

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh,
Contae na Mí, C15 Y291

Fón: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

R-phost: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Uimhir Chláraithe: 00172770



Meath County Council

Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan,
Co. Meath, C15 Y291

Tel: 046 – 9097000/Fax: 046 – 9097001

E-mail: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Web: www.meath.ie

Registration No.: 00172770

April, 2019

Don/ Cathaoirleach agus ball den Comhairle

Item 6.1 - Chief Executive's Report

Dear Councillor,

As part of the ongoing governance of Meath County Council, Section 136(2) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, requires me to prepare a monthly Management Report and to furnish a copy to each Councillor. Accordingly, I have prepared the following report for your consideration and information.

HOUSING

Capital Programme

▪ Summary Profile of Approved Direct Construction Projects 2017-2021

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	APPROVED BUDGET €	ESTIMATED START DATE	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
PROJECTS COMPLETED				
Bettystown (Phase 1)	16	3,437,478	Complete	N/A
Athboy (Phase 1)	32	8,850,320	Complete	N/A
Proudstown Road Navan	4	819,737	Complete	N/A
Totals	52	13,107,535		
CONSTRUCTION STAGE				
Summerhill	19	3,854,980	N/A	Q2 2019
Ratoath	17	3,662,700	N/A	Q2 2019
Bettystown (Phase 2)	15	3,426,308	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Kells	40	8,555,683	Q1 2019	Q2 2020
Cortown*	10	6,922,971	Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Kilmainhamwood*	4		Q1 2019	Q4 2019
Oldcastle*	16		Q1 2019	Q4 2019
The Belfry, Trim	3	560,000	Q1 2019	Q3 2019
Totals	121	26,982,642		
TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION				
Carlanstown	13	2,719,237	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Dunshaughlin	26	5,813,948	Q3 2019	Q3 2020

Totals	39	8,533,185		
DESIGN PHASE				
Nobber	19	3,657,000	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Donore	21	4,165,565	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Farganstown	42	11,204,000	Q2 2020	Q3 2021
Ashbourne	55	12,264,000	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Kells Archdeaconary	20	3,826,010	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Blackhill Crescent, Donacarnev	2	418,369	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Nangle Court, Navan	6	1,096,600	Q3 2019	Q3 2020
Church View,	9	1,719,002	Q4 2019	Q4 2020
Totals	174	38,350,546		
GRAND TOTALS	389	86,973,908		

* Rapid Build Delivery Projects

▪ **Summary of Current Funding Submissions to the Department**

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	NO. OF UNITS	FUNDING SOUGHT €
Kells	Carrick Street (Vacant units (19) & back land development (30))	49	10,225,755
Totals		49	10,225,755

Expression of Interest for Turnkey Schemes and/or Lands

- There is currently an open call for proposals (no deadline applies) regarding the supply of development sites or completed housing schemes that are fit for purpose for social housing within the County. Details regarding same and required forms can be found on www.etenders.gov.ie. or via the following link on Meath.ie <http://bit.ly/EOIHouseSchemesAndOrLand>

Refurbishment Projects

- St Francis' Park - Departmental approval had been received in the sum of €2,856,336 for the refurbishment of St Francis Park Halting site. Department of Housing funding approval has been sought. Documentation for Part 8 Design process has been prepared. Departmental Stage 2 approval to proceed to Part 8 is currently awaited.
- Alverno Court - Part 8 Planning Permission in place. Scope of project has been revised and total estimate of all in cost currently stands at €4,807,972. Budget approval from Department has been increased from €3,458,329 to €4,150,329, with self funding also to be provided in order to advance scheme to the next stage. Individual surveys on the units concerned have been conducted by Architect team in preparation of tender documents.

▪ **Summary Profile of Approved Housing Body Approved Projects 2017-2021**

PROJECT NAME	NO. OF UNITS	AHB	Delivery
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2017
Ardmore, Bettystown	1	North & East Housing	Complete - 2017
Royal Oaks, Enfield (Part V)	4	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Seabury Lawns, Mornington	6	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Kellets Grove, Dunshaughlin (Part V)	6	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Milltown Meadows, Ashbourne	67	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2017
Emmet Street, Trim	11	North & East Housing	Complete - 2018
Dunville, Navan (30 units Part V)	64	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Ceamach Close, Donacarney	16	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018)
Blackcastle, Navan	26	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Grangehall, Dunshaughlin	8	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Frederick Manor, Ashbourne	11	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Ashewood, Ashbourne	12	Cluid Housing	Complete - 2018
Churchfields, Ashbourne	18	Tuath Housing	Complete - 2018
Fitzherbert Wood, Navan	46	Tuath Housing	4 Complete 2018/Delivery Due - Qtr 4 2019
Churchfields, Ashbourne (Part V)	25	Tuath Housing	10 Complete 2018/15 Delivery Due Q2 2019
Eastham Square, Bettystown(Part V)	5	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Qtr 1 2019
Station Road, Dunboyne	24	Respond	Delivery Due – Qtr 1 2019
Slan Duff, Kentstown	2	Cluid Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2019
Dunville, Navan	6	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – Q2 2019
Broadmeadow Vale, Ratoath (Part V)	12	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due Q3 2019
Commons Road , Navan	12	North & East Housing	Delivery Due Qtr 2 2019
Commons Road, Navan	58	Tuath Housing	Delivery Due – (20 units) Q4 2019
Maudlins, Duleek	20	Respond!	Delivery Due – Q4 2019
Total	474		

Acquisition Programme

- 5 Sales have closed and 21 Acquisitions are at contract stage to date in 2019

Local Authority Adaptation Works Scheme

- 11 projects completed to date in 2019 (€80,233)

- 5 projects ongoing (€45,634)
- 15 task orders sent to contractor (€95,458)

Housing Adaptation Grant Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability

- The Council was notified by the Department on 11th March 2019 of its 2019 allocation under the Housing Adaptation Schemes for Older People and People with a Disability in the sum of €2,318,889. A total number of 108 Grants have been approved to date in 2019, to the value of €902,724

Local Authority Vacant Units currently Unavailable for Allocation

- Outlined below is a summary per Municipal District of the number of vacant properties that currently require works before they can be re-tenanted, as at 13th March 2019. For the period from 15th February 2019 to 13th March 2019, works were completed on 5 vacant units; while 2 units became vacant during this period.

	No. of Units Vacant < 3 Months	No. of Units Vacant 3-6 Months	No. of Units Vacant > 6 Months	No. of Vacant Units Currently Subject to Works	No. of Vacant Units not with Contractors
Ashbourne	2	0	0	1	1
Kells	2	3	3	8	0
Laytown/Bettystown	2	1	0	3	0
Navan	1	0	0	0	1
Ratoath	2	1	0	3	0
Trim	1	1	2	4	0
TOTALS	10	6	5	19	2

Homeless Service

- **Summary of Emergency Accommodation Placements 2019**

Emergency Accommodation	SINGLE ADULTS/COUPLES	HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
Placements from 1st January to 28th February 2019	19 (19)	10 (12 Adults, 16 children)	29
Placements at 28th February 2019 (includes placements in 2018)	75 (79 Adults)	24 (36 Adults, 51 Children)	99

Of the 24 households with children, 17 families are placed in short term private rented accommodation (house/apartment) through Settlement Team's intervention.

Reasons for emergency accommodation placement in order of frequency: Primary reason is Notice to Quit & unable to find property to rent; followed by family breakdown; addiction; mental health and young person leaving Tusla aftercare

Social Housing Supports

- 103 new applications for Social Housing Support were received for the period January - February 2019.

- Outlined below is the number of households that have had their accommodation needs met by Meath County Council in the period January - February 2019.

Allocations/Housing Supports	Number
MCC Direct Allocations	60
Approved Housing Bodies	51
RAS	0
HAP	114
TOTAL	225

TRANSPORTATION

1. National Roads 2019 funding from TII confirmed - €6,603,684

N51 Dunmoe Phase 2	CPO confirmed on 2nd October 2018 – Formal TII approval received to commence land acquisition. NTT served 21 st March 2019. Archaeological Geophysical survey received and currently being reviewed. Preparation of the documents for the Tendering of Topographical Survey, Supplementary Ground Investigation and Valuation Services ongoing.
N2 Slane Bypass	Route options being assessed. Public Consultation re Emerging Preferred Option expected to be later in Quarter 2.
N2 Rath Roundabout to Kilmoon	TII approval to progress Planning & Design received, consultants being procured.
N51 Tullaghanstown Cross Pavement Strengthening	Design stage 95% complete. Landowner negotiations ongoing. Environmental reports ongoing.
N52 Grange to Clontail	Ground Investigation Survey Contract has been awarded with Contractor due to commence on site end of March. Geophysical Survey - awaiting method statement and licence application approvals. Preparation of the tendering documents for Valuation Services ongoing.
N51/R147 Junction Navan	TII funded safety scheme. Contractor appointed. Works expected to commence April 2019

2. Non- National Roads 2019 funding from DTT&S - €19,676,500

R150 Laytown to Bettystown Spine Road	Awaiting decision from An Bord Pleanála re CPO. Detail design progressing.
LDR4 Abbeyland Navan	Pre-application meeting held with An Bord Pleanála. Draft CPO maps prepared for review internally. EIAR being drafted.
Ratoath Outer Relief Road	Contractor has been appointed and works have commenced on site
LDR6 Farganstown, Navan	ESB temporary diversion being carried out on site. Construction tender documents being finalised

Schedule of Municipal District Works – passed by all 6 Municipal Districts at the February meetings. Contracts will be going to tender now to progress the 2019 Roadworks programme.

3. Sustainable Transport Initiatives – 2019 grant allocation from NTA - €2,250,000

GDA Cycle Network Design Navan (Fairgreen to Johnstown) & (Proudstown Rd to Trim Rd Route)	The Planners Report was submitted at the March Navan MD Meeting. This included the curtailment of the scheme at St Michael's Loreto to omit the section of the route on Convent Road.
--	---

Cantilevered Bridge – New Bridge, Athlumney Road (R153) Navan	Outstanding landscaping works (topsoiling and seeding) in Cllr Andy Brennan Park postponed due to inclement weather conditions. Works to be completed in April (subject to weather conditions)
Navan Town Scheme (Navan 2030)	Design work for Scheme ongoing. Suitability Assessment Questionnaires returned. A total of 8 responses were received. It is intended to shortlist on SAQ submissions and invite a maximum of 7 No. to tender for a section of the works in order to form a Framework of up to 4 contractors for the remaining of the project. The first tender package is due to issue next month.
Boyne Greenway – Drogheda to Mornington Section	Meeting held on 8 th of March with Louth County Council to review designs and discuss planning approach for proposed scheme. Design work ongoing and planning documents being finalised.

4. Safety Improvement Works on Regional & Local Roads

Scheme		Road	MD	Status
Knockrack, Oldcastle	2019	R195/L 68197	Kells	At design stage.

5. Bridge Rehabilitation Works Regional & Local Roads

Bridge Name	Road	MD	Status
Snipes Bridge	L-28014	Kells	Works complete

6. Other Actions/ Projects

Public Lighting Capital Programme	2018	Construction works 90% complete.	
	2019	Programme of Capital works as follows	
		MD	Location
		Ratoath MD	Drumree Road, Dunshaughlin R155 - Fairyhouse/Tattersalls, Ratoath
		Laytown/Bettystown MD	L1610 Abbey Road out to Balsaran School, Duleek Newtown National School
		Ashbourne MD	R135 to Business Park Entrance, Ballymadun Road, Ashbourne
		Trim MD	R148 Enfield Inner Relief Road, (R148 link from roundabout on R402 to R148 Clonard Road).
		Navan MD	The Bull, Market Square, Navan
Kells MD	R162 Village to Muff Crescent, Nobber		
Risk Mitigation – Footpath Improvement Works	2018	<p>Ratoath MD– Contractor has finished areas of work in front of school, church and shops in Dunshaughlin.</p> <p>Assessment carried out of works required in Clonee.</p> <p>Navan MD- Appointment of contractor for works at Woodlands Estate, Navan commenced.</p> <p>Kells MD - Tender evaluation underway for footpaths in Kells.</p> <p>Ashbourne MD– Design commenced for footpaths in Garden City, Ashbourne.</p> <p>Trim MD – Tenders received and evaluated for works on Newhaggard Road. Appointment of contractor has commenced.</p>	

		Laytown/Bettystown MD – Contractor commenced works at Laytown.
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	2019	List of Roads for 2019 programme being assessed and landowners letter expected to issue in March.
Local Improvement Scheme (LIS)	2019	Remainder of selected schemes for Round 2 funding 2018 will be progressed. List of 2019 schemes to be confirmed.
Harlockstown Footpath & Bus Stop Scheme	2018	Planners report being drafted. Possibly being presented at the April Ratoath MD Meeting
Royal Canal		Final 4km section of the Greenway from Ferrans Lock to Cloncurry under construction. Approx 50% completed. Works to be completed and scheme opened by June 2019.
County Meath Special Speed Limit Bye-Law		New Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for county Meath adopted at the December 2018 full council meeting. New speed limits to come into effect in April 2019. Contractor appointed for signage supply/installation.

FINANCE

Loans Data 1st February 2018 to 28th February 2019	
Applications Received	230
Applications Returned not Submitted to Housing Agency	10
Applications awaiting further information not Submitted to Housing Agency	0
Applications Submitted to Housing Agency for Assessment/Recommendation	220
Applications Awaiting Assessment /Recommendation by Housing Agency	0
Applications Awaiting Decision by Meath County Council Credit Committee	33 *
Applications Approved by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	114
Applications Refused by the Meath County Council Credit Committee	73
	220
Approvals Drawdown by Customer for House Purchase	70
Drawdowns for Restructuring Loans	5
No of customers in MARP	36
Credit Committee cannot assess applications until Capital Allocation for 2019 from Dept is known *	
All previous allocation fully exhausted	

PLANNING, COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE

Planning

- Planning Applications

The number of applications received in the period 01.01.2019 to 18.03.2019 was 303 in comparison to 269 received in the same period last year.

- Development Contributions

Development Contribution receipts up to the end of February 2019 were €1,723,714 compared to €1,041,027 in same period last year. (Figure is inclusive of Irish Water receipts)

- Strategic Infrastructure Development

303678 – Applicant – SSE Generation Ireland Limited.: for development described as Air insulated switchgear 110kV transmission substation at Carranstown and Caulstown, Platin, Duleek, Co. Meath – for discussion on agenda under statutory business.

303878 – Applicant – Lighthouse Renewable Energy Ireland Limited.: for development described as 110kV substation and associated compound, ancillary equipment, and connection to facilitate the connection of a consented solar farm at Harlockstown, Polleban and Vesingstown, Dunboyne, Co. Meath – for discussion on agenda under statutory business.

Community

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The next meeting of the LCDC is scheduled for Friday 29th March, 2019.

LEADER Programme 2014-2020

A meeting of the LAG is scheduled for Friday 29th March, 2019.

Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Continue to liaise with agencies and partners to progress actions within the LECP with quarterly reports presented to the LCDC meetings.

Age Friendly County Initiative (AF)

Meath is part of a pilot with Limerick and Fingal through Age Friendly Ireland to test a tablet specifically designed for older persons. 3rd workshop took place on the 14th of March in Trim and Kells to cater for 30 older Persons taking part. The final session will cater for all participants in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on the 4th of April. The Trim AF sub-group continue to meet and are working on Trim becoming an AF business Town. AF Alliance Meeting took place on the 7th of March 2019. Next meeting Scheduled for the 13th of June 2019.

Joint Policing Committee

The Committee adopted the Annual Report 2018 at the February Meeting which was subsequently noted at the March Council meeting. The next full JPC meeting is scheduled to take place on 29th April 2019 which will be the last meeting of the current council membership.

Public Participation Network

There are over 800 groups on the PPN. Member details are now available on the website www.meathppn.ie. Training on the Toolkit for the roll out of the Wellbeing Statement has taken place for secretariat members and PPN staff. Secretariat members will devise a plan for the development of the statement in Meath. The issues register is available to view with the responses on the website. The Department of Rural and Community Development have commenced the process of compiling the PPN Annual Report for 2018.

Ashbourne Linear Park

Works progressing in zone 4 of the park and a Sod Turning ceremony took place on 11th March last. Works on schedule and will be completed by early summer.

Pride of Place

63 applications were received from primary schools and pre-schools to take part in this year's Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme.

The Community Grant Scheme 2019

The closing date was Friday 8th March 2019. 500 applications were received and were assessed for presentation to the SPC on Thursday 28th March for their review and recommendation to the Full Council.

The Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019

The new Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019 was launched on Friday 8th February; the scheme is open to applications for projects that can include the development of sporting, recreational, environmental, amenity, heritage and cultural facilities. The minimum project application is €10,000 with a maximum project application of €100,000 per Municipal District per annum. The closing date was Friday 15th March 2019. 52 applications were received and been assessed for presentation at the April Municipal District meetings.

National Community Event 4th - 6th May 2019

This is a new national event "The Big Hello" which will be a celebration of the great spirit of community that exists across the country and in an effort to help people who share communities to come together, get to know each other and deepen the sense of community in their area. Events could be centred round food, sport, the environment, health, heritage, culture, family fun day, etc. and will take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend 4th - 6th May 2019. Grants of up to €500 will be available to groups. The closing date was Friday 15th March 2019, 18 applications were received and were assessed for presentation to the LCDC at their meeting on Friday 29th March, 2019.

Regional Festivals & Participative Events.

This is a Fund of €11,000 provided by Fáilte Ireland and will be distributed by Meath County Council among qualifying applicants. Fund amounts are directly related to the numbers of overseas visitors who attend the event. Closing date was March 15th 2019 with 8 applications assessed for review by SPC and to full Council in April.

CLÁR

2019 scheme now open for applications. Closing date for applications is Friday 12th April.

Carranstown Grant Scheme

The committee recommended 33 applications for funding to the Laytown Bettystown District meeting on 12th March and have recommended these to the full Council for the April meeting.

Knockharley Grant Scheme

Works are currently ongoing on the Kentstown Village Project which involves the creation of green space, football pitches, parking area and changing rooms. The 11 projects awarded funding are completed apart from the 2 National Schools which are subject to additional classroom construction.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018

Works are completed or near completion on the various projects approved in 2017. All works and drawdown must be recouped to the department by the end of March.

Works are now commencing by the groups under the 2018 scheme and must be completed by April 2020.

Healthy Ireland Fund scheme 2018

Projects are progressing under this scheme. The eligibility period for work under HIF Round 2 has been extended from 31st March 2019 to 30th June 2019.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018

Agreements have now been signed under Measure 2 and works due to commence on projects under this scheme.

Community Enhancement Programme 2018

All claims have now been submitted and paid out. 2019 scheme due to be launched in March by the department.

Digital Strategy

The public consultation to identify the key priorities for the Meath Digital Strategy closed on the 15th March. Over 100 submissions were received online and a number of hard copies were also returned. Stakeholder interviews were also carried out with a variety of sectors. The information is being presented to the steering committee to consolidate the Priorities and Vision for the Digital Strategy.

Comhairle na n'Óg

ext Comhairle na n'Óg Steering Committee Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber on the 27th March 2019. Comhairle na n'Óg meeting to follow after this. Steering Committee Members are invited stay on and take part in the Comhairle Meeting.

Arts

Toradh Gallery Ashbourne

The Fragility of Culture by Trim based artist Dermot McNevin continued until March 29th. A collection of new abstract painted works on canvas, accompanied by an original film piece and a soundscape featuring traditional Irish Harp, the exhibition was bolstered by an education programme throughout the run, group exhibition tours available upon request.

Arts Act Funding - Awards & Bursaries 2019

The following awards and bursaries opportunities have been advertised. Closing date for all applications Wednesday 3rd April at 12pm. **Application forms available to download from <http://www.meath.ie/CountyCouncil/Arts/BursariesandAwards/>**

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

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

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

Professional Artists Development Fund This award is intended to support Meath based professional arts practitioners in the delivery of their work and in particular, the development of new work.

Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary Award This award is intended to fund a week long residential stay at the Tyrone Guthrie Artists' Retreat in Annaghmakerrig, Co Monaghan. The residency is open to artists of all disciplines living in County Meath.

School Musical Instrument Purchase Scheme This award is intended to support the development of Musical Instrument resources in both Primary and Secondary schools in County Meath.

Creative Ireland

Work with Culture Team on the implementation of the Five Year Creative Meath strategy.

Creative Hub @ Kells Courthouse

Liaise with Facilities Dept., Heritage & Conservation Officers regarding required works at Kells Courthouse. Works progressing. Liaise with Arts Council re Kells and Creative Place making project.

FÉACH information, training and advice service

Continue to provide information and advice service to individual artists, arts groups and organisations across the county

Enterprise

Economic Strategy Implementation

Actions 1 2 & 3: Internal & External Engagement

- **Commitment for Sponsorship of events:**
 - Samhain Live 2019
- Economic Development met with Dr. Joanne Rourke Resource Efficiency Officer Eastern-Midlands Regional Waste Office to discuss the “€comerit” initiative which is a Three year environmental certification programme for business’. ED made the link with Meath Chamber who are arranging an invite Joanne to attend a Breakfast Morning to discuss “€comerit” with Meath Business’
- ED currently working on a presentation for #MakeltMeath refresher for internal staff including frontline staff, new starts & revenue collectors

Economic Development

Action 7 Marketing:

- Work is underway to roll out #MakeltMeath message to all local estates within Meath

- Work is underway to investigate the running a marketing campaign for the available sites in the industrial parks.

Social Media campaign:

- The number of followers has increased to in excess of 600 in less than 5 weeks. Efforts continue to post current content
- Economic Development attending “Social Media in Business Course”

Advanced Technology Buildings:

- Three sites have been identified as potential ATBs in Kells, Drogheda & Navan.
- The tender document is currently being refined by the procurement section for issue

Industrial Estates Management:

- Communication is ongoing re: sale of site in Eamonn Duggan industrial Estate Trim. Decision to be made by end of month (March)

EU Projects:

- ED currently working on an Erasmus+ submission in collaboration with NUIM & 6 other EU counterparts, entitled MICRO MBA – Unlocking Microenterprise Potential. If successful, this will be the first time Meath County Council will be the Co-Ordinator of the project.
- Another EU project proposal was prepared for submission on the 2^{1st} of March entitled “GIG economy training”

Boyne Valley Food Strategy:

- **BVR – National Geographic** – The Boyne Valley Foods mentioned as a top foodie destination in the world by the esteemed national geographic traveller segment http://www.natgeotraveller.co.uk/smart-travel/features/worlds-best-food-destinations/?fbclid=IwAR06PcMfDKWheRBbE05VPyunBTb19tNrQpahxK_X8pBkuc4z3Dy8Q3pteo
- **Irish Farm Tours** – work is underway to organise a day trip from Dublin around the farms/producers in the Boyne Valley Region. Goal is to promote the region as a Food Destination that offers farm and producer visitor experiences.
- **CATEX, RSD** - Visited CATEX show in RDS, Dublin on Wednesday 27th Feb. It is one of Ireland's largest foodservice and hospitality show, CATEX provides suppliers with an essential platform to promote their products and services directly to industry buyers. -
- **Meath Tourism** - Presentation at the Meath Tourism meeting on Monday 4th March, outlining Boyne Valley Flavours and plans for 2019. Drogheda, Apple Blossom Walks take place as part of the Boyne Valley Food Series between April 27 and May 4 (boynevalleyflavours.ie)
- **Enterprise Week** - The Boyne Valley Food Network ran an interactive seminar helping food businesses to improve margins and drive efficiency on Wednesday March 6th in Ardee Food Hub. Guest speaker on the day was Aidan O’Byrne.
- **FSAI Event** - 13th March. The event focused on Brexit and the possible impacts from a food law compliance perspective & import controls.
- **Producer Map** – Work is ongoing to produce map showcasing all the local producers across Louth and Meath
- **Food Series & Discover Place on a Plate** – launch of brochure on Tuesday March 26th in the Conyngham Arms.

Local Enterprise Office (LEO)

- **Mentoring assignments:** 13
- **Online trading Vouchers:** 5

- **Business Advice Sessions: 33**
- **TAME Applications: 2**
- 96 participants took part in LEO courses during March including:
 - Social Media and Online Images
 - Driving Innovation into the Digital Age
 - Online Selling and Law
 - Boyne Valley Food – Checklist to a Better Business
 - Women in Business – Dreams Really Do Come True, if you dig deep
 - Launch of Network for TOV Recipients
 - Instagram for Business
- **Enterprise Week:** LEO Meath Enterprise Week 2019 took place from 4th – 8th March with a host of enterprise events taking place. The aim of the week was to boost awareness of the types of supports and services available to micro and small enterprises. A variety of events, seminars and training took place over the week. Some 130 attendees attended with highlights including:
 - **Local Enterprise Week Conference – Driving Innovation in the Digital Age** held on Tuesday 5th March, with high level speakers including Aine Kerr, William Egenton, Dorcas Reamonn and Mark Baldwin. The conference was well attended with great feedback received relating to our speakers on the day
 - **Women in Business Seminar** held in Boyne Hill House Thursday 7th March. A joint collaboration between LEO Meath & Meath Chamber. The event was well attended with in excess of 35 business attendees. Very positive event with lots of positive feedback received on the night.
- **Student Enterprise day**

The students were all competing at the Meath Final on Thursday, March 14th, which was held at the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim. An estimated one hundred and fifty seven students from thirteen schools took part in the annual programme locally

- Eleven teenage entrepreneurs from two local schools, St. Patrick's Classical School in Navan and St. Ciaran's Community School in Kells won a place representing Meath Student Enterprise Programme National Finals in Croke Park on Friday, May 3rd.
- Winners were:
 - Junior Category, the students representing Meath at the National Finals in Croke Park are: Aaron Mc Bride and Matthew O'Donohoe from "Be Good Brownie" at St. Patrick's Classical School, Navan.
 - Intermediate Category, Oscar Seery, Jack Donohoe, Callum Shjeils, Keelan Mulvany and Killian Hough, "Lightning Custom PCs" also from St. Patrick's Classical School Navan will be representing the county in Croke Park.
 - Senior Category, Meath will be represented on May 3rd by conor O'Reilly, Kian Lynch, James Lynch and Paddy Finnegan from Wood-E Bud-E at St. Ciaran's CS, Kells.

Special guest at the Meath Final was Cllr. Alan Tobin, Chair of the Planning, Economic Development and Enterprise SPC of Meath County Council.

- **IBYE: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur (IBYE) Competition: Meath Competition**

Meath's IBYE Competition closed on 15th March with 62 applications received from Meath businesses, exceeding our targets by over 50%. There was a strong response across all 3 categories; Best Business Idea (26 Applicants), Best Start Up Business (19) and Best Established Business (17). All applicants were invited to take part in the LEO Meath Enterprise Day on Saturday, 23rd March 2019. Arising from Enterprise Day, a short listing evaluation took part to reduce the number of young entrepreneurs to go through to an intensive Business Bootcamp, which will take place on Saturday 30th & Sunday 31st March. The County Finals and Awards will take place Thursday 2nd May.

Public Libraries

Slane Library – Refurbishment

Slane library re-opened to the public as planned on the 12th of March. The library has been totally refurbished and now has a new meeting room with study facilities, display screens and a range of IT equipment. The introduction of the new self-service kiosk, which will allow patrons to borrow and return multiple items at a time, has proven to be particularly popular. Free WiFi for patrons is coming soon.

My Open Library – Trim

One hundred and forty members have now been inducted to Trim MOL. The system is operating very smoothly and demand is high for membership of the new service. Twenty five members accessed the service over the St. Patrick's Bank Holiday weekend. Registered adult members may bring their children, this proved very popular over the weekend as ninety five children were brought to the library over the weekend. Induction training for new members is continuing with sessions booking up very quickly. The open evenings and induction training will continue each Tuesday and Thursday for the foreseeable future.

Kells Library – Refurbishment

Works are ongoing on the refurbishment of the building and the redecoration of the branch. The branch will be closed from Saturday 2nd March until after Easter.

Funding to support the establishment of public libraries as digital learning centres and enablers of digital services

The Dementia Tables (Tovertafels) are due to be installed in Navan and Trim libraries before the end of March. In advance of the installation all library staff received training in Dementia Awareness from the organizers of the national *Understanding Dementia Together Campaign*.

ENVIRONMENT, WATER SERVICES, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Anti-Litter Initiative 2019

A record 139 groups registered for the 2019 Anti-Litter Initiative. While it is not a competition there is a grant for those that achieve high standards over the two months. This initiative is taking place in March and April and overlapping with the National Spring Clean (An Taisce) which runs for the month of April. Judging began on 20th March, and there will be two rounds of judging. Points will be deducted for the presence of litter and there will be a score for general appearance. All groups who take part will be entitled to a start-up pack which includes gloves, bags and litter pickers. We will arrange to assist with the collection and disposal of litter and waste collected from public areas. Grants and medals available to high achieving groups.

Anti Dumping Campaign

As part of the Council's successful Anti Dumping Campaign, which in particular utilises social media platforms to discourage members of the public from giving their household waste to unauthorised waste collectors, a number of further environmental initiatives are to be held in 2019 –these include:

- A number of Bulky Waste Collection days are proposed in the three Recycling Centres over the coming months and following on from very successful couch recycling days held in Navan, Kells and Trim- these will include Kitchen & Bathroom waste, Mattresses collections and flooring and shelving, household hazardous waste, Garden Equipment etc –dates will be posted on the Councils web-sites and on social media platforms.
- The Regional Tidy Towns Conference was held in Trim in February and with 440 people in attendance.
- Funding provision made in 2019 estimates for each Municipal District to fund Community and Estate clean ups and removal of household type bulky waste
- Further sites which are subject to continuous dumping to be cleaned up as part of the 2019 Anti Dumping Initiative
- Reduction in entry to the three Recycling Centres to €2 came into effect from the 1st December 2018
- A continuation of the Man in the Van campaign in 2019 – a national campaign is also proposed.

National Enforcement Priorities 2019

The National Waste Enforcement Steering Committee have agreed the following as being the priorities for 2019

- Illegal Activity and Unaccounted for Waste –tackling significant illegal waste activity and where a multi Agency response is required –Illegal dumping and unauthorised movements of waste will be targeted under this priority.
- Construction and Demolition Activity and Capacity Challenges – activity that can address current capacity challenges including roll out of Brown Bins & enforcement of Construction and Demolition waste activities.
- Dealing with sites containing illegally deposited waste –sites which contain waste that has been deposited without authorisation

Priorities have also been set for achieving good Air Quality / Public Health including inspections relating to compliance with Solid Fuel requirements, dealing with air and noise complaints , and in the Water area where the aims are about improving Water Status in all waterbodies

Election Posters

In recent months the Environment Department has received both complaints and enquiries in respect of the erection of election posters and public event advertisements. Such enquiries have included suggestions that a ban be put in place on the erection of posters for the Local and European elections to be held in May of this year in certain locations, and specifically in areas of heritage and tourism as well as where tidy towns and other environmental groups are particularly active.

While the erection of posters do have environmental and visual impacts and particularly cable ties left in place for many years after the event, it is pointed out that the introductions of such bans would require a protocol to be agreed locally by candidates or political parties, on a voluntary basis - all new candidates would need to be made aware of such a protocol. It is submitted that fewer election posters would be in keeping with the Councils draft Climate Action Strategy.

It is pointed out that posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before an election -this time period is either (a) 30 days before the poll date or (b) from the date the polling day order for the election has been made, whichever provides the shorter period of time. The posters have to be taken down within 7 days of the election.

The Council introduced an event signage policy some years ago and providing for an application procedure for non –commercial one off events and which accords with the Litter Management Plan 2015- 2017 – this application procedure which is used by sporting, cultural and community groups etc provides for consent for the erection of one off events posters and subject to certain conditions including timeframes as to when the posters can be put up and taken down. In line with the Policy, signage is only ever permitted in Meath on approach roads into urban areas within speed limit areas but not within town/village centres. The signs should not be erected upon roundabouts, or affixed to any traffic signs or traffic lights, or block visibility of road users.

It is pointed out that Public Meeting advertisements are not subject to the Event Signage Procedure but fall under Section 19(7) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. Signage must clearly state the words “Public Meeting” in order to comply with the Act.

River Basin Management Plan 2018 -2021

The River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 was launched on the 17th April 2018 and outlines the measures the State and other sectors will take to improve water quality in Ireland’s groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters over the next four years. The Plan, in fulfilment of requirements under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), is to result in the protection and improvement of water quality in approximately 726 of Ireland’s 4,829 water bodies over the next four years. The 726 water bodies including 9 in County Meath form part of a total of 190 Areas for Action which have been prioritised nationally for particular attention during this cycle (2018–2021) and where a multidisciplinary and cross-agency approaches will be involved.

There has been a rebranding of the Local Authority Water Community Office (LAWCO-lead authorities Kilkenny County Council and Tipperary County Council) to the Local Authority Waters Programme Office which incorporates the Communities Office and the recently established Local Authority Catchments Team who are made up of Scientists of different backgrounds who will be undertaking scientific assessments and driving the identification and roll out of mitigation measures

at a local level in the 190 areas for action including 28 Areas assigned to the Midlands and Eastern Region. Various other groups are being put in place also including an Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Programme Group made up of Teagasc and Dairy Industry professionals.

A regional integrated Catchment Management Programme for the Midlands and Eastern region was recently published and setting out the areas prioritised for action and the schedule for commencing works by the Catchments assessment team and how communities and other stakeholders will be engaged with and included. Such engagement for Meath commenced with a public consultation evening held in February in respect of proposed assessments on the Kilmainham Dee & Moynalty Rivers which are two of the nine priority areas for action in the County. Further consultation is proposed in May in respect of assessments for the Boycetown River near Dunsany/Kiltale.

Climate Change

As the Members will be aware the Council appointed Consultants to (1) prepare a Climate Change Strategy, (2) to provide input into Climate Change considerations in the draft County Development Plan and (3) to provide data for inclusion in a Sustainable Energies and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) which will form part of the application for Membership of the EU Covenant of Mayors Scheme. A draft Strategic Plan and accompanying documentation was the subject of public consultation in 2018 and submissions from members of the public and other stakeholders were considered.

The Local Authority Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) whose main role is to formulate Regional Adaptation Plans and to act as advisories to local authorities on preparation of their own local plans are currently procuring consultants to carry out Appropriate Assessments (AA) in respect of the provisions of the Adaptation Plans, and due to the advanced status of the Meath Strategy this will be one of the first plans to undergo such assessment before full adoption of same.

The Council has submitted an application to Kildare Co. Council who is the lead Authority for Eastern & Midlands Area, in respect of a possible partnership arrangement in assisting in the roll out of a CARO work programme over the next five years.

The Environment Department is currently procuring specialists in Video production to create a promotional video in respect of Climate Action and supporting the contents of the draft Climate Action Strategy –the video production will be closely linked to the Make it in Meath business initiative. Proposals in respect of a joint initiative with a local group in Batterstown to develop an energy master plan are at an advanced stage and to include a workshop and awareness day in late May/early June.

Provision of Slipways – River Boyne and Blackwater

By order dated 26th November An Bord Pleanála approved the planning application and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS) for the construction of the boat slipways and construction of access thereto on the River Boyne and River Blackwater. The Consultants engaged by the Council on the project, are as part of the next phase proceeding with detailed design for the five locations involved and preparation of the necessary documentation for the tendering out of the construction stage. It is anticipated the construction phase involving in stream works will take place in the period July to September 2019.

Draft Beach Management Plan

The Members at the February Laytown Bettystown Municipal district meeting agreed to accept the findings of the draft plan and recommendations there from, and noting that the specific provisions from the Natura Impact Statement relating to dogs on leads and horses will require revisions to the 2010 Foreshore Bye Laws. The proposed revisions are currently being drafted in conjunction with the Council's legal advisors.

Handwritten signature of Jackie Maguire in black ink.

Jackie Maguire, Chief Executive.

Designated Public Official under Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015. www.lobbying.ie