

# Meath Local Authorities Annual Report 2012





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## 1 FOREWORD

We are pleased to present, on behalf of Meath Local Authorities, the Annual Report for 2012. The publication of this report gives an opportunity to illustrate and provide information on the progress in relation to the corporate objectives and supporting strategies as set out in the Corporate Plan for Meath Local Authorities, 2009-2014.

During 2012, despite the economic challenges, the Council continued to efficiently manage its finances and was pleased to record a small surplus at the end of the year. There is no doubt that the past few years have been difficult, but despite the financial situation Meath Local Authorities continued to deliver quality services with fewer staff and reduced income.

The highlight of 2012 was the adoption of the new County Development Plan for the period 2013-2019. A sustainable economy, sustainable heritage and sustainable communities are the three central pillars of the new development plan. It will be the guiding force for the future of County Meath and pays due respect to its largely rural and agricultural past, while at the same time focusing on the emerging science-based employment of the future.

The focus on economic development continued in 2012 with the development of new economic profiles for seven key locations in the County and the launch of the *'Whatever your business...Make it Meath'* campaign. We are determined to promote, on a global scale, Meath's unrivalled accessibility, highly skilled workforce and the attractiveness of our county as a place to invest in and to live.

The ongoing commitment to supporting our communities is also highlighted in this report. The Council continues to work in partnership with them to promote social inclusion and to encourage participation in the development of cultural and environmental programmes.

We experienced many proud moments in 2012 including the success of our Meath Olympians and Paralympians as they competed in the London Olympics. We were particularly pleased that Navan Town Council received the Chamber's Ireland Town Council of the Year award. Another proud moment was receiving the LAMA Award for the Best Public Campaign by a Government Body for the staging of the Solheim Cup in 2011.

In September, we bade farewell to, Tom Dowling, who served as County Manager in Meath for ten years. We congratulate him on his many achievements in bringing pride to the towns and villages of the county and working with the people to make Meath a better place.

We would also like to recognise and pay tribute to Brendan McGrath who took up the position of County Manager, from September, and wish him well in his new position as Galway City Manager.

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.

2012 was a challenging year and, undoubtedly, further challenges lie ahead for our county and its citizens. Nonetheless, we look forward to facing those challenges in the coming year and working together to achieve our vision, mission and corporate objectives.



Jackie Maguire  
County Manager



Niamh McGowan  
Cathaoirleach



## 2 LOCAL DEMOCRACY

### Dunshaughlin Electoral Area Members

						
<b>Cllr. Gerry O'Connor</b>	<b>Cllr. Joseph Bonner</b>	<b>Cllr. Niamh McGowan</b>	<b>Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Cllr. Nick Killian</b>	<b>Cllr. Noel Leonard</b>	<b>Cllr. Maria Murphy</b>
23 The Downs, Dunshaughlin. Fine Gael 01 8259034 087 2838311 <a href="mailto:GOConnor@members.meathcoco.ie">GOConnor@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	Donaghmore, Ashbourne. Non-Party 087 9749563 <a href="mailto:ibonner@members.meathcoco.ie">ibonner@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	3 Hunter's Lane, Ashbourne. Labour 086 2244666 <a href="mailto:nmcgowan@members.meathcoco.ie">nmcgowan@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	Warrenstown, Kilcock. Non-Party 01 8251847 087 2508247 <a href="mailto:BFitzgerald@members.meathcoco.ie">BFitzgerald@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne. Fianna Fáil 01 8256700 086 8109018 <a href="mailto:nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie">nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	4 St. Patrick's Park, Dunboyne. Fianna Fáil 01 8251216 087 2345186 <a href="mailto:nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie">nleonard@members.meathcoco.ie</a>	3 The Close, Lutterell Hall, Dunboyne. Fine Gael 01 8252182 087 6579895 <a href="mailto:mariamurphy@members.meathcoco.ie">mariamurphy@members.meathcoco.ie</a>

### Kells Electoral Area Members

				
<b>Cllr. John V Farrelly</b>	<b>Cllr. Catherine Yore</b>	<b>Cllr. Eugene Cassidy</b>	<b>Cllr. Oliver Fox</b>	<b>Cllr. Bryan Reilly</b>
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Navan Electoral Area Members

<b>Cllr. Francis Deane</b>	<b>Cllr. Shane Cassells</b>	<b>Cllr. Suzanne Jamal</b>	<b>Cllr. Jim Holloway</b>	<b>Cllr. Jenny McHugh</b>	<b>Cllr. Joe Reilly</b>	<b>Cllr. Tommy Reilly</b>
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Slane Electoral Area Members

<b>Cllr. Sirena Campbell</b>	<b>Cllr. Jimmy Cudden</b>	<b>Cllr. Ann Dillon-Gallagher</b>	<b>Cllr. Eoin Holmes</b>	<b>Cllr. Arian Keogan</b>	<b>Cllr. Wayne Harding</b>
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Trim Electoral Area Members

			
<b>Cllr. Joe Fox</b>	<b>Cllr. William Carey</b>	<b>Cllr. Jimmy Fegan</b>	<b>Cllr. Tracy McElhinney</b>
<b>Clondoogan, Summerhill Fine Gael 046 9557545 087 2631318 <a href="mailto:JFox@members.meathcoco.ie">JFox@members.meathcoco.ie</a></b>	<b>Newcastle, Enfield Fine Gael 046 9541064 085 7135073 <a href="mailto:WCarey@members.meathcoco.ie">WCarey@members.meathcoco.ie</a></b>	<b>Clonfane, Trim Fianna Fáil 046 9431146 <a href="mailto:JFegan@members.meathcoco.ie">JFegan@members.meathcoco.ie</a></b>	<b>Ballivor Labour 046 9567641 086 8781785 <a href="mailto:tmcelhinney@members.meathcoco.ie">tmcelhinney@members.meathcoco.ie</a></b>

### 3 COMMUNITY

#### 3.1 Meath County Development Board

In 2012, Meath County Development Board met four times. Presentations were made by Agencies including:

- Biodiversity
- Intertrade Ireland
- Elevation Projects and Renaissance Programme – Meath Partnership
- Meath VEC and VEC Training
- ConnectIreland – Success in Ireland
- Draft Meath County Development Plan 2013 - 2019
- Age Friendly County Initiative
- Tuath Housing Association
- Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government
- Final Report of the Local Government/Local Development Alignment Steering group March 2012.

The County Development Board endorsed the annual workplan for Meath Partnership (LCDP Programme) 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012.

Meath Children's Services Committee continued to meet in 2012, and in October 2012, a 3 year Strategic Plan was approved entitled 'Meath Children and Young Peoples Plan 2012 – 2015.

#### 3.2 Community Development

##### 3.2.1 Age Friendly County Initiative

The Age-Friendly County initiative has progressed since it was launched in September, 2011. It seeks to engage older people and their communities in making their communities better, healthier and safer places for older people to live and thrive. The Meath Age Friendly County Alliance, which includes members of key stakeholders and agencies, has prepared a Strategy, with actions based on extensive consultation with older people in Meath. The strategy was launched by Michael O' Muircheartaigh in Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. Speakers at the event were Mr Tom Dowling, County Manager, Dermot Monaghan, Area Manager for Louth/Meath, HSE, Michael Ludlow, CEO, Meath Partnership.

Work is continuing on the Older People's Forum in association with Meath Partnership and on a Regional basis with Meath, Louth, Cavan, Monaghan and Fingal Counties.



Launch of Age Friendly Strategy.



### 3.2.1 Corporate Governance

Meath Community & Voluntary Steering Group in conjunction with the Community Department and Corporate Governance Unit, Finance Department of Meath County Council held an Information Event on “**The Governance Code - Your guide to the Governance Code**” on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2012.

A Code of Practice for good governance of community, voluntary and charitable organisations in Ireland has been developed by the sector, for the sector. All community, voluntary and charitable organisations are encouraged to adopt the code. Speakers at the event were, Garret O’Brien, Chair, Meath Community & Voluntary Steering Group, Kevin Prendergast, Corporate Compliance Manager, Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement – Corporate Healthcheck for Company Directors, Senan Turnbull, member of the Working Group for the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations – Governance Code for Community & Voluntary and Charitable Organisations, Des Foley, Director of Services, Meath County Council.

### 3.2.2 Meath Traveller Employment Initiative

This project established under the Interagency Traveller Strategy continued to be funded by FÁS during 2012. The project was mainstreamed nationwide in 2012. Funding is now administered by the Dept. of Social Protection directly to Jobmatters, under Supported Employment Programme.

### 3.2.3 Cultúr

Cultúr, works with migrants in Meath. Meath County Council channels funding from the Department of Justice & Equality - Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration to Cultúr. The Migrants Integration in Meath Equally (MIME) project funded under the European Integration Fund and a contribution by Meath County Council, was completed in August 2012 and the Reach Project managed under the Equality for Women Measure Programme, on behalf of the Dept. of Justice & Equality and funded by the European Social Fund was completed in December, 2012.

### 3.2.4 Community & Voluntary Forum

The Steering Group met nine times during 2012 and held their AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2012. The Fora have actively engaged with their local communities to provide safety equipment, including all weather equipment.

The Department of Environment Community & Local Government supports the forum financially each year and this has in part been allocated to Projects in the County which have a significant need.

New Area Fora were established in Kells and Dunshaughlin. There are now Area Fora in the five electoral areas of Meath.

### 3.2.5 Community Communications

A web presence is available for community and voluntary groups at [www.meathcommunities.ie](http://www.meathcommunities.ie). Currently 94 groups have active sites. The following websites continue to be available to public and provide valuable resources and information for business and community :- Meath Education and Training Directory ([www.metd.ie](http://www.metd.ie)); Meath Care Portal ([www.meathcareportal.ie](http://www.meathcareportal.ie)); Meath Support Services Directory ([www.meathsupportservices.ie](http://www.meathsupportservices.ie)); Meath4Funding ([www.meath4funding.ie](http://www.meath4funding.ie)); and Meath Business Property listings [www.meathbusinessproperty.ie](http://www.meathbusinessproperty.ie)

### 3.2.6 SIM Group

SIM Group operates as a networking and information sharing forum for interagency and local development groups in the County. Presentations were made to the group on a number of issues: Meath County Childcare Committee, Aontas, Integration Centre-Anti Racism and Diversity Strategy, Local Integration Planning Centre, RAPID, Meath GAA Inclusion & Integration Plan, Digital Switchover, etc. The group was consulted prior to the endorsement of the workplan of Meath Partnership for funding under Local Community Development Programme (LCDP). In November, balloons were launched to mark the Women's Aid 16 Days of Action Opposing Violence against Women in conjunction with Meath Women's Refuge. A new website has been developed for the group [www.manyfacesofmeath.com](http://www.manyfacesofmeath.com)

### 3.2.7 Social Inclusion Unit

The Social Inclusion Unit for Meath County Council continued to be part funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government. Meath SI Unit, during Social Inclusion Week October, 2012, co-ordinated events organised by Meath Travellers Workshop, Meath Volunteer Centre, RAPID, Cultur, Beaufort College, Kells Family Resource Centre, FAI, Meath Local Sports Partnership, Meath Libraries, Meath Partnership, County Childcare Committee, Flexibus, Trim Family Resource Centre. A Social Inclusion information day, involving all of these groups and others like Jigsaw, Jobmatters, Meath Travellers' Employment Initiative, MCC Environment Section, was held in Navan Shopping Centre.

The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government funded the provision of Smoke Alarms for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.



### 3.2.8 Youth

A part-time co-ordinator working 1.5 per week continued to work with Meath Comhairle na nÓg during 2012. This work is funded through the Comhairle na nÓg Development Fund administered by the Department of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

There are 26 members of Meath Comhairle na nÓg aged between 12-17 years., all elected by their peers at the Comhairle na nÓg AGM that 120 young people attended on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2012.

In 2012 Meath Comhairle na nÓg devised a new Drug and Alcohol Awareness Programme called – Your Choice. This was created by young people for young people and was launched at the AGM 2012 by An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Niamh McGowan.

Meath Comhairle na nÓg was consulted on the County Development Plan and made a submission for inclusion. The plan now states that Meath County Council aims:

*To consult with and support Meath Comhairle na nÓg in the development of local services and policies that may impact on the lives of young people.*

Comhairle na nÓg through funding from Leargas, under the Causeway Exchange Programme enjoyed a youth exchange with Gateshead Borough Youth Assembly.

Meath CNN travelled to Gateshead in March, 2012 for one week and Gateshead youth returned in October for one week.

In November 2012, fifteen young people from Meath CNN attended the Comhairle na nÓg National Showcase in Croke Park, Dublin. This was an opportunity to celebrate the work of the Comhairlí nationally and gave Meath Comhairle na nÓg an opportunity to showcase their work. This was hosted by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald.

### 3.2.9 RAPID

An abundance of new services, facilities and programme were introduced in the RAPID Area in 2012 through interagency work and collaboration of services. Community participation in the programme was also increased. A new RAPID 2012 - 2014 Plan was approved by the AIT in May 2012. Throughout the year much progress has been made on the delivery of actions contained in this plan. The RAPID Needs' Analysis Survey Report was published and launched. The RAPID Navan AIT was allocated €5,000 towards the Community Support Budget by Pobal.

### 3.2.10 Meath Local Sports Partnership

Meath LSP engaged Irish leisure Consultants to review the Strategic Plan 2007 – 2012 and the Disability in sport strategic plan 2009-2012. The reports are due in early 2013.

A database of all community and sporting facilities is mapped and available to the public at <http://www.meathsports.ie/clubs-and-facilities/facility-directory.html>

Meath LSP created facebook and twitter accounts in 2012. See [www.facebook.com/meathsportspartnership](http://www.facebook.com/meathsportspartnership) and [www.twitter.com/MeathLocalSport](http://www.twitter.com/MeathLocalSport)

Funding was secured to implement a 'Be Active After School Project' which introduces 7-8-year-old children to fun physical activity in a safe, familiar, structured setting, with an emphasis on enjoyment, learning and variety of activity.

The An Post Meath Heritage Cycle Tour took place in July. 3000 cyclists on 4 different routes departed from Trim. The nominated charity for event was Meath Alzheimers Group.

Royal County 5k was held in Kells in May. Nominated Charity was Special Hands group in Kells.

Meath Coast 10k – The inaugural event in East Meath attracted over 350 participants from the Laytown, Bettystown and Morningson areas. It was run in association with St Colmcille's GAA, Gardaí and RehabCare.

Programmes and courses suited to older people and people with disability continue to grow with large numbers participating in Games for Life, Mature Movers, Disability Summer and Winter.



### 3.3 Pride of Place

#### 3.3.1 Pride of Place Initiatives

In 2012, 200 projects were completed among community and voluntary groups and schools. These projects included many town and village enhancement schemes, provision and maintenance of recreational spaces, biodiversity projects, recycling and recovery schemes, sustainable planting, community composting and the development in many schools of sustainable gardens with food production by primary school children. Fordstown and Girley Development Association won the overall award at a ceremony in October, with many other excellent projects receiving acknowledgement for their efforts. Lismullen National School received the top prize in the schools' category.

#### 3.3.2 Co-Operation Ireland All Island Pride of Place Awards

County Meath was well represented in the Co-Operation Ireland Pride of Place Competition with five Meath groups taking part, four of which received awards at a ceremony in Limerick in November.

#### 3.3.3 Anti Litter League 2012

Over one hundred community and voluntary groups and secondary schools took part in this competition, which resulted in thousands of people collecting litter from across the county over a six week period in March and April, 2012. Meath County Council provided bags, gloves, bibs, bins and waste collections to assist these groups, and an awards evening was held in April.



Overall Anti-Litter League Award Winners - Dunboyne

#### 3.3.4 Carranstown and Knockharley Community Grant Scheme

There are currently two schemes available in the County at Knockharley and Carranstown for environmental improvement works. Many community groups and approved householders in these two areas have undertaken a wide range of projects including improvements to schools & sports clubs, redevelopment of the parish Hall in Kentstown, landscaping and improvements to housing estates. Ten local residents received funding from the Knockharley Grant Scheme to improve the environmental efficiency of their homes. A new project to develop a Community Centre in Kentstown is under way.

#### 3.3.5 LivCom 2012 - Dubai

Meath County Council nominated Moynalty to participate in this prestigious event and assisted them throughout the application and awards process. Moynalty won second best small town in the World!

#### 3.3.6 Landscape Plans

Pride of Place worked with a landscape consultant to develop five plans for local towns and villages. The groups could then approach Meath Partnership for funding to implement their projects. The Council also assisted Moynalty in the development of a tone zone for local residents at their river walk.



### 3.4 Arts Office

Meath County Council Arts Service works closely with artists, individuals and communities to increase access to, awareness of and participation in the arts across all disciplines and sectors of society. It achieves this through the provision of an annual series of cultural events which include music, dance, theatre, visual art, literature and participatory arts projects. It also provides a wide variety of funding opportunities for artists and groups of all disciplines, amateur and professional, and a comprehensive information and advice service. It also acts as a facilitator for arts organisations and plays a major role in the development of arts infrastructural projects and models of good practice for the county.

In 2012, a number of new public art works were commissioned, completed and installed. These actions are intended to support the Local Authority policy of supporting quality artistic endeavour, provision of employment opportunities for artists and long term sustainability and durability for the arts in the county.

Partners worked with in 2012 included: the Arts Council, Solstice Arts 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, Tall Tales Theatre Company, Two Chairs Theatre Company, Bellinter House Hotel, First Contact, Visual Artists Ireland and the National Concert Hall Outreach Education Department.

#### 3.4.1 Bealtaine Festival

The Bealtaine Festival programme continued in 2012 in partnership with Meath County Library Services and included talks, workshops, visual art exhibitions and a series of performances in partnership with the National Concert Hall Outreach Department.

#### 3.4.2 Public Art – Per Cent for Art Scheme

Five new public Art pieces were completed and installed throughout the county under the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Per Cent for Art Scheme. These included 'Rough Clover' by Rory Breslin at Julianstown community Park; Perch by Orla de Bri, Jamestown Roundabout, Ratoath; On the Great Wide Open by Patrick Barry, Kells Road Roundabout, Navan, The Rabbit by Alex Pentek, M2 and Elevations by Jillian Gott at the Unity Centre, Windtown.



Rough Clover



Perch



On the Great Wide Open

### 3.5 Bursaries and Awards 2012

A total of **42** Awards were made in 2012.

#### 3.5.1 Annual Arts Grant Scheme

This award is intended to support local arts activities and to enhance long-term development and sustainability of the arts in County Meath.

#### 3.5.2 Festival Grant Scheme

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

#### 3.5.3 Professional Artists Development Fund

This scheme is intended to support professional arts practitioners in County Meath in the delivery of their work and in particular the development of new works.

#### 3.5.4 Community Arts Award

This Award is open to community groups, community organisations and schools. It aims to support groups in relation to funding for quality community arts projects that promote access and participation in the Arts by working with professional artists.

#### 3.5.5 Tyrone Guthrie Centre Award

This bursary entitles the successful applicant to a residency in the Tyrone Guthrie Centre.

#### 3.5.6 Going Solo

This award is intended to support final year students or recent graduates of art, living in, or from County Meath by providing them with the opportunity to hold their first solo exhibition at Solstice Arts Centre. The Award also carries a bursary of €650.

The Going Solo Award winner for 2012 was Evelyn Broderick



Cathy Martin, Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niamh McGowan, Evelyn Broderick, Cariosa Farrell, Gerardette Bailey & Des Foley

#### 3.5.7 School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme

This award aims to help develop the musical instrument resources of both primary and secondary schools in County Meath.

#### 3.5.8 Tony Finnegan Memorial Award

This award is intended to assist outstanding pupils at the Meath Harp School to attend the annual festival for the Irish Harp 'An Chúirt Chruitireachta' organised by Cairde na Crúite at An Grianán, Termonfeckin, Co. Louth. Two awards are made annually.

**3.5.9 FÉACH – furthering enterprise, arts, culture & heritage**

The Professional Arts training and mentoring programme for artists continued in 2012 with workshops and clinics delivered in a variety of media and topics including – Legal Status and the Artist; Tax & Accounting for Artists; Meath / first Contact Music Clinic; Health & Safety and the Artist.

**3.6 Library Services**

**3.6.1 Performance Indicators for 2012:**

**Average number of public opening hours per week**

Full-time Libraries	36.42
Part-time Libraries	12.75
Total number of visits to full-time libraries	613,850
Library Stock Total number of items issued	583,721
Total Number of internet sessions provided	43,689

**3.6.2 Infrastructure**

**3.6.2.1 Official Opening Navan Library July 2012**

A major refurbishment of the county library building was completed in 2012, including window replacement, a rendering of the façade and the provision of a new meeting room.



Official opening of refurbished Navan Library by Leas-Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Jimmy Fegan.

**3.6.2.2 Ashbourne Cultural Centre**

The library service delivered a major new Cultural Centre, Gallery and Community Meeting spaces adjoining the existing Ashbourne library. The major infrastructural works were officially opened in 2012 and forty one groups/events/activities are accommodated in the new venue on a weekly basis.

**3.6.3 eBook Service for Meath Libraries**

In 2012, Meath County Council Library Service announced the arrival of its downloadable book service from U.S library partner Overdrive. Two hundred library members are now downloading eBooks and eAudiobooks to a range of devices including computers, eReaders, MP3 players, smartphones and mobile devices. With many popular fiction and non-fiction titles to choose from, the new collection generated over six hundred issues in the first few months of service. To get started just visit <http://meath.lib.overdrive.com>.

**3.6.4 Local Studies**

2012 was a very successful year in oral history in the county. Work on transcribing the recordings is ongoing and transcripts from the recordings appeared in print in the current issue of *Ríocht na Míde*. Three illustrated talks on the social history of the railways in Meath were presented by Jimmy Maher and work on the *Social History of the Railways in Meath* is ongoing.

Work on the republication of Oliver Coogan’s important work *Politics and War in County Meath 1913-1923* is ongoing and it is hoped that the launch will take place in April, 2013. It is anticipated that the availability of the volume will encourage new scholarship and publication in this area.

### 3.6.5 Reader Development

Internationally recognised authors including, Anthony Horowitz and Eoin Colfer headlined the annual **Children's Book Festival** in October. Sixty-Five events were organised around the county with twenty one authors visiting the county. 4,300 children attended events organised by library staff making this Meath's leading cultural event for children.

#### *The Mary Lavin Season, 2012*

To celebrate the centenary of Mary Lavin's birth, Solstice Arts Centre, Meath Arts Office and Meath County Council Library Service presented a programme of events from September to December. The season began with a photographic exhibition by the renowned Mike Bunn who first photographed Mary Lavin in the 1970s. Eileen Battersby and Michael Harding delivered talks on Lavin's writing, Two Chairs Theatre Company performed adaptations of Lavin's *A Likely Story* and *The Widow's Son*. Events, to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge, World Book Day, Library Ireland Week, *Bealtaine*, Heritage Week, Social Inclusion Week, Science Week, Armistice Day and All-Ireland Poetry Day, were organised in branch libraries around the County.



### 3.6.6 Other Highlights 2012

- Wi-Fi service introduced at Ashbourne, Navan, Dunboyne and Trim.
- Automated Self-Issue and Return introduced at Kells and Dunshaughlin.
- Over 5,000 children attended the Meath County Council Library and Arts Service Summer Programme in July and August.

## 3.7 Heritage Services

### 3.7.1 INTERREG IVA - Action for Biodiversity (Year 3)

The key objectives of this cross border project are building capacity within local authorities, raising awareness and biodiversity enhancement and conservation. The project steering group met every two months in 2012. A number of projects were progressed working with the Project Officers including training for planning staff on Appropriate Assessment, developing a Regional Biodiversity Framework and advancing five regional projects. Local projects developed in County Meath included *Hydrology Survey of Girley Bog*, *Interpretative panels for Dalgan Park and Duleek Commons* and *Coastal Erosion Project*.

### 3.7.2 County Heritage Plans Projects 2012

The following projects were completed in 2012 as part of the County Heritage Plan supported by the Heritage Council:

#### 3.7.2.1 Communicating Heritage Programme 2012

The purpose of this project was to develop and deliver a co-ordinated heritage communications plan for 2012 building on the strategic objectives of the County Heritage Plan. A year-long calendar of events took place the key elements of which were:

- (a) The Character and Characters of Meath – New Media Pilot Project**  
This project developed audio slideshows to document the character and the characters of Meath and to use them to attract cultural tourists to Meath.
- (b) Promote Slane as a cultural tourism destination**  
In March, an event to launch of the Hill of Slane guide and Field School took place in Slane Castle. Community groups and businesses were invited to attend to promote the key heritage assets of the town.
- (c) My Tara – Public Art Project – Research (Phase 1)**  
In partnership with Meath Arts Office, Michael Fortune (Artist) was commissioned to produce a new photographic driven publication based around people's individual experiences of the site and place. The research phase was completed in 2012.
- (d) Trim Walled Town Festival – Heritage Week 2012**  
Heritage Council supported elements on the Trim Walled Town Festival during Heritage Week 2012.
- (e) Stone Wall Workshop**  
Organised a Stone Wall workshop for Tidy Towns Groups led by Pat McAfee with the Community Department.



### 3.7.2.2 Unlocking the potential of the Meath landscape

Work continued in 2012 on the Black Friary excavations in Trim, the community liaison committee met four times and the academic committee met twice. A number of awareness events were held to engage the public with the project including talks and open days. The website was redesigned and a 3 minute video was commissioned, shot and edited to promote Meath as a location for overseas students to gain field experience in archaeology and the field of cultural resource management. In December links were established with Study Abroad programmes at a number of US Universities at the Forum for Education Abroad which was held in UCD.

The inaugural *Reading the Meath Landscape* lecture series took place in May and June. Six lecturers covered topics from the Neolithic to 18<sup>th</sup> century.

#### The Making of Meath

The book *Making of Meath* was published by Meath County Council and launched in Solstice Arts Centre in May

### 3.7.3 Meath County Council Cultural Tourism Working Group

A number of meetings were held to agree a strategy focusing on engaging the public with archaeology, the Gaeltacht, Meath Literary heritage, Kells town of books and to examine the potential of establishing a cultural quarter for Meath and the Boyne Valley.

### 3.7.4 Trim Swift Festival 2012

The fifth Swift Satire Festival took place from 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> July. The programme was headlined by *Dara O'Brian* and other activities included round table discussion, talks, plays, One Town One Book initiative with Trim library, an exhibition *Swift in 30 Objects*, artisan food market and a family fun day.

### 3.7.5 Tara Stained Glass Window Project

In 2012, the stained glass window completed by Glasshaus Studio and Skryne National School was exhibited in Meath.

### 3.7.6 Invited conference papers in 2012

Conference	ICOMOS/Heritage Council: Your Place or Mine - Conference on new initiatives engaging communities in interpreting & presenting heritage
Date	April 2012
Venue	Royal Irish Academy, Dublin
Title of Paper	Engaging the public with heritage: Tara and beyond

Conference	Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Community Archaeology Seminar
Date	June 2012
Venue	Dalgan Park, Navan
Title of Paper	Community Archaeology a partnership approach

Conference	Boyne Valley Research Seminar in partnership with UCD and DKIT
Date	December 2012
Venue	Slane
Title of Paper	Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Bru na Boinne World Heritage Site



## 4 CORPORATE SERVICES

### 4.1 Corporate Events

#### 4.1.1 Visit of Ambassadors to County Meath

The Austrian Ambassador, His Excellency, Walter Hagg and his wife was welcomed by the Cathaoirleach Cllr. Eoin Holmes, to the Council Offices where they received a presentation on County Meath.

The guests then travelled to the Hill of Tara and were taken on a guided tour of the ancient site. Both the Ambassador and his wife have a deep appreciation of ancient history and culture and spent time at the ruins of Bective Abbey before travelling on to Trim where they were taken on a walking tour of the town, which included a visit to Trim Castle and its surrounds. The French Ambassador Madame Emanuelle d'Achon also paid a visit to Meath and was taken on a tour of Newgrange heritage site as part of the visit.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr Eoin Holmes and Tom Dowling, County Manager welcome the Austrian Ambassador and his wife.

Meath County Council also hosted visits from the Mayor of Tecumseh in Canada, which is twinned with Oldcastle, and the Mayor of Plattsburgh.



Mayor of Tecumseh makes a presentation to Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niamh McGowan

#### 4.1.2 Royal County Legends Honoured

At the May meeting of Meath County Council Brian Smyth and Mattie Gilsenan, two royal county legends of football, were honoured. **Brian Smyth**, a former employee of Meath County Council proudly, brought the Sam Maguire cup to Meath for the first time in 1949, as Captain of the team. After many years as a player, Brian turned his hand to refereeing and was one of the county's most respected referees for many years. Mattie Gilsenan captained the Meath team in their first All-Ireland final in 1939. It had been 44 years since the Royal County had previously contested a final and it was their first against Kerry. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be their day as Kerry won by two points despite magnificent displays of football and goal-scoring from Mattie and the team. Mattie went on to be the first Meath player to captain Leinster in the 1940 Railway Cup final and led them to victory over Munster. He continued to serve Meath football as a selector for many years.

The Cathaoirleach, Eoin Holmes made presentations to both guests to mark their significant contribution to Gaelic Football in Meath.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Eoin Holmes with Mattie Gilsenan and Brian Smyth

#### 4.1.3 Council of Europe

In October, 2012, The Cathaoirleach of Meath county Council, Cllr. Niamh McGowan welcomed members of the Monitoring Committee of the European Congress of Local and Regional Authorities when they visited the Council Chamber on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The purpose of the meeting with Councillors from Meath County Council and Trim Town Council was to assist with the preparation of their report on local and regional democracy and in order to ensure that the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government are implemented.

The visit focused on issues of local democracy and government including the reform of local government, the human and financial resourcing of local government, the powers and functions of elected representatives and officials, and the linkages between local and national government.

The Congress delegation comprised two co-rapporteurs, namely Mr. Michael Cohen (Malta, L, SOC) and Ms. Merita Jegeni Yildiz (Turkey, R, EPP/CD). They will be assisted by Mr. Milan Bucek (Consultant, member of the Group of Independent Experts) and by the member of the Congress Secretariat, Ms. Sedef Cankocak (Co-Secretary to the Monitoring Committee).



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niamh McGowan with members of the monitoring committee, Councillors and Officials

#### 4.1.4 Civic Honour for London Olympians

A civic ceremony was held at the Ashbourne Cultural Centre to recognise eight people who brought honour to County Meath during the 2012 London Olympics. The Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Niamh McGowan made presentations to Olympians Cian O' Connor, bronze medallist in the show jumping event and Natalya Coyle who finished in ninth place in the Modern Women's Pentathlon. The Paralympians honoured were Heather Jameson who competed in the athletic events and James Scully who competed in the swimming events. The Irish team boxing manager, Des Donnelly, was also recognised for his immense contribution to bringing four Olympic medals for boxing to Ireland including Katie Taylor's achievement in winning Ireland's only gold medal. The three technical officials who received presentations were Pierce O' Callaghan (athletics), Carol Uí Fhearghail (badminton) and Hugh McAtamney (triathlon). Also in attendance on the night were the County Manager, Brendan McGrath, Dunshaughlin Area Councillors, Minister of State for Agriculture, Shane McEntee T.D. and Regina Doherty T.D.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niamh McGowan with the recipients of presentations, Councillors, Oireachtas Members and County Manager

#### 4.2 Media

Meath County Council continued to avail of print media, local radio and social media to increase public awareness.

In 2012, the Council issued in excess of 50 press releases/statements and responded to over 150 media queries. The Council's twitter account was set up in 2012 to inform citizens of important information and to respond to queries via this media channel.

#### 4.3 Awards

In February, 2012, Meath County Council was the winner of the Best Public Campaign by a Governmental Body at the Local Authority Members' Association Annual Awards ceremony. The award was presented in recognition of the Council's public campaign for the staging of The 2011 Solheim Cup at Killeen Castle where, for one unforgettable week in September 2011, the eyes of the golfing world were on County Meath.

The LAMA Awards recognise outstanding projects that demonstrate excellence and the highest standards at local, county and national levels. The features of the campaign included developing partnerships with key stakeholders, support for the business community, support for the golf community, enhancing the environment and a programme of promotional activities. The campaign pushed information and key messages that Meath was not only ready to host an event of this calibre but could host it to a world class standard. Co. Meath was catapulted on the international stage for the duration of the event with Live Sky TV coverage to 440 million homes across the globe. Media commentary on the quality of the Golf course and the amazing views of Killeen Castle put the County and its heritage on the global stage. The attendance of 80,000 included locals, people from all over Ireland and international visitors. The value for money proposition for visitors was key to attracting people to stay in the county and to possibly return in the future. In essence, a truly special experience was delivered to visitors in collaboration with the event partners Fáilte Ireland, Twenty Eleven & Killeen Castle.



#### 4.4 Higher Education Grants

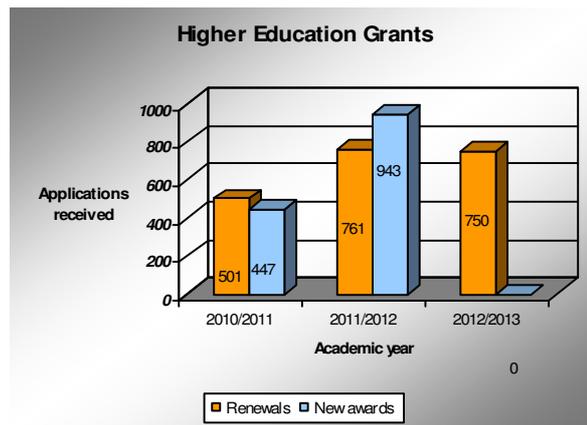
Following the introduction of new legislation in 2011, the City of Dublin VEC was appointed as the single awarding authority of higher education grants for the 2012/2013 academic year. First time applicants or applications for new courses are processed by City of Dublin VEC. Meath County Council continues to process renewal applications for all applicants continuing in courses previously grant aided by the Council. Approximately 750 renewal applications were submitted to Meath County Council for the 2012/2013 academic year.

The value of a full grant under the 2012 Scheme was €3,025. Student Contribution Charges covered under the Scheme were €2,250. Overall expenditure in 2012 relating to Higher Education grants totalled **€4.5million** approx. All grants/fees paid to students, are recoupable from the Department of Education and Skills with the exception of a fixed contribution of €14,045.55.

The following are the categories of grant payable under the Grant Scheme:

- 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
- Student Contribution Charge (100%)
- Student Contribution Charge (50%)

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



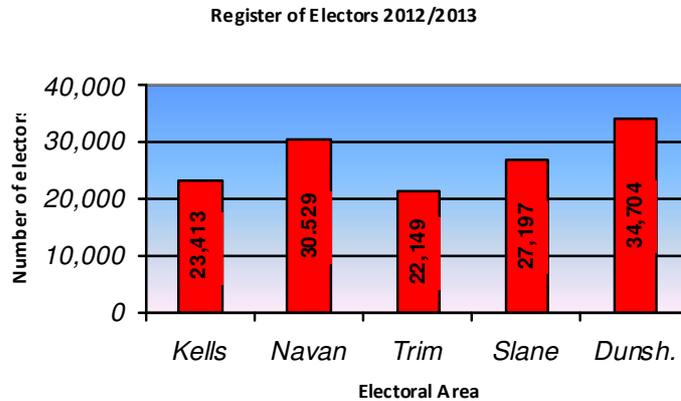
#### 4.5 Register of Electors

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

The Register of Electors was published in February 2012 and showed a voting population as follows:

Dáil Electors	134,118
Presidential Electors	132,503
European Electors	135,851
Local Electors	137,992
Postal Voters	626

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



During 2012, there were two referenda:

- Fiscal Treaty Referendum was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012.
- Children's Referendum was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

Supplement Registers were prepared in advance of each referendum. Total Electors included in Supplement was **2,329**.

#### 4.6 Corporate Governance & Risk Management

The Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2009) defines corporate governance as *"the systems and procedures by which enterprises are directed and managed"*. It goes on to say that *"state bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately) and act transparently as public entities"*.

In recognising the significance of corporate governance and its impacts on all activities, staff, Councillors and those that use the services of Meath Local Authorities, Meath County Council established the Corporate Governance Unit in January 2012.

Key developments in 2012:

- **Company Law & Corporate Governance**
  - June 2012 - Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement presentation to staff and Elected Members who represent MLAs on company boards in June 2012;
  - November 2012 – ODCE & Working Group for the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisations presentations to over 100 community & voluntary organisations – organised in conjunction with Meath Community & Voluntary Steering Group and Community & Enterprise Department.
- **Risk Management**
  - November 2011 to April 2012: Extensive organisation-wide consultation exercise to identify the key risks facing the organisation;
  - This process also involved the facilitation of 2013 business plans;
  - December 2011: Adoption of the Meath County Council Risk Management Policy;
  - March - May 2012: Departmental, town council and corporate risk registers prepared;
  - November 2012: A Guide to Risk Management prepared & circulated to assist with the monitoring, review and management of risk;
  - October / November 2012: Six-monthly review of the departmental and town council risk registers and interim review of the corporate risk register completed.
- **Legal Risk Management**
  - The Major Litigation Cases Review Team, established in 2011, continued to monitor and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the management of existing or potential legal cases that are or could be significant in nature;
  - November 2012: A Protocol for the Reporting of Legal Cases prepared and circulated.



- **Corporate Governance Framework**
  - Work commenced, in conjunction with the IPA, on preparing a draft Corporate Governance Framework, which outlines the key aspects of corporate governance within an Irish local authority, and Meath County Council specifically.

#### 4.7 Audit Committee

Meath County Council's Audit committee met four times during 2012 and produced its Annual Report at the end of the year. The role of the Audit Committee to:

- Review financial and budgetary reporting practices and procedures.
- Foster the development of best practice in the performance of the authority of its internal audit function.
- Review Internal Auditor's reports and local government audit report in relation to the authority and assess any actions taken by management within the authority in response to such reports,
- Assess and promote efficiency and value for money with respect to the authority's performance of its functions.
- Review systems that are operated by the authority for the management of risk, and make such recommendations to the authority as the Committee considers appropriate in relation to the foregoing matters.

The revised Audit Committee Charter, which had been approved by the Audit Committee in 2011, was approved at a full meeting of the Council in April 2012.

The committee received a number of presentations and reports from the Head of Finance and the Head of Internal Audit.

#### 4.8 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 (Fol) Acts, 1997 & 2003.

Records made available under the Freedom of Information Act, 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 2012 statistics relating to Freedom of Information Requests:

Applications Received	43
Carried Forward from 2011	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

No. of requests granted/part granted	35
No. of requests refused	6
Requests transferred	0
Withdrawn or dealt with outside FOI	1
Live cases at end of 2012	5

No of Internal Reviews	6
No. of Appeals to the Information Commissioner	2

#### 4.9 Health and Safety

Meath Local Authorities continued its commitment to the improvement of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work in terms of a safe place of work, a reduction in occupational injury and illness and encouraging personal responsibility. The Senior Management Team actively promotes the implementation of good workplace Safety and Health practices which are implemented by line management in each section and area. The Organisation's core objective is "the provision of a Safe and Healthy working environment."



Safety & Health training courses were provided on:

- Abrasive Wheels
- Chlorine Handling
- Confined Space
- Dealing with Difficult behaviour
- Driver CPC
- Employee Safety Handbook
- Fire Warden
- Lone Worker System
- Manual Handling

#### 4.10 Workplace Partnership

Workplace Partnership was re-established in 2012 and three meetings took place of both the Handling Significant Change Group and the local Workplace Partnership Committee. The Workplace Partnership Committee enables Managers and Union representatives to work together to achieve success and to agree a common agenda.

#### 4.11 Junior Achievement

During the academic year 2011/2012, ten employees brought innovative, interactive enterprise and life skills into the lives of 302 students in St. Oliver Plunkett's N.S. Navan, and Scoil Naomh Eoin, Navan. The trained volunteers encourage and inspire students to think about the career they can aspire to by setting goals and focusing on the future.



Junior Achievement Participants 2012



## 5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION

### 5.1 Economic Development

An Economic Development Officer was appointed in conjunction with Navan Enterprise Centre Company last year to develop a number of economic initiatives.

New economic profiles were researched for 7 key locations in the county. This information in turn was used to produce new high quality economic marketing materials for these areas. These brochures outline the business case and lifestyle opportunities available for a business setting up in Meath and for these locations in particular.

In addition an overarching economic profile had been prepared for the county called ... "Make it Meath."

So far, Meath has launched profiles for Navan, Ashbourne and Kells entitled ... "Make it Navan. ..." "Make it Ashbourne ..." and "Make it Kells..." Currently 4 of these economic profiles are available to download at the council web site.

In addition, the Economic Development & Innovation unit has worked with colleagues in other agencies to progress economic projects during the year.

During the summer a celebration of craft food was held in the Headfort Arms Hotel in Kells called Bia na Mhí. This drew in many local craft food producers who displayed their excellent produce to the public.

As a member council of the East Border Region, a cross border grouping of councils, a number of new initiatives were funded by the INTERREG programme of the European Union during the year to support business throughout the region. These were:

Life Sciences Supply Chain - This programme aims to equip companies to be able to enter the supply chain for larger Life Sciences companies.

STEM (Sustainable Business Network) – This programme aims to assist local businesses to reduce their spend in the areas of energy and waste.

Smart Eco Hub. – This programme aims to assist local business in the "Smart Energy" sector to access high level supports including R&D to develop their operations.

Plato Programme – This programme aims to form linkages between larger and smaller companies where the larger company provides mentoring to the smaller company within the environment of the network

During 2012, Meath received funding of €253,000 from the INTERREG Programme for to develop tourism amenities at 6 locations in the county.

The Council continued the partnership with the Meath Chronicle and, in association with the newspaper and Generali Pan Europe, presented the 2012 Meath Business and Tourism Awards which recognise and reward outstanding local businesses. This was the third year of this event and it is now well established as the premier business event in the county. It is intended to continue this successful partnership in 2013.



Mayor of Navan, Caoimhe Ní Shluáin launches the Make it Meath Campaign.



Meath Business and Tourism Awards - Winners

## 5.2 Tourism

### 5.2.1 Boyne Valley Tourism Plan 2012 – 2014

The Louth Meath Tourism Development Study, commissioned by Fáilte Ireland, recommended the appointment of a Louth Meath Boyne Valley Tourism Development Officer which was implemented in January 2012. Meath Local Authorities and Louth Local Authorities joined together to form a joint marketing approach to the tourism development of the Boyne Valley and the Boyne Valley Tourism Plan was launched by Shaun Quinn on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2012 at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.

### 5.2.2 Boyne Valley Drive

Meath County Council worked with partners Louth County Council and Fáilte Ireland on the development of a 225km signed driving route entitled the Boyne Valley Drive which links 29 heritage sites around Meath and Louth. Further work on complementary materials including maps and a Boyne Valley Guide, in addition to language guides were ongoing in 2012.

### 5.2.3 Promotional Events

Meath and the Boyne Valley was represented at 14 promotional shows targeting consumers, tour operators and coach operators in 2012 including domestic shows and shows in Northern Ireland, France and Spain.

Tour operators were further targeted to increase overnights in the Boyne Valley when 6 key travel trade representatives toured the attractions and accommodation in the Boyne Valley as part of a familiarisation trip in April.

### 5.2.4 Boyne Valley Roadshow

A showcase of over 20 Boyne Valley attractions took place in three venues during May, 2012, to raise awareness amongst accommodation providers of the abundance of activities in the Boyne Valley and to encourage further cross selling.

### 5.2.5 The Gathering Ireland 2013

The Gathering 2013 commenced with a Community Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July in the Conyngham Arms Hotel in Slane. The event attracted over 150 people producing 48 new Gathering ideas for the Boyne Valley. Following this, a Gathering Working Group and Coordinating Group were set up to implement a Gathering Action Plan. Training sessions and Gathering IPB Funding were administered to 38 Meath Gatherings with a total of €70,000 in funding allocated.



## 6 ENVIRONMENTAL, WATER, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### 6.1 Major Water Services

Water and Sewerage are probably the most fundamental and essential services provided by the Council. These services are essential to not only the residential, but also the business life of the county.

In 2012 the Council supplied drinking water to c.145,000 residents and c.5,000 businesses collected and treated wastewater from c.120,000 residents and c.3,000 businesses. To provide this service, the Council consistently operated and maintained almost 270 separate facilities, over 1,800 km of watermain and approximately 1,000 km of sewer.

In recent years, considerable investment has been made under both the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) and the Rural Water Programme adding significant additional water and wastewater capacity and also upgrading much of the county's water services infrastructure.

The challenges faced under this Service Division continue to grow due to a number of factors, including:

- Additional responsibilities and duties as a result of EU and national legislation/ regulations such as the Drinking Water Regulations and wastewater discharge licencing;
- The increased costs associated with operating and maintaining an increasing number of new, modern plants;
- Meeting the marginal costs (polluter pays principle) of schemes as required under water pricing policy.

#### 6.1.1 Major Water Services Investment Programme Projects

##### ***Water Schemes at Construction:***

##### ***County Wide Water Conservation Project & Strategic Water Plan for County Meath:***

The Meath Countywide Water Conservation Project commenced in November 2005 and consists of three Stages:

- ***Stage 1:*** Establishment of a Water Management System that enables water use and loss throughout the water supply networks to be monitored;
- ***Stage 2:*** Establishment of an Active Leakage Control programme.

Stages 1 & 2 are in place. Meath County Council continues to use, update and maintain these systems to sustain benefits. The setting up and continued use of Stages 1 & 2 has facilitated the **reduction in Unaccounted for Water (UFW) from 58% (Nov 2005) to 30% (Nov. 2012).**

- ***Stage 3:*** Watermains Rehabilitation

Phase 1 is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP 2010 – 2013) under Contracts to Start 2010 – 2013. Site works commenced in April 2011. The project involved the replacement of approximately 14km of defective water-mains in 8 locations in the county i.e. Athboy, Duleek, Kells, Navan, Kilmessan, Kentstown, Claristown and Ballynaclose, and works were successfully completed in Summer 2012.

Phase 2 is included in the current Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP 2010 – 2013) under Contracts to Start 2010 – 2013. Phase 2, which consists of the rehabilitation of approximately 43km of defective water-mains in a number of locations throughout the county. Planning and design started in 2012 and construction is expected to commence in Q2 of 2013.

- ***Dunshaughlin Water Supply:*** The new well field, water treatment plant and tower came into service in early May 2012.
- ***Navan & Mid Meath Water Supply:*** Works completed on Contracts 1, 2, 3 & 6;
- ***East Meath South Louth & Drogheda Water Improvement Scheme:*** Augmentation works at Rath are complete. Stage 1 works at Kiltrough on Contracts 3 and Contract 4 are complete.

##### ***Water Schemes at Planning Stage:***

- ***East Meath, South Louth & Drogheda Water Supply:*** Preliminary Report Review completed and submitted to DoECLG for approval in August 2009;
- ***Navan & Mid Meath Water Supply:*** Contracts 4, 5 & 7 at advanced planning stage. These have not been included in the Current WSIP to proceed to construction. Their inclusion in the subsequent WSIP is anticipated;
- ***Kells/Oldcastle Water Supply Scheme:*** Included in the 2010 – 2013 WSIP. The Preliminary Report relating to the required upgrade of Lough Bane WTP was completed in August 2012 and the detailed design is currently underway. Construction is due to commence in Q3 2013.

Sewerage Schemes at Construction Stage:

- Oldcastle Sewerage Scheme : Works commenced on site in October 2012 and the new WWTW is programmed to be complete and operational by mid 2014.
- Ashbourne / Ratoath / Kilbride Sewerage Scheme : Network rehabilitation contract was awarded in February 2012 and will be completed by June 2013.
- *Kilcloon Sewerage Scheme*: Works complete and scheme became fully operational in August 2012.
- *Grouped DBO Scheme (Rathcairn, Rathmoylon, Kilmainhamwood, Summerhill, Moynalty, Donore, Athboy and Duleek)*: Works complete and fully operational.

Sewerage Schemes at Planning Stage:

*Kells Sewerage Scheme*: Included in 2010 – 2013 WSIP. The brief for the appointment of Consultants was approved by the DoECLG in summer 2012 allowing the Council commence the process of procuring a Consultant. They will be appointed in Q1 2013 and will be required to complete the required Preliminary Report by the end of 2013.



Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niamh McGowan signing the contract for the Oldcastle sewerage scheme.

**6.1.2 Rural Water Programme**

Substantial monies continue to be expended under the Rural Water Programme, covering the following sectors:

- *Group Water & Sewerage Schemes*: 55 schemes completed at a cost of over €5m (1997 – 2012);
- *Small Water & Sewerage Schemes* (threshold limit €1m): 160 Schemes completed at cost of over €13m (1997-2012);
- *The Takeover of Group Schemes*: 32 Schemes completed at cost of over €1m (1998-2012);
- *Well Grants*: Expenditure in excess of €3.5m.

**6.1.3 Wastewater Discharge Licences (WWDLs)**

At year end 2012, 11 of the Council's 20 Waste Water Discharge Licences have been granted, as well as all 20 Waste Water Authorisation Certificates. The issuance of these licences and certificates will continue to increase the Council's statutory obligations, and the associated costs, which continue to pose a particular challenge.

**6.1.4 Irish Water**

In April 2012, the Government established a public water utility company, Irish Water, as an independent state owned company within the Bord Gáis Group to take over the operational and capital delivery functions of Local Authorities in the water services area.



Water reforms are due to occur in two phases: a first phase between the end of 2013 and the end of 2017, and the period beyond 2017. During the first phase, Irish Water will become the statutory water services authority, with responsibility for water services planning and delivery. Legislation enacted during the latter half of 2013 will facilitate this.

Local Authorities, however, will act as agents of Irish Water at least until the end of 2017, but possibly beyond, delivering its functions under service level agreements.

The EPA will be responsible for regulating Irish Water and responsibility for pricing level and pricing policy will rest with the Commission for Energy Regulation.

## 6.2 Evaluation of North East Waste Management Plan 2005-2010

The European Communities (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 126 of 2011) which transposed the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) into Irish law required that an evaluation of existing waste management plans be carried out by the 31st December 2012 and, consequent on this evaluation, the Plan will be revised or replaced as necessary to comply with the provisions of the Directive. Pending the completion of the evaluation process and the decision to revise or replace the existing plans, the legislation provides for the continuation of the existing plan up to the end of 2013. The steering group for North East Waste Management Region comprising the Counties of Meath, Louth, Cavan and Monaghan arranged to have this evaluation completed.

### 6.2.1 National Waste Policy document “A Resource Opportunity”

In July 2012, the Government launched the new Waste management policy document “A Resource Opportunity” which sets out measures through which Ireland will make further progress necessary to becoming a recycling society with a clear focus on resource efficiency and the virtual elimination of land filling of municipal waste. The policy documents places significant emphasis on a number of actions including:

- A move away from Landfill by means of prevention, reuse, recycling, and recovery.
- A brown Bin Roll out –requires the implementation of the Household Food Regulations.
- Keeping costs down for the Consumer –a new and strengthened regulatory regime.
- New Serviced standards with transparent charging structures from operators.
- A review of Producer Responsibilities.
- Reduction in the number of Waste Regions from 10 down to no more than 3.
- A wide ranging review of the existing producer responsibility (PR) arrangements which are currently in operation such as WEEE, Batteries, Packaging, Farm Plastics, Tyres etc

### 6.2.2 Establishment of the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO)

On the 1st of February 2012, Offaly County Council was designated as the nominated Authority for the processing of all new Waste Collection Permit applications and review applications received on or after that date. This single Nominated Authority will be known as the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO). This function was previously carried by Meath County Council as the nominated Authority for the North East Waste Management Region. Under the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations, 2007 and Waste Management (Collection Permit) (Amendment) Regulations 2008, those intending to carry out waste collection activities in a Local Authority area must apply for a waste collection permit. This requirement applies to individuals, companies and partnerships.

### 6.2.3 Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2012 – Registration of Septic Tanks

The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 introduces a new Registration and inspection system for septic tanks and other domestic wastewater treatment systems. The legislation was introduced following a ruling in 2009 of the European Court of Justice that Ireland was in breach of the EU Waste Framework Directive 2006/12/EC in relation to the treatment of waste waters from septic tanks and other on site wastewater treatment systems. The legislation requires owners of property connected to a septic tank or other system to register with the Local Authority before the 1st February 2013 and upon payment of a registration fee of €50 (after the 28th September 2012). Risk based inspections are to commence in 2013 by the local authorities and in accordance with a National Inspection Plan prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency.

### 6.2.4 Extensions to Smoky Coal Ban

In July 2012, The Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government announced that the ‘smoky coal ban’ regulations are to be revised in time for the next winter fuel season. Navan is one of seven new towns being added because the population is over 15,000 and Drogheda where the ban has been in place since 1998 will see an expansion of the area covered to include parts located within the Meath administrative boundary.

### 6.2.5 Climate Change

Progress continued with the implementation of the Corporate Climate Change Strategy which requires the Council to reduce corporate carbon emissions by 3% per annum (with associated financial savings) going forward.



In addition, MCC appointed a facilities manager whose role includes energy management, and an energy conservation team is to be established. The Council signed up to the Electricity, Gas and Fuel Charge Card Supply contracts with NPS and the mapping of all MPRNs on the GIS (Map info) in the County was completed.

#### 6.2.6 River Basin District Management Plans

The Council adopted the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) Plan in October 2009. The Shannon and Neagh-Bann International River Basin District Plans were adopted in April 2010. The implementation of these plans will require significant resources in order for the Council to achieve the targets as set out. However the positive effect on water bodies throughout the majority of Co. Meath from the implementation of the plans will benefit the county.

### 6.3 Waste Complaints and Enforcement

Work continues on enforcement and monitoring issues in terms of Water & Waste Pollution, Litter Pollution, Derelict Sites and Control of Dogs & Horses.

- The Council has continued the use of CCTV operations at bring-banks through-out the county in order to enforce compliance with the Litter Pollution Act.
- In 2012 the Council commenced a project to review how it can be more affective at addressing Derelict Sites throughout the county.
- The Council entered into a new contract in relation for the operation of Dog and Horse Pound facilities for Co. Meath in 2012.
- The majority of funding related to the role of County Veterinary Officer and associated services is recouped from the FSAI.
- The Council is continuing with Anti Litter & Illegal Dumping campaigns throughout the county. These involve working with local communities, waste collection operators, local media, and the elected members. It is intended to continue these exercises in 2013.
- The county's three Civic Amenity Sites (operated by Oxigen Environmental on behalf of the Council), supported by the countywide network of bring centres is contributing positively to recycling levels, though illegal dumping at some bring banks remains a concern. In 2012 the Council continued to use a waste collection operator to assist with removing illegally dumped waste, particularly along the road-sides. This operation has proved very successful in a time of increasingly limited staff resources. It is intended to continue and extend this operation in 2013.

### 6.4 Burial Grounds

In 2012, a detailed survey of the 231 burial grounds in County Meath was completed, this provided valuable information in terms of status and capacity which will now contribute to the development of a burial ground policy which will address and formalise the long term burial ground requirements.

The burial ground survey has identified a number of burial grounds with less than 5 year capacity and are therefore should be addressed now given the lengthy process of finding a suitable site, planning, procurement and construction. Given the difficulties in finding a suitable site in geological terms and the cost implications of extending and maintaining small extensions to existing burial grounds the developing burial policy favours a regional approach to provision of burial grounds.

Contract documents for Dunshaughlin Burial Ground at Derrockstown have been prepared and these are currently being reviewed and it is anticipated that this will be tendered in early 2013. It is proposed to extend Dunboyne burial ground. However, further site investigation works revealed that considerable remediation works will be required to make the proposed extended site suitable for burials. Site investigation works will also be carried out in Kilcloon to assess the suitability of extending this in geological terms.

### 6.5. Civil Defence

2012 was a very active year for Civil Defence volunteers in Co. Meath. Twenty two volunteers successfully completed an Emergency First Responder (EFR) course. Volunteers also qualified in a number of other courses including Occupational First Aid, Cardiac First Responder and Rope Rescue operator. Six volunteers successfully completed an ALERT course run by St. James' Hospital, three volunteers completed a PHTLS course run by the National Ambulance service and two volunteers completed an ATT course run in conjunction with Limerick University.

Volunteers were actively involved in one hundred and fifteen events during 2012 involving 1567 volunteer days making it the busiest year for Civil Defence to date. A team of six volunteers participated in "GrimpDay" an International rope rescue competition in Belgium in May competing against full time fire service and military teams from across Europe. In October a team of twelve volunteers participated in Regional multi-discipline competitions in Louth and was placed second overall.



Meath Co. Council Civil Defence Rope Rescue Team.

Four senior volunteers retired during 2012, Instructors Monica Lynch and Ann McGivney and volunteers Sheila Yore and Betty Gaynor who between them had over one hundred and twenty years service to Civil Defence. A presentation was made to each one by the County Manager at a function in June.

#### 6.6. Fire and Rescue Services

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 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 Acts 1990 and 2007, the Building Control Regulations 1997 to 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.

The programme of Standard Operational Guidelines (SOGs), was issued by the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management continued to be implemented throughout 2012. The SOGs will be fully implemented over the three to four years timeframe set out. This programme is being run in parallel to the existing training needs within the Fire Service and therefore continuing extra financial resources will be necessary to implement this programme fully.

##### 6.6.1. Fire Operations

Meath County Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters is based at the central fire station on Abbey Road, Navan.

There are six other stations located throughout the county:

- Ashbourne
- Dunshaughlin
- Kells
- Nobber
- Oldcastle
- Trim

Meath County Fire & Rescue Service provides a first line response to all types of emergencies across Co. Meath – this includes:

- Fires in domestic premises
- Chimney fires
- Fires in commercial/ industrial/ assembly premises
- Forestry/ bog/ grassland fires
- Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)
- Car/ vehicle fires
- Flooding & water pumping incidents
- River rescues



- Hazardous chemical incidents
- Environmental hazard emergencies
- Fire alarm activations
- Special Service incidents

Training courses completed in 2012 included:

- Breathing Apparatus Refresher training;
- Manual Handling Instructor training;
- Compartment Fire Behaviour Refresher Training;
- Senior Command & Control training;
- National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management training
  - Road Traffic Accident Course
  - Hazardous Materials Course
  - Unit 1: Sub-Officer Course
  - Fire Safety Engineering Course
  - Instructor – 1 Course
  - Senior Command
- Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) training continued for all Fire-fighters in 2012 and this will be ongoing for the next two years.

#### 6.6.2. Fire Prevention

The Fire Service has a central role in relation to fire safety standards in the design of new and existing buildings and in relation to the fire safety aspects of the day to day use of buildings to which the public have access. Fire prevention measures include:

- Granting or refusal of Fire Safety Certificates.  
All developments other than private housing are obliged to apply for a fire safety certificate from Meath Co. Council Fire Authority A Commencement Notice must then be submitted to the Planning Section prior to the commencement of works. A register of Commencement Notices and Fire Safety Certificates are maintained by the local authority;
- Planning applications are assessed by Fire Officers for fire safety requirements and reports are then submitted to the Planning Section;
- A programme of fire safety inspections is carried out on licensed premises as well as for larger events such as outdoor concerts and festivals;
- Fire safety inspections are carried out on buildings where breaches of fire safety are reported;
- Annual Dance/ Restaurant/ Club license renewal inspections are carried out - particularly over the Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov period;
- Petroleum Licence Applications are inspected under the Dangerous Substances Act, 1979;
- Community Fire Safety projects, which include
  - Visits/ talks to community groups
  - National Fire Safety Week programme
  - The annual Meath Co. Co. 12 Days of Christmas fire safety programme
  - Annual visits to all of the primary schools in County Meath under the national Schools Fire Safety Programme – in 2012 over 100 primary schools across Co. Meath were visited by fire service personnel in delivery of this fire safety programme
- Framework for Major Emergency Management - ongoing training of key staff continued in 2012 in relation to Meath Co. Council preparedness to deal with major emergencies including participation in regional planning, training and exercises. Building community resilience is a key focus of the Council in light of the severe weather experiences of the past two winters as well as continually updating business continuity planning under the MEM framework in order to ensure that the business of the Council and the Fire & Rescue Service will continue in the event of any possible major emergencies.



**Fire Statistics -2012**

2012 Fire Statistics	Navan	Duns	Ashb	Trim	Kells	Oldc	Nobber	Total
<b>Domestic Buildings:</b>								
Chimney Fire In Houses	25	11	8	30	22	9	4	109
Other House Fires	25	10	11	6	11	3	1	67
Apartments, Flats & Bedsitters	6	2	1	2	0	0	0	11
Caravans/Mobile Homes	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
<b>Institutions:</b>								
Schools/Hospitals/Other	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Industrial:</b>								
Factories	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	7
<b>Commercial:</b>								
Shops/Supermarkets	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
Restaurants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hotels/Guesthouses/Boarding Houses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Service:</b>								
Public Houses	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Restaurants	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Places of Public Entertainment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Other:</b>								
Motor Vehicles	38	19	17	13	10	2	3	102
Petrol Stations & Garages	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unoccupied Buildings	14	5	5	0	1	0	0	25
Agriculture Buildings	4	1	3	1	1	0	1	11
Forest/Bog/Grass etc	24	7	6	2	4	4	0	47
Outdoor Storage	17	5	5	4	6	3	0	40
Outdoor Rubbish	52	11	11	8	8	3	3	96
Miscellaneous	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	5
<b>Total Fires 2011</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>534</b>
False Alarm Incidents								
1. Malicious	13	3	1	1	0	0	0	18
2. Good Intent	86	37	36	39	15	6	9	228
<b>Total False Alarms</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>246</b>
<b>Special Services</b>								
Road Traffic Accidents	32	29	21	17	9	1	8	117
Water Pumping Flooding	5	0	1	1	7	7	0	21
Hazardous Subs	3	0	1	0	1	4	2	11
Other Non-Fire Rescues	4	2	3	1	3	0	0	13
Miscellaneous	16	9	14	10	5	7	12	73
<b>Total Special Services</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1015</b>



## 7 HOUSING

Despite the many challenges presented by the current economic climate, including reduced allocations for Capital projects and reduced resources, the Housing Department of Meath County Council advanced a number projects from its Capital allocation of just over €8.1 million in 2012.

Because of the changed budgetary circumstances the Social Housing Investment Programme continued its focus on social housing supply through an expanded suite of non-construction supply options including Social Leasing and the Rental Accommodation Scheme. In tandem with this shift in focus an increased emphasis was placed on the management and improvement of the existing stock of local authority owned dwellings.

The Housing Department continued the programme of upgrading a number of its Housing stock in 2012 endeavouring to bring them up to modern building standards, including the retrofitting of void houses and providing energy upgrades in a number of units. The programme also involved the carrying out of pre-let repairs to casual vacancy units with a focus on having them available for re-letting as quickly as possible.

The Council had a social housing stock of **2,268** units at the end of the year with an average occupancy rate of **97%**.

### 7.1 Capital Investment in 2012

#### The following projects were advanced in 2012:

- The purchase of 9 houses for allocation to social housing applicants under the social housing investment acquisition programme.
- Continuation of the Remedial works scheme in Townparks Navan



#### Remedial works taking place at Townparks Navan

- The finalisation of a group leasing scheme for 22 individual properties with a Voluntary Housing Body which were allocated to households from the Council's waiting list
- Approval was granted by the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government under the Capital Assistance scheme for funding to purchase 4 houses in Navan for people with a disability.
- Official approval was granted in March under the Capital Assistance scheme for the redevelopment of the old derelict fire station in Kells for the provision of 4 units of accommodation for elderly persons.
- Funding of €1million was allocated to over 200 housing grant applicants under the following schemes – Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, Housing Aid for Older People and Mobility Aids Grant.

The Council continued to improve its housing stock. The following works were carried out:

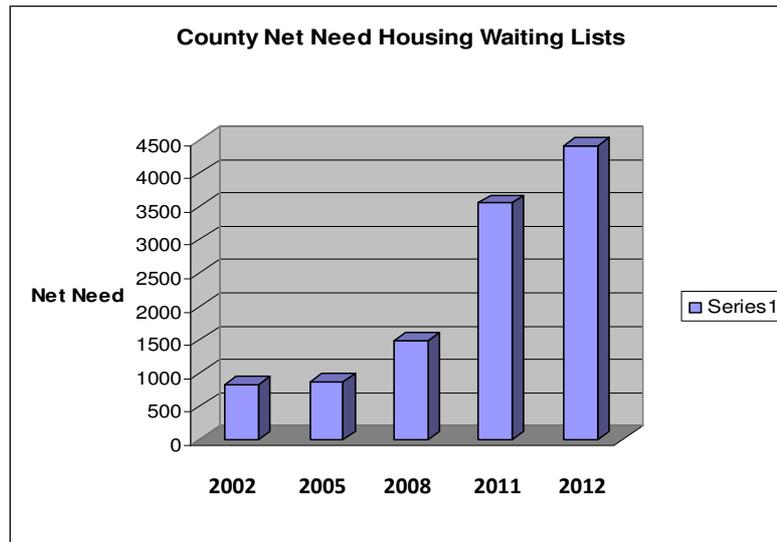
- The refurbishment and provision of energy upgrade works to **51** void houses.
- The refurbishment of **16** rural cottages bringing them up to a C1 Building Energy Rating
- All Gas Boilers were serviced in 2012 and the Council continued its programme of oil boiler maintenance.
- Continuation of a programme of Window and Door Replacement on an estate wide basis with 31 houses getting new windows and doors.
- Radon remediation works carried out to **9** houses.
- Water supplies and waste water treatment systems were brought up to the necessary standards at **14** rural cottages.
- **2,599** housing repair requests were received of which 91.3% were carried out
- **110** inspections were carried out in compliance with minimum Rented Standards legislation.



## 7.2 Social Housing Support

### 7.2.1 Housing Need

There were **4,238** households on the Council's housing waiting lists at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012. A total of **1,212** new applications were received during the year.



### 7.2.2 Housing Allocations

**148** families had their accommodation needs met by Meath Local Authorities by the end of 2012 under the various schemes including casual vacancies, the Rental Accommodation Scheme, long term leasing, affordable housing and the Voluntary Housing Bodies.

### 7.2.3 Homeless Persons

In excess of **400** households availed of the Council's Homeless Services during 2012. These households were facilitated with social housing support through emergency accommodation, private rented accommodation, and standard local authority housing or linked up with other interagency services depending on their particular needs.

### 7.2.4 Traveller Families

There are **394** Traveller families residing in County Meath. In 2012 a total of **54** Traveller families were accommodated in standard Local Authority Houses, Group Scheme Houses, Halting Sites or in private rented accommodation.



## 8 HUMAN RESOURCES

The main function of Human Resources (HR) is to plan and recruit the Council's workforce, while creating an equitable, consultative and supportive working environment which is positive and safe. In doing so the HR team aims to assist all sections of the Council in the delivery of organisational objectives, while at the same time seeking to develop the potential of every staff member. All of this must be achieved while taking account of the challenging economic climate in which we operate and the increasing emphasis on reducing costs and value for money.

### 8.1 Staff Structure

The introduction of a 'grace period' for staff considering retirement, within which their pensions are unaffected by the pay cuts introduced in the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (No. 2) Act 2009 (FEMPI (No2) Act 2009) led to an increased number of staff retiring early (by 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012). Previous initiatives aimed at reducing numbers, coupled with the introduction of this grace period, have affected staff numbers of Meath County Council across all grades and departments.

In 2012 the Council applied for sanction 26 positions in the following categories which were deemed essential:

Clerical/Admin	Tech/Eng	Mgmt	Outdoor	Fire-fighters	Acting
8	6	1	8	2	1

- 18 positions were approved for filling in 2012;
- Sanction requests for 8 positions are currently outstanding;
- 13 recruitment competitions were held in 2012;
- There were 202 applicants for the various positions in 2012;
- There were 12 appointments in 2012.

As a result of DoECLG 'workforce planning' requirements an extensive staffing structure review was commenced in October 2012. The culmination of this workforce planning process will be realised in 2013 and will allow the Council to strategically plan, manage and allocate its staffing resources in priority service and risk areas.

### 8.2 Staff Returns

Breakdown of staff by sector as of December 2012 submitted to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government:

#### *Breakdown of staff by sector*

Sector	Number	WTE
Managerial	5	5
Clerical / Administrative	303	274
Professional / Technical	132	132
Outdoor	215	198
Temporary / Contract	26	17
Retained Fire-fighters	71	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>637</b>

The total WTE numbers at the end of previous years, for comparison purposes were as follows:

Date	Mgmt	Clerical /Admin	Professional /Technical	Outdoor	Temporary /Contract	Retained Fire-fighters	Total WTE
End 2008	8	307	121	265	168	70	939
End 2009	8	315	116	243	86	71	839
End 2010	6	313	137	237	42	73	808
End 2011	6	276	134	204	23	72	715



### 8.3 Policies & Procedures

A policy in relation to 'Inter-county Transfers' was signed off and circulated to the unions and Council staff in late 2012. In conjunction with the Health & Safety Section and the Safety Management Committee the HR Section commenced the process of the localisation of the Safety Management System procedures for Meath County Council. The nationally agreed revised self-certified leave protocol came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

### 8.4 Industrial Relations

The Council continually work with all staff and their representative trade unions in order to resolve a wide variety of issues, which arise from time to time. Meetings continued with all unions in relation to the initiatives being implemented to achieve the necessary cost savings. Regular IR/HR meetings with a number of unions resumed in 2012 for the purposes of raising and addressing both operational and strategic issues and initiatives.

### 8.5 Superannuation

#### *Breakdown of superannuation activities*

Activity	Number in 2012
90% Balance of Lump Sum payable under ISER	1
Retirements under Cost Neutral Early Retirement	6
Meath Local Authorities retirements	16
Fire Fighter Gratuities	2
Gratuities for non-pensionable persons	0
Preserved Benefits	1
No of Redundancies	0

### 8.6 Training

In 2012, work continued on the implementation of the Core Training Module. The module allows HR to now schedule and record training courses, create waiting lists when existing training expires and run training history reports for each staff member.

In 2012, Meath Local Authorities also commenced the process of reintroducing the Performance Management Development System.

In 2012, 39% of the Training Budget was allocated to Health & Safety related training and 246 training courses were held in 2012.

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

### 8.7 Staff Welfare

Meath Local Authorities continues to promote the wellbeing of employees through various workplace policies and initiatives. Information and assistance is provided on issues such as health, finance, employment and stress management. Employees with work-related concerns may be referred to the Staff Welfare Officer. The Staff Welfare Officer also liaises with the Health & Safety section and the Employee Support Service where appropriate.



## **9 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

During 2012, the Information Systems department continued to deliver business improvement projects across the entire organisation while maintaining its focus on operational stability and data security.

### **9.1 Business Solutions**

FixYourStreet.ie went live in 2012, allowing the public to report issues with road or path defects, leaks, litter, graffiti, etc. A new mapping solution was launched allowing for improved internal information analysis and easy public access to relevant datasets. Other IT solutions include the rollout of Low Value Purchase Cards, Travel Expenses Management, Social Media Engagement Strategy, Digitisation of Drainage Mapping, Document Management for County Development Plan, and Drinking Water Quality website.

### **9.2 Business Process Improvement**

We commenced the rollout of formal Lean Six Sigma methodologies in the council, with 14 staff from various departments being trained to assess and improve processes in their own areas.

### **9.3 IT Operations**

Significant cost savings were achieved through a tender for all fixed line telephony. Other key projects included replacement of Anti-Virus environment with a full Endpoint Security solution, setup of a second government networks link for resilience, SQL Server upgrade and setup of Windtown community centre.



## 10 TRANSPORTATION

### 10.1 Roads

The major elements of this Service Division are:

- Road Upkeep which includes Maintenance, Surface Dressing & Public Lighting.
- Road Improvements which includes Discretionary Improvement, Restoration Improvement, Specific Improvement Schemes and other improvement works.
- Road Traffic which includes Traffic Management and Safety.
- Sustainable Transport Initiatives.

#### 10.1.1 National Roads Traversing Co. Meath

- Slane By Pass - Permission for the bypass was refused by An Bord Pleanála in March 2012, and following this decision a study was commenced into possible traffic management alternatives.
- M3 Clonee North of Kells Motorway- Completion of land acquisitions ongoing
- R147 Regional Road Signage Upgrade – Meath Towns Signage Scheme ongoing.
- N2 Flemington to Curtis Cross, Tuiterrath to Flemington & Rathfeigh Cross – completed
- N52 Calliaghstown Pavement Overlay – complete
- N52 Balgeeth Pavement Overlay - complete
- N52 Stephenstown to Fringestown Realignment Scheme – Part 8 completed, design and preparation of CPO ongoing.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes on N51 & N52 Works completed
- N51 Athboy Improvement scheme – under construction
- N51 Traffic Calming Scheme (Navan & Slane) – tendered

#### 10.1.2 Non National Routes in Co. Meath

In 2012, a number of Road Improvement schemes were completed or commenced which will significantly improve the efficiency and safety of the Road network.

- Regional Road Signposting Programme – practically complete.
- Low Cost Safety Schemes on Regional & Local Roads - complete
- Bridge Maintenance & Repair Works on Regional & Local Roads – ongoing
- R147 Kells – Headfort Place resurfacing – complete
- R153 Balrath Cross Bridge – complete
- R153 – Metges Road junction – tendered
- R164 Oakleypark Bridge – complete
- R165 Corkey Culvert – complete
- L56172 Bellewstown Bridge - complete

#### 10.1.3 Road Schemes at Planning/Design Stage

- N3/R161 (Springfield Glen to Trim Road Navan)
- N51 Dunmoe Phase 2
- Kentstown Road to Boyne Road
- R150 Duleek By-pass
- R156 Dunboyne/Summerhill
- R150 Duleek/Julianstown Phase 2 Minor Works

#### 10.1.4 Sustainable Transport Initiatives

The NTA funded €2.4m towards Sustainable Transport projects throughout the five electoral areas of Meath during 2012. The Projects that have been delivered by Meath County Council in 2012 are as follows:

- a) Cycling / Walking Programme: Approximately 3.6km of footpath was constructed in 2012 dispersed over the five electoral areas at eighteen site locations.
- b) Bus Network Programme: A total of fifteen bus stops were upgraded in 2012, throughout Meath. The majority of work consists of the provision of Pull in Areas and Kassel Kerbing.
- c) Traffic Management Programme: Nine pedestrian crossings were installed throughout the five electoral areas at seven site locations together with the construction of The Bettystown Speed Control and Traffic management project.
- d) Safety Programme: Duleek/Plattin road safety scheme – footpath linkage under the railway bridge and Three Mini Park and Ride car parks to eliminate dangerous parking on verges at Ross Cross, Garlow Cross & Finnigans Cross.
- e) Other Projects: The Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Newgrange full design, phase I of project to be constructed in 2013. The Cycle Pedestrian Cantilever Bridge Extension over the river Boyne, Navan - full design in 2012 and to go to Part VIII and commence construction in 2013



#### 10.1.5 Winter Gritting

MCC have agreed to salt ten pre-determined 50km routes when frost or ice is predicted. All National Primary (120km/h) and all National Secondary (100km/h) and approx. 50% of all Regional Routes (80km/h) are treated. Approximately 10% (by length) of all roads in the county are treated. A map of the winter gritting routes is available at [www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Roads/WinterGrittingRoutes](http://www.meath.ie/LocalAuthorities/Roads/WinterGrittingRoutes).

The NRA allocated funding to Meath County Council for a new salt barn in 2010 and the barn was completed in April 2011. Salt procurement and distribution is carried out nationally by the NRA.

#### 10.1.6 Plant & Machinery

Meath County Council had expanded and upgraded its fleet throughout 2010 and 2011. In 2012 the Council continued to invest in the maintenance of its fleet and the upgrading of a number of the older vehicles. In terms of the standard and quality of the Council's fleet, the Council is well resourced to carry out routine and winter maintenance. The winter gritting fleet consists of eleven 18 tonne G.V.W trucks each with a 6 cubic metre Romaquip salt gritter mounted plus a detachable snow plough, if required.

#### 10.1.7 The Public Lighting Unit

The public lighting unit was established in 2010, and it oversees and manages all public lighting within the county. This has proven to be very successful and further efficiencies were achieved in 2012. It is intended to expand the remit of this unit in 2013 to manage the traffic lights within the county. It is intended to continue with the Council policy of replacement of public lighting stock and columns, to the greatest extent possible, with energy efficient and consumer friendly technologies including the use of the latest asset and fault management systems (Active Dimming and Deadsure Fault Management) for routine maintenance. Dimming technology can achieve reduction in energy consumption of up to 30% but there is a significant capital cost to install the system. It is also intended to investigate synergies and asset sharing between Public Lighting, Telecommunication providers, Garda Traffic Divisions, adjoining Local Authorities and other ITS technologies.

#### 10.1.8 Road Safety Promotion & Education

Road safety promotion is a very important aspect of the Transportation Dept and a there is a dedicated Road Safety Officer who, in 2012, continued to initiate road safety campaigns, worked in partnership with schools to promote road safety and assisted in the implementation of the Government Strategy on Road Safety.

#### 10.1.9 Corporate Health & Safety

The County and City Managers Association (CCMA) together with the LGMA set up a Health and Safety Technical Working Group (H&STWG) to develop various supports and these now include:

- Guidance on policies and procedures (65 Number) for core work functions,
- Toolkit to Support Safety Inspections,
- an Audit Tool and the provision of OHSAS 18001 Lead Auditor training for the Local Authorities' Health and Safety Officers.
- A number of other supports such as a legislative database and an electronic safety management recording system are in the development, testing and procurement stages.

In 2012 a Safety Management Systems (SMS) Working Group was set up to review and amend as necessary the National Guidelines, Policies & procedures and draft an implementation schedule and methodology with a view to recommending an adoption by the SMC.

### 10.2 National Transport Authority Funded Schemes Completed in 2012

#### 10.2.1 Pedestrian Crossings

- Johnstown Village
- Laytown
- Clonmaggaden
- Dan Shaw Road (Educate Together)
- Carriage Road
- Dan Shaw/Trim Road Junction (2 No)
- Kildalkey
- Carnaross
- Athlumney Road, Navan
- Athboy



**10.2.2 Junction Treatments**

- Dan Shaw/Trim Road Junction
- Dan Shaw/Carriage Road Junction
- No estate junctions on Golf Links Road, Bettystown

**10.2.3 Provision of Footpaths**

- Carnaross
- Athlumney Road, Navan
- Dan Shaw/Trim Road Junction
- Old Balreask Road, Navan
- Duleek Road, Drogheda
- Carriage Road
- Ratoath – Skyrne Road
- Ratoath – Fairy House Road
- Ballivor
- Longford Road, Duleek
- Downstown Road, Duleek
- Johnstown Village
- Old Athboy Road at Navan Hospital
- Athboy Town

Approx 3800m. of footpath, 1600m. of public lighting and 700m. drainage in total

**10.2.4 Provision of Bus Bays**

- Inse Bay \* 2
- Laytown \* 2
- Castlemartin, Bettystown \* 2
- Triton Rd (McDonough's Pub) Bettystown \* 2
- Set down area at Hospital Navan



## 11 PLANNING & STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION

### 11.1 Organisational Change

The Planning and Strategic Transportation department completed its Change Management programme during 2012. It has fully integrated its Planner, Administrative and Engineering disciplines into a newly structured department. Extensive consultation with staff and elected members has been facilitated with a commitment to ongoing review and improvement

### 11.2 Development Management

The number of Planning Applications received weekly has decreased marginally from 25 in 2011 to 23 in 2012.

1206 applications were received and processed during 2012 which represented a 6% decrease on 2011. This reduction was offset by 14% increase in the number of prospective applicants attending the Council offices for formal pre planning clinics. The profile of applications demonstrates fewer houses being built while the number of extensions and home improvements remains constant.

Category	Applications determined	% Grants	% Refusal	Number of cases confirmed by An Bord Pleanála	No of cases Reversed by An Bord Pleanála
Individual House	102	74	26	9	4
Other development not requiring an EIS	645	82	18	25	3
Requiring EIS	27	100	0	0	0

### 11.3 Major Planning Applications received or determined during 2012 included

School facilities at:

Julianstown, Ashbourne Newtown, Knockcommon Carlanstown, Stackallen, Stamullen, Cannistown, Kilcloone, Donore, Rathbeggan Trim, Coole Boardsmill, Kilbeg, Kilbride, Mount-Hanover, Ratoath, Bohermeen and Robinstown.

Sporting or Community facilities at MeathHill, Julianstown, Duleek, Ratoath, Oldcastle, Dunboyne Ashbourne Bective Drogheda, Athboy, Donore Bettystown and Enfield.

Housing developments at Kilbride Dunshaughlin and Oldcastle.

Childcare facilities at Ashbourne Dulkeek Longwood Boyerstown, Dunshaughlin and Kilcloone.

Quarries at Kinnegad, Castlejordan and Kingscourt.

Outdoor activity centers at Curragha and Rathbeggan.

Commercial developments at Liscarton, Oldcastle Platin, Dunboyne Fairyhouse Enfield and Ardcah.

### 11.4 Application Profile

Outline Permission	6
Permission subsequent to outline	1
Permission	808
Retention	153
Extension of Duration	134
Part 8	6
Section 5 and S97 Exemption certs	50

### 11.5 Strategic Infrastructure Developments

Applications for Major developments which have regional or national importance are determined by An Bord Pleanála. Meath Co Council prepares a recommendation in respect of each proposal

- Indaver Ireland Ltd., Increased tonnage and acceptance of hazardous wastes. Oral Hearing held in October.
- College Proteins Nobber Biomass Heat & Power Plant.
- Eirgrid 110Kv Overhead line Kinnegad area.



#### 11.6 Development Contributions Scheme

€3.23m was received in Development Contributions during 2012, representing a collection rate of 108% of the income estimated from this source.

Enforcement activities are ongoing in respect of 391 separate developments. **25** Warning letters and **21** Enforcement notices were issued in respect of financial non compliance matters.

#### 11.7 Planning and Economic Development SPC

The Planning & Economic Development SPC met on three occasions and considered the following policy related issues:-

- Spatial planning & National Roads Guidelines
- Navan Kingscourt Multi purpose Greenaway
- Retail Planning guidelines
- Meath County Development plan 2013-2019 and subsequent review of LAPs
- Legislative requirements for the Quarry sector
- Review of the Development Contribution Scheme  
Economic Activity

#### 11.8 Quarry Regulation

S261A of the Planning and Development Act required Planning Authorities to examine all quarries in their administrative areas and to determine if development occurred which should have been undertaken with the benefit of planning permission and supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment or a Natura Impact Assessment.

Meath Co Council examined **159** quarries and deemed that **29** quarries should apply to An Bord Pleanála for substitute Consent, **20** Quarries should cease operations, and that no further action was required pursuant to s261a in respect of the remaining quarries.

#### 11.9 Enforcement of Planning Control

Meath Local Authorities investigated **280** complaints of unauthorized development.

**198** warning letters and **77** enforcement notices were issued on foot of those investigations.

**27** cases were referred to the courts.

**14** residential estates were taken in charge

#### 11.10 Buildings' Regulations

**130** buildings were inspected by the Building Control Officer.

The Council received notice of commencement of **295** Buildings.

**63** Disabled access certificates were received by the Building Control Authority.

#### 11.11 Forward Planning

The Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 was adopted on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012. It sets out a vision for the development of the county and is framed to support Sustainable Communities, a Sustainable Economy and Sustainable Heritage.

The plan is founded on its Core Strategy which is the robust evidence based blueprint for the development of the County. Extensive public consultation was undertaken in its preparation, followed by multi-layered engagement with the elected members of Meath County Council in considering submissions and developing various policies and objectives for inclusion in the adopted plan.

The Council will assess all supporting Local Area Plans to ensure their compliance with the County Development plan objectives during 2013

The Draft Kells Development Plan was published on 19th of December and is due for adoption in September, 2013.

The Strategic Issues Papers for the review of the Trim Development Plan were prepared and published in November, 2012. The plan will be adopted in 2014.

#### 11.12 Strategic Transportation

The Council received €2.2m. grant aid from the National Transport Authority to provide the following projects.

- 530m. of Bus Lanes
- 150 m. of Cycle Lanes
- 3.5km. of Footpaths
- 680m. of drainage
- Improvement works to 7 junctions and 16 bus stops
- Pelican Crossings
- 15km. of public lighting
- 60 Car parking spaces for Park and Ride facilities in 3 locations



## 12 TOWN COUNCILS

### 12.1 KELLS TOWN COUNCIL

#### 12.1.1 Structure and Services

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

The Councillors on Kells Town Council in 2012 were as follows:

Name:	Policial	Address
Cllr. Sarah Reilly, Cathaoirleach	Fine Gael	36 Bective Place, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Frankie Lynch Leas Cathaoirleach	Fianna Fáil	40 Beech Lawn, Rockfield, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Brian Curran	Non-Party	4 St. Colmcille's Villas, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Tommy Grimes	Labour	14 Fr. McCullen Park, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Conor Ferguson	Sinn Fein	Navan Road, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil	Rockfield Road, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Oliver Sweeney	Fine Gael	Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Brian Collins (Cathaoirleach Jan-June 2012)	Labour	Cavan Road, Kells, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Sean Drew (Leas Cathaoirleach, Jan-June 2012)	Fianna Fáil	8 Kenlis Crescent, Kells, Co. Meath.

#### 12.1.2 Core Activities

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

These services include:

Housing  
Planning control & development  
Urban Roads  
Water & Waste Water

#### 12.1.3 Housing

The total rented housing stock for the town council is **125** homes.

#### 12.1.4 Road Transport & Safety

##### Draft Traffic Management Plan:

A comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Kells was commenced by Meath County Council in 2010. The preliminary plan was presented to the Councillors during 2011 and full public consultation also took place. Having considered the feedback and observations from the public consultation process and the work done on traffic management as part of the new Kells Development Plan, the plan is under revision. A consolidated and phased approach is now being adopted. Phase one of the plan will concentrate on the core streets within the town centre. It is envisaged each incremental phase on the revised plans will be substantially compatible with the overall draft traffic management plan as presented in 2011.

##### Block Grant Funding 2012:

In 2012 the Urban Block Grant of €195,000 was used to upgrade the road serving St Colmcille's Villas. The project included the removal of the old concrete road that had failed. This concrete was crushed and recycled as a construction material within the new road construction. Additional off-carriageway car parking bays were created, new speed ramps were installed and footpath repairs were carried out. The junction with the Moynalty road was also realigned to simplify and improve road safety within the area

##### Specific Improvement Grant 2012:

€150,000 was allocated under the Specific Improvement Grant 2012 and was used to fund further improvements to Headfort Place. A new surface water pipeline was installed and the footpath from Murphy's shop to the HSE building was provided in high quality granite and limestone to match the previous works carried out in the area. The road was



reconstructed from John Street to the Junction of the R147 and R163. These works have greatly improved the appearance of the main entrance to the town and have been the subject of much positive public comment.

Improvement Works to Magdalene Court:

Following consultation with the relevant stakeholders and residents, improvement works were undertaken on the entrance and on the boundaries of the estate.

Paid Parking:

Free parking on Saturdays within the town was offered from May to August to entice more shoppers into the town. Free parking was also available at weekends in the run up to Christmas.

### 12.1.5 Development Management

The draft Kells Development Plan 2013 to 2019 went on public display before the end of 2012 in the Kells Civic Offices. The draft plan sets out a vision for the town for the next 6 years and reflects the reality of the current economic climate. Policies and objectives have been included to reflect national and regional directions and guidelines on population and housing numbers and in particular the requirement to comprehensively address the long term negative consequences of potential flooding.

The Council has been successful in securing a grant of €125,087 from Fáilte Ireland for new Boyne Valley interpretive material.

Phase 1 works in relation to the Heritage Centre were completed in 2011 by addressing the structural roofing issues with the building. Phase 2 works commenced in 2012 and will be completed in 2013.

The Local Development Fund for Town Festivals/Community groups saw a contribution of €10,000 made towards the Maureen O'Hara homecoming festival held in May, 2012. During her visit Ms O'Hara was bestowed the Freedom of Kells Town by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Brian Collins.

Earlier in the year the Chinese Ambassador visited the town. The Central Bank launched its limited edition €20 gold coin of the Book of Kells in the Civic offices. The Town Council held a Civic Reception in honour of the six handballers from Kells Handball Club who won medals in the recent world championships.

### 12.1.6 Environmental Services

The Council greatly appreciates the work of Kells Tidy Towns, Kells Pride of Place, the Chamber of Commerce and the newly formed Local Heroes group in 2012 in supporting the work of the Town Council's outdoor staff. All groups have contributed greatly to the huge improvement seen within the town in the past year.

### 12.1.7 Recreation and Amenity

Kells swimming pool was the recipient of an energy upgrade grant of €240,460 in 2012. Works included the installation of new natural gas fired boilers, the installation of solar panels and new air handling units, energy efficient showers, upgraded lighting etc. The project was procured and managed by Kells Town Council.



Launch of the Keep it Kells campaign by Kells Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Brian Collins



## 12.2 NAVAN TOWN COUNCIL

Navan Town Council is the Local Authority for the Urban District of Navan. It is composed of nine directly elected councillors. Cllr. Anton McCabe was the Mayor for the first half of 2012 and was succeeded by Cllr. Caoimhe NiShluáin.

The Councillors who sat on Navan Town Council in 2012 were as follows:

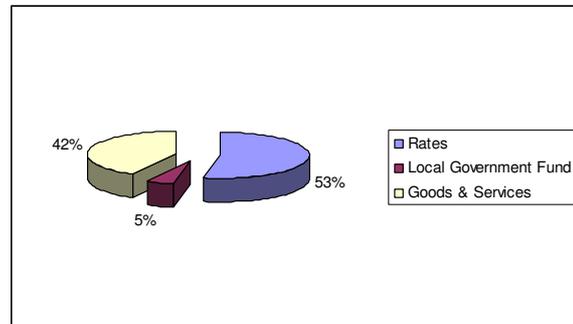
Name:	Political	Address
Jim Holloway.	Fine Gael	Farganstown, Boyne Road, Navan, Co. Meath.
Joe Reilly.	Sinn Féin	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath
Anton McCabe.	Labour	90 Woodlands, Navan, Co. Meath
Francis Deane.	Non Party	5 Blackwater Drive, Navan, co. Meath
Shane Cassells.	Fianna Fáil	52 Oakleigh, Navan, Co. Meath
Caoimbe NiShluáin.	Sinn Féin	Gibbstown, Navan, Co. Meath.
Padraig Fitzsimons.	Fianna Fáil	Knowth House, Ratholdren, Navan, Co. Meath
Suzanne Jamal.	Fine Gael	'Rahmat', Flemington, Balrath, Co. Meath
Phil Brennan.	Non Party	41 Silverlawn, Navan, Co. Meath

### 12.2.1 Finance

Total Budgeted Revenue expenditure for 2012 was €9m.

The Annual Rate on Valuation in respect of 2012 adopted by Navan Town Council was €62.1649. This figure was determined by The Boundary Alteration Order which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009 and stated that the Boundary Alteration proposed should be cost neutral to both Navan Town Council and Meath County Council. As a result Navan Town Council is obliged to increase its ARV by a set percentage from 2010 to 2015 in order to come in line with Meath County Council's ARV.

***The following is a % breakdown of Budgeted Revenue Income for 2012***



The Council's collection rates were;

Commercial Rates	70%
Rents	65%

#### Payments to Council Members

Payments made to members under travelling & subsistence	€18,896
Payments to members in respect of conferences, seminars, etc.	<u>€ 2,715</u>
	<u>€21,611</u>

### 12.2.2 Recreation and Amenity

The Council awarded amenity grants in the sum of **€19,800** to various residents' associations, sporting groups, theatrical groups, river rescues and organisations working with people with a disability, the youth and the elderly. A further **€250** was awarded for band performances.

### 12.2.3 Housing

There were **10** houses allocated this year, **2** transfers and **1** application under the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

In 2012, approval was granted by the department with for two priority projects in respect of regeneration works. Townspark Remedial Works Scheme and the Refurbishment of St. Ultan's Terrace commenced as a result of these approvals.

It is hoped to progress with a Refurbishment type Scheme of St. Brigid's Villas in 2013.

### 12.2.4 Civic Receptions

The Mayor and Members of Navan Town Council held five Civic Receptions in 2012 in order to recognise the achievements of members of, or groups in the community.

- Meath Junior Camogie Team – on being crowned as All Ireland Premier Junior Camogie Champions 2012.
- Special Olympics Club of Ireland to officially recognise the many achievements and great work of this club.
- Global Ireland Football Tournament (GIFT)
- The late Darren Sutherland, Olympic medallist – In recognition of his sporting achievements.
- The launch of 'The Great Wide Open', a monument unveiled in recognition of all those died in service in Tara Mines.

### 12.2.5 Attendance at Conferences

Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 – Cllr. Jim Holloway

Colmcille Winter School – Cllr. Jim Holloway.

The Role of the Council in Encouraging Enterprise through Tourism and Sport. – Cllr. Padraig Fitzsimons.

AMAI Conference – Cllr. Anton McCabe, Cllr. Phil Brennan and Cllr. Padraig Fitzsimons.

### 12.2.6 Solstice Arts Centre

The Solstice Arts Centre continues to provide a wide variety of shows and events for the citizens and visitors to Meath's County Town. In 2012, approximately 40,000 people visited the centre.

### 12.2.7 Joint Policing Committee

The Navan JPC met three times in 2012 and made significant progress in relation to delivery of its Annual Work Plan. The Community, as in local residents, played an important role in the success of the Navan Joint Policing Committee during the course of the year. The continued assistance of local residents in keeping Gardai up-to-date on any information that might be of assistance in solving a crime or regarding a threat to public safety was critical to the success of the work of the JPC.

### 12.2.8 Major Projects

#### 12.2.8.1 Metges Lane Enhancement

Works were completed on the Metges Lane Enhancement Scheme. This scheme vastly improved the look and feel of Metges Lane and included the provision of ducting to cater for the decorative up lighters, new paving, upgrading of the water/waste water network and all associated works.





Formal opening of “Is Féidir Linn” Educational & Special Needs Play Area – Andy Brennan Park by President Michael D Higgins

#### 12.2.8.2 Navan Town Pride of Place Initiative

The Navan Town Pride of Place Initiative had another successful year with over 25 Residents Associations, 10 Community Groups and approximately 30 Businesses getting involved in helping to shape, change and enjoy all that is good about Navan.

#### 12.2.8.3 Shop Front & Derelict Site Enhancement Scheme

The Shop Front & Derelict Site Enhancement Scheme was launched in 2012 and concentrated on vacant retail premises and derelict sites in the centre of the town. The purpose of the scheme was to uplift the image of the street and to provide a more visually pleasing streetscape for shoppers and retailers.

#### 12.2.8.4 Sculpture Trail Points of Pride Walking Tour

The Navan Town Sculpture Trail and Points of Pride Walking Tour was launched in 2012 by the Mayor. The Council invested in a number of sculptures to form part of a unique Sculpture Trail of the Town. A major aspect of the Sculpture Trail is the exhibition of the only surviving section of the Navan Cross in the Solstice Arts Centre.

#### 12.2.8.5 Educational & Special Needs Play Area – Andy Brennan Park

In February 2012, President Michael D. Higgins formally opened ‘Is Féidir Linn’, an Educational & Special Needs Play area in the Andy Brennan Park. This was another first for Navan as it was the first such Public Play Area in Ireland.

#### 12.2.8.6 Navan Town Park

In 2012, the first phase of the Navan Town Park commenced. The first sod was turned by Mayor Anton McCabe in May, 2012. The works include the provision of the entrance area and car park, looped walk of the Park and 3 grassed pitches.

#### 12.2.8.7 Chambers Ireland Excellence In Local Government Awards

In November 2012, Navan Town Council was awarded the ‘Town Council of the Year Award’ by Chambers Ireland for initiatives carried out in the town in 2012. This was the first time this prestigious award was won by Navan Town Council and it recognized the many initiatives, enhancements and achievements carried out in Navan Town.

Navan Town Council was also awarded the ‘Partnership with Business Award’ for the *Navan Town Renaissance Project*. This project involved working with retailers and the Chamber of Commerce in order to increase footfall in the town. Some initiative included ‘Navan Has the Xmas Factor’, Enhancements works on streetscapes, Christmas Lights, Floral Displays, Paint Schemes and Points of Pride.



#### 12.2.9 Roadworks' Programme

In 2012, the following road schemes were completed as part of the Road Works Programme. The completion of these schemes has helped to make a real difference to the quality of life and living environment of the people of our Town.

<b>Pedestrian Crossing</b>
Clonmagadden Road
Dan Shaw Road opposite Navan Educate Together

<b>Traffic Calming Measures</b>
Link road to Tailteann from Aura Leisurelink
Link road to Blackcastle Estate, Fitzherbert Court etc

<b>Footpath &amp; Road Surfacing Improvement Works</b>
Carriage Road
Dan Shaw Road
Old Athboy Road
Old Johnstown Road
Swan Lane
Upgrade of Dan Shaw/Trim Road Junction
Woodlands Estate
Blackcastle Estate
Kennedy Road



### 12.3 TRIM TOWN COUNCIL

Trim has experienced many exciting changes over the past number of years whilst playing a vital economic role for south-west Meath. Trim town and environs boast heritage and it is important that we continue to have tourism and economic development for the sustainable growth of the town in the years to come.

#### 12.3.1 Structure and Services

The Councillors on Trim Town Council in 2012 were as follows:

Name:	Policital	Address
Cllr. William Bligh Cathaoirleach	Fine Gael	26 Friars Park, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. James O'Shea Leas Cathaoirleach (Cathaoirleach Jan-June 2012)	Labour	Navangate, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Philip Cantwell	Non Party	"Villa Maria", Manorlands, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Trevor Golden	Non Party	Church Lane, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. William Fay	Fine Gael	Knightsbrook, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Vincent McHugh	Fianna Fáil	Stokestown House, Laracor, Trim, Co. Meath
Cllr. Michael Kenny (co-opted in June 2012 on the resignation of Donal O'Brien)	Labour	Riverside, 44 Eldergrove, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Ronan McKenna	Fianna Fáil	6 Lackanash, Trim, Co. Meath.
Cllr. Gerry Reilly (Leas Cathaoirleach Jan-June 2013)	Fine Gael	Teaguestown House, Effernock, Trim, Co. Meath.

#### 12.3.2 Finance

Trim Town Council, in 2012, spent €2.4m revenue providing essential services for the town. The scale of contribution the Town Council makes towards economic, social, cultural and infrastructure is vital to the continued development and attractiveness of the town for investment, through planned programmes and policies.

#### 12.3.3 Housing

Trim Town Council currently has 97 units in stock. In 2012, the Council continued to manage and maintain its stock and vacant units were occupied within 8 weeks. Trim Town Council works closely with Meath County Council in providing assistance to those seeking social housing and planning major refurbishment and retrofitting works.

#### 12.3.4 Planning

The statutory review of the Trim Development Plan commenced in November, 2012, and the Strategic Issues Paper was published. A total of 52 submissions were received during the public consultation period.

A summary of the submissions, as part of the preparation of the Manger's Report will be expected in March 2013. Following the initial period of pre-draft public consultation, the Council will progress to preparing a draft plan for consideration.

#### 12.3.5 Environment

Trim Town Council continues to work closely with Trim Tidy Towns Committee. Each year initiatives and targets are set which has had a huge impact on the appearance of the town and its overall attractiveness which resulted in Trim earning a further six marks in the 2012 Tidy Towns Competition.

Trim was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the IBAL Anti Litter League competition 2012, once again achieving a rating of "Cleaner than European Norms".

The Council continued its upkeep and improvement of approach roads, bins and street sweeping including the regular voluntary litter blitzes in the town.



#### **12.3.6 Porchfields**

Trim Town Council has responsibility for the Porchfields, a natural amenity in the centre of the town at the foot of Trim Castle. Each year festivals and events are held attracting thousands of people to Trim town. In 2012 six festivals were held which included Trim Balloon Fiesta, Scurlogstown Hay Making, Swift Festival, Irish Walled Town Festival, Royal Meath Show and Trim Vintage and Veteran Car Rally. The Council will continue to actively work with festival organisers ensuring the Porchfields remains an important community amenity.

#### **12.3.7 Joint Policing Committee**

The Trim Joint Policing Committee (JPC) was established in 2011. A sub-committee of the Town Council to provide a forum whereby the local authority, senior Gardaí for the area, members of the Council and Oireachtas along with community/voluntary representatives discuss and make recommendations regarding policing in their area.

The JPC met on four occasions in 2012 with specific topics relating to installation of CCTV, parking for Public Service Vehicles and combating anti social behaviour.

#### **12.3.8 Roads**

A number of roads and footpath improvements were carried out in the town during 2012. The Department of Environment, Community & Local Government approved block grant of €195,000 in 2012.





## APPENDIX 1: SPC MEMBERS

Environment & Emergency Services SPC		
Cllr. Tommy Reilly Chair	Ardsallagh, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. Maria Murphy	3 The Close, Lutterell Hall, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Eoin Holmes	Blackhill, Heathstown, Stamullen, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Wayne Harding	The Village Inn, Slane, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Sirena Campbell	Smithstown, Julianstown, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Seamus O'Neill	<i>Resigned from Council on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012</i>	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Arian Keogan	Main Street, Duleek, Co. Meath ( <i>elected to committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2012</i> )	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Joe Fox	Clondoogan, Summerhill, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Trim Area
Cllr. Sarah Reilly	36 Bective Place, Kells, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Kells Town Council
Suzanne Brady	The Old Rectory, Rathmolyon, Co. Meath.	Community
Andrea Carroll	10 Maple Grove, Johnstown Wood, Navan, Co. Meath.	Sectoral – Pillar

Infrastructure SPC		
Cllr. Jim Holloway Chair	Farganstown, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. William Carey	Newcastle, Enfield, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Trim Area
Cllr. Gerry O'Connor	23 The Downs, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Jenny McHugh	Laracor, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. Shane Cassells	52 Oakleigh, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Clonfane, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Trim Area
Cllr. Joe Bonner	Donaghmore, Ashbourne, Co Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Francis Deane	5 Blackwater Drive, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Jim Mangan	160 Abbeygrove, Navan, Co Meath.	Community
Hugh Morris		Local Business – Pillar



Planning & Economic Development SPC		
Cllr. Eugene Cassidy Chair	Possextown, Nobber, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Kells Area
Cllr John V Farrelly	Hurdlestown, Kells, Co. Meath	Cllr. Kells Area
Cllr. Niamh McGowan	3 Hunter's Lane, Ashbourne, Co Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Rockfield Rd, Kells, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Kells Area
Cllr. Oliver Fox	Cogan Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Kells Area
Cllr. Joe Reilly	Faughan Hill, Bohermeen, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald	Warrenstown, Kilcock, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Trevor Golden	Church Lane, Trim, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Trim Town Council
Kieran Cummins	Trammon, Rathmolyon, Co. Meath.	Community
Brendan Conway	54 Millbrook, Johnstown, Navan, Co. Meath.	Trade Union – Pillar
Sean Boyle	Tara House, Preston Mall, Navan, Co. Meath.	Representative

Housing, Social, Cultural & Community SPC		
Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher Chair	Loughbracken, Drumconrath, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Tracy McElhinney	Ballivor, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Trim Area
Cllr. Suzanne Jamal	Flemington, Balrath, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Area
Cllr. Catherine Yore	The Rock, Rathendrick, Carnaross, Kells, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Kells Area
Cllr. Noel Leonard	4 St Patrick's Park, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Nick Killian	Ballybin, Ratoath, Ashbourne, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Dunshaughlin Area
Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	23 St Cianan's Villas, Duleek, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Slane Area
Cllr. Caoimhe Ní Shluáin	12 Kilberry Heights, Kilberry, Navan, Co. Meath.	Cllr. Navan Town Council
Patricia Hehir	The Moate, Rathmolyon, Co. Meath.	Community
Peter Rogers	Moynalty, Kells, Co. Meath.	Community
Tony Darby	Ratoath, Co. Meath.	Community
Robert Bradley	11 Kells Rd, Trim, Co. Meath.	Trade Union – Pillar



### 13 APPENDIX 2: SPC ACTIVITIES

Activities of the Strategic Policy Committees 2012		
Name	Meetings Held	Report on Activities
Environment & Emergency Services	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By-Laws under the Control of Horses Act 1996.</li> <li>2. To receive a report on the main findings of an inventory of burial grounds in the County.</li> <li>3. Operation of the Dog-Pound.</li> <li>4. Evaluation of the North East Waste Management Plan.</li> <li>5. Report on the operation of the Civic Amenity Sites in Navan, Kells and Trim.</li> <li>6. Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations 2011.</li> <li>7. To receive a report on the Energy Efficiency and Micro-Generation project funded through the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.</li> <li>8. To receive a progress report on measures contained within the River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>9. Various items of Correspondence circulated at Meetings.</li> </ol>
Infrastructural Development	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To receive update on the Dublin Greater Drainage Project.</li> <li>2. To receive update on Water Ireland.</li> <li>3. To receive review of Spatial Planning &amp; National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities January, 2012.</li> <li>4. To receive update in relation to the Navan Rail Line.</li> <li>5. To receive update in relation to the 2012 Roadworks Programme.</li> <li>6. To receive update in relation to the County Speed Limit review.</li> </ol>
Planning & Economic Development	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spatial planning &amp; National Roads Guidelines.</li> <li>2. Navan Kingscourt Multi purpose Greenaway.</li> <li>3. Retail Planning guidelines.</li> <li>4. Meath County Development plan 2013-2019 and subsequent review of LAP's.</li> <li>5. Legislative requirements for the Quarry sector.</li> <li>6. Review of the Development Contribution Scheme.</li> <li>7. Economic Activity.</li> </ol>
Housing, Social, Cultural & Community	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Social Housing</b> Received a report on Housing issues and the Social Housing Investment Programme (SHIP) Allocation for 2012</li> <li>2. <b>Mortgage to Rent Scheme</b> Received update Mortgage to Rent Scheme</li> <li>3. <b>Social Leasing</b> Received update on Social Leasing</li> <li>4. <b>Community Enterprise Recreation Culture &amp; Heritage Department (CERCH)</b> Received update on the core activities of the Department including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAPID &amp; Windtown Needs Analysis.</li> <li>• Age Friendly Initiative -Update on preparing Age Friendly Strategy</li> <li>• LCDP Programme - Meath Partnership</li> <li>• 2012 Sports Capital Programme</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. <b>Local County Development Board</b> Update on the reform in local government the CDB's would be coming in under the local authority umbrella and would be known as the Social Economic Group going forward.</li> <li>6. <b>Corporate Governance Event</b> Update on an event that had been organised for the Community and Voluntary sector to explain and guide the sector on corporate governance.</li> <li>7. <b>Comhairle Na n Óg</b> Update on the AGM which was a National Showcase on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, and a youth group from Gateshead outside Newcastle who visited the county.</li> <li>8. <b>Pride of Place</b> Update on the annual awards which were held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October and Fordstown</li> </ol>



		<p>was the overall winner for 2012</p> <p><b>9. Update on Library Service –</b> A report from the Library Department outlined to the members the various initiatives being undertaken by the Library service and stated that the usage figure had increased by 15% in 2011</p> <p><b>EBOOKS</b> – which allows the public to download books to their own PC or Server currently has 200 subscribers throughout the County.</p> <p><b>The Gathering</b> - all Libraries around the county involved through highlighting areas of the county through photos from 100 years ago, some of which are incorporated onto postcards which are to be sent around the worlds to encourage people back o take an up-to-date photo.</p>
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#### 14 APPENDIX 3: COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

Name of Committee	Name	Party
Meath County Enterprise Board	Clr. Suzanne Jamal	Fine Gael
	Clr. Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Clr. Joe Fox	Fine Gael
	Clr. Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
The Mid East Regional Authority.	Clr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Clr. Brian Fitzgerald	Non Party
	Clr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Clr. Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Clr. William Carey	Fine Gael
	Clr. Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Clr. Jenny McHugh	Labour
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee	Clr. Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Clr. Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Clr. Francis Deane	Non-Party



Name of Committee	Name	Party
	Cllr. Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael
Meath Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee	Cllr. Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jenny McHugh	Labour
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
	Referred to area committees, more to follow	
Audit Committee	Cllr. Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr. Nick Killian	Fianna Fáil
VEC	Cllr. Joe Fox	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
Name of Committee	Name	Party
	Cllr. Catherine Yore	Fine Gael
Joint Policing Committee	Cllr. Gerry O'Connor	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Maria Murphy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr. Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Wayne Harding	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Arian Keogan	Non-Party
	Cllr. Oliver Fox	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Noel Leonard	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil



	Cllr. Tracy McElhinney	Labour
	Cllr. Joe Fox	Fine Gael
	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Joe Reilly	Sinn Féin
	Cllr. Francis Deane	Non-Party
Community Reps	Shaun Lynch <i>Resigned – New member not yet appointed</i>	
	Charlie Traynor <i>Resigned – New member not yet appointed</i>	
	Cllr. Nick Killian	
MCC Staff	Kevin Stewart	
	Shane Donnelly	
Gardai	Padraig Rattigan	
	Michael Devine	
Oireachtas Members	Peadar Toibin	
	Damien English	
	Regina Doherty	
	Dominic Hannigan	
	Shane McEntee	
	Ray Butler	
	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
<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>
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. Gerry O'Connor	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
<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>
	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. Joe Fox	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. William Bligh	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
<b>Name of Committee</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>
	Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Non-Party
Protocol Committee	Cllr. Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr. Jimmy Fegan	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr Anne Dillon-Gallagher	Fine Gael
	Cllr Bryan Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jenny McHugh	Labour
	Cllr. Eoin Holmes	Labour
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr John V. Farrelly	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Jimmy Cudden	Non-Party
	Cllr. William Carey	Fine Gael
CPG	Cllr. Niamh McGowan	Labour
	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Tommy Reilly	Fianna Fáil
	Cllr. Jim Holloway	Fine Gael
	Cllr. Anne Dillon Gallagher	Fine Gael



## 15 APPENDIX 4: PAYMENTS TO MEMBERS OF MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Payments to Members of Meath County Council	
Annual Councillors Expenses (Travel & Subsistence)	€173,223.00
Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach Allowances	€39,000.00
Allowances paid to Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees	€24,500.00
Members Representational Payments (subject to taxation)	€484,352.73
Conferences Abroad - Travelling and Subsistence	€4,767.62
Miscellaneous Expenses	€7305.55

## 16 APPENDIX 5: CONFERENCES ABROAD

List Approved Abroad Conferences and members who attended in 2012		
Title	Dates	Members Attended
St Patrick's Day – New York	March 2012	Cllr. Nick Killian
		Cllr. John V Farrelly
		Cllr. Eoin Holmes
St Patrick's Day – London	March 2012	Cllr. Oliver Fox
Comhairle na nÓg Youth Exchange Trip, Gateshead, England	30 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 7 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2012	Cllr Maria Murphy
Irish Tourism and Food Festival, Kansas City, Missouri	24 Aug – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2012	Cllr John V Farrelly
Cary	October 2012	Cllr. Brian Fitzgerald
		Cllr. Tracy McElhinney
		Cllr. Gerry O'Connor
		Cllr. Noel Leonard

## 17 APPENDIX 6: CONFERENCES AT HOME

Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011	13/01/2012 – 15/01/2012	Cllr Wayne Harding	€445.23	€150.00	€595.23
Understanding EU Funding & Functions	27/01/2012 – 29/01/2012	Cllr Jimmy Fegan	€634.27	€100.00	€734.27
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€673.76	€100.00	€773.76
Local Government Seminar for Councillors	27/01/2012 – 29/01/2012	Cllr Jenny McHugh	€463.84	€120.00	€583.84
		Cllr Nick Killian	€472.65	€120.00	€592.65
		Cllr Noel Leonard	€453.06	€120.00	€573.06
Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009	03/02/2012 – 05/02/2012	Cllr Wayne Harding	€445.23	€150.00	€595.23
Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
AMAI Spring Seminar 2012	10/2/2012 – 11/2/2012	Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher	€158.34	€200.00	€358.34
		Cllr Francis Deane	€176.31	€200.00	€376.31
		Cllr William Carey	€226.22	€200.00	€426.22
80/20 Leadership - Helping busy Councillors	17/02/2012 – 19/02/2012	Cllr Jenny McHugh	€479.51	€145.00	€624.51



become effective leaders		Clr Wayne Harding	€492.24	€145.00	€637.24
2012 Budget Review of Allowances & Benefits & Revenue On-Line Service Workshop	24/02/2012 – 26/02/2012	Clr Tommy Reilly	€683.55	€100.00	€783.55
Guide to Septic Tanks	09/03/2012 – 10/03/2012	Clr Noel Leonard	€340.15	€150.00	€490.15
Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012	23/03/2012 – 25/03/2012	Clr Jim Holloway	€440.06	€100.00	€540.06
Personal Injuries	30/03/2012 – 31/03/2012	Clr Noel Leonard	€543.18	€150.00	€693.18
LAMA Spring Seminar 2012	13/4/2012 – 14/04/2012	Clr Brian Fitzgerald	€346.97	€150.00	€496.97
		Clr John V Farrelly	€476.26	€150.00	€626.26
		Clr Noel Leonard	€349.95	€150.00	€499.95
		Clr Jimmy Cudden	€430.23	€150.00	€580.23
		Clr William Carey	€291.18	€150.00	€441.18
Modern Alternatives to the Disappearance of Fossil Fuels	13/04/2012 – 15/04/2012	Clr Jimmy Fegan	€612.72	€100.00	€712.72
		Clr Tommy Reilly	€678.66	€100.00	€778.66
Finance Bill 2012	20/04/2012 – 21/04/2012	Clr William Carey	€428.31	€150.00	€578.31
ACCC Annual Conference	10/05/2012 – 11/05/2012	Clr Joe Fox	€255.61	€125.00	€380.61
		Clr Jim Holloway	€120.74	€125.00	€245.74
		Clr Tommy Reilly	€390.07	€125.00	€515.07
		Clr Nick Killian	€321.50	€125.00	€446.50
		Clr William Carey	€231.12	€125.00	€356.12
		Clr Wayne Harding	€390.07	€125.00	€515.07
The Councillor and Local Government Reform	18/05/2012 – 19/05/2012	Clr Jimmy Fegan	€347.01	€100.00	€447.01
		Clr Tommy Reilly	€332.63	€100.00	€432.63
A Guide to Getting the Right Work Done	18/05/2012 – 20/05/2012	Clr Wayne Harding	€511.83	€145.00	€656.83
National Housing Crisis	01/06/2012 – 03/06/2012	Clr Jimmy Fegan	€498.12	€145.00	€643.12
Planning Seminar for Councillors	08/06/2012 – 10/06/2012	Clr Francis Deane	€498.12	€100.00	€598.12
		Clr Jenny McHugh	€481.47	€100.00	€581.47
		Clr Nick Killian	€478.53	€100.00	€578.53
		Clr Noel Leonard	€473.63	€100.00	€573.63
		Clr Jimmy Cudden	€498.12	€100.00	€598.12
Getting to grips with the Nation's Debt	15/06/2012 – 16/06/2012	Clr Wayne Harding	€349.95	€150.00	€499.95
10 <sup>th</sup> National Tourism Conference, Carlow	21/6/2012 – 23/6/2012	Clr Anne Dillon Gallagher	€322.86	€140.00	€462.86
		Clr Francis Deane	€229.16	€140.00	€369.16
Local Media & The Councillor	20/07/2012 – 21/07/2012	Clr Tommy Reilly	€591.21	€100.00	€691.21
Mitchelstown Literary Festival	20/07/2012 – 22/07/2012	Clr Jim Holloway	€531.42	€105.00	€636.42
MacGill Summer School	25/07/2012 – 26/07/2012	Clr Jim Holloway	€407.06	€150.00	€557.06
Title	Dates	Members Attended	Travel & Subs Cost	Conference Cost	Total Cost
Improving the Social Housing Stock	27/07/2012 – 28/07/2012	Clr Jenny McHugh	€370.52	€150.00	€520.52
Criminal Law for the Local Representative	30/07/2012 – 31/07/2012	Clr Joe Fox	€334.59	€150.00	€484.59
Local Government Auditing	03/08/2012 – 04/08/2012	Clr Joe Fox	€334.59	€150.00	€484.59
		Clr William Carey	€306.85	€150.00	€456.85
Personal Insolvency Bill 2012	10/08/2012 – 11/08/2012	Clr Nick Killian	€594.11	€150.00	€744.11
Merriman Summer School	15/8/2012 – 19/8/2012	Clr Eugene Cassidy	€739.61	€130.00	€869.61
Education (Amendment) (Protection of	24/08/2012 – 25/08/2012	Clr Joe Fox	€389.44	€150.00	€539.44



Schools) Bill 2012					
LAMA Autumn Seminar 2012	28/9/2012 – 29/09/2012	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	€447.18	€150.00	€597.18
		Cllr Joe Bonner	€457.41	€150.00	€607.41
		Cllr Suzanne Jamal	€268.69	€150.00	€418.69
		Cllr Jenny McHugh	€350.62	€150.00	€500.62
		Cllr Tommy Reilly	€442.95	€150.00	€592.95
		Cllr Wayne Harding	€315.35	€150.00	€465.35
Third Age Conference	01/10/2012	Cllr Nick Killian	€48.97	€70	€118.97
Constitutional & Political Reform & The Councillor	05/10/2012 – 06/10/2012	Cllr Francis Deane	€285.30	€100.00	€385.30
		Cllr Jim Holloway	€283.34	€100.00	€383.34
Local Government Revenue - Dealing with households on low incomes	12/10/2012 – 13/10/2012	Cllr Anne Dillon Gallagher	€435.09	€150.00	€585.09
		Cllr Jenny McHugh	€370.52	€150.00	€520.52
Amendments to Social Welfare Acts	26/10/2012 – 27/10/2012	Cllr Francis Deane	€417.80	€150.00	€567.80
		Cllr Jenny McHugh	€312.73	€150.00	€462.73
Education for Work Initiatives	09/11/2012 – 10/11/2012	Cllr Jenny McHugh	€356.81	€150.00	€506.81
Leader Funding and the Councillor	16/11/2012 – 18/11/2012	Cllr Joe Fox	€410.99	€145.00	€555.99
Environmental Implications for harvesting Wind Energy	23/11/2012 – 24/11/2012	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	€496.16	€150.00	€646.16
		Cllr Jenny McHugh	€370.52	€150.00	€520.52
Information & Communications Technology for Councillors	23/11/2012 – 24/11/2012	Cllr Nick Killian	€537.30	€120.00	€657.30
		Cllr Noel Leonard	€537.30	€120.00	€657.30
Promoting Justice through better Consultation and Cooperation in Local Government	30/11/2012 – 01/12/2012	Cllr Eugene Cassidy	€674.74	€150.00	€824.74
The Local Government Budget 2013	30/11/2012 – 01/12/2012	Cllr Francis Deane	€297.05	€120.00	€417.05
Rights of Way - Recent changes in the law - How LG deal with right of way issues	07/12/2012 – 08/12/2012	Cllr Joe Fox	€313.71	€150.00	€463.71
		Cllr Jenny McHugh	€312.73	€150.00	€462.73
Health & Safety' and the Councillor	14/12/2012 – 15/12/2012	Cllr Nick Killian	€330.36	€145.00	€475.36
		Cllr Noel Leonard	€373.76	€145.00	€518.76



18 APPENDIX 7: MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL - 2012

Monthly Meetings	11
Special Meetings	10
Annual	1
Pre Budget and Budget	2
Protocol	11
CPG	11
SPC – Environment	3
SPC - Infrastructure	1
SPC – Housing, Social, Community & Cultural Development	2
SPC – Planning & Economic	3
Area - Dunshaughlin	12
- Kells	10
- Navan	11
- Slane	13
- Trim	11



19 APPENDIX 8: ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Meath County Council Annual Financial Report 2012		
Expenditure	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
Housing & Building	11.679	10.867
Roads Transportation & Safety	24.030	16.752
Water & Sewerage	21.662	10.386
Development Incentives & Controls	7.998	4.129
Environment Protection	14.442	0.485
Recreation & Amenity	5.764	0.619
Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare	5.485	0.03
Miscellaneous	14.372	0.319
<b>Total</b>	<b>105.432</b>	<b>43.587</b>
<b>Income</b> (see funding sources below)	50.209	39.469
Net Transfers		1.988
Net Revenue Cost to be funded from County	<b>(55.223)</b>	
Rates	25.242	
Local Government Fund & Pension Related Deduction	22.880	
Charges to Urbans	4.960	
Transfer from Reserves	(2.244)	
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	0.103	(2.13)
Opening Balance (01/01/12)	(6.857)	31.383
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>(6.754)</b>	<b>29.253</b>
Funding Sources	Revenue (€m)	Capital (€m)
State Grants and Subsidies	21.780	29.240
Borrowings		0.682
Other Receipts		9.547
Rents from Houses	7.275	
Housing Loans	0.563	
Commercial Water and Sewerage	3.965	
Planning Fees	0.435	
Recreation & Amenity Activities	0.194	
Fire Charges	0.661	
Pension Contributions	1.317	
NPPR	1.397	
Miscellaneous	12.622	
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.209</b>	<b>39.469</b>
Members allowances and expenses for Conference (€)		
	€	
Chairman's and SPC Chairs Allowance	63,294	
Councillors' Gratuities	96,000	
Members' Expenses/Salaries	659,549	
Attendance at Conferences abroad	5,960	



eReturns

Local Government Computer Services Board An Bord Seirbhísí Ríomhaire Rialtais Áitiúil

Key Performance Service Indicators Report:  
Jan 1 2012 - Dec 31 2012

Meath County Council

F: FIRE SERVICE

F1: Fire Service Mobilisation

	2012
A. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of fire	0 There no Full Time Stations in Co Meath
B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of fire	5.21
C. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Full-Time Stations in respect of all other emergency incidents	0 There are no Full Time Stations in Co Meath
D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in Part-Time Stations (retained fire service) in respect of all other emergency incidents	5.46

F.2 Percentage of attendances at scenes

	2012
A. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	42.24
B. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	46.40
C. Percentage of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	11.36
D. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	31.58
E. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	55.02
F. Percentage of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	13.40

	2012
Total number of incidents in respect of fire	625
Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	264
Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	290
Number of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	71
Total number of incidents in respect of all other emergency incidents (i.e. not including fire)	209
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene within 10 minutes	66
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	115
Number of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance is at the scene after 20 minutes	28



### F.3 Fire Prevention

	2012
A. Total number of fire safety certificate applications received	93
B. Total number of fire safety certificate applications processed (including cases deemed invalid)	93
C. Total number of applications deemed invalid	1

### CP: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

#### CP.1 Participation in local Youth Council/Comhairle na n-Og scheme

	2012
Percentage of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	58.33
Total number of local schools and youth groups	24
Number of local schools and youth groups involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na n-Og scheme	14 The Schools involved in the Comhairle na nOg is dependent on the Young people elected at the AGM and percentage can change from year to year.

#### CP.2 Groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum

	2012
Number of groups registered with the Community and Voluntary Forum	1054

### C: CORPORATE ISSUES

#### C.1 Working Days lost to Sickness

	2012
A. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	4.49
B. Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	0.51

	2012
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	6370 Of this figure, it is worth noting that 1171.5 days of this were unpaid certified sick leave
Number of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave	726.5
Total number of staff (Whole Time Equivalent) at the end of December 2012 (as per DECLG staffing return for the end of 2012)	625.58



## C.2 Staff Training and Development

	<b>2012</b>
Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs:	4.6

## E: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### WATER

#### E.1 Unaccounted For Water

	<b>2012</b>
Unaccounted for water (UFW) as a percentage of total volume of water supplied under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	33.55

	<b>2012</b>
Total volume of water supplied (m <sup>3</sup> /per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	42650
Volume of unaccounted for water (m <sup>3</sup> /per day) under the water supply schemes that the local authority is responsible for	14310

#### E.2 Drinking Water Analysis

<b>2012</b>	
A. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to public schemes	
B. Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to private schemes (where appropriate)	

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

#### E.3 Waste Segregation

<b>2012</b>	
A. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for dry recyclables	
B. Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for organics	

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of households provided with a waste collection service	Returned by NWCPO
Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for recyclables	Returned by NWCPO
Number of households provided with a segregated waste collection service for organics	Returned by NWCPO



**E4: Housing Waste Sent for Recycling**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Percentage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	
B. Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	
C. Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	6246

	<b>2012</b>
Total tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside	Returned by NWCPO
Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is sent for recycling	Returned by NWCPO
Tonnage of household waste collected from kerbside, which is landfilled	Returned by NWCPO
Tonnage of household waste recycled, which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity centres, transfer stations and other recycling facilities)	6246

**E5: Household Waste Sent for Landfill**

	<b>2012</b>
A. The percentage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	
B. The tonnage of household waste collected which is sent to landfill	

	<b>2012</b>
Total tonnage of household waste collected	Returned by NWCPO
Tonnage of household waste which is sent to landfill	Returned by NWCPO

**E6: Recycling Facilities**

	<b>2012</b>
The total number of Bring Sites in the local authority area	33
The total number of Civic Amenity Centres in the local authority area	4

**Glass**

	<b>2012</b>
A. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	33
B. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
C. The total number of facilities for recycling	37
D. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.01



	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	33
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

#### Cans

	<b>2012</b>
E. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	33
F. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
G. The total number of facilities for recycling	37
H. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	1.01

	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	33
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

#### Textiles

	<b>2012</b>
I. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	12
J. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
K. The total number of facilities for recycling	16
L. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.43

	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	12
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

#### Batteries

	<b>2012</b>
M. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
N. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
O. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
P. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

#### Oils

	<b>2012</b>
Q. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
R. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4



S. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
T. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

**Other materials**

	<b>2012</b>
U. The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
V. The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4
W. The total number of facilities for recycling	4
X. The number of locations for recycling per 5,000 of population	0.11

	<b>2012</b>
The number of Bring Sites for recycling	0
The number of Civic Amenity Centres for recycling	4

**Litter**

**E7: Litter Prevention and Enforcement**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of full-time litter wardens	2
B. Number of part-time litter wardens	3
C. Number of litter wardens (both full- and part-time) per 5,000 population	0.14
D. Number of on-the-spot fines issued	174
E. Number of on-the-spot fines paid	79
F. Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	10
G. Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	4
H. Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
I. Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	10
J. Total number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	4
K. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are unpolluted (i.e. litter-free)	
L. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are slightly polluted with litter	
M. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are moderately polluted with litter	
N. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are significantly polluted with litter	
O. Percentage of areas in the local authority that are grossly polluted with litter	



	<b>2012</b>
Number of full-time litter wardens	2
Number of part-time litter wardens	3
Number of on-the-spot fines issued	174
Number of on-the-spot fines paid	79
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	10
Number of prosecutions secured in cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	4
Number of notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)	0
Number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	10
Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 to 2003)	4

#### **E8: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)	936
B. Number of complaints investigated	803
C. Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary	603
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken	310

#### **E9: Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Percentage of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	86.55
B. Percentage of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	84.21

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of primary schools	119
Number of primary schools participating in environmental campaigns	103
Total number of secondary schools	19
Number of secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns	16

### **H: HOUSING**

#### **H1: Housing Vacancies**

	<b>2012</b>
A. The total number of dwellings in local authority stock	2975
B. The total number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2920
C. The overall percentage of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	0.58
D. The percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	323.53



E- The percentage of empty dwellings available for letting	100
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	2012
The average number of dwellings in local authority stock	2975
The average number of dwellings, excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects	2920
The average number of dwellings that are empty (excluding those subject to major refurbishment projects)	17
The average number of empty dwellings unavailable for letting	55
The average number of empty dwellings available for letting	17

#### H2: Average Time Taken to Re-let Available dwellings

	2012
The average time taken (in weeks) from the date of vacation of dwelling to the date when all necessary repairs are carried out which are deemed necessary to re-let the dwelling	14
The average time taken (in weeks) from the works (above) being completed to the date of the first rent debit	4.5

#### H3: Housing Repairs

	2012
Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received	95.00

	2012
The number of repairs completed	2755
The number of valid repair requests received	2900

#### H4: Traveller Accommodation

	2012
Total number of traveller families accommodated as a percentage of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme	220.0

	2012
Number of Traveller families accommodated	11
Target number of Traveller families to be accommodated in the year, as set out in the local Traveller accommodation programme	5

#### H5: Enforcement of standards in the private rented sector

	2012
A. Total number of registered tenancies	7598
B. Number of dwelling units inspected	109
C. Number of inspections carried out	193
D. Number of dwellings inspected as percentage of registered tenancies (i.e. B as percentage of A)	1.43



	<b>2012</b>
Total number of registered tenancies	7598
Number of dwelling units inspected	109
Number of inspections carried out	193

#### H6: Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

	<b>2012</b>
A. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application	24
B. Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt, to the date of decision on the application	22

#### H7: Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

	<b>2012</b>
A. Total number of new local authority tenants	117
B. Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	100

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of new local authority tenants	117
Number of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses	117

### L: LIBRARY SERVICES

#### L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

	<b>2012</b>
A. Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36.42
B. Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	12.75
C. Percentage of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	100
D. Percentage of full time libraries that have evening openings	100
E. Percentage of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	100

	<b>2012</b>
Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	36.42
Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)	12.75
Number of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings	12
Number of full time libraries that have evening openings	12
Number of full time libraries that have Saturday openings	12



#### L.2 Library Visits

	<b>2012</b>
Number of visits to full time libraries per 1,000 population	3335.52

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of visits to full-time libraries	613850

#### L.3 Library Stock

	<b>2012</b>
A. Annual expenditure on stock per head of population (county/city wide)	0.98
B. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for books	2.60
C. Number of items issued per head of population (county/city wide) for other items	0.57

	<b>2012</b>
Annual expenditure on stock	179788
Total number of books issued	478755
Total number of other items issued	104966

#### L.4 Internet Access through Libraries

	<b>2012</b>
Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population	237.40

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of Internet sessions provided	43689



**M: MOTOR TAXATION**

**M.1 Number of Motor Tax Transactions**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	80665
B. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	18205
C. Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	110529
D. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter	38.52
E. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	8.69
F. Percentage of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)	52.78

**M.2 Time Taken to Process Motor Tax Postal Applications**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	10224
B. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	4956
C. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	1442
D. Number of postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	1583
E. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the same day as receipt of the application	56.16
F. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the second or third day from receipt of the application	27.22
G. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	7.92
H. Percentage of overall postal applications which are dealt with (i.e. disc issued) in over five days from receipt of the application	8.70

**M.3 Time Taken to Process Driving Licence Applications**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	1850
B. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	8166
C. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the Fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	3107
D. Number of Driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	10330
E. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the same day as receipt of the application	7.89
F. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the second or third day from receipt of the application	34.82
G. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with on the fourth or fifth day from receipt of the application	13.25
H. Percentage of overall driving Licence applications which are dealt with in over five days from receipt of the application	44.05



**M.4 Public opening hours**

	<b>2012</b>
Average number of opening hours per week	26.2

**P: PLANNING**

**P.1 Planning Applications - Decision Making**

**Individual Houses**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of applications decided	105
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	34
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	71
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	92.53
F. Percentage of applications granted	73.33
G. Percentage of applications refused	26.67
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	68.75
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	31.25

	<b>2012</b>	
Number of applications decided	105	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	34	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	71	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	92.53	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications granted	77	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications refused	28	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	11	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	5	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council



**New Housing Development**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of applications decided	0
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	0
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	0
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
F. Percentage of applications granted	
G. Percentage of applications refused	
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	

	<b>2012</b>
Number of applications decided	0
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	0
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	0
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	0
Number of applications granted	0
Number of applications refused	0
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	0
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0

**Other: not requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of applications decided	707
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	459
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	248
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	83.88
F. Percentage of applications granted	82.89
G. Percentage of applications refused	17.11
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	87.50
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	12.50



	<b>2012</b>	
Number of applications decided	707	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	459	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	248	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	83.88	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications granted	586	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications refused	121	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	28	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	4	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council

**Other: requiring Environment Impact Assessment**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of applications decided	5
B. Number of decisions in Column A which were decided within 8 weeks	3
C. Number of decisions in Column A which required the submission of further information	2
D. Number of decisions in Column A where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0
E. Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	86.5
F. Percentage of applications granted	100
G. Percentage of applications refused	0
H. Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	
I. Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	

	<b>2012</b>	
Number of applications decided	5	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	3	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	2	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council



Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant, under section 34(9) of the Planning and development Act 2000	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Average length of time taken (in days) to decide an application where further information was sought	86.5	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications granted	5	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of applications refused	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanála	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council
Number of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanála	0	For Meath County Council, Trim Town Council, Navan Town Council & Kells Town Council

#### P.2 Planning Enforcement

	2012	
A. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were investigated	292	Includes MCC, NTC, KTC TTC. Reduced from 489 to 292 due to reduction of No of Financial Enforcement files opened & procedure established not to open files unless there is a valid enforcement complaint.
B. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were dismissed	7	
C. Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations	175	
D. Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	220	
E. Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	98	
F. Number of prosecutions	24	

#### P.3 Planning Public opening hours

	2012	
Average number of opening hours per week	26.7	Hours increased from 25 per week to 27.5 from 01/05/2012, thus average for year 26.7

#### P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

	2012	
A. Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	296	However 834 emails / phone calls/meetings outside the preplanning clinics were made in 2012 for the areas Meath County Council, Kells Town Council, Trim Town Council & NavanTown Council
B. Average length of time (in days) from	15	



request for consultation with local authority to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation		
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#### P.5 New Buildings inspected

*The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:*

	<b>2012</b>
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority	44.07

*In order to compile this information, local authorities should submit the following data:*

	<b>2012</b>
Total number of new buildings notified to the local authority	295
Number of new buildings notified to the local authority that were inspected	130

#### P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

	<b>2012</b>
A- The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	84
B- Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	14
C- Number of dwellings in respect of column B	914
D- Percentage of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	83.33
E- Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1
F- Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0

	<b>2012</b>
Number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year	84
Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question	14
Total number of dwellings in these estates	914
Number of estates in column A not completed to satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission	70
Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in	1
Number of estates in column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard	0



**Rec: RECREATIONAL SERVICES**

**Rec.1 Children's Playgrounds**

	<b>2012</b>
A. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population directly provided by the local authority	0.15
B. Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population facilitated by the local authority	0.01

	<b>2012</b>	
A. Number of children's playgrounds directly provided by the local authority	27	Figure under LA playgrounds is greater for 2012 as the figures for 2012 include Multi Use Game areas (MUGA) and skateboard facilities. Figures in previous years were purely based on traditional children's playgrounds. MUGA 4, Skateboard facilities 3. Traditional Children's Playgrounds 20
B. Number of children's playgrounds facilitated by the local authority	2	

**Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities**

	<b>2012</b>
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population	1590.30

	<b>2012</b>
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated leisure facilities	292669

**Rev: REVENUE COLLECTION**

**Rev.1 House Rent**

	<b>2012</b>	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from House Rent	85.31	This is based on draft AFS, Automatic deductions on a statutory basis from benefits will increase collection

	<b>2012</b>
B. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	5.29
C. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	5.98
D. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	10.30
E. Percentage of arrears on House Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	78.43
Amount due at year end from House Rent	8970058
Amount collected at year end from House Rent	7652420
Amount of arrears at year end from House Rent	1317639
Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are up to 4 weeks old	78732
Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 4-6 weeks old	89030



Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are 6-12 weeks old	153392
Amount of arrears on Housing Rent that are more than 12 weeks old	1168059

#### Rev.2 Housing Loans

The following indicator is presented in the service indicators report:

	2012	
A. Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due from Housing Loans	76.75	Based on draft AFS, MARP will take time to have an effect, Economic climate, Negative Equity and LA's as a lender of last resort is having a huge impact

	2012
B. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	1.22
C. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 months old	2.21
D. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	3.67
E. Percentage of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	92.89
Amount due at year end from Housing Loans	1564207
Amount collected at year end from Housing Loans	1200451
Amount of arrears at year end from Housing Loans	363756
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are up to 1 month old	5296
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 1-2 month old	9588
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are 2-3 months old	15939
Amount of arrears on Housing Loans that are more than 3 months old	402977

#### Rev.3 Commercial Rates

	2012	
Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due from Commercial rates	77	Based on Draft AFS, Economic difficulties, lack of real threat in absense of active sherriff hampering collections

#### Rev.4 Refuse Charges

	2012
Percentage of households paying refuse charges (including waivers) at year end	no refuse in MCC



**Rev.5 Non-Domestic Water Charges**

	<b>2012</b>	
Amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due for Non-Domestic Water Charges	49	Economic Climate, Current Occupier not liable for previous occupiers consumption, Mixed Purpose Connections, Multi user single connections all imp

**R: ROADS**

**R1: Road Restoration Programme**

	<b>2012</b>
Number of kilometres of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum	155.29
Number of kilometres of local and regional roads constructed under the specific improvement grants scheme per annum	0.415