorities temporarily utilising unsold affordable housing stock.

Meath County have transferred unsold Affordables over to the Leasing Scheme and are involved in discussions with Voluntary and other Bodies in respect of the other two options.

7.2. Rental Accommodation Scheme

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.

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.

7.3. Private Rented Inspections

New legal minimum standards for rental accommodation came into force on 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

7.4. Homelessness

Meath County Council provides a service for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Two Outreach /Resettlement workers are employed by the Council 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.

7.5. Traveller Accommodation

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 was adopted by Meath County Council in April 2009. This sets out the 4 year strategy in relation to the programme and type of accommodation to be provided for travellers. The Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee meets on a quarterly basis and will monitor the progress achieved in relation to targets set out in the plan.

7.6. The Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 was enacted in July 2009

The main provisions of the Act 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.
- The establishment of Homeless Forums and the preparation of Homelessness Action Plans.
- 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. HUMAN RESOURCES

The Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government instructed all Local Authorities to reduce payroll and administrative costs in 2009. A variety of initiatives have been implemented to achieve this:

- Cessation of recruitment (other than specifically sanctioned posts).
- Reallocating and reorganising of work and staff.
- Non filling of temporary vacancies arising from staff on long term absences
- Implementation of the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement (ISER) and the Incentivised Career Break Scheme
- Further reductions in premium pay
- Introduction of voluntary unpaid leave.

8.1. Staff Structure

The introduction of the Staff Moratorium in 2009, the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement and the Incentivised Career Break Scheme greatly reduced numbers throughout the organisation. This in turn has led to a restructuring of some divisions and departments to ensure a continuation of existing service levels to our customers. HR arranged and held competitions for positions that were necessary to fill e.g. Fire Service personnel and Temporary Beach Lifeguards.

34 temporary Fixed Term Contracts of employment were not renewed.

8.2. Staff Returns

Breakdown of staff by sector as of December 2009 submitted to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government:

Breakdown of staff by sector

Sector	Number	WTE
Managerial	8	8
Administrative	311	280
Engineering / Technical	114	113.8
Operational / Outdoor	243	224
Contract	86	74.84
Fire-fighter	69	10.65
Non DoEHLG	2	2
Total	833	713.29

December 2009

In comparison, the total number of staff at the same period of 2008 was 939 with a WTE at 812.69.

8.3. Superannuation

The volume of requests for Benefit Statements increased greatly in 2009 due to staff exploring their options under the Incentivised Scheme for Early Retirement. The following is a breakdown of superannuation activities dealt with in 2009:

Table 4. Breakdown of superannuation activities

Activity	Number in 2009
Expressions of Interest in ISER	28
Retirements on ISER	4
Retirements under Cost Neutral Early Retirement	4
Meath Local Authorities retirements	35
Fire Fighter Gratuities	5
Gratuities for non-pensionable persons	4
VEC – Lump sum and pension calculations	14
Preserved Benefits	Nil



No of Redundancies	27
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The total retirement lump sums paid in 2009 to Meath Local Authority staff was €1,845,703.61 with a further €1,129,698.99 in lumps sums being paid to retiring VEC staff.

8.4. Staff Leave

A new Shorter Working Year Scheme was introduced nationally in 2009. This scheme replaces the Term Time Scheme and facilitates staff taking up to 13 weeks unpaid leave in a year. Under this scheme staff availed of 91 weeks unpaid leave in 2009.

3 staff members availed of the Incentivised Career Break Scheme.

Sick Leave Indicator for 2009:

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Certified' – 2.78 %

Percentage of Working days lost to sickness absence 'Uncertified' – 0.54 %

8.5. National Payroll Project

Meath County Council continued in its role as one of the pilot sites for the new National HR, Payroll & Superannuation System during 2009. The HR Project Team completed the configuration and testing of the Core Personnel, Payroll, Time/Attendance & Leave and Recruitment modules, all of which were implemented to some degree during the year. Configuration and Data Capture for the Superannuation module also progressed, with the expectation of going live in 2010. Time/Attendance & Leave module will be completed for the remainder of staff in 2010.

8.6. HR Policies & Procedures

Meath Local Authorities currently implement 7 national HR policies. The latest of these, the Child Protection Policy and Attendance Management Policy were implemented in 2009. The LGMSB and partners have completed work on a new Dignity at Work Policy which will be circulated to all Meath Local Authority Staff during 2010.

8.7. Staff Welfare

Meath Local Authorities promote the wellbeing of their employees through various policies and initiatives, e.g. flu vaccinations for staff, health awareness presentations.

All employees were invited to participate in a 'workplace Wellbeing Survey to identify topics of interest and/or concern to staff. In conjunction with Workplace Partnership, April 2009 was dedicated to Bereavement Awareness. Meath Local Authorities offer assistance to staff whose contracts of employment were not being renewed in relation to issues of concern likely to arise as a result of cessation of employment.

8.8. Training and Development

Investment in staff training continued in 2009 in line with the national requirement of 3% of payroll costs. There was an increased focus on health and safety training in 2009. The following table shows the percentage spend on training in 2009 as a percentage of total payroll.

Requirement	Performance re All staff	Performance re Go & Related Grades
3 %	4.7 %	5.15 %

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



9. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2009 saw the Information Systems Department focusing on business process improvement as the organisation sought to use IT solutions "to do more with less". There was also investment in improved security and reliability of systems as they become more central to the running of every area of the council. IT succeeded in significantly reducing ongoing costs to the organisation in areas such as telephony, power consumption and paper usage.

Key Achievements:

- *HR & Payroll System*
Major modules of a new HR & Payroll System were implemented, including Payroll and Time & Attendance for indoor staff. Outdoor staff will follow in 2010, along with implementation of a Superannuation module.
- *Planning Administration*
A new Development Contributions management system was implemented.
- *Litter GPS*
Improved methods of capturing litter reports have resulted in a higher success rate for fines and prosecutions.
- *Public Lighting Database*
Completion of public lighting asset inventory and implementation of a management application allows us to better manage our public lighting asset.
- *Meath Business Directory*
Meath Business Directory is an online business directory designed to allow users search for businesses in County Meath. Business owners are able to add/update their businesses details in the Directory.
- *Housing Needs Assessment*
A new application was developed to reduce a process that had previously required approximately 5 months work down to 3-4 weeks.
- *Telephony*
A new telephony system was rolled out in County Hall and other offices which allows for free calls between all offices and provides improved collaboration capabilities. In the area of mobile telephony substantial savings were made through a tender for new rental rates and call charges.
- *Power Consumption*
Implementing a "virtualization" environment allowed for reduction in the number of computer servers required, bringing corresponding reductions in power consumption. This initiative will achieve even more benefits in 2010 as remaining servers are consolidated. A PC power management was also purchased and implemented to achieve further cost reductions in power consumption.

10. INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1. Roads

10.1.1. National Roads Traversing Co. Meath

Slane By Pass	Design amended, EIS and CPO published in December, 2009.
M3 Clonee North of Kells Motorway	Under construction and due to open in June 2010
N2 Ashbourne Ardee	Constraints Study ongoing
N51 Navan Inner Relief Road Phase 2B (Kells Rd to Athboy Rd)	Works completed and road opened.
N2 Primarestown	Works completed
N51 Dunmoe Realignment	Under construction, with completion expected June 2010
Pavement and Improvement Works	N3 Liscarton- Tankardstown N3 Kilcarn / Dowdstown N51 Halltown

10.1.2. Non- National Routes in Co. Meath

R158 Trim/Summerhill/Kilcock Phase 2 (Summerhill to Kilcock)	Works completed
R150 Duleek/Julianstown Phase 2 (Kilsharvan to Julianstown)	Works completed.
R161 Trim / Navan	Works substantially completed.
R154 Patrickstown Oldcastle	Works substantially completed.
R162 Widening of Nobber Bridge	Works completed
Connaught Street, Athboy	Works ongoing
Kentstown Village Improvements	Works substantially complete

10.1.3. 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

10.2. Water Services

Meath County Council's Water Services Programme consists of:

- Major Capital Investment Programme
- Rural Water Programme

10.2.1. Schemes Completed/Under Construction during 2009

- **Major Grouped Wastewater Scheme**
Provision of treatment systems & collection networks for Duleek, Summerhill, Kilmainhamwood, Moynalty, Donore, Athboy, Rathcairn and Rathmolyon.
Works ongoing in 2009. Cost of scheme is €57m
- **Ashbourne/Ratoath/Kilbride Sewerage Schemes Phase 2**
Upgrade and expansion of the existing wastewater system at these locations.
Works ongoing in 2009 and will be completed in 2010 at a cost of €14m.
- **Kiltale Sewerage Scheme**
Provision of new pumping station & network for the village



Works substantially completed in 2009 at a cost of €2.5m.

- **Kilcloon Sewerage Scheme**
Provision of new pumping station & network for the village
Works ongoing in 2009 and will be completed in 2010 at a cost of €2.5m.
- **Dunshaughlin Water Supply Scheme**
Provision of new water supply for Dunshaughlin to increase capacity from c1500m³/day to 3500m³/day.
Works ongoing and will be complete in mid 2010. Cost of scheme is €19m.
- **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. Four (of seven) contracts have commenced, one of which has been completed.
- **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 2009 including the Kiltrough Augmentation Scheme which is due to be completed in 2010.
- **County Wide Water Conservation Project**
Expand the Conservation Programme to all Water Supply schemes in the County. Work on Stages 1 and 2 was completed in 2009 with work on Stage 3-Watermains Rehabilitation Replacement to commence in 2010. Estimated cost is €18m.
- **Non Domestic Metering Project**
Installation of meters on all non domestic premises in the county. Works ongoing in 2009 and will be completed in 2010. Cost of project is €5m.

10.2.2. 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. 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.

11.1. Organisational Change

The Planning Department continued to adopt new process and IT Systems and supported those changes with the redeployment of staff into targeted service delivery area's within the Directorate. Initiatives included :

- Preparatory work for introduction of PDC system to manage development contributions.
- Clearance of waiting lists for pre planning advice.
- Maintained a 5 day turnaround on planning validations.
- General process improvements to mitigate the reduction in staff resources available to the department.
- Redeployment of staff to a dedicated financial collection team.

11.2. Development Management

The Planning Department has noted a 40% reduction in the number of planning applications received in 2009.

Application type	Applications decided	% granted	Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála
Individual Houses	479	59.92%	74.19%
Housing Developments	49	73.47%	72.22%
Other (non EIS)	1062	78.91%	72.46%
Other (incl' EIS)	15	93.33%	25%

Major Planning Applications received or determined during 2009 included:

- Ashbourne : 470 houses (3 developments)
- Light Industrial units , Batterstown , Kells & Gibbstown
- Campus Development Maynooth
- Dunshaughlin: 519 units in 4 developments
- Retail unit for Aldi Ashbourne
- Schools facilities: atoath, Kilmainhamwood, Lismullin, Kells , Kentstown, Bellewstown
- GAA facilities at Dunboyne, Kilberry, Julianstown, Ratoath, Drumree
- Retail parks: Ashbourne and Navan
- Clonee: 377 residential units
- Major town centre development Navan
- Bettystown: 490 Residential units
- Navan: 142 residential units
- Extension to quarries at Oldcastle & Kinnegad
- Revisions to layout of Thermal Treatment facility Duleek
- Recreational facilities, Cushinstown, Ratoath and Athboy

11.3. Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Meath Co Council has prepared reports on 3 applications under the Strategic Infrastructure Act

- College Proteins: Extension to existing facility at Nobber
- Eirgrid East West Inter-connector Skerries to Batterstown
- Greenstar Knockharley extension to Landfill



11.4. Development Contributions Scheme

- Meath County Council adopted a General Development Contribution Scheme for its Administrative area (2010-2015).
- Trim Navan and Kells Town Council also adopted General Development Contribution schemes for their administrative areas. (2010-2015).
- Kells Town Council and Meath Co Council adopted a Supplementary Development Contribution scheme for the Kells Backlands area.

11.5. Planning and Economic Development SPC

The Committee, met for the first time following the Local Elections agreed a work programme to examine the following issues:

- Update on Economic Development Initiatives
- Review of Order of Priority
- County Development Plan Variations (9-11)
- Motorway Interchange Study
- Regional Planning guidelines
- Navan / Dunboyne Rail Line
- Planning & Development Bill
- Review of the Zoning matrix in the CDP

11.6. Enforcement of Planning Control

Meath Local Authorities received 333 complaints of unauthorized development in 2009.

240 warning letters and 84 enforcement notices were issued on foot of those complaints.

35 cases were referred to the courts.

19 residential estates were taken in charge

A dedicated Financial compliance team was set up to pursue developers where development contributions remain unpaid.

11.7. Pre-planning and Advisory Services

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 unsuccessful application.

366 Formal Pre planning meetings were undertaken.

Pre planning advice was given in 1929 other instances via phone and email.

Pre planning meetings are facilitated within one month of a request being made.

11.8. Conservation

The Conservation Officer provides professional advice to the Council and the public on Conservation matters.

The Trim Town Walls Conservation and Management Plan was adopted by Trim Town Council in June 2009 and repair works were carried out to a stretch of Trim Town at Finnegans Way with funding provided by the Heritage Council.

Following the publication of the Slane Village Architectural Conservation Area character appraisal document in 2008, a further 10 guidance documents on the Architectural Conservation Areas in the County were completed by consultants, Lotts Architecture and Urbanism. These are now available to download from our website.

The Heritage Council, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in liaison with local groups, the Irish university and state sectors, as well as the wider heritage community, published a research framework for Brú na Bóinne, re-assessing key priorities and looking at where future research should be directed. The framework document is the first of its kind for Ireland and is only one of four in existence worldwide, Orkney, Avebury and Stonehenge in the UK being the other three published examples. The Conservation Officer chaired the Vernacular and Built Heritage working group on this project.

The Planning Authority also administers the National Conservation Grant Scheme, which provides assistance for appropriate conservation works to protected structures. €163,250 was awarded in grant aid to 28 projects completed in 2009. The funding was given to a range of projects, principally, repairs to roofs, structural repairs and window repairs.



11.9. Building Regulations

361 buildings were inspected by the Building Control Officer representing an inspection rate of 52.54% which is significantly in excess of the recommended 10-15% inspection guide.

356 Building Energy Rating Certificates were received by the Building Control Authority.

11.10. Forward Planning

11.10.1. Local Area Plans

31 Local area plans were adopted in 2009 in the following locations:

Kentstown, Slane, Duleek, Donore, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Kilcock, Maynooth Environs, Dunshaughlin, Kilbride, Dunboyne/Clonee/Pace, Kildalkey, Clonard, Kilmessan, Rathmoylon, Athboy, Oldcastle, Crossakiel, Carnaross, Moynalty, Drumcondrath, Kilmainhamwood, Nobber, Carlanstown, Rathcairn, Gibbstown, Ballivor, Enfield, Longwood, Summerhill and The Southern Environs of Drogheda.

11.10.2. Development Plan Variations

Variation No. 8 Housing Strategy adopted on December 2009.

11.10.3. Town Development Plans

Kells and Navan Development Plans were adopted in 2009

11.10.4. Other Projects

- The Rural Design Guide was progressed to final draft stage.
- The Tara Skryne Landscape Conservation Area project continued with the public consultation and data collection phases.
- IFPLUT (integrated framework plan for land use & transport) - Dunboyne, Clonee and Pace, work ongoing.
- Meath County Council fully participated in the Review of Regional Planning Guidelines.
- Preparation of Meath County Development Plan Implementation Progress Report.
- Preparation of Kells Development Plan Implementation Progress Report.
- Draft Motorway Interchange Study was prepared.
- The Bettystown Framework Plan was adopted in November 2009.
- Commenced review of the Record of Protected Structures in the Meath County Development Plan.
- Julianstown Village Design Statement was advanced.

12. TOWN COUNCILS

12.1. Kells

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

12.1.1. Local Elections 2009

Local Elections were held on the 5th June and the following were elected to form the new Council: Cllr. Brian Curran- Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tommy Grimes Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. Sean Drew, Conor Ferguson, Frankie Lynch, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly, Oliver Sweeney.

12.1.2. Housing

The Headfort Grove & Blackthorn Refurbishment projects were largely completed in 2009. This included the provision of twenty two new additional houses & the refurbishment of 60 houses.

12.1.3. M3 Motorway

The M3 and N52 by-pass of the town are substantially ahead of target and it is hoped that this will be completed in June 2010. 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 town's citizens. The Town Council in collaboration with Meath County Council approved the preparation of 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.

12.1.4. Roadworks' Programme

During 2009 the roads and footpath were completed at:

Location	Description of works
Athboy Road	Renewal of Footpaths
Lord Edward Street	Provision of Specialist Drainage Channel
Church Lane Street	Provision of Specialist Drainage Channel
Headfort Road	Renewal of Footpaths
Market Street	Renewal of Footpath & Erection of Bollards (16.no)
Climber Hall	Renewal of Footpaths

12.1.5. Church Car Park

The Council commenced the proposed works to Headfort Place (south of N3) Church Car Park, Kells. The works included:

Redesign of existing car parking area to include resurfacing with tarmacadam, granite sets, granite flags, limestone pavers and the erection of limestone bollards

Relocation of existing monument (protected structure) to a new position in front of the Town Hall/Civic Offices Building.

Landscaping works including tree planting.

Provision of 2 additional disabled parking bays.

The installation of additional two tone public lighting.

All Ancillary services.

12.1.6. Recreation and Amenity

Phase 1 of the Kells Heritage Walk was completed on Council owned lands at Lloyd. Funding was secured for the provision of the Kells Historic Walking Trail & signage is expected to be in place by mid



2010. The Council also announced proposals of a Kells Enhancement Initiative that would be launched in 2010.

12.1.7. Collection Rates

Commercial Rates 93%

Rents 95%

12.1.8. Economic Development

Planning permission for a new Town centre development comprising retail, residential, commercial, crèche, civic space and associated uses was granted. Other major developments included the opening of Aldi and the proposed development of a new primary care medical centre facility. The Kells Enterprise and Technology Centre is located in the Kells Business Park with a stated of the art call centre of 18,000 square feet available for letting. The Kells Business Park is located at a major strategic interchange at the M3 and currently employs in excess of 700 people.

12.2. Navan

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

12.2.1. Local Elections 2009

Local Elections were held in 2009 and 3 new Members were elected to the Council. Cllr Padraig Fitzsimons was the Mayor for the first half of 2009 and was succeeded by Cllr Joe Reilly.

The Councillors elected to Navan Town Council in 2009 were as follows:

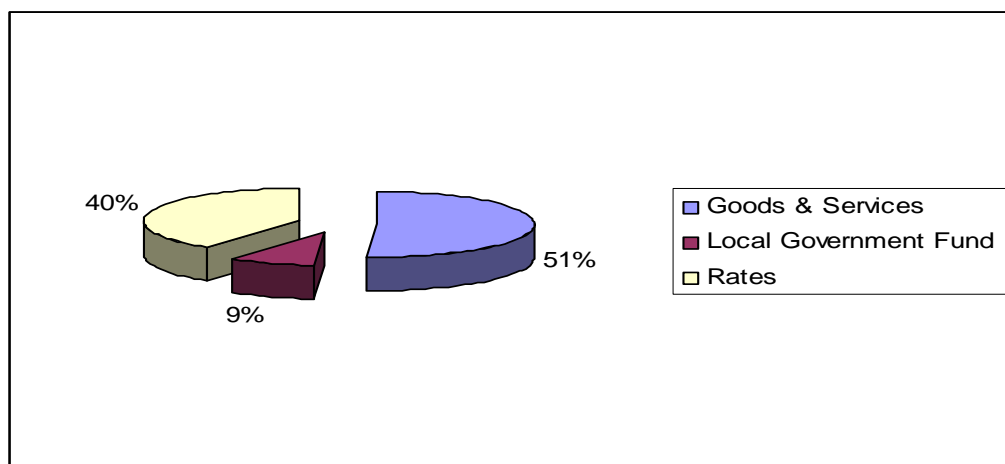
Jim Holloway, Joe Reilly, Anton McCabe, Francis Deane, Shane Cassells, Peadar Toibin, Padraig Fitzsimons, Suzanne Jamal, Phil Brennan.

12.2.2. Finance

Total Budgeted Revenue expenditure for 2009 was €6.7m.

The Annual Rate on Valuation in respect of 2009 adopted by Navan Town Council was €57.13

The following is a % breakdown of Budgeted Revenue Income for 2009



The Council's collection rates were

Commercial Rates 71%
Rents 72%

Payments to Council Members

Payments made to members under travelling & subsistence	€16,157.94
Payments to members in respect of conferences, seminars, etc.	<u>€13,288.94</u>
	€29,446.88

12.2.3. Recreation and Amenity

The Council awarded amenity grants in the sum of €30,650 to various residents associations, sporting groups, theatrical groups, river rescue and organisations working with people with a disability, the youth and the elderly.

€1,000 was awarded for band performances while €2,800 was awarded for promotion of the Arts.

12.2.4. Housing

There were 14 houses allocated this year and 5 applications under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

Navan Town Council continued installing central heating in houses under its Central Heating Programme. This programme will be complete in 2010.

12.2.5. Smarter Travel

The Sustainable Travel Areas Competition was launched this summer to support innovative sustainable travel projects that create a safer, healthier, greener and more attractive Town through the promotion of walking, cycling, public transport. Navan submitted its Stage 1 Bid on 30th October 2009. 39 Stage 1 bids were submitted in total. Navan was one of only 11 selected areas to go through to Stage 2.

12.2.6. Civic Receptions

The Mayor and Members of Navan Town Council held 3 Civic Receptions in 2009 in order to recognise the achievements of members of, or groups in the community.

Navan Rugby Club – to recognise its sporting achievements.

Sr. Peter Daly, St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy – to recognise her long service as a teacher and parish sister in Navan

Bishop Michael Smyth – On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal Ordination.

12.2.7. Joint Policing Committee

2009 saw the establishment of the Navan Joint Policing Committee which will be an important driver in communicating with, protecting and uniting our communities. The Navan Joint Policing Committee will also be another mechanism for communities to have a greater say and involvement in the democratic process.

There is a total of 18 Members of the Navan Joint Policing Committee. This is made up of 9 Elected Members from Navan Town Council, 2 Oireachtas Members, 3 Community Reps, the Superintendent, Inspector Navan, Navan Town Manager and Navan Town Clerk. Cllr Joe Reilly was nominated as Chairperson of the Joint Policing Committee.

12.2.8. Boundary Alterations

On the 1st May 2009 the Navan Town boundary alteration came into operation. Navan is now the 4th largest Town in Country and the alteration has given Navan the potential to grow into a bigger more modern town, which in the future will have access to additional funding streams. It will also enable the Elected Members to have decision making powers relating to the entire area of the electorate they represent.

12.2.9. Special Projects

Kennedy Place

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

Market Square/Watergate St Enhancement

The detailed design and tender process for the Market Square/Watergate Street Enhancement scheme was completed in 2009. This scheme is set to commence in early 2010.

Navan Town Park

2009 saw significant progress being made in sourcing funding to commence work on the 68 acre Town Park. It is envisaged that the new Public Park will be used as actively as possible and accommodate a variety of different experiences, both passive, active and ecological

The accommodation of a major element of sporting facilities will be a suitable way to develop an active / recreational element. The development of a series of walkways and cycle paths through the Park will provide both passive and active recreation. Sporting provisions such as Football pitches, skateboard Park, Indoor Arena, Multi use Games Area, Bowling Greens, Fishing Platforms, Pavilion/Changing Area's etc will be available and accessible by all members of the Community.

The internal cycle and pedestrian network layout will allow trips through the Park as well as alternative routing within it.

It is hoped that construction works will commence on phase 1 of the project in the last quarter of the coming year.



Solstice Arts Centre

The Solstice Arts Centre continues to provide a wide variety of shows and events for the the citizens and visitors to Meath's County Town. In 2009, approximately 45,000 people visited the centre.

12.2.10. Roadworks' Programmes

Description of works	Location
Installation of drainage, construction of footpaths and resurfacing of road.	Beechmount Home Park
New footpaths and road surfacing	Bridge Street
Renewal of all roadmarkings including parking bays, double yellow lines, yellow boxes etc.	Navan Town
Installation of pelican crossing	Abbey Road adjacent to Canon Row.
Alterations to entrances to estate.	Connolly Avenue (RAPID)
Securing of alleyways and provision of measures to reduce antisocial behaviour	St. Brigid's Villas (RAPID)

The Council's collection rates were

Commercial Rates 71%
Rents 72%

Payments to Council Members

Payments made to members under travelling & subsistence €16,157.94
Payments to members in respect of conferences, seminars, etc. €13,288.94
€29,446.88

No. of Meetings of Navan Town Council

A total of 14 meetings were held in 2009.



12.3. Trim

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

12.3.1. Local Elections 2009

An Election took place in June 2009 which saw new members elected to Trim Town Council, they are; Cllr Ray Butler, who was appointed Cathaoirleach; Cllr Gerry Reilly who was appointed Leas Cathaoirleach; Cllrs. Vincent McHugh, Donal O'Brien, William Fay, Philip Cantwell, Ronan McKenna, Trevor Golden and James O'Shea.

12.3.2. Roadworks' Programme

During 2009 the roads and footpath Reconstruction and Restoration Programme continued. Works were completed on Loman Street. Works continued on the O.P.W. new headquarters which encompassed a joint Trim Town Council and Meath County Council project of the construction of a new road to service this site with the works completed in November 2009.

12.3.3. Trim sports and Leisure Complex

Construction on the new Trim Sports and Leisure Centre was completed. The centre opened to the public on 23rd February, 2009, and is operated by Aura Sports and Leisure Company Ltd.

12.3.4. Trim Town Development

Funding was provided by the members to commence a Feasibility Study for the establishment of an Enterprise Centre for Trim.

The Council established links with the newly reformed Chamber of Commerce and worked closely with its members on a number of projects such as the Saturday free parking in car parks and the Christmas Market.

12.3.5. Heritage

The Council adopted a conservation and management plan for the old Town Walls in July 2009 and funding was secured to commence work on the conservation of the Town Wall with works commencing on Finnegan's Way in August 2009.

12.3.6. Tidy Towns

Trim Town Council in conjunction with Trim Tidy Towns Committee achieved high standard and were awarded a Bronze Medal in National Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony for the second year in succession. Trim continued to fare well in the IBAL Litter League retaining its Litter Free Status.



13. APPENDIX 1: SPC MEMBERS

Full Name	Address	Representative	Phone No.	Email
Environmental SPC				
Cllr Tommy Reilly Chair	Ardsallagh, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	087-2786945	tommyreilly@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Maria Murphy	3 The Close, Lutterell Hall, Dunboyne, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	087-6579895	maricacmurphy@eircom.net
Cllr Eoin Holmes	Blackhill, Heathstown, Stamullen, Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	087-2242765	eholmes@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Wayne Harding	The Village Inn, Slane Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	087-9905585	waynemharding@gmail.com
Cllr Seamus O'Neill	Main Street, Duleek Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	086-8548183	Seamusoneill2@eircom.net
Cllr Sirena Campbell	Smithstown, Julianstown, Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	087-6444681	sirena.campbell@ireland.com
Cllr Ray Butler	7 Swift Court, Trim Co Meath	Cllr Trim Area	086-1012088	raybutlertrim@eircom.net
Cllr Sarah Reilly	36 Bective Place, Kells Co Meath	Cllr Kells Town Council	086-4085679	sreilly@members.kellstc.ie
Suzanne Brady	The Old Rectory, Rathmolyon, Co Meath	Community	046-9555210	
Andrea Carroll	10 Maple Grove, Johnstown Wood, Navan Co Meath	Sectoral – Pillar	086-3968988	andrea@arcsustainability.ie
Infrastructural Development SPC				
Cllr Jim Holloway Chair	Farganstown, Navan, Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	086-2355236	jholloway@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr William Carey	Newcastle, Enfield, Co Meath	Cllr Trim Area	085-7135073	wcarey@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Regina Doherty	2 Glebe Park, Ratoath, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	087-2680182	Regina.doherty@finegael.ie
Cllr Jenny McHugh	Laracor, Trim Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	086-0414217	Jenny.mchugh@gmail.com
Cllr Shane Cassells	52 Oakleigh, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	086-3399198	scassells@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Jimmy Fegan	Clonfane, Trim Co Meath	Cllr Trim Area	087-8304646	jfegan@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Joe Bonner	Donaghmore, Ashbourne, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	087-9749563	jbonner@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Francis Deane	5 Blackwater Drive, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	086-1234856	fideane1@eircom.net
Jim Mangan	160 Abbeygrove, Navan Co Meath	Community	046-9022549	
Hugh Morris		Local Business –	087-	hubertmorriskells@yahoo.co.uk



		Pillar	2229158	
Planning & Economic Development SPC				
Cllr John V Farrelly Chair	Hurdlestown, Kells Co Meath	Cllr Kells Area	086-2585154	remaxroyalcounty@eircom.net
Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Possetown, Nobber Co Meath	Cllr Kells Area	086-3717686	ecassidy@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Niamh McGowan	3 Hunter's Lane, Ashbourne, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	086-2244666	Niamhformeath@gmail.com
Cllr Bryan Reilly	Rockfield Rd, Kells Co Meath	Cllr Kells Area	086-2599186	bryan@bryanreillyauctioneer.com
Cllr Oliver Fox	Cogan Street, Oldcastle, Co Meath	Cllr Kells Area	087-2795741	johnoliverfox@gmail.com
Cllr Joe Reilly	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	087-2478508	joereilly@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Warrenstown, Kilcock, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	087-2508247	briannfitzgerald@yahoo.com
Cllr Trevor Golden	Church Lane, Trim Co Meath	Cllr Trim Town Council	086-4008007	Trevor.golden@gmail.com
Kieran Cummins	Trammon, Rathmolyon, Co Meath	Community	087-2523577	
Brendan Conway	54 Millbrook, Johnstown, Navan Co Meath	Trade Union – Pillar	087-6128599	
Social, Community & Cultural Development SPC				
Cllr Ann Dillon-Gallagher Chair	Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	086-8800866	adgallagher@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Ballivor Co Meath	Cllr Trim Area	086-8781785	tracyloughlin@hotmail.com
Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Flemington, Balrath, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Area	087-7971297	suzjamal@hotmail.com
Cllr Catherine Yore	The Rock, Rathendrick, Carnaross, Kells Co Meath	Cllr Kells Area	086-3919003	catherineannyore@hotmail.com
Cllr Noel Leonard	4 St Patrick's Park, Dunboyne, Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	087-2345186	nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Nick Killian	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne Co Meath	Cllr Dunshaughlin Area	086-8109018	nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Jimmy Cudden	23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek Co Meath	Cllr Slane Area	086-8246484	jcudden@members.meathcoco.ie
Cllr Peadar Toibin	123 Woodlands Est, Navan Co Meath	Cllr Navan Town Council	086-3575742	peadartoibin@gmail.com
Patricia Hehir	The Moate, Rathmolyon Co Meath	Community		
Peter Rogers	Moynalty, Kells Co Meath	Community	046-9244626	
Tony Darby	Ratoath, Co Meath	Community		
Robert Bradley	11 Kells Rd, Trim Co Meath	Trade Union – Pillar	086-8194700	



14. APPENDIX 2: SPS ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Strategic Policy Committees 2009		
Name	Meetings Held	Report on Activities
Environmental	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out of 'Brown-Bin Service' • Implementation of 'Collection, Storage and Presentation of Waste' Bye-laws • Consultation regarding preparation of 'River Basin District Management Plans' (3) & implementation of the 'Water Framework Directive' • Provision of Burial Grounds • 'Site Assessors Panel' & 'EPA Code of Practice for Single Houses with PE of less than 10' • Indaver Waste to Energy facility & Community Liaison Committee
Infrastructural Development	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement Condition Survey for roads in County Meath • M3 Project & Impact • Roadworks Programme
Planning & Economic Development	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Economic Development Initiatives • Review of Order of Priority • County Development Plan Variations (9-11) • Motorway Interchange Study • Regional Planning guidelines • Navan / Dunboyne Rail Line • Planning & Development Bill • Review of the Zoning matrix in the CDP
Housing, Social, Cultural & Community	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Building Programme • Housing – proposed Capital Allocation 2008-2010 • Housing work programme and Business Plan for 2008 • Provision of Community & Recreational facilities in Windtown Navan • Council's Land Bank • Council's Internal Capital Receipts • Up-date on Affordable Housing & Part V • Disabled Persons Grant Scheme and the Essential Repairs Grants Schemes / New Schemes • Housing Needs Assessment 2008 • Capital Allocation for 2008 • DPG's & ERG's • Homeless Shelter • Staff in Housing Area • Draft Meath Local Authorities Play Policy • Proposed amendments to the Housing Strategy in view of changing economic circumstances for Social & Affordable Housing Provision • New Framework of Grants scheme which have replaced DPG's & ERG's • Revisions to the Schemes of Letting Priorities • Issues relating to Anti-Social Behaviour • Draft County Meath Biodiversity Action Plan 2008-2012 • Draft Meath Homeless Action Plan 2007-2011 • Draft Disability Implementation Plan 2008-2015 • Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013 • Update on Affordable Housing



15. APPENDIX 3: COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Name of Committee	Name	Party
Meath County Enterprise Board	Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Ray Butler	Fine Gael
	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
The Mid East Regional Authority.	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald	Non Party
	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Cllr Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
Meath Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
Regional Advisory Council Teagasc	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
Regional Health Forum	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
Audit Committee	Cllr Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil



VEC	Cllr Ray Butler	Fine Gael
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Catherine Yore	Fine Gael
Joint Policing Committee	Cllr Regina Doherty	Fine Gael
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Seamus O'Neill	Non-Party
	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr Joe Reilly	Sinn Féin
	Cllr Francis Deane	Non-Party
Community Reps	Shaun Lynch	
	Charlie Traynor	
	Cllr Nick Killian	
MCC Staff	Martin Rogers	
	Kevin Stewart	
Gardai	Padraig Rattigan	
	Michael Devine	
Oireachtais Members	Johnny Brady	
	Damien English	
	Mary Wallace	
	Dominic Hannigan	
	Thomas Byrne	
Meath Partnership Co Ltd	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael



	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Brian Collins	Labour Party
Association of County & City Councils	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
LAMA	Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
Navan Enterprise Centre Company Ltd	Cllr Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Shane Cassells	Fianna Fáil
East Border Region	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
Forum of East Border Region	Cllr Regina Doherty	Fine Gael
	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Cllr Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
Meath Local Sports Partnership Ltd	Cllr Sirena Campbell	Fine Gael
Disability Advisory Committee	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
Board of Meath Arts Centre Ltd	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Joe Reilly	Sinn Féin
	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
Mid-East Regional Tourism Organisation	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
Meath Arts Forum	Cllr Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr Ray Butler	Fine Gael
	Cllr Eoin Holmes	Labour



	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
Meath Tourism Ltd(Directors)	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
Athboy Social Needs & Recreational Company Ltd	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
Kells Community Enterprise Company Ltd	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
Meath Heritage Forum	Cllr William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
Trim Sports & Leisure Centre Company Ltd (Directors)	Cllr Ray Butler	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tracy McElhinney	Labour
Ashbourne Cemetery Committee	Cllr Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr Joe Bonner	Non=Party
Indaver Community Liaison Committee	Cllr Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Cllr Jimmy Cudden	Non-Party
Protocol Committee		
	Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Shane Cassells	Fianna Fail
	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Willie Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Jimmy Cudden	Non-Party
CPG	Cllr Willie Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr John V Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael



16. APPENDIX 4: CONFERENCES AT HOME

2009 Home Conferences attended by the Elected Members			
Title	Dates		Members Attended
The Greening of Irish Agriculture	09/01/2009		Cllr Philip Cantwell
Effective Communication for Councillors	16/01/2009 – 18/01/2009		Cllr William Carey
			Cllr Noel Leonard
UCC Commerce Society – 27 th Annual Business Conference	20/01/2009		Cllr William Carey
Activities Tourism	23/01/2009 – 24/01/2009		Cllr Philip Cantwell
The Local Government Planning Services	23/01/2009 – 25/01/2009		Cllr Eugene Cassidy
			Cllr James Holloway
			Cllr Noel Leonard
Information & Communication Technologies for Councillors	06/02/2009 – 08/02/2009		Cllr Tommy Reilly
AMAI Spring Seminar 2009	13/02/2009 – 14/02/2009		Cllr William Carey
			Cllr Charles Bobbett
			Cllr Patsy O'Neill
Ireland's Water: What is the real cost?	19/02/2009 – 20/02/2009		Cllr Jimmy Fegan
Freedom of Information Seminar	20/02/2009 – 22/02/2009		Cllr Noel Leonard Cllr Patsy O'Neill
Ireland and the Economic Recession	27/02/2009 – 01/03/2009		Cllr James Holloway
International Local Government Convention Ireland 2009	03/03/2009 – 06/03/2009		Cllr Oliver Brooks
			Cllr James Holloway
			Cllr Brian Fitzgerald
Local Sustainable Tourism Management in a Global Economic Slowdown	06/03/2009 – 08/03/2009		Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Seamus Murray
Building Energy Regulations Seminar	13/03/2009 – 15/03/2009		Cllr Charles Bobbett
			Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Tommy Reilly
Planning & Development Control Seminar	20/03/2009 – 22/03/2009		Cllr Charles Bobbett Cllr Seamus Murray
Economic & Social Benefits of Preserving our Cultural Heritage	26/03/2009 – 27/03/2009		Cllr Philip Cantwell
The Westport Experience – 20 Bliain at Fás	27/03/2009		Cllr Seamus Murray
ACCC Conference	02/04/2009 – 03/04/2009		Cllr William Carey
			Cllr Jimmy Fegan Cllr Michael Lynch
Public Relations and the Media	03/04/2009 – 05/04/2009		Cllr Noel Leonard
LAMA Spring Seminar 2009	16/04/2009 – 17/04/2009		Cllr Jimmy Cudden
			Cllr Nick Killian Cllr Michael Lynch
Rural Dwellers – a threatened species	22/04/2009 – 23/04/2009		Cllr Philip Cantwell
			Cllr Michael Lynch
Drug & Alcohol Abuse	15/05/2009 – 17/05/2009		Cllr Michael Lynch
Supporting Family Carers	29/05/2009 – 31/05/2009		Cllr Michael Lynch



17. APPENDIX 5: CONFERENCES Abroad

List Approved Abroad Conferences and members who attended in 2009		
Title	Dates	Members Attended
St Patrick's Day – New York	March 2009	Cllr Brian Fitzgerald
		Cllr Jenny D'Arcy
St Patrick's Day – London	March 2009	Cllr William Carey
		Cllr Noel Leonard
Solheim Cup – Chicago	August 2009	Cllr John V Farrelly
East Border Region - Brussels	October 2009	Cllr John V Farrelly
		Cllr Wayne Harding



18. APPENDIX 5: MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL - 2009

Monthly Meetings	10
Special Meetings	11
Annual	1
Pre Budget and Budget	2
Protocol	9
CPG	9
SPC – Environment	
SPC - Infrastructure	1
SPC – Social,Community & Culture	
SPC – Planning & Economic	
Area - Dunshaughlin	11
- Kells	10
- Navan	16
Slane	11
Trim	9



19. APPENDIX 6: ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2009		
Expenditure	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	10.225	54.593
Roads Transportation & Safety	23.331	52.356
Water & Sewerage	22.015	51.711
Development Incentives & Controls	11.796	10.936
Environmental Protection	12.496	0.050
Recreation & Amenity	5.739	1.320
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	8.031	0.111
Miscellaneous	7.278	0.127
Total	100.911	171.204
Income (See funding sources below)	52.591	158.705
Net Transfers		2.590
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from County	(48.320)	
Rates	21.524	
Local Government Fund & Pension Related Deduction	27.601	
Charges to Urbans	2.881	
Transfer from (to) Reserves	(3.377)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.309	(9.909)
Opening Balance (01/01/09)	(9.614)	53.935
Closing Balance	(9.305)	44.026
Funding Sources	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
State Grants & Subsidies	23.532	107.221
Borrowings	4.669	38.677
Other Receipts		12.807
Rents from Houses	6.464	
Housing Loans	0.628	
Commercial Water and Sewerage	2.801	
Planning Fees	1.726	
Recreation & Amenity Activities	0.231	
Fire Charges	0.503	
Pension Contributions	1.512	
Miscellaneous	10.835	
Total	52.901	158.705



Members allowances and expenses for Conferences (€)	
	€
Chairman's and SPC Chairs Allowance	49,366
Councillors' Gratuities	328,954
Member's Expenses/Salaries	816,119
Attendance at Conferences abroad	12,083